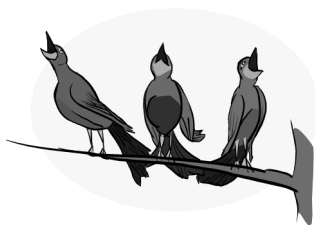


BIRDSONG

**February
and
March 2022**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS
NO 108**



Spring Surprises

Photo of Bambi by Julie Neal

Birdingbury Parish Council Report

The first Birdsong of a new year and I am very happy to welcome our new Parish Councillor, Simon Kent. Simon and family live in Wren Court, and he supported us with advice last year when we kicked off looking into enhanced broadband. Thanks for raising your hand, Simon!

The PC didn't meet in December, so January's meeting involved a deal of catching up on the previous two months. That said, with Omicron still with us and Plan B in force, it was a masked meeting (I think I recognised everybody anyway ...) and we tried to keep updates as brief as possible.

On the planning front, we discussed the application covering the details of the four new houses on the land next to Master's Court (the outline permission confirming the development was granted back in 2019). We didn't have any concerns about the new details but reiterated those we expressed three years ago about vehicle access and safety so close to the Stockton Road junction.

Rugby Planning have also confirmed that they expect to reach a decision in January on the lawful use application relating to the business park units, so hopefully we will be discussing this at our February meeting.

The Highways Department have confirmed that the list of potholes that we gave them last year is now being addressed – mainly on Bourton Lane, Long Itchington Road and the southern end of Stockton Road. We will keep an eye on how these are carried out as there is a big difference between a proper mend and a half-barrow of tarmac squashed into a hole. We're asking for a site meeting with our Highways contact or for him to attend a PC meeting. This is, at least, some progress.

We also discussed the Queen's Green Canopy and the Jubilee celebrations. We are ordering two trees for Main Street to replace dead'uns, and hope to be able to do some broader planting on open access land once agreed with land owners.

Regarding the Jubilee week itself, June will be here before we know it, so the PC is keen to work with other local groups to ensure that Birdingbury is able to add more Jubilee memories to those of years gone by. Please do let me know if you have any thoughts about what the village could do (guyfrenchpc@gmail.com).

And an earlier date for your diary: we will hold the annual village **Litter Pick on Saturday 26th March, starting at 10:30**. We'll have a litter-free village ready for Mothering Sunday that weekend! Bin bags, bright orange bibs and sanitised sticks will be provided, so please bring your own gloves and eagle eyes.

Finally, money ... the January meeting is when Parish Councils set their budget for the next financial year and we have agreed, again, to keep the precept (our tiny share of local taxation) unchanged. We have some projects planned for this year, like the gate into the Recreation Field and refurbishment of the bus stop and phone box.

However, we are also aware of the rising cost of living so we feel we can keep our purse strings tight enough to avoid an increase in our income.

Soon be Spring ...

Guy French, Chair Birdingbury Parish Council

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Leam Valley First Responders

Leam Valley Community First Responders form part of a coordinated approach to saving lives. We (Siobhan, Sue and Matt) are volunteers who live within the Leam Valley Area. We work in partnership with the West Midlands Ambulance Service responding to 999 calls.

We do not respond in place of an ambulance but bridge the gap between the 999 call and the arrival of the paramedic or ambulance. However, as a first responder we will attend a wide range of trauma or medical related emergencies including cardiac arrests, heart attacks, strokes, unconsciousness, choking, epilepsy, diabetes related incidents, and road traffic accidents.

We are non-profit organisation and fund-raise in our own right for any uniform, equipment, insurance etc which is required as a CFR supporting our local areas.

Equipping a CFR costs around £1,000. We do this by public donations, holding talks and demonstration, first aid at events, and selling items at craft fairs/fetes.



Since it would be beneficial for the communities within the Leam Valley Area, we are currently raising funds/sponsorship for a scheme vehicle.

If you would like to book a talk or demonstration or our attendance as First Aiders at an event, or even if you would like to donate, please get in touch with me via email at susan.waddington2@btinternet.com.

All enquiries and donations will be very much welcomed and appreciated.

You can also keep up to date with our latest news on Instagram (leamvalleycfr) and Facebook (leam valley community first responders).

