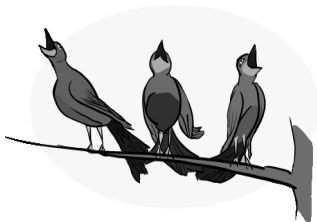


BIRDSONG

**October 2018
and
November 2018**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS**

No 88



Time to Remember

Floral display: Barbara Munro, Phot: Lewis Cutts

Parish Council Report September 2018

After the summer break it was a full agenda for this month's Parish Council meeting. Before we started, we firstly wanted to send our Chairman, Ian Tipton, our best wishes for a speedy recovery from his recent hip operation – there will be lots for him to come back to!

We also wished to record the village's thanks and congratulations to Simon Davy and his team for an outstanding and memorable day on 15th September when our own Bill Cowley, and Ron Trenchard, were presented with the rank of "Chevalier in the Ordre national de la Legion d'honneur". An exceptionally large turnout of villagers, together with an impressive list of dignitaries and a full programme for the presentation were very much the result of a lot of excellent planning and organisation – and as usual Birdingbury "came up trumps" with the refreshments.

At our meeting, we discussed at length and in some depth with Emma Crane, our Borough Councillor, our continued concerns about the handling of planning applications by Rugby Borough Council, and our seeming lack of opportunity to make meaningful comment as a Parish Council. We raised examples of anomalies and inconsistencies with both decisions and the conditions put on applications and therefore sought further clarification of these areas through her. There have been changes at RBC with a new Portfolio Holder and a new Head of Planning. She will raise our concerns with them and report back to us.

It is our intention over the coming months to review our own Planning Protocol to seek improvements in communications, involvement and accountability. Any views from villagers on these matters will be very welcome.

The meeting also received an update on progress with the Defibrillator, which is continuing well. Training sessions will be advertised as soon as the equipment is installed. Please do take up the opportunity to attend one of these sessions to become familiar with the equipment and how access to it in an emergency works.

Planning for the Village Bonfire is also proceeding well, with details covered elsewhere in Birdsong – as always more volunteers will be welcome.

Going into autumn and winter we are all going to be busy!

David Preston, Vice-Chairman

Birdingbury Parish Council

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Congratulations!



Many congratulations to Dallal and Patrick who were married in a small ceremony in Stratford-upon-Avon on Saturday 14 July 2018.

The reception and wedding breakfast were held in the Arden Hotel and, following the events of the day, all guests attended the RSC to see (appropriately) *Romeo and Juliet*.

A good time was had by all and, in the words of Dallal and Patrick, 'It was truly a magical occasion!'

Birdsong

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Swap Shop Saturday Special

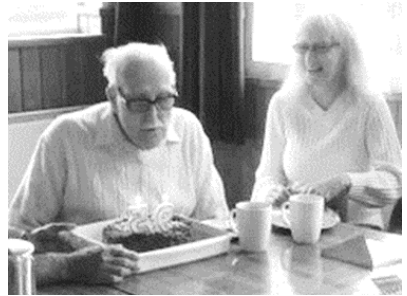
Two BIG birthdays were celebrated at Swap Shop on consecutive Saturdays in August: Gary Laverick's 80th and Bill Cowley's 95th.

Needless to say, these special cakes were duly scoffed, 'Happy Birthday' sung and candles (although not 80 and 95 of them respectively) were blown out.

So, if you have a BIG birthday coming up, don't be shy. Let it be known and you may well find yourself the centre of attention at a Saturday morning cake party!

Many happy returns of the day to Bill and Gary.

Aileen Withington



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG



Another Big Birthday Boy

Congratulations also go to our PC Chairman, Ian Tipton, for reaching the ripe old age of 60. Gary managed to gate crash this party too!

Birdsong

‘Chevalier in the Ordre national de la Legion d’honneur’

History was brought home to Birdingbury on 15th September as two real life heroes were honoured in a special ceremony during which Bill Cowley and Ron Trenchard were created Chevalier in the Ordre national de la Legion d’honneur’ by the French Government.



This is France's highest accolade for people who distinguished themselves through civilian or military courage. In 2014, the French government said it wanted to recognise the selfless acts of heroism and determination displayed by all surviving veterans of the D-Day landings by awarding them with the Légion d'honneur.

June 6th 1944 was D-Day, one of the most memorable wartime operations ever planned and executed.

Called Operation Overlord, it started the allied liberation of north-west Europe and was instrumental in leading to the end of the Second World War. The award was to recognise the contribution they made to the success of Overlord.

The ceremony was introduced and led by Warrant Officer Simon Davy.

The citation and medal presentations were made by General de Brigade Yann Poincignon (HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps) and Monsieur Robert Mille (West Midland’s Honorary French Consul), representing the French Government.

The Reverend Ali Massey shared some words about remembrance, followed by the playing of the Last Post, the Exhortation, one-minute’s silence, reveille and Simon reciting the Kohima Epitaph:



“When you go home tell them of us and say; for your tomorrow we gave our today.”



The service concluded with the blessing.

