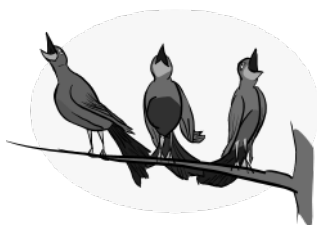


# **BIRDSONG**

**June and July  
2026**



**BIRDINGBURY  
NEWS  
NO 134**



**Still Serving Our Community**

**Photo from the archive of Chris Barney**

# Birdingbury Parish Council Report

May is always a full meeting for the Parish Council, as we also have to hold our Annual Meeting to deal with various governance issues. At this one, I agreed to stay as Chair, and Simon Kent as Deputy Chair. Darren Young took on the role of BPC representative on the Birdingbury Club committee. We also agreed the dates of the BPC meetings for the following year – these will take place every other month, in the ‘odd’ months, on the third Monday at 7.30pm.

In terms of the more usual business, concerns continue to be expressed about the new development on the corner of Stockton Road, and particularly the danger caused by how the contractors park their various vehicles, creating risks both for pedestrians and other road users.

Note was taken that it looks like parts of Stockton Road will be repaired soon – we were not sure they had identified all the worst bits but let’s wait and see what it looks like. Also, disappointment was expressed at the poor quality of the work on the bridge heading towards Bourton – the post and rails fence is already falling apart! We will follow up on these matters.

We have received a report on the state of the playground equipment, which expresses particular concern in relation to the slide, which does not meet modern safety standards. This has been assessed as High Risk which means that the inspector’s recommendation is that it **SHOULD NOT BE USED**. Please could all parents, grandparents and guardians be aware of this and follow this recommendation. This does increase the urgency of trying to raise funds to replace some of the existing equipment.

Since my last missive on the playground, I have had two volunteers come forward to offer their services in trying to raise funds or otherwise support this. I am also following up with our Borough and County Councillor, who thought there might be grant funding available. However, please could anyone else who thinks they might be able to help, or who works in local businesses who are looking for an ESG community project, please get in touch with me through WhatsApp or at [sara.kendell@birdingbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:sara.kendell@birdingbury-pc.gov.uk).

Finally, the Parish Council would like to express its sorrow at hearing of the death of our prior long-serving clerk, Leslie Turner, whose wife Di was also Chair of BPC. Our sympathy and condolences, and thanks to both for their service.

*Sara Kendell, Chair, Birdingbury Parish Council*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Birdingbury Scores with New Goal Posts

Because I definitely wasn't part of the erecting team, I feel I can share these photos with many thanks to those involved: David, Darren and Paul.



Thanks also to Freddie for testing them, and of course to Guy and Lisa French for their purchase!

*Sara Kendell*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Community Café

Community Café continues to thrive with 20-30 people attending every time it runs. We have enjoyed lots of delicious bakes and chats.

We are so grateful to all those who support the Café by coming along, helping and supporting behind the scenes.

Thanks to all your generous offers of help, we now have enough people to continue running the Café on the first and third Tuesdays of the month and we have boosted the occasional helpers team as well.

We are due to make a charity donation soon so we will post details of that in the next Birdsong.

We will be having a break over August but have all of June and July to go before then!

Future Café dates:

**June 2**

**June 16**

**July 7**

**July 21**

**September 1**

**September 15**

We look forward to seeing you at the next Café!

*The Community Café Team*



# Birdingbury Tractor and Classics Road Run 2026

We were blessed with fine weather until the late afternoon for this year's tractor run and the crowds turned out to support us in droves. There were 51 entries for the road run, mostly tractors of various ages but with a lovely sprinkling of classic road vehicles, and special guest 'Spiderman' should anyone have needed superhero assistance on route.



Breakfast rolls were served promptly from 9.00 am, the convoy departed slightly late and suddenly the village was quiet again. I'm told that an enjoyable pit stop was had at Stockton Club, and that a few participants decided to take alternative routes around Napton, what fun!

