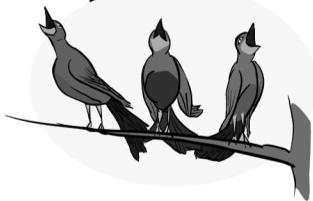


# **BIRDSONG**

**June and July  
2015**



**BIRDINGBURY  
NEWS**

**No 68**



The Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) was presented to Simon Davy by Air Marshall Garwood, DG of the Defence Safety Authority, in a short ceremony at MOD Abbey Wood, Bristol on 1 April.

**Congratulations**

## Parish Council Report

Readers will already be aware that there was no election for the new Parish Council, since the number of nominations exactly matched the number of vacancies – five. The new council therefore consists of the following:

***Gaynor Davy, Jackie Morton, David Preston, Ian Tipton and Diana Turner.***

At our first meeting, after re-electing me as Chair and Ian as Vice-chair, we discussed how best to implement the suggestions coming out of the Annual Village Meeting in April. There was general support for a dog poo bin to be placed in Main Street, and so we will be pursuing this with the Borough Council, who provide and empty such bins. Also, given the poor mobile phone coverage in the village, it was felt that the PC should investigate the possibility of a mast which would improve the situation.

A community Litter Pick was held at the beginning of May, and twelve energetic souls turned up to scour our verges for what turned out to be bags and bags of rubbish, including energy drink cans galore and a worrying number of vodka bottles! Coffee and cake was available afterwards at Swap Shop to reward the workers. It was clear that we should have done this earlier in the year as the vegetation in the verges made sighting and collection of the rubbish difficult. A big **‘Thank You’** is due to the volunteers.

In our pursuit of better conditions on our paths and roads we are meeting the County Council officer dealing with these matters to try to identify priorities for further work. This will take place at the end of May.

We received the good news from two funding bodies that our requests for grants to largely cover the high cost of providing a soft surface under the climbing frame have been successful. Thanks to the Clerk for her unstinting efforts on this. Unfortunately, because of new business commitments, the Clerk, Joanna Bloomfield has submitted her resignation, with effect from the end of August. We shall be very sorry to lose her quiet efficiency and professionalism. We therefore have to embark on finding a replacement. If any of you know of someone who might be interested in this post, please get in touch. Adverts will be appearing in a number of places and publications over the next few weeks; this is an important position which we’re keen to fill as soon as possible.

Best wishes

Diana Turner, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

Following the election our new Borough Councillor is  
**Emma Crane** who lives in Dunchurch

## **There is a vacancy for the post of Parish Clerk**

**With effect from September 2015**

**This is a part-time post (17 hours a month), with a salary of c. £2,000 pa**

**The work involves attending all meetings, preparing Minutes and all relevant documentation for the Council, as well as being the Council's Financial Officer.**

**If you would like to discuss the position, speak to any of the Councillors,**

**or contact the current Clerk ([parishclerk@birdingbury.org](mailto:parishclerk@birdingbury.org))**

<p><b>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30 on Tuesday 16 June 2015 in the Birbury. Everyone Welcome</b></p>
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## ***Birdsong*—one of our occasional appeals**

When *Birdsong* was founded nearly 12 years ago it was on the basis that it would be distributed free to all villagers. Since then it has been funded by occasional grants from the Parish Council, the Village Distribution Fund and numerous generous donations from individuals. We recently looked into the coffers and we can see the bottom. If any villager would like to help maintain this magnificent publication, contributions would be very welcome.

It was also the intention of the founding editors that besides village news it would contain articles of general interest, particularly subjects appertaining to Birdingbury. We regret that there have not been many such pieces in recent editions. If any readers would like to contribute that would also be welcome.

Reminiscences, pictures, poems, even short stories (they would have to be very short) - please see what you can do.

*Ed*

# Thank you

We would like to say a huge "thank you" to everyone who took part in the recent Progressive Supper. You raised a total of £955 so we have been able to send a cheque for £477.50 to both the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance and the Alzheimer's Association. Thank you for your support and for making the evening such fun too.

