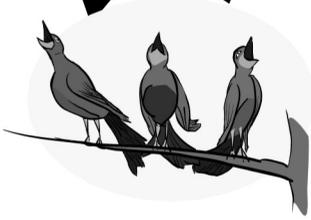


BIRDSONG

**August and
September
2016**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS**

No 75



Cup cakes: Jo Cutts

Photo: Matt Markham

Fit for a Queen

Birdingbury Parish Council

As the council held its last meeting before the August break, we were reminded how important to our youngsters the Recreation Field is. While vandalism and damage to the equipment are fortunately very rare, there are occasions when carelessness and high spirits can lead to broken bottles, upset rubbish bins and other problems. If you see any such damage, please report it to any of the councillors. Local youngsters benefit from the facilities and we hope they will play their part in ensuring they are well looked after. Over the summer, councillors are working with Rugby Borough Council to ensure that the grant we have been awarded is spent in the best possible way, so that it continues to be a safe and enjoyable place for us all.

The fantastic community spirit characteristic of Birdingbury was amply demonstrated by the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations. The council would like to record its thanks to all those who took part, especially those who worked so hard to get everything in place. It was a great weekend!

The county council is currently consulting residents on 'community involvement' and the Police and Crime Commissioner is carrying out a survey of local views on priorities in the future. If you wish to contribute to either of these, there are links on the village, WCC or PCC websites.

Our vice-chairman, Cllr Ian Tipton, has updated the parish emergency plan, which provides a guide to responses to emergencies as well as useful contact details. This too will be available on the website

I wish you all a vey pleasant summer break,

Diana Turner.

Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council



It's not like this at
Church Street Printers
anymore

A new editor for *Birdsong*

We are delighted to announce that *Birdsong*'s new editor will be Lesley Fleming, who you will know from her entertaining contributions from time to time over the years including a report in this issue. She will take over as from the October issue. Hoorah! It will be great to have a fresh eye and a new voice on Birdingbury.

Email contact will remain the same — birdsong1@btinternet.com

How *Birdsong* began

It is now over 12 years and 75 issues since Barbara Moore and I set up *Birdsong* – it all began with the Christmas 2003 activities in the Birbury when we realised that the disappointing turnout could have been due to lack of publicity....so, with lots of encouragement (or was it ‘where fools rush in’) and a generous donation for printing costs from the then Festival Committee – not to forget contributions of copy from villagers – we brought out the first issue in April 2004.

From the start, we wanted to make it a general interest magazine with articles on local history, gardening, environment and events nearby, besides the usual notices and reports on village organizations and activities. It has all depended on contributions from readers! We thought we could cope with an issue every two months and we wanted it to be free to all villagers and not dependent on advertisements. And in this respect we have been well supported by the Parish Council, the Village Distribution Fund and numerous generous donations from readers.

By October 2004 Church Notices and News (incorporating The Messenger) was included as a centrefold on coloured paper, which continues today as Church News and Views, now under the editorship of Aileen Withington.

At the beginning, Barbara did the computer lay-out - and arranged a very good deal with the printer – while I did the other stuff. In 2008, Chris (Barney) took over the technical side, but refused to put his name as editor – that way I could take the flak (of which there has been almost none). He says that over the years improved technology has made life easier and printing processes have improved to make photo reproduction much better. At this point I should add that Leslie Turner unfailingly and punctiliously offers a final proof read for each issue.

So, thank you all. And I can't say how delighted (and grateful) we are that Lesley has agreed to become the Editor. *Birdsong* will continue to flourish!

Rhonda Barney

Planning the Queen's Birthday Weekend

Following the popularity of previous picnic/entertainment events, some folk had been asking would we be arranging another one?

In March, the 6 o'clock news announced there would be a Queen's 90th Birthday street party. I thought at the time 'perfect excuse for a Birdingbury celebration'; minutes later the phone rang and Gaynor Davy had also thought the same.

So the planning began, choosing music for the ladies choir, getting acts for each decade and then weeks/months of rehearsals. Would Hugh and Jan want us in their meadow again? Would we be able to use the driveway again at Birdingbury Hall? Thankfully all were fully on board; we could go ahead.

