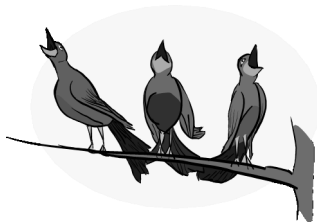


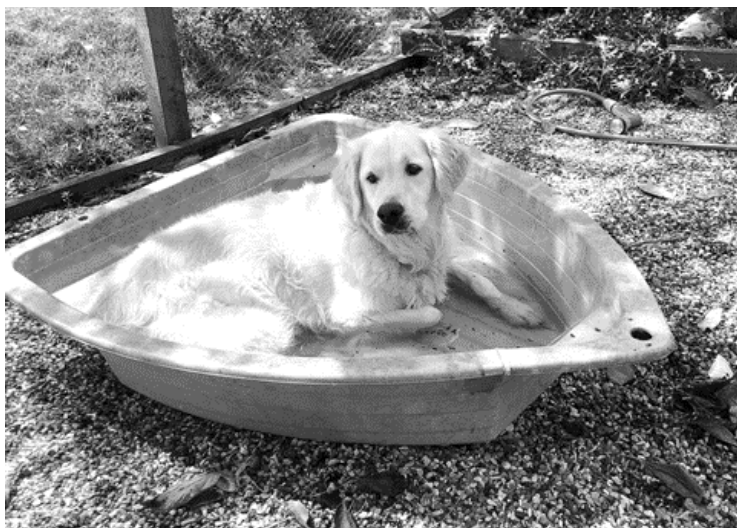
BIRDSONG

**October 2020
and
November 2020**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS**

No 100



Beau Bathing

Modelled by Bentley Kendell

Photographed by Sara Kendell

Accessories by Paw Prints Pop Up

Birdingbury Parish Council Report

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Gaynor for her years of service to the Parish Council - she has decided to stand down, and the loss of her energy and community spirit will leave a big space around the Council table.

As a result, we have a vacancy that we need to fill. Notices will be placed on the Parish notice board (on the back of the bus shelter) and on the village website (birdingbury.org) explaining the process. If anyone is interested, please don't hesitate to contact me (07538 583498) or our clerk, Jackie (01926 716191) for more details.

It seems like an appropriate time to talk about what a Parish Council does as 'the first tier' of our democratic structure. It is fair to say that a Parish Council doesn't wield a huge amount of 'power', but it does have purpose. We form the primary connection with the District and County Councils and provide them with a local view on matters that impact our community. We also have responsibility for a range of community services and assets. A few examples from September's meeting illustrate our role:

- We discussed a number of topics with Emma Crane, the Borough Councillor for the Leam Valley ward. She gave us a brief update on how Rugby services are operating under Covid restrictions and highlighted the current consultation on Planning in England. We raised with her the issue of an empty Council property in the village, discussed a current planning request and sought guidance on fly-tipping (no easy answer there, I'm afraid).
- We also discussed the decision by the organisers of the village bonfire night to cancel this year's event. The PC manages the insurance, risk assessment and the funds for the event, and we supported the decision, whilst recognising the hole it creates in the village's events calendar.
- We agreed our next steps following the recent broadband survey (see the separate note in Birdsong). I am keen that the Council looks ahead and plans for the village's future.
- We reviewed our budget for this year and agreed that we have sufficient surplus to address issues if any are highlighted in the imminent Recreation Field inspection.
- We discussed a recent submission from WRCC, a registered charity for residents in Warwickshire. They run an oil syndicate helping people who are off the mains gas supply network to obtain very competitive prices on their heating oil. We agreed to make this information available to interested villagers via the village Facebook page.

The Councillors, five in the case of Birdingbury, meet once a month for 60-90 minutes, although you get August and December off. It probably requires about the same commitment of time between meetings to review correspondence and maybe visit a site covered by a planning application.

At our last meeting we also reviewed and agreed our Equality & Diversity policy, which includes a commitment to the value of inclusion and representation, something that has become very timely now that we have a vacancy to fill.

So, if you'd like an opportunity to be more involved in how your community is run, and to shape its future, please do consider standing. Thank you.

