Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 272 Wednesday 23rd March 2022

Editorial

Anyone trawling through old Parish Council minutes, early copies of the *Birlingham Bystander* or the *Birlingham News* archive could be forgiven for thinking that the village is stuck in some endless time loop, with the same issues being discussed over and over again, apparently without any resolution. One such item is the phone box (opposite the Village Hall), which has been the subject of controversy over many years.

During 2008, when BT was threatening to take away the phone box, the Parish Council spent months debating the pros and cons of keeping it, first deciding to have nothing to do with it but eventually agreeing to adopt the kiosk in March 2009.

However, it was not until September 2012 that *Birlingham News* reported that the lengthy adoption process had been completed and the Parish Council finally owned the box. Now, ten years later, the Council are debating whether to go ahead with the costly refurbishment of the box. *Plus ça change*.

An interesting side note is that, during the height of the phone box controversy in 2009, Judy Bishton suggested that the parish needed an email group so that villagers could be alerted to issues such as these. This sparked an idea that, three years later, resulted in the first issue of *Birlingham News* being circulated.

So, in a small way, our iconic phone box is partially responsible for you being able to read this edition of *Birlingham News online*.



The phone box, awaiting a facelift

Bring and Buy Sale for Ukraine

Saturday 26th March

by Adrianne Woodward

There will be a Bring and Buy Sale, with refreshments, held in the Village Hall this Saturday, 26th March from 11.00am to 4.00pm. There will also be a raffle. All proceeds will go to the appeal for Ukraine.

Any donations of bric-a-brac, clothing, plants, gifts, cakes – in fact anything that can be sold – will be most appreciated. Donations can be taken directly to the Hall on the 26th from 10.00am onwards or Paula Aston (01386 751425) will be happy to collect beforehand.

It is recognised that some of you will have already made charitable donations to Ukraine but as there are Ukrainian workers living in Birlingham it was felt that it would be good to have a village event to assure them of our support.

It is to be hoped that as many of you as possible will call in to the Hall for coffee/tea and cake and who knows, you may find a bargain!

Platinum Jubilee Meeting

Monday 28th March *by Steve Morris*

The next meeting to discuss arrangements for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations has been set for Monday 28th March at 7.30pm, with wine or soft drinks and light refreshments available from 7.15pm.

At this meeting we will need to firm up our ideas for events and activities over the Jubilee weekend, from Thursday 2nd June until Sunday 5th June. A number of ideas have been discussed but we would like as many people as possible to be involved in the planning.

Please come along, or let us know at news@birlingham.org if you would like to be involved – and please remember to complete the online survey, if you have not already done so (*see next page*).

Walter Clode

We are very sorry to announce the death of Walter Clode, who died peacefully at home on 15th March. Walter has lived at the Grange, Lower End since the 1960s.

Walter was a prominent member of the community over many decades and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with Alison and the family.

The funeral will take place on Tuesday 12th April at 12.00 midday in St James' Church.

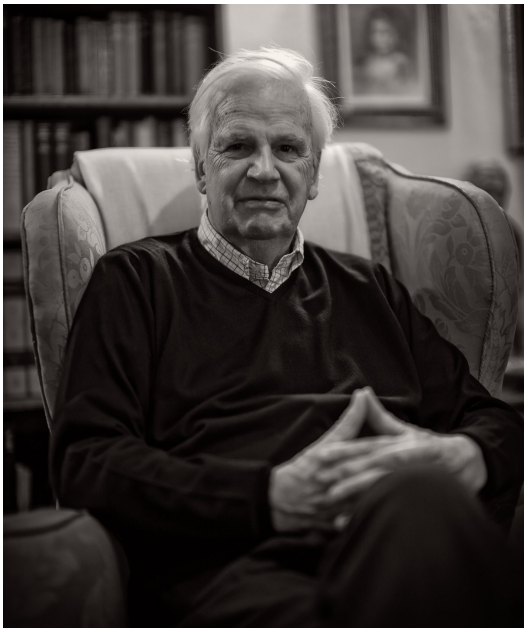


Photo courtesy of Westley Richards

Jubilee Survey

The online survey to gauge support for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations will remain open until Sunday 27th March.

It takes only a minute to complete the survey and it will be a great help to those planning the Jubilee weekend if they have some idea of which events will be best supported and how many are likely to turn up.