Few have been tested in the way Bill and Ron were or have been required to show the kind of courage that they did. The many folk from Birdingbury, Galanos House, friends and family members who came along felt privileged to witness the ceremony and to celebrate with Bill and Ron afterwards.



In addition to the French delegation, honoured guests included Mr Tim Cox, Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire representing the Queen: Lt Cdr (Ret) Bob Stevens RN, President Birmingham & Warwickshire Royal British Legion; Major (Retired) Mike Gaffney MBE, President Southam Branch RBL; Mr Alan Peachey, Southam RBL (Bugler); Mr Steve Garlick, Southam RBL (Standard Bearer); and Mrs Isobel Watson, Rugby Group Benevolent Fund.

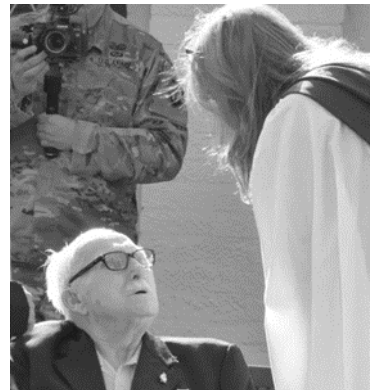
Also, in attendance were representatives from the US Army, RAF, RNA, Army, Sea Cadets, Air Cadets and Army Cadets.

All were struck by the dignity and modesty of these two exceptional men.

For more photos and a link to the ITV coverage of the event, please do go the Birdingbury website: <http://www.birdingbury.org/>



Cutting the special cake made by Jo



Warm words from Rev Ali



Carol looks on with pride as the General congratulates her Dad

Corporal Bill Cowley's Story

Bill was called up for military service on September 3rd, 1942. After initial training in Derby, Plymouth and Abbotsbury, he was sent on a Signallers course in nearby Weymouth. It was here he met his future wife, Dink. They were married on January 29th, 1944.



Around that time, Bill moved from Coastal Command to the Field Artillery, in preparation for Operation Overlord. In the days before June 6th, 1944, Bill's ship was off the French coast waiting for ground to be won from the Germans, so they could go ashore and to park their guns and 'enter the fray'.

It was whilst waiting on the ship that Bill suffered his only war wound; a knife cut his leg when his Bombardier was cutting the rope that secured the gun barrels to a pallet. He still bears the scar!

Bill's Company went ashore on D Day+1 and he was the last man off the ship.

A little while later, Bill was spotted by the transport Sergeant, sitting in the driver's seat of a stationary vehicle and he asked Bill if he was interested in driving. After a quick run out in the lorry, Bill was made 'first reserve' for driving duties.

He didn't have to wait long for his first job which was taking ammo and rations in a convoy to the gun site under the cover of darkness. There were no lights and they had to follow the lorry in front, guided only by the white paint on its rear axle.

After unloading the ammo and rations for the gun crews, the lorries were lined up for the return journey when Bill flooded the carburettor of his truck, which meant a long wait for it to dry out. By the time he could start the lorry, the others had gone: Bill and his oppo were stranded. Bill remembers saying to his mate Sammy, "I don't know about you, but I'm not staying here"! His mate replied "Whatever you decide, Bill" and off they went, picking out the landmarks in the moonlight that they had seen on their outward journey. A frightening experience, but they arrived back at their wagon lines, safe and sound.

Sometime after D Day, Bill returned to the UK, transferring from Artillery to Infantry and was posted to Pickering in North Yorkshire. He was promoted and trained for operations in Burma, but with the war ending, he went instead to Palestine until his demob and return to civvy street.

Bill worked at Rugby Portland Cement, surviving a serious accident in 1961. He retired in 1985.

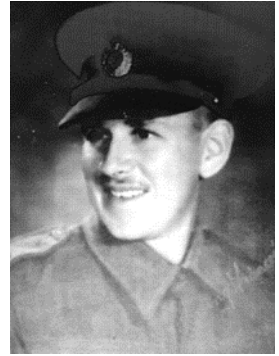
Simon Davy

Sergeant Ron Trenchard's Story

Ron joined the Royal Engineers in November 1939 and was posted to a Docks Operating Company, which worked a section of the docks. Ron was a Checker attached to the Company.

Ron was soon on active service, and in January 1940 he was sent to France as part of the BEF. In Le Havre, he was loading lorries and equipment onto a ship that then sailed off without him and his troop of 10 men. They were stranded and with the Germans fast approaching, they managed to get a ride on a British Coaster. Just in time.

After two and a half years in the Middle East, Ron returned to the UK and soon found himself in Maintree in Essex, where he worked on the assembly of Mulberry harbours, Bailey bridges and PLUTO (undersea fuel pipeline) in preparation for Operation Overlord.



At D Day -3, Ron and his unit went on board a liberty ship, a freighter and sailed in convoy down the English Channel heading for France, but due to a gale the ship had to return to harbour.