Guy French, Chair, Parish Council

IRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

LH Academy Update

At Leamington Hastings Academy we have had a great start to the academic year; the children have settled in brilliantly and are really glad to be back at school.

Over the summer break, the school playground has been resurfaced.

This was possible due to half the cost being met by donations from members of the community and fundraising events. We would like to thank everyone that attended the Young Farmer's gin evening, local community groups such as Birdingbury and Willoughby, and everyone who attended school fairs and other events that were held to raise money. We are extremely grateful. We are looking forward to having playground markings installed for the children to use, once the tarmac has cured for the appropriate amount of time.



We are currently receiving requests from parents to tour the school for either Nursery or Reception places for September 2021. Due to Coronavirus arrangements we need to carry these visits out in a different way this year. We are happy to show you around the school fully after the children have left the building, or if you would like to visit during the school day, we can show you inside the school and the classrooms can be viewed from the doorways. Alternatively, we are happy to video chat with you. As you would expect, all children from Reception to Year 2 are taught by a qualified teacher. More unusually, our Nursery children are taught by a qualified teacher too! Do get in touch if you are interested in any places.

Suzanne Marston, Head of School

IRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Memories of World War 2

At the time of remembering the end of WW2, Bryan and I have been recalling some of the experiences told to us by people we have known in Birdingbury; the lovely village we came to in December 1969.

These include those of Ken Boulting, Victor Hunter, Alec Johns and Hubert (Dan) Thomas. We hope their stories will serve to represent the many others from our community who played their part.



Ken Boulting and his wife, Joyce, lived at Moonrakers, Back Lane before moving to Cornwall. Sadly, Joyce died recently. Ken and Joyce had been married for 68 years and had known each other from school age. We send our sympathy to Ken.

Towards the end of the War, Ken was conscripted into the Royal Engineers, deferred for a time so that he could take his RIBA intermediate exam. His first posting was to Singapore, then to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), and on to Kyoto, Japan. He was there when Tojo was tried. The British had an oasis in an area which was then the American Zone.

Victor Hunter, who received the DFC and who was in the SAS, lived with his wife, Edith, at the original Three Elms in Back Lane. He had been a pilot of a Lancaster bomber which crash landed into the sea off the coast of Denmark. When he brought the plane down, he didn't know the depth of the water but was relieved to find that he and his men could wade ashore. We recalled his saying that he had suggested to his crew that if they met anyone to just say 'ja'. They became prisoners of war. Vic went on, with others to become the founder members of Monarch Airlines.



The remains of Vic and Edith are commemorated in Birdingbury churchyard.



Alec Johns and his wife, Doreen, lived firstly on Marton Road near the village shop and post office. They later moved to Main Street. During the War, Doreen was in the Women's Land Army and Alec served as a navigator in a Lancaster bomber.

There is a seat in Birdingbury churchyard in memory of Doreen, who was a very active member of the church.

Hubert (Dan) Thomas and his wife, Lillias, used to live in a bungalow on the Leamington Hastings Road. During the War, Hubert served in Coastal Command as an observer/navigator in a Sunderland aircraft. In civilian life, Hubert became Headmaster of Southfields Primary School in Hillfields, Coventry. He and Lillias were also active church members.



Bill Cowley is Birdingbury's most senior WW2 veteran. An account of his wartime experiences appeared in the October / November 2018 edition of Birdsong.

Sgt, Thomas Barfoot's story appeared in the December 2018 / January 2019 edition.



We are sure that there are others who have memories of Birdingbury residents who served, not only in the forces but also doing valuable work in Civvy Street. If you would like to share their stories, the history society would love to hear from you: contact Aileen Withington, High Mead, Marton Road, 01926 632644, aileen.withington@hotmail.co.uk

Liz Tompkins

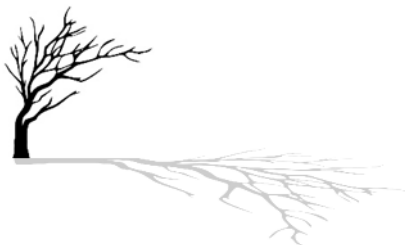
IRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury knows

As all the shadows lengthen

They'll get short again

Thin Jethro Laskey



IRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

June Walker: 4 June 1931 to 29 August 2020



June and her twin brother were born in Lutterworth in 1931. Following her marriage to Frank in 1952, they moved to Davenport Farm, Birdingbury. They were helped on the farm by George Groth, a former German POW who had moved in with Frank's family after the War. One of the first families that June and Frank got to know was the Marshalls. Jean Marshall still remembers

how they came to watch the coronation at Jean and Alan's house on their brand-new television set in 1953.

