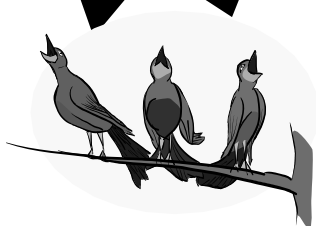


BIRDSONG

December 2012
and
January 2013



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS**

No 53

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Photo Anna French

Parish Council Report

Over the last two meetings of the Parish Council (PC), we have been concerned with ensuring that the works we have commissioned from the County Council and others are completed. Villagers will have noticed that the improvements to the jitty between Main Street and Back Lane have now been done: the steps are more even and a rail provided. We hope this makes them much safer, especially in frosty weather. Trees overhanging Back Lane have also been cut back, improving visibility, and we have taken up a complaint about ivy overhanging the sight-line at the junction of Long Itchington and Marton Roads. The bus shelter frame has been erected and we look forwards to seeing it being roofed and enclosed in the near future.

This is the good news; less welcome is the delay in getting the improved speed signage at the entrances to the village. We were informed by the County Council that this work will not be done until the end of January. This is very disappointing and we will endeavour to pursue this.

New planning legislation allows localities to pursue their own Neighbourhood Plans, although it is expected that small villages such as Birdingbury may well not need to do this. However, it might be necessary to update our Parish Plan next year, and we are seeking further guidance on this from Rugby Borough Council, by inviting a planning officer to attend our next meeting in January.

Setting the precept (the money raised locally to pay for work in the Parish) for the next year is something that the PC traditionally does at the November meeting. However, new guidance on what may be allowed is not due until the New Year. At our meeting on 20 November we discussed this issue at length. It is five years since the Parish Council put up the precept and inflation and the completion of a variety of improvements in the village have meant that the precept of £5,817 no longer covers our regular predicted expenditure. It was therefore unanimously decided to seek an increase to £6,200, but with the proviso that this may well not be allowed by Government regulation. The proposed increase would mean an average increase per household of around £2 per year, and would allow the PC to respond to emerging local needs, ensure that we can continue to afford grass-cutting around the village, up-date the Parish Plan if required etc. Councillors would welcome community views on this matter.

The PC also agreed to appoint two of its members as Snow Wardens – a role which will be responsible for co-ordinating responses to extreme snow conditions.

I'd like to finish by wishing all members of the Birdingbury community a happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy New Year.

Diana Turner, Chair of the Parish Council

PROGRESSIVE SUPPER – SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2013

The date for next year's must-attend village dining event has been set.

This event has been going for about 20 years and for the second year we are splitting the proceeds we raise (entry donation plus raffle proceeds) equally between Birdingbury Church and a charity - The Ups of Downs. This is a small charity based in Leamington Spa which supports children with Downs syndrome, specifically with speech and language therapy. It is a charity that Erin Flint and her family, Alex, Tony and Billy are involved with.



More about the actual details of the evening: as the name suggests - it's a supper and it's progressive! Each couple get to host one course at their home and there will be two other couples present. After each course, you learn where you're going for the next course but you won't meet the same people twice. It's a really fun evening and a great chance to meet new villagers and catch up with old.

We all meet in the Club at 6.45 sharp for a quick drink, to buy raffle tickets and to learn where to go for starters.

As the evening progresses and you open each envelope, you move from house to house, ending back at the Club at about 10pm for the raffle draw and post-dinner drinks!

We had 28 couples last year and the more people we get the more fun (and the more money we raise). So, if you would like to attend (or want to ask more), please phone either Simon or Jackie below.

We allocate courses nearer the day and will send you a quick note (with any dietary requirements of your secret guests) then. The entry donation **per couple** is £20 if you do a starter or a pudding and £15 if you do a main course.

Jackie Morton (633493) and Simon Whitfield (634761)

Birdingbury Youth Club

For the Village Bonfire the Youth Club made three wonderful guys. The winner of the competition was chosen by members of Swap Shop. Congratulations to Kate, Evie and Issie, who won the competition for their lady guy - who was burned for 'crimes against fashion'!

