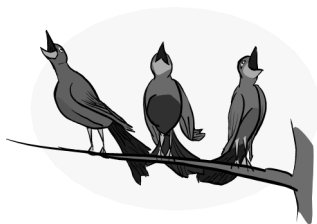


BIRDSONG

**August 2023
and
September 2023**



**BIRDINGBURY
NEWS
NO 117**



Summer Sunshine

Photo: Bostock Sunflowers

Birdingbury Parish Council Report

I thought I'd use this report to give an update on the management of the Birbury and its relationship to the Club. The Parish Council is the leaseholder for the room on behalf of a committee that act as trustees of the charity established to manage and maintain the room. That charitable committee has developed over the years into the Birbury Management Committee (BMC).

The BMC has recently agreed to pass the day-to-day management of the room to the Club Committee and at the BMC's AGM in May, it agreed changes to its constitution to reflect the fact that it no longer needed to carry on with a range of responsibilities. These changes included slimming down its membership to be representatives of the three constituted village organisations: the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, and the Club (me, Dick Withington and Tony Flint respectively). The BMC, reflecting its new membership, met on 10 July to agree how the arrangements will work with the Club. I hope it is helpful to highlight a little of what was agreed:

- The Club will be responsible for managing bookings of the Birbury and any other space in the Club building. There will be no charge for use of the Birbury
- BMC will use its reserves to pay for any maintenance or replacements required for the room
- The Club will eventually take responsibility for the combined utilities and council tax for the whole building. However, some of this will be recharged to BMC during a transitional period. In the short term, £1 coins will be needed still to make the electricity work in the Birbury
- BMC will meet three times a year, one of which will be an AGM in April/May which will be open to Birdingbury residents
- BMC will continue to decide on donations from the Distribution Fund, which still has about £1,000 available
- I will be the contact (guyfrenchpc@gmail.com; 07538 583498) for any BMC matters other than bookings.

Regarding the Distribution Fund, we are very keen to hear from anyone who believes that some of the funds could help to get regular village activities or social groups (like a toddler or youth group) off the ground. Please contact me if you're interested.

Finally, can I say a big 'Thank You' to the many people over the years who have supported the BMC in various roles, and particularly to the committee members who have seen through these recent changes and who stood down at the AGM as the new membership rules came into effect: Gaynor Davy, Alice Munro, Jenny Hawes and Leslie Turner, and the BMC secretary, Sylvia Redhead. I hope that you enjoy your 'retirement'!

The usual Parish Council update will resume for the next Birdsong, but may I take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely summer and enjoyable holidays if you are managing to take time away.

Guy French, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council

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Update from The Club

There was a really great attendance for the Club AGM: thank you to all who attended.

Aside from the usual procedures, it was reported that 2022 had been challenging. Not only did we undergo a change of manager and treasurer (and thanks were expressed to Mark & Karen Thomas and John Starley for their hard work in these roles), like everyone else, we face eyewatering cost increases across the board. Trying to strike the balance between being both affordable and sustainable becomes impossibly hard. The upshot is that we recorded a small loss in 2022 and are projecting a much bigger loss in 2023, although we do hold reserves that will give us a few years of headroom on this front.

This led us on to talk about grant funding, and how adopting modern co-operative rules would help with that, and with an asset lock to give both added protection and make us more attractive to funders. We're working on this at present and will hold a further EGM on that specific matter in the next month or so.

The good news is that the number of customers visiting the Club is higher than in previous years. There was much discussion about firework night, improvements and suggestions for events and we are busy undertaking routine maintenance and repairs to the fabric of the building. There's a lot of enthusiasm for social activities in the village but organisation does often seem to fall on the same few shoulders.

So, if you are willing to help in any capacity, on anything, then please do make yourself known! A paintbrush in one hand and a microphone in the other is a good look for Birdingbury.

Finally, please do join the Club if you are not already a member. The more support we have the better we can ride the storms and shoot the breeze together!



Tony Flint, President, Birdingbury Club

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Community Café



Thanks everyone for the continued support for our weekly Tuesday café. We've been going six months now and have enjoyed a LOT of varied bakes, thanks to our wonderful bakers; a fab group of volunteer helpers; and the Club.

When we started the café, we wanted to provide a space for the community to come together, all people of all ages, and we are delighted our customers have ranged in age from newborn to upper 80s! There is always a hum of chatter and laughter, a welcome smile, or peace and quiet if you just want to work or have some time out. It's a space for you – come as you are!

