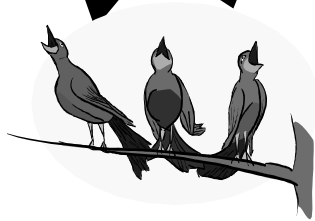




June and July  
2012



BIRDINGBURY  
NEWS  
No 50



Photo Michael Coles

In case you hadn't noticed the cheery banners and bunting outside the Birbury the photograph is there to remind you that it is 25 years since the Birbury was opened in 1987!

See page 7

## Parish Council Report

After two Parish Council Meetings and the Annual Village Meeting since my last report, we are able to celebrate some real progress and also some frustration because of lack of it.

The construction of the new path up to the church should have begun by the time you are reading this. We have been promised a start in the last week in May, with work on the traffic calming signs at the entrances to the village to be completed by the end of June. If this does happen, then it will mark the end of a saga which started with the parish being allocated a grant by Rugby Borough Council at the end of 2008 – a good outcome in Jubilee Year!

The Annual Village Meeting on 24 April was attended by around 30 people. It was good to hear reports from twenty organisations involved in village life and heart-warming to hear of so much community activity. The bus shelter sub-committee presented their plans for the replacement of this village landmark, and these were fully endorsed by those attending.

What has been disappointing is the struggle to find funding streams from grant-giving bodies to help us cover the estimated cost of around £5,700 for rebuilding the shelter. While we have not given up on this quest, it is looking increasingly likely that replacing a quirky bus shelter does not fall into the criteria for the usual grant projects. The Parish Council (PC) therefore decided at its May meeting to look at ways of covering the cost within the village. It was resolved that the PC will find 20% of the cost; the Distribution Fund will be asked to agree to a significant contribution (this request will have to be agreed at a special village meeting); an anonymous gift of £500 has already been made by a villager, and the remainder will have to be raised amongst ourselves. *If you wish to promise a gift against the possibility of our not finding a grant, please let our Clerk know: ([parishclerk@birdingbury.org](mailto:parishclerk@birdingbury.org) or tel. 01926 335746).*

Jubilee celebration plans are well in hand and the final planning meeting took place on 23 May. As well as Swap Shoppers and other villagers' efforts to make a kilometre of bunting to decorate our streets, a variety of community events has been planned. All we need now is a weekend of sunshine and for villagers to come out to join in the fun, culminating in the Street Party and presentation of Birdingbury jubilee mugs at 4.30 on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Thanks to the efforts of Cllr Chris Morton, the mugs are now available, and those who have ordered them will be reminded to make their payments prior to delivery: *cheques payable to Birdingbury Parish Council please.*

The loss of the bus shelter with its attached notice-boards has meant that posting PC notices is rather difficult. For those of you with internet access, notices are always available there: [www.birdingbury.org](http://www.birdingbury.org) and laminated notices are pinned to the A-boards outside the Birbury.

At their AGM in May the PC agreed to keep to the well-established time-table for meetings, but with a change to the start time. Meetings will be held in the Birbury on the third Tuesday of every month except August and December, ***but will start at 7.30 instead of 8.00pm.*** It was also agreed ***not*** to hold a September Village Meeting as the pressure for this had been, in the past, to agree to support for the Birdingbury Festival, and this is no longer relevant.

Please don't hesitate to contact me, the other councillors or the clerk if you would like to discuss any of these or other issues with us. Our details are on the website and on the board outside the Birbury.

Diana Turner  
Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

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St Leonard's Church

## SUMMER FETE

**SATURDAY 23 JUNE 2012**

2PM - 5PM

Do come and join us for our second Church fete; something for all the family in the grounds of our lovely church. There will be various stalls including cakes, tombola, plants and books. The grand raffle draw will be around 4.30pm and extra tickets will be available on the day. Delicious cream teas and hot dogs will be available too.

Please let us know if you can provide any books, plants, cakes, preserves or tombola prizes. We would be most grateful for your support.

