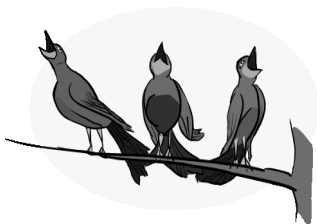


BIRDSONG

**February 2018
and
March 2018**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS**

No 84



Winter Woollies

Photo: Sara Kendell

Parish Council Report January 2018

At our first meeting in the New Year, the Council had to deal with several important issues: planning applications, the setting of our budget for 2018/19, gritting, work on a Neighbourhood Plan and progress on installing a defibrillator in the phone box.

During the Christmas break, we were notified by Rugby Borough Council (RBC) about three planning applications. After visits by councillors (in accordance with agreed Planning Protocol), we agreed not to comment on two of them, but to object to the proposal to convert a horse shed adjacent to Stockton Road into a 3-bedroom house, since no local need had been identified and the site is well outside the village. We are, therefore, disturbed that RBC apparently disregarded our objections and speedily granted permission. Our concern is such that we will be writing to our local MP and RBC to express our disquiet.

As we have reported before, we are mindful that new legislation and decisions by RBC will put extra pressure on our own budget. Continuing rising costs to ensure recreation field safety and general maintenance around the parish, together with potential additional expenses associated with the defibrillator, a Neighbourhood Plan and Club/Birbury developments, all mean that we will no longer be able to meet our financial commitments. We therefore agreed to increase the Precept by £575 from the current £6,230. We hope that you feel we are giving you value for money.

Councillors reported back on progress on the defibrillator project and Neighbourhood Planning. Small groups of dedicated villagers are putting in a lot of effort to move these initiatives along and advice has been sort on both projects. Now the PC owns the telephone box, we are commissioning work to make it serviceable.

An RBC officer has been helping the NP group to assess whether to move forward on this and how best to do so. It may be that the parish is too small to go for a Plan, but we shall be awaiting the outcome of decisions on Rugby's own Local Plan and will report back on this whole project at the Annual Village Meeting in April.

The recent snow falls and associated icy conditions have caused some residents real problems getting about. The PC bought three new grit bins, but not everyone realises that they are for us residents to use when necessary. It would be much appreciated if the more fit and able of us could find time to spread the grit when there is ice, so that our less able neighbours can go about safely.

If you have a view on any of these issues, do feel free to contact any of the councillors, or the Clerk, or come along to our next meeting, which will be on

Tuesday 20th February 2018 at 7.30pm in the Birbury.

Diana Turner

Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

Community Lunch Hits the Spot

Just a quick note from Sophia and myself to say 'thank you' to everyone who made today's Community Lunch so enjoyable. The food was amazing and the ambience and company even better! Thank you to everyone who gave up their time and energy to cook, serve and clear away.

I don't know whose idea it was to hold the lunch but it was such an uplifting way to start off the new year. So often things can feel flat once the Christmas decorations have been taken down and everyone is back at work or at school/university. So, once again, to everyone who made this event possible, a huge and very heartfelt thank you from us both.



Jean and Sophia Foroughi

Donations raised at the lunch totalling £163.00 have been put towards the defibrillator project, which is absolutely marvellous!

Jackie Morton

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Leamington Hastings Academy Update



As part of a busy December at LH school, it was all systems go for the annual Christmas Fayre. We had a fantastic afternoon with the children making crafts and playing festive games, children and adults taking their chances in our tombolas and raffles and, of course, a visit from the big man himself...Santa! We raised almost £1,000 from this event, which is brilliant for our little school and will fund some great new learning resources and equipment. Thank you to everyone who gave their support!

