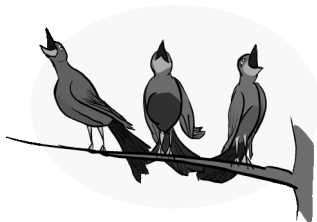


BIRDSONG

**December 2019
and
January 2020**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS**

No 95



Birdingbury stops to remember

Photo: Mike Coles

Birdingbury Parish Council Report

I'd like to start by expressing my thanks to the band of merry villagers who managed the Bonfire Night event despite the very English weather. Many of the displays in the area were cancelled on a day that had started blustery with the threat of rain. During the morning there was much discussion of wind strength and direction, and consultation of BBC and Met Office forecasts. The only question to answer was 'is it safe?' and the decision was to go ahead.

Sure enough, the wind subsided as forecast, although the rain did come. Anyone who has organised an event of this type will know that the preparation really pays off when things don't go to plan ... the extra lights, the deeper safety area between the fireworks and the crowd, the catering van from which to serve food ... all of these came into their own when the weather closed in. And despite the rain, many villagers came to witness the lighting of the bonfire, enjoy the sausages & baked spuds, and "woo!" at the fireworks. Thank you for your support, too.

Appropriately for the time of year, the Parish Council has discussed the drains in the village which are gathering leaves faster than rain water (we're in touch with Highways). We're also monitoring the worst of the road edges and potholes as winter progresses.

We have agreed to review the facilities available on the Recreation Field, and the state of the access track during the winter. If you are a regular user, I'd love to hear what you think about the facilities and what could make them even better. Contact me at guyfrenchpc@gmail.com.

Guy French, Chair, Parish Council

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Changes

Birdingbury knows
mists and mellow fruitfulness
ebb as autumn leaves
Thin Jethro Laskey



Halloween Spooktacular!



It was once again the scariest night of the year in Birdingbury. Lots of witches, ghouls and skeletons met at the club before hunting (or should that be haunting?) for terrifying treats. We had so many of the young local undead gathered that we decided to spilt into two groups to perform a petrifying pincer manoeuvre around the village. We appreciated all the efforts made to enter into the spirit of the occasion by our revolting residents - some brilliant decorations and impressive pumpkin carving!

Then it was back to the club with our buckets, bags and cauldrons filled to the brim with goodies for some frighteningly good fun. The opportunity to wrap mummies was greeted enthusiastically by the cackling crowd (many thanks to victims - I can't really use the words 'willing' or 'volunteers' given I coerced them into it, but they were jolly good sports). Doughnuts on strings proved as popular as ever, and who doesn't love to bounce eyeballs around in the name of entertainment?!

The bar and the fish & chip van provided sustenance for the crowds, as well as a bloodcurdling buffet provided by Karen for the little horrors. All in all, freakish fun was had by all, and I imagine we'll be in a similarly spooky scenario next year!

Lesley Tomlinson



Halloween, yes! What a truly spooktacular night was had by all. Massive thanks to Lesley Tomlinson for leading the event. There were more witches, wizards, skeletons, mummies etc than ever. It was great to see those from neighbouring villages too. We hope you all enjoyed the ghostly skittles, mummy wrapping and doughnut eating, and we hope it didn't take your parents too long to get you off the ceiling later.

Congratulations to all those village households who took part, with fabulous decorations. Who knew there was a ghoul living in Back Lane? Hope you all had fun! See you next year!

Karen Thomas

Steve Edgar and Friends - what a stunner!

It was a chilly October evening at the Club and music lovers, family and friends gathered in anticipation and some excitement. A fulsome programme of entertainment lay ahead, provided by perhaps the largest band of contributors yet to be seen on our humble Birdingbury “stage”.

