

# The Birches

Community Matters Newsletter

Kingsthorpe, Much Birch, Little Birch,  
Aconbury & Wormelow March 2023

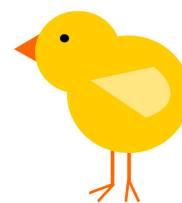


**Community  
Spring  
Sing**

**Sunday 26 March 2023**  
**2:30-5:00 pm**  
**Much Birch Community Hall**

Back by popular demand, come along to welcome the Spring with a fun singing afternoon led by Kay Garlick.  
Open to all ages - children must be accompanied by an adult.  
No need to read music, just come along and enjoy a fun sing and a cuppa!

## Easter Prize Bingo



**LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL**  
**FRIDAY 24TH MARCH**  
**EYES DOWN AT 7:30PM**

**Fun for the whole family**  
**Refreshments available**



## Coffee Morning with Book Exchange

**Thursday 2nd & Saturday 18th March**  
**10.00am - 12.00 noon**

**Little Birch Village Hall**

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, some cake or biscuits. Make new friends or catch up with old friends. Take a book, leave a book, or both. Exchange recommendations for a good read. Families & well behaved dogs welcome.

*look forward to seeing you*



*The Axe &  
Cleaver  
Much Birch  
Contact us on  
01981 540203  
or on our  
Facebook  
page*



## Parish Walks

Athelstans Wood and Little Dewchurch 4.9 miles

**Sunday 12 March at 2.15pm All welcome!**

Come and join us on a lovely spring walk down and along green lanes, through woods, fields with some stiles and a short road section.

Meeting and parking at **Little Birch Village Hall**.  
Refreshments at the village hall afterwards.

Contact - Chris Fowler Little Birch's new Footpath Officer leading with Angela Middleton

[chrisfowler1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chrisfowler1@hotmail.co.uk) or 07931 292998

**at Much Birch Community Hall**

**BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL**

**Thursday 16 March - LIVING 12A**  
An english-language adaptation of the script of "Ikiru" (1952), set in London in the 1950s. A veteran civil servant receives a medical diagnosis that inspires him to move to the south coast and cram some fun into his remaining days. He meets a sunny young female colleague who seems to have the pep that had previously escaped him. Starring Bill Nighy

**Saturday 18 March - THE MENU 15**  
A young couple travels to a remote island to eat at an exclusive restaurant where the chef has prepared a lavish menu, with some shocking surprises.

**Borderlines Tickets £5.50 (£4.50 under 16s)**

*Refreshments including hot dogs and ice cream available from 7pm*

*Coming up this season...*  
**Thursday 27 April - FISHERMANS FRIENDS - ONE AND ALL 12A**  
**Thursday 25 May - THE PHANTOM OF THE OPEN 12**

*Tickets available in advance or on the door (cash or card payments accepted)- for further info or to book tickets please email [muchbirchflicks@hotmail.com](mailto:muchbirchflicks@hotmail.com) or call 01981 540097*

*For further information about films and screenings visit [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk)*

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

## Paper Free Newsletter?

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Join us at the

# Community Café

**@ Much Birch Community Hall**

**Saturday 11 March 2023**

**10:00 - 12:30**

and every 2nd Saturday of the month

**8 April**

**13 May**

**10 June**

For more information or if you are in need of transport contact Lydia on 01981 540323 or [socialfabric@hotmail.com](mailto:socialfabric@hotmail.com)



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

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## Little Birch Parish Facebook Group



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## From Reverend Mark

Hi Everyone,

Now that spring has sprung – well at least the daffodils seem to think so – I was thinking about Jesus using agricultural parables. As you know, a parable is a story or example that carries a deeper meaning and Jesus often used them to help his followers and casual listeners understand a deeper truth through something that they themselves could relate to – either because they farmed fields, for example, or because they knew people who did.

The great thing about the parables that Jesus chose was that they have mostly survived the test of time. Sowing and reaping, lighting a lamp, all of these still have a relevance to us some 2000 years later. One that confuses people is the one about salt losing its saltiness.