The next day (D Day -2), his unit finally sailed and arrived in the invasion area near Arromanches (Gold Beach). Their ship anchored at 7.30am a mile off shore to unload tanks, guns, and lorries onto a landing craft which took the equipment to the beach, accompanied by the tank crews and lorry drivers. Ron's unit went ashore with the last of the tanks at around 11am that morning, experiencing fire from a gun battery on the nearby hillside.

On D Day and the following days, large concrete caissons were towed across the English Channel to be assembled to form the Mulberry Harbour. This portable harbour made the unloading of ships much easier as they could tie up alongside the piers and the cargo could be taken straight off the ship to the beach. From time to time German aircraft flew over but unloading work did not stop.

Ron's unit stayed in the area until the beginning of September 1944, when it received orders to move 30 lorries by road to Belgium to begin another task of unloading ships at Antwerp docks.

After the war, Ron settled in Warwick and worked for the War Office. He now lives in the fantastic Royal British Legion care home, Galanos House in Southam. He's 101 next month!

Simon Davy

Thank You

I would like to express my thanks to all the people of the village who were involved in the wonderful ceremony on September 15th.

I was born in Birdingbury and although I have not lived there since 1960, I still regard myself as a villager at heart. The love and affection which was shown to my brother Bill last week was amazing. I found it very emotional as, I know, did Bill.

From organizing various events through the years, I know that a lot of work goes into these things and I congratulate and thank you all. The weather was of course the real 'coup de grâce' and I wish I knew how you did that!

Jenny Harper, Isle of Arran, Scotland.

A Final Word from Bill

What a truly memorable day Saturday 15th September was for me. It was the day I was officially presented with the Legion d'honneur medal by General de brigade Yann Poincignon. He, and the French Consul Monsieur Robert Mille came to Birdingbury especially for the event. I since learned the event came about because of a discussion between Matt Markham and Simon Davy several weeks ago when they decided something needed to be done to mark the award, which I had received in the post. I understand an awful lot of planning by Simon ensued since then.



I would like to give Simon a very big thank you for all his hard work and for providing me with so many wonderful surprises.

Thank you to Gaynor for the delicious little cakes that everyone enjoyed. Thank you to Jo for the large cake that Ron Trenchard (fellow medal recipient) and I shared top billing on. Thank you, Barbara, for the colourful flowers on display. Thanks to all the helpers on the day and the Birbury Committee.

Thank you to Alan Peachey, a former work colleague who bugled beautifully.

Thank you to all the honoured guests. Thank you to the RPC Benevolent Fund who funded the refreshments and to their representative, Isobel Watson. It was great to finally meet her as I had only ever spoken to her on the telephone over the years. Thank you to Reverend Ali.

Thanks to all my family, friends and all the villagers who attended, and for the cards and good wishes I received, which made this day so very special.

I am brimming with thanks and pride. 'My cup runneth over'

Bill Cowley

Birdingbury Parish Plan

Following the notice in the last Birdsong, a group of interested villagers attended an exploratory meeting on 19th September. The objective was to review the actions from the 2009 Parish Plan and to explore extending the scope of a potential new Parish Plan.

The group found it most heartening to discover that a significant number of actions from the 2009 Plan had been completed. Particular progress has been made with:

- Village Website (a copy of the 2009 Parish Plan can be found there!)
- Bus services and timetables
- New footpaths
- Development of the Recreation Field
- The look and feel of the Club, both internally and externally
- Integration of Birbury, Church and Club events
- Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
- New initiatives such as the Defibrillator
- General community spirit and participation

Whilst acknowledging that life has changed considerably since the Parish Plan was initiated, the group identified opportunities to consolidate or enhance the original plan, such as:

- Communication, e.g. through social media, whilst serving the less tech-savvy
- Mobile phone coverage and access to 5G
- Improved liaison between villagers, the Parish Council and Rugby Borough Council on council services
- The development of our community facility with potential new uses and services
- Traffic challenges such as cyclists, delivery vans, speeding and parking
- Sports and activities for young people
- Healthy living, sustainability and the environment

In addition, the group felt there was the potential to consider a new approach to areas such as an annual summer event and developing closer relationships with local communities. The PC members in attendance have undertaken to establish RBC's position regarding the status of Parish Plans in relation to our restating / revising the statements regarding housing.

Meanwhile it was agreed to hold a further meeting on Wednesday 7th November. If you'd like to contribute but can't make the date, or if you have any ideas or comments about any of the above issues, do drop me an email (Lesley.fleming@bourton.co.uk).

The health and well-being of our community is dependent upon people coming together to make things happen. We have seen some fabulous recent examples of what makes Birdingbury so special. Please do come along and join in the continuation of our journey together!

Lesley Fleming on behalf of the embryonic Parish Plan Team

Lest We Forget

November 11th, 2018 marks 100 years since the end of the First World War. We will all have an opportunity nearer the time to show our respect and gratitude to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, but as this is the last Birdsong before Armistice Day, it seems appropriate to remind ourselves of the six Birdingbury men who gave their lives in this terrible conflict.



