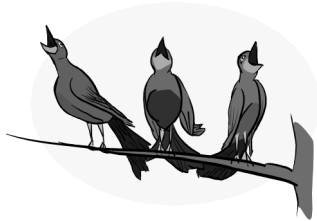


BIRDSONG

August
and
September 2024



BIRDINGBURY
NEWS
NO 123



All Hands to the Pump!

Birdingbury Club

Birdingbury Parish Council Report

Hopefully, August will bring Birdingbury some more consistent summer weather than we saw in a damp and dull July. July did give us a General Election and the Euros to keep us entertained though, and now we have the Olympics. A busy summer for many.

The District Council elections in May led to a change in control in Rugby, and the new Leader of the Council was at the Rugby Area Meeting of Parish Councils. Cllr Moran (Labour) leads a Labour-Liberal Democrat coalition that has replaced the ruling Conservative group. RBC is working on a new Local Plan that sets the 10+ year view for residential and business development. The change in control of the Council will have an impact, and Cllr Moran confirmed that the change in Westminster Government would also affect timeframes (as work is done on new planning and industrial strategies). We'll stay close to progress and timings in case the current 'limited development' status for Birdingbury looks like it might change.

The Rugby Area Meeting also heard about progress and upcoming changes in recycling. RBC is responsible for collection and Warwickshire County Council is responsible for processing what is collected. There were some interesting and useful statistics, particularly about what gets put in the recycling that really shouldn't be there ('contaminants'). The PC is asking for simple guidance that can be used by residents, but some examples include:

- 4% by weight of contaminants are nappies and sanitary products! Definitely for the black bin
- Clothing should not go in domestic collections but be taken to dedicated sites
- Electrical waste, batteries and wiring shouldn't go in blue bins, although there are plans to introduce kerbside collections in the near future
- 50% of contaminants are 'particulates', i.e. pieces of paper, plastic and glass that are smaller than 6cm. These aren't easy to separate, so they contaminate the larger items that can be recycled. Typical culprits are bottle tops separated from their bottles (best to keep the cap on) and shredded paper (this should go in the black bin).

On the topic of waste, at July's PC meeting we discussed concerns that had been raised about burning smells and smoke, and there have been a few instances raised on the village WhatsApp group. This tends to be more of an issue in the summer when people are more likely to be in the garden and to have windows and doors open. There is nothing that the PC can do when complaints are made to us, so any serious or persistent cases should be reported to the Environmental Health team in Rugby. The key request is that you consider your neighbours down-wind.

We had a successful working session on the Recreation Field in June, so the fence is now sporting new rails and posts replacing those that had broken. We have also cleared some of the brambles away from the MUGA, filled some of the gaps on the ramps, strimmed, sanded, weeded and lopped. A very big 'Thank You' to the working party who gave up their time and did such a great job. Our aim is to keep on top of the jobs as they arise, so if you see anything that needs fixing, please do let us know. We are still talking to suppliers about fixing or replacing some of the larger items. One request from me: please can you make sure that younger children are supervised appropriately when using the Recreation Field? Thank you.

We have engaged a supplier to refurbish the telephone box housing the defibrillator, and hopefully this will be done over the summer. We are also trying to get hold of some more fridge magnets with the defibrillator code, although please remember that you will also be able to get the code when phoning the emergency services on 999.

Finally, you might have noticed that the War Memorial has had a clean to remove the worst of the algae and grime. There is a limit to what can be done due to the type of stone but, as with the park equipment, it is a case of doing something 'little and often'. Thanks to David, Lorraine and Bella for their hard work, and to Lorraine and Bella for the new planters around the base.

Whether you are going away or staying in Birdingbury over the holidays, I hope that you have a relaxing summer!

Guy French, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

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Birdingbury Parish Council

Chair	Guy French
Councillors	Sara Kendell
	Simon Kent
	David Preston
	Carmel de Nahlik
Clerk	Jackie Chapman

www.birdingbury-pc.gov.uk

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Club Update

I'm really pleased to say that since the volunteer model kicked off in the spring, the Club's finances and prospects are seriously improved. So much so that we're now predicting a small surplus at the end of the year and have just put some money back into our reserve account for the first time in many months.



