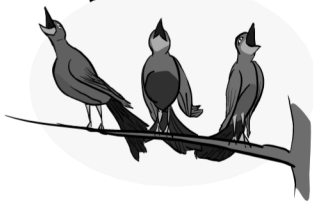


BIRDSONG

**December 2014
and
January 2015**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS**

No 65



Are we expecting icicles this winter?

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR READERS**

Parish Council Report

At our last meeting of the year we looked at ways of ensuring that the Recreation Field complies with safety recommendations. The biggest expense will be providing a more permanent soft surface under play equipment. At the moment there is a layer of bark, but this degrades very quickly. We are seeking grant help with the cost – which could be £3,000 – and are also researching the most economic solution.

While we are doing all we can to ensure children can play safely on the field, it is very disappointing to have reports of villagers taking dogs onto the play area. There are clear notices prohibiting this - and for very good reasons: not only is it unpleasant for children to play where dogs have fouled, the mess is also a potential health hazard. It would be great if all villagers helped to dissuade dog owners from taking their pets onto the field.

Visitors to the field will have noticed that two new benches are now in place. The cost was shared by the Council and a donation from the Country Show, to whom thanks are due.

The recent Bonfire celebrations on the field and in the Club were very successful – a great community effort, with excellent pre-publicity, delicious food, an enormous bonfire, splendid fireworks and then enjoyable entertainment in the Club afterwards. Congratulations to all involved.

With such mild weather over the last few weeks, it is easy to forget that winter might well bring us frost and snow. The Parish Council bought new grit bins for the village at the end of last winter, so we are well prepared for the worst. Do feel free to use the grit in them – both for road and path surfaces. You can report the need for more grit to our Clerk: parishclerk@birdingbury.org.

This is the time of year when the Council decides on its next year's budget. We decided to maintain the current level of the Precept (the money raised from Council Tax in the parish area) at £6,200. Despite some significant expenditure on various projects over the last year, the Council's financial position is healthy enough for us not to have to seek an increase.

All councillors join me in wishing you a very merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on
Tuesday 20 January 2015 in the Birbury.**

All are welcome to attend.

Coffee and Chat

A very pleasant time was had by all, young and old, at our first monthly Coffee and Chat session on Thursday 30 October. People who hadn't met before had the chance to introduce themselves to their fellow villagers and old friends had a chance to catch up with the latest news. We were pleased to see newcomers to the village coming along as well.

There were so many guests that we nearly ran out of chairs, but there was plenty of coffee, cake, cookies and chat.

We will normally meet on the last Thursday of the month, the same day as the chip van. However, there will not be a session in December as it's Christmas Day - and we'll all be busy elsewhere!



Our first dates for 2015 are Thursday 29 January and 26 February when we can catch up with all our Christmas news and our hopes for 2015.

Look forward to seeing you there,

Mel, Karen and Jenny

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The Birbury

Autumn Country Lunch

The weather was kind to us for our Autumn Country Lunch on 28 September and we were able to relax with friends and enjoy a selection of bread, cheeses, pickles, salads and lovely home-made puddings. Many thanks to all our helpers who prepared, served and washed up so that we could enjoy our lovely lunch. We also raised £50 for the Birbury funds. Thanks to all who attended and we'd also like to see you at

Tea at three

On Saturday 20 December we will meet for our annual Christmas get-together. There will be homemade mince-pies - warm of course - tea and sherry and a chance to catch up with friends. Please feel free to wear your Santa hats or Christmas earrings, and come and join us for a pre-Christmas chat and a cuppa. Transport can always be arranged so please ask if you need a lift.

Jenny Hawes

Leamington Hastings School

Christmas Fayre - 13 December - 12.30

The Christmas Fayre, along with the Rose Queen Day in June are our two main fund-raising events of the year, as well as a chance to get together and have fun! We really do appreciate your support at these events, and hope that the children at the school enjoy the benefits from the funds raised.

We start by singing carols around the tree – then the Fayre is opened, with tombola, crafts and games and, of course, the essential visit to see Father Christmas!

Please put the date in your diary! Willing volunteers to run stalls will be gratefully received - please contact Liz on 07976806803.

and thank you – our Bingo night raised £1290.14!

