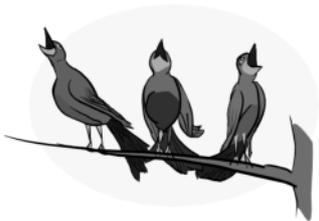


BIRDSONG

October 2016
and
November 2016



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS**

No 76



Photo: Sally Campbell

A Bumper Harvest

Parish Council Report September 2016

After our summer break, the Council turned its attention to commissioning various works which will enhance our environment. The recreation field has had its annual inspection which will inform our future maintenance work. The grant we received in the spring is to be spent on improving the slide and painting of equipment. Advice from a county officer encouraged us to make the hedge along the path more secure to prevent youngsters from running through into the road. We have therefore commissioned a local business to lay the hedge. We believe this will greatly enhance its appearance and effectiveness as a barrier, as well as saving us money in the future. It should look lovely.

The two bins from the recreation field disappeared after being emptied and one has been replaced by Rugby Borough Council. If anyone knows about the disappearance or can offer their own unwanted bin for the play area, please let us know.

Residents of Marton Road will already know of the good news about the footpath renewal; the PC has been pushing for this to be done for years now, so we are overjoyed that it is now being done. The state of several trees planted on our verges is causing some concern. We are actively seeking advice from Warwickshire County officers and we aim to put together a plan of action for the winter months.

The appointment of snow wardens for the village was discussed, but it was decided that it was more appropriate to ask all residents to take some responsibility themselves: making sure vulnerable neighbours are not at risk in snowy conditions; clearing areas around their own property; and making use of the three salt/grit bins situated outside the Club, in Back Lane and opposite the War Memorial. The salt and grit becomes very solid unless it is used regularly. We hope we don't have a bad winter, but when the snow does come it can be quite disruptive

Uncertainty about how to make best use of the various bins is reported to cause too much refuse being sent to land-fill – a considerable expense to local authorities. We are asking RBC to provide reminders of what is acceptable in each bin, so we can all do our bit to help recycling and reduce land-fill.

Thanks to the efforts by Vice-Chair Ian Tipton, our Emergency Plan is now complete and has been submitted. A copy is lodged in the Club.

Please do contact any of your Parish Councillors if you wish to bring to our attention any issue we can help with, or come along to our **next meeting** which will be held at:

7.30pm on Tuesday 18th October in the Birbury

You will be made very welcome.

Diana Turner.

Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

Birdingbury's Fledglings Spread Their Wings

The Club extended an invitation to wish good luck to Birdingbury students moving on to the next stage of their post 18 studies and work. The baby boom of 1998 has resulted in a record group of some fourteen falling into this category (as far as we are aware). Whilst some had already departed and others were making the most of their extended holidays, there was a pleasing turnout of both students and parents (parents of course reminiscing of their student days.....).

Destinations are as follows:

Will Morton	Durham	Geology
Jess Armbrister	St. Andrews	History of Art
Katrina Ho	Birmingham	Civil Engineering Apprenticeship
Ethan Barr	Portsmouth	Psychology
Henry French	York	Chemistry
Marcus Coles	Warwick	Maths
Sebastian Coles	Durham	Chemistry
Jay Verdi	Coventry	Maths
Lydia Carr	Harper Adams	Agriculture
Shannon Moore	Exeter	Psychology
Sophia Foroughi	Coventry	Spanish and Business Studies
Rachael Nash	Oxford Brookes	Business Studies & Geography

In addition, Alex Taylor has gone straight into business (watch out Mark you've got competition!) and Evie Drew is planning a gap year working and travelling before pursuing a place to read Biochemistry in 2017.

Congratulations to you all. Bon voyage, bonne chance: enjoy flying the nest and perhaps over the Christmas break you all might again meet at the Club to share your experiences of your first term of studies and work?

Jackie Morton

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

A Special Thank You

On behalf of the whole village, I would like to extend special thanks to Rhondda Barney for the dedication, enthusiasm and expertise which she has brought to Birdsong over its twelve year history. Along with husband Chris, she has kept us engaged, entertained and informed and, as such, has contributed to maintaining the special sense of community that makes Birdingbury the great place it is today. Happy Retirement to you both!

Lesley Fleming

Sales kicked off again with a superior meat and potato pie, followed a little later by the big money-spinner of the evening: an exceptionally proportioned January King Cabbage. After a furious round of bidding, this glorious specimen raised a royal £43 for the evening's chosen charity: Newpath at Kings Hill Nurseries, which provides horticultural placements, training, work experience and jobs for people with a broad spectrum of learning disabilities. A worthy cause indeed.

