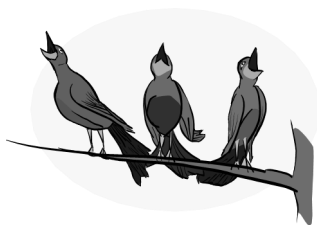


BIRDSONG

**June
and
July 2022**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS
NO 110**



The Last Post

Photo by Mike Coles

Birdingbury Parish Council Report

I am writing this having just chaired Birdingbury's first Annual Village Meeting for 3 years. Parishes should hold these meetings each year between 1st March and 1st June, but this requirement was suspended in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid. So, holding the meeting was another nudge towards normality 'post-Covid' and it was lovely to see about 30 villagers and to hear about the activities that have been going on in the Parish over the last few years.

There was a robust discussion about the resolution placed before the meeting: to agree the surrender of the Birbury lease to a new organisation that would take control of the whole site and the services provided to the village and the wider community. The Club Committee had proposed how such an arrangement could work and the Birbury Management Committee had proposed the resolution in order to gain the necessary village agreement. As was discussed in the room, there are still a lot of details to be agreed by the Club, the Birbury Management Committee and the Parish Council (which is the leaseholder). The vote was 29 in favour, with one abstention and no votes against, so the resolution was passed. The three groups will now get down to work and more will be shared along the way as the details are worked out.

As well as updates on Parish Council, Club and Birbury business, the meeting also heard from the representatives of village organisations and activities: Birdsong, Angling Club, St Leonard's Church, and the History Group to name just a few. It was a powerful reminder of the range of activities that go on in the village, but also the impact that Covid has had on many of them. Some flexed during Covid and have now pinged back to old ways, some flexed and have developed positively as a result, but there were a few examples of groups that have not been able to get going again. Maybe it is too soon to tell whether these changes are permanent, but it does seem that there has been a shift of sorts ... maybe at next year's AVM there will be some new groups giving their updates. Speaking of changes, there was a spontaneous round of applause for Jackie Westcott who has stood down from the Birbury Management Committee after 35 years! Thank you for everything over the years, Jackie.

Several of the groups mentioned the plans that are being finalised for the extended Jubilee weekend on 2-5 June. There are details later in Birdsong, but I would just like to thank everyone who has been involved to date in making these plans (and to those of you about to be roped-in to help at the last minute). There is a great set of events so hopefully something there will tempt you away from the pageantry on TV.

I hope that you've spotted the two very tall rowan trees that we have planted. They are both looking healthy, vertical and one even has some blossom which is encouraging. Thanks to the planting crew Will, Sara, Dick and Richard for their hard labour and advice (guess who did the labour and who provided the advice!).

I hope you enjoy the Jubilee celebrations – it feels like the gateway to Summer!

Guy French, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

Like Painting the Forth Bridge...

When you get to the end, you just have to start all over again. That's what litter-picking can feel like, especially in a village that is reasonably close to a particular fast-food outlet.

However, notwithstanding that, 26 March saw the return of the Annual Birdingbury Village Litter Pick. And, as is traditional, it was a beautiful, sunny, warm day. Numbers attending were a bit down on last year – which goes to show that lockdown can make even litter-picking seem an exciting morning out – but fortunately, so was the amount of litter. This, we think, was another impact of the end of lockdown as we have had fewer visitors through the village dropping it!



All in all it was a very successful morning and huge thanks to all those who turned out to help. We ended up with a respectable haul, which made it worthwhile. However, apologies to Mark and Karen at the Club, as Rugby let us down in failing to collect the spoils as arranged, despite chasing, and many thanks to those who stepped in, offering space in their own bins to solve the problem.

I am sure we will do it all over again next year!

Sara Kendell

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Parish Council Notice - Dog Mess

The Parish Council has received a complaint from the contractors who cut the verges about the amount of dog mess that they come across in the village. This is very unpleasant for the contractors when they are mowing and strimming.



It is obviously very embarrassing for us to receive this feedback and it could also have financial consequences if the contractor increases their prices as a result or gives notice on the contract (they have always given us a competitive price). The presence of dog mess on the verges is also clearly unpleasant for all of us who live here.