Around 40 people attended the Bingo night, it was a really lovely evening! Emma's dad was an amazing Bingo caller, and the event has secured £658 of matched funding from Santander, (included in the total), so a huge thank you to Mr Horton! Also thanks to Emma, Louise and Alex for organising the event and everyone who cooked and helped on the night. Of course we can't run an event without people attending, so thank you too if you bought tickets, and brought along family and friends. The raffle was well supported, raising around £230 – so thanks to all who donated and bought tickets.

We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

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'Make someone's Christmas with chocolate'



Rugby Foodbank is making up hampers for local people to distribute at Christmas. They would love to include chocolate or confectionery items as well as essentials. Things suitable for all ages preferably. So if you are being tempted by the aisle of Christmas chocolates in the supermarket, please could you buy something extra to make Christmas 'sweet' for someone else? Gifts can be left at Swap Shop on Saturday mornings or dropped into my porch at Davenport Cottage, Back Lane, until Saturday 6 December.

Thank you very much.

Karen Armbrister

Birdingbury Country Show

The Birdingbury Country Show Committee is pleased to announce that the Show held in July was very successful. The attendance was the highest recorded. However, due to increases in costs, particularly that of insurance, the resultant profit was in line with that of 2013. The Committee, therefore, felt it prudent to increase the financial reserves to cover any future increases in expenses.

It was agreed to donate £2000 each to Dogs for the Disabled, the Royal Air Force Association, and CEREBRA (for brain damaged children), and £1000 to Macmillan Cancer Support. Further donations were made to Birdingbury Parish Council (£700 for the costs of a seat in the Recreation Field); £200 to Leamington Hastings Young Farmers Club; and £1600 to Stretton Scouts for all their help and hard work over the weekend.

The Committee will be holding a Show in 2015 - 11 and 12 July - and would welcome support, assistance and ideas for inclusion in the Show.

The 2015 Show will be the 25th Anniversary of the foundation of the present Show. Although the Show is no longer run directly as a village event, it has in the past made a significant contribution to the finances of village organisations and indeed continues to do so.

The Committee hope to organise a Special Event next year. The present organisation has now run five successful Shows and this year received outstanding reviews in three national magazines: Tractor and Machinery, Classic Commercials, and Classic Plant (making the front page of the latter).

Our next meeting is scheduled for 10 January 2015, in The Birbury.

Birdingbury Country Show Committee

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Carol Singing

You are very welcome to join us.

Please meet outside the Club on Monday 22 December at 6.30pm.

This year we are collecting for the local night shelter, in Coventry.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Progressive Supper

Saturday 25 April

Pop the date in your 2015 diary and let Simon (634761) or Jackie (633493) add your names to the list if you wish to take part. It's always a fun evening! 5

Birdingbury School



Birdingbury school was founded before 1841 and it was probably endowed by the Biddulphs of Birdingbury Hall. The family of Biddulph, baronets since 1664, continued to hold the manor until 1914.

The earliest record of the school is from the 1841 census when the school mistress, Mary Jane Price, aged 35, was noted - although not the number of children. In 1851, ten boys and twelve girls were recorded, aged between four and sixteen. A different teacher, Aliza Alsop, was listed. Numbers at each census varied, with the maximum in 1891 of fourteen boys and twenty-seven girls. At this time, there was a school assistant (aged fifteen) as well as the school mistress.

After the 1870 Forster's Education Act all schools receiving annual grants had to keep a school diary, or log book. The headteacher had to make an entry in the log book at least once a week. Entries included information about daily school life, attendance, illness and any other significant incidents. It was very important to keep the log book up to date and accurate as the School Inspector would check them on every visit. The Birdingbury School log books from 1881 to 1935 are held by Warwickshire Record Office. Unfortunately, most are in such poor condition that they cannot be released, even for inspection. Of those that are in a reasonable state, there are some entries of interest. Throughout the 1880s and 90s there are many references to poor attendance figures, with reasons being illness, work in the fields, 'following the hounds', haymaking, taking meals to field-workers and crow scaring. Several visits by Sir Theophilus and Lady Biddulph were recorded, and by the Rev and Mrs Hickman who assisted with teaching when they visited.

The County Record Office also stores the Birdingbury School Managers' Minutes from 1903. Most entries discuss the appointment and resignation of teachers over the years, but there are a few amusing notes, such as, 'The school should not be used for political meetings', and 'there was nothing to discuss'. The school building was extended by 18 feet (from 25 feet by 14 feet) in 1907 to provide a separate classroom for infants. There would be a fireplace and stove, and a separate entrance with a porch. The builder was 'Munro', an old (and current) Birdingbury family name.