On Friday 9 November Lynne Cannell from Guide Dogs for the Blind visited the club accompanied by her current Guide Dog in training, Korky.

In September 2010 Lynne and Matt Cannell completed the Great North Run in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind which resulted in them researching the work of Guide Dogs. They found out that the training centre in Leamington Spa needed borders. 'Borders' give homes to the dogs whilst they are training. The dogs are taken to the training school each day, then spend evenings and weekends with the volunteers. Lynne and Matt have been borders for nearly a year now and they are currently on their seventh dog! The family are all members of the Leamington Fundraising team; Matt is now secretary. Lynne and Matt have run another two Great North Runs and their son Freddie has done the mini GNR twice, all in aid of Guide Dogs. Matt is now in training to trek 103km through the Sahara Desert as a sighted guide for a partially sighted gentleman.

Lynne and Korky inspired Issie Sharratt, one of our teenage leaders, to raise money for Guide Dogs as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. Issie is going to do a sponsored run around Draycote Water on Sunday 16 December at 11am. The Youth Club are going to join in too by running/walking. Issie is hoping that this will be a good start towards a target of £1500 – to name and sponsor a guide dog. We have already distributed some guide dog collection jars for 'spare change'. If you would like one please contact one of the Youth Club leaders. In 1993 Birdingbury raised funds to support a guide dog, 'Birbury', so it would be really lovely if twenty years on we could do the same. Any sponsorship would be gratefully received. Thank you.

On Friday 16 November the Youth Club held a 'Children in Need' event. With a chocolate tombola and by selling cakes and pancakes, we raised £64. Thank you to everyone for supporting us.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM BIRDINGBURY YOUTH CLUB

Gaynor, Jan, Anna, Kate and Issie

Youth Club coming events

7 December – Chaotic Christmas Challenge

14 December – Making Christmas treats & Christmas party preparation

Saturday 15 December 3-5pm – CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR THE YOUTH CLUB AND ALL THE VILLAGE CHILDREN

Youth Club will start again on Friday 11 January 2013.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Saturday 8 December 2 - 4pm

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Leamington Hastings Infant School

Come and support your local school. Spend a lovely festive afternoon and meet staff, pupils and families. Everybody welcome!

- *. Father Christmas in his Grotto giving out early Christmas presents
- *. Singing carols around the Christmas tree
- *. Games for the children, stalls for the adults
- *. Refreshments

Grand draw tickets available on the day or beforehand from
Alex Rigler, Porthleven, Marton Road (07962 169199)

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Southam Lions Santa Sleigh will be visiting the village on Thursday 6 December, during the evening. Please support this as all monies donated will go to local charities – one of them being Zoe's Place in Coventry, a hospice supporting children aged five years and under, with a terminal illness.

Pauline Meade

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Reminder from the **Recreation Field Committee**

In accordance with the Recreation Field policies any accidents that occur should be reported to Pete Welch (Chairman) Harbottle House, Main St, 632536, or Gaynor Davy (Secretary) The Ridings, Marton Rd, 632041

Did they know what's coming?



Photo Gaynor Davy

Early in the week several very impressive guys, dressed to kill, had been incarcerated in the Birbury, to await their fate. Their crimes were unspoken, though the fashion police may have known. They had certainly added weight, if not colour, to at least one committee meeting during their dread wait.

But no amount of astute good citizenship could avoid the moment of truth.

Just as the original conspirators met their fate, so their awful moment had come. A cold clear and moist night; the breath clinging to the face; and the light from the vast panoply of stars, incomprehensibly older than the events they were commemorating, slithered into an expectant atmosphere. The long wet grass yielded to the clammy rubber of the boots of the escort party which must have passed, unseen by most, to the ground, outside the village, where many a previous public exhibition had taken place.

One by one the crowd, for such it was, bribed or cajoled their way past the irascible gatekeeper and made their way along the dark and muddy path towards the site where these cloth conspirators were to be consumed.