On the return to Birdingbury, the barbeque was fired up and we were treated to two sets by our friend, Amy Boyd, who sang a World War 2 inspired set, followed by a more jazzy

pop set. Perfect entertainment for a sunny afternoon. As the barbeque was wrapping up, following emergency shops for more burgers and bread rolls, the skies darkened and we were treated to some light drizzle.

I have to thank all our teams for a splendid effort, often under pressure. So, millions of thanks to the breakfast team (including all the home sausage and bacon cookers), Darren for the loan of the baine maries, the barbeque team for fulfilling all the orders, the bar/club guys for keeping up: the queues were often out of the door, Danny for making the 'horse field' available for parking, Hayden and Suzie for offering camping on their field and for food shops, and Stuart Malpass for helping tow the trailers.



Thanks to all who supported us in many other ways but mostly just for being there, being generous in your donations, buying raffle tickets and paying our entrance charge. Finally, I have to thank my boy, John, and his family for their time and tenacity asking local businesses for raffle prizes and organising our sponsors.

I also have to mention our sponsors who ensured that more funds could be used for our charity donations, so thank you to:

Jill Drew Physiotherapy

Snips and Snuggles Pet Care

Swim in a Tin

Marton Baby Farm

JM Firewood

Opteva travel and expenses experts



The tractor run was born out of a desire to pay tribute in some way to the Birdingbury show, which finished in 2017. Our first tractor run was in 2018 and it has now become a regular annual event (apart from the covid years). The purpose of the run is twofold: of course to have a great village fun day but also to raise money for charity. I am delighted to say that we have donated £700 to each of this year's chosen charities:

Sands (the stillbirth and neonatal death society)

RABI (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution)

The Myton Hospices (providing specialist palliative and end of life care)

Thank you once again to all involved.

*Steve Edgar*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Keelie's Coffee and Cake Morning

Keelie says 'Thank you' to everyone who attended her Coffee and Cake morning, in aid of the Mind charity on Saturday 18 April.

Everyone's help and generous donations were very much appreciated and culminated in a successful £533 going straight to the charity.

*Bec Holmes*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG



## April's Open Mic Night

We invited various musicians from Rugby and the surrounding villages to our April Open Mic but none arrived, apart from our friends from Leamington Hastings. It is rumoured that various people with guitars had been spotted around Dunsmore Heath, surviving on Mitchell's potatoes and beer slops from the Friendly Inn. They still trying to find Birdingbury.

It has long been known that LH has a disproportionate population of skilled musicians, as noted by the sound of the distant church bells drifting over Birdingbury occasionally.

We were honoured to host the 'von Spencer' family, the youngest member being 11 years old. Yet again a great varied musical extravaganza.

Thank you to all musicians and to the audience.

*Steve Edgar*



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## New Look Birdingbury Club

We are delighted to share that long-awaited refurbishments at Birdingbury Village Club are now underway. We recognise that these improvements have been a long time coming and extend our sincere thanks to all our volunteers, supporters, members, and staff whose dedication has made this possible.



The progress seen so far is a result of recent community fundraising efforts and the hard work of both past and present committee members.

The refurbishment is being delivered in phases, with Phase 1 currently focusing on enhancing the main bar area. We warmly invite everyone in the community to come along, see the work that has been completed, and celebrate these initial improvements.

Looking ahead, we hope Phase 2, centred on upgrading the pool table area, will begin in early 2027, so watch this space!

*Bec Holmes*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

# Swan Songs

Deepest sympathies are extended to Nicky, Frankie, Bardley, Leanna, Rebecca, Mike and Lynda on the passing of Carl Kerry. His funeral service will be at Holy Trinity Church, Long Itchington at 1pm on Friday 12 June. This will be followed by a private burial for family members at St Leonard's Church, Birdingbury. A celebration of Carl's life will be held after the funeral service, from 2pm, at the Blue Lias, Napton, where all are welcome to attend.

The funeral of Stephanie Feakes, previously of Davenport Cottage, will be held at St Leonard's on Monday 1 June at 10.00am.

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

I know that everyone in Birdingbury will have been shocked and saddened by the passing of Leslie Turner on 3 May at Walsgrave Hospital, after suffering a severe stroke.