Although difficult to match the heights of The Cabbage Sale, the enormous olive and garlic bread raised an admirable £11.

With ale flowing, and spirits and the room temperature rising, so did the bidding; with bags of produce, scone and jam combinations and plates of jam tarts fit for Alice's Queen of Hearts, soaring to a magnificent total of £426, verified by Allotment Association Treasurer, Margaret and Chairman, Vic.



Added to this sum was a £200 contribution from allotment rentals and a generous addition of £130 from the bar, bringing the total, less expenses, to £730.

An impromptu, after-hours cake auction brought in an additional £50, making a **Grand Total of £780** raised by the Produce Show for Kings Hill Nurseries.

Huge congratulations to all involved who made this fund-raising night a joy to remember.

Special mention must be made of the presentation to our Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Gary Laverick: a token of appreciation from the Allotment Association for 39 years of unwavering service. In 1977 Gary was a founding member and served as chairman for many years. Thank you, Gary, for your service on the Committee and your deft and witty delivery on the Auctioneer's Stage.

(And congratulations must be expressed for Mr Dent's Slimmer of the Week award, a worthy achievement to begin the evening on a high note.)

**(they were delicious - SFC)*

For more information on the charity concerned please visit :

<http://www.gardencentrecoventry.co.uk>

Sally Campbell

Birdingbury Allotments: A Potted History

It would have been towards the end of 1976 when I was chatting to my neighbour and Parish Councillor, Christine Wilding, saying I would like somewhere to grow a few veg. She took it on board and came back to me, suggesting I write to the Parish Council with the signatures of five interested villagers and the PC would endeavour to find a suitable site, which they DID!

I put a notice in the shop asking anyone wanting a plot to turn up on Sunday morning, the plots having been pegged out into strips at a width to give 300 square yards to each plot. Each was numbered and individuals stated their preference for either a full or half plot. A draw was made and, would you believe it, all got what they wanted and every plot was taken with no-one waiting. Each plot was ploughed, apart from two people who insisted upon digging theirs.



A lot of hard work followed and everyone helped with the likes of hedge cutting, tree felling and burning the debris, followed by fencing. Our water supply was the pond in the bottom corner of the site.

After an awful lot more hard work, the Allotments were up and running by April 1977, and we haven't looked back since, with all the plots taken every year.

After two or three years, and a loan from a plot holder, mains water was installed and numerous ditching projects were completed, together with even more hard work by the plot holders themselves, although I must say, the same people seemed to do the majority of it!



One very memorable occasion was our Barbecue on a sweltering Sunday afternoon. The patch of grass at the bottom of the site was mown very short and became a putting green, the club provided a barrel of beer, which lasted most of the afternoon, and a jolly time was had by all.

We also organised The Heaviest Onion completion, with an enormous pan of home-made Onion Soup and crusty bread. This ran for a number of years – Happy Days!

The Produce Show has been an annual event since the late '70s and is still very popular, as is the auction in the evening. It would be nice to see more of the recent incomers to the village participating in this charitable event, so, let's see you next year!

We have over the years had a visit from half a dozen or so cows, some sheep and of course the rabbits.

On reflection, I should say 'they' instead of 'we' as I have just relinquished the Chairperson's job and my Allotment after 30 years.... Too Old!

Gary Laverick

Birdingbury Allotment Association

Fancy following in Gary's footsteps and growing champions vegetables?

There will be a half-plot allotment available from January 2017. Size is approximately 300 square yards.

Rental £7.50 per year.

For further information, please contact 01926 632666

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Bourton & District Garden Club

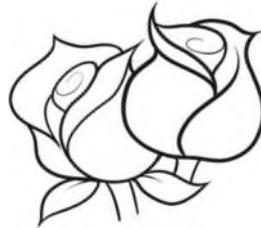
We meet the last Thursday of each month in the Village Hall, Bourton-on-Dunsmore.

Next meeting:

27th Oct 2016

Speaker Mrs Ann Bird

Topic 'The World of Roses'



Members and visitors welcome (visitors pay a small fee which includes refreshments)

For more info contact Frank or Francine01926 632595

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Cheese and Wine Evening

Back by popular demand, this year's Cheese and Wine Tasting evening will be held on Saturday 8th October at the Club. Tickets are £12.50 each: they are selling out fast, so if you'd like to come please contact Annette on 01926 632222, Julie on 01926 632463 or Dawn on 01926 632419.



Only payment will secure your place!!