Already in place, the shadowy wraith like presence of the occidental fire giver moved like a sprite in his own private dance, planning to startle and delight, indistinct apart

from occasional torch movements which only made his domain seem even more mysterious.

Nearby, ever mindful of the needs of a baying crowd, the cauldrons and stoves of the goodwives began to burble and bubble, the sounds and smells of broth and bangers mingling with the scent of anticipation.

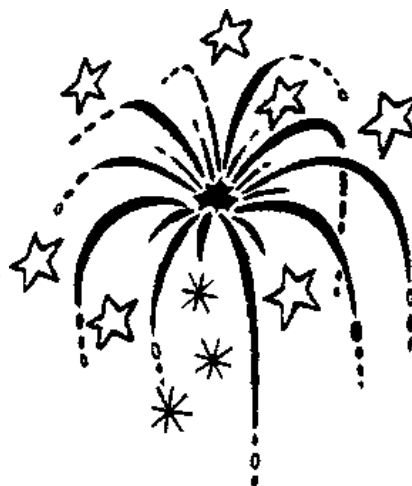
Those guys, now atop the bonfire, despite their good view, must have watched these preparations with a mixture of emotions, hoping against hope that some technical hitch would delay the start, or that a helpful health and safety man would come and put a stop to the whole thing (after all Guy Fawkes himself was a health and safety chap and was only caught because he was guarding the gunpowder). At last the flame was put to the fire.

And as the flames rose higher and higher, the guys melted away, the crowd got warmer and warmer, so the fire giver suddenly came to life. Like a long spring and early summer compressed into moments, so he spun glorious flowers of fire and colour into the sky, which, like the beautiful blossom, lingered for a fleeting moment before merging back into the blackness, the image scarred on the retina. The fizzing whoosh, expectantly etching a brazen pencil line high into the air, the moments wait, before a filament canopy of silver and gold. The evil, bending, screaming 'mothers-in-law', the lingering smoke, pallidly envying the new moments of flaring beauty; the sickening whirl of the Catherine wheels.

The cricked neck, the buttery fingers, the taste of sausage and beautiful sights; the neighbourly chat with someone you haven't seen for ages; the sudden shiver; the turn to the fire. The catharsis is over, the fire's structure folding uncertainly into its own glowing belly, and the guys, once proudly so high, are now at one with the pallets and packing cases in a vivid yet dying pandemonium.

Like the fire, the crowd gradually slips away, some to the Club for a pint, and some to their own fireside to reflect on this winter rite. With thanks to the fire giver Andy and to Jackie, Chris and Barbara and to all their helpers and of course to the Club for providing the ever important insurance.

Thin Jethro Laskey aged 57 $\frac{3}{4}$



Birdingbury School Shocker!

Fears for the future of our local school have been heightened by two significant and possibly connected events: the shock disappearance of the recently appointed headmistress, Professor Christobel Fewstone, and the latest in a series of damning reports from OFSTED.

Events came to a climax at the recent school speech night. Intended to be a civilised celebration of all that is cerebral and cultured in our community, the evening descended into a disturbing fiasco as seemingly drunken pupils heckled staff and a senior master was forced to wield his cane.



The evening had begun well enough with Professor Fewstone welcoming the Chair of the Governors, and expressing her surprise on her appointment. Trouble started brewing early though, when certain girls and boys, incited by the heady aroma of school dinner wafting from the kitchen, began demanding food with menaces. It was quickly es-

established that the lemonade they had been enthusiastically quaffing at the reception was in fact a fine Sauvignon Blanc provided for the exclusive use of the staff.

Professor Fewstone's attempts to regain order were fruitless as the rivalry between two forms escalated. Discipline was eventually restored by the stalwart dinner ladies: Pat Ear, Pat Mabits, Pat N.E. Thing and Pat-Annie Ware, brandishing their ladles.

Fortunately, the pupils quickly quietened down to their excellent beef stew, followed by large helpings of apple crumble, despite complaints that the custard did not contain sufficient lumps.