The Parish Council is considering purchasing additional dog waste bins, to add to the one by the bus stop – more of your money spent on this problem. But the crucial action is that you **clean up after your dog**. It is your responsibility.

Thanks

Guy French, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

Farewell to Aston

Many village residents gathered to say goodbye to Aston on his retirement from being our postie for the last 25 years or so. We understand he intends to put our collective gift towards fulfilling a long-held ambition to become a ski instructor. Here we record Matt Markham's valedictory:

Here in Birdingbury we have been so very blessed,
To have a postman who's simply the best.
Come rain or shine,
As reliable as father time,
But now it's time for a well-earned rest.

He flies around the village a speeding red flash.
Dogs wag their tails and never towards him gnash;
They know he brings treats,
Nice things to eat,
Watching him from gate to gate, post and dash.

Never stumped by a house name,
Or where houses look the same.
Never confused,
Where Amazon drivers are bemused.
Much knowledge his replacement will have to gain.

His weary legs have carried him, round the villages, thousands of miles;
Hundreds of times he's covered the distance of the British Isles.
Time now to rest his feet,
And with this gift himself to treat,
So he remembers this funny little place with happiness and smiles.



**Aston, we all send you congratulations, best wishes
and a big thank you!**

Update from The Birbury

At the AGM of the Birbury Management Committee on 5 April 2022, Jackie Westcott was thanked for serving as the Secretary for over 35 years. Jackie was at the forefront



of the conception, creation, and construction of the Birbury and has acted as the secretary since 1987. She was previously the Parish Clerk and was involved in the project in that role from 1985. Jackie's unstinting commitment and her support for the Village and the Birbury is unprecedented; her fundraising over the years runs into the

thousands! The words 'thank you' are not enough; she will be sorely missed for her stoic stewardship of everything 'Birbury'. We will miss her!

Sylvia Redhead was appointed as the new Secretary of the Birbury. Please call Sylvia for any booking and key collection information on 01926 633499 or 07552 239309.



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 £1000 per application (paid against invoices).

The Fund was fed by a share of profits from The Birdingbury Country Festival and donations from The Country Show. The current balance in the Village Distribution Fund is £4137.41. Recent grants have included the cost of the village Christmas tree and support for the pantomime trip organised by the Club.

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 01926 632057.

Alternatively, I can be contacted on 01926 632041

Gaynor Davy, Chair Birbury Management Committee

The Birdingbury Tractor Run for Keith

The Birdingbury Tractor Run in memory of my brother, Keith, took place on Saturday the 23rd of April with great success. We hope that we didn't disrupt the village too much with the number of tractors turning up!

We would like to thank all involved with helped to make the event a fantastic day: everyone involved in baking delicious cakes; Carl, Nicky, Darren and friends for the BBQ; the afternoon and evening entertainment from Steve and the Birdingbury Jammers; Mark, Karen and the staff at Birdingbury Club; and Andrew for being the Birdingbury Bank!



The tractors were organised by John Edgar and his colleagues, and the route took them around some lovely Warwickshire countryside and villages.

A very generous £1000 was raised for Haemochromatosis International and helped raise awareness about this illness.

So big thanks again to Birdingbury, our lovely village and villagers, for making it a day to remember.

John and Lizzie Marshall

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

A Word from Haemochromatosis International

We at Haemochromatosis International (HI) would just like to express our appreciation to Keith Marshall's family for their support and for thinking of us at a sad time for them, and also to the village of Birdingbury for supporting the 'Tractor Run', organised by Keith's brother John and family, on 23 April 2022.

Our Treasurer, Rob Evans, had hoped to attend but was out of the country, so I made the trip down from Ormskirk for the day, and what a day it was!

I had never seen a tractor run before, but it was an impressive and touching turnout and seeing Keith's tractor parked up in front of The Club was particularly poignant.

Everybody made me feel very welcome and it was really rewarding to talk to so many people who showed an interest in Genetic Haemochromatosis (GH), as spreading awareness is a vital part of what we need to do.