*Jackie and Simon*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

# L H School Quiz Night

Thanks to all who came and supported our recent Quiz night. It was really good fun, and we raised £723 on the night, with the bar, raffle and entrance tickets. We are expecting some matched funding, which will take the event total to a massive £1200!

*Alex Rigler*

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# The Birbury

Our well-attended St. George's Day lunch on Sunday 26th April was a relaxed and tasty affair which raised £50 for our funds. Many thanks to all who prepared our meal and everyone who attended.

We will be hosting our popular Coffee shop during the weekend of the Country Show opening at 10.30 on Saturday 11 July and Sunday 12 July. There will be a range of refreshments available including various beverages, filled rolls and home made cakes and biscuits. Please pop in for a cuppa and a treat over the weekend.

*Jenny Hawes*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

# Birdingbury Wheelers

3 June	Frankton Stretton	11 miles	1 July	Rose, Willoughby	17 miles
10 June	Hunningham	15 miles	8 July	Draycote	10 miles*
17 June	Draycote	10 miles*	15 July	Napton Southam	17 miles*
24 June	Napton Shuckborough	17 miles	22 July	Olive Bush, Flecknoe	14 miles
*includes off road			29 July	Draycote	10 miles*

Start 7pm—for further information contact Gary 07891 518404 or John 07768 933095

## **Val Elliot-Smith**

As some of you will be aware, after 35 years with Birdingbury Club, Val Elliot-Smith will be leaving us at the end of May. During this time Val has been integral to the success and longevity of the club. Aside from visiting the club socially, almost all of us will have held family events and celebrations at the club during this time and her help and support in making those events run smoothly I know has been greatly appreciated by all of us in the village.

We would like to put on record the thanks of the club and all of the community it serves to Val for the hard work, care and commitment she has put in over the years.

To that end, we hope you can join us in celebrating her long service at the club at a party, where we can all show our thanks, share some old stories and wish her well for the future. You are all invited to attend this celebration which starts at 8pm on Saturday 13 June.

*Ian Tipton    President*

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## **Swap Shop is in action**

This is just to let everyone know that swap shop is back and running again every Saturday from 10.30 - 12 at the Birbury. As we near the produce season, we hope that you will all bring any spare fruit, flowers, vegetables, plants and anything else you are willing to part with, any Saturday at this time, and enjoy cake, coffee and chat while you are there!

There is now a rota to keep the shop open, and we would welcome more volunteers to open up and host a Saturday. Please pop in and add your name to the rota if you can.

*Cheryl Turner*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## **Leam Valley Holiday Club**

A holiday club for children aged 5-11 is being held on Wed 29, Thurs 30 and Fri 31 July 10 - 3 at Flecknoe Village Hall. Please contact Clare Grant for more information on 01788 891076 [aaggrant@aol.com](mailto:aaggrant@aol.com) or 07572 134465. This club is free of charge but donations appreciated.

## **Leamington Hastings School becomes an Academy**

Leamington Hastings C of E Infant School has decided to convert to an academy.

On 4 March a parent consultation meeting was held at which the Governors and representatives of the Coventry Diocese Multi Academy Trust (MAT) were present to talk to parents and answer questions concerning the proposed conversion.

John Owen (Chair of the Governors) explained that the governing body had been considering the possibility of conversion for over three years, their concern being to maintain and improve the standard of education at the school and to secure its future viability.

It had been felt that the school was too small to take this step on its own but support from the Diocese of Coventry has been good in the past and joining the MAT would offer the advantages of an academy coupled with the advantages of size.

David Morris (Head of Diocese MAT) informed parents that the MAT had been set up two years ago, originally to provide support for those schools placed in special measures and subsequently forced into academy status. The Board of the MAT is made up of an experienced group of educators and business people. It has developed into a group of eight primary schools, one secondary with three others going through the conversion process; the intention is to keep the MAT small with no more than 20 schools.

