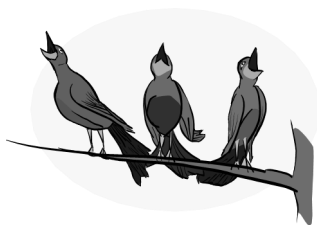


BIRDSONG

**August
and
September 2022**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS
NO 111**



A Right Royal Time

Photo by Alice Munro

Birdingbury Parish Council Report

Well, the Summer has certainly arrived! My son's weather station in our back garden recorded 39°C at 2:22pm on Tuesday 19 July, a figure that would have been a UK all-time record only 2 days before but was merely an outlier as other places rose into the 40s. I hope that your gardens survived better than my spuds in pots ... they were cooked before they were harvested!

I wrote about the Annual Village Meeting in the last Birdsong, and the decision to proceed with the surrender of the Birbury lease subject to various conditions being met. Work has started to firm up how the Club will take their side of this proposal forward. As leaseholders of the Birbury, the Parish Council has begun the process to obtain legal advice about the surrender. Inevitably this will all take time, but we're committed to keep the village updated as discussions progress.

As I've mentioned previously, the Parish Council maintains a list of various issues with roads around and within the village, and shares this regularly with the Highways team at Warwickshire County Council. Unfortunately, and maybe unsurprisingly in the current economic situation, we have been advised that there is very little budget left to undertake anything other than the most urgent repairs. We'll monitor the list of issues and raise them if they deteriorate. And we are still waiting to hear when the re-scheduled Leam bridge repairs and closure will take place.

As many of you will be aware, the long-awaited fibre broadband proposal suddenly came to life and I'd like to thank everyone who has registered their property. The infrastructure is funded by residents and businesses registering for services which unlocks vouchers to pay for the work. Whilst I know that some people haven't had issues with their broadband recently, registering for fibre will help the whole village upgrade their service and it will also future proof our services as tech and data demands grow in coming years. Thanks to Simon Kent and Sara Kendell for their co-ordinating efforts.

All is quiet on the planning front with no applications in recent months. This has allowed us some breathing space to review a range of Council policies, something that will run through to the end of the year. We will also be looking at the Parish Emergency Plan and aiming to reflect some of the lessons from the pandemic.

At the end of July, we have a Zoom call with Sustrans who manage the footpath on the old railway line. We have asked for an update on the proposed extension of the path towards Offchurch and what will happen to the land around the old bridge – I'll share anything of interest by the usual means and in the next Birdsong.

As we approach the holidays, I'd like to wish you a restful summer, whatever you have planned.

Guy French, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

Leamington Hastings Academy Update

We have had a busy summer term at Leamington Hastings Academy.

Amongst the highlights of the term was holding the first Rose Queen Day since July 2019 with all children performing in their maypole dancing; two trips out of school to continue curriculum learning; KS1 taking part in a football tournament; and a rock band concert in school!



We are now planning our curriculum and experiences for September, when we look forward to welcoming our new families into the school. We are now taking bookings for nursery 2022/23 and families are starting to look around the school for reception in September 2023. Please contact the school office (01926 632359) if you are interested in your child joining our friendly, caring school.



Find out more at <https://www.leamingtonhastings.covmat.org/> or via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/LeamingtonHastingsCofEAcademyRugby/>

Suzanne Marson, Head of School, Leamington Hastings Church of England Academy

Platinum Parties

A host of events took place in Birdingbury to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Here are some of the highlights.

All set for the Jubilee Tea.....



.....and tucking in with gusto!



Gateway to celebrate.....



.....St Leonard's in bloom.



Jubilee stories on display.....



.....as Janet's toadstool is crowned!



The three-legged race kicks off.....



.....and the sack race comes to grief!



The professionals are on it!



Egg and spoon anyone?



Ready for anything, but.....



.....yes, another penalty!



Thank You, Super Troopers

As a follow up to the Jubilee weekend, could we say a massive thank you to those Birdingbury Bakers who once again pulled out the stops and provided cakes at the Club whilst we watched the Trooping of the Colour.

A big thank you to the Club Committee for funding the Bacon Batches too! Proceeds were split between Church Funds and Birdsong.

Karen Thomas

Thank you from Birdsong too,
and for the contribution from
Ian and Lynne's Quiz Night!

Lesley Fleming, Editor



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Food for Thought Weekend

A big thank you to everyone who played a part in helping organise the event in church on 25 and 26 June. Also thank you to all the 45 visitors who came through the door.

I think everyone shared a belief that the ideas explored about growing and eating local food are increasingly important. Maybe the harder bit is 'What to do?'.

So, here are a few thoughts:

- It would be good to explore ways to encourage residents to grow more of their own fruit and vegetables. How can we do this?
- How could the allotments better meet this need?
- How can more youngsters experience the pleasure of growing produce and eating it?



I feel the weekend must not be an end itself, but an idea that needs to grow.

Please get in touch if you have any thoughts you want to share.

Dick Withington

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Goin' Giggin'

Once again, we had Saturday night music at the Club on 28 May. It seems so long ago now but we just missed the June/July Birdsong deadline.