Dick 632644

Karen 632030



*Leamington Hastings CE Infant School and Extended Services,  
Hill, Leamington Hastings, Rugby.*

## ***Rose Queen Day 2012***

**SATURDAY 23 JUNE at 1.30PM**

**1.30 - 3pm** Dancing and Crowning Rose King & Queen.  
**3pm - 4pm** Fair.

**ENTRANCE : Adults £1.00 Children 50p**



*Please come and have fun with us, and support our school. Everyone welcome!*

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### **BT Infinity**

I am pleased to confirm that the village is now wired for BT Infinity through the Marton Exchange. Those who have already signed up to the new packages available from BT have noticed a dramatic increase in speed - at least as good as was promised. In Back Lane for instance we are now receiving up to 70 Mbps. Thanks must go to the small team from our neighbouring villages who have worked so hard with us to secure this massive benefit to Birdingbury.

Please see page 13 for the BT Infinity promotion information at the Marton Olympics and The Club's success in securing their own Infinity service.

Chris Morton

## Heartstart

The Parish Council is asking for your guidance regarding the 'Heartstart' programme for the village.

Heartstart is supported by the local ambulance service. They encourage communities to purchase a defibrillator, which can be used by volunteers should someone suffer a cardiac arrest. There are two supported schemes.

**Option One:** Community Responders.

Six days' training, over three weekends, is required to achieve a National Certified Standard. This covers the use of the defibrillator together with first aid training. Six or more volunteers are required to participate in a rota and inform Ambulance Control of their availability. They can then be dispatched to medical incidents including cardiac arrest. The defibrillator costs £850, with the Ambulance Service supplying oxygen and other first aid equipment.

**Option Two:** A defibrillator is secured in a centrally placed cabinet for which a power supply is required. A couple of hours training is provided for volunteers who can respond only to cardiac arrests. When calling 999 the caller MUST state their knowledge of the defibrillator as the call handler can't direct them to it. The defibrillator automatically tells the user what to do and when to do it so is supposed to be foolproof!

The cost of the defibrillator and cabinet is approximately £1,500.

NB. In either case there is a four minute 'window' for positive outcomes.

You will see that both options have their limitations and involve great responsibility for the volunteers, with Option 1 also requiring a considerable commitment.

An **Option Three** came out of the village meeting. It was for volunteers to receive First Aid Training, which the Parish Council would attempt to arrange.

If you wish to volunteer or comment on any of these options could you please contact a Parish Councillor or email me ([iantipton@btopenworld.com](mailto:iantipton@btopenworld.com)) or Joanna Bloomfield the Parish Clerk ([parishclerk@birdingbury.org](mailto:parishclerk@birdingbury.org)). Based on your responses the Parish Council will decide what action to take.

Ian Tipton      Birdingbury Parish Council

Helena Steadman our Community Police Officer will be outside the Birbury at 10 am on Fridays 22 June and 3 August with the Mobile Police Station. Feel free to pop in for a friendly chat.

## Birdingbury History Day



Well, what a marvellous treat the History Day in May turned out to be! I thought that I would just call in briefly to see a few old photographs but was greeted by a very welcome cup of coffee and home-made biscuits just for a starter! Then a virtual 'Aladdins Cave' of memorabilia opened up in the Birbury and the Club. Pictures, maps and old documents filled the room and members of The Group were in attendance to explain or help where necessary. There was even a video/CD of historic photographs lasting for at least ten minutes and showing every part of the village and surrounding areas over the past century. I was fortunate enough to watch this with, amongst others, Jackie Westcott who was a mine of information and knowledge about where all the photos had been taken and who was in them. It must have been particularly evocative for those, like Jackie, who have lived in the village for such a long time and seen so many changes....and people coming and going. There were a few pictures of the station...which reminded me of my youth and standing on the platform at Leamington Spa when a steam train came in amidst lots of noise and engulfed us all in smoke before our annual journey into Birmingham for some shopping. Those were the days!

