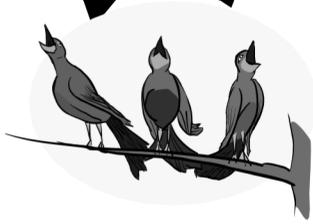


BIRDSONG

October and
November 2014



BIRDINGBURY
NEWS

No 64



Photo Lewis Cutts

On Sunday 3 August, the eve of the centenary of the start of World War I, over 100 villagers assembled for the rededication of the War Memorial

Parish Council Report

The Parish Council (PC) met on Tuesday 16 September after the summer break. It was attended by both our County and Rugby Borough councillors, who up-dated us on such issues as changes to the Fire & Rescue Service and the availability of funding opportunities for parish councils. We raised with County Cllr Roberts our frustration with various Highways complaints: blocked drains, verge repairs and the proliferation of 50mph signage on local rural roads. We shall continue to pursue these issues.

The PC recorded the fact that Cluff Natural Resources plc had withdrawn their interest in developing underground coal gasification drilling in this locality. This was welcomed although it was also noted that the licence to do this is still available to other contractors.

The Council recorded their thanks to all those who contributed to the Rededication of the war Memorial in early August: it was truly an uplifting experience for those who attended. We have also arranged to carry out annual cleaning of the memorial, following the advice received from the specialist firm who did the work recently.

The annual safety inspection of the Recreation Field identified a few issues which we have addressed. Cllr Terry Healey has been busy over the summer on this, for which we are very grateful. It was good to hear that there were no serious problems.

Two local planning applications had been investigated by councillors and the decision taken not to comment on either, since they had no impact on the village community. The PC has a protocol for dealing with all applications, which was applied in these cases.

Following offers to help with the Bonfire Night at the Annual Village Meeting in April, a group of nine villagers met recently to help plan this year's event. Rising costs mean that it is important that there are advance ticket sales, otherwise this traditional village celebration is not sustainable. Please keep an eye open for publicity about this. There will be an earlier start and the Club will also be providing supporting activities for Bonfire Night as well as Halloween the evening before.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on

Tuesday 21 October in the Birbury.

All are welcome to attend.

Best wishes

Diana Turner, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

Are YOU looking for something to DO on the last Thursday of the month - apart from visiting the chip van?

How about some Coffee and a Chat?

Do you fancy a bit of cake with your coffee, or are you more of a biscuit lover?

Do you have time to chat to your neighbours?

Do you have an hour to spare on Thursday 30 October or 27 November?

Looking for something to do at 10.30 on these Thursday mornings?

Do you have a spare 50p towards the cost of a cuppa?

Come along to the Birbury to meet fellow villagers and friends, old and new, for coffee and that all-important chat.....

Hope to see you there on the last Thursday of the month, starting in October.

Everyone is welcome.

Mel, Karen and Jenny

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Energy Warwickshire – top up your oil before prices rise!

With colder months just around the corner, now is the time to think about topping up your oil tank to take advantage of the lower oil prices that have been enjoyed recently.

We are delighted that for the fourth month running we have managed to achieve a per litre price below 50p. In August our members paid just 49.99 pence per litre, saving 4.51 pence per litre against the average. As a charity that works solely for the benefit of rural communities we are delighted with these results.

If you rely on heating oil and would like to join our members in making savings have a look at our dedicated website (www.energywarwickshire.org.uk) or contact us on 01789 472611. The syndicate is open to households, community groups and businesses across Warwickshire.

Sarah Brooke-Taylor

Warwickshire Rural Community Council

BIRDINGBURY WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATION

At 3pm on Sunday 3 August, to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I the village held a commemoration event at the memorial. The programme included:

Music from Bourton Trombones

Readings of poems by young people of the village

A contemporary poem by a villager

Reflections of two villagers on the impact of war on families

Hymns and a prayer for peace

This was followed by tea and refreshments in the Birbury. In the club was a display of information arranged by the History Group—'Birdingbury Men at War'.

