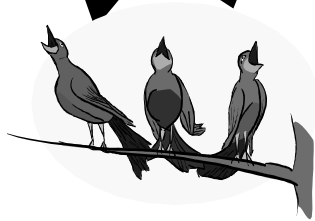


# **BIRDSONG**

**February  
and March  
2012**



**BIRDINGBURY  
NEWS  
No 48**



Photos Aileen Withington

**Sadly missed  
7th January  
2012**



## Parish Council Report

Since my last report there have been some major developments. Filling the casual vacancy resulting from the resignation of Carol Cartwright was finalised at our meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January with the co-option of **Terry Healey**. The Council was fortunate in attracting two very able and well qualified volunteers: Terry Healey and Simon Whitefield. The Council was split on which of these to co-opt and I was obliged to use my casting vote.

In the same week councillors interviewed two candidates for the post of Clerk (following Carol Pratt's resignation in November) and we appointed **Joanna Bloomfield**. She will take up the role at the beginning of February once her contract is agreed and signed. I will post her contact details as soon as this has been done. We look forward to a more stable Council, once these two newcomers join the team.

Views have been expressed by a number of villagers that speeding and road safety remain a worry. The grant, awarded in 2008 by Rugby Borough Council (RBC), can help us address these concerns, and a Warwickshire County Council officer will be coming to our next meeting in February to give us further advice. The Parish Council has already committed £1,500 to this issue. It is important that we move quickly in accessing the grant, otherwise we may lose it completely.

The destruction by fire of the bus shelter on the night of 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> January has caused us all anguish: the quirky building had been a gift in 1955 from Mrs Pollock who then owned the Hall, and it has been regularly and lovingly maintained since then. It was not insured so the village faces the challenging task of replacing it, although there are potential funds which could be applied for to help us meet the costs. There is some interest amongst villagers in making the replacement a community project. Councillors would be very happy to hear **your views** about this. We also lost three village noticeboards in the fire and these too will have to be replaced; perhaps we should be looking at a free-standing one. In the interim, we have been offered use of the small noticeboard on the wall of the old village shop, and we will also do what we can at the Birbury. We shall continue to post information, Minutes etc. on the village website ([www.birdingbury.org](http://www.birdingbury.org)), which is now beginning to be accessed by increasing numbers of villagers.

Continuing concerns by some councillors about the enforcement of the Planning Permission for Birdingbury Estates slip road were expressed and it was agreed to pass these on to RBC.

We were pleased to hear from Cllr Morton that BT Infinity appears to be on track for initiation in March, and I'm sure villagers will welcome this.

The meeting called for the day following the Parish Council meeting to start planning the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations was well attended and a separate report outlining proposals and seeking further volunteers is on Page 4.

If you have any questions or queries about any of the above issues, please don't hesitate to contact me or any other councillor. I'm happy to be contacted by phone (633755) or in person.

Diana Turner  
Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

The **village web site** has now been shifted to its permanent platform. To reach it key in  
**[www.birdingbury.org](http://www.birdingbury.org)**

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## **The Bus Shelter**

This village landmark was originally a 'summer house' in the garden of the Hall. It was given to the village by Mrs Pollock who had moved to Birdingbury in the early thirties after the death of her husband, Lt Col Alsagar Pollock. He was a soldier in the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry who had been seconded to the Egyptian Army during the First World War.

Originally from Germany, she lived in the Hall until about 1962 when she sold the property to Quinton Hazell and moved to Leamington

The summer house which was sheathed in rough sawn elm boards and had a cedar shingle roof was moved to its new site by the Rugby Rural District Council. Apparently the significant lean, for which it was noted, was present from the time of its re-erection. Was it originally on sloping ground ?

On the night of 6th January someone pushed a motorcycle inside and set fire to a rag on the petrol tank. Several villagers saw the fire but were unable to help.

Great efforts were made to find the bronze plaque, pictured on the cover, amongst the ashes but to no avail.

Besides a good place to wait out of the weather it had served as a meeting point for the youth of several generations and even a convenient goal post!

Recordsworm

## DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

**June 2012**

The Parish Council (PC) has agreed to give all children in the Parish a china mug as a memento of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. A competition will be held to design this and details are on the next page.

