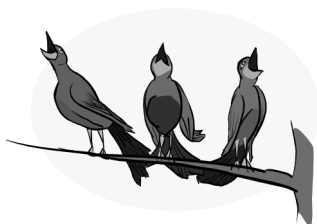


BIRDSONG

**June 2023
and
July 2023**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS
NO 116**



Time to Celebrate

Birdingbury Parish Council Report

I can't believe that we've reached the June/July Birdsong already ... where has the first half of the year gone?

Most of this update is going to be saying 'Thank You'. The Parish Council started its new four-year cycle in May, and we said goodbye and thank you to Rich Cutts for his contribution over recent years. And we said hello and thank you for volunteering to Carmel de Nahlik, who we have co-opted to fill the vacant Councillor seat.

Thank you to the village residents who came to the Annual Village Meeting earlier in May. We discussed the Birbury lease, and I gave a brief update of the past Council year. And thank you to those who gave updates on various village organisations, including the newly established Community Café. The economic situation and changing demographics mean that some groups have changed or face particular challenges, but it is great to be reminded that 'community' is created when people make connections with each other (generally over cake, it appears).

And thank you to everyone who put their name down on our Big Help Out board during the 'Coronation Community Café', boosting our bands of bakers, servers, painters and litter pickers. If anyone missed the board and would like to get involved, please let me know.

We won't be thanking Highways who have finally given us a quote for a strip of curb on a muddy stretch of Main Street. The cost would take all the PC's financial reserves, so we are now exploring grants and co-funding options with Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council. Parking was raised at the Annual Village Meeting as a continuing issue for some, particularly roadside parking opposite drive-ways which can make exits quite tight. Thanks to everyone who has been flexible recently about how they park so that we can keep our roads and pavements clear.

At May's meeting we also discussed our approach to planning applications. We have some brief rules that guide how we act as a Council when planning matters come up, so we reviewed whether these needed to be updated. We will continue to look at every application on its merits and our role is to provide a local view to the Planning team that make the decisions. Planning applications are public documents, and anyone can view them at www.planning.agileapplications.co.uk/rugby (put Birdingbury in the search bar).

Finally, I'd just like to wish the various children in the village who have exams currently, especially GCSEs and A Levels ... the best of luck. Soon be over and then summer beckons!

Guy French, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

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Village Websites

We have two websites that serve the village:

The Parish Council website – www.birdingburypc.gov.uk

This is the place to go for Councillor contact details and for PC dates, agendas and minutes.

The Village website – www.birdingbury.org

This has information about village organisations and events, and information about village history. And, most importantly, back copies of Birdsong!



Both sites are funded by the Parish Council, and we are doing some work to link them together and remove duplication.

The village site has been run for many years by Dallal, who would like to pass the baton to someone new, so if you would like to run and develop this great community asset, please contact Guy French (guyfrenchpc@gmail.com) or Dallal Stevens (webadmin@birdingbury.org).

Guy French

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Leamington Hastings Academy Update

We have been very busy at LH Cof E Academy, with lots of learning and events taking place. We enjoyed an afternoon tea celebration for the coronation of King Charles III, and have taken part in sports festivals. The children are currently working on a 'save the bees' project that they have been inspired to take part in. The children have created an area where the grass will be mowed less frequently and have planted lots of wild-flower seeds to try and support the local bee population. We have also supported events at the local churches of All Saints and St Nicholas.



In March, the school received a SIAMS (church schools) inspection. We are delighted to share with you that the school received a grade of 'excellent', the highest grade that can be awarded. We work hard to ensure that the children receive the best education that we can provide and are pleased that this was recognised as part of the inspection. The full report can be read on our school website: <https://www.leamingtonhastings.covmat.org/performance-and-attainment/>

We also have a new digital prospectus where you can find out all about the school, which can also be found on the website: <https://www.leamingtonhastings.covmat.org/school-prospectus/>

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

The Community Celebrates

It was really great to see so many people over the Coronation weekend.

The 'Bring Your Own' barbeque seemed particularly popular, so we'll do that again! With a bit of luck, the weather will become a little more settled and warmer in the coming months.



Thanks to a grant from the county council, we're planning some upgrades to the outdoor space in mid-June to make it a nicer space to sit out in. If you can lend a hand, we'd love to hear from you.

And finally, as mentioned last time, if you haven't paid your 2023 membership by now, please pop in and do so as soon as possible!

