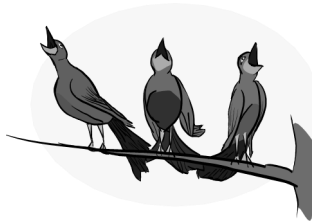


BIRDSONG

**October
and
November 2022**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS
NO 112**



In Remembrance and Hope

Birdingbury Parish Council Report

It is hard to believe that since writing my previous Birdsong piece, we have seen a change in Prime Minister and the sad death of Her Majesty the Queen. Reflections on her life of service, including 70 years on the throne, have been heart-felt and moving, and amazingly consistent whoever the commentator: service, duty, her impact, and a sense of humour in private. And the crowds attending the processions, the funeral and standing in 'The Queue' have shown how much she was respected by the public.

As you'll recall from the Spring, we have plans for a plantation of new saplings as part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy' Jubilee scheme. These are due to arrive in November, so please keep your eye out for notices about the working party needed to get them into the ground. Now that the Queen is no longer with us, I am sure that their planting and dedication will mark her life to an even greater extent than simply as a mark of the Jubilee.

We haven't had a Parish Council meeting since the last Birdsong so there is relatively little to report. We don't have meetings in August, and the September meeting fell within the days of National Mourning when meetings cannot be called. We have, however, been able to progress a number of tasks in the background, so we expect to have a full agenda in October.

The planned Parish Council call with Sustrans about the changes to 'track' didn't happen in July but I hope to share information from that in the next few weeks. One of the other items at the October meeting will be Bonfire Night (if one is planned) as we support this with funds, and another will be the update of the Emergency Plan which we'd like to finish before winter really kicks in.

More about that in the next Birdsong.

Guy French, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

Home: 01926 633197

Mobile: 07538 583498

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The following pages are devoted to personal memories and tributes from people of Birdingbury to Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II .

Laying Flowers

It has been very moving to see how the nation has paid its respects to the Queen since her passing.



She has been there for us for over 70 years, and it really feels like her people have been there for her during the period of mourning.

Sara and I played our own small part in that by laying some flowers at the Palace on the weekend after her death.

Despite being very crowded around the Victoria Monument, the atmosphere was very calm and respectful as thousands of others came to pay their respects too. We also got a brief glimpse of the new King as he sped off for a meeting with his Prime Minister.

We even took our dog Oscar with us who was surprisingly calm in all the crowds and coped ok on the tube once he got used to it.

The Queen's selfless devotion to her country and the way she has risen above politics and controversy have been an inspiration and it is so sad that we have lost her. May she rest in peace.

Matt and Sara Hancock

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

In 'The Queue'



What an amazing day we had when we went to the Saturday of the Queen's lying-in-state. We were with the past, present and future monarchs.

We spent 14.5 hours queuing and were lucky to be in the right place at the right time, seeing both King Charles and Prince William. We all also shook hands with the King!

We were then privileged and honoured to pay our respects to the Queen.

A very emotional day.

Lorraine Malin



The Ceremonies

On Thursday 8 September 2022, the nation, the Commonwealth, and world went in to mourning following the loss of our great sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II. She led a life of devotion and promise, fulfilled in the highest order to her final days.

Saturday 10 September: The Accession

I felt it an appropriate and necessary duty to travel down to London to pay my respects to our late Commander-in-Chief, as well as welcoming in new King Charles III.

I arrived into the array of floral tributes which had entwined themselves at the foot of the trees throughout Green Park. As I arrived at the gates of Buckingham Palace, a calm, affectionate atmosphere of remembrance and peace flowed through the air. Crowds started to build following the arrival of multiple police officers and security staff as the Accession Council was coming to a close, and people hoped to get a glimpse of the now official King Charles III.

At precisely 12:18, as I stood at the front of the barrier, the King drove past through the right-hand side front gates of Buckingham Palace to cheers of ‘Long Live the King!’. It was a truly incredible and joyous moment, worth the 4.5 hour wait.