Sue Waddington - Leam Valley Community First Responders

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Arrival of Phil and Coiffers to Fill

Our new Priest-in-Charge

We are delighted that, after another long vacancy, our new Priest-in-Charge, Reverend Phil Price, has been installed and has commenced his new ministry.

Rev Phil says, 'My wife, Esther, and daughters, Magdalena and Millie, and I are really excited to be joining the church families here in Draycote and Leam Valley benefices. We've been so touched by the warm welcome that we have received and are really looking forward to ministering alongside you all'.



Rev Phil joins us following the completion of his three-year curacy at St Catherine's in Tilehurst, Reading. He was ordained in Oxford Cathedral in June 2018, after three years study at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. He and the family are now living in our vicarage in Thurlaston.

As you may know, we have commenced work to bring together the eight churches of both the Draycote and Leam Valley benefices. This will be a challenging job, but we look forward to working collaboratively and cooperatively with each other, under the leadership of Rev Phil.

He will be taking some time to get to know us all, and the places he will be serving. We are delighted we shall be welcoming him to lead his first service at St Leonard's on Sunday 13 February at 10.30am. Do come and join us, even just to say hello and have a coffee after the worship.

Church Finances

We know that our ministry is important both to members of the church and the wider village community, as is the maintenance and upkeep of our very special building and churchyard.

We are also very aware of the calls on everyone's generosity in these difficult times and are grateful to those who support us financially; especially those who have helped during the last two years when fund raising and giving through services has been reduced because of the Covid restrictions that were in place.

Last week, the PCC met to discuss our financial position. This was following a difficult year which saw almost all our reserves utilised to pay for the re-building of part of the boundary wall with The Old Rectory which had collapsed, together with associated tree removal and hedge works.

Whilst for the coming year we just about remain solvent, our forward planning and budgeting shows that if the church is to remain viable, we must work hard to increase our income to keep pace with our increasing costs.

Therefore, if you do not already do so, the PCC asks you to consider making a regular monthly or annual gift towards our ministry and maintenance if you can. Also, if you are generous enough to already give, we ask you to consider reviewing what you give if you are in a position to be able to do so. If you'd like to make a regular gift, then please contact our new Treasurer, Andrew Armbrister on 07771 755794 or email at andrew.armbrister@btinternet.com

To strengthen our financial position, we are planning more active fund raising this year and hope we shall be able to hold one or two events in church, as well as supporting the Club, Birbury and wider village with other community events. If you have any ideas, we would be really pleased to hear from you.

The PCC remains focused on ensuring St Leonard's remains our church in our community; open, active, and viable, for years to come but we can only do so with the help and support of our village community.

Thank you for your engagement.

The PCC of St Leonard's

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Hello to New Villagers Too!



A big Birdingbury welcome to Sonny Wheatley and Caitlin Thomas who have moved into the Old Post Office on Marton Road, and to Claire and Nathan at Master's Court. We wish you all a happy time in the village and look forward to getting to know you.

Dick Withington

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury knows

No matter what gifts you've got

Someone can use them

Thin Jethro Laskey



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Memories of Rosalind G. Murray

Many readers of Birdsong will remember Ros. Sadly, she passed away on 1st December, aged 93, at the residential home near Stourbridge where she had been living.

Ros moved to Birdingbury in 1987 with her husband, Brian. Their house, 'The Dolau' (Welsh for 'meadows' and which she took pride in announcing brightly 'The Dolly' when answering her phone), had previously been occupied by Doreen and Alec Johns.

She owned a succession of cats, which she loved dearly, and which she named after famous classical musicians, being an opera fan herself. She had always wanted to play the piano, so when I arrived here in '91 she jumped at the chance to take lessons with me. After much hard work she was delighted to reach Grade IV standard, and proudly displayed the certificate in her living room. For over 40 years she sang in the Warwick and Kenilworth Choral Society, clocking up a great many performances of Handel's 'Messiah' over all those Christmases.



Ros was devastated when Brian died suddenly, after only 16 years of marriage. There would be no more trips with him to their favourite Port Mulgrave in North Yorkshire. But she loved her holidays to Wales with her older sister's children and grandchildren, where there were often up to twenty of them sharing a house. Ros always seemed to be knitting for new additions to 'her' family!

As a child she formed a special bond with Licy, their Spanish au pair. She kept in touch with her into old age, as she had done with her school-friend, Margaret, who used to visit Ros every other year from her new home in Canada.