The PC also invited all villagers to a meeting to plan the village's Jubilee celebrations on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January. It was encouraging that eleven people attended and another eight sent their apologies, all with a commitment to get involved. There is clearly a lot of enthusiasm.

A brainstorming session revealed a wealth of ideas on how best to provide something to attract all ages and interests, and after wide-ranging discussions we came up with the following proposals and ideas:

**Saturday pm 2<sup>nd</sup> June: Craft activities in the Birbury.** a photo memory wall, building a Jubilee mosaic etc.

*Contact Jenny Hawes or Jackie Westcott if you want to help with this.*

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June: Fun Olympics** The village will be split into three teams:

**RED** (Team Managers –Richard Cutts and Mark Taylor) - Main St., Wren Court, Long Itchington Road;

**WHITE** (Team Managers tba) – Leamington Hastings and Marton Roads;

**BLUE** –(Team Managers Barry Chinn and David Hawkes) - Back Lane, Stockton Road and outlying areas.

The Team Managers will plan competitive and fun events for the morning and afternoon sessions. There will be a simple lunch available in the Birbury for all competitors and onlookers. In the evening there will be a village picnic (bring your candelabra and smoked salmon!) and a medal ceremony on the Old Rectory Meadow – by kind permission of Jan & Hugh.

*Contact Gaynor or Team Managers if you want to help with any of this.*

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June** A lunchtime **Street Party** - for any villager who wants to join in the celebration.

*Contact Sue Hayes if you'd like to help.*

The planning group will meet again at **7.45 on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March in the Birbury**. Do come along if you want to help. Everybody is welcome.

*The following people have volunteered to plan and organise the proposed activities:*

*Gaynor Davy (Co-ordinator), Geraldine Clarke, Julie Colledge, Jenny Hawes, Sue Hayes, Mark & Alex Taylor, Jackie and Jenny Westcott, Dick Withington.*

*Barry Chinn, Richard Cutts, David Hawkes, Ros Murray, Mel & Ian Palmer, Jan & Hugh Stuart - who sent apologies - are also keen to play their part.*

**Please contact any of these people if you would like to get involved. This promises to be a great community occasion.**

**Put the dates in your diary now!**

### **Jubilee Mugs - Design Competition**

Commemorative mugs will be given to all children in the village and will also be sale for under £5 (depending on the quantity ordered).

To mark these as special "Birdingbury" mugs the Parish Council is inviting villagers to submit designs for the back of the mugs to complement the traditional portrait of H.M. The Queen and her coat of arms.

A prize of £20 has been donated for the winning design.

There will be an open meeting in early March for villagers to view the entries and place their votes.

The artwork should be simple, and ideally in not more than three colours, depicting something relevant to our village and its history. The size of the transfer to be applied will be limited to 60mm wide by 70mm high.

An accurate layout sheet is available for an example.

Please direct any questions and submit all designs by 29th February to **Chris Morton** at Brook Farm House, Back Lane 633493

### **Camp 97**

Our apologies: Felicity Whiston's film premiere has had to be postponed until April.

With completing the work for her degree life is hectic!

### **An Appeal from the Editor**

*Birdsong*, which costs about £55 an issue to print (not including Church News and Views) is financed partly by the Village Distribution Fund and partly by generous donations from villagers for which *Birdsong* is extremely grateful. Funds are running low, so any contributions would be very welcome. Cheques to Birdsong News please.

## **BT Infinity and Openreach**

I attended a meeting in Marton shortly before Christmas along with the main campaign team and a number of representatives from BT and Openreach.

Now that nearly 129 kilometres of fibre optic cable and thousands of man hours of input are reaching their conclusion, I am sure residents will have noticed considerable activity along the roads near Birdingbury. This is all good news and our cabling is in, albeit not running. The anticipated date for going live is still March/April 2012, although inclement weather over the next two months may slow this down slightly. The team estimate that more than 85% of the premises to be connected will receive speeds greater than 15Mbps, and most will get a lot more.

If you do want superfast broadband you will need to place an order with your chosen service provider, choose the package you want and sign up to a new contract. You will need a new modem and probably a router as well to enable you to use the higher Infinity speed wirelessly. Setting this up is not a self-install job and you will need a visit from an Openreach engineer to fit a new socket and faceplate to a wall. Not all internet service providers (ISPs) will be providing superfast broadband, and the choice of ISP can be very confusing.

