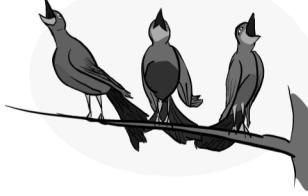


BIRDSONG

**October
and
November 2015**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS**

No 70



PHOTO JOHN MARSHALL

Getting the harvest in - a combine working in a
field by the Stockton Road

Parish Council Report

After the summer break, the Parish Council met on 15 September, supported by our new Clerk, Rebecca Butcher. She can be contacted by e-mail on the same address as her predecessor: parishclerk@birdingbury.org.

Our first business was receiving reports from councillors and villagers about the recent serious spillage of raw sewage in Main Street. This clearly had a significant impact on a large number of people, and the Council spent some time working out how best to pursue the matter with Severn Trent Water and other local bodies, including the Environment Agency. As I write, we are doing our best to ensure that the health hazard is addressed as a matter of urgency, but also to demand proper remedial action: cleansing of the roads and footpaths; clearing of the drains; following up the apparently illegal action which caused the spillage; and the distribution of information to villagers. We hope to be able to meet senior representatives of the appropriate bodies too.

We received a report from the Bonfire Committee. The PC is now insuring this event and a requirement was to provide training for those involved. Five villagers attended the training in early September and they judged it to be helpful. We shall also be providing safety equipment: a fire extinguisher, fire blankets and first aid kit. The village Bonfire Night will take place on Saturday 7 November; there will be a collection of timber for the fire at the end of October.

Our County Councillor reported on the current discussions at County and Borough level on the question of Warwickshire joining a West Midlands Authority: WCC has decided not to do this. Proposals by the Police Authority to withdraw PCSOs concerned us, as we have been well served by our local officer Helena Seal. We were also reminded of the need to report sightings of ragwort (a weed which can seriously harm horses): the County Council should be informed immediately if you see it on highway verges; landowners are responsible for clearing it themselves.

We discussed the worrying spate of vandalism in the Recreation Field (see separate item opposite). Keeping this facility in good order is one of our most significant responsibilities, and we shall be following up the recommendations from our most recent Annual Inspection over the next few weeks.

Our next meeting will take place in the Birbury at 7.30 on Tuesday 20 October

Members of the public are very welcome to attend

Best wishes

Diana Turner, Chair, Birdingbury PC

Vandalism in the Recreation Field

Over the long summer holiday period there has been a worrying increase in damage to and vandalism in the children's play area and skate-park. Problems reported include:

- bottles, some of them broken, left on the grass
- graffiti painted on equipment
- water containers (for watering the Jubilee Oak) upset and destroyed
- dog fouling on the grass where children play

The Parish Council has a responsibility to keep this area safe and clean, and while this problem is relatively rare, councillors thought it was important to bring it to your attention. It is accepted that children can get bored over a long holiday, but doing damage to a facility which is highly valued by our young people is not acceptable.

Most of the equipment has been bought and maintained by villagers (including the youngsters who initiated the development of the skate park) by working hard to raise money or obtain grants. It is really sad to see these facilities being damaged. It would be really helpful if all parents and grandparents could instil into the young people the need to look after these facilities and to report any damage they see.

Dog fouling in the recreation field is potentially very dangerous to the health of youngsters playing. It is **not allowed to take any dog on to the field**, and there is a local bye-law to this effect. If you see breaches of this bye-law, please ask the culprit politely not to do bring their dog onto the field and report it to any member of the Parish Council.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Family Bonfire

Saturday 7 November at 6 pm

TICKETS £4 bought in advance, £5 on the gate.

Great value for bonfire, fireworks and food.

Ticket sellers will be coming around the village and they will also be on sale in the Club. Book early by contacting Liz Ellis on 632379. Tickets did run out last year so buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

Bonfire material will be collected on Saturday 31 Oct at 10 am.

Your help with this would be much appreciated.

Energy Warwickshire

Energy Warwickshire is a group-buying syndicate which aims to reduce the costs of buying heating oil by purchasing in bulk.

