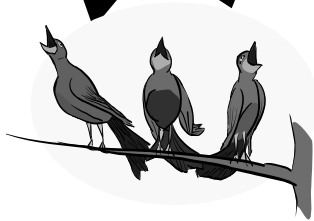


# **BIRDSONG**

**April and May 2013**



**BIRDINGBURY  
NEWS**

**No 55**



PHOTO ANNA FRENCH

**Lambs in the fields -  
But where is spring?**

## **Parish Council Report**

It has been relatively quiet on the Parish Council front since Christmas. We have, at long last, finalised payment to the County Council for a variety of Highways works done over the last year or so, and received the grant from Rugby Borough to cover an appreciable part of the costs. However, as I write, we are still waiting for the road safety signage to be completed, now promised for early April.

We have handled a number of complaints about damage to verges, fly tipping and other highways issues, and in most cases these have been dealt with by the appropriate councils. The prolonged period of wet weather means that there will continue to be problems with verges, but we will continue to report the worst cases.

Completing work on the bus shelter has been hampered by the appalling winter weather, but this will be done before the grand opening in June. It is, however, good to have the noticeboards in place: three lockable ones (for Parish Council, the Church and the Village) on the outside and open ones inside, for more general notices. Keys are held by me, Dick Withington and Ian Tipton should any villagers want to post a notice.

After such a long winter, some of our paths are now overhung with vegetation which can prove a danger to pedestrians. As you start to think about getting out into your garden once the weather improves, please consider whether growth spilling from your boundaries could cause problems in this way, and deal with it.

The council has been advised that we should consider commissioning an independent Housing Needs Survey, so that any future development proposals are informed by what the village needs and wants. The cost of such a survey would be covered by the borough council.

After ten years since it developed the skate board and other facilities, the Recreation Field Committee disbanded itself and has passed responsibility back to the PC. Councillors were assured that the practical help they provided in maintaining this valuable village amenity would continue, but it is clear that we need more villagers to help in this way. The recreation field is very well used, especially by our youngsters, and if it is to be kept in good order so that people can use it safely, then involvement by more parents would be very welcome.

Complaints about dog fouling of verges and open front lawns have been received again. Please, if you are a dog owner, ensure that your pet does not cause this nuisance to your fellow-villagers by picking up any mess.

Diana Turner

## **The Annual Village Meeting**

**to be held at 7.30 on Tuesday 23 April in the Birbury is open to all villagers.**

Do come along and have your say. If you would like to put an issue on to the Agenda, please don't hesitate to contact any councillor or the clerk, Joanna Bloomfield [parishclerk@birdingbury.org]. We look forward to seeing you there.

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## **Village Archive Store**

The last Birdsong included an article by Leslie Turner describing the trials and tribulations of installing the 'tambour unit' in the gallery of the church. In case you've forgotten what a tambour unit is (and who wouldn't), it's a cabinet with doors that slide open and shut on grooves within the width of the cabinet, with fittings to house boxes, folders and suspended filing.

The History Group has transferred some archive material into the store. Already there, from the Birdingbury Parish Council records, are the Parish Meetings Minutes Books covering the period 1894 to 2009; and the Parish Council Minutes for the period 1967 to 2008. There are also some papers relating to the development of the Recreation Field, of the Youth Club (to 2005), of Birdingbury First Homes (Masters Court) from 1990 to 1996, and of the search for a children's recreation area from 1971 to 1983.

The Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council and the Local History Group hold keys for the unit.

Villagers are, of course, welcome to look at any of the materials in the store although the History Group need some time to sort materials, add them to the store and catalogue them. It would be appreciated if requests to view items could wait until this catalogue is ready, when it will be published in Birdsong.

At the March Parish Council meeting it was agreed that the History Group would draft a memorandum for the consideration of the Parish Council and the PCC which would set down the form of management of the archives.

If anyone, or any village group, would like to deposit any materials in the store, they should contact the History Group (Aileen Withington is the Group's Chair, on 632644).

Liz Davies

## **Neighbourhood Watch and Village Security**

On 27 February, Jackie Morton, our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, called a meeting to report on developments over the past 12 months since the last meeting -- and where we might go from here. She specially noted co-operation and help from our local police officers, PC868 Hazel Busch (Beat Manager) and PCSO6149 Helena Steadman (our Community Support Officer) who were also at the meeting. The Birbury was packed.