Leslie made an invaluable contribution to Birdsong in both being a stalwart member of the delivery team for many years and in keeping me on track in his role as proof reader. He was also instrumental in securing the finances to keep the magazine afloat. He will be sorely missed. A full tribute to Leslie will be published in due course.

*Editor*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Leamington Hastings Bowls Club

The bowls green has been open for several weeks and we've bowled in t-shirts one week and thick coats the next but it's OK because we're having fun with friends, getting some exercise and fresh air!

We've had a positive start to the season by winning our first match 50-48, followed by a lovely tea.

If you would like to come along and have a go you will be made very welcome.

We practice (a roll up), every Wednesday from 6pm at the bowls green next to the Leamington Hastings Parish Hall.

Bowls can be provided, just wear loose clothing and flat shoes.

*Susan Turner*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG



# Vyklykaty Shvydku Dopomohu v Ukrajinu

## Taking an Ambulance to Ukraine

A couple of weeks ago my friend, Pal, and I drove one of two rather old ambulances just over 1,200 miles to the far east of Poland. Ours had very nearly 200,000 miles on the clock, and had, supposedly, come to the end of its useful life. It had some non-functioning features, though, pleasingly, the siren and blue lights still worked! (We didn't use them – honestly!) Each vehicle contained humanitarian supplies, including clothing and linen, wheelchairs, and other practical items. Our ambulances were numbers 66 and 67 supplied and driven from Leamington.

This wonderful effort in support of Ukraine is orchestrated by Belveder, a community interest company in Royal Leamington Spa. They are a voluntary organisation serving the local community and beyond. Our two ambulances and contents were pulled together by them with the support of Warwick Rotary Club, Warwickshire Freemasons, Gursewak Trust and LKQ Euro Car Parts.



After two and a half days driving, we handed the ambulances over in Leżajsk, from where they went to the Ukrainian military. Ours, we are told, went to the Donbas region, the heart of the conflict. It's hard to get precise information, but we know that donated ambulances have saved thousands of lives over the course of this very bloody war. When winter conditions make movement difficult they become field hospitals. The ambulances are also prominent targets.

As we travelled east, our frankly beaten-up old ambulances seemed to get new lives. At service stations people, especially Ukrainians and Poles, came up and thanked us and told us how much they meant, not just for the ambulances and aid, but for the sense of solidarity they represented. I think living on our island we are perhaps a little remote from the reality of conflict. When you can drive to it, within a few hours, the reality is palpably sharper.

The effort continues and I'd be happy to provide contact details for the best ways of providing support.

*John Starley*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG



## A Further Ukrainian Update from Hereford House



Many of you will remember Igor & Alina (our Ukrainian refugees) ...

Over Easter they paid us a visit along with Igor's sister, husband and two children. We've sponsored them to get visas as their lives in Ukraine were increasingly dangerous. They are staying with Igor and Alina in Banbury. It was lovely to see them.

Alina has finished her degree in law and is learning English in earnest now (she now admits she must do this!) Igor works two jobs and is taking on more and more responsibility at the car parts factory: we are encouraging him to go for a promotion. To say that these two young people have grown is an understatement, they have blossomed into lovely people who continually strive to help those back at home in Ukraine.

Thank you to everyone in Birdingbury who helped out either financially or practically (Angela's English lessons, a gifted washing machine ... the list of stuff you gave or paid for was long!). You all helped us to help them. They return with their relatives, each time we sponsor them, to bring them to meet us since each and every one wants to thank us personally. It's really lovely.