Then Chris Barney showed me a copy of the original sale details for Birdingbury Hall

estate ...which, would you believe, included 12 farms, all for the bargain price of £30,000. Of course this must have been a great deal of money in 1914! I looked at pictures of the old rickyard before my house was built and it was a working farm right in the middle of the village...just as the farm was where I grew up in Cubbington. All absolutely fascinating and informative into the bargain.

The Group must have worked very hard putting this exhibition together and our thanks go to them. I do hope that they might consider repeating it at some time...so that I can continue on my journey through the years...and those who may have missed it would get another chance. I can thoroughly recommend it to every one of all ages.

Liz Ellis

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## **Silver Anniversary of the Birbury**

Ever wondered who the names belong to on the brick wall at the back of the Birbury? They show the names of some of the villagers who raised money to purchase the necessary materials to build the Birbury. A lot of the actual building work was done by volunteers and a photograph of some of these volunteers hangs now inside the Birbury.

Since then it has been used for a variety of events from various committee meetings to birthday parties to wedding celebrations to funeral wakes to coffee shops and produce swop shops, and lots of other things. It can cope with meetings or events of between 20 and 40 people. If you consult Jackie when you make a booking she can arrange for the double doors to be opened to allow access to the Club as well. This arrangement has worked well in the past and we think it makes a good use of both facilities.

As it is someone else's celebration this year we decided not to have one special event for our anniversary but we will be open for joint celebrations over the Jubilee week-end.

We always send fliers round the village when we organise our social events and they also now appear on the village web-site; we look forward to seeing you in the Birbury soon....

Jenny Hawes

## Springtime in Birdingbury – The wettest drought yet

You don't need me to tell you the obvious; April and May so far have been very wet. The total rainfall for April in Birdingbury was 140mm while the average of the previous 7 years was 27mm and, amazingly, the total for April 2011 was just 4mm! Up to 10 May, we have had 45mm (thank you Geoffrey and Leslie for the info). The brook that crosses under the Leamington Hastings road (Cruckle Gutter) had hardly any water flow during the winter yet, on a recent walk, I noted it was in full spate. Draycote reservoir has been exceptionally low: however, it is now filling up to normal end of winter levels.

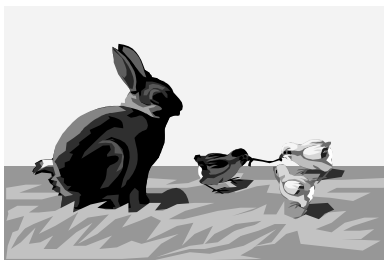
Another unusual aspect this year has been the late arrival of passerines (a new word to me from the RSPB website). My first sighting of house martins and swallows was about two weeks later than the long term average. Three swifts have been seen recently above the village. Sadly, I still haven't heard a cuckoo, although one has been heard fleetingly from the allotments in early May.

I've read that this is probably due to a loss of habitat at their African wintering sites. It would be a great shame if that's it, and we are to have springs without the iconic sound of cuckoos.

On a brighter note, there has been some great spring birdsong. I am not the only one to have commented on particularly tuneful blackbirds in the village. At Marton Glebe Farm the yellowhammers and skylarks have been in good voice too.

Wild spring flowers seem to have benefited from a soaking. The primroses in the churchyard were good and I'm sure that there are more cowslips than ever.

The rape is in full flower. But I wonder why are we growing so much of it when the market price for wheat is good? On local walks it can seem that half of the arable land is planted with rape. I would have thought that we could more effectively feed the world by growing cereals, like wheat.



As I finish this article, guess what – it's raining again!

Dick Withington



## **Good Neighbours – The real meaning.**

In April, Lee and I and our eldest daughter, Ceara, had to cope with the sudden death of our youngest daughter, Micaela, in London. Although the news seems to be full of young, untimely deaths right now, nothing can be quite as painful, or hits all of us quite as hard, as hearing of, or experiencing, the loss of a young person with so many years of potential ahead of them.

