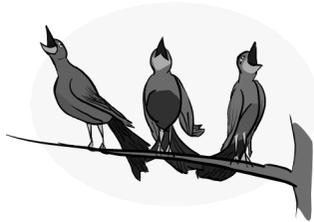


BIRDSONG

**February
and
March 2024**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS
NO 120**



All Aboard the Birdingbury Bus!

Photo from the archive of Steve Edgar

Birdingbury Parish Council Report

The Parish Council doesn't meet in December, so our January meeting was busy, including our budget discussion for 2024-25. As I mentioned in the last edition, we needed to review the precept (the Parish share of Council Tax) due to our rising costs, something that we've all seen in the last year or so. We have agreed to increase the precept by 10% to match the growth in our expenses, which equates to an extra £725 split across the hundred or so residences and businesses in the village. This is the first increase in precept since 2019, so still a real term saving over that time.

Following the local Council by-election in December, Dale Keeling is now our Rugby Borough Councillor and our County Councillor. This means that the Parish Council has the same person to deal with whenever we have concerns, whether they are managed by Borough (e.g. planning) or County (e.g. roads). Dale visited Birdingbury in the New Year to do a walkabout, seeing first-hand the pavements, roads, drains and planning locations that we have discussed with the local authorities.

He also attended our January meeting when we discussed several of the specific items that he'd seen on his walkabout. We have highlighted several blocked drains, requesting jetting for those near the Stockton Road-Leamington Hastings Road junction, and the Long Itchington Road junction by the War Memorial. We discussed the drainage problem in Main Street and Back Lane by the Club: this has been raised with Highways as well as with Severn Trent. All these areas had been overwhelmed by the steady, prolonged rain that we had over New Year.

Dale has agreed to fund the curbing near the Club that we have been pursuing for a long time and we've been told that this should be done by the end of March. We have lodged a request for the re-laying of some of the most worn pavement areas, but we have no timeframe on these yet. Dale has also spoken to Stagecoach about the possibility of re-routing the 63 bus (Rugby-Southam-Leamington) so that it comes through Birdingbury. It is a long-shot, but a parishioner had asked so it seemed worth a try. We are waiting for a formal response from Stagecoach.

Two other things I'd like to mention. Firstly, we have decided to close the village website down, after backing up the content. It will save us money and was not being used much. Secondly, Rugby Borough Council has opened a consultation on its Local Plan. This consultation drives the next stage of their strategy for housing, employment spaces, the environment and much more. Details are available on the RBC website if you are interested.

We have tree planting, rights of way and litter picking on our February agenda, so it might start to feel as though Spring is around the corner. Keep warm in the meantime!

Guy French, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

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LH Academy Update

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. Since the last newsletter, they have had the opportunity to experience a pantomime, join in with an online author visit, raise money for charity, and take part in many Christmas activities.

We have lots of exciting events planned for the upcoming half term, including a trip to see the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, a trip to the Space Centre, and opportunities for parents to come into school and experience learning activities with their children. We can't wait!



The deadline for applying for 'on time' reception places for September 2024 has now passed, although please do get in touch with us if you still need to apply for a place. We are currently providing tours of the nursery and school for parents whose children are due to join nursery in the next year. Please contact the school office on 01926 632359 if you would like to view the school and register for a nursery place.

Our contact details are:

Leamington Hastings Church of England Academy:

01926 632359

<https://www.leamingtonhastings.covmat.org/>

Dunchurch Boughton Church of England Infant Academy and Nursery:

01788 810292

<https://www.dunchurchinfantschoolandnursery.co.uk/>

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

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury knows

That when the wind is blowing

Trees don't always move

Thin Jethro Laskey



Church News

You may have noticed the absence of the usual cream pages in the centre of this issue of Birdsong. For many years, St Leonard's has used these middle pages to advertise and review church events and activities. Having sought a new editor for some time, without success, we have taken the opportunity to support a more centralised communication process, across our Draycote and Leam Valley Benefice of eight parishes, which we now call our church family.



Anyone wanting to sign up to receive our Benefice online information can do so by visiting our website, details below, or by contacting the Vicar or the Church Warden.

If you don't use a computer but still want to receive church information, then do keep your eyes on our two church notice boards: one outside the church and the other behind the bus shelter. Here you will find up-to-date news.

We will still use the pages of Birdsong to promote local church events and activities which may interest the wider village (thanks to Lesley for agreeing to this), but details of regular church services and other worship activities will now be available via our weekly email circulation or our website: www.draycoteandleamvalleybenefice.com

Do get in touch with one of us if you want to chat further. The contact details are:

Rev Phil Price, Priest-in-Charge- revphilprice@outlook.com

Karen Armbrister, Church Warden, karen.armbrister@btinternet.com or 07919 594559

Karen Armbrister

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Lunch for St Leonard's

Around thirty hungry villagers gathered in the Club and Birbury for February's lunch organised by John Owen in aid of St Leonard's. Treated to chestnut and celeriac soup, Eira's soup-de-loup, and various homemade sandwiches, a good time was had by all.

