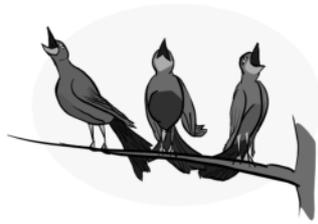


BIRDSONG

June 2017
and
July 2017



BIRDINGBURY
NEWS

No 80



Birdingbury Past and Present

Photo: Mike Coles

Parish Council Report - May 2017

The Annual Village Meeting on 25th April provided an opportunity for villagers to give their views on a number of important issues. A group of volunteers has been set up to investigate in detail whether and how to initiate the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Birdingbury. This process has to be community-based and open, so it is great to have interested villagers prepared to find out what the pros and cons are of getting a plan agreed. I shall report back progress on this.

Those attending the AVM agreed that the telephone box should be retained and that it should be used to house a defibrillator. Cllr Jackie Morton has arranged a meeting in The Birbury on June 14th to carry this forward.

Considerable concern was expressed by many people present at the AVM about the growing problem of dog-fouling. There was a real feeling of frustration at the meeting that this problem continues and appears to be growing. A small minority of dog owners seem unaware of the health hazards and unpleasantness of leaving dog mess on our streets. While no-one wants to 'name and shame' the culprits (as was suggested at the meeting), we urge dog owners to ensure their animals do not leave behind such mess. Please do not allow pets out alone and ensure that all members of the family are fully aware of the need to pick up: there is a dedicated bin by the bus shelter—use it!

The Chairman of the Club Committee reported some new approaches to trying to implement the view (*expressed by the village in the 2009 Parish Plan*) that the Club, the Birbury and the PC should find ways to work together to provide an integrated community facility. I'm sure we shall be hearing more of this: if there is a will, there surely will be a way!

The distribution of the 'Welcome to Birdingbury' leaflet to all residents has been warmly welcomed, and has resulted in some important amendments to some of the information. Thank you to all those who have given us this feedback. The amended version will be on the Birdingbury website.

You may have noticed that the promised replacement trees have been planted: three on the corner opposite the Rectory Field; one by the post box; another near the War Memorial; and the sixth on Main Street. Thanks to those who have kindly agreed to keep them watered for this first growing season – another example of the splendid community spirit to be found in Birdingbury.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at:

7.30pm on Tuesday 20th June 2017 in the Birbury

With best wishes,

Diana Turner.

Launch of LH Academy Wildlife Garden

The Friends of Leamington Hastings have worked with the school management team to redevelop an unused corner of the playground, making great use of the money raised from our fundraising events.

After we got the initial go ahead, the children drew up their own designs for the garden, generating excitement and lots of great ideas.

The project was then driven forward by staff and parents, guided by one of our green-fingered parents, Vicky, who has given much of her time, energy and expertise to help create a fantastic new learning resource for the children. Vicky and Deputy Head, Mrs Barnes, led the way in generating support for the project, enabling our budget to stretch much further.



Severn Trent chose us as one of their community projects: providing landscaping materials and sending in a team to do the initial groundworks. There was a lot of initial clearing to be done, given how overgrown the area was! With Vicky's help, we got donations of plants and further landscaping materials.

Many parents came in to help with digging, planting, fitting bird boxes and creating a fantastic pond with its own little beach for the birds to enjoy. We've also created a lovely seating area with logs cut from a tree. The children have helped create a five star 'bug hotel' from recycled pallets, sticks, leaves and foraged pine cones.

The garden was officially opened on 15th May, with a tour for the school children. The weather wasn't on our side, so the planned picnic became an indoor affair!

So, thanks to everyone who helped with the project. We're all delighted with the result and it will give joy to the children for years to come.



We do have some more work we'd like to do on the garden, so please get in touch if you'd like to offer support. You could sponsor a weather station or a sundial, or donate further materials such as wild bird food, bark chippings, willow saplings and honeysuckle (to grow an arch over the gate and disguise the wire fence). Anything you can offer could be much appreciated: call me on 633055.

Lesley Thomlinson

Produce Show 2017

Ever fancied growing a prize-winning cucumber or the longest runner bean? Now is your chance. The show will be held early in September.

The Produce Show and Auction in 2016 raised an outstanding £580 for Newpath Ventures which is a charity helping adults with learning difficulties in a horticultural environment. However, the actual number of entries has been falling off for a number of years and if this continues, the Produce Show itself may not be a viable proposition.

