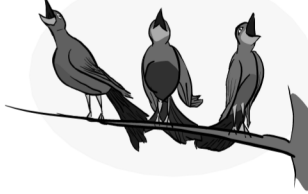


BIRDSONG

April and May 2014



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS**

No 61

Please join us in welcoming Birdie into the world ! She is a yellow Golden Retriever Lab. Birdie was born and named on the 20th January 2014. She has just been placed with her puppy walker, who will start to teach her the skills that she will need as a future guide dog.

Gaynor Davy

(You will remember that last year the Youth Club raised £1500 for Guide Dogs for the Blind, the sponsorship involved naming a guide dog puppy.)



Parish Council Report

After a wet, but relatively warm winter, it is hard to imagine the village covered in snow and ice, but I'm sure these conditions will be with us again in the future. The purchase of four new grit bins, while an expensive item, should help us deal with ice next winter. We are very grateful for the efforts of Cllr Terry Healey, with help from Bob and his fork lift, in installing the bins: one at the crossroads, one near the Club, another by the Rectory Field and the fourth in Back Lane.

We have been notified that the work in cleaning the War Memorial is likely to take place in May. Three quarters of the cost of this is covered by grants we had applied for and the remainder from our own funds. We hope to rededicate the memorial during the summer.

Over the winter councillors and other villagers have been doing maintenance work on the play equipment on the Recreation Field in line with advice following the last safety inspection. It is good to see these facilities being used to the full now we are seeing some sunshine. It is important for us to know if any accidents occur on this equipment: **please report any mishaps to any member of the Parish Council**, so that we can take any necessary remedial action.

We also remind parents and children using the Recreation Field to dispose of litter properly. Similarly we are keen to know if any of the local public footpaths are in a poor condition or being made inaccessible, so that we can take the matter up with the local authority.

You may have noticed, as we councillors have, that there is a growing amount of litter on the verges, especially on the approaches to the village. Bottles, drink cans and the like are unsightly and dangerous, so we are planning a

Grand Village Litter Pick

from 11 am on Saturday 5 April

and are asking as many of you as possible to join us to help get our village spick and span for the wonderful summer we are all hoping for.

We have changed the date for our next meeting; it will now take place at **7.30 on Tuesday 22 April**, and the **Annual Village Meeting will be the following Tuesday, 29 April again at 7.30 in the Birbury**. For those of you who have not attended one of these gatherings before, it is an opportunity to hear about what has been going on over the past year and an opportunity to interrogate your councillors and put forward suggestions for future developments in the village. Representatives from all the various

clubs and societies in the village are asked to report briefly on the past year. This year the main item on the agenda will be a report from the independent body which organised the recent Housing Needs Survey. We councillors will be hoping to hear your ideas on how best to make use of this important document.

Best wishes

Diana Turner, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

**We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the
Annual Village Meeting
please do come along!**

**FROM 11 am
ON SATURDAY 5 APRIL**

GRAND VILLAGE LITTER PICK

**It may not be your litter but it is in our village and so let's get
rid of it before the verges grow up and make it more difficult**

Neighbourhood Watch

If anyone wants to purchase smart water then it will be available for the special price of £15 (cash only) from Marton Village Hall on the 30 April at 7pm just before the village has its NHW meeting.

Please take a look at - www.warwickshire.police.uk/immobilise

This is the UK national property register. It is free and you can register any of your belongings that have a unique serial number such as electrical equipment and power tools. Helena is actively promoting 'Immobilise' and would be happy to discuss its workings and benefits with anyone who wishes to contact her.

If you are not on the Birdingbury Neighbourhood Watch alert list and wish to be added then please let me have your email address and telephone number and I will ensure you are added.

Jackie Morton jackie@elliam.org 633493

The 2014 Progressive Supper

Thank you to the 68 villagers who took part in the Progressive Supper on Saturday 8 February. It was lovely to see many new faces; Jackie and I would like to say thank you for the kind donations of raffle prizes and to Val and her team at the club for hosting at the beginning and end of the evening.

