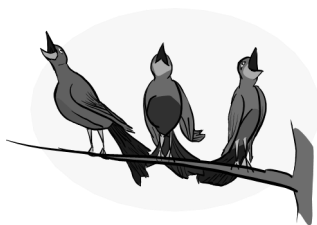
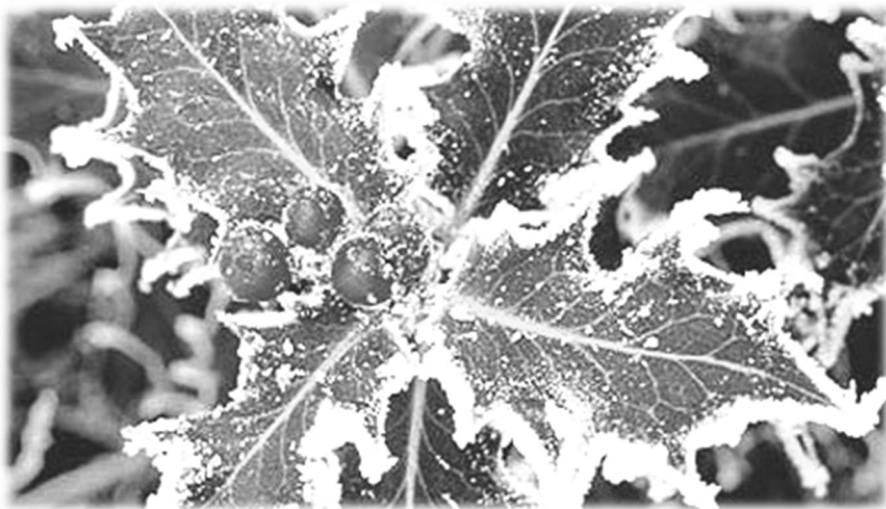


BIRDSONG

**December 2022
and
January 2023**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS
NO 113**



Seasonal Highlights

Birdingbury Parish Council Report

The last couple of weeks have seen many in the village attend the Progressive Supper and the Remembrance Sunday service in the Church and at the War Memorial. Whilst these were very different events, they show how communities like Birdingbury come together, whether in solemn silence or somewhat more noisily. Thanks to those behind the scenes whose efforts make these events possible for everyone, and thanks also to Karen and Jean who have reached out to the village to discuss 'unity in our community', something that we might need to help us through winter in difficult economic times.

And on the community theme, I wanted to mention a couple of very different 'assets' that we have here in Birdingbury. The first is the **Distribution Fund**, managed by the Birbury Management Committee. It currently has over £3,000 and is available to support activities and purchases for community benefit, so please let me know if you have any ideas, big or small, and I'll pass them on. The second is the '**Village Chat**' on WhatsApp which is a great way to stay in touch with what is happening in the village – if you're not on it and would like to be, please contact Paula Taylor or let me have your mobile number and I'll pass it on. You can contact me at guyfrenchpc@gmail.com or on 07538 583498.

We're pleased to see the new double gate into the Recreation Field being used, and we're now planning to replace the old, damaged pedestrian access with a new fence as it is no longer needed. Please could people close the double gates once they've gone through as they are intended to stop children running into the road, and we think they're too heavy for self-closing springs. A visual reminder might help so if anyone is a dab hand with a paint brush or has some letter stencils, please let me know.

A quick update on Sustrans' plans for the extension of the path from Birdingbury towards Offchurch. They haven't been able to access the funding that they need to complete the expansion (about £7-8m) but are seeking £1-2m next year to replace the Marton Bridge and to create the culvert at Bondon Farm. These changes will open up the route enabling access, but they won't install a path surface. However, in the meantime, crested newts have moved into the boggy ground either side of the Bondon Farm embankment, so any work on the culvert will need to take them into account. We raised the issue of motorbikes, and they have funds to install constraint barriers to prevent access. We'll monitor any progress as and when funding is agreed.

Many of you will be aware that there is a new planning application for a phone mast on the roadside at the entrance to the village on the Marton Road. It is very similar to the first application (slightly shorter mast), so we have submitted the same objection on road safety and visual amenity grounds. I know several villagers have also sent in their responses. The Parish Council's view is that there are better sites than on this tight roadside.

And so we are set to see out 2022 and welcome in 2023. The Queen's Green Canopy saplings have arrived so look out for a late January/early February planting day. And another little bit of good news for next year is that we have decided to keep the precept (the parish portion of Council Tax) unchanged for 23/24 ... we'd rather dip into our reserves than add to everyone's bills in the current climate.