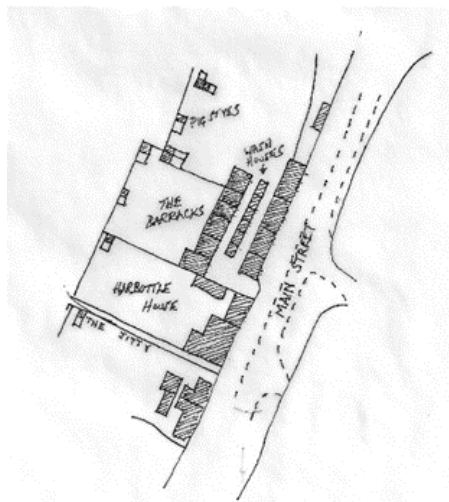
Our next social event for the grown-ups will be our infamous annual quiz night on Friday 23rd March, hosted by the legendary John Starley! We welcome teams of 6-8 people to come along and test their general knowledge while enjoying a home-cooked dinner and some refreshments. We had a great turnout from the village last year, so I really hope we see the same again. It's a really fun night, and raises further important funds for the school. Tickets on sale from me or Clare Wood nearer the time - contact me to secure your space early (633055 or email lesleythomlinson@gmail.com).

Lesley Thomlinson

Birdingbury 100 years ago: Housing

Were there roses round the door?

In the early years of the twentieth century, the state of much of the housing in Warwickshire villages was appalling. The area on the left at the top of Birdingbury Main Street was a good (or bad) example. There were two small cottages on the roadside, uphill from the present *Harbottle House* and behind them was a row of six tiny dwellings (approximately 13 feet by 12 feet) known in the village as ‘The Barracks’. These had one room downstairs and two tiny bedrooms above. In a 1910 valuation they were described as:



5 RB [red brick] cottages old, part cement faced each have 2 up and 1 down also 1 cottage RB tiled with 2 up & 1 down and 2 RB slated cottages adjacent to road, 2 up and 1 down, in better repair. Each cottage has washhouse and pig sty, 3 earth closets to 8 cottages.

To repeat: three earth closets to eight cottages!

In 1911, one of these cottages was empty but the others housed seven families comprising 26 individuals. Six people lived in one single cottage, including three children. There was also a third cottage with four rooms on the side of Main Street.

In 1911, the Brain family lived here with no fewer than eight children; their three older children had left home by then.

These cottages had been built before 1830 and were let out at a few shillings a week.

It was not until 1943, that piped water came to Birdingbury; until then the few village pumps sufficed. The two nearest to the cottages were outside the Malt Barn and in front of Pump Cottage. The bigger farmhouses mostly had their own wells and some collected rain water from the roofs which, as it was soft, was used for laundry. There was no main drainage until the 1960s. People created very little rubbish – plastic was unknown – waste food was composted or fed to the pig. The few bottles and cans were thrown in a heap at the end of the garden, other matter put on the fire and the ash spread on the paths.

A few years earlier, Joseph Ashby had written a series of articles about Warwickshire villages which were published in the Warwick Advertiser. Unfortunately, he did not write about Birdingbury but here are excerpts from his description of Long Itchington.

“The cottages, in a great many instances are in a wretched condition. The roofs and floors are in a deplorably ill state of repair. It is most painful to notice how the families of working men have to contrive to keep up even an appearance of decency and comfort in such wretched places In many of the cottages there are but two rooms: one upstairs and one down, nor are they anything like the size one might imagine The room is divided into sections by curtains, or by material which answers the purpose of curtains, fastened to nails in the bedposts or driven into the walls. All the family, from necessity, too often wash in one bowl in a windowless pantry down stairs. A great difficulty arises in respect to these small houses from the fact that not infrequently the room upstairs is the store room for the family, as well as the sleeping room. The space beneath the beds has too often to be utilised for storing potatoes and sometimes onions for use during the winter.”

He described one cottage thus:

“There was only one bedroom. The roof was in a wretched condition there being large holes which let in the rain. The walls were wattle and daub and had holes in and were falling. No less than eight persons lived in this cottage.”

It was only after World War I that the rural authorities got to grips with this dreadful situation and began to build decent houses.

Mostly these were semi-detached pairs or short terraces of four, usually on very generous plots. These can be seen in most Warwickshire villages but it was not until the late 1930s that the ‘Birdingbury Barracks’ were pulled down and replaced by the houses in Back Lane.



The romantic notion of Victorian cottage life has little basis in truth. The reality was tough and unrelenting.

Chris Barney

Oh yes he did.....

The village pantomime trip this year was to the Royal Spa Centre in Leamington. We went to see *Sleeping Beauty*. Once again it was a very well organised trip from the village and it was great to see so many happy faces.

It was a fantastic show with a great dame named Dolly.

