



THE *Birches*

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

First published 1977 **December 2019**



CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO

**LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL
WEDNESDAY 11TH
DECEMBER
EYES DOWN AT 7:30PM**



Church Services December 2019

December 1st Advent Sunday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's, LB
6.30 p.m. Advent Carol Service at St. David's,
Much Dewchurch with St. Weonards' Benefice

December 8th 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.15 a.m. Family Communion at St. Mary and St.
Thomas Becket, Much Birch
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship at St. Mary's, Little Birch

December 15th 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.15 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary and St. Thomas a
Becket, Much Birch
11.00 a.m. Traditional Communion Service at St. Mary's,
Little Birch

December 22nd 4th Sunday of Advent

4.00 p.m. Carols and Christingle at St. Mary's, Little Birch
6.30 p.m. Carols and Readings at St. David's, Much Dewchurch



Diary Dates

November 2019

27th Gardening Club Talk LBVH 7.30pm
30th Christmas Fayre MB School 11am

December 2019

3rd Parish Council Meeting LBVH 7pm
3rd Public Meeting regarding Broadband
provision for Little Birch LBVH 7.30pm
3rd Flower arranging MBCH 7.30pm
4th Gardening Club Winter Social LBVH 7.30pm
5th Coffee Morning LBVH 10.30am
5th Arts and Crafts Club LBVH 2pm
5th MB Parish Council Meeting MBCH 7.30pm
5th History Group talk LBVH 7.30pm
6th Village Market MBCH 2.30pm
8th Parish Walk from LBVH 9am
10th Whist Drive LBVH 7.30pm
11th Christmas Bingo LBVH 7.30pm
13th Willow Weaving LBVH
13th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH 7.30pm
14th Community Café MBCH 10am
14th Book Exchange Methodist Hall 10am
18th Table Tennis LBVH 7pm

December 24th Christmas Eve

3.30 p.m. Crib Service at St. Mary and St. Thomas a Becket,
Much Birch
11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass at St. Mary and St. Thomas a
Becket, Much Birch

December 25th Christmas Day

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Little Birch

Sunday 30th 1st Sunday of Christmas

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Junabius, Llandinabo

*John Butterworth will give us a really interesting talk on
Thursday December 5th about how the creation of the toll
roads and the stagecoaches created much more comfortable
and faster journeys for travellers in the late 1700s and early
1800s. It is hard to imagine long journeys without trains or
cars See Page 7*

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for December 2019

Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 5th December 10:30am - 12:30pm** at Little Birch Village Hall.

Join us and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, some cake or a biscuit. Make new friends or catch up with old friends, have a chat and find out more about the local community and let us know your thoughts and suggestions as to how we can develop these regular meetings.

If you need help with transport, please contact Margaret: 01981 540374

Whist Drive

We guarantee a warm welcome and a fun evening with good company at our monthly whist drive whatever your ability. Excellent prizes and refreshments too.

Our next **Whist Drive** will be on **Tuesday 10th December** at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30 pm** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

Christmas Prize Bingo

Eyes down at **7:30pm** on **Wednesday 11th December**, at **Little Birch Village Hall**. All are welcome to join us for this fun and festive evening that has become a local Christmas tradition.

Table Tennis Sessions

The next table tennis session will be on **Wednesday 18th December** at Little Birch Village Hall **between 7pm and 9pm**. All abilities are welcome as the idea is to have a bit of fun and exercise. Equipment is supplied. Sessions are once a month.

Tea and coffee will be available. £2.00 per session to cover cost of refreshments and heating.

If you are interested and would like more information call Peter Rees on 01981 541356

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The next Book Exchange will be on the morning of **Saturday 14th December** at the former Methodist Chapel opposite the Village Hall **10am – 12noon**.

All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable monthly event which offers not only a wide range of books and DVDs (to suit all ages and interests) but also an opportunity to meet others and exchange recommendations for a good read.

There is a charge of just £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire and refreshments.

Art and Crafts Club

The last 2019 session of the Art and Crafts Club will take place on **Thursday 5th December from 2pm – 4pm** at Little Birch Village Hall.

The Club will resume weekly sessions in January 2020 – date of

the first session will be confirmed. Sessions include drawing, painting, creative writing, knitting, crochet, quilting or any other crafts which people are interested in. We have beginners as well as seasoned and talented members. Bring your own materials and enjoy time with like-minded people. Some craft work. We will occasionally have contributions from external speakers/presenters, as this has been very popular. Why not come along and see what it's like – new people are always made very welcome. For further information contact: Val On 01981-540424 or mobile 07854-244656

OTHER DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

History Group

The next talk will be on **Thursday 5th December at 7.30pm**. See separate notice for more information.