For us, salt is an everyday product, in mills and cellars on our dining table and we can all remember the time in primary school when we dissolved salt in water and then grew salt crystals. For us, salt doesn't lose its saltiness!

But in the time of Jesus, salt came from two sources. Firstly, it could be mined and the salt crystals were fairly impure, meaning that if rain got on to it, it would dissolve out the salt and you would be left with just a tasteless pile of dirt. Secondly, people took water from the Dead Sea, just 20 odd miles from Jerusalem and let it evaporate in shallow ponds and then scrape up the resultant crystals. This was much purer and was then used not only to season food but also in offerings at the Temple in Jerusalem. That meant, of course, that it was more expensive. The salt that most people could afford was the cheaper, less pure stuff.

Once you know this then you understand why Jesus says that the salt that has lost its saltiness is good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled on.

Jesus is reminding his listeners, and us, not to let the goodness in our lives be washed away!

**Revd Mark**

### **Services across Much Birch and Little Birch in March**

#### ***Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent***

9.15 a.m. Llandinabo – Matins

9.15 a.m. Much Dewchurch – Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Little Birch – Holy Communion

#### ***Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent***

9.15 a.m. Much Birch – Family Communion

11.00 a.m. Little Birch – Morning Worship

#### ***Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)***

9.15 a.m. Much Birch – Morning Worship

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

#### ***Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Passion Sunday***

9.15 a.m. Llandinabo – Holy Communion in Traditional Language

### **April – Palm Sunday**

Don't forget that on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April we will be celebrating Palm Sunday with a walk from Pencoyd Church (St Denys) starting at 10.15 a.m. to Christ Church, Llanwarne for our main Palm Sunday Service with Communion. The service at Llanwarne starts at 11.00 a.m.

### **Much Birch Parochial Church Council**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.30pm in Much Birch Church. All are warmly invited to attend. This will be followed by a short meeting for PCC members only.



## Jobs for the garden in March

This year has started similar to last year, with January and the first two weeks in February virtually rain free and the ground drying well. We have had a few frosts of varying intensity but not bad enough to deter early carpets of snowdrops from flowering, with crocuses and a few daffodils appearing as well, plus catkins on hazel nut trees. At the time of writing – mid February - we have seedlings growing well in the greenhouse, cabbage, cauliflower, calabrese, leeks, broad beans, onions, tomatoes and cucumbers.

Fruit bushes and canes have been pruned and the soil around them cleaned and a good dusting of blood fish and bone has been forked in and a mulch applied. Roses have also been pruned. Our tubs have been cleared of old thatch and the top few inches refreshed with new compost with fertilizer added and the bulbs are now growing well – we are looking forward to a great display.

### Here are a few ideas for March

- \*Apply a general purpose granular fertilizer to hungry plants such as roses and clematis and fork in lightly. Lift and divide clumps of snowdrops as foliage yellows.
- \*Pot up dormant dahlia tubers and canna rhizomes. Protect from cold but in good light – water sparingly.
- \*Repot house plants in pots 1 or 2 sizes larger. Plants benefit from repotting every few years.
- \*Dead head daffodils but leave foliage to die off naturally.
- \*Level out dips and bumps in the lawn. Cut a letter 'H' with a spade over the uneven area. Peel back the turf and add or remove soil. Replace turf and firm down.
- \*Sprout or 'chit' seed potatoes indoors, placing the potatoes in trays or egg boxes with the 'rose' end (small indentations from where sprouts will emerge) uppermost.
- \*Sow tomato seeds in pots in a propagator or on a window sill.
- \*When the soil feels warm to the touch and is not saturated, parsnip seeds can be sown. (Soil is usually warm enough to sow seed when you see weed seedlings appearing)
- \*When the soil has dried out sufficiently to walk on, if not already done, prepare trenches for runner beans, peas and sweet peas. Put a good layer of manure or compost plus grass cuttings and vegetable peelings in the bottom and leave open to the elements until nearer planting time.

