



THE **Birches**

Community Matters

**NEWSLETTER FOR KINGSTHORN, MUCH BIRCH
LITTLE BIRCH, ACONBURY & WORMELOW**

First published 1977 **October 2021**

A note from the Editorial Team.

The Editorial team are very sorry for the late publication of this Newsletter. Unfortunately one of the team was brought down by bad health (not Covid!)

We all do hope that the information contained here is still relevant and encourage everyone to join in to support this wonderful Community.

Best wishes to all
Editor



Join us at the **Community Café** @ Much Birch Community Hall

**Saturday 9 October 2021
10:00 - 12:30**

and continuing every 2nd Saturday of the month
13 November 11 December 8 January

For more information or if you are in need of transport contact
Lydia on 01981 540323 or socialfabric@hotmail.com



*A local group who want to bring people together, strengthen community links
and provide relaxed and fun events for all ages.*



**FLICKS
IN THE
STICKS**

at Much Birch
Community Hall

Tuesday 12 October 7.30 pm

23 WALKS (12A)

A gentle, sweet, funny, romantic story of love in later life. Following a couple in their sixties, Dave and Fern who get to know one another over the course of 23 dog walks. Set against the dramatic background of the changing seasons of one year.

Starring Dave Johns and Alison Steadman

Refreshments including hot dogs available from 7pm

Coming up in the rest of the season...

Thursday 18 November, 7.30 - LOVE SARAH 12

Tuesday 7 December, 7.30 - LITTLE WOMEN U

Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)

Tickets available in advance or on the door - for further info or to book tickets please email muchbirchflicks@hotmail.com or call 01981 540097

For further information about films and screenings visit
www.artsalive.co.uk (online booking available!)

Much Birch Surgery

For all information regarding treatment, consultations and vaccinations please contact the surgery 01981 540310

Website: <https://www.muchbirchsurgery.co.uk/website/M81024/files/newsletter.pdf>

Facebook: [Much Birch Surgery Patient Information Page](#)

Seasonal Flu Clinics 2021

All patients over the age of 50 will be eligible for a flu vaccination this year, as well as those patients under 50 who have certain underlying health conditions. More information regarding the seasonal flu vaccine can be found at www.NHS.net

As you may have seen in the media, there has been a delay in the delivery of the Seasonal Flu Vaccinations to GP surgeries. Therefore our flu clinics that were due to commence in September have been slightly delayed. Our first clinic will now take place on **Saturday 2 October**. Those patients invited to this clinic will receive their invite letters during week ending 17 September.

Further clinics will take place on **Saturday 23 October** and in early November, following further deliveries of vaccines. Patients invited to these clinics will receive their invite letters by 10 October.

Please wait for your invite letter before attending. Please make sure you bring your letter with you on the day and arrive at the time slot advised on the letter.

Covid-19 Vaccination Boosters

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting guidance on when and how the covid-19 booster vaccinations will be administered. An announcement has been made that those at risk and those over 50 will be offered the booster. When we have more information we will update our website and facebook page.

Dispensary Collections

Please always allow at least 72 hours (3 working days) when ordering your repeat medication. During our current staff shortages it may take up to 5 working days to dispense. If possible please allow a little extra time when ordering.

Following feedback from patients, we have erected a shelter for patients to stand under when queuing at the dispensary collection point. We hope this will improve the patient experience when collecting medications during the winter months.

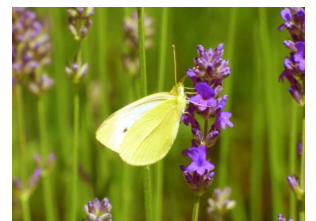
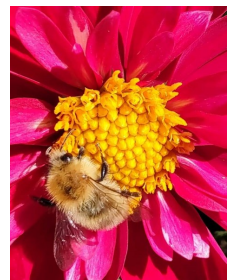
Keep updated using our website: www.muchbirchsurgery.co.uk and our facebook page: **Much Birch Surgery Patient Information**

The Birches Camera Club and Photography Group....

