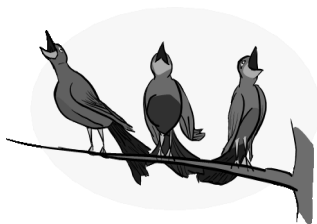


# **BIRDSONG**

**June 2019  
and  
July 2019**



**BIRDINGBURY  
NEWS**

**No 92**



**And They're Off!**

Photo: Mike Coles

# **Birdingbury Parish Council - Signing Off**

As I was chairman of the Parish Council at the time of the village meeting, I have been asked to give my final contribution to Birdsong.

The Annual Village Meeting was held on Tuesday 30 April. All the committee were present, plus 22 members of the village. It would be nice, however, if we could attract a wider cross section of the village to participate in this meeting, particularly from younger families. The draft minutes of the meeting are available on the Parish Council section of the Birdingbury website: <http://www.birdingbury.org/>. These will be subject to formal approval at the next village meeting.

As my last Birdingbury Parish Council meeting came to an end, challenges remain, and I am sure the new and refreshed BPC will work hard to get the best for our village. Given my history as chairman of Birdingbury Club and my long-held wish that it continues to strive to fully integrate itself into village life, I do hope a way can be found for the interested parties to get together and talk. If it is possible for the club to become a fully constituted village hub, with every member of the village feeling it is there for them to use, it will be great for the village and secure the long-term future of our only amenity. So, if there is one thing I hope the new BPC achieves, it is to facilitate these discussions and find a way forward for the benefit of all our community.

It has been a privilege to serve our community and now is a good time to pass on the baton.

*Ian Tipton, Retired Chair Birdingbury Parish Council*

## **....and Signing On....**

This is my first report as the new Chair of the Parish Council. Can I firstly say a big thank you to Ian Tipton, Di Turner and Jackie Morton for their service to the Parish Council and the village over recent years; happy retirement! Gaynor Davy and David Preston have stayed on for another term and have been joined by me, Chris Morton and Richard Cutts. It is great that we have a full Council in place, please form an orderly queue for next time!

The Annual Village Meeting took place in April and was the usual celebration of the A-Z of village organisations. From Allotments to Fireworks, via History Group, Ladies Circle and Swap Shop. It reminded me how the life of Birdingbury is supported by so many who serve on bodies that otherwise wouldn't exist. The magazine that you're reading is another great example.

The organisations that we heard from at the AVM only exist because someone decided to fill a hole in the social fabric of the village, and because many people, over the years, have committed time to sustain them.

And the village is served best when these bodies work together. At Parish Council we discussed how we can support the Allotment Society with renovations of the hut, which sits on land managed by the PCC. And we had our meeting in a room managed by the Birbury Management Committee, under the terms of a lease from the Birdingbury Club Committee to the Parish Council. The rooms and buildings they manage are fantastic village assets, but not, in my view, as valuable as the people who come together to make the most of them on behalf of our community.

*Guy French, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council*

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## Hot Competition at the Annual Egg Roll

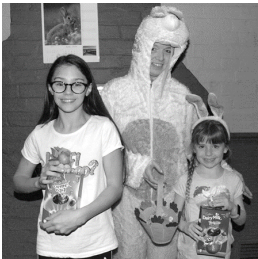


On Easter Saturday, with the sun shining brightly, the village was buzzing with children and their bunny ears; all wanting to roll an egg as far as it could go.

Around 25 children ranging from ages 2 to 13 got into their groups to enjoy a morning of fun, with adults all cheering them on as loudly as they could.

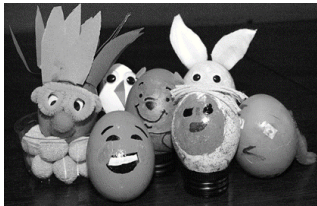
This was followed by egg and spoon races, and this time the adults all joined in too!

All the kids then gathered for party games and prize giving at the Club, with the Easter Bunny finding it difficult to pick winners from all the fabulous egg painting efforts.



A great morning was had by all; a super way to kick start a sunny Easter weekend!

*Jo Young*



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## Ann Laverick 1939 - 2019

The funeral of Ann Laverick was held at St Leonard's church on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May. It was attended by family, friends and many fellow villagers.

Ann and Gary had moved into one of the newly built houses at the top of Main Street in the mid-sixties, together with their Beagle dogs, Wallace and Pup, Gary having come to the area with his work. They called the house 'Welton' (now Ael-y-Bryn) after a special place in their native Hull in Humberside. In the eighties they moved to Damson Cottage in The Paddocks.

They both quickly joined in with the activities in the village and, over time, Ann became a member of the Altar Guild, Book Club, Ladies Circle, and the Darts Team; along with helping Gary with the Allotment and the Produce Show. Ann was also very active in helping with the Birdingbury Country Festival, particularly in organising the floral displays in the Church.