We'd welcome seeing some new faces when we re-open on **Tuesday 5th September**, as Karen and Jean take a few weeks off over the Summer.

If anyone would like to have a go running the café over the Summer, do contact us and we'd be pleased to provide the resources and give you a handover.

Finally, from the generosity of our bakers, helpers, and visitors, we have been overjoyed to be able to make a whopping total of £1291.87 to the following charities since January.

Disasters Emergency Appeal	£200
Rugby Foodbank	£50
MIND (Mental Health)	£50
The Ups of Downs	£100
Alzheimers (UK)	£100
The Prince's Trust	£191.87
World Food Programme	£100
Magic Breakfast	£100
Hope4 Rugby	£75
Global Care (Coventry)	£100
Dogs For Good	£75
Level Water	£75
LH CoE Academy	£75



With loving thanks,

Jean Foroughi and Karen Armbrister

July's Open Mic Night at Birdingbury Club

Following the roaring success of our open mic night in April, we held another on 6 July featuring invited guests and talent from around the village.

I opened the evening with a few tunes featuring Headley Stone (from Southam) on violin. Next, we welcomed back our very own David and Angela Hanson with Sharon from LH on saxophone and flute, repeating their great set from the Buck and Bell open mic on the preceding Wednesday.

Dangerous Derek was up next. Derek runs an open mic at the Wheatsheaf in Crick and is an accomplished artist on guitar and singing: a master of the 'tape loop and foot pedal'.

It was great to then hear Patrick Unwin of 'The Birds' fame, ably accompanied by Lewis Cutts on bass. Then it was the second time out for Jessie Markham, who gave us two songs. We wanted more of this talented local girl, but a sore throat put paid to that - next time, Jessie!

One of the joys of playing music around the local area is meeting new friends with similar passions. This is true of Steve from the Buck and Bell open mic, who gave us a rip-roaring set including 'American Pie' and '500 Miles'.



Des and Rich are two thirds of the Rugby band 'The Scutters' who also performed for us. We had to shorten the band name to suit - not sure whether 'The Scutts' or 'The Sluts' suited best! It was a great set though, with Hedley and Lewis stepping up to support again.

Headley and Lewis stayed up and were joined by Rob Walker and me for a few of our 'Jammers' numbers, followed by Jo Young and me for a closing set, again accompanied by Hedley and Lewis.

It was another super night of music at the Club, which we hope to repeat sometime in the autumn. We are so fortunate to have such talented musicians in our community, and to have a great venue, here in the village, where we can enjoy their performances.

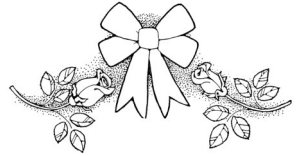
Thanks to all who took part for your time and dedication. See you next time!

Steve Edgar

Lance Hudson

The Memorial Service for Lance Parker Hudson (1940-2023) was held at All Saints, Leamington Hastings on 19 July 2023, followed by tea at the Birdingbury Club.

Lance, though reclusive, was a keen gardener and allotment horticulturalist and many will recall seeing him pushing his wheelbarrow from the allotments to his home. However, as the congregation learned, in his earlier life he had been an award-winning athlete, competing in the English Games.



His family thanks everyone for messages and support. There will be more on his life in the next issue.

Final advice from Lance was not to lift garlic before 24 July!

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Macmillan Coffee Morning

Come along with friends and family for a cuppa and a slice (or two) of cake!

Saturday 30 September

Birbury

From 10.30am

Let's raise lots of money for Macmillan Cancer Support!

Donations of cakes and raffle prizes will be gratefully received leading up to the event or on the day.

For more information, please contact me

Jackie Westcott (01926 632494)



Teams4U Shoebox Appeal



Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to the Teams4U Shoebox Appeal, either by wrapping shoeboxes or donating small items to go inside the boxes. Last year many of the boxes went to children in Ukraine and were very well received. The appeal continues and needs empty shoeboxes, volunteers to wrap them in jolly festive paper, and donations of small presents to fill the boxes.

Suggested items include:

- toy cars and lorries, small toys, small jigsaws and games, playing cards, dominoes, small dolls and teddy bears
- hairbrushes, combs, hairclips, scrunchies, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, wash sponges, flannels
- small pieces of jewellery (including broken items that can be mended)
- note paper, drawing paper, pens, pencils, pencil cases, crayons, felt tip pens
- sweets (not chocolate) in date for 2024
- scarves, mittens, hats and unworn packs of socks and underwear
- anything suitable for children up to age 18 and small enough to fit in a shoebox.