Thank you to Jo, Darren, David and Angela for doing the organising, lights, tables etc this time, thereby saving me a bit of energy for the night. We ran through a set of over twenty songs, and were joined on many by Sharon (saxophone / flute) and Simon (bass), both from Leamington Hastings. It was very interesting to have different mixes of players on the songs. The Club was full, and we hope the audience enjoyed listening to the music as much as we enjoyed playing it.

The depth of musical talent in our small village (and nearby Leamington Hastings) is remarkable. I also had a ball playing Blues and Rock with Rob Walker and Andy Duffield in April at the Keith Marshall memorial tractor run, and this was such fun too.

Until the next time!

Steve Edgar

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Holy Rolls

Thanks and congratulations to all involved in preparing, selling, and consuming Holy Rolls at the Club. As a result of everyone's efforts, the Committee has been able to send £500 to the Parochial Church Council to contribute to the upkeep and work of St Leonard's Church.

Thanks in particular go to Karen Thomas, who has been chef-in-charge, and the Club for supporting the enterprise.

Keep munching!

John Starley, Club Treasurer



Birdingbury Wrappers!

The logo for Teams4U, featuring the letters 'T4U' in a stylized, bold, sans-serif font. The '4' is a simple outline. The logo is centered between two thick horizontal black bars.

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to the Teams4U Shoebox Appeal, either by wrapping shoeboxes or donating small presents to go inside the boxes. We shall soon be taking these to the Stretton Group ready for the shoeboxes to be filled.

The Appeal continues: it needs empty shoe boxes and volunteers to wrap them in jolly festive paper, and donations of small presents to fill the boxes. Suggested items include:

- toy cars and lorries, small toys and games, small jigsaws, playing cards, dominoes, small dolls and teddy bears
- hairbrushes, combs, hairclips, scrunchies, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, wash sponges, flannels
- small pieces of jewellery (including broken items that can be mended)
- note paper and drawing paper, pens, pencils, coloured pencils and crayons, pencil cases
- sweets (not chocolate) in date for 2023
- scarves, mittens, hats and unworn packs of socks and underwear
- anything suitable for children up to age 18 and small enough to fit in a shoe-box.



Please let us know if you can help by donating or wrapping boxes (empty boxes and wrapping paper will be supplied). Jackie is currently storing the empty boxes and donations and Val is providing the transport.

Thank you for all your help - it really is appreciated by all involved, especially by the children receiving the boxes.

Val Preston, Linden, Main Street. 01926 633473

Jackie Westcott, Loen, Main Street. 01926 632494

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Amazing Sunflowers

We're really excited to welcome the local Birdingbury community back to Bostock Sunflowers this summer! Following the success and enjoyment of last year, we're delighted to be opening our farm gates for a second Pick-Your-Own Sunflower season at Birdingbury Fields Farm.

This year we have an **AMAZE**ing new addition – our Maize Maze! We'll be challenging visitors to complete the maze and to tick-off some friendly gnomes along the way during a treasure hunt!

We will also be joined by Josephine, serving up hot farm-reared food: sausages and burgers, as well as tea, coffee, and tubs of homemade Ringwood ice cream too.



We are opening on Thursday 21 July for at least two weeks from 10.30am to 7pm all week. Please check our Facebook page (Bostock Sunflowers) in case of any changes to opening times due to the weather!

The sunflower field is free to enter, and sunflowers cost £1 per stem. Entry to the maize maze is £3.00 per person, pre-schoolers and under are free, and children under age 16 are £1.00.

Please remember to bring secateurs and to wear sensible footwear. If you bring a dog, it must be kept on a lead. They are not allowed in either maze.

We look forward to seeing you at Bostock Sunflowers, Birdingbury Fields Farm, Collingham Lane, CV23 8HL. Look out for the flagpole in the field!!

Jane Bostock

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury knows
we can see the furthest star
yet our world still writhes.

Thin Jethro Laskey

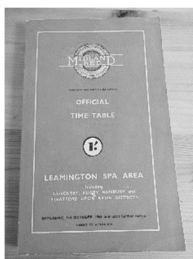


Commercial Vehicles of Yore

Following on from the recent articles highlighting model railways, I thought I would photograph some of my models which are of local interest. I'm sure many of our longer standing villagers will remember seeing some of these vehicles, or ones that were similar, in and around the area.

Midland Red Bus

This is a model of a Leyland Leopard K, therefore first registered between August 1971 and August 1972. It is typical of that period and was quite likely to have been seen in Birdingbury. In the Midland Red Leamington Spa Area timetable book for October 1964, Birdingbury was served by a total of 5 services.

[illegible]

ERF Flatbed Articulated Lorry

This is typical of a Rugby Cement orange lorry from the same era as the Midland Red Bus i.e., early 1970s. This one is carrying bags of cement. It could have been seen all over the country.



Nelson Cement Wagon

This was based on an actual rail wagon used by the Nelson cement works, as the old photo illustrates.



Rugby Cement Wagon

This too was based on an actual rail wagon, although I have no background information on this one.



