

# King's Thorn & The Birches Newsletter

A Newsletter for the Villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch & Much Birch – May 2007

## Gardening Club – STOP PRESS

Due to a combination of reasons the date of this month's Gardening Club meeting has been changed from **WEDNESDAY, 25TH APRIL** to **WEDNESDAY, 2ND MAY**.

The talk will be given by Mr D.J. Cramp and is entitled 'Wildlife in the Garden'. There is no meeting at Little Birch Hall then until 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER as the Club will be having evening visits to local gardens during the next three months. The first of these visits is being held on Wednesday 30th May 2007 to Westonbury Water Mill Garden. Members are asked to meet at Kings Thorn Bus Shelter at 6.15pm. The cost of this visit is £3.00 per head and refreshments are available. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Helen Fox on 01981 541004 or John Bryant on 01981 540316.

## May Day Celebrations

At Little Birch Village Hall

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May

2.00pm onwards

Competitions include

May Princess ages 3 – 6

May Queen ages 7 – 14

Best Jack in the Green ages 3 – 6  
& 7 – 14

Glamorous Granny of May

Granddad's knobbly knees

Raffle & side stalls

Refreshments available

### Schedule of Events

**2.00pm.** - Start of celebrations and registration of entrants into competitions. Entrance fee for all competitions will be £1.50.

**2.30pm.** - Judging of May Princess and May Queen.

## DIARY DATES MAY 2007

2<sup>ND</sup> MAY – Gardening Club  
5<sup>TH</sup> MAY – May Day Celebrations  
8<sup>TH</sup> MAY – Aconbury Woods – Walk and Talk  
8<sup>TH</sup> MAY – Evergreen Club Outing to Cheltenham  
9<sup>TH</sup> MAY – Whist Drive  
12<sup>TH</sup> MAY – Little Birch Village Hall Tidy Up – 10.00am.  
12<sup>TH</sup> MAY – Flicks in the Sticks – *Miss Potter*  
15<sup>TH</sup> MAY – W.I.  
19<sup>TH</sup> MAY – Curry Night  
31<sup>ST</sup> MAY – BINGO

### ADVANCE NOTICES

15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - Summer Pudding Evening

1<sup>ST</sup> JULY - Treasure Hunt and Cream Teas

DATE UNKNOWN - Mini Antiques Roadshow to value items that you may have dug up out to your garden.

**2.45pm.** - Judging of Best Jack in the Green.

**3.00pm.** - Judging of the Glamorous Granny and Granddad's knobbly knees.

### Jack in the Green

A brief history - Over a hundred years ago, many places in Britain celebrated the coming of summer with a Jack in the Green. Jack was part of the May Day celebrations, often associated with processions of chimney sweeps, for whom the occasion was a special holiday.

Jack is a colourful figure, nine feet tall and covered in greenery and flowers. He is accompanied by attendants who are also completely disguised in green rags and vegetation. The attendants play music, dance and sing as they guide Jack through the streets to celebrate the coming of summer. The prize will be given to the most imaginative adaptation of Jack, so boys, get your thinking hats on.

### A Duchy Walk

On **TUESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY**, Geraint Richards, Head Forester of the Duchy of Cornwall, will lead a walk around Aconbury woods explaining their plans for the woods for the next five years. For anyone who knows and walks these woods, this will be most interesting and informative. Aconbury woods should be looking their best at this time with bluebells out and the buds bursting. It could be a glorious evening walk (weather

permitting!) We will meet outside the village hall at 6.30 pm. The walk should last about 1½ hours after which we will return to the village hall for refreshments – the legendary ploughman's and a glass of wine (cost for refreshments £5.00). Geraint Richards will be there to answer any further questions.

### The Evergreen Club

The Committee elected at the AGM held on 12<sup>th</sup> March were Bridget Banks - *Chairman* - 01981 540932, Evelyn Vaughan Williams *Treasurer* - 01981 540683, Beverley Webb - *Secretary* - 01981 540406 and Michael Wardle *Co-opted* - 01981 541055.

