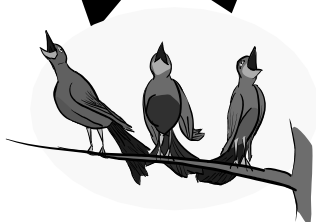




February  
and  
March 2013



BIRDINGBURY  
NEWS  
No 54



Photo David Hawkes

It was a very

**Happy New Year!**

down at the Club

## Parish Council Report

Our first meeting of the New Year was mostly concerned with various highways and safety issues, which have been taken up with the appropriate authorities – Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council. We are still waiting for the road safety signs at the entrances to the village to be done. We are promised them for the end of March.

Changes in planning law and local planning policies mean that we should probably update the housing needs and planning aspects of our Parish Plan. We are seeking expert advice on this.

Work on the new bus shelter has continued over the last few weeks – as weather has allowed. We owe a real debt of gratitude to those villagers who have given so generously of their time, money, expertise and effort to this project. We shall be having a formal ‘Opening Ceremony’ and unveiling of a commemorative plaque in the spring. It will be good to have village noticeboards again, but information will continue to be posted on the village website too.

The increase in our precept (the parish element of your Council Tax) was submitted in early January, and this will result in an increase of around £2 on your annual bill. This does mean we shall continue to cover our annual commitments – Clerk costs, insurance, grass-cutting and the like, and still be able to respond to unforeseen expenses.

On behalf of the Parish Council I wish you all a very happy New Year.

Diana Turner  
Chair of the Parish Council

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Neighbourhood Watch

### Letter from our Local Police

*Between 28 December and 4 January there were three burglaries in the Leam Valley area and one in the Dunchurch/ Knightlow area. Access has been gained to the properties by smashing a rear large window or patio door. Due to people being away on holiday it has been difficult to narrow down a time scale but we believe it has happened either early evening once it is dark or overnight.*

*This was of great concern to the police and all efforts were made to halt the series and apprehend the offenders.*

*On Friday 4 January an attempt was made by police to stop a vehicle in Rugby for driving offences. A short pursuit ensued as the vehicle failed to stop. Upon stopping*

*both occupants made off on foot but were apprehended and arrested.*

*As a result of evidence gathering, the vehicle and its occupants were linked to the series of burglaries in your area. The offenders' homes were searched, their clothing and vehicle seized and they were later interviewed for the offence of burglary and other offences before being recalled to prison.*

*Enquiries are currently ongoing.*

*Please continue to encourage your communities to report any matters that appear to them to be suspicious by phoning 101.*

*Helena Steadman PCSO 6149*

*Hazel Busch PC 868*

Unfortunately, this does not seem to have been the end of the matter as Jackie Morton, our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator subsequently circulated:

‘Following my email regarding rural burglaries, primarily via patio doors and rear glass doors, two further incidents of this nature have been brought to my attention.

On 8 January there was a burglary in Stretton with access gained through a patio door and on the same evening burglars tried to break in through the patio doors at the farmhouse at the top of Bourton Hill, and when they weren't able to get in that way apparently broke in through the front door.

These people appear to be looking for small valuable items - money, jewellery, laptops, etc.

If you see anything suspicious, please let the police know - or myself - and I can forward it to the RRS team and Helena’.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONG

**Following** last year's Neighbourhood Watch meeting to discuss security in the village, perhaps it is time to meet again? Some agenda items could be:

- Do we feel more comfortable about our responses to crime?
- Do we feel that the police are supporting us as much as we would like?
- What else can we do to make Birdingbury a less desirable place for criminals?
- How can we help ourselves, and how can we help the police?

PC 868 Hazel Busch and PCSO 6149 Helena Steadman are keen to continue the dialogue and I'm trying to fix a date. Please let me know if you have any particular issues you would like to raise. Once I have a date I will get a note around the village.

Jackie Morton 633493

## **Birdingbury Village Club**

Dear members and villagers,

We as a committee are very proud that we still have a village club. Many licensed premises have failed in recent years but we continue to move forward, with little debt, looking positively to the future. Villages and communities everywhere are faced with losing local amenities which help, like the Church and the Birbury, to meet people's local needs and provide useful facilities. We are determined to play our part.

Our own consultation process together with the feedback that came out of the 'Village Plan' gave us clear guidance on what you wanted:

A comfortable and friendly environment,

Flexible facilities to allow for diverse usage,

Services that will benefit the community, like our Christmas Post Box or, in the future perhaps, Dry Cleaning, Groceries, Post Office?

