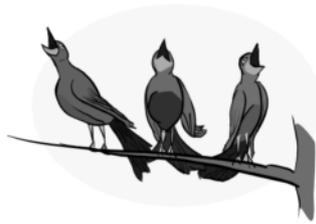


BIRDSONG

**February 2017
and
March 2017**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS**

No 78



Photo: John and Josie Price

Celebrations and Reflections

Parish Council Report January 2017

The recent work done by a local hedging firm on the Recreation Field hedge was celebrated at our January meeting: we have received a number of very positive comments from villagers. We hope it will help to make the hedge easier to maintain and prevent youngsters from breaking through onto the dangerous corner near the church.

Our local borough councillor Emma Crane attended the meeting and briefed us on the Local Plan consultation and also on the apparent confusion that arose over bin collections during the Christmas period. Apologies have been made publicly about this, and it was reassuring to hear that the green bin collections will resume at the end of January, although there remains the issue of charges been made for this service. Information on which bins will be collected when has been circulated and can also be checked on the RBC website. Enter your own postcode to get accurate information.

A local handyman will be carrying out the repair and maintenance tasks recommended by last year's safety report on play equipment on the Recreation Field. This is important work which will extend the life of the equipment and make it safer to use.

The council have registered with BT our wish to retain the telephone box in Main Street. We had a full discussion about its future use, and we are pursuing the possibility of it housing a **village defibrillator** as well as a **'book exchange library'** – a suggestion which came from several people. Please let us know if you have any other ideas! Final decisions will not be made until after **the Annual Village Meeting which will be held in the Birbury on Tuesday 25th April**. It is envisaged that the costs of a defibrillator would need to be largely met by local fundraising.

Which brings me to the question of our budget! We have received warnings from RBC that the money we get for grass-cutting costs may be reduced or cut entirely and as this is one of our biggest expenses, it seems prudent to plan to continue to balance our books. We therefore resolved to increase our precept (the money the PC gets from Council Tax) by 1.9% for 2017/18. This is well below inflation since we last raised it, and will enable us to continue to look after our village assets in the future.

Litter continues to be a problem, particularly in the verges coming into Birdingbury. We shall be holding a **Litter Pick on the morning of Saturday 1st April** and we would welcome your help in clearing up before spring growth makes it too difficult. Put the date in your diary! Drinks and refreshments will be available in the Birbury from 10.30 to 11.30. Bags, litter pickers and hi-viz jackets will be supplied to all volunteers.

Please do contact any of your Parish Councillors if you wish to bring to our attention any issue we can help with, or come along to our **next meeting** which will be held at:

7.30pm on Tuesday 28th February 2017 in the Birbury

Diana Turner

Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

The Birds – A Thriller to Rival Hitchcock

Villagers will be pleased to hear that the source of the strange ‘animal like’ noises reported from the top of Back Lane back in October have finally been tracked down – it was Birdingbury’s latest talent sensation ‘The Birds’ hatching into life.



Over the course of eight long weekends, a carefully crafted set-list was finely honed and delivered with aplomb to a packed Birdingbury club on 26th November.

Drawing on material from The Smiths, Tears for Fears and Oasis you could have almost believed you were attending Manchester’s legendary Hacienda club.

With Simon Davy and Patrick Unwin delivering vocals and acoustics the evening was a guaranteed success – their harmonious tones captivating an expectant audience. Lead guitar was skilfully executed by Birdingbury’s own “Johnny (The Smiths) Marr” – namely Lewis Cutts, a great talent in the making.

Together with exquisite performances on base and drums, by David Hanson and Ruth Adewale respectively, this provided the perfect soundstage to cement a highly polished performance.

And as if this wasn’t enough, cameo guest performances by Ash on drums and Ian Palmer on guitar (plus sound) made for the perfect evening.



As the evening played on, it wasn’t long before the expectant crowd were seduced into the mosh pit, singing and dancing to perennial classics from David Bowie, The Beatles and a little ‘Twist and Shout’ to conclude a splendid gig.

With Glastonbury being rested in 2019... could this be Birdingbury’s chance...?

Mike Coles

A Prelude to Christmas

Walking back down the hill from the Church under a clear-lit sky after this wonderful village event on December 3rd, I thought again, as I have so many times, how incredibly fortunate we all are to live in Birdingbury.

This was a truly memorable evening: starting with a reminder from Erin and her Dad, Tony, of that night in 1914 when troops from both sides joined in singing Silent Night; and ending as it did in our village church, with the choir singing that same much loved carol.