Thank you , all of you. In the Photography Group , who have, once again, sent some wonderful pictures to the team this month.

For further information about the group please contact.....

Sally Nichol at sally.nichol@btinternet.com





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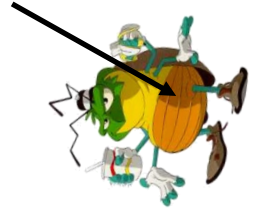
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Litter Picking

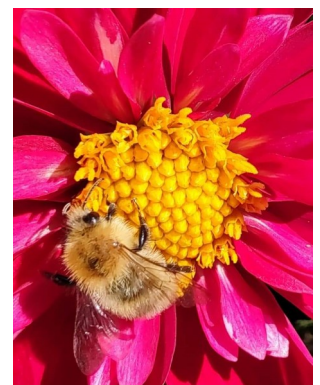


I know there are some wonderful individuals who get out there regularly collecting litter in their area. Last week I noticed a woman picking up cans from the edge of the A466 near Wormelow. During the spring there was a great deal of litter picking locally with lots of us clearing litter locally in Kingsthorpe, Little Birch, Bogmarsh, Much Birch, Wormelow and Much Dewchurch and across the county with many, many purple bags filled. Individuals, whole families and groups all did a wonderful job of cleaning up the area. Some felt that they were doing "archaeological" litter picks, pulling ancient rubbish buried deep in roadside ditches and improving the look of the lanes!

Sophie Morgan was out daily with her boys, Dylan and Owen.

"Litter picking makes me happy and proud of myself because we are helping the community," said Sophie. "There is very much a sense of satisfaction filling the purple bags. The beeps from the vehicles, people waving from within and the kind community gestures have been very much appreciated."

If you would like to get involved with clearing litter this autumn you can order litter picking sticks and rubbish bags and find out about group litter picks at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/stopthedrop. Elisabeth in Little Birch also has some litterpickers that you can borrow. 07854 629193.



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* REFERENCES CAN BE GIVEN *

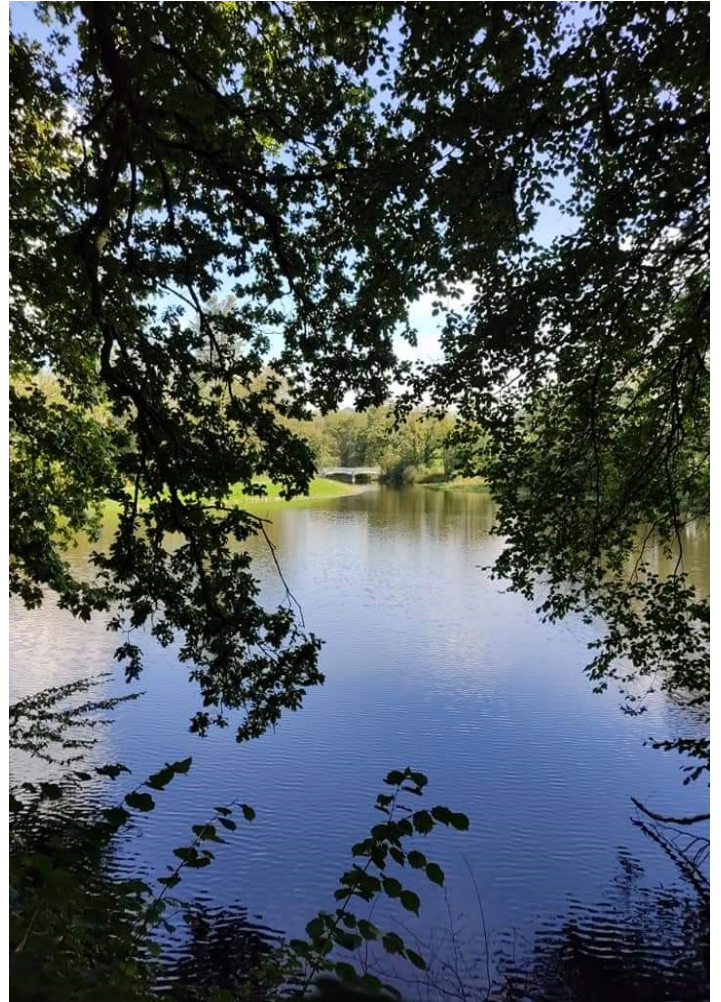
* ESTABLISHED IN AREA *

PHONE ANDREW

HOME: 01432 508979

MOBILE: 07771 870891

EMail: bayleyscleaning@gmail.com



The Nightmare

Situated opposite the Castle Inn pub, nestled in the heart of our beautiful village, a new bar.