\*If you have potted up strawberry plants grown from runners last year they can be planted this month.

\*Mixed salad leaves and beetroot can be sown in cell or seed trays, even if you do not have a dedicated vegetable patch. Plant the seedlings in the flower border to add some interesting colour and then eat them when they mature.

\*Plant onions, shallots and early potatoes at the end of March

\*This month is the start of the breeding season for our garden birds. If you have any waste wool, hair from brushes (your own or the dog ), hang it on the branches of shrubs or wire fences.

\*If you have a pond, remove debris that has got in it during the winter.

\*Consider letting a small area of your garden go wild. No Mow May is now popular. Should you wish to sow wild flower seeds, it may help to get them established if you shave off the grass to expose bare soil. Mix the seed with sand or sieved soil and scatter over the desired area. Keep the area moist by misting if no rain falls. Don't spray as the seeds will be washed to where you don't want them.

\*Keep bird tables and water baths clean.

### Derek Scrivens



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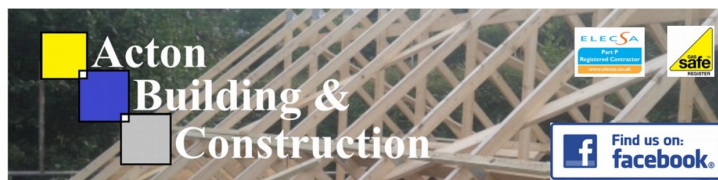
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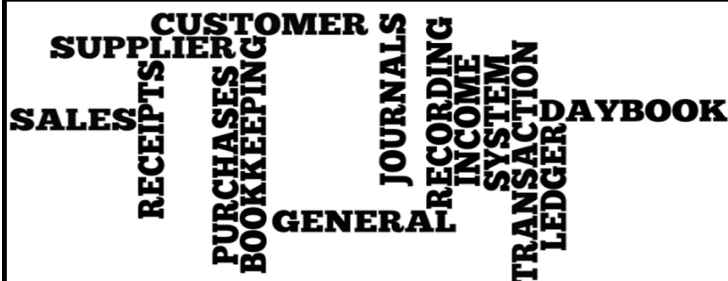


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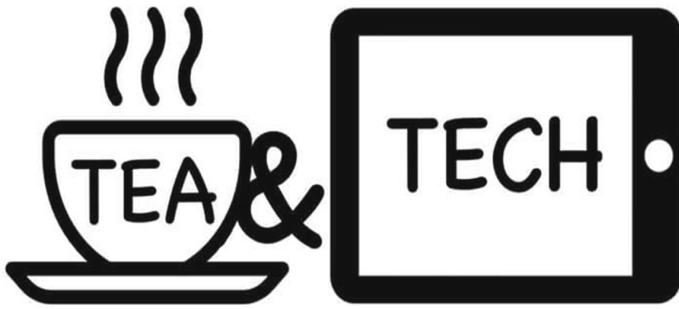


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[richard@teaandtech.co.uk](mailto:richard@teaandtech.co.uk)

07739953864

I'm Richard, and I offer IT tech support around rural Hereford. I have 25 years' experience of working within technology, supporting a vast range of people, from technophobes to technogeeks!

I aim to specifically support the more senior users within our community, who often appreciate a completely different approach. I won't burden anyone with jargon and will offer only gentle and compassionate support. This can help the user feel more comfortable with tackling technology and lead to a growing confidence. Sometimes, the tech issue might be the initial reason for contact and all that's really required is someone to sit patiently and share a cuppa. I can do that too, I'm a great listener!

I can support you with many problems (here's a sample):

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- Wi-Fi Range Issues
- Software Installation
- Windows Reinstall / Refresh
- Slow Computer Clean-up
- Printer Installation / Troubleshooting
- Backup Advice & Solutions
- Solid State Drive (SSD) Upgrades
- Data Recovery
- Laptop Battery Replacement
- PC & Laptop Upgrades & Advice

If you need a friendly chat over a cuppa, while I sort out your IT issues, please get in touch using the info above.

