The Birches

Community Matters Newsletter Kingsthorn, Much Birch, Little Birch, Aconbury & Wormelow April 2024





BROADBAND UPGRADE VOUCHER SCHEME

Many of our community have struggled, we are sure, with our slow broadband connections at times. We now have the chance to upgrade our entire system by installing fibre broadband to every property.

The previous 'Fastershire' scheme only took fibre to the exchanges and then carried it onto properties on the old copper wires. Those near to the exchanges were lucky, but a large proportion of us saw very little or no change to our speed at all.

Openreach are now, with government support, able to roll out full fibre broadband to everyone in our community – truly a godsend to those whose speeds hover around 30 gigabytes or in many cases a lot less, for some only single figures. There are huge benefits to every property and every user in our exchange – reliability and speed being the crucial ones. This really is a genuine opportunity for every home.

All you will agree to do when you pledge your voucher worth £4500 to Open Reach, is to sign up to a full fibre service from a provider of your choice once the network is built. There are well over 20, including EE, BT, Talk Talk, Giganet, Co-op, Fastnet, Fibrenet, Zen, Sky B/B and Vodaphone, there is every likelihood you are already with one of these. The current best deals for 150mb are around £30.

Don't forget this is the chance for the whole community to enjoy speeds that will allow all to run a business from home, let the children do their homework, stream a film and manage your household health and financial services – all at the same time!! This is 'future proofing your home' for years to come. Please help all those in our community, your friends and neighbours, to enjoy this free upgrade to an internet fibre connection we need going forward that everyone should be able to experience in 2024!

If you need any more information, there is a meeting at Much Birch Community Hall on Tuesday 26th March at 7.30pm

Please go to <u>www.openreach.com/</u> <u>connectmycommunity</u> for details how to pledge for your free upgrade.

Broadband Upgrade Voucher Scheme Meeting open to all Much Birch Community Hall Tuesday 26th March at 7.30pm.

A representative from Openreach will be there to answer your questions.

Coffee Morning With Book Exchange at Little Birch Village Hall

Thursday 4th & Saturday 20th April 10.00–12.00 noon

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.



at Much Birch Community Hall

Thursday 11 April - ONE LIFE 12

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An incredible true story of bravery and heroism - ONE LIFE features Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to the Second World War, rescued 669 children from the Nazis. Nicky visited Prague in December 1938 and found families who had fled the rise of the Nazis in Germany and Austria, living in desperate conditions with little or no shelter and food, and under threat of Nazi invasion. He immediately realised it was a race against time. How many children could he and the team rescue before the borders closed? **Starring** Anthony Hopkins

Tickets £5 (£4 under 16s)

Refreshments including hot dogs and ice cream

available from 7pm

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



King's Thorn & Little Birch Garden Club

April 24th at Little Birch Village Hall 7.30pm

Flowers for a Local Wedding from Start to Finish

Speaker: Janet Gwinnett

A personal experience of providing the flowers for a local wedding, from seeds to final arrangement. Janet is always a very interesting speaker, with lots of anecdotes and photos. A talk not to be missed.

Free to members / £5 for non-members.

Forward planning...... May 29th : Propagation workshop by club members. An interactive evening of demonstrations, hints & tips for successful propagation. Nichola Salter will also demonstrate/sharpen your secateurs – as time allows.

For more information call 07834 771838

Much Birch Parish Walk Next Parish Walk 2pm Sunday 24th March from Much Birch Community Hall.

If you enjoy a walk and chat do join us.

Much Birch Community

Speedwatch Scheme

One of the recurring issues reported to Much Birch Parish Council was drivers travelling too fast on our rural roads and also the A49 so it was decided to see if we could get a Community Speedwatch (CSW) scheme set up. It took a while but it finally went operational in March. Whilst the scheme is supported and facilitated by the Parish Council they have nothing to do with the operational side which is overseen by Terry Cook, our coordinator.