I don't know about you, but the months of isolation, the decimation, the lives lost and our ways of life, it has been difficult, to say the least.

I'd like to welcome you all to my little venture, to bring something back to the village that I grew up in. This idea eventually transformed in to the mobile events bar known as, The Nightmare. Part of The Eternal Void Ltd and the first stage in hopefully a bright future.

Whether you come for the draught products, the outdoor air, the night sky or even just the company, we are here.

Opening hours differ from week to week, but I'll always let you know! Even in person or you can find us on Facebook. Feel free to get in touch.

All enquiries please email: voidalive@outlook.com
Or ring: 07463761744



On the chest of a barmaid from Sale
Were tattooed all the prices of ale
And on her behind, for the sake of the blind
Was the same information in brail!

How many actors have played the role of James Bond?



**W.M.
PARTINGTON**

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**MUCH BIRCH
07774 805369 / 01981 541109**

Much Birch Community Hall

We are open for activities and bookings with some Covid restrictions in still in place. All enquiries and hall bookings to Sylvia Jones, Secretary, tel: 01981 54098 or email: john.sylvia.jones@gmail.com.



The hall is fully operational after the building of the extension which provides not only the main hall but one committee room on the ground floor and two rooms on the first floor. There is now a spacious lobby for shelter in inclement weather plus a canopy over the main door.

We have an extended and refurbished kitchen with two

ovens, a five ring hob and a microwave. The kitchen also houses a fridge/freezer and still has the wall kettle. The lobby gives access to modern toilet facilities and an accessible toilet. In the very near future Wi-Fi will be available on the premises.



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HISTORY WALK - Sunday 12 September - led by Alison Clarke

Our walk started in Parish Field where we heard about Little Birch Common, Enclosure Acts, squatters, drift-ways, carriageways, and much more. Stopping along the way we learnt of the ecclesiastical architect MrW Chick who designed Model Cottages, all about the old school, the old Wesleyan Chapel now Saddlebow View. Then into Athelstan's Wood to see evidence of charcoal burners.

Next, we walked on to Little Birch church. Here we heard how it was rebuilt (with a less draughty porch!) and its current ancient font was discovered in a local villager's garden with potatoes in it! Then on to Higgins Well, where Alison told an amusing story about what forced Higgins to build it. Finally, we learned why the Holy Thorn was considered holy and how Conan Doyle visited Castle Nibole. The walk was rounded off with a welcome cup of tea at the Village Hall.

Thank you Alison, for such a fascinating and enjoyable history tour of Little Birch.

Further reading: *Little Birch on Aconbury Hill* - compiled by the Little Birch and King's Thorn History Group and can be obtained from: alison_clarke21@hotmail.com

Report: Angela Middleton and Cathy Sadler. Photos: Nick Daly.



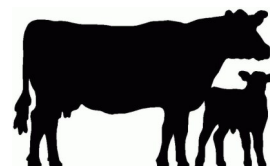
MERRIVALE ORGANIC BEEF

We have quality beef available direct from our farm in Little Birch to your doorstep.

It is organic grass fed Wagyu Cross beef which has been born and raised at **Merrivale Farm**. The Wagyu breed is known for its beautiful marbling which gives a delicious flavour and texture to the meat.

The beef is available in mixed boxes which start at £65. Individual cuts and packs are also available.

Contact Lucy for more information on 07974 053804 or lucymason@hotmail.com



Much Birch Church

will be holding its Harvest Festival Service on Sunday, 24th October 2021 at 11am.