Communication has really improved in the village. Jackie has established email and mobile contact with 69 villagers who can be alerted quickly on any significant crime or happenings in the area (and vice versa). In addition, 22 have signed up for Smart-water. Helena, as everyone knows, has established a visible presence in the village and this will increase. There are Neighbourhood Watch reps covering the whole village. Getting a No Rogue Trader Zone established for the village has led to a reduction in certain crimes (compared with surrounding villages!) We are the first such village in Warwickshire.

Hazel and Helena reported on crimes in the area over the last 12 months and cases where villagers had helped by feeding information to the police (such as registration numbers of vehicles that seemed suspicious). These could often be related to the bigger picture. Helena thanked Jackie for establishing such a good rapport with the police. Communication was excellent and feedback very useful.

Vigilance is the watchword! Helena and Hazel had a list of security suggestions. Email Helena at [helena.steadman@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:helena.steadman@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk) if you would like a copy, you should mention the meeting as a reference. Finally, we were encouraged to look at our own houses through the eyes of a burglar. Apparently, only three in ten thieves have to use force to enter....

Thank you Jackie, Helena and Hazel.

Ed.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

**Is someone or something affecting you or your community?**

**Come and meet your local officer at the Mobile Police Station.**

**We will be in the Club car park from 10.00 until 11.30**

**on Fridays 12 April, 24 May and 5 July**

**Feel free to pop in for a friendly chat with a member of the team.**

## Church Cafe



### Memories Revived!

An invitation to join Birdingbury villagers for “Church Café”.....(church café?? – a new thing for us) if we happened to be in the area, resulted in a very pleasant and sociable time.

All my questions – how will they fit in tables and chairs? will there be hot food? who will go? were all answered. Inspired seating (if Betsy could see her pew now!!) plus table cloths, fresh flowers and a choice of three hot dishes plus coffee to follow – who could ask for more? Time to catch up with old friends and meet a few “new” villagers.

The best bits? Not having to organise it! Set it up! Clear away! Many thanks to Aileen and Eira for their hard work.

I hope you all realise how lucky you are to live in such an active and supportive community – living Christianity.

Thank you everyone who was involved. Hope to see you next time.

Di and Mike Powley (Escana 1983-1992)

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Bus Shelter

This progresses slowly but the glazing and the paving are done. If the sun would come out for more than the odd day then the slates should appear. Grand opening 1 June.

## The Great Pancake Race

There were no concerns about the wet weather this year for the **Pancake Race** on Saturday 16 February. An enthusiastic group, complete with frying pans and pancakes, took part in some lively races. Adam was a clear winner in the seven and under race; Jake gave a lovely grin as he reached the tape in the over sevens and in a closely fought adults' race Alex managed to see off the male competitors to claim first price!



Afterwards we enjoyed a cuppa and some home made refreshments in the Birbury.

Jenny Hawes

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## Come and take part in the Marton Mile

Sunday 14 April 10.30, Registration 10am

It's up to you: Walk or Run 1,3 or 5 miles

Just like last year, the Marton Playing Fields Association has organised a walking/running event for all ages. Registration for the event can be made on the day or email [admin@martonvillage.com](mailto:admin@martonvillage.com).

Fees are £3 per person or £10 for a family of four (prices include 1 bacon bap per person) – all for good causes

## Progressive Supper

Being 'newbies' in Birdingbury we approached the 9th of February with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. The week beforehand we had trawled through the recipe books looking for inspiration as we had been chosen to make starters for our guests.

On the day, we had an afternoon of cooking tapas, hoping our guests would be very hungry given the amount of food that materialized before our eyes. So, at 7.20 having laid the table, chilled the champagne and ensured everything was ready, we headed down towards the club. We were greeted with a warm welcome, listened to Jackie giving out instructions and, after having a stiff drink, set off home to await our guests.

At 7.30 on the dot, there was a knock at the door, and we were pleasantly surprised to greet some familiar, and some not so familiar, faces. We all set about getting to know each other whilst tackling the delicacies we had made earlier in the day. Three quarters of an hour flew by when it was time to wave goodbye to our guests and find out our next destination. Torch in hand, we set off down Back Lane to our hosts for the main course. We were met with a warm welcome and enjoyed a feast prepared by Paula and Simon. We all found lots to talk about and much in common with our company. After another 55 minutes, we were handed an envelope and directed towards the hosts for our dessert; we had just about time to walk from one end of Birdingbury to the other and were greeted by Rob and Julie's daughter, who was looking out the window waiting for us. We were met with a fantastic array of desserts which we demolished in no time. The chat was good and we could have stayed much longer but the club was calling and we all set off to end the evening in the club as instructed.