So, may I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Guy French, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

That's Progress!

Sixty-two people joined the progressive supper this year: four years on since the last face to face event. It was great to see so many new couples - Hannah and Shane, Hana and Phil, Sharon and Matt, Nicola and Simon, and Charlie and Tom were all warmly welcomed. Thank you for taking the plunge for the first time - you never really know what to expect do you?!

There is always a buzz of excitement in the Club at the beginning of the night: the anticipation of where we are going to go and who we are going to meet, so it was fun watching everyone open their envelopes to find out where they were off to for their starter.



The envelopes delivered to homes that morning told us where we needed to go for the next two courses, keeping the anticipation going and, hopefully, meaning that people got to meet old friends and new.

It was a lovely evening for walking around the village, despite the beautiful moon we still needed our torches, and it was great to see the bobbing lights as we made our way to our next course.

Everyone came back to the Club for the raffle, with the usual quality and quirky prizes. John and Sara were delighted to win back their dog chews – Bentley will be relieved!

Thank you to Freddie for his raffle calling and to everyone for their generosity. The donations to the event coupled with the raffle raised over £1,100 for Alzheimer's Society. We are so grateful.

Alex Rigler and John Barr

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

All Hallows Horrors

Halloween 2022 saw a return to Birdingbury tradition, following two years of Covid-safe Halloween trails. The trails had been very successful, and I feared becoming a victim of my own success, but it felt right to mix things up and let many of our newer or younger witches, skeletons and generally ghoulish characters experience trick or treating round the village, followed by spooky games at the Club.



I was thinking it was going to be a quiet night when initially waiting outside the Club to see who would turn up: had my creepy communications reached my intended audience? Was everyone in a huff with me for temporarily abandoning the popular terrifying trails? I needn't have worried because before long I was surrounded by a cacophony of wonderful characters, some scary, some cute... and many a fabulous combination of the two!

We split into two gruesome groups for our trick or treating and planned a petrifying pincer manoeuvre around the village. Many thanks to everyone who decorated, popped out a pumpkin, welcomed the revellers with goodies, or left some treats for us. All cauldrons (other treat collection vessels are available) were well stocked by the time we returned to the club!



And so to the spooky games...bouncy eyeballs, ghost skittles and pin the eyes on the pumpkin to name but a few. And who knew how much fun you could have with some party plates and plastic spiders?! Of course, we had to revive those firm favourites of old: doughnuts on a string and wrapping unsuspecting adults in loo paper so they look like mummies. They were all great sports, including Jacob Cutts who was about to head off to a rave...we should have left him wrapped up but were not sure he could walk by the end!

The Club laid on a buffet for the kids which helped fuel the scary shenanigans. I think we had around 40 children involved which is amazing.

It may have been a little chaotic at times, but it's a fiendishly good community event, supported fabulously by the Club. I would like to express my personal thanks to Karen Thomas, my right-hand witch, for her huge support over my years of running Halloween in the village.

As many of you know, I am planning to hang up my broomstick, but I will be involved next year to help pass the baton to a new breed of Head Wizards and Witches. I have one recruit so far and would like one or two more so we can make sure future Halloweens are just as much fun. Please consider getting involved because the thought of such a tradition dying out is truly terrifying. Let me know if you're up for the challenge...it really is a rewarding activity, and many hands make fright work!



Lesley Thomlinson (aka Tabitha, Head Witch)

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

LH Academy Update

We have had a great term so far at Leamington Hasting Academy, with lots of learning taking place. The children have particularly enjoyed learning about 'superheroes' in reception and nursery, with a particular focus on Supertato! In years one and two, the children have learnt about the local area and are currently learning about how the toys they play with today are different from the toys that were played with in the past. There have been some great ideas for toys that might be played with in the future!



We have also held two successful prospective parent's evenings for children who are interested in nursery and reception places. We continue to offer individual tours around the school, so please do get in touch via the school office if you would be interested in your child joining us. We have also had some filming taking place in school for a new online prospectus which we look forward to sharing with you soon.

We will be holding an outdoor Christmas Fair on Thursday 15 December at 3:15pm. All local residents are welcome to attend.

Finally, everyone at Leamington Hastings would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

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

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury's Remembrance Pledge

Following the traditional church service on Remembrance Sunday, residents gathered at the memorial to reflect upon the sacrifices made by others for their country during times of conflict:

'Today is Remembrance Sunday. As we remember those who gave their lives for others, let us commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace

Today we commit ourselves to choosing love over hate, choosing service over selfishness, choosing sharing over greed, and choosing peace-making over trouble making.

