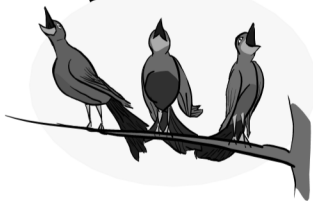


BIRDSONG

April and May
2015



BIRDINGBURY
NEWS

No 67



What a strange thing!
To be alive
Beneath cherry blossoms.
Kobayashi Issa

Parish Council Report

This is the last report from the current Parish Council, since all of the five seats are up for election on Thursday 7 May. Any resident on the electoral roll is eligible to stand, and the current Council expressed its hope that there would be nominations from new people. It is always good for the democratic process for the Council to be rejuvenated by new blood! Details on how to be nominated are set out in a separate notice – on page 3, on the website and on the village noticeboard.

As usual, there will be an Annual Village Meeting at the end of April (28 April at 7.30 in the Birbury). This is an opportunity to hear reports from, not only the Parish Council, but also from the local clubs and other bodies which play such an important part in our village life. There will also be a chance to put forward your ideas on how the new Parish Council can work to improve the village.

Spring is always a good time to tidy up our surroundings, and we are therefore asking you to consider joining the **Spring Litter Pick** around the village on:

Saturday 2 May, meeting outside the Birbury at 10am.

Hi viz jackets and litter pickers will be supplied

and there will be a cup of coffee in the Birbury when you've finished.

Last year we had an excellent turn-out; let's make it even better this year!

The maintenance of village assets continues to be an on-going challenge, and we have been grateful for the efforts of councillors and others who have provided their time and expertise to help in this. We are, however, hoping to find some paid help. If you know of reliable tradespeople (painters, carpenters etc.) who might be willing to do some of these odd jobs, please contact the clerk or any of the councillors.

This is my last report as chair of the current council, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues on the council for their hard work and support.

Best wishes

Diana Turner, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

The **next meeting** of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on

Tuesday 21 April 2015 in the Birbury.

The **Annual Village Meeting** will take place at 7.30pm on

Tuesday 28 April in the Birbury

All are welcome to attend.

Parish Council Elections

7 May 2015

Completed Nomination Papers must be received by RBC no later than
4pm on Thursday 9 April 2015.

Nomination papers are available from the Chair, from the Borough Council or
can be printed directly from the RBC website.

Voting will take place on Thursday 7 May from 7am to 10pm.

If there are more vacancies than candidates the Returning Officer will declare
them elected at 11am on Election day.

If there are more candidates than vacancies, counting will take place -probably
on Saturday 9 May.

The current Councillors cease to hold office on 11 May, and the new Council-
lors take office on that day.

The first meeting of the new Council will take place at
7.30pm on Tuesday 19 May.

(Stop Press — One of the current Parish Councillors (myself) will not be seeking
election to the new Council. Anyone interested!! — Terry Healey)

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury Website

www.birdingbury.org

Please remember to send photos of the village or village events to the
web administrator to keep our on-line photo gallery up to date.

Thank you

Dallal Stevens

webadmin@birdingbury.org

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

St. George's Day Lunch

Please join us on Sunday 26 April in the Birbury from noon onwards for our
enjoyable St. George's Day lunch where you will find a tasty spread to include
breads, cheeses, salads and pickles plus home made puds, followed by a
cuppa and a chance to relax and catch up with fellow villagers - all this for a
donation of £2.50 towards the **Birbury Funds**.

Energy Warwickshire

Special Offer for New Oil Syndicate Members

From 1 April any new Energy Warwickshire Syndicate member can take advantage of 'first order membership free'. *

This means that any household or community building not currently in the syndicate will be able to try out the service without having to pay the annual membership fee until they place their **second** order.

Energy Warwickshire has seen a fantastic start to 2015 and managed to secure some great savings for members during January and February. Over 550 residents in Warwickshire are now part of the Energy Warwickshire syndicate saving considerable sums on their oil heating costs. The syndicate compiles one bulk order per month and searches the market to secure the lowest price possible for individual members.

January's member price was 33.98ppl saving 14.52ppl against the market high and February's member price was 33.35ppl saving 6.8ppl against the market high.

Jude Henderson Business Development Manager, WRCC says "Our members have benefitted not only from the recent drop in oil prices, but also from the steep growth in our membership numbers, meaning we are placing larger and larger orders month on month. This has given the syndicate great strength in negotiating with suppliers to offer their best prices."