Why convert? The MAT has access to a great deal of national expertise which it can call on to support an individual school's improvement. It was acknowledged that after the election there would be spending cuts and for small schools, working together will be the key to success. The MAT can negotiate contracts on behalf of the school for catering, grounds maintenance and IT and achieve discounts as a result. The MAT has Finance, HR and Operations teams working on behalf of the schools – this leaves the school free to concentrate on teaching the children. It is a charity and as such cannot make a profit. All monies are ploughed back into the trust.

During the conversion process the land and buildings will convert to the MAT on a 125year lease with the caveat that they can only be used for educational purposes. Governors will remain in place, setting budgets and monitoring spend and the staff would also remain. The school will continue to use the national curriculum; there will be no changes to the standard of teaching with the exception of the increased support already mentioned.

LH will continue to act as a feeder school for Dunchurch Junior School. Admissions criteria will not be affected.

So long as pupil numbers remain high, and there is every reason to expect this should be so, staff numbers will remain the same. Class sizes will not be affected. This sort

# Church Fete

## 2pm Saturday 4 July in the churchyard

Plans are well in hand for our annual fete and we hope you will feel able to give us your support. There will be the usual array of stalls including plants, books, cakes and preserves, general and bottle tombola and refreshments.

Grand Raffle: We will be delivering raffle tickets around the village before the event and we hope you will want to buy a book or even sell some to friends and family. There should be some lovely prizes available and the draw will be made at around 4pm on fete day.

If you are able to provide donations for the stalls, then these will be gratefully received at the following locations:

Plants or gardening supplies – leave in the lychgate before or on the day

Books – to Jenny Hawes at Gables, Back Lane

Tombola – to Karen Armbrister at Davenport Cottage, Back Lane (box in the front porch)

Cakes/Preserves – to Liz Ellis at 2 Old Rickyard, Back Lane or to church on the day

We would also be grateful for any offers of help, so if you can spare some time, either before the day with planning and preparation, or on the day then please let Karen know on 632030 or [karen.armbrister@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.armbrister@btinternet.com)

of decision is made by the school and as such it makes no difference whether the school belongs to the Local Authority or the MAT.

The MAT team will sit down with the school management team following conversion and works with them on the School Improvement Plan. LH is a good school with a good reputation so there will be no need to sweep in and make changes. Support will be given to the school management to implement the School Improvement Plan.

Gifted and talented pupils from different schools can link via IT or by using transport shared between schools. Good practice and resources are shared. Head Teachers meet half termly to share good practice. There would be no religious changes in the school's teaching. It is not a faith school but a church school, so the curriculum is centred on values rather than faith.

There will be no change to the admissions criteria. The MAT would only become involved in staff recruitment if there were a need for a new Head Teacher.

*This is an abbreviated account of the meeting on 4 March*

## **Willoughby Challenge on Sunday 28 June**

To all Mums and Dads,

It's that time of year of again for this great inter village friendly football challenge. This year Birdingbury will be entering two teams, one for Under 8s Yr 1,2,3 and one for Under 11s Yr 4,5,6.

Please can you let me know if your boys / girls will be interested in playing – if you have a nephew / niece / grandson / granddaughter with a village association they are just as welcome.

Training will start when we have confirmation of names.

Tournament Details: - Willoughby Challenge on Sunday 28 June, 10 am start for the Under 8s and 1pm for the Under 11s - Open to all!!!! Come along and support the Birdingbury Teams. We have an important reputation to maintain.

Contact Richard Cutts 01926-632686 or 07879-487200 [RCutts@aol.com](mailto:RCutts@aol.com)

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## **Birdsong and Birdingbury weather.**

Although last winter was colder than the winter of 2013-14, it was milder than the average for the previous 40 years. Is this a sign of things to come? Our 2 ½ year old grandson has yet to throw a snowball, build a snowman or sit on a sledge! However, this spring has been good for gardening, with above average sunshine and welcome rain just when we needed it.