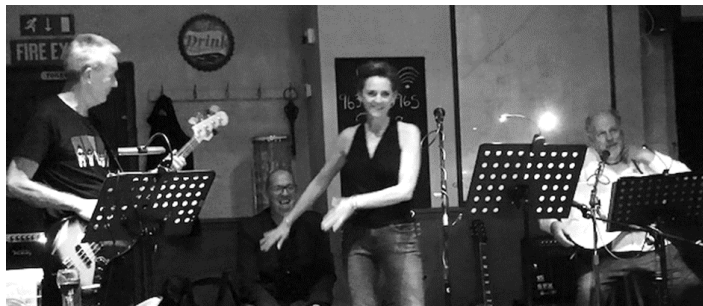
First on Steve Edgar and David Hanson warmed up the audience with a set of diverse numbers ranging from Paul Weller’s “You do something to me” to The Eagles “Lyn’ Eyes”. The drinks flowed and crisps crunched and the duo’s rendition of “Stairway to Heaven” was perhaps a clue to the ambition and scope of the songs still to come later in the evening.



The Birdingbury Jammers are a recently formed group of guys who gather together regularly at the Club to play their guitars, sing, chat and generally put the world to rights. Greatly encouraged and nurtured by Steve, they put in a sterling performance. “Waggon Wheel” had us tapping our toes and “Wonderful Tonight” brought a tear to several eyes. Well done Steve, Andy Duffield, Rob Walker, David Hanson, Ian Palmer, Lewis and Rich Cutts – surely straying into Super Group territory!

Hot on their heels came **The Jo Young Trio** – a very cool and exciting new Birdingbury collaboration of Jo Young, Steve Edgar and David Hanson. Now developing a solid fan base (and an increasing capacity for red wine during rehearsals), they took us through a stunning set of numbers. Fearless in the face of challenging songs such as “Moon Dance”, “The Thrill is Gone” and “Summertime”, Jo scorched and sizzled her way through with aplomb and even gave Adele a run for her money with “Someone like You” (Yes really) As someone said “They don’t really do easy ones do they!”

Additional support for the trio was provided by Jo’s husband Darren on beatbox, Andy with a great guitar solo on “The Thrill is Gone” and assorted ladies who filled the stage for backing vocals on “Mustang Sally”.



The evening continued with a skilfully executed set from Rob Walker, covering numbers from Pink Floyd, Gary Moore and Dave Gilmour. It takes some courage to stand up and be counted against such guitar legends! Again, no easy ones in sight!

Finally, Steve, Jo, Rich and Nick Thomas brought proceedings to a close and we were all left marvelling at the range of talent we have around us.

Thanks to everyone involved, including Ian who continues to tweak sound quality where needed. It's great to know that music in our village is definitely alive and kicking and continues to develop apace. I know everyone would want to extend thanks to Steve for his endlessly warm and patient encouragement of the musical talents in our midst. Who knows how many others are out there waiting to be discovered?

Angela Hanson

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Afternoon tea in the Club Lounge

It was some time ago at the Auction of Promises for Global Care that I bought an afternoon tea, in the Club lounge, kindly donated by Karen Thomas. After chivvying me several times to get it booked, it eventually happened in November.



Karen and Mark had done a super job of turning the club lounge into a real old-fashioned tea room; the pretty table wear with bone china crockery, cake stands, tea pots and the flowers on the table all looked lovely when we arrived.

Everything we had was home-baked and prepared by Karen; delicious sandwiches, scones, chocolate brownies, coffee cake, elderflower and white chocolate tarts and a lemon mousse - all beautifully presented and served with a 'take home' opportunity for what we couldn't manage. Plenty of tea and coffee appeared and we topped it all off with a few glasses of prosecco as well.

Karen is hoping to add an occasional 'pop up' tea room to the Club's foodie offerings over the next few months, and at a really good and competitive price considering what she prepared for us. I would definitely go again - well done Karen and Mark - what a lovely idea!

Thank you for your generosity

Karen Armbrister



After the Fire

After the fire at Birdingbury Hall in February 1859, so graphically described in the Coventry Herald and republished in the last Birdsong, the Biddulphs put the contents of the Hall up for sale by auction in the April. The sale list provides an interesting view of the possessions of a moderately wealthy family in mid-Victorian times.