But this was far from a silent night! Our village is full of talented folk, both young and old who delighted us with their instrumental skill; great choral singing from both the girls' and boys' choirs; especially composed words and music from our own Bryan Tompkins; and lovely readings. The comic duos from first John and Josie Price, and then Andrew Armbrister, trying to fend off the advances from the new church cleaner, were a revelation.

Drinks and delicious canapés from our resident Birdingbury party caterers, ably led by Sue and Peter Law, were enjoyed by all.

And so the evening drew to a close. It wouldn't have happened, of course, without a great deal of planning, especially from Karen and Mel; technical wizardry from Ian; and above all, a true village spirit of joy and friendship



Please could it happen again in 2017?

Wendy Lloyd

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Carol Singing, Plan B

For some years now the church carol singers have been failing to get around the whole village and in doing so feeling frustrated [and exhausted]. This year we repeated the idea of a focussed approach, but 'with a twist', calling at the homes of villagers who have had a challenging year and all newcomers in 2016 who have children. In doing so, we called at 14 households and were finished within two hours. Thank you to everyone who sang and also for the warm welcome received, as we did. We collected for the Rugby Night Shelter.

Dick Withington

Birdingbury's 100% Authentic Nativity Tourist Trail

With a cast of this quality, an hour of rehearsal and a lavish set with literally no expense spent - of all the Christmas events we've witnessed at the club in recent years this was certainly going to be one of them.

An intrepid, some would even say brave, audience turned out to meet some of the characters of the nativity – not necessarily 'the' nativity you understand, but the one that might have taken place (but probably didn't) at some point in Birdingbury's long and chequered history.

Our heavenly hosts, the indefinable duo of Angelica Sparkles and Halo Lil, set the scene for us and introduced us in turn to our Innkeeper at Hoseason's Birdingbury Palms Resort; Angel Gabriel as he rang his annual report in to the big boss; the Shepherds that thought the heavenly choir was even better than Mamma Mia; the three 'Kings' looking for a way home and deep-fried cheeseburgers (mercy ...); as well as the sheep from the stable that were most vexed about the lowing cattle grabbing all the limelight.

The evening was rounded off by our erstwhile innkeeper who admits that folk are a bit nicer to each other since Mary and Jo turned up and had their kiddie in his barn, even if he thought the star that got everyone there might well have been the 07.30 from Birmingham International to Malaga...

All in all, it was a great night full of nonsense, carols and Christmas cheer. A huge 'thank you' goes to everyone that came along; and of course to Karen & Andrew Armbrister, Rev. Ali Massey, Mark Taylor, Rob & David Walker, Denty, Richard Cutts, Nick Thomas, Darren Young, Liz Ellis and Josie Price for taking part.

Tony Flint

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

New Year Celebrations

A 'BIG' thank you to everyone who came to our New Year's Eve Party and made it such a success! Birdingbury Club and Friends saw the New Year in with some style, everyone was treated to a glass of Fizz & Canapés on arrival, completed with a lovely buffet prepared by Karen Thomas. Music for the evening saw us all dancing through the decades from the Rock & Roll of the 1960's to the modern sounds of today – there was even some dancing to the Disco "Hits of the 70's".

Midnight came and the 40 plus guest all linked arms on the dance floor and sang Old Lang Syne bringing in the New Year. Once the kissing and good wishes had stopped, we all got in the holiday mood with some stomping to "Zorba the Greek" with everyone then dancing the night away to the early hours.

Richard Cutts

Bob Munro: 22nd July 1941 – 4th December 2016

Bob Munro was born in Groom's Cottage, in the grounds of Birdingbury Hall. He loved Birdingbury: his heart was never anywhere else. It's where he lived and worked all of his life and it's where he will leave his legacy.

He attended Hill School, walking there along the leafy lane. As a boy he would play cricket in Main Street, dry tobacco leaves in the garden of Thurlby for his much loved Grandad and collect pop bottles and cigarette cards from behind the Club. He would spend countless hours in the Hall grounds and green-houses. He worked at Vernon's and Truslove's



farms. He became Johnny Price's farm-hand at Brook Farm, working outdoors; farming his love for the land, nature, animals and husbandry. When Johnny and Rob emigrated to New Zealand, he followed a few years after to see what farming was like on the other side of the world.