The day finished with a toast in a hidden gem of a Belgravia public house under a portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Monday 19 September: The Funeral

I departed Rugby Station at 06:03 alongside two veterans of the Royal Navy. We shared a toast to Her Majesty from our hipflasks and soon arrived in London just after 07:00. Arriving at the gates of Green Park the atmosphere was noticeably more sombre, the sky veiled with a thin layer of grey cloud: for many this was a day we hoped would never happen and was monumental for the world.

As I passed through the park, the number of flowers and messages of condolence was extremely touching and covered a large surface of the walk through The Mall. The crowds were already ten deep in places with chairs, picnics and conversations of memories flowing. I walked up and down a few times until I finally found a spot alongside an army veteran, his family, and others. We shared stories about our connections with the forces, updates from the procession and watched the build-up of the day. Huddled around my phone, spirits were high.

At 11:00 a radio broadcast of the funeral was filtered through the speakers upon the flag poles where the Union Flags were at half-mast. Silence prevailed through the service as we all reflected on what Her Majesty meant to us all. At the end of the service the crowd joined in with ‘God Save The King’, chairs were put away and crowds built again as the procession left the gates of Westminster Abbey.

At 12:53, drawn by the impeccable Royal Navy, the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II upon the gun carriage first used for the state funeral of Queen Victoria in 1901, gently passed us. A moment to say our final goodbyes. There are little words to describe the feelings at this poignant and emotional moment marking the end of the Elizabethan era, but I felt proud to be there on behalf of the family.



Thank you, Ma'am, for everything! May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

Lewis Cutts

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Family Service

I was born just a few weeks after Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in 1953. My father George swore allegiance to King George VI when signing up in 1940 for the Royal Marines and served throughout the Second World War. He told me about being on board his then ship, HMS Vanguard when, in 1947, the Royal Family, including Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, commenced their world tour and sailed from Portsmouth down to South Africa.

Some 28 years, later I swore allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II when joining the police and, like my father before me, became our monarch's servant. I had the pleasure of working on two visits by the Queen and, as I was invariably facing the crowds as she made her way, it was easy to know where she was by looking at those faces in front of me.

Then in 2019, long after retiring from the police, together with Lynne, I had the privilege of being invited to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. It was a wonderful experience, particularly as Queen Elizabeth was present.

Like many others I'm sure, we feel as a family we have had a connection to her from young woman to grandmother.

Queen Elizabeth II has been a wonderful example to us all throughout her life and, as King Charles III has since said, 'a long life well lived'.

Ian Tipton



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Personal Encounters

The passing of the Queen has led us all to reflect on her reign and her service to our country. It also gave me an opportunity to look back on some memorable moments and events we have experienced involving the Queen during our time in the Royal Air Force.



Simon joined the RAF in 1984 (in Leeds) and I signed up in 1985 (in Coventry). One thing we both did on our Attestation, was take the bible in our left hand and swear our allegiance to the Queen. An oath and a commitment to the crown and the country.

'I swear by almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend her Majesty, her heirs and successors in person, crown and dignity against all enemies and will observe and obey all orders of her Majesty, her heirs and successors and of the generals and officers set over me.'

Five years later, we were married and posted to Germany. We lived in an apartment in the town of Weeze. I was at RAF Laarbruch, working as a Medic. Simon commuted 40 miles to work at RAF Bruggen. In late 1990, the Queen visited RAF Laarbruch. The base was preparing for a response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait (in August 1990) and the Queen was very prominent in her support of the service personnel involved and their families.

I was very privileged to be selected to be introduced to the Queen during her visit, along with an RAF Policemen and an RAF Fireman, representing the emergency services.

It was very surreal: in a large hangar surrounded by a couple of Tornado aircraft and weapon demonstrations with lots of people watching. I was in uniform, but not wearing a hat. This meant I had to curtsy (as opposed to salute). I practiced this many times before the day and probably just about got it right. I remember being struck by her beautiful, fresh complexion and bright eyes. She shared a few words with us and moved on to the next display.



It was a moment in my life that I will never forget.

