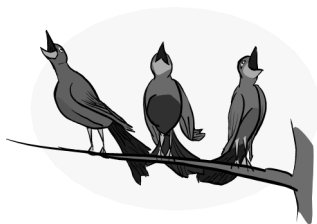


BIRDSONG

**October 2023
and
November 2023**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS
NO 118**



A Warm Welcome

Photo from Village Chat Whatsapp

Birdingbury Parish Council Report

The summer is usually a relatively quiet time for the Parish Council. We don't have a meeting in August since most people are on holiday. However, several chunky issues spanned the holidays and gave our councillors reason to keep in touch.

You may recall that we had a speed survey done in April on Main Street and Marton Road and the results came back after our July meeting. These showed that about 25% of cars on Marton Road exceed the 30mph speed limit, with about 70 per day breaking 40mph. People also speed in Main Street but averages were lower than on Marton Road. The police have confirmed that the surveys did not meet the threshold for permanent speed control actions but they will consider this an area of community concern and explore options for an occasional monitoring van on Marton Road. Thanks to Chris W for helping to co-ordinate the surveys and the police engagement. If anyone would like a 'SLOW DOWN' bin sticker, please message me on 07538 583498. Every little helps.

We also had engagement with both Severn Trent and WCC Highways about the drains on Main Street and Back Lane that failed to cope with the storm in June. We've had commitments for the drains to be surveyed and jetted clear, so we will keep an eye on this.

The other summer issue was the renewed planning application for a phone mast on the roadside verge at the Marton Road entrance to the village. The applicants have not addressed any of the issues cited by RBC when they declined it last time, and we await the decision. This is due at the end of September. The PC remains in favour of better mobile coverage but not a mast location that has such high visual impact and is close to a dangerous piece of road.

We discussed some ongoing actions relating to the Recreation Field at our September meeting. We are ordering replacement nets for the football goals and have asked the mowing contractors to cut the pitch slightly shorter. We've also had the two damaged bars on the climbing cabin replaced and we will have the hedge and verge cut back as they have started to obstruct the path up to the church. If anyone would like to be a 'Friend of the Recreation Field' and help us to keep an eye on anything that needs doing or improving, please let me know.

We were joined at our last meeting by Dale Keeling who became the District Councillor for this ward at May's election (dale.keeling@rugby.gov.uk). He has offered to join us for a walk around the village to understand the issues that we have recently experienced, such as parking, drains, curbing and local potholes. We are still seeking funding for curbing on Main Street around the corner from the Club. We are also making enquiries about re-laying some of the village pavements that are starting to break up in places.

Later in Birdsong you'll see an appeal for people to get involved in arranging and supporting village events, Fireworks Night being an upcoming example. A village only becomes a community when people get involved, bring ideas and make things happen for and with others. Anything that you can do to help would be fantastic. Thank you.

Guy French, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

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St Leonard's Church Fete

Timed to perfection, the opening of this year's church fete was hailed by a clap of thunder, a flash of lightning and a heavy downpour of rain. Fortunately, the storm did not last too long.

The fete was held inside and outside the Club, as well as in the Birbury. There was the raffle, two tombolas, a book stall, a cake stall and cream teas, as well as an 'offer what you will' stall, all staffed by enthusiastic volunteers.

Our main raffle prize was a £100 hamper kindly donated by the Co-op. This was won by Matt Markham. Other prizes included a half case of mixed wines, a bottle malt whisky, and two hampers as well as a number of vouchers to be spent in a variety of local enterprises.

Despite the inclement weather, there were a good number of visitors and this year we managed to raise £1,342.

None of this could happen without the enthusiasm of the helpers, the support of the Club, the generosity of those who had donated items for the tombolas and stalls, those who had given prizes for the raffle, and all who attended.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the fete in whatever way.

