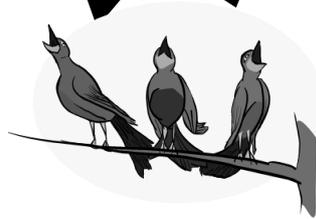


BIRDSONG

June and July
2016



BIRDINGBURY
NEWS

No 74

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE
QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



SATURDAY 11TH JUNE
PICNIC AND ENTERTAINMENT
IN THE OLD RECTORY MEADOW

Gates open from 5.30pm

Music through the decades

Bring your own picnics, drinks, chairs/tables and
most importantly your Birdingbury spirit

SUNDAY 12TH JUNE
STREET PARTY
MAIN STREET

2.30pm

Short informal church service
(By the bus shelter)

Followed by afternoon tea
(Please bring a plate to share)



Birdingbury Parish Council

The Annual Village meeting was held in the Birbury on 26 April, when reports were received from representatives of the many clubs and other organisations which make our community so supportive. It provided a chance for villagers to challenge the Parish Councillors on their year's work: fortunately, for us, there appeared to be no serious complaints!

Since then the new Council year was marked by the Annual Meeting at which the Chair and Vice-chair were elected: Diana Turner and Ian Tipton were elected unopposed. Our new Clerk, Jackie Chapman presented the accounts for the year 2015/16, and these are available on the website. Andrew Armbrister has again kindly offered to audit them.

We continue to push for various Highways improvements – including improvements to the drainage in Main Street as well as the possibility of better paving in Marton Road. We are supported in our endeavours by our County Councillor, Howard Roberts, who reminded us that a WCC survey 'Living in Warwickshire' is seeking the views of residents. You can contribute to this through the Warwickshire County Council website and we are all encouraged to have our say.

Cllr Gaynor Davy reported to us on the village plans for celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday; details of these are set out on page 5.

Over the last few years the hedge between the Recreation Field and Bourton Road has been constantly breached opposite the church, and we are concerned that an accident could happen if children ran out on to the road there. The Council would like your views on how best to deal with this - is it appropriate to create a permanent opening at this point or can we find a way of preventing access there?

If you have a view on this, or, indeed, on any PC issue, do contact any councillor or the Clerk: we should love to hear from you.

**Our next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21 June
in the Birbury.**

Best wishes

Diana Turner, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

Parish Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month, except August and December.

The Village Distribution Fund

The Birbury Committee, which administers this fund on behalf of the village, suggested, at its recent AGM, that it was time to tell newcomers to our community about it – and remind others.

It was set up many years ago by the then Birdingbury Festival Committee as a fund to which villagers could apply for a grant towards the cost of certain projects which would be of benefit to the community. Rules for applying for and making grants were drawn up by that committee and ratified at a Village Meeting.

In the early days income came overwhelmingly from Festival profits. Over the years very large sums – tens of thousands – were gathered and many projects supported. Examples are tree-planting, the provision of benches, play equipment, team expenses for participation in the Willoughby Challenge soccer competition, *Birdsong*, Christmas trees, our lovely new bus shelter to replace the one which was burned down, the village archive store, contributions towards village children's pantomime trips and so on.

That arrangement ended in 2010 when a Village Meeting voted to ask the Festival to confine its activities to private land to minimise its impact upon the village itself. The Festival's successor (the Birdingbury Country Show) decided to donate its profits from then on to other good causes (although it did make a grant of £200 to the Village Distribution Fund in 2013). The stewardship of the sum remaining in the Fund at that point, nearly £10,000, was handed over to the Birbury Committee, an arrangement ratified by the Village Meeting in 2010.

So there has been almost no income for the last six years and the Fund is therefore dwindling. It now stands at around £5,000. It has been an extraordinary asset over several decades and it will be missed when it has gone. Has anyone got any ideas for raising new income?

Accounts (audited by Guy French) are presented at the Birbury Committee's AGM. The Village Meeting is given a report each year. The rules for the stewardship of the Fund and advice on how to apply for a grant are available from the Treasurer of the Birbury Committee, currently me.

Leslie Turner 633755.

A very warm welcome to
Katy and Graham
who have moved into Kisdon on Marton Road.

Birdingbury Country Show

The Birdingbury Country Show will take place on the weekend of the 9 and 10 July. There will be new attractions along with many of the old favourites, including lots of activities for children to join in.

This year we have chosen just one nominated charity (The Acorns Children's Hospice) as a beneficiary, but will also make donations to smaller charities and good causes after the event.

Villagers are welcome to attend free of charge by showing proof of residency (i.e. something with your name and address).