A word about us - Haemochromatosis International was established in 2013, registered as a charity in the UK and is run by a small group of dedicated volunteers. Our aims are:

- To improve awareness of haemochromatosis throughout the world
- The geographical expansion of the alliance
- To develop and disseminate internationally recognised guidelines for the treatment of haemochromatosis

Our volunteer board of trustees are a mixture of expert patients, clinicians and managers from national organisations.

Haemochromatosis International is also guided by a scientific advisory committee made up of eminent researchers and clinicians from around the world, many of them eminent professors in their fields, with representation from ten European and five non-European countries. This joint scientific committee aims to bring a global perspective to the problems and concerns of those affected by haemochromatosis.



A recent example of our work is a worldwide Patient Needs survey of 22 countries, designed and conducted under the auspices of scientific advisor, Professor Mayka Sanchez, researcher at the University of Catalunya. This work has thrown up some interesting facts, not least that many patients felt they knew more about their condition than some doctors, thus highlighting the need for increasing efforts at raising awareness worldwide. There was also a strong push from patients for further research into the painful effects of GH on joints, particularly the hands, ankles and feet. Currently we have two volunteer representatives on the HARI (Haemochromatosis Arthropathy Research Initiative) group which is committed to improving the care of patients with haemochromatosis arthropathy.

Our next trustee meeting will be discussing how best we can best utilise the generous contributions we have received from Keith's family and the village of Birdingbury.

Thank you all so much for your support, it means a lot.

Howard Don, Trustee

Life In the Fast Lane...

As you're reading this you probably have as much an idea of where I am as I do! However, I have just returned from a weekend break in Europe, playing shows with The Silhouettes in Belgium. The crowd and hospitality over there is always most welcoming: we really are treated as royalty!



Earlier this year, we flew to LA to record our debut album *Extra Shot* for WILD Records, before playing two headline slots at the awesome Double Down Saloon just off the Las Vegas Strip. It was awesome to hear bands like ourselves, which are rare in the UK, and the sheer noise from the reception we received was unforgettable.

We were also treated to the best DJs in town for the after party, who played some of Coventry's finest Two Tone in the middle of Vegas! A little highlight: as it approached 3am I asked the bar staff if there was time for a last drink, to which his response was 'we don't close' – result! We enjoyed a day off walking down the famous Strip, taking in the atmosphere.

We headed back to Los Angeles on the Saturday for a gig at one of the best music bars in Long Beach, where we were joined by WILD Records bands, Wenzdaze and the Ultrasonics, who gave awesome sets. A special mention to local LA band, Tofu, a young all female trio. It was a pleasure to share the stage with these future Punk Stars. On the Sunday, we headed back downtown, specifically Space City Vintage in Little Tokyo, for our final show, where we were delighted to see fans who had made the journey from Long Beach the night before! The gig went down a storm and it was the perfect end to our tour, celebrating with the WILD Records Family. We will be returning to the USA in April 2023!

On to things a bit more local and surprisingly in my 4 years previous of playing live, I have not had the opportunity to play in my hometown of Coventry...until now! So far this year I have been lucky to play with upcoming Indie Rockers 'The Mucks' at the best venue in town: HMV Empire, Coventry, as well as at Kasbah Nightclub and 147 Nightclub. We are also excited to be supporting a huge upcoming band from Coventry Idle Noise at the HMV Empire on 10th June. Some tickets may still be available, but this is likely to be a sell-out.

Finally, on to the most exciting and biggest opportunity so far. In September 2021, I came across a 16-year-old singer-songwriter on CWR's Introducing Stage at the Godiva Festival. Caitlin McCarthy has a powerful, soulful voice way beyond her age, and the stage presence of someone who has been touring for years. Caitlin's music is pop with hints of soul and R&B, and she is fast becoming a rising star.

I was delighted to be asked by Caitlin to complete the line-up of her band, along with Liam Hopkins (guitar), Thomas Iliffe (keys), Ali Hutton (drums) and me on bass.

