

# NEWSLETTER FOR KINGS THORN & THE BIRCHES



A Newsletter for the Villages of Kings Thorn and The Birches - December 2009

**A very Happy Christmas to all our readers**

## DIARY DATES – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Talk on the Scottish Army by Adrian Harvey  
26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Last Bingo of the year  
2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER – Gardening Club Christmas Social  
8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – Whist Drive in Little Birch Hall  
12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – Welcome Coffee Morning for New Vicar & Family  
15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – Much Birch WI  
18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – Village Market Much Birch Community Hall  
19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – Christmas Decoration of Much Birch Church  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER – New Year's Eve Party

## ADVANCE NOTICES

22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY - Village Market Much Birch Community Hall  
28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – Gardening Club talk by Richard Fishbourne

### *Scottish Army*

A reminder (if you receive this in time) that Adrian Harvey is giving a talk on the Scottish Army in South Herefordshire in 1645 at 7.30pm. on **TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** in Little Birch Village Hall.

### *Bingo*

A reminder that the Christmas Bingo will be on **THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** at 8.00pm. in Little Birch Village Hall. Please note that this is the last of the year.

### *Gardening Club*

The annual social will take place on **WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER** at 7.30pm. in Little Birch Village Hall. Please bring your own crockery, cutlery and beverages. The menu consists of Shepherd's Pie (or a vegetarian option) followed by Apple Pie. There will also be a light hearted quiz.

On **WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY** an illustrated talk will be given by Richard Fishbourne of Wiggly Wormers, entitled 'Developing wild flowers and wildlife in your garden.'

### *Whist Drive*

Our next Whist Drive is at 7.30pm. on **TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** in Little Birch Village Hall. The entrance fee is £1.50. Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

### *Coffee Morning*

The Churchwardens of Much Birch Church have arranged to hold a Coffee Morning on **SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** from 10.30am. - 12 noon in Much Birch Community Hall. to welcome Rev. Mark and Lynn Johnson and family. We hope particularly that the parishioners and the community of Much Birch will come to say 'hello' to them, but members of the other parishes would be most welcome if they would like to attend. There will be no entry charge, of course, as this is a special one but we are planning to have both a Bring and Buy and a Cake stall.

We do hope that as many people as possible will come along so that the Rev. Mark and his family can meet you all. We look forward to seeing you there.

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### *WI*

The next meeting of Much Birch WI is on **TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** and is the member's Christmas evening.

A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME

January - A Picture Quiz.

February - Laughter is the Best Medicine.

March - Gardening with a Difference.

We enjoy a varied programme of speakers during the year, from the frivolous to the more serious.

If you would be interested in joining Much Birch WI, or if you prefer to come as a visitor for a particular evening, meetings are held in Much Birch Community Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, beginning at 7.30pm.

Details will be published in the Newsletter and Church Magazine, or contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382 or Jennifer Jones, 01981 540698.

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### *Much Birch Village Market*

The December Market will be held on **FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** in Much Birch Community Hall between 2.30pm. and 4.30pm.

We would like to thank you for your support during 2009 and look forward to seeing you again in 2010 when the first market will be on **FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY**.

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### *Much Birch Church*

On **SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** from 10.00am. we shall be decorating the church for Christmas. Please do come along to help and/or bring any contributions of holly, greenery etc or indeed anything you feel you could contribute to the decoration.

*Betty, Barbara & Sylvia*

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### *New Year's Eve Party*

Come and celebrate New Year's Eve at Little Birch Village Hall with party band SOFA, and Disco. Wear something glitzy and glamorous. It starts at 8.00pm. There will be a late bar and snacks will be available. Tickets are £5.00 each - accompanied children under 16 free. For tickets phone: Adrienne on 01981 540885 or Nick on. 01981 540348.

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### *Riding for the Disabled*

There is to be an Open Morning on **WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY** from 10.00am. to 12 noon.

If you miss being with horses, want to try something new or have wondered what goes on at an RDA group, please come along and chat to staff, volunteers and riders. We are in need of volunteers to either lead or walk beside riders on horses in lessons - a good way to have fun, keep fit and help provide pleasure and therapy for disabled children and young people. Experience with horses is not necessary as full training is given.

You will find us at Holme Lacey College on the B4399 opposite the Primary School. We are situated in the big blue shed at the bottom of the car park. We look forward to meeting you. Tel 01432 870831

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### *Pantomime*

Coming up at the end of January – Hilary and team are producing our ever-popular pantomime in Little Birch Village Hall. This time it will be Robin Hood. Further details of dates will be in the January newsletter and tickets will be available from January.