He attended Lawrence Sheriff in Rugby and left at the end of fifth form with nine 'O levels'. He then joined the Police Force as a Cadet, but Bob was his own man and didn't quite fit into rank and file. He returned to 'The Sheriff' and achieved 'A level' passes in Maths, Physics and Chemistry and went onto Nottingham University. After a year he left and got a job with Keirs, a civil engineering firm, who were putting in a new kiln at the Cement Works at Southam. When the project was completed he was left to clear the site and from then on became self-employed. With his Grandad's spirit, he set way to making it on his own, striving to build something in his own right, in his own name and for generations to come.

Bob met Barbara at the Games Club at Leamington Hastings. A farmer's daughter from Stretton-on-Dunsmore, they married in 1964. He tried to buy 'Jasmine Cottage' in Main Street as their first home at an auction in the Club. As the bidding went too high he had to let it go. But just a couple of weeks later 'The Cottage' next door became available and they secured a private purchase. Over the next few years Xenia, Ian, Gaynor and Alison arrived to complete the family.

A Master Builder, he started building houses on Marton Road, together with a workshop, hardware shop and later a grocery shop. With the family now living at 'If', a bell would go off in the house if a customer needed serving in the hardware shop. Barbara would rush out to weigh out nails or take orders for glass or timber cutting which Ernie Cleaver would sort on the machinery out the back. 'Moenga', next to Birdingbury railway station, was built next and became the family home, before they returned to 'If' in 1976.

During the late 70s, when the building trade was a bit slow, Bob undertook an ambitious and adventurous contract through Terry Healey at Massey Fergusons. He was contracted

to drive tractor demonstration units from the UK, to Egypt and Iran. But building was his passion, as he continued to make deals for land; persevered with Planning Officers and 'occasionally' dealt with local opposition. He employed local girls to run the office and young, local men on the sites. The young men, he mentored and trained in skills - skills for them to use for the rest of their lives.

Bob planned Masters Court; starter homes for young local people in the village. A unique project, years before its time and long before Local Needs Schemes. It provided homes for six young Birdingbury couples to stay in the village and start them on the housing ladder. Because of his vision, twenty-five years later Masters Court continues to provide first time buyers the opportunity to buy houses in Birdingbury.

His building work in the village and beyond is remarkable. In addition to the properties already listed, he also built the four cottages in Main Street, the three detached houses behind the Club, Edgefield (now The Dolau), Pioneer Farm, The Malt Barn, the re-developed Truslove's old farm into Masters Barn, Marston House, The Granary Flats and The Mangers. During his twenty-year tenure as President of the Birdingbury Club, he facilitated the building of the 'Birbury'. His workforce gave their labour for nothing. He set things in motion; the footings were in whilst the rest of village scratched their heads and planned fundraisers for the materials. When funds were still a bit deficient, Bob stepped into the Council Offices and negotiated a grant for the shortfall.

When the recession came and the building trade was in free fall, he started to run a few lorries and he saw an opportunity to grow his business. He was one of the first in the UK to purchase a lorry-mounted forklift, the things that are common place today. He enjoyed the continual problem-solving that running a logistics business entails, but more than anything, he enjoyed the camaraderie and the lasting friendships it brought.

The Village Fete was a mainstay in Birdingbury for decades. As a boy, Bob had taken part in many a fancy dress parade in the community gathering! But times move on and it was getting harder to motivate the community. Bob and his friend Glynn Hotchkiss realised that the only way they were going to keep the Fete going was to make it bigger and better and in 1991 the Birdingbury Festival was born: Bob the problem solver and logical genius and 'Hotch', with his classic car connections – it was a perfect combination.

Who will ever forget the village stalls filling Main Street, the throngs of people, the parades of classic cars, motorbikes, lorries and steam engines? The maypole dancing, the outdoor Church services, Gordon, the Dakota and Lancaster Bomber flypasts. The excitement and the atmosphere.

Bob would always say "the money for the charities is a bonus, as long as everyone is having a good time". Bob created it, he and his friends made it happen, and everyone did have a great time.

The last few years were tough for Bob, but hours of relentless chemotherapy gave him extra years. But it left its mark and he became less physically able, yet his mind and ambition remained strong. The family spent some lovely days on missions researching out family history in Broad Marston, the Cotswolds and in St Nicholas' Church Kenilworth, uncovering the sunken gravestone of his five times great grandfather and grandmother. Bob was thrilled to solve this mystery.