All the sites used have been checked and risk assessed by West Mercia Police, all volunteers have been trained and monitoring has started with several vehicles already being reported for excess speed. There will be no advance warning of the dates and sites being monitored, for obvious reasons, but monitoring can take place at any time during daylight hours and will reflect the locations where complaints have been received.

If anyone is interested in joining the group, or would like more information, please contact Terry on 07768 561475.

Many thanks Alison Cook, Chair Much Birch Parish Council

Weather

We Brits love to talk about the weather. It has always been, so it seems, a subject of conversation whether in the pub or around the dining room table. It harks back to our roots in farming – when were dependent upon the land more directly than most of us are now, and in great works of literature from Shakespeare (The Witches in McBeth) to Jane Austin (from her letters, "What dreadful ho t weather we have! It keeps me in a continual state of inelegance") – which is not surprising given the amount of clothes she had to wear.

But our weather hasn't been behaving itself – yes we have frost in winter but not as many days as the records show in previous years, and we have heat in summer – but the last two years we have had temperatures in the mid-30s to low 40s °C. Not what we expect.

These signs are signs that our earth is changing, and changing faster that birds, plants and animals can keep

up with. Species that like cooler weather are moving north or to higher altitudes, and genera that we might see only rarely, such as the Glossy Ibis have started to breed in the UK.

What can we do? Well, in this election year (possibly) we can hold those who are in power to account. Human-induced climate change is recognised by all sorts of groups as affecting our climate and we need to do something about it. The chemistry and physics of this are well known but what is lacking is the leadership to slow the changes down and to help us to change our lifestyles so that we don't contribute more than we have to.

These are not easy choices but ones that we have to make for the generations to come, if they are to enjoy the beauty of nature and the abundance of wildlife we have around us. In giving us dominion over the earth, God wanted humankind to help creation flourish, what we are doing at the moment is the exact opposite!

Services for April 9.15 a.m. at Much Dewchurch – Holy Communion Sunday 7th April (2nd Sunday of Easter) 9.15 a.m. at Much Dewchurch – Holy Communion Sunday 14th April (3rd Sunday of Easter) 9.15 a.m. at Much Birch – Holy Communion Sunday 21st April (4th Sunday of Easter) 9.15 a.m. at Much Birch – Morning Worship Sunday 21st April (4th Sunday of Easter) 9.15 a.m. at Much Birch – Morning Worship 11.00 a.m. at Little Birch – Morning Worship 11.00 a.m. at Little Birch – Holy Communion in Traditional Language 9.15 a.m. at Llandinabo – Holy Communion in

Revd Mark

The Birches Community Quiz

Friday 12th April 7.30pm Much Birch Community Hall

Teams of four are invited to take part, £12 per team includes refreshments. If you want to bring your own drinks, glasses will be provided.

Please get in touch with Carole if you are interested in taking part <u>carole.chichester@btinternet.com</u> or telephone 01981 540095 The Jolly Gardener TheJollyGardener2502@gmail.com Kyle - 07850921889





Little Birch Drama Group



Save the Date 11th,12th & 13th July

Following the success of the panto,

A Minor Operation

The Summer Show, with meal and bar.

More details to follow

Table Tennis

Tuesday 2nd April Little Birch Village Hall £3

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Eric and Doe's Travels (cont)

We chatted to a couple, also on their bikes, for quite a spell and then headed on to Bodmin. We were told that there wasn't much to see there, but our first building was the Bodmin Old Jail. The town consisted of one long street with quite a lot of shops. I bought a new top from Millets.

Next door there was a camera shop selling binoculars. A few weeks ago I had seen a cracking pair of binoculars when out with a friend. I was so impressed by their clarity that I checked them out and thought one day I may have some like that. Well, that day arrived a lot sooner than expected! I drained the reserves and spent big, Ugh!

Skint, broke or whatever, we headed back towards our temporary home. It was a lot quieter now along the trail. Stopped at the only cafe on the route and had two cream teas, if we weren't skint before we certainly are now! They had the most amazing cat, so strange and so friendly but it looked like some strange animal that should have been prowling in a tropical forest, it was amazing!