Tony Flint, Chairman, Birdingbury Club

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

The Queen is Crowned



Lee and I enjoyed a number of events in the village over the Coronation weekend, most notably for us was the crown making before the Church service on Sunday, and the special Monday morning community café.

The Church service itself was tailored to the Coronation and gave us a chance for us to finally meet our 'new' vicar. The flower arrangements in the church were especially beautiful.

The Big Volunteer community gathering on the Monday with coffee, tea and oodles of cake gave us a chance to catch up with regulars and fellow villagers, many who work away from the village and cannot get to the regular Tuesday morning sessions.

Declan Hayden



The Cake is Consumed



We decided we'd run the café on Coronation Bank Holiday Monday for a change, to give people the opportunity to come, who wouldn't normally be able to. We were, therefore, delighted to welcome over 60 people who dropped in to enjoy a lovely variety of home-made bakes, all washed down with barista style coffees and other drinks.

There was a wonderful atmosphere, and the noise of chatter and laughter spilled outside and encouraged passers-by in.

Thanks to all our helpers and visitors, and a really big thank you to all those who baked for us. We had some new helpers, including Erin Flint, who wielded the cake tongs with great glee and enthusiasm. She was a delightful helper, so keen and willing. We'd love some help from any young people who would like to volunteer during school holidays. Lily Thomas-Harris bakes for us every week, as part of her DofE volunteering tasks, so we can help with that as well, if anyone is looking for an opportunity.



As part of the King's 'Big Help Out' project, we had our own Big Help Board out for the café, hoping to pick up offers of help for community related activities, including the café, support for other less mobile residents, litter picking etc etc. We picked up a few volunteers for all these activities, but we'd really love more. If there is anything you can offer, to support your neighbours, or the village in general, do talk to Karen Armbrister or Guy French, who would be pleased to hear from you.

Thanks to the generosity of our Bank Holiday café attendees, we were delighted to donate £191.87 to The Prince's Trust.

Since we started in January 2023 the café has made donations of £966.87 to nine different charities: local, national, and global. Charities are selected by our regular volunteer helpers. We have recently learned that because of our donation to the World Food Programme, two children will be provided with school meals for a whole year.



Karen Armbrister and Jean Foroughi

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Tractor Run

Birdingbury Tractor and Classics Road Run was held on the 30th of April and wow! what a day! It was fantastic to see so many tractors and classic cars turn up for this charity event, and brilliant to see the villagers out and waving us off when we finally got going.

It was a very successful day, and we couldn't have done it without all the help and support we received.



We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who gave up their time to cook and serve the breakfast and the BBQ, the Jammers for some great live music, everyone who donated prizes for the raffle and, finally, to Suzie and the Club for everything they did to help put this together!

We are still waiting for some donations to come in, but it looks as if there will

be around £1,500 to share between the two charities SANDS (a charity dedicated to saving babies' lives and supporting bereaved families), and RABI (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution). Thank you so much to everyone who has donated to these two amazing charities, it really is greatly appreciated.



Michelle Edgar

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury Boys Bus Pass Brains Trust

A group has been formed; they are mainly weathered specimens, not always in perfect working order, still occasionally wind powered, and uttering endless gentle creaking noises. That the group's destination is The Old Windmill in Spon Street in Coventry, naturally follows.

At each meeting, a low cacophony of voices, lubricated by a variety of hop-based beverages and fuelled by excellent artisan pork pies, engage in serious discussion reminiscent in many ways of interminable, unrelated, and unfathomable parliamentary debates. There are several grades of member, the highest of which is marked by the issue of a commemorative plastic card, honoured by omnibus drivers at all times (after 9.30).



Every Fish and Chip van day, marshalled by its free-to-join WhatsApp group, the members assemble at the bus stop around midday. One of Coventry's many ambulatorily accessible attractions is visited on the walk from the bus, with the aim of stimulating both a healthy appetite and thirst. These cultural delights also seed many a later conversation. In May, it was the Coventry Retail Market: grade 2 listed and a thriving local and blessed hotbed of quality and interest. The fish and fruit stalls were particularly good. It would be both uncharitable and untrue to suggest that members were simply going round in ever decreasing circles.

The next trip looks like it will be on 8 June, and new members are always welcome. We catch the 12.06 bus and with any luck get back to the village just as the chip van is getting going. The Club of course is open, ready to welcome the weary traveller.