Rugby Cement Presflow Wagon

This was designed in the 1950s for bulk transport of powdered product, particularly cement. The wagons were loaded by gravity and unloaded using compressed air. This vehicle would undoubtedly have come through Birdingbury from Southam Cement works on its way to Rugby for processing.



Does anyone have any related memories or old photographs? I'd be interested to hear from you!

Steve Edgar

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Mobile Library Dates

The Warwickshire Mobile Library will be visiting the Club forecourt from 13.30 to 14.00 on:



- 5 August 2022
- 26 August 2022
- 16 September 2022

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Bookworms' Bonanza

Southam Book Festival returns to the Graham Adams Centre in Southam on 16 October with lots of attractions for readers young and old: from browsers to avid bibliophiles and would-be authors.

Publishers will be there to show off their wares and authors will be talking about their books and the writing process.

You can pick up some surprising bargains at the well-stocked second-hand book stall and bring your treasured but tatty volumes to the resident book binder who will find a way to restore them for you.

Of course, there will be refreshments and when you buy your tea and cake, pause to look through some of the books at the browsing table or learn about how books are being used as medical prescriptions for both mental and physical conditions.

Results of the vote for Southam's best 'Book in a Window' will be announced in the afternoon and the winning entries to the 'Flash Fiction' 100-word writing competition will be revealed.

Doors open at 11am.

Karen Thomas

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG



Napton Art Group

The Annual General Meeting of Napton Art Group will take place at 2pm on Thursday 1 September at Napton Village Hall (CV47 8LS). This is the start of the membership year so those joining then will get a full year for the annual membership fee of £30.



The group meets weekly between 2 and 4 pm, from the beginning of September until mid-July. Well known professional artists give demonstrations monthly, using all common media - acrylics, oil, watercolour, pastel and mixed media.

About four times a year similar artists hold Saturday workshops from 10am to 4pm. In the summer months the group goes on visits or paints 'en plein air'. Each Easter the group holds its Annual Exhibition which is a showcase covering the whole range of work produced by our members.

Why not come along and meet our friendly group and see what we have to offer to new members at all levels of ability?

Howard Collarson

The return of the

PROGRESSIVE SUPPER

12th November 2022

It's been over 2 years since the 'by the seat of our pants' Zoom version of the Progressive Supper and (unbelievably) nearly 4 years since we actually visited each others' homes! Definitely time to restart this much loved Birdingbury tradition.

This year's organisers will be Alex Rigler and John Barr and we are both looking forward to the night being bigger and better than ever before.

For those that are new to the village, the Progressive Supper is a great opportunity to meet your neighbours and make new friends. You host one course, either starter, main course or dessert for two other couples and then continue to two different homes for the others. You will be given advance notice of which course you will be hosting, but you won't know until the night who you will be welcoming, or where you will be eating the other courses.

The night isn't about haute cuisine, easy and simple is the key as there are strict timings we need to keep to!

For more information and to confirm your place please
contact

alexrigler@aol.com / 07962 169199

or

johnabarr@btinternet.com / 07899 667607

£20 (main) / £25 (starter or dessert) per couple to join

Dates for Autumn Diaries

Saturday 24 September from 2pm

Church Fete

Birdingbury Club



Saturday 1 October from 7pm.

Harvest Supper

Birdingbury Club



Sunday 2 October at 11.00am.

Harvest Festival

St Leonards Church



Please see Church News and Views for further information

Saturday 23 October

Tigers v Wasps

Welford Road



John Starley will organise the trip: £30 per person for coach and ticket

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Pilgrim

You will see from the afterword to this edition's poem, that this will be the last offering from our resident poet, Pilgrim. In this guise, Roger Hawes has been writing for Birdsong since its inception, and his work has become a defining feature of our village magazine.

Always thought provoking and evocative, Roger has regularly shared his beautifully expressed compassion, hope and humour with us all.

I'm sure you will all join me in thanking him for his contributions. They will be missed by many.

Lesley Fleming, Editor

A Prayer For Small Gods

Bless every thought
That moved to freedom is.
Bless every star
That in its own refulgent light
Engenders life.
Bless every soul
That in its solitary
Craft of doubt
Issues forth on seas
In unnoticed wanderings.

Bless the seeking heart
And mind maintaining
That every lesser thing
Is right
And has the right
To be
Itself,
To enjoy its brief
Entirety.

Pilgrim

This is my last piece for Birdsong
It has been such a pleasure.
Many thanks to my editor and illustrator, Lesley.

Roger Hawes

Grub at the Club

From 17.00 to 20.30 unless otherwise stated.

The schedule can change at short notice.

Keep your eye on Village Chat WhatsApp group and Birdingbury Club Facebook page.

Date	Menu
Thursday 4 August	Fish & Chips with The Village Chippy
Saturday 6 August	Pizzas with Andy
Friday 12 August	TBC
Friday 19 August	Mexican with Village Kitchen
Friday 26 August	TBC
Thursday 1 September	Fish & Chips with The Village Chippy
Friday 9 September	Pizzas with Andy
Friday 16 September	Curry with Village Kitchen
Friday 23 September	TBC
Thursday 29 September	Fish & Chips with The Village Chippy



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