Bob Munro; a man of dignity and integrity. He took people at face value, without prejudice and judgement. The man everyone would seek out for sound, considered and insightful advice.

He gave people homes, employment, skills and a future. Quite a legacy.

Simon Davy

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Thank you

Barbara and family would like to thank everyone who attended Bob's funeral and for the many messages and cards. Your kindness is extremely comforting at this sad time, and is much appreciated.

Barbara Munro

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Raymond Wells (Ray)

Ray sadly passed away on January 7th, aged just 67 years. He had been in hospital for a month where, although very poorly, he still manged banter and knowing winks with the nurses who cared for him.

Ray worked for Chrysler in Coventry until illness forced him to take early redundancy. In his younger days he enjoyed motor bikes and sports cars but all of that had to stop once he developed epilepsy.

Ray and Sue moved into the village in June 1979: their son Scott arrived in November that year. Anna followed, but not until May 1983.

Ray took up a new hobby: building two aviaries in his Back Lane garden where he kept cockatiels and parrots, lovebirds and even a macaw. He also had rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens and a very noisy cockerel who didn't stay in Birdingbury for very long!

Ray's funeral will take place at St Leonard's Church on Friday 17th February at 11.00am, followed by cremation at the Rainsbrook Crematorium on Ashlawn Road. The family would like to invite people to join them afterwards for refreshments at Birdingbury Club.

Our deepest sympathies are with Sue, Scott and Anna, and his sister Val.

Betsy Astle

Longer standing residents of Birdingbury will remember with great fondness Betsy Astle who passed away on 17 December, 2016, aged 95 years.

Well known for her resilience, decisiveness and forthright speech, Betsy and her family settled in Birdingbury in 1960 where she soon involved herself in village life.

Following the death of her husband and her own declining health, she made the decision to move to Canada to be closer to her daughter Janet in Calgary.

The last couple of years were difficult, but Betsy did not lose any of her determination to be independent or to make sure that everyone knew her opinion. One thing that she really enjoyed was reading the latest copy of *Birdsong*. She was thrilled that Birdingbury appears to be such a vibrant place these days. Long may it be so.

Janet Astle

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Jack Yeats

The old enchanter bore him
Aloft with his fiery arm
And the blue of his heart
Was of battle
And the red of his eye
Was of storm.

He walked with the fire
Of the stolen
In fields
They had squandered away
And light
He drew from the dying
And dark
From newborn clay.

Pilgrim

Footnote: Jack Yeats: poetry in art is universal and his is the most unconstrained that I have ever encountered. He was particularly fond of clowns and horses, and his understanding of what it is to be truly lonely was vast.

Congratulations to a Diamond Couple

We were born in the Radford area of Coventry, not far from each other. At the age of four, John was evacuated to the country, Coventry was such a dangerous place in the war. I too, had early years in the country - perhaps that was where our love of nature began.

Where did we meet? It was at the Empire cinema, Hereford Street, Coventry. We had both gone with a friend. I had brought fruit, and dropped a pear on the floor, which John scrambled to find. We met up the next week, I stood a distance away in case I didn't like the look of him - after all it was dark in the cinema.

On that date, that's what we used to call it, he wore a bow tie. I thought there is money here!!! I was 15, John 17. As they say, that's where our history began.

We had a year together, then John went into the army for two years. By that time, John was British champion. Henry Cooper got John into the army boxing team, and from then on he represented his country. At the Albert Hall he was the only one in the British team to beat the Germans.

We married 23rd March, 1957 at Holy Trinity church in Coventry, my parish church at the time. It was a lovely sunny spring day, the bridesmaids were in pale green, flowers primrose and white.

We lived in Coventry for a time, saving as hard as we could to follow our dream of a cottage in the country with land. Rose Cottage at Kites Hardwick became our home, along with dog, ducks, hens, sheep, growing and selling. People from Birdingbury came to our cottage for vegetables, flowers and eggs, and became our friends.

John was always a "doer" and slowly renovated our cottage. He went to college for woodwork and Victorian upholstery and restored pieces for other people. After 26 years, we moved to Birdingbury. When John retired from Massey Ferguson, he worked for people in the village, rather than strangers. A hard decision to leave our beloved cottage, but after 14 years, Birdingbury is where we belong.

The countryside has a rhythm to it, which we grew to learn, love and respect: it's where our roots are. Our dogs have been with us all our life and will be with us in the lanes and fields when we travel on.