Nothing much to report on the homeward journey. I tried out the new binoculars at the bird hide and I am very pleased. I was amazed to see Doe right on my tail as we cycled up the steep hill out of Wadebridge, and then I went down the wrong road to the site. Knackered enough, but still had to backtrack. We were back at base by 1600 hrs.

Now we're relaxing in the sun while both our, and the bike, batteries are on charge. I presume that nothing exciting will happen this evening. Ah, but wait a mo, this is bunny heaven! Put the headlights on in the middle of the night and there in front were at least sixteen bunnies. Tonight I have new binocs so I can get a closer look. That's it for now. More tomorrow.

Tuesday 11th

A really chilly night, but loads of rabbits to keep us company. It's so lovely to see them. (I wonder if my liking for rabbits has something to do with Beatrix Potter and the stories I used to read to my babies !!!!)

Anyway, today we are back on the Camel trail, but going in the opposite direction, so Padstow here we come! We are cycling along the Cam river. The tide is out, leaving massive mud banks and lots of birds feeding—Great Egrets, swans, curlews, Canada geese and so many more. It was a nicer ride than yesterday's, inasmuch that we were alongside the water all the way there. Busy with other folk too.

Again it is a lovely sunny day and quite warm. At Padstow we walked up the hill to the war memorial and from there we could look out along the estuary to the sea. Had a pasty dinner in Padstow, bought us an ice cream each. Doe lost hers to a thieving, low flying seagull. We were back in Wadebridge about four, had a quick nip around Lidle's, then up the hill and home.

We've cycled thirty miles this week, all on level ground. I'm not sure what is planned for tomorrow, I don't even know what the forecast is.



Photography Group

We are a friendly local group who are keen and enjoy our imaging skills. We invite anyone who has an interest in taking photos to come and join us. You will be made very welcome. For more information contact Sally Nichol 07803 032928 or 01981 540001 email sally.nichol@btinternet.com





WALKER'S WALKS AND PET GARE

~DBS checked, qualified and insured~

I offer stimulating dog walks and enriching pet sitting around Hereford/ Welsh border.

walkerspetcare@outlook.com

07842966678 Facebook - @Walker's walks and pet care

Art and Craft Space



Friendly Art and Craft Group

We meet every Thursday afternoon 2 until 4 at Little Birch Village Hall at the top of Barrack Hill HR2 8AZ

We bring along our own projects and have a monthly theme. For April the theme is Spring, spring flowers and blossom. Feel free to do your own projects. You don't have to follow the themes if you would rather do something else. For more information please contact Sally Nichol tel. 07803 032928 01981 540001 email <u>sally.nichol@btinternet.com</u>



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Contact Lucy for more information on 07974 053804 or email lucymason@hotmail.com Merrivale Farm Little Birch Hereford HR2 8BA



Items for **May** newsletter to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or paper copy to Elisabeth Taylor 07854 629193 by **8th April**

Ping's Hairdressing & Barbers



Experienced hairdresser and stylist located in own salon at Thorn Lodge, Aconbury Close (old Post Office site). Home visits can also be arranged. Weekend and evening appointments available. Reasonable rates. Fully C&G and NVQ certified. For appointments and further information phone Mobile 07450 343454 Or Home 01981 540876



Jobs for the Garden in April

We have had a mixture of weather during the first 10 days of March. At the beginning of the month, near the top of Aconbury Hill, we had about 10cms of snow which lay around for a couple of days before it rained heavily again. This was followed by a few sunny days with a drying wind. Our plants and seedlings spent some time in the cold frame and I was able to reduce the height of some of our grass.

We have a small peach tree in a tub and many flower buds were starting to open by the end of February, when frosts were forecast. The peach was put in the greenhouse and in several days many of the flowers

Dawn Chorus Walk



Sunday 7th April 5.30am for 5.45am start.

