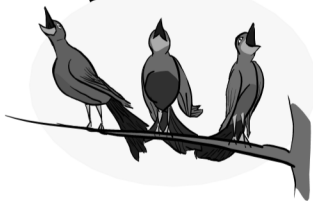


BIRDSONG

**December 2015
and
January 2016**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS**

No 71



Photo Simon Davy

It's called chumping in Yorkshire - collecting for the village bonfire

Best wishes for Christmas to you all

Parish Council Report

The Parish Council met on 17 November. I was required to chair because of the ill health and recent hospitalisation of Di Turner. Before commencing the meeting we all wished to send our best wishes to Di and Leslie and hoped for her speedy recovery.

The saga of the raw sewage dumped into the drains appears to be moving towards a conclusion. We are now advised that the smells experienced in the village, particularly on the Marton Rd, have been caused by a failure at the pump room in Marton, where sewage should be treated before pumping. It appears this may not have been happening for some time so we hope that when this is resolved such smells will stop.

As a result of our discussions with Severn Trent we are now speaking with Ben Hill of Highways to try and resolve the periodic flooding experienced in Back Lane following heavy rain. Mr Hill will be visiting the village shortly to complete a survey, when we will insist on a final cleaning of the flood drains and pipework. We will also be pursuing an increase in the number of drains in Main Street and Back Lane so that there is greater capacity to disperse storm water. He has also confirmed that the pavement on Marton Rd will be resurfaced and is being treated as a priority for remedial work.

We expect the new Dog Fouling Bin will be delivered and sited before Christmas and will have a site meeting to agree a suitable location somewhere near the junction of Main Street and Back Lane.

Finally, in such difficult times let us all hope for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Ian Tipton, Deputy Chairman, Birdingbury PC.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Stop Press — Ian Tipton adds:

I was lucky today to be at home and noticed Ben Hill and a colleague completing an impromptu inspection of the drainage on Long Itchington Rd, Main St and Back Lane.

They both agreed that there was a need to improve drainage by introducing new gullies at a number of locations. The gully on the corner of Long Itchington Rd will be improved and repositioned. Further gullies will be introduced in Main Street and Back Lane down as far as March House. Consultation will take place with individual households as to whether the introduction of short sections of kerb is appropriate. Ben agreed to provide a plan showing where the gullies will be installed.

Work already scheduled includes the replacement of the manhole cover where damage was caused when the sewage was dumped, together with jetting out the storm drains, although this might not be until the new year.

Village Bonfire and Fireworks



Photo Simon Davy

The Village bonfire and firework display took place on Saturday 7 November. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone for their support for this event and also to thank the organising committee for putting together a very successful evening. Two hundred tickets were sold and the weather held off to allow for an excellent firework display.

Chumping took place on Saturday 31 October and it took two circuits of the village with tractor & trailer to collect the significant amount of timber made available by the residents of Birdingbury! It certainly made for a cracking fire, thank you.

Organising Committee: Jackie Westcott, Andy Westcott, Claire and Dan Shouler, Jenny and David Preston, Mike Coles, Declan Hayden and Liz Ellis.

With additional help from: Rob Walker, Bob Munro, Philip Westcott, Stuart Sweet, Barbara Kibble, Jenny Westcott, David Walker, Simon Davy and Jan Seenan.

Gaynor Davy

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Contributions to *Birdsong*

All contributions are welcome. *Birdsong* would like to include more general interest pieces as well as reports on village happenings and notices of forthcoming events. Why not try a (very) short story - maximum 700 words? Material is best sent as Word attachments to emails, though we can cope with most things.

A reminder is circulated by email before each addition; if you would like to be included in this, please let the editor know.

Neighbourhood Watch

It was two and a half years since our last NHW village meeting, so on Wednesday 4 November our PCSO Helena Seal and her superior Hazel Busch came out to run through recent crime and show us crime prevention equipment. Thank you to the villagers who joined us that evening.

On behalf of the village I thanked Helena and Hazel for not only giving us their time that evening, but also for all the hard work they do to help keep us safe. They were generous enough to say that they enjoy looking after Birdingbury and feel that they have a good relationship with the villagers they come into contact with and are pleased with the responses they get back relating to any crime events. So, that seems to work both ways!