Married life, as with many others, has not been a "picnic". When young, I was hot headed, until I learned better. No married secrets, it's pulling together, caring and sharing.

On 23rd March, we will be married 60 years, and together 64, and are proud of it.

Benjamin Franklin said 'Keep the eyes wide open before marriage, and half shut afterwards'.

Josie Price

Community Lunch

When the Club Committee invited the PCC to join them in a community lunch initiative we were delighted to accept, the idea being to provide lunch for the village community with particular emphasis on the elderly or people who weren't able to get out much, particularly at this time of the year.

The Club were able to host it, we booked the Birbury for extra space and our heads went into overdrive on details. The Club Committee leapt into action and extra tables and chairs were organised, village crocks borrowed, tables laid up and set out in order to accommodate a healthy crowd. Karen and Leigh asked for volunteers to help with food, and in true Birdingbury style, they offered in force. We delivered flyers, called at the homes of new villagers and left notes encouraging people to come along.



And on a very miserable and wet Sunday lunchtime, they came. We fed around 60 we think and it was fantastic to see the Club so full and noisy with excited chatter. The food was amazing: soup and rolls; three choices of hot main courses; vegetables and salad and an array of delicious puddings. Extras included quiches, sausage rolls, freshly cooked gammon, a splendid cheese platter,

plus 'kid's corner' – brilliantly managed by Rev Ali. Something for everyone!

Under pressure, we succumbed to optional donations which will be passed to Hope4, who co-ordinate support activity for Rugby's homeless. We collected £137.10 which was brilliant. But we didn't do it to raise money; we did it to show just how much love we all have for our community.

Thanks to everyone involved – whether you planned, organised, cooked, ate, set up, cleared away, fed the meter, poured the drinks, served, chatted, washed up or welcomed; whether you ate a little or a lot – we hope you enjoyed it and will want to do it again sometime!

'Another example of a village event and a communal engagement which make Birdingbury such a warm and sociable place to live. We're lucky. Huge thanks to all who organised it.'

'A very positive event and a lovely atmosphere. It made you forget we were only halfway through January and a long way from the sunshine.'

'...it was a pleasure to be part of something so appreciated by all. Happy to help again next time!'

Karen Armbrister and Leigh Sidaway

Church Walk and Lunch: Saturday 4th March 2017



Work up an appetite for lunch with a circular walk across local fields in aid of The Alzheimer's Society. Meet at St. Leonard's at 11.30am for the walk, followed by lunch at St Leonard's. Bring your dogs for a run too.

A warming lunch will be available from 12.30 until 2.00 pm. We will be serving samosas, chicken casserole with crusty bread, and vegetable curry with naan bread.

If you don't fancy the exercise and just want to join us for lunch, we will be very pleased to see you.

Eira Owen

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

A Possible Local Early Spring Walk.

As winter turns to Spring you may like to try this local walk:

Park in the layby on the right of the Stockton Road opposite the Boat Inn (just before the cross roads), and carefully cross the over the main road by the canal bridge. Enter Taskers Meadow. [Bought by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust in memory of their former chief executive] It is an area of unimproved grassland and there maybe signs of early spring flowers.

Cross the field diagonally and enter Stockton Cutting, another WWT reserve, which is part of the old Daventry to Leamington Railway.

Turn left, and on leaving the reserve use the public footpath and the footbridge to cross the restored arm of the Grand Union Canal. This is Nelson's Wharf, part of the extensive Nelson's Lime and Cement works, a site of significant archaeological restoration. The site is very muddy but can be seen easily from the footpath. Some years ago the wharf area was filled in and the many lime kilns covered with spoil. About 10, in various states of collapse, have been uncovered so far.

Continue along the footpath and on reaching the fence of the former Cally Pits turn left along the path, that leads to Countrywide Stores.

Turn left on the road to cross back over the railway and the canal and join the towpath that will take you back to your starting point. This stretch of the towpath is in a good state of repair.

On reaching your starting point you may want to reward yourself by driving to Napton P O and stores for a well-earned cuppa and cake!

For further info, observations, etc. please contact 'dick@special-time.co.uk'.

Dick Withington



Birdingbury Car Club at the Silverstone Classic

Calling all petrolheads! As we have for several years now, a group of us will be visiting the Silverstone Classic race and club meeting at the end of July. We have registered as a club and so get a “two for one” offer on admission and a free parking pitch within the circuit.