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### *Local News*

The birth of a daughter to HEATHER WATHEN and WAYNE WHISTANCE was

announced last month and her names are CHLOE HANNAH and mother and daughter are progressing nicely.

Sue Waldron also became a grandmother last month with the arrival of TAMSYN, a daughter for BECKY and SHAUN WALDRON, to whom we send our congratulations. Tamsyn also becomes the first great grandchild for Beryl and Victor Townsend.

Congratulations also go to MARGARET and JOHN PEARL of Much Birch who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with their family in Essex last month.

Little Birch Church was full on 26<sup>th</sup> October for a Service to Celebrate the Life of JEAN LOUGHMAN, which was conducted by the Rev. Elaine Goddard. Jean passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> October at the age of 75 years. She was the third daughter of Gladys and Ernest Rooke and was born at Newtown Cottage, just around the corner at the bottom of the Pendant Pitch. Jean attended Little Birch School and the family later moved to Ordnance Cottage, near 'Crow's Nest', where her youngest sister, Ann, still lives. On leaving school after WW2, Jean went to work at the Littlewoods Store in Hereford, where she worked her way up to eventually becoming the manageress. She met Tim at a party get-together at the Gamecock in Holme Lacy road and they were later married in 1961 in Little Birch Church. In due time, sons, Guy and Mark were born and the family moved to 'Rosemount' in Little Birch road and Guy and Mark attended Much Birch School. Jean loved her Bingo and attended both local sessions and others in Hereford, so that over the years she made many, many friends. In their retirement, Jean and Tim have spent many happy holidays and week ends in the caravan near Weston super Mare right up to the last few months. Her health has not been too good in recent years and she was in hospital for short spells on several occasions. Throughout this time, Tim gave her the utmost care and devotion and Jean always enjoyed seeing her family and especially the grandchildren. The fact that she made so many friends was reflected in the numbers attending her funeral service and the generous donations made in her

memory, which amounted to over £370, which was split between Much Birch Surgery and Little Birch Church. Jean was laid to rest in Little Birch Churchyard. We send our deepest sympathy to Tim, sons, Guy and Mark and their families and to surviving sisters, Evelyn (Jones) and Ann.

Tim, Guy and Mark through the Newsletter, wish to thank everyone for their messages of sympathy, their attendance at the funeral and for the very generous donations.

It is also sad to report the death of DAVID SAYCE of Lower Mill Cottage, Hendre Lane, near Llanwarne at the age of 65 years. David was born at the Marsh, near Pencoyd and attended Llanwarne school. He had an older brother Bill and a sister, Eunice, who later married Sid Hitchings, both of whom sadly predeceased David. David later attended John Kyrle school in Ross and the bus drivers had a job keeping the students in order on their daily travels to and from Ross. David got up to all sorts of mischief and was put off the bus on one occasion but he made sure the bus wasn't going anywhere by puncturing one of the tyres with a large nail and he never owned up to this, letting another boy take the blame. He was always interested in cars and lorries and worked for a number of garages in and around Ross. His first marriage to Margaret sadly only lasted 4 years and he later married Diane (nee Thomas) from Tump Lane. They set up home at Lower Mill Cottage, which was in a very poor state but over the years they refurbished it and made a very comfortable home. Adam and Joanne were born some years later and David was very proud of them. Unfortunately, David badly damaged his back some years ago and this limited the type of work that he was able to do. However, he showed a very dogged determination to carry on as best he could and was always cheerful. He was a regular at the Black Swan where he was never one to 'sit on the fence', whatever the topic under discussion. He was very good with tractor problems and made many friends in the farming world. Although being unwell, he was determined to walk Joanne down the aisle at her wedding and the photograph on the funeral service sheet taken in his 'wedding outfit', is of a typical smiling David.

His funeral service took place on 29<sup>th</sup>. October at a packed out Hereford Crematorium and was conducted by the Rev. Elaine Goddard. There must have been some 250 friends and family present, such was the esteem in which David was held. Donations were shared between Marie Curie Nurses and MacMillan Cancer Support. David will be sadly missed by so many people and we send our deepest sympathies to Diane, Adam and Joanne and the wider family.

We are also sad to hear of the death of GRACE GRUNDY who lived with her husband, Joe, for many years in Glenthorpe, near the Old School, Little Birch. After Joe's death, she moved to Tump Lane for a while and then was persuaded to move to Ludlow, where she has lived for the past 5 years or so. We send our sincere condolences to her family.