Ann worked part-time at the Midland Bank (now HSBC) in Southam but when Bob Munro needed some help with the accounts she was only too willing to help. She also did accounting work for other local businesses.

Later she helped Bob and Ernie Cleaver to set up and run the Hardware Shop, followed by the Grocery Shop and Post Office.

Ann was also very talented in sewing and baking. She would undertake alterations to clothing or replace a broken zip. She regularly made bread - not an easy task.

However, Ann's love was flowers and she undertook a course at Moreton Morrell which led to a City and Guilds Certificate. She entered a floral display at the Royal Show and to her delight was awarded a 2nd in her class. She also did arrangements in Coventry Cathedral and Lincoln Cathedral.

Ann was a member of two local Flower Clubs and of 'Concentrix' in Solihull (which uses flowers in a very modern and different way). She also held courses in The Birbury and taught many villagers the skill of making floral arrangements.

We will all miss her so much but are aware that she will be looking over our shoulders as we arrange the flowers in the Church.

*Barbara Munro*

Aileen Withington's beautiful floral tribute, reflecting  
Ann and Gary's Yorkshire roots

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# From Darkness to Light

## *A musical journey from Creation to Revelation*

### **Music and lyrics (mostly) by Bryan Tompkins, additional lyrics by ‘Pilgrim’**

Bryan has been playing the organ at St Leonard’s for over 50 years; that is astonishing loyalty, reliability and commitment. He has a wonderful musical gift which he kindly shares with us. He is self- taught and produces the most beautiful, meaningful Christian lyrics which he sets to a variety of different musical styles. We are so proud of his latest collection of pieces, entitled ‘From Darkness to Light’, which was recently performed at St Leonard’s by a choir from across our benefice on a Sunday afternoon at the start of Holy Week.



Over 50 people joined us to hear more than 20 pieces of music, most penned by Bryan, but including two vocal compositions by our own ‘Pilgrim’, for which Bryan wrote accompaniments. These were performed very competently by Andrew Armbrister.

The choir was directed by Reverend Gail Phillip, who has been working in this group of Churches since October 2018, during her final year of training. Without her dedication and commitment, we would not have been able to honour Bryan’s music so well. She coached us with encouragement and motivated us to master the complex harmonies involved. Gail said ‘It has been a real delight to see such a committed choir form from across our local area and to give this amazing work its first airing! We are deeply indebted to Bryan for sharing his music and to Bryan and Liz for their hospitality when we rehearsed in their home’.

At Bryan’s request, a collection was made for Hope4, which raised £321.92 to go to help those locally who are homeless or badly housed.

The last word must be Bryan’s, in his usual modest style, ‘With deep thanks to The Church Army for introducing me to a broad church experience and to my future partner to be, Elizabeth (Liz) Martin, way back in the early 1960s.’

This was a wonderful project to be part of; we hope you were blessed and moved by it if you came along, and we look forward to many more years of Bryan making music at St Leonard’s.

*Karen Armbrister, Church Warden*

Just to say how much I enjoyed the recent choral work in our church on 14th April. My thanks go to Bryan Tompkins for his wonderful original music, Rev Gail Phillip for her work leading the choir and the Benefice Choir itself who produced the beautiful music with such deep and moving emotions.

*Daphne Chippendale*

# LH Academy Update

This term at Leamington Hastings Academy we have had some very exciting learning experiences. In Early Years we have been learning about books such as 'Supertato' and 'The Naughty Bus'.



As part of our learning we also had a visit from the Police. We were very excited when he arrived in his car with the sirens blaring!

In KS1 our most recent writing in English has been about dragons. We had a mysterious egg that appeared in the classroom that grew and grew.

Eventually it hatched and out came a baby dragon that was very excited. The Mummy dragon was so grateful to us she gave us a book full of beautiful dragon illustrations that we have used to create our own dragons.

Our annual Summer event 'Rose Queen Day' will be held on Saturday 6th July. There will be the traditional may-pole dancing followed by some fun activities such as hook-a-duck, tombola and face painting.

*Suzanne Marson, Head of School*



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Matt Keeps on Running

On 28th April, for the third consecutive year in a row, I joined more than 42,000 people in and around Greenwich Park, ready to run the London Marathon.



After filing out through the park gates, I crossed the start line at about 10.40am and began the 26.2-mile journey. As on previous occasions, fear and panic filled my thoughts for the first 2 to 3 miles; would I make it round? would I suffer cramps again? was my training enough?

By mile 6 all these thoughts had left me, and I had got into a rhythm. I repeatedly told myself to slow down and stick to the steady training pace (as the saying goes 'it's a marathon, not a sprint').

The crowds had already thickened and the noise increased when I made my way around the Cutty Sark and out towards the halfway point near Tower Bridge. As I crossed the half way point, I mentally checked myself; I felt good, no aches or pains, and still plenty of energy in the tank.