The first of the six to be killed was Frank Neal who died on the 19th September 1916 aged just 24. Frank was a groom at Birdingbury Hall and lived at Davenport Cottage with his sister and brother in law (his parents were both dead by the time he enlisted). The Neals are a long established Birdingbury family and Frank's father ran the Boat Inn for a time. Frank was in the Royal Field Artillery and died of wounds sustained in the first battle of the Somme. He is buried in Dartmoor cemetery near Albert, France. He was good friends with Fred Reeve, another Birdingbury lad who, like Frank, 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. Fortunately,

Fred Reeve survived the War. He posted this moving tribute to Frank in the Rugby Advertiser whilst still away at the front:

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)

Private Thomas Harvey was killed in action on 19th April 1917. Thomas was born in 1875 and was a painter by trade. He was married to Mary and had two daughters, Dora and Ena when he went off to war. He and his family lived in "The Barracks" at the top of Main Street. He served in the Norfolk Regiment and was killed in action in Palestine at the second battle of Gaza on 19th April 1917. He was aged 41. He is buried in Gaza War Cemetery. He left behind a wife and two young daughters. Following our Birdingbury Men at war exhibition in 2014, Thomas Harvey's family made contact and are now regular visitors to our Armistice Day services.

George Tiff was born in 1890 and was a quarryman at Nelson's cement works in Stockton. He was 25 when he enlisted in 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. His regiment were involved in the Arras offensive of spring 1917, and this is where George was killed on 28th May 1917.

Lance Corporal Thomas Bertram Kimberley died heroically on 4th October 1917.

He was born in 1892 to Job and Julia Kimberley, a long-established local family who ran an ale house at Stone Cottage. Job and Julia had ten children and at least five of their sons served in WW1.

Thomas enlisted in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment early on in 1915 and was in action during the battle of the Somme in 1916 where he was wounded. In 1917 he was back on active service again but in Belgium this time where he fought in the third battle of Ypres, better known as Passchendaele. He died in a conspicuous act of bravery for which he was awarded the Military Medal. The citation said "The German lines were strafing with machine guns when Tom got a grenade, zig-zagged through and threw the grenade which hit the German machine gun post". He is remembered at the Tyne Cot Memorial near Passchendaele.



George Wall was born in 1895 and was a painter's labourer by trade. He was the longest serving of our Birdingbury soldiers, having volunteered to join the Coldstream Guards right at the beginning of the war in November 1914. In April 1918, George's unit were in action at the battle of Hazebrouck where they were asked to 'stand to the last man' to protect the retreating British Army. He died of wounds received in this action on 14th April 1918.

William Parker died on the 5th November 1918 right at the very end of the War. William is the only one of our six casualties who still has relatives living in Birdingbury and Lance Hudson is his grandson. William was born in 1871 and was at one time a groom at Birdingbury Hall and because of his experience with horses he was posted to the Army Veterinary Corps where he served in a mobile veterinary hospital. Although originally operating on the Western Front, in November 1917 William's unit was posted to Northern Italy where they supported the British Army's 23rd division engaged in the struggle against the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He did not die of wounds but was hospitalised with Spanish Flu and died the day after a truce was signed with the Austrians on 4th November 1918. He left behind a wife and three young children.

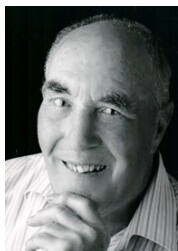


We should remember also, the thirty-one Birdingbury soldiers who served but survived the War. Of these, seven were wounded or injured and who knows what horrors they all suffered and endured. To the men of Birdingbury who fought in WW1 and to their families who suffered too, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude. Our village showed enormous courage, fortitude, resourcefulness and above all a strong sense of duty to the country. In return it is our duty not to let their memory fade. We cannot look them in the eye,

shake their hand and say thank you but we can attend The Remembrance Day commemorations on Sunday 11th November to ensure that their sacrifices are appreciated and not forgotten.

Richard Davies, Birdingbury History Group

John Price 1936 - 2018



John was born in Coventry in 1936 to Alfred and Edith. During the war he was evacuated but was so young he had to come home. At a very early age, 6 or 7, John was interested in boxing and belonged to several clubs. Before he went into the army at 18, he was British Champion. Henry Cooper was in the army boxing team and got John in. John represented the army many times; he fought the German team in the Albert Hall and won the honours for the army.

After the army he returned to work at Massey Ferguson and did so until he retired.

We met when I was 15 and John 17 and were married at 19 and 21. Our first home was the ground floor of a house, and the garden. We didn't want to live in the town and realised our dream of a 16th century cottage and land in the country. We kept sheep, ducks, hens, grew and sold at the door, fattened cockerels for Christmas, as well as working, all to put pennies in the pot. John was a 'doer', and we slowly renovated our cottage. John went to college for woodwork and Victorian upholstery and did renovating for other people. He grew and specialised in chrysanthemums and won many prizes.

Well into our 60s, we moved to Birdingbury. John still worked some land near the cottage with Robert's help, who turned the ground over so John could still grow. The countryside has a rhythm to it, which we grew to understand and respect, we feel it deeply, it's where we belong and where our roots are.