Kingsthorpe and Little Birch Gardening Club

A **Willow Weaving workshop** will take place on **Friday 13th December from 2pm to 6pm**. See separate notice for more information.



This season's pantomime, **Treasure Island**, will be performed by the Birches Amateur Dramatic Group, under the direction of Jane Bolam at Little Birch Village Hall on the evening of **Friday 31st January 2020** with a matinee on the afternoon of **Saturday 1st February** and a final performance on that evening.

We always welcome anyone handy with a toolkit or paintbrush to help build the sets and props. The construction crew usually meet at the village hall on **Tuesday mornings at 9:00am**.

Hereford Civic Society

Kindle Centre, by Hereford ASDA

Thursday December 12th @ 7.30pm

(you'll be back home in good time for the election results)

Speakers: Elly Deacon-Smith and Matt Hayes of Arbor Architects

Subject: Meeting the challenge of carbon descent: leading by example and the opportunities for genuinely sustainable low energy housing in Herefordshire

Elly and Matt have recently set up on their own account. They were formally employed by Archetype, recognised leaders in the field of Passivhaus design.

Non-members welcome: £3 donation.

Annual Membership £15 (10 meetings pa + quarterly magazine).

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We have quality beef available direct from our farm in Little Birch to your doorstep. It is organic grass fed Wagyu Cross beef which has been born and raised at Merrivale Farm. The Wagyu breed is known for its beautiful marbling which gives a delicious flavour and texture to the meat.



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MUCH BIRCH SCHOOL
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Christmas Fayre

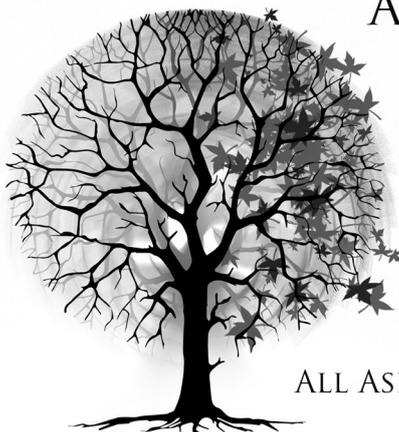
SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 11-1PM

IN THE SCHOOL HALL

FREE ENTRY.

Raffle, Craft stalls, Santa's Grotto, Children's Christmas crafts, Hot pork rolls and mulled wine
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ALL ASPECTS OF TREE WORK UNDERTAKEN

Good News for St. Mary's Church, Little Birch!

We have just heard that Hereford Historic Churches Trust, which runs the county's annual 'Ride and Stride' fundraising event, has given our church a £2,000 renovation grant to fund exploratory drainage excavation. This will enable us to draw up a fully-costed renovation work schedule, before applying for further repair grants

Grazing Available



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ART & CRAFTS CLUB



Although the nights are drawing in, it's no reason to hibernate! Instead start a new hobby or revive an old one by coming along to ART & CRAFTS CLUB for a couple of hours a week at LBVH.

This group, originally named ARTSPACE, started as an art group led and tutored by Maz has now evolved into ART & CRAFT CLUB. Alongside the painting it now includes knitting, crochet and creative writing.

We have beginners as well as seasoned and talented members who bring their own materials and enjoy their time with like-minded people. We will occasionally have contributions from external speakers / presenters as this has been very popular.

Why not come along and see what it's like - new people are always made very welcome

ART & CRAFTS CLUB is on Thursdays 2-4pm at Little Birch Village Hall

For further information contact:
Val 01981 540424 / mob: 07854 244656

Much Birch Christmas Village Market

FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER
2:30 - 4:30 pm
Much Birch Community Hall



*Come along for some
seasonal shopping
and refreshments!*

There will be the usual village market stalls but it is also an opportunity for people to hold a one-off stall at **£5 per table**.

*If you are interested in booking a table,
please call 01981 540980 or 01981 540097*



FLICKS IN THE STICKS

at Much Birch Community Hall

**NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR DECEMBER DUE TO ELECTION
FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER, 7.30 pm - ROCKETMAN 15**

Based on a true fantasy, this follows the spectacular journey of transformation of Reginald Dwight from shy piano prodigy at the Royal Academy of Music, through his influential, enduring musical partnership with Bernie Taupin, into becoming flamboyant international superstar Elton John.