The survey is anonymous so you are not committing yourself to anything!

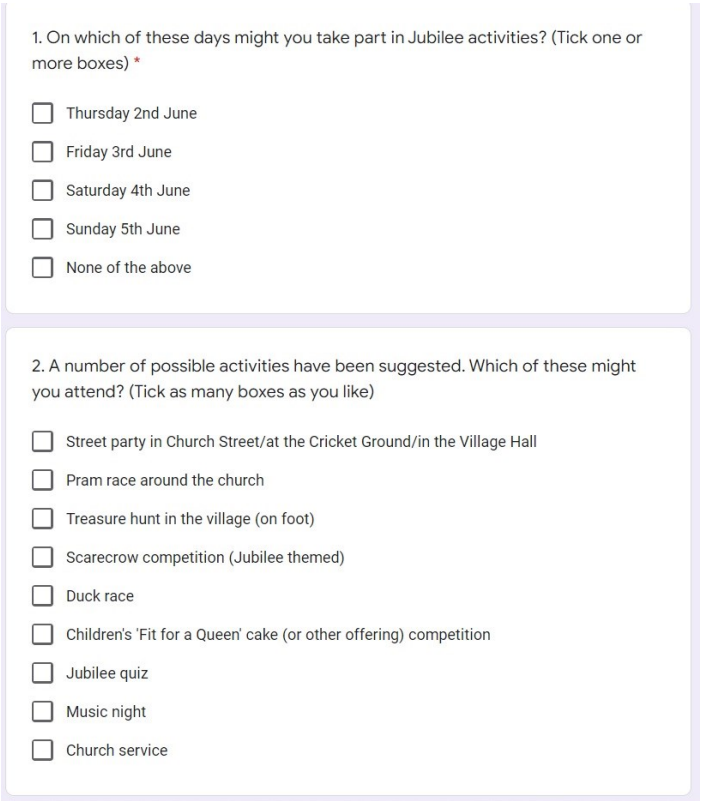
Please complete the survey individually, rather than for a whole household, as the aim is to estimate the number of people who are interested.

Please also respond to the survey even if you are going to be away that weekend or will not be taking part.

To start the survey, go to:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJMvrRTaWx-rstVOmvya1IcxhREfhe16VpFj94NJBW0qaxmw/viewform?usp=sf_link

If you are unable to access the survey or would like to make more general points, please email us at news@birlingham.org or phone Steve Morris on 07801 368953.



1. On which of these days might you take part in Jubilee activities? (Tick one or more boxes) *

- ☐ Thursday 2nd June
- ☐ Friday 3rd June
- ☐ Saturday 4th June
- ☐ Sunday 5th June
- ☐ None of the above

2. A number of possible activities have been suggested. Which of these might you attend? (Tick as many boxes as you like)

- ☐ Street party in Church Street/at the Cricket Ground/in the Village Hall
- ☐ Pram race around the church
- ☐ Treasure hunt in the village (on foot)
- ☐ Scarecrow competition (Jubilee themed)
- ☐ Duck race
- ☐ Children's 'Fit for a Queen' cake (or other offering) competition
- ☐ Jubilee quiz
- ☐ Music night
- ☐ Church service

Cuppa & Chat



Wednesday 6th April

by Sue Hermon

Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 6th April from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall. The cost is £2.50 per person. Everyone is most welcome to come along for tea or coffee plus a cake or two. With Easter fast approaching and lighter evenings there's lots to look forward to! Hope you can join us.

For more information, or to request transport, please contact me on 01386 750096 or email sue.hermon@me.com.

St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward (Tel. 01386 750936)

Services at St James' Church during April will be held at the following times:

* **Sunday 3rd**: Benefice Eucharist at the Abbey, 10.30am.

  No service at St James' but the church will be open.

  This will be the last service taken by Revd Steve Dunton prior to joining the Chester Diocese to take up the living of the Parish Church of Christ the King, Timperley.

* **Sunday 17th**: Easter Day Holy Communion, 10.30am (led by Revd Alma Organ)

There will also be a full programme of services leading up to Easter, held at the Abbey. For details see the church noticeboards.

April is a busy time in Birlingham as there are two weddings on Saturday 23rd and Saturday 30th respectively!

