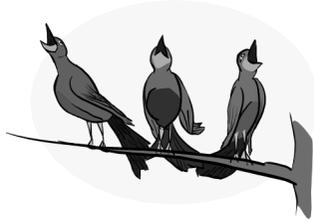


# **BIRDSONG**

**February 2023  
and  
March 2023**



**BIRDINGBURY  
NEWS  
NO 114**



**A Spring in our Step**

# Birdingbury Parish Council Report

We don't have a meeting in December, so January's agenda tends to be quite full and this year was no exception.

There were a few items that rolled over from 2022, including the application for a 5G phone mast beside the Marton Road. We had objected to the application on several grounds, but particularly because we felt the mast and cabinets would be cramped on the proposed site. This could cause risks to road traffic, as well as have a damaging visual effect on the main entrance to the village. A planning officer from RBC agreed to our request for a site visit and found that the verge was 4.5m wide and not the 7.5m that the applicant had claimed. We hope that this will lead to the withdrawal of the application and the search for a more suitable site.

We have completed our discussions of our Emergency Plan and Parish Risk Assessment. The Emergency Box is kept in the Club and will contain a copy of the Plan and several useful items (fluorescent bibs, maps, torches, etc.) ready for an incident such as flooding. One of the main actions following the risk assessment was to start the centralisation of the Parish Records which are stored in the Church. The History Group no longer needs them to be kept in the village, so if we use the Warwickshire County Record Office, they will be available to a wider audience.

We also discussed some matters raised by residents. This included the smoke from the log drying kiln and the state of the verge in Main Street. On the latter, we have asked Highways to extend the granite setts from the corner by the Club to the point in Main Street where there is already a curb. Highways had proposed bollards instead, but we believe low curb will be more effective so are pressing for this solution. Budget may be a problem, so we will keep you posted.

Another issue raised was the parking of cars on the bend from Main Street into Marton Road, by the War Memorial. This blocks off the turning to Marton Road and can restrict the view of cars coming up Main Street. The Parish Council doesn't have any powers relating to traffic, so we have asked our PCSO for guidance. We recognise that cars need to park somewhere, and this could push the problem elsewhere, so we'll see what our PCSO suggests.

And we're planting 60 Queen's Green Canopy saplings in the copse on the footpath to Frankton on Saturday 28 January, so by the time you read this they will hopefully be taking root amongst early spring flowers. They'll not be much to look at initially, but hopefully in years to come mature trees will mark the Jubilee and the passing of the late Queen. Something for a future Birdingbury History Group to study.

*Guy French, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council*

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# News from LH Academy

Happy New Year from all at Leamington Hastings C of E Academy!



The children have started the year with enthusiasm and are enjoying their new learning topics. At the time of writing in January, we have already had a visit from local firefighters and taken part in a world RE day! We have welcomed adults into school for our third parental learning event this academic year, providing parents with the opportunity to join their child in a reading lesson.

We are now looking forward to attending a Birmingham Symphony Orchestra concert and taking part in an infant agility competition in the weeks to come.

We were pleased to welcome representatives from the Multi Academy Trust to school recently. They carried out a review of some of the areas in school such as behaviour, special needs, early reading and phonics. We are pleased to report that, as expected, the school performed exceptionally well, and we should have a parental letter to upload onto the website soon.

The deadline for applying for reception places for September 2023 has now passed. However, please do get in touch with us if you still need to apply for a place. We are now providing tours of the nursery and school for parents whose children are due to join nursery in the next academic year. Please contact the school office on 01926 632359 if you would like to view the school and register for a nursery place.

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

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## Tea At Three

We met in the Birbury on 17th of December to enjoy home-made mince pies, a cuppa and a glass or two of sherry. It was lovely to have the chance to sing a few Christmas songs and relax during a rather hectic time of year.

Thanks to all who helped make it such a pleasant afternoon.

*The Birbury Committee*



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# The New Forest

We call the little bit of woodland on the left of the Leamington Hastings Road as you go out of the village The New Forest. The time has come to do some work here which, for a few days, will be noisy, for which we apologise and offer this as an explanation to allay any village concern.

When we moved into The Barn in Back Lane in 2005 (the fourth house we have occupied in that corner of the village in our 45 years here!), we thought it would be a nice idea to plant a bit of woodland. The variety of our native trees has always fascinated us so we aimed to plant as many different species as we could. We managed 32 different forest trees and 9 smaller species like guelder rose and spindle.



The recommendation for new woodland is to plant two meters apart so in three quarters of an acre, allowing for some small open spaces and paths, we needed some 800 baby trees or whips in forestry terms. Now, after 15 years, many of the trees have reached six meters or even more.