Hazel talked us through some recent local events which resulted in arrests:-

A repetitive male exposure earlier this year along the Sustrans cycle path between Birdingbury and Draycote. Intelligence from the public resulted in an arrest although not conviction – however it is unlikely that the person implicated will return!

Shed thefts during the summer in Birdingbury. A man has been arrested and was in possession of a significant number of items believed to have been stolen locally (yet to be formally identified by owners). They are hopeful that he can be connected to thefts in the village and be charged accordingly.

Helena took us through methods of crime prevention: -

Cremark – a very visual method of marking large items (particularly suitable for tools). (www.creproducts.co.uk). I have asked for more details on how to purchase, costs etc.

Immobilise – this is the UK National Property Register. Effort is required to go around your property and log serial numbers, full description and even photographs which are then uploaded to your own personal database. Any items recovered by the police are checked against this database and can be returned to you – also, you have on hand a list of items which is very useful for insurance purposes. See www.immobilise.com for more details and to register.

Bike Marking – Helena came to the village a few weeks ago and marked 26 bikes free of charge. She is very happy to return and either run another drop in session or help you individually.

In essence, any signs that show that you have gone to the effort to protect your property

will be a deterrent to criminals. Personal CCTV is a more expensive option and a great help in trying to catch criminals in the act – but make sure it doesn't pry into your neighbour's property!

A Mounted Volunteer Scheme has been launched recently where horse owners can become part of a team of volunteers riding out and reporting anything out of the ordinary that they see from their elevated positions. Tack marking is also available.

Birdingbury Neighbourhood Watch works in a very simple way. I have a list of email addresses and when I am made aware of something happening in the area I send out a brief email alert as quickly as possible. I collate responses and forward them to the police. Alternatively, individuals can contact the police direct. Everything that we pass on, however sceptical we are as to its relevance, is entered on the police database and could help to fill in the missing piece of a jigsaw even if not immediately apparent.

If you are not already on the NHW circulation then please let me have your email address and I can add you to it.

Jackie Morton jackie@elliam.org

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Birdingbury

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Another challenge

Having completed the Great North Run last month, I have embarked on my next challenge. I will be running in the 2016 London Marathon.

This year, having personally witnessed their good work, I have chosen to support The Shaw Trust.

The Shaw Trust is a national charity which supports disabled and disadvantaged people to prepare for work, find jobs and live more independently. Each year they help over 75,000 clients who face barriers because of their disability, ill health or social circumstance. The Trust's projects across the UK empower people to achieve their full potential, through offering emotional support and counselling as well as practical vocational advice, guidance and training. These projects really do make a difference to the lives of thousands of people.

I would be really grateful if you could help me support this good cause by sponsoring me via my just giving page. <https://www.justgiving.com/mmarkham/>

Thank you.

Matt Markham The Keys

Our twinning

Mes amis,

Still I ‘ave ‘eard nothing from your village. I do not know whether your maire is preparing to ‘old a referendum which can decide the matter but I ‘ave some points which may ‘elp you.

Tout d’abord (which means ‘ow you say ‘first of all’, not ‘all aboard’ as some may seem to think.) I am not aware of any of my villagers who would be ‘ow you say ‘benefit tourists’. I would ‘ave thought anything you can do to encourage tourism would be good? Non? ‘Owever, you should bear in mind that you ‘ave had no trouble with french invasions since nine ‘undred and fifty years.

But the avantages of our twinning could be formidable as the events this week ‘ave shown.

Last Saturday (I am told – for I ‘ave a mole) it rained for most of the day but then, ‘ow you say, ‘cleared up nicely for the evening’. So, on a November night, with mud in the fields and total darkness, the ‘ole village marched out to a field to celebrate a revolution – which failed. And then, by nine o clock everyone ‘ad gone ‘ome. Puphhhhh!

Consider ‘ow we do that en La France. It begins every year in the mois de juin when public servants of all kinds begin to ‘ow you say, agitate and itch. In this way we animate the phrase ‘the masses are revolting’ and we clog the routes and airways wiv’ tractors and air traffic delays. Then finally, in mid Juillett, just before our six week ‘oliday, we have a grand celebration wiv a day off and lots of food and of course du vin. All the children stay up till it is dark which is at 23 hours. Do you think it is an accident that we do this when the weather is warm and sunny? Non!

