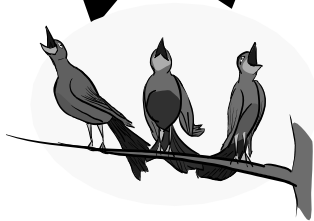




December 2011
and
January 2012



BIRDINGBURY
NEWS
No 47

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS



Photo Tony Higgins

With the future prospects of the Club and the Birbury under discussion it seemed appropriate to recount the story of how the Birbury came to be. See page 8.

Parish Council Report

There have been two meetings of the Parish Council since my last report, and quite a few issues are moving forward.

Following the 'Speedaware' survey in September, the County Council (WCC) reported back to us on the traffic speeds through the village. If any villager would like to see their report, please contact me, any of the councillors or the clerk. The main conclusion was that there was not a case for major traffic-calming measures, and the Council has agreed the funding for some minor improvements to the signage in the village. This means that the bulk of the grant obtained some years ago for road safety can now be allocated to other things. The Parish Plan had identified the need for a new path up to the church - to continue the newly-improved one in Main Street. We have asked WCC to draw up plans and cost this, together with additional kerbing in Leamington Hastings Road. We are also pushing for improvement of the jetty, especially the steps, between Main Street and Back Lane.

The dead trees in Main Street are to be replaced, and the stumps have already been ground out. We are also hoping to plant some more bulbs on village verges. If you have any spare bulbs or know how we could obtain some, please let any of us know, and we will plant them – hopefully with some help from others!

Councillor Carol Cartwright resigned from the Council for personal reasons at the October meeting and a vacancy has been declared. Since an election has not been requested (by the required minimum number of electors), we are seeking nominations for co-option from any villager who would like to join us in this very worthwhile work. Notices about this have been put up on the PC noticeboard, in the Club and at the church.

We are seeking volunteers from people willing to help plan and organise Diamond Jubilee celebrations next summer.

There will be a meeting of all those wanting to be involved 7.00pm in the Birbury on Wednesday 17th January 2012 - everyone welcome.

The PC also has plans to provide all the children in the village with a Jubilee gift. In order to discover how many children there are in Birdingbury and also to plan other activities for youngsters we shall be sending round a very short survey to all families with children. Please do help us by completing this.

Councillors have made visits to a number of properties associated with planning applications; no objections have been lodged with Rugby Borough Council for most of these. Compliance with previous Planning Permissions was also taken up.

The ancient pump on the verge outside Malt Barn in Marton Road is in a seriously

poor state. The PC is keen to hear views about whether this is worth saving, and if so, what should be done. Any thoughts – or perhaps volunteers?

The PC had to decide this month whether to seek an increase in the Parish Precept (part of the Council Tax specially for this village). Although our predicted income barely meets our planned expenditure for the coming year, it was felt that this was not the time to raise the precept. This may well not be the case for 2013/14.

Copies of the full agreed Minutes of the Council – and since October, the draft minutes of the most recent PC meeting - are displayed on the PC noticeboard opposite the Club. If you have any questions or points you would like to make, please don't hesitate to contact me (633755) or any other councillor.

Diana Turner

Chair of Birdingbury Parish Council

Please see notice re Council Vacancy on page 12

Birdingbury has a Website!

Please take an opportunity to visit our village's website at: www.birdingbury.org

We have uploaded PC minutes, PC meeting dates, events, Church information, links to the Club, and helpful information. This is a developing project so if you have any suggestions on what you would like to see on the website, please contact Dallal Stevens on dallalstevens@yahoo.co.uk

The appearance of the website is kindly being improved by Graeme Falkner, to whom we are very grateful, so don't be surprised if it suddenly looks quite different!

Dallal Stevens

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Low Water

Anybody visiting Draycote Water will have seen a sorry sight. There are now several islands and wide beaches. We gather that it is less than half full and there is no prospect of pumping into the reservoir until we have a good deal of rain. Gardeners will know how dry the ground is and unless we have a very wet winter we may have severe problems next year.

Neighbourhood Watch Matters

I am sorry to have to inform you, but Merryfields, Marton Road was recently burgled. Intruders gained access through the rear patio doors while the owner was out. When this happens, fortunately infrequently, one wonders how burglars know how to target which house and when. Are they watching all the time or is it just done on the off chance? Another unpleasant crime was the theft of a tractor from a stable yard on Stockton Road. Thieves came well prepared and cut through a heavy duty chain and 2 heavy duty padlocks. This is the second time these premises have been attacked in 7 months.