Very shortly after the half way mark, came a slightly depressing point, where the professional runners come past on the opposite side of the road, heading for home. My thoughts turned to visualising me at this point about an hour and twenty minutes later - that was tough. Knowing it was now time to knuckle down, the headphones went on and my chosen marathon playlist was a welcome distraction.

Soon I was back around the Isle of Dogs and making the turn back through the City, heading towards Embankment. I recalled, from previous years the few short, but slightly steep climbs that lay ahead of me but I was determined to run them without stopping. The crowds by this time were enormous and the sound drowning out anything playing though my headphones. Everywhere I looked someone shouted 'come on Matt, you've got this'; the benefit (or perhaps not) of having your name upon your shirt! Soon the Thames was on my left and I was almost done. Mile 24 came, but the euphoria didn't; I knew from previous years that this final stage would feel like a marathon on its own and it did not fail. Each step felt sluggish.

The last final metres are marked '800 metres to go', 500, 200, 100 etc. Just when I felt it was never going to end, I turned right outside Buckingham Palace and the finish was in reach. I finally crossed the line and stopped having been running just over 4 hours and 40 minutes (not too bad for a veteran), exhausted but happy.

As a result of the kind and generous support from many Birdingbury residents, I raised more than £1,500 for Shaw Trust, which will go to help young people with learning or physical disabilities realise their own ambitions.

Having got home, I immediately entered the ballot for next year's run. I also secured a place in the Great North Run in September, running for Mencap.

For most people this would be enough, but after a colleague at work become unwell and was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease, I set myself a real challenge.

On the 21st June (summer solstice), I and two others will be setting off from outside the Birbury at 9.29pm (sunset) and running until 4.44am (sunrise), hopefully covering between 30-40 miles. This is to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA), so far I have raised almost £1000! To donate please visit my Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sunset-sunrise>. It would be great to have a few people join Chris (the colleague from work) in seeing us off from the Birbury. There is no expectation that anyone will see us return at Sunrise!

Thank you

*Matt Markham*

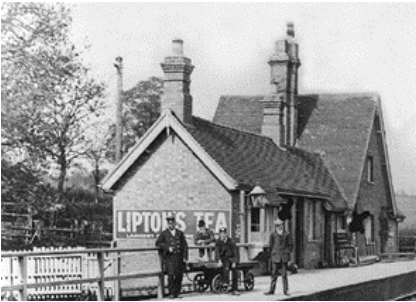
# The Story of the Railway

Exactly ten years ago, Birdsong published a special edition to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the official closing of the Rugby to Leamington railway and Birdingbury Station, although coal traffic to the cement works at Southam continued until the 1980s.

The edition included recollections of some of those who had used the railway (including for getting to school), incidents during the life of the line, as well as a description of the last crowded journey on Friday June 19, 1959, when a coffin was conveyed bearing the inscription 'Leamington Line RIP'.

It also included an account of the history of the railway since it had first been proposed in the 1840s, written from a very personal point of view. We are pleased to reprint this here, with many thanks to Leslie Turner.

## Leslie's account



I sat in the chilly compartment. Apart from the occasional hiss of escaping steam there was silence. The train had halted at Birdingbury Station, on its slow journey from Leamington to Rugby. I was 18 and on the first leg of a three-stage cross-country rail journey (Leamington-Rugby, Rugby-Bletchley, Bletchley-Cambridge). It was December 1956.

I recall the silence; the cold; the deep, dark seats in the compartment; the absence of other passengers; and the shortness of the train – just two corridor-less coaches.

I didn't know that I was witnessing the last throes of a dying service. Thirty months later, in June 1959, the Rugby-Leamington line was finally closed to passengers. Nor did I know, as I gazed out at the station, that 40 years later I would find myself living in Birdingbury, not far from the long-abandoned railway line.

The line lasted for over 100 years although it very nearly was not built at all.

It had been promoted in the mid-1840s by a group of Leamington businessmen. Leamington was a boom town then of around 13,000. Those businessmen were frustrated that it had no railway connection; they believed that such a connection – especially with London – would boost the town still further through increased commerce and visitors.

The Great Western Railway from London had reached Oxford by 1844 and the company planned to take it on to Birmingham via Leamington but the London and Birmingham Railway Company's line, through Rugby, had been running since September 1838. A Leamington-Rugby branch line would both offer a route to the capital and undermine future competition from GWR.



On 8<sup>th</sup> September 1845, the Rugby and Leamington Railway Company was set up; it sold shares, got the necessary Act of Parliament, bought land along the proposed route and found potential local contractors. Once the project had been launched on 17 August 1846, the local company sold their enterprise to their national sponsor (the L&B – now re-named the London and North Western Railway Company).

Despite this promising start, the line was nearly abandoned before it was completed.