Alright, you may ‘ave trouble wiv the warm and sunny but Wot about celebrating other dates instead? Your so called Glorious Revolution was in November / December, Charles 1 was be-‘eaded in January, but Edouard V was removed on 25 June – a much better date. The thing about ‘istory is that you ‘ave to make it work for you.

I ‘ope that this letter you will find useful and that it will begin our ‘ow we say ‘ever closer union’.

jean de l’etoile jachere

Maire de Oiseau en terre

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Thanks

Aileen and Dick would like to thank everybody for their help while they have been redeveloping High Mead. A special thank you to Daphne for all she has done for us and the builders. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by noise and vehicles.

Poppy on Tour 2015

When the 'Tower of London Remembers' Poppy arrived in the post last January I wondered what I would do with it. When several people said they wished they had ordered one, I thought it would be nice to share Poppy, and the concept of 'Poppy on Tour' came to be. Poppy stayed for a month at a time at eight different homes in the village and went 'overseas' to Coventry to my sister too. Everyone made a very generous donation to have Poppy and the total raised from the nine homes was an amazing £200.

On 31 October, at the Club, 80 beautiful felt poppies made by Julie Colledge were sold and, along with donations made from the afternoon tea and cakes, a further £280 was raised - fantastic. Thanks to Mark for letting us use the club lounge and giving a donation from the tea and coffee sales at the bar.

I had originally hoped to raise £90 but I should not have been surprised that Birdingbury's generosity meant that a wonderful £480 was shared between three charities who have now received £160 each. All of these charities were originally supported by the sale of the Tower of London Poppies. They are Help for Heroes, Coming Home and The Royal British Legion.

I would like to thank everyone who had Poppy and those who bought a poppy for their generous donations. Also thanks to Julie for making such special poppies, Annette and Julie for hosting the afternoon tea and cake party in my absence (due to a family funeral), Mel and Karen for their support in selling lots of the poppies at Church services locally and Karen (Warner and Armbrister!), Maxine, Mel, Jackie Morton, Annette and Julie for making delicious cakes.



So many people told me it was such a lovely idea, that Poppy is now going on tour again in 2016. If you would like a Tower of London Poppy in your home and are willing to make a generous donation for the 'Poppy on tour' fund then let me know as soon as you can; spaces are limited. All donations given to the 'Poppy on Tour' go to the charities originally supported by the 'Tower of London Remembers' art installation.

Dawn Powers. 632419

Church Cafe Italiano

The car is loaded up. Mustn't forget our Church Cafe box with all those essentials: table cloths, serviettes, hand gels, serving spoons, float - all easily forgotten items.

The day is a little wet and windy, though beautiful with all the changing autumn colours.

The path is a little slippery—must take care.

We know setting up the cafe takes 45 minutes; it's all in our planning sheet.

Five trips up and down the church path with the crocks; six trips up and down church stairs with tables and chairs.

We know some like a meat lasagne, some like a veggie one; some like it hot, some like it cold; some like it with salad, others not. Salt, pepper, salad dressing or not, sparkling Pellegrino or Severn Trent.

The Italiano puds: Tiramisu or Lemon Pavlova—or both.....and then Karen comes along and asks for a Mocha Frappuccino!

Well, some things are impossible at present. However, when St Leonards has a kitchen servery, you never know what we might be able to offer you.

Church Cafe brings people together and we thank you for coming. We raised £70 for Church funds and at the same time collected warm weather coats and sleeping bags for the homeless in Rugby, which Dick kindly delivered to Hope4.

Many thanks also to Cynthia for her flower arranging and the pavlovas!!

Eira and Aileen

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Speed awareness – please slow down!

We are all aware of the speed that some people drive through our village. A little while ago, to my horror, I witnessed a beloved family pet get knocked down and killed by a speeding driver who failed to stop. To make matters worse, it was not somebody using the village as a rat run, but someone from the village who should have known better and kept within the legal speed limit! There are a lot of young children, elderly people, dogs and cats who enjoy our lovely village so we must all take responsibility to lead by example to those who drive like maniacs through the village. Please make a conscious effort to slow down and keep inside the speed limit. As an animal lover and parent, I beg all drivers to SLOW DOWN before such a sad event happens again!