Our first show was at iconic London venue, The Bedford, which has seen artists such as Ed Sheeran, James Morrison and Sam Smith grace the stage. We headlined the night, which was curated by Tony Moore (Iron Maiden, Cutting Crew and Celine Dion) to a packed-out room.



In all honestly, I have little more words than wow! For me it was the best gig of my life. We played five original tracks which had the audience absolutely transfixed on the tightness and professionalism of the band, as well as the faultless vocals. Admittedly, I welled up on stage. The night ended with a party and jam in my room until the early hours – who said pop wasn't rock and roll!

Encore...

Now, I'm not sure if this has been announced yet but if not, I guess I can let you in on a little secret. I am absolutely thrilled to announce that I will be joining Caitlin McCarthy on the main stage at Coventry's Godiva Festival on Sunday 4 September. Tickets are on sale now and it would mean the world to see familiar faces down the front supporting us all! See you on the road!

Lewis Cutts

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Super Spider Sought

I have been 'Web Mistress' since the creation of Birdingbury Village Website over 10 years ago and it is time for someone new to take over and give it an update and refresh.

The role involves managing the pages; uploading information (such as Birdsong); capturing village events; posting photos; adding useful local info etc. Only basic IT skills are needed: the platform uses WordPress and it is easy to learn and use.

You can see the current website here: www.birdingbury.org

This is a great opportunity to contribute to improved communication, both for those of us who live here and for curious outsiders. It would also make a great community volunteering project, providing experience of web site management and, potentially, design.

Please get in touch if you might be interested: I am very happy to chat about it. I can be contacted at D.E.Stevens@warwick.ac.uk. Many thanks

Dallal Unwin



Angling

Angling - the sport or pastime of fishing with a rod and line. When Lesley asked me to write an article about fishing for Birdsong, I was hardly able to contain my excitement. This represented the opportunity for at least 300 new members of the Birdingbury Fishing Club, thereby increasing membership by 5000%. More on the excellent Fishing Club, that you must join, later.

Angling is the one constant in my life and the lives of around 800,000 other people who participate in the UK on a regular basis. To the untrained eye, an angler appears to be doing nothing. From the apparently static pole angler on the canal to the Draycote fly fisherman perched in the boat, they all look as if they are achieving absolutely nothing. But here's the thing; angling is the perfect example of doing something for the sake of doing it. There is no deadline, no objective, no rules (well just a few) and the only judge of your success is you and how much you enjoyed it. It offers the opportunity to slow down, take a breath and enjoy your surroundings. It offers the opportunity to spend quality time either alone or with others. The conversations by the water don't seem to happen in quite the same way anywhere else.

And there is excitement. Don't knock something till you've tried it once. I haven't met many people who have been fishing, caught a fish or two and then said they didn't enjoy it. Our rivers and lakes are bursting with life. Right here in our village the Leam has perch, roach, pike, tench, and chub to name a few. Otters have been seen here and the bird and insect activity is incredible. Angling gives you a front row seat to all this, and the time to see things you might otherwise miss if you're just passing through.

The excitement of angling is the unknown. What lies beneath the surface of the water and what fish will show itself on any particular day. We can't take the fish from the rivers but for anyone who would like to catch their next meal, I can recommend fly fishing at Draycote. We are very lucky to live next to one of the country's top trout waters, so why not use it?

We have a small enthusiastic fishing club in Birdingbury. Jackie Wescott is the Chair, and we would be delighted to welcome new members. We fish mainly in the summer both locally and at rivers and lakes within a short drive. This is typically on Wednesday evenings in the summer and the odd Saturday or Sunday. I hear a rumour that there are some enthusiastic children in the village who would like to have a go. We would be happy to provide guidance and get budding anglers involved. We do need a responsible adult in attendance with children as we have no insurance, no qualification to provide instruction to under 18s, and no relevant health and safety training. The contact for the Birdingbury Angling Club is Andy Wescott on 01926 632494

Finally, I have to issue a health warning here. Sometimes you catch nothing. This can lead to mild rage and/or massive disappointment. This is commonly known as 'blanking' and this is why we call it fishing, not catching.



