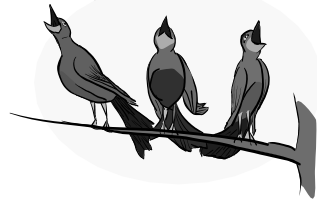


BIRDSONG

December 2013
and
January 2014

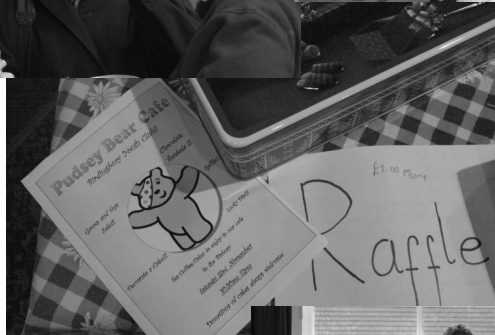


BIRDINGBURY
NEWS

No 59



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TO ALL OUR READERS

Parish Council Report

Since my last report the Parish Council has been seeking to replace Chris Morton, who resigned as a councillor in July. At our meeting on 19 November we were very pleased to co-opt **David Preston** – a relative newcomer to the village now living in the Old Stone Cottage on Long Itchington Road. It is good to have a full complement of councillors again.

The council continues to be concerned about the possible exploitation of underground coal (Underground Coal Gasification - UCG) in this area, and it was good to have such a satisfactory attendance at the meeting called by Pete Welch on 6 November. (see page 10.)

The final work on the bush shelter replacement was completed in November, and all the bills have now been paid - leaving just £43.86 in the budget which had been made up from contributions from the Parish Council, the Distribution Fund and personal gifts from villagers. We decided to send this small sum back to the Distribution Fund as this represents a valuable source of funding for a variety of village activities.

We have made applications for small grants to help us with the costs of keeping the recreation field equipment in good order, and we hope to have some good news on this front next month. We have also been told that our plans to clean the War Memorial next year are eligible for a grant too, and so we are pursuing this.

With the onset of winter weather we are once again lobbying the County Council about gritting: the Leamington Hastings to Marton road is designated for regular gritting, but we continue to push for Bourton Hill and Main Street to also be included in the schedule. We are very aware that getting out of the village can be difficult, especially in the snow, living as we do in a valley with all routes out being uphill! We are also seeking to increase the number of gritting boxes around the village, so that villagers can do their own bit to keep our roads passable in icy or snowy weather.

Complaints about the poor condition of the Jitty path were discussed at length, and we are pressing the Borough and County Councils to do something about this. The surface is making it difficult for the less mobile to walk along it safely.

Diana Turner

Chair of the Parish Council

Our next meeting will be in the Birbury at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21 January 2014

To all the Youth Club Editors of Birdsong 58

Congratulations – what a brilliant effort. Thank you all – Marcus for compiling, all those contributors – Henry, Evie, Issie, Sebastian, Anna – and Kate for her splendid photo. Not to forget Issie and Anna for their illustrations.

We hope you enjoyed being editors – it was really interesting to see so many articles about your activities. Would you like another go??

Thank you also, Gaynor and Jan - and others working in the wings.

Many thanks too to all our contributors through the year - it has always been our wish that villagers would contribute articles, stories, anecdotes or any other material so Birdsong would really be the villagers' newsletter. Send them in!

Eds. We enjoyed our time off!

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The Library Van

Shortage of funds has obliged Warwickshire Libraries to reduce the Library Van service, Birdingbury, however, will still have a visit every three weeks, but from 21 February it will be on Fridays from 11.40 to noon.

<p>Carol Singing 2013 will raise money for Save The Children. Please meet outside The Birbury/Club on Friday December 20 at 6.30pm.</p>
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Birdingbury Country Show – 12 and 13 July 2014

At the recent meeting held to organise the Show in July 2014, it was agreed that the beneficiaries of any profits made would be :-

CEBRA – a charity for brain damaged children

DOGS FOR THE DISABLED

MACMILLAN NURSES

ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

Although we have a large organising Committee, contributions and assistance to help with the Show would be very much appreciated

Barbara Munro

London Bikeathon - Cycling for Georgia

On Sunday 15 September, 7000 cyclists joined the London Bikeathon, a charity bike ride to cycle one of three routes in and around London raising money for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. Included in this group was a formidable team from Bird-inbury :- Niyi Adewale, Nick Timms, Mark Greaves, Richard Cutts, Lewis Cutts, Jacob Cutts, and myself Rob Moor. We travelled down the day before, and woke up the morning of the ride hoping for clear skies and sunshine - but this is the UK! Grey clouds and drizzly rain stayed with us on our 100 mile ride along the famous Olympic course out to Surrey, including the long climb up Box Hill. The team were amazing and we completed the course in under seven hours of riding.