A concerned villager

Bernice Underhill

1929 - 2015

It is my privilege to write a short memorial piece about a former resident of Birdingbury who sadly passed away in October. Bernice was born in Nottingham and together with her much loved husband, Laurence (Lol) and parents and sister moved to Warwickshire shortly after the end of World War II. Bernice and Lol initially lived at Avonlea on Marton Road but in the late 1950s moved to Ingleside with her sister Aileen Reeve next door, and her parents and grandmother in the two bungalows opposite. Bernice and Lol by then had two daughters, Kate and Ghislaine who went on to marry two local lads, Ray Truslove and Joe Paget.

To Bernice, her family had always been of paramount importance and so her great delight was in helping to love and care for her own children and eventually seven grandchildren. But in her younger days, Bernice, always smart, elegant and well spoken, was also a great village person, working for the Church, the Altar Guild and Ladies Circle. Bernice and Lol lived with Kate and Raymond for a short time; they then moved to the Almshouses in Leamington Hastings, (after Kate and Raymond had moved to Leicestershire) where they spent several happy years, but after their health began to fail, moved to Bilton with their younger daughter Ghislaine. I miss Bernice very much; she was my very good and kind friend for 47 years and I treasure the happy memories I have of her great kindness and wonderful humour.

My love to you both.

Daphne Chippendale

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Memories of Dink

My first memory of Dink was as she was busying away in the front garden and called me over to introduce herself and Bill. I thought straightaway how lovely she was.

We became friends and we'd stand outside her back door having a puff on a woodbine!

When I visited I always got a lovely warm welcome, "Joouoooo", she'd say, "I've missed you".

She loved my boys and they would giggle as she sang her little ditties and she'd always end her phone calls with 'I love you'.

Love you too.

God bless – dear Dink xx

Jo Cutts

My Memories

My name is William Walter Cowley (Bill) and I was born on the 16 August 1923 in what was a very small village at that time called Marton. For most of my young life I lived with my grandparents at 3 Birdingbury Road, until I was called up for military service on 3 September 1942 which was only a few days after my nineteenth birthday. I reported to Derby for six weeks infantry training and was then posted to Plymouth for a further six weeks to learn all about 6 inch guns and range finders. After that I was given a posting in a little village on the coast called Abbotsbury which was a coastal defence battery.

I had not been there long before I was sent on a signallers' course in nearby Weymouth where I met my future wife, Dink. We got married on 29 January 1944.

At that time I was moved from coastal command to field artillery in preparation for THE BIG DAY—6 June 1944—the invasion of France in which I was involved.

We had to stand off shore for a while waiting for ground to be won to park the guns and for us to enter the fray.

A little while later I was seen by the transport sergeant sitting in a lorry on the driver's side (stationary) and he said to me, "Are you interested in driving son?" My reply was, "Yes Sergeant, I am." He then told me to come with him and we would go for a drive. On our return he said, "You can count yourself first reserve driver, if needed." Consequently, in my first involvement I was taking ammo and rations to the gun-sites under cover of darkness—no lights. The only light to follow was something shining on the vehicle in front whose axle was partially painted white.



Bill (front left) and his squad

After unloading ammo and rations for the gun crews we had lined up for return to the wagon lines, when I flooded my carburettor which meant a long wait for it to dry out. By the time that happened we were left stranded as all the others had gone. I said to my companion, "Well Sammy, I don't know about you, but I am not staying here." He

replied, "Whatever you decide, Bill, I am with you." So off we went picking out landmarks we had seen on our way to the gunsite and finally we arrived back at wagon lines safe and sound.

A little while after that I was on my way back to Blighty, transferred from Artillery to Infantry, and was posted to Pickering in Yorkshire for training in jungle warfare. Here I was picked out for promotion to Lance Corporal and was in charge of four men and an anti-tank (Piat) gun, but before training was completed both wars ended, so instead of going to Burma we were detailed to go to Palestine in the Middle East and that is where I was until my demob took me back to civvy street.

I joined Rugby Portland Cement Co but I wasn't quite out of the wars because on 10 February 1961 I was involved in a horrific accident where I was crushed by a gantry crane. Following many major and minor operations I was able to go back to work on light duties three and a half years later. I was made redundant on 31 December 1985 so I have enjoyed quite a long retirement!

As you are all probably aware by now, my beautiful Dink has passed away and I will miss her dearly.

Bill



Bill had a wonderful day at the annual Bedworth armistice day parade which is always held on the eleventh of November. We placed him at the front of the parade (where he should be). He said he felt like royalty as everyone in the crowd was waving and clapping as the parade passed. The Royal Naval Association of which I am a member welcomed him with open arms and are looking forward to seeing him again on future parades.