The Silverstone Classic is one of the foremost classic car racing meetings, with wonderful cars from 1940's to the 1980's racing at full tilt. The racing is accompanied by huge car club displays of all marques, air displays each day, rock concerts in the evening, a fair and an auto shopping village. There is plenty to do and folks from the village will be there every day. If you would like to see more, have a look at www.silverstoneclassic.com.

If you want to take advantage of the club offer or would like more information, please contact Ian (634321) or Dawn (632419). For those who have booked before, the club code is 17062SCC and you need to book under the Car Club section. The offer ends at the end of March, so don't delay for too long. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ian Palmer

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG



La Mairie

Oiseau-en terre

Comte de meule de gueree

Mes amis

'Zere is nowt so cuir as folk', ow you say. Mais alors maintenant you 'ave ze 'ot lady 'oo appears in Vogue in ze specialist clothing – an she is your premier ministre. You 'ave to carve out a new role in the world so start from the top – une politicienne – we 'ave le pen oo is the front national and now you 'ave Teresa who is going to show 'er front nationally.

Notre parish magazine begins to consider wever we should 'ave our local politicians as it were, spread? Imagine votre council of the parich in a fashion shoot – Pierre Cardigan, Y'ves St Michel, for the fastidious - Prim Mark, and the ever populaire Ma Talan. It could transform the fortunes of your august organ. (That was my best English sentence ever!)

I only rite this letter in the 'ope that after your 'ard Brexit you will still consider being part of Europe and twin wiv us.

Je vous offer me salutations

jean de l'etoile jachere

Maire de Oiseau en terre

Ladies Circle Report

Our December meeting was affected by illness of both members and the lady who had been booked for the pamper evening. Not to be defeated, we gathered for drinks and nibbles in the Club and enjoyed catching up with everyone's news and plans for Christmas.

Jackie and Barbara lifted the return to work gloom by cooking us a delicious four course meal for our January meeting. We didn't even do the washing up, so a big thank you to both of them.

Our personalities can be divided into colours (red, yellow, green or blue). Each colour has particular traits. If you recognise what colour YOU are, you are able to advise people how to get the best out of you, your likes and dislikes, your strengths and your weaknesses. Not only will it help you to psychologically understand people better, but it will also aid how you interact with them. It sounds fascinating and this is what we will be learning about on February 14th.

If, like me, your floristry skills extend to plonking supermarket tulips in a vase, then March 14th we are going to be looking forward to spring with a flower arranging evening. We hope to pick up some tips and tricks to get our flowers looking great in their vases.



We meet at 7.45pm the second Tuesday of each month. Visitors pay just £3 per meeting and everyone is welcome. Any queries, get in touch with me on 632579 or email me at ls@sidaways.net.

Leigh Sidaway,

Chair, Ladies Circle

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Craft and Chatter



Our craft group meets on a Monday evening in the club lounge from 8pm onwards. Whether you are an experienced crafter or a complete beginner that would like to learn a new skill, please come along and join us. Some of the things that we have been doing over the past few weeks range from crochet, knitting and embroidery to colouring and jewellery making.

We ask for a contribution of £3 per session to contribute to club funds.

For more information contact me on jxcolledge@aol.com or 632463.

Julie Colledge

Club Events

Date	Start	Event	
Saturday 11 th February	7:00pm	Valentines Cocktail – Ticket – Buffet	
Saturday 25 th February	7:30pm	Brexit Evening – With Brexit looming, come and join the fun & frolics of Birdingbury's alternative Brexit evening – Hosted by our very own John Starley	
Saturday March 11 th	7:00pm	Film Night -Eddie Eagle - A British comedy drama based on the true story of an underdog ski jumper trying to reach the 1988 Winter Olympics. Starring: Taron Egerton, Hugh Jackman, Christopher Walken, Mark Benton, Keith Allen and Jo Hartley	
Saturday March 18 th	8:00pm	pudding Club - You are invited to bring along a pudding and share and socialise with your friends – Custards and creams provided.	
Saturday March 25 th	8:30pm	It's a lovely night for a Quiz Night, come & test your knowledge against your fellow villagers.	
Saturday April 15 th	8:30pm	Can you remember your Cliff Richard classics and who won the 1974 Eurovision? Come along and test you memory bank and get the foot tapping.	
Saturday April 22 nd	8:00pm	Race Night – Doors open 7:30pm First Race 8:00pm – Hilarious night of fun and laughter – See if you can keep your shirt!!	
Sunday April 23 rd	1:00pm	St George's Day Beer & Bangers	

Birdingbury Fans Turn Out in Force

For the third season, Birdingbury and friends came out in force for the annual trip to the Ricoh for Wasps against Leicester Tigers. Every year we are led by a man dressed in red, green and white: a passionate, articulate rugby man going by the name of Starley.