(Please let us know if you have any other ideas?)

As a result, a sub committee was formed and tasked with forming a plan. We have been talking about refurbishment for a long time so we know we have to start delivering. With some money available following various fundraising events and donations, the next step was to identify what could be done for the money. This is still wholly dependent on volunteers helping the tradesman who give their time for next to nothing. So if any of you would like to burn a few calories or have skills to offer, please, please let me or any of the committee know as we would love to see you.

Two schemes were identified - the toilets and the front aspect of the club. As we eventually intend to refurbish the whole interior there were important technical reasons why we have to complete the toilets first. We felt that the intended work at the front will make the space more attractive and will reflect positively on the club and the village.

Phase One started in December with the refurbishment of the ladies' toilets and that will be completed by the end of January. The work on the gents' toilets follows and will be completed in February. At the same time the work at the front of the club will commence with the clearing of the site. This work won't be completed until the spring, however, as the delay is required for better weather and planting.

When Phase One is complete we will turn our attention to the inside of the club. The level of refurbishment we are able to achieve will depend on the amount of funding we can access. We are committed to redecorating and new furniture, but would ideally wish to make some structural changes to maximise the use of the building.

Continued opposite.....

## **Birdingbury Youth Club**

**Congratulations** to Issie and Kate for completing their sponsored run round Draycote Water on Sunday 16 December. They have raised over £300 towards The Youth Club 2013 target of £1500 for Guide dogs for the Blind.

The Youth Club meets on Friday evenings from 6.30 - 8pm in the Club and the Birbury (except school holidays, so NO Youth Club 22 Feb, 29 March or 5 April).

In February and March we are having games nights, arts and craft activities, an inventor's challenge and an Easter theme night.

New members always welcome. Come and **Join the Fun**.

Jan, Gaynor, Anna, Kate, Issie

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## **St Leonard's Birdingbury**

Church Café - Casseroles and Crusty Bread

Saturday 2 March from 12.30 to 2 o'clock

come along for lunch

we look forward to seeing you again, and thank you for your support

Aileen and Eira

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

.....continued

Our members will know that our subscriptions of £8 became due in January. If you're not yet signed up please come along and join. Keep an eye out for our flyers, which list forthcoming events or visit the clubs web site - [birdingburyclub.co.uk](http://birdingburyclub.co.uk). Remember the old adage, use it or lose it!!

I will report to you again in two or three months by which time Phase One should be completed and some extra services might be up and running.

Ian Tipton

Club President.

## **Singing in the Rain**

On a night before Christmas a determined group of singers gathered outside the club; some of mixed ability it has to be said - torches to hand, umbrellas at the ready. Following a sterling team building talk by Dick, we set off to inflict - er, entertain the rest of the village with carols. The atmosphere was excellent despite the persistent drizzle which destroyed hymn sheets in seconds – cold and numb fingers did nothing to damp the spirits of the singers and those involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves, whether the same can be said for our audience is another matter...

We are most grateful to those who came to their doors to listen to us and to the management committee for providing mince pies and sherry when we returned to the club. Most of all we thank those who donated so generously - we raised the magnificent sum of £240.92, which has been donated to Shelter.

We'll be back....

Craig and Julie Colledge

From Shelter to all the parishioners of Birdingbury:

*Thank you so much for donating £240.92 to Shelter this Christmas. Your generosity will make such a difference. When we wrote to you last, we told you about Michelle and her two young boys. I am really happy to let you know that for Michelle and her boys the nightmare of homelessness is finally over. Shelter convinced the council to find them a place to live and now they are finally settled in their new home and looking forward to the future again. But shockingly there are still over 75,000 homeless children Britain."*

A full copy of this letter and also a copy of Michelle's letter can be read at St. Leonard's Church.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## **Recreation Field Committee**

There will be a Committee Meeting on 13 March at 7pm in The Birbury.  
All villagers are welcome to attend.

Gaynor Davy

## A Black Tie Do

New Year's Eve 2112 at Birdingbury Club was the event not to be missed!! The Club was transformed by clever use of wall hanging fabrics and the room was decorated with tasteful adornments - including a splendid glitter ball. Tables were set in a horse-shoe for 32 covers and candles were lit in anticipation.

At 7.30 everyone duly arrived in their dinner suits and posh frocks and were genuinely amazed by the transformation of their club - it really did look a picture. Alex Taylor and Lewis Cutts served champagne in lovely glasses and the atmosphere was one of genuine excitement.