There will also be a raffle on the evening. Donations of prizes will be gratefully received on the night.

Cheryl and Alison's Alphabetical Adventures

Many of you will know that I haven't been so well over the last few years, and my walking ability had hit to an all time low. Add to that, Issie heading off to University, and the loss of our lovely dog, Nushka, Alison and I found ourselves with time on our hands, and not a lot we could do with it.

After some thinking, we came up with a plan. We would journey across the UK, using the alphabet as our guide, starting with a town beginning with the letter A and ending, some two years later, at Z. Assuming we journeyed on average for one weekend a month, that is.

And so we began. "A" was chosen, and we headed for Arundel in Sussex, in October 2015, for a weekend visit to see what was there. No plans for what we might do, or see, but a couple of nights' accommodation booked in the cheapest place we could find, a Premier Inn (£29 per night for a family room, which would take 3 adults!). Premier Inns have actually become the bargain of the century, if you book early enough. I ought to be on commission for them, as I am a great fan.

Anyway, Arundel it was. The sun began to shine as we headed south. Here I should add that the other decision we had made was not to use motorways for any of our journeys. Trains, buses or cars were all fine, but the old 'A' roads were preferable to busy, lorry-ridden lanes on the motorways.

As we arrived, the sky was blue and the sun shone over the very imposing castle in the centre of the town. That sealed it – a trip round the castle would be our first plan. Little did we realise that it would take us all day! There were one or two places I couldn't reach, like the tower of 532 steps to see the very top and surrounding countryside, but Alison duly climbed it and came down with a photo! As for everywhere else, it was accessible for me with my scooter and quite stunning. Check out Arundel Castle on the internet for a full history and information about it today.

We spent the evening eating fish and chips on the sea front, and watched the sun go down listening to the sound of the waves. Next day, we enjoyed various coffee shops (we're very skilled at that these days) and then headed home for Sunday tea with our "troops" (the motley crew of family and friends who join us every Sunday for a meal and a game of cards).

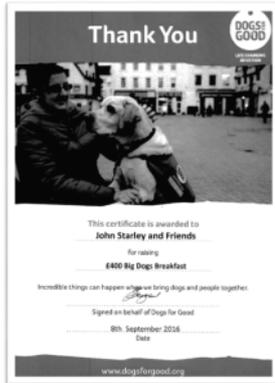
Photos were posted on Facebook telling people what we were doing, and within minutes, friends started to offer suggestions for where we might go for "B". It soon became obvious that are many folks who like our idea and want us to share our experiences with them.

Next month, B – Belfast!

Cheryl Turner



Big Dogs' Breakfast – it didn't rain!!



The fourth annual Big Dogs' Breakfast in aid of Dogs for Good (previously Dogs for the Disabled) was held on 28th August in John and Lesley's garden. Despite experiencing torrential rain for the previous two days, and the consequential erection of John's big white party tent, coats were gleaming in the early morning sun as everyone tucked into their Sunday breakfast.

Some guests ate so much they had to have a lie down and one took to burying extra helpings in the shrubbery. The dogs were far more polite.

Fun and games resulted in the awarding of extremely squeaky prizes to Dex and Pepper for fleetness of foot, and

Stich and Whiskey for exemplary obedience. We congratulate them on their success and hope their humans will enjoy being entertained for many weeks to come.

Thank you to everyone for helping to raise a wonderful £400 for this fantastic charity. We even got a certificate!

Lesley Fleming

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG



La Mairie

Oiseau-en terre

Comte de meule de gueree

Mes amis

I fear that we cannot start our negociations until you 'ave dealt wiv the 50 articles. No twinning can take place wivout these important matters: 'ere are just a few to start avec: kissing, toast, 'orn, letters, fries, dressing, cricket, polish and beans.

Nous attendons votre invoquation.

Je vous offer me salutations

jean de l'etoile jachere

Maire de Oiseau en terre.

Ribbons and Scars

Who wants to be a hero?

How much does it cost?
Will it mess my weekend up
Or irritate the boss?

No one knows the hero
Before the deed's renown.
They can come from country parkland
Or the seamy side of town.

They can stand tall like a giant
Or barely see the sky
And people think them godlike
Or shrug and wonder why.

And it's not always on the front page
Or with a shiny gong
For sometimes it's done quietly
Just by knowing right from wrong.

Who wants to be a hero?
It's surprising when you ask,
How hearts still wish it of their head
And tell their brain to hush,
When time's forgotten conscience
Lends its shoulder to the push.