This year there will be the normal veg and fruit classes but we plan to introduce a couple of new recipes and classes in the baking and preserves section.

This year we will also be trialling a handicraft section covering the following:

- a knitted item
- an item of crochet
- a creative piece of cross stitch, tapestry, embroidery or multi-media work depicting the 'Natural World'
- a painting on a postcard based on the theme of 'Summer'.

Additionally, we plan to introduce more categories for children:

For children 5 or under only:

- a selection of leaves made into a picture and given a title
- a decorated paper plate.

For children up to 14 divided into two groups: 5 to 8 and 9 to 14

- 6 chocolate crispy cakes
- 3 flapjacks
- A miniature garden (47cm by 31cm)
- A room in a shoe box.

As always, there will be an auction in the evening where produce will be sold off in aid of a charity and additional contributions to this are always welcome. It's great fun and we'd love more people to join in. However, entrants always have the option to withdraw any items from the auction and this is especially the case for the handicraft and children classes.

A full list of classes will be made available in due course.

The show depends upon your entries to make it a real success, so I urge you: 'Please start growing and crafting in anticipation of this event!'.

Margaret Burnett

Birdingbury 100 Years Ago

We'd been posted a flyer advertising the 'Birdingbury 100 Years Ago' event to be held at the Birbury and Club, so on Saturday 13th May we took the long walk over to the Club to see what was going on. Our efforts were rewarded with a well thought through display, put together by the Birdingbury History Group, covering a wide range of topics including employment, transport, education and health in the village all those years ago.

Despite its small size Birdingbury has persevered through significant change over the past 100 years. Villagers have had to deal with two World Wars, the coming and going of rail and canal transport as well as changes in employment opportunities. However, it wasn't all bad; health has improved significantly over the years, mains water, electricity, gas and broadband have thankfully been installed and yet the village has retained its community spirit.

The villagers of the past seemed to have their priorities right, having all the local amenities on their doorstep. Apparently in the past the village had all the key shops, such as a bakery, grocers, post office... and not one, but two ale houses! We enjoyed trying to work out how much ale per head these thirsty folk got through in a year. Luckily the village was also served by three water pumps so, hopefully, the mornings after were not as painful as they could otherwise have been.

We found it fascinating to read about the population demographics and to see how the war had depleted the numbers of young men. The atmosphere in the village must have changed dramatically as a result. We also found it interesting to learn that the number of people in the village had only increased by roughly one per year over those hundred years but the number of houses has more than doubled.

Sadly, we could only stay for an hour due to visiting times at the hospital (my sister had welcomed my nephew, Edward, into the world the day before) and this wasn't nearly enough time to see the whole display. This was a shame but left us wanting more, so we'll be first through the door if there's another event like this...as we live next door it's not as if we have far to go after all!

Fortunately, we did have time to squeeze in a bite of delicious cake before we left. A history lesson always goes down well with cake, I feel.

The village has survived and thrived over the past 100 years and we are glad to call it home. Here's to the next 100 years!



Rachel Lockley and Sam McGauley

Birdingbury Soldiers Who Died 100 Years Ago

As spring turns to summer and the village is full of blossom and birdsong, we should spare a thought for three of our Birdingbury men who died in the waste and destruction of World War 1 almost exactly 100 years ago:



Private Thomas Harvey was born in 1875 and was a painter by trade and was engaged in renovation works at Birdingbury Hall when he was called up. He was married to Mary and had two young daughters, Dora and Ena, when he went off to fight. He and his family lived in a very primitive dwelling at the top of Main Street nicknamed "The Barracks".

Thomas served in the Norfolk Regiment and was killed not on the Western Front but in Palestine at the second battle of Gaza. He was part of the British Expeditionary Force to Egypt engaging the Ottoman Empire (Turks) who had allied themselves with Germany. Recent evidence suggests his regiment were asked to charge over open desert, with no cover, under murderous machine gun fire from the Turks. They were reduced to covering their faces with their packs as they charged as the only protection from the guns.

He died on 19th April 1917 aged 41 and is buried in Gaza War Cemetery

Thomas Harvey's descendants are regular visitors to our War Memorial.

Lance Corporal George Edgar Tiff was born in 1890 and was a quarryman at Nelson's Cement Works. He was 25 when he volunteered for The Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1915.

He lived at Birdingbury Wharf with his parents, Charles and Sarah Tiff. He had an older brother, Frank, who also served in the War. He was wounded at Ypres in May 1915, infamous for the first use of poisonous gas by the Germans. He recovered and he and his regiment were involved in the Arras offensive of spring 1917 and this is where George was killed on 28th May 1917.