Alas, the peaceful interlude was short lived. It emerged that some senior pupils, egged on by Flash Harry, had obtained seconds of mashed potato for what proved to be illicit purposes. It was soon to be seen flying in the direction of the junior form. Retaliation was swift and merciless. The battle raged for some time, during which Mr Hanson was heard to promise six strokes to any girl showing tendencies towards naughtiness.

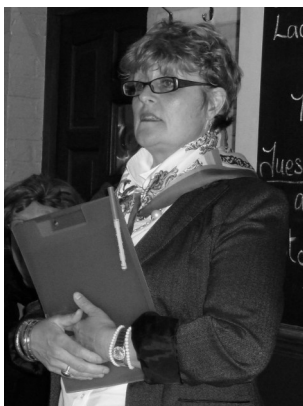




Anxious to move proceedings on, Professor Fewstone adjusted her wig, called for calm, and introduced the music master, Mr Walker to lead the school singing. This was intended to be a harmonious rendition of traditional rural music. Unfortunately, it rapidly descended into a bawdy chorus of Old McDonald's Farm, with the juniors demonstrating their extensive skills in animal impersonations.

Keen to keep the troublesome elements under control, Professor Fewstone adjusted her bosom and called upon the games mistress, Ms Cutts, to facilitate some physical activity, intended to burn off excess energies. This involved a game of dubious choice involving crackers and what claimed to be more lemonade. The effectiveness of this diversionary tactic was highly debatable.

It was at the height of this rumpus that the school inspector, Lady Norma Snockers, arrived. Timing could not have been worse as she dodged projectiles to take her position alongside the lolling pupils and staff. Having gained the attention of the school, she proceeded to deliver her annual report. This could not have been more critical with regard to the constitution and general management of the school. She did, with caveats, single out certain pupils for commendations such as Barney, C for woodwork; Turner, L for business administration; Ellis, E for drama; and Withington, R for RE. Finally, Lady Snockers summarised Professor Fewstone's ideas for the coming term. Most of these revealed a radical, and some would say dangerous, approach to the education of our village youth.

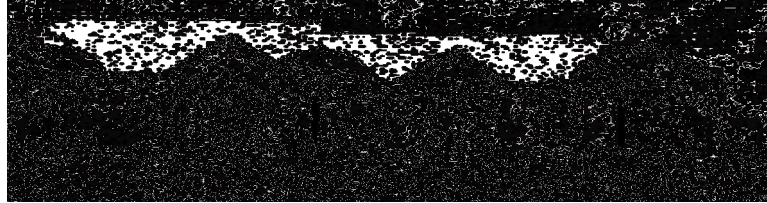


The school has been since been suspended and its future is uncertain. The whereabouts of the erstwhile head remain unconfirmed, although there are rumours of someone answering her description but sporting dubious facial hair lurking in Back Lane. Might this be our missing head attempting to conceal herself from concerned parents?

Milly Feensleg

And if anyone ever wishes to borrow a pair of Size 11 ladies stilettos they will know where to go.

From Birdingbury Club Committee



As the dark nights fall in, you may start to notice some digging and heavy lifting happening around the club! We spoke to you over two years ago about our thoughts for the renovation of the Club, and we asked for your input in the Village Survey that took place in 2011. There is an overwhelming desire for the Club to retain its character and the ambience of a village club, whilst ensuring it is brought up to modern standards and is warm and inviting. We remain committed to achieving this, whilst recognising that to deliver our ultimate goals we require substantial funds. As with any other business trying to succeed in what continues to be a difficult economic climate, opportunities to fund significant re-development are limited. I would like to thank everyone who continues to support the Club as an important and vital social meeting place in our village. We have had many successful and fun events over recent months and it's been wonderful to see many new faces enjoying a night with us.