Kim Slater Chief Exec WRCC, "On average Energy Warwickshire is saving households £56.12 on each oil order so we are confident you'll continue ordering once you've given it a try."

Since its conception in October 2012 the Energy Warwickshire syndicate has ordered over 1.3million litres of heating oil saving members over £70,000.

For information or to join the scheme contact: www.energywarwickshire.org.uk

01789 842182 energy@wrccrural.org.uk

*Domestic membership currently £20 per annum

The Hawes family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of sympathy and support on the recent death of Jenny's mother.

To twine or not to twine



I am the mare of the village of Oiseau-en-terre which is a sleepy 'amlet between Ville Merran and Hate Colline, neither of which you will 'ave 'eard of, but we are au milieu de nulle part in beautiful rural france.

We want to twin wiv a similar village where the 'ow you say drumbeat of change 'as not happened and the old rural ways and patterns are toujours le meme. We send you 'igh six!

Six 'undred years ago at the battle of Agincourt it was a little bit like Twickenham last samedi but now we believe le pen is mightier than the sword. So we stretch out our bras in amite.

Un question eternal - Pourquoi 'come together'?

-- 'bonne cuisine'. It is a unique culinary experience - your fish and ship night? – wot could be better than standing for 'alf an hour on a refreshing car park in the dark before getting matiere gras et vinaigre en papillotte, and from a lorry?

-- Nous avons aussi un 'public lavabos' au centre de la village. Yours is trez close to the road but - 'quelle architecture!' - avec ces finials and open sides so that the smell can disperse quickly, but quand meme offering some privacy, except for certain 'ouses. Do people bring their water down from the pompe at the top of le village?

-- Interminable 'istory . We esepcialement liked your 'ow you say? Progressive Diner remembering the famines, where the peasants go from 'ouse to 'ouse begging for food and drinking whatever they can get.

-- et to 'cap it all', as you say, you 'ave nearly the same proportion of ~~res~~beef english houseowners as many french villages.

Birdingbury c'est ideel pour un partenaire! – the children and dogs running free; the sleepiness of the village - during the day; a 'Rive Gauche' societe (the club de peche?); – think of all the joint activities we could 'ave. – boules, cyclisme, oat couture, exciting joint meetings of our conseil municipal wiv your parich council, secret meetings of the resistance – the liste is endless!

Excusez moi pour writing to your 'Rhondda hebdo' but wen I tried to visit your town 'all (the ugliest building in the village – looks like a school – oui?) it was closed – one door was shut and I 'ad not booked the key for the other.

Appellez moi if you are interested in a liaison.

jean de l'étoile jachere

Maire de Oiseau-en-terre

The Day the Gruffalo Came to School ...

*It's got terrible tusks and terrible claws,
terrible teeth in its terrible jaws.
Orange eyes, a tongue that's black
and purple prickles all down its back ...* Julia Donaldson

Some very mysterious things have been happening in Leamington Hastings this week! We started to notice that things were missing or being moved about. Then pictures of foxes, mice, owls and snakes appeared all around the school! There was even a 'Roasted Fox' message in the Gold Book! By Wednesday there were huge paw marks on the wall and NO ONE knew what was going on.

As we all settled down to our learning on Wednesday morning, a visitor appeared -- Mrs Gruffalo! We spotted her searching around the playground, looking through windows and even going through the dustbins! She then came into school and we were able to finally meet her.



It was a bit scary at first, but once she told us what the problem was she turned into nothing more than a very worried, cuddly mother! Apparently all the Gruffaloes were asleep in their cave in the deep, dark woods and Gruffalo child couldn't sleep. So he went outside to explore. Unfortunately, he lost Stick Man and he couldn't sleep until he was found. Mrs Gruffalo was looking for Stick Man but she wasn't sure how to let us know she needed help.

The strange thing was that a rumour spread that it was Mrs Kendall, but then while she was teaching Year 1 phonics, Mrs Gruffalo walked through the hall!! She'd been to visit Mrs Williams, who didn't have any Owl Ice Cream or Scrambled Snake. Oh dear!

We loved having our visitor as you can see from our photo and we hope that she may be seen again. So now you know... THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A GRUFFALO!