As at every show, there is always one person from the audience that Dame Dolly wants to get, and sitting four rows back, right in the middle, thinking he was safe, was our very own Mark Dent (Denty to everyone)!

He was sitting there, trying to hide but every villager was pointing to Denty, so he had to participate in all the antics that happened on the stage. This involved cake making and got very messy.

We all had a lovely time.

Afterwards, the coach picked us up and took us back to the club for nibbles and a little drink.

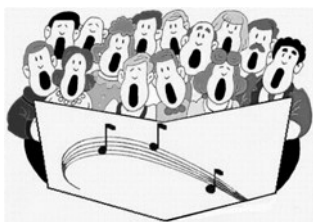
A big thank you to Alex for organising it – we can't wait for our village trip this year!

Tine, Mark and Sophie Dent



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Christmas Tea@3



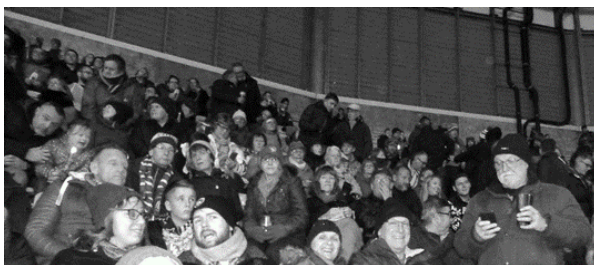
We celebrated Christmas in the Birbury with our December Tea @3 and enjoyed tasty mince pies and a cuppa, or a glass or two. Having chosen a selection of festive songs, we joined with our talented keyboard player and tried to harmonise together - a good effort all round! Many thanks to everyone who joined us, sang, played, cooked, served or washed up.

*Jenny Hawes
Chair of the Birbury*

Wasps v Leicester Tigers – December 2nd

'The bus will leave the Club at 3 o'clock' the email said, so we were all on the bus and ready to leave on time. The register was taken and off we went. Another Starley organized trip to the Ricoh to see Wasps play Tigers was on its way: one set of fans hoping for revenge for last year and the other hoping to continue the winning streak. The weather was damp and drizzly but our spirits were high as we were driven through parts of Coventry that are a complete mystery to me. However, we were dropped off at the stadium and made our way in, some stopping for refreshment and others heading straight for their seats.

Tigers scored first, so took an early lead, then both sides started scoring freely and one minute from the end it was 25 points all. Things seemed to be heading for a fair result, but this being rugby, there was much more to come. Wasps scored a late try and converted



it, so victory went to them for the second year running. In summary, I have to say that Tigers suffered a right sting in their tail!



Then it was back on the bus and home to a really good supper in the club.

Many thanks to John Starley for his meticulous organisation and also to Karen for her chilli, curry and soup supper.

Maybe next year Tigers will win but, to be honest, I don't really mind.

Barbara Sweet

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Weather Warning

Birdingbury knows

As the rain torrential pours

Marton is downstream

Thin Jethro Laskey



The Return of The Birds

Following the successful ‘Open Mic Night’ in December, February sees the return of the full line-up of local beat combo ‘The Birds’ after a short hiatus (well, a year or so!).



Formed in the summer of 2016 for the Music in the Meadow event, The Birds followed that initial ‘success’ with a full gig to a packed Birdingbury Club in November ‘16. As well as this was received, a rather fallow year followed in 2017, with band members scattered far and wide with little chance to practice or play live.

Now with 2018 upon us, the winter has brought renewed focus for playing again and, maybe, being spotted on a more regular basis. The challenge is always to get enough of them together, at the same time!

The band return with new songs, new instruments, an updated PA and a set-list crafted from eclectic musical tastes, given The Birds treatment!

The Birds will play again at Birdingbury Club on Saturday 10th February at 8pm.

Band Profiles

Pat – Vocals, Rhythm Guitar, Keyboards

Pat’s musical career began in the early 1970s when he sang a solo to open his school’s fete and culminated in the part of Professor Higgins in the Brighshaw Comprehensive School (Castleford) 1981 production of ‘My Fair Lady’. Decades in the musical wilderness followed, before he was encouraged (thank you!) to do a few performances with guitar at several of the village’s famous musical occasions. Pat played and recorded his own songs with ‘PapaRoro’ in 2015, before forming The Birds. First albums include Slade’s “Slayed?” and Holst’s “Planets”. The last gig he attended was Turin Brakes at Leamington Assembly. When not making music, Pat runs a large research group in electrochemistry and teaches chemistry at the University of Warwick.