In 2005, Simon and I had the honour of attending a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. No face-to-face meeting with a royal on this occasion, but a great experience to be in the presence of HM Queen, Prince Philip, Prince Charles and other members of the Royal Family. Simon was in uniform and it was a very proud and memorable day. Again, slightly surreal as the world carries on as normal outside the Palace walls, but inside the Queen meets and greets and gives everyone the same attentive, calm few moments of her time.

In the Queen's New Year's Honour's list of 2015, Simon was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal followed by his Royal Warrant in 2016. It's incredible to think that he served for half of her reign and how our lives have been indelibly touched and affected by her, both in the military and since.

She has been a constant presence and the epitome of selfless duty to her country.

Gaynor Davy

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury knows

One season ends another comes

Each a cherished gift

Thin Jethro Laskey



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG



Her Late Majesty's Onerous Oath

For 31 years, I was not an employee, which may sound somewhat odd,
But in 1989, I joined what some back then called the plod.
On day one, 'to well and truly serve the Queen' I solemnly declared and affirmed.
I was issued with a Warrant Card, being the means by which it was confirmed,
That I was then serving Her Majesty the Queen as an office holder,
A privilege I enjoyed until very much older.

I cannot lie, that causing the peace to be kept and preserved,
Put me in situations where I was sometimes frightened and unnerved.
Acting impartially meant sometimes standing between those with opposing views,
And more often than not, attracted harsh criticism in the news.
But this was required of me though my solemn oath -
Irrespective of my own views, to accord equal respect to both.

As I look back on how challenging upholding that oath had sometimes been,
I reflect on a promise in 1947, made by our late Queen.
Devoting not just 31 years' service to a career,
But serving her country, to the end of her last living year.
She epitomised all the excellencies within the oath to Her I had taken,
But unlike me, it never seemed her perseverance was shaken.

I may have given years or service to her, but she committed her life serving us.
And she did so with steadfastness, in a role that was truly onerous.
Until I reflected, I had never really thought of it like that before.
The promises she made and the oaths that she swore,
May have provided her with crowns, jewels, and ceremony,
But the task hidden from view was no doubt difficult and stony.
If anyone, in upkeeping an oath of service, needs a benchmark,
Then one has been laid out by our dearly departed monarch.

Matt Markham

Forgive me now
Before I start,
That I've broken my word
To please my heart.

Her New Prime Minister

The Queen had come north
To die.
North to her castle,
To the forests
And the northern sky.

Here all the strands of time
Were best well known
And she could wander
Through a life at last alone,
Amidst the mountains,
The rivers and the sky
And through the dreamy haze of why.

But disruption
In a minor form
Sent one last duty
North to find,
Political expression
Of the common kind.

Then Death in all its brilliant dust
Could only pause
And bless each earthly moment
Of that noble smile.

And to her visitor
This thought consign:

Follow her, Follow her, Follow her,
And learn, learn, learn.

May the makers of stars hold her ever in their care.
Pilgrim

Marton Art and Craft Exhibition



Marton Village Hall

Preview: Friday 30 September at 6.30pm

(Canapés and Pimms £5)

Show: Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 October

10.30am to 5pm. £2 entry

Refreshments, Bar, Raffle plus

Photo Competition

Contact 01926 632837 for more information

World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Back!

Ours will be held in the Birbury on Saturday 1 October from 10.30am

Do come and join in!

Bring friends and family so we can raise lots of money for Macmillan Cancer Support



Donations of cakes etc gratefully accepted.

I want to thank those good neighbours who will be helping me this year while I'm a bit under par!!

Marton Fundraising Lunch
in aid of
breast and prostate cancer charities



Saturday 22 October

10.00am to 2pm

Marton Village Hall



Join us for a tasty light lunch
(soup, tea, coffee, cakes)
plus
grand raffle and stalls!



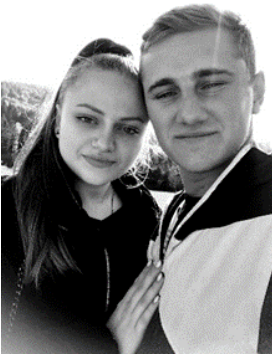
From Our Side . . .