As we gather at this beloved village war memorial, we are thankful to those who have given up their lives for us in war and, conscious of what they did for us, may we be determined to live lives of peace making and love.'

Guy read the names of the fallen from Birdingbury, and Phoebe laid the poppy wreath on behalf of the village.

Thanks to Karen and Leigh for making us all welcome at the Club afterwards for coffee and biscuits.

Karen Armbrister, photo by Mike Coles



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Marton Fundraising Lunch

This is an update on the fundraising lunch which was held in Marton Village Hall on Saturday 22 October.



We were raising money for Breast and Prostate Cancer Research and at time of our last count the total raised was more than £1600.



We would like to thank everyone who came along, as well as those who donated prizes, ran stalls and helped out on the day.

So many people have all been affected by cancer, whether through family, friends, neighbours, colleagues or even personally. Thank you again for all your support, we could not do this without your help, and we hope for your continued support in future events.

Mary Harrison & Helen Keeves

A Sparkling Celebration



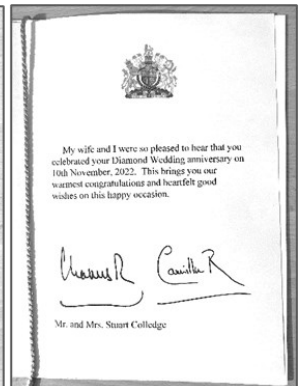
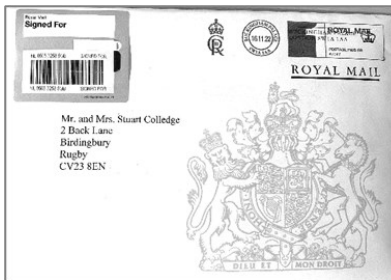
We would like to thank everyone for their kind messages, cards and good wishes on our Diamond Anniversary. It was Pip's birthday too, so we had a double celebration.

We were surprised to receive a very grand looking envelope with a card of personal congratulations from Buckingham Palace!

Special thanks go to Mark and Karen for the splendid afternoon tea they produced for our family, more so as they had stayed on at the Club just for us.

Thanks again

Pip and Gail Colledge



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Welcome to Birdingbury

Scarlett Briffa and Daniel Leeder are moving into Lyndhurst, Marton Road.

We extend them a warm welcome to our village and look forward to meeting them soon.

Dick Withington



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Goodbye from Karen and Mark

For those who don't already know, Mark left his role as Manager of Birdingbury Village Club on Sunday 13 November after seven and a half years.

This was never a joint position. I have only ever supported him and the role of the Club in the community. We are not moving from the village.

Although Mark is a Coventry kid, born and bred, having lived in Birdingbury for 28 years maybe he can now call himself a local!

My roots in this village are much deeper. My Mum was born here, married my Dad at St Leonard's, with their reception at the Club. I was also baptised at the church. My Grandparents and Great Grandparents also lived here so my whole life has been centred around Birdingbury.



We have so much enjoyed, and have been truly honoured to be involved with community events and occasions, the variety of which are too numerous to mention.

Mark has always been passionate about keeping a good pint, making sure the place is clean and tidy, and running efficiently.

Thank you to everyone who helped us raise money for many causes along the way.

Thanks to the villagers who have supported us and for your gifts and good wishes. We hope the Club continues to be an integral part of Birdingbury life. Best wishes to you all,

Karen and Mark Thomas

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

‘Thank You Both’ from Village Chat

‘Karen/Mark, you have both been so important in the recent success of the club but more importantly the many important family events you have so wonderfully supported. On a personal level, your help and support with our birthdays and anniversary celebrations cannot be underestimated. Many thanks to you both.’

‘Thank you, Mark and Karen for everything and making us so very welcome. All the very best wishes to you both.’

‘Thank you, Mark and Karen, we hope to see you on the other side of the bar soon.’

‘Mark and Karen - thank you so much for all your hard work.’

‘A perfect pint and great company too. Thank you Mark and Karen.’

‘We are very sad to see you go but wish you every success in the future.’

Hello to Suzie and Hayden

A fabulous night was had by all when, in true Birdingbury style, the village welcomed the new Club Manager, Suzie, and her husband Hayden. The Club was rocking with live music from the huge depth of musical talent in the village, with some good old-fashioned sing alongs, toe-tapping tunes from the Village Jammers and JYT, and spontaneous versions of Harry Styles, and Frozen's 'Let it go' from our younger singers, Erin and Jessica!