This was because LNWR's local boss, Edward Watkin, having awarded the main contract to George Knight (who started work immediately, in early 1847) soon got cold feet about the project. It was going to cost much more than the promoters had estimated; he judged that the line was *not* likely to compete successfully with the planned GWR line through Leamington and he thought that little local traffic would come from the thinly-populated rural area along the route between Leamington and Rugby.

Watkin decided work should stop but Knight had already spent heavily on plant and materials, so they reached a compromise: Knight was to slow the work down and abandon building any stations between the two towns. Meanwhile, Watkin sought advice from the LNWR Board in London.

On 10 February 1848, Mark Huish, the LNWR General Manager told Watkin he agreed with him and recommended to his Board that the project should stop. The Board agreed and told their Chairman, Mr. G.C. Glynn, to get the company out of its obligation to build the line. So it looked as if it was to be strangled at birth.

Yet it *was* built and it *was* opened on 1 March 1851.

For unknown reasons the LNWR Board did *not* order Watkin to stop the work and it stumbled on until, early in 1850, public meetings in Rugby and Leamington urged LNWR to complete the line. Representatives took this message to LNWR's Board in February 1850.

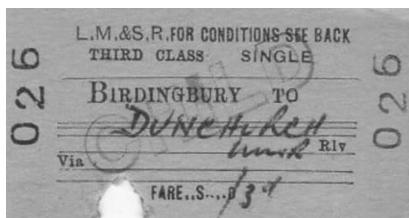


This campaign, together with an acceptance that there was no chance of recovering the expenditure already made, led the Board to conclude that the only thing to do was to finish the project and get the line open.

The line was finished within a year, complete with 35 bridges and five viaducts. On 1<sup>st</sup> March 1851 the line was officially opened and a daily service of five trains in each direction, carrying mixed traffic, began.

Marton station was opened in 1852, Birdingbury in 1853. Over the next sixty years the line appears to have done quite well; the increase in train frequency between the two towns – by the 1880s there were seven down and eight up scheduled services – suggests that there was enough local traffic to keep the line viable. Rugby, Leamington and the villages between were growing and needed more workers, food and materials.

When the line opened, Warwick and Leamington's combined population was nearly 27,000 and Rugby's about 6,000; by 1901 those figures were 39,000 and 17,000. The land and settlements between the two urban areas could meet some of their needs, especially as agriculture became more productive and rural living began to attract some local commuting.



The opening of a third station (Dunchurch, 1871) suggests that the operator had some faith in the continuance or growth in local traffic. By 1882 LNWR had sufficient confidence in the line and its economic viability to double the track between Rugby and Dunchurch, and, in 1884, between Leamington and Marton.

By 1914 it was as busy as ever. There were nine scheduled 'mixed' trains each way; freight trains were servicing the cement industry's plants at Rugby and Southam and the line was used as an alternative route for Birmingham-London trains when the Berkswell-Rugby section of the main-line was out of use. This level of use continued beyond 1918 with scheduled train frequency peaking in the 1920s, with 11 trains in each direction.

The slow decline in traffic which followed over the next five decades, caused mostly by the arrival of motor vehicles, brought reduced services and revenue, and the eventual closure of the line.

It did not even manage to struggle through to the Beeching cuts of the 1960s. The last scheduled passenger train was the 7.54pm from Rugby to Leamington on Saturday June 13th, 1959.

So, the Rugby-Leamington line, despite strenuous efforts to prevent its birth, not only survived but lasted for over a century – long enough to carry this writer in 1956 to his university entrance exams.



*Leslie Turner and Birdingbury History Society*

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## Music with Steve Edgar and Guests



A brilliant night of entertainment was enjoyed by all at the Club on the night of Saturday 18th May.

Ably led by Steve Edgar, and supported by so much Birdingbury talent, the show included both enthusiastic singing and guitar playing.

We heard a great variety of songs including Streets of London, Lyin' Eyes, The One I love, Road to Hell, Crazy, Mustang Sally (and reprise), Fernando; in fact, far too many to mention.

Many thanks to all who took part, David Hanson, Rich Cutts, Andy Duffield, Rob Walker, Jo Young – plus dad and supporting girls - and Mike Kerry. There was a special guest appearance from Leanna Kerry, who had specially flown in from Dubai! She gave us a great performance.



I must also mention the contributions from Andrew Armbrister and John Starley (Morecambe and Wise) and John and Lesley (Flanders and Swann). Well done.

Thank you all for a wonderful evening and a special thank you to Steve for organising it.

If you weren't there you missed a treat. Make sure you're there for the next one.

*Barbara Sweet*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Thank you, Steve

I'd like to congratulate Steve and thank him for pulling the music event together. It was an absolute triumph and will be very hard to beat.

In particular, I wish to thank him for the positive support and encouragement he gave to me and so many of the other performers. Without that, I doubt if many of us would have had the courage to step up.