£970 was raised in total and split between the church and the Friends of Leamington Hastings School.

Simon Whitfield

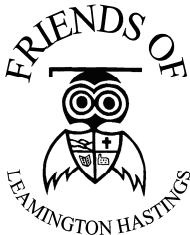
BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

On behalf of St Leonard's, may we please say a big thank you for the donation of £450 from the Progressive Supper, and our grateful thanks to Jackie and Simon for their organisation of this fun event. These funds will be used for improvements at St Leonard's, details of which you will find in 'Church News'.

Karen Armbrister

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The Friends of Leamington Hastings would like to extend a huge 'THANK YOU' to the residents of Birdingbury for donating so generously at the Progressive Supper in February. We were delighted to receive a cheque for £520 towards our fundraising activity.



We are a small but dedicated committee, supporting our wonderful school in Leamington Hastings parish – a school that many of the children from Birdingbury have been lucky enough to have been a part of!

The school continues to serve the community well and it is great to see pupil numbers really strong for all years and a thriving nursery into the bargain.

All monies raised this year are earmarked for new library furniture in the Alec Parker Building – we think this is a wonderful way to help instill the school mission 'Sowing the Seeds of a Lifelong Love of Learning in a Caring Christian Community'.

Forthcoming events at school are:

14 June 1.30pm Rose Queen Day

Come and watch the children maypole and country dancing then stay for our summer fete. All very welcome.

Annual Birdingbury Egg Roll

Saturday 19 April at 10.30 in the Recreation Field

Bring an egg to roll and a decorated one which will be judged in The Birbury afterwards.

This year we are adding an 'overs group' to the roll so whatever your age come and have some fun rolling your egg.

Prizes for the best decorated eggs will be given in age groups
under 5s, under 10s and under 15s .

Refreshments available as always from Jackie.

Hope to see you all there.

Jo Cutts 632686

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

St George's Day Lunch

Please remember to join us in the Birbury on Sunday 27 April from noon onwards for our enjoyable St. George's Day lunch where you will find a selection of tasty breads, cheeses, salads and pickles plus home made puds followed by a cuppa. A chance to relax and catch up with fellow villagers and all this for a donation of £2.50 towards the Birbury Funds.

Jenny Hawes

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury goes to the Silverstone Classic

The Silverstone Classic is an annual event at the Silverstone racing circuit that features great racing from all eras of motorsport, massive displays of classic cars and entertainment throughout the day. It is a great day out, even if you're not into old cars. It runs from 25 to 27 July and full details can be found at www.silverstoneclassic.com. A group from the village is going and we have arranged for a special ticket deal which is available until the end of May. Please contact Ian Palmer (ian.palmer@mail.com) or Dawn Powers (brooklands@orange.net) for details if you are interested as we would be delighted if you would join us.

Ian Palmer



Did you or any of your friends or relatives go to Birdingbury School?

Birdingbury Local History Group is appealing to readers to help piece together the story of the village school, which closed in the 1930s.



Very little is known or documented about the school. The building is now part of the current Birdingbury Club.

We would love to hear from anyone who remembers the school, its teachers or indeed who may have been a pupil there – or who remembers hearing about it from their parent or relative. We think it

was endowed to the village in the 1830s but after that, it's all a bit of a mystery.

The Group is hoping to compile a history of the school. Anyone with any stories, memories or even photos is asked to contact the editor or Aileen Withington on 01926 632644 or birdingburyhistory@hotmail.co.uk

You can find out more about the history of Birdingbury, including a selection of old pictures from our photo archive, on the village website (www.birdingbury.org) by going to the Local History Group pages.



Birdingbury Country Show 2014

The Committee has met on several occasions to organise the Country Show to be held on the 12 and 13 July 2014.