Birdingbury Hall

In consequence of the late disastrous fire at this mansion,

COOKES, SONS, AND MERES

Have been instructed by Sir Theophilus Biddulph, Bart.,

TO SELL BY AUCTION

On MONDAY, April 4th, TUESDAY, 5th, WEDNESDAY, 6th, and THURSDAY, 7th.

The whole of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and COSTLY EFFECTS, appertaining to the Reception Rooms and Best-bedrooms of the above Mansion (the fire having been confined to the Kitchen, Offices, and Servants' Chambers), comprising a Drawing-Room Suite, in Pollard Oak, consisting of Loo, Occasional, Writing, and other Tables, Etruscan Sofa, Couches, Carved Easy, and other Chairs, brilliant Plate Chimney and Pier Glasses, in Gilt Frames, superior Brussels Carpets, Damask Window Curtains, with Cornices, fine Sevres, Chelsea, Old Indian, and other China, and several valuable Oil Paintings (portraits), Three Turkey Carpets with Rugs to match, Sixteen and Two Arm Chairs in Oak, with stuffed backs, and seats covered with crimson Utrecht Velvet, Dining Tables, Sideboard, a three-tier Oak rising Side Table. Two Easy Chairs in Velvet, Damask Window Curtains, &c., the Furniture of Twelve Bed-rooms in which will be found Four-post, Arabian, and French Bedsteads, in Mahogany and polished Birch, a large quantity of very superior Bedding, comprising Dantzic Feather Beds, Hair and Wool Mattresses, Bath and Witney Blankets, Toilet and Marseilles Quilts, Mahogany Winged Wardrobe, Chests of Drawers, Washing and Dressing Tables, Toilet Glasses, Chamber Services, Carpets, Curtains &c., Also about 100 Lots of choice Green-house Plants, Three 3-light Frames, the whole of the Brewing Utensils, and other valuable effects.

Caution --- All persons attending the Sale are requested not to approach the Ruins, as this part of the Mansion is unsafe.

The whole will be on view on Saturday, 2nd April, by catalogue only. Which may be had at the offices of the Auctioneers, Leamington and Warwick, price 6d. each, without which no one will be admitted on the View day.



There is a reference to Dantzic Feather Beds: the best feathers to use for bedding were goose feathers and particularly the very soft under feathers from the breast of a goose. The best of these were imported from Danzig in the Baltic although many of the feathers sold as such were not actually from there!

In May 1859, the Coventry Evening Standard reported that – *The buildings, it would appear, had been insured in the County Fire Office, for we are informed that Mr John Bromwich, builder of Rugby, has instructions from that establishment to rebuild the portion of the edifice that was destroyed.*

John Bromwich was a respected builder who had done work on Warwick Castle among other important commissions. Whether he was the same Mr Bromwich who supervised the Rugby fire engine that attended the fire is uncertain, although there is some indication that he might have been.

In fact, not only was the damaged wing rebuilt but the central part of the house was reconstructed with the long hall added to run the full width between the two wings and with a gallery above. Judging by the Illustrated News drawing of the Hall at the time of the fire the whole of the river front was refaced in ashlar stonework. The cost of this and other work seems to have extended the Biddulph resources too far as, in 1863, the family took out a mortgage for £20,000 (about two and a half million pounds today). The mortgage was not repaid until the estate was sold in 1914.

The Biddulphs never lived in the Hall again and in 1874 they let it to Sir Phillip Muntz who lived there while Dunsmore House (now known as Clifton Court) was being built for him.

Chris Barney, Birdingbury History Society

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

So long, Ann and John

We all join in wishing John and Ann Carroll a fond farewell as they leave Birdingbury for pastures new after more than half a century in the village, and in sending good luck for the next chapter of their life together. We hope they are not moving too far away!