While the colours on the bus may have changed over time to the black and gold of Wasps, I am always struck by our ability to come together as friends for such events. The power of a rugby game to bring 64 people together across the age range is simply fantastic.

To summarise the game, I have turned to rugby clichés for inspiration (10 to spot at least!). From the kick off, we were party to some stunning attacking rugby from Wasps, which underpinned their credentials as Premiership Champions elect. With every attack the Tigers try line was threatened and after 29 minutes the scoreboard read 19-0 to Wasps with the promise of more tries to come. The Tigers team had their backs against the wall, needed to front up and make those hard yards. Tigers made some advances to the Wasps line but came up short, facing a staunch defence and had to settle for a single penalty to make the match 19-3 at half time.

It was fair to say it was a game of two halves. Tigers returned for the second half and invoked plan B. Tigers struggled to make the line but after some personnel changes, crossed the whitewash to secure a try followed by a brace of penalties to close to 19-16. The game was close: it could have gone either way. Handling errors cost the Tigers and following a further penalty calmly taken by Wasps, the final score was 22 -16. Wasps wanted it more and were overall the best team on the day, playing for the full 80 minutes.

We all returned to the coach for the journey home, where the post match analysis began and for some continued in the Club over a pint or two and a curry.

Organising events of this size is not easy and we are all very grateful to John Starley for his outstanding work and commitment at the busiest time of his business year. Thank you, John.

So same again next year? See you there!

A Tigers Season Ticket Holder (aka Nick Timms)

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Welcome to Birdingbury

A warm welcome goes out to our new neighbours at Limecrest, Marton Road: Sheila and Mark Newbold. We hope that you have many happy times in Birdingbury.

Welcome also is their border collie, Mollie. Being a very 'doggie' village, we know that Mollie will make lots of friends too!

Dick Withington



Happy Birthdays!

Congratulations to Hubert (or Dan to some of us) Thomas, who lived here for many years. He celebrated his 100th birthday on December 22nd in Barnstaple where he lives near to his grand-daughter, Jennifer.



Congratulations also to Doreen Johns, who lived in Birdingbury until a year or so ago, and who was 90 on 19th January. Unfortunately, Doreen was too poorly to enjoy a party, so we wish her a speedy recovery.

Aileen Withington

A BIG THANK YOU for the many gifts and cards I received on my 70th birthday. I really enjoyed my party and hope people who were able to come also had a good night. It was lovely to see so many friends and family. Many thanks to Mark and Karen for all their hard work.

Cynthia Rogers

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Progressive Supper - Saturday 10 June 2017

Following last year's very successful event which raised £1,000 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, we are arranging another one for Saturday 10th June. This year we are going to raise money for Hope 4 (a local homeless charity) and a village project (tbc).

If you have done it before, you'll know what great fun it is. If you are undecided or new to the village, then this is an event you won't want to miss, so get in touch and we can explain. In short, you host a course for a max of 6 people at your house (including yourself!). In return, you go to other houses for the other two courses. You meet at the club for a quick drink, and then get told where you are off to next. After pudding, everyone meets up at the club for the raffle, drinks and lively conversation. We randomly arrange who goes where and if we get it right, you meet different people at different courses.

As last year, we request a donation of £20 from each couple doing starters or puddings and £15 if you are doing a main course. Any raffle prizes also gratefully received.

To get your name on the list, email one of us and don't forget to tell us if you have dietary requirements - we let your hosts know!

We look forward to hearing from you, even four months in advance!

Simon Whitfield - 634761 - simon_whitfield@hotmail.com

Alex Rigler - 632709 - alexrigler@aol.com

Simon Whitfield

Events at The Birbury

Coffee and Chat

Our next two Coffee and Chat meetings will be on Thursday 23rd February and 30th March at 10.30 in the Birbury. Please join us for home-made refreshments, a warming cup of tea or coffee and the chance of a chat with friends, old and new.



Everyone is welcome, if you've joined us before try to bring another friend with you.....