Along with the usual old favourites, we are hoping to introduce some new attractions. We are being supported by a number of youth groups including the invaluable assistance of several Scout Troops. The Scouts help with the organisation of the car parks, manning the entrance pay-stations, and litter picks, along with other essential roles. This year a group of Ranger Guides will be running the Children's Activities and are introducing some new interests for our younger visitors to enjoy.

We again welcome the Leamington Hastings Young Farmers Club and the Piston Rings Youth Motor Cycle Team who will be displaying their skills in the ring. There will be a full programme of events in the ring from 10 am. on each day.

Marton Historical Society will be attending and displaying some of their bygone collection. There will also be a display of photographs and memorabilia by Rugby Historic Transport Group.

We are anticipating the return of an excavator which last came in 2006. This appearance was featured in a national magazine and a locally sponsored professional DVD. It has since undergone a full restoration to 'as new' condition and will be involved in working demonstrations again this year.

The model aircraft section is being expanded, and will include an opportunity for the public to test their ability to control an aeroplane.

Our chosen charities to receive any profits made this year are Cerebra (supporting brain damaged children), Dogs for the Disabled, Macmillan Nurses, and the Royal Air Force Association. Representatives of these have been invited to attend and there will also be representatives from other charities. (At present, the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance and Myton Hospice have accepted our invitations).

Villagers will be allowed free entry on providing 'proof of residency' at the entrance gates. This can be in the form of a utilities bill or any other document which provides the name and address of the person wishing to enter.

In organising the event the Committee have to comply with ever increasing health and safety requirements and rules. Whilst we have a large group on the Committee, we would welcome input from villagers in the form of ideas, physical help over the weekend, or other contributions.

Birdingbury Country Show Committee



photo Lesley Thomlinson

Kara and Lexie

Pancakes Galore

Two views by the winners

I was excited about our first Birdingbury pancake race. Mummy and I made a pancake ready for the race. Ours was pretend, but other people had real pancakes. It was a sunny day and there was lots of people. I won my race. Mummy won her race. Daddy came fourth (apparently daddy is being sent off to boot camp before next year's race!). I got a prize for winning. And then I got to eat a pancake afterwards. It was fun.

Lexie (age 6)

I had a 'Pan'tastic day at this year's pancake races.

I came first in the under 13s which was great, we all got a treat at the end and I won an Easter egg.

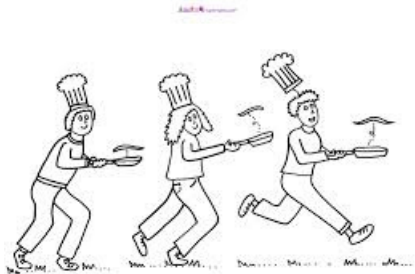
I then took part in the adults' race and came first in that too....Oh yes!!!! another treat and another egg (although I did give one to Josh for coming second in the children's race).

I then went for the triple in the any age race and won that too.

Afterwards we had pancakes and drinks made by the youth club - they were scrummy. Thank you!!

I am looking forward to next year if I'm not barred!!!

Jacob Cutts



Winter 2013/2014 What a damp squib!

You hardly need to be reminded, but this winter, in England, has been the wettest since records began. It has also been incredibly mild. So far, March has also been mild. At the time of writing the temperature is 16°C. On the equivalent day last year the max was -1°C, with snow showers.

The lack of frost in Birdingbury has been remarkable. Over the three winter months I have recorded a frost on only 25 mornings compared with 61 last year. Many of this winter's frosts were also very light. The lowest minimum recording this winter was a balmy -4°C. During last winter, which was not especially cold, there were 18 days when the daytime temperature did not rise above freezing, whereas this year the lowest minimum daytime temperature was 3°C.

Perhaps even more remarkable has been the lack of snow. I could only record one day with a few wet flakes lasting 5 minutes. Last year village children were able to sledge, build a snowman, throw snowballs and miss school! I hope the youngest members of our village are not going to grow up in the village without experiencing those joys.