Households in rural communities, particularly those that are off the mains gas network, often find that they are paying substantially more for their heating than their urban counterparts. Energy Warwickshire was set up by WRCC in 2012 to help combat this.

Energy Warwickshire collates one group order per month and negotiations then take place with various suppliers to obtain the best price for members. As our membership increases so does our buying power. In August 2015 we secured our lowest ever price of 28.97p per litre, (10.98p per litre less than the market high price) saving members £66.00 on an order of 1000 litres

We have approximately 500 members in Warwickshire who are now benefitting from our cheaper prices.

Energy Warwickshire has a dedicated website which allows members to sign up to use the scheme and place their orders. The site also contains a wealth of information on running a household on heating oil, offers for boiler servicing and quotes from current members on the service they have received.

We also offers discounts on LPG cylinders and have access to very competitive rates for bulk LPG supplies.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Little Italy - Church Cafe

October days can still be warm enough to eat outside, yet some carry that chill so bring along a fleece. If we can eat outside we will - otherwise let the warmth of St Leonard's invite you in for lasagna or a vegetarian option, followed by tiramisu.

Saturday 24 October 2015

12.30-14.00

We are also collecting for Hope4 a charity for the homeless in Rugby. They are in need of sleeping bags and waterproof coats so if you have any spare then please bring them along and we will ensure their safe delivery to the charity.

We look forward to seeing you.

Aileen and Eira

Neighbourhood Watch

The Birbury has been booked for a meeting on Wednesday 4 November from 7pm with a 'meet and greet' and the main meeting starting at 7.30 pm.

This will be an opportunity to meet officers from Rugby and find out more about policing in our area together with crime prevention and hopefully see some new property marking methods. We will also look at how we in Birdingbury are tackling crime issues and our areas of concern and see how we can do things better and learn from other's experiences.

Please let me know if there are any more specific areas you would like to see covered in this meeting so we can prepare and shape an agenda accordingly.

Jackie Morton

Message received 9 September

This week a male has been arrested for theft from outbuildings and theft of motorbikes. It is believed that this male and his associates are responsible for the numerous crimes of this nature that were committed around the Rugby rural south over the last few months.

Owing to an ongoing investigation I am unable to give you any more details at this time.

Thank you to all who have passed information to the police.

Helena **PCSO 6149 Helena SEAL**

To report a crime anywhere in Warwickshire call Warwickshire Police on Tel 101. In an emergency, dial 999. If you have information about crime or criminal activity in your neighbourhood, call Crime Stoppers anonymously on Tel 0800 555 1111.

To find out more information on your local safer neighbourhood team please visit www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk Rugby Rural South.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The next edition of *Birdsong*

The editor and the production team will be off on a jolly at the end of November.

Please be prepared to send material in promptly by the copy date (18th of the month) .

Birdingbury Art Show

When I began to think about organising an art exhibition in May, I never expected the exhibition to be such a success. So I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the event or helped me along the way as, without you, this event would not have been as good. I am particularly grateful to Peter Law who organised the show with me and helped me with the planning and detail. He even made some of the display stands.

For me, I wanted to organise this event due to my existing love of art. I hope to follow this passion through to university by studying History of Art, and later by working in galleries and museums. This event has built up vital skills such as planning, organisation and communication, all of which will be helpful in future.

So thank you again, and I am happy to say that we raised £500 for St Leonard's Church.

Jessie Armbrister



A critic's view

The preview reception for the first ever Birdingbury Art Show gave all the culture vultures in the village a first class excuse to meet, greet, have a natter, munch on canapés and enjoy a glass of wine or two. Oh, and have a look at the art work as well! Balanced precariously on a pew, Jess and Peter warmly welcomed everyone to the event, thanked those who helped to make it possible and went on to express their amazement at the extent of support that the show had received.

Wandering round chatting and thinking on this, I was struck by the diversity of events and interests that bring us together and the enthusiasm with which new ventures in the village are embraced. Birdingbury always rises to a challenge and this occasion gave us a unique opportunity share, explore and learn more about each other. Who knew so many of our friends and neighbours nurtured these secret talents and held such fascinating perspectives? Who would have anticipated chatting to engineers about expression, musicians about proportion, accountants about colour, or farmers about the abstract? It was a revelation!