I'd also like to say that I thought it was inspiring that, with such encouragement and with so much talent, a great evening like that can be created by this small village of ours.

*David Hanson*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Ladies Circle

### What's lurking in your shed?

On the 9th April we were lucky enough to be treated to a fascinating presentation from TWAM - that's Tools with a Mission. They take useful but unwanted tools, refurbish them and send them across the world where they are given a new lease of life. As well as the tools, they also provide training courses to give people the skills they need to earn their own living.



If you have any neglected tools in your shed that need a bit of t.l.c. why not get in touch with them? They can also use specialist tools and equipment, sewing/knitting machines, stationery, haberdashery, working IT equipment and lots more. Stories of people they have helped, and more information are available on their website [twam.uk](http://twam.uk) or [facebook.com/toolswithamission](http://facebook.com/toolswithamission).

They will come to the village to collect donations, Jackie Wescott is the person to contact for this.

### Hidden talents!



It was a tight squeeze on Tuesday 14th May as we gathered with samples of various crafts in the Birbury to share details about our hobbies. We have many different skills in our community including drawing, painting, sewing, quilting, knitting, pottery, lace making, furniture making, and collage to name but a few.

It was fascinating to hear how and why people had come to make certain things and the sentimental value attached to handmade objects. It was lovely to be able to examine at first hand so many beautiful examples made by talented ladies.

There were certainly future heirlooms, there in the Birbury, that will be long treasured by families because they were made with love for both the craft and the intended recipient.



Our final meeting before the holidays is on the 11th June at 7.45pm, when Maggie and Lee are hopefully welcoming us into their gardens in the sunshine, with a selection of Summer refreshments. All friends are welcome, with a £3 payment from non-members.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month from September to June, usually in the Birbury. Our AGM will be on the 10th September in the Birbury at 7.45pm, refreshments provided. Our membership fee is £15 for ten meetings and non-members are welcome to attend any advertised event. Why not come along in September and join us?

*Jenny Hawes*

## Batman Comes to Birdingbury

When we lowland folk journey to the mountains, we often look with wonder at the spouts, dribbles and falls of water tumbling down sheer walls of rock. Never big enough to merit a name or to have marked the landscape in any profound way, they weep like lovelorn maidens, refreshing the valley floor with their purity and caressing the smooth complexion of the land upon which they run. Unremarked in a gentler valley like ours, countless springs feed the Leam, like the fibres of a rope, spinning together to keep the land well drained and our river full. Now and then one of them aspires to rise above this timeless anonymity. Like a child it stamps its feeble feet and with joyous, youthful vigour says: ‘Here am I, pay attention!’.

Forty leagues north from hence, when someone trips, they are said to cruckle. Perhaps it was a traveller from there, or even a local poet like Dryden, who, long, ago, treading through the low point between Leamington Hastings and Birdingbury, tripped and fell in one of those periodic tantrum torrents. Summoning all his or her contempt into two short words, they christened that liquid border “Cruckle Gutter”. Rising by the canal, near The Boat Inn, it meanders through the depression in the land to our right as we return to the village from there. Barely even a ditch at the start, by the time it crosses the Birdingbury to Leamington Hastings road, it demands respect. Flanked by its honour guard of trees, nurtured by its now liberal flow, it merits civil engineering to cross. It would love a bridge I’m sure, but culvert it has been, for long years.

“Even culverts sag”, as Dryden might have had it. And so, in 2019 the time had come to replace the old crossing. Full respect is now accorded to our rilette. The road is closed for weeks, and the triumph of water over man is complete, at least for now. A massive pump struggles to keep the workings dry, which merely serves to underline the potency, if not the potability, of our minor river boundary. A brutal excavation provides a rough worked new path for water which escapes the pump. Its scarred edges reveal man’s layered paths through deepening history and testify that this is not a new story.



A precise trench is worked, which carefully avoids the services, electricity and phone, which quiver nervously above the newly engineered base. And at last, a vast prefabricated conduit is inched into place. Finished with bricks and fences, and looking impossibly fresh, it will take its time to merge into its surroundings and begin again the lengthy passive journey towards its own eventual demise.

And Batman? A dying tree close to the road was a superannuated cohort of our runnel. Before its removal, an inspection had to be made to check for any impact on wildlife. And, so, as the ultimate sign of respect, Batman was called.

*Thin Jethro Laskey*

# Vital Massage

I have been a qualified Holistic Massage Therapist for almost two years.

Until a few months ago, I massaged from my home in Marton, but now I also massage at Queen B's Beauty salon in Princethorpe on Wednesdays. Other days in Queen B's may be possible by arrangement too.

I practice a form of Holistic Massage. This means I look not only at a specific problem, but also the whole, and how it can affect the client, both physically and emotionally.

I also offer Indian Head Massage, Hot Bamboo Massage (working with warm sticks for more warmth and pressure), and Myofascial Release. This technique works on the deeper tissue in a gentler, but very effective way.