It has, of course, been a windy Birdingbury winter but not to the extent of causing the damage that others have suffered. The Leam has covered the flood plain on several occasions but luckily, unlike many in other communities, we have not suffered flooding.

What is this winter all about? Is it, as David Cameron has said, 'Probably related to climate change', or is it just about variable weather patterns?

Dick Withington

**Today the rain is pouring up
Instead of pouring down!
It's raining up my trouser leg
And up my nostrils too!
Oh how I wish the rain
Would rain just like it used to do**

Gary Laverick

When the Rector tried to sell the Rectory

In the summer of 1920 Birdingbury was startled to find that the rectory was up for sale. What followed would not be out of place in a Trollope novel. The Rugby Advertiser reported the initial events:

‘The village of Birdingbury has become the centre of excitement in consequence of a sharp dispute that has arisen between the Rector and a large number of parishioners following an announcement of the sale of the rectory.

The incumbent decided to dispose of the rectory with attached gardens, stabling, garage and $7\frac{3}{4}$ acres on account of the considerable expense and instructed Styles and Whitlock to offer it by auction.

At the instance of the Peoples’ Warden (Capt NPH Milne) a meeting was called in the school room on 12 August. There was a large attendance and the proceedings were marked with considerable liveliness. The Rector, Rev ACG Church, presided and the Rural Dean was present. The Rector insisted he was with in his legal right and the matter concerned him, not the parishioners. Hereupon Capt Milne said the meeting was an opportunity for the expression of all opinions in the matter. In regard to the Rector’s request concerning personalities he went on to allege that the Rector himself in his sermons indulged in personalities and that the parishioners had no opportunity of defending themselves against any attacks of this sort except at the risk of being accused of brawling.

Capt Milne announced that as Warden he had met with the Bishop on the previous day and the sale had now been stopped. Earlier, on 9 August, he had received a letter from the Bishop which he read out.

“When I had the pleasure of being at Birdingbury (in June) I heard on all sides that the rectory and grounds were neglected and that the income from the benefice could never suffice for its upkeep and that a smaller house would be desirable. This was the more clear because in these days we cannot find clergy with the private means.

It seems to me therefore that a sale of the rectory was one of the first steps for parochial reform. ---- It is in my right as Bishop to allow the sale and if the rectory continues to be neglected there is no benefit to parish and the sale could allow income to be increased-----” he asked for the parish view.

Capt Milne asked permission to reply to the bishop:

“If the present income of the living could never suffice for its upkeep the sale of the present rectory and the building of a new one would not arrest matters for it would cost more than the receipts to build a new one.

The first and only step towards parochial reform is not the disposal of the rectory but

the disposal of the Rector.

The rectory has so enormously depreciated in value during the short occupancy of the present Rector that nothing but a sacrificial price would be obtained and so the living practically ruined.”

There was a round of applause. The letter was signed by 79 people.

On Sunday morning last Capt Milne and the organist were the only congregation present. Mr Church carried out the service. In the evening Rev Church found himself the sole person present and there was no service.’

A reporter from Leamington called on Rev Church and wrote:

‘On a visit one meets with a neglected ground and inside the building there was the atmosphere of a hermit’s cave. The Rector lives all alone.

“What is at the bottom of all this?” I asked Mr Church.

“Well it’s like this,” said the parson as he puffed away on his cigarette, “The Rectory and gardens are far too big for a Rector with a small income to maintain.

“I approached the Bishop asking him whether he would consent to a sale. I did not think that he would but he did, provided a fair price was obtained.”

“Are you going to resign?” I asked .

“Why should I?” Mr Church thundered “If the rectory is sold I shall not resign and if not I shall use my judgement.”

On 27 August the Advertiser reported that the Bishop had written to the parishioners asking what they were prepared to do in regard to helping defray the expense of the sale which was halted at their request.

The Parish replied that they were never consulted in the first place and were informed that they had no legal right to interfere. It is hardly to be expected therefore that they would be willing to pay for something for which they were in no way responsible.