All in all, it's good news and for those of us who rely on the internet we look forward to the launch date.

Chris Morton

### **Zambia - Charity Appeal**

We hope at the beginning of March to take out some:

- puzzles
- little toy cars (matchbox size)
- toy animals
- art and craft materials
- clothes
- soap, toothpaste & toothbrushes

for children at two charities in Lusaka where Caroline Mackie works.

Can you help please?

(see more details in the Church News section)

Thank you - Jackie & Chris Morton 633493

## ***Being good neighbours***

Every week in this lovely village of Birdingbury, there are dozens of little ‘acts of kindness’ taking place quietly and efficiently. People helping others by picking up a bit of extra shopping, calling in for a cup of tea and a chat, giving someone a lift to an appointment, knocking on a door to enquire after someone’s health, dropping in with some food or just making a friendly phone call....too many to mention and, no doubt, everyone has received such acts of kindness like this at some time. But occasionally, people just don’t know who they can turn to in the event of a problem, or are reluctant to ask a friend or neighbour for help for fear of interrupting their busy schedule.

A group of us got together recently – as is always the way in this village – following a general chat at a social event, to consider how we could add value to all those acts of kindness that already take place, so that everyone has someone they can turn to in time of need. We thought it might be possible to create a village communication ‘channel’ that could hopefully provide help that anyone in the village could use at any time.

A group of us are happy to put something together; not to take the place of any informal activity already happening but it would mean that any of us could ask for some extra help if needed. Perhaps some of us are unable to get out and about very much and would welcome a lift to an appointment, the supermarket or a local town. Some may like a drive out and a cup of tea, or a visit from a village ‘friend’ and a chat. Others may be feeling under the weather and don’t feel like cooking, or need a dog walking. You may want someone to keep an eye on your home when you are away. We think between us in this village we could cover almost all eventualities.

So what do **you** think – could you offer a hand sometimes for any of the above ideas? Do you feel you could use some help sometimes? Do you think you would feel able to ask for help if it was available?

**We would love to hear your thoughts on the principle and practicalities of this plan. You may even like to join our group to help develop the idea. There is, of course, work to do to get things started, but, if you think it’s a good idea, then we’re happy to commit to it. We do really need to know if this could be of help to you, or those you know, so do please contact or speak to any of us:**

**Mel Palmer :Malt Barn, Marton Rd—634321**

**(mel.palmer@mail.com)**

**Karen Armbrister: Davenport Cott, Back Lane—632030**

**(karen.armbrister@btinternet.com)**

**Jan Seenan: The Old Rectory, Main St—633514**

**Diana Turner: Glebe Rise, Main St—633755**

**Dick Withington: Marton Glebe Farm, Stockton Rd—632644**

**Jenny Hawes: Gables House, Back Lane—632678**

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

First I would like to thank everyone who attended on 12th January and there is little doubt from the number there (I counted 48 residents) that we are all very concerned with the perceived current level of crime occurring in Birdingbury. I would also like to thank Geoffrey Johnstone for his significant work over the last ten years or so in setting up and running our Neighbourhood Watch.

Our intention through the Neighbourhood Watch group should be to work with our PCSO, Helena Steadman, and the local team to minimise the likelihood of crime in our community. To this end several suggestions were made at the meeting.

Within Birdingbury we can:

- improve communication direct to a wider list of villagers
- reiterate via mobile telephone text any urgent activity (and refer to email for detail)
- become Neighbourhood Watch "Buddies" with immediate neighbours, and particularly look out for the elderly and vulnerable
- keep our eyes open and share information, especially for anything that we think is unusual
- improve security of our own homes and possessions

We can draw on advice from our PCSO Helena Steadman:

- PCSO Helena Steadman is happy to visit individuals to advise on home security and crime prevention.
- visit the mobile police service scheduled to be outside the Club at 10 am on 17th February and 30th March.

As promised at the meeting I am progressing communication with neighbouring parishes, and I have obtained details of Smartwater - see opposite. My intention is to prepare and issue a plan of the village with details of each area NHW representative and circulate this to each household.