Native oak, *quercus robur*, needs different treatment as it takes a while to get going. The recommendation is to plant little groups of six or so close together and then to take out all but the best and leave that one to be encouraged by the surrounding trees to grow up straight into the light.

For the first couple of years, we had to suppress the grass around each tree and for another 6 or 8 years we had to keep the paths mown. Now the trees have grown up blocking off the light and very little grows underneath, and it is time to thin the trees out. This means taking out between a quarter and a third of them, picking out the ones that have not developed properly. Sadly, we must also take out many of the 60 ash trees: although they have mostly grown well, the ‘ash die back’ disease is now affecting trees in this area, and they will almost certainly die anyway in the next few years. Another source of damage which we need to take account of is perpetrated by squirrels which have nibbled the bark to the extent that the trees will probably die, and in some cases, already have.

The first thing we have had to do is obtain a Felling Licence as we will be taking out more than five cubic meters of timber, which is the limit in any three-month period. We should have one shortly. We must also complete the work before the bird nesting season.

Some of the smaller branches will be piled up and left to encourage wildlife in so-called ‘bug hotels’. The rest will be chipped and left. The bigger pieces will be kept for firewood, and we hope the value of this will go some way to offset the cost of the work.

*Chris and Rhondda Barney*

## Tuesday Community Café 'Open for Business'



In spite of the awful weather, the Community Café opened its doors on Tuesday 10 January and welcomed its first customers bang on the 10.30am opening time.

It wasn't long before the coffee machine was working overtime, the tea urn was being used to make tea at speed, and croissants, scones, cakes (including gluten free and vegan) and biscuits were being enjoyed.

Around 30 villagers joined us, the youngest just four years old. Tables were arranged in the Birbury and the front part of the Club, so there was plenty of room to move around, meet new people and catch up with old friends. We can't wait for the weather to get warmer when we can have some outside tables too.



If you didn't get the chance to come along on the opening day, please stop by **any Tuesday from 10.30am to 12noon.**

And for those who work from home or find they have a really busy Tuesday and don't have time to sit in, we do take-away hot drinks and goodies.



Payment is by donation (cash preferred) – the suggested donation is £2 for a drink and goodie.

We look forward to serving you soon.

*Karen Armbrister and Jean Foroughi*

## Get Well, Gary

As many of you know, veteran villager Gary Laverick was taken ill over the Christmas period and the various infections, including Covid, have clearly impacted on his fitness and mobility even though he didn't have any obvious symptoms.

After being admitted to hospital at Christmas, his ailments have now been treated and he is currently recuperating at Greenways in Long Itchington.

He is in good form and his niece Anna Marie took him down the Club on a recent Friday evening for a drink. He apparently got a round of applause when he entered! Anna Marie is sorting out amendments to his house and, when completed, Gary will be coming back home, hopefully in the next two or three weeks.

He is receiving visitors at Greenways but, as can be imagined, he is desperate to get back home. I will be pleased to pass on messages of good will.

*Ian Tipton*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Boult From the Blue

Longer standing Birdinbury residents will remember Joyce and Ken Boulting who sold their house to us in 1987. They moved to Cornwall for what proved to be a long and happy retirement.

Although Joyce sadly passed away a couple of years ago, we have recent news of Ken.

Following a period of ill health, he decided to move into full time care in Kettering, near the home of his niece who visits him regularly. He has settled in well and made many new friends.

We have his niece's contact details if anyone would like to send a message.

*Lesley Fleming and John Starley*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## New Neighbours

A big Birdingbury welcome to Karen and Dan who have moved into Marston House from Leamington Spa.

We hope you will be very happy in our lovely village and look forward to getting to know you.



# Update from the Club

Firstly, can we start by saying Happy New Year to you all and thank you for the warm welcome to the Club you have all given me and my family.

December was an amazing month with lots of fun at the Christmas games and partying on New Year's Eve. Thank you all for supporting us.

We have several events and activities in the pipeline - look out for the music nights, starting on Saturday 21 January, and, of course, we will be showing the Six Nations matches live. Jo will be organising further Open Mic night each month to showcase the amazing talent that resides in Birdingbury and the surrounding village. Musicians, singers, band and comedy can all be on the billboard. Watch out for further details.

All that, plus our regular Grub at the Club (see the schedule on the back page) and our guest ales to tempt you.

We look forward to you joining in the fun to come in the new year!

*Suzie Mosby*



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## Revised Club Opening Times

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Monday to Thursday | 7pm to 10.30pm |
| Friday             | 5pm to 11pm    |
| Saturday           | 4pm to 11pm    |
| Sunday             | 12 noon to 6pm |

Last orders will be rung half an hour before closing



## Poppy Appeal Collection 2022

Thank you from the Royal British Legion for all the donations during the Poppy Appeal collection in November 2022.