Save the Date! Rose Queen Day – 13 June

Leamington Hastings C of E Infant School

Letter to Parents



Having someone else review and inspect what you do is always hard, as you're never quite sure that they'll see the nuances and finer detail in the way that you do. However, our recent Ofsted inspection report confirmed much of what we as governors, teachers, parents and pupils already knew – that Leamington Hastings is a good school.

The report said that the school is one where teaching and achievement are improving all the time; where there is strong and challenging leadership that supports this; where children are taught well and learning is fun; where pupils behave well and feel safe and supported; where teachers capture the children's imaginations; where pupils with additional needs are well supported and attain good results and where high values are promoted so that pupils are well prepared for modern life. We're very pleased with this and we hope you are too.

However we won't be resting on our laurels as the report also, of course, gives us areas to work and improve on as well; and there are also ongoing development plans to work on.

One of those development plans is the opportunity to convert to an academy, which is something we wrote to you about at the tail end of last year and which we'll be writing to you about again in the next few weeks.

Please do take the time to read the full Ofsted report which is available on the school website, but in the meantime, on behalf of all the governors, I'd like to thank the staff, pupils and of course, you, the parents for making this the great school that it is.

John Owen Chair of Governors

Library project

We are hoping to turn the Alec Parker building into an inviting and inspirational space for learning and story sharing. If anyone is interested in contributing their artistic or organisational talents towards the library project please let us know.

On Friday 17 April Mrs Plumbley will be in the Alec Parker building to discuss next steps for this project, and hopefully to get a few bits and pieces done – help appreciated!

Friends of Leamington Hastings School, Alex Rigler 632709 alexrigler@aol.com

LH School Quiz Night

Friday 17 April, 7.30pm

Bourton on Dunsmore Village Hall

With our very own John Starley as Quiz Master!

Don't miss out this year – get out your diary, book your babysitter, order your taxi and start watching Mastermind – it's never too late to prepare!

Tickets are great value at just £8 per person. Price includes a home cooked, hot meal and nibbles on the table.

As usual, we'll have a licensed cash bar, serving beer, wine, lager and soft drinks plus a raffle with fabulous prizes.

All proceeds from the night will help provide valuable resources for the children at Leamington Hastings Infants School.

Teams of 6 - all welcome, but don't worry if you haven't got a full team, we can help you make one up.

To book tickets or get more information please contact

Alex Rigler on 07962 169199 or alexrigler@aol.com

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

BIRDINGBURY MEN OF WAR

At a wine and cheese party over 30 villagers gathered in the Birbury on Wednesday 25 March when the Birdingbury History Group launched their booklet on the soldiers of the village who fought in WWI.

This 48 page book contains all the information about the soldiers and their families, where they lived and where they fought, shown at the display held at the rededication ceremony in August last year plus quite a lot more that we have been able to find out since.

If you missed your opportunity to get a copy they are available from Aileen Withington 632644 - price £4.

**BIRDINGBURY
MEN AT WAR
1914-18**



Swap shop

Most of you will know that swap shop has been running for around six years now, starting as a shop open on a Saturday morning from 10.30 - 12 during the produce season, for villagers to come along and swap any excess produce they have with other villagers. Over the years, many people have found it an invaluable way of keeping in touch throughout the year, enjoying a coffee and a chat. Through Jenny Hawes' wonderful willingness to open up, rain or shine every Saturday morning, we have extended it to open all the year round. Family circumstances have made that difficult for Jenny recently, and with her backstop, Cheryl Turner, now working on a Saturday, we have together decided to close the shop for a while, and consider reopening in July when the glut of courgettes, tomatoes and other fruit and veg. will again be upon us!

We hope that everyone is happy with our decision - but if there is anyone out there reading this who'd like to take over the reins of this very regular commitment, please do get in touch with Jenny or Cheryl and we can willingly provide the necessities for the shop to continue.

Hopefully, we will open again in the summer - but do let us know if you are someone who would like to help us keep this lovely community facility going, even if you can only offer a monthly commitment.

Thanks.

Cheryl Turner 632461

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Progressive Supper – 25 April

We have had an amazing response for the forthcoming supper and are now drawing together the arrangements for the night.

What this means is that we now have the names and courses just about allocated and will hope by the time *Birdsong* comes out to have contacted you with details of the course you are providing and any dietary requirements of your guests.