For us, the progressive supper was a great chance to find out a bit more about life and fun in Birdingbury. The finale in the club was a great way to meet some other residents we hadn't met before. As we zig zagged up Back Lane, with John much the worse for wear, we were already looking forward to next year's event!

Jenny Barr

It was an amazing evening and we want to thank you for your generous donations.

In the confusion of the final hours you all dipped deep into your pockets and put a phenomenal amount of money into Starley's hat - some of you several times! - and as a result we raised an additional £365 which we have decided to donate solely to The Ups of Downs. This is in addition to £451 each for St. Leonard's Church and The Ups of Downs.

Jackie Morton and Simon Whitfield

*See more about The Ups of Downs on page 15*

Birdingbury Youth Club  
Summer Scarecrow Spectacular  
SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE

Bring along your family or organisation's Scarecrow to The  
Birbury at 11am

*Cake Stall   Raffle   Refreshments*

*The morning will also include the "Grand Opening" of the  
new Bus Shelter*

The Summer Spectacular continues in the evening with a "Picnic in the  
Meadow". Join in the fun from 6.30 – 10pm. Bring along your picnic  
and enjoy the local entertainment.

Please think about making a scarecrow as it's a great way to get involved in doing something that will raise money for a good cause whilst also having a laugh (only £5 to enter). Just get in contact and I'll add you to the growing list. if you want help on how to create your scarecrow, let me know, as we are thinking of running a short session on how to make them.

Cheryl 632461

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

**Birdingbury Youth Club** meets in the Birbury and the Club from 6.30 – 8pm on Friday evenings during term time.

There is a vacancy for a Secretary on the Management Committee. The role is not very arduous; distributing agendas, taking minutes at meetings (only four times during the year) and perhaps compiling a couple of letters. If you are interested please contact Gaynor 632041 or Jan 633514.



## Summer Evening Village Picnic

Everyone had so much fun at the Jubilee picnic that we had last year that, by popular demand, we thought we'd do it again! Hugh and Jan have again kindly offered the use of the Old Rectory Meadow for the village to have a community picnic, so put June 1st in your diary.

The gates will be open from 6.30pm, so bring your friends, family, neighbours and set up your picnic. Bring your picnic blanket, table and chairs and even your candelabra if you like!

We are planning to have some entertainment so if you would like to be part of a singing group or even perform solo or as part of a band, please do let us know. It would be great to have a varied entertainment line up.

If you would like to take part in the Ladies singing group - contact Gaynor 632 041 or be at the **Birbury Friday 19 April 8pm.**

If you would like to join the Men's singing group or would like to perform yourself please contact Mel Palmer 634 321.

If you could help with PA equipment (to save us having to hire it), help setting up on the day or tidying the next day for an hour or so (the more the merrier) Ian Palmer 634 321 would be very pleased to hear from you.

Melanie Palmer



**MELVYN WARREN-SMITH**  
**WELCOMES YOU TO HIS ANNUAL EXHIBITION**  
**"AN INTERPRETATION OF 50 SHADES OF PAINT"**  
**MAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND**  
**SATURDAY 4, SUNDAY 5 & MONDAY 6 MAY**  
**12 noon - 6pm**  
**AT HIS STUDIO IN LEAMINGTON HASTINGS**  
(Directions are signposted from the centre of the village)

## **Birdingbury Country Show—13 and 14 July 2013**

So far there have now been two meetings to organize this year's Show. Although there have been two resignations from the original committee, we are pleased to welcome four new members. Doug, who has been attending the Festival/Show since 1991, has joined us to organise the Stationary Engines section, and Tony has rejoined and will be sorting out a Photographic section. This has been something run as an Historical Vehicle Photographic Display in previous years, but now Tony hopes to expand this and work with the Birdingbury History Group. We also welcome Averil and Phyllis who will be dealing with financial matters.

The beneficiaries from any profits from this year's event will be - Cystic Fibrosis, Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, and Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.