The new team went to great lengths to showcase the Club and it looked fantastic. Suzie has some super ideas and is excited to be back behind the bar after years of running the George at Bilton.

Many of the villagers have said they can feel the excitement and are looking forward to many more entertaining nights at our village Club.

The Club is always looking for fun nights to encourage as much community engagement as possible, so if anyone has an idea of something they think would be of interest, then please contact Suzie at the Club.

Well done Suzie and Hayden, thank you for a fantastic night, and welcome to both the village and this great community.

Jo Young

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

New Club Opening Times

We look forward to welcoming you to Club. Please note our opening hours are:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Monday to Thursday | 7pm to 10pm |
| Friday | 5pm to 11pm |
| Saturday | 4pm to 11pm |
| Sunday | 12 noon to 6pm |

Last orders will be rung half an hour before closing

Suzie and Hayden



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

LHCC Relief in Need Fund

The Leamington Hastings Consolidated Charity (LHCC) not only manages the Almshouses in LH but also administers a 'Relief in Need' fund.



The fund is available to local residents who could benefit from a grant to help towards the cost of items, services or facilities to support them during a time of need.

We welcome applications from individuals but equally please do let us know of other residents who may not be in a position to apply for themselves – we may be able to help.

The application process is easy and informal.

Questions and interest should be forwarded to me at alexrigler@aol.com or 07962 169199

Alex Rigler, Clerk to Trustees

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The Shoebox Appeal



A grateful thanks to all of you who have supported T4U Shoebox Appeal this past year, either by wrapping empty shoeboxes or by donating items to fill them.

Whilst most of the boxes are now on their way, the work of the charity continues throughout the year.



If your children are on Santa's 'good' list, no doubt they will need to make room for the new toys they are hoping to receive. Any small outgrown or unwanted toys would be ideal for the next year's shoeboxes, so please keep the Appeal in mind.

Val Preston, Linden, Main Street 01926 633473

Jackie Westcott, Loen, Main Street 01926 632494

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Christmas in Birdingbury

Saturday 3 December from 10.00am to 12.30pm - wreath making and open morning in church

Mulled wine, coffee and refreshments, Christmas tombola, home-made stall and wreath making. We are now fully booked for wreath making but do still come along and have a look, buy, or order a handmade, environmentally friendly wreath, made by our volunteer floral arrangers. Donations from £12 please, depending on size and detail. Lots of opportunities for Christmas prizes, and home-made Christmas goodies and food. The church will be decorated, there will be Christmas music and we will be full of good tidings and joy!



Sunday 4 December at 11am - Christingle Service in church



To fit with the new service pattern across the benefice, our Christingle and Crib service will take place in church much earlier than usual. The service will be very informal and all-age friendly, using technology and our new sound system, and will be led by me.

With readings, carols and making Christingles, it'll be a fun morning and we'd be delighted to welcome you. Refreshments will be available from 10.15am before the service.

Saturday 17 December at 6pm – Carol Service

We are delighted to be working with the Club to bring you our annual outdoor (but inside if wet) community Carol Service. Again, it will be very informal and family friendly. We shall hear some Christmas readings and sing some well-known carols together. We hope afterwards, you'll join us in the club for a drink and refreshments.



Karen Armbrister

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury 'glows'

As festive joy and giving

Light up winter warmth

Thin Jethro Laskey



LH Bowling Club Update

The indoor short mat bowls season is going very well. The members' attendance numbers are consistently high, the atmosphere is congenial, the laughs are many, and the banter keeps flowing. It's an easy way to enjoy some gentle exercise and the tea and biscuits are a welcome addition to the afternoon!

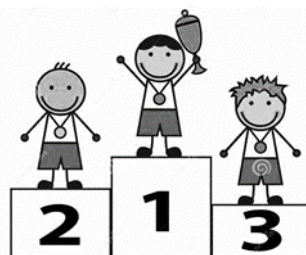
If you would like to come and join us and have a try, for free, to see how you get on, we meet every Wednesday at 2pm at the Leamington Hastings Parish Hall.

We will be attending our annual dinner in December and the trophies that have been won during the summer season are to be presented. Well done to those receiving a trophy and well played! For those of us not receiving a trophy, keep bowling and having fun!!

There is no meeting on Wednesday 7 December, and we break for Christmas on Wednesday 14 December and resume on Wednesday 4 January.

Happy and healthy Christmas to everyone.