John's passion in life has been his dogs and nature and music. We have shared nature all over the world, spending many hours tracking and watching animals in Africa, tigers in India and amazing wildlife in the Galapagos Islands. John also loved music and opera. We have been to recitals and operas in La Scala Milan, Rome and Venice, London and Liverpool.

I know exactly where John is. He spirit is walking the lanes and fields with his beloved dogs, Sam, Ben, Hoddy, Scampy and in time, Murphy and Basil. My heart is with him.

I am glad John is at peace; we had months of hell. Unable to move his legs, not out walking with his dogs in the fields, away from the home he loved, John felt crushed and desolate. I wouldn't bring him back if I could, that is the measure of my love for him.

I am so very very lucky to have had a man at my side, who loved me as much as I loved him. Love is a fabric that never fades, no matter how often it is washed in the waters of adversity and grief.

Josie Price

One-year Anniversary

On 31st August it was one year since we moved to the village. How time flies. We would just like to say how wonderful the move to Birdingbury has been for us. We still can't remember everyone's names and, depending who you talk to, it will be somewhere between 19 and 50 years before we can call ourselves 'villagers'. So, in 2068 we intend to have a party, all welcome!

To commemorate this milestone, I have written a few lines:

How to Enjoy Birdingbury

Walk through the fields, see the river glisten,
Linger awhile, look and listen.
For kingfisher, heron, perch and chub
Drop by for a pint with tigers and wasps at the club

And while you're in there, resting your legs,
Remember to stock up on pickles and eggs.
Or call at the Birbury for coffee and chat,
And cakes by the dozen, no wonder I'm fat!

Stroll down Main Street, take children to the park
Remember your torch if it's getting near dark.
Look up at the stars in the Birdingbury sky,
Ke-wick, ke-wick hear the tawny owl cry

And if you're inclined to a spiritual search,
Take time in the lynch gate or church.
Sit on the bench, watch the world go by,
Take it all in with a satisfied sigh.

We live in a village, a village so pretty,
Where all roads lead to one, via the 'jitty'.
And all of these wonderful things would be 'nowt,
Without all the wonderful people about.

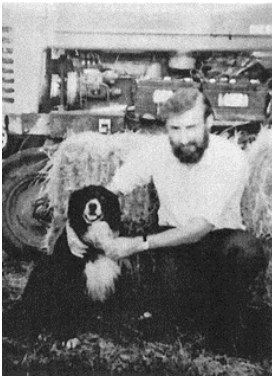
Steve Edgar

John Truslove

Birdingbury is sad to lose a member of one of its oldest families. John farmed the land following his parents, Harry and Norah, and lived at Marston House as a child and later with his wife, Margaret, and their young family. Margaret worked in the shop in Birdingbury when they were first married and enjoyed the busy routine and many friendships.



John, his animals and farm machinery were a familiar sight in the village for over forty years from the 1950s. The sound of his tractors could be heard even when he and Margaret moved to their new bungalow a mile or so up the Stockton Road.



John was a skilled farm mechanic, having taken a course in this trade after leaving school and was able to look after his own machinery and assist his neighbours. He was also a patient and caring stockman. He had a remarkable ability to recognise individual animals and remember their history. Animals thrived in his care. His dark beard and shiny shepherd's crook caused a little boy in Main Street to run to his mother to say he had seen Jesus walking up the road.

John did mountains of work and helped lots of people. He made folk smile and made them glad they knew him, not just for what he did, but for what he was: kind, decent and courteous.

We will treasure our memories of him and benefit from his influence.

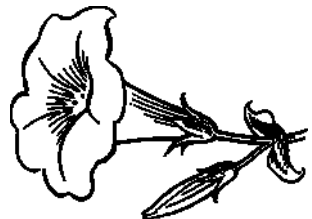
Raymond Truslove

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Phyllis Perry

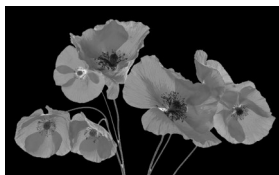
We were also sad to learn the Phyllis Perry, formerly of Springside, died in May 2018. She was in her late 90s and had lived in Birdingbury for many years.

Karen Armbrister



Armistice Commemoration and Exhibition

St Leonard's Church, 4 November to 18 November



Do come and see the results of our community poppy making sessions and the many hours of hard work by lots of villagers, producing poppies for our display.

The exhibition, which will include work created by the village History Group as well as our community poppies, will be open from 4th to 18th November from 10.00am to 5.00pm daily.

During the period of the exhibition the church will be locked outside of these hours.

The official opening will be on Sunday 4 November at 10.30am when coffee and cake will be served. We hope that some willing villagers will help us to provide cover at the church during opening hours; to receive and welcome guests, provide hospitality, answer any questions and encourage the visitor's book to be completed. Please do let Karen know if you can do that; all offers gratefully received.