As a bonus, around £200 was raised for church funds.

Karen Armbrister



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Here we Come a Wassailing?

Many of us may know this old carol, but what is wassailing, and does it still take place?

On 17 February in Long Itchington, you can see this ancient and colourful ritual as it kicks off (almost literally) outside The Harvester at 12.00 noon and then tours the village. There will be several Morris sides performing and, of course, interesting things to drink as some of the local CAMRA pubs join in the festive spirit with unusual ales.

Wassailing is a very old tradition in areas where fruit trees are grown, so it is local to Warwickshire, Somerset, Hereford etc. It involves dancing and rituals to persuade evil spirits to leave the trees alone and ensure a good harvest, and was performed by local workers. To avoid identification (in case they should have been somewhere else) they used to disguise their faces with blackened cork, but nowadays this no longer continues.

Traditionally performed on 12th Night (6 January) or old Twelfth Night (17 January), modern work patterns mean it is now a weekend activity, and demand is such that those taking part are often busy through January and into February.

Cider (or plum spirit) is poured on the roots of the trees and a piece (or pieces) of soaked toast hung from the branches. A pop gun is fired (often by a small boy who is lifted up) at the toast to frighten the evil spirits away. After more liquid consumption, the party moves on to the next tree. Home visits are optional requests.



Check the Plum Jerkum Border Morris Facebook page for the latest information, and the timetable closer to the date.

As the carol says:

‘Love and joy come to you,
And to you your wassail too;
And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year
And God send you a Happy New Year.’

Happy wassailing!

Carmel de Nahlik

PS The plum jerkum, after which our local Rugby Morris side is named, is a plum spirit and to be drunk with care if offered!



Rugby Rural South

The Rugby Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team would like to invite you to sign-up for Warwickshire Connected.

Warwickshire Connected is a free community messaging system. You can sign-up to receive timely email updates about the things that matter to you and your local community including:-

- **News from your local policing team.**
- **Appeals on local incidents.**
- **Useful crime prevention advice.**
- **Information about policing events happening in your area.**

Signing up is easy – just visit:-

www.warwickshireconnected.com



Stretch Your Legs

After the excesses of the festive season and such a wet winter, a good dry walk may be just what you need! Here are a couple of suggested circular walks based on Route 41 which won't require wellies.

Draycote.

Park in the village by the post box. Walk along the road that leads past the entrance to Draycote Meadows Nature Reserve. Pass under the bridge and immediately walk up the slope to the right to join the disused railway line. Then turn right to cross over this bridge. Walk along the track, leaving it at the next road bridge, which you pass under to return to your car in Draycote village.

Long Itchington.

Drive into the village past The Co-op, Green Man pub and Short Lane. Park on the roadside at the start of Stonebridge Lane. Walk along the lane passing under the disused railway bridge and up the slope to join the track to the right. This recently improved stretch of Route 41 is tarmacked. (A classic case of over engineering, perhaps!) Leave the path at the next bridge, turning left onto Bascote Road, and back towards Long Itchington village. Turn left to walk past The Green Man [or drop in for a drink] and back to your car.

Both walks are nearly flat and will each take half an hour or so.

Happy walking.

Dick Withington

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG



Marton Coffee Morning



Logan Keeves, who is in Year 7 at Southam College, ran the recent coffee morning in Marton.

He raised a staggering £840.30 for the school's charities, which include Teenage Cancer Trust, and Len's Light.

This is a Southam College record for the most funds raised by a single student.



Well done, Logan, and many thanks to the people of Marton and Birdingbury for their generosity and support.

Helen Keeves

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

A Day with a Difference?

Can a day in your life make a difference for the good? Well, there's every chance if you explore the inviting Saturday day-schools being run at The Percival Guildhouse in Rugby on 9 March.

These days, social media are alive with stories of women artists who have gone unnamed and unrecognised for centuries. So, David Price's day-school 'Women Writers, Artists and Musicians in the Shadows in the 19th Century' is really timely.

Among other courses on offer on 9 March are Tracing Your Irish Ancestry, Letter Carving in Wood, Italian Culture (no language knowledge necessary), Crochet, and an Introduction to Modern Calligraphy.

For full details of all courses, plus timings and costs, please visit: www.percival-guildhouse.co.uk or phone 01788 542467.

The Percival Guildhouse is the only Independent Centre for Adult Education & the Arts in Warwickshire and is a self-supporting charity.

Use it or lose it!

Clare Turnbull



Are you a dab hand at fixing stuff, or would you like to be?