Best wishes from all your Birdingbury friends and neighbours.

Dawn and Chris Powers

John and Ann after their wedding at
St. Leonards in April 1965



Coughs and sneezes spread diseases!

It almost seems inevitable that during the next few months I will catch a cold, so I have been researching natural ways to try and strengthen my immune system and to fight it off should I succumb!

These are just a few natural remedies for treating a cold or strengthening the immune system.



Echinacea (a flowering plant in the daisy family)

Research into its effectiveness is mixed. In 2012 a study found that taking Echinacea may reduce the duration of a cold by up to 26% and the Lancet reported in 2007 that Echinacea decreased the odds of developing the common cold by 58%. Other studies are not so favourable. It appears to work by increasing the number of white blood cells which help to fight infections. It is available as a tincture, capsule or tea.

Pumpkin Seeds (contain zinc)

Several trials have demonstrated that zinc reduces the duration and severity of a cold. Zinc is found in pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds, red meat, shell fish, cashew nuts and legumes or can be bought as a lozenge.

Probiotics (the “good” bacteria)

Probiotics do appear to improve the immune system of the body and in Sweden a study found that factory workers taking a daily probiotic supplement took less than half the number of sick days than a control group. Probiotics can be taken in supplements or in fermented foods such as yoghurts (with live bacteria), Kefir, Sauerkraut, and Kombucha amongst others.

Ginseng

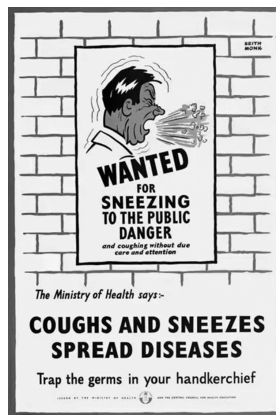
The supplement Ginseng is derived from the plant group ***Panax*** and is made from the root. There are two main types Asian and American. It contains ***ginsenosides*** and ***gintonin*** which are the constituents which have been shown to improve the **immune system** by stimulating the production of immunoglobulin - proteins that stick to bacteria when they invade the body. There have been several studies which have demonstrated that American Ginseng decreases the number and severity of colds.

Ginseng can be eaten raw, made into tea or added to various dishes. It can also be taken as a supplement as a powder, capsule or oil. There are some contraindications to Ginseng, so if you are taking other medication it is best to check with your pharmacist or GP before taking it.

Herbal remedies and supplements are not regulated in the UK so always try and buy them from a reputable source.

There are other simple steps you can take to reduce your risk of catching a cold:

- Wash your hands - lots!
- Use tissues once and throw them away
- Change your hand towel regularly
- Do not share cups, glasses or other utensils with someone who has a cold
- Try to get a good night's sleep - high quality sleep is one of the best ways of boosting the immune system.
- Aim to spend time outside each day



If you would like my home made St Clements and Elderberry cold remedy recipe, please feel free to contact me by email info@jilldrewphysio.com and I will send you a copy.

Jill Drew

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Teams 4U

Hello to all the wonderful people who have wrapped boxes for disadvantaged children.



I believe the organisers in Stretton have now despatched over 2,000 boxes, filled with all the lovely precious goodies you have so generously given. There have been so many donations of pens, pencils, crayons, paper, tooth brushes, tooth paste, soaps, shampoo, toy cars and lorries, hair slides & ribbons. I have lost count of all the knitted hats, mittens, scarves and teddy bears. Thanks also all the lovely soft cuddly toys, (although it does break my heart to part with them) and for all the basic hygiene items for the older teenage children.

We will continue to wrap boxes through the year for Christmas 2020, but I do appreciate that just maybe you will have your own boxes to wrap, so I promise I won't nag you, at least for a little while.

Thank you all for your wonderful support

Daphne Chippendale

Bonfire Night

What a contrast to the last few years, when we have been so lucky with the weather. This year it let us down but, on the night, some 200 people, mainly villagers and young families, braved the conditions to support the event. They were treated once again to a spectacular firework display, big bonfire, and great food.