The younger members were catered for in the Birbury with food, films and Wii games; it all helped keep them happy and contented.

Dinner was called at about 8.30 - there was a mouth watering choice of five different curries including a vegetarian option, all kept piping hot in catering style hot plates. An unusual feature of the evening was that after every course, the gentlemen had to move two places to their right so different conversations were struck and new acquaintances made - a very good idea!! The number of empty plates and smiling faces was testament to how delicious the food and company was.

The plates were cleared away with military style efficiency and the tables moved to make space for a dance floor. The music was turned up and some good and some bad dance moves were seen!!.

As the New Year approached, the large screen was lowered and the London celebrations were shown; the fireworks were amazing!! As 12 o'clock chimed, hugs and kisses were exchanged and resolutions about not eating and drinking too much were, I'm sure, made.

This correspondent would like to thank Mark and Paula Taylor for organising everything... the transformation of the club, the champagne and wine for the evening, collecting the food, the music and clearing up the following day. Your efforts were rewarded by a great evening had by all who were there.... here's to NYE 2013!!!

David Hawkes



Photo David Hawkes

## The Birbury

We were very lucky to have mild weather over Christmas and it was a pleasure to see the Birbury packed on Saturday afternoon, 15 December, for Christmas Tea and Cakes. We enjoyed warm home-made mince pies, biscuits, Christmas cake and sherry - or tea and coffee if preferred. The village youngsters did us proud with their rendition of several yuletide songs and the finale of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' with very active audience participation - led by a brilliant but mute conductor - brought tears of laughter to many faces.

Our first event of the year, on Saturday 12 January, the annual Quiz, also caused laughter and disbelief at the questions and the answers! Several small teams competed enthusiastically for the amazing prizes under the auspices of quizmaster general, Leslie Turner. We welcomed the chance to recover as we enjoyed a selection of home made refreshments and a cuppa in between events.

Many thanks to all our helpers and everyone who turned up.

### A reminder:

On Saturday 16 February we'll have the ever-popular **Pancake Race** with Tea and Cakes also on offer. It will start at 2.30. As ever, we'll have races for children as well as adults with chocolates or healthy options as prizes.

We'll give spring a very big welcome on Saturday 16 March with the **Bring and Buy Sale** (amazing bargains on offer) together with a cake stall and raffle. This opens at 10.30 and will go on into the afternoon. The money raised from this will go to help us run the Birbury.

What a lot is happening!! Come along and enjoy yourself - and hear all the latest gossip.....

Jenny Hawes and Leslie Turner

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

### BIRDINGBURY EGG ROLL

***EASTER SATURDAY 30 MARCH 2013***

**10am start at the Recreation Field (or The Birbury if wet)**

**FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS IN THE BIRBURY**

**Prizes for Egg Rollers and best decorated eggs in various age categories**





## O little town of Birdingbury

O little town of Birdingbury  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and slumbrous sleep  
The snoring sounds go by  
Yet in thy dark streets standeth  
Of newly weathered oak  
A rising pile of bricks and beams  
Where stand the local folk

For Bus is due in morning  
And gathered all beneath  
Exposed to cold, the fares all hold  
Their watch of chattering teeth  
And in the dark night readeth  
The bus times on the page  
And dreams abound of diesel sound  
And stopping at fare stage

A summer house it was before  
With three sides and a roof  
Sweet western views for tired bus queues  
And noticeboard for news  
So now we've got real walls and tiles  
And panels of mosaic  
With side windows to see outside  
When bus comes us to take.

Thin Jethro Laskey (still at it at 58)

After several delays and just when all the materials were finally assembled we had a load of the white stuff. Action will be resumed as soon as possible!

Birdingbury Bus Shelter Group

## **‘It May Come In One Day’ or ‘The Vikings Are Here!’**

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far, away.... Start again: a long time ago, not long after it began life, the village History Group - the people who brought you the Memorial Inscriptions booklet about inscriptions in St. Leonard's, its church-yard and the village generally; they also brought you that extraordinarily successful Open Day and Display in the Club/Birbury last May – the Group decided that the village needed an archive store. Why? Well, because there are many records which are of interest to people now (as the Open Day showed) and even more which may well be of interest to people in the future.