None of this would have been possible without the members and village coming together and donating their time and money to making something worthwhile happen. There are too many people to mention individually but so many people have come forward to help in whatever way they can. We really do feel that a sense of ownership has started to develop that will be important for the way ahead; but for now, the Club Committee would like to put on record our sincere thanks to everyone who has helped, and continues to help, in whatever way they're able.

You'll also have noticed that we've finally been able to finish the improvements at the front of the Club with new gravel, benches, planters and window boxes. One long standing, and not easily impressed, resident claims the Club has 'never looked so good', which is high praise indeed!



You'll also be pleased to hear that we've managed to repair most of the roof issues, with the final work happening in the next couple of weeks.

Still thinking about getting involved?

That's good because we do still need some help in various areas! We could really do with a few more people to help with cleaning the beer lines, looking after the cask ale, general cleaning, and serving on the bar.

We already have people doing those things but if we can get a few more to join in we can arrange it so that we're each only called to do something for 2 or 3 hours once a month or so, which would spread the load quite nicely. It would be specially good to hear from some of our regular users that aren't involved at the moment. Email us at birdingburyvolunteers@gmail.com if you can help.



Paid work?

A few of our paid bar staff are likely to be heading off to their studies shortly and we really want to keep the core opening hours covered by employed staff. So if you, or any of your family or friends, local acquaintances etc, are looking for paid bar work, please do get in touch at birdingburyclub@gmail.com or via the Club's Facebook page.

What next?

All the improvements outside have been funded from money that has been donated by individuals, the community café, the village distribution fund, our food vendors and from events. It is a ring-fenced fund especially held to make improvements.

With the outside pretty much done now, we'll be turning our attention to the inside as some of our furniture and décor is probably overdue for retirement!

We'll start to build that fund up again to support this, but on that note, we've also had more than a few people say they can't help us physically but would like to help financially. While we're generally very wary of making this ask too often, if this is your own position, then you can donate to the improvement fund by emailing Jenny Barr, Treasurer at jennybarr@btinternet.com. Thank you.



Tony Flint, President, Birdingbury Club

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Dear Villagers!

As you know, our Club operates a 'Members Only' bar and asks all those wanting to use the facility to pay a £12 annual subscription in January each year.

The membership list has been updated and pinned to the noticeboard by the pool table. If your name isn't listed, we would be grateful if you could renew your membership at the bar at your earliest convenience. If you wish to take out a membership for the first time, there is a short form for you to fill out so that we can capture your details.

Thank you in advance and thank you to all those that have already paid their fee - your support is key to the success of your Club.

Alex Rigler

Community Café

The café has now ‘broken up’ for its Summer Holidays but we will be returning on Tuesday 10 September from 10.30am.

Since January, we have seen an average of around 25 every Tuesday morning and we now have probably a group of around 40 attending regularly or occasionally. It’s great to hear the lively chatter, exclamations at the range of home-made goodies, and the satisfied sighs when they taste as good as they look.

We are delighted to be able to lead such a great community gathering every week, but we are glad to be having a break. It’s quite a lot of work, so if you think you could help, either a lot or a little, and you’d like to join our team from September, we’d be very pleased to hear from you. Contact Karen on 07919 594559.

As you are aware, we regularly make donations to various charities, chosen by our volunteers, and to the Club Refurbishment Fund. It’s great to see our donations being utilized for new furniture and planters to make the entrance more appealing.

So far this year, we have donated over £1000 in total, to both the Club and a variety of charities including The World Food Programme, Save the Children Fund, Water Aid and Young Minds Matter. We also bought a new coffee machine, so the coffees taste even better now!

The Café wouldn’t be possible without our band of brilliant volunteers including helpers and bakers. Our thanks to them all for their commitment to serving the village. Our thanks also to the Club Committee for their support and encouragement.

Here’s to a warm and happy summer, and we will see you in September with fresh bakes and lively conversation

Karen Armbrister and Jean Foroughi

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Welcome Verity!

Congratulations to Henry and Rachel Skudra of Milford House on the birth of Verity – a sister for Annabel, on 5 July.