Starring Taron Egerton, Jamie Bell, Richard Madden, Bryce Dallas Howard

Refreshments including hot dogs available from 7pm

Coming up in January...

Saturday 25 January, 2.30 pm - TOP HAT starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Screening as part of BFI Musicals! The Greatest Show on Screen, a UK-wide film season supported by National Lottery, BFI Film Audience Network and ICO.

Film will be followed by a tea dance with refreshments - a great way to spend a January afternoon!

Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)

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

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

Much Birch

Parent, Baby and Toddler Group

Come and Play!

*Chat and fun
for all*

Snacks

*Drink lots of
Tea or Coffee!*

*Much Birch
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Birth to 4 years*

*Crafty
Activities*

*Outdoor and
indoor toys
and play*

*Make new
friends*

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For more information please contact:
Karen 07817716137 or Lucy lcook8910@gmail.com

Local Home Grown Christmas Trees.

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LINE DANCING FOR BEGINNERS NOW BEING INTRODUCED AT MUCH BIRCH

I am a fully qualified linedance teacher with over 20 years teaching experience and 30 years dancing. Currently I run an established linedance class in Much Birch Community Hall - Wednesday evenings-7.30 - 9.30.

As from 6th November I am changing the structure of the class and would welcome any beginners to join us. The first hour will be dedicated to teaching Beginners linedance steps followed by easy dances'

This is a great chance to learn one of the most popular forms of dance, to socialise and to have fun.

*£4 all night or any part thereof
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Herefordshire Council

Christmas rubbish and recycling collections are due to change as follows:

No collections	Revised collection day
Wednesday 25 December	Saturday 28 December
Thursday 26 December	Sunday 29 December
Wednesday 1 Jan 2020	Saturday 4 Jan 2020

Please put your bin out by 6.30am as collections may be earlier over the festive period. If you have too much waste for your bins, our Household Recycling Centres are open as normal, but closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years' Day. Remember to reduce, reuse, recycle.

herefordshire.gov.uk/christmas

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TWO COURSES
CHOICE OF THREE ROASTS
+
CHOICE OF DESSERTS
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What3words

The delights of living in rural Herefordshire include the tranquillity of sparsely populated areas. Wonderful as this is it can be problematic when family, friends, the emergency services and delivery vehicles try to locate us and post codes cover such a wide area. There is, however, a solution that some local residents may wish to try. What3words is a free app available both on smart phone and laptop. It divides the whole country into 3m x 3m squares and each square is identified by a 3 word code. For example, one of the squares covering the village hall is airship.fruits.spare and entering this in the website search box immediately brings up the exact location. There is no need to register or pass on individual information to the website, though the smart phone app does use location data to pinpoint an individual's exact position. There are two minor difficulties with the site when using a laptop: firstly, houses are not visible on the site map and difficult to locate exactly, and secondly, each individual dwelling will have over ten location codes depending on the size of the plot. The other issue is, of course, the variable mobile phone reception in our area.

Hopefully, some will find this facility useful.

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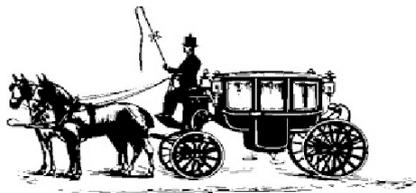
Community Café
@ Much Birch Community Hall

CHAT CRAFT GAMES GET-TOGETHER BACONROLL GET-TOGETHER COFFEE
2nd Saturday of the month
10:00 - 12:30
14 December 11 January 8 February
RELAX KNOTS KNIT COFFEE MAKE

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.



Come to hear how the
Stagecoach
transformed our area

An illustrated talk by

John Butterworth

Little Birch Village Hall

Thursday December 5th. at 7.30p.m.

Entry £2.50 to include light refreshments



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King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club

Annual Horticultural Show Report

The Annual Horticultural Show was held on Saturday 7th September in Little Birch Village Hall. The number of overall entrants increased from last year with 48 entrants proudly exhibiting over 300 entries between them which were enjoyed by both all the judges and the afternoon visitors to the Show. As the visitors entered the Hall, they were greeted by a brilliant array of colours and wonderful aromas from the many floral arrangements that had been proudly displayed. The wonderful display of flowers in Section 3 & 4 (Flowers & Floral Art) was a sight to behold with the Floral Art Shield being won by Janet Gwinnett and the Rose Bowl won by Keith Hardie. ***New for 2020 : John Bryant Rose Plate Award for Specimen Rose Class FL1***