It has been decided not to issue free entry tickets and raffle ticket books to households in the village as this had proved to be very time consuming and not cost effective. Instead, villagers will be invited to apply for free tickets before the Show, or be admitted by proof of residency on the Show days. For those wishing to apply for entry tickets and/or to buy/sell raffle tickets please contact Pauline Meade (632287) or myself— if you feel you would like to help in any way.

Barbara Munro 632555

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## **Get a discount on your oil fuel**

Warwickshire Rural Community Council have organised an Oil Syndicate to take advantage of 'Joint Buying Power'.

Individuals, community organisations or businesses can all join the scheme. The WRCC gather orders each month across the county and negotiate with local suppliers to offer members a saving on the price per litre. Their last order saved £64.20 per 1000 litres against the average market price.

If a tanker can deliver to several customers in a village not only does this cost less but traffic is reduced.

You can also volunteer to become a Local Coordinator for free membership.

To find out more email [oil@wrccrural.org.uk](mailto:oil@wrccrural.org.uk) or telephone 01789 472611.

## **Our New Footpath**

John Stevinson, who was the priest in charge of the Birdingbury and Leamington Hastings parishes from 1988 to 1996, was a keen local historian and published a good deal about Leamington Hastings. He was working on a wide ranging history of Birdingbury when he retired to live at Winchcombe. Recently, he delivered a large box of his notes and papers to Thelma Gee in Broadwell and she sorted out those covering Birdingbury and passed them on to the Birdingbury History Group.

There is a great deal of interesting material in the box, some of which may get written up and published. One little snippet seemed particularly topical.

The road from Birdingbury towards Bourton and Frankton used to go in front of the Rectory (where the Hall drive is now) and then turn sharply up the hill through what is now part of the churchyard towards where the lych gate was built. In 1819 it was proposed to build a new road to go up the hill at an angle – this is the road we now have – and close off the original road. The big beech tree just by the lych gate has grown up in the middle of the line of the old road. Was it planted or did it just seed itself?

As part of the proposal a plan of the new road was drawn and fixed to the church door in September 1819 – yes they even had ‘consultation’ in those days. It shows the ‘Proposed new carriage road’ as it was subsequently built and still is. Alongside the road, clearly marked, is ‘Proposed new footpath 170 yards in length and 4 feet in breadth’.

We finally got our footpath even if it took nearly 200 years.

Recordsworm

## **There are a lot of badgers about**

My book on British animals says, in its chapter on badgers, “Very clean, burying dung in an ‘earth closet’ dug far from the set”. One day in early March, on the river side verge of the Bourton Road, not far from the corner at the top of the hill beyond the church, I counted nearly twenty such latrines in active use, besides others covered over. What is going on? I know there is a plague of badgers but do they really need quite so many latrines in such a small area? Does each badger have its own favourite? How many are there at the same time? They are clearly not shy about the business as all these latrines are right by the road. Has anybody actually seen a badger (let alone several simultaneously) using a latrine?

My book also describes the animals as “Very keen of scent and hearing, intelligent, resourceful, courageous, acquisitive and pertinacious”. I wonder what nearby gardeners think of that. CB

## Can you help the Guide dogs?

They need people to provide a home for a brood bitch, to take responsibility for her and provide support when she is giving birth.

This is how one volunteer, Susie, described her experience:

*“At the birth you’re there if your dog needs you, but if she’s getting on with it you let her. I was mainly there to reassure Truffle, clean up, and weigh and mark the puppies. Part way through her whelping she got very tired so I took her into the garden as moving can help get things going, which it did because she had one pup in the garden!”*

*You are given a couple of training days, DVD’s and weekly visits from your supervisor when your bitch is pregnant and advice on every aspect of her care. You know what to look out for, such as a drop in temperature and other signs, which lets you know the puppies are probably due in the next 24hrs. Truffles’ first four puppies have been with puppy walkers for 7 months and it’s wonderful to hear how they’re getting on through Facebook.*

*We wanted to give the puppies as many experiences as possible – we dressed up in fluorescent jackets, different hats, and tried to introduce them to as many different sounds, scents, textures as we could! Because my son has special needs, his world can be quite small, he has got so much joy out of spending time with the dogs and because he isn’t verbal it was great to see both him and pups getting so much out of it. He loves to be able to handle and stroke them and enjoys them following him around the kitchen and garden and they get invaluable experiences of people who act differently to normal.”*

It is important that you possess a calm, caring disposition, are not in fulltime employment and can devote time to the bitch, particularly when she has a litter.