As for birdsong, my observation is that the dawn and evening blackbird song around the village has seemed particularly good this year. But where are the thrushes? The arrival of swallows and martins in the village seems sporadic and late this spring. Having said that, at Redwings Horse and Donkey Sanctuary at Oxhill on 12 May we watched more than 10 swallows swooping and diving in and out of the stables. Last year I didn't hear a single cuckoo in Birdingbury - I did hear one calling somewhere in the direction of Princethorpe Woods. If this iconic symbol of springtime is a thing of the past, I am saddened by the loss.

On a positive note the cowslips alongside verges approaching our village have been very good this year and the primroses in the churchyard were as lovely as ever.

*Dick Withington*

# **Birdingbury Country Show 2015**

**11 and 12 July**

Twenty-five years on! In 1991 a group of men were inspired by their interest and enthusiasm for vintage vehicles to bring their ideas together to create the Birdingbury Country Festival. This was welcomed by the village as a whole and there was considerable excitement when the first steam engines were heard trundling along the road towards the village.



There have been many changes since, but it is hoped that this year we can recall some of the past by allowing a selection of vehicles to drive through the village (and maybe stop at the Club), and once again bring the Festival to you!

Ultimately, we would like to put the clock back completely and work together to put on an event where we all join in together.

However, for 2015, there will be over four hundred exhibits, displays, demonstrations, children's activities, rare breed animals, and trade/craft stalls, in the fields. On Saturday evening we will be entertained by 'Dr. Busker'. While this is primarily to entertain our guests (the exhibitors), villagers are welcome to join us (as long as you do not mind something a bit risqué!).

We are supporting four charities with donations from any profits made:

DEBRA (for children with epidermolysis bullosa – a blistering skin disease)

HELEN LEY CARE CENTRE, at Leamington (part of Castel Froma Charity)

ILEAP (activities for people suffering with disabilities)

PAWPRINTS (rescuing/rehoming dogs from death row)

There will also be representatives from other charities who have been invited to attend on a complimentary basis.

Villagers will be given free entry on production of some form of 'proof of residency'. Raffle tickets will be on sale with a first prize of £100.

*Birdingbury Country Show Committee*

## **Guide Dogs needs your support**

Guide Dogs' new service, My Guide, supports people with sight loss to get out and about. Research has shown over 180,000 people who are visually impaired never or very rarely go out alone. My Guide helps people with sight loss get out of their homes and back into the community, rebuilding confidence and independence.

Local visually impaired person Harriet Smith explains how the My Guide service is helping her.

“My name is Harriet Smith and I am twenty-four years old. I recently enquired about applying for a guide dog, and they suggested the My Guide service. The way the service works is that a visually impaired person is matched to a sighted volunteer in their local area who is willing to take them out and about. Before I met my volunteer, I had a meeting with a member of staff from Guide Dogs who explained the service to me in more detail. A couple of weeks later I was introduced to my guide volunteer Diane. The purpose of this meeting was to see how well we got on together.

I am still in the early days of using the My Guide service, but I feel it is going well. I have been on two outings with Diane, and I enjoyed both of them. I live in a rural area, so help with catching the bus is something that I feel Diane will help me to build my confidence. I enjoy cooking, so I am planning to write a shopping list and go with Diane to a supermarket. As time goes on I am looking forward to exploring the local area and perhaps visiting some different places. I think the My Guide service will benefit me because it will help to increase my independence when I am out and about. It will also be a good way of developing my confidence towards getting a guide dog. I am also looking forward to the companionship it will offer, and to have the opportunity to go out with someone different other than my family.”

Guide Dogs are seeking volunteers who may have a couple of hours to give on a regular basis to help a person who is blind or partially sighted. Almost anyone can become a My Guide Volunteer as long as you are over 18 and agree to a Criminal Records Bureau check.

There are two training sessions which are interesting and great fun. The first gives you the skills to safely and confidently guide a person. The second deals with the knowledge, boundaries and safeguarding around delivering My Guide to a service user. Each session lasts around two to three hours. When the training is completed you will receive a Certificate endorsed by Vision 2020.