The Almshouses, Leamington Hastings

The Almshouses offer quiet and comfortable living accommodation in a peaceful, rural location in the village of Leamington Hastings. Dating back to the 16th century but fully refurbished and modernised in 1981, the Almshouses are maintained and preserved by the Leamington Hastings Consolidated Charity for the benefit of the residents and the local community.

Accommodation

There are eight self-contained flats with views across the open countryside. The flats are unfurnished and comprise of an entrance hall, living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. Each flat has a television point and telephone line which supports an internet connection. The Almshouses include a communal lounge, laundry, store, attractive landscaped gardens and ample car parking.

Criteria

- People with a local connection to the parish of Leamington Hastings or the surrounding area
- People with limited financial means
- People who are capable of independent living
- People aged 18 and over
- As they are one bedroom flats they are not suitable for children or larger pets
- The rural location with no local facilities means own transport would be an advantage

Residents do not pay rent but there is a monthly charge towards the cost of providing maintenance and other services including heating and hot water.

**ONE FLAT
CURRENTLY
AVAILABLE**

For further information please contact The Clerk to the Trustees, on 07962 169199 or by email to alexrigler@aol.com

LHCC is a Registered Charity (Charity No 235662)

Traditional School Sports Day

Saturday 4th June

1pm - 3pm

Come in your best red, white or blue kit!

Teams to be configured on the day!

All ages welcome - bring a picnic!

Sack Race

Egg & Spoon Race

Three Legged race

Running Races

Relays

Beat the Goalie

Basketball Shots

Rounders Grand Finale

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Calling on the Band of Birdingbury Bakers

We would be very grateful for donations of cakes to share while we watch the Trooping of the Colour together at the Club from 10am on Thursday 2 June.

Cakes can be left at the Club on the Wednesday evening. proceeds to Church funds. Thank you!

Karen Thomas



Birdingbury Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Day	National Event	Birdingbury Event
Thursday 2 June (bank holiday)	Trooping of the Colour Lighting of the beacons	Trooping of the Colour on TV in the Club, 10am-12:25 Breakfast rolls, coffee, tea and cakes from 10am (<i>Karen Thomas</i>)
Friday 3 June (bank holiday)	St Pauls Service of Thanksgiving	Pizza outside the Club from 5pm
Saturday 4 June	Platinum Party at the Palace	Traditional School Sports Day in Recreation Field; bring your own picnic, 1-3pm (<i>Rich Cutts</i>) Chilli and Jackets in the Club with Queen themed music; wear red, white & blue! from 6:30pm; (<i>Karen Armbrister & Karen Thomas</i>)
Sunday 5 June	Big Jubilee Lunch Platinum Pageant	Community Thanksgiving Service outdoors by the Club with teas/coffee afterwards, 10:30-11:15 (<i>Karen Armbrister & the PCC</i>) 'Jubilees in Birdingbury' display in the Birbury; bring along your own memorabilia (<i>History Group</i>) Village Walkabout an opportunity for people to walk the village, catch up with neighbours, look at the bunting and house decorations (<i>everyone</i>) Street-style Big Jubilee Lunch at the rear of the Birbury with children's picnic lunchboxes, ice-creams & drinks tea & cakes for grown-ups, from 3pm (<i>Birbury Committee</i>)

First (and second) Tree for the Jubilee!

‘Come on, it will only take half-an-hour!’. That’s how I persuaded Will to come along and lend some muscle to the planting of two rowan trees in the village in early April. (Of course, ultimately it was closer to two hours and I was not popular.) However, we set off to meet Guy and Dick (official tree-planting adviser) by the bus stop to start with tree number one. Dick managed to co-opt Richard into coming along and lending a hand too.

I have to say that probably my greatest contribution was moral support and water carrying, as I managed no digging at all, but that does mean that I can say what a brilliant job the tree planters did. The trees were surprisingly heavy and the ground fairly hard and stony, so it was not the easiest of tasks!

Thanks to Dawn for providing water, to the weather for being kind to us, and, of course, to the Fab Four planters.