The collection organised by Mark Thomas at Birdingbury Village Club raised £53.02 and donations collected by me visiting the houses of Birdingbury raised a further £91.49.

The total raised by the village was £144.51.

*Gordon Smith, Leamington Hastings*



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## Marton Fundraising Lunch Final

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



The final figures raised meant that we were able to send £1,000 to each of our cancer research charities.



A fabulous result. Thank you again for all your support.

*Mary Harrison & Helen Keeves*

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## Birdingbury Allotment Association

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

A long-standing member has recently moved away, so the opportunity to take on a plot has now become available. 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 produce all year round, contact me on 01926 632666 for further details.

*Vic Shayler*



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

**Save the Date!**

**Sunday 30 April**

**Birdingbury Tractor Run and Vintage Fun Day**

*with*

**the great Dr Busker performing in the evening**

*and*

**camping available on Saturday and Sunday  
nights!**



**Keep an eye out for more details!**

# Silverstone Festival

## (formerly the Silverstone Classic)

Calling all petrol heads and live music fans!

As many of you will know, Silverstone holds a classic car show and racing event every year. They have expanded it into a festival this year and it is being held on the bank holiday weekend, 24 to 27 August.



The event includes a full programme of classic car racing, access to the pits, shows and displays, food and family areas and a large programme of music. It is a three-day event, with camping available, but you can come for any combination of days across the weekend. There is more information on their web site <https://www.silverstone.co.uk/events/silverstone-festival>

A group of us from the village have been going to the Classic for many years and register as a (very informal) club which gives owners of classic or interesting cars two-for-one admission tickets and parking for our cars in our own display area within the circuit.

This is the ten year anniversary of our first visit, so we are trying to make this a special year. We would therefore love to welcome anyone who enjoys classic cars, classic car racing and live music to join us. If you've been before you'll know what a great event it is, if you've not been and would like to know more do contact one of us, we'd be delighted to tell you more about it.



Several of us will be staying for the whole three-day festival with others coming along just for one or more days. In the past, visitors from the village and surrounds have travelled in convoy on Saturday, which is good fun!

To get the club tickets you will need a club code which varies depending on the age of your car, so email or text us for the details. The current prices are on the Silverstone web site but remember, you get two tickets for the price of one with the club code.

Please note that Silverstone are trying to ensure that display cars are interesting and relevant, so they have a list of eligible marques for cars *under 20 years of age*. It includes all the performance marques (Porsche, Ferrari, Aston Martin, Lotus, etc), Jaguar F-type/R/R-S/SVR, BMW M series, Mercedes AMG, Mini JCW/GP, Mazda MX5/RX7/RX8, Volvo Polestar and many other individual models. Get in touch if you would like to confirm that your modern car is eligible.



Please contact either of us: Ian at [ian.palmer@mail.com](mailto:ian.palmer@mail.com) 07941 413116 or Dawn at [brooklandscorner@gmail.com](mailto:brooklandscorner@gmail.com) 07582 669095 if you'd like to know more and we look forward to seeing some of you at Silverstone!

*Ian Palmer and Dawn Powers*

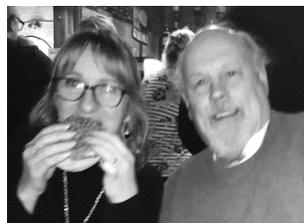
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## Burgers and Birthdays

We both have significant birthdays during February and so we would like to invite all our friends to join us at the Club on Friday 24 February to celebrate.

Zack's Burger Barn will be outside the Club from 17.30: highly recommended as you can see!

*Steve Edgar and Julie Neal*



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# A Local Early Spring Walk

As winter turns to spring you may like to try this local walk.

Park in the layby on the right of the Stockton Road opposite the Boat Inn (just before the cross roads), and carefully cross the over the main road by the canal bridge. Enter Taskers Meadow\*. This was bought by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust in memory of their former chief executive. It is an area of unimproved grassland and there maybe signs of early spring flowers.

Cross the field diagonally and enter Stockton Cutting, another WWT reserve, which is part of the old Daventry to Leamington Railway. Turn left, and on leaving the reserve use the public footpath and the footbridge to cross the restored arm of the Grand Union Canal. This is Nelson's Wharf, part of the extensive Nelson's Lime and Cement works, a site of significant archaeological restoration. The site is very muddy but can be seen easily from the footpath. Some years ago the wharf area was filled in and the many lime kilns covered with spoil. About 10, in various states of collapse, have been uncovered so far.

Continue along the footpath and on reaching the fence of the former Cally Pits turn left along the path that leads to the Wynnstay Stores.

Turn left on the road to cross back over the railway and the canal, and then join the tow-path that will take you back to your starting point. This stretch of the towpath is in a good state of repair.

On reaching your starting point you may want to reward yourself by driving to Napton Post Office and stores for a well-earned cuppa and cake!