I offer massages every day of the week and at your own home, if preferred.

If you'd like to know more or want to book an appointment, call me on 07537 853866, or visit my Facebook page: Vital Massage Marton

*Maya van der Galien*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Body Shop in Birdingbury

Come down to the Club on Saturday 13th June from 20:00 and meet the Body Shop.

- Products to try and buy!
- Two lovely consultants to help with your every need!
- Pamper sessions to make you feel special!



No obligation to buy, just pop along, have a look and enjoy a drink with us.

We will show you how to use the products to get best results and help tailor products to your skin!

Please share and invite your friends and family!

*Richard and Jo Cutts*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

# Birdingbury Wheelers

Why not get on your wheels for a sociable summer spin and join the Birdingbury Wheelers for a mid-week bike ride, accompanied by convivial and cheerful chat?

We all meet outside the Birbury on Wednesdays at 7 pm. Each week's route is discussed and decided on the night.

For all-inclusive and relaxed jolly evenings, we cycle in 'Hare' and 'Tortoise' groups, faster for the fit, slower for the sedate. The fast and furious Hares dash ahead at their own spellbinding speed on skinny wheels, tearing up the tarmac for many multiples of miles. The relaxed or laid-back Tortoises loaf along, a long way back; enjoying a slower, shorter and less ambitious amble on softer and squishier wheels, in the tranquillity of little lanes, tow-paths, bridleways and railways.

We all come back to the Club around the same time, to rejoice at our return, with refreshments to replace the carelessly consumed calories and liquids.

Here we are, snapped at the Long Itch pond. The four on the right are guests from Leamington Hastings who have come along a couple of times.



Please give your bike a pre-spin check-over to avoid any excruciating embarrassment!

*Chris de Nahlik*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## More Cycling News

On Thursday 13th June we can cheer on competitors in Stage 4 of the OVO Energy Women's Cycling Tour, which will be passing through the village, from the Leamington Hastings direction towards Marton, roughly between 12.30 & 1pm.

It promises to be quite a spectacle with over 100 competitors taking part: expect some traffic jams!

See website for further details [www.womenstour.co.uk](http://www.womenstour.co.uk)



# St Leonard's Church Fete

*Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019 from 3pm in and around the Club and Birbury*

Do please come and enjoy our annual fete where we will have a great range of stalls including raffle, tombola, books and DVDs, cakes and preserves, and delicious afternoon teas.

If you would like to donate to any of the stalls or could help at all on the day, please get in touch with me on 632030 or at [karen.armbrister@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.armbrister@btinternet.com)

Donations may be left in my front porch (Davenport Cottage, Back Lane) or can be collected.

Extra raffle tickets are always available!

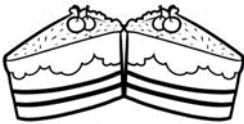
Thank you for your support.

*Karen Armbrister*



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## Coffee and Chat (and cake!)



We will be serving tasty refreshments and a cuppa on Thursday 27th June and 25th July at 10.30am in the Birbury.

Please come along and join us for a friendly chat and a chance to relax with friends and neighbours. Everyone is welcome, so why not try and bring a friend?

*Your friends at St. Leonards*

RDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Circumvention

Birdingbury knows

Its ancient wharf and station

Can be reached by road

*Thin Jethro Laskey*





## Swap Shop: Where Did The Years Go?

Swap Shop originally started on Friday 19th July 2008 to help villagers swap surplus fruit and vegetables during the summer months. It was organised by Cheryl Turner.

Anna French started helping in 2009 as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award and it's been going ever since! Her sister, Kate, also joins in with fabulous homemade cakes.

We now meet in the Birbury at 10.30 every Saturday morning, village events permitting, for about an hour to swap goodies and share refreshments and a cuppa.

Our first decade has, however, gone unmarked!



In order to rectify this, we are having a belated ten-year celebration on Saturday 13th July at 10.30 in the Birbury. Please come along and join us to celebrate 10 (11) great years of swapping and friendship in the village.

Everyone is welcome and there will be cake, lots of it!

We are still meeting every Saturday as normal until then.

*Di Turner and Jenny Hawes*

RDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Teams 4U Shoe Boxes

There will be a talk and video by Dave Cooke (the founder of Teams 4u) about their work and developments in Uganda on Thursday 4th July at 7pm at The Woodlands Centre, 53 Cymbeline Way, Bilton.

Come along to hear about all the good work your shoe boxes can achieve!

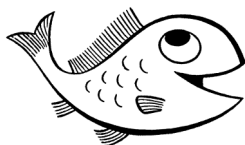
Meanwhile, gifts for this year's shoeboxes will be most welcome, as usual.

*Daphne Chippendale*



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## Fish and Chips



Don't forget that Bob will be visiting the village on the last Thursday of every month with his Fish & Chips Van.