The pain of losing a loved one in the War never went away, as the following article in the Rugby Advertiser on 22nd September 1917 demonstrates:

In Remembrance of Frank Neal from his pal and his sister

Neal - In loving memory of my pal Bombardier F.G. Neal (Birdingbury) of D Battery 46th Brigade who was killed in action September 19th 1916.

One year has passed, my heart still sore,

As time rolls by I miss him more

His loving smile and cheerful face,

No pal on earth can fill his place

Fred Reeve (somewhere in France)

And a tribute from his sister;

He sleeps not in his native land,

But neath some foreign skies,

And far from those who love him best;

In a hero's grave, he lies.

Frank Neal was the son of Thomas and Sarah Neal who had a long association with the Boat Inn. His parents were both dead at the start of the War and Frank was living with his sister and brother-in-law, Frank and Caroline Brazier, at Davenport Cottage in Back Lane. He was a groom at Birdingbury Hall where he worked alongside 'his pal' Fred Reeve. Frank died of wounds sustained at the Battle of Delville Wood which was part of the first battle of the Somme.

His pal, Fred Reeve was also in D battery of the 46th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, so he and Frank must have volunteered together and fought alongside each other. Fred must therefore have witnessed Frank's fatal wounding at Delville Wood. Fred Reeve survived the War.

Lest we forget

Richard Davies

Easter Egg Roll

Wow what a great turn out for this year's annual egg roll - thank you all for coming!

The children enjoyed hunting for chocolate treats before the all-important rolling.

In the 5 and under group the winner was Noah. The 6-10s group winner, and holding on to her title, was Frankie, and in the big kids, after a long-awaited decision while the eggs were hunted down in brambles by Richard, the winner was declared to be Olivia.



Decorated eggs winners were Phoebe, Sofia and Emma..



Tea and hot cross buns were enjoyed at the Birbury: a big thanks to Jackie and co for this.

See you all next time!

Jo Cutts

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Rose Queen Day 10th June

Please come along to the LH Academy traditional summer fete to have some fun and support your local school in the process. Take a break from your weekend activities (or progressive supper preparations) and enjoy our stalls, games and refreshments, including lots of lovely homemade cakes! The children will also be showing us their maypole dancing skills before we crown the new Rose King and Queen. Please pop by between 1pm and 4pm.

By the way, any raffle prize donations would be very welcome e.g. wine, chocolates, speedboat, sports car, holiday home etc! Thank you.

Lesley Thomlinson

Birdingbury Community Defibrillator

Following enthusiastic approval at the recent Village Meeting, we are embarking on a project to adopt the BT Phone Box and install a Community Defibrillator.

We need to put together a team to deliver this important service and would like your support.

Please come to The Birbury to learn more and get involved in this exciting project on

Wednesday 14th June at 8.00 pm

If you are not able to come but wish to be part of the team, then please give me a call on 633493

Jackie Morton



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Playing Field Access



There is a worrying increase in the occasions of children using our premises as a short cut to get to the Playing Field.

Our premises are a working environment with lots of vehicle movements, heavy machinery and other hazards which are not always obvious to untrained young people, intent on an adventure. There is a real risk of accidents and injuries occurring.

Despite being the 'wicked witch' and repeatedly asking them not to do it, I am ignored.

Can I make a special plea to both the youngsters concerned, and especially their parents, to ensure the correct access from the Bourton Road is used?

Thank you

Barbara Munro

A Very Remarkable Vegetable

I first met 0248824001234 on a shelf in Waitrose, although I did not know his name at the time. He was a well-trimmed, neatly wrapped celeriac nestling in among his cousins and appeared to be exactly what I was looking for. I had no idea just how difficult he was going to be.

Later I read on his label that he had been born and grew up in Lincolnshire at the home of someone called 118JAJ and that he professed to be ‘nutty, sweet and creamy’. He weighed in at 0.770kg and his price was £1.23.



The first indication of his independence came when he set out to make difficulties for the lady at the checkout. He just would not disclose his name. His label was rather crumpled and although she scraped and pulled at it her machine just could not (or would not) read it. He succumbed in the end and I put him on top of some other vegetables in one of the bags and set off back to the car park.