John Starley et al

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG#

Timetable for Other Intrepid Travellers

Birdingbury to Coventry	09.06	12.06	14.06	16.11	18.11
Coventry to Birdingbury	06.50	10.05	12.05	14.05	16.20
Birdinbury to Rugby	07.44	10.58	12.58	14.58	17.13
Rugby to Birdingbury	08.40	11.40	13.40	15.45	17.45

Monday to Saturday, subject to alteration

Open Mic Night

During April we launched our first open mic night, and what a great success it was - even the chippy van ran out of fish!

The evening consisted of twelve acts made up of home-grown talent plus guests from Rugby, Leamington, Coventry and the surrounding area.

The highlight of the night was from Jessica Tooth Markham, who sang for the first time in public and blew us all away with her beautiful voice.



This was followed by a special performance by Caitlin and her band which, of course, includes our very own super talented Lewis Cutts.



The whole set rocked the Club, leaving all chanting for more.



Many of the Buck and Bell open mic acts came to join us too, sharing some favourites that had everyone singing along. Erin charmed us all with a great performance of a Harry Styles song, which I could hear being practised from my garden only hours before. There was a great mix of music and acts, leaving us all wanting more.

Special thanks go to our very own music maestro, Steve Edgar, who managed the evening perfectly and got the night started, and of course to Lewis Cutts for helping to arrange the event and sort the IT as well as perform.

The date for the next open mic night will be agreed shortly. Please continue to come along and support us, it really was a great night of music and fun.

Jo Young

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Yoga is for Everyone

If you have been thinking about trying yoga, you are not alone. In recent years yoga has rapidly increased in popularity.



Some people may be sceptical about yoga: ‘just a bit of stretching’, ‘it’s about being calm’, or ‘I can’t do yoga as I’m not flexible’ are just some of the comments I have heard bandied around over the years. However, yoga is much more. Yoga is a complete workout, not just for the body but also for the mind. It is well documented that yoga can have a positive impact on mental health, reducing stress and anxiety as well as improving balance, flexibility, strength, breathing, concentration, quality of sleep, the immune system and generating a sense of inner calm – the list goes on!

Yoga is not an activity reserved for the super-bendy or for those with perfectly coordinated yoga outfits. Despite what Instagram might tell you, yoga is less about doing headstands and much more about building mental and physical strength and establishing healthy habits for life.



So, what might you expect if you took up yoga?



Styles include Hatha Yoga which focuses on building strength and flexibility; Vinyasa Flow is an energising yoga class that naturally builds heat in the body flowing from one posture to the next; Yin Yoga is a slower paced style of yoga that targets deep connective tissue; and Yoga Nidra (translated as ‘Yogic Sleep’) which is deeply relaxing. If you are completely new, would be best to enrol in a beginners’ class to find your own preference.

So why not give it a go? Yoga is for everybody and only you can truly appreciate the benefits of yoga when you experience it for yourself.

So go on, roll out your mat. After all, you are only one yoga class away from a good mood.

If you would like to learn more about yoga and classes in the local area do contact me on 07738630862 or at loveyouloveyoga@gmail.com

Natalie McMahon

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Val's Model Legacy

Following Val's eulogy which highlighted her involvement in railway modelling, I was asked to divulge a bit more, so here goes.

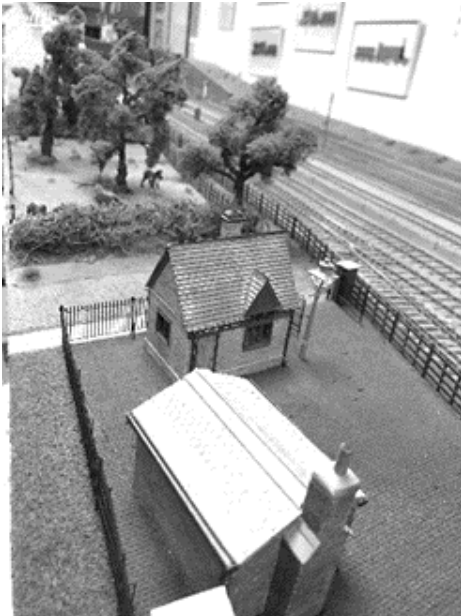
My introduction started with a train set for Christmas and my fifth birthday and I was hooked. This passion kept up all through my school years and I teamed up with Wilf Chippendale and we would go off to various exhibitions together.