It was lovely to see both proud mum and beautiful baby enjoying the Community Café just four days after her arrival!

A Little Bird



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

St Leonard's Church Fete 2024

Those of us who are used to the poor weather which normally accompanies our church fete had a nice surprise this year – overcast but there was no thunder, lightning or rain!



The fete was held inside and outside the Club as well as in the Birbury. There was the raffle, two tombolas, a plant stall, a cake stall and, for the first time, hot pulled pork rolls: all staffed by enthusiastic volunteers.

Our main raffle prize was a hamper kindly donated by the Co-op, which was won by Barry Chinn.

Other prizes included a half case of mixed wines, a bottle malt whisky, a Tesco hamper as well as several vouchers to

be spent in a variety of local enterprises.

There were a good number of visitors to the fete, and this year we managed to raise £1,707.

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 as well as all who attended.

A big **“THANK YOU”** to everyone who supported the fete in whatever way.

John Owen



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Club Opening Times

Mon - Closed

Tuesday - 1730 until 2100

Wednesday - 1730 until 2100

Thursday - 1730 until 2100

Friday - 1700 until 2300

Saturday - 1200 until 2300

Sunday - 1200 until 1900

Church News

We have now started our Summer Programme of services which are detailed on the poster opposite. Activities quieten down over summer and most of our groups will re-start in September. The weekly email circulation will give full details. If you don't receive this, and you'd like to be kept in touch with church events and activities, then please do let me know (karen.armbrister@btinternet.com or 07919 594559).

We are looking forward to our fund-raising evening on Friday 30 August, when we have a presentation from the Hill Close Gardens Warwick charity. We are including a home-cooked pasta supper, with wine, and tickets are £15 per head. The talk will be followed up with a visit in the Spring which will bring it all to life. Details of the event are given on page 11. We hope to see you there for what will be an interesting evening.

Dates for your Diaries

- Harvest Festival: traditional celebration of thanks for the harvest on Sunday 6 October at 11am.
- Remembrance: our annual Service of Remembrance on Sunday 10 November will start in Church at 10.15am and conclude at the War Memorial at 10.55am.

Happy Summer Holidays!

Karen Armbrister, Acting Church Warden, St Leonard's Church

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Summer Swap Shop

NOT just for Summer but all year round! We meet every Saturday in the Birbury from 10.30 to 12.00 to enjoy chat, coffee/tea and cake. Recently we have exchanged garden trampolines, chairs and lovely fresh fruit and flowers from our gardens. Don't worry if you have nothing to swap, everyone is welcome, and we take it in turns to play host.

Looking forward to seeing you...

Di Turner and Jenny Hawes

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury knows

That AI's the coming thing

Seeding who knows what

Thin Jethro Laskey



DRAYCOTE & LEAM VALLEY BENEFICE



Draycote &
Leam Valley
Benefice



SUMMER PROGRAMME

21st July 2024

Thinking Missionally

@ St. Peter's Grandborough

28th July 2024

Olympic Breakfast

@The Birdingbury Club, Birdingbury

4th August 2024

Lammastide

@All Saints Church, Leamington Hastings

11th August 2024

We are Storybearers

@The Frankton and Bourton Village Hall

18th August 2024

What is Communion?

@ All Saints Church, Stretton-on-Dunsmore

25th August 2024

Pet Service and Picnic

@ St Nicholas' Church, Willoughby

Each Sunday throughout the school summer holidays we will be holding **9am and 11am** services in one single venue, with space for fellowship and refreshments between them. We'll also be using the opportunity to explore themes and ideas in slightly different ways through a range of guest speakers, resources from Christian charities and less familiar liturgies

www.draycoteandleamvalleybenefice.com



Find us on
Facebook

Birdingbury History Group

If you attended the Village Meeting in April, you will be aware that the History Group has decided that it cannot continue in its present format.

We have had some successful projects over the years including:

- St Leonard's Gravestones Inscriptions booklet (October 2010)
- Our Birdingbury History Day Exhibition (May 2012)
- The Birdingbury Men at War booklet and World War 1 exhibition (November 2014)
- Birdingbury 100 Years Ago exhibition (May 2017)

However, age is creeping up on us and the current membership feels it lacks the energy and stamina to continue.