On Monday 4 August there was a vigil in St Leonard's Church starting at 10pm



Photo Lewis Cutts

A number of villagers asked if the reflections by Peter Law and Leslie Turner describing the effect of war on their families could be reproduced in *Birdsong*. They both agreed and we are pleased to do so.

Leslie Turner's thoughts

My father was a professional soldier for 38 years. In 1921, aged 18, he joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and over the next 20 years he was stationed in various places in Britain, Sudan and India.

When the Second World War broke out, in September 1939, the Second Battalion of the RWR (in which my father was a Company Sergeant Major) was sent to France to help the French army defend France and Belgium from the expected German invasion. In February 1940 my father was promoted to the position of Regimental Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion.

In early May 1940 that invasion began and the French army, together with their British and other allies, were swiftly pushed back by the Germans. It soon became obvious that the allies were going to lose this fight and the famous evacuation began from Dunkirk across the English Channel and back to Britain to save as many soldiers as possible from capture or worse.

The 2nd Bn. of the Royal Warwicks. was one of a few units who were ordered to hold the enemy advance for as long as they could so that as many men as possible could escape across the Channel. This was a desperate fight and many lives were lost. My father was captured on 28 May and he spent the next five years in various PoW camps in Germany and Poland. So by the time his last camp was liberated and he arrived back home (11 May 1945) he had been away from his family for five years and eight months.

In September 1939 he had left behind his wife, two daughters (11 and 6), a son (5) and another son – me – age 18 months.

Doubtless Dad suffered a great deal for much of his time as a prisoner – he would rarely talk about it afterwards – but that long time was an ordeal, too, for his wife: she had to cope, alone, with feeding and clothing her young family in a time of shortages and rationing, making sure they went to school and kept healthy, and enduring the regular air-raids which must have terrified her (we lived in Folkestone, on the south coast, so there was plenty of bombing). And all the time she was worrying about the safety of her husband and, perhaps most of all, feeling alone.

So war has an impact upon people at home as well as those on the field of battle, even those who emerge from its end safe and alive. For me, the most significant effect didn't dawn until much later: having been without my father for those crucial years from age 18 months to seven years, I never really bonded properly with him and I never felt I really knew him. I think my brother and sisters felt much the same.

And from Peter Law.....

We are in front of a memorial to all those who died in defence of their country in war. Amongst those named is Thomas B Barfoot, Sgt, RAF Volunteer Reserve. He was a volunteer reserve crew in Bomber Command. So was my father.

On 3 September 1938 my mother was listening to Neville Chamberlain's broadcast whilst having a picnic in a Cambridgeshire orchard. Amongst her friends was her fiancé, an army captain in a tank regiment.

My father having been a member of Cambridge University Air Squadron had already been called up and was at RAF Little Staughton.

Here are some events that touched our family:

November 1940 Sue's uncle, Gordon Maybury, bomber crew, killed in action over Berlin.

November 1940 that Captain in the tank regiment, having been posted to North Africa, was killed in action in the deserts of Cyrenaica

In August 1942 my father joined 109 Squadron, a crack Pathfinder Squadron. Recently re-equipped with De Havilland Mosquito Aircraft, their task was to go in advance of the heavy bombers, mark the bombing target, remain there and re-mark as often as necessary to keep the heavy bombers as accurate as possible before returning to base. He ended the war as station commander, at the age of 27.

His tasks included writing to the next of kin of all those killed in action - his friends and comrades. A relentless task: Bomber Command lost a higher percentage of young NCOs and officers than any other force in the history of this country. 10% of all crew died on every mission. Some crew did not complete their first mission.

On 20 February 1944 my mother living in blitzed London, worked at the Admiralty at the Citadel. She plotted the course of HMS Warwick until its sinking just off Trevoze Head in Cornwall. Her husband, Lieutenant John Parsons RNVR, who was on that boat was drowned and his body never recovered.

In August 1944 my father, as part of the Normandy campaign, led 109 Squadron in a bombing attack which Max Hastings has described as the most accurate bombing of the war. This enabled the allied army to break out of Normandy from encircling German troops. Bombing by now was a precision weapon.