The Vegetable & Fruit Classes did not fail to disappoint again this year with Derek Scrivens once again leading the way with his produce, and walking away with the Horticultural Shield, the David Enoch Cup (best exhibit in Show); the Llewellyn Sutton Cup for the person with the most points overall and the Selby Lloyd Shield. *** New for 2020 – "Salad Bowl" class V17***

The Domestic Section entries had a wide variety of Jams/ Marmalades/ Pastries of different kinds/ Scones and Fruit Cakes. Overall winner of this Section was Rachel Lane and who also walked away with a donation of a £25 voucher for the most points in the Class. *** New for 2020 – D8 6 Chocolate Brownies & D16 6 Welsh Cakes ***

The Photographic Award, donated by the London Camera Exchange in Hereford and voted for by the public, was awarded to Janet Gwinnett, with the Painting Class award being given to Phil McKelliget.

The Handicraft Section produced many excellent entries in four different categories – with the addition of a Homemade Christmas Decoration & Hat categories. The Wilson Cup went to Denise Rees. ***New for 2020 – H5 "A Children's Toy" – any material/any size ***

The Children's Section saw many excellent entries, especially after the Workshop on the Friday afternoon, with pride of place going to Finlay Williams - the Children's Shield and the Over 8 Cup; and the Ann Thomas Trophy (Best Entry) and the Under 8 Cup being awarded to Henry Hall. Next year the Children's workshop will be on **FRIDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2020** at 4.00pm.

*** New for 2020 – Over 8's – Invent a sandwich/ Decorate a Wellington boot/ Miniature Scarecrow ***

The raffle, with excellent prizes donated by the Axe & Cleaver, The Pilgrim Hotel, Pengethley Garden Centre, and The Carrot and Wine Store, and the Sale of Produce brought the day to a close.

Once again, a truly memorable event with the best displays one could only imagine. Even those who didn't win any certificates or prizes have the honour of knowing that they contributed to a yet another good Show.

Well done everyone and see you on **Saturday 5th September 2020 !**

Lesley Chapman
Show Secretary

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Ross & District Civic Society will be holding their first meeting of the year on Wednesday 15th January 2020, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at the Larruperz Community Centre, Ross. The Talk is entitled 'DISASTER AT WELSH BICKNOR' and describes the crash of the Halifax Bomber carrying some of Britain's most brilliant scientists. The Speaker will be David Scaysbrook. All interested are welcome. £5 for guests, no charge for Members. For further details ring 01989 562424.

Ross & District Civic Society will be holding their February meeting on Wednesday 12th February, 2020, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at the Larruperz Community Centre, Ross. The illustrated Talk will be about THE SCUDAMORE FAMILY OF KENT-CHURCH COURT & HOLME LACY HOUSE by the well-known local historian, Heather Hurley. All are welcome. Visitors £5, Members no charge. For further details ring 01989 562424#

ROSS LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Tues 3 December 7 pm for 7.30 Ross Library
Richard Gregory's music mix showcasing a lifetime's collection of ALL SORTS of music, with some lovely surprises! Christmas nibbles and wine for a donation.
See website www.rldg.org.uk Ring Jan Falkiner 07899 728346 No January meeting.

ROSS SCIENCE SOCIETY

Wed 4 December 7 pm Castle Lodge Hotel Wilton
Mark Gibbons 'Black Holes how we first thought of them, how they evolve.'
8 January John Nichols 'How Electricity will be produced as we head towards a carbon neutral future.'
See website www.rosssciencesociety.org.uk Ring Jan Falkiner 07899 728346

ROSS ARTS APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Sat 7 December 1230 Bridstow Village Hall
Christmas Lunch with wine and
Speaker **Simon Clarke** with his wonderful collection of Old Ross postcards and stories. Display of Old Ross items. £15 all in. Booking required.
Ring Jan Falkiner 01989 720539 No January Meeting
JAN FALKINER
07899 728346

Footprints

Our last Parish Walk took us on a lovely autumnal walk through Athelstan's Wood in brilliant sun after a downpour of rain in the early hours. Beautiful colours and pleasant company!

Parish Walk

Sunday 8 December at **9am** meeting at **Little Birch Village Hall** and walking down to Dewesall Court. There are a number of stiles, some slippery slopes and muddy patches. On the way down to Dewesall there are far reaching views over to the Black Mountains and returning up through Aconbury and finishing at the hall for refreshments. About 4.5 miles and 2hrs approximately.

All welcome!