### **Quarterly local Panel Meetings:-**

These meetings are held at different locations, the next being at 7pm on 14th March at Grandborough Village Hall. These are attended by the police and this is the forum most appropriate for specific questions on activities and trends. Also present are representatives from the County Council and Leam Valley Wards.



## Contacts

PCSO 6149 Helena Steadman      Leam Valley  
PC 1534 Lee Maughan      Rugby Rural South Beat Manager  
Email: rrs.snt@warwickshire.police.rrs      Tel: 01788 853851

[www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk/rrs](http://www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk/rrs) this link takes you to Rugby Rural South and shows the local team, but also by navigating to the latest updates you will find reports on significant operations and things going on elsewhere.

Visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk) and under Warwickshire Service Directory follow "Tradeline" for vetted trades people. There is a similar service available for those over 50 year of age via [www.ageukwarwickshire.org.uk](http://www.ageukwarwickshire.org.uk))



**Smartwater** is a unique forensic solution registered to you. You paint a spot onto your most valuable and treasured items, and if these are recovered by the police they can be traced back to you. This works on items of all sizes even as small as a piece of jewellery, and it is just a tiny spot required. A sticker

displayed saying you have used Smartwater is apparently a strong deterrent to criminals.

As a Neighbourhood Watch village we are entitled to an amazing discount. The kit retails individually at £59.88 per year. however if we buy more than 10 kits we get each at a delivered cost of £11 plus VAT, and this is a ONE OFF cost - no annual subscription.

To achieve this price we need to buy all the kits in one order - as many as required so long as we have a minimum of 10. You can read more at [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com) and choose "personal" and if you are interested in buying the product and wish to join in the bulk discount then please let me know at the latest by Friday 24th February.

Jackie Morton (633493)

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## Village Notice Board

Until the village has a new notice board *Birdsong* will publish small notices from villagers. Send either by hand or email, but no more than 50 words please.

## **Leamington Hastings Infants School – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Leamington Hastings is a small infants school and nursery on the road between Dunchurch and Southam. It has a proud tradition of serving the local community, stretching back to 1840 when the first school was opened on the site. The new school was built in 1951 and on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011, it celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with both ceremony and exciting activities.

The Venerable Ian Watson, Archdeacon of Coventry and the local Priest, Revd. Jane Close, officiated at the rededication of the school and a speech of welcome was delivered by the Head Teacher, Mrs Rose Plumbley. “It was a wonderful occasion,” enthused Mrs Plumbley “We are so lucky to have such a supportive school community including governors, parents, pupils and local residents, both past and present!”

Amongst previous members of staff who attended the occasion were Miss Bartlett, who was Head Teacher between 1988 and 1993 and Mrs Eckland, Head from 2004 to 2009. A special tribute was paid to a long serving governor when the outdoor classroom on the site was renamed in his honour the ‘Dr Alec Parker Building’. Dr Parker served as a governor at Leamington Hastings for 40 years, half of that time as Chairman, and he is still a dedicated supporter of the school.

As the light faded after the rededication ceremony, the children released 50 golden balloons and then the party really began on a playground garlanded with lights and bunting. A barbecue provided the refreshments and music from the decades kept everyone entertained. Children’s activities included face painting and making special keepsake boxes and there was even a visit from Sesame Street’s own ‘Elmo’. An exhibition in the Parish Hall next door displayed school memorabilia going back over the past 100 years, proving especially popular with past pupils and staff who were able to relive happy memories of their own days at the school.

Staff, governors and pupils at the school all received a present of a special anniversary mug, designed by Year 1 pupil Morgan King, to remind them of a very special day. One past pupil commented “It was such a wonderful occasion! The children were so well behaved and sang their school song beautifully. We didn’t sing songs like that in my day!”

### **Exhibition of School Memorabilia**

We have received several requests from those unable to attend our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations to view our exhibition of school memorabilia. We are delighted to invite any interested parties to a community evening on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30, when we will be recreating the exhibition. Please contact the school office on 01926 632359 if you would like to attend.