By 1932, there were worries about falling numbers. In 1922 there had been 31 children on roll; in 1932 there were fifteen. The school's viability was at stake and it was suggested that children could go to Marton, Leamington Hastings or Long Itchington schools. This concern continued for several years, although the school managers were resistant to closure, citing new houses to be built in the village and several small children reaching school age. By 1936, however, the school had closed. The retiring managers agreed to carry on as Trustees of the building. .



References to the school building appeared in Birdingbury Parish Council Minutes in 1946, 1947 and 1948. There were hopes in 1946 that the school might re-open if 15 children were available. However, this requirement changed to between 20 and 30 children, so the likelihood of the school re-opening diminished. In 1948, the Birdingbury Annual Parish Meeting agreed that the Diocesan Authorities would be recognised by the Ministry of Education as Trustees of the building and that it should be offered for sale. Eventually, the building was sold by auction in September 1949 to the Birdingbury Club.

Clean plates at the Church Café



An Autumn day in November, cold but dry, and quietly in St Leonard's the cottage pies bubble away. Nearly thirty helpings of cottage pie were served followed by fruit puddings.

It was lovely to see familiar faces who support the cafe and to welcome new ones. Grandparents with their grandchildren, friends and neighbours, brothers and sisters.

It was clean plates all round!

Many thanks to Daphne and Dick who mashed 10kg of potatoes between them - you know where to find them if you need help with veggie preparation this Christmas !

Total donations for church funds £75.40.

Many thanks for your kind support.

Aileen and Eira



Glynne Hotchkiss

Glynne Hotchkiss was a very active member of the community from the time he first moved into Birdingbury with his wife, Jill, in 1968. At first he lived in 'Tanglemane' in Main Street which was newly built. He moved to Pailton but returned to live at the Manor Cottages at Leamington Hastings where there was room for him to tinker with his cars. He later moved back to Birdingbury - living at The Old Dairy.

Cars were a big part of his life - no doubt, it was in his genes. He was a 'Coventry Kid' and 'Car City' played a big part in his family history with links to the Hotchkiss Car Company (later part of Morris Motors) which had a factory in Coventry.

Glynne soon joined Birdingbury Club and eventually became a trustee and in this role was instrumental in organising the building of The Birbury and the drawing up of the constitution and lease from the Club. Later he was made a Life Member of the Club.

Along with Tony Higgins, Brian Meade, and myself, he was a founder of Birdingbury Country Festival. Prior to the first Festival, he had always helped me to get things ready for the village Fete. One of the chores on the Friday night before the Saturday afternoon Fete, was to repair the toilets and site them in the Hall Field. On the last occasion, we could not find the toilets! Eventually we remembered that someone from Woolscott had borrowed them, so we went to retrieve them late that night, only to find that they had not been disconnected after their event – and not even cleaned!

Glynne was a member of the MVPS (Midland Vehicle Preservation Society) which at that time was disappointed with the treatment they were receiving at the Town and Country Show at Stoneleigh, so instead agreed to join us at Birdingbury as their main event for the year.

Sadly, Glynne lost his wife in 1986, and was left with three young girls to raise. He devoted the next decade to that task.

During this time they bought Ryan (a tough Connemara pony) from me and trained him to pull a trap. He took Gaynor and myself to the Church for her wedding, and afterwards the bride and groom to their reception.

After Glynne's eldest daughter, Wendy, married, the whole family moved to Kites Hardwick where they had their own land on which to keep their horses. Eventually, the girls moved away with their respective husbands - Wendy moving to Australia - and Glynne bought a bungalow at Woodford Halse in Northamptonshire where he saw out his last days. He passed away on 25 October, and following cremation on the 11 November, he now rests in Oakley Wood.

The girls have lost a loving Dad and I have lost a true pal.

Birdingbury Village Archive

After the War Memorial Rededication event on Sunday 3 August, many people went on to the Club and Birbury for refreshments and to look at the display 'Birdingbury Men at War' which was arranged by the Birdingbury History Group. This prompted several villagers to ask about the Group and, especially, about the Village Archive which it had set up

The archive (simply 'a store of records') is located in St. Leonard's Church in an alcove at the far end of the gallery – i.e. up the stairs to the right of the porch as you enter the building. The material is kept in a steel cabinet with rolling-screen doors and a wooden filing cabinet. Since it was set up, in April 2013, over 120 items – files, folders, leaflets, minute-books and so on – have been placed in the store by the History Group. Parish Council records make up the largest group of documents and there are many Parochial Church Council records, too, along with personal recollections, collections of materials on particular topics such as the school, housing, the War Memorial, population, Birdingbury Hall and so on. For example there are detailed notes taken from the school log books, the School Managers' minutes, the Censuses, the Birdingbury Annual Parish Meeting minutes and copies of photos of the school and pupils which, together with other material from the County Record Office, enabled Liz Davies to compile the piece on the school in this issue of *Birdsong*.