The two trees can now be seen by the bus shelter and at the crossroads by the War Memorial. Apparently that is exactly where you should plant rowan trees to keep away witches. Who knew? Thank you Carmel!



These two trees can be seen as Birdingbury’s first contributions to the Queen’s Green Canopy to mark the Platinum Jubilee, but we have also been successful in our request to the Woodland Trust for two ‘copse packs’ of trees to be planted later in the year, in November as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy.

As Guy mentioned in the last issue of Birdsong, these will be planted on the footpath on the way up to Frankton (with many thanks to Wallace and Heather McCurdie) and so we will be looking for volunteers nearer the time to be part of that.

Sara Kendell

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury knows

The world is always changing

Reigned by constancy

Thin Jethro Laskey

75
Platinum

Food for Thought

We are delighted to confirm the details for the food themed weekend in the church on 25 and 26 June.

There will be a photographic display about growing food in Birdingbury, alongside some thought provoking statements about packaging, chemicals, waste, food miles etc. There will be free locally grown plants and produce for you to take away. Please help by contributing to this idea.

The church will be open on Saturday and Sunday, from 2pm to 4pm for you to have a look around the exhibition. Refreshments will be available, hopefully using recipes that include local produce.

The Sunday Morning Worship service at 10.30am will focus on food waste. The Revd. Charlotte Jackson from Willenhall, Coventry has agreed to speak on this theme. Prior to her ordination, Charlotte worked in the food industry. Again, refreshments will be served.



The PCC has given us a budget to help cover costs but any contributions over the weekend would also be greatly appreciated.

The planning team will be meeting in church at 7pm on 31 May. You are very welcome to join us. Meantime, if you have any thoughts, questions etc around the theme, please contact Dick on 632644 or 07788842236

We look forward to seeing you.

Ruth Adewale, Eira Owen, Steph Seeley, Morgan Thomas, Jess Tooth-Markham and Dick Withington.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Quiz Night

Get those little grey cells pumping!

With quizmasters Ian and Lyn

At Birdingbury Club

On Saturday 2 July from 8pm

Food available - donations to Birdsong

Ladies' Circle

The question raised in the April – May edition of Birdsong: 'Would you like to revive Ladies' Circle?' received a negative response.

Unfortunately, only Jackie Westcott and I (with four apologies) attended the meeting on the 10 May. As little interest was shown, regrettably, it was decided that Ladies' Circle should be closed down, and that the assets (cash in hand) be handed to the Distribution Fund.



There were twelve members in 2019/20 when Ladies' Circle became subject to Covid restrictions. If any of those members wish to discuss our decision regarding the funds, please contact Jackie or me.

Special thanks to Jackie, (a member since 1959), who took over the position as Treasurer in 1974, when there were 39 members, and has continued to serve in the post for the 48 years. Also, thanks for organising the cheese and wine for this, as it turned out to be, the final meeting. Sorry it wasn't needed.

Barbara Munro

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Crown Green Gossip

Leamington Hastings Bowls Club played their first match outdoors on Saturday 23rd April. There was a good turnout of members. The weather certainly blew away the cobwebs and the afternoon was enjoyed by all, followed by a meal at The Harvester in Long Itchington.

We have plenty of friendly matches with other clubs booked as well as matches arranged between the members of the club.



The going on the green has been a little heavy but with good weather forecast, the bowls should start to roll across the green nicely (a good line also helps)!

If you would like to join us, we meet every Wednesday at 6pm at the bowls green next to the Leamington Hastings Parish Hall. We have bowls you can borrow. Please wear flat shoes. Play twice with no obligation to join!

Our continued best wishes go to those not in good health and our condolences go to the families of those recently passed away.

Sue Turner

Swap Shop and Tasty Treats...

One of the advantages of taking it in turns to host our weekly Saturday morning meeting is that we have the chance to taste a wide variety of treats with our cuppas. Here's just a 'taste' of recent goodies...

For the Saturday before Easter, we had freshly toasted hot cross buns, with the toaster being brought in specially by Valerie Smith. On Easter Saturday we were welcomed by an amazing table containing fresh flower arrangements, Easter wreaths, decorations, and cakes.