Soon after the end of the war Ros once travelled alone to southern Africa and returned on various trading ships. She worked for a time in Switzerland as a school secretary, and, until she started caring full-time for her mother, was employed by Warwick and Leamington Conservative office. She possessed a beautiful speaking voice which she used in reading for the blind.

Having taken to her bed a few years ago, it was a big occasion when she got up to take part in her 90th birthday tea-party hosted by a few of her village friends. She will be remembered with fondness.

Janet Kent

Air Ambulance Acknowledgement

Following the collection and cake sale in memory of Bill Cowley, I received the following card from the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance:

Dear Karen.

Firstly, my sincere apologies that you have not received a thank you for your very kind donation of £275 in memory of William 'Bill' Cowley.

The 'Bake for Bill' sounds like a lovely event and we thank you for thinking of us, it does mean a lot. Again, I'm so sorry you have not received a thank you.

I am enclosing one of our sycamore seed pin badges, our 'in memory' symbol. Children refer to them as helicopters, so apt for the Charity. I do hope you wear it with pride to keep Bill's memory flying. Thanks again, your donation will touch the hearts of many.



Kind regards,

Irene Wayner, Legacies and In Memory Administration Executive

Karen Thomas

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Thank You



I would like to thank the kind person who included a generous donation to Birdsong in my Christmas card. Unfortunately, the card wasn't signed so I can't thank you directly. None-the-less, your contribution is much appreciated, as were your kind words about how much you enjoy reading the magazine.

Individual donations like this are so important to help keep Birdsong going. If you too would like to support Birdsong, anonymously or not, donations (cash or cheque) may be popped through my door (Moonrakers, Back Lane) or paid direct to: Birdsong News, Santander Bank, sort code 09-01-55, account number 24215189.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported the magazine in the last year.

Lesley Fleming, Editor

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury Village Club Update

The Club AGM took place on 13 January, and I thought it would be useful to give a brief update here in Birdsong.

You might recall me mentioning previously that the Club measures its 'bottom line' in two places: one being its financial results; and the other its social value, and they were very much the themes of the AGM. The headlines were:

- Government support and decent reopening sales (especially in the summer) means we're in good financial health and have a small reserve still in place. Not a bad thing to have as we expect the cost increases that we're currently seeing to continue for some time.
- Socially, the various roles the Club played to keep people connected during the pandemic was commented on and praised, and observation made that it was quite an interesting exercise, given the view that a wider community remit for the Club is desirable.
- Thanks were given to Leigh and Graham Sidaway, and to Chris Morton who have stepped down from the committee. No such luck for me (Chair/President), Richard Cutts (Secretary), John Starley (Treasurer), Rob Walker or Chris Whatcott who were all elected for the coming year.

Additionally, I also let the meeting know that having thought about this a great deal and having filled this role for over 10 years, it's my intention not to seek re-election at the 2023 AGM. This will allow time to resolve a couple of ongoing matters and will also allow a smooth and gradual transition to take place.

And on that note, as you know, the Club relies heavily on its volunteer committee and indeed on people who just want to help out by arranging events, etc. It's a good thing too, as it always makes the Club much greater than the sum of its parts. So, if you'd be willing to get involved, in whatever way you can, then please do let me know and we'll have a chat.

Looking at the year ahead, I'd say we have a great opportunity to both continue the good work we've already begun and also to finally move forward. I do fully appreciate the complexities of this, and that the Club's and village's intertwined history is very important. I also feel that we do have to be willing to let go of the past in order to fully embrace the future.

Tony Flint, Chair Birdingbury Club

Postscript from the Treasurer



With huge thanks to all who contributed, the Club is passing on an additional £400, via the Church, in aid of the Shoebox fund in memory of Daphne Chippendale.

Just over £250 was raised by the Christmas Draw in the Club, with the balance coming from the 'Buy one for Daphne' appeal – so her red wine fund has been well stocked!

John Starley



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Cancer Appeal



We would like to thank everyone from Birdingbury for their support for the fundraising lunch held at Marton Village Hall in October. The event was well attended, and all enjoyed the tasty soups, cakes, and other goodies on offer.

As a result of everyone's hearty appetites and generosity, we were able to raise £2,420 which will be split equally between breast and prostate cancer research charities.