Alex Rigler

## Swap shop

As many of you already know, **Swap Shop** will continue every Saturday this year. The name might confuse - you'd think that you might need something to swap to come along! But no, please join us on any Saturday between 10.30 and 12, and share a coffee, village news and views, and a piece of cake - no need to bring anything! As we head into the garden producing months and you have excess of anything, feel free to bring it along. But don't worry if you have nothing to share / swap - you'll still be very welcome! And if you fancy bringing any other item that is not of use to you, but might be useful to others, do bring it with you - we like recycling and reusing whenever possible!!

Just now, swappers are busy making bunting for the village Jubilee celebrations. And we have just had the news that there were 2042 shoe boxes despatched from the area for Christmas, of which Birdingbury swappers covered at least 200.

See you there any Saturday

Cheryl

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## A helping hand when you need it

There is a lot to be done when someone dies. Warwickshire County Council's Registration Service has launched a new free service to try and make easier the complicated process of contacting the necessary official departments.

The 'Tell Us Once Service' means a customer can tell the Registrar certain information, and all the other government organisations will be contacted on their behalf. Anyone with a Registrar appointment to register a death can now ask to extend this appointment and take up the 'Tell Us Once Service'. The contact number to book a death registration appointment is 0300 555 0255, lines are open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and from 9am to 4pm on Saturday.

To take up the 'Tell Us Once Service', the Registrar will need the following information about the person who has died:

- Their National Insurance number and date of birth
- Details of any benefits or services they were receiving
- Their driving licence
- Their passport or passport number and town/country of birth.

**NB** This service does not contact any private organisations such as banks, private pensions or employers.

For more information visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/deathregistration](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/deathregistration) or call 0300 555 0255 to make an appointment.

## **BIRDINGBURY'S CHRISTMAS**

### **FIRST IS IT TEA AT THREE?**

The tables were laid with clean linen cloths, crackers and festive floral arrangements.

The corner table heaved with an delectable selection of sandwiches, savouries, sponges and tasty morsels.

The urn bubbled away merrily and the teapot stood ready.

We were all ready and waiting in the Birbury on the afternoon of Saturday 17th December but would anyone turn up?

They did! We had a lovely mixture of villagers of all ages; some who stayed for a chat and others who could only manage, "a few minutes", but then stayed for a chat and a cuppa anyway! Towards the end of the afternoon we were treated to a fabulous performance of seasonal songs - complete with appropriate actions - by the village youngsters.

A very pleasant time was had by all and donations were gratefully accepted towards the cost of delivering the charity Shoeboxes. Many thanks to Jackie Westcott and her band of helpers and the young performers.

Jenny Hawes

— In all, £60 was raised for the shoebox appeal on the day —

### **MEANWHILE IN ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST**

The children of the village were having a great time.

They were let loose with paper, glue, glitter and lots of other crafty materials and made some wonderful decorations to take home.

After a lovely party tea they had a surprise visit from father Christmas who was as jolly as ever and gave them each a gift. They then entertained the older villagers in the Birbury, singing christmas songs and even had them joining in with the actions.

Big Thanks to Karen and Carol for organising and to everyone who came and supported it.

Jo Cutts

## **AND IN THE EVENING THE CLUB WAS PACKED FOR THE GREAT CHRISTMAS SHOW**

Following last year's runaway success in the viewers' ratings against the Strictly Come Dancing Final, Birdingbury once again lay down the gauntlet to Brucie's terpsichorean twaddle and won hands down. Record numbers flocked to the Birbury for the Christmas Show - an evening of song, dance, humour, gambling and even some intellectual challenge. The event was hosted in music hall style by John Starley, resplendent in an outfit Anton would have envied.

The show opened with the 'Gentleman's Choir' or, as our MC put it, a cacophony of coughers, contraltos and castratos, to set the Christmas scene.



Their first number was a specially commissioned version of an old favourite, subtly re-crafted to provide us all with insight into the current state of the

European economy: 'We crowned heads of Eurozone are - Sarkosi Merkle merged as one Tsar'. Not quite sure where the arab came in.... Their second number was the 'Twelve Pains of Christmas' featuring a number of junior members of the choir and some rather dubious props. Between them, these two renditions attempted to remind us that Christmas was a rash folly, putting undue strains our physical, domestic and financial wellbeing. Luckily, the audience knew better: we laughed them off the stage.