On Saturday evening, the ever-popular Dr Busker will be performing in the Beer Tent, and villagers are welcome to join our exhibitors for this free entertainment.

We have a Committee of twenty but there is always room for additional members, and offers of help and ideas would be welcomed. Please contact Bob on 01926 632555.

Birdingbury Country Show Committee

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Coffee and Chat

Our final chance to get together for Coffee and Chat before the Summer holidays is on Thursday 30 June at 10.30 in the Birbury. We will be providing coffee, cake and good company and hope you are able to join us.

Please remember that there will be no Coffee and Chat during July and August and our first get-together after the holidays will be on Thursday 29 September.

Karen, Jan, Mel, Dick, Brenda and Jenny

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WRCC Energy

WRCC is a registered charity helping residents to save money on their heating oil. By buying in bulk, we are able to achieve very competitive prices for our members.

For further details please visit wrccenergy.org.uk or phone 0189 472419.

Recent kerosene prices achieved — March 2016 - 24.93ppl; April 2016 - 24.48ppl.

Queen's Birthday Celebration Weekend 11 and 12 June

Saturday 11 June

Evening picnic with entertainment in The Old Rectory Meadow

Gates open at 5.30 pm

Bring your picnic, drinks and table and chairs plus candelabra and flags (optional) for an evening of entertainment through the decades, provided by your talented fellow villagers.

An evening not to be missed

There will be a limited number of tables and chairs available at the entrance to the meadow by the gate - not enough for everyone, so please bring yours if you can.

The party will continue at the club afterwards.....

Sunday 12 June

3pm Birdingbury Village Afternoon Tea

Everyone welcome, please come along and join in this village event.

If you are able, please bring a small plate of food to share.

Before the afternoon tea there will be a short outdoor Church service, at the corner of Back Lane, near the bus shelter. This informal service, led by our own Karen, will start at 2.30 pm and will include some favourite Hymns.

The Parish Council has arranged for Main Street to be closed between 1.30 and 5.30pm and it would be very helpful if you would remove any vehicles that you can. Access will be maintained for emergency services at all times.

If you have any comments or concerns, please contact Jackie Chapman: parishclerk@birdingbury.org

Progressive Supper

Simon and Jackie want to thank everyone who supported the Progressive Supper. We were delighted that we were able to raise £1,000 for the Motor Neurone Society and hope all who took part enjoyed themselves.

Sixty-four people gathered together in the Club on Saturday 7 May. All were in high spirits, a few butterflies amongst the less seasoned participants perhaps, but the anticipation of a great evening was evident.

The fun thing about the event is that apart from knowing your location for hosting one of the courses, there is complete surprise about where couples are going for the other two courses and who the other six couples they will share the evening with will be. For the organisers of course this is an anxious time.....will everyone be fed at each course? Are the correct envelopes at the right houses and containing envelopes with instructions within for the right couples? Did we get the dietary requirements of guests communicated correctly to hosts?

So many people say to us “how on earth do you organise the evening”, and I thought a little insight could be interesting. So, here are the main steps....

1. Decide on a suitable date! Avoid school holidays, religious events, football cup finals and the like, and check that The Club is available to host before and after.
2. Communicate through *Birdsong* in plenty of time before the date so that participants can put it in their diaries.
3. Gather in names and all those special requests that people have for us to accommodate!
4. Communicate again through the next *Birdsong* to make sure that any stragglers have had a final opportunity to get their names down.
5. Close the list! This has to happen about three weeks before the event so that we have time to let hosts know of any of the guest's dietary requirements before they choose their menu – and of course that can't happen until we have done the draw and know who is going where!
6. Bearing in mind that outliers are better doing a starter, we allocate the courses as fairly as possible, trying to vary from year to year who is doing what.
7. Hopefully, with the number of couples divisible by three we then move on to doing the draw.
8. We then develop a spreadsheet which allocates couples automatically to locations in order that they don't meet again during the evening. This is the tricky part! Using names 'starter1', 'starter2', 'main1', 'main2' etc we then have a matrix into which we can substitute couple names and this automatically generates their locations. Double check, and triple check.....
9. We can then let hosts know what dietary requirements their guests

have.....and, oh boy, do we have a long list of those!! But, you would rather know that you have a vegetarian before you cook your Beef Wellington.