Dog handling experience is preferred but not essential. A clean driving licence is desirable and access to a car you are insured to drive. There will be opportunity to attend dog training classes.

Equipment from the Guide Dogs list needed to rear a litter is supplied, together with a fixed contribution to heating costs of the heat lamp for the litter and payment of out of pocket expenses agreed in advance.

If you might be interested please contact the **National Breeding Centre** on **0845 3727 432** to discuss this further or to request an application form.

## Coming Events at the Birbury

The much-loved **St. George's Lunch** will be at noon on Sunday 21 April.

Following that, squeezed into a crowded calendar will be the **Whist Drive** on Saturday 18 May. That starts at 3pm and it'll be a fun time for anyone of any age – and you don't need to know how to play this simplest of games! The main aim of the event is to offer a chance to all and sundry to catch up on village news – and to scoff the rich, varied, nutritious, wholesome and health-giving refreshments which will, naturally, be available.

On to more serious matters. Our Birbury may not be the largest, best-equipped village meeting room but it's the best we've got – and it needs to be maintained, administered, paid for, etc. That's what your Birbury Committee does. That Committee is responsible to the village for running the show and its Annual General Meeting is the gathering where that Committee reports on the past year, answers questions and receives nominations (of its members, of course) for Honours. (That last bit may be a touch flight of fancy). We need people to come along – the meeting rarely lasts long – to join in the discussion, to offer themselves up for joining the Committee or simply listen to the reports. So there we are: the **A.G.M.** is at 7.45 on Tuesday 30 April. See you there.

Leslie Turner

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## Community Forums

Community Forums have been set up to listen to your concerns and views about the services provided.

Your local Councillors attend, along with representatives from Rugby Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council and the Police, but it is you we need to hear from!

The forums will give you the opportunity to:

- Influence the services that are provided in your area
- Help to tailor services to meet local needs
- Provide your opinion on important issues such as the development of the borough, crime prevention and improving opportunities for local people
- Hold public service providers to account

For more information go to [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums)

**The next Forum for the Dunchurch Division will on Wednesday 5 June with drop in from 7pm and the meeting starting at 7.30. The venue has yet to be decided .**

## **Winter 2012/2013: When will it end?**

At the time of writing winter is stubbornly refusing to give way to spring. March temperatures so far are significantly below the average of recent years. It's midday on March 20, the Spring Equinox, and it's 2°C! The days with the greatest winter wind chill factor have been in March.

However, over December, January and February temperatures were not much below my average of the last 40 years in Birdingbury. Night time minimums were quite modest. The lowest temperature I recorded was only -9°C on 22 January compared with -16°C during the white Christmas of 2010. There has been lots of snow but the greatest depth of level snow was only 13cm. Relative to some other nearby places Birdingbury is not a particularly snowy location. On 6 December there was no lying snow in the village, but 4cm on Shuckburgh Hills. On 12 February the view from our house was predominantly green whilst I enjoyed a very snowy walk around Canons Ashby.

What has been remarkable is the number of days I recorded a frost: 15 in December, 20 in January and 26 in February. There have been 18 days when the temperature has not risen above 0°C.

Usually at this time of the year we talk about a blackthorn spring when there is often a cold spell when it is in full blossom. It's not an issue this year as the flowers are still in tight bud.

Maybe I will keep wearing the anorak for a while longer!

Dick Withington

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## **The 58th annual Napton Horse Pony and Dog Show**

May is nearly here, the days are getting longer and the weather warming up. There will soon be village fairs and fetes, gala days and markets and again, for the 58th year, the Napton Show, will be held on Saturday 25 May at Holt Farm Southam.

Of course, you shouldn't be fooled by the name. As well as the horses, ponies and dogs that descend on the showground, there are plenty of other attractions and entertainments for all to enjoy. Displays in and out of the main ring in the past have included carriage driving, vintage tractors, the Warwickshire Foxhounds, the Guide Dogs display team, terrier racing, duck herding and this year promises even more to amuse the crowds.

## **The Ups of Downs**

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our friends who donated so generously to The Ups of Downs on the night of the Progressive Supper.