Here is a shot of Liz with her Easter array of goodies, Bryan helped as well of course.

There was even an incredible Swiss cake the other week that we couldn't manage to finish.

We don't forget those who prefer savouries and often have hot sausage rolls and pastries, we even include veggie ones.



Now the warmer weather is here we are swopping flowers, fruits, plants, books and magazines.

Why not come and join us one Saturday in the Birbury at 10.30? We meet every week unless we're celebrating something else, like a Jubilee.

Di Turner and Jenny Hawes

BIRDSOGBIRDSOGBIRDSOGB

Mobile Library Dates

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



24 June 2022

and

15 July 2022

Potential for Cost Savings on Solar Panels

A recent newspaper story* told of a community in Gloucestershire collaborating through a single contract over the installation of solar panels on several houses and a shop. The purpose was to save costs - not only on the solar panels and their installation through bulk buying, but also on the longer-term electricity supplies.



Some houses in Birdingbury have already had solar panels installed and report savings in electricity supply bills, and other people have expressed interest in having panels installed.

So, would the idea of collaborating for bulk installation of solar panels on several properties to reduce costs be worth considering for our community, both by residents of village houses and maybe also the Birbury? If so, perhaps interested parties may like to pursue this through the Village Chat WhatsApp group.

Chris de Nahlik

* The Sunday Times, 15 May 2022, 'Home' supplement, page 6, 'The Future is Bright'. Copy on the village notice board.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

A Word about Bonfires

We all love a bonfire – as long as it is somewhere else! Perhaps those who persist in lighting them don't always think about the impact on people and the environment.

Burning waste produces a lot of smoke, noxious fumes, and potentially harmful pollutants. These can exacerbate health conditions, particularly among the vulnerable, young and elderly. Fires prevent people from opening their windows and enjoying their gardens, and sheltering wildlife, even pets, can be injured and killed. Smuts and ash can cling to washing, cars, plants, pets, us – all manner of things we'd rather keep clean. In extreme cases, smoke can reduce visibility on the roads causing hazards, and fire can spread to adjoining trees, gardens and buildings.

Ideally, compost or recycle your waste, but if a bonfire is the only alternative, please:

- Only burn dry material, never household rubbish, plastics, foam, paint or rubber
- Check the weather conditions and wind direction
- Keep clear of hedges, trees, fences, and buildings
- Don't use accelerants such as petrol
- Never leave a fire unattended or smouldering – put it out!

Thank you

'Old Smokey Joe'



Whistling and its Association with Darkness

or

Hogthistle Wine

The nasties are coming.
'Well baby that's fine'
They wont come today
'Cause they're taking their time.

It doesn't matter.
Let them just form a line
And I'll give each a glass
Of my Hogthistle wine.

HOGTHISTLE WINE,
Always on time,
Chases the clouds
And helps the sun shine.

The moon too;
At night I mean
Of course

Everythings fine,
We can design
No better companion
Than Hogthistle wine.

Its got to rime
Hogthittle wine
Lookways so fine
Plenti got steaks
In the hoc sittle
Line

Hic dosin
Hine.....

.....*Pigrim*

Pilgrim – his wife, who has just put him to bed.

Club Grub

From 17.00 to 20.30 unless otherwise stated.

Date	Menu
Friday 3 June	Pizzas with Andy
Thursday 9 June	Fish & Chips with The Village Chippy
Saturday 11 June	Pizzas with Andy
Friday 17 June	Curry with Village Kitchen
Friday 24 June	Mac 'N' Cheese
Saturday 2 July	Quiz Night with food option
Thursday 7 July	Fish & Chips with The Village Chippy
Saturday 9 July	Pizzas with Andy
Friday 15 July	Chicken Wings with The Wing Guys
Friday 22 July	Curry with Village Kitchen
Friday 29 July	Mac 'N' Cheese

Welcome to Birdingbury!

A big hello to Barry and Jing Hale who have just moved into Glebe Rise with their two children, Adi and Zeb, and their rescue dog. We hope you will be very happy here!



Birdsong Editor:

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