John Owen

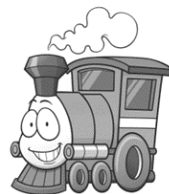
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Birdingbury knows

The Lias Line has no rails

Sort of LS2

Thin Jethro Laskey



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Leamington Hastings Academy Update



What a great start we have had to the autumn term! The school is full of happy children who have settled well into the new school year and have eagerly got stuck into their learning. We have much to look forward to in the autumn term. Events are already planned for the coming weeks. These include parents being invited into school to join in with a phonics lesson with their child, a

theatre trip, an information session for parents, children making and selling cakes for charity, and a sports competition .



For all the latest news from the school, check our Facebook page:

(<https://www.facebook.com/LeamingtonHastingsCofEAcademyRugby/>)

It is also that time of year when parents start to look around schools in preparation for September 2024.



We will be holding an open evening for prospective nursery and reception parents on 16 October.

The school will be open for parents to look around the nursery and reception classrooms from 4:30pm until 6pm, with a presentation from staff at 5:30pm. Everyone is welcome - please share with family and friends.



In the meantime, our virtual prospectus can be viewed here:

<https://www.leamingtonhastings.covmat.org/school-prospectus/>

Alternatively, we are always happy to offer individual parent tours around the school. I can be contacted on 01926 632359 or via our website:

<https://www.leamingtonhastings.covmat.org/>

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

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Birds in Birdingbury

You don't need reminding that it has been a wet summer but to what extent has that been good or bad for birdlife?

My personal highlights have been:

- A covey of eight young partridge feeding on weed seeds on the allotments.
- Lots of young swallows and martins skimming for insects in the local fields. The adults were late to arrive, and were in small numbers, but they seem to have successfully reared at least one brood.
- Watching a barn owl quartering the field off Itchington Lane. I wonder whether the chicks hatched and fledged?
- Finally, and amazingly, an osprey above Kites Hardwick. Unmistakable, with a wingspan of over two metres. I think they are using Draycote Reservoir as a feeding station before moving on.

Unfortunately, however, that's not the whole picture. Local wild bird numbers continue to decline. I think climate change must be the biggest factor, linked with some farming practices and, for migrating birds, the loss of habitats in The Sahel.

Has anyone else spotted any unusual and heartening birdlife in recent months?

Dick Withington



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Mobile Library

Two brand new mobile library vehicles - fuelled entirely by electricity - will be arriving in early 2024. They will be a similar size to the current vehicles and offer the same reliable service, whilst also being fitted with a lift to provide improved accessibility for customers.

In preparation for the new electric vehicles, the existing mobile library timetables will be affected. Locations that currently receive a weekly visit will now only receive a visit every two weeks.

Upcoming dates are:

6 October 2023

November 2023

1 December 2023

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A Little of Lance

Lance was born at St Mary's Maternity Hospital, Harborough Magna on 5th May 1940. Ironically, it is now the nursing home where he sadly passed away earlier this year.

Lance became the oldest, longest living Birdingbury-born resident in the village, after Bill Cowley.

As a child, Lance lived at the family home with his mother, (who was in the choir at St Leonard's), his father (who was the organist and choir master), his sister and his three brothers. Their family home was 1 Back Lane, Birdingbury, where Lance continued to spend most of his life.

At school, Lance excelled at physical education and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of cross country running and pole vaulting. In 1957 he competed in Inter-County National cross-country team championships, running for Leamington and winning first place.

Sport continued to play a large part in Lance's life. He enjoyed tennis and bowling at Hill for many years, helping with the initial building of the court and the bowling green.

Lance also had a great love for music and was a fantastic ukulele and banjo player. He met with a friend in Stockton once a week, practicing and recording their tunes.

As a young man, he travelled to Australia in his car and worked picking fruit, packing pineapples and sweetcorn, and cutting down sugar cane in a plantation. He also earned extra money cutting people's hair on the way.

On returning from his adventure, Lance bought Henson's butcher's shop in Sheep Street, Rugby and had it converted into a barber's shop, which he ran for 33 years. He really enjoyed the camaraderie and chats with his customers, building a very loyal customer base.

Lance loved the birds and had a friendly visiting blackbird who regularly called at his house. He also befriended a pair of breeding buzzards up on the Stockton Road. He would buy steak for them, cut it up and leave it on a fence post for them every day.