However, the overriding feeling I took away from the preview was a desire to go back and really look at the individual works. It was a busy bank holiday weekend but I knew I had to see more. Entering the church from the chill damp of an overcast day, I was greeted with a sea of light and colour. Taking my time, I moved from one place to another. I saw a



craggy cliff, a dappled farmyard, a Yorkshire lane, a sunny beach, a mountain lake. I felt the pain, fear, joy on the faces I encountered. I touched objects in wood, textile, glass: shaped and fashioned to perfection with superb skill and craftsmanship. I asked myself difficult questions about images of the society I live in. And at each stop, I took in a little more about the person who had created something extraordinary and had contributed, in their own special way, to what makes our community extraordinary too.



Thank you Jess and Peter for a wonderful experience - you have given us all a new perception of our little corner of the world!!

Lesley Fleming

Big Dogs' Breakfast!

The first dank and damp September Saturday morning dawned and the rain started sheeting down just as the barbecue was lit and final touches being put to the balloons and bunting. The omens were looking terrierble.

This was the day of the Birdingbury Big Dogs' Breakfast and, whilst everyone nose that from a canine point of view, mud and puddles present an irresistible temptation, we were worried that they might not prove so attractive to the human guests. Howl wrong we were. We should have known that the dogs of Birdingbury had trained their feeders and walkers not to be put off by an odd shower or two. By half past eight we had the bewoofings of a party and at nine o'clock the sausages and Thin Jethro Laskey home baked dog biscuits (move over Pawl Hollywood) were disappearing at an alarming lick. By the time everyone assembled for the group photo, the sun had (sort of) come out as well.



Once the breakfasts were consumed, the games began. Our doggie guests enthusiastically entered their slightly wary human companions in the highly competitive 'Hounds Pounding the Grounds Steaks' and the nail biting 'Sit Stay Come Classic'. Prize winners were Jacob (trained by Nellie) and William (trained by Bently) for speed and agility; and Cynthia (trained by Pippa) and jointly Anna and Henry (trained by Whiskey and Benson) for exemplary behaviour.

So once again, we had enormous fun at the Big Dogs' Breakfast and raised a fangtastic £375 for Dogs for the Disabled. On their behalf, John and Lesley would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported the event and fur all the generous contributions to this waggiful cause.

For further information go to www.dogsforthedisabled.org

Lesley Fleming

What Sorrow Cares

Infinites

(Loos 1915)

Infinites
Are not equal,
They supply
Lines that reach
Up to the sky.

Beef for breakfast.
Orders came.
Battalion stumbled,
Stumbled to its feet.

Then he and I
And we
And they
Together
Stepped down
Into this bloody field,
To sleep.

* *

His song has gone
Beyond the river.
Behind the sun
Another singer waits.

Pilgrim

The Harvest - how it is and how it was

The picture on the front of this edition of *Birdsong* shows a typical modern combine harvester at work. It can harvest about 12 acres an hour. Although there were primitive horse drawn combines in the USA in the nineteenth century they only became common in this country after World War 2. The earliest I remember were drawn by a tractor and cut a swathe less than two metres wide while the cutter of the one in the picture is at least six meters wide. Most of the large modern ones have satellite guidance systems which keep the machine running in straight lines and contain computer displays which tell them how many tonnes they are harvesting at any point in a field and how much they have harvested in a field or by hour.

Two hundred years ago corn was cut with a sickle. A gang of three to five could cut about an acre in a day of ten hours. It was back breaking work as they had to stoop to cut it as close to the ground as possible. They were followed by others who gathered the straw into bundles and tied it with straw bands to make sheaves which were stacked on end 12 or 16 at a time in stooks where it was left to dry before carting it to the barn after a couple of weeks. It still had to be threshed with a flail over the winter though this was beginning to give way to machine threshing.