We really wanted it to be a community event, bringing the village together. This is just what happened, with the Birbury, Club and St Leonard's all working in harmony to provide a wonderful weekend.

Gaynor, Ian and I were the organisers for the Saturday evening, for which we had fantastic support from so many. We have so much talent and goodwill in this village, it is humbling. What a great place to live and be part of such a community.

Hope you agree,

Mel Palmer

BIRDSONBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The Birds

(with an 'i' and not the High Flying variety!)

Paul met John playing with the *Quarrymen* at the garden fete of St Peter's Church in Woolton, Liverpool on a sunny afternoon on 6 July 1957. The rest is history.

In years to come, when music historians search the archives of *Birdsong*, they may come across a rare Feb 2016 issue and, under a notice advertising 'the long awaited DOG WASTE bin', find an announcement headed 'SAVE THE DATE'... 'Music in the Meadow. If you would like to be... 'out front', please let us know...' They will debate and ask, "Was this the trigger that marked the birth of *The Birds*?"

After a few weeks, I called David, "Wanna join a band?" Stunned silence! With a little gentle persuasion, came the response: "Perhaps you should come up to the Lodge....and bring your guitar". David had played bass in a band in the early **s, but nothing since. Next mission: to find a drummer. Ruth played even harder to get, but after several phone calls said that she would talk to her drum teacher. Perhaps she could join us for two songs? Ruth had never played with anyone before or even played a song all the way through, but in the end bought a drum kit and did nine songs magnificently!

Ah yes, we needed to decide on some songs! Fortunately, we did not need to explore our 'musical differences' and break up before we had started. The decision was taken for us when an email arrived from Simon in March: "[Gaynor] has every decade covered apart from the 60s..." What's more, he wanted to join us. So not only did we have the making of a set-list, but also our crucial fourth member, additional vocalist, general mover and shaker, and fellow *Loiner!*

We had three months to get ready, which sounded like a lot, except when we looked in our diaries! A few practices were managed at the Lodge, where David and Patrick worked up bass lines and guitar solos with a generous supply of beer; in the lounge at Brook House, where Simon and Patrick (yes, as in the guitar luthier!) worked on those pesky Beatles harmonies - much too late in the day for them (by about 30 years!); and in Ruth's 'drum room' in the Old Orchard, windows sealed with duvets to avoid annoying the neighbours (sorry folks!) and distracting youngsters from exam revision. By the way, we do not want to feature in any exam results appeals!



Photo Dallal Stevens

As a 'full band' we played together about four or five times, so do take that into account if you wish to recall that wonderful Summer evening in the Meadow and see our warm-up or the 'Beatles-inspired' set go to - - Youtube Birdingbury The Birds

The Music in the Meadow event was a wonderful occasion for all who took part (and hopefully for those who watched!), owing to the hard work of Gaynor, Mel, Jan and Hugh, and many others. We're particularly grateful to Ian on sound.



Photo Dallal Stevens

I'd like to say thank you on behalf of the group and ourselves and I hope we've passed the audition. Who knows - we might just get back together again if you'll have us!

Patrick Unwin

Music in the Meadow

Well over a hundred people armed with champagne, candelabra and cagoules assembled in the Rectory Field to join the celebrations for Her Majesty's 90th birthday. **Music in the Meadow** took the village on an evocative, magical mystery tour through the life and times of Queen Elizabeth II.

The evening began with David 'May' Hanson's 'Red Special' version of the national anthem, segueing effortlessly into a warm-up medley of feel-good standards, performed alongside Prof Patrick and the Birds: the exciting new rock combo pulled together especially for the event. By the time their set was complete, the crowd were on a high, convinced that the night's gonna be a good night and that we would indeed let all the children boogie.

Riding the wave of enthusiasm, the Gentlemen's Choir immediately took the stage to lead the Massive in singing *The Battle Hymn of the Kingdom* with its rousing chorus of 'Corgi, corgi Gloriana'. This fitting tribute to Her Majesty had been respectfully penned by Birdingbury's very own resident songwriter, Thin Jethro Lasky. The crowd were going wild with their pork pies.

