

The Birches

Community Matters Newsletter

Kingsthorpe, Much Birch, Little Birch,
Aconbury & Wormelow **September 2024**



Table Tennis
Tuesday 2nd
September

Little Birch
Village Hall
7-9pm £3

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Little Birch Open Gardens in June p2

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Saturday 14 September 2024
10:00 - 12:30

and every 2nd Saturday of the month
12 October
9 November
14 December

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FLICKS
IN THE
STICKS

at Much Birch
Community Hall

Thursday 12 September - THE GREAT ESCAPER 12A

Michael Caine and the late Glenda Jackson star in this inspirational retelling of a D-Day veteran's remarkable exploit. In the summer of 2014 – the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings – Bernie Jordan made headlines after staging a "great escape" from his care home to join fellow war veterans on the beach in Normandy to commemorate their fallen comrades. With great chemistry between Caine and Jackson as Rene, Jordan's spirited wife of 60 years, Oliver Parker's warm, bittersweet film salutes an adventure that captured the imagination of the world while exploring the lasting trauma of war.

Next month...

Thursday 17 October—SCRAPPER 12

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

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

Kings Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club
Annual Show
Saturday 7th September
Little Birch Village Hall
Open to exhibitors 9 – 10.45am
Open to the public 2pm
Refreshments available

Kings Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club
Children's Workshop
Friday 6th September 4- 5pm

. Do encourage your children (under 13!) and grandchildren to come along for a bit of monster making with vegetables! Have a look and see what you can enter (the schedule was on the back of the June Birches Newsletter) – it's all good fun and a great way to meet people from the village in the afternoon – oh yes – there will

Kings Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club

The gardening club have been busy again. On one of the few sunny Saturday afternoons in June we visited four local gardens, all very different, starting with Janet's compact garden at Ross View then heading down Parish Lane to Roger and Tracey at Windswept cottage. It's amazing what a gem of a garden is hidden behind that wooden fence!

We were all completely bowled over by Jackie and Bryan Williams' garden, the result of years of dedication and hard work and an absolute credit to them. We then headed to Lesley Chapman's garden and were treated to live music and delicious refreshments. Lesley's garden is a treat in itself.

Our other summer event was a cream tea in the orchard at the Old Rectory. A relaxed and pleasant, quintessentially English afternoon was enjoyed by all. We are grateful to all of those who have allowed the club to visit their gardens.

The gardening club is a very social club. You don't need to be a keen gardener. We welcome visitors and new members at any of our meetings. Any questions about the Show please do contact any of the Committee members (numbers to be found on the schedule) or contact Lesley on 07834 771838.

Little Birch Village Fete

We would like to say a big thank you to everybody who helped to make the fete a success. Many thanks to Kate and John Dillon who did so much work before the event and once again hosted the fete, our willing band of volunteers without whom nothing is possible, everybody who sold and bought raffle tickets and those who donated prizes, especially Sue and Andy at the Axe and Cleaver for the Sunday lunch. Thank you to Allensmore Nursery for donating plants.

Thank you to everybody who came and supported us on the day. There were a lot of new faces and young families and it is lovely to see them enjoying village life. At the end of the day we made £1310.80 which will go to the continuing up-keep of Little Birch Church. We have ongoing projects, including replacing the rainwater down pipes, updating the electrical system and lopping the cedar tree which was taller than the church and a threat to the building. Thank you to everybody who contributed to a lovely afternoon. **John Caton**

Art and Craft Space

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. 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 sally.nichol@btinternet.com

Duchy Walk

Geraint Richards has arranged a walk for us in Athelstan Wood and Rough Hill Wood on Tuesday 24th September. Meet in the car park for Athelstan Wood at 5pm. To reach the car park, drive from Little Birch village hall down to the cross-roads and turn right. Continue for about 1/4 mile. Turn right into the car park. Suitable footwear & waterproofs advised.

Afterwards there will be refreshments in Little Birch Village Hall. Further details will be posted around the village and maybe on Facebook. Keep a lookout from the beginning of September. 01981 540791

Please join us for a Parish Walk

Sunday 29th September

2pm at Little Birch Village Hall

We will walk to Aconbury, where we will have a chance to look round the inside of the Church.

Afterwards there will be refreshments at the village hall.

Further details from Chris Fowler



St John the Baptist's church

chrisfowler1@hotmail.co.uk 07931292998

There will be a Fungi Walk on 13th October

Parish Field

The time has come round again for Parish Field to have its annual trim. For this we appeal to anyone who has a strimmer and/or rakes and who is available on Saturday 14th September.

Please consider helping particularly if you are young and fit!!

With enough people the job can be completed in a morning. So please meet there from 10am. If the weather is bad ring 540791 for an alternative time.

Thankyou

King's Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club Next Meeting September 25th

Angela & Graham O'Connell Beyond the Garden Gate

The National Garden Scheme (NGS) past and present by
NGS assistant county organisers for Herefordshire.