June and Frank had three children: Rosie in 1955, Richard in 1958 and Robert in 1961. June, in addition to bringing up the 3 young children, helped Frank on the farm and supplemented their income by taking in sewing from Birdingbury and the surrounding villages. June and Frank moved to Marton Glebe Farm in 1985 to allow Robert to enter the family farming business at Davenport Farm.

Frank retired in 1999 when he and June moved to Long Itchington. Here June was able to enjoy more holidays and time with the grandchildren. Following Frank's death in 2013, June was cared for in her home by her son, Richard and his wife, Fiona.



June spent her last months in Overslade nursing home after suffering a stroke, before passing away peacefully in Warwick Hospital.

The Walker Family

IRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

New to Birdingbury

A warm welcome to three new sets of residents in the village.

Sarah and Stuart Fraser and their three girls, Abbie (11), Emily (8) and Ava (4) have come to live at Limecrest on Marton Road.

Tom and Charlie have moved into Chestnut House on the Marton Road where Craig and Julie Colledge lived. Craig and Julie have moved into the nearby Coach House whilst their new house takes shape up on Stockton Road.



Lyndsey and Andrew Brooks have come to live at Springside on Main Street.

We look forward to meeting you all and hope you will be very happy here!

Detective Dick

Frankie Goes Fishing

It was a sunny day so my dad and I decided to go down to the river in the Old Rectory meadow and fish for some rudd and roach.

We were catching lots and lots of little fish, then as I was reeling in a rudd, BOOM my rod just bent like mad! I thought it was going to snap but I fought it for about 10 minutes and then I saw a pike come to the surface. A second later the rudd, that the pike had eaten, swam out of its mouth and the tiny size 16 hook flew into the side of the pike's mouth, which was very lucky!

I landed the big fish and it weighed 9 pounds which was definitely my biggest ever pike. It was a very long fish - I would say roughly two feet long with very sharp teeth!

Frankie Kerry



IRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Please / Find / Me!

I have recently been contacted by Molly Macgregor from what3words, to remind us all about the service and how to use it in a range of situations from accurate parcel delivery to obtaining help in an emergency. What3words works by encoding geographic coordinates into three dictionary words; the encoding is permanently fixed. This code is then used for the communication of locations to within a resolution of three metres. Some of you might have recently seen what3words in the news and/or some adverts on Channel 4.

Just over 80% of services in the UK now use what3words, including the emergency services. You can find a full list of those services that accept what3words here: <https://what3words.com/news/emergency/three-words-for-a-faster-emergency-response>.

The community can also use what3words to report incidents to organisations like National Grid, Network Rail and the Environment Agency: <https://what3words.com/report-incident-locations-efficiently>.

I thought this may be an opportunity to encourage everyone in our community to download the what3words app onto their phones in case they need to call 999. The app is totally free to download and use on iOS or Android. To find your what3words location, take a look at map.what3words.com

Jackie Chapman. Clerk to Birdingbury Parish Council



Thinking

Over the years since it was written sometime in the late 19th / early 20th century, numerous versions of this poem by have been published under varying titles. This is the version Janet Kent inherited from her grandmother.

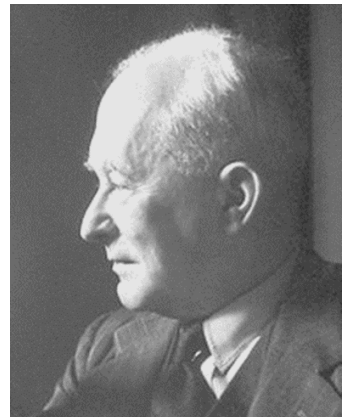
If you think you are beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't;
If you'd like to win but you think you can't,
It's almost a cert you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you've lost,
For out in the world you'll find
Success begins in a person's will;
It's all in the state of mind.