David – Bass Guitar, Lead Guitar

David planned to be an architect but became a teacher instead. His interests include classic cars and riding a tandem. His first record was Carnival of the Animals, but he discovered blues and rock at an early age and the most significant record of his youth was the single Voodoo Child with Hey Joe and Watchtower on the B side, which was issued when Jimi Hendrix died.

Simon – Vocals, Percussion

Simon left Leeds to join the RAF in 1984 and over 33 years later he's still serving as a Warrant Officer in the Logistics Branch at RAF Halton. The first record he bought was 'Mouldy Old Dough' by Lieutenant Pigeon at the age of 11, hardly an indication of the musical journey, through Glam, Punk, New Wave, NWOBHM, Space Rock (er, Hawkwind), Psychedelia, 60's Ska and Indie, that was to follow. He has a passion for live music and original sounds; recent gigs this winter include The Wedding Present, Mark Lanegan Band and Wand.

Lewis – Lead Guitar, Rhythm Guitar, Accordion

Picking up his first guitar at the age of 14, Lewis has gathered a collection of 12 Guitars. He is heavily influenced by the late Quo Legend, Rick Parfitt, but also enjoys the essence of Pink Floyd, Classic Rock, Surf & Rockabilly. When he's not rocking out, he's studying towards his BA Hons in Business & Management. Recent gigs attended were Status Quo in Wolverhampton and Robert Plant at the Birmingham Symphony Hall.

Ian – Bass Guitar, Sound Production

Ian has had a mercurial relationship with music from an early age, having been exposed to his parents changing musical tastes, from 60's folk to 80's heavy rock, through his formative years. This resulted in him ruining his hearing listening to too much Pink Floyd on headphones, 'roading' for a (pretty grim) local group, and passing his grade 1 classical guitar exam about 20 years ago, but has made little musical progress since. The Birds persuaded him to sub for David on bass last year, so it's probably about time he learned to play it!

Ash & Ruth – The Birds will of course be supported by their two amazing drummers, Ash and Ruth.

Pop Picker

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

More Music in Birdingbury

Steve will be leading two more music nights at the Club.

Firstly, there will be acoustic singalong in the bar following the rugby on **Saturday 3rd February**.

Secondly, all abilities and styles will be welcome to strut their stuff at the next Open Mic night on **Saturday 24th March**. Come along to play, sing, dance or simply watch and enjoy. Childress's spot from 19.00 onwards: main event from 20.00. Now's your chance to shine!

Hope to see you there!

Steve Edgar



First of Many Open Mic Nights at the Club

Acoustic guitarist & singer, Steve Edgar, hosted a fantastic night of live music, consisting of folk and country classics, followed by some fantastic sing-alongs which had the club in full voice. The Birds also teased the crowd with new songs from their forthcoming February 10th gig setlist, whilst Rob Walker performed some exceptional guitar solos. Steve and The Birds' Lewis Cutts joined together for a few impromptu numbers, including the Rolling Stones classic, Last Time.

The highlight of the night however, was when Steve's granddaughter joined him on stage, a truly heart-warming moment.

It's fantastic to see live music back in the club - long may it continue!

Lewis Cutts



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

It started out as a solo gig for me, as the Birds-curated 'open mic' night was on the previous Saturday, but it grew organically into another open mic night. I'm so glad it did! Two great Saturday evenings in a row. We held a bucket collection during the evening and I'm pleased to say we collected £25 towards the costs of producing 'Birdsong' magazine, which I have found very informative and entertaining since moving to the village.

So, thank you to Simon, Patrick, David and Lewis of the 'Birds', Erin Flint, Annabel Lewis, John Starley and Andrew Armbrister, and Rob Walker for performing. Also thanks to Mark and the staff at the club for accommodating us and to all who came along to support us. I really enjoyed myself and hope to do more music events next year.

Steve Edgar

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Thanks, too, from Birdsong, for the donations raised at the event and other generous donations received over the Christmas period!