The weather had affected everything. The previous week a very small band of volunteers endured a thorough drenching to collect wood material around the village for the bonfire. Thanks here must go to the Davey family and the Frog Squad, who baled us out of the transport issues, and the core team of Mike Coles, Declan Hayden, Jenny Preston and Dan Shouler (together with Dan's brother who thought he was having a quiet stopover, en route to Heathrow, but ended up on a trailer getting soaked with a pile of wood!).

Again, it is important to highlight what a lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes before, during, and after the night itself to make this a successful event. Although other commitments limited them this year, Chris Whatcott and Lewis Cutts still did a lot in terms of publicity and ticket sales. Because of this we crucially needed someone else to take responsibility for the fireworks. Chris Morton and Guy French stepped up to do this very successfully with the help of David Walker on the night. We put out straw bales for people to sit on, kindly lent by Rob Walker. With great difficulty, given the muddy conditions, these were taken to the field and returned by Liz Ellis and John Bradshaw. The bonfire was built and managed on the night by Dan Shouler and Declan Hayden.

Gaynor Davey did another great job, providing, co-ordinating cooking and distributing the food with help from Liz Ellis, Jenny Preston and Paula Munro, backed up by Lee Hayden, organising baked potatoes from these and others in the village. Thanks for using your ovens. Mike Coles once again managed the gate in his usual affable and courteous manner. Matt Hancock helped with stewarding. Thanks again to the Turners for the electricity supply and the Club for ticket sales.

It was touch and go on the day whether we continued with the event at all. In the end, the wind, which was the critical factor in terms of safety for the bonfire and rockets, dropped. Rain fell but not as badly as it had been doing. So, we went ahead. However, the conditions leading up to the day, and on the day itself, undoubtedly affected people's view whether to come or not, or indeed whether the event would happen at all. As a result, ticket sales were well down on previous years, leading to a financial loss. Fortunately, we have prepared for this eventuality by having a surplus from previous years but going forward we will need to ensure a better financial result, or the event will be in jeopardy. More support from the village is therefore a vital issue if you want it to continue.

We start to plan again for next year and are calling for people to get involved to plan and change it if necessary (new ideas are very welcome), or just provide practical help in any form. So, please do get in touch.

David Preston

Lest we forget

As the 'guns fell silent' on the 11th November on the Western Front, save for the sound of an idling car engine as the driver of a passing car decided to stop; so too the Village of Birdingbury fell silent on Remembrance Sunday. This year there seemed to be more than I had ever seen before paying their respects in the time-honoured tradition.

The following day I was entertained at a lunch at which General Sir Jack Devereall spoke about the original two-minute silence as part of Remembrance Day. Having stood in silence so many times it was interesting to hear how this ritual originated.

Sir Jack reflected that the idea for the silence came from South Africa where a silence had been held during the War, after details of losses at the Battle of the Somme were known. King George V's Private Secretary latched onto this and proposed the holding of a similar silence at that first Remembrance Day. The King then recommending the idea to the War Cabinet. Though agreed, it seems that in the country there were questions over whether it was the right approach; would there be outward displays of emotion in a 'French' rather than 'British' way?

Similarly, when later the Cenotaph was to be built, there were significant arguments over what form the memorial should take. In many towns and villages there were letters to local newspapers on the appropriateness of memorials with a cross at the core when so many Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and those of no religion had fought and died for Commonwealth and Allied Forces.

We now stand quiet and remember 'our' fallen as named by the irreplaceable veteran Bill Cowley as we have for many years past and hopefully will for the next one hundred years, and the century after that!

Andrew Armbrister

Bill Cowley, Matt Markham and Lance Hudson at the memorial

Photo: Mike Coles



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Tractor run charity total update

The total raised for 'Bloodwise' on the day of the Tractor Run 2019 was £585.51. However, as in 2018, we applied, through Nicky Kerry, to Lloyds Bank for their charity donations matching scheme where they offer to match monies raised up to £500.