What sort of records? Biggest by far are the records of the Parish Council (from 1967) and its predecessor, the Parish Meetings (from 1894): as things stand those would fill the equivalent of two four-drawer filing-cabinets. This pile has been carted around from one Parish Council Clerk to another, growing all the time, until we reached the point when it was unfair – maybe impossible – to expect the Clerk to house it. So, it's currently stored in the Chair's garage and loft until a suitable home is found.

This pile needs culling, it's true, but that's not an easy job and would require, if I were doing it, nerves of steel to ignore the maxim which my Mum drilled into me during the war whenever she spied anyone in the family about to chuck something out: 'It may come in one day!'

Doubtless, other records could be slimmed down too: those of the Birbury, the Club, Birdingbury Hall, the Church, Ladies Circle, the Fete/Festival/Country Show, First Homes, Jubilee events, the railway, and so on. But, even if you had a culling team comprising Attila, Dr Beeching and that nice Mr Osborne on the case, you'd still be left with material crying out for appropriate storage.

So the Group, anxious to get on with the job, considered where such a store might be housed. Within a year we'd come to realise that there was only one possibility: the church. Then we needed to consider where the money might come from to pay for cabinets/cupboards/ whatever. We thought that the biggest potential user, and the only village organisation which represents the whole community – i.e. the Parish Council – should be asked. We reckoned that the church would want to invest in the store, too. Finally, we concluded that villagers as a whole, past, present and future, had an interest, so we'd apply to the Village Distribution Fund as an appropriate source.

All three groups readily came on board. The Parochial Church Council agreed to let us have some space up in the church gallery. We were all set!!

O.K. – what kind of store? We spent the next year drawing up plans for a built-in

cupboard in a gallery alcove. We were on the edge of starting when an expert who was helping the church with their proposal to install a toilet, advised that a built-in store would attract damp from the walls. So now we searched for second-hand filing cabinets, until Chris Barney suggested that they wouldn't provide suitable storage and commended, instead, a 'tambour unit' (no – me neither. In fact, I thought it was something to house small drums and suggested Chris should have a lie-down in a darkened room. I should have known better. In fact, office-furniture-wise, it's a cabinet with doors which slide open and shut on grooves within the width of the cabinet, with fittings to house boxes, folders and suspended filing). "You can buy them from Viking Office Supplies," said Chris, "they'll deliver and they'll do all the work!"

Nearly there! Being a careful planner, though, I thought I'd check to make sure that this tambour thingy would go up the church's narrow spiral staircase. No chance whatsoever. Gloom and despond – we'd just have to try to rope-haul it up from the ground, over the balcony pews and into the gallery alcove, probably destroying priceless pew-carvings en route (that last bit's pure fantasy – but the job wouldn't be easy).

Imagine my relief – nay, ecstasy - when Viking told me that tambour units were delivered 'flat-pack-style' and assembled by their warriors! In sight of our goal!! (We were now into year three of the project, by the way).

True to their word, the longship (actually, a van) turned up at the church on Thursday 10 January. Setting aside their shields and swords, my deliverers asked me to show them where I wanted the unit set up. "Can't be done," they said. "It comes in a flat-pack, but to assemble it we need a floor area the size of the larger, rear, face of the cupboard to lay that out on the floor and assemble it from there." The gallery has nowhere near such an area. Despond.

However, after some mental and physical gymnastics and the temporary removal of some priceless, fragile (and probably sacred) church bits and pieces, the two Vikings managed, without benefit of crampons or pitons, to assemble the cupboard by resting it on the tops of the pews up in the gallery, then levering it upright, turning it through 180 degrees and sliding it snugly into the alcove.

They declined my offer to sacrificially slaughter some passing Saxons as a token of my gratitude, said the job had been one of their more challenging feats, and sailed off to another settlement. There was absolutely no rape nor pillage – well, none that I saw.