Mary Harrison and Val Self

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Carol Singing



On the evening of 23 December, The Birdingbury Five sang outside fourteen village homes and in doing so raised £114 for the work of Hope 4 in Rugby.

I was fortunate enough to be supported by Jasmine, Sebastian and Marcus Coles, and Liz Ellis.

Dick Withington

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Get Well Soon

Best wishes to Di and Leslie Turner who were recently involved in a serious car accident. We all hope to see you both back home soon and on the way to recovery.

Update from The Birbury

Secretary required from April 2022

Jackie Westcott will be standing down from her position as Secretary to the Birbury Committee at the AGM in April 2022.

Jackie has served in this role since the inception of The Birbury in 1985 and has made an incredible, selfless contribution to the life and fabric of our village. She will be missed greatly, and we will give her a fitting farewell in April.

To ensure a smooth handover, we are now looking for a new Secretary to take over the role from April 2022. If you are interested or would like more information, please do contact me on 632041.

For those who are new to the village, here is a little more information about The Birbury, our community meeting room. Built in 1986/7 and officially opened on 2 May 1987, it is separate from, but attached to the Club. It was funded by contributions from many people in the village and beyond, and the building work was carried out by local labour, much of it voluntarily.

The Birbury is run as a charitable trust by a Management Committee made up of three people elected at the Annual General Meeting, plus representatives from user-groups such as the Church, the Club, the Parish Council, Ladies' Circle and Swap-Shop.

The cost to hire The Birbury is £5 per session (morning, afternoon or evening) or £10 for the whole day. This income doesn't cover its running costs but is supplemented by fund-raising events organised by the Committee. The Birbury Committee also organise non-profit making community events throughout the year.

The Village Distribution Fund

The Birbury Committee also maintain The Village Distribution Fund. The Fund was set up to 'enhance and sustain the community life of Birdingbury and its inhabitants'. It makes grants to groups of people to fund specific assets or one-off activities that support the Fund's goals, up to a maximum of £1,000 per application.

The Fund is also a regular contributor towards the printing costs of Birdsong, which helps ensure it continues to be delivered free to every household.

The Fund was fed by a share of profits from Birdingbury Country Festival and donations from The Country Show.

Anyone interested in knowing more about the Distribution Fund, or thinking of putting in a request for funding, should get in touch with the Treasurer, Alice Munro on 633007.

Gaynor Davy, Chair Birbury Management Committee

Swap Shop

Dear friends, we are not meeting on a Saturday morning in the Birbury at the moment because of health concerns re you-know-what!

As soon as we feel that it is safe to do so we will resume our friendly get-togethers. We'll let you all know when this will be happening.

Di Turner and Jenny Hawes

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury Allotment Association



A plot has become available at our site. It is approximately 300 square yards, but it would be a nice starter plot as it has a number of raised beds. Now is a good time to start and get ready for spring planting and sowing and, of course, an autumn harvest!

The rent is £10 per year. For further information and to arrange a visit please call me on 01926 632666.

Vic Shayler

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The Story of Cover Girl Bambi

People may look at this edition's cover shot and think that Bambi is a strange name for a lamb, so I thought I should explain how it came about!

My husband Dave was helping a local farmer with lambing when Bambi was born. It was immediately obvious that there was a problem, and the advice was to let nature take its course. Dave, however, was reluctant to leave the little one to her fate and brought her home for me to care for. We'd just moved to the countryside, and I had little idea what to do with her. Her back legs were paralysed and she struggled to get up properly: all the world like a new born fawn. I put her in a crate, propping her up and supporting her as she gradually learned to stand up. Geraldine helped with the bottle feeding and bit by bit she started to walk and eventually became stronger and more confident.

Bambi stayed a bit of a loner: she was never happy with the other, more boisterous lambs, preferring our company. We grew very fond of her and she gave us much pleasure and amusement as one of our special pets.

Sadly, Bambi contracted pneumonia when the harsh weather of winter came, and we lost her. However, she still holds a special place in our affections: even now I have this photo framed and hanging on the wall at home!

Julie Neal

A Leap of Faith

After 30 years in the corporate world, including 20 years working on the railway, well to be honest a nice warm office most of the time, an opportunity to completely change direction has come about: I have taken a leap of faith and set up my own mobile catering business, 'Village Kitchen'.