See the Club calendar for details of February and March's musical happenings.

Editor



Pancake Races

A very different event happens outside the Birbury on Saturday 10th February at 2.00pm. It's time for our Annual Pancake Day Races!

We hope to see lots of eager competitors, ready with their frying pans, and pancakes of course! There will be races for all ages, from the under-fives to the over fifties, culminating in an all-age Final Race. As competition can be rather intense - to put it politely – we will have marshals watching the course from the phone box to the Birbury. They will make sure that everyone tosses their pancake the correct number of times.



Afterwards, we will gather in the Birbury to congratulate the winners and award the prizes - could be ovoid and chocolate...? There will also be the chance to enjoy a drink and some home-made refreshments.

Look forward to seeing you there as a competitor or as a spectator!

Jenny Hawes
Chair of the Birbury

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Coffee and Chat

We will be meeting, as usual, on the last Thursday of the month at 10.30 in the Birbury. We enjoy a tasty selection of refreshments, a hot drink and the chance to chat with our friends and neighbours - and all for free.

Please come and join us on Thursday 22nd February and 29th March and bring a friend.

Your friends at St. Leonards

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Noticeboard



Happy Birthday to Josie, who will be celebrating her 80th (sorry, 18th!) birthday in February. Congratulations!

Get well soon to Lee and Rachel: the thoughts of your friends and neighbours are wishing you both a rapid return to full speed!

Deepest sympathies to Karen on the loss of your Dad, and to Tony on the loss of your Mum.



St Leonards Church, Birdingbury presents

An Auction of Promises

in support of Global Care

Saturday 17th March 7pm

**Food &
Bar**

An evening of fun led by the 'One & Only'

Mr John Starley.

For more information or to pledge promises please contact any of the organisers; Dick Withington, Sam McGauley, Jenny Edwards, Darren Young and Alex Rigler either in person or via

globalcarebirdingbury@gmail.com

**Promises to
suit every
pocket!**



Global Care is a registered charity,
no 1054008



Promises Auction: Global Care

You should by now have received a flyer through your door explaining more about the Promises Auction, how to make a pledge, and some examples to inspire you.

Meanwhile, we thought you might like to know some more about the charity Global Care, and why we have chosen to support them.....



The churches of Draycote Benefice are supporting the charity over a 3-year period. Each year, a church will take responsibility for leading the fundraising, and 2018 will be St Leonard's turn. The Auction of Promises evening aims to spread awareness of the charity and those it seeks to help, as well as raising much needed funds.

Why Global Care?

It is a small, local, Christian organisation with a mission and ethos reflecting our own values.

Why support an International Project?

We are a close-knit, supportive and fortunate community, with much to be thankful for. We think it is important to acknowledge this and look beyond to those that could benefit from our help. There is much need in our own country but we mustn't allow this to blind us to the plight of those affected by war and famine in other countries.

Where will my money go?

All money raised will go to a project in Lebanon, educating 100 Syrian refugee children aged between 5-12 years.

Why do they need my help?

One million refugees now make up 1 in 5 of the population of Lebanon, with no end to the civil war in sight. Services are obviously overwhelmed and tensions are running high. 500,000 of these refugees are children, 70% of which are not in school. If this is allowed to continue, what does the future hold for the nation of Syria?

Global Care places vulnerable, impoverished children at the centre of everything it does, with a long-term aim of creating independence and self-sufficiency.

To find out more, visit their website: www.globalcare.org

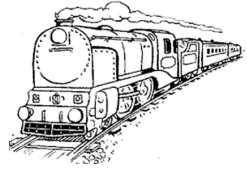
Dick Withington, Alex Rigler, Sam McGauley, Jenny Edwards, Darren Young

Club Programme

Date	Start	Event	
Thursday 25th January	7:30pm	Fish & Chip Van	
Saturday 3rd February	2:15PM 4:45PM	SIX NATIONS RUGBY Wales V Scotland France V Ireland	
	Later	Singalong with Steve	
Sunday 4th February	4:45PM	SIX NATIONS RUGBY England V Italy	
Saturday 10th February	2:15PM 4:45PM	SIX NATIONS RUGBY Ireland V Italy England V Wales	
	8:00PM	The Birds, Live	
Friday 16th February	5:30PM to 8:30PM	Pizza Night	
Thursday 22nd February	7:30PM	Fish & Chip Van	
Friday 23rd February	8:00PM	SIX NATIONS RUGBY France V Italy	
Saturday 24th February	2:15PM 4:45PM	SIX NATIONS RUGBY Ireland V Wales Scotland V England	
Saturday 24th March	20.00	Open Mic Night: Plus...	
	19.00	Children's Spot	