Completing this ride was of real importance to myself and my family. We lost our niece Georgia to Leukaemia very suddenly last year. Only 15 years old, she was a wonderful young lady who had an amazing life ahead of her. We miss her every day and know that we always will do. The support that we have had from our friends in Birdingbury throughout all this time has been wonderful - with us every step of the way, helping each and every one of us deal with our loss. And you did this again in supporting us on this ride. The constant messages of support and encouragement, and the sponsorship pledges - we smashed our target and raised over £3,500 for completing this ride.

Thank you from all the team for this sponsorship - and thank you from myself and my family for giving so generously to this wonderful cause.

Rob Moor

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Don't forget - La Posada

A reminder that Birdingbury's own travelling nativity set - La Posada - will be seeking shelter round the village during Advent - 1-24 December. (More details in the last edition of "Birdsong").

If you would like to offer La Posada overnight accomodation please contact Jenny Hawes j.x.hawes@btinternet.com, 632678 or Josie Price, josieprice@tiscali.co.uk, 632545 to book a slot. Please let us know when you cannot have the Posada so that we can arrange dates to suit everyone, but hurry - slots are going fast.....

Christmas Ingenious Inventors

Saturday 21 December 2013

Festive Family Fun

Calling all barmy Birdingbury scientists, kooky creators and erstwhile Einsteins! Let your imagination run wild in the craziest competition of the year - design and build a festive device to complete a given task from a collection of manic materials supplied on the night. Lots of laughs and futile fun!

Family teams welcome. Starts at 8pm and judging at around 10pm. Tickets from the Club or John Starley to include a buffet - £2 per person.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Church Cafe

Many thanks to those who came along to Church Cafe on 16 November. The theme "come in from the cold" was a great success. The weather forecast for the past week read "some sunny spells but starting to get colder" so the collection of over 50 coats, 5 pairs of trousers, a selection of jumpers, 2 hats, scarves, gloves and a pair of fur lined boots will be of comfort to some people in need in Rugby.

We were also able to give a donation of £134.25 to Hope4. This organisation helps the homeless and poorly housed people in Rugby. It is connected to St Andrew's Church, Rugby Food Bank and Rugby Salvation Army. If you would like to find out more about their work and volunteer scheme they can be contacted at admin@hopefor.org.uk Many thanks again for your support; a few people will be a little warmer and a little less hungry through your generosity.

Eira and Aileen



PROGRESSIVE SUPPER

Saturday 8 February 2014

Here we go again!!



We have willingly succumbed to immense pressure and agreed to organise the next Birdingbury Progressive Supper. Following last year's event which raised an amazing £1,267 (remember Starley's hat??) for The Ups of Downs and St Leonard's, this year we are supporting St Leonard's and The Friends of Leamington Hastings with the development of a new library for the Infant School.

If you are a newcomer to the village or haven't taken part in the past then please consider joining us on 8 February - it is great fun and a brilliant way to get to meet other villagers - and if you want to know more about the evening then give either of us a call—Jackie Morton 633493 Simon Whitfield 634761

To get your name on the list please email either of us with your preference of meal course and any special dietary requirements you might have.

jackie@elliam.org & simon_whitfield@hotmail.com

Jackie & Simon

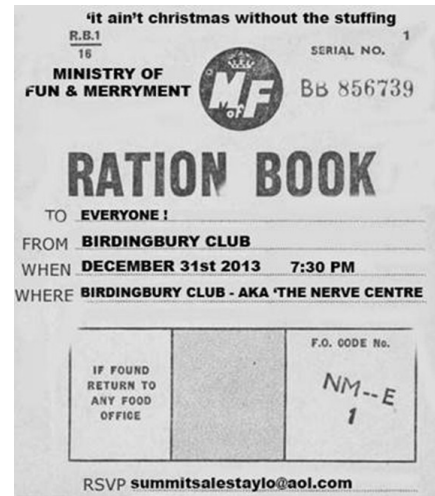
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Birdingbury Youth Club

6 December	Club Night with Christmas Art & Craft
13 December	Decorating the Church Christmas Tree
20 December	Youth Club Christmas Party
17 January	Club Night *
24 January	Club Night
31 January	Winter outing

*The meeting on Friday 17 January will be followed by Committee Meeting at 8pm – any parent or adult who is interested in joining the team or would just like to help out or maybe share ideas, a talent or interest would be very welcome.