Tea @ 3

We celebrated Christmas with carols and mince pies, plus a drop of sherry, in the Birbury on Saturday 17th December. Our Tea @ 3 was well attended and there was a lovely festive atmosphere, helped by the decorations on the walls, tables and helpers, and the enthusiastic efforts made by everyone to join in with the carols. Many thanks to all who joined us, our cooks and washer-ups and especially Bryan for his lovely music

Pancake Races

No sooner have we finished celebrating Christmas than we're planning for our Annual Pancakes Races! This year we're running our races on Saturday 25th February at 2.30 from the phone box to the Birbury.

There will be several races for different age groups and contestants need to bring a frying pan and pancake and be ready to flip. Failure to toss your pancake the required number of times will result in penalties - speed is not everything!

We hope you can join us for an exciting afternoon, there are several record holders who were absent last year and are keen to defend their titles. After we've recovered from the running and applauding we'll go to the Birbury for the distribution of the prizes. There will also be an opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved cuppa and home-made refreshments.



Looking forward to joining you there and seeing who is going to be a record breaker.....

The Birbury AGM

The Birbury AGM will be held on Tuesday 4th April at 7.45 in the Birbury: all welcome.

Jenny Hawes, Birbury Chair

Leamington Hastings School Quiz

A reminder to everyone that we will be holding a fundraising quiz night on 10th February at Bourton Village Hall. We've had great support from Birdingbury residents in the past, and it's always a fun evening (and maybe just a little competitive!).

All are welcome - gather together a team of 4-6 folks and get swotting. Tickets are £8 per person, including a hot supper, and are available from me on 633055. And don't worry, there will also be wine, beer and soft drinks available to keep those brains well-oiled!

Lesley Thomlinson

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Bourton & District Garden Club

We meet on the last Thursday of most months. Our next meeting is Thursday 23rd Feb at The Village Hall, Bourton on Dunsmore at 7 for 7.30 pm. The speaker will be Sally Cunningham: topic 'Planning for Summer'. For more information, contact Frank or Francine on 01926 632595 or Carol on 01926 632033.

We look forward to seeing members and visitors (a small charge is made for visitors to include refreshments).

Carol Cooper

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Napton Art Group

Napton Art Group are holding their ever-popular Easter Exhibition on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th April at Napton Village Hall (CV47 8LS) from 10 am until 5 pm. On display and for sale will be paintings, cards, photographs and craft exhibits. There will also be refreshments, a raffle and tombola. The entry charge is £1 for adults and there is no charge for children. For further information, please email: hjc05@hotmail.co.uk

Howard Collerson

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Home Delivery Library Service

The Home Delivery Library Service is a free service to those who are unable to visit or use their local library or Mobile Library due to ill health or infirmity. We offer books in both Large and Small print and also talking books on compact disc.

Anyone who feels that they would be eligible and would benefit from receiving the service can contact us on 01926 851031 or by email on mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Debbie Bennett

Birdingbury Calendar

February	Event	Venue	Time
Friday	3rd	Mobile Library	Main Street 11.40
Saturday	4th	Swap Shop	Birbury 10.30
Friday	10th	LH School Quiz	Bourton Village Hall 20.00
Saturday	11th	Swap Shop	Birbury 10.30
Saturday	11th	Valentine Cocktails	Club 19.00
Tuesday	14th	Ladies Circle - Colours	Birbury 19.45
Tuesday	14th	Fish and Chips	Club Forecourt 19.45
Saturday	18th	Swap Shop	Birbury 10.30
Thursday	23rd	Coffee and Chat	Birbury 10.30
Thursday	23rd	Garden Club	Bourton Village Hall 19.00
Friday	24th	Mobile Library	Main Street 11.40
Saturday	25th	Pancake Races	Phone Box 14.30
Saturday	25th	Brexit Evening	Club 19.30
Tuesday	28th	Parish Council	Birbury 19.30
March			
Saturday	4th	Church Walk and Lunch	Church 11.30
Saturday	11th	Swap Shop	Birbury 10.30
Saturday	11th	Film Night—Eddie the Eagle	Club 19.00
Tuesday	14th	Ladies Circle - Flowers	Birbury 19.45
Tuesday	14th	Fish and Chips	Club Forecourt 19.45
Friday	17th	Mobile Library	Main Street 11.40
Saturday	18th	Swap Shop	Birbury 10.30
Saturday	18th	Pudding Club	Club 20.00
Tuesday	21st	Parish Council	Birbury 19.30
Saturday	25th	Swap Shop	Birbury 10.30
Saturday	25th	Quiz Night	Club 20.30



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