Thank you very much to all those who have made or provided poppies for our display. If you haven't yet, there are still a couple more opportunities to do this:

Saturday 13 October from 10.30 we hope to join SWAP SHOP to do some more hand printing in or outside the Birbury (and the same on pizza night!)

Thursday 18 October 8pm in the Club Lounge

Monday 29 October (particularly for children but everyone welcome) 10.00am to 12noon at the Church

Any poppies made at home should be delivered to Julie or placed in our collecting boxes in the Club and Church, by Tuesday 30 October 2018. We will be unable to accept any further poppies once the installation has begun, unless already agreed.

The installation will take place from 31 October to 3 November ready for the opening and if you could help at any time during this period please do let Julie or Karen know.

We look forward to sharing our vision and work with everyone in the village

Our service of Remembrance will take place on Sunday 11th November, commencing in Church at 10.15am and finishing at the War Memorial from 10.55am. Coffee will be served afterwards in the Club Lounge.

Julie Colledge and Karen Armbrister



More Promises Fulfilled



During the Auction of Promises last spring, Jenny Rogers pipped me to the post to secure the winning bid for a lesson in sourdough making, offered by Amanda Ross from Stretton.

However, in a post-auction chat with Jenny and Amanda, they both agreed to let me muscle in to the workshop.

Aileen Withington

We received two lovely hanging baskets made up by Aileen and Debbie, which have been enjoyed by all throughout the summer. Many thanks to the green-fingered duo!

Dallal and Patrick Unwin



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Tractor Run Charity Total



We have received confirmation from Lloyds bank that they have sent £500 to the Bloodwise charity following the 'Bob Munro tractor run' in June. This is a donation (subject to a £500 maximum) from their charity matching scheme following the £610 we raised on the day.

This confirms that the total raised was £1110. Thanks again to all involved and particularly Nicky Kerry and Lloyds bank.

Steve Edgar

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Thank You

Thank you for making our last twelve months living here in Birdingbury so great, we have all thoroughly enjoyed living in Lime Crest.

We would especially like to thank Dick and Aileen, and Faye and Dom for being wonderful neighbours.

Many thanks to everyone for making us feel so welcome, we will miss you all and this lovely village.

James, Steph, Olivia and Jessica Frogley



Breast Cancer NOW Charity Table Top Sale

Come along, have a good rummage and grab a bargain!



Saturday 6th October 2018
Marton Village Hall
Church Street, Marton. CV23 9RL
10 am – 2 pm

breast cancer
now

For further information please contact:
Mary Harrison 01926 632939 or Helen Keeves 07793 213048
Email: helen.keeves@hotmail.co.uk

Breast Cancer Now is a registered charity No. 1160558

The Birbury



At our September meeting we were very pleased to welcome Alice Munro to our Committee. Alice has become our new Treasurer and a Village Representative. Leslie Turner resigned as Treasurer at our previous meeting after a tenure of many years. We are truly grateful to Leslie for his dedication and hard work. Leslie remains on the Committee as a Village Representative.

The Birbury were delighted to support the recent medal presentations of the Legion d'Honneur to both Bill Cowley and Ron Trenchard. A truly poignant and memorable occasion.

The Birbury Management Committee will be holding an Autumn Bazaar on Saturday 20th October.

Gaynor Davy

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Save the Date



Saturday 15th December! Please save the date for our annual Tea @ 3. Please join us for some Christmas cheer, mince pies and a drop of sherry.

If you would like a lift or know someone that might need a little help getting out the house, please do not hesitate to contact me on 632041 or

Dick on 632644.

Gaynor Davy

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Coffee and Chat

We continue to meet on the last Thursday of the month in the Birbury at 10.30 for a relaxing hour of friendly chatter, a cuppa and some tasty goodies.

Our next get togethers are on Thursday 25th October and 29th November.

Please come along and join us and maybe bring a friend.....

Your friends from St. Leonard's



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG



Autumn Bazaar

Crafts, Cakes, Teas,
Coffee, Raffle

Saturday 20th October
at 10.30

In the Birbury

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Ladies Circle

Following the A.G.M. we decided to adopt a more casual approach to our meetings of the village Ladies Circle.

A small friendly group will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month, from September to June at 7.45pm in the Birbury.

We are next meeting on Tuesday 9th October in the Birbury for a C.A.M.E.O. evening. Please join us for an entertaining chat over a cuppa and some light refreshments, everyone welcome.

On Tuesday 13th November we will have an illustrated talk from a well-travelled former villager entitled 'Outback Australia' (not the holiday for everyone!). We have been lucky enough to enjoy previous presentations from this gentleman and they are always entertaining and informative. Refreshments will be available before the talk. Both ladies and gentlemen are welcome to attend, members are free, and we ask for a £3 contribution to our funds from visitors.

We look forward to seeing you.

Your friends in the Birbury Ladies Circle.