The pedestrian crossing at Daventry is paved with setts and deliberately bumpy. Half way across I heard a different sort of bump and realised that 0248824001234 had jumped out of his bag and was rolling down the road. I stopped the trolley in the middle of the crossing, hoping the lights would not go to green and set off in pursuit. I don't know what the drivers thought of an elderly gentleman chasing a celeriac – perhaps it often happens so they are used to it.

With 0248824001234 recovered and, as I thought, safely stowed in different bag, I went on to my parked car. I opened the boot and was lifting in the bags when out of the corner of my eye I saw something moving on the ground. It was 0248824001234 rolling off under the neighbouring car. I got down on my hands and knees and, with difficulty, saw him right in the middle and nearly out of touch. However, with the aid of an umbrella and from the other side, I just managed to hook him out, put him in the boot and shut it quickly.

He is now sitting on a shelf in our kitchen and although he does not know it yet, he will be getting in to an oven soon. That is unless he can think of any other tricks to delay it. I hope he doesn't have any ideas about a knife.

Chris Barney

The Birbury

Our St. George's Day lunch was held on April 23rd in the Birbury where we enjoyed a tasty meal of bread, cheese, pickles and home made puds while catching up with local friends. Many thanks to everyone who came along to support us and to all our helpers who prepared, served and washed up before enjoying a well deserved cup of tea. We were able to cover our costs and make a donation towards the upkeep of the Birbury.

The main fundraising event for us this year will be our Coffee Shop, when we will be open from 10.00 on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th July, the weekend of the Country Show. As well as tea, coffee and home made biscuits - available all day - we will be serving filled rolls at lunchtime and home made cake in the afternoon. Do drop in to see us for a cuppa and a bite to eat.

Jenny Hawes, Chair of the Birbury

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Coffee and Chat

We meet again in the Birbury for Coffee and Chat on Thursday 29th June at 10.30. We do serve tea as well and a range of tasty things to eat. Do come and join us for a chat with fellow villagers, everyone welcome. This will be our last Coffee and Chat until Thursday 27th September as we don't meet in July and August. Look forward to seeing you there.....

Your friends at St. Leonards

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

More Tea Anyone?

Retirees' Afternoon Tea at Marton Village Hall is a completely free event which is held every 2nd Thursday of the month (although not in June as it clashes with the election!) from 2pm – 3:30pm.

We serve tea/coffee with sandwiches, scones and delicious cakes, all for free and anyone in Birdingbury who would like to come along would be more than welcome to join us.

For more information contact Karen on 633363

Karen Cresswell and Mary Harrison



Calling all Birdingbury "Rappers"

We are now wrapping empty shoe boxes ready for filling with goodies for disadvantaged children. We are starting earlier this year in the hope that we can supply even more boxes for filling by the organisers at Stretton.

If you are interested in joining our "gallant band" please contact me: Lyndhurst, Marton Road, or call 632682, or email d.chippendale@btinternet.com

I can supply you with wrapping paper and sellotape and can collect boxes from you.

We are also looking for suitable gifts to fill the boxes e.g. small toy cars, lorries, dollies, teddy bears, games & puzzles, pens, pencils, crayons, colouring books, drawing and writing paper, mittens, gloves, hats. Hygiene items such as toothpaste, tooth brushes, hair slides, flannels, and tablet soap are welcome, as are in-date (to the year 2018) boiled sweets, unwanted costume jewellery (inc. broken items), unwanted / used birthday cards and calendars which the Stretton WI can make up into picture books.

A sincere thank you to everyone who has helped in the past, your efforts have always been greatly appreciated.

Daphne Chippendale

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

New Members Wanted!

Leamington Hastings Bowls Club is looking for new members. We would like to invite you to come and have a bowl, for free, to see if you have a hidden talent. It's a lovely way to spend a few hours, socialising and enjoying some gentle exercise, having fun while learning something new.

We meet at the Leamington Hastings Parish Hall every Wednesday from 6pm, the bowls green is next door (did you know, we also have a tennis court available for hire?). The club plays inter club matches at home and away, outdoors, throughout the summer season (normally April-Sept weather permitting). We also play some matches to raise money for charity and host various fund raising social events. There's always someone on hand to coach, so you won't feel on your own.

Everyone is welcome, irrespective of age or ability, including children. Just wear flat shoes, comfortable clothing. Come along and have a go.

Don't be shy - you never know until you try!