The Rev Church resigned on 14 October.

Enquiries to his previous parish regarding Mr Church’s behaviour elicited this story:

‘On one occasion he had the funeral of a parishioner arranged for early in the afternoon and though previously reminded of it by the Clerk he was not there and the body had to be left in the church for some hours until a neighbouring Rector could be found to conduct the service.’

A note from Bishop on 24 March 1921 said that he had offered the living to Rev EB Condor formerly vicar of Cradley Heath. The rectory was sold in 1929.

Recordsworm

UCG—Underground Coal Gasification

The December edition of *Birdsong* contained a description of the process of obtaining gas directly from deep reserves of coal. The organisation *No UCG Works* who oppose this have made a lengthy submission to Members of Parliament, MEPs and local Councillors. This is their summary:

‘We request a complete moratorium on the implementation and use of UCG technology in the United Kingdom, licences should not be renewed or extended, all issued licences should be revoked and that all applications currently under consideration should be refused. This is due to UCG’s high risk and experimental nature, its history of failure and accidents including severe contamination by highly toxic cancer causing compounds which have the ability to persist in the environment; its long term risk in regards to contamination from decommissioned UCG voids and the contribution the combustion of any coal would make towards CO² emissions and climate change. These emissions will increase over time and are wholly unacceptable. Also UCG will not be used in combination with Carbon Capture and Storage, nor should it be, due to increased risks and therefore the argument of UCG being a clean fuel is nullified. Further, any UCG operation will probably be run for commercial industrial purposes other than the creation of energy. This is a gross misuse of the nation’s coal and further nullifies the clean fuel argument and demonstrates that UCG is wholly unnecessary. The companies wishing to experiment with UCG do not have the capital required to cover the financial costs of any contamination clean up. The process is inadequately regulated. No independent water, emissions or contamination monitoring is performed and these are the sole responsibility of the operator. We believe this arrangement offers the potential for abuse and cover-up. UCG is continually misrepresented by the industry as being something that it is not, namely, clean, established, safe, low impact and beneficial - misleading both politicians and the public.

At a time when groundwater is flooding homes, businesses and agriculture, any gas extraction method which has the potential to cause contamination of aquifers with either chemicals or migrated gas – including UCG, hydraulic fracturing and Coal Bed Methane - should absolutely not be permitted to occur.’

Gareth Herd, Rugby & Warwickshire resident, for and on behalf of *No UCG Works*.

No UCG Works also raises the issue of a Public Relations Officer of Cluff Natural Resources, the firm seeking the licence to bore exploratory wells in this area, being the wife of the Under Secretary of State for the Environment, Water and Rural Affairs.

Comings and Goings

Congratulations to:

Sue and Peter's daughter **Ali Law** on her engagement to Andrew.

Roy and Cynthia's son, **Stephen Rogers**, who is engaged to be married to Karen.

Lorraine and Andy Malin who have a baby boy, **Tom Haydn**, a brother for Bella, Joseph and Elsie.

Farewell to:

Carol Welsh, of Master's Yard who has moved back to Coventry after many years in the village.

A warm welcome to:

Clare and Dan Shouler who moved into Milford House just before Christmas.

Tom Reeves who has moved into Carol's house in Master's Yard.

and welcome back to:

Mark Dent, Tine Nelson and Sophie who now live at Avonlea. Just across the road from their previous Birdingbury home!

Carol and Rob Moor, Shannon, Rees and Ellie who have returned to their house on Marton Road after an unplanned sojourn in Dunchurch.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Bourton Village Hall

Bourton & District Garden Club **Paul Baxter on 'Gardening in Spring'**

Thursday 24 April 7 for 7.30

For information call Sandra 632291 Francine 632595 Carol 632033

ESPRESSIVO

Saturday 26 April 7.30

A group of four friends; they sing mainly solo & ensemble pieces from popular shows and musicals. They perform locally regularly, but this is their debut in our village hall.