As a family we consider ourselves very lucky to live in such a supportive and welcoming community, and have been delighted at how quickly and easily Erin has become a part of it.

As parents of a child with Down Syndrome we have faced and will continue to face challenges over health, funding, schooling and acceptance. Such challenges can be demoralising so, irrespective of the money, such a show of support is really valuable.

I thought you might like to know that, as the Ups of Downs is a charity run by parents from their homes, there are no admin costs so all money raised goes directly to the benefit of the children. Your money will be used in the following ways:

- \* Monthly speech and language sessions for all 20 children within the group
- \* Specialist resources to support the children in their learning
- \* Training events from experts in the field, for parents and professionals

In addition the group:

- \* runs a fortnightly sports club where the children can compete on a level playing field with their peers. It is a time where having Down Syndrome is the norm rather than the exception and games are tailored accordingly
- \* runs monthly Early Intervention sessions for babies and Pre-schoolers. This time in a child's life is key and it is important that parents have the tools and understanding in how to aid their child's development and get them ready for school
- \* raises awareness within the community of the potential of people with Down Syndrome. Members of the group have given presentations to NHS professionals, Council Members, Schools and Colleges

We weren't led to expect that Erin would be talking, reading and counting by the time she was five as well as having very real friendships with her classmates at a mainstream school but that is the reality. The Ups of Downs has played a big part in getting us to this point and your generosity will make it much easier for the charity to help other families reach the same milestones.

Thank you!

Alex & Tony

Welcome to Elsie Grace Malin at Escana, Marton Road,  
Lorraine and Andy's new daughter, sister for Bella and Joseph.

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Bill and Dink would like to thank all their friends and neighbours who showed such kindness after Dink's recent fall – with cards, flowers and gifts. We did appreciate it all. I have never regretted accepting the tenancy on our house in Birdingbury back in 1948. It is a wonderful village.

Bill Cowley

John Paul Hall (Paul)

Passed away 10 March 2013

Paul came to live in Birdingbury in 1970 and loved the village life; he always looked forward to the Village Festival. He had a lifelong love of horses and was a very competent rider in his younger days. He was also a very accomplished golfer and won numerous trophies. He will be sadly missed by his many friends and neighbours. His wife, Chris, would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards and messages.

Amy Worrall of Honeyvine died in her chair by the fireside very recently.  
Thoughts are with Jackie Line, her daughter and John Neale.

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Enid Vayro and Peter Shepherd are still in Warwick Hospital  
. Thinking of them and of Myrtle, Peter's wife.

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Welcome to Jenny and David Preston who have moved into Old Stone Cottage now that Maggie and Bart have gone to Kenilworth.

Welcome too to Guy and Rhian who have moved in to 6 Master's Court.

Ken and Joyce Froggatt have moved to Rugby from their bungalow in The Jitty.



### **Al's mum's cards....**

Many of you buy Al's mum's cards from Swapshop and she thought you'd like to know that you have helped to raise £120 for Warwickshire Air Ambulance! Al's mum (Pam Chappell) makes the cards, using a variety of techniques like quilling, and gives all the money from her hobby to charity. Over the last year, we have brought them every week to swap shop and lots of people have enjoyed looking through and buying one or two. They are cheaper than in the shops and very beautiful...so please think about coming along to swap shop and having a look at them!

Thanks - Alison Chappell

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### **Table Top Book Sale**

At Thurlby, Main Street, Birdingbury

Saturday 13 April 12 to 3pm

Second hand books for all ages

Proceeds in aid of Leamington Hastings C of E Infant School

Come along and browse if we don't have a book of your choice Mum's making fish finger sandwiches, teas and coffee while you look

Peter Owen Age 15

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

### **London Marathon 2013**



After the last Great North Run I know I said that I wouldn't do it again, but my enthusiasm got the better of me and before I knew it, I'd entered the London Marathon!

Once again running for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research, this will be my first and last attempt at the ultimate distance.

Thank you for those who have already given me such generous support. I have been asked by many people for my sponsorship details, so here they are:

[www.justgiving.com/simondavy-london2013](http://www.justgiving.com/simondavy-london2013)

## *Birdingbury Village Club*

### **Saturday 13 April      Birdingbury Bake Off**

Yep, it's that time again.