Not deterred by the limited opportunities to fund change, we are about to embark on improvements where we can, to start over the next few weeks with the upgrading of the toilet facilities and the clearing of the front seating area outside. There has been a great deal of feedback about making the seated area at the front more comfortable and inviting, and also making it a safe area for those that use it. We have some modest plans of how we can do this in the spring, but need to start with clearing some of what is there now. Mark Taylor is bringing together a team of willing friends and helpers to clear some of the heavy concrete planters over the next few weeks and to start planting softer shrubbery and flowers. If you are happy to donate any plants etc, I am sure Mark would love to hear from you. We are constantly surprised and pleased with how many people in the village willingly give of their time and services to help with tasks such as this and, on behalf of the Club Committee, I thank you for this.

It just leaves me now, again on behalf of the Birdingbury Club Committee and the staff, to extend our warm wishes to you all for a Joyous Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. We look forward to welcoming you into the Club over the festive period.

Warm wishes
Ian Tipton
Chair – Birdingbury Club Committee

Swap Shop

Swap shop will continue to meet each Saturday in December with the exception of the 15th as this is the weekend of festive frivolities in the village and I understand that that afternoon has been reserved for the children's Christmas party alongside sherry and mince pies in the Birbury for those of us who can't get in to see Santa!! So, swap your calendar time to 3pm and meet swappers and other villagers then, rather than at 10.30.

Talking of Christmas, Swappers will be having a Christmas special on 8 December - I have mentioned this before – it's the morning when you can bring all of those items lying around the house that you never use - you know the sort of thing I mean - the special notepaper you bought and never use, the DVD you have watched 12 times and don't need to watch again, the books you haven't (and won't) read or the household gadget that looked excellent when you bought it but you haven't taken it out of the box yet and you have had it for 5 years!!

Bring all of them to swap shop and we'll find a home for them and send you home with something you might use (or you can bring it back next year!!).

On 8 December, we will also have a rare sight at swap shop - a jam jar for donations to help keep swap shop going. Please drop by and add some money into the jar to help pay for the running costs, as we don't like money to be a feature of swap shop but once a year we do need some help towards the electricity, and it's important to give something to help the upkeep of the Birbury....thank you!

Thanks all -- much appreciated as ever....

Cheryl Turner

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Christmas Cards

To save you tramping around the village in the cold and wet delivering Christmas Cards to your friends and neighbours, why not take advantage of Birdingbury Club's 'Christmas Post Box'?

From the beginning of December there will be individual trays covering the letters of the alphabet. Just pop into the Club and put the cards into the appropriate trays. You can then check to see if you have received any cards yourself and perhaps stay for a chat and some refreshments!

Ian Tipton

La Posada in Birdingbury?

Have you ever heard of Posada?

It comes from a tiny village in Spain - like Birdingbury but a lot warmer - and it's a special way for a community to look forward to Christmas together.

A special nativity set, Mary and Joseph and a small battery operated lantern, travels between homes in the village to represent Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The idea is that we will organize a rota for willing homes to give it shelter overnight, if possible where it can be seen from outside, before passing it on to the next lodgings. This is an opportunity for a chat, a drink and a mince pie or whatever with your fellow villagers as you meet and greet to exchange the Posada. Don't worry if you can't get out, we can arrange collection or delivery.

We'd love you to be involved with its journey around the village before its arrival in church on Christmas Day at 11.00 for our short family worship (see Church News for more details).

Please contact Mel Palmer 634321 or Jenny Hawes j.x.hawes@btinternet.com

We look forward to hearing from you.....

Karen Armbrister, Mel Palmer and Jenny Hawes

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Jubilee Photo Show

On Saturday afternoon 13 October, those who had enjoyed a sunny walk across the fields and were fortified by lunch at the Church Café were joined by others in the Birbury to watch an interesting and amusing slide show that captured events in Birdingbury over the Jubilee weekend. Many thanks to Andy for sorting out all the equipment and dealing with the technical side of things!

Michael Coles had taken several hundred photos and we watched these whilst enjoying a cup of tea and home made goodies. Luckily, we had some villagers there who could recognise others engaged in the most unlikely activities!

We ended the afternoon by watching some clips from a forthcoming production - How to build a bus shelter....

p.s. If you would like to borrow the disc containing all the photos please get in touch with Jackie Westcott.