We had a splendid trip to Oxford with plenty of sunshine, lots of walking and for some – lots of shopping.

Our next trip is as follows:-

**TUESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY** to Cheltenham (am) with a Blue Badge guided tour in the afternoon around the Cotswolds Villages. The inclusive cost for this trip is £9.50 (Members) and £11.50 (Guests). To book in (if you haven't already done so), please ring either Bridget or Beverley on the above numbers **at least one week** before the outing date.

*Pick up times:-*

8.45 Coach Depot, Brandon  
8.55 Tump Lane (Bungalows)  
9.00 The Park, Wormelow  
9.05 Tump Lane (Middle)  
9.10 Poor Clares Convent

9.15 Kings Thorn Bus Shelter  
9.20 M.B. Church Bus Stop  
9.25 Axe & Cleaver Bus Stop  
9.35 Peterstow  
9.45 Merton Hotel  
9.50 Fontaine Court

In June, we shall be taking a narrowboat trip from Bradford on Avon followed by Moreton in Marsh & Mill Dene (July), Bromyard & Witley Court (August), Bewdley riverside town (September) and finally Charlecote Park (N.T) in October.

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### *Whist Drive*

Following another successful drive and through popular demand, a further Whist Drive will be held on **WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY** with a 7.30pm start at Little Birch Village Hall. Excellent prizes and refreshments, entrance fee £1.50.

*Proceeds in aid of hall refurbishment funds*

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### *Flicks In The Sticks*

*in association with Arts Alive*

**SATURDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY** is the date for this month's film at Much Birch Community Hall. **Doors open at 7.00pm and the film commences at 7.30pm.** Tickets are £3.50 (£2.50 under 16s) and are available in advance or on the door. For further information or to book tickets please call Bryony Connolly on 01981 541274.

**MISS POTTER (PG)**, starring Renée Zellweger and Ewan McGregor, is the enchanting love story inspired by Beatrix Potter's life and love affair with her publisher Norman Warne. Whilst delighting generations of children with her books, Beatrix Potter kept her own story locked carefully away.

**FLICKS IN THE STICKS** will be taking a break now for the summer, but will return in **September**.

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### *W.I.*

On 17<sup>th</sup> April the members of Much Birch WI, together with a good number of visitors, enjoyed an Open evening with Mr. P. Ralph, whose most enjoyable talk on The Royal Forest of Dean was accompanied by slides.

**TUESDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY** is the Resolutions meeting and on **TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE** we are looking forward to a talk entitled 'An Introduction to *Bee Keeping*' by Mr. Colin Pavey.

Meetings are held in Much Birch Community Hall beginning at 7.30pm. New members and visitors are welcome. If you would like further details, please contact Barbara Wilson (President) on 01432 840559 or Kath Watts on 01981 540382.

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### *A Taste of India*

Come and enjoy good company and a delicious 3 course meal on **SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY** at 7.30 in Much Birch Community Hall. Choice of curries will

be mild & hot! Tickets £10 (Bring your own drink). Evening to include 'GRAND SPRING DRAW'

Limited numbers so booking advisable — please call Bryony on 01981 541274. *Proceeds in aid of Much Birch Community Hall Development Fund.*

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*Bingo* - Little Birch Village Hall on **THURSDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY** - eyes down at 8.00pm. *Proceeds in aid of hall refurbishment funds*

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### *Local News*

It is with great sadness that we report the death of MRS. PAT FARMER of Little Birch Road who passed away on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. March in her 90<sup>th</sup>. year. At the Service to celebrate Her Life held in Little Birch Church, her husband, CLIFF, paid tribute to her and the following is an extract from that eulogy.

Pat was born in Birmingham, the eldest of 5 children, and the family was raised during the 1920's depression when money, jobs, food and clothing were very scarce. She acquired real skills in housekeeping and sewing which were to stand her in good stead for the rest of her life. She was an avid reader of poetry and the classics and went on to Aston Commercial School which set her on the road to important office employment with a firm of patent lawyers.