In the last copy of *Birdsong* I reported on a telephone scam that has been doing the rounds whereby scammers try to gain access to your Windows PC and extract money from you. This scam is still happening and was reported on the Radio 4 Today Programme. Please beware if you receive a phone call where the caller says you have a problem with your Windows computer. Just put the phone down. There is also a great deal of phishing going on where you are sent an email suggesting that you have a problem with one of your on line accounts. No bank or building society would send such an email. Don't even open it. I have recently received an email supposedly from BT suggesting that my broadband connection would cease after two days - yet another scam.

You will all have heard that thieves are stealing metal, as the scrap prices are so high at the moment. Police have warned that this is happening in this area, indeed some has already been stolen from The Sidings. Hopefully, new regulations at scrap yards, soon to come into force, will make this theft unprofitable.

I am dependant on residents keeping me informed of incidents, and I have suggested that anyone who wants me to send them an email when such incidents or relevant information becomes available, I would be happy to do so. At present there are only 6 households on my email list apart from the coordinators. Does this really mean that there are only six people in Birdingbury who are interested in Neighbourhood Watch information, or are there that few computer users? Please telephone me if you are interested and we will swap email addresses, (My telephone number is in the book). I guarantee only to use your email address to give you information on incidents in the village and for no other purpose.

Geoffrey Johnstone

As part of an on going battle to combat the theft of metal, a multi agency approach has been taken to carry out checks on scrap metal merchants. Warwickshire Police along with Environmental Health have been running checks on scrap metal dealers' paperwork and check the vehicles and documents of associated traders.

P.C.S.O. 0149 Helena Steadman helena.steadman@warwickshire.police.pnn.uk
01788 541111 (Voicemail 01788 541111 Opt 2 Ext 16149)

Recreation Area Clear-Up

After past disappointments about the numbers of people who respond to appeals to join working parties (one member of the Committee recalls years of annual Parish Council-organised litter-picks which were supported by just three stalwarts!) it's very encouraging to report that 20 people of all ages turned out on Sunday 16th October to give the Play Area equipment a face-lift/clear-up/lick of paint/bolt-tightening/fence-repairing/bramble-removing.

Many, many thanks from the Committee to everyone who turned out and gave their time, muscle, artistic genius (Leonardo da Webb – sometimes called Richard – was especially admired for his fine brush-strokes on the slide), machines (Bob trying to make the new goal-posts vandal-proof) or management skills (Pete Welch, the Winston Churchill of the campaign). It was a joy to behold and brought to mind that wonderful turn-out to clear the path at the bottom of Main Street, on a very wet Spring Bank Holiday.

So, again, thank you very much; our extraordinary Recreation Area – the legacy of various campaigners over the last thirty years – is a splendid village asset but needs looking after on a regular basis. The 16th October gang did their bit.

See you next time!

The Recreation Field Committee.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

A short update for BT Road to Infinity

Many of you will have seen considerable activity in the last few weeks at the top of the village in connection with the successful bid for the massive upgrade in Internet Speed to the Village....at last after some intermediate misgivings it is now going to happen. Unfortunately, being in effect a subsidiary to the Marton exchange, we will not be getting fibre optic to each residence but just to the Green Box, through the VDSL2 installation, opposite the War Memorial. Nevertheless residents living within 300m of there should receive speeds approaching 50 MB and even those up to a km away should be capable of speeds in excess of 20 MB – probably some four times the best received in the village at present.

The BT website suggests all will be up and running by end the of December 2011 but playing careful I think we can look towards a definite start date of early Spring which will make a substantial difference to all who are connected up. The only sting of course is that you need to be a BT customer.

Progressive Supper – Saturday 4th February 2012

We thought it would be a good idea to remind you what this successful village event is all about.

It has been going for about 20 years and this time we are splitting the proceeds (entry donation plus raffle) equally between Birdingbury Church and a charity - the children's ward of the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in Birmingham. This hospital is where Lewis Cutts, Richard and Jo's son, has been treated over the last few years - and is dear to our hearts.