You then have plenty of time to practise your dishes (!!) over Easter on the family. *(Those of you who have done this before know we are seriously joking about the practice bit because our mantra is to 'Keep it Simple' to reduce stress on the night).*

We wonder if there will be any barbeques this year with this being a spring event – how brave are we??

Jackie 633493 jackie@elliam.org

Simon 634761 simon_whitfield@hotmail.com

Birdingbury Wheelers

The nights draw out.

Spring's shy shoots slowly sprout, spurred by stronger sunshine.

The ability to author awful alliteration abates.

In its place comes the urge to spend Wednesday evenings in a carefree manner, cycling socially. Neither too fast nor so slow as to induce incipient instability. Neither too far, nor so near as to render the participation in a post pedalling pint, or pop, a matter for penitence.

And so - on Wednesday 6 May, beginning at 8pm, all who may be interested in joining in these social rides are invited to meet at Birdingbury Club. On that evening we will map out the rides we want to do in the following weeks – the idea is that we plan what we are going to do so that we can ride within everyone's comfort zone. The emphasis is on gentle social riding and having a pleasant time together.

Over the years we have had nearly 50 people from in and around the village take part in these rides. We welcome new faces. And if you haven't been for a while, why not renew old friendships and come and join in the planning and then, the following week – the riding.

On Wednesday 13 May at 7pm the first ride will start from Birdingbury Club, and then continue every Wednesday during the summer.

Or at least until decrementing daylight duration, descending dusk and deepening darkness denote disengaging deraillours and developing danger.

Call either Gary on 07891 518404 or John on 632508 for more info.

John Starley

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Music at Leamington Hastings

The 2015 concert season starts on May 9 when John Lill will be playing Bach, Schumann, Chopin and Beethoven.

The season continues on June 13 with the Gould Piano Trio playing Dvorak, Macmillan and Schubert

The full programme is available from

David Potts, 1 Bawnmore Road, Bilton, Rugby CV22 7QH 07966 584 328

MusicAtLeamingtonHastings.co.uk

A LINE OF GEESE

A line of geese
By a grey canal,
One reaching down
To dip its beak.

Short, brief,
Beautiful things.
Unnecessary,
Except to the imagination
And to the heart.

And yet how that
Steep longing clings,
Trying, still so hard,
To give our grimy shadows
Those white wings.

Pilgrim

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Allan Marshall

Dad was born on 17 September 1926. He moved from Princethorpe to Mill House Farm Stockton Road when he married my mum, Jean Shepherd, in the 40s. At that time my grandfather and grandmother lived at Mill Farm with my mum Jean.

Dad helped on the farm when his in-laws had a small dairy herd and an egg business. His day job was working in the aircraft industry; first for Hawker Siddeley Aviation and later on for British Aerospace at Bitteswell, where he helped maintain the Vulcan and Red Arrows.

Allan passed away on the 27 February, aged 88, in Overslade Care home after a long illness. He will be greatly missed by his wife, my mum Jean, my brother Keith and myself together with Lizzie, James and Elly.

We would like to thank everyone in the village and church for their support during Dad's illness and also for coming to celebrate his life at his funeral in St. Leonard's Church and in The Club afterwards.

John Marshall

Graham Tony Facer

Graham passed away suddenly on 30 December 2014 and was buried next to his parents at St Leonard's on 20 January 2015. His funeral was attended by over two hundred of his friends and relatives who then joined in a 'reunion' at the Club. I use the word 'reunion' as it was definitely just that for many of those who came.

Graham came to the village on the 30 December 1956 when he was six years old to live at No.4 Main Street with his parents, his elder sister, Sue, younger brother, Robert, and sister, Jayne, who was four years old. His father died suddenly in 1961 at the age of 45, and Mrs Facer was left with the task of raising the young family on her own.

In 1964, I was working on Davenport Cottage with Jack Tomkins, Lance Hudson, and Richard Gibson when this young lad appeared with his sister (Jayne). At this time Lance had one arm in plaster and was unable to carry out his work as an apprentice hair dresser. The result was that I had a motley crew of helpers! Graham (a young enthusiastic lad of 14 years), Lance (a one-armed amateur painter), Jack Tomkins (a part-time milkman) and Jayne (a 12 year old 'cook and bottle washer'). Richard Gibson had moved into Lynn Cottage with his parents at the age of seven, and had taken up carpentry as a career.