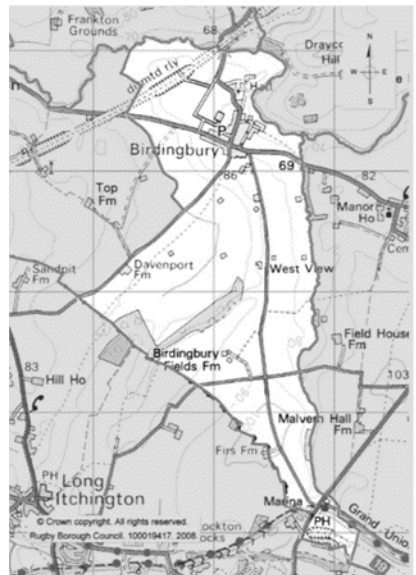
It would be such a shame if this was the end, and we feel it would be great to pass the baton on to a new group.

So, if you are at all interested in local history, or would just like to find out more about historical research then please contact me, I would be delighted to help in any way I can to help take the History Group forward. I can be contacted by phone on 01926 632091 or by email at richardw.davies@btinternet.com

The History Group has also taken responsibility for the village archive, housed in St Leonard's Church. I am currently the custodian of this and plan to continue in this role for the time being. The archive contains many fascinating historical documents relating to Birdingbury including old photos, interviews with longstanding residents, old maps, back copies of Birdsong plus much, much more.

I shall write another piece for Birdsong in due course describing the archive in more detail and how you can access it.

Richard Davies



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

St Leonard's Altar Guild are delighted to present

The History and Development of Hill Close Gardens, Warwick

Friday 30 August 2024
St Leonard's Church, Birdingbury

6.30 pm Reception

7.00 pm Talk by Michael Sheldon

8.00 pm Supper

Tickets £15.00

to include reception drink and
pasta bake supper

All proceeds in aid of St Leonard's
Church and Hill Close Gardens Trust

Raffle £1 per ticket



**To book your place contact
Eira Owen 01926 632876**

(as soon as possible but by no later
than 27 August)



It is now 30 years since the
original rescue and restoration
of Hill Close gardens site began.

Over these three decades,
countless people have enjoyed
their time in this tranquil corner
of Warwick.

With the help of its volunteers
and public support, the Trust
continues to update, maintain
and prepare the site for the
coming decades.

Leamington Hastings Bowls Club

The Club enjoyed a successful free afternoon of bowling and fun at the end of May. We had a few heavy rain showers but visitors, young, and not so young, turned up to try out their bowling skills. One young man was particularly good and hit the jack every time, having never bowled before! Tea and homemade cakes were very welcome throughout the afternoon and a big thank you goes to everyone who helped. We hope you all had fun.

We held our Annual Beef and Ham Supper in June, and this was another successful event. There was lots of fun and games, good food, good company and £525.00 was raised for the Club. Thank you to all those who took part.

The Club would like to welcome new members Phil, Margaret and Mark. We hope you enjoy your time with us and happy bowling to you all. Members continue to bowl well, and we all enjoy our friendly matches, as well as the inter club matches. These are always played in good spirit and with support for each other, except when you're playing to avoid washing up duties!



The Lyle Watts Day will be held this year on **Saturday 24 August** from 1.30pm. It is organised by Jan Watts, in memory of her husband and is now in its 34th year of raising funds for Myton Hospice. If you would like to come to the bowls green and watch the game, buy a raffle ticket (or two - there will be some lovely prizes), buy a homemade cake, and enjoy tea and cake after the game, it would be lovely to see you. All proceeds will go to Myton Hospice. The total raised by members of the Club over the years is a splendid £14,611.

If you have previously enjoyed one of our skittles nights, **Friday 18 October** is the next one. If you haven't yet experienced this popular event, we can offer you a lively evening of competition (not taken too seriously), great food and good company.

Our thanks, as always, to Darren and Wendy for keeping our green in great playing condition, despite what the weather brings. We really appreciate your hard work.

If you would like to give lawn bowls a try, please join us every Wednesday on the bowls green at 6pm, or you're welcome to sit and watch if you're not sure. We now have our own Facebook page - please do find and follow us!