Having raised four children and recently waived the last off to university, empty nest syndrome was, well, brilliant and we were enjoying the peace!

Then came Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the war: the decision to become sponsors to refugees was an easy one. We felt we had to do something – and this was something we could do. Finding a refugee was a little harder! We registered with three or four charities and, at first, the responses were slow. However, soon we were receiving four or five emails a day from people wishing to come. One charity insisted we complete an online course, which took around 90 minutes, before they would sign us up. Although this was ultimately not the charity through which we made contact, that course was invaluable as an insight into what to expect and how to deal with commonly arising issues.

Initially, and enthusiastically, we were proceeding with a family of two adults and a teenage child. As applications for visas started to get completed, we found we became aware of features that made us nervous. We rightly pulled the plug on that and went back to square one. This was an important moment to reflect and think about what would be sustainable for us in our situation. We decided to stick to what we knew about – young adults! Having just seen four of those off, they had to be our best bet!

Eventually, through word of mouth, we came across a young couple of 19 and 21. We made contact and the start of the 'getting to know you' began. Through exchanges of email/texts we gradually felt able to offer sponsorship. We were very conscious that we really didn't know these people at all, and this would have to be a leap of faith. We leapt.



On June 28 we travelled to Stansted to pick up Alina and Igor. Standing with our very lovely professional sign bearing their names, we soon realised how stupid we looked. The names were written in the English alphabet, totally alien to Ukrainian, how would they even recognise that? A rookie error but the first of many, we are sure. When they walked through the arrival gate, we were struck by how small, pale and vulnerable they looked. With no English language and our total absence of Ukrainian, it was a quiet journey back. All we were aware of was Igor and Alina huddled together in the back of the car, whispering to each other. I think we both felt very protective right from the outset, who wouldn't?

Early days were very busy sorting out visas, biometrics and basics. Thankfully, the village and Swalcliffe Park School, where I work, donated money, gifts and gift cards. Igor and Alina were at times overwhelmed by this generosity. Although they never seemed frivolous or in a rush to spend these, the excitement at the prospect of a trip to the Primark store was obvious! I think they had heard about Primark, but never been to one. Our eldest daughter, Lilly, took them and I got a text shortly after saying 'Mum, I've lost them – they've just gone, is that OK?'

Thankfully, an hour or so later, they found Lilly again with arms full of clothes and big smiles.

Throughout the early weeks we were to have help from our own kids with each of the girls taking on a role. This was a busy time, and we were grateful for the help. From the online training we had done we knew there were 'dos and don'ts' and we have taken the advice we got, mainly around sensitivity to news coverage, questioning, and being aware that some days there is bad news from home. During this time a villager also messaged to ask what they could do to help. I texted back 'Teach them how to take a bus or speak English' I did not expect the response 'I'll take the English'! Angela Hansen now spends two hours each week teaching Igor and Alina English. She has formed a relationship with them, and we are all grateful for her generosity of time in this.

From the outset, both Igor and Alina were keen to help around the house. Alina sometimes cooks meals for all of us: Ukrainian dumplings are highly recommended. We eat together each evening when, using translation software, we chat about the day's events. You have become used to companionable silence. There is often a lot of laughter - Michael's impressions make them laugh a lot (the rest of us - not so much!) We feel lucky to have landed with these two young people, for they are endearing.

We know that many of you have questions that you would like to ask. We are happy to try and answer these. We are also aware of other people's experiences of sponsoring that may not have been so positive. By way of answer, we have nothing but our own experience, I am afraid. Overall, it has been a very positive experience so far. We look forward to helping Alina and Igor to forge their own path in the UK in the coming months. We would also like to thank you all for the support financially, practically, and emotionally that we have received.

Question: How many people does it take to sponsor a refugee?

Answer: A whole village!

We couldn't have done this without you...

Rosy & Michael Wallace

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Also New to Birdingbury



A warm welcome to Hannah and Shane who have landed on a new perch at Rowan House in Back Lane.