The ward treats children aged 2 to 18 with orthopaedic and oncology conditions and is currently raising funds specifically for "Project Playroom", providing younger children with a fantastic new playroom to encourage their recovery.

The Church has some exciting development plans to modernise their community facilities.



More about the actual details of the evening:

As the name suggests, it's a supper and it's progressive! Each couple host one course at their home for two other couples. After each course, you find out where you're going next and the idea is that you don't meet the same people twice. It's a really fun evening and a great chance to meet and catch up with old and new villagers.

We all meet in the Club from 7pm sharp for a quick drink, to buy raffle tickets and to learn where to go for starters.

Then as the evening progresses, and as you open each envelope, you move from house to house, ending back at the club at about 10pm for the raffle draw and post-dinner drinks!

We're trying to break the record (well, we think it may be the record but memories fade!) of 27 couples which is going to be tough but, as we said, it's a great cause and a wonderful evening.

So, if you have yet to tell us you're coming (or you just want a little more persuasion), please phone either Simon or Jackie below.

We allocate courses nearer the day and will send you a quick note (with any dietary requirements of your secret guests) then. The entry donation **per couple** is £20 if you do a starter or a pudding and £15 for a main course.

Jackie Morton (633493) and Simon Whitfield (634761)

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The Ferret

A few weeks ago, Karen Thomas saw and saved a ferret at the Rainbow field. It was actually sitting on the duck house roof. Very bravely, she coaxed it into a paper sack and brought it home not quite knowing what to do with it. It gnawed through the sack so she squashed it into a plastic container. He was angry by now! We took him back to the field and transferred him into a cat cage for safety... ours!!! Many folk had seen the ferret that night; all were concerned as to where he had come from, and more to the point, where was he going. He has lived a very luxurious life for the last few weeks in a large cage, and eaten very well on best Whiskas cat food. He is very pretty, but I must inform you that his looks belie his character, he has mean teeth and claws. There are wounds to prove this.

Gail Colledge

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

FILM PREMIERE POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEW YEAR

The Camp 97 film premiere scheduled for Sunday December 4th has had to be postponed until the New Year.

The director, Felicity Whiston, is currently working as a member of crew on a professional feature film and unfortunately unforeseen changes in the shooting schedule now mean that she will be filming overseas until mid-December.

However, the trailer for Camp 97 can be viewed on the Vimeo website - just search for **Felicity Whiston** and you will see the trailer.

A new date will be confirmed and advertised around the village in the New Year.

Best wishes,

Felicity and Sue Whiston

How did The Birbury – our village room – come to be?

Birdingbury has never had a Village Hall. While the village school survived (it closed in the thirties when numbers dropped to single figures) the 'large schoolroom' seems to have been used for any public gatherings including formal village meetings. The law required there to be an Annual Parish Assembly and sometimes, in addition, there were special meetings to discuss particular issues. This was before there was a Parish Council.

When the school first closed the authorities promised that it would reopen if numbers justified it and so no action was taken with the buildings which were actually owned by the Church. However what was then known as the Birdingbury Working Men's Club negotiated with the diocesan authorities to use the site. The Second World War rather took peoples' attention away from such concerns but in 1948 the Diocese decided to sell the buildings as there was then no possibility of reopening the school. Buying the buildings for a village hall or some form of shared ownership with the Club was discussed at length but in 1949 the Club bought the property themselves.

Village meetings generally continued to be held in the 'Old Schoolroom' though on at least three occasions they were held in private houses 'by invitation of the particular owners'. In the early sixties there were discussions as to whether there should be a Parish Council as the population of the village was now above the threshold of 300. Not everyone was enthusiastic, seeing increased bureaucracy and added expense, but in 1967 the Council had its first meeting.

Council meetings were usually held in the Club, though occasionally in private houses, and for a while little more is recorded concerning discussion about a village hall. However the subject reasserted itself in 1981 when the Club decided to require 'private meetings to end at 8.30pm'. The Parish council minutes record a joint meeting with the Club to discuss a 'further extension of the premises to provide an additional meeting room'. A great deal of discussion is recorded and at one time there was a suggestion that a temporary building should be erected. Fortunately, this came to nothing, partly because it could not be decided where to put it. There was much debate about the size of the room but the available site was constrained by the need to allow vehicles including the brewery lorry to get around to the back and the situation of the existing bottle store etc.