Our host for the evening, Warrant Officer Simon Davy, fortunately assumed control of proceedings, expressing thanks to all those who had provided locations, staging, hospitality, tree surgery, funding, power, toilets, decorations, sound and safety to make the event possible. Special mention was made of the producers, Gaynor and Mel, and finally, the Queen herself for her selfless service over the decades, which he invited everyone to relive through the evening's entertainment.

The show began in the Thirties, with a nostalgic reincarnation of Flanagan and Allen. *Underneath the Arches* and *Run Rabbit Run* poignantly evoked the austerity of our Queen's early years and subtly demonstrated how her mastery of regal accoutrements was inspired by the dirty raincoat and droopy dressing gown ensembles of her childhood years.

Dame 'Liz' Lynn arrived on stage to the sound of spitfires to recreate the war years of the Forties, along with Matt and Dan, heroically representing our valiant fighting forces. Many a tear was shed as they performed *Blue Birds over the White Cliffs of Dover*, *Anniversary Waltz* (with real dancing!), *Roll out the Barrel* and *Berkeley Square*. "We want more", chanted the crowd.

Further tears were shed as the show was transported to the heady Fifties by Elvis 'Denty' Presley (yes, live, on stage, in Birdingbury!) resplendent in rhinestones, begging to be a Teddy Bear. "I've never seems anything like it", gasped an over-wrought fan... The Gentlemen's Choir in full naval rig and pink flowers echoed the fifties vibe with a hearty rendition of *Nothing like a Dame*.

The Birds reappeared to perform a selection of Sixties Beatles hits. *Help* and *Hard Day's Night* particularly hit the mark for many who, picnicking rather too enthusiastically, had become confused by the appearance of two John Lennons on stage. Then, as the setting sun glinted off silver spandex, the Seventies followed on with a 'Pan's People' (or was it 'Maggie's Mob' or 'Dawn's Dudes'?) reinterpretation of Abba's *Dancing Queen*. "I'm lovin' it" drooled one hyper-reveller, high on strawberries.

Brought back to earth, the Gentlemen resumed the story of the Eighties with the Proclaimers' *I'm gonna be (500 miles)* and Tony Christie's *Show me the way to Amarillo*. Both numbers were complemented by an array of millinery resonant of Phillip Tracey's best creative efforts for Her Majesty. Lewis then held the audience spellbound,



Photo Lesley Fleming

performing a tribute to the guitar greats of the Nineties. Despite the weather forecast, the only rain that fell was suitably purple. Status Quo was once again restored by our host, bringing us slap bang into the Twenty First Century.

The Ladies Choir introduced the Noughties with *Proud* and the Queen's favourite Gary Barlow songs, featuring guest soloist Super Sara. The combined choirs then rounded off the decades with an apt performance of *Perfect Day*. In the words of one reveller, "We couldn't have asked for more".

The entire musical experience was skilfully interwoven with Simon's narrative evoking the social and political events of the times.

The grand finale including *Jerusalem*, *Land of Hope and Glory* and the National Anthem, topped by three cheers for the Queen, provided a fitting and dignified climax to an evening of great celebration and community. We think the Queen would have enjoyed it!

Lesley Fleming

The village birthday tea



Photo Matt Markham

After the wonderful evening on Saturday in the meadow, the village continued the celebrations for the Queen's birthday on the Sunday. The day started with a beautiful service led by Karen Armbrister on behalf of St Leonard's Church. The service was held outdoors, at the Club, and there was full attendance from throughout the village. It was a beautiful service of remembrance and gratitude to the Queen for her unwavering service to our country. The PCC had purchased a number of books entitled *The Servant Queen and the King she serves* which were given to villagers as mementos of this wonderful occasion.

Once the service was over, villagers were treated to a generous spread of delights; cakes, sandwiches, dips, and pastries made by many friends for the splendid street party. The tables were full and there was much enjoyment in sharing recipes and tips on how to make the best scones. The Birbury served refreshments and beautiful home-made cakes, and the Club was open for refreshments of another kind for those looking forward to a sherry or two.