In the midst of the devastation that we felt had hit our lives, we found the real value of family, friends and neighbours. In particular, we were blessed by the support that a village community so willingly offers to those in need. We were doubly blessed in that although we have lived in Birdingbury for over 5 years, we lived in Bubbenhall for almost 20 years and it was where Micaela was born 23 years ago. Both communities came to our help in such practical ways; from the natural offer of a shoulder to cry on, to the basics of providing a meal, when the last thing we were capable of doing was cooking. Offers of shopping, driving, phoning, minding, and helping out at our open house, funeral service and reception were just a small part of the overwhelming support we received. And all of these followed by the ever open invitation to come for a cup of tea!

We cannot thank you enough.

As Micaela was baptised in Bubbenhall church we felt it appropriate that she be buried there and, having been welcomed “home” by the bellringers, who too just wanted to do something for her, she now rests in a beautiful, sunny spot in a lovely churchyard. She will always be with us, as will the memories of the kindness and support of the two communities that are helping us through this difficult time.

With love and affection, Declan, Lee and Ceara Hayden

### **The Unfinished**

**(Dedicated to the families of those who die young)**

We cannot judge a biography by its length,  
Nor by the number of pages in it.  
We must judge it by the richness of its contents.  
Sometimes those unfinished are among the most poignant.  
We cannot judge a song by its duration  
Nor by the number of its notes.  
We must judge it by the way it touches and lifts our souls.  
Sometimes those unfinished are among the most beautiful  
And when something has enriched your life  
And when its melody lingers on in your heart  
Is it unfinished? Or is it endless?

*Author Unknown*

## **Forthcoming Events in the Birbury**

We will be taking part in the Jubilee celebrations as follows:

Saturday 2 June - 'All our yesterdays' - a display to be assembled during the day in the Birbury. Please bring along mementos, photographs of previous Jubilee events etc. We will be able to scan your photographs and return them to you - courtesy of the History Group. Join us for a cup of tea.

Gaynor will be directing the making of a special mosaic that the village youngsters have designed. All children are welcome to come and do their bit by sticking on some of the tiles. This will eventually be displayed in our new bus shelter.

Monday 4 June - the Birbury will be open during the day for light refreshments.

Tuesday 5 June - making cups of tea for the street party to be held in Main Street.

You're welcome to join us at some, or all, of these events.

During the weekend of the Birdingbury Country Show, 14 and 15 July, we will be running our Coffee Shop as usual, open between 10.00 and 5.00. each day. Come along for some delicious refreshments, including home-baked goodies.

Jenny Hawes

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## **CHURCH CAFE**

to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

**TASTY SCONES and TEA-TASTING**

on Sunday 3 June

from 2.30 pm to 3.45pm

There will be Birdingbury scones with Birdingbury jam and cream as local  
as we can find

Come and taste our range of speciality teas - unfortunately not as locally  
sourced!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Eira and Aileen

## Birdingbury Good Neighbours

### *Help when you need it*

We have had quite a good response to our previous articles on setting up a 'good neighbours' scheme to complement all the good work going on around the village. A card is enclosed with this copy of Birdsong which gives you initial contact numbers to call for help in times of need. We are sure you will appreciate that it is not meant to be a fourth emergency service but please do call if you think there might be something somebody can do for you. We could do with some more willing volunteers though, particularly for small DIY jobs or dog walking, so if you think you could commit some time to helping others when needed, then please let one of us know. Thank you very much to those who have already offered.

**Karen Armbrister 632030 Mel Palmer 634321 Leslie and Diana Turner 633755**

**Dick Withington, Jan Seenan and Jenny Hawes**

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### The Egg Roll

We had a great turnout this year and luckily the rain held off.

We started as last year with an Easter gift hunt with the children looking high and low for chocolate Easter Bunnies which they enjoyed.

The winners of the egg roll were Connor for the under 5's, George for the under 10's and Jacob for the under 14's. They each received an Easter egg as a prize.