Youth Club meets in the Birbury and Club on Friday evenings between 6.30pm and 8pm. For Village Children over 8 years old. New members always welcome. For further details please contact Jan 633514 or Gaynor 632041.



NEW YEAR'S EVE

This New Year's Eve festivities at Birdingbury Club will follow a Second World War theme so the dress code will either be 1940's attire, black tie or smart. Don't let the fancy dress put you off – it's only optional!!

The Club is not charging for the New Year's Eve party again this year but donations on the night would be very gratefully received. Refreshments on arrival and a meal will be provided.

Children welcome - we will be running a film show for them
(please note though that the children will be unsupervised so would ask that small children are accompanied by an adult at all times – thank you)

Please could any pianists make themselves known to either Paula or Mark. No pressure - you don't have to be a fantastic player, just be able to bash out a tune or two!!

RSVP to Mark or Paula Taylor, The Corn Loft, Masters Yard
 (summitsalestaylo@aol.com) or 01926 633746 by Sunday 8 December

Look forward to seeing you there – “Your Club Needs YOU”

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Are you a Carer?

There will be a coffee morning in the Birbury on Thursday 12 December at 10.30, hosted by Guideposts of Rugby, for anyone who has a caring role looking after others, whether external support from carers is utilised or not. It will be a good opportunity to hear about the support and help that is available and to talk to others who have similar caring responsibilities. There are so many people in Birdingbury informally, and formally, caring for others, it could be a busy morning. Please do feel able to just go along and have a coffee and a chat.

Birdingbury Wheelers

We seem, unhappily, to be reading a lot about cars and bicycles at the moment. Perhaps the Wheelers are voting with their feet. Or such is now the reputation of the annual lunch at the Olive Bush at Flecknoe, that the Wheelers feel four eponymous components are better than two. On 20 October some 23 people attended and consumed an excellent Sunday lunch. five people arrived and departed by bicycle, one walked and the rest came by car!



Since then there has been a moonlight ride which this correspondent understands was excellent. There are now at least 45 people who have ridden at one time or another with us and if you want to be on the list to know what's going on please let John know on wheelers@jkstarley.com

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Tea at Three in the Birbury

Everyone is invited to join fellow villagers on Saturday 21 December at 3.00 for tea, mince pies, and maybe a drop of sherry....

Come and join us as we celebrate with carols and Christmas songs - provided by our talented village youngsters. Don't worry it's not 'The Choir' and you don't have to sing for your cuppa!

Please let us know if you would like a lift as transport can be arranged. Looking forward to seeing you there, Jenny Hawes 632678.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Welcome

A very warm welcome to Matt, Sue, Georgie ,Charlotte and Jacob at Limecrest on Marton Road. We wish them all much happiness in their new home.

A different Saturday

Whenever you watch a programme about archaeologists and see them walking across a field they seem to pick up something interesting every few yards. Whenever I walk across a field I see nothing, so when the Broadwell Archaeology Dig asked for volunteers to help them search for Roman remains, and part of this would be field walking I signed up straightaway.

One Saturday at the end of August, after the crop had been cleared, about forty of us assembled to be told what to do. It seemed that the field had been divided into strips defined by bamboo canes every five metres along the two long sides. Each of us would be allotted a strip and our job would be to walk across the field towards the opposite cane - which was actually rather hard to see - and count our paces. If we found anything we were to put it into a plastic bag and mark the bag with our strip number and the number of paces we had walked before we picked it up.

We were told to look at the ground about three yards in front of us and a little bit side to side to cover the width of our strip. To my amazement I had hardly gone thirty paces before I saw a little bit of grey pottery. I picked this up and did as I was told. I had heard old timers in the group talking about 'greyware' but didn't like to show my ignorance by asking what it was. However, it seemed that I had found my first bit. I now understand that it is the commonest type of Roman pottery and is the ordinary domestic material which was probably made locally, possibly in Wappenbury.

As I went further I began to see more and more and into the bags they went. On reaching the other side of the field and hoping I had been aiming at the correct bamboo I marked the total number of paces I had walked on each bag. This would enable the organisers to adjust for the different length of pace of each walker.