Friends of St James' Church AGM

Charity Registration Number 1094752

Tuesday 26th April

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on Tuesday 26th April in St James' Church at 6.00pm.

All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

Revills Farm Shop



Bourne Road
Defford
Worcestershire
WR8 9BS
01386 750466
www.revillsfarmshop.co.uk

Parish Council Report

by Ian Yates

Birlingham Parish Council held its meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 16th March in the Village Hall.
The following topics were discussed:

- **Full Fibre Broadband (Fibre to the Premise – FTTP)**
  As a follow-up to our previous discussions with Worcestershire County Council, we have been told that Airband has now agreed to include Birlingham in its rollout of full fibre (FTTP) to Eckington and Bredon. This project now needs to be approved by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The timescales are extremely tight as the cut-off for Gigabit Voucher Schemes is 8th April. If DCMS approve the scheme in time we will then need to initiate the project with Airband by placing an order for one of the properties on our connection list. This will be handled by Steven Byrne. We are continuing to push our contact at WCC to try and ensure that the process is completed before the cut-off.
- **Dog/Litter Bins**
  As previously reported, the Parish Council has included funding for three additional bins in its 2022/23 precept. Wychavon District Council, who empty the bins, have now approved the proposed locations, which are the junction of Broadway with Grange Road, top of Sherpool Lane (junction of Broadway with Shorthill) and junction of Shorthill with Church Street, as these are areas popular with dog walkers.
- **Tree Warden's Report**
  Rupert Keys reported that there was not too much damage to trees following Storm Eunice. Some elm trees had fallen adjacent to the cricket pitch and he recommended that ivy strangling any trees in and around the village should be removed. Carl Brassington was thanked for clearing trees and brash from the highways following the storm. The newly-planted trees in Jubilee Wood are being regularly inspected and those that have been checked all seem to be budding up nicely. However, something needs to be done to prevent vehicles that are avoiding the large puddle on the track from driving over the newly-planted trees.
- **Speed Advisories**
  The existing 30/40mph roundels located near the entrance to Birlingham Nurseries have now been remarked. Two of the new roundels that were added in Upper End have already started to wear away at the edges and these will also be remarked later in the year when the surface is dry.
- **Berwick Lane/Grange Road**
  June Hiden is still trying to get Severn Trent Water to deal with the leak in Berwick Lane. As previously reported, despite the Highways Project Team installing a new drain in Berwick Lane, the work did not fix the leak. Severn Trent Water were asked to revisit the problem and it has now been established that the problem is being caused by the old pipework not being correctly sealed off.

  The work carried out to address the problem of water running across the road near the Manor House was thought to have fixed the problem. However water is starting to run again and Severn Trent Water have been out as a result to inspect it further.
- **Millennium Bench**
  The work on the bench is now almost complete and has turned into a labour of love, only possible because the carpenter has been giving his time for free and for which we are very grateful. Rupert Keys has started the groundworks around the time capsule and it is hoped the bench will be installed before the end of March.
- **Telephone Box**
  The telephone box is in urgent need of repair. Maxine Cook has found a company that specialises in this work. Terry Griffin, Jubilee Committee and WCC are in discussion on funding this work and if successful the box will be removed from site for approximately 10 weeks while it is restored.
- **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**
  The celebrations take place from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. Steve Morris from the Jubilee Committee is co-ordinating village activities to celebrate the occasion and the next meeting of volunteers is scheduled for 7.30pm on Monday 28th March in the Village Hall. The Parish Council has agreed to support the activities in any way it can, noting that the dates fall in half-term week and several members are away on holiday.
- **Ukraine**
  Julia Luff led discussions on ways in which the Parish Council could support refugees and families from the war in Ukraine and in particular any that become resident in Birlingham. There are a number of initiatives being considered by village organisations and it was agreed that any support offered should be co-ordinated.
- **Annual Parish Meeting**
  The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday 18th May followed by the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm.

Full minutes of the Parish Council meeting will be posted on the village website shortly.

Stray Cat

by Caryl Mills

Further to my piece asking if anyone knew anything about the black cat, which appears to have been a stray, I regret to let the village know that he was found dead in the hedge between the Village Hall and the Old School House around 4.00pm on 11th March.

He was taken to the vets, Martin and Carr, to see if he was chipped but he was not, so it is assumed that he was a stray.

If you know anything about it or how it met its end please let me know on 01386 751748.

