

The Birches

Community Matters Newsletter

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



Beauty & the Beast

AUDITIONS

Have you ever watched one of our village pantomimes and thought that looks like fun? Whether you are a seasoned performer, or this is your first time, young or old, this is your chance to be part of the Little Birch Drama Group 2024 production of Beauty and the Beast.

Auditions at 7pm on Thursday 28th September 2023 at Little Birch Village Hall.

Don't fancy being on the stage? Well, we need help with stage building, costumes, front of house and makeup. Interested in helping? Give Bob a call on 07890 206201.

arts
alive

FLICKS
IN THE
STICKS

at Much Birch
Community Hall

Thursday 14 September - ALLELUJAH 12A

ALLELUJAH is a warm and deeply moving story about surviving old age, based on the play by Alan Bennett. When the geriatric ward in a small Yorkshire hospital is threatened with closure, the hospital decides to fight back. The film celebrates the spirit of the elderly patients whilst paying tribute to the deep humanity of the medical staff battling with limited resources and ever-growing demand.

Tickets £5 (£4 under 16s)

Refreshments including hot dogs and ice cream available from 7pm

Also coming this season...

19/10/2023 A BUNCH OF AMATEURS U

16/11/2023 THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY 12A

14/12/2023 A MAN CALLED OTTO 15

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 or call 01981 540097

For further information about films and screenings visit www.artsalive.co.uk

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

Kingsthorpe & Little Birch Annual Open Horticultural Show

Saturday 2nd
September
Little Birch
Village Hall



Children's classes,

Domestic, Art, Photography, Handicrafts,

Vegetables, Fruit, Flowers, Floral Art,

Homemade Cakes, and much more. Have some fun entering and competing with the things you have enjoyed growing in your gardens.

We don't take it too seriously.

Or just come along and see what other people have entered – it's always a good afternoon out enjoyed by all.

Schedules available from the newsletter
and Pengethley Garden Centre

Enquiries to Lesley Chapman 01981 541370





Coffee Morning with Book Exchange

Thursday 7th & Saturday 23rd
September from 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



Join us at the

Community Café

@ Much Birch Community Hall

Saturday 9 September 2023

10:00 - 12:30

and every 2nd Saturday of the month

14 October

11 November

9 December

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.

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From Reverend Mark

I have always had an interest in the weather. From the days when I would walk to my primary school in Stockport as child, to walking the fells around Glossop when with my Scout troop, to being out on my bike as a young student off to university, and further afield to the days when we went camping with our small children.

In each case, the question of did I have the right clothing was uppermost! Was it going to rain? Which direction was the wind coming from? Would the mist come down on the hills so that I struggled to see the next way point? Our concern with the weather has taken a new turn this year. Record temperatures across the globe, high sea temperatures that fuel hurricanes and tropical storms, all of these have reminded us that we are blessed with our temperate climate. And yet, even this is under threat!

Life was pretty weather dependant back in the times of the Old Testament. The writer of the Psalms reminds people of the power of the thunderstorm and the desert whirlwind, of the chaos of the waves and the frost and snow. The rains at the wrong time could reduce your life to one of eking out a living until the next harvest.

And so the threat of world hunger is rising again. Crops are failing and the rains are coming at the wrong time, in the wrong amount. This is our call to action, not just a token of turning down the thermostat and hoping that will save the world, but a deep look at how we live and how we can live much more in harmony with God's creation around us. The question is, do we have the courage to take a good look at ourselves and make the changes necessary?

Services for September

Sunday 3rd September (13th Sunday after Trinity)	9.15 am Much Dewchurch 11 am Little Birch 3 pm Llanwarne	Holy Communion Holy Communion Plough Service
Sunday 10th September (14th Sunday after Trinity)	9.15 am Much Birch 9.15 am Much Dewchurch 11 am Little Birch	Holy Communion Morning Worship Morning Worship
Sunday 17th September (15th Sunday after Trinity)	9.15 am Much Birch 11 am Little Birch	Morning Worship Holy Communion in Traditional Language
Sunday 24th September (16th Sunday after Trinity)	9.15 am Llandinabo	Holy Communion in Traditional Language

The Birches Community Quiz

Friday 13th October 7.30pm



Our next Community Group quiz
will be held at Much Birch
Community Hall in the autumn.

Please let us know if you
would like to take part.

Teams of four welcome to
come along. The cost of entry
will be £12 per team.
Refreshments are included.