Pilgrim

Bird Watching

They said it wouldn't happen until 'Hell Freezes Over' (*That's The Eagles, a very different species from Birdingbury's Birds – Ed.*), but the (very) odd Bird has been spotted around the village, often with large instrument case, amp and/or tambourine. Rumour has it they are even expanding their numbers!

Oh yes, the 'Birds and friends', will be flocking to the **Village Club** on **Saturday 26th November** to sing a few new tunes – *and we hope villagers will too!*

Come down, join in the fun, and sing along to some classic tunes!

A SPLENDID TIME IS GUARANTEED FOR ALL!

Further details to follow from the Club

Patrick Unwin

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSO

Family Bonfire

Saturday 5 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.

Rob Walker will be collecting bonfire material around the village on Saturday 29 Oct at 10 am.

Your help with this would be much appreciated.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSO

Help! Piano needed....

Louise at Harbottle House is looking for a piano for her youngest daughter who just started piano lessons. The budding protégée is only 7, so she doesn't need anything fancy, but Louise wondered if there might just be someone in the village who might have a piano they have been thinking of selling.

If you can help, please contact Louise at

louise@i-l-s.co.uk



Birdingbury Makes the National Press

A recent 'Weekend' supplement in The Times included a description of The Blue Lias cycle line, in which it describes passing through 'the picturesque village of Birdingbury. The 'easy, fairly flat' 23-mile route described, starts from Rugby and finishes at Warwick. There seems to be an assumption that you could return by train. Yes, you can, but I think it would involve two changes and take far longer than the bike ride!

Dick Withington

Information about the Lias Cycle route is available on the Sustrans website

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury Wheelers

Sunday Lunch 30th October 2016

Lunch to be served at 1.30pm at The Old Olive Bush Flecknoe.

Some will ride

Some will drive

Open to all, not just Wheelers!

All should book in with John Starley with their menu choices by 26th October

john@jkstarley.com or 07768 933095

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Rather walk?

For those not so keen on cycling, there is a set of nine circular walks, the Blue Lias Rings, of between eight and twenty kilometres (five and thirteen miles) around Southam, Stockton, Long Itchington, Leamington Hastings, Birdingbury, Ladbroke, Napton, Bishop's Itchington, Harbury and Ufton.



A set of leaflets describing the routes of the walks can be downloaded from the Southam Town Council website. The leaflets also describe historical points of interest along the way with beautiful illustrations by the late Henson Bamford, a local artist.

Ladies Circle Report

Twelve members of the Ladies Circle met on Tuesday 13th September for their AGM.

The Chair and Secretary had already indicated that they wished to stand down, having completed the two years in office they had agreed to in 2014. Lee Hayden (Chair) and Julie Colledge (Secretary) were thanked warmly for the excellent job they had done.

Treasurer Jackie Westcott was re-elected unanimously and Debbie Vials was elected to the post of Secretary but there were no nominations for the role of Chairlady. Since there had been a number of apologies submitted to the meeting, it was felt that all members should try to find a willing volunteer for our next meeting in October. The retiring Chair and Secretary emphasised their willingness to brief the new post holders in their roles and suggested that it would be sensible to agree two years as the maximum length of time in office. This was agreed and the point was made that the Circle could no longer operate without someone to carry out the important role of Chair.

Plans for activities over the forthcoming year were then discussed and it was agreed that there would be a Cheese and Wine event in October when there would also be an opportunity for members to finalise dates for the wide variety of activities which had been suggested:

Flower arranging; Gin tasting; Bee keeping; In-house meal;

History of Hamilton House; a Pamper evening;

Visit to Turners' new house; Colour me Beautiful.

The members are keen to welcome new members to join our lively meetings, which take place in the Birbury at 7.45pm on the second Tuesday of every month from September to June.

If you have any suggestions of activities you would like to see included in our programme for 2016/7, please come along to the **Wine and Cheese on Tuesday 11th October**.

Membership for the year costs just £10 but you can also come as a visitor for £3. We would love to see you!

Diana Turner

Napton Art Group

Napton Art Group are holding their ever-popular Autumn Exhibition on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th October at Napton Village Hall (CV47 8LS) from 10 am until 5 pm.

On display and for sale will be paintings, cards, photographs and craft exhibits. There will also be refreshments, a raffle and tombola. The entry charge is £1 for adults and there is no charge for children.

Home Delivery Library Service

The Home Delivery Library Service is a free service to those who are unable to visit or use their local library or Mobile Library due to ill health or infirmity.