The notion of the Village taking a lease from the Club for a 'Community Room' developed but legal issues, such as potential charitable status and the requirement that the lease should be long enough to allow for a public loan, were complicated. However, with a great deal of goodwill and determination all the terms of the lease were agreed.

The final terms were a 99 year lease by the Parish Council from the Club for a payment of £6000 plus a nominal annual rent and the setting up of a Management Committee. It only remained to raise the money and build the building.

There was a Village Fund which contained about £1500. It was thought that £1000 could be raised by activities and donations but this still left a shortfall of about £4500. Commercial institutions were approached but their terms were too high. Our District Councillor, Gordon Collett, offered to help with negotiating a loan from Rugby Borough Council. Bob Munro as President of the Club (also a Parish Councillor) and I, as Chairman of the Parish Council, attended the Rugby Council meeting in June 1986 and we were totally flabbergasted when Gordon stood up and proposed that the Birdingbury should be given not only a loan of £2250 but also a grant of the same amount. The Chairman asked for a show of hands and it was all over. We had the money we needed and half of it was a grant. All was ready for the lease to be signed which took place at the autumn Village Meeting.

The Club offered to have the building complete by Easter 1987 so there was no time to lose. Gary Marshall, Andy Westcott, Graham Facer, Alex Johns and Ian Munro who were all then working for Munro's, as well as being Club members, volunteered to give their time and there was plenty of other help when needed. The £6000 (about £16000 in today's money) covered the building materials and Bob organised the work. Through evenings and weekends and the Christmas holiday work progressed so that by mid- January the walls were plastered and the floor screeded. More funds were raised by selling the bricks on the end wall.

The carpet was an expensive feature which has proved its worth over nearly twenty five years as have the curtains, made by Barbara Munro, while Bob offered to seek out suitable furniture. He located a supply of chairs which Vic Hunter and the Committee Chairman, David Brittain, cleaned up. At the meeting of the Management Committee before the opening the Secretary, Jackie Westcott, pointed out that cleaning would be necessary and offered to do the job until a paid cleaner could be employed. She has done it ever since.

Needless to say, it was a bit of a rush at the end but finally all was ready and on 2nd May 1987 Mr Quinton Hazell formally opened the room, now christened The Birbury, by handing over the keys to the Chairman of the Management Committee. This was followed by short speeches thanking everyone for the extraordinary effort that had brought the project to fruition.



Swap Shop

For the last few weeks Birdingbury swappers have been supporting Stretton Women's Institute in their quest to send 1600 wrapped and filled Christmas boxes to children around the world. By the time we have finished, we will have wrapped over 300 of these boxes - an excellent achievement for a couple of hours every Saturday morning!

Swap shop is such a good way to keep in touch with other villagers - all you need to do is turn up and enjoy coffee and cake on a Saturday morning between 10.30 and 12. If you do have any produce or home made items to swap with others, please bring it along. Some weeks there is a lot, and others only a little, so if there's nothing to swap with, you can give yours away without a swap or take it home. A number of people are bringing books and DVD's to swap, so do bring those too!

If you haven't been before, just turn up or call Cheryl on 632461 for a chat to find out more - you will find a great welcome for sure as everyone is really glad to meet new people and share and swap.

And despite the fact that by the time you read this, all of the boxes will be wrapped, you can be assured of a welcome in the Birbury on any Saturday morning as we have determined to continue each week for the foreseeable future, as people enjoy it so much!

So, if you have something that needs the help of a regular band of people each week for a couple of hours please say and we'll try and help!!!

Hope to see you there.

Cheryl 10

Birdingbury Country Show

The Birdingbury Country Show Committee (2011) have donated £4000 to The Baby Care Unit at the University Hospital, Coventry. As all of the profits of the 2010 Show were donated to the Motor Neurone Disease Association, the Committee decided it prudent to put some of the profits of the 2011 Show to reserves to cover future events.

The beneficiaries of any profits made at the Birdingbury Country Show 2012 (14th and 15th July 2012) will be:

The Crohns and Colitis Association

The Alzheimers Association

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

The Baby Care Unit at University Hospital, Coventry.

We are sorry to hear of the death, on 6th October 2011, of Simon Adams. The inspiration behind the 2010 Show was to fulfill his dream of raising £1 million pounds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. We understand the amount raised so far is in excess of £400,000 and that his family and friends are continuing the campaign.

