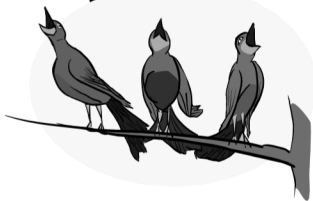


BIRDSONG

February
and
March 2016



BIRDINGBURY
NEWS

No 72

Leamington Hastings Road 1987



Catkins January 2016



Photo Liz Tompkins
Courtesy Birdingbury Archive

A changing world

Photo Eira Owen

Parish Council Report

I hope you had a good Christmas and can look forward to a prosperous 2016. Di Turner is still unwell so I chaired this month's meeting. During updates from our Borough and County Councillors Emma Crane mentioned that there is a consultation process taking place before Rugby Borough Councillor finalises its housing plans for the next decade.* If you wish to see their proposals they can be viewed via the RBC/ Planning web site. Our next meeting takes place before the process concludes so please raise with us any comments or concerns so we might include them in our own comments.

It appears things are moving in the right direction with regard to our complaints about sewerage and drainage. A programme of work is being actioned which will lead to the installation of extra gullies in Main Street and Back Lane and the storm drains being jetted again. There is also progress with the smells affecting some houses in the village as it has been discovered the treatment of sewage at the pump station in Marton wasn't working correctly but has now been fixed.

Finally, our Parish Clerk Rebecca is having to leave us as she is expecting a baby. We are of course delighted for her and she had our congratulations. However, it does mean that we are again on the lookout for a new Parish Clerk so if you are interested please speak with any of the councillors or Rebecca, or check out the website, which will have details and an application form.

Ian Tipton

Deputy Chairman

* See page 9 for outline of issues as they particularly affect Birdingbury. *ed*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Coffee and Chat

Just a reminder that Coffee and Chat continues, in all weathers, on the last Thursday of the month. Our next two sessions will be on Thursday 25 February and Thursday 31 March at 10.30 in the Birbury. Please join us for a warming cuppa, cake and a chat. All welcome.

Mel, Karen, Jan, Dick, Brenda and Jenny

It's arrived.....

The long awaited DOG WASTE bin is now installed at the side of the bus shelter next to the water butt.

NOW PLEASE USE IT and please do not put dog waste in any of the other bins either around the club or at the front of the bus shelter.

By the way, there is also a new waste bin at the Birdingbury end of the railway line - so no excuse not to pick up on a walk down there in future.

Parish Council



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SAVE THE DATE

Queen Elizabeth II - 90th Birthday Celebrations

Weekend 11 - 12 June 2016

Music in the Meadow

Street Party

If you would like to be involved in any way; behind the scenes or 'out front', please let us know.



*Gaynor 632041
Mel 634321*



UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN...Carol singing December 2015

It was a small, albeit very enthusiastic, group of us that met at the Club in December for our annual Birdingbury Carol Singing. Apparently we clashed with the final of a some TV programme called Strictly something or other!

This year we visited specific homes on request before gathering at the Club for communal carol singing. This was good as we sang inside rather than standing outside in the cold singing our hearts out. It was also on a 'request a carol' basis too so everyone got to choose what they would like us to sing to them - some even joined in with us! Quite by chance everyone chose a different carol too which meant no repetition! It was all going very well and we had visited most homes but then we had the best ever experience that nothing could have prepared us for.

Our last visit was to the home of Dan and Claire Shouler, who couldn't join us around the village because Claire was expecting a baby. Well, what a surprise we had when we knocked on their door! Dan opened it with a smile from ear to ear... he had become a Dad and just returned home from the hospital with Claire and their new born baby son, Sebastian.

How exciting was that? Despite our reluctance to intrude (although we were dying to see the baby of course), we were welcomed in and we all stood around their dining room table and after 'cooing' over Sebastian, sang to him on his first Christmas and as a welcome to Birdingbury... whether he liked it or not! He slept quietly throughout the whole carol, a slightly unappreciative audience really, but we didn't mind in the slightest as his Mum, Dad and family made up for it with their enthusiasm.

It was a very moving, touching end to our carol singing and we all felt very excited and privileged to have been there and shared it with them. So it was a very happy group who returned to the Club for a Carol sing-a-long, accompanied by Bryan Tompkins on his keyboard and a few glasses of Mark's delicious mulled wine.....to wet the baby's head, of course!



Photo Claire Shouler

It ended up being a very jolly evening...even more so as John Starley had written some 'alternative' words to one well-known carol which was very funny and sung enthusiastically by all. Well done, John. We all voted the evening a great success and can only hope that maybe a few more might join us this year although, of course, nobody wants to think about next Christmas yet, do they?

Liz Ellis

The Argument Club

The Argument Club
Meets once a month,
Begins with a quarrel
Ends with a thump.