All are welcome. There will be a Bring and Share lunch held in the Community Hall afterwards.

We will be decorating the church for harvest on Saturday 23rd October at 9.30am. We would welcome any help with this as well as any contributions towards the decorations.



Christmas Market

Much Birch Community Hall Management Committee is planning to hold a Christmas Market on Friday 10th December 2021 from 2pm until 4.30pm. (doors open for setting up from 1pm) Our usual stallholders have said they are interested but we would welcome anyone else who might like to hold a stall at £5.00 per table. If you would like to book a stall would you please contact the Secretary Sylvia Jones by telephone on 01981 540980 or email at john.sylvia.jones@gmail.com



Little Birch Parish Facebook Group



Find the latest news, events and business listings all in one place.

You are welcome to promote your local business, advertise a local event or post news or information of interest to the village and surrounding area.

Search for *Little Birch Parish Group* on Facebook

Your Little Birch Parish Councillors are:

Cllr Peter Rees Chair

Cllr Janet Gwinnett Vice Chair

Cllr Kate Dillon

Cllr Michael Davies

Cllr Kate Robbins

Angela Middleton

Sophie Glover

Volunteer Footpath Officer

Clerk

01432 617306

lbpcclerk@gmail.com

Little Birch Parish Council

For updates and notifications of future meetings please check out the website –

www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org.

Who owns the land?

It is an interesting question because it strikes at the very heart of our legal system. When the first settlers to this area, back in the Bronze Age some 5000 years ago, they were only at the start of agriculture. People mostly lived off the land hunting and gathering until the idea of planting and harvesting crops became important because then it was vital that you protected the land you had worked hard to clear.

Tribes have come and gone, families have risen and fallen, the Romans came and went! In mediaeval times, land started to become much more regulated – people started to have deeds that said they had “rights” to certain bits of land and, of course, the majority of us didn’t have much but worked a feudal system.

Since then, of course, things have moved on again, we have maps and land registry services and all of that to sort out where the boundaries of your house and garden start and finish. May be you will pass on your home to your children (or maybe it will be sold to pay for your care in old age!).

In the Old Testament, the land belonged to God and humanity were stewards of it – a very different understanding of ownership. It meant that the land was left fallow every seventh year but also, if you fell on hard times, you could “sell” your land to your neighbour but it would be restored to you every 7th year – that way you always had the hope that you could start again. For an agrarian community, it was a way to make sure that no farmer got too big! Not sure that would go down so well these days.

However, as Christians, we believe that we are stewards of God’s creation, both the land and all that lives on it. We have a duty of care to the land – it is “holy” perhaps we might use the word “sacred” – so that all creation might flourish. As climate heating threatens the very land we live on and the land we are called to protect, a chance in the way we live is vital.

Revd Mark

Victor Townsend

Many of us were sad to hear about the death of Victor Townsend last month. Victor has been around the village a long time and will be remembered as a man who was always cheerful and kind to those around him. He did not let the problems of life overwhelm him! He was, for many years, a motor mechanic at Johnson’s Garage in town but loved living in the countryside. After retirement, he would often be seen around the village walking and following the farming seasons with great interest. It was only in the last few months he moved into a home to be cared for.

Services for October

Sunday 10th October

Much Birch – Family Communion at 9.15 a.m.

Little Birch - Morning Worship at 11.00 a.m.

Sunday 17th October

Much Birch – Alternative Morning Worship at 9.15 a.m.

Little Birch – Holy Communion in Traditional Language at 11.00 a.m.

Sunday 31st October

Much Birch – Benefice Communion service at 10.30 a.m.



John Bryant.



We sadly have to report the passing of John Bryant on Monday the 6th September. For years, John, together with the support of his lovely wife Betty, was at the heart of the community. His work at St. Mary's, Little Birch, the village hall and numerous committees on which he sat and his service to the community was recognised by the awarding of the British Empire Medal. We will miss you John, we have all benefitted from knowing you and are richer for it.