Rugby to Leamington Railway

A walk or a bike ride a mile down the lane
Over the stream and the bog,
To reach the railway bridge and wait for the train
In sun, snow, rain, sleet or fog.



Sneak down the embankment, place a penny on the line
Sit under the arches and be prepared to wait
Hiding in silence, excitement extreme,
Only two trains a day and they might be late!

And then a distant whistle near Bilton siding is heard,
And a small plume of white smoke appears by the works.
The rhythmic beat of steam power gets louder up the grade
And five hundred tons of Toton coal pass close by where we are laid.

Smoke billows from the arches
The whistle, oh! so loud,
The clanking of unfitted freight
A crescendo of beautiful sound!

And quicker than it came, the crescendo fades away
Past Dunchurch, Birdingbury and Marton (stations in their day),
And onwards via the junction to Southam to unload.
Not many years passed until all coal went by road.

Now all that's left is lingering steam as we sadly climb the gate,
Except for that small penny which resembles a small plate.
We walked the line in later years, the diesel gave a toot
It was a lingering death, that line, but t'was my favourite route.

That walk or ride today no longer is the same
With houses and a pub both sides all along the lane.
The stream is gone the bog is drained,
You no longer hear the train.

The old bridge is still there for those prepared to look,
The track bed and the cutting resemble a small brook.
And I can stand and listen, as the bypass cars speed by,
Well there you have it. Sorry! I've got something in my eye.

Steve Edgar

Community Education

Southam College Community Education Centre offers a varied programme of courses, daytime and evening, in Southam and surrounding villages. Subjects include Creative Arts and Crafts, Fitness and Wellbeing, General Interest, Languages, IT and Personal Development.

Spring term starts from 15th January 2018

Leaflets are available in many local venues including libraries, leisure centre and shops and can be viewed on our web page www.southamcollege.com/about/community-education (together with further information about courses and fees).



Some classes are oversubscribed so please contact me to check availability and reserve a place on 01926 810942 or email commed.s@wellearn365.com

Like Southam College on Facebook for updates and links.

Sue Hawthorn

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Interested in Calligraphy?

Why not come and join our small, friendly group and learn or improve your calligraphy. We meet every Thursday from 9.30 am to 12.30 p.m. at the Village Hall in Bourton-on-Dunsmore. All levels of experience are welcome. Just come along or ring Caroline on 07855 646 348 for more details.

Howard Collerson

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Napton Art Group Easter Exhibition

Napton Art Group are holding their ever-popular Easter Exhibition on Saturday 31st March and Sunday 1st April at Napton Village Hall (CV47 8LS) from 10 am until 5 pm. On display and for sale will be over 150 paintings and also cards and craft exhibits. There will be our usual range of delicious refreshments, a raffle and tombola. The entry charge is £1 for adults and there is no charge for children.

Howard Collerson



David Kent

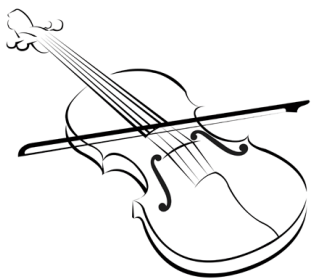
It is already nearly three months since David Kent passed peacefully away in hospital, aged 83. He had outlived the ten years that his triple heart bypass operation was expected to last by an additional fourteen years, and after many years of reasonable health, it had lately slowly deteriorated. He had been a familiar figure walking around the village, in which he so enjoyed living. He had been born in London and survived the Blitz there, but three years in Cornwall as an evacuee whilst he was just a little boy had nurtured a love of the countryside. Moving here from Coventry in 1991 was, for him, going from the ridiculous to the sublime.