This greyware is so common that the archaeologists were not actually interested in the bits themselves but they did want to know where they were found so that after plotting out the finds they would know if there was a concentration anywhere and that would tell them the best place to dig their trial trenches and seek the remains of any buildings.

So now I am an experienced field walker and look forward to taking part in the next series of Time Team!

Chris Barney

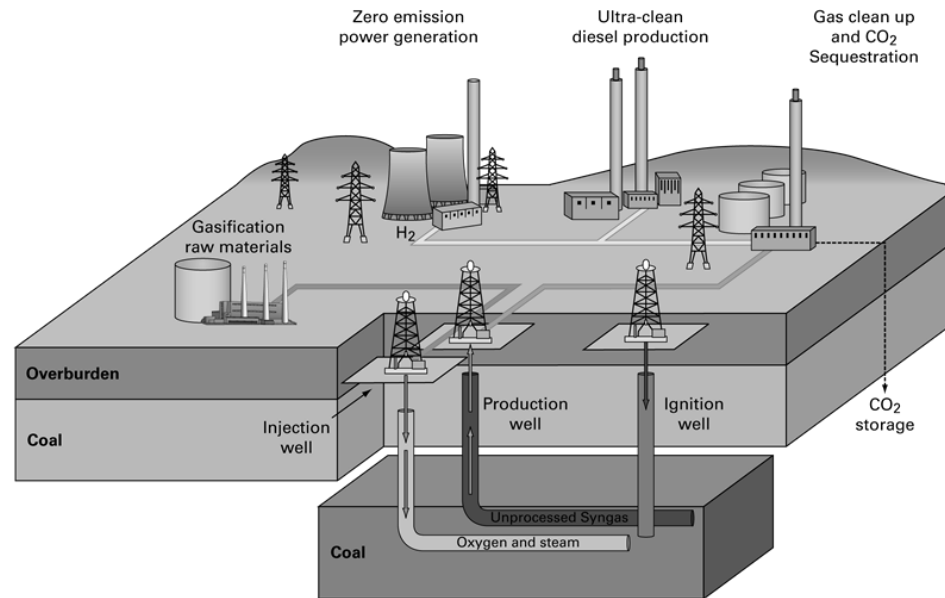
BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Happy Birthday Aston

Our splendid postman will be fifty on Christmas Eve. Congratulations!

UCG – Underground Coal Gasification

On Wednesday 6 November about 30 villagers attended a presentation in the Birbury by Gareth Herd from the Rugby Anti-UCG group.



What is UCG?

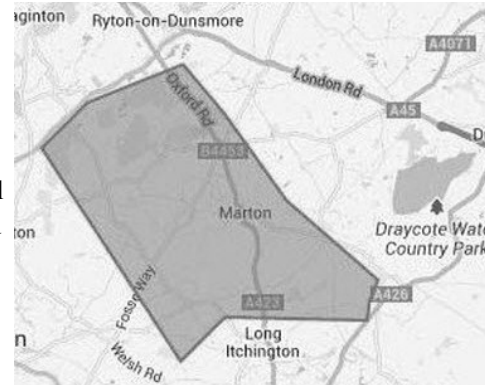
UCG is a method of getting energy from deep lying coal seams. It is largely an experimental process. There is only one production plant in the world, in a sparsely populated area of Uzbekistan. Test plants in Australia have had to be shut down due to a variety of process failures.

A UCG well consists of three vertical shafts drilled down to the coal seam, a down shaft, an up shaft and an ignition shaft. Horizontal shafts are drilled spreading out from the down shaft. Oxygen and steam are pumped into the down shaft, the coal is set alight via the ignition shaft, and a gas called Syn-gas is drawn out of the up shaft.

Once the coal has been ignited, it will continue to burn as long as there is a supply of oxygen. When all the coal in the vicinity of the well has been burnt (generally after about two years), the well is closed down and a new one set up about 500m away from the first.

Syn-gas is a mixture of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrogen and methane. It can be used as fuel for power stations or can be converted to synthetic fuel products in a processing plant.

Cluff Energy have applied for a licence for UCG across 40 sq km of Warwickshire. Birdingbury is on the edge of the area. It is estimated that this area could accommodate 200 wells. The licence application is being reviewed by the Coal Authority and is expected to be approved very soon.