Two smart worthies
Under arrest,
One black eye
And a broken wrist.

Two old friends
Now never speak
Because of a night
On Argument Street.

Pilgrim

Calling all petrolheads!

Silverstone Classic Car Event

29, 30 and 31 July 2016



The (very informal) village car club has attended the Silverstone Classic Car event for the last couple of years and will be there again in 2016. Last year was our best attendance yet with over a dozen cars and around 40 folks from the village and friends attending. We had a great time watching the racing, looking at the cars on display, enjoying the attractions and just chilling with friends.

The Silverstone Classic is probably the biggest classic car racing and exhibition meeting in the UK, with racing from 1930's sports and grand prix cars to 1980's super saloons. With the racing are huge displays of classic and sports cars from all the major clubs, a fair, various activities and a market area with all sorts of motoring goods and memorabilia on sale. In the evening there is music and concerts from headline bands which, although they haven't yet announced this year's line up, it is always pretty good.

As in previous years, we have registered as a club so have a 'two for one' offer on



tickets and a display pitch inside the circuit for anyone who would like to display their classic or sports car. It is a three day event with caravan and camping facilities available, so several of us are planning to attend all three days and stay in caravans, but it is an easy journey for just a day trip. The offer on tickets expires at the end of March so

don't delay if you want to join us. Please see www.silverstoneclassic.com for more information.

If you are interested, please contact Ian Palmer (01926 634321 ian.palmer@mail.com) or Dawn Powers (01926 632419 brooklands@orange.com) for more details. We hope that you can join us.

Ian Palmer

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

2016 Pancake Race

Easter is even earlier this year and that means an important date is in February, and I'm not talking about Valentine's Day. Saturday 6 February at 2pm is the time for our annual **Pancake Race** from the phone box to the Birbury.

There will be races for all ages, from the little ones to the adults, finishing with an all-comers event. All participants have a reward and a chance of one of the lovely prizes, awarded in the Birbury after the final race. You need to bring a pan, a pancake and toss the pancake several times during the race. We will be watching you....

There were several close finishes last year and some people have records to uphold; a little bit of friendly rivalry makes it more exciting.

Please join us after all the fun, laughter and photos for a drink and a tasty slice of something homemade in the Birbury.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Jenny Hawes

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The Church Cafe and the Altar Guild come together

What's on? ... **Tea and Treats,**

Saturday 5 March at 11am

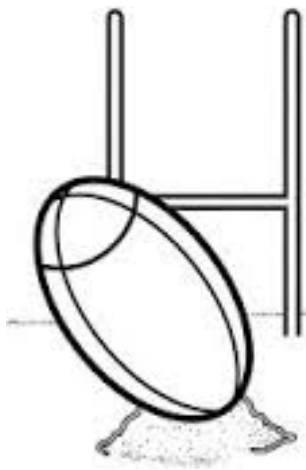
in time for Mothering Sunday

Tea, coffee, home baked cakes and biscuits - with flowers too.

While you enjoy a cup of tea, some of the Altar Guild florists will create a small floral decoration for you to take away for your Mum, Grandma or for yourself!!

Alternatively, just come along and sit for a while in the warmth and friendship of St Leonard's.

We hope to see you there *Eira and Aileen*



Wasps versus Leicester

If ever you've wondered about going to see rugby at the Ricoh – here's your chance to do it with your neighbours and to enjoy a great day out.

Following last year's very successful trip to this match when some 42 people from the village attended, we are doing it again.

It'll be a fantastic family atmosphere and has all the makings of being a good match.

We have great seats reserved together in block 31, up far enough to be able to see the game, but not too far away.

We'll run a coach from Birdingbury leaving the club at about 1 o'clock and as last year we'll come back to the Club after the match.

For those who would like to eat we'll do a take away order from the coach so it will be ready for you on your return.

Return trip on the coach is likely to cost no more than £6.50.

Tickets are priced:

Adults - £20

Juniors (10-16) - £10

Seniors (60+) - £14

Under 10's – Free

Youths (17-21) - £10

All you need to do is let me know, preferably by email at john@jkstarley.com or by phone on 632233.

We'll have to confirm the tickets shortly after *Birdsong* hits the street – so don't delay!

John Starley

Rugby Local Plan

Rugby Borough Council has formulated its Preferred Option for its Local Plan. A document that all District Councils are required to produce. It runs to 88 pages.

The total housing need has been assessed at 12,400 over the next 16 years. Most of these will be built on Rugby's 'urban edge'. Many will be built on sites already committed such as the 'mast site' near the A5 and a large site west of the Leicester Road. However new developments are proposed between Rugby and Dunchurch and by the Ashlawn Road.