Autumn Highlights at the Club

- October 20th Test your memory, celebrate your brain power or drown your sorrows at the October Quiz night
- October 31st Park your broomstick and join in the fun and games after Tricking and Treating your way around the village
- November 3rd Come along to the Club to warm your cockles after the Family Bonfire and Fireworks
- November 10th Collect your instructions for the Progressive Supper and enjoy a pre-prandial before eating your way around the village. Return afterwards for a cup of coffee and the raffle.
- November 17th Rock and roll up for Birdingbury's latest live music event: MDF playing in the Club

As reported in the last edition, the Fish and Chip van will no longer be visiting Birdingbury, but the team are still looking at alternative options.

After an extremely successful joint Pizza and Poppy night at the end of August, further Pizza nights are planned, and dates are currently in the process of being agreed. Once confirmed, these will be advised though our Facebook page and on the board outside the Club.

Meanwhile, do pop down to catch up with friends, share the scuttlebutt, and try out the new range of drinks. There's usually something going on!

Tony Flint, President



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Vision



Birdingbury knows

As autumn leaves are turning

LH comes in view

Thin Jethro Laskey

Birdingbury Club Presents

M D F



Saturday November 17th

Start 8pm-ish

**A fun night of rock and pop and
more!**

**Collection for
Warwickshire and
Northamptonshire
Air Ambulance**



Calling All Birdingbury Rappers!

Teams 4U Shoe Box Appeal

Once again, we are collecting small gifts to fill shoeboxes for children who may not have received a gift before. If you would like to help, we are looking for donations of the following gifts:



- **Hygiene items:** toothpaste, toothbrushes, flannels, combs, soap, hair slides
- **Educational:** writing/drawing paper, notebooks, crayons, pencils, pens, small games, puzzles
- **Toys:** Barbie type dolls/clothes, balls, cars, finger puppets, small cuddly toys, small hand knitted toys
- **Accessories:** scarves, gloves, mittens, hats
- **Sweets:** lollypops, small packets of sweets dated for 2019

I'm sorry but we are unable to accept liquids or chocolates.

Sincere thanks to the kind people who have already left small gifts at my front door.

We are also looking for kind volunteers to wrap the empty boxes, which will then be taken to Stretton for filling with suitable articles. I can supply wrapping paper and sellotape.

Please drop things in to me at Lyndhurst, Marton Road or give me a call on 632582

Thank you

Daphne Chippendale

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

A Ghoulish Date for Your Diary!

Wednesday 31st October will see our annual Birdingbury Hallowe'en adventure when residents young and old put on their scariest faces (some don't need to try too hard) and explore the village in search of treats and trickery.



If you're brave enough to venture out with us on All Hallows' Eve, we will meet outside the Creepy Club at 6pm. Dress code is fun, frightening or freakish. We'll head around the village in groups depending on numbers, and then back to the club for some ghoulish games!

As is tradition, please leave something Hallowe'en themed (pumpkin lanterns being the obvious choice!) outside your house if you're happy to welcome a gory group, spooky set or creepy cluster.

Lesley Tomlinson

Family Bonfire and Fireworks

Please come along and support Birdingbury's Family Bonfire and Firework display at the playing field on Saturday 3rd November at 5.30pm

Food will be available from 5.30pm, the bonfire will be lit at 6.00pm, and the firework display will start at 6.30pm. So come early, get your hotdog, find a seat on a straw bale, sit back and enjoy the show!

Tickets remain at only £5.00, which includes a hot dog and jacket potato, with free entry for very young children. Numbers will be limited and sell out very early, so book your tickets in advance to avoid disappointment on the night. These are available from Liz Ellis (632379), Gaynor Davy (632041) and at the Club. It's a real bargain, so bring all your friends and family.



Bonfire material will be collected on Saturday 27th October, all helpers to meet at the club at 10.30. Please bring all material out to the roadside where it can be seen. Help with loading would be very much appreciated. Any special requirements contact David Preston (633222) beforehand.

Sadly, we are a rather depleted team this year, so any help whatsoever would be very welcome in order to make this annual village event as successful as in past years.

We look forward to a cracking night. See you there.

Liz Ellis

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Progressive Supper - Saturday 10 November 2018

Don't forget the Progressive Supper is coming fast upon us! We already have over twenty couples joining in but there is room for plenty more. Make sure you don't miss out on what promises to be a great evening in support of Myton Hospice.

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

Simon Whitfield - 634761 - simon_whitfield@hotmail.com

Alex Rigler - 632709 - alexrigler@aol.com

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Simon Whitfield



Leamington Hastings Parish Hall

Proudly presents



(Photo courtesy OWMVC publicity)

Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir

In a pre-Christmas concert on
Saturday 1st December 2018 at 7.30pm

Also featuring Solihull soloist Rose Rowley

Tickets £12 – available from:

Pat Toole (Tel: 01926 632874)

Jill Ayres (Tel: 01926 633119)

- Light supper (included in admission) served during the interval
- Doors open at 6.45pm

Croeso i Côr meibion Cymry Rhydychen
(Welcome to the Oxford Male Choir of Oxford)



Proceeds in aid of Parish Hall improvements

New Hatha Yoga Class

Starting on Sunday October 14th, I'm going to be teaching monthly Restorative Hatha Yoga classes at Leamington Hastings Village Hall. The classes will begin at 11.00 and last for 70 min and cost £10 per session. The next date is November 18th with dates for December and the new year to be advised in due course.