We look forward to meeting you and hope you will make many happy memories in Birdingbury!

Birdingbury and *HMS Keppel*

I expect many villagers have wondered at the little plaque in the Birbury: just what was Warship Week and what did Birdingbury have to do with *HMS Keppel*?

During the winter 1941 - 42, Warships Weeks were organised throughout Great Britain. The intention was to raise money for the navy and to encourage a link between communities and the crews. Rugby was allotted a destroyer, *HMS Keppel*.



On February 28, the Mayor and the Chairman of the Rural District Council organised a huge street procession to start the week off. Led by the Bilton Brass, BTH Military and Rugby Steam Shed Bands, the parade left the Fairground and proceeded through the town. All military groups were represented, plus Civil Defence, Youth Clubs, Church Groups; almost all community groups took part in some way or another, and the event was hailed as a resounding success.

Spread around town were exhibits of weapons. photos in the library and film shows In the Temple Speech Room. A wonderful concert and gymnastic display was performed by the Czechoslovakian Army Choir and gymnasts, all were trained soldiers but they did this in gratitude to Rugby for their kind hospitality.

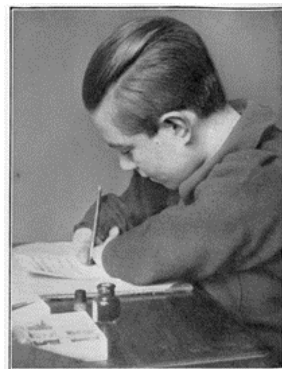
The original target was £210,000 but this was soon achieved, and the target raised to £350,000. Rugby challenged Leamington Spa where they were raising money for *HMS Leamington* to see which town could raise more per head. Rugby managed £471,215 or £7 14s 9d per head but Leamington achieved £665,006 or £15 15s 10d per head.

HMS Keppel was a Shakespeare class destroyer, completed in 1925, one of five. In a handbook of 1937 they are described as, 'Fine big weatherly boats with a high speed and heavy armament, they were for long the source of admiration abroad and reflect the highest credit on the firm of Thornycroft who designed them.' They had a top speed of 38 knots and a crew of 160.

She had a distinguished war career escorting convoys in the Mediterranean to Malta and in the North Atlantic and on the Arctic convoys to Russia including the disastrous PQ17. During the D-Day landings *HMS Keppel* escorted several convoys from Milford Haven to Normandy. In all she helped escort about 80 convoys and was credited with the destruction of four U-boats as well as being involved with the sinking of several others. A full list of her war operations is exhausting.

By 1945 *Keppel* was totally worn out and was sold for scrap. The ship's bell was presented to Rugby Council.

The certificate that was presented to Birdingbury, as similar ones were to the other local villages, should be examined with amazement and admiration. It was inscribed by ‘The artist without hands’! John Buchanan was born in 1908. He had two imperfectly formed fingers where his left hand should have been and the right arm finished with a stump at the elbow. He found a way of ‘holding a pen or paint-brush between the stumps of his arms, the two imperfectly formed fingers on the left arm making this possible.’ He took the General Arts Course at Oxford School of Art, ‘but his special genius lay in the illuminations of literary quotations, with superbly decorated borders.’ He was able to support himself with commissions and completed 3,500 of these certificates – such as we have in the Birbury.



Recordsworm

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Update from the Club

First things first, a quick update on the Birbury lease situation since I know it’s been a little while since we all met. The latest is that things are still progressing, with the Club and the Parish Council taking the appropriate advice. I’m sure we’d all agree that as much as we need to move forwards, we also need to ensure that there are no unintended consequences as a result!

Secondly, I am pleased to report that we recently applied for and have been awarded a £2000 grant from the County Council’s ward councillor fund. This will pay for some improvements and repairs to the front façade and some changes to the alarm system that will allow the bar area to be opened separately from the bar service area, allowing independent use for events such as the community café. We’re also about to apply for the Council’s ‘Green Shoots Fund’ which would help start solving some of our energy issues – keep your fingers crossed for more success. We’ll continue to apply for grants towards various aspects of the improvements we need to make. These funds are not always obvious, so do let us know if you see details of a fund you think might be useful – especially local ones.