Birdingbury is included amongst 19 'Rural Settlements' where only development within existing boundaries, including the conversion of existing buildings, will be allowed.

The Preferred Option states, "Rural Settlements will not play a role in helping to deliver Rugby Borough's strategic growth. The level of services within Rural Settlements is more limited than that of Main Rural Settlements and as such the development strategy affords Rural Settlements a greater restriction limiting new development to within existing settlement boundaries. In exceptional circumstances, affordable housing developments will be permitted through the application of Rural Exception Sites policy, on the edge of Rural Settlements in the Countryside or Greenbelt where it can be demonstrated that there are no suitable sites within existing boundaries."

The Preferred Option also states, "Where the views of a community are expressed in a Parish Plan, they will be taken into account in the planning system. For the views of a community to be considered, the Parish Plan will need to have been endorsed by Rugby Borough Council, be in conformity with national policy and be regularly updated if necessary."

Much of the plan is concerned with employment development and with such issues as 'sustainability' and the effect on the environment.

The document can be downloaded by going to Rugby Local Plan and following the links. It is open for consultation until 19 February 2016.

Ed.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The Village Crocks

The village owns a large quantity of tea cups and saucers, cutlery, plates, bowls and glasses. These are available to borrow, free, to villagers.

Please contact Rhondda Barney on 632094.

Strange goings-on in Wolfhamcote Church

Many local people will have passed Wolfhamcote Church, between Braunston and Grandborough, while walking local footpaths but few will have been inside although it hosts occasional concerts. Wolfhamcote is one of the 'deserted villages' from the middle ages which are particularly common in Northamptonshire. Wolfhamcote is in Warwickshire but right on the border with Northants and now only consists of the manor house and farm and a single cottage besides the church which was finally abandoned in 1968. Subsequently it was vested in the Redundant Churches Fund. It is listed Grade II*.



Quite by chance I came across the following article which was published in *The Spectator* on 3 January 1958.

I must recount a curious incident about the church at Wolfhamcote, near Daventry, for the removal of which to a building estate in Coventry proposals are now being made. It is a mottled stone building of mediaeval date, consisting of tower nave aisles and chancel and standing alone in a field below a railway embankment and approached by a gated unmetalled road. My friend John Piper and I visited it one autumn evening shortly after the war. It was locked and deserted and the sunset colours were scooped into the curves of the crown glass Georgian windows, where they were unshattered. We discovered the key in a distant cottage, but it would not turn in the lock and we eventually climbed in through one of the broken windows. It was a perfect un-'restored' village church, with traces of painting on the walls, fading monuments and old woodwork. The altar frontal was lifted up revealing a black hole beyond it. In the failing light we could see steps going down from this hole to rows of coffins in the passage of a mausoleum attached to the east end of the church, and externally in Strawberry Hill Gothick style. It was the vault of the Tibbets family whose crest is a cat.

As it was now dark, John Piper visited the church to make drawings on another day with someone else. While they were there a little man, neatly dressed and carrying a bag, arrived and walked into the church by the locked door without any difficulty. After a time they went in to see what he was doing and found that he had rifled a chest and

had put on some vestments and was swinging incense about. He had lit candles on the altar. They asked him what he was doing and he said that he often came there and thought a little incense did the church good. He seemed anxious for them to go away, and indeed he outstayed them. Was he a madman or was he intending to say a Black Mass above the vault of the Tibbets? The question remains unanswered but the atmosphere in the church was certainly creepy and if this lovely but mysterious building is to be moved I hope it will be speeded on its way with a Service of Reconciliation, which will have to be performed by the bishop, as this is a consecrated building.

John Betjeman

The extraordinary idea of dismantling redundant churches and rebuilding them in the suburbs of Coventry was not pursued. Instead, Sir Basil Spence, the architect of Coventry Cathedral, designed modern churches for Tile Hill, Willenhall and Wood End.

Recordsworm



John Piper's picture of the interior of Wolfhamcote Church now in Leamington Art Gallery. This is splendid in colour. To see it, Google 'A Place called Space Leamington Art Gallery re-hang'.

Bourton and District Garden Club

The Village Hall, Bourton on Dunsmore 7 for 7.30pm

Thursday 25 February Paul Baxter on 'Propagation and The Spring Season'

Thursday 24 March Duncan Coombs on 'Hidcote a garden created by Lawrence Johnston'

For more information, call Frank or Francine 632595 or Carol 632033

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Leamington Hastings Concerts

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 7 May 7.30 | FIBONACCI SEQUENCE |
| 11 June 7.30 | MARY WU piano |
| 12 June 3.00 | MATINEE CONCERT ABRSM High Scorers |
| 9 July 7.30 | BUSCH TRIO |
| 3 September 7.30 | MARTIN KASIK, piano |
| 8 October 7.30 | CHILLINGARIAN QUARTET |
| 10 December 7.00 | JOGLARESA Christmas Concert |

The Order Form and Brochure will be available online at the end of February. It will then be possible to order tickets. For Enquiries, contact David Potts on 07966 584328

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Marton Local History Group

Marton Village Hall 7.30pm £3 including a glass of wine

Monday 29 February Thornhill Brewery History, talk by Henry Marriot

Monday 21 March Victorian Marton, talk by Group members



PROGRESSIVE SUPPER

Date for the diary - Saturday 7 May 2016

Once again we will be organising this popular village event, so please put this date in your diary.