This class is suitable for all ages, and both men and women. It will consist of gentle mobility and stretching with meditation and relaxation.

We look forward to seeing you!

Claire A Hewer-Barnett

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG



Table Tennis



Recreational table tennis in Southam every Tuesday evening.

Social, not league, and all ages welcome.

Come along and give it a try!

Details from me: 075806 74341

Vic Shayler

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Thank you from Birdsong

On behalf of the Birdingbury community, I would like to express the great appreciation felt on the receipt of two exceptionally generous donations to Birdsong funds.

The first was from the Profits and Reserves of the final Birdingbury Country Show, held in July 2017. The second from a very kind and community spirited individual.

Birdsong would not be viable without such donations and I am sure that everyone who enjoys reading the magazine is most thankful.

Lesley Fleming, Editor

thank
you

Dury Mill British Cemetery, Arras, France

Way back in July 1980, near the end of a tour around Europe on my motorbike, I chanced upon this British Cemetery in Northern France. Buried here are 323 casualties, mainly Canadians from the Second Battle of Arras - a particularly vicious battle fought against German forces on the 2nd / 3rd September 1918, in which no fewer than seven Canadian Victoria Crosses were awarded. Also, within the cemetery, are three members of the RAF.



The location, in the middle of a large field accessed by a long strip of grass, carefully preserved by the local farmer, touched me as so peaceful that I vowed to be there on the centenary of the battle and their falling.

I was.

Out of respect, I laid English red roses on the graves of those three RAF personnel, one of whom by strange coincidence was from Copse Hill, Wimbledon very close to where I had been living as a student.

However, to my amazement there were two coach loads of visitors from Canada also paying their respects, and the local French residents had organised a generous fête for their benefit and, as it turned out, mine. Perhaps the most heartening part of the day was a family from Belfast who were also there paying respects to a Canadian relative and who, to their amazement, met unknown counterparts from Canada. It was a particularly moving and completely unplanned family reunion.

Thus, at the presentation to Bill Cowley and Ron Trenchard, I felt it particularly appropriate to be able to thank Générale de Brigade Yann Poincignon for his presence in Birdingbury, having had the privilege to attend the commemoration on that occasion in his country in connection with the First World War.

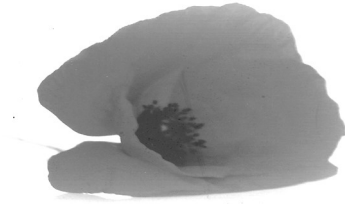
Chris Morton



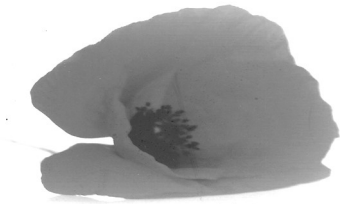
Now Wear Red Flowers

The centenary.

Sometimes a fear,
In silence driven,
Leaves a tender
Scar on Heaven.



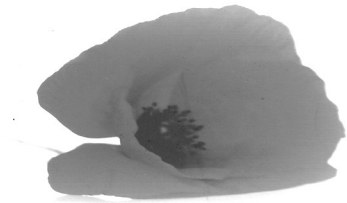
Now wear red flowers
And briefly turn
Our unburned years,
Then do not let us
Be ashamed
Of things our children's
Children do.



Do not lose faith
With our closed selves,
Or fail to let
The future know
How circumstance
Made carnage
Of our dreams.

And never let
Some sly ambitious pest
Convince you
That your country is better
Than the rest.

No more the reddened
Dancers scream,
Soft neighbours now
And quiet
And clean.



Birdingbury Calendar

	Date	Event	Time	Venue
October	6	Cancer Charity Table Top Sale	10.00	Marton Village Hall
	9	Ladies Circle	19.45	Birbury
	12	Mobile Library	11.40	Club
	13	Swap Shop and Poppy Workshop	10.30	Birbury
	14	Hatha Yoga	11.00	LH Hall
	18	Poppy Workshop	20.00	Club
	20	Autumn Bazaar	10.30	Birbury
		Quiz Night	20.00	Club
	25	Coffee and Chat	10.30	Birbury
	29	Poppy Workshop	10.00	Church
	31	Trick or Treat	18.00	Club
November	2	Mobile Library	11.40	Club
	3	Family Bonfire and Fireworks	17.30	Playing Field
	4	Armistice Exhibition Opens	10.30	Church
	7	Parish Plan Meeting	20.00	Club
	10	Progressive Supper	TBA	Club
	11	Remembrance Service	10.15	Church
	13	Ladies Circle	19.45	Birbury
	17	Live music - MDF	20.00	Club
	18	Hatha Yoga	11.00	LH Hall
		Armistice Exhibition Closes	17.00	Church
	23	Mobile Library	11.40	Club
	29	Coffee and Chat	10.30	Birbury



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