Think big and your deeds will grow.
Think small and you'll fall behind.
Think that you can, and you will;
It's all in the state of mind.

Life's battles don't often go
To the stronger or faster man,
But sooner or later the one who wins
Is the one who thinks he can.

Walter D Wintle



Next Steps to Better Broadband

As you may recall from previous issues of Birdsong, there is an opportunity to look at improving the strength of broadband in the village by extending the fibre cables from the cabinet by the War Memorial to individual properties ('fibre to the premises' or FTTP).

The Parish Council is keen to support this activity and we are exploring options with local parishes and with regional initiatives. The biggest consideration will be cost, so the Council has registered our interest with Openreach in order to secure a cost estimate. The estimate will cover whichever property addresses are included on the enquiry form, so it will help to log your interest at this stage if you would like to be involved. The estimate is just that, an estimate, and is not binding on any party to continue to subsequent stages.

The recent survey by Carmel was done in a way that ensured responses were anonymous so, we whilst we have an idea of which areas of the village suffer from poor signal, we are not aware of the specific properties concerned.

If you would like your property to be included in the estimate, please could you let me have your name, house number / name and post code. Please send it to guyfrenchpc@gmail.com by 23rd October. These details will be entered onto a secure online form on the Openreach website, but will not stored or used in any other way.

Just to reiterate, the estimate is non-binding and in no way commits the Council or any individual to going ahead with any work. There will be several steps after the quote, each of which will involve choices about whether to continue. If you have any queries, please email as above or call me on 07538 583498.

Guy French

IRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG



Fundraising for Myton Hospice
on
Saturday 24th October
and
Sunday 25th October
(International Artists' Day)



Garage ART EXHIBITION and SALE
plus
JAMS and CAKES

From 12 'til 4 both days or by appointment
at
'BROADWAY', LEAMINGTON HASTINGS ROAD

Admission (free) up to two at a time to observe Covid precautions

A Century of Birdsong!

**Issue
100!**

The eagle eyed reader may have noticed the auspicious number on the front cover of this edition. Up until 2004 there was no *Birdsong*, but in April of that year the first issue dropped through the letterbox of every household in the village. Another piece of junk mail? Oh, no!

There had, of course, been newsletters in the village before then but, although produced in Birdingbury (for many years by David and Jackie Westcott and later, Gaynor Davy), they covered snippets from several villages in the benefice and were Church led. By 2004, there was a feeling that Birdingbury would like its own independent newsletter, produced by villagers for villagers and, when two or three like minded folk gathered together, ideas began to emerge and coalesce. We felt there was scope for a newsletter which was broader than simply a list of fixtures. A particular trigger was a Christmas activity in the Birbury which was poorly attended – people simply did not know that it was on. Barbara Moore and I got talking about this.

So, what did we want? A little magazine reflecting the life of the village, but also to encourage its sense of community. A publication that looked good and read well, with articles of interest; be they about history, wildlife, ongoing projects, personal reminiscences; together with reports from the Club and other groups such as the Ladies Circle, as well as the Parish Council. As it happened, for the very first edition the then Clerk to the Parish Council, Leslie Turner, penned a lively account of how that body worked.

Somehow, Barbara Moore and I, with more bravado than competence, took on the challenge (or was it a poisoned chalice?) of jointly editing this, as yet, unnamed publication. I think, if memory serves me right, that the title, *Birdsong*, was suggested by Diana Turner. Barbara and I divvied up the editorial duties – Barbara with the better computer skills produced the copy for printing and I was to solicit content wherever I could, and even write it if necessary.

Next question: how to finance the enterprise? At this point, we realised that we could possibly manage an issue every two months. We wanted to be able to deliver to every household in the village for free – no subscriptions and nobody to be left out, so the chief cost would be printing. It was the Festival Committee who financed our first issue. From then we sought donations from both individuals and organisations such as the Parish Council and the Village Fund; both responded generously. The individual donations were particularly heartwarming; one villager bank rolled us for a whole year but every donation was precious. Some heroes have even continued to contribute a cheque each year. Soliciting funds has continued to be the practice ever since, while delivery has always been done by a brilliant band of volunteers.