I have always loved to cook and entertain, and during the past 5 years some of you will have experienced my Indian food and paella specialities. Watching how the village has enjoyed Friday night food at the Club, I thought this is something I would love to do and really wanted to give it a go. We are spoilt living where we do, and I want to make the most of what we have and try to source the best local ingredients from our wonderful local farming community and local small holdings.

After research and talking to friends about what is important, we came to the same conclusion: good affordable food, locally sourced, cooked and served by people passionate about getting it right.

We went about getting a name and asked around for ideas that we could consider. Names such as 'Youngry' provided a great source of entertainment but we finally agreed on 'Village Kitchen'.

The logo for Village Kitchen features the word 'Village' in a large, elegant, black cursive script. To the right of 'Village', the word 'KITCHEN' is written in a smaller, black, uppercase sans-serif font.

The last few months have been spent setting up the business and recently we have managed to complete a dry run, receiving some great feedback that has proved invaluable, and so we are ready to go.

We will be providing menus from curry to other more traditional English dishes, including bangers and mash, hotpots and beef stew with cheesy dumplings, and when the warm summer months are finally upon us again, I am hoping to provide freshly cooked Paella.

We look forward to serving as many of you as possible; our opening night is Friday 11 February - curry night. Food will be available from 5.30pm, at Birdingbury Club, with the option to eat in or take away.

Darren Young

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

BIRDINGBURY
SPRING
FAIR

Saturday 19th March

Club and Birbury

-

Cake Stall

Tombola

Craft Stalls

Handmade Goods

Tea & Coffee

-

FREE ADMISSION

All Welcome

Raising money for the Birbury & Church
Funds



Napton Art Group Easter Art Exhibition

After missing a year due to the pandemic, Napton Art Group is back this year with their even bigger and better Easter Exhibition of members' work. The event will be held at Napton Village Hall on 16 and 17 April between 10am and 5pm each day.

There will be about 200 paintings on show, created in all mediums including oils, water-colours, acrylics, and pastels. Greetings cards featuring some of the works will also be available.



Admission is £1 with free entry for children and there will be light refreshments in the pop-up cafe. Everybody who comes can vote for The Best in Show.

The Art Group has a growing membership that now stands at over 60. We meet every Thursday afternoon at Napton Village Hall and have a wide-ranging and interesting programme featuring demonstrations and weekend workshops.

Howard Collerson

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

All Out Bowling

Leamington Hastings Bowls Club will continue indoors with our new time of 2pm-4pm (following Covid guidelines) since the general opinion is that the new time is working well for the members. From April, outdoor bowling starts up again in the evenings from 6pm.

We would like to welcome two new members, Jan and Elizabeth, it is lovely to have you with us.



If you would like to come along and have a go (no obligation), please come to the Leamington Hastings Village Hall on any Wednesday at the appropriate time.

It's fun, good exercise, and good company with tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat at half time! You don't need any equipment, or experience. Please wear loose clothing and flat shoes.

If you would like further information, please call me on 01788 336913.

Sue Turner

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG



Oh To Live Only

Oh! To just wander,
To walk free and wild,
To feel like a hero
And see like a child.

To speak with the heart
And taste, one last time,
The night in a forest
And kisses that rhyme.

Oh! To live only
Where thoughtfulness thrives
And kindness is holy
In everyone's eyes.

So to find wisdom
In starlight's bright chime,
From the birth of creation
To the end of all time.

Pilgrim, for Daphne

Birdingbury Calendar

Pop-up events are being organised on a week by week basis, so do check the WhatsApp groups and Facebook pages for Birdingbury Village and Birdingbury Club. The village website and notice board will continue to capture community information.

Feeding Times

A range of tasty street food will be available from the Club carpark as follows, from 17.00 to 20.30 unless otherwise stated.

Please note, we have the return of regular fish and chips!

Date	Menu
Saturday 5 February	Pizzas
Friday 11 February	Curry Night
Thursday 17 February	Fish & Chip Van, from 16.30
Friday 25 February	Traditional English Dishes
Friday 4 March	Curry Night
Friday 11 March	To be confirmed
Thursday 17 March	Fish & Chip Van, from 16.30
Friday 25 March	Traditional English Dishes

Mobile Library Dates

The mobile library will be visiting Birdingbury Club from 13.10 to 14.00 on:

28 January, 18 February, 11 March, 1 April.

On offer are a fine selection of books, including large print; spoken word; and books for young children.



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