After this, Cluff have to:

- Identify a site within the licence area
- Get landowner permission
- Carry out an environmental assessment
- Seek planning permission from Warwickshire County Council

Indications are that the Council will approve the application. Following this a UCG well and processing plant will be constructed somewhere within the area covered by the licence.

What are the risks?

- UCG is still an experimental process
- Pollution of ground water with poisonous chemical residues has occurred in Australia
- Burning the coal leaves a void, which could collapse and cause subsidence
- Drill shafts could be damaged over time, leading to leakage close to the surface
- There is no approved safe process for decommissioning a well

What can you do?

Please write to or email your Councillors and your MP if you have concerns. Public opinion is one of the most important inputs into the review of the planning application. If you say nothing, the assumption is made that you have no objection.

If you want any more information, please contact Pete Welch on 01926 632536 or via email (thewelches@btinternet.com).

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Looking for a good home

Polytunnel - galvanised steel tubular frame, 10ft x 10 ft. x 7ft high in middle, with fixings, available free. Supplied by First Tunnels 15 years ago – they're still in business and supply spare parts; needs replacement wood door/door-frames and polythene cover. Save it from the tip! Leslie Turner – call 633755.

I just wanted to say **a big thank you to Birdingbury Youth Club** for the grand job they did on last month's edition of Birdsong, very interesting and competently done.

WELL DONE Daphne Chippendale

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Coffee Morning, 12 October

Enormous thanks to all who helped in any way whatsoever with the raising of funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital and Cancer Research.

We are so grateful for the good care given to Ben at BCH (hence the sharing of the total between Ward 9 (General Surgery), the Oncology Ward, and Cancer Research.

As well as Birdingbury residents it was a delight to see some from the surrounding area and our 'old' village postman. Very many thanks again. Total raised £ 615-00.

Liz Tompkins

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Mary Harrison and Maria Leret would like to thank everyone who supported

The Pink Evening

in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer on 17 October in Marton Village Hall.

A total amount of £901.57 was raised.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Christmas Shoe Boxes

Thanks to everyone who wrapped the boxes and/or very generously gave so many urgently needed small items to fill them, and also to everyone who gave cash to help finance the lorries to reach their final destination.

The last shipment of boxes was dispatched from Stretton to the distribution centre of Samaritan's Purse on Thursday 14 November. A certificate of thanks will be posted up on the notice board.

THANK YOU ALL.

A thought for the New Year. Please save any unwanted cards, pictures from your calendars (2013) Christmas cracker gifts (when you have finished playing with them of course) and any unwanted gifts of toiletries etc. These will kick start us for 2014.

Daphne Chippendale

Swap Shop

The Christmas boxes are now all done and off to their destinations this Thursday so thanks to the sterling efforts of Daphne and others who have been wrapping each Saturday morning for the last few weeks - Geoffrey and Jennifer need a special mention here as they have been coming back from their new home in Leamington to help!

With the weather turning and winter looming, we aim to keep the Birbury open on a Saturday morning throughout the winter as its a lovely way for us all to keep in touch, and support each other - as well as enjoying cake, coffee and good cheer! Please put Saturday morning Swap Shop in your diary, and come along once in a while as us regulars are always delighted to see a less regular face walk through the door!

And if anyone can think of things we can do in our time together that are useful to others or contribute to making the world a nicer place, just let me know. As long as they are things we can do whilst sitting, eating and chatting we are usually up for anything!!

Thanks for everyone's continued support - as someone said one Saturday morning 'it's just great to know that I have a place to go each week where there will be friends and a bit of a laugh....it keeps me going!'

Cheryl 632461 or 07990 501162

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

A Message from The Front..

Quite a stir was caused in the British Forces Post Office in dry and dusty Kandahar recently when two mysterious parcels arrived from 'The Villagers of Birding-bury'! Yes, they made it in one piece and will remain unopened until Christmas Day.

Thank you all very much for such a thoughtful gesture; it is really appreciated.

Have a drink for me (as I can't) and I look forward to my return to some normality at the end of January.

Simon Davy

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Events in Bourton Village Hall

Sunday 15 December **Christmas Trombones** 7pm - no tickets - just turn up

Friday, Saturday 10, 11 January **Panto**. Tickets £7, £3 children, ring 632802

Thursday 30 January 7.30 **Garden Club**

Birdingbury Village Club

We are all looking forward to celebrating Christmas in Birdingbury, and the Club is pleased to be part of creating a great community environment for this.