Dresden and other cities were blanket bombed. My father had huge doubts, both professionally and morally over this tactic. He kept the casualty figures for Dresden in his wallet for over forty years after the war ended. It is perhaps not for us to comment

after so many years on particular tactics when fighting a war for one's very survival.

My parents both survived and raised a family. Sgt Barfoot, Gordon Maybury and Johnny Parsons were denied that option. I don't suppose there was ever a day when these memories did not pass through my parents' minds.

Why did my father survive 96 bombing missions when others lasted less than one?

The war ended and Bomber Command's wartime successes became an embarrassment to successive peace time governments: there was no campaign medal for service in Bomber Command, no equivalent honour for their Commander in Chief. Over 60 years later they were finally and after much pressure, only granted a clasp to their 1939-45 Medal, but a campaign medal was denied them.

From a veteran of World War II

Would you please on behalf of Thelma, Bette, Don, and myself via the columns of your magnificent magazine (*Birdsong*) thank everyone for the courtesy and care we were given yesterday 3 August. Also for the welcome we received on our arrival until our departure later on.

Even the weather clock recognized their wonderful combined efforts by producing a glorious display of sunshine lasting all day!

The rededication of the War Memorial including the readings by villagers young and not so young was extremely moving. I am not ashamed to admit it brought tears to these old eyes of mine!

What a knowledgeable, hard working group of people you have in Birdingbury. They are an example to every other village in this country and beyond. The History Society must have left no stone unturned in their search for information.

My Sister (Bette) and I are so grateful for the chance to learn so much more about our forbears.

Thank you so much. Bless you all!!!

From Birby's eldest son. Maybe not?

Bill Kimberley

Birdingbury 'Good Neighbours' Update

First, many thanks to all those who have helped over the summer with preparing meals, giving lifts, taking folks shopping and hospital visits.

If you would like to be involved in making a meal, or can offer a lift, collect a prescription etc when needed, then please do contact me on 634 321 email: mel.palmer@mail.com or Karen Armbrister 632 030. The more people we have available, the easier it is.

Please also contact either of us if you know of someone in our community who may be in need of some short-term help.

Once again, many thanks and what a wonderful, caring village we live in.

Mel Palmer

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UNDERNEATH THE VIADUCT

PHOTO CHRIS MORTON

Clearly romance is still in the air for at least two of Back Lane's more mature residents!!

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Welcome and Best Wishes

A warm welcome to Debbie Vialls who has moved into Mansell House in Marton Road
and

Very best wishes to Matt Markham and Jenny Tooth who are getting married at
St Leonard's on 9 October

Family Bonfire

Saturday 1 November at 6.00pm

Tickets £4 in advance, £5 on the gate

Ticket sellers will come round the village and tickets will be on sale in the Club or from Liz Ellis, 632379. Book in advance to avoid disappointment, as the number will be limited.

The ticket includes bonfire, fireworks and food. It's a real bargain, so bring your family and friends to support your local bonfire.

Please leave all bonfire material out for collection on the weekend of 25/26 October.

There's a competition on the same evening for the best Guy, so get busy (it's half-term week).

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St Leonard's Church Cafe Lunch

15 November 12.30 - 14.30

Cottage Pie

Cauliflower Cheese

Harvest Fruits

To book your lunch call either Aileen on 632644 or Eira 632876.

We look forward to seeing you there or perhaps you'd like a meal to take away.

All donations to St Leonard's Church Birdingbury

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Brownies at Marton

Do we have any young ladies aged 7-10 years who would like to come and learn new things, meet new people and have lots of fun?

If so, 1st Marton Brownies are looking for you, so come on a Tuesday evening from 6.15 to 7.15 (term time only).

If you are interested please call Brown Owl on 815466.

Birdingbury went to Silverstone classic.....

Saturday 23 August at 7.30am the Silverstone sublime seven met outside Birdingbury Club for their day out.