A full list of all items in the store is on display between the two cabinets.

Although, for security reasons to do with the church as well as the store itself, the archive is not as easily accessible as the History Group would like them to be, all materials are, of course, available to anyone who would like to have a look. The easiest way for you to do that would be to contact any member of the History Group (see below) who would be happy to unlock the door to the gallery-stairs and then unlock the store itself. It might be worth your while, too, in order to save you time, to ask a member of the Group to show you a list of what the store holds before visiting it to see if there's anything which might interest you.

Again for security reasons – bearing in mind that many of the records are held by the Group 'in trust' on behalf of villagers or village groups – we generally ask visitors to look at the materials on site rather than take them away, although special arrangements can be made for some items to be borrowed for further study or copying.

The Birdingbury History Group itself is small and would be very pleased to welcome anyone who has an interest in local history in general or a specific topic in particular to come along to any of its meetings – it meets roughly once every two months.

There's no obligation to take on any tasks nor to commit to regular attendance. We offer good coffee, tea and biscuits at no charge! Just contact any of us to find out when

the next meeting is due.

In the spring the History Group is planning to organise a 'walking' quiz for families in conjunction with Birdingbury Club. There will be questions on well known and less well known features around the village - to suit everyone.

We're always on the lookout for more village historical records for the store. If you or a group you belong to would like to offer any items for the archive, just contact any of us.

Please get in touch if you want to know anything more about the Village Archive or the Birdingbury History Group. We'd love to hear from you.

Rhondda and Chris Barney (632094), Liz and Richard Davies (632091), Roy Rogers, Liz Tompkins (632289), Leslie Turner (archivist) (633755), Aileen Withington (632644).

Leslie Turner

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Valentine's Night

Back by popular demand
there will be another **Cheese & Wine** evening in the Club.

Wine tasting and informative talk plus excellent cheese from
'Cheese on the Green'

Limited spaces available!!

Tickets will be on sale after Christmas from
Julie Colledge 632463, Dawn Powers 632419 or Annette Hawkes 632222

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Welcome

A very warm welcome to the newcomers to our village.
Clare and Tom have moved into Leam Cottage in Main Street
and Matt and Sara Hancock are in 1 Old Rickyard, Back Lane.

We hope they enjoy Birdingbury.

Christmas Shoe Boxes

This is a HUGE THANK YOU to all the lovely people in Birdingbury who so far have wrapped close on 300 boxes ready for filling with 'goodies' for disadvantaged children. Thank you for all the work you have put in making an ordinary box look so attractive. This year some boxes were wrapped at Swap Shop but several families elected to wrap some at home, but either way it has been a super effort. In addition, very many thanks for all the lovely 'goodies' you have also donated, such as toy cars and lorries, teddy bears, puzzles, combs, brushes, hair slides, toothpaste and toothbrushes, flannels, soaps and shampoo, ribbons, sweets and Loom Bands. Also thank you for all the cash donations, which will be used to help buy fuel for the onward transportation of the Christmas Boxes.

All the completed boxes will now be on their way. Well done Birdingbury

Daphne and Cheryl.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Tropical Fruit Cake for the bleak midwinter



- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4 eggs | 225 g candied cherries |
| 1 cup sugar | 225 g candied pineapple |
| 1 tsp vanilla | 1 cup brazil nuts cut in half |
| 1/3 cup brandy | 2 cups walnuts |
| 1 cup plain flour | 225 g dried figs, halved |
| 1 tsp baking powder | 450 g stoned dates |

Whisk sugar and beaten egg yolks, vanilla and brandy

Fold in flour and baking powder

Add nuts and fruit

Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites

12 Bake one hour in a loaf tin at 170 °C

from Deirdre down under - Ed.

Your Mobile Library

Delivers to Main Street, Birdingbury every third Friday at
11.40 am.