Do you have something that could be repaired rather than replaced?

Are you a modeller with a project on the go?

If you are, then you'll be interested in:

Birdingbury Repair Shop

For a trial period – 8 to 29 February

Fortnightly or monthly thereafter based on demand.

7pm each Thursday in the Birbury or Club

Come along if

- **you are willing to try some fixing**
- **have your own ongoing work to bring**
- **you have things that need repairing (we make no promises!)**

All levels and types of skill welcome or just come in for a chat to see what's going on!

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Cakes to continue!

Birdingbury Community Cafe will continue weekly on Tuesdays during February and March, from 10.30am to 12noon in the Birbury and Club.

We will be letting everyone know what will be happening thereafter, particularly around the Easter holidays, in due course.

Meanwhile, keep coming along to enjoy tea, coffee, all those scrumptious homemade cakes, while having a good old natter with friends and neighbours. It's all in aid of our chosen charities so your conscience is clear!

Karen Armbrister and Jean Foroughi



Bowls Club Set for the New Year

Happy New Year to all! The club had a lovely Christmas get together after the last indoor roll up of 2023 with a buffet, a raffle and a happy, lively atmosphere.

We will be playing our indoor competitions in March, with matches for singles, pairs and, possibly, triples if there are enough willing members who sign up. It will be a great afternoon of short mat bowls, chatting, helpful hints on bowling technique, and the usual refreshments.

It's not too late in the season if you would like to come and have a try, you have until the end of April! We then start our outdoor season. You are very welcome to come and try your hand outdoors as well.

We're still at the beginning of 2024 and if you haven't yet made your New Year's resolution, could Leamington Hastings Bowls Club be the solution? Gentle exercise, learning a new skill (or returning) to bowling, meeting new people, laughing more, joining a new group, getting out more - we can offer all these, along with free car parking and a cuppa!

We play indoor short mat bowls every Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm in the Leamington Hastings Parish Hall. Outdoors it is every Wednesday from 6pm until dusk.

Save The Date! There are plans to hold an Open Afternoon on Sunday 26 May, at the bowls green, with bowling activities, games, coaching, refreshments and more. Further details to follow.

In the middle of December, club members were informed of the sad passing of Mr. Wally Fell, one of our dear members. When work started to create the bowls green in 1985, Wally was one of the founder members. He was club president in 1999 and remained an active member of the committee until this year. No longer able to bowl outdoors, Wally was always a regular visitor to the bowls green during the summer months to watch and encourage players from the sidelines. He continued playing indoor bowls until a few weeks before being taken poorly at the age of 97. He was an amazing gentleman, and we will miss him.

Susan Turner

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Mobile Library

2 February 2024

1 March 2024 25

March 2024

13.40 to 14.00 outside the Club

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Easter Art Exhibition

Napton Art Group are holding their annual Easter Exhibition of members' work at Napton Village Hall (CV47 8LS) on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 March 2024, between 10am and 4 pm.

There will be about 200 paintings in all media including oils, watercolour, acrylics and pastels. Greetings cards of some of these will be 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' painting.

The nominated charity this year is the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. The group members will be displaying small paintings on the theme of the sea or boats which will be for sale at a cost of £10, with the proceeds going to the RNLI. Please note, payments for items on sale can only be made by cash or cheque (no cards can be accepted).

The Art Group has a membership that now stands at over 50 and meets every Thursday afternoon at Napton Village Hall. Our programme features a wide range of demonstrations and weekend workshops. Visitors who might wish to join the group are welcome on any Thursday afternoon from 2 to 4 pm.

Howard Collerson

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Let Me Be Kind

'Let me be kind,'

Said Clever.

For Clever could

Often be blind.

So God, who loved

Even Clever,

Showed Clever

How to be kind.

Pilgrim

Club 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.

Date	Time	Event
Friday 9 February	From 5.30pm	Village Kitchen Curry
Tuesday 13 February	From 7pm	Pool competition
Thursday 15 February	From 4.30pm	Village Chippy
Saturday 17 February	From 5pm	Pizza
Saturday 24 February	8.30pm	Quiz
Sunday 25 February	Lunchtime	Mosby Meadows Roast Beef Dinner
Friday 8 March	From 5.30pm	Village Kitchen Curry
Thursday 14 March	From 4.30pm	Village Chippy
Saturday 16 March	From 5pm	Pizza
Sunday 17 March	TBC	Pies and Puds with St Leonard's

Club Opening Times

Monday to Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	7pm to 10.00pm
Thursday Chippy Nights	5.30pm to 10.00pm
Friday	5pm to 11pm
Saturday	4pm to 11pm
Sunday	12 noon to 6pm

The Club will also be showing the Six Nations matches live on 2, 3, 10, 11, 24 and 25 February - come along to cheer your team with a brew or two!



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