Contact -

ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk
01981 540377

Looking after our footpaths in Little Birch

As I am sure that you are all aware, Herefordshire Council budgets are extremely tight, and now they have very limited resources for footpath maintenance. The Parish Councils have taken on all footpath maintenance - delivered through the goodwill of local farmers, and the Parish Lengthsman. As a community, we can help look after footpaths, and this will help the Parish Council with its equally tight budget. If you live near a footpath, or regularly walk one, and are happy to go out with secateurs, shears or strimmer, please do so. Clearing around the waymarking signs and posts is also helpful, especially for walkers who do not know the area. There are some people who already do some path work - you know who you are and thank you! Please, still do contact me about footpath issues if you are not able to do it yourself. A footpath map is on the Little Birch website: <http://littlebirchparishcouncil.org/footpaths> The Parish boundary is marked in blue, and the footpaths are all numbered and are in pink. LB for Little Birch, MB for Much Birch, LD for Little Dewchurch, AC for Aconbury. My parish walks are also publicized on the website, and I look forward to walking with many of you in the coming months.

Angela Middleton, Volunteer Footpaths Officer, Little Birch.



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Providing a true "home from home" environment.
We welcome friends, old and new!

Please send copy for the January Newsletter to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or written contributions to Liz Hall at Walmere, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe HR2 8AW.
—by 18th December please.



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KINGS THORN & LITTLE BIRCH GARDENING CLUB

Wednesday 27 November

This will be our final talk of the year.

Our speaker, Bill Laws has the topic 'The Curious History of Vegetables', a light hearted talk on all things vegetable. We might be in for a few surprising facts!

Our meetings start at 7.30pm, on the last Wednesday of the month, in Little Birch Village Hall. Members old and new and visitors are always welcome to join us. Refreshments are served.

Wednesday 4 December – Winter Social

This will follow our traditional format – Food, Fun and Laughter and the odd song thrown in! Remember to bring plates, cutlery and your own 'drinks'. This is a good chance to catch up with all the other members.

Be sure to reserve your place at our November meeting or call Janet Gwinnett on 01981 540651.

Interested in joining the Kings Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club?

Call our Membership Secretary on 01981 540327.

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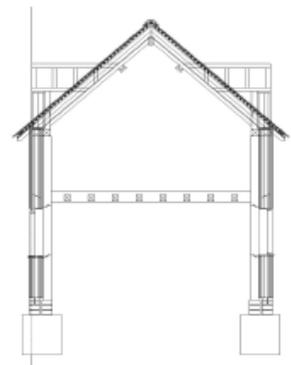
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MOBILE: 07771 870891

EMail: bayleyscleaning@gmail.com

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Clyde of Wildwicker, Wobbage Farm will be doing a workshop on a Christmas themed garden obelisk. This will take place on **Friday 13TH DECEMBER** at **LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL**. All materials and tuition provided.

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To make it even more beneficial to come back, we have created a new "Discount Code" solely for returning guests. Using the code RETURN during the reservation process [on the right of the date selection boxes] and you will earn a £25 per night discount from the price of all All Inclusive reservations between November 1st and January 31st 2020.

In effect you will be paying the same price as "Dinner Bed & Breakfast", whilst enjoying the extra Cream Tea, Pre-Dinner Drink and Complimentary Bottle of House Wine of the All Inclusive package. Truly great value for money.

Rooms include our Country Collection Twins & Kings as well as our standard Valley View King rooms. These stays are for 2 people sharing a room only and can only be booked via our website.

[WEBSITE](#)

All the other offers listed below can be made by email or phone call, so please check your diaries and make that booking!

Best Wishes
Steve & The Team

History of the Hotel Name

The Hotel takes its name from its position on the Pilgrimage route for St Ethelbert, who was King of East Anglia from circa 779 to his untimely death in 794.

Ethelbert was lured to the Palace of King Offa, just north of Hereford, where he was promised the hand of the King's daughter, Eadburgh, in marriage.

When he arrived at Sutton Walls Palace he was treacherously captured & beheaded with his body thrown into a ditch.

He was eventually reunited with his head by a local monk and laid to rest in a tomb on the site of the current Hereford Cathedral. Miracles were later reported to be connected to his shrine and he was later Canonised.