It was after one exhibition in 1994 at the Leamington Spa Centre that I saw that the Leamington and Warwick model railway club were having an open day, so I thought I'd go along to see what would happen.

There a group of chaps had just started to build a new layout, so I joined in and that was the birth of 'Clarendon': a layout set in London in 1908. Since then, we have taken the layout all over the UK from Penzance to Newcastle and beyond.

In 2010 we were invited to exhibit at a show in Houton, Holland. That meant I had to get a passport.... but it was a very enjoyable, long weekend.

It was around this time when we all thought that Clarendon was finished, and thoughts turned to what next. In the end we decided to extend the layout rather than build a new one, so we set to.

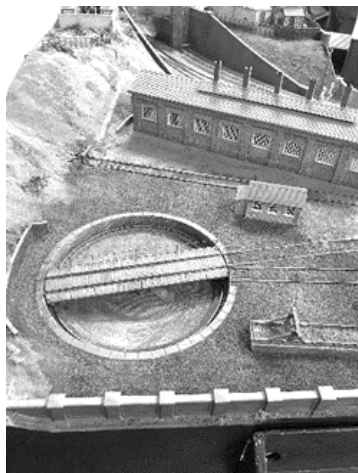


Well, we never rush these things so when Val retired in 2015 and she came along to see what I got up to on a Thursday evening, there was still plenty to do. We put a paint brush in her hand and told her the new trackwork needed painting and that was her introduction to railway modelling.

Now to explain a bit more about Clarendon: it is built in 4mm scale to P4 standards, that means the track is to correct scale and therefore needs to be hand built, as is almost everything else on the layout.

Once the track was finished, we needed a coal yard, so that meant more painting for Val, including buildings, cobbled yards, fencing, horse and carts, and people.

She also made up a horse paddock with trees and hedges.



Another recent job I had was to replace the existing turntable with a larger one. This was also hand built from a kit, including a motor and some electronics to get it to turn and stop in the correct place. It then needed mounting in the baseboard and the track realigning.

Finally, the groundwork needed repairing and matching to the existing format - more painting for Val.

The last job we started was to infill a cobbled road between the sidings in the goods yard, but now I shall have to finish that by myself.



For anyone wanting a closer look we are having an open day on Saturday 17 June from 10am till 4pm. We will be running trains on Clarendon and the other club layouts. There will also be trains running on the newly opened outdoor track.

We are at New Farm, Knightcote CV47 2EQ and you can find more information at www.lwmrs.co.uk

Andy Westcott

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Welcome to Birdingbury!

A big hello to Robert and Laura Harris who have moved to Merryfields, Marton Road, with their boys, Rory and Joseph.

We hope you will have a happy time here with us and we look forward to getting to know you all.

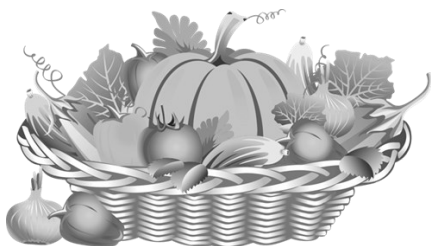
Dick Withington



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury Allotment Association

The Birdingbury Allotment Association continues to thrive, with our members all enjoying the benefits of eating healthily whilst reducing food miles, developing horticultural skills and keeping fit.



Vic Shayler

The opportunity to take on a plot has now arisen. It is approximately 300 square yards, and the rent is £10 per year.

If you would like to extend your love of gardening and be able to savour freshly harvested fruit and vegetables all year round, please contact me on 01926 632666 for further details.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Get Well, Lance

Many of us will be aware that Lance, one of the village's longest standing residents, has recently experienced a period of serious illness. He is now out of hospital and recuperating.

We all join to wish Lance a speedy recovery and hope to see him back out and about again soon!



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Sumer Is Icumen In....



....and that means lots of fresh garden produce to swap in the Birbury at 10.30 every Saturday morning.

We'd be glad to see you anytime, with or without anything to swap. We also exchange books/magazines/unwanted gifts etc.

Come and join us sometime for a chat, a cuppa and some cake...