Last month we said farewell to JOHN HAMILTON who has moved from St. Mary's Cottage, Little Birch to Newent and we wish him well in his new home. We also have to say farewell to MARY and KEITH NEWMAN, who are moving to the Bolstone area. Both have been extremely active in the community for so many years at the Chapel and Mary with her District Nursing and Meals on Wheels deliveries and being one of the organisers and Keith with delivering the Newsletter. Fortunately, they will still be actively involved with the Chapel and Mary will continue with Meals on Wheels. We wish them a successful move and to be very happy in their new home.

We shall also miss ARWENN and ANDREW and their family, who have moved from the Old Shop in the King's Thorn road to St. Weonards and wish them well in their new home.

A warm welcome is extended to our new Rector, REV. MARK JOHNSON, and his wife, LYNNE, and to RUTH, LUKE and ESTHER and we trust they will be very happy in their new home at the Rectory. Mark was inducted and installed as Rector of the benefice of the 7 parishes making up the Wormelow Hundred at a service at King's Caple on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup>.November.

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### ***The Castle Inn***

A large number of you will have heard of the campaign to save The Castle Inn in Little Birch. By the time you receive this an Open Meeting will have taken place (November 17<sup>th</sup>) at which people from the council and CAMRA will have spoken in an effort to determine the future of the pub. A report of this meeting will be in the December newsletter but if you would like to be updated about the campaign and any progress it is making you can access a website [www.thecastleinnpub.co.uk](http://www.thecastleinnpub.co.uk) which will also incorporate facebook and twitter facilities. Any comments will be welcome.

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### ***Pipeline***

Prior to the laying a new pipeline through Aconbury woods, the company given the contract by Welsh Water, arranged for an archaeological dig to precede the works. This was carried out by Border Archaeology at the end of 07/ beginning of 08 along the track which runs N/S on the east side of Aconbury wood. The report of this dig provides interesting reading. Although very little was found in the way of artefacts, there was much discovered which, together with extensive research of documents, enabled the archaeologists to put together a picture of the history of the track and its immediate surroundings.

It seems that the track was in use with heavy vehicles(horse or oxen-drawn) in the medieval period, if not before and that alternative parallel routes were also used later on. The route marked a boundary between woodland and adjacent land belonging to Aconbury Priory and, later, Guy's Hospital. At various times, coinciding with massive tree clearances, large amounts of silt were washed down to, and probably onto, the track. It is likely that charcoal burning took place nearby as fragments of charcoal were found.

The report obviously contains much more detail and anyone who is interested to find out more should contact any member of Little Birch and King's Thorn History Group (or ring 01981 540791)

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### ***MBPC***

Report on meetings of 1st October Extra Ordinary Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct & 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009

### ***Planning***

#### **Planning application supported Parish Council**

Primrose Cottage, Much Birch Hereford  
Demolition of existing garage and construction of new garage in same location.

#### **Plot 1 Cyprus Cottage Wrigglebrook Lane, Kings Thorn**

Construction of new dwelling.

#### ***Unsupported planning applications by Parish Council***

##### **The Challice, The Thorn, Kings Thorn**

Site for the erection of a detached dwelling with ancillary works.

##### ***Telephone Kiosk in King's Thorn***

BT have written to the Parish Council with an offer for us to adopt this kiosk for £1.00.

The Parish Council have decided not to adopt the kiosk due to the high maintenance it would require and no parishioners had made a request to councillors or the clerk for it to remain.

### ***Correspondence***

Parish Councillors had previously been given the correspondence list the contents of which were noted.

### ***Closure of The Castle Pub***

The matter was discussed at the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November and the Parish Council were sympathetic to parishioners concerns that were raised at the meeting. The Parish Council would be writing to Herefordshire Planning Services to express their concern over the work being carried out on the property. It was noted that there will be a public meeting hosted by Little Birch Parish Council on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in Little Birch Village Hall.

### ***Parish Clerk***

If you have any queries on Parish Council matters please telephone the Clerk on 01432 870874 or write to: Mrs Kath Greenow, Hackford House, Dinedor, Hereford, HR2 6PD.

For more information on Much Birch Parish Council please visit our website [www.muchbirchparish.org.uk](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk)

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### ***Cleaner***

MB Community Hall Management Committee is looking for a **cleaner**. The position is paid and the hours would be approximately four per week. If you are interested and would like more information about the post, please call Bryony Connolly on 01981 541274.