*Dick Withington*

## \* What might you spot in Taskers Meadow?

Grass snakes, rabbit and muntjac are all visitors to the reserve, with occasional signs of the elusive badger. The meadow is a valuable grassland rich with different species. Look out for less common plants like hairy violet, false oxlip, dwarf thistle, autumn gentian, wild thyme and the scarce blue fleabane.

Six species of orchid can be found here including the largest population of greater butterfly orchid in Warwickshire. Other species include bee orchid, common spotted orchid, pyramidal orchid and green winged orchid.

Six nationally rare farmland butterflies have also been recorded, including the grizzled skipper, dingy skipper and white-letter hairstreak.



**Warwickshire**  
Wildlife Trust

## On Demand Bus Service to Rugby

WRCC operate a minibus service in the Rugby Borough called Indiego. This service helps people from rural communities get into and out of Rugby. We are trying to reach out to places where your conventional bus services do not operate. Indiego is a demand-responsive service, which means you pre-book when you want to travel and we will be there ready to pick you up. All our minibuses are wheelchair accessible and can help people commute to work, visit GPs, get to hospital appointments, do the shopping, and take part in leisure activities in Rugby. Our fares for travelling are as follows:

- Adult Single - £4 Adult Return - £6
- Child Single - £3 Child Return - £4.50
- Weekly Ticket (up to 5 return trips a week) - £20
- Concessionary travel is free



You can find more information on the Indiego Bus on Warwickshire County Council's website at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/public-transport/indiego/2>

*Dean Hamilton, Community Transport Manager, Warwickshire Rural Community Council*

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## Easter Art Exhibition

Napton Art Group are holding their Easter Exhibition of members' work at Napton Village Hall (CV47 8LS) between 10am and 5 pm on 8 and 9 of April.

There will be about 200 paintings in all mediums including oils, water colours, acrylics and pastels, with greetings cards of some of these available.

Admission is £1 with free entry for children and there will be light refreshments in the pop-up cafe. Everybody who comes can vote for The Best in Show.



The art group has a membership that now stands at over 60. We meet every Thursday afternoon at Napton Village Hall and have a programme featuring a wide range of demonstrations and weekend workshops.

Contact me at [hjc05@icloud.com](mailto:hjc05@icloud.com) for more information.

*Howard Collerson*

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# Thank You

Birdsong would like to extend grateful thanks for the most kind and generous personal donation recently received from a village resident (you know who you are!).

Birdsong is written, compiled and distributed by volunteers, free of charge, to every home in the parish. It is also posted on the village website where it is enjoyed by past villagers and non-resident friends, some of whom are scattered across the globe! We have even been mentioned by an estate agent extolling the virtues of our village community!

The only cost involved is printing which is rising along with everything else. Birdsong is completely dependent upon support from individuals and the Village Distribution Fund to keep going. If you would like to make a donation you can either pop a cheque (made payable to Birdsong News) through my door (Moonrakers, Back Lane) or make a bank transfer to:

|               |               |                 |           |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Account name: | Birdsong News | Bank:           | Santander |
| Sort code:    | 09-01-55      | Account number: | 24215189  |

Thank you.

*Lesley Fleming, Editor*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury knows

The editor of Birdsong

Wants her haiku now!

*Thin Jethro Laskey*



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Swap Shop



Swap Shop continues to run from 10.30 on a Saturday in The Birbury for about an hour. There's always plenty of coffee/tea and something to nibble.

We swap news, gossip and unwanted items – there are a lot of books and plants at the moment - and everyone is welcome.

*Di Turner and Jenny Hawes*

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**We all run into problems from time to time  
And some are so difficult that we need help with them**

If you would like to talk to someone for advice and support,  
this service is now available in Southam.

**Every Friday morning (9.00am to 1.00pm) from 13th January  
2023 at The Grange Hall, Coventry road Southam, CV47 1QA.**

Please feel free to either drop in or make an appointment either  
by email or telephone call.

***Email: [Deputyclerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](mailto:Deputyclerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk)***

***Tel: Southam Town Council - 01926814004***

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

**citizens  
advice**

# 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                    |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Friday 3 February    | Zack's Burger Barn      |
| Saturday 11 February | Pizza                   |
| Thursday 16 February | Village Chippy          |
| Friday 17 February   | Village Kitchen Mexican |
| Friday 24 February   | Zack's Burger Barn      |
| Saturday 4 March     | Pizza                   |
| Friday 10 March      | Village Kitchen Curry   |
| Thursday 16 March    | Village Chippy          |
| Friday 31 March      | Village Kitchen Mexican |

## Mobile Library

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

17 February 2023

10 March 2023

31 March 2023



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**Copy date for next issue – 18 March 2023**