Although it has taken a few months, we are pleased to announce that the £500 has been passed to 'Bloodwise', bringing our total contribution to £1085.51.

Thanks again to all who participated and / or contributed to this fantastic total.

Steve Edgar



IRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Marton coffee morning success

Thank you for all your support for the fundraising coffee morning on Saturday 5 October for Cancer Research UK.

It was fantastic to see so many people on a soggy Saturday morning. We were particularly grateful the support of local families and the men of Marton. Special thanks to Jane, Sue & Angie who ran the kitchen, keeping the tea flowing and the cake stocked.

Currently the total raised is £600, however money continues to come in through the sale of jams, cards and donations.

So many people have all been affected by cancer, whether through family, friends, neighbours, colleagues or even personally. Thank you for all your support, we could not do this without your help, and we hope for your continued support in future events.

Mary Harrison and Helen Keeves

IRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Thank you from the heart

I would like to express my thanks for the extraordinary support shown to Sue and myself since the end August. From thinking I was perfectly fit and chasing my grandchildren up the Dassett Hills to having a quintuple heart by-pass was a matter of a few days. The Consultants, staff and support at University Hospital Coventry were first class, indeed world class, and I have much to be thankful to them for.

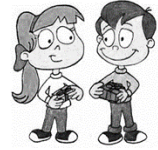
Being ill is one thing, being a carer is probably the harder part of the equation and the support of the village community for Sue has been exceptional. Very many thanks therefore to the community we so enjoy here in Birdingbury for the support that we have both received.



Peter Law

Swap Shop

On Saturdays we meet in the Birbury at 10.30 for a cuppa, cake and a chance to swap our unwanted items with fellow villagers. There is not much fresh produce around in the winter, but we bring books, magazines, plants and a variety of other items. You do not have to bring anything with you, we enjoy the chance to catch up with each other.



On Saturday 21 December we will be swapping last year's unwanted Christmas gifts, providing they are still in good condition, and then in 2020 on Saturday 4th January, we will exchange any surplus presents. Why not come along and join us?

Everyone is welcome on any Saturday morning.

Di Turner and Jenny Hawes

IRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Feel better together

I have been working for a little while now, helping isolated people in South Warwickshire build connections and friendships. Whilst working with somebody very local to me, it soon became obvious that there was limited opportunity in our area for young and middle-aged adults to meet and get to know each other.



Mental Health Together is a group passionate about bringing people together with the aim of taking care of their mental health. Many in the group have first-hand experience of poor mental health and the negative effects of isolation. Although the group is not offering professional support, much is gained from sharing experiences and talking with people who understand.

We have recently set up a group that meets in Southam twice each month; once for a walk and once for a chat about books and reading. Everyone is welcome. Although I had recognised a need for young adults, we have been delighted to welcome older friends as well as mums and dads with babies.

If you would like to join us but feel unsure about coming on your own, please get in contact either with me personally or with Rachel on rachelknight.mht@gmail.com. Alternatively, take a look at our web site: <https://mentalhealthtogether.org>, or our Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/TogetherMHT>

Alex Rigler, Community Powered Advocate

Club Calendar

	Date	Event	Time
December	Friday 6	Pizza Oven	from 5.30pm
	Saturday 7	Panto Trip	as advised
		Quiz with hot supper	8.30pm
	Friday 13	Darts Knockout	7.30pm
	Tuesday 24	Christmas Draw	from 6pm
	Wednesday 25	Christmas Day	12 noon to 3pm
	Thursday 26	Boxing Day	12 noon to 5pm
	Tuesday 31	New Year's Eve Fancy Dress Disco Party	8 'til late
January	Wednesday 1	New Year's Day	closed
	Friday 10	Pizza Oven	from 5.30pm
	Saturday 11	Quiz with hot supper	8.30pm
	Saturday 18	Strictly practice / rehearsal	tbc
	Friday 24	Build a Burger	from 5.30pm
	Saturday 25	Not Another B****y Brexit Evening!	8.30 pm
	Thursday 30	Fish & Chip Van	from 7.30pm

Fancy a bit of bully?