Jenny Hawes

Birdingbury Country Show

The Birdingbury Country Show Committee is pleased to announce that the 2012 Show made a profit of £4255.03 at the postponed event in September. The postponement proved worthwhile as a cancellation in July would have incurred costs to be met from reserves. It was agreed to distribute £4000 to the nominated charities and place the remaining amount in the Reserves Account.

The money will be allocated as follows – Crohns and Colitis UK £1500; Hearing Dogs for Deaf People £1000; University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire Baby Care Unit £1000; Alzheimer's Society £500.

The Committee have decided to hold a Birdingbury Country Show on 13 and 14 July 2013.

Whilst there is currently a committee of 20 members, there are a few key positions to be filled. If you are interested in joining in to organise the event to raise monies for various charities, and to promote interest in our vehicle history, please contact

Barbara Munro (Acting Secretary) 632 555.

Dear *Birdsong*

We, at Top Farm, would like to apologise for the disturbance caused to the residents of the village during Saturday evening and Sunday morning 29 – 30 September. I believe we did indeed cause some members of the village a restless night and perhaps initially and quite unjustly, the Munro family got the blame.

We were celebrating a decade since we moved to the village, so residents can be relieved to know that we are not planning any more functions of a similar nature, which will no doubt be a relief to the village, and to my wallet !

Regards

Peter and Alison Darby.

[We received this letter just after the last edition of *Birdsong* had gone to press *Ed*]

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

In 2014 I will be taking part in a World Challenge with my school, Lawrence Sheriff . This involves trekking along part of the silk route and work with local communities. To raise money I am looking for odd jobs around the village such as raking leaves, babysitting or car washing. Please contact me if you need anything done. I'm 15.
Ethan Barr 4 Old Orchard Back Lane 07707 278824

Be a better, safer driver - winter hazards

Reduced visibility and slippery road surfaces make winter driving particularly hazardous. If you drive too fast on a slippery or wet road surface your tyre grip will be substantially reduced and the risk of skidding increased. Smooth control is another essential element of safer winter driving. You should always aim to brake, steer and change gear as smoothly as possible so as not to affect the grip of your tyre on the road surface. As always, better, safer driving, especially in poor weather, is about good preparation, good self-maintenance, good vehicle maintenance, the right knowledge and the right attitude.

Change the way you drive

When roads are slippery it will take longer to stop. Up to 10 times longer. So, drop your speed, and give yourself more time to slow down and stop. Drive with care even if roads have been treated.

Do the right thing in an emergency!

If your vehicle starts to skid:

Depress the clutch. Do not brake!

Turn the steering wheel into the direction of the skid.

Driving in fog

Use dipped headlights so other drivers can see you.

If it's really foggy (less than 100m visibility) and you can't see much, then switch your fog lights on. Switch them off once conditions have improved so they don't dazzle drivers in front of, or behind you.

Fog is often patchy so try not to speed up as visibility improves.

Driving through ice and snow

Check for snow on the roof of the vehicle before you drive off. It can slip down over the windscreen and obscure your view.

If your tyres are making virtually no noise this could be a sign you're driving on ice.

If your vehicle skids don't brake – it will just lock your wheels and you'll skid further.

Driving in the rain

When the road's wet, it can take up to twice as long to stop so it makes sense to slow down when it's raining.

If your vehicle loses its grip, or "aquaplanes", on surface water take your foot off the accelerator to slow down. Don't brake or steer suddenly because you have no control of the steering or brakes.

Floods

If you do have to drive through flooded roads, use first gear. Keep your revs high and depress your clutch when you need to and test your brakes after driving through water.

PCSO Helena Steadman Warwickshire Police

Autumn Walk.....



Photo Eira Owen

The rain held off as a group of us joined Dick on a late morning walk across the fields on a Saturday morning in October. We met at the Church Lychgate, suitably dressed in strong footwear and warm jackets. The walk took us through Wally and Josie McCurdie's farmyard, over the fields and down towards the river. The pace was easy, the conversation buzzed, and the views of the river so different from how most of us usually see it. The dogs that came with us had a wonderful time racing and chasing each other through the grass. A dip in the river cooled them off after all their exercise. For the rest of us, a lovely lunch of quiche and salad at the Church Café warmed us up and gave us the chance to rest our feet and catch up with old friends.