**Are you a closet cupcake baker? A dab hand with the sausage rolls? Or a budding Mr.Kipling?**

Whatever your standard, whatever your age and whatever you want to bake, there's a category for you in this baking competition

### **Thursday 25 April      Fish & Chip Van - approximately 8pm**

### **Saturday 18 May      Mystery Sounds Night**

An evening of entertainment for all the family

Coming soon to a screen near you

### **The Big Picture Show**

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## **Plant Sale**

### **Saturday 4 May 11am onwards**

St. Leonard's Plant Sale will be held outside The Club with refreshments in The Birbury. The profits will go to our Tearfund project in Kenya. This is to enable rural churches and communities help with sustainable food production. The Draycote Benefice is supporting this project for 3 years.

Meantime, can you please help by sowing seeds and growing or splitting plants suitable for sale on the day. I have a few promises of help for 4 May but ideally need more offers. Please get in touch if you can join the team.

We look forward to seeing you on the day. Please spread the word and/or bring a friend.

Thanks - Dick Withington 632644.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## **Grandborough Farmers' Market**

First Thursday in the month. In the church. Gets good reports.  
Coffee and cakes besides the goods.

## Ladies Circle

The February meeting was 'Film Night' and from a selection of films, members chose 'Slum Dog Millionaire'. Although some members had seen this before, it was enjoyed by all – there are always parts not remembered!

Thanks to Jackie for providing the equipment and organizing the evening.

In March, we welcomed Mike Slater, a volunteer conservationist with Warwickshire County Council, who delighted us with his slides and in-depth knowledge of butterflies. Some species have been extinct for many years, and work is being carried out to provide the correct habitat to encourage breeding and, hopefully, prevent the further demise of other species. This includes the management of woodland and other areas to ensure conditions are maintained. Work has been done on our local disused railway line and quarries around the Stockton area. Shrubs have been planted to encourage the Blue Butterfly. Clearance also takes place in nearby woods such as those at Princethorpe and Bubbenhall. Records are kept of colonies of butterflies and members of the public are also encouraged to report sightings for these records.

Thanks to Gaynor for inviting Mike to attend, and to Mel for stepping in to host the evening at the last minute. Attendance was quite low as several members were unwell and unable to attend.

Our forthcoming programme has changed slightly from that arranged at the beginning of the year, and will now be –

9 April – 'Birdingbury Reminiscences'

14 May – 'Scarecrows' – we will also be creating our own scarecrow to support the Youth Club's Project, and members are requested to bring donations of materials for the creation which should reflect our organization. – Ideas welcome.

11 June – 'Diana's Garden Party' - sort out those hats!

The meetings for April and May will be held in The Birbury with coffee being served at 7.45 for the meeting to commence at 8p.m. All welcome – visitors £2.

Barbara Munro

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The next meeting of the **Bourton & District Garden Club** will be on

Thursday 25 April at the Bourton Village Hall, 7 for 7.30pm

Mr Paul Thornton, Head Gardener for Rugby School will talk about The School Gardens and Hanging Baskets / Containers.

For information contact Barbara 632957, Ann 632862 or Carol 632033

## Birdingbury Calendar

See page

### April

Tuesday	9	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	19
Thursday	11	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	
Friday	12	Mobile Police Station	Club car park	10-11.30	4
Saturday	13	Book Sale	Thurlby	12-3.00	17
Saturday	13	Birdingbury Bake Off	Club		18
Tuesday	16	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	
Sunday	21	St Georges Lunch	Birbury	Noon	13
Tuesday	23	Annual Village Meeting	Birbury	7.30	3
Tuesday	30	Birbury AGM	Birbury	7.45	13

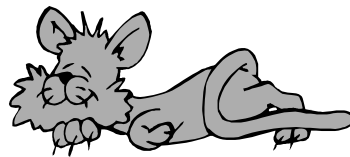
### May

Thursday	2	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	
Saturday	4	Plant Sale	Club car park	11.00	18
Tuesday	14	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	19
Saturday	18	Whist Drive	Birbury	3.00	13
Saturday	18	Mystery Sounds Night	Club		18
Tuesday	21	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	
Thursday	23	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	
Friday	24	Mobile Police Station	Club car park	10-11.30	4

### Saturday June 1 - Summer spectacular

**Swap Shop** every Saturday from 10.30 - **Youth Club** every Friday in term time at 6.30

Apologies for incorrect dates for Library Van in last edition



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