Join us at the club for a Darts Knockout

Friday 13th December, from 7:30pm



Prizes



BIRDINGBURY CLUB PRESENTS

STRICTLY BIRDINGBURY 2020



It's time to look ahead to Strictly Birdingbury in February 2020. It's only a 'Quick Step' to our 'Ballroom' where we serve 'Tango' or even a cup of 'Cha Cha Cha'.

This year our friends from the new forest 'Waltzed' off with the trophy, so next year we need to up our game. We haven't managed to secure exact dates at time of printing but plan to hold the main event in February, with a practice / rehearsal session in January.

Strictly 2019 was great fun, so rock up - the club is only a short 'Jive' away.

To enter please contact Jo or Steve on

stevegedgar@sky.com 01926 719039

Johanne.young@opteva.co.uk 07950795235

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Bring in 2020 with a
Brilliant Beach Party at the Club



Disco, Nibbles and Fizz
Hawaiian Attire Welcome



From 8pm til' late

Progressive Supper - Saturday 28 March 2020



Following last year's very successful event which raised £752 for Myton Hospice, we are arranging another Progressive Supper for Saturday 28 March 2020. This year we are going to raise money for Mental Health Together, a small and new charity based in Leamington who work to bring people together to improve mental health and reduce isolation.

If you have done it before, you'll know what great fun it is. If you are undecided or new to the village, then this is an event you won't want to miss, so give one of us a call or email and we can explain. In short, you agree to host a course for a max of 6 people at your house (including yourselves!). In return, you get to go to other houses for the other two courses. You meet at the club for a quick drink, and then get told where you are off to next. After pudding, everyone meets back up at the club for the raffle, drinks and lively conversation. So, other than what you're going to cook, the evening is organised for you! We randomly arrange who goes where and if we get it right you meet different people at different courses.

As last year, we request a donation of £20 from each couple doing starters or puddings and £15 if you are doing a main course. Any raffle prizes also gratefully received.

To get your name on the list, contact either of us:

Simon Whitfield 01926 634761, simon_whitfield@hotmail.com

Alex Rigler 01926 632709, alexrigler@aol.com

Don't forget to tell us if you have dietary requirements so we can let your hosts know.

We look forward to hearing from you, even four months in advance!

Simon Whitfield and Alex Rigler

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Coffee and Chat

There will be no Coffee and Chat in December as it falls on Boxing Day.

We will meet again on Thursday January 30th at 10.30am in the Birbury. Please come along and catch up with your fellow villagers as you enjoy a hot drink and something tasty to eat.

Everyone is welcome.

Your friends at St. Leonards



Not another B....y Brexit evening

February 2017 saw Birdingbury anticipating our leaving the EU with an evening celebrating and, as we thought, saying farewell to all things European. How innocent we were!



To rekindle that bitter sweet memory and bring us all up to date, Birdingbury Club will reprise that event on 25 January 2020. Who knows what we might mark this time since, as we go to press, we have another significant milestone to look forward to: the general election!

So, on the night we might be sampling more French fancies, Spanish specials or Greek goodies if a people's vote or withdrawal of Article 50 is planned. Alternatively, it could be Turkish titbits, Nigerian nibbles or Belarusian beers that are tickling our taste buds as we hasten towards world trade terms, all wrapped up in a light-hearted quiz involving an irreverent peek into our fun-filled future. We can't wait.....

John Starley

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Ladies Circle

Leamington Hastings Academy update

At Leamington Hastings Academy we are currently raising money to resurface our playground so that we can have some exciting markings painted onto it for the children to use. We are very grateful that the Young Farmers group raised £1,300 for us during the Summer, which they recently presented to the school.