The Birdingbury Country Show Committee

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Winter Woollies Wanted

We are planning a collection for Hope 4. This is a charity, working from Rugby town churches to support those in financial difficulties, who often do not have a home of their own. The coming months are likely to prove particularly difficult for vulnerable adults who depend on the support of Hope 4. If you would like to donate warm clothes, hats, gloves, socks, sleeping bags etc, please leave them in a bag on your doorstep. The collection will be made on the morning of Monday 12th December. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Eira Owen 632876, Liz Ellis 632379

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The World's biggest Coffee Morning

Fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support

Saturday 1st October 2011 A big thank you to all who supported this event and helped to raise the splendid sum of £120. My special thanks to Jennifer and Janet for their invaluable assistance.

Jackie Westcott

Notice of Vacancy on Parish Council

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council caused by the resignation of Cllr. Cartwright. Details are on the Parish Council noticeboard.

As a bye-election was not requested by the minimum of ten electors, the Council now moves on to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Expressions of interest should be made briefly in writing to the Clerk, giving reasons why you wish to become a Councillor and sent to the address below by 5th December 2011.

For further particulars please contact any Parish Councillor or the Clerk.

Carol Pratt

Clerk to Birdingbury Parish Council

10 Flying fields Road Southam

Warwickshire CV47 1GA

01926 812533 email birdingburyclerk@yahoo.co.uk

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Country Lunch

A very pleasant country lunch was enjoyed by villagers and friends on Sunday, 25th September, in the Birbury. There were the usual tempting breads and cheeses with a tasty range of locally sourced pickles, fruit, salads and relishes; we have had lots of superb apples and plums in Birdingbury this Autumn. For those who had room the next course was either homemade apple pie or rhubarb crumble with the choice of cream or custard; all finished off with a freshly made cup of tea or coffee. All this for the bargain price of £2.50 and a profit of £20 was made for the Birbury funds.

"Bikeathon"

Early one Sunday morning in October, the 2nd in fact, villagers realised a cycling event was passing through Birdingbury - or in some cases shooting through in a blur of lycra. The annual charity bike ride to raise money for the British Heart Foundation was under way and the Birbury was one of the official pit stops for refreshments.

Jackie Wescott and her team of helpers served drinks and home made biscuits to weary cyclists. All ages were taking part from youngsters in family groups to enthusiastic teenagers and experienced veterans. The ones who had cycled the route in previous years often came in looking for a specific type of biscuit!

We did not charge for refreshments but asked for a contribution to the British Heart Foundation and we collected over £90. Many thanks to all who helped during the day.

12

Jenny Hawes

Leamington Hastings C of E Infant School & Nursery 50th Anniversary Celebrations



Current and former staff members

Over 100 staff, parents and members of the community joined pupils past and present to celebrate our local infant school reaching 50 years of age in November.

We were delighted to see so many old friends taking the opportunity to see how the school has changed over the last 50 years and to catch up with all the news.

The Acting Headteacher, Mrs Rose Plumbley, had collated some fascinating material over the past 12 months and put together a display to give everyone an insight into school life at Leamington Hastings through the decades.

The Archdeacon of Coventry, the Venerable Ian Watson, told those present how he valued the strong links between the school and the church and then Mr John Owen, Chair of Governors, addressed the event and asked Dr Alec Parker to formally name the outside classroom the "Dr Alec Parker Building". The beautiful plaque will be a wonderful and constant reminder of our celebration!

The children went home happy having received a celebratory mug, made a keepsake box and had their faces painted. The adults joined them in enjoying the BBQ, refreshments and home made cakes!

Many thanks to all those who attended, we hope you enjoyed your trip down memory lane, catching up with old friends and reacquainting yourself with the school of 2011!

Alex Rigler

Birdingbury Village Club

FISH AND CHIP NIGHT 27TH OCTOBER

In an effort to get some interesting evenings at the Birdingbury club, Julie Colledge and Annette Hawkes hatched a plan to get a Fish & Chip van to visit. Flyers were posted throughout the village and a good response was hoped for. What happened exceeded all expectations and it seemed the whole village turned up!! The club was packed to the rafters and the smell of salt & vinegar lingered long into the night. The queue snaked its way from the front car-park to the rear of the building, but people seemed happy to patiently wait their turn. It should be noted that the quality of the food was well worth the wait. The atmosphere was jovial and it was great to see so many people, young and old, having a good time. Many thanks to Val for providing the bread and butter and the tomato sauce!!