Please get in touch with Carole
if you are interested, by email
carole.chichester@btinternet.com

or by telephone

01981 540095

The Jolly Gardener

TheJollyGardener2502@gmail.com

Kyle - 07850921889



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Oliver - 07780 718736

Jobs for the Garden in September

Derek Scrivens

What a contrast from last year when July and August presented us with extreme heat and drought. This year the two months have had rainfall practically every day. In mid August 'then and now' pictures in a newspaper highlighted the differences in West Yorkshire, Cambridge, Hampshire, West Sussex and South Wales.

A Cambridge football ground and two large recreational areas were shown as 'scorched earth' last year – now they are lush green. Reservoirs in West Yorkshire and South Wales with low volumes of water last year are now full. Is it climate change? Or, as has always happened, Mother Nature evening things out? Anyway the grass, weeds and hedges have grown out of all proportion and fortunately so have most flowers and vegetables which have done extremely well. I wouldn't mind an Indian Summer, (assuming I am still allowed use that term). Don't get me started!

Jobs for September

- *Clean greenhouse and cold frame glass.
- *Plant new perennials towards the end of the month.
- *Water greenhouse plants in the morning now so plants don't spend all night sitting in cold water.
- *Move house plants to a lighter position & reduce watering.
- *Bulbs, Daffodil, Scilla, Crocus and Hyacinths, can be planted in borders and pots.
- *Keep dead heading to prolong flowering.
- *Reseed patches of bare lawn.
- *Harvest apples and pears – store unblemished fruits, with stalk intact in single layers, not touching, in a cool, dark, frost free and well ventilated location.
- *Remove old leaves and straw from strawberry plants.
- *Plant new plants in new ground.
- *Plant autumn onion sets.
- *Sow small quantities of salad leaves and radishes.
- *If you are lucky enough to have visits from hedgehogs, put out a little dog or cat food – I understand it should not be fish based.
- *Clean nesting boxes, line with straw or wood shavings and rehang them.
- *Put a net over ponds to prevent leaves falling in.

Gardening for Wildlife

A talk by Helen Mugridge

Wednesday September 28th 7.30pm.
Little Birch Village Hall £5 All welcome

KING'S THORN AND LITTLE BIRCH

GARDENING CLUB

ANNUAL OPEN

HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Saturday September 2nd 2023

**Classes include handicrafts, vegetables
& fruit, flowers, floral art,
children's and domestic**

9am hall open to exhibitors only

10.45am Last entries accepted

11am Hall closed to the public

Judging of exhibits

2pm Hall opens to the public

**3.15pm Presentation of trophies
and raffle draw**

Children's Workshop



Little Birch Village Hall

Friday 1st September at 4pm

Children will be encouraged to show their creativity by making vegetable animals and monsters and a Garden on a Plate for the Children's Section of the Horticultural Show

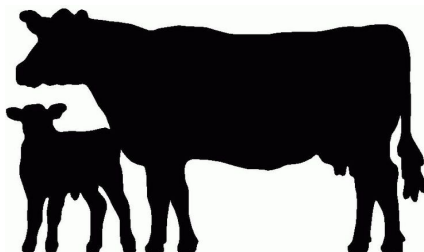
New for 2023: Class for over 8s: Make an object from natural materials e.g. wood, stone, straw, plant material, shells or any other natural materials

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**Contact Lucy for more information
on 07974 053804
or email lucymason@hotmail.com
Merrivale Farm Little Birch
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Items for **October** newsletter to
editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or paper
copy to Elisabeth Taylor 07854 629193 by
14th September

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Breakfast with the Robin

I had breakfast with the robin this morning.
 He landed on the sill,
 Peered through the glass,
 Met my eyes
 And stayed very still.

I knew it was him
 By his waistcoat, stylishly cut away.
 I half expect him to pull out a pocket watch!
 "It is time!" he seemed to say.

He comes every day for his breakfast -
 Bolder than dunnocks and finches,
 Waits inches away for the sunflower seeds
 Which he hoovers up in an instant.

He flew when I opened the window -
 I sprinkled seeds on the sill -
 Returned as I poured my coffee,
 Cocked his head, pecked the seeds
 And ate his fill.
 Then glancing through the glass briefly,
 He flew up to the oak.

Elisabeth Taylor



Hereford Microsuction Specialist

EAR WAX REMOVAL

It is very common for ears to become blocked with wax, which leads to discomfort, pain and hearing loss.