Following the success of the **Christmas cards post trays** last year we will be providing this service again. Call in to the Club and post your cards to your fellow villagers in the relevant alphabetical trays. Look to see if you have had any posted to you and while you are there enjoy a drink with family and friends. Val and the Committee will keep an eye on the trays and if we notice cards have not been collected, we will help in ensuring they get to the intended friends. The trays will be in place from 1 December.

Saturday 21 December. In collaboration with other groups within the village, this will be the key weekend of Christmas activities.

3pm - 5pm - Santa is coming! The **Children's Christmas Party** will take place in the Club - come and join in the fun and meet our special visitor who will make a guest appearance!

From 7pm - evening of entertainment at the Club, with **Christmas Ingenious Inventors** for all the family. See page 5 for all the details.

New Year's Eve - 31 December. What a great New Year's Eve event we had in 2012 - for this year, see page 7 for all the details.

Keep the Date - Saturday 25 January 2014 - the date for the next great cinema night in the Club.

More details to follow on all these events and we hope you join us in celebrating the festive season. On behalf of the Birdingbury Club Committee, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Village Club Committee

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Pudsey Bear Café

On 23 November the Youth Club held a fund raising event for Children In Need in the form of a café in the Birbury (pictures on the front cover). There was a chocolate tombola that sold out, lucky dip, decorating a cake and of course a raffle with great prizes, including a Christmas tree! Gaynor had prepared delicious scones to enjoy with a cup of tea or coffee. The café was well attended and we thank those who came along for their generous support. We raised an impressive £242, so well done to all who gave their time to prepare for the café and thanks to those who baked cakes and donated items - it proved to be well worth it!

Evie Stuart

Ladies Circle

At the meeting in October, Lady Kira Dalton talked about her work with the African Trust in Gambia. Since Kira last spoke at Ladies Circle two years ago, new school rooms have been completed. The schools are really appreciated and pupils walk many miles from remote parts to attend. Kira remains very enthusiastic about the work she does and lives in the Gambia for many months of the year. A donation was made towards the work being carried out. Thanks to Melanie, our hostess for the evening.

In November, we welcomed John Starley who told us about the work carried out by the charity 'Dogs for the Disabled'. The Charity was set up by Frances Hay in 1988 and celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year. Set up from Frances's private house in Kenilworth, the Charity now has purpose-built premises in Banbury and at two other locations in the UK. Sadly, Frances died in 1990 but under the leadership of Peter Gorb the Charity continues to grow and changes the lives of many people. Almost 700 assistance dogs have been trained to-date and now 50 dogs are trained each year. New services have been developed and the service has been extended to children with autism. As well as the practical things the dogs can do – fetching and carrying items, pressing buttons to open doors, etc - there is also the love and companionship they provide. Thanks to John for giving us an insight into this worthwhile work in helping those with disabilities. The sum of £70 was given to John as a donation to the Charity from contributions by members and the Ladies Circle funds.

In December we will be holding a 'Christmas Social' evening – all welcome, and in January we have our New Year's Party.

Barbara Munro

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

A Souper Day in November

Saturday 16 November saw a very happy gathering at St Leonard's Church for a soup, bread and cheese lunch. Three really delicious soups were available: Leek and Potato, Chicken, Bacon and Veg Broth and Butternut Squash with Red Pepper. Also two tasty cheeses from 'Cheese on the Green', together with home made chutney and crusty bread, made for a really welcome and delicious meal. Many thanks to Aileen and Eira who make all the soups and also to Bryan for his very pleasant and melodic organ recital.

Daphne Chippendale

Birdingbury Calendar

December					page
Tuesday	10	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Thursday	12	Carers' Coffee Morning	Birbury	10.30	7
Sunday	15	Bourton Christmas Trombones	Bourton Village Hall	7.00	13
Thursday	19	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	
Friday	20	Carol Singing	Birbury/Club	6.30	3
Saturday	21	Tea at Three	Birbury	3.00	8
Saturday	21	Children's Christmas Party	Club	3.00	14
Saturday	21	Ingenious Inventors	Club	7.00	5
Tuesday	31	New Year's Eve	Club	7.30	7
January					
Thursday	9	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	
Fri/Saturday	10/11	Bourton Panto	Bourton Village Hall		13
Tuesday	14	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Tuesday	21	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Saturday	25	Club Cinema	Club		14
Thursday	30	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	
February					
Saturday	8	Progressive Supper	Birbury		6



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Copy date for next issue - 18 December 2013