During the nineteenth century horse drawn reapers developed and later reaper binders which tied the corn into sheaves but then dropped them on the ground where they had to be picked up and stacked into the stooks. I remember



doing this as a boy in the 40s. Of course by then hand threshing had long gone and been superseded by travelling threshing machines to be in turn superseded by the combine (which *combined* the reaper and thresher).

The biggest modern machines can cost a third of a million pounds. In 1830 when a man was paid 3 shillings or 15p a day (during harvest, much less in winter) the cost of harvesting was 70p per acre. With inflation that's about £65 - today the cost with a combine is about £40 per acre but that includes the threshing and we can grow three times as much wheat per acre.

Recordsworm

Coffee and Chat

We return after our Summer break on Thursday 29 October at 10.30 in the Birbury. Please come and join us for a cuppa, cake and a chat and a chance to meet friends old and new.

We will also be gathering again on Thursday 26 November at 10.30 in the same venue.

Looking forward to meeting you soon.....

Karen, Mel, Jan, Barbara, Dick and Jenny

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury Men at War

Following popular demand we have just had a reprint of the History Group's booklet on the lives of the Birdingbury men who fought in the First World War. This informative 48 page booklet costs £4 and if you missed out first time around and would like a copy, then please get in touch with Aileen Withington 632644 or Richard Davies 632091.

Richard

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Friends of Leamington Hastings C of E Infant School

Representatives of the school proudly visited the Benn Hall in Rugby on Monday to collect a Gold Award for the school's Rugby in Bloom entry. They were also treated to a visit to the Mayor's parlour and were allowed to try on his hat and gown! Do we have a future mayor at Leamington Hastings?

Bingo! – Friday 16 October in Willoughby Village Hall

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Thanks

I would like to thank all the generous villagers who sponsored me running the Great North Run. They helped me raise over £550 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The hot weather on the day and a significant injury sustained in training, running the hills between Birdingbury, Frankton, and Bourton, made it more of a challenge, but it was an amazing day!

Sincere thanks!

Matt Markham

Operation Christmas Child

It is coming to that time of the year again (sorry for mentioning the C word) when kind people in Birdingbury start to wrap shoe boxes ready for Stretton Group to fill with small items to send on to disadvantaged children for Christmas.

Last year we wrapped well over 300 boxes. Some people wrapped them during the weekly Saturday 'Swap Shop' in The Birbury; others preferred to wrap boxes at home.

If you would like to be involved please let me know and I will happily bring a sack (usually about 6 boxes) along with suitable Christmas wrapping paper (please no pictures of religious scenes) and also sticky tape.

It would also be lovely if you could please provide small gifts, e.g. small dollies and teddies, gloves/scarves, small note pads, drawing paper, pens, pencils, small puzzles or games, toy cars, lorries and toiletries such as tooth paste, tooth brushes, combs, hair brushes/hair slides; even broken costume jewellery as this can be repaired and also greetings cards which can be made up into booklets. Sweets (in date for 2016) are welcome but not chocolates, liquids, toy guns or war planes.

I will make sure all your boxes and gifts go to the Group. Cash donations are also very welcome to go towards paying for the transportation.

Thank you all so much for last year's brilliant effort. If you are interested please contact Cheryl Turner (632461) or Daphne Chippendale (632582)

Thank you Birdingbury

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Dancing at Bourton

Ballroom Dancing

8pm every Monday. For details contact Faye Twomey (01926 632372)

Line Dancing

7:30 - 9pm on the first two Tuesdays of the month. Contact Graham or Sharon (02476 301770) for more information.

Zumba

10 - 11 Every Sunday morning. Take a towel and turn up. £4 entry. Contact details on village hall notice board.

Windmill Singers of South Warwickshire



Leamington Hastings Parish Hall

An evening of entertainment

on

Friday 13 November at 7.30pm

A light supper will be served during the interval

Admission by ticket, price £8.50

Tickets from Pat Toole 632874

or Rose Hull 634349

All proceeds towards Parish Hall improvements

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The **Bourton and District Garden Club** will be meeting on Thursday 29 October

at 7 for 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Bourton on Dunsmore

when **Paul Baxter** will be speaking on '**Shrubs and the gardening season**'.