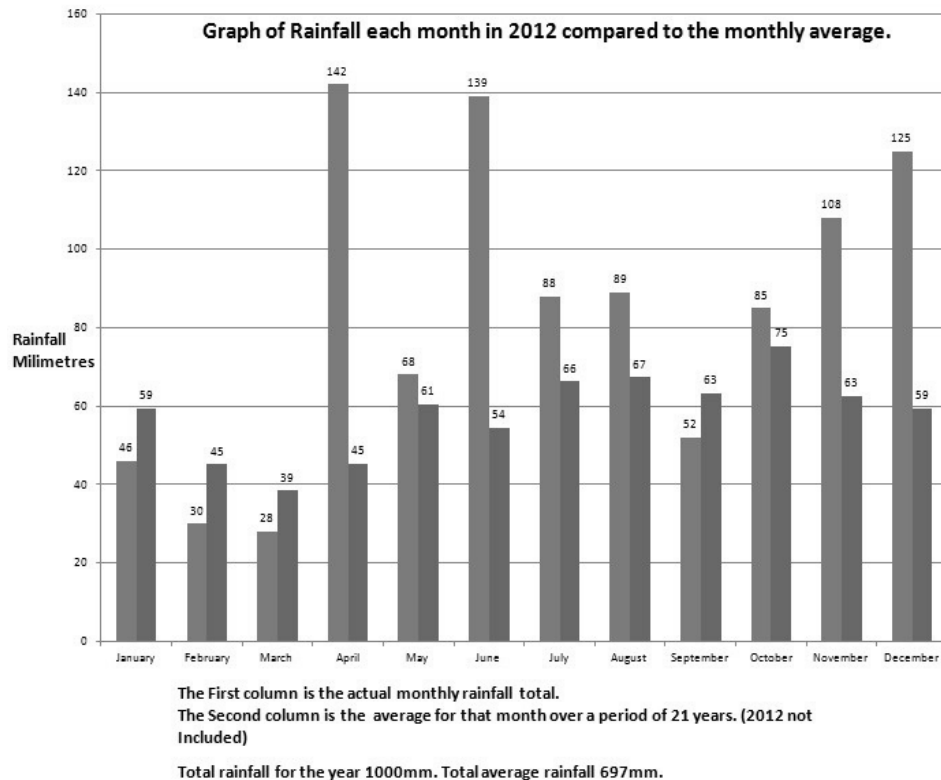
If anyone suggests that the tambour unit is the wrong colour, I'll sacrifice her (or him) on the nearest altar.

Habemus armarium.

Leslie Turner.

We all knew it was a **wet year**—but just how wet?

Thanks to Geoffrey Johnston



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Thank you from Angela and David Hanson

We would like to thank all our good friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to us in the weeks leading up to and following Angela's Dad's death on Christmas Eve. Although it is years since Alan visited the village, he was always interested in what was happening here and pleased that we had settled in such a lovely community. Not long before he died, we sent him a large number of back issues of *Birdsong*. To our surprise he read these cover to cover with great enthusiasm and amusement, when little else seemed to give him much pleasure. Thanks, too, then to *Birdsong* – keep up the good work!

## Winter Birds

Until the recent cold weather, it had been a rather disappointing winter for birdwatchers. However, on a frosty walk across the footpath from Back Lane to Leamington Hastings Road, I was lucky enough to see a heron and about 50 wigeon, plus the now very common and noisy Canada geese. Some years ago, when our back garden overlooked the Leam, they were only occasional visitors. Now they seem to be on the flood plain throughout the year.

Just before the onset of the latest cold spell, we were fortunate enough, at Marton Glebe Farm, to see a mixed group of about 50 fieldfare, redwings and starlings through our binoculars as they tracked across our field looking for food.

Other village sightings have included bullfinches, a green and a lesser spotted woodpecker. Great spotted woodpeckers are already regular visitors to our peanut feeder.

However, first prize must go Ann & Gary who have seen 4 redpolls feeding on rose-bay willow herb seeds in their garden.

Can anyone top this?

Finally, where have all the greenfinches gone, and has any lucky person seen a wax-wing?

Dick Withington.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Operation Christmas Child

A note of thanks from Pam Hopwood of Stretton who is our local organiser for The Shoe Box appeal. *'Your donations have helped us to send 1,734 filled shoeboxes to needy children in Belarus, last December. Thank you for your continued support. Best wishes for 2013.'*

Now this year, please save any 'small' unwanted items suitable for filling shoeboxes: eg. The gifts and little toys from your Christmas crackers, small soft toys, such as teddy bears and dollies. small puzzles, toy cars, lorries, aeroplanes etc. unwanted jewellery, including broken items, small picture books, pens pencils, crayons, writing and drawing paper, notebooks, soap, toothpaste, combs, hair brushes, flannels, toothbrushes, socks, gloves, hats.

These can be delivered to Pam at 24 School Lane, Stretton, or if you prefer, please bring to me Daphne Chippendale at Lyndhurst, Marton Road, Birdingbury (Tel 632582 if you would like me to collect) and I will ensure that they go to Pam.

Thanks to all who have donated and special thanks to the Swap Shoppers for wrapping boxes.