Until October 2004 (issue No 3), the *Church Messenger – Notices and News* remained separate, but from then, after a lot of discussion, it has been incorporated into *Birdsong* on distinctive pastel coloured paper. It was initially edited by Daphne Chippendale, then from October 2010 by Aileen Withington and, more recently, by Rachel Glanville. This section has always been in the remit of the PCC but it has been a very co-operative association which has worked well.

Barbara hung up her computer after the August 2008 issue (No 27) when Chris took over the production (thank you Microsoft Publisher) but I continued as editor.

Over the years there have been many notable articles published; many more than we can list here. To give some idea of the breadth of subject matter, here are a few examples:

Wilf Chippendale's account of his rescue in the snow

Bill Cowley's reminiscences of life in the village in the 50s

Doreen John's life in the Land Army

100 years of shops in Birdingbury

A special edition marking 50 years since the closure of Birdingbury railway station

Gaynor Davy describing her time in Cyprus

Brilliant accounts of the Willoughby Challenge Football Competition.

Over the years there have been many regular contributors, with reports on village activities upon which the editors have relied to fulfill the original aim. A professional production has always been important, and credit must go to Leslie Turner for his meticulous proof reading throughout.

After edition No 75, in October 2016, Lesley Fleming took over the editor's chair and continues with a very professional approach, as well as managing to find many new contributors to enliven the output.

The first issue was just eight pages and over the years this has grown to twenty, sometimes even twenty-four, but one feature has remained constant: the three birds singing at the top of page one, a symbol devised by Barbara for the very first edition. How we would have loved her to be with us to celebrate this 100th issue.



Rhondda Barney, Birdsong Founder and Editor Emeritus

Teams4u

Hello Birdingbury 'RAPPERS'!



Very many thanks for all your gifts for the Shoe Box appeal this year. I have received so many lovely things from hand knitted scarves, hats and gloves through to small toys, small teddy bears, toothpaste and brushes, hair slides and clips, drawing and writing paper, pens, pencils, also broken jewellery (which can be remade into bracelets, necklaces etc), soaps and shampoos, hair combs and brushes.

We are now wrapping shoe boxes ready for filling with Christmas Goodies for this year.

If you are interested, I can happily supply you with Christmas paper and reels of sticky tape and..... oh! of course, an empty shoe box or two as well.

Please contact me on 632582 or deliver anything to me at Lyndhurst, Marton Road.

Thank you again.

Daphne Chippendale

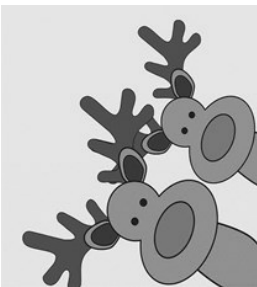


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Grand Church Christmas Raffle

Due to Covid19 restrictions, it was not possible to have our usual Summer Fair Raffle, so we are planning an even bigger and better one for Christmas!

Despite many kind donations, our income this year has declined. With this in mind, we are setting ourselves an ambitious raffle target of £750.



As usual we will concentrate on offering a maximum of about 12 really good prizes.

If you feel you could possibly donate a special prize, we would love to hear from you. Please call on me on 632644 or email dick@special-time.co.uk

We will circulate details and tickets to everyone in early November, with the draw taking place on the weekend of December 12/13, when we also hope to hold a carefully managed Christmas Fair.

Dick Withington

IRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Spooky Fun Anyone?

Okay, so 2020 has already provided a few significant tricks and fewer treats (unless you count the increased consumption of chocolate and wine..... or was that just me?).



The local witches have been considering options for some Covid-compatible scary shenanigans. We don't feel trick or treating around houses is right for this year, and hope you agree. There won't be the normal Halloween games at the club either. Sorry, you'll need to do your own doughnuts on strings this year and use your own loo roll to wrap an unsuspecting family member (send us the photos!).



But we can't leave Birdingbury bereft of Halloween horrors...so who's up for a **TERRIFYING TREASURE TRAIL** around the village? You'll solve some creepy clues to come up with a spine-tingling solution, and then head to the Club, so we can admire your devilish disguises and you will be rewarded with some tantalising treats.