Pat and Cliff met through their love of cycling and Cliff proposed about a year later during the 'Interval' between films at the cinema. Marriage soon followed and sensing that war was imminent and would lead to separation, they agreed to concentrate their thoughts on each other at 9pm. each day. This is probably why when Cliff had to abandon his aircraft over France that Pat had absolute faith that he was safe even when there was no news of his fate.

Cliff did return safely 2 years later and found that Deidre, their first child, had grown into a lovely little girl. Bill and Bob were born in due course and Pat was in her element with Cliff and the 3 children and enjoyed nothing more than walking and learning all about the countryside around their home.

In 1952, the twins, David and John were born and by their 3<sup>rd</sup>. birthday, it became clear that they had inexplicable but severe learning difficulties and behavioural problems. The advice given by a Worcestershire Health official was that they would be best off in 'a home'. Pat thought otherwise and set about giving them as normal an upbringing as possible. Every school holiday she would take them to the cottage near to the sea at Taliesin in

west Wales. She set off to discover the beauty, wildlife, people and mysteries of the place, including the twins in all the walks, swimming and boating expeditions and this seemed to give her the energy and renewed resolve to stick to her impossible task. At this time there was no such thing as home support whatever for children like the twins or their families. Pat's love for all her children was unstinting and never dimmed. She somehow managed to develop a string of new interests including art, painting lessons, horse racing and share trading to name but a few and her knowledge became encyclopaedic.

When the twins were offered some appropriate specialist day care, Pat had to learn to drive to ferry them to and fro each day. She became an accomplished and enthusiastic driver and undertook an advanced driving course given by the police and was not reticent in telling Cliff if he was not driving as she thought fit. The twins were boarded at Sunfield when they were aged 11 and at 16 they moved to Lea Castle Hospital at Kidderminster but Pat determined and ensured that then and ever since, there were visits each weekend and holidays for many years until these became impossible.

The family had moved to Kings Thorn in late 1962 and as the other children went through their education, Pat learned with them and was very supportive but not pushy, believing that each should make their own choice of subjects and career, which each of them has done very successfully

Later, Pat and Cliff enjoyed holiday cruises and she was never more relaxed than when enjoying the opportunity to show to advantage the glamorous dresses that she had made.

In the late 1980's, Pat had to stop driving and also had some difficulty in walking which made her feel rather isolated but with Bob's help, she was still able to enjoy frequent trips to France, where she relished the food and the lifestyle and these trips continued until about 2 years ago.

Friends and family joined in their Diamond Wedding Anniversary 7 years ago and Pat and Cliff were overjoyed with the arrival of their grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Cliff has been a tower of strength over the last years and none more so than during this last year when ably assisted by Deidre (despite her own health problems), Bob and Jackie Harris and latterly, the District Nurses, Pat was able to stay at home for most of this period of acute illness. Pat was laid to rest in Little Birch Churchyard beside the grave of one of the twins, John.

We send to Cliff, Deidre, Bill, Bob and twin, David, and their families our deepest sympathy.

At the time of going to press, the sudden death of MR. DEREK MORGAN, son of the late Wilfred and Dulcie Morgan has been announced. Derek was born at Aconbury 66 years ago and was the only son of the late Wilfred and Dulcie Morgan. Wilfred and the late George Andrews worked at Aconbury Farm and the two families were very close friends and neighbours. When they moved to Mount Pleasant at the far end of Barrack Hill, Derek would walk down through the woods to meet his childhood sweetheart, Pauline. After leaving school, Derek worked with his father in the timber haulage business and learned to drive the lorry. He married Pauline at Aconbury in 1969 and they settled in Putson where Mark was born. Later, Derek worked as a delivery driver for the 'Causeway Mills', which subsequently became West Midland Farmers. When he left WMF Derek bought the lorry from them and continued hauling on his own account with Pauline supporting him in the business. When son, Mark, left school, he joined Derek in the business and when he was old enough, Derek bought him a small lorry and the two of them worked happily together for many years. Derek had to give up lorry driving some years ago but he was always a great encouragement to Mark.