Please let us know if you can help by donating or wrapping boxes (empty wrapping boxes and wrapping paper will be supplied). Jackie is currently storing the empty boxes and donations and I am providing the transport.

Thank you for all your help - it really is appreciated by all involved, especially the children receiving the boxes. If you'd like more information or to have a chat about how you can help, please contact Val (Linden, Main Street 01926 633473) or Jackie (Loen, Main Street 01926 632494).

Val Preston and Jackie Westcott

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Welcome to Birdingbury

A big warm 'hello' to Luke and Sandra who have moved into the 'jitty' along Back Lane.

We hope you both will be very happy here.!



Scotland in May

Broken crofts and rocky harbours
Tell stories of past glories.
Turquoise sea laps along the strand
A silver line of virgin sand.

Across the open moor, the shore,
So distant in the gap
Between Munroes and Marilyns,
Not seen in one dimension on a map.

Silent but for curlew's bubbling,
Therapy for something troubling.
Cuckoo's cuckoo all day long
While skylarks sing their incessant song.

And now and then an eagle
Majestic through the sudden mist
Is there - then gone in the blink of an eye
So very quick but senses kissed.

Natures treasure, the golden gorse,
Lines the banks from sea to source,
While deer cool off in the glistening stream
And through the mist a single sunbeam.

Steve Edgar

Rounders all Round!

Come along to the playing field at Marton on

Saturday 9 September

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



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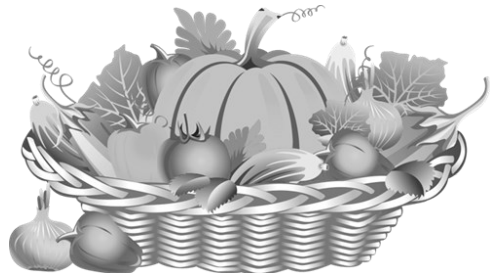
Birdingbury Allotment Association

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

There are a couple of opportunities to take on plots. Each is approximately 300 square yards, and the rent is £10 per plot, per year.

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

Vic Shayler



Leamington Hastings Bowls Club

The club members are enjoying a lovely outdoor season.

The weather, like our bowling, has been variable, but it hasn't put us off! The matches we have played against other clubs have been played in good humour and whether we win or lose we have an enjoyable time with like-minded people and refreshments afterwards.

We have welcomed six new members over the past few months, and they all seem to like us. They are bowling extremely well and having fun. Long may they stay with the club.

Our annual Beef and Ham evening in June was a great success, raising around £700 for the club. We were honoured to have in attendance the club's youngest addition, one year old Louie, great grandson of Pat Toole. Louie nearly appeared at last year's event but his Mum and Dad managed the dash to hospital before he was born!!

Thank you, Darren and Wendy, for keeping the bowls green in a good playable condition despite the very hot, dry spell of weather. After some welcome rain, the brown of the green is becoming green again!

We are playing our special Lyle Watts match on Saturday 26 August. Always well attended by bowlers, friends and family with tea, cake, a catch-up chat and a raffle afterwards to raise money for Myton Hospice. These yearly matches have been arranged by Jan Watts for the last 34 years and have raised thousands for this worthy charity.

If you would like to join us for outdoor bowling, (there's still lots to be done), please come along at 6pm every Wednesday to the bowls green next to the parish hall. We have bowls you can borrow. Please wear loose clothing and flat shoes.

From September, (date to be confirmed), we move indoors to play short mat bowls in the Leamington Hastings Parish Hall every Wednesday from 2pm until 4pm, with a break for tea and biscuits! Again, we have bowls you can borrow and please wear loose clothing and flat shoes.

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

Susan Turner

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Birdingbury knows

In our muddy claggy clay

Ammonites still swim

Thin Jethro Laskey



When Summer Sings

When Summer sings
I feel the breeze
Of lemon light
On coral seas
And cadence brings
The birth of pearls,
Sonorities of sounds
Shaped by strings
Invisible yet blue,

While soft inflection
Mute as flame
Slips gently through
And burns with joy
When Summer sings.

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	Menu
Thursday 3 August	Village Chippy
Saturday 12 August	Pizza
Friday 25 August	Village Kitchen Curry
Thursday 31 August	Village Chippy
Saturday 9 September	Pizza
Friday 15 September	Village Kitchen Mexican
Thursday 28 September	Village Chippy

Mobile Library Dates

4 August 2023

25 August 2023

15 September 2023

6 October 2023



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