Susan Turner

Get Ready for Fun Learning

The Autumn fun starts in mid-August when Rugby's Percival Guildhouse unveils its adult education courses. These range from a wide variety of crafts and arts to yoga and mindfulness, history and languages.



The full course brochure will be available online and in print form from 15 August when course booking also opens, either by phone or in person. Among new features available this autumn will be a handful of courses starting in the late afternoon/early evening. These are ideally suited to anyone heading home from work or who has been out during the day.

Visit www.percival-guildhouse.co.uk on 15 August to see the full list of courses on offer or phone the Guildhouse on 01788 542467 for information and to book your place.

The Guildhouse is a self-supporting charity and the only independent non-vocational centre for adult education and the arts in Warwickshire. If you don't know it and are simply curious to see what goes on behind the front door of its St Matthew's Street home in Rugby (just by the library), pop in – a welcome awaits you.

Clare Turnbull

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Rounders all Round!

Come along to the playing field at Marton on
Saturday 7 September



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

Rounders and Barbecue

in aid of

Breast and Prostate Cancer Research

12 noon - 4pm

£5 per player - scratch teams

Food and refreshments - pay as you go

For more information contact

Mary Harrison 01926 632939



Shadowlands

There are too many colours
In the August trees.

Everyone from April to October
Is shouting
In their loudest colour,
And all at the same time!
My eyes cannot hear clearly
In this cacophony of light.

And what are we to make of the sky
In this outrageous clutter
Of self-regard,
Or indeed of that pale loiterer,
The evening star?

Something preconceived, I'm sure.
But the timetable
Has been appropriated
By some unseen hand.

So, we wait by the empty crossword
With the small light fading.
A star, however beautiful,
May be just an unkept promise.

You can still hold them close,
Though they are sticky
With romantic associations.

Some will chase you,
Others run away.
One trails a long coat:
Interesting in a coat trailing
Sort of way.

What are you, cicada,
When you play
With a night breeze
Tucking up the last
Dormitory chatter
Of the trees?

Pilgrim for Jenny



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Napton Art Group

Napton Art Group meets every Thursday at 2pm at Napton Village Hall (CV47 8LS).

We cater for artists from beginners to those who have been painting all their lives.

For your membership fee of £30 you will have the opportunity to enjoy regular demonstrations from visiting artists using all types of media from watercolours, oils, acrylics and pastels to mixed media. We hold outdoor painting visits in the summer and 'paint as you please' sessions for the rest of the year.

The new membership year starts on 5 September, so if you are interested or just want to find out more, please drop in on this date or any Thursday between 2 and 4pm.

You will be made very welcome!

Howard Collerson



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Mobile Library

16 August

13 September

13.40 to 14.00 outside the Club

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Regular Events

There's always lots more going on and details can change at short notice.
Keep your eye on Village Chat WhatsApp group and Birdingbury Club Facebook page.

Swap Shop every Saturday 10.30am – 12pm

Community Café every Tuesday 10.30am – 12pm from 10 September

When to eat	What to eat
Thursday 1 August (from 4.30pm)	Chippy Van. - Club opens at 4.30pm to serve drinks and complimentary bread & butter & condiments.
Friday 2 August (from 5.30pm)	Tapas Zampa - Authentic Spanish Tapas made fresh to order.
Saturday 10 August (from 5.30pm)	Pizza - the ever-popular wood fired pizzas from Andy and his team
Friday 16 August (from 5.30pm)	Village Kitchen Curry - Birdingbury's very own - beautiful curry to suit all tastes.
Thursday 29 August (from 4.30pm)	Chippy Van. - Club opens at 4.30pm to serve drinks and complimentary bread & butter & condiments.
Saturday 31 August (from 5.30pm)	Mr Souvlaki – back by popular demand - ultra tasty Greek Artisan Street Food
Friday 6 September (from 5.30pm)	Village Kitchen - Authentic Mexican dishes cooked from scratch in our Birdingbury Kitchen.
Saturday 14 September (from 5.30pm)	Pizza - the ever popular wood fired pizzas from Andy and his team



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Copy date for next issue – 18 September 2024