Derek and Pauline looked after his mother, Dulcie, extremely well after the death of Wilfred and before Dulcie died some 3 years ago he visited her every day. Over the last few years, Derek had not enjoyed the best of health and he died in his sleep on the 11<sup>th</sup>. April. A Service of Thanksgiving for His Life took place at St. Martins Church on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup>. April. It was conducted by the Rev. Trevor Reynolds an erstwhile minister of Putson Baptist Chapel who was a next door neighbour for some 18 years. He spoke of Derek being a very helpful and good neighbour. The church was packed with friends and acquaintances of Derek and they came from all over the County, such was his popularity. We send to Pauline, Mark and family our sincere condolences, Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. will undoubtedly be a very joyous occasion for the marriage of DENISE JONES and CHRISTOPHER DAVIES at Little Birch Church. Our very best wishes go with them for many years of happiness together.

Little Birch Church PCC would like to thank everyone who prepared the Lent Lunch and all those who attended. £165 was donated and this has been sent with the proceeds of the other Lent Lunches to Sightsavers International.

Much Birch PCC held their AGM on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April. MRS BARBARA WILSON succeeded MRS SYLVIA JONES as a *Church Warden*, Sylvia having completed the maximum of 6 years in this capacity.

MRS JANET THOMAS continues as a Church Warden as her 6th year. MRS SHEILA MORTIMER continues as *Secretary* and MRS JOAN RANDALL as *Treasurer*. A warm vote of thanks was given to Sylvia and all of the other office holders for the past year.

The PCC were pleased with the improvements to the church that had been carried out during the year and in particular the replacement of the choir stalls with chairs. This has made the church more versatile and already a very successful concert has been held utilising the extra space.

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### *Halfway Community Theatre*

The Halfway Community Theatre would like to thank their audiences who supported their concerts and joined in the fun of the evenings. Without you it would have been as flat as a pancake! As said by the Chairwoman there will be a donation sent to the Hereford Branch of the Charity HOME START. Our special thanks must go to the Caterers, Terry Smith and his team, who supplied excellent food. Our next concert will be for one night only on Friday 22 June 2007 (so book early). We, the performers, look forward to seeing you there. Tickets from Beverley Webb on 01981 540406.

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### *L.B. Village Hall AGM*

Held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007

#### *Chairman's report*

John congratulated the committee on a good year and offered thanks to the sub-fundraising committee for their help in organising functions.

The committee has purchased new hall chairs which have been well received. New spreaders were installed by Dave Davies and thanks were extended to the Mullins family for allowing their land to be used for this purpose.

Thanks were also extended to Terry and Pauline Rogers for the generous donation of land upon which the septic tank is situated.

#### *Treasure's Report*

More than 20 functions were organised during the year and the hall was open on 135 occasions.

Bank statement received on 28<sup>th</sup> February showed a balance of £16,352.97

#### **Expenditure**

Chairs - £1,373

Fridge - £113.96

Gas - £294.00

Insurance - £735.00

Plumbing maintenance - £467.53

Accountant - £141.00

Fire Services - £114.74

#### **Refurbishment Funding**

Mike Morley updated everyone on the above. Application has been made to the Big Lottery Grant. We should hear sometime in May if we have successfully made it through the initial application process.

#### **Elections**

John Bryant was re-elected as *Chairman*

Robyn Hodges was re-elected as *Treasurer*

Mandy Williams was elected as *Secretary*  
Paul Bishop, Adrian Hodges were elected as committee members.

A copy of the full minutes of the AGM are held with the Secretary.

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### *L.B. Village Hall*

The Management Committee for LBVH is organising a working party to undertake a much needed tidy up of the outside of the hall. If you can spare a couple of hours on **SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY** from 10.00am onwards your help will be much appreciated.

The committee has received a couple of enquiries about starting keep fit classes at Little Birch Village Hall. Is there anyone out there who would be interested in running the sessions or taking part. Please contact Mandy on 541126 if you are interested.

The Management Committee for LBVH would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support and generous donations, which has helped to make this a very successful year.