Graham was soon mixing mortar and carrying materials up on to the scaffolding, and did so among other jobs for the remainder of the school holidays. I asked him what he was going to do when he left school. The reply was simple – "Work for you, Bob".

This was exactly what he did for the next thirty years. He worked with such energy and enthusiasm and he and I learned our trade together – neither of us ever had any formal training.

Later on when we built the houses either side of the Club and developed Master's Yard and The Paddocks Farm, we recruited a number of young lads and employed them first as apprentices and then as craftsmen. They were all in turn under the strict guidance of Graham who was a hard task master but very fair and would always buy them a pint at the end of a hard week's work.

He was a principal in the construction of The Birbury and led his team of volunteers from start to finish. They all provided their labour free of charge.

The last major project he helped me with was the building of Master's Court where he was able to help to provide five of his protégés with their own homes in their own village.

After I gave up building contracting, Graham worked with Tompkins Construction for a short time and then teamed up with Andy Marshall (a former apprentice) and carried out many smaller building works in the locality. He took an allotment in Birdingbury

and spent many an hour with Alex Johns and Lance enjoying the social side of such matters. He did, of course, grow vegetables and was always willing to give away anything surplus to his own requirements. He introduced an egg round for the benefit of all at the Club.

Yes – Graham was a hard working, conscientious craftsman who was always willing to lend a hand when the occasion arose.

He moved to Marton in 1979 when he married Annette but always had connection with Birdingbury.

He was a country lad and enjoyed village life. He loved nature and the four seasons of the year. He was a great fisherman and passed his skills on to others, especially the young ones. He took to baking after he gave up building work, specialising in bread and pork pies, but he was also known by lots of people in the village for his pickled onions!

Bob Munro (with the help of Lance, Annette and Jayne)

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

It was a great Wine and Cheese Valentine

Back by popular demand, another Wine & Cheese event was organised to be held in the recently revamped Club.

Forty-eight lucky residents were treated to an excellent evening's entertainment, the returning expert regaled the assembled with an in depth knowledge of wine and explained everything in a calm and easy manner.

The superb cheeses were supplied by the excellent 'Cheese on the Green' in Bilton and were the perfect match to the wines chosen.

All of the tables were beautifully decorated in true Valentine's theme with candles, hearts and flowers.

A lot of hard work was put into the event to make a special evening so lots of thanks to Dawn Powers, Julie Colledge and Annette Hawkes for making it happen.

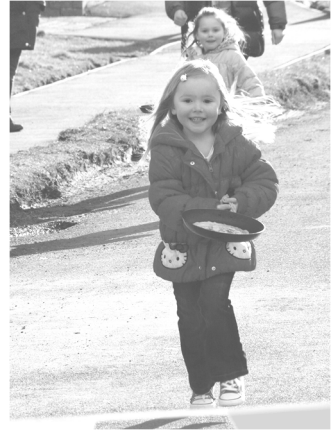
PS.....It is hoped to have another event next year with more emphasis on quality wines!

David Hawkes

Frying Pans ready for Flipping

On Saturday 21 February an excited group of children and the young at heart gathered for the Annual Pancake Races. More competitors than ever, so many that we had to increase the number of races to fit in the under 5s, 6 - 8, 9 -12, ladies, gentlemen and allcomers.

Keen eyes were watching to ensure that the pancakes were flipped the right number of times -- several sprinters were caught out and had to race back to retrieve a dropped pancake or the bits that remained. Lesley Thomlinson repeated last year's success in the Ladies Race and Ralf Callaway won two races, with a lovely smile on his face.



After all the races had been run and energy replaced with choccies we retired to the Birbury for the prize giving and a welcome cuppa with some lovely home made refreshments. Many thanks to all our competitors for their enthusiasm and their great flipping, to our lively spectators and to everyone who helped to make the event so enjoyable.

Jenny Hawes

.... and the competitors' views



Our second year in Birdingbury, and a second chance to enjoy the annual pancake race! After two wins for the family last year, all four Thomlinsons competed this year.