## *Birdingbury Village Club*

Find us on Facebook.

Email : [birdingburyclub@gmail.com](mailto:birdingburyclub@gmail.com)

Website : [birdingburyclub.co.uk](http://birdingburyclub.co.uk)

Usual opening hours :      Monday to Friday 8 until 11pm  
   Saturday 12 to 3.30 and 8 until 11pm  
   Sunday 12 to 3 and 8.00 until 10.30

Available for Private Functions during the day and evenings. All ideas welcome.

Join the Angling Club, Darts Team, Skittles Team, Pool Team.

The Club Membership Fee for a year is only £ 8.00.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## **Leamington Hastings Christmas Fair**

Children, staff and parents enjoyed another traditional Christmas Fair in December, raising monies for the school and taking the opportunity to catch up and look around the school.

Father Christmas made a break in his busy schedule to come along and give a present to all the children and find out what they'd been up to over the last 12 months. It was lovely to see him join in with the carol singing around the Christmas tree before the Fair began - what a voice!

After entering through a walkway beautifully decorated with festive evergreen and lights, parents enjoyed some festive refreshments of mulled apple juice and mince pies along with the usual teas and coffees. Children had their faces painted, hands tattooed and made and wrapped their parents a beautiful tree decoration ready for Christmas day.

Tombolas, cake stalls and book stalls all helped make a grand total of nearly £900 so thank you very much to all who helped and attended. This money will be well used in the school's new library space in the Alec Parker Building.

Alex Rigler

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Does anyone have a jam kettle that is surplus to needs? Please contact Dick 632644.

## Ladies Circle

### December 2012

A well attended meeting for a floral demonstration by Diana Williams. Diana demonstrated the creation of a Christmas table decoration, and then guided members and visitors in creating their own. There were some beautiful arrangements and everyone went home with their handiwork as a start to the Christmas festivities. Thanks to hostesses Lee and Maggie for organising a lovely evening.

### January 2013

The New Year Supper proved very successful, with members contributing a lovely selection of food - a three course meal with coffee and mints for less than £5, with the wine provided from Ladies Circle funds. What a fantastic evening for a bargain price!! Thanks to Jenny and Valerie for organising this, and for doing the washing up!

On 12 February, we will be having a **Film Night** - another 'in village event' just in case the weather doesn't get any better. On 12 March we welcome Mike Slater, a Volunteer Conservation Officer from Warwickshire County Council, who will talk about his work and, in particular, the **Blue Butterfly Project** which has been taking place locally. Information regarding this has been posted on notice boards on the disused railway line between Birdingbury and Draycote, so it will be most interesting to hear if the project has been successful.

Once again, we invite new members (£10 annual subscription - 10 meetings) and visitors (£2 per meeting) to join us in The Birbury at 7.45 on the second Tuesday of each month.

A very Happy New Year from all Ladies Circle members and we look forward to meeting new members very soon.

Barbara Munro

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The **weekday paper girls**, Jo and Jacky, would like to say a very big thank you for all their lovely Christmas cards and gifts and would also like to wish everyone a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Joe and Jacky Hart

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

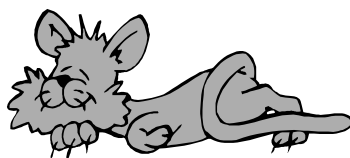
Just a thank you to everyone who has been so kind to us over those difficult days in January.

Jackie, David and family

## Birdingbury Calendar

February					See page
Saturday	9	Progressive supper	Club and Birbury	6.45	
Tuesday	12	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Saturday	16	Pancake Race	Birbury	2.30	8
Tuesday	19	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	
Thursday	21	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	
March					
Saturday	2	Church Café	St Leonard's	12.30	5
Tuesday	12	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Wednesday	13	Recreation Field Committee	Birbury	7.00	6
Saturday	16	Bring and Buy Sale	Birbury	10.30	8
Tuesday	19	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	
Thursday	14	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	
Saturday	30	Egg Roll	Recreation Field	10.00	8

**Swap Shop** every Saturday from 10.30 in the Birbury  
**Youth Club** every Friday in term time at 6.30 see page 5



Birdsong Editor Rhondda Barney, The Barn, Back Lane Tel 632094  
 Email: birdsong1@btinternet.com  
 Church News Editor Aileen Withington, Marton Glebe Farm Tel 632644  
 Email: aileen.withington@hotmail.co.uk

**Copy date for next issue - 18 March 2013**