We then went to the Birbury to be greeted by Jackie with refreshments

The winners of the best decorated eggs (judged by a non member of the village) were Connor, Alannah and Jacob who also received an Easter egg each as a prize.

Thank you to Carla, William, Josh, Rees, Issie and Harry for also taking part, and a Big thank you to Jackie for providing the refreshments and to everyone else who came to support this event.

Jo Cutts



## **Music at Leamington Hastings**

**President: John Lill, CBE**

### **First Rate Performers in a Great Setting**

9 June 7.30pm

#### **4 Girls 4 Harps**

One of the most unusual and delightful ensembles with a rich and varied programme

7 July 7.30pm

#### **The Navarra Quartet & Ashley Wass**

Famous as one of our best young soloists, Ashley Wass joins the well-known Navarra Quartet in two romantic piano quintets, by Schumann and Franck, with a delightful Quartet by Haydn to open the concert

8 September 7.30pm

#### **The Sitkovetsky Piano Trio**

Thus up-and-coming Trio of Piano, Violin and 'Cello, all Yehudi Menuhin School trained, play 3 pianos trios, all of different character, by Mozart, Brahms, and ending with Beethoven's perhaps most well-known trio, "The Archduke"

13 October 7.30pm

#### **Fibonacci Sequence String Quartet + Clarinet**

This outstanding ensemble present charming and skilfully played music by Dvorak and Mozart, including the well-loved Clarinet Quintet by Mozart

15 December 7.00pm

#### **Armonico Consort**

World-class singing of seasonal music by this outstanding choir, with mince pies and mulled wine

**Concerts are held at All Saints' Church, Leamington Hastings**

**Interval Refreshments provided.**

**TICKETS & ENQUIRIES**      [dpotts@musicatleamingtonhastings.co.uk](mailto:dpotts@musicatleamingtonhastings.co.uk)

## **BT Infinity Demonstration Bus at Marton Summer Sports and Village Fete**

This year Marton's event will be in the spirit of the London Olympics and held on Saturday 30 June 2012. The Opening Ceremony commences at 2pm.

Marton Games will include a mixture of sports, suitable for all ages. The events conjured up will include table tennis, athletics, basketball, darts, horse riding and boxing (all delivered with a twist! Some require brain power rather than physical fitness). Just like the real Olympics, Marton Games will be all about being part of the experience. Teams taking part in the Games will represent a nation and have to work together to become overall winner.

### **How to enter the Marton Olympics?**

Pull together a team of up to ten people (friends, family, neighbours) to represent a country

Call the Marton Olympics Country Allocation Hotline on 01926 632777 to choose a country – allocated on a first come, first served basis

Prepare your team in any way you wish for the opening ceremony

'Competitors' also welcome to join up on the day

Marton Games, will be sponsored by BT

2012 is also a special year as High Speed Broadband is finally making its way to us, supplying over 1,300 households and businesses in the area with super fast internet. In order to commemorate this, BT is officially sponsoring Marton Olympics and would like to use the event to showcase BT Infinity technology in the "BT Infinity Bus", where everyone can test-drive Infinity broadband speeds and witness the difference it makes.

So make your way to Marton to participate in the Games and to find out more about Infinity Broadband.

Marton Olympics will also feature a licensed bar, hog roast and various stalls by local groups, charities and businesses.

Please keep checking the Marton Website ([www.martonvillage.com](http://www.martonvillage.com)) for updates. If you have any queries please email [admin@martonvillage.com](mailto:admin@martonvillage.com)

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## **Bourton & District Garden Club**

Thursday 28 June 2012

We will be visiting 2 gardens in Kilsby, leaving Bourton village hall at 7pm.

If you would like to join us please contact

Carol Cooper 632033 Barbara Penny 632957 Ann Morton 632862

## *Birdingbury Club*

### **Club Survey**

Many thanks to everyone who returned a copy of this – we had 120 responses in all and as you'd expect, there were differing points of view and some strong opinions aired!