Let us know if you wish to participate or require more details.

Jackie Morton (633493)

Simon Whitfield (634761)

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

A BIG thank you from the Organisers of 'Operation Christmas Child' at Stretton.

Thank you to everyone in Birdingbury who knitted toys and garments, wrapped boxes, donated toys, toiletries, paper, pens, pencils, toothpaste, tooth brushes, and gifts of cash. All of this enabled us to fill 1618 shoe boxes that made their way in time for Christmas to children in the Ukraine and Romania.

We are continuing to wrap empty shoe boxes throughout this year now so if you would like to join the 'Birdingbury Wrappers' please let me know and I will happily supply boxes and tape and paper.

Very many thanks,

Love from Daphne & Cheryl

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Thanks

'Jo and Jacky, the weekday paper girls, would like to thank everyone for their very generous gifts and kind thoughts and comments; can we wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Many thanks

Jacky Hart

Birdingbury Village Club

Having spent some 25 years on the club committee, 21 years as President, I feel it is time to step down. Our new manager Mark Thomas is doing a great job and has taken a lot of the day to day pressures from the committee. And as a result the role of the committee will change and much of that will be finding ways of supporting Mark as he develops the business. So it appears to be the perfect time for me to call it a day.

I am very proud that the club has not just survived but continued to develop and re-fresh after so many difficult years. In this time many similar businesses have been forced to close and yet the club still remains a focal point for so many village events. This success is due to the hard work and expertise of the many past and present committee members for which I will always be indebted.

I don't think that the importance of the club to our community can be underestimated, although I do think some forget how many times it plays a part in our many village events. So I hope we can all find ways of using the club, whether for celebrations, family gatherings or as a venue for the many village clubs, to ensure that it can continue to play its part in our village life.

As I step into the wings my responsibilities will pass to the very safe hands of Richard Cutts and I give him my very best wishes and hope you will give him your support.

Ian Tipton

President (Retired)

Future Events

Saturday 13 February

Village Quiz 8.30pm

Saturday 12 March

Wasps v Leicester
see page 8

Saturday 19 March

Film Night 7pm



Ladies Circle

December

For our December get together we had an extremely interesting and often very humorous talk from Ruth Stiles from Frankton on her experience in Lapland with migrating reindeer. We learned about the necessity of lots of layers of clothes to keep warm and how global warming is affecting the areas reindeer need to eat. If the snow melts during the day and freezes at night, the reindeer are unable to smell the mosses they need to eat so have to be given pellets to sustain them. Ruth's experiences ranged from riding pillion on a snowmobile, to seeing stunning scenery and dealing with a mischievous tame reindeer. This all added to a very festive evening complete with mince pies and sparkling wine and excellent company.

January

2016 started off very pleasantly with a delicious meal which Jackie Westcott and Barbara Munro very kindly provided for those who came along. A big thank you to Jackie and Barbara for all their hard work. It was an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends and other villagers after the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season.

For our **9 February** gathering we are holding a 'quiz' which will involve people bringing an object (or objects) which other people have to guess what it or they are. This can also be a picture of an everyday object taken at a very unusual angle. We look forward to seeing all who can come along.

On **8 March** Simon Thompson, The Hedgehog Officer from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust will be a very special guest to tell us about the Help 4 Hedgehogs Campaign. Hedgehogs are in dramatic decline across Britain. Please come along to hear the latest about this fabulous campaign and find out what we can do to support it.

Guests are always welcome (£2 charge).

Lee Hayden 633606



Birdingbury Calendar

February					page
Friday	5	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Saturday	6	Pancake Race	Birbury	2.00	7
Tuesday	9	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Saturday	13	Village Quiz	Club	8.30	14
Tuesday	16	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Thursday	25	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30	2
Friday	26	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
March					
Saturday	5	Church Café	St Leonard's	11.00	7
Tuesday	8	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Saturday	12	Rugby	Club	1.00	8
Tuesday	15	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	
Friday	18	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Saturday	19	Film Night	Club	7.00	14
Thursday	31	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30	2

Swap Shop every Saturday from 10.30 in the Birbury



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