Sue Turner



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Swap Shop Update

We continue to meet every Saturday at 10.30 in The Birbury to enjoy a cuppa, cake and swap items. During the busy Christmas season there are some adjustments to our timetable as follows:

- We will NOT be meeting on Saturday 3 December as we will be attending the church event instead.
- We WILL be meeting on Saturday 10 December and, hopefully, swapping unused items that could be used as Christmas presents
- On Saturday 17 December we will gather for Tea at Three in the afternoon instead
- We will NOT be meeting on 24 December as it is Christmas Eve
- Our final meeting of the year WILL be on New Year's Eve.



We look forward to welcoming you all!

Di Turner and Jenny Hawes

Soul Food Sunday and Community Cafe

It was good that some of you took time to tell us you were keen to support this venture even though Sunday afternoons might not be the best time for meeting, so thank you!

Three of us met in November, with the focus of our chat being **our** community. What can we individually do to make our collective life here better for everyone? Aren't we lucky and blessed to live in such a lovely place where there are random acts of kindness going on all the time? But also, even in a place like this it's possible to feel sad, lonely and anxious, particularly in the current economic climate.



Jean and I would like to re-start our weekly Community Cafe, like we had during Covid times, to give a midweek space for people of any age and circumstances to come together - hopefully somewhere warm, where we can share a coffee and some chat, and perhaps even a light lunch sometimes.

Swap Shop is doing a great job serving that need on a Saturday morning - we'd like to add that same opportunity to those who might like some company mid-week. We think a Tuesday morning could work well.

If you think that's a good idea, and you'd come along sometimes, or you feel you could help, then do please give one of us a shout (Karen on 07919 594559 or Jean on 07826 539775).

Karen Armbrister and Jean Foroughi

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Tea at Three Returns

After a gap of two years, Tea at Three will return to The Birbury at 3.00 on Saturday 17 December. We are looking forward to seeing all villagers, old and new, for our annual get together.

There will be home-made mince pies, cups of tea/ coffee and maybe a glass of sherry? Christmas songs will be sung and enjoyed amongst friends.

Please join us for a pleasant hour as we look forward to Christmas in our lovely village: everyone is most welcome!

The Birbury Committee



Calling Dog Owners

Conker season is here! We are lucky enough to have several beautiful horse-chestnut trees around the village, but for dogs they present a particular risk. Conkers (and acorns) are poisonous to dogs if eaten, but they can also cause intestinal blockages.

Last year our dog (then 1 year old) became very ill, with a hunched posture, bloated abdomen and he stopped eating and drinking.

The vet agreed that something was very wrong, and an x-ray showed a large area of trapped gas in his digestive system. An operation was recommended, and a conker was extracted – it had been blocking his intestines.



Luckily, he made a rapid recovery, but from then on we have had to take extra precautions, as we have two horse chestnut trees in our garden.

A mature horse chestnut can shed thousands of conkers over the course of months and those shiny brown seeds can be highly attractive to a curious young dog.

More information available here: <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health-and-dog-care/health/health-and-care/a-z-of-health-and-care-issues/conkers/>

Dogsbody

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

A Letter from Our New Postie

My name is Jonathan but call me Jon.

I've been a postie for 24 years. I live up the road in Dunchurch.

I decided to take up this round because of health reasons - my old round involved pushing a trolley which was getting too much for me.

Just let me know where you want things left if you're out.

I look forward to being your Postie,

Many thanks,

Jon



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Surrealist Dream

I'm in a surrealist painting
My feet gliding over the floor,
My head is on its own somewhere
Deciding what to adore or deplore.

I'm in a Salvador Dali
My heart is a melting clock,
My legs are designed by da Vinci
I have the ear of van Gogh.

My wife's a pre-Raphaelite beauty
With long flowing dress cut low.
She lies on flowers and ivy
With a smile Mona Lisa would know

And so I wake up to reality
The colours starting to run,
My wife's still a pre-Raphaelite beauty
But my thoughts fade into one.

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 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Thursday 24 Nov 22 | Fish & Chips (to be confirmed) |
| Saturday 3 Dec 22 | Pizza |
| Friday 16 Dec 22 | Village Kitchen Curry |
| Friday 22 Dec 22 | Fish & Chips (to be confirmed) |
| Friday 06 Jan 23 | Village Kitchen Mexican |
| Thursday 12 Jan 23 | Fish & Chips (to be confirmed) |
| Friday 13 Jan 23 | Burgers (from Hilltop Farm) |
| Saturday 21 Jan 23 | Pizza |
| Friday 27 Jan 23 | Village Kitchen Curry |

Mobile Library

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

09.12.22

06.01.23

27.01.23



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