On 26 November the subject will be '**Cyclamens in cultivation and in the wild**'.

For more information contact Frank or Francine 632595 or Carol 632033

On Saturday 19 December we will be celebrating the Christmas season with our friendly Tea at 3 in the Birbury, more details to follow in the next issue.....

Jenny Hawes

Ladies Circle

Ladies Circle reconvened on Tuesday 8 September for our AGM after the summer break. It was good to meet up with friends and welcome some new members too.

Jackie Westcott has kindly agreed to continue as Treasurer and was thanked for all her hard work over the previous year. Barbara Munro also kindly agreed to continue being the Ladies Circle representative on The Birbury Committee. Lee Hayden and Julie Colledge agreed to continue their roles as Chair and Secretary for one more year.

Reports were given from the Treasurer and the Minutes of the AGM were agreed. It was also agreed that the charge to visitors to one of the monthly gatherings would stay unchanged at £2.

The following events were agreed for the forthcoming year:

All meetings at 7.45 in the Birbury unless otherwise noted.

13 October

A social Cheese and Wine evening with cheeses from 'Cheese on the Green' in Bilton. Husbands, partners, friends welcome.

10 November

We are going to ask the Spice Man to come back and give another talk on a different topic and bring his amazing supply of spices, jams etc for people to buy.

8 December

A seasonal talk on Reindeers from Ruth Stiles.

12 January 2016

Jackie and Barbara have kindly said they will prepare a meal for us in the Birbury.

9 February

Games evening, we are to bring either an unusual object or photo of a well known object taken at an odd angle and guess what they are! Could be an intriguing and enlightening evening.

8 March

We are to have a talk about Hedgehogs – details to follow later.

12 April

Pamper evening, details to follow later.

continued opposite

10 May

Colour Me Beautiful, who came in April this year to talk about colours that suited our skintone, hopefully returning to carry out a make-up demonstration this time! All welcome!

14 June

Jennifer and Geoffrey Johnston have very kindly offered to host an evening at their lovely home in Leamington to round off the year. Everyone who is going to bring a dish to share.

Lee Hayden 633606

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury Village Club

As the summer comes towards its end we can look back at what has been a very good start under the new management of Mark Thomas. He has stabilised if not improved our turnover and has worked tirelessly to make the best of the present club facilities.

The committee now has to give him the tools he needs to develop the club into the village asset we all want. We've purchased new crockery, cutlery and slow cookers and lastly a new fridge freezer as we progress towards proper catering facilities. There is much more to do. New curtains are going up and we would also love new comfortable seating, although that might require sponsorship or fundraising? ANY IDEAS?

Mark has found a new darts team to represent the club and they together with our ladies' darts and skittles teams plus the men's pool team will fill many of our evenings during the week. Our new BT Sport has also improved the picture quality on both the TV and our big screen so keep an eye on our A board, website etc for information on up and coming matches including the Rugby World Cup.

Finally, Birdingbury Cinema returns on Friday 2 October with 'Far From the Madding Crowd' and a further date on Saturday 5 December. At £5 it is great value so tell friends and spread the word as guests are welcome and we want this to be an established local venue.

Ian Tipton President

A warm welcome to

Rachel and Sam who have moved into 32 Main St (Doreen's).

Birdingbury Calendar

October					See page
Friday	2	Birdingbury Cinema	Club		15
Tuesday	13	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	14
Friday	16	LH School Bingo	Willoughby Village Hall		11
Tuesday	20	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Saturday	24	Church Café	St Leonard’s Church	12.30	4
Thursday	29	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30	11
November					
Wednesday	4	Neighbourhood Watch	Birbury	7.00	5
Saturday	7	Bonfire	Recreation Field	6.00	3
Tuesday	10	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	14
Friday	13	Windmill Singers	Leamington Hastings Hall	7.30	13
Tuesday	17	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Thursday	26	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30	11
December					
Saturday	5	Birdingbury Cinema	Club		15

Swap Shop every Saturday in the Birbury 10.30 to noon



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