10. By this stage we are on the home run, we feel, but plenty still to do. Every slip of paper has to be typed up telling each couple where they are going for which course – so we have to make sure we get the right addresses etc. This year with 32 couples and 1 extra person we had to prepare 66 slips and make sure they got into the right 40 large envelopes for tables and 22 individual ones for starter instructions. The tables envelopes were hand delivered to 40 houses on the Saturday morning.
11. Everyone no doubt busies themselves cleaning and cooking.
12. Gather raffle prizes and set up ready for the evening.
13. By now it really is too late to stress, and we hope the evening goes smoothly.

So, as you can see it is a finely tuned process with lots of steps. Over the years that I have been organising the event (now at least since 2005) there have been some, but not too many, dramas. Last minute drop outs for one reason or another, or even last minute additions to the event have meant some fine adjustments. Someone deciding they were too full to cope with dessert and just going home! The door opening to welcome a vegetarian when they were not expected (my fault!), and somebody completely unexpected coming on the night to take part. All taken with the best of humour I am pleased to say.

It has been a lot of hard work and no mean feat to make this event run smoothly, but it has also been a great pleasure to see how enjoyed the whole thing is, and, moreover, we have raised a considerable amount of money for various causes over the years through everyone's generosity (£1,000 in one evening isn't bad). However, I have now handed over the organising totally to Simon who I know has already had offers of assistance for next year's event and I am looking forward to being a surprised participant once again.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement over the last 11 years or so – and good luck Simon going forwards!

Jackie Morton

Examination of old diaries shows that the first village progressive supper was on New Year's Eve 1996. What a great success story! Ed.

St. Leonard's Church Fête

Saturday 25 June 2.30- 4.30pm

This will be the usual books, cakes, plants, tombola stalls, raffle and refreshments held in the churchyard with wonderful views over the Leam valley from 2.30 until 4.30pm. It's our main fund raiser now, so we'd be grateful for any support you feel able to give; buying raffle tickets, donating small prizes for the tombola, or passing on any good books and plants for us to sell.

We will also have our usual range of treats to enjoy on the day or to take home with you - cakes, preserves, savouries....all cooked in the village by volunteers.

Once again we have some fantastic prizes in our Grand Raffle, including some regular favourites as well as a few new ones. Many thanks to everyone who has helped cover the costs of our £100 cash prize and made donations of red and white wine. We still need a few more bottles of wine to make up the 2 half cases.

The raffle tickets and cover letter should reach you over the weekend of 4-5 June. If you can sell more tickets than those in the envelope, that would be great. The raffle usually accounts for up to half of our profit. Ticket sales in advance of the fete are really important. Extra tickets sold on the day are a welcome bonus.

If you can help, the following drop off points are available for any donations and extra raffle ticket sales. Or we will collect from your house if you call us:

Karen Armbrister (632030) Davenport Cottage, Back Lane (put in front porch)

Jenny Hawes Gables House, Back Lane

Liz Ellis 2 Old Rickyard, Back Lane

and for anything to do with the raffle:

Daphne Chippendale (632582) Lyndhurst, Marton Road or

Dick Withington (632644) High Mead, Marton Road

Thank you - in anticipation!

Karen and Dick

Leamington Hastings School

This year's Rose Queen Day will be Sunday 19 June
(NB not Saturday)

Freedom's Wood

When I was a boy
I often should
Take a stroll
Through Freedom's Wood.

Across the world
My fortune lay
Old Freedom's Wood
Was far away.

With long, long years
I thought I could
Live once more
Near Freedom's Wood.

The traffic roared,
Now no trees spread,
Across the sky
In letters red,

'NO STOPPING –
FREEDOM'S WAY'
It said.

Pilgrim

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Bourton & District Garden Club

Thursday 30 June, 7 for 7.30pm at the Bourton Village Hall
Katey Stoneman from Warwickshire County Council will give a talk on **Composting**.
For more information contact:
Frank or Francine Campbell 632595 or Carol Cooper 632033

History Matters.....

Granddaughter of PoW visits Birdingbury

Village websites have become a prime resource for those investigating their family histories. So it was, this year, for Julia Huttner, the granddaughter of Rudi Zeidler, a German prisoner of war in Camp 97, the Birdingbury PoW camp, where he was imprisoned from 1944. Through the village website Julia was able to contact Aileen Withington, chairperson of the Birdingbury History Group, and from there began a trail of emails leading to Julia's visit to our village at the end of March. Rudi is no longer alive but his widow, Johanna, Julia's grandmother, aged 86 and nearly blind, is helping Julia with her family researches. Johanna apparently has very fond memories of England.

Although her grandfather died when she was 12, Julia felt close to him and remembers his delight, throughout his life, in whittling and carving small objects in wood, a skill which Rudi had been taught in the camp. He was a plumber by trade.