This promises to be an interesting insight to the NGS Scheme. Do come and join us. Venue: LBVH Time: 7.30pm Members free, visitors £5. Refreshments will be available.

Advance Notice for your Diary

October 30th (2- 4pm) Free guided walk around Queenswood Country Park (Queenswood Country Park & Arboretum).

The Acer autumn colours are always worth a visit in the arboretum. Free parking and there will be afternoon tea after the walk in the newly refurbished cafe - £5 pp.

Pre-booking on this event please for catering purposes. Contact Lesley Chapman - 07834 771838/ Lesleychapman55@sky.com

Also state any dietary requirements please.

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
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Mrs Sarah Mathews

As you may already know our mum, Sarah Mathews, died on 25th February this year just after her 88th birthday. To the very last moment she was graceful, quick witted and appreciative of all those around her. Both she and Dad spent such happy years living in Little Birch. They dreamed and co-created a lovely family home from a virtually blank canvas – a testament to Mum's ability to imagine, design and realise beauty and to Dad's patience, and willingness to 'do the donkey work' with his renowned good nature. What a team!

Mum notoriously took no prisoners - her exacting standards and overflowing common sense could at times even override her willingness to be patient. That said, as a fiercely private woman, it was easy for her to be misunderstood and for people to miss the endless good deeds and acts of kindness that touched the lives of so many people throughout her life. She didn't find it easy to make friends as she was deeply shy, but when she did let someone in, she held them close and valued them highly.

It was Mum who began the Much Birch Bridge Club having taught Bridge informally in her home – a Club that continues to thrive long after she handed over the reins. Her contribution to the community also included teaching Riding and Road Safety, editing the parish magazine and tending both Llandinabo and Little Birch churches. It was her way of quietly serving a God she believed in. You may have your own personal memories of our mother. Forty years in one place is a long



time. We would welcome it if you would share your stories with us. If something comes to you that raises a smile or brings a lump to your throat please email Nicola at ncoupe@sky.com

With love, Nicola, Amanda and Family

Jobs for the Garden in September Derek Scrivens

We have experienced another Summer of strange weather. Only a few days have occurred when we were able to sit outside on the swingseat and even then the evenings became uncomfortably cool and the smell of BBQs was rare. There appear to be few blackbirds about this year. The cold and wet Spring probably did not help when they were nesting. I have read that there is a virus (not avian flu) which seems to infect only blackbirds in parts of the country and it is to be hoped that it will not be too damaging.

The National news recently reported a shortage of wasps this year, suggesting that the weather is to blame. Although many people dislike them, they do a lot of good in the garden. Pollinating flowers is one of their good points, as they too like nectar. In addition they collect aphids to feed their developing young.

There might only be a few about this year but those that are have made short shrift of our gooseberries. A few jobs for September – I am sure you'll find more.

- *Clean greenhouse and cold frame glass.
- *Plant new perennials towards the end of the month.

The soil is still warm and will encourage root growth.

- *Water greenhouse plants in the morning now so plants don't spend all night sitting in cold water.
- *Divide alpines.
- *Bulbs – Daffodil, Scilla, Crocus and Hyacinths can be planted in borders and pots.
- *Keep dead heading.
- *Take house plants that have been outside during the Summer back inside.. Examine for aphids and pests.
- *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.
- *Transplant Spring cabbage.
- *Sow small quantities of salad leaves and Radishes.
- *Clean nesting boxes, line with straw or wood shavings and rehang them.
- *Put a net over ponds to prevent leaves falling in.
- *Create shelters for invertebrates – small piles of logs, stones, in quiet corners so they won't be disturbed.

Roger Wilkins October 1945 to June 17th 2024

Roger was born in October 1945 to parents, Dick and Rene Wilkins in Woodford, Essex nine years after his elder brother John. He remembered many happy family motoring trips to the Suffolk coast, sailing holidays, and idyllic Arthur Ransome type adventures.

He attended the prestigious all boys Forest School in Walthamstow, leaving in 1962 aged 17 to take up a position at the Bank of London and South America. But the banking world was not for him and before long he found his way back to Suffolk where he renewed his love of sailing, living first in Woodbridge and later Aldeburgh. Roger went on to develop his woodwork and joinery skills, employed at the Aldeburgh Boatyard, eventually renovating his 1920s yacht 'Joy' which he kept on the River Alde.



Renting a workshop on the Aldeburgh marshes he set up as a self-employed joiner and before long had many clients. He was actively involved with the running of Thorpeness Youth Club.

In 1978 he bought and renovated an old cottage at Friday Street near Farnham where he lived until moving to Herefordshire, and worked on the newly established Aldringham Green Steiner School in 1979. Here he met Jan.

1984 saw Roger purchasing a VW Transporter as an addition to his Morris 1000 convertible and his beloved 1937 Riley Lynx. As well as a work van it became a camper for trips to the South of France.