His other major passion was his beloved allotment which he had for over 40 years. Lance was an exceptional vegetable grower and could certainly give Monty Don a run for his money! People in the village would often see Lance pushing his wheelbarrow containing tools and produce up and down Long Itchington Road.

Lance thoroughly enjoyed being on the Birdingbury Festival Committee for 12 years or more, overseeing the stalls, camping and car parking. He developed many long-standing friendships from his involvement.

He was extremely proud to stand and place a wreath on the village Memorial on Remembrance Sunday every year, in memory of his grandfather, William Parker, who sadly died in Italy the day before the 1st World war ended.

Lance was meticulous in everything he did and a very proud man. It is with fond memories that we trust that Lance is now at peace with his spade and hoe in hand, ready to tend the soil, give the weeds a run for their money and sow some seeds wherever his soul has landed.



Friends and family of Lance Hudson

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury Allotment Association



We have a good year for produce, especially beans, and we are still harvesting potatoes.

We have plots in good condition available for rent, and we are also offering starter plots as a taster of allotment gardening. These will be half normal size but still capable of producing good crops.

For further information and to arrange a visit, please call me on 01926 632666

Vic Shayler

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Chris Lettington

The village was saddened to hear of the death on 18 August of Chris Lettington of Wren Court .

Our thoughts are with Viv, Greg, Andrew, Nicola, his wider family, and his friends.

A memorial page in Chris' name has been set up for donations to Myton Hospice who cared for Chris at home. To contribute in his memory, go to:

<https://chrislettington.muchloved.com/>

Birdsong



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Fun Day Fundraiser at Marton

It was a beautiful day for the sports day on Saturday, 9 September at Marton, held in aid of cancer charities.

Over a hundred people came along to join in the fun and because of their generosity, the event generated around £2,700 at the latest count.



The more athletic visitors were organised into teams by Richard to enter the epic Rounders competition, which involved much enthusiastic bowling, batting, running and probably cheating.

Michael organised the popular pétanque competition, which was won by the away team from Germany, who were visiting the village for the weekend.

Rob kept everyone all up to date with progress through his entertaining commentary.

As well as the games, there were craft stalls, plus a tombola and raffle to keep the spectators busy.

The horse box bar and the barbecue were very popular. Thanks to Danny and Naomi, Allan and Angela, who all worked hard all day to keep everyone fed and watered.

There were also lashings of tea, coffee and home-made cake on offer.

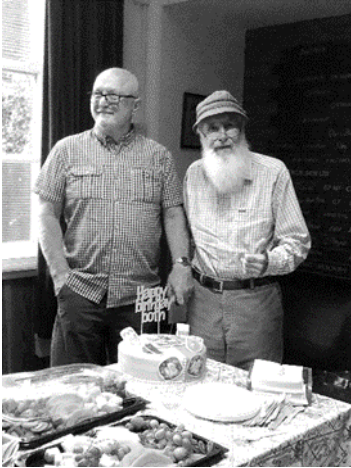
Thanks to all who came along, organised activities, donated prizes and helped to make this a fantastic event.



Mary Harrison with photos from Maya van der Galien

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birthday Boys



On 10 August two veteran Birdingbury residents shared special birthdays, with Gary Laverick reaching the venerable age of 85, and Ian Tipton a youthful 70.

A celebration party was held at the Club on 12 August, with many friends and neighbours coming along to share the fun.

Many thanks to Karen for the delicious buffet, and to Ava for running the bar.

Dick Withington

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Revised Club Opening Hours

Given the financial pressure we're under, we've been carrying out some very detailed analysis. Perhaps inevitably, one of the conclusions we've come to is that in the current climate, it doesn't make financial sense to be open every day of the week and so we will not be opening the bar on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 1 October for the foreseeable future.

We will of course remain open on Thursdays (7-10pm), Saturdays (4-11pm) and Sundays (12-6pm) and are willing to open in the early part of the week if there's a specific event or reason to do so and we get enough notice to arrange staffing, etc.

We really hope this isn't a permanent arrangement and we've actively resisted doing this for some time now as we know the Club is a key community resource, but ever rising costs mean we've got to do what we've got to do.