Kara took part in her first race, narrowly beaten by friend, Sophie, in the under 5 race. Next it was Lexie's turn in the under 8s, although she seemed more

focused on tossing the pancake than running and had to relinquish her crown. Now it was down to Mum to defend last year's title in the women's race, which she did in a closely fought run - spurred on by the thought of winning chocolate, combined with a slightly competitive nature! Finally, it was Dad's turn. Sadly, he dropped his pancake twice early on and was soundly beaten by Sophie's dad.

Thanks to the organisers for a really fun event - even the sun came out for us. We're looking forward to next year!!

Lesley Thomlinson

Ralf Callaway

ALL PHOTOS MICHAEL COLES

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

We meet the last Thursday of each month in the village hall

Bourton on Dunsmore at 7 for 7.30pm

30 April Howard Drury D.H.E (Hons)

A passionate speaker on any horticultural topic

28 May Andrew Mikolajski

Gardening author and lecturer who will speak on topical tips.

We welcome members and visitors

For more info phone Frank and Francine. 632595

Where is my nearest greenway?

Lias Line
Rugby - Warwick



41

Become a Wildlife Champion!

Can you spare a couple of hours a month to:

- Carry out some simple wildlife surveys?
- Do some practical tasks?
- Tell other people about wildlife on the route?



To find out more please contact:

Lisa Hartley
Volunteer Coordinator, West Midlands
Email: lisa.hartley@sustrans.org.uk
Tel: 0121 633 5517

Do you have a passion for wildlife and conservation?

You don't need to be a biodiversity expert to take part...

...all we need is your enthusiasm and dedication!



Esmée
Fairbairn
FOUNDATION

It's time we all began making smarter travel choices. Make your move and support Sustrans today.



facebook.com/sustrans



@Sustrans

www.sustrans.org.uk/biodiversity

sustrans

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Simon Davy (632041) is our local contact

Simon is getting into his RAF uniform on 1 April to receive his Meritorious Service Medal at a ceremony in Bristol. Congratulations.

NB This is definitely NOT an April Fools Day trick! We hope to have a full report in the next edition of *Birdsong*.



National Plant Monitoring Scheme

The new National Plant Monitoring Scheme (NPMS) will, for the first time, enable scientists to take an annual stock take of the UK's wild plants and their habitats but to do this we need the public's help.

Currently, information on plant species' abundance and change is very limited, and it is difficult to gauge the condition of habitats outside protected sites. The annual results collected by volunteers will help to identify trends in hundreds of species, allowing us to assess plant community changes. Plants are nature's building blocks and this new monitoring scheme will sit alongside existing schemes for the UK's birds and butterflies to help us understand more about how the countryside is changing.

The search is now on to find 2000 volunteers to take part in the NPMS who will play a vital role in gathering information. Together the volunteers will monitor wild plants in 28 important habitats, ranging from hedgerows and meadows to salt marsh and scree slopes.

It's easy to do and everyone will receive free training and guidance plus support from the partnership for volunteers who have queries, as well as web support and illustrated guidance notes – so volunteers will have the perfect survey tool kit to get them started!

It's really great to finally have a national scheme that everyone can take part in. Whether you simply love wildflowers or are a budding botanist, input from volunteers will provide sound evidence on how our wild plants and habitats are changing.

How does the NPMS work?

Volunteers will be able to choose from three options depending on their level of expertise: recording from a short or an extended list of target species in each habitat or recording all species they find in their plots.

Volunteers will be given a 1 km square with a grid showing up to 25 locations. Surveyors will be asked to visit three of those locations and carry out surveys in square plots and then identify two linear features such as hedgerows, rivers and road verges and survey these locations too.

For more information on the NPMS and how to take part please visit www.npms.org.uk

Ladies Circle

February

Sue Whiston of Birdingbury Hall very kindly gave a very informative and interesting talk, to an excellent turnout, on the history of the Birdingbury POW camp. The camp was situated in the field on the right of Birdingbury Lane as you go up the steep hill to Frankton. It was the main camp in the area with 10 satellite camps in surrounding villages, including Southam, Marton and Bubbenhall. There were various brick buildings at the top of the field with wooden huts for the prisoners further down. The only visible remains now are daffodils planted by the prisoners in neat rows around their accommodation huts which still flower each spring. Italian prisoners of war were the first to be billeted in Birdingbury, later replaced by Germans. From the beginning prisoners were allowed to work on farms in the locality, so no barbed wire was deemed necessary. The relationship between the local farmers and POWs was friendly and their 'employers' would sometimes give them food or other items. The POWs grew vegetables and flowers and gardening was taken seriously as the prizes for having winning entries in produce shows were much valued cigarettes! Although allowed to work on local farms, prisoners were not allowed to fraternise with villagers until 1946 when rules relaxed a little. From 1946 until 1948 the camp became a home for displaced people and, later, local authority housing. The site was eventually sold back to the Mitchells who had owned it before the war when it was compulsorily purchased by the Government. The camp was finally demolished in about 1950.