## PILETES with Alison Allan

**Mondays 10.00 am - Intermediate level**

**11.15 am - Senior Citizens**

**Wednesdays 9.30 am - Beginner level**

**7.00 pm - Intermediate level**

**Little Dewchurch - Village Hall**

**Little Dewchurch - Village Hall**

**Holme Lacy - Village Hall**

**Little Dewchurch - Village Hall**

**Individual sessions, by appointment, at The Studio, Little Dewchurch**

**Pre-booking essential; limit**

**[Alisonpilates2016@gmail.com](mailto:Alisonpilates2016@gmail.com)**

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**07947 011707**

**[Facebook.com/PilateswithAlisonA](https://www.facebook.com/PilateswithAlisonA)**



## Much Birch Parish Meeting

At the Parish Council Meeting held in Much Birch Community Hall on 2nd February the Parish Council discussed, and agreed to comments in regard to a reapplication for one local planning application for 5 dwellings and 15 Timber Holiday Lodges at Park Hall, Wormelow plus an application for some changes to the roof pitch and some other changes to the windows etc. at a property in Wrigglebrook. The local PCSO from West Mercia was in attendance and she updated regarding the Community Speed Watch. The CSW Coordinator had left and a new person was to be recruited and then trained in the role. The application for the Much Birch CSW would be kept in focus and chased up for progression. A reminder of the way to report defects/faults on the highways etc. Report defects and issues on the Highway and Public Realm via the Herefordshire Council website <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/report-problems-road> Customer Services. If urgent then please call 01432 261800 or use the report it app <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/reportingapp/>

The dates for the forthcoming meetings in 2023, are March 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>, June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 6<sup>th</sup>, No meeting in August, Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, Nov 9<sup>th</sup> and Dec 7<sup>th</sup>  
The next ordinary Parish Council Meeting, of the Much Birch Parish Council, will be held on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 from 7.30pm** at the Much Birch Community Hall. All welcome. 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. Full minutes of the meetings etc. can be found on the Parish Council website following the link opposite.

### Much Birch Parish Councillors

**CLlr Alison Cook** (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe HR2 8AW, [thecooks@wyenet.co.uk](mailto:thecooks@wyenet.co.uk)  
01981 540703;  
**CLlr Andrew Crum** Tan-y-coed, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, HR2 8AX, [a.crum@btinternet.com](mailto:a.crum@btinternet.com) 01981 540002  
**CLlr Roisin Burge** The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch HR2 8AX  
[roisinburge@hotmail.com](mailto:roisinburge@hotmail.com) 01981 540724  
**CLlr David Baldwin** Perry House, Much Birch, HR2 8HS  
[baldwin79@btinternet.com](mailto:baldwin79@btinternet.com) 01981 541198  
**CLlr Chris Pickering-Grey** 4 Court Farm Barns, Much Birch HR28HT [chris@pickering-grey.uk](mailto:chris@pickering-grey.uk) 07712 813218  
**CLlr Joseph Goldsmith** Quantock House, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, HR2 8HX [josephagoldsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:josephagoldsmith@hotmail.com)  
07967 728590  
**Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright** Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone HR2 9NE [muchbirchclerk@gmail.com](mailto:muchbirchclerk@gmail.com)  
01981 250860

Minutes of meetings [www.muchbirchparish.org.uk](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk).  
<https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Much.Birch.Parish>

## Little Birch Parish Council

Little Birch PC met on Wednesday 8th February and the following items were discussed.

Chris Fowler has agreed to act as **Footpath Officer** for both Little Birch and Aconbury parishes. He was thanked for offering his services. Little Birch and Aconbury parishes would also like to thank Mike Leigh for his dedicated work as footpath officer for Aconbury over many years.