Di Turner and Jenny Hawes

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury knows

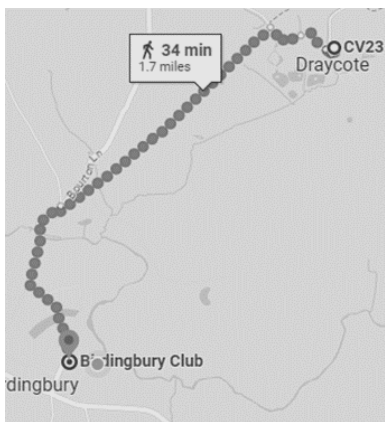
That to sit upon a Scone

Means you're in a jam

Thin Jethro Laskey



Draycote Meadows



Just a short walk along the disused railway track lies Draycote Meadows, a Warwickshire Wildlife site of special scientific interest (OS map reference SP 44862 70612).

These picturesque traditional hay meadows are a great example of remaining unimproved grassland found in Warwickshire today. There are hints of the meadow's ancient origins and you can spot the ridge and furrow markings. They are managed traditionally as hay meadows, cut in late July and then grazed by cattle in the autumn.

Here you can enjoy waves of buttercup, cowslip, meadow vetchling and yellow rattle. Twenty species of grass are interspersed with bursts of colourful flower spikes. The southern meadow contains a wide range of plants including the inconspicuous adder's tongue fern.

Both meadows are renowned for spectacular displays of green-winged orchid, indicating the undisturbed antiquity of the site. Even rare moonwort is recorded in this meadow, its only known location in Warwickshire. Butterflies are abundant, with small copper and common blue dancing across the meadows and along the hedgerows. In autumn, fungi forays will reward you with an amazing list of fungi, with an impressive dozen species of waxcap alone. Other distinctive fungi include white and smokey spindles, and the meadow coral.



The stream is fed by spring-water helping brooklime, lesser water-parsnip and meadowsweet thrive on its margins. The hedgerows contain English elm, blackthorn and wild privet mingled with ivy and dog-rose. Occasional specimens of oak, ash and wild cherry add further diversity. A good range of birds nest and roost in the trees and hedgerow, including nuthatch, great spotted and green woodpeckers. Redwing and fieldfare relish the reserve in winter months.

The site is 14 hectares with a small parking area in front of the entrance gate. Visitors are asked to stay on the footpaths to avoid damaging the rare flowers, and to keep dogs on leads.

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Leamington Hastings Bowls Club

The outdoor season officially started on Saturday 22 April with the traditional Captain V President game. We won't dwell on which team won by 10 points. (The president's team, of course!).

What a warm, sunny afternoon it turned out to be.

We start with a 'spider' whereby everyone bowls one bowl each, at the same time, towards the jack placed in the centre of the green, and the closest bowl winning a bottle of prosecco! Well done, Rose, and thank you Pat for the donation.



After a good humoured match we enjoyed cups of tea and homemade cakes, a raffle, and a good catch up with each other.

We play outdoors every Wednesday at 6pm, on the bowls green next to Leamington Hastings Parish Hall and you're very welcome to join us and have a go.

Featuring light exercise in the fresh air and good company, we have bowls for you to borrow and the first two sessions are free.

If you would like further information, please call me on 01788 336913.

We look forward to seeing you.

Sue Turner

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdsong Thanks

On behalf of the readership, I would like to thank the Village Distribution Fund for the exceptionally generous financial contribution that has been made to Birdsong. It is most heartening to know that the committee has such belief in the benefit of a regular community magazine.

Birdsong is completely dependent upon donations to keep going and such a significant amount will keep the magazine running for the next three years and more. That's just tremendous.

Thank you once again.

Lesley Fleming, Editor



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

In Memory of a Lady Lost

Her smile
Was like the sunrise
Over
A clear blue sea.

She seemed to be
A soul withheld
From pride
Or enmity.

Which all about
The Summer stars,
Her starry eyes
Confirmed.

While people
Of all ages felt
Their Love and Trust
Returned.

* *

Rest with Angels.

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	Event
Friday 2 June	Village Kitchen Curry
Thursday 8 June	Village Chippy
Saturday 10 June	Quiz night at 8.30pm
Thursday 15 June	Club AGM at 7.30pm
Saturday 17 June	Pizza
Friday 23 June	Village Kitchen Mexican
Thursday 6 July	Village Chippy
Saturday 8 July	Pizza
Friday 14 July	Village Kitchen Curry

Mobile Library Dates

2 June 2023

23 June 2023

14 July 2023

4 August 2023



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