For further information about how you can get involved please contact

Jackie Elshaw, My Guide Ambassador, on 0771 815579 or e mail her on

[Jackie.elshaw@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.elshaw@guidedogs.org.uk)

## EGGCELLENT egg roll.....

Thank you to all those who came to the annual egg roll.

The children started off by hunting for hidden chocolates around the park. Sophie Dent and Frankie Kerry managed to find pockets full!!

Then came the main event, the egg roll. In the 11-15 age group we had Jake Thomas, Ollie Taylor, Josh Thomas and Jacob Cutts. Jake was a

firm leader until brother Josh took a turn. However Josh was disqualified for a javelin throw. (Egg 'roll' Josh - egg 'roll'). Jacob came in with an eggcellent roll with it coming to rest just past Jake's, making him the winner.



ALL PICTURES JO CUTTS



We had brothers Daniel and Mikey battling in the 6-10 age group with some great rolls from both of them, however Daniel came through to win in the end.

Frankie and Sophie also did some great rolls with Sophie winning in the 5 and unders group.

We then headed down to The Birbury for refreshments laid on by Jackie, -

thank you Jackie - followed by the prize giving for the egg roll and best decorated eggs. The winners were Frankie for her Minions, Mikey for his SpongeBob squarepants and Jake for his Basketball player. Well done to all the winners.

See you next year.

*Jo Cutts*



## John Carroll and Ann Wales April 1965



Left to right  
?  
Guy Reeves  
?  
Jess Lomas  
?  
John  
Ann  
?  
Ray Truslove  
Kate Truslove  
(nee Underhill)  
?  
?  
Can any reader fill  
the gaps

Thank you so much to the Ladies of the Alter Guild for the beautiful flowers we received for our Golden Wedding anniversary.

We can't believe it's 50 years since we walked up the aisle of our little church of St Leonard's.

Thanks to all those who have sent cards and best wishes, we are so lucky to live in such a caring community.

Kind regards

*John and Ann Carroll*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Doreen Johns

Doreen is now settled into Adelaide House on Adelaide Road in Leamington. She has a nice bright room and is spending her days chatting with her new friends in the communal sitting room. Home cooked meals are provided much to her delight and pleasure!

Visitors are made very welcome and there are no restrictions. She would be really pleased to see you if you are able to go. However, if you plan to see her, it is best to avoid early mornings before 10, lunch times (12-1) and tea times (5 ish).

Hopefully, Doreen will be able to attend some village events back in Birdingbury, but in the meantime, she sends her love to everyone.

*Karen Armbrister*

Leamington Hastings School

## **Rose Queen Day – 13 June – 12.30**

After the maypole dancing, we will be opening our Rose Queen Fayre! This is lots of fun for families and children, so please encourage friends and family to come along! There will be a BBQ, Bouncy Castle, face painting and cake sale, plus lots of games and tombolas!

Taken from the LH School weekly letter - Don't be alarmed

### ***Wear It Wild!***

*On Friday 5th June, we will be taking part in the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) "Wear It Wild!". For a small donation, your child is invited to dress up as a wild animal for the day. If we can raise £25 it will pay for 800 tree seedlings to restore a deforested area vital for wildlife. It is great to think that we are able to make even a small contribution to looking after our world to help ensure the survival of endangered species.*

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## **Breast Cancer Campaign**

On 10 July I am cycling from London to Paris in 3 days, alongside other students from the University of Nottingham, where I am currently studying medicine.

We are fundraising for Breast Cancer Campaign, which is a leading charity that funds world-class breast cancer research projects across the UK and Ireland. There are currently thought to be around 570,000 people living with or after a breast cancer diagnosis in the UK and this figure is estimated to rise to over 1.2 million by 2030.

My target is to raise over £1000 for Breast Cancer Campaign and I would really appreciate your help to do this.