Seizing the festive spirit, our impresario returned to the stage to inflict a torrent of seasonal jokes upon us (most of which we heard last year....), and introduce the next act - a festive game of Bingo. The underlying principle of this game being the more cards you bought the less likely you were to win (we only found this out once we had shelled out and the game commenced). No-one was quite sure who won, or indeed if anyone won at all, but no-one really minded as the proceeds were all towards the excellent shoe box appeal which aims to send Christmas parcels to those children least likely to be on Santa's normal rounds.

Good spirits restored, our verbose host introduced a pantheon of pedagogy; a panjandrum of the perfection of preteens; a profound propaedeutic propagationist.

No-one understood a word he was saying until the appearance of Dastardly Dick with his Devilishly Difficult Christmas Quiz.





Everyone was swiftly equipped with cards bearing ticks and crossed to indicate 'true' or 'false' and settled down to pit their wits in a series of Christmas themed questions with a local twist. Fortunately, there was only one team, so we were all winners.

After the challenges of the quiz it was time for the interval. Val and her team of helpers provided a delicious spread of nib-

bles, mince pies and Christmas cake. Refreshed and revived, we then set in for the second half – eager for more fun and games.

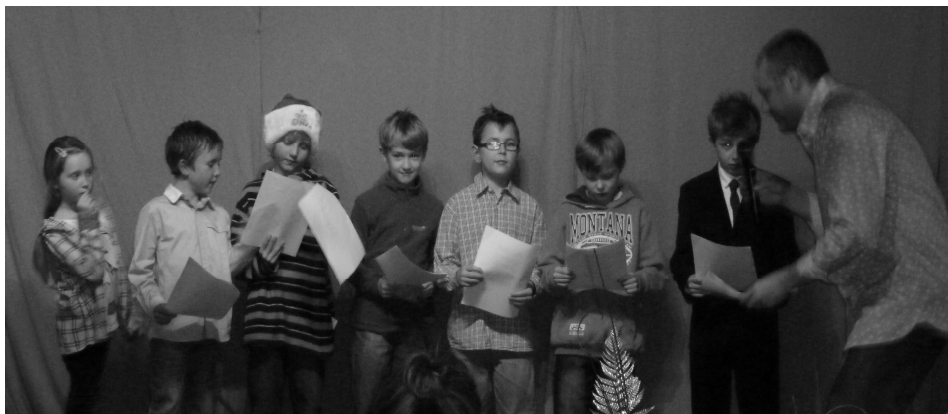


We should have known better. Determined to suppress any burgeoning sense of celebra-



tion, Mr Gary Laverick proceeded to recount the challenges presented to the poor unfortunate recipient of an extensive series of gifts, commencing with a partridge in the pear tree. Struggling with warring birds, mounting vet's bills and providing bathroom facilities for the numerous maids, soldiers, lords etc proved just too much and the ardent suitor was sent packing. A timely warning for those tempted to go overboard in their stocking filling this year.

Next it was time to hand over to Birdingbury's very own purveyor of pageantry and provocative phantasmagoria, master of stage and screen, Anthony Flint with his troupe of talented tots, who performed a heart warming dramatisation of the Night before Christmas.



Everyone remembered their words and got them in the right order (unlike most of adult performers so far).

More music followed with the booming bevy of Birdingbury beauties singing a saucy, seductive splendiferous seasonal serenade. Karen, Gaynor, Liz, Mel, Josie and Gayle flashed their sleigh bells and wriggled their pompoms with great gusto.

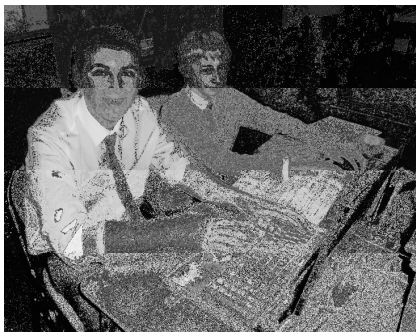


'All I want for Christmas is you' has never before struck such terror into the hearts of red blooded men.

On to the final act. This saw the return of our Gentlemen's Choir, this time in the guise of a barber shop quintet led by Herr Cutts. Joined on stage by the Belles, they gave us another humorous song recounting the consequences of someone mixing up the signs on the doors of the 'facilities', and the resulting impact on their ability to sit in 'comfort and joy'. The ensemble was then joined on stage by the youngsters to lead the audience in a grand carol finale.