The treasure trail will be for family groups to do together, rather than any bigger groups, and it will all be contactless (but still ghoulish and ghastly!). We're planning to do this on All Hallows' Eve, Saturday 31 October - timing tbc.



A COUPLE OF REVOLTING REQUESTS... Firstly, we're asking you to donate your usual treats in advance to a central cauldron which will be used to create individual treat bundles for each child. Please bring contributions to 1 The Old Orchard by Sunday 25 October to allow for quarantine.



Secondly, we hope people will still feel inclined to decorate their houses and display their pumpkins as usual for the treasure hunters to enjoy. We will also be asking you to let us know beforehand if you're joining in so we can plan ahead and distribute treats evenly.

For further information and to secure your seat on the broomstick, please contact me at lesleythomlinson@gmail.com. In the meantime, stay safe and stay scary...

Lesley Thomlinson & Karen Thomas (aka Tabitha & Zelda, The Wicked Witches of Back Lane)

Thanks from the Club

A quick note of thanks to everyone who has supported the Club in the last couple of months. It's not been easy, and we know it's different to how it was, but thanks for bearing with us and abiding by the (seemingly ever-changing) government rules.

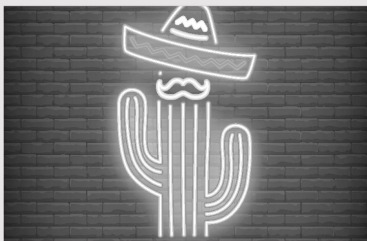
I'm absolutely certain that these will keep on changing and we'll have to continue adapting, especially as the nights draw in, but we remain very grateful for all your continued custom and understanding!



Don't miss out on future opportunities to socially distance socialise - keep an eye on the Club and village Facebook pages to keep up to date with developments as they happen!

Tony Flint, President

Special Treats to Come



Mexican Street Food Bar

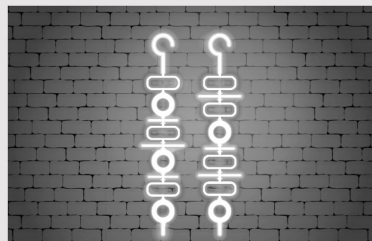
Friday 16 October 2020

5pm – 8.30pm

Birdingbury Club

Main Street

Birdingbury CV23 8EL



Espetada Bar

Friday 13 November 2020

5pm – 8.30pm

Birdingbury Club

Main Street

Birdingbury CV23 8EL

See the Village Calendar on the back page for more events!

Somewhere

Somewhere.
In some
Foreign city,
Across some
Foreign bridge,
The dawn
Is flowing
Like a river.

And a girl
Is walking
Beneath
An empty sky,
With broken stars
Still clinging
To her hair
And homeless
Shadows,
Deeply sleeping
At her
Glowing heels,
Somewhere.

Pilgrim



Birdingbury Calendar

Pop-up events are being organised on a week by week basis, so do keep checking the Facebook pages for Birdingbury Village and Birdingbury Club. The village website and community notice board in the bus shelter will continue to capture community messages and information.

Mobile library services remain suspended.

Date	Event	Time	Location
Friday 2 October	Gourmet Burgers	from 17.00	Club
Saturday 3 October	Quiz Night	20.30	Club and Zoom
Friday 16 October	Mexican Street Bar	from 17.00	Club
Friday 23 October	Broadband registration deadline	midnight	c/o Guy French
Saturday and Sunday 24 and 25 October	Art Exhibition	12.00 to 16.00	Broadway, Leam- ington Hastings Road
Saturday 31 October	Halloween	tbc	Village and Club
Friday 13 November	Espetada Bar	from 17.00	Club
Friday 27 November	Pizza Oven	from 17.00	Club



Birdsong Editor:

Lesley Fleming

Moonrakers, Back Lane Tel 632508

Email: birdsong1@btinternet.com

Church News Editor :

Karen Armbrister (pro tem)

Davenport Cottage, Back Lane Tel 632030

Email: karen.armbrister@btinternet.com

Copy date for next issue – 18th November 2020