**Planning:** The PC voted to support application 224244 and not to support application 224301.

The lack of **gritting** of Barrack Hill following the light snow of January was discussed, particularly the potential danger to the school bus which uses the downhill section during school time. James Howell, Balfour Beatty Locality steward, will be contacted regarding the concerns raised.

Progress is being made towards using a fully digital and free banking service with a national bank.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 1st March at 7pm in Little Birch Village Hall.

### Little Birch Parish Councillors

CLlr Michael Davies, chair  
CLlr Kate Robbins  
CLlr Chris Atkinson  
CLlr Nick Deacon  
Neil Barrington, clerk [lbpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:lbpcclerk@gmail.com)  
**Website** [www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org](http://www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org)

## Footpath Officers

If you have any queries about footpaths, contact:

**Little Birch and Aconbury: Chris Fowler**  
[chrisfowler1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chrisfowler1@hotmail.co.uk)  
07931 292998

**MuchBirch including Kingsthorpe: David Irwin**  
[david.irwin13@btinternet.com](mailto:david.irwin13@btinternet.com)  
07766 135068

## Little Birch Christmas Fayre

Many thanks to everybody who helped with and supported the Christmas Fayre, especially Kate Dillon who put everything together. Father Christmas made the long trip from the North Pole, much to the delight of all the children who came to see him. The afternoon was a great success and £500 was raised for the church. Thank you.

**John Caton**



Much Birch Community Hall

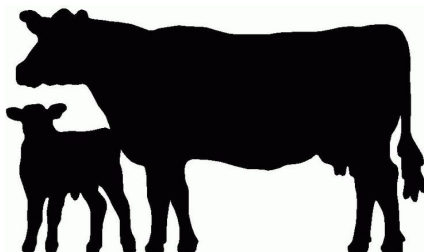
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Items for March newsletter to  
[editorial@birchesnews.org.uk](mailto:editorial@birchesnews.org.uk) or paper  
copy to Elisabeth Taylor 07854 629193 by  
**14th March**

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I heard from morn to morn a merry thrush  
Sing hymns to sunrise, and I drank the sound

John Clare



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## Little Birch Pantomime“ The Show Must Go On”

After the enforced Covid 19 break, director Jane Bolam returned to the village hall with a traditional pantomime based on the story of Sleeping Beauty. The three performances on January 20 and 21<sup>st</sup> were greatly appreciated by the audiences, judging by their very active participation, and completely sold out. Pantomimes have been a regular feature at Little Birch since the hall opened in the 1950s. Quality improved each year and this one can be regarded as the **best ever**.

Between performances the hall heaters were declared unsafe and there was an electrical power failure. Undaunted, the cast and crew completed the shows with the usual “the show must go on” attitude. Actors in the shows were excellent and even outstanding—including newcomers, talented Sarah and Rhiannon Jenkins, who played Fairy Peaceful and Princess Aurora. Stalwarts included Bob Barnett as the irrepressible Queen Dorothy and Richard Green as Silly Billy. The use of a provocatively placed cowbell by Richard produced hoots of laughter from the audience that will long be remembered.

Millie Barnett was convincing as Prince Orlando and Frank Ryding was frightening as the baddie, Carabosse. His nasty cat, Spindleshanks, was really well played by Ellen Green. Audiences especially loved the portrayal by the young Millie Meredith as the good cat Kitty. The chorus was made up of enthusiastic young and older people who doubled up as zombies in a spectacular scene.

No show of this kind is possible without a crew behind the scenes. The scenery and smooth performances were testaments to the people involved in set design, lighting, sound, costumes, make-up, scene shifting and prompting - all done to very high standards.

Little Birch village hall is extremely fortunate to be able to frequently stage such shows. Regular performers get a lot of pleasure from socialising and rehearsing in the weeks beforehand and it is good to see how young people develop their characters as they join in. None of this would be possible without the work and enthusiasm of the director who was first attracted to take part in a pantomime more than ten years ago and then settled in the village.