It will be led by bird enthusiasts Adrian Hodges and Bob Mason who will share their knowledge as we walk for a few miles in Aconbury/Athelstan's Woods. No dogs please.

We will meet at Little Birch Village Hall or Merrivale Farm depending on the weather, and then afterwards the Mason's will be providing bacon butties/toast/marmalade, tea or coffee with donations to charity.

If you are coming please let us know, to help with planning

Chris Fowler07931292998 chrisfowler1@hotmail.co.uk



*Keep listening/watching the weather forecast so that tender plants can be protected if a frost is imminent.

*If you have forced some rhubarb, harvest stems at 20-30 cms long. Afterwards mulch around the crowns with manure or compost and do not harvest until 2025 because forcing weakens the plant.

*Nesting is now under way so keep feeding the birds and provide fresh water.

*Sow a small patch of wild flowers if you have a bit of space.

*Nesting is now under way so keep feeding the birds and provide fresh water.

*Sow a small patch of wild flowers if you have a bit of space.

Derek Scrivens

Pancake Day

Thanks to everyone who supported pancake day in Little Birch Village Hall. Great turnout! Delicious pancakes and yummy toppings! We raised £225 for the village hall.

Mel's Musings

I've lived in various areas of the South West over the past 70 years and have come across many sayings, discovering that they differ from region to region. We use many in conversation, mostly without a second thought. I heard several on the TV, including 'It landed as softly as a butterfly with sore feet', used during commentary on a golf match, a dark cloud was described as 'It's black over Bill's mother's'.

I ended up writing to all the local newspapers in England, asking them to print a letter in which I asked people to send in their family sayings – I was inundated!

I compiled a book of all I received, putting them under headings such as Advice, Confusion, Marriage,' and many others. Most referred to body parts and were quite base, but still regularly used. Some came from certain parts of the country, identified by place names, but since the introduction of motor cars people have moved around and sayings have moved with them. My father, a Cornish man, would respond to my constant, 'Where?' questions with 'Up in Nellie's room, behind the clock'.

In Herefordshire I was told they said 'In the oven behind the bread/cake' or the ruder version of 'Up Jack's ar*e on a piece of string'. Others were 'Where the ducks fly backwards to keep the dust out of their eyes', 'she's gone to see a man about a dog'. They still make me laugh and I still hear new ones regularly. Their origins are often unknown, sometimes just used in one family, or from Shakespeare, all interesting or amusing. I love them.

Much Birch Parish Council

At the Much Birch Parish Council Meeting held in Much Birch Community Hall on 7th March the Parish Council discussed the parish land again and heard about a possible proposal for the future use of the part of the land near to "Valley View". This would be explored further. A local planning application had received a committee referral. This was for planning consultation application number 240148 and was for the Pilgrim Hotel, Much Birch. The parish council resolved that they would not register to speak at the planning meeting and they had previously resolved to support the proposals in application 240148.

The Parish Footpath Officer advised the meeting about a parish walk to be held on the 24th March 2024. Meet at the Much Birch Community Hall at 2.00 pm. Tea and cake to follow, back at the hall, at approximately 4.00 pm. The dates for the forthcoming meetings, in the year 2024, are April 4th, May 9th, June 6th, July 4th, No August meeting, Sept 5th, Oct 3rd, Nov 7th and Dec 5th.

The next Parish Council Meeting of the Much Birch Parish Council will be held on Thursday 4th April 2024 7.30pm at the Much Birch Community Hall. All are welcome to attend. Full minutes of the meetings and information etc. can be found on the Parish Council website following the link www.muchbirchparish.org.uk. also at https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC and Facebook

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is seeking to appoint a new Lengthsman for the Parish. Duties will include mowing, strimming, clearing ditches and gullies, digging grips, cleaning signs, trimming overgrowth of plants and general minor roads upkeep and maintenance. Relevant experience and appropriate insurance are essential.