Bob, the fishman, was overwhelmed at the response and sold out at 9.30pm after 100 minutes of frenzied, friendly, fish frying. It has been agreed he will turn up every last Thursday in the month so it would be lovely to see everyone again, and if you missed out this time, get down to the club at 7.45pm for his next visit.

CHEESE & WINE EVENING. 19TH NOVEMBER



Part two of the plan was to hold a Cheese and Wine Evening with a professional host. The club kindly agreed to allow the bar area to be turned into an intimate French Cafe for the night, tables were adorned with lovely

table cloths, candles were lit and each table had grapes, celery, crackers and a selection of really superb cheeses bought from the new cheese shop in Bilton.



All of the £10 tickets were sold and nearly 50 eager wine lovers assembled at 8pm for the first of what is hoped to be a regular event.

Alan Blakemore, the excellent host, was very informative, humorous and kept the evening going with a confident performance. He had 3 white wines and 3 reds from Spain and Italy to describe (and consume!!) which he did with some aplomb. He answered a variety of questions with an easy style, and at no point did anyone feel we were in the presence of a "snobby wine buff".

The whole evening was a success, comments ranged from "what a great night" to "when is the next one?" Well done to Julie Colledge and Annette Hawkes for organising everything.

Once again, takings at the bar were far higher than normal as members stayed long after the final cork was drawn.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury Club Panto

Unfortunately, we didn't have enough folk volunteer to make this work, so we have decided to shelve our plans for a year. Our thanks are due to the few brave souls who came forward with offers of support.

However, we are very pleased to be joining up with other village organisations to bring you a 'Christmas Miscellany' of events on the same day (Saturday 17th December) at both the Club and the Birbury and we hope you will be able to join us for this.

Many thanks

The Birdingbury Village Club Management Committee.

Wendy Crees

Wendy has reluctantly moved from Birdingbury and now lives at Lime Tree Village near Bilton. She and her husband Dennis moved to Birdingbury many years ago and lived at Cherrydale on Main Street. Several years after Dennis sadly died, Wendy sold her house and car and adventurously went off on an extended tour round the world. On her return a few months ago she lodged in the village whilst looking for a new home. We wish her well

.Aileen Withington

Thanks

I would like to thank all those who so kindly gave me such lovely cards and flowers on my 90th birthday

Dink Cowley

For sixty five of those years Dink and Bill have lived in Birdingbury where they moved after Bill had been demobbed.

Breakthrough Breast Cancer

Maria Leret, Mary Harrison and Hayley Rogers would like to thank the people of Birdingbury for supporting the 'Pink' charity evening in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer held on 6th October in Marton Village Hall. The fantastic sum of £1133.17 was raised in total, so THANK YOU! The charity would also like to pass on its thanks.

So, many thanks again to the lovely Birdingbury people because it was a great turn out.

Maria Leret

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Apologies to Gary - His article in the last edition on the Birdingbury Produce Show was missing its attribution which had somehow got lost between the *Birdong* computer and the printing press. However I'm sure that most readers will have guessed the author and, by the way, 'jollification' was with due respect from Ken Dodd.

Editor

Church Café—12th November



You can't really blame people for coming along in their dozens –wonderful homemade soups courtesy of Aileen and Eira and breads baked by assorted villagers plus a selection of delicious cheeses kindly donated by 'Cheese on the Green' which is a specialist cheese shop in Bilton and well worth a visit.

The plans for the proposed changes and extensions to the church were on show and we were lucky enough to have the architect, Peter Sheen, who explained and expanded upon the plans which helped us all visualise the proposals.

It's all very exciting and everyone was filled with enthusiasm for a project that will add such a lot to the community facilities – not to mention the comfort and relief of churchgoers!

Thank you to everyone involved – it was a real treat on a chilly Saturday morning and very informative too.

Liz Ellis

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Bourton

Sunday 11th December 7:00pm. Bourton Village Hall

Bourton Trombones and the Parkers invite everybody to

"CAROLS IN THE HALL"

As well as a good sing song of all your Christmas favourites, everyone can enjoy mince pies and mulled wine or a soft drink. A donation towards Village Hall funds would be appreciated.