From there he travelled the French canals by boat with his friend, Jim Tuohy, from Aldeburgh. Looking for a change of direction from the Suffolk scene, Roger moved to Kings Thorn in the late nineteen eighties where he shared Chapel House with Jan and had his own workshop, becoming well known locally as a superb craftsman.

A stroke in 2009 forced him to cut down on physical work and take life a little easier, after which Roger enjoyed over 15 years immersing himself in paperwork as Chair and Clerk to Aconbury Parish Meeting, a job he performed conscientiously and very effectively. A much liked and thoughtful man who'll be missed.

Your Ad Could Be Here

The Birches Newsletter is distributed to over 200 households in Little Birch, Much Birch, Kingsthorpe and Wormelow.

Advertising rates on p10.
email: editorial@birchesnews.org.uk

Coffee Morning With Book Exchange Little Birch Village Hall Thursday 5th & Saturday 21st September 10-12 noon

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Muchbirchslowflowyoga@gmail.com



More Information: Tel 07503 199 972 or 07964 821 087

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 please contact Sally Nichol. tel. 07803 032928 01981 540001
email sally.nichol@btinternet.com



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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 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.



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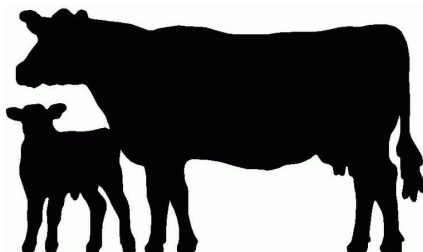
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Items for **October** newsletter to
editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or paper
copy to Elisabeth Taylor 07854 629193 by
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Much Birch Parish Council

At Much Birch Parish Council Meeting on 11th July the council co-opted a new councillor, David Irwin who is also Parish Footpath Officer. There was discussion about planning consultation 241328 for land at "Closeburn". The council objected to the reserved matters application due to the size of the proposed house and potential lack of amenity space. The parish council also considered consultation number 231114 for the Old Post Office at Wormelow, continuing to object on highways and safety grounds even though the application is now for one dwelling on the site, as opposed to two, as was commented on originally. Dates for the forthcoming meetings, in the year 2024, are Sept 5th, Oct 3rd, Nov 7th and Dec 5th.

The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the Much Birch Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 5th September**. Please see notice boards and website for agendas. The public and press are welcome to attend the meeting and will have the opportunity to speak directly to their representatives. 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 at <https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Much.Birch.Parish>

Social Capital Makes the World Go Round

Revd Mark

As the first signs of Autumn creep into our gardens and children head back to school, it seems that this is a good time to reset ourselves. I hope that you have managed to find time and space over the summer to recharge the batteries and now is the time to put all that stored energy to work.

But what work? Well, that is an interesting question. The work I am thinking of is replenishing social capital. What on earth is "social capital!?" Just like capital that is invested in factories and schools to make things or educate children, then social capital is the same but done with time and not money.

The best way of looking at it is to think about relationships with neighbours and community. Do we know who lives next door, or down the lane, who drives that blue car we see from time to time? If not, now is a good time to invest – introduce yourselves, invite them to a community event, be a friend.

In doing so, we reduce loneliness, increase our connectedness as human beings, and if we don't like them – well at least we have done our part. If we do like them, maybe they will become great friends. You never know until to make that first step.

Much Birch Parish Councillors

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe HR2 8AW, thecoops@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 HR28AX Kingsthorpe roisinburge@hotmail.com
01981 540840

Cllr David Irwin, 5 The Old Mushroom Farm, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HY **Tel:** 07766 135068
email David.Irwin13@btinternet.com

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

Cllr Michael Agyeman Little Willow, Wrigglebrook, 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.com/MuchBirchPC> <https://www.facebook.com/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

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Diary Dates September 2024

Table Tennis Tues 2nd LBVH	P1
LBPC Wed 4th LBVH	p9
Coffee & Books Thurs 5th LBVH	p5
MBPC Thurs 5th MBCH	p9
Gardening Club Children's Fri 6th	P2
LB Garden Show LBVH Sat 7th	P2
Garden Club LBVH 25th	P2
Parish Walk 29th	P3
Community Café Sat 14th MBCH	p1
Coffee & Books Sat 20th LBVH	p5
Duchy Walk 24th	p3
Art & Craft Thursdays 2-4 LBVH	p2
Photography Group	p6
Flicks MBCH Fri 12th	P2
Parish Field Sun 14th	P3
Church Services	p10

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Services for September

Sunday 1st September

9.15 a.m. at Much Dewchurch – Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. at Little Birch – Holy Communion

Sunday 8th September

9.15 a.m. at Much Birch – Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. at Little Birch – Morning Worship

Sunday 15th September

9.15 a.m. at Much Birch – Morning Worship

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

Sunday 22nd September

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

Sunday 29th September

10.30 a.m. at Much Birch Community Hall – Joint churches Communion service

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.

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