Some POWs stayed after the war, most notably one of the first Germans in the camp, Heinz Kittendorf who married a local girl and became a respected member of the community. He is even reputed to have had breakfast with Mrs Pollock at Birdingbury Hall while still a prisoner, which made the history even more personal for the Whiston family as current owners of the Hall.

March

On a cold evening we visited Rimo Nurseries in Dunchurch for our March get together. There we received a very warm welcome from the owners which more than made up for the weather. Marie Le Nepveu and Reg Stratton took over the nursery two years ago; both are qualified horticulturalists who are very passionate about all aspects of plants and shrubs. They both have a wealth of experience and a passion to share it. After a short talk on some new species of plants we were able to buy spring plants and bulbs at very reasonable prices. As part of their refurbishment they also have some superb gifts in the shop ranging from food to accessories to suit all tastes at excellent value for money. As a small but extremely welcoming new business we would strongly recommend visiting Rimo as an alternative to the big chains. I am sure you will not be disappointed.

Our next meeting is 14 April

In keeping with the spirit of a month that inspires us with the colours of spring, we have a colour consultant coming for our April get together. Susan Rasmussen from 'Colour Me Beautiful' will be coming to give a talk about colour analysis and the psychology of colour. We will learn more about the belief that *'Colour is the simplest and most effective way to improve your look. Wearing colours that flatter you will enhance your best features and instantly make you look more vibrant and younger'*. All members and non-members are very welcome to come along to what I am sure will be a very enlightening and colourful evening as we find out if the colours we wear are the right ones for us! Just in time for a new spring/summer wardrobe! All welcome from 7.45 in the Birbury.

Lee Hayden

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury Village Club

You will be aware that we are looking to appoint a manager to help with the day to day running of the club and grow the business. If you are interested, or know somebody who might be, further details and a job description can be viewed on the club web site under News and Announcements; www.birdingburyclub.co.uk

Forthcoming events;

Saturday 4 April 8pm	Race Night
Saturday 16 May 9pm	Quiz
Saturday 23 May 8pm	Murder Mystery
Saturday 6 June 2.30pm	Birdingbury History Family Quiz Stroll around the village to answer the questions and return to the club for refreshments. Barbeque at the club in the evening

Ian Tipton President

If you are free at 10.30 on the last Thursday of each month -
please join Karen, Mel and Jenny for

Coffee and Chat in The Birbury

The next two dates are 30 April and 28 May

Birdingbury Calendar

April

					page
Saturday	4	Race Night	Club	8.00	19
Tuesday	14	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	19
Friday	17	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Friday	17	LH School Quiz	Bourton Village Hall	7.30	8
Tuesday	21	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Saturday	25	Progressive Supper	Birbury and Club		9
Sunday	26	St George's Day Lunch	Birbury	12.00	3
Tuesday	28	Village Meeting	Birbury	7.30	2
Thursday	30	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30	19
Thursday	30	Bourton Garden Club	Bourton Village Hall	7.00	15

May

Sunday	2	Spring Litter Pick	Birbury	10.00	2
Wednesday	6	Wheelers meeting	Club	8.00	10
Thursday	7	Parish Council Election	Birbury		3
Friday	8	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Tuesday	12	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.40	
Wednesday	13	First Wheelers ride		7.00	10
Saturday	16	Club Quiz	Club	9.00	19
Tuesday	19	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Saturday	23	Murder Mystery	Club	8.00	19
Thursday	28	Coffee and chat	Birbury	10.30	19
Friday	29	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	



Birdsong Editor Rhondda Barney, The Barn, Back Lane Tel 632094
 Email: birdsong1@btinternet.com

Church News Editor Aileen Withington, Highmead, Marton Road Tel 632644
 Email: aileen.withington@hotmail.co.uk