If you have any questions, please call me on 01788 336913

Susan Turner

Club Round Up

Month	Date	Start Time	Entertainment
June	4th	2.30pm	Church Fete
June	10th	6:30pm	Progressive Supper
June	24th	8 :30pm	Quiz
July	1st	7:00pm	Music from the Shows + Barbeque
August	19th	tbc	Car Treasure Hunt
Sept	9th	tbc	Produce Show tbc
Sept	30th	7:30pm	Race Night
Oct	21st	7:00pm	Beer Festival

Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday: 8:00pm to 11:00pm
 Friday: 6:00pm to 11:00pm
 Saturday: 12:00 noon to 11:00pm
 Sunday: 12:00 noon to 8:00pm during the Summer

Pop in to the Club if you haven't seen us for a while. There is a new guest ale every week and we offer a nice selection of wines by the glass and bottle.

Don't forget fish and chips every second Thursday of every month: a great excuse to ditch the washing up and catch up with friends and family!

Richard Cutts

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Thank You

A big thank you to all that came to my 70th birthday party and for all the cards and gifts - hic hic!!

It was a fabulous night, I hope you all enjoyed the steel band.

Special thanks to Mark and Joe for running the bar and to Karen for the wonderful food.

Sandy Bottoms!!!

Roger Wood



Birdingbury Wheelers

If there are any local friends / cyclists that are interested in cycling and keeping fit, there is a small group of villagers who meet every Wednesday at 7:00pm outside the Club for a cycle through the leafy lanes of Warwickshire.

Whether you're new to cycling, ride regularly or want to get back into it, come along and join the gang. All ages and abilities are welcome, as this is very much a social ride. Some of the routes that we particularly enjoy include:

- loop of Draycote Water
- a ride out to the Hollybush in Flecknoe for a quick half
- a ride out to the Red Lion, Hunningham (another quick half)
- a leisurely ride along the Grand Union Canal (and back for – you've guessed it!)



Do come along!

Richard Cutts

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Progressive Supper - Saturday 10 June 2017

This is your last chance to take part in this year's Feast of Friends! Old hands will know the ropes but for those new to this experience, it's a great opportunity to enjoy shared hospitality, catch up on village gossip and show off your culinary skills (spag bog and angel delight perfectly acceptable!). For more information contact:

Simon Whitfield - 634761 - simon_whitfield@hotmail.com

Alex Rigler - 632709 - alexrigler@aol.com

We look forward to another great evening!

Simon Whitfield

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Comings and Goings

Farewell to Sheila and Mark, Limecrest Marton Road, who are moving to Harbury. Also to Alison and Cheryl of Linden, Main Street, who are moving to Bilton.

Welcome to Valerie Preston who has recently moved into the village.

Dick Withington

Breaks It

We want to join Nigel's army.
We're ready to beat the retreat.
We love what we think is our history
And frankly the future looks bleak.

We want to be free, say the Big Wigs.
The wages we pay, we'll decide.
Who's in and who's out is our business.
We'll say who spoke truth and who lied.

We want to arrange our own taxes
And avoid them without foreign stares.
We want to make hay in wet weather
And sell rotten hopes, rotten shares.
We want free for all, which is our lot
And as to the poor, well, who cares.

Lovely to look at, delightful to hold,
But if you Breaks it, consider it sold.

Pilgrim



Birdingbury Calendar

June		Event	Venue	Time
Sunday	4th	Fete	Club forecourt	14.30
Thursday	8th	Fish and Chips	Club	19.45
Friday	9th	Mobile Library	Main Street	11.40
Saturday	10th	Rose Queen Day	LH Academy	13.00
Saturday	10th	Progressive Supper	Club	18.30
Wednesday	14th	Defibrillator meeting	Birbury	20.00
Tuesday	20th	Parish Council	Birbury	19.30
Saturday	24th	Quiz	Club	20.30
Thursday	29th	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30
Friday	30th	Mobile Library	Main Street	11.40

July

Saturday	1st	Music from the Shows and Barbecue	Club	19.00
Saturday	8th	Country Show	Various	All day
Sunday	9th	Country Show	Various	All day
Thursday	13th	Fish and Chips	Club	19.45
Thursday	13th	Afternoon Teas	Marton Village Hall	14.00
Friday	14th	Mobile Library	Main Street	11.40



Birdsong Editor

Lesley Fleming
Moonrakers, Back Lane Tel 632508
Email: birdsong1@btinternet.com

Church News Editor

Karen Armbrister,
Davenport Cottage, Back Lane Tel 632030
Email: karen.armbrister@btinternet.com

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