Jean Foroughi

.....and behind the scenes at the Church Café

This time the food for Church Café was Eira's bright idea. She loves cooking quiches and hers always turn out perfectly whereas I find making them a fiddle and my pastry often cracks and the filling oozes out all over the oven!

Whilst Eira was on the walk, I was in church madly preparing for the arrival of an unknown number of lunch guests. I was just putting the finishing touches to the table, arranging the bread and salad bowls so that my inferior quiches were hidden at the back, when I turned round to see a parade of walkers each proudly carrying one of Eira's large quiches or a bowl of salad into the church. It was like one of those old films with waiters bringing silver platters into a banqueting hall! I only wish that I had had my camera handy to take a photograph of them coming down the church path with their goodies held high.

Aileen Withington

Congratulations

to Alex and Ania Meade on the arrival of Benjamin James Alexander on Thursday 11 October. He, Mum, Dad and half-brother Niki are all doing well.

to Adrian and Rachel Cunningham (nee Withington) on the arrival of Fletcher Jacob on 9 November. Congratulations too, to the proud grandparents.

Welcome to Phoebe Tooth Markham and congratulations to Matt and Jenny and sisters Anna and Jessica

Following the loss of my husband, Derek, I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and thoughtfulness of the people of Birdingbury.

It has helped me tremendously, especially when 'how are you' is voiced by so many people. Swap Shop has been a life saver; thank you all. I'm rather sad the 'home grown cucumber' season is at an end.

Barbara Moore

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Bill and Dink wish to thank everyone for all their help, good wishes and cards after his hip operation in September. All is going well and the assessor says, 'See you again in twelve months time'. This November Bill was able to attend the Village Service at the War Memorial. 'It was so good to be part of it again instead of having to look from my window, as I did last year'.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Our sympathy goes to Val Elliot-Smith and Ray Wells following the death of their mother Rene. Many villagers will remember her cycling, every day, up the road from Marton until not so long ago.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION CYCLE RIDE

I would like to thank the many villagers for their unbelievable generosity in sponsoring me for the recent 50 mile Warwickshire ride. With a combined age of comfortably over 80 years between the bike and myself it could have been a disaster. The fantastic and generous refreshments put on by The Birbury for the cyclists were very welcome! Home-made biscuits and cold drinks were evidently going down in great fashion with my companions....in fact The Birbury stall was my first and only stop.

I raised well over £1,000 which will go to a worthy cause - you never know when you might need them!

Chris Morton

The Birbury

Forthcoming Events

We'll have the usual **Christmas Tea and Cakes** on **Saturday 15 December**, from around 3.00pm onwards. Do drop in – there'll be something for people of all ages. The youngsters will be singing Christmas songs to us during the afternoon.

Then our annual **Quiz** (again, for all ages) will be on **Saturday 12 January**. This event is in part competitive (not that we take that too seriously) and some of it is done in groups, so for these reasons it *can't* be a drop-in job – you need to be there by 2.00pm. There will be unbelievable prizes!!

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

We'll give Spring 2013 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...

Leslie Turner

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The Pink Evening - 15 October

'Maria Leret and Mary Harrison would like to thank everyone who supported their 'pink evening' in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer. The evening raised £1000, so thank you.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Bourton & District Garden Club

There will not be a meeting in December but we will start again on the last Thursday of January 2013.

For more information contact - Barbara 632957 Ann 632862 or Carol 632033

Birdingbury Village Club

Sunday 2 December - F1 Presentation Evening

Hot food. All Welcome

Saturday 8 December - Curry Night

Arrangements have been made with a Local Curry House to deliver to Birdingbury. Telephone Cinnamon lounge on 01788 811290 **between 5.30 & 6.30 that evening, Quote Birdingbury Club**, & place your order. The food will be delivered to The Club just after 8 pm for you to collect. *If we get enough people, the normal delivery charge will not be applicable.*

Menus will be at the Club Bar, or check out - www.cinnamonloungerugby.co.uk

Saturday 15 December - FESTIVE FRIVOLITIES

From 3pm - Drop into the **Birbury** for a hot drink, glass of sherry, a mince pie or a piece of cake. Listen to Carols sung by the village children.