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### *L.B.P.C.*

Only five people have applied for the five seats on the Parish Council. Therefore there will be no election to the Parish Council this year. The 5 candidates for the Parish Council are:

- CLARKE Alison
- DILLON John
- JONES Susan
- MORLEY Mike
- POWELL Bill

**Please note this notice does not apply to the Local Council Elections, which are taking place in Herefordshire on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The polling stations are in Little Birch Hall, or Much Birch Community Hall.**

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## *New Gas Pipeline*

Construction is well under way on National Grid's new underground natural gas pipeline from Felindre, near Swansea to Tirley in Gloucestershire.

In the area around Much Birch and Wormelow, the pipes were delivered to the area last week. The sections are either 12m or 18m long and can weigh up to 13.5 tonnes each. The next step is for the pipes to be welded into a string following which a trench will be dug and they will be laid carefully in it by operators using specialist equipment known as side booms.

No roads will be closed as it is proposed to tunnel underneath prior to laying the pipes. This is scheduled to take place in early May, although the process could be delayed by wet weather. It might be interesting to watch the process as and when it takes place.

It is anticipated that the pipeline will be in operation by October this year, by which time much of the land it crosses will have been restored to its original condition. Reinstatement of some areas may continue after this time.

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## *M.B.P.C.*

### *Parish Council Elections*

There are seven nominations for the six places on Much Birch Parish Council:-

Colin Anderson, Dave Davies, Peter Groom, John Jones, Vivien Short, Glen Sims & Menna Swift. Please vote for your Parish Councillors at the elections on **THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY**, in the Community Centre.

### *Planning*

*Planning permissions granted by Herefordshire Council*

**Middle Ash** – Tump Lane ... new external balcony & stair to garden.

*Planning applications refused by Herefordshire Council*

**Land adjacent to the Slinget** – Tump Lane ... Erection of a detached dwelling and ancillary garage.

*Applications for comment by Much Birch Parish Council*

**Birch House** – Replacement of two windows on ground floor.

**St Gabriels Cottage** – Single storey extension to rear & detached double garage.

**New Litter Bin at Kings Thorn Bus Shelter**

Little Birch and Much Birch Parish Councils have agreed to share the cost of a new litter bin at the Kings Thorn bus shelter. It should be erected within the next few weeks.

### *Parish Council Meetings*

The Parish Council meets on the first Thursday of each month (excluding August and January) at 8.00 pm in the Community Centre. Local residents are very welcome to attend and air their views in the Open Discussion session. Next meeting – **THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY**.

### *Annual Parish Meeting*

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May, in the Community Hall, immediately prior to the first meeting of the new Parish Council at 8.00 pm. Local residents are invited to attend and air their views on parish matters.

### *Parish Clerk*

If you have any queries on Parish Council matters, please tel/fax your Clerk, Mrs Lynda Wilcox on 01432 276447 or write to 5 Croome Close, Hereford, HR1 1UY.

### *Much Birch 100 Club Draw*

The April draw took place on Friday, 13th April at Much Birch Community Hall at 12 noon.

The winners were:

1. No. 34 Mr. and Mrs. H. Potts, Monmouth

2. No. 36 Mr. J. Willis, Much Birch

The next draw will take place on **TUESDAY, 15TH MAY** at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones, *Chairman*

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## *Neighbourhood Watch*

**CENTRAL POLICE CONTROL  
08457 444 888**

### *Anti Social Behaviour Orders*

Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) can be made against anyone aged ten years or over who has acted in an anti-social manner and where an order is needed to protect people and the wider community from further anti-social acts.

ASBOs can be used against perpetrators living in any type of housing (not just social housing) which in turn can affect mortgage applications, etc. Local Authorities, Police Forces, Registered Landlords and Housing Action Trusts are able to apply for orders.

The most common behaviour tackled by ASBOs is general loutish and unruly conduct such as verbal abuse, harassment, graffiti, throwing missiles, joyriding, begging, drinking alcohol whilst underage and excessive noise.