The show this year will probably be remembered as the “Covid Pantomime” firstly because it came after the national epidemic but secondly because the virus seems to have spread again amongst the cast, crew and audience. Fortunately the symptoms do not appear to be as bad as they would have been earlier before the widespread vaccination programmes. Hopefully there will be no lasting effects and so we can all look forward to more performances by the Little Birch Drama Group.

**Mike Morley**

## Diary Dates March

**LBPC Meeting** Wed 1st 7pm LBVH p7

**Coffee & Books Meeting** Thurs 2nd 10-12 LBVH p2

**MBPC Meeting** Thurs 2nd 7.30 MBCH p7

**Community Café** Sat 11th 10-12.30 MBCH p2

**Parish Walk** Sun 12th 2.15 LBVH p2

**Borderlines** Thurs 16th MBCH 7pm p1

**Coffee & Books** Sat 18th February 10-12 LBVH p2

**Borderlines** Sat 18th MBCH 7pm p1

**Spring Sing** Sun 26th 2.30-5 MBCH

**Tiddlers and Toddlers** Fridays 9.30-11.30 MBCH

**Table Tennis** 1st Tuesday 7-9pm LBVH

## Photo ID for Voting

At the local elections in May 2023 it will be necessary to have photo ID when voting. You can use a photo driving licence, passport, Blue Badge card or a free OAP bus pass. Alternatively you can apply for a free Voter ID Certificate online at Gov.uk.

Photo ID is controversial. It is expensive to set up and will probably disenfranchise the most disadvantaged and vulnerable. The argument that it will prevent fraud is implausible as voting fraud is very minimal in the UK. Electoral-reform.org.uk have a petition —

**Voter ID: An Expensive Distraction** - aimed at persuading the government to drop the photo ID plan.

## Advertising Rates

11 editions per year (no August newsletter)

1/16 page £3.50 per issue or £35 per year

1/8<sup>th</sup> page £4.00 per issue or £40 per year

¼ page £4.50 per issue or £45 per year

½ page £8 per issue or £80 per year

Payment by BACS through Santander

Account Name **Little Birch Village Hall**



## Diary Dates March

**Coffee & Books Meeting** Thurs 2nd 10-12 LBVH p2

**LBPC Meeting** Wed 7pm LBVH p7

**MBPC Meeting** Thurs 2nd 7.30 MBCH p7

**Community Café** Sat 11th 10-12.30 MBCH p2

**Parish Walk** Sun 12th 2.15 LBVH p2

**Borderlines** Thurs 16th MBCH 7pm p1

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Sort Code **09-01-54** A/C No. **65493289**

## Defibrillator Locations

### IN A LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY CALL 999

AEDs available to use locally for those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. A defibrillator is an easy to use, medical device that analyses the heart's rhythm and, if needed, delivers an electrical shock (defibrillation) to help the heart establish an effective rhythm.

**Allensmore** Locks Garage

**Backney** on the garage wall at Market Gardens Cottage

**Bridstow** on the outside of the village hall

**Garway** on the wall outside the Garway Moon pub

**Harewood End** at Harewood End Inn on outside of the pub at the back in the beer garden.

**Little Birch** on the outside of the village hall

**Llanwarne** on the wall by steps leading up to the village hall

**Much Birch** on the outside of the church hall

**Much Dewchurch** outside Steiner School, first building after the church

**Peterstow** at the Yew Tree pub

**Sellack** on the outside of the parish hall (key code needed)

**St Weonards** old BT phone box off the A466 between the church and Forge Cottage

**Wormelow** at the Cricket Club & Carrot & Wine shop

**Wilton** on wall at the BP garage on the roundabout

## Little Birch Christmas Fayre

Many thanks to everybody who helped with and supported the Christmas Fayre, especially Kate Dillon who put everything together. Father Christmas made the long trip from the North Pole, much to the delight of all the children who came to see him. The afternoon was a great success and £500 was raised for the church. Thank you. **John Caton**

## 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