You can donate at [www.justgiving.com/Lizzie-Morton4](http://www.justgiving.com/Lizzie-Morton4)

Many thanks,

*Lizzie Morton , Brook Farm House, Back Lane*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## **Bourton & District Garden Club**

Thursday 25 June we are going to visit the garden of one of our members.

If you would like more information please contact

Frank or Francine 01926 632595

## **Birdingbury Village Club**

### **Club Manager appointed**

As you will read elsewhere in *Birdsong*, Val Elliot-Smith is leaving her role of Stewardess at the club at the end of May and we are delighted to announce that we have now appointed Mark Thomas in the new role of Club Manager.

He will have a wide remit encompassing all aspects of the buildings operation that will clearly include the continued operation of the bar, but also the crucial elements of managing and maintaining the building itself and its development as a business and village facility.

Mark will be familiar to many of you already, as he, Karen and Morgan have lived in the village for a number of years. However, what you may not know is that alongside his more recent background in facilities management, he also has a great deal of relevant previous experience in the hospitality and licensed trade, so is the ideal candidate to grow the club's bar trade alongside developing the building as a sustainable community asset.

We are very much looking forward to working with Mark and I'm sure you'll join us in congratulating him on his appointment.

*Ian Tipton, President*

**Saturday 6 June**

## **Birdingbury Family Village Quiz**

**Organised by the Birdingbury History Group**

**Collect your papers - £1 per family - from 3pm outside the Club**

**Questions and clues will lead you on a walk around the village to find the answers**

**Return by 4.30 when tea and biscuits will await you in the Birbury**

**Answers and a prize for the winning family at 4.45**

**Follow this with a**

## **Family Barbeque**

**at 5.30 .....**

## **Ladies Circle**

We have had a busy and active year with events that have found something for everyone. It is hard to believe where the time has gone since our AGM in September 2014.

In May we held a Speed Chat evening, with wine and nibbles, which involved spending five minutes chatting to another member and finding out some interesting things you didn't know about each other. Everyone managed to speak to each person there and it resulted in us knowing each other a little better by the end of the evening!

For our last get together in June, we are going to The Friendly Inn, Frankton for an evening, 2 for £10 meal. Any newcomers would be most welcome to join us and if you are interested, please contact Lee Hayden so you can choose your main course, which needs to be in by 1 June and also to say if a lift is required. We will leave The Birbury at 7.15 on Tuesday 9 June.

We will convene again on Tuesday 8 September for our annual AGM, when we hope to pool ideas for the coming 9 months. We would be delighted to see newcomers and guests, so please come along and see what is involved and maybe become a member!

On behalf of everyone at Ladies Circle, may we wish you a lovely summer with plenty of warm sunshine.

*Lee Hayden 644606*

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## **Coffee and Chat**

Our popular coffee morning sessions continue on the last Thursday of the month, same day as the Chip shop van. The next two dates are Thursday 25 June and 30 July at 10.30 in the Birbury. Everyone is welcome so please come along and meet friends old and new.....

*Karen, Mel and Jenny*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## **Welcome**

To Fred and Pip Kirby and their daughter Lily who have moved into Lingfield in Marton Road.

# Birdingbury Calendar

<b>June</b>					page
Saturday	6	Family Quiz	Club and Birbury	3.00	14
Saturday	6	Family barbeque	Club	5.30	14
Tuesday	9	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.15	15
Saturday	13	Rose Queen Day	LH School	12.30	13
Saturday	13	Party for Val Elliot-Smith	Club	8.00	5
Tuesday	16	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	3
Friday	19	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Thursday	25	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30	15
Thursday	25	Bourton Garden Club	Bourton Village Hall		13

## July

Saturday	4	Church Fete	St Leonard's Church	2.00	7
Friday	10	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 Birdingbury Country Show					9
Tuesday	21	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	3
Thursday	30	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30	15
Friday	31	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	

**Swap Shop** every Saturday 10.30 to noon

**Birdingbury Wheelers** every Wednesday 7pm at the Club



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