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### ***MB 100 Club Draw*** (proceeds to development of the Hall)

The November draw took place on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.

The winners were:

1. No. 7 – Mrs. B. Wilson, Little Dewchurch
2. No. 51 – Mrs. S. Dyer, Kings Thorn

The next draw will take place on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am. at the Coffee Morning to welcome Rev. Mark Johnson

100 Club newsletter and entry form for the year 2010 will be distributed in the next few weeks to present members. For new membership please telephone John on 01981 540980 for further details and entry form. The Hall Management Committee would like to thank all those people who have supported this venture for the last few years, which has allowed us to make important improvements to the Hall.

Best wishes for the forthcoming festive season and for the New Year of 2010

*John Jones, Chairman/Promoter.*

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### ***Area Warden Scheme.***

We are looking for someone to administer the Area Warden Scheme for Much Birch. If you might be interested and want to know further details please contact *Sylvia Jones - Tel: 01981 540980*

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### ***Undesirable Planning***

Dear Editor,

I feel I must write to urge residents in the King's Thorn community to protest against the development of extremely small plots in the area. Recently, notice has been given of an outline planning application to build a house adjacent to the cottage, known as 'Chalice'. The access and size of the plot is quite ridiculous. A large house is proposed

which is quite out of keeping with the surrounding properties and even with a 'Biodisc' to deal with foul water, there is no room for sufficient spreaders for the outflow of so called 'clean water' or an area to dispose of rainfall run off from the roof without affecting the neighbouring properties.

I therefore urge residents to write to their District Councillor, Mr. Richard Smith and also to the Planning Department of Herefordshire Council to express their concerns and also to complain of the lack of 'follow up' by the Enforcement Officers to make sure that the details of any planning consents that are given are not altered in any way.

Yours sincerely, *John Bryant.*

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### ***Responsible Dog Owning***

LB Parish Council has had reports of dog fouling within the Parish. The majority of dog owners are responsible and clean up after their pets, but there are a minority who believe that to leave dog mess on a footpath or other public places is acceptable. Please be aware that it is the **responsibility of the dog owner/handler to clean up after the dog** otherwise face a possible fine of up to £1,000. Herefordshire Council's Dog Warden may also be contacted on **01432 261761** to report any rogue dogs in and around the Parish.

To improve visibility during the winter evenings, it may be appropriate for some dogs to wear reflective coats or collars.

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### ***Thanks***

To the couple who kindly donated £10 towards the cost of producing this Newsletter.

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### ***Neighbourhood Watch***

#### ***Crime Update***

There has been another spate of thefts of catalytic converters from unattended vehicles overnight, mostly on garage forecourts across Herefordshire, but there have also been some thefts from private vehicles on driveways. Storage units between Clehonger and Kingstone have been broken into and a box trailer, generator and a quantity of "Apple"

make jogger pushchairs have been stolen. It appears that the price of certain types of scrap is starting to rise again. Please report any suspicious activity you see near to any vehicles and garages.

Overnight on 24th/25th October, two vehicles were broken into that were parked on a private driveway in Bullinghope. A sat nav was taken from one, and a mobile phone, blackberry and some keys were taken from the other. Please do not leave valuables in your car, even if it is parked next to your house!

A wooden wheelbarrow full of plants was taken from a garden in Little Dewchurch in the week leading up to 5th November.

An attempt was made to steal another vehicle in Kivernoll, Much Dewchurch overnight 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> November. A Toyota Landcruiser had the door lock forced open and the steering lock was broken.

Two vehicles to look out for :

A red Toyota Avensis DE\*\*PUK - seen near Harewood End, occupants asking for scrap

A white Ford Transit Y3\*\*SLC - seen in Didley, occupants were asking for scrap

#### ***Results***

The female who was charged with drink/drive following a collision on the Callow in August, pleaded guilty, was fined £600 with £85 costs and was disqualified for 2 years.

As a result of us circulating details of a burglary in Kingstone on the last briefing, a recipient gave us details of a male who had been overheard bragging about it, and he has been arrested, and more arrests are to follow. Enquiries are continuing.

Also, following several complaints from residents about speeding in Kings Thorn, PC Bundy has carried out some speed enforcement there and 3 persons were issued with 3 point, £60 tickets for excess speed and 5 others were given verbal warnings. He will be back!