An evening not to be missed! Book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets from Ian & Heather on 633593; adults £11.50. This includes Chilli supper; BYO drink & glasses.

Birdingbury Club

Forthcoming events

Saturday 12 April Spring Seed Competition and Quiz

Saturday 10 May Big Screen Race Night Saturday

Saturday 31 May Whitsun BBQ Saturday

Andy will be putting on a regular Saturday quiz and we are also hoping to host another cheese and wine tasting, so keep an eye on the 'A' board.



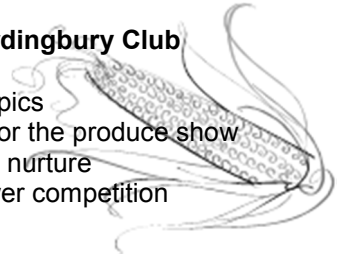
*Spring has sprung, the grass is riz
I wonder where the Birdies is*

They'll be at the:

GRAND LAUNCH OF THE 2014 BIRDINGBURY PRODUCE SHOW and QUIZ

Saturday 12 April 2014 8.30pm at Birdingbury Club

Take part in a family quiz on produce related topics
Find out what to grow, cook, ~~buy or adulterate~~ for the produce show
Pick up your baby prize onion to take away and nurture
Get your sunflower seeds for the tallest sunflower competition
Suggest new classes for the show
Find out who we'll raise money for this year
Join the great Birdingbury plant relay, which will make Olympic torches look like gaslight.



Just remember – you seed it here first!



Ladies Circle

February

Catherine Ward travelled to and from London to give an illustrated talk on her fantastic journey on the Trans-Siberian Railway. There are three destinations from Moscow on the railway and Catherine had chosen the longest one to Beijing. The journey included several stops and visits to places of interest en route, including a wonderful display of ice sculptures illuminated to give a magnificent spectacle. The temperatures on the train were kept at around 27 degrees but could be -30 outside.

The meeting was well attended by members and guests. Grateful thanks to Roz Murray for arranging the talk and being hostess for the evening.

March

Chris and Rhondda Barney have been collecting ceramics and pottery for many years and brought a selection of these to the meeting to illustrate their talk 'Just Clay and Fire'. Chris explained the different types of clay and firing processes which create the variety in pottery and china, and had obviously done a lot of research into the history of the industry. The oldest dish in their collection dates from the 1200s. As part of their interest, they had attended exhibitions held by well-known artists and brought along some of the lovely printed invitations they have received.

Many thanks to Chris and Rhondda for providing a very interesting and fascinating talk, and also to Rhondda and Diana the hostesses for the meeting.

The topics for the meetings on 8 April and 13 May have yet to be finalised – however, they will start at 7.45 p.m. in The Birbury. All welcome.

Barbara Munro

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Improvements at the Club

Those popping into the club over the past few weeks may have noticed the latest phase of the refurbishment. When confronted with the need for significant electrical work to obtain modern standards of certification we decided to take the opportunity to update all the fittings in the bar to LED lighting. Hopefully you will enjoy the change and we should see some benefit in our electricity bill with each bulb down to a mere 7 watts.

Ian Tipton

Birdingbury Calendar

April					page
Friday	4	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Saturday	5	Litter Pick	Bus Shelter	11.00	3
Tuesday	8	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Saturday	12	Spring Quiz	Club	8.30	14
Saturday	19	Egg Roll	Recreation Field	10.30	5
Tuesday	22	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Thursday	24	Bourton Garden Club	Bourton Village Hall	7.30	13
Friday	25	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Sunday	27	St George's Day Lunch	Birbury	12.00	5
Tuesday	29	Annual Village Meeting	Birbury	7.30	2
Wednesday	30	Smart Water available	Marton Village Hall	7.00	3

May

Saturday	10	Big screen race night	Club		14
Tuesday	13	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Friday	16	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Tuesday	20	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Saturday	31	Whitsun Barbeque	Club		14

Swap Shop every Saturday morning in the Birbury at 10.30



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