As ever, evenings like this demand a huge amount of hard work by the performers and back stage crew alike. Alex and Lewis did



a splendid, if unseen, job with the stage management, sound and lighting. Val and her team baked their socks off to feed everyone and make sure the drinks continued to flow. Tony coordinated it all with great flair and patience. A big 'thank you' from everyone to everyone, and let the BBC be warned: next year's show will be as big a hit!

Lesley Fleming

**The railroad doesn't run through the middle of our house.**

**A nimbi's perspective on HS2**

Following the government's recent decision to give the 'green light' to HS2, alternative route 4 would appear not to be an option. This is good news for us at Marton Glebe Farm and indeed for all of Birdingbury. If the line is ever built it will be too far away to be heard from the village. Another bit of small good news is that the tunnel through Long Itchington Wood [Bascote Heath] will be a bored and not a green tunnel, thus saving the ancient trees.

However, I cannot see how the building of HS2 will benefit local villages. It is unlikely anyone living locally will want to travel to Birmingham to catch a train to London or indeed to join the further extensions north of HS2. The West Coast Main & Chiltern Line are likely to be downgraded in terms of train frequency and speed. It is doubtful that extra investment will be found during the planning for and building of HS2, to upgrade other parts of the rail network. It is crazy that we have such a high percentage of our national network reliant upon ageing diesel trains [evidence Cross Country trains through Leamington & Coventry]. With the gradual decarbonisation of supply, electrification is an increasingly good green option.

I have real doubts about whether it will ever be built, but meantime the future looks a whole lot bleaker for those living in Ladbroke, Offchurch etc.

Dick Withington

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**On behalf** of myself, Stephanie and Phoebe Craig-Smith, may I extend heartfelt thanks to neighbours, fellow Wheelers and friends of this wonderful Parish of Birdingbury, for all messages and support expressed to us following our trauma.

As always mentioned, we do indeed live in a wonderful village!

In a new year, let us all embrace community, to protect our haven we all cherish.

Gary Craig-Smith

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**Thank you** to the 90+ friends who came to the Club/Birbury, on Friday 13th to help us celebrate and give thanks for 20 years of Aileen's life, post transplant, and also for all the good wishes of those unable to be there. We both feel privileged to have been part of a caring village for all those years, especially during the difficult months before and after her liver transplant.

We had a lovely evening. It was great to see the Club and Birbury full and buzzing. Are you up for another 'do' in 10 years?

Love and best wishes to you all.

Dick & Aileen



## **Bourton**

Wednesday 22nd February      **Live & Local**  
Comedian Ian McMillan and Cartoonist of the Year Tony Husband.  
Bourton Village Hall - tickets £8.00 contact Ian or Heather (633593)

Thursday 23rd February      **Bourton & District Garden Club,**  
'Wildlife friendly Gardens & Allotments'  
Caroline Temple (Living Landscape Officer. Warwick District)  
Bourton Village Hall      7 for 7.30pm

Every Friday 11.15 to 12.15 Physio:Pilates with Mary-Lou 01788 565258  
Very popular with Birdingbury villagers - give it a try.

## **Quiz Night**

Saturday 3rd March, 7.30pm  
Bourton Village Hall  
£7.50 per person including a hot supper.  
Real ale and wine by the bottle  
More information and tickets from Alex Rigler 632094  
alexrigler@aol.com

**All proceeds of the evening will go to  
Friends of Leamington Hastings Infant School**

## **Marton Mile**

As part of the 2012 Sports Relief Weekend the  
Marton Playing Fields Association has organised a '**Marton Mile**'.  
Runners and walkers are welcome to take part in a 1, 3 or 6 mile event around Marton  
village on **Sunday, 25th March**. It's going to be a fundraising event for all ages  
(children under 8 years to be accompanied by an adult)  
All the money raised is spent by Comic Relief to help people living incredibly tough  
lives.  
Signing up for the event is easily done.  
For more details follow the link on **martonvillage.com**  
We are still looking for route marshals - please contact  
admin@martonvillage.com if you would like to volunteer.