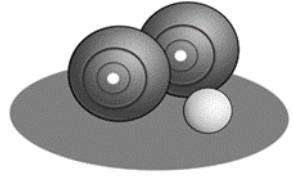
Possibly the best Fish & Chips for miles !

*Lewis Cutts*

# Leamington Hastings Bowls Club

We at Leamington Hastings Bowls Club have begun our outdoor season and would like to invite you to come along and have a go.

You can play twice with no obligation to join and you can borrow bowls. All you need to do is wear flat shoes, comfortable clothing and turn up at the Leamington Hastings Parish Hall any Wednesday at 6pm.



We are a non-league club with emphasis on having fun and getting some gentle exercise in lovely surroundings, with good company. You will be made most welcome, so please just turn up and join in.

*Susan Turner*

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## Interested in Calligraphy?



Why not come and join our small, friendly group to learn or improve your calligraphy? We meet every Thursday, from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the Village Hall in Bourton-on-Dunsmore.

All levels of experience are welcome. Just come along and have a cup of tea/coffee, see what we get up to and decide whether you might want to join us.

*Howard Collerson*

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## Job Opportunity!

Birdingbury Village Club are looking to recruit great people for part time evening and weekend bar work. Applicants must be over 18 and some experience is preferred but not essential as training will be provided.

If you are interested in joining the team and would like more information, call 01926 632511 (evening) or 01926 633487, or pop in to see us at the Club on Main Street, Birdingbury CV23 8EL.

We look forward to hearing from you!

*Mark and Karen Thomas*



## Club Calendar

Date	Event	Time
Thursday 30th May	Fish & Chip Van	From 20.00
Saturday 1st June	Champions League final	TBC, pm
Thursday 6th June	UEFA Nations League semi final (England Vs Holland)	19.45 KO, Club open from 19.00
Friday 7th June	Bourton & Frankton FC Presentation	TBC
Sun 9th June	UEFA Nations League final	TBC
Tuesday 11th June	Birdingbury Jam Session	From 20.00
Thursday 13th June	Body Shop Evening	20.00
Saturday 15th June	Event—watch this space!	TBC
Saturday 22nd June	Early Summer Quiz, hot supper available	From 20.00
Tuesday 25th June	Birdingbury Jam Session	From 20.00
Thursday 27th June	Fish & Chip Van	From 20.00
Friday 28th June	AGM	20.00
Saturday 6th July	Church Fete	From 15.00
Tuesday 9th July	Birdingbury Jam Session	From 20.00
Saturday 20th July	Tractor Run	From 10.00
Tuesday 23 July	Birdingbury Jam Session	From 20.00

Advance Notice: Saturday 14th September: Produce Show

Club Membership Only £12 per year, January to January, come and join us.

2019 Memberships still available

Club lounge available free of charge for meetings etc

Fresh Eggs available £1 per half dozen

*Karen Thomas*



## Birdingbury Shot Hits the Mark Again

More congratulations to Morgan Thomas, whose photograph of a rural view in Birdingbury was previously mentioned in Birdsong for winning the Senior Category of the Rugby Rotary Young Photographer Competition 2018/2019.

His lovely photograph has now achieved First Prize in the District 1060 Rotary Heart of England Final and will now go forward to the national competition. We will keep you posted!

We can't do it justice in black and white, so if you'd like to see it in its full glory, go to our village website:

<http://www.birdingbury.org/>

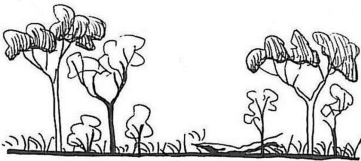
*Karen Thomas*



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## Birdingbury's Future

I have been thinking about what sort of village community we may want in the coming years.



This is not instead of, but in addition to, our recent discussions at The Annual Village Meeting about housing, transport, litter and crime.

This would be an opportunity to talk about other issues such as living more sustainably, healthily, and simply.

With these thoughts in mind you are very welcome to join me for a chat in the Club Lounge on June 17th at 8pm.

*Dick Withington*

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## Birdingbury Jam

Due to the recommencement of the 'Wheelers' on Wednesday evenings, the Birdingbury Jam sessions have been moved to Tuesday evenings, with effect from 14 May until further notice.

I hope this suits everyone. It was felt that although we are good, it was a bit of a stretch to play guitar whilst riding a bike, although we could do 'The Pushbike Song' or 'The Chain' or change 'Drive' to 'Ride'? Enough, enough!

*Steve (E Wander) Edgar*



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## Community Police Drop In

I will be holding a drop-in session in Birdingbury on Monday 10 June from 12 noon to 12.45, outside the Club.

If you have any issues or concerns, or if you just want to say hello, please do pop down to see me. It will be great to meet more village residents.