Books, Large print, Ordinary print,
Picture Books, Children's Books,
Paperback, Non-fiction, Novels,
Sagas, Adventures, Westerns,
Crime, Romance, Talking Books
and Mysteries,



2015 dates

January 2, 23	July 10,31
February 13	August 21
March 6, 27	September 11
April 17	October 2,23
May 8, 29	November 13
June 19	December 4

To renew your books, order some more, or ask about
our home delivery service ring 851031

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Bourton & District Garden Club

There will be no meeting in December.

Visitors & Members will be made welcome on 29 January 2015 for our AGM
with lots of nibbles.

7pm for 7.30 at Bourton Village Hall

For more information contact:

Graham or Sandra 632291 Francine 632595 Carol 632033 13

Happy Christmas from Birdingbury Village Club.

Once again we will be providing a Christmas post box in the club, so please pop in and leave cards for your friends - and see if there are any for you to collect.

Saturday 20 December...

'Christmas Party and Entertainment'.

This is also an opportunity to join John Starley who is celebrating his own special birthday and hopes all his friends and neighbours will be able to come along.

New Year's Eve

Mark Taylor and friends will host another themed New Year's Eve celebration in the club. They have been a great success in recent years. So please keep the evening free and an eye out for more details in early December.

Saturday 31 January

Birdingbury Cinema

will return and we are hoping to secure another British Blockbuster for your pleasure. We will confirm the film as soon as we have secured it and circulate details.

NB. We update our members by email with the various events and news of the club. Membership of £10 is due in January so, if you are not receiving these emails, ensure you leave us your email address when paying your subscriptions.

Thanks,

Ian Tipton President

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Posada

The POSADA is returning to Birdingbury.....
please see Church News for more details.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Graffiti

Where do you draw the line?

With Banksy's graffiti's selling for hundreds of thousands of pounds, did I do wrong when I spent many hours cleaning graffiti off the skate park equipment? At least, I did leave the artist's signature!

Bob Munro

Ladies Circle

We have had two very interesting evenings at our October and November get togethers. In October Alison Chappell gave a very enlightening and informative talk on the topic of Nutritional Health. We learned about the right balance of foods to keep us healthy in the short and long term and how to beat those sugary cravings we all get, particularly in the winter months, by eating a small handful of nuts! For our November meeting which was hosted by Jenny and Val we had a very interesting talk from Rob entitled 'The search for Nathaniel's Nutmeg'. There was a very good turnout for this and Rob had a wealth of knowledge regarding the history of spices. Nutmeg was the gold of its time! There were lots of delicious jams, chutneys and festive smelling spices to sample, which I am sure everyone will be using during the Christmas period.

We are holding a **Pamper Evening** on Tuesday 9 December, hosted by Julie and Angela. There will be wine and nibbles and a therapist, Louise Newall, will be able to offer the following treatments. Please come along and treat yourself or family/friends to a bit of relaxation during this very busy time of year or just come and enjoy a glass of wine with friends.

File & polish fingers or toes £10 - Eyebrow shape £5 - Eyelash tint £5 - Eyebrow tint £5 - Express shoulder massage £10 - Express head, neck and shoulder massage. Please note the two massage treatments would need to be booked for a separate occasion as these would be difficult to do on the evening.

If you would like to come along to our Pamper Evening and pre-book a treatment, please contact Julie on jxcollodge@aol.com or leave txt/message on 07807 766313.

At the January meeting we will be having our annual New Year meal.

Lee Hayden 633606

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

A BIG THANK YOU

to all the kind people who sent flowers, cards and messages of kindness to Tine when she fell on Main Street and had to have emergency surgery - a big thanks to Auntie Jo for being so kind - and a huge thank you to the ladies for making lovely food and puddings for the family we are so grateful.

Tine, Mark and Sophie

Birdingbury Calendar

December					page
Tuesday	9	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Friday	12	Library Van	Main street	11.40	13
Saturday	13	Christmas Fayre	Leamington Hastings School	12.30	4
Saturday	20	Tea at three	Birbury	3.00	3
		Christmas Party	Club		14
Monday	22	Carol singing	Meet at the Club	6.30	5
Wednesday	31	New Year's Eve	Club		14

January

Friday	2	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	13
Tuesday	13	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Tuesday	20	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Friday	23	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	13
Thursday	29	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30	3
		Bourton Garden Club	Bourton Village Hall	7.00	13
Saturday	31	Birdingbury Cinema	Club		14



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