Friday 13th and Saturday 14th January Bourton Village Hall

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Tickets cost £7.00 adults and £3.00 child from Joan 632864.

Ladies Circle Reports

Tuesday 11th October

“Uplifting “Inspirational” “Amazing”, just some of the comments as we left Ladies Circle on 11th October.

We had just been listening and talking to Kira Dalton, a fellow Birdingbury villager who, after a holiday in the Gambia, has devoted the past twelve years to helping the people in that country. Wishing to have a project after retiring from a corporate role, she has restored a primary school, opened four nurseries and a clinic and health centre.

Please take a minute to look at her charity’s website, www.africanoystertrust.co.uk to see just what has been achieved by such a small number of people. Quite remarkable!

She lives in a hut in a village with the people and, as she showed us a DVD and talked about her work, she brought it alive for us here in Birdingbury. There were so many questions and so much interest that folks stayed and chatted later than usual!

She came just to share with us but we were so inspired by her that she left with a generous cash donation plus a hand operated sewing machine (no electricity or running water in the villages) and a pressure cooker (to sterilise hospital utensils).

We are looking forward to her updating us next year and if others would be interested, it would be great to open it to the whole village!! Let us know.

We all wish Kira every success during her next trip as she has further projects to plan and oversee. Keep safe and thank you for sharing with us.

Mel Palmer

Tuesday 10th November

November’s Ladies Circle was a pleasant evening , thanks to Reverend Canon Barbara Clutton, who talked to us about the work she does for Farm Crisis Network, a charity which helps farming folk through difficult times. Farming is a very commercial way of life now with so much produce being imported. It is very important for us all to try and support the farmer by buying seasonal British produce. Look for the red tractor and red flag symbol to be sure that what you are buying is British.

What we must remember is that Fair Trade begins at home. It was an enlightening evening for all of us.

Gail Colledge

Ladies Circle Programme

In December we will be holding our (now annual) 'in house' Christmas meal. We will be preparing a Christmas Supper rather than the Christmas Dinner we have successfully created in previous years. This month's meeting is for members only.

On the **10th January 2012**, one of our members - Gail Colledge - will give a talk entitled "Patients' Transport Services". This promises to be hilarious and not to be missed. All welcome (Visitors £2) - please join us in **The Birbury at 7.45 p.m.**

Barbara Munro

As the village gathers to celebrate the season, you are cordially invited to a ...

Christmas MISCELLANY

A traditional village Christmas in two parts.

Tea at three.

Drop in for a hot drink, glass of sherry, mince pie or a piece of Christmas cake; listen to the children carol singing and more besides.

Children, bring your letter to Santa and post it.
Guaranteed to get there before the big day!

3 til 5pm, free of charge, with donations to the Samaritans Purse Shoebox Appeal.

An Evening of Mirth.

A festive collection performed by local folk, for your delight and delectation.

Hosted in music hall style and featuring barbershop singers, Christmas songs & carols, Dick's Devilishly Difficult Festive Quiz, yuletide verse and other family friendly festive fun.

7 til 9pm (ish), entry free of charge

Sat 17th December at both the Birbury and Birdingbury Village Club

Santa is coming to the Club

Calling all children in the village - come and join us for our children's Christmas party.
Fun and games - and a special visitor will be calling by!

If you would like to join the party please let Val know at the club or Carol Moor 632312, email carolmoor@sky.com—confirming the names and ages of children who will be attending.

Birdingbury Calendar

December

Thursday	1	Library Van	Memorial	2.35	
Sunday	11	Santa at the Club	Club	3.00	see page 19
Monday	12	Woolly collection			see page 11
Tuesday	13	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	see page 19
Saturday	17	Christmas Miscellany	Club and Birbury		see page 19
Thursday	22	Library Van	Memorial	2.35	

January

Tuesday	10	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	see page 19
Tuesday	17	Parish Council	Birbury	8.00	
Wednesday	18	Jubilee planning	Birbury	7.00	see page 2
Thursday	19	Library Van	Memorial	2.35	

February

Saturday	4	Progressive supper			see page 6
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Swap Shop every Saturday at 10.30



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