David was for a time a Birdingbury Parish Councillor, where his outspokenness, his experience of bureaucracy, of working with people, and of administration, together with his sense of humour, made him a useful member of the team.

The same month we moved into 'Broadway' (then called 'Pennard'), we were roped into taking part in the very first Birdingbury Festival by playing light classical music with his group, 'The Broadway Ensemble', on the back of one of Bob Munro's lorries in Hall Field. His loud speaker equipment came in handy when the 'New' First Homes were 'unveiled' and speeches had to be amplified for everyone to hear.

After retiring from Warwick University as Housing Manager, David's violin playing was his life. His Ensemble played for over 400 weddings (!), plus dinners, and other events, some of them prestigious, like the ones where John Major or Prince Edward were present. The Broadway Sinfonia played for musicals and shows in theatres all over the Midlands. David and I ran the Kenilworth Music Society for many years, and he played in many concerts, both solo and as part of other ensembles.

His pain and suffering are over now, but he is sorely missed. Friends, neighbours and many village folk have been, and continue to be, a wonderful support to me, for which I am truly thankful.

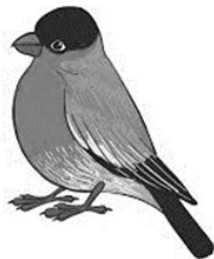


He is not there. I know full well
His soul has left that troubled shell.
His pain has gone, he is at peace.
Frustration, anger, all has ceased.
Although we shall not see him more
He is with those who've passed before.
The time he spent with us is gone,
But in our hearts, he'll still live on.
With love and joy remember him
And you may hear a violin....

Strange Bullfinch Behaviour

For the past three Januarys, there have been up to five pairs of bullfinches on a patch of grass opposite our house on Marton Road. Whilst on the one hand this is good news, I am however puzzled by this behaviour. I spoke to someone at the RSPB who offered the following information:

- Bullfinches are somewhat unusual amongst British wild birds, in so far as they keep the same partners for a year
- They are seed feeders and in the winter are attracted to nettle, dandelion and buttercup seeds, for example. This doesn't apply on Marton Road as the grass here is mown frequently from spring to late autumn
- It is unlikely to be learned behaviour



They also eat invertebrates which, I imagine, provide rich pickings for these bullfinches.

However, whilst there is good dense hedgerow cover behind the grass verge, they are disturbed by every passing vehicle.

Can anyone provide any insight into this puzzle?

Dick Withington

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Spread the Word

We are not through the winter weather just yet I fear, as I sit looking at the latest flurries.

Around the village you will see strategically placed Salt Bins. These are for use by villagers to put on icy paths and frontages. They will be refilled when requested by the council.



Please make good use of the salt provided to help keep us from the danger of slipping, particularly our more vulnerable neighbours. Perhaps we could encourage our more able and, possibly, younger (with supervision to keep them safe) residents to help with this when required? They might find it fun and it will certainly be appreciated by the less able amongst us.

Jackie Morton

A Silent Declaration

for Valentines everywhere

He knew that She was lonely.
She doubted that He cared.
That doubt was also lonely
And not a thing He shared.

He loved the gentle movement
Of her smile when She was sad.
He fell in love with silence
And in silence She was glad.

For Love
is a single soldier,
Despair
ten thousand more.

Pilgrim



Birdingbury Calendar

February		Event	Venue	Time
Friday	2	Mobile Library	Club	11.40
Saturday	3	Six Nations Rugby	Club	14.15 16.45
		Singalong with Steve		later
Sunday	4	Six Nations Rugby	Club	16.45
Saturday	10	Pancake Races	Birbury	14.00
		Six Nations Rugby	Club	14.15 16.45
		The Birds	Club	20.00
Friday	16	Pizza Night	Club	17.30
Tuesday	20	PC Meeting	Birbury	19.30
Thursday	22	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30
Friday	23	Mobile Library	Club	11.40
		Six Nations Rugby	Club	20.00
Saturday	24	Six Nations Rugby	Club	14.15 16.45
March				
Friday	16	Mobile Library	Club	11.40
Saturday	17	Promises Auction	Club	19.00
Friday	23	LH Academy Quiz Night	Village Hall, Bourton	19.30
Saturday	24	Open Mic Night	Club	19.00
Thursday	29	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30



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