"Saint Ethelbert" is now one of two patron saints of the Cathedral, which has created the Order of St Ethelbert in his honour

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8th November 2019

PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7th November 2019 at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Parish Council listened to a presentation regarding "Smart Water" property marking forensic system under the "We don't buy crime" initiative from West Mercia Police. The Police Officer also made those present aware that it was very important to report anything that was felt to be suspicious (people, vehicles etc.) on phone number 101. This might include callers at your home, and any threatening behaviour, plus vehicles observed in unusual situations. This number (101) is the non emergency number for reporting issues/concerns to the Police. In an emergency you should still dial 999.

GRIT BINS

Please note that the grit, in all of the roadside bins, is provided for use on the **roads only** and is not for use on private driveways.

The Meeting also heard a further update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan which is approaching consultation on Regulation 14 and this will be starting in December 2019.

Please see below for future Steering Group Meeting dates:

Further dates of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings for 2019 **All to be held at Much Birch Community Hall from 7.30pm**

28 November 2019.

A reminder that the dates for the remaining **2019 Parish Council Meetings** are as follows: December 5.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 5th December 2019 from 7.30pm** - at The Much Birch Community Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Dates for 2020 Parish Council Meetings are: 9 Jan, 6 Feb, 5 March, 9 April, 8 May (Friday), 11 June, 9 July, 3 Sept, 8 Oct, 5 Nov, 3 Dec 2020. No meeting in August.

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

A reminder that:-

Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-

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

Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair) The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX, e mail turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com and Tel. 01981 540090

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

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

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

Cllr Veronica Thomas 4, Queens Close, Wormelow, Hereford, HR2 8FD Tel. 01981 540646 (no e mail)

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

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

Much Birch Parish Council **Winter gritting Update November 2019**

Parishioners will be aware that in the event of snow responsibility for gritting the A49 (trunk road) is with Highways England who have a schedule for regular gritting.

Herefordshire Council (HC) has responsibility for gritting all other roads and have categorised the A466 and Tump Lane as priority routes as is the road through Kingsthorpe being the route for a main and frequent bus service. The Thorn and Barrack Hill are on the secondary routes for gritting.

Grit bins are sited throughout Much Birch Parish mainly where there are slopes, challenging road junctions and sharp bends. The majority of these bins have been supplied by HC. This year in response to additional identified need Much Birch Parish Council (MBPC) has funded several additional grit bins in locations which do not currently meet HC's criteria for the provision of one.

Bin filling.

Grit Bins that are the property of HC (marked accordingly) have been filled in readiness for the start of the winter and HC advises that if salt and resources allow they will re-stock these bins on request. The Parish Council will monitor and follow up this undertaking. Grit bins provided/sited by MBPC will be filled in readiness for winter and re-stocked as necessary.

Gritting guidance as advised by bin and salt suppliers.

When using the grit only a small amount is needed as a full shovel will be sufficient for 20-30 square metres. For maximum effect it should be spread in tyre tracks as it will then be carried further by vehicles.

Please note that the grit is only for use on public roads and pavements and not for use on private property.

The Parish Council would like to thank in advance all those who so kindly volunteer to assist others when we experience bad weather. Your generosity is appreciated.

LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

For updates and notifications of future meetings please
check out the website – www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org.

Chairman: Councillor Peter Rees.

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sophie Glover
Tel: 01432 617306 Email: lbpcclerk@gmail.com

Hello every one,

At the last Parish Council meeting, we had a very interesting presentation about the possibilities of getting superfast broadband to those properties in Little Birch who currently get less than 30Mbps of download speed – and we guess that this will be a lot of you.

We thought that it would be important and constructive for all interested parties to get together with the professionals as well as members of the Dewisall and Callow community network, HCN (who have now been successfully running their own broadband Community Interest Company for over three years, to ask any detailed questions prior to making a decision as to whether Little Birch wants to look seriously at taking this forward.

The meeting will be held on **Tuesday 3rd December 2019 at 7.30pm at Little Birch Village Hall**. Any one who needs a lift or assistance, please call any of your Parish Councillors or the clerk, Sophie and we will be happy to help in any way that we can.

It would be great if you could let us know if you can attend, so we can be sure that we have enough space for every one....but do just come along if you find that you are free on the night. Please contact Sophie on this email

lbpcclerk@gmail.com if your internet is functional at the moment!

And, finally, please tell your neighbours who may not know about this amazing opportunity or any one else in the village, who has so far not had the chance to look into this, to come and join us. Everyone will benefit from attending as this network may have an effect on every property in this valley. It is everyone's decision as to what happens next – you will not be able to comment in the future if you don't at least find out about the facts now.

Many thanks
Sophie Glover

Parish Clerk - **Little Birch Parish Council**.

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

Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247

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