However, there was overwhelming support from 90% of respondents for the plan we outlined to become more of a 'village pub' style amenity and a clear mandate for change from club members and villagers alike.

The club has taken on board the key points of the survey results and is now working them into a development plan for both the building itself and the way we operate it, which we'll gradually implement over the rest of this year.

At the moment this is solely a club development plan, but we remain in contact with the Birbury in order to see if there is a way to incorporate both spaces into a wider plan at some point in the future.

Many thanks for your help in this.

The Club Committee.

### **Fancy a game of Cribbage?**

There's a game of cribbage taking place every Sunday evening at the Club at 9.30pm. All welcome, including beginners.

BIRDONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

### **KILSBY LANE SPORTS FACILITY**

Billy and Erin would like to thank everyone from Birdingbury who so generously sponsored them for their 5 mile walk around Rugby Town's football pitches last month!

Fortunately the chosen morning was dry and bright so the walk turned out to be an enjoyable time out with friends.

Altogether over £5,000 was raised towards the new Gym and Squash facility - a long way to go, but all agreed a great start!

Alex Rigler

## **Ladies Circle**

For the April meeting, Annette, Geraldine and Julie, organised the 'Queen's Tea Party'. We were issued with a formal invitation to attend and were delighted to find the Birbury set out for our tea party – cucumber sandwiches and all!

This was a lovely evening which included a quiz with questions relating to the Royal Family.

Thanks to all of you for organising this.

In May, Diana organised a display of crafts. She brought a large screen she had made which was in four sections and depicted four seasons of her life – events taking place in spring, summer, autumn and winter. She had used a variety of methods of embroidery in creating the wonderful effects, and explained how she had designed this and the story behind the symbols.

Other members also brought along various craft items they had made and told us how they had made them and become involved in the particular crafts. These included lace making, embroidery, pottery, card making, tapestry and upholstery. What talent there is in this village!

For the June meeting - 12 June - we are visiting Feldon Farm at Frankton. There may be a few places still available, so if you would like to join us please telephone Gaynor on 632041.

Our new year will start with the AGM on 11 September – 7.45 pm in the Birbury.

We will also be looking at our "old" minute books before they are placed in the village archives. New members welcome.

Barbara Munro

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## **Willoughby Challenge 2012**

Willoughby Challenge is fast approaching - Sunday 24 June - so time to get the boots cleaned and for some training to start. Let's hope we can win some silverware again following last year's successful clean sweep in both age groups in this great inter-village football competition.

Training has commenced and is at 3pm every Sunday until the day. I will also schedule some more times for Fridays and Saturdays - diary permitting.

Teams are Under 9s, Years 1,2,3,4 and Under 11s, Years 5&6.

If your children are interested, please contact me for more details on 632686 or [Richard.Cutts@dhl.com](mailto:Richard.Cutts@dhl.com)

## Birdingbury Calendar

### June

see page

#### Saturday 2 to Tuesday 5 Birdingbury Jubilee Celebrations

Sunday	3	Church Café	St Leonards Church	2.30	3
Saturday	9	Concert	L H Church	7.30	12
Tuesday	12	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Thursday	14	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	
Tuesday	19	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	
Friday	22	Mobile Police Station	Club car park	10.00	5
Saturday	23	Summer Fete	St Leonards Church	2.00	3
Saturday	23	Rose Queen	L H School	1.30	4
Sunday	24	Willoughby Challenge	Willoughby		15
Thursday	28	Gardening Club	Bourton Village Hall	7.00	13
Thursday	28	Fish and Chips	Club car park		
Saturday	30	Marton Sports (with BT Infinity Demonstration)		2.00	13

### July

Thursday	5	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	
Saturday	7	Concert	L H Church	7.30	12
Tuesday	17	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	
Thursday	26	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	

***Birdsong* is proud to have reached edition fifty with this issue.**

**Thanks to all our contributors.**



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**Copy date for next issue—18 July**