Make an appointment and have your ears checked at :-

The Maple Room
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 Hereford
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Much Birch Parish Council

At the Much Birch Parish Council Meeting held in the Much Birch Community Hall on the 6th July 2023 the Parish Council discussed, and agreed to comments in regard to two local planning applications: Planning Consultation 231402 – Upper Wrigglebrook Croft, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire, HR2 8AW this being for a single storey extension and also Planning Consultation 231833 – Amberdale, Tump Lane, Wormelow, Herefordshire, HR2 8HN, being for a single storey extension, new porch and cladding to the exterior of the property. The parish council resolved to support both applications. The parish council also heard an update about the Much Birch Poor Acre Charity from one of the trustees. The dates for the forthcoming meetings, in the year 2023, are September 7th, October 5th, November 9th and December 7th. **Meetings are from 7.30pm** at the Much Birch Community Hall. All are welcome to attend. 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

Much Birch Parish Councillors

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe HR2 8AW, thecooks@wyenet.co.uk 01981 540703
Cllr Andrew Crum Tan-y-coed, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, HR2 8AX, a.crum@btinternet.com 01981 540002
Cllr Roisin Burge The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch HR2 8AX roisinburge@hotmail.com 01981 540724
Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey 4 Court Farm Barns, Much Birch HR28HT chris@pickering-grey.uk 07712 813218
Cllr Joseph Goldsmith Quantock House, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, HR2 8HX josephagoldsmith@hotmail.com 07967 728590
Michael Agyeman Little Willow, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe HR2 8AU 01981 540840
Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone HR2 9NE muchbirchclerk@gmail.com 01981 250860
Minutes of meetings www.muchbirchparish.org.uk,
<https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC>
<https://www.facebook.co/groups/Much.Birch.Parish>

Little Birch Parish Council

A parishioner requested help regarding discovering the ownership of a small pond. The PC was not aware of any details regarding this issue and referred the individual to the Land Registry.

1. The PC is preparing its submission to Balfour Beatty for the Lengthsman Grant, details of which have just been confirmed by Herefordshire Council.
2. The PC is still a councillor short of the necessary five and would encourage any local individual who would like to serve the community to make themselves known to Mr Neil Barrington the Parish Clerk. May we emphasise that there is a danger that the PC could be inquorate at some future date and therefore unable to represent local opinion.
3. We are entering hedge trimming season, therefore, may we remind parishioners of their Riparian responsibilities to keep all watercourses through and adjacent to their land clear of any potential obstructing material.
4. Next meeting 7pm Wednesday September 6th

Little Birch Parish Councillors

Cllr Michael Davies, chair
Cllr Chris Atkinson Cllr Nick Deacon
Cllr Tom Palfrey
Neil Barrington, clerk lbpcclerk@gmail.com
Website www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org



A farmer went to a market and bought a wolf, a goat, and a cabbage. On his way home, the farmer came to the bank of a river and rented a boat. But, crossing the river by boat, the farmer could carry only himself and a single one of

his purchases: the wolf, the goat, or the cabbage. If left unattended together, the wolf would eat the goat, or the goat would eat the cabbage. The farmer's challenge was to carry himself and his purchases to the far bank of the river, leaving each purchase intact. How did he do it?

Answer in October Newsletter

Beginners class
Little Dewchurch
Wednesday 8pm
Starting 26th April

Pilates with Alison Allan

My number: 07947 011707
Email: alisonpilates2016@gmail.com



Events at Hereford Cathedral

Responsible Engineering – Lecture by Dr Peter Brooks
Tuesday 5 September, 7pm

With the arrival of technology that can learn and change itself and data sources tracking every detail of human lives, engineering now entails decision-making with complex moral implications and global impact. One response is responsible engineering - an ethical and sustainable approach that considers the broader effects of technological solutions on society, the environment, and future generations. **Tickets £10 from the Hereford cathedral website or by calling 01432 374 225.**

Heritage Open Days: Creativity Unwrapped
Saturday 9 September, 10am – 3pm

Showcasing some of the cathedral's most creative design and craft work, from hidden wooden misericords to the intricate stonework done by our stonemasons. A day of free activities and talks. **booking is not required.**

Open Gardens Wed 13 September, 10am – 3.30pm

Explore the Chapter House Garden, Cloister Garden, Canons' Garden, Dean's Garden and Bishop's Garden at leisure with our team of volunteer garden guides on hand to answer questions. Enjoy the peace and beauty. **Tickets cost £6 via the cathedral website.**

Art & Soul Exhibition by Susan Edwards
Friday 1 - Wednesday 27 September

Susan's latest exhibition explores the abundance of nature, the work of many hands in gardens, the creativity of craftsmen and a sense of fun and fellowship of friends. **In the North Transept, part of h.Art week.**

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Little 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. *Little Birch Parish Group on Facebook*

Footpath Officers

If you have any queries about footpaths, contact:

Little Birch and Aconbury: Chris Fowler

chrisfowler1@hotmail.co.uk 07931 292998

Much Birch including Kingsthorpe: David Irwin

david.irwin13@btinternet.com 07766 135068

At Devon Cliffs

1st May 2023

Well, here we are at Devon Cliffs or, as I knew it about sixty years ago, Sandy Bay. We are very near to Exmouth and how things have changed through those years.