It was a beautiful day, and wonderful to see so many people coming together to enjoy and take part. A special thanks to St Leonard's Church and the PCC for the service and the book; Birdingbury Club for organising the street party and setting out all the facilities, the Birbury for the lovely refreshments and cakes and for the Queen's Birthday Celebrations Organising Committee for co-ordinating the weekend of events.

Carol Moor



La Mairie

Oiseau-en terre

Comte de meule de gueree

Mes amis

After everything that ‘as ‘appened recemment I ‘ardly know what to write. You ‘ave so much that we admire in England that we will be sorry to see you go, not that you ‘ave ever been completely ‘ere.

And yet, ce weekend, we ‘ave the newspapers showing pictures of thousands of people trying to get across the channel – wiv ‘elicopeteres dropping water like it was a forest fire – the mot refugé is of course a french mot. ‘Appily the barriers a calais ‘ave two sides, as they ‘ave done for some ‘undreds of years.

I ‘ave been experimenting wiv social media and now that the gendarmes ‘ave given back my computer I am able to see full details of your celebrations of ‘er majesty’s quatre-vingt dixieme anniversaire! It was little wonder that you ‘ad your artistes (for so they were) on a trailer. Truly remorquable! And the food looked like a typical British pique nique – need I say more?!

One of the biggest questions which will ‘ave to be dealt wiv as part of the negotiations is of course the tour de france. You now ‘ave le tour de Yorkshire an’ I understand that everywhere there are little yellow bicycles – so pourquoi continue to take part in our race – all your chap deed was to get in front of the Frenchmen and bloque their way. Sportiv?

Il y a aussi le question de notre twinning and the negotiations which ‘ave not yet started. ‘ow can we negotiate about finishing them until they are done. Qui dans your village ‘as responsabilité for this?

So, as la manche becomes l’ocean francais, et le mur de’adrian redeviens important,

Je vous offer me salutations

jean de l’etoile jachere

Maire de Oiseau en terre

p.s. I ‘ope you don’t mind but I ‘ave started to use the borders in this letter.

Country Show Garden Cafe

Thank you to everyone who supported The Garden Cafe during the Country Show. You raised nearly £900 for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. Thank you also to St Leonard's Church for their very generous donation.

Thank you for all your help and hard work – Monica, Sue, Fern, Jan, Sara, Paula, Sylvia, Maggie, Mel, Debbie, Liz, Karen, Lee.

Gaynor Davy

BIRDSONBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

After the Show

We have in the past replaced items in the Playing Field where they have shown signs of wear and tear or age and we have always felt indebted to the Recreation Field Committee and the Parish Council for allowing us to use the facility during the Show.

This year some youths from the village were caught in the act of damaging a children's roundabout on the Saturday evening. On being challenged the response was, "... well it's our Playing Field. That thing shouldn't be in here".

Perhaps this year's contribution should go towards the cost of repairing the roundabout. - I would much prefer the culprits apologise.

Bob Munro

Chairman

Birdingbury Country Show Committee

BIRDSONBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

St. Leonard's Church Fete

Because of the building work at church we decided to relocate the fete to the club forecourt, using the lounge as a tea room. Despite the torrential rain whilst setting up, the rest of the afternoon was largely dry. We raised £1474 for general funds.

Many thanks to all who helped set up, ran and cleared stalls and of course to everyone who came on the day. A special thank you to Karen and Mark Thomas for all the help they gave us.

Since we had limited gazebo cover, we held back the Tombola until the Sunday of the Country Show, when we made over £170 of which we donated £70 to Blood Wise.

Karen and Dick

Birdingbury Country Show 2016

After a drizzly start on Saturday which led to the cancellation of one event in the ring, the weather continued to improve over the weekend, and the attendance doubled on Sunday.

It is always difficult when organizing the Show to find a variety of interesting exhibits. We get accused of being 'samey' and if we change something then we are asked why such and such are not here this year.