Jo Cutts

Photo Jo Cutts

No time to be a turkey

No time to be a turkey,
There is so much else to do;
Practise up your singing,
Sweep the chimney too.

Say goodbye to Guy Fawkes
With his funny hat.
Fill the house with holly,
Mistletoe the cat.

Don't be late for Christmas,
There's presents for us all
And spare a thought for Jesus,
It's his story after all.

Pilgrim

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Christmas Chocolate Roulade

175g plain chocolate
3 tablespoons water
5 eggs separated
225g caster sugar

Break the chocolate into a bowl with the water. Melt over simmering water.

Whisk the egg yolks with the sugar until thick and creamy.

Whisk the egg whites until stiff but moist.

Add the chocolate mix to yolk mix and fold in whites.

Line a Swiss roll tin with baking parchment and pour in the mix.

Bake at 170 for 15-20 minutes or until firm to the touch.

Cover with a damp tea towel and leave overnight.

For the filling:

300g (or less) double or whipping cream
2 tablespoons rum or brandy
Icing sugar for decoration

Whip the cream until it loses its shine then whip in the brandy.

Turn the roulade on to greaseproof paper sprinkled with icing sugar.

Spread with cream and roll – it will crack to give appearance of a log.

Roll on to suitable dish (with care!) and decorate with holly.

(Pauline Pentland recipe Ladies Circle meeting 1980s)

Tea at 3

We will meet in the Birbury at 3pm on Saturday 19 December for our annual get together for sherry, homemade mincepies and a cuppa. Please come and join us as we celebrate the start of our Christmas festivities and listen to some seasonal songs. If you would like to come but need transport, please contact one of us, as lifts can always be arranged. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Karen, Mel, Dick, Jan, Brenda and Jenny

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Coffee and Chat

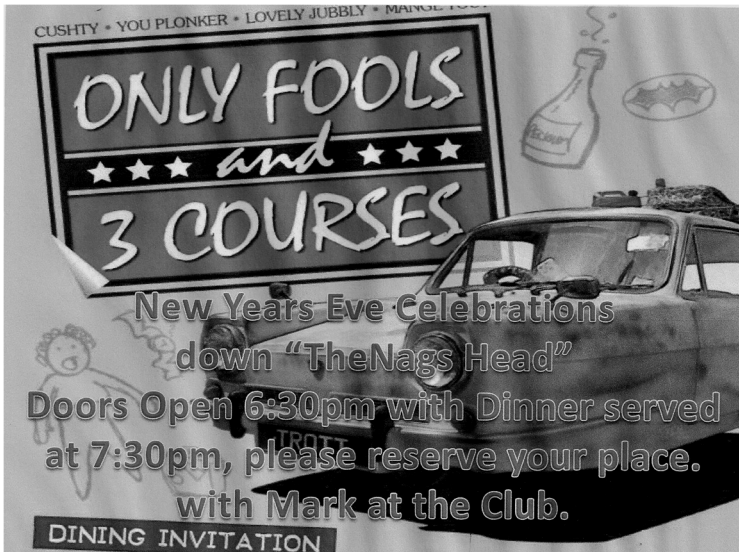
There will be no gathering of friends for Coffee, Cake and Chat in December as the last Thursday of the month is New Year's Eve and we'll probably all be busy elsewhere. However, we can still meet together in the Birbury in December, see above

The first Coffee and Chat of 2016 will be on Thursday 28 January at 10.30 in the Birbury. Please join us for a relaxing drink, homemade refreshments and a chance to catch up with friends old and new.

Jenny Hawes

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

New Year's Eve at the Club



Birdingbury Village Club

The Club continues to progress with our manager Mark managing to achieve a significant increase in our takings while maximising our profitability with his control of stock and reduction of waste. As you may have seen in recent months, ably supported by Karen, he has helped families, clubs and societies mark occasions with their use of the Club and when wanted, provide beautiful catering. Hopefully, you might also consider using the Club for your own celebrations as it might take away much of the hard work and certainly the washing up!

We are now moving towards Christmas and a busy December in the Club, so try and come along to enjoy an evening with fellow villagers and friends. Please keep an eye on our website for details and amendments and sign up for Twitter or Facebook.