If you are interested in applying for the post an application form can be obtained by contacting: Alison Wright (Parish Clerk)

E mail: muchbirchclerk@gmail.com

Little Birch Parish Facebook Group

Find the latest news, events & 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 local area. Little Birch Parish Group on Facebook

Much Birch Parish Councillors

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorne HR2 8AW, thecooks@wyenet.co.uk 01981 540703

Cllr Andrew Crum Tan-y-coed, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorne, 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 HR2 8HT chris@pickering-grey.uk 07712 813218

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

Cllr Michael Agyeman Little Willow, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorne HR2 8AU 01981 540840

magyeman92@gmail.com

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.comMuchBirchPChttps://www.facebook.co/ groups/Much.Birch.Parish

Little Birch Parish Councillors

Cllr Steve Coles Cllr Tom Palfrey Cllr Chris Atkinson Cllr Nick Deacon Neil Barrington, clerk lbpcclerk@gmail,com

Website www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org

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 Kingsthorne: David Irwin david.irwin13@btinternet.com 07766 135068

Much Birch Church Compost still available for free

Free compost is still available from Much Birch Churchyard. Some has already been removed exposing the really 'rotten' good stuff at the bottom of the pile. If you would like some for your garden, please do help yourself. It is situated in the front churchyard under the trees to the left of the shed.

Hope Spring eCards

Anniversaries Birthdays Christmas Easter Father's Day Mother's Day New Year Valentine's Day

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Saturday 11th May

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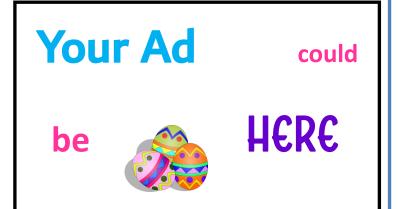


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Little Trotty Wagtail by John Clare

Little Trotty Wagtail, he went in the rain,

And twittering, tottering sideways he ne'r got straight again.

He stooped to get a worm, and looked up to get a fly. Then he flew away ere his feathers they were dry.

Little trotty Wagtail, he waddled in the mud,

And left his little footmarks, trample where he would.

He waddled in the water-pudge, and waggle went his tail,

And chirrupt up his wings to dry upon the garden rail.

Little Trotty Wagtail, you nimble all about,

And in the dimpling water-pudge you waddle in and out; Your home is high at hand, and in the warm pig-stye, So little Master Wagtail, I'll bid you a goodbye.



Is it time to learn some simple relaxation tools to let go of unhelpful learned behaviours?

Is it time to change your relationship with yourself?

My work led me around the world teaching individually and as a course leader offering WorkShops (or maybe RestShops!) to slowly soften, unwind and return home to ourselves, allowing our bodies to rest and our minds to slow down through profound yet simple relaxation practices. Maybe it's time to give yourself these easily learned gifts?

I hold regular small afternoon groups as well as individual sessions in my Garden Studio in Little Birch. If you know you need to dial down please get in touch 07985 252166

Upcoming events : Deep Relaxation afternoons @ Little Birch Village Hall 10 Feb, 4 May, 3 August, 2 December.

Areas of interest and training include Yoga, Yin Yoga, Vinyasa Yoga, Reflexology, Fascia Release, Wheel of Consent, Shamanic Practices including Sweat Lodges and Women's Wisdom Circles.

amanda hamilton2004@yahoo.co.uk

Diary Dates April 2024

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Table TennisTues 2nd LBVH	p1
Coffee & Books Thurs 4th LBVH	p1
MBPC Thurs 4th MBCH	p8
Dawn Chorus Walk Sunday 7th	р7
Flicks Thurs 11th MBCH	p2
Community Quiz 12th April	Р3
Community Café Sat 13th MBCH	p2
Coffee & Books Sat 20th LBVH	p1
Garden Club Wed 24th LBVH	p2
Art & Craft Thursdays 2-4 LBVH	р5
Church Services	р3



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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 A466between the church and Forge CottageWormelow at the Cricket Club &Carrot & Wine shopWilton on wall at the BP garage on the roundabout

säfe

WORCESTER