Off the cars went, in convoy. Leading the way, was the MX5, followed by the MG, Maserati, Jaguar, Mercedes and Peugeot while hemming us in at the back was the Fiesta (should have been the Beetle but unfortunately, it was not able to make it this time)

Beautiful drive though the countryside, formation maintained until we reached paddock 4 at Silverstone. Gazebo, bunting and chairs were all in place; thank you Dawn, Chris, Julie and Craig.

Cars were parked in formation with the Volvo and Porsche so, in true Birdingbury style, the day commenced with tea and cake under the gazebo.

A brilliant day (and I do not even know much about cars,) great company and lots of fun.

Many thanks to the 'club president' Ian Palmer and his extraordinary secretary Dawn Powers for all the planning and organising.

Do join us next year; you do not have to have a classic car to come along!

Ian Palmer





Leamington Hastings

Parish Hall

An evening of entertainment

Rugby Male

Voice Choir

7.30 Friday 14 November



A light supper will be served during the interval

Admission by ticket, price £8.50 Raffle on the night.

Tickets from Pat Toole 632874

Rose Hull 634349

All proceeds towards Parish Hall improvements

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Don't forget to visit the **Birdingbury Village website** for all your information. The link is:
<http://www.birdingbury.org/>

The Web administrator welcomes any photos, information or suggestions for change.
You can email her (Dallal Stevens) on: webadmin@birdingbury.org



Thank you to all our friends in Birdingbury You raised a fantastic £530.10 for Dogs for the Disabled at our Big Dogs Breakfast Party



Photo John Starley

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Congratulations

from the *Leamington Hasting School Newsletter*, 19 September

‘On Monday, we were delighted once again to attend the annual Rugby in Bloom Award Ceremony at the Benn Hall in Rugby. For the third year in a row we received a gold award trophy which is now proudly on display in the school’s entrance hall. There were many inspiring photos of school gardens all over Rugby and we are determined to try even harder next year and aim to achieve the highest award – a platinum trophy.’

Tony Ansell, a long standing resident of the village has died and was buried in Birdingbury churchyard on 18 September.

Our thoughts are with his family

Bourton & District Garden Club

Duncan Coombs on 'Winter Colour and Interest in the Garden'

Thursday 30 Oct 7 for 7.30

For information call Carol 632033

Marton War Memorial Hall

The Badapple Theatre on national tour presents

THE DAILY BREAD

A new comedy by Kate Bramley

Sunday 5 October 8pm - bar opens 7pm

Tickets from Kate Cooke 633788

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Ride And Stride 2014

For the Historic Churches Trust of Coventry and Warwickshire

This took place on 13 September so, while final figures are not yet available, I would like to thank the gallant few who took part and of course to everyone who so kindly sponsored our efforts. The total amount raised in Birdingbury will be sent to the Trust and half of that amount will be returned to us for our named Church of St. Leonard's .

Daphne Chippendale

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

SHOE BOXES

Just a reminder that we are collecting small items such as: small toys, stationery, toiletries, knitted gloves or hats and any other small things that children would like - even old greeting cards. All of these items can be left with me or I can collect.

We shall start wrapping the boxes on Saturday mornings in The Birbury. Some people have offered to wrap boxes at home; please let me or Cheryl Turner (632461) know if you would prefer to do this.

Thank you everyone.

Daphne, Lyndhurst, Marton Road, 632582

Birdingbury Club

We will be showing **Birdingbury Cinema's** next block buster at 7pm on Saturday 6 December. Because we have chosen a new release we are not allowed to name it until 1 November. We hope these cinema evenings become a fixture in the village entertainment calendar but realise that the choice of film is all important. Please let us know what films you would like us to show using our web site or just telling Val or any of the committee. We do have the opportunity of showing live productions filmed at The Globe Theatre, which include; *The Tempest, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream.*

With Christmas approaching Birdingbury Club is organising a family trip to The Belgrade Theatre to see a matinee performance of Aladdin. This will be on the afternoon of Saturday 13 December and will include coach transport and hopefully followed by entertainment in the club in the evening. Further details will soon appear but please speak to Carol Moor or leave your details with Val in the club if you are interested as spaces will be limited.