65th Wedding Anniversary.—from Bob and Ros Preece

The 1st of September was our 65th Wedding Anniversary. There was a card from the Queen as Buckingham Palace office had contacted us to ask if we would like a message, as we had done for our 60th Diamond Anniversary. Her Majesty's 'photos are always beautiful; and it is an honour to receive Royal congratulations.

In the afternoon we were treated to a surprise party at "The Nightmare" Bar in Little Birch. The decorations and flowers were all blue, as 65th years is blue Sapphire anniversary—we were even given a blue moth orchid!

The food was very good and the bar first class.

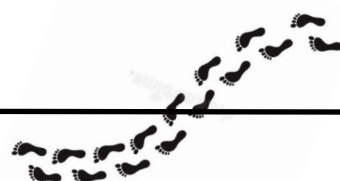
We would like to thank Sandra, Rob and Bekki Cameron for all their hard work who made it such an enjoyable afternoon

Little Birch Grand Garden Fete

Thank you to John and Kate Dillon for hosting this hugely successful event at their lovely home, Castle Nibole. Thank you to everybody who helped to sell raffle tickets, helped on the day and donated prizes. Thanks to Sue and Andy at the Axe and Cleaver for a Sunday lunch for two and for the beautiful plants from Allensmore Nursery.

After missing out last year, we were worried that people would still be wary about attending the fete because of the pandemic. The sun came out for what seemed the first time in weeks and the village turned out for a wonderful afternoon. It was lovely to see people catching up with old friends, lots of young couples with their children and an atmosphere of hope and happiness for the future. Thank you all for coming, we raised a much needed £1800 for the church and we could not have done it without you. During these difficult times we have said, almost on a daily basis, how lucky we are living here, of course we are, why would you want to be anywhere else.

Thank you all once again, From everybody at St. Mary's, Little Birch.



Much Birch Parish Council
Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright
Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone,
Herefordshire HR2 9NE
Tel. 01981 250860

Email: muchbirchclerk@gmail.com¹

11th September 2021

PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Council Meeting held in the Much Birch Community Hall on the 2nd September 2021 from 7.30 pm.

The Parish Council co-opted two new councillors, Chris Pickering-Grey and Joseph Goldsmith, to the parish council. The Parish Council welcomed the two new members to the parish council. The parish council looked at several planning applications and discussed some matters relating to the planning conditions of previous applications. There was also a reminder to everyone to remember the importance of keeping any ditches close to your property clear of debris so that optimum drainage can be achieved during rainfall as we head into the Autumn and Winter months.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 7th October 2021 from 7.30pm** - at the Much Birch Community Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Dates for future 2021 Parish Council Meetings are as follows: October 7, November 4 and December 2.

Please see notice boards and website for agendas. As always the public and press are more than welcome to attend the meeting and will have the opportunity to speak directly to their representatives.

Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail thecooks@wyenet.co.uk Tel. 01981 540703

Cllr Andrew Crum Anfield House, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail a.crum@btinternet.com
Tel. 01981 540002

Cllr Roisin Burge The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8AX roisinburge@hotmail.com Tel. 01981 540724

Cllr David Baldwin The Granary, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HS baldwin79@btinternet.com Tel. 01981 541198

Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey 4 Court Farm Barns, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HT chris@pickering-grey.uk Tel. 07712 813218

Cllr Joseph Goldsmith Quantock House, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX josephagoldsmith@hotmail.com Tel.07967 728590

Full minutes of the meetings and information etc. can be found on the Parish Council website following the link found in this summary. www.muchbirchparish.org.uk.

You can also find us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Much.Birch.Parish>

Art Space for Adults

Art Space is returning.

Time- 2-00 till 4-30 PM

Place - Little Birch Village Hall

Please note Art Space will start with alternating Thursday 's at first.

Everybody welcome.

For further details contact Sally Nichol at. sally.nichol@btinternet.com



Join Alison at The Studio!

Alison Allan is pleased to announce that The Studio is now open in Little Dewchurch

After our Lockdown Blues – we all need to get moving with Pilates for our physical well-being and mental health. Pilates involves a sequence of very gentle exercises covering your whole body and focusing on strengthening your core and lengthening the spine, both of which help to improve your posture.

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