Orders are issued for a minimum of two years, but can be issued for an indefinite period pending a further order. Each order contains 'conditions' relevant to the individual such as curfews, bans from certain areas or not to contact or associate with a particular person.

It is vital that the complaints received are well founded and that the offender is identified and named.

We are aware that some people may feel vulnerable or too intimidated to give evidence in court or even to provide statements to the police. 'Hearsay' evidence allows a police officer or other professional witness to provide a statement on behalf of a witness or witnesses who then remain anonymous.

If you wish to discuss any matter of Anti-social behaviour, please contact us.

### *Using Mobile Phones whilst Driving*

Please remember that the only exception to the new law is to dial 999 in an emergency. The law is being strictly enforced with a "no excuse" policy. Three drivers have been issued with fixed penalty notices and three points on their licences already. If you would like information on the law, drop into the Police station or call one of your local officers

### *And finally on a lighter note .....*

An elderly lady was delighted when a Police Officer returned her missing tax disc.

"I was driving along the avenue when the wind blew it off", she explained. "I realise now that I should have stuck it on the inside of the windscreen".

**PC Christine Griffiths** (Golden Valley) - Mob: 07855 785 080

**PC Fiona Farrington**

Mob: 07817 019 374

**PC Andrew Bundy**

Mob: 07855 385 844.

### *Local Reps are :*

#### East

**JOHN BULBECK - 540178**

#### Central

**BOB PETERS - 540670**

#### West

**BETTY PHILPOTT - 540614**

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## *Cost of Printing the N/L*

Three more households have opted for the electronic version. Thank you. Your email privacy is guaranteed. Please always acknowledge receipt. We are now saving 319 sheets of paper each month but we would really appreciate more offers to accept it electronically.

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## *Your Very Good Health*

Hereford Centre for Natural Health is celebrating 25 years of providing natural health care in Hereford, and welcomes all clients old and new to the Centre in Eastholme Avenue, Belmont, Hereford.

The friendly and approachable practitioners currently offer a range of 20 different therapies, to treat many conditions, ailments and allergies. Call in at the centre for a £5 off voucher and advice and information on the range of treatments available.

You are also invited to join in the celebrations, in the form of FREE events each month, all based around promoting good health. To join one of the events listed below, simply telephone the Centre on 01432 279653 to reserve a place and receive full details.

**April – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 3 – 5pm**

Circle Dancing with Eileen Kemp at Belmont Community Centre (formerly Eastholme)

**May – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 3 – 5pm**

A Meditative Walk with Jennifer French meeting at Breinton Springs car park

**June – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm**

1 hour leisurely ride to discover Hereford's hidden cycle routes.

**July – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> at 10.30am**

Visit The Field and see the colourful blooms of herbs just before their harvest.

Led by Paul Richards of Paul Richards Herbal Supplies and Postlethwaites.

**August – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> at 11am**

A 1½ hour Herb Walk along the hedgerows, woods and riverside close to Belmont.

Led by Susan Huntley-Copeman, Herbalist. Children welcome.

**September – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> 10.30am – 1pm**

Visit the premises of Healing Herbs who have been making Bach flower remedies for nearly 20 years. Led by Julian Barnard of Healing Herbs.

*Items/Copy*

Please may I have items for the **JUNE** issue via post to

Mrs. S.E. Mathews, Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD; or left in the post box at 'Bramleys' or by email attachment in Word format to:

[sarah.mathews@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sarah.mathews@tiscali.co.uk) by

\* \* \* \* \*  
**18<sup>TH</sup> MAY**  
\* \* \* \* \*

**GRAZING**

**AVAILABLE**

Grazing for horses/ponies available in five post-and-rail fenced paddocks in Little Birch.

**01981 540274.**

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DOG WALKING**

by reliable, trustworthy animal lover. I can look after your furry friends while you're on holiday or just walk the dog while at work. References available.

Phone 01981 540223, email [catwoman@cooptel.net](mailto:catwoman@cooptel.net) or see [www.furryfriends.gb.com](http://www.furryfriends.gb.com) for more details.

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