We did introduce new entertainment in the ring. The Monica Russell Sheep Dog Display where the dogs herd ducks was well received by the onlookers, and Lynda Styan entertained us with songs from the 40s, 50s and 60s.

Another exhibit new this year was a 1955 Swallow Doretta 2-seater Sports Car entered by our Section Leader (Classic Cars), Peter Lockley. Peter also wrote an article about the car for our programme in which he asks if anyone has any information about its history. (If anyone is interested in this we do have some programmes still available- 632555).

We also welcomed two stalls from the Church Fete which had been unable to run on Fete Day owing to the adverse weather. We are pleased that they managed to raise some funds and thank them for their donation to our causes. We have always hoped that the Fete could be run over the same weekend as the Show to the benefit of both parties.

It takes time to put the figures together and ensure that all expenses are accounted for, but, provisionally, it looks as if there will be profits for distribution. We did some sums before this year's event and we have donated almost £40,000 to charities and good causes since we became a Show in 2010, and if we include those who receive donations for helping, then this becomes almost £48,000.

The committee already have a list of good causes to be considered for a donation along with The Acorns Children's Hospice, but would welcome nominations (for the committee's consideration) if you know of any cause which would benefit from a small donation.

Thank you for your support.

Birdingbury Country Show Committee

BIRDSONBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Change of name

Finally, after almost six years of living in Back Lane, we have thought of a new name for The Dormers! Our home will now be called -- Hereford House.

Rosy and Michael

A thank you to Pete Welch

Pete Welch was Chairman of the Recreation Field Committee for many years. In 2002, a group of young people approached the committee and the Parish Council to improve the facilities in the Recreation Field. As a result of the group's persistence and commitment, the committee took on the very ambitious project of developing the field to include a multi games surface and a skateboard area.



Pete was also involved with the village Youth Club at the time, with me, Alison Chappell and Lynda Scott. We were adamant that the project should involve the Youth Club so that the children had 'ownership' of the facilities both then and in the future. A nominated group from the Youth Club attended all our meetings and were involved at every stage of the process.

Pete was inspirational in driving the Recreation Field Committee, Parish Council and Youth Club in securing grants and funding of over £60,000. We received a very generous contribution from the Birdingbury Festival Committee and the Youth Club raised over £6,500 themselves through sponsored bike rides, cake sales, bring & buys, balloon races and much more.

In 2005 the project was complete and in true Birdingbury tradition the whole village turned out to see the unveiling of the new equipment by Guy French, Chair of the Parish Council, and County Councillor Gordon Collett.

In recognition of the scheme Pete and I were privileged to receive two prizes for Birdingbury in the Warwickshire 2006 Village Ventures Competition; second place for the 'Birdingbury Recreation Field Project' and joint second for our presentation.

Thank you Pete for all your hard work over the years for the Recreation Field and for the Youth Club.

All the best for the future, Pete and Krysia, as you move on to pastures new.

Gaynor Davy

Adult & Community Learning

Autumn 2016, Adult Learning Courses

Would you like to develop your skills, discover a rewarding hobby or improve your qualifications? Bring warmth and enrichment to those autumnal days with an adult learning course.

Our programme starts in September 2016 and topics include:

Computing: For beginners (ideal for those with little or no experience of using a computer), Next Steps (for improvers), iPad for beginners and improvers, ITQs for those who wish to gain qualifications.

English, Maths and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages): Build confidence in these subjects, improve employment prospects and gain qualifications.

Leisure courses include; Arts, Creative Stitching, Digital Photo Editing, History, Languages, Jewellery Making, Papercraft, Photography, Patchwork & Quilting, Seasonal Crafts, Sugarcraft, Upholstery and Soft Furnishings and more.

Details will be available online from mid-August 2016

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/adultlearning

For printed brochures or for more information please contact an area office

01788 552933 (Rugby) rugbyacl@warwickshire.gov.uk

BIRDSONBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Comings and Goings

Welcome to Cooper, son of Katie and Graeme Dominy at Kison, Marton Road. Congratulations to all three of you.

Welcome to Jo, Darren and Freddie Young who have moved into Lingfield on Marton Road.