Thirdly, I have been approached by a number of people asking when we will start holding Saturday night events again, and my simple answer is whenever you want to do them! So, here’s my challenge, we only need one or two events a month and spread amongst us it’s a much easier task. So, if you want to resurrect a lockdown online quiz or organise anything else you think people will enjoy then do let me, Mark or Karen know.

Tony Flint, Club Chairman

Soul Food Sundays



**'Food for the body is not enough.
There must be food for the soul.'
- Dorothy Day -**

Starting from Sunday 9 October, please join us each month, in an informal and uplifting space where we can still our minds, refresh our spirits, and ready ourselves for the week ahead.

At each session, we'll have a chosen theme and over a cuppa, we'll share quotations on that theme from artists, poets, writers, thinkers and varied sacred texts of different faiths. Everyone is welcome, and encouraged to bring along a quotation, reading or other artistic expression to share (though it's not compulsory if you'd rather not). We'll use the quotations to have gentle conversations on the theme, exploring timeless spiritual values and fundamental questions which we all think about, whether we have faith or not. With our spiritual consciousness sparked and our thoughts uplifted, we can go out into Sunday evening ready to face the week ahead, and, of course, get home in time to hear that week's results from Strictly!

The theme for the first Soul Food Sunday on 9 October is 'Comm-unity'. How can our individual and collective actions in our community bring unity and transformation?

We'll meet at Karen Armbrister's home: Davenport Cottage, Back Lane from 5pm to 6.30pm. Everyone, of any age, and of all faiths or none are most welcome. Just bring along yourself and, if you like, a quotation, or just come to listen.

To find out more, please contact Karen (07919 594559) or Jean (01926 633068 or 07826 539775), or just come along on the day

Karen Armbrister and Jean Foroughi

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury Wrappers Update

The Stretton Group of The Shoebox Appeal were very grateful for the donations and wrapped boxes I took to them at the end of July, and these have already been processed and delivered to the main depot in Evesham. They are gearing up to fill the next batch of boxes ready for the children to receive them in time for Christmas.

Please let us know if you can help by donating items or wrapping boxes (empty boxes and wrapping paper can be supplied). Jackie is storing the empty boxes and donations and I am providing the transport. Thank you for all your help.

Val Preston Linden, Main Street 01926 633473

Jackie Westcott, Loen, Main Street 01926 632494



Hallowe'en 2022

The most frightening event on the Birdingbury social calendar is once again fast approaching. Time to dust off your broomsticks, prime your pumpkins and stock up on treats (or tricks?)!



We will host our village Halloween Horrors on Saturday 29 October. For 2022, we're returning to traditional trick or treating (in groups, depending on numbers) followed by spooky games at the Club. Some of you will remember this from pre-covid times, but a new adventure for others.

We will gather outside the Club as it gets dark (exact time tbc) and make a perilous plan to haunt the village together for treats - make sure you bring a small cauldron or similar to gather your treats! We will then return to the Club for a few games which will no doubt involve bouncing eyeballs, wrapping mummies, racing spiders, and enjoying a few terrifying treats.

If you are happy for the trick or treaters to visit your haunted house, just make sure you display something spooky like a pumpkin. You could also leave treats on the doorstep if you prefer.

Make no bones about it, it should be scarily good fun.

Lesley Thomlinson & Karen Thomas

(aka The Witches of Back Lane)



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Progressive Supper 12 November 2022 Update

Things are progressing well, and numbers are already looking good.

We need to allocate courses soon, so we have a deadline of 30 September for those wishing to participate to get in touch.

As usual we will be holding a raffle on the night. We would be grateful for any raffle prize donations. Proceeds from the raffle and the entry fees will be donated to this year's nominated charity: Alzheimer's Society.

To have your name added to take part or donate a prize please contact either of us (alexrigler@aol.com / 07962169199 or johnabarr@btinternet.com / 07899667607).