Ian Tipton

President

Future events

Saturday 28 Nov 8:00pm

Family Bingo

Saturday 5 Dec 7:00pm

Birdingbury Cinema

Mission Impossible, starring Tom Cruise

Saturday 12 Dec 1:00pm

Village Pantomime,

Jack & the Beanstalk, Spa Centre (50 tickets)

With food on return

Friday 18 Dec 7:00pm

Christmas Knockout

Darts, skittles and pool—all welcome

Saturday 19 Dec 6:00 to 7:30pm

Village Carol Singing

Followed by carols in the Club and mince pies

Friday 24 Dec 9:00pm

Christmas Eve draw

Thursday 31 Dec 7:00pm

New Years Eve Celebration see page 13

Saturday 30 Jan 7:00pm

Birdingbury Cinema

Saturday 27 Feb 8:00pm

Pub Games evening

Once again we will have our popular **Christmas Post Box**. So why tramp round the village in the wet when you can post your Christmas Cards in the club and see if you have any waiting for you to pick up?

Ladies Circle

Ladies Circle met on Tuesday 13 October for a social Cheese and Wine evening with local specialty cheeses from 'Cheese on the Green' in Bilton. Members and some husbands enjoyed a relaxed evening with time for a good catch up with friends and neighbours.

November saw the return of Rob, the Spice Man. We had an excellent turnout and Rob gave a very interesting talk on the history of certain Christmas spices and foods. He also brought an enormous selection of spices from around the globe, chutneys, jams and jellies, all served with warmed Devonian spiced cider.

For our December gathering we are having a Christmassy visit from a local lady who will be sharing her experiences of herding reindeer in Scandinavia. All accompanied by some Christmas cheer, drink and nibbles. Friends, husbands and partners all welcome - £2 for visitors.

In January we will be having our annual New Year meal in The Birbury. Jackie Westcott and Barbara Munro have very kindly offered to provide the food. This is a lovely event giving the chance to meet up with friends after the hustle and bustle of Christmas.

Lee Hayden 633606

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Thanks and appreciation

Bill, Carol and Paul would like to thank all neighbours and friends for their sympathy cards and words of comfort following the sad passing of Dink.

Bill especially wishes to thank so many villagers who have visited him since, often with meals to help keep him going, or to offer a friendly face to chat and give words of encouragement and lend their support, which he greatly appreciates – thank you very much.

Thank you to the Reverend David Shaw for a lovely funeral service, to Matt, Brian, Richard and Jenny, and to all who attended the celebration of Dink's life.

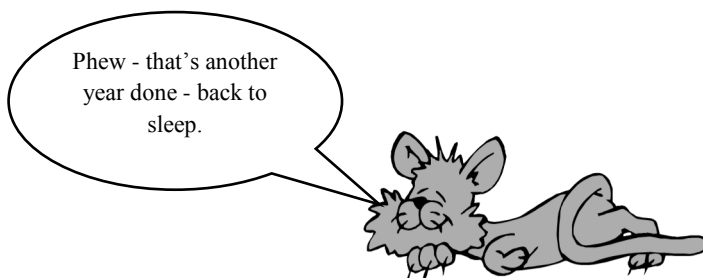
Special thanks to Mark, Karen and staff at Birdingbury Club for laying on a superb spread afterwards and to Jackie and Sue for teas and coffees.

A warm welcome to

Alice Munro, Luke Crossan and Imogen who have moved into
The Old Post Office on Marton Road.

Birdingbury Calendar

December					page
Friday	4	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Saturday	5	Birdingbury Cinema	Club	7.00	14
Tuesday	8	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Saturday	12	Village Pantomine	Meet at the Club	1.00	14
Friday	18	Christmas Knockout	Club	7.00	14
Saturday	19	Tea at 3	Birbury	3.00	13
		Carol Singing	Meet at the Club	6.00	14
Thursday	24	Christmas Eve Draw	Club	9.00	14
Thursday	31	Only Fools and 3 Courses	Club	6.30	13
January					
Tuesday	12	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Friday	15	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Tuesday	19	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	
Thursday	28	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30	13
Saturday	30	Birdingbury Cinema	Club	7.00	14



Birdsong Editor
Church News Editor

Rhondda Barney, The Barn, Back Lane
Aileen Withington, High Mead, Marton Road

Tel 632094
Tel 632644

Email: birdsong1@btinternet.com
Email: aileen.withington@hotmail.co.uk