*Rosy & Michael Wallace*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

**Marton Museum of Country Bygones  
is free to visit every  
Sunday afternoon 2 – 4pm  
31 May – 27 September 2026**

**Bring the family to discover more  
everyday histories from village life**

**Heritage Open Days open all day  
19 & 20 September  
Extra demonstrations of trad skills  
Also serving tea & cakes!**

**CV23 9SA  
[www.martonmuseum.co.uk](http://www.martonmuseum.co.uk)  
or find us on Facebook**

## Update from St Leonard's

| Services at St Leonard's                                                      |             |                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Date</i>                                                                   | <i>Time</i> | <i>Service</i>                                  |
| Sunday 7 June                                                                 | 11.00am     | Morning Worship – informal service for all ages |
| Sunday 21 June                                                                | 11.00am     | Holy Communion with hymns                       |
| Sunday 5 July                                                                 | 11.00am     | Morning Worship – informal service for all ages |
| Sunday 19 July                                                                | 11.00am     | Holy Communion with hymns                       |
| Sunday 23 August                                                              | 10.00am     | Benefice service of Holy Communion with hymns   |
| <i>All regular services start with coffee and a treat served from 10.30am</i> |             |                                                 |

### Morning Prayers

A short, 30 minute service of Morning Prayer takes place on the second, third and fourth Wednesdays each month in Church at 9.30am. On the first Wednesdays each month, we have an informal service of Holy Communion in the Birbury, followed by coffee and treats. All are welcome.

### Parochial Church Council

At our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Monday 11 May, the PCC was re-elected into existing positions with the exception of Karen Armbrister who has retired after around 20 years in her role. She was presented with gifts and thanked for her commitment in her church role.

The remaining PCC members are:

John Owen – Secretary

Andrew Armbrister – Treasurer

Matt Markham – Health and Safety

Dick Withington

Debbie East-Nuttall – Electoral Roll Officer

Liz Ellis

We are delighted that another non-resident member of our church family has now volunteered to join the PCC and will take over as Treasurer when Andrew retires in 2027. She will be co-opted onto the PCC next meeting, and they will work together over the next 12 months.

We have vacancies for two Church Wardens now and will have a further vacancy for Secretary in 2027, as John retires.

**Dates for your diaries**

**CHURCH FETE – Sunday 28 June from 2-4pm in and around the Club**

We will offer the usual Grand Raffle, Bottle and Gift tombola, Cakes and Home-made Crafts stall, and roast pork, stuffing and apple sauce batches.

This is our major fund-raiser for the year, so your support would be really appreciated. Thank you.

**It’s a Goodnight from Me!**

After nearly 20 years serving the community on the PCC, mostly as a Church Warden, I have now stepped down as Andrew and I move forward into a new chapter of our lives.

Last Monday evening, at my final meeting, the PCC presented me with some lovely gifts, and I want to say a big thank you to everyone. It’s been an honour, a privilege and a joy to serve our community, and I know I shall miss the role I’ve loved for many years.

The gifts included theatre tokens and books so I shall look forward to enjoying them over the next few months. This is a very special community and I will always be grateful for the love, support and blessings you have abundantly given to me over many years.

*Karen Armbrister*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

**Thanks, Karen**

Now you are retiring as our official Chief Church Correspondent, I’d like to thank you, Karen, for your always prompt (gold star) and accurate (big gold star) contributions to Birdsong over the years, and for keeping our Church in people’s minds.

*Editor*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

**Mobile Library**

5 June 2026

3 July 2026

31 July 2026

13.40 to 14.00      Outside the Club

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

Birdingbury knows

One humanity shudders

What straits we are in

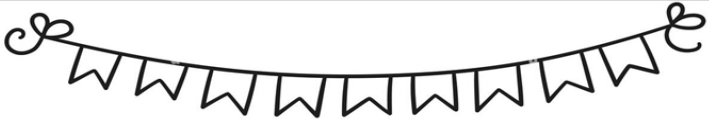
*Thin Jethro Laskey*



BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Village Events

See the centre sections for information about what's on and the food offering at the Club. Details can change at short notice. Check out Village Chat WhatsApp group and Birdingbury Club Facebook page for further details.



**Birdingbury Village  
Fete**

**Sunday 28 June  
2-4pm  
Club Forecourt**

**Proceeds to St Leonard's Church**

**Raffle with FAB prizes  
Roast Pork Batches  
Home Baked Goodies  
Tombola  
Fun for all ages!**



Birdsong Editor: Lesley Fleming  
Moonrakers, Back Lane 07770 937806 [Birdsong1@btinternet.com](mailto:Birdsong1@btinternet.com)  
Copy date for next issue – 18 JULY 2026