There are now, literally over a thousand caravans here, and definitely not as nice as it was when I brought my children here for a holiday. Then there was access to a beautiful sandy shoreline with a calm sea but, also, there was another shingle beach which I think was called Otter Cove. That may still be there but there is no access to that area anymore, furthermore there seems to be a military installation on the Cliff top.

So much for all that, this is our third Haven four nights break, but this one cost us £79. We have a view of the sea, our van is spotless, it has two bedrooms one with single beds and one double bed room, two bathrooms, large lounge and a kitchen that has all we need. All the vans have been different but good value. This one though has an air blown heating system but in the lounge there is a great wood effect electric fire.

Yesterday, being Monday, we left home to start this adventure at 09.30, a fabulous blue sky day. I did try to avoid motorways on the satnav but it turned out to be two hours extra time so the motorway won. Actually it was a good drive. I had found a National Trust garden for us to visit on the way which was just off from Taunton. Knightshays, was an absolute gem of a find. It was roughly 119 miles from home. As we drove up the long drive we were amazed at the huge oaks, real old sentinels many showing signs of how the last three hundred years treated them, some battered with broken limbs and split trunks but still so proud. The grassy slopes around them were covered with bluebells, dandelions, white allium and wild grasses, what a sight!

We walked the woodland gardens that had been set out probably a hundred years ago, huge specimen conifers and deciduous trees with azaleas and rhododendron under planted with Camassia, Rodgersia, bluebells and lots of cyclamen that were such a delicate show of purple pink. Another must for another visit, but really, the chances of us seeing both these gardens again in the beauty of now is very unlikely. There was also a huge walled garden that had seen better days, but they were trying to improve it with the help of volunteers.

From there to our resort at Devon Cliffs we decide to use all the small roads, I like the ones that have no white lines down the middle.

We did manage to find a few, other than that it was uneventful as we travelled via Honiton. We checked in around four o'clock.

Near the reception area were some eateries such as Burger King, The Mash Barrel and Papa John's, to name a few, and a massive arcade with some horrendous mechanical noises from the machines. We decide that, rather than come back later to eat, we would eat now and then we could watch the snooker World Cup later.

We ordered fish and chips twice and went onto the huge balcony area to find a table. We were amazed to find that most were pretty grubby with sticky glass rings so we returned to the massive indoor seating area and found a table.

Dinner finally arrived. I really think that my fish had gone through the fryer three times it was that crisp! when I put my fork in it almost exploded, batter so well done I think it had scared the fish away! I did struggle to eat it but gave up, took my plate, complained and got my money back on both dishes. Never again will they see me in there. We did watch the snooker, till the end, wrestled a bit with the heating system and had a jolly good nights sleep.

Today is Tuesday. Our schedule is to travel to Exeter and then to follow the coast road to Brixham where our friends have invited us for dinner. What a start to the day, sunshine and blue sky. We went down via Dawlish Warren, Teignmouth, Shaldon, Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. A few hours there and we went on to another great garden at Coletton Fishacre, just about five miles further on but we really didn't have enough time and must go back some time. It was a narrow valley that ran right down to the sea - lots of steps. The banks on either side were awash with bluebells and masses of white allium, and wild garlic, massive tree ferns, azaleas, camellias and huge specimen trees. We were back at base by six.

Wednesday, day three of our Haven Break. How lucky are we! We're having the most amazing weather which seems to be the norm for Doe and I. This morning we took a drive along the front at Exmouth. I can imagine why this is so popular, amazing views across and up the river Ex estuary, lots of parking on the front and so much easy flat walking. From there we are heading for Bicton Park but with a stop at Budleigh Salterton, another smallish seaside town.

We cruised along the front until we came to the river Otter estuary, parked and went for a decent walk along the shingle shore. The sea shore here is almost red which is the same colour as the rock and cliff face. There was a strong wind blowing as we turned back for the car.

About thirty minutes further and we arrived at Bicton Park and Botanical Gardens. I have studied the maps and NT magazine looking for places to visit, but actually we do not have any idea of what we shall find, though usually they are spectacular in some way or another.