And this was one of the objects of her visit. Julia's

grandmother had told her about a set of crib figures which Rudi had carved and given to a local vicar in exchange for cigarettes! (The camp, although always known as the Birdingbury PoW camp, was sited off the Frankton Road and was actually in Frankton parish – and it is Saint Nicholas church which has housed these crib figures for 70 years). Although for many years forgotten, they now emerge each Christmas as part of the church's nativity scene. To see the figures was going to be a very poignant experience for Julia.



The crib figures at Frankton



Rudi Zeidler

She was accompanied on the day by her mother, Angela (who was Rudi's daughter), Betty Hein, widow of Kurt Hein, another PoW and a friend of Rudi's, and Betty's son -in-law, Geoff. Aileen had made all the arrangements with the churchwardens to have the figures on display and she accompanied the party there and was also able to show them the site of the Camp (with its



Angela, Rudi's daughter
and Julia, his granddaughter

outcrop of daffodils outlining the huts) on the way back to Birdingbury, where she had arranged a little tea party at High Mead – also including Liz Tompkins, Dick Withington and myself.

What a tale unfolded there. Rudi Zeidler had enlisted in 1944, aged 17, and was captured six weeks later in the Netherlands. In due course he arrived at Camp 97 where he stayed until 1947. During this time and after his release he worked for the Clegg family at Ham Farm, Offchurch. He met his wife, Johanna Schiefer, at a church in Leamington. She had come from Cologne to work in England post war, as a nursing assistant at the Warneford hospital. After their marriage they lived at Ham Farm Cottage and a daughter, Angela, was born in 1951. She was christened in a Clegg family christening robe. Rudi, Johanna and Angela returned to Saxony in 1955 at the request of his father, although they did

not want to leave England and would have liked to return here. Later on, after the Berlin wall was built it was not possible. Julia is married with two daughters and teaches German as a second language to kindergarten children in Berlin. Her English is very good!

[It was common for prisoners of war - if they were not high security - to work on local farms as so many agricultural workers had enlisted, leaving farms very short of labour. Rudi was obviously a valued employee as he continued to work at Ham Farm after 1945.]

One of the Birdingbury History Group's projects is to find out as much as we can about Camp 97– and its subsequent life, first as housing for Latvian refugees and after that as housing for Rugby Rural District Council.

Rhonda Barney



Tea at High Mead

Birdingbury one hundred years ago

Birdingbury History Group are planning to mount an exhibition next spring to portray life in the village one hundred years ago.

Understandably there is presently strong focus on the First World War, particularly since 2014. However, despite the appalling events on the Western Front and elsewhere, life had to continue at home. What was it like in villages such as Birdingbury? How did the war affect life here? It was the end of the Edwardian period and the beginning of modern times – did that affect this village?

The History Group hope to find out as much as they can about the village and its inhabitants. If any villager has any material about life at that time (not necessarily about Birdingbury) that they would like to share, we would be very grateful and if there is anyone who would like to be involved in the research please get in touch with Aileen Withington (632644). We are a very informal group (seven of us at present) and would be delighted to have new members.

Chris Barney

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Saffy's Olympics

Saffy's Olympics is a thank you party held at 284 Myton Road, Warwick on Saturday 11 June from 2-5 as an afternoon tea and various small scale Gold Medal Olympic sports, (including croquet, clock golf, tiddlywinks and darts) complete with podium presentations, gold medals, national anthems etc. There are also some special events for children including drawing Saffy the cat, guessing her weight and a spot the cartoon character competition.

The recommended entrance fee is £5 (£10 per family) to include tea/coffee/soft drinks/sandwiches and cakes plus entry to the Olympic Gold Medal events.

It is in aid of Brainwaves and Brain Tumour Research.

Saffy's owner has just completed his 91st course of chemo (yes, 91st), following a glioblastoma seven years ago and the event is a fundraiser to help other survivors. Brain tumours receive 0.7% of national cancer spending, yet more people under 40 die of brain cancer than any other cancer.

Carmel de Nahlik

Leamington Hastings Open Gardens

Sunday 5 June 2 to 5 pm

Thomas William Kimberley

20 January 1922 -- 4 May 2016

Bill Kimberley was an exceptional person, a lover of nature, talented with his hands and his brain.

He was born at Stone House, Shunters Hill, Birdingbury, lived at Frankton in the former PoW camp on Frankton Hill and at Leamington Hastings.

He served in World War II on an aircraft carrier, *HMS Unicorn*, which was a giant floating factory for repairs to the British Pacific Fleet to enable squadrons to remain operational. He later worked at Rolls Royce, Ansty and at Armstrong Siddeley, Parkside.