We'd also love to hear from anyone that has ideas for more community daytime use of the building.

Tony Flint, President, Birdingbury Club

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Volunteers—Your Village Needs You!

We know this is something of a recurring theme but if the activities, which over the years have made us the community we are and want to be, are to continue, then the village needs more volunteers offering to get involved.

As Village Parish Council, Church and Club, we're really, really grateful to those who do get involved and especially those who give a vast amount of energy, time, and commitment to support our community activities.

However, that support is not a bottomless pit and as we write, the traditional bonfire night will not take place without volunteers coming forward to co-ordinate it. Various activities have already gone for the same reason, including the annual Good Friday egg roll and the Harvest Supper. The new Community Café could not run over the summer because no one was prepared to take it on. Whilst Halloween trick or treating is taking place this time, it will be at risk in the future unless a new witch is found. The village website needs some help too!

Those who do volunteer currently have done all these things for a long time but new faces are always beneficial, bringing new ideas and energy.

We know that time is an increasingly precious commodity but could you spare just a little of yours so we can spread the load more evenly and widely, not just on the events above, but in general?

In the words of John F Kennedy (had he lived in Birdingbury):
'ask not what your village can do for you — ask what you can do for your village'.

Do speak to one of us if you could offer some help. It's fun, it's free, it's for everyone!

Tony Flint (Club President), Karen Armbrister (Church Warden) and Guy French (Parish Council Chair)



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Teams 4u Shoebox Appeal

The logo for Teams 4u, featuring the letters 'T4U' in a stylized, bold font.

The Birdingbury Wrappers Team needs a volunteer(s) to transport boxes to and from Stretton-on-Dunsmore, roughly once or twice monthly on an ad-hoc basis.

Additionally, we are looking for anyone prepared to wrap shoe boxes for this marvellous charity on a regular basis throughout the year. If

we do them regularly, then it's not so onerous. Boxes and wrapping paper are provided.

Could you help make life a little brighter for children who receive these boxes of gifts?

We've been supporting this charity for some years now and it would be sad if we couldn't continue. If you can help, please contact me on 632494.

Thank you!

Jackie Westcott



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Christmas Table Arrangement Workshop

Following last year's wreath making session, we thought we would create Christmas table arrangements this year. So, we'd like to invite you to spend an enjoyable morning creating your own festive centre piece.

The workshop will be held on Saturday 9 December from 10.30 to 12.30 at St Leonard's Church, Birdingbury.

There will be festive music, plenty of greenery, and refreshments will be served during the morning. We will both be there to provide support and ideas if needed. All you need to bring are your secateurs.

The fees are:

- Small table arrangement £10:00
- Large arrangement £15:00



Alternatively, for a small donation, bring along your willow wreath from last year and freshen it up with new greenery and berries. All proceeds will go towards St Leonard's Church fund.

To book your place, ring either Eira on 632876 or Liz on 632379.

Merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you on the day!

Cheese and Wine Evening

Come along to Birdingbury Club on

Saturday 18 November at 7pm

Six fine wines and carefully selected cheeses from
Cheese on the Green to taste, assess and enjoy!

£30 per person

To register interest please email

johnabarr@btinternet.com

by 31 October



More Club Events

If anyone has any ideas for social activities at the Club and/or is prepared to host or organise an event, please drop in to the Club and have a word with whom ever is on the bar, contact me (jennybarr@btinternet.com), or have a chat with any another Club committee member.

You know how much fun we'll all have!

Jenny Barr



Halloween 2023

Our traditional trick or treating will be taking place slightly ahead of All Hallows' Eve this year, so make sure you're ready.

We invite you to join us to haunt the village in spooky groups on Saturday 28th October, collecting treats and terrifying your family and friends.

Meet outside the Club, in your frighteningly freaky finery, at around 6pm (exact timing tbc - keep an eye on WhatsApp or check at the Club). We can then split into groups to go round the village.



If you're happy for the ghoulish groups to visit your haunted house, pop something out to let us know: pumpkins are a favourite but other spooky signs also work! Have the treats ready for the tricksters and get ready to admire the fabulous costumes and make up.