It will be great to catch up with friends old and new.

Alex Rigler and John Barr



Live Music at Birdingbury Club

From October onwards, we will be arranging regular live music nights at the Club. The music will vary and will include an open mic night for anyone interested in getting involved. We will advertise these nights on village social media and around the village. If there is anyone that enjoys playing and singing and would like to take part in any of the live music nights, please contact Jo Young on 07546 492308.



The first of these fun music nights will be on Saturday 15 October with JYT, a group of musicians and singers from the village and nearby: it would be great to see you there, we do love a bit of support.

We also have the 'The Jammers' evenings restarting on Wednesday 12 October in the Club Lounge at 7.30pm. The Jammers play a variety of styles to suit the players, currently based around country/blues and rock but are willing to have a go at anything. Everyone is welcome from beginners through to seasoned pros, playing any instrument or having a sing.

We are really excited to get live music as a regular slot on the village social agenda.

Jo Young and Steve Edgar

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Leamington Hastings Bowls Club.

We haven't played many matches against other clubs this season due to health problems but the ones we have played have been good fun, light-hearted, no matter if we win or lose, with a decent cup of tea afterwards!

Our green this season, along with others, has suffered with the heat and lack of rain. Although with the recent downpours it is starting to green up again as we make arrangements to move inside for the Winter Season!

Our annual fundraising event for Myton Hospice was held at the end of August. The sun shone, a full complement of players attended, tea and cake were enjoyed, we had a raffle and a cake stall and the money raised helped to make the day a great success. Last year the club raised £401, this year we raised £511, taking the overall amount raised over the years to £14,000. Well done everyone!

We start to play indoor short mat bowls from Wednesday 21 September. If you would like to come and play, we start at 2pm in the Leamington Hastings Parish Hall. You can play twice with no obligation to join, just give it a go! We have the bowls; you will need to wear comfortable clothing and flat shoes. You will be made very welcome!

Sue Turner (01788 336913)

Bardsey Island

The steady wind from the Irish Sea
Keeps all but the reckless from reaching Bardsey:
Many have waited at the top of Myndd Mawr
For the wind to abate and the sea cease to roar

To cross Bardsey Sound at the end of their quest
For spiritual enlightenment and physical rest,
Where twenty thousand saints welcome all to their door
And Merlin can be seen along the foreshore.

I stand here today and picture the scene:
All around me is beauty, calm and serene.
But to reach Bardsey Island you have to be tough
Or fly free from Myndd Mawr on the wings of a chough.

Steve Edgar

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The Pleasure of Poetry

Upon reading that the August / September edition of Birdsong was to include the last poetic contribution from 'Pilgrim' (Roger Hawes), I decided to dig out all the back issues of Birdsong that we have collected since we moved to Birdingbury five years ago. Yes, it's been that long and, yes, we've kept every issue to re-read Roger's poems. I find that reading a poem for the second, or subsequent times, throws up new meanings and questions, and Roger's poems certainly make you think. I have enjoyed poetry for many years and still have an original that I wrote on Coventry station on my way home from college at Coundon at aged 16. Some ideas and rhymes end up becoming lyrics to songs, but it is still poetry in my book. My poems are nearly always inspired by an event, or an emotion and I can rarely just sit down and make something up. I shall continue to offer the occasional poem for publication in Birdsong.

I realise that poetry is a somewhat minority interest and has a wide range of styles but if anyone else in the village would like to join in, I suggest we could meet up, maybe bi-monthly, to talk all things poetic and present any new ideas we may have? Just a thought. Let me know if you are interested via stevegedgar@sky.com.

Steve Edgar



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
Saturday 8 October	Pizza with Andy
Friday 14 October	Mexican with Village Kitchen
Thursday 27 October	Fish & Chips with The Village Chippy
Friday 4 November	Curry with Village Kitchen
Friday 11 November	Pizzas with Andy
Friday 18 November	Mexican with Village Kitchen
Thursday 24 November	Fish & Chips with The Village Chippy

Mobile Library

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

7 October

28 October

18 November

9 December



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