He met his wife, Thelma, at Leamington Hastings Village Hall and they were married in 1952. Bill and Thelma were a couple greatly admired for over 60 years and - as Bill wrote himself – it was a roller coaster of happiness and tragedy with three handicapped sons. Their love for the boys and each other never wavered. Their three sons were all able to be at the funeral service.

In writing this tribute I have referred to Bill's own writings in the old Birdingbury and Leamington Hastings newsletter, the Leam Valley Messenger (April 2001 – April 2003).

It was a privilege to have met such a gentleman.

Liz Tompkins

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Perk up your liver

Aileen and Dick invite you to to High Mead
for Coffee, Cake and Cookies
on Saturday 2 July 10.30 – 12.30

Recent research has discovered that a cup of coffee a day is good for your liver so come and be part of the British Liver Trust's 'Perk up your Liver' fund-raising initiative.

The British Liver Trust is a health charity close to our hearts and we will be more than happy to receive donations towards this cause.

You may also bring fresh produce to swap.

Birdingbury Village Club

Summer programme

Saturday 11 June 10pm	Queen's 90th—After Show Party
Sunday 12 June 2.30pm	Children's Street Party
	Pimms and Prosecco served in the Club
Saturday 18 June 2.30pm	Car Treasure Hunt and Barbeque
Friday 24 June 8.30pm	Club AGM
Saturday 25 June 7pm	Gun Club Pig Roast
Friday to Sunday 8 to 10 July open all weekend	Birdingbury Country Show
Friday 22 July 7pm	Schools out — End of term disco
Saturday 30 July 7pm	Film Night
Saturday 6 August 8pm	Family Quiz
Saturday 27 August 7pm	Summer BBQ

Euro 2016 - 10 June to 10 July

Rio Olympic Games - 5 August to 21 August

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Wheelers Season 9

We meet at 7pm prompt outside the club every Wednesday for a gentle tour of the beautiful Warwickshire countryside.

Frequently followed by refreshments at the club.

All welcome but children must be accompanied by their parents.

Please contact Craig on 07801 737264 for further details.

Ladies Circle

April

We had a very interesting talk from Mel and her colleague Helen on the Bowen Technique. After a short talk on the history of how the Bowen technique started, mini treatments were given to some of us. These went down very well with those who took part.

May

Julie and her colleague, Helen, gave a very informative and enlightening talk on the importance of a properly balanced diet. It has such an impact on our bodies. There were delicious samples of drinks to enhance your metabolism and protein bars and shakes. We had a very good turn out and some of us had a go on the Tanita scales with some uplifting results which gave us the encouragement to really look at our diets and lifestyles and how they affect our bodies.

June

Tuesday 14 June will be our last get together until the AGM on Tuesday 13 September. One of our members Jennifer Johnston and her husband Geoffrey have very kindly offered to open their house in Leamington for us to spend an evening with friends and neighbours and bring a plate of food to share. If you are interested in coming or need a lift and haven't been able to put your name down, please contact either:

Lee...LeeHaydenUK@aol.com or Julie ...jxcolledge@aol.com

Lee Hayden

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The Birbury

Many thanks to all who attended our St. George's Day lunch - a chance to relax and enjoy food and the company of friends.

Our next event is the annual Coffee Shop during the weekend of the Country Show, 9 and 10 July. We will be open from 10.30 onwards serving hot and cold drinks and home made biscuits. A variety of filled rolls will also be available at lunchtime, followed by delicious home made cake later in the day.

We hope you will be able to pop in and see us.

Jenny Hawes

Birdingbury Calendar

June					page
Friday	10	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Saturday	11	Queen's Birthday picnic	Old Rectory Meadow	5.30	5
Sunday	12	Village afternoon tea	Main Street	3.00	5
Tuesday	14	Ladies Circle			15
Saturday	18	Car treasure hunt & BBQ	Club	2.30	14
Sunday	19	Rose Queen Day	LH School		8
Tuesday	21	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Friday	24	Club AGM	Club	8.30	14
Saturday	25	Church Fete	St Leonards	2.30	8
Thursday	30	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30	4
	30	Bourton Garden Club	Bourton Village Hall	7.00	9
July					
Friday	1	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Saturday	2	Coffee morning	High Mead	10.30	13
Saturday	9 &	Country Show			4
Sunday	10				
Tuesday	19	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Friday	22	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
	22	End of term disco	Club	7.00	14
Saturday	30	Film night	Club	7.00	14

Whealers every Wednesday 7pm
Swap Shop every Saturday 10.30am



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