Using volunteers, we deliver books to people in their homes once every four weeks, based on their personal preferences.

We offer books in both Large and Small print and also talking books on compact disc.

Anyone who feels that they would be eligible and would benefit from receiving the service can contact us on (01926) 851031 or by email on mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Debbie Bennett

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

New Leadership Team for Leamington Hastings Academy

Leamington Hastings Academy has started the year with a new leadership team. After many years of dedicated service Rose Plumbley stepped down as headteacher at the end of the Summer. Finding a headteacher for small schools can be a challenge, but the Diocese of Coventry Multi-Academy Trust have found an innovative solution where the head and deputy of Dunchurch Infant School now lead Leamington Hastings.

Ian Dewes and Sandra Barnes will be splitting their time between the two sites. Mr. Dewes, a National Leader of Education, said: "Both Leamington Hastings and Dunchurch Infants feed into Dunchurch Junior School, so it is a great opportunity to strengthen links between the two schools, but Leamington Hastings is still very much independent of Dunchurch. Sandra and I want to build on the excellent practice which already exists here and make sure the academy continues to thrive."

Mrs. Barnes says "A small school offers great first steps into a pupil's schooling. Class sizes of less than twenty mean every child is really well known by all of the staff. We have beautiful grounds and feed into the Dunchurch Boughton Junior School, so we believe we have got a lot to offer and it would be great if the residents of Birdingbury could help us to spread the word if they know of anyone looking for a school place."

The school offers before and after-school care as well as nursery places for children from the age of three.

Ian Dewes

Shoe Box Appeal 2016

Once again we are collecting gifts and filling and wrapping shoe boxes for children who may not have received a gift before. This year the Stretton Team are part of a charitable organisation called Teams4u. For details of this organisation please see <http://www.teams4u.com>.

Suitable gifts are:

Hygiene Items: Toothpaste, toothbrushes, flannels, soap, combs, hairbrushes, hair slides etc.

Toys: Small dolls/and clothes, small teddy bears and hand knitted toys, finger puppets, toy cars, lorries, buses, tractors, aircraft (not military), farm animals.

Educational: Drawing/writing paper, notebooks, crayons, pencils, pens, small games and puzzles.

Other: Knitted hats, scarves gloves mittens, lollies, small packets of sweets (in date up to March 2017)

Pictures of flowers, animals, cars, farm vehicles

Sorry NO chocolates or liquids

Small cash donations would also be very welcome to help with costs of transporting the boxes

In Birdingbury we are continuing to wrap the empty shoe boxes which I will then take to Stretton, who will organize the filling and storing until onward transmission to disadvantaged children. We would also be very grateful for donations of fancy wrapping paper (preferably without a Christian theme).

Please bring your gifts to me (or I will collect) at the Saturday Morning Swap Shop in the Birbury. If you would like to wrap some of the boxes, please let me know and I will deliver boxes to you. You can contact me on 01926 632582.

Daphne Chippendale

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Tea at 3.....

Come and join us in the Birbury at 3.00 on Saturday 17th December for mince pies and music. We will have warm home-made mince pies, sherry and a cuppa along with the chance to join in with some of your favourite seasonal songs. Everyone welcome as we join together for our annual celebration. Transport can be provided, so please ask if needed.

Jenny Hawes

Birdingbury Calendar

October	Event	Venue	Time
Saturday 1	Film Night – Jungle Book	Club	19.00
Saturday 8	Cheese and Wine Evening	Club	19.45
Saturday 8	Concert - Chilingirian Quartet	Leamington Hastings Church	19.30
Tuesday 11	Ladies Circle Wine and Cheese	Birbury	19.45
Thursday 13	Fish and Chip Night	Club	19.45
Friday 14	Mobile Library	Main St	11.40 to 11.55
Tuesday 18	Parish Council	Birbury	19.30
Thursday 27	Bourton Garden Club	Bourton Village Hall	
Saturday 29	Trick or Treat plus freaky fun	Club	18.00
November			
Friday 4	Mobile Library	Main St	11.40 to 11.55
Saturday 5	Family Bonfire	Playing Field	18.00
Tuesday 8	Ladies Circle	Birbury	19.45
Tuesday 15	Parish Council	Birbury	19.30
Friday 25	Mobile Library	Main St	11.40 to 11.55
Saturday 26	Birds on Tour	Club	tbc
December			
Saturday 10	Concert - Joglearesa	Leamington Hastings Church	19.00
Saturday 17	Tea at 3	Birbury	15.00



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Copy date for next issue - 18th November