We really do appreciate everyone who joins in, and all the fantastic decorations.

Afterwards, there will be some traditional Halloween games at the club, thanks to Suzie and her sisters for offering to host and organise them so we don't lose this terrifying tradition. In the past we've wrapped unsuspecting locals in loo roll, played ghost bowling and bounced eyeballs into cups. We've had spooky dancing, doughnuts on strings and pass the pumpkin. What will the gory games be this year? Come and find out...it will be spookily good fun!

As retiring head witch, I'm delighted that this is still able to happen. If you and your children enjoy it, please consider getting involved next year to ensure it continues.

Keeeeeep haunting!!

Lesley Tomb-linson



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Leamington Hastings Bowls Club

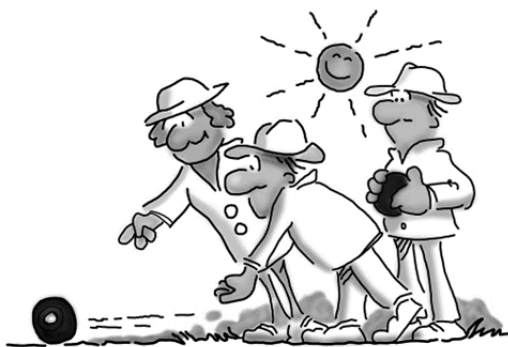
The bowls green has looked amazing this season with all who played on it paying compliments to Darren, our green keeper (assisted by Wendy). Thank you both.

After another great outdoor season, Leamington Hastings Bowls Club have played their traditional Ladies v Gents match to close the green. This was followed by a lovely meal and get together at The Harvester in Long Itchington. The ladies came 2nd!

The club have been fortunate to welcome new members again this season. We have enjoyed your company (and your bowling) so thank you for joining us.

The club members raised £615 from our annual Lyle Watts Day, with the money going to Myton Hospice. Everyone involved had a lovely day, the weather stayed fair, and the cakes were delicious. Thank you to all those involved.

Our outdoor season is always successful, win, lose or draw. We love the game, frustrating though it can be! We enjoy the company, the surroundings, the banter, and the learning curve.



We start our indoor short mat bowling on Wednesday 20 September, from 2pm to 4pm, in the Leamington Hastings Parish Hall.

Short mat bowls doesn't need strength or involve much walking and is a lovely introduction to our club members, with tea and biscuits and a chat at half time. If you would like to come and have a go, please just turn up or call 01788 336913 for further details. We have bowls you can borrow, just wear loose clothing and flat shoes and come along to try for free.

Good health to all members and take care.

Sue Turner

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Old Winter's Time

All Summer long
Old Winter grew
And dark the brilliance
Of his drive,
To mark the stars
With sombre hue
And melt the night's
Slow, sullen pride.

A shepherd
Gazing through the clouds
Retreating time
Left soon to flow
Canyons
Of the oldest light
Catch the moonbeams come and go.

He minded not
The clouds' rebuke,
At Paradise now thrown
But held the light
For all to see
The line of Winter's fall.

'Let love,'
The lonely shepherd said,
'Bring peace and truth
To all.'

Pilgrim

Club Events

Food serving times vary from around 17.00 to 20.30.

There's always more going on and details can change at short notice.

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

Date	Time	Menu
Saturday 7 October	From 5.30pm	Village Kitchen Curry
Thursday 19 October	7pm	Film screening
Friday 20 October	From 5.30pm	Village Kitchen Mexican
Thursday 26 October	From 4.30pm	Village Chippy
Saturday 28 October	From 5pm	Pizza
Friday 3 November	From 5.30pm	Village Kitchen Curry
Thursday 9 November	TBC	Live music with Steve Edgar
Saturday 11 November	From 5pm	Pizza
Friday 17 November	From 5.30pm	Village Kitchen Mexican
Saturday 18 November	TBC	Cheese and wine night with the Barrs
Thursday 23 November	From 4.30pm	Village Chippy

See inside for an update on Club opening times and the new mobile library timetable.



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