The children have been very busy in their first half term of the academic year. We have visited Leamington Hastings church, tested out a delivery of new beebots to use in the classroom, experienced a Diwali day, taken part in a road safety workshop and hunted for stick men along, with many other exciting activities! Visit our Facebook page to keep up to date with our learning at school – Leamington Hastings Church of England Academy Rugby.



We have several exciting events taking place in December, to which all members of the local community are invited. On 4th December we will hold a Christingle service in the school hall starting at 2:30pm. We will take part in a Christmas service at Leamington Hastings church starting at 9:15am on Friday 20th December. We are also holding a wreath making workshop starting at 6pm on 12th December. Please contact the school office on 01926 632359 if you would like to purchase a ticket for this event at a cost of £25; materials, mulled wine and nibbles are included!

Suzanne Marson, Head of School

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The art of lettering

Calligraphy will be starting on Thursday 23rd January 2020 between 9.30am and 12.30pm at Bourton on Dunsmore, Draycote and Frankton (BDF) Village Hall, near Rugby CV23 9QT. Learn all about the art of lettering and how it can enhance your art and craft projects: card making, posters, certificates, journaling, family trees, wedding stationery etc.



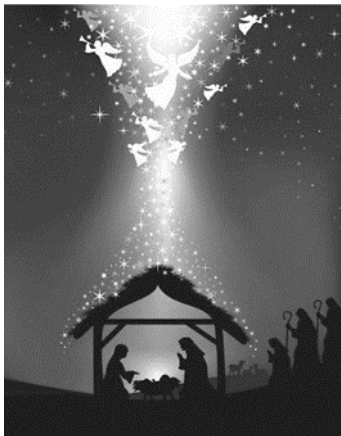
Beginners and experienced calligraphers are most welcome to join the group of like-minded people who enjoy developing their skills and ideas in a great friendly atmosphere. We meet every Thursday during term time and have occasional workshops led by a professional calligrapher to extend our knowledge. Payment is per session.

For more information please email carolinefroggatt2@gmail.com.

Eira Owen

Into the night

Into the night
The old year goes,
With tear worn eyes
And ragged clothes.



Bring in the child
That loves the dawn
And casts away
The past forlorn.

Dear soul bring with you
Through the frost
Those old humanities
We've lost.

And ever let
Our hearts relive,
The holy impulse
To forgive.

Pilgrim

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

**Birdsong wishes readers a very merry Christmas
and peace and prosperity for all in the New Year.**

Birdingbury Calendar

	Date	Event	Time	Venue
December	Friday 6	Pizza Oven	from 5.30pm	Club
	Saturday 7	Panto Trip	as advised	Club
		Quiz with hot supper	8.30pm	Club
	Friday 13	Mobile Library	11.40am	Club
		Darts Knockout	7.30pm	Club
	Tuesday 24	Christmas Draw	from 6pm	Club
	Wednesday 25	Christmas Day	12 noon to 3pm	Club
	Thursday 26	Boxing Day	12 noon to 5pm	Club
	Tuesday 31	New Year's Eve Fancy Dress Disco Party	8 'til late	Club
January	Wednesday 1	New Year's Day	closed	
	Friday 10	Mobile Library	11.40am	Club
		Pizza Oven	from 5.30pm	Club
	Saturday 11	Quiz with hot supper	8.30pm	Club
	Tuesday 14	Ladies Circle	7.45pm	Birbury
	Saturday 18	Strictly practice / rehearsal	tbc	Club
	Tuesday 21	Parish Council	7.30pm	Birbury
	Friday 24	Build a Burger	from 5.30pm	Club
	Saturday 25	Not Another B****y Brexit Evening!	8.30 pm	Club
	Thursday 30	Coffee and Chat Fish & Chip Van	10.30am from 7.30pm	Birbury Club
	Friday 31	Mobile Library	11.40am	Club



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