A belated welcome back to Ben Sharratt who has returned to his Birdingbury roots and is living at Enfield Lock, Main Street with his partner, Kim, and James.

Farewell to Jean Sharratt of Back Lane who has moved to Coventry after many years here in Birdingbury and welcome to Julia who has moved into Jean's former house.

Farewell also to Krysia and Peter Welch who have moved to Shropshire and welcome to John and Louise and their two sons who now live at Harbottle House, Main Street.

Birdingbury Village Club

Saturday 20 August	7pm	Film Night — <i>Dad's Army</i>
Saturday 27 August	7pm	Village BBQ — for all the family
Saturday 3 or 10 September		Produce Show
Saturday 24 September	7pm	Harvest Supper
Saturday 1 October	7pm	Film Night — <i>Jungle Book</i>
Saturday 8 October	7pm	Cheese and Wine
Saturday 22 October	7pm	Halloween Party

Thursdays at 7.45 11 August, 8 September, 13 October — Fish and chips

BIRDSONBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

'Perk up your liver' morning

Our heartfelt thanks to all the many people who supported coffee and cookies at High Mead on 2 July.

Your generosity means that the British Liver Trust will soon receive £275 + gift aid.

Many thanks,

Aileen and Dick

BIRDSONBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Come and join in the fun at our

Big Dogs Breakfast Party

At: Moonrakers, Back Lane

On: Sunday 28th August

9.00 am to 11.00am

Lesley's Luscious Breakfast Buns

Droolmaking Dog Biccis, -

Human and canine socialising

NO DOG NECESSARY BUT ALL

WELCOME

(no cats!)



Please let us know if you can come on 632508 or bigdog@jkstarley.com

All money raised will go to Dogs for Good

Ladies Circle

For our last get together of the year in June we were very kindly invited to go to Jennifer and Jeffrey Johnstone's house in Leamington. We had a good turn out and luckily the weather held so we could wander round their beautiful garden and see how much hard work they have done since our last visit two years ago. Everyone brought a dish of food to share and we could sit and chat and catch up with friends.

September

Our first meeting of the new season will be our AGM on Tuesday 13 September at 7.45 in The Birbury. Everyone very welcome, so please come along and meet with friends and neighbours to catch up after the summer.

Lee Hayden and Julie Colledge

BIRDSONBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Save the date

St Leonard's Harvest Supper

on Saturday 24 September at 7pm.

Please come along to Birdingbury Club
for a traditional harvest meal and music.

Tickets £2.50.

Please contact Liz Ellis on 632379 to reserve them.



BIRDSONBIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Summer in the Birbury

We ran an enjoyable Coffee Shop over the two days of the Country Show, despite the weather. It was lovely to have a chat and share home-made refreshments with old friends and see some new faces. Many thanks to all our helpers whose hard work makes events like this possible.

..... and looking forward to Christmas

The sun is shining strongly as I write this and Christmas seems a very long way in the future, however as we all tend to have busy social diaries in December please make a note of this date. Our annual Tea at Three will be held on Saturday 17 December at 3pm in the Birbury. Home-made mincepies, warm of course, and a glass of sherry or a cup of tea and the chance to join in a carol or two. Come and join us as we celebrate the festive season.

Jenny Hawes

Birdingbury Calendar

August

Friday	12	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Saturday	20	Film Night	Club	7.00	14
Saturday	27	Village BBQ	Club	7.00	14
Sunday	28	Big Dogs Breakfast	Moonrakers	9.00	14

September

Friday	2	Library Van	Main Street	11.40	
Saturday	3	Concert	Leamington Hastings Church	7.30	
Saturday	3 or 10	Produce Show	Club		
Tuesday	13	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45	15
Tuesday	20	Parish Council	Birbury	7.30	2
Saturday	24	Harvest Supper	Club	7.00	15
Thursday	29	Bourton Garden Club	Bourton Village Hall	7.00	

October

Saturday	1	Film Night	Club	7.00	14
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Swap Shop every Saturday at 10.30 in the Birbury



Goodbye old fella,
look after Lesley, won't you.

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