3pm – 5pm Children's Christmas Party - Come and join in the fun and meet our special visitor who will make a guest appearance! Run by Birdingbury Youth Club, the party is for all children of the village .

From 7pm Evening of Entertainment - Great festive night for all the family. If there are any budding volunteers willing to show off their choral skills, musical talent, or even a Christmas joke, please let us know. *Richard Cutts / Mark Taylor*

Monday 31 December - New Year's Eve – Black Tie Do

Details to be announced

Annual Knockout Competitions for all abilities and all ages:

Friday 7 December : Skittles

Friday 14 December : Darts

Friday 21 December : Pool

Holiday Period Opening Times

Monday 24 December	8 - 11
Tuesday 25	12 noon - 1.30
Wednesday 26	12 noon - 3 and 8 - 11
Thursday 27	8 - 11
Friday 28	8 - 11
Saturday 29	12 noon - 3.30 and 8 - 11
Sunday 30	12 noon - 3 and 8 - 10.30
Monday 31	7 till late
Tuesday 1 January 2013	8 - 11

Ladies Circle

The meetings for October and November were 'in house' entertainment. In October, Jackie devised a programme for Question Time, compiled from a book of questions from which she selected twenty-five, all relating to Warwickshire –e.g. 'Where will you find the Elephant Wash Ramp?'; 'Where can you find stalactites in a canal tunnel?'; 'Whose statue stands in the centre of Dunchurch?'. The questions lead to thought and discussion about things which we may see every day but many of us know little about. To conclude the evening we played a game of 'Logo' which has become a favourite with Circle members. Thanks to Jackie for organising a pleasant and informative evening.

November's meeting was entitled 'A Knight to Remember', organised by Gaynor and Mel. The outcome was four knights and a lot of laughter. The night will, no doubt, be remembered by all those who attended – but can we divulge the secret of the Knight? Just as a clue, it did involve a lot of silver foil! A great, relaxing, fun evening – thanks to you both and to all the 'sports' involved.



Photo Gaynor Davy

In December, Diane, a local flower arranger, will demonstrate some floral arrangements and there will be a chance to create your own Christmas decoration. No obligation, but if you would like to join in then please bring scissors and any items you would like to include in your creation, e.g. candle, cones, greenery. Containers and foam will be provided at a cost of £1.

January will be our New Year Supper and Jenny will be discussing this with members at the December meeting.

Once again, we would be pleased to see some new members – new faces mean new ideas. Please join us in The Birbury at 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday, 11 December 2012, (the second Tuesday of the month).

Barbara Munro

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For December - New at the Club
Coffee and Mulled Wine

Birdingbury Calendar

December						page
Sunday	2	F1 Presentation	Club			18
Friday	7	Youth Club	Birbury	6.30		4
Saturday	8	Christmas Special	Birbury	10.30		11
		Swap shop				
Saturday	8	Christmas Fayre	L H School	2 - 4.00		5
Saturday	8	Curry Night	Club			18
Tuesday	11	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45		19
Friday	14	Youth Club	Birbury	6.30		4
Saturday	15	Festive Frivolities at the Club and Birbury				
		Sherry, Tea and Cakes		from 3.00		
		Children's Christmas Party		3.00 - 5.00		
		Evening of Entertainment		from 7.00		
Thursday	20	Library Van	Main Street	2.35		
Monday	31	Black tie do	Club			18
January						
Tuesday	8	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45		19
Thursday	10	Library Van	Main Street	2.35		
Friday	11	Youth Club	Birbury	6.30		4
Saturday	12	Annual Quiz	Birbury	2.30		17
Tuesday	15	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30		2
Thursday	31	Library Van	Main Street	2.35		



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