Alternatively, you can contact me at [David.banks@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:David.banks@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk)

*PCSO 6137 David Banks, Wildlife Officer, Rugby Borough Safer Neighbourhood Teams*

RDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Join the LH Academy Governors

Would you be interested in becoming a governor of Leamington Hastings Academy?

Leamington Hastings Academy is an infants' school and nursery, covering the catchment areas of Grandborough, Willoughby, Broadwell, Hill, Birdingbury and Leamington Hastings. Due to a couple of governors standing down after serving 3 terms of office (a term is 4 years), including myself, the school is looking for new governors.

This is a very rewarding role involving oversight of the school's strategy, performance and finances. The time commitment is 6 meetings a year in the evening (which last around 1.5 to 2 hours) and a termly visit into school to discuss progress against the allocated actions on the school development plan.

If you have 15 hours a year that you could commit, please feel free to speak to either Mrs Marson, the Head of School or me at [Paula.whitfield@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Paula.whitfield@hotmail.co.uk). We will be happy to answer any questions. Please note that training is also available.

*Paula Whitfield, Chair of Governors.*

# **The Bob Munro Tractor Run**

## **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Following last year's success, we will be holding a tractor run from Birdingbury Club around local villages to remember the Birdingbury Show.

We will be raising funds for Bloodwise, which supports blood cancer research.

**All welcome!**

10.00 Meet at Birdingbury Club

- Tractor unloading from approx 9.00 am on Birdingbury Estate, Munro's farm
- Camping available Friday and Saturday (please contact John below for details)

10.30 Tea and coffee courtesy of the Birbury

11.00 Set off on the Run (route to be decided)

15.00 Barbecue at Birdingbury Club, open to all for a small charge

19.30 Open Mic session at Birdingbury Club

Extra guest ales and cider will be available all weekend  
£10 entry fee per tractor.

*All tractor drivers to receive complimentary tea coffee and barbecue.*

So that we can estimate numbers for logistics, food etc, please register an interest by contacting one of us.

Please also get in touch if you would like to help in some way, we will be very grateful for your assistance!

Steve Edgar 01926 719039 [steveedgar@sky.com](mailto:steveedgar@sky.com)

John Edgar 07888 699355

David Walker 07841 905473



# Where is the One He Came With?

*for Colin*

Did he lose him

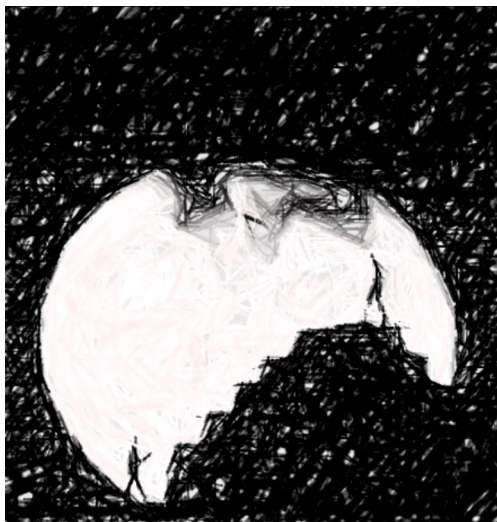
Long ago?

He lost him long before

He knew,

The country they were

Going to.



But still he saw him

In the rain,

The sunlight

And at night

Again.

He dreamt at first,

The moon so bright

Shone down on he,

His brother's gentle light

To see.

Tho' all about,

The wind and stars,

Time's wisdom wrapped

His dream in scars.

*Pilgrim*

## Birdingbury Calendar

Date		Event	Time	Venue
June	1	Champions League final	TBC, pm	Club
	6	UEFA Nations League semi-final	19.45	Club
	7	Bourton & Frankton FC Presentation	TBC	Club
	9	UEFA Nations League final	TBC	Club
	10	Police Drop-in Session	12.00	Club
	11	Ladies Circle	19.45	At homes
		Birdingbury Jam Session	20.00	Club
	13	Women's Cycling Tour	12.30	Marton Road
		Body Shop Evening	20.00	Club
	15	Event TBC	TBC	Club
	17	Birdingbury's Future	20.00	Club
	21	Matt's Solstice Run	19.29	Club
	22	Early Summer Quiz plus hot supper	20.00	Club
	25	Birdingbury Jam Session	20.00	Club
	27	Coffee and Chat	10.30	Birbury
		Fish & Chip Van	20.00	Club
	28	Mobile Library	10.40	Club
		Birdingbury Club AGM	20.00	Club
July	4	Teams 4U Talk	19.00	Bilton
	6	Church Fete	15.00	Club
		Rose Queen Day	TBC	LH School
	9	Birdingbury Jam Session	20.00	Club
	13	Swap Shop Birthday Party	10.30	Birbury
	19	Mobile Library	10.40	Club
	20	Tractor Run	10.00	Club
	23	Birdingbury Jam Session	20.00	Club
	25	Coffee and Chat	10.30	Birbury



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