## *Birdingbury Village Club*

### **Forthcoming Events**

**Quiz** - Saturday 18th February

**Desert Island Discs** - Saturday 10th March

**Birdingbury Bake-Off** - Saturday 24th March

And don't forget that the last Thursday of each month is

### **Fish and Chip Night**

23rd February and 29th March

Birdingbury Club intends to hold an '**Open Mic**' evening towards the end of May and we are looking for all the hidden talent that no doubt abounds in our village. So if you are a budding entertainer such as a singer, musician, magician or comedian can you please email the Club at - [birdingburyclub@gmail.com](mailto:birdingburyclub@gmail.com) - or drop a note with contact details into the club and we can start to put the evening together.

### **Club Membership**

We at Birdingbury Club are striving to improve the facilities so that we can offer a comfortable and welcoming environment together with the flexibility to offer space for community driven events or businesses. It is important for our future success that we encourage as many of you as possible to join and use the club, which will help us achieve a true village facility. Joining couldn't be easier, either email us on '[birdingburyclub@gmail.com](mailto:birdingburyclub@gmail.com)' and we will send you a membership form or pick one up at the club from Val, our stewardess. Fill it in and leave it together with £8 cash or cheque made payable to Birdingbury Club with Val.

Thank you, Ian Tipton, Club President.

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The paper girls would like to say a very big **thank you** to everyone for all their Christmas gifts and would like to wish everyone a

**Happy New Year.**

## History Day

Birdingbury Local History Group will be holding an 'Open Day' on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May**, between 10am and 4pm, in the Birbury and Birdingbury Village Club. There will be displays of photographs, maps and other items of historical interest; and free tea and coffee!

An example of the archive is, sadly, the photo of the bus shelter on the cover of *Birdsong*, which is now part of Birdingbury's history.

There will be more information and a reminder in the next issue of *Birdsong*.

Liz Davies

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## Ladies Circle

December 2011

Our Christmas Supper proved to be very successful. Having cold food allowed everyone to sit around the table together and enjoy the meal (along with lots of chatter!). Thanks to all the members for making this a lovely occasion.

January 2012

This meeting, too, was a huge success. One of our members - Gail Colledge - spoke about her work with the Patients' Transport Services and shared with us some of the 'funny' (if not worrying) incidents. Patients' Transport Services is probably one of the lesser known services provided for our health care but just as important as those which are more widely publicised. Thanks to Gail for this insight to the services provided, and to Maggie Chinn and Lee Haydon, our hostesses for the evening.

**Ladies Circle** meet in The Birbury at 7.45pm on the second Tuesday of each month with the exception of July and August. We are an informal group and we try to provide interesting topics for entertainment or discussion - but our main purpose is a 'get together' for ladies of the village. Our next meetings are on 14th February - "Film Night" - and 13th March - "Josie Price's Holidays". All welcome - non-members £2 per visit.

Barbara Munro

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## The Birbury

Saturday 18th February 2pm      **Annual Pancake Race**  
to be followed by tea and cakes

Saturday 17th March 10.30am      **Bring and Buy Sale**  
To raise funds for the maintenance of your Community Room

## Birdingbury Calendar

### February

Saturday	4	Progressive Supper			
Thursday	9	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	
Tuesday	14	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	see page 19
Saturday	18	Pancake Race	Birbury		see page 19
Saturday		Club Quiz	Club		see page 18
Tuesday	21	Parish Council	Birbury	8.00	
Thursday	23	Fish and Chips	Club		

### March

Thursday	1	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	
Saturday	3	School Quiz	Bourton Village Hall	7.30	see page 17
Saturday	10	Desert Island Discs	Club		see page 18
Tuesday	13	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	see page 19
Saturday	17	Bring and Buy	Birbury	10.30	see page 19
Sunday	18	Church Café Breakfast	Church	9.30	
Tuesday	20	Parish Council	Birbury	8.00	
Wednesday	21	Jubilee Planning	Birbury	7.45	see page 4
Thursday	22	Library Van	Main Street	2.35	
Saturday	24	Big Bake-Off	Club		see page 18
Sunday	25	Marton Mile	Marton		see page 17
Thursday	29	Fish and Chips	Club		



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**Copy date for next issue—18th March**