#### ***Distraction Burglary Vehicles***

Please keep an eye out for the following vehicles which have been sighted at various distraction burglaries around the UK and could come to Herefordshire to prey on the vulnerable. If you see one of these vehicles, especially if it contains two or more men outside the home of an elderly or vulnerable

person, please ring the police immediately to report it. To catch these criminals, speed is of the essence.

KY57\*\*\*, silver Mazda 3, Lancashire distraction on 14th August

CK08\*\*\*, silver Force Focus, West Midlands distraction on 15th September

SL58\*\*\*, dark grey Audi A5, Hampshire and Gloucestershire burglaries on 16th/17th September

KU07\*\*\*, silver Ford Focus, Derbyshire distraction on 1st October

FL58\*\*\*, black Vauxhall Vectra, Cheshire and West Mercia on 2nd October

MG56\*\*\*, blue Ford Transit van, West Yorkshire distraction on 8th October

DU08\*\*\*, silver Mazda 6, West Midlands distraction on 14th October

#### ***Not In My Neighbourhood Week***

Monday 2nd November sees the start of the National Home Office campaign, Not In My Neighbourhood Week, designed to raise public awareness of the work being carried out by police forces to combat crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) at a local level. With Halloween and the firework season upon us, the timing is pertinent.

Gabrielle Wright, Police Strategic Partnerships Manager for Herefordshire Division, said, "This dedicated week of action will provide local agencies from the public, private and voluntary sectors with the chance to publicise their work around tackling crime and ASB."

"In Herefordshire, we can clearly show the significant efforts that are being made to keep our communities safe. In working with all our partners, we are really making the difference," she said.

Throughout the week local policing teams will be out across the county with displays and events, also attended by partners such as the Fire Service, Safer Herefordshire, Trading Standards, VOSA and Amey, to give details of what has been achieved.

#### ***Ringmaster / Community Messaging Service***

Following last month's article, over 300 households in the county have now signed up to the Community Messaging Service to receive crime information and special alerts from the police for their area. The more who sign up to the free system the better. To sign

up, simply go to [www.herefordshire-community-messaging.org.uk](http://www.herefordshire-community-messaging.org.uk).

#### ***Phone Scam***

We have had many calls from people worried about calls they have received from persons purporting to be from BT.

A call is received, and the person on the other end says they are calling from BT and that there is an outstanding amount on their phone account, which must be paid off immediately, or the line will be cut off. It is usually a small amount quoted as being owed, and the caller asks for details of a credit card so that payment can be made.

When asked for proof that the caller is from BT, the caller will state that they will temporarily disconnect the phone, and then will call back.

The phone is then 'disconnected' and shortly afterwards 're-connected' and the victim may then believe that the call is genuine, and gives the bank details for fear of being permanently disconnected. However, the phone is not really disconnected, the caller has just put the phone on silent, but as the line is still connected, the line cannot be used and the victim believes the line has been disconnected. **Please pass this on, as many people are falling victim of this scam.**

#### ***On a Lighter note....***

While patrolling a housing estate in a rural area of Lancashire, two officers came across three young lads playing a game of cricket in the street. As England were playing Australia at the time in the Ashes and it seemed quite apt as every kid has a sporting hero, the one PC asked the batter, "Which one is Freddie Flintoff?"

The startled lad paused for a while and then replies "I don't know him, he doesn't live round here, and I think he lives around the corner."

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#### ***Your Officers based @ Peterchurch***

*Local Policing Sgt*

[timothy.dugmore@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:timothy.dugmore@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

*Local Police Officer*

PC Andrew Bundy

Mobile No: 07855 385 844

[andrew.bundy@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andrew.bundy@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

***Community Support Officers***

**CSO 6173 Fiona Witcher**

Mobile No: 07779 141 232  
fiona.witcher@westmercia.pnn.police.uk  
**CSO 6993 Kevin Powell**  
**Mobile No: 07779 141 232**  
kevin.powell.c6993@westmercia.pnn.police.uk  
**Website: www.westmercia.police.uk**  
**Hereford Rural South Email**  
herefordruralsouth.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk  
**Non-Emergency phone 0300 333 3000**  
**Emergency phone 999**

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***Your Local Representatives***

East –  
**JOHN BULBECK            540178**  
Central –  
**BOB PETERS                540670**  
West –  
**BETTY PHILPOTT        540614**

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***Items/Copy***

Please may I have items for the **JANUARY 2010** issue (in Word format please) by post or hand to Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD, left in the mail box at 'Bramleys' Kings Thorn or via **EMAIL** to semathews@btinternet.com by no later than :

\* \* \* \* \*  
**17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
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