Forthcoming events include;

Saturday	13 October	Bingo organised by Mark Taylor
Friday	31 October	Halloween Night Party
Saturday	1 November	The Village Bonfire and Firework Display followed by live music in the club
Saturday	15 November	Comedy and Curry night - TBC
Saturday	6 December	Birdingbury Cinema
Saturday	3 December	Pantomime trip - see above
Wednesday	31 December	Gala New Year's Eve night presented by Mark Taylor and friends

Ian Tipton President

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Thanks to everyone for their support.

The Produce Show and 'Here's a pint for Alex' raised a magnificent £416 which has been donated to the RAF Benevolent fund in memory of Alex Johns.

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The POSADA is returning to Birdingbury
please see Church News for more details.

Ladies Circle

Ladies Circle reconvened after the summer for our AGM, drinks and refreshments on Tuesday 9 September. It was good to meet up with friends and catch up since our last gathering in June. Barbara Munro welcomed everyone and opened up the formal proceedings and the election of officers for the coming year. It was with much regret that the resignations of Barbara Munro (Chair) and Maggie Chinn (Secretary) were accepted. They were thanked very much for all the hard work they had done during their significant time on the Ladies Circle Committee. Lee Hayden was elected as the new Chair and Julie Colledge as the new Secretary. Jackie Westcott very kindly offered to continue her role as Treasurer, for which we are all very grateful.

Maggie read out the Minutes of the previous AGM. Jackie Westcott presented the accounts for the last year which showed a slight increase in the surplus.

We were delighted to welcome some new members - anyone who would like to join us on the second Tuesday in the month 7.45-9.00pm would receive a warm and friendly welcome. Guests are also very welcome to come along to any of the events mentioned below at a cost of £2.00

The following events are planned from October 2014 to June 2015

14 October 'Nutritional Therapy - eating your way to health.' by Alison Chappell.

11 November The Spice Traders – a talk by Rob entitled 'The Search for Nathaniel's Nutmeg'. This could prove useful with Christmas fast approaching.

9 December Pamper evening.....please come along and maybe have your nails painted or a hand massage, (for a small charge). Details will follow later. Even if you do not want a beauty treatment, just come along and have a chat and a glass of wine, and enjoy an accompanying selection of cheese.

13 January Our annual New Year meal held in the Birbury when everyone contributes a dish - delicious food, excellent company.

10 February PoW camp film with a talk by Sue Whiston.

10 March Visit to Rimo Nurseries at Thurlaston. Superb choice of plants and gifts.

14 April Come and see what colours suit you! A colour expert will bring swatches to see whether pastels, bright, warm or cool colours are your perfect match!

12 May Skittles evening with nibbles, held in the Birbury and the Club (to be confirmed). Husbands and partners welcome. Alternatively, we may go out for a meal locally – details to follow.

9 June A venue to be decided but tentatively a visit to a garden in Warwickshire, for example Mill Garden, Warwick.

Lee Hayden 633606

Birdingbury Calendar

October					page
Sunday	5	The Daily Bread	Marton Village Hall	7.00/8.00	13
Friday	9	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Saturday	11	Bingo	Club		14
Tuesday	14	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Tuesday	21	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Thursday	30	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30	3
Thursday	30	Bourton Garden Club	Bourton Village Hall	7.30	13
Friday	31	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Friday	31	Halloween Night Party	Club		14
November					
Saturday	1	Village Bonfire	Recreation Field	6.00	9
Saturday	1	Live Music	Club		14
Tuesday	11	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Friday	14	Male Voice Choir	L H Village Hall	7.30	13
Saturday	15	Church Café	St Leonard's Church	12.30	14
Saturday	15	Comedy and Curry	Club	12.30	9
Tuesday	18	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Friday	21	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Thursday	27	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30	3

Swap Shop every Saturday morning in the Birbury at 10.30



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