First impressions of Bicton Park were not very exciting. We parked and went through the entrance, had a cup of tea in the orangery and looked down on a really spectacular garden and ponds. The herbaceous borders were very good, but most exciting were the trees, massive Redwoods, Wellingtonias, huge Chestnuts with twisted distorted bark, massive Oaks. This, I would say, is a park all about the trees.

Through the grounds runs a narrow gauge railway that used to carry ammunition at the works in London. There was a massive lake and rills or small streams across this vast park. We must have spent about four hours there, and according to Doe we walked 14,293 which equates to about six miles.

Rather than head back to base, we carried on to Sidmouth to get some food, drove up a big hill, parked and walked across a ridge from where we looked down onto the sea way below. From the ridge our road descended steeply on to the front at Sidmouth. We parked and went to look for food. O.K, it was four o'clock when we got there but we did not expect to have difficulty getting food. We walked the front, the sea was very powerful, the tide was in and the sea was red with silt. A nice busy little place but most were shut for food so we eventually bought a pasty and a sausage roll, sat at a street table and enjoyed them with a cup of tea followed by a cornet of home made ice cream from the same shop. Actually the pasty and roll were so scrumptious we bought more and had them in the evening! That was a full day, so looking forward for a good night's sleep.

Thursday is our last day, the weather has changed, it's very cloudy, it's colder and windy and the forecast is for rain later. The plan for today is to visit another NT Garden at Killerton, just outside Exeter and one of the

largest estates in Devon. Beyond the gate where we booked in was the big house, very much like other big houses of the era. We explored, learnt a bit of its history. As with lots of these huge estates this one too was given by the King to the Acland family, or rather to the Acland of the time for siding with the King in the civil war.

He was so grateful at the time that Acland was given 18,400 acres, and the same family kept ownership until 1944.

This place was more about the trees and woodland walk which was very strenuous, we were surprised by the quantity of cyclamen in colour and the fact that they are growing in such rough ground. There were some massive trees once more, along with some beautiful acres and huge rhododendrons. There was an exhibition upstairs in the house, all about recycling, reusing and repairing clothes. We did have some interesting conversations with the volunteer guides—we just seem to get these folk talking and they seem to enjoy the banter.

We also had a long chat with a lady whose job was to ferry the oldies around the hilly paths. Because it was a quiet day, she was just sat in the golf trolley looking really bored. I said that I hoped she had brought a good book to read. Half an hour later we left her for her dinner break.

These places always have some interesting information to pass on, which is why we enjoy them so much, and of course we are their biggest critics!

As we left, heading for an early lunch back at base we had spots on the windscreen but by the time we parked it was throwing it down. If you can recall, early on I mentioned that the marines had a firing range next door to the site. Because we were home early we realised how active the marines here were. The range was for small arms really but by the sound they were having a right old battle, non stop firing, at least till four o'clock when even the army seems to finish their fighting for the day.

Tomorrow is Friday, we must vacate the property by ten o'clock, we shall travel the motorway home but first we will go to Ilminster to visit a friend of Doe's then join the M5 at Taunton.

So that's your lot

Eric & Doe

Diary Dates July/August

Children's Workshop Fri 1st 4pm LBVH p5

Horticultural Show Sat 2nd September LBVH p1

Coffee & Books Thurs 7th & Sat 23rd Sept
10-12 LBVH p2

Community Café Sat 9th Sept 10-12.30
MBCH p2

LBPC meeting Wed 6th Sept 7pm p8

MBPC meeting Thurs 7th Sept MBCH p8

Flicks in the Sticks Thurs 14th Sept MBCH p1

Panto Auditions Thurs 28th Sept 7pm p1

Gardening for Wildlife 28th Sept 7.30 LBVH p5

Birches Community Quiz Fri 13th Oct 7.30
MBCH p4

Advertising Rates

11 editions per year (no August newsletter)

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

1/8th 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

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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

LUKE ATKINSON PHOTOGRAPHY

I AM A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER AND
VIDEOGRAPHER BASED IN HEREFORDSHIRE.

SINCE I CAN REMEMBER I HAVE HAD A
FASCINATION TO CAPTURE LIFE AND THE
FLEETING MOMENTS CONTAINED WITHIN IT.

AFTER 10 YEARS LIVING AND WORKING
PROFESSIONALLY IN LONDON I DECIDED TO
MOVE BACK TO THE PICTURESQUE
COUNTRYSIDE TOWN IN WHICH I GREW UP.
THOUGH BASED IN HEREFORDSHIRE,
I AM AVAILABLE FOR WEDDING, EDITORIAL,
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