House Available in Eckington

by Kelly Liggins, Sales & Marketing Manager for Rooftop Housing Group

We have a home available for sale in Eckington and, as part of the S106, priority is given to those with a connection to Eckington or surrounding parishes, including Birlingham. I just wanted to make you aware that we have a three-bedroom home available with shared ownership (part rent, part buy) and we are currently accepting applications, with the home due for handover in April 2022.

If you know of anyone interested then please contact our Sales Team, sales@rooftopgroup.org or telephone 01386 420837.

BUZZ ELECTRICAL LTD

We guarantee a professional, reliable and personal service for all your electrical needs.

For free no obligation quotations,
Call 01386 423600
email info@buzzelectrical.co.uk
or visit www.buzzelectrical.co.uk

Lavender – what's the alternative?

by Nikki Hollier, Border in a Box



Lavender is the staple plant for any sunny Mediterranean styled garden, the thin silvery leaves make it ideal for a hot climate as its water loss is kept to the minimum.

However, not everyone likes the scent and if you have a shady spot, you will need to find an alternative plant. Lavender is also good for windy sites too so long as it's planted in full sun. So, if you're looking for an alternative to lavender, here are three lovely plants to use and ideas for your garden.



***Salvia nemerosa* 'Caradonna'**

This was the first plant that sprang to mind, although it's a perennial and will die back each autumn; it's still a robust plant to use in any garden border or container. As you can see it has the blue spires like lavender and the sagey/silvery leaves, but the stems are dark and angular which I really like.

These plants will flower from June until October – just cut down the flower heads at the base once they're starting to go over and you should get additional blooms. They love being in full sun and will grow to around 50cm tall. If you want to move away from the blue/mauve flower colour, there are hundreds of salvias to choose from and in every colour too.



***Nepeta* 'Six Hills Giant'**

It's commonly known as catmint which explains why my cat loves to roll around in it. This is also a perennial with lovely silvery foliage and striking violet blue flower spikes from June to July. Prefers full sun in a well-drained soil. Grows to around 90cm tall. And my third suggestion is a shrubby veronica.



***Hebe* 'Garden Beauty Blue'**

This evergreen shrub grows to around 50cm tall and creates a dome shape of glossy leaves so it's ideal for the front of a border and is also suitable for containers too. It has bright blue flowers from June to July and prefers full sun or part shade in a moist but well drained soil.

Depending on the width of your border, these plants are ideal to use along the front edge or middle of your border. Planting companions can vary depending on your style and colour preference, but here are a few ideas for you:

⇒ A harmonious colour scheme uses plants with similar shades such as *Heuchera* 'Obsidian' with its purple leaves that will look great next to the Salvia and show off the dark stems.

⇒ Or if you want a complementary colour scheme, use colours that are opposite to each other such as *Echinacea* 'Sundown' with its beautiful vivid orange daisy-type flowers.



Contact Details

Nikki Hollier

Nikki@borderinabox.com

www.borderinabox.com

Royal Horticultural Society Silver Medal Winner & Peoples Choice Award Winner

The Wychavon Parish Games take place between June and October. If you would be willing to co-ordinate Birlingham's entry, or if you would like to join one of the teams or can organise a specific team, please contact the Parish Clerk, June Hiden at: birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk.



Blossom opposite the church today
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

Letters to the Editors

We welcome brief letters to the Editors on any subject relating to Birlingham. The Editors reserve the right to shorten letters and we cannot guarantee that all letters will be printed.

Please send letters to:
news@birlingham.org

Names can be withheld if required

Personal Ads

Personal adverts should consist of one paragraph of text, maximum 100 words, and will be included in a single issue of Birlingham News. Please note that advertisement text will be published exactly as received. Personal ads should be sent to news@birlingham.org no later than the Monday before publication. Birlingham News is published on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Cleaner required for a regular house clean, coming through recommendation of local residents. Please contact Mat: 07816 928353.

WYCHAVON PARISH GAMES ASSOCIATION

Organisers of the Parish Games - Competition and Community Coming Together
www.wychavongames.org

Secretary:	Sue Collins	13 Beech Avenue
Tel:	01905 841269	Drakes Broughton
e-mail:	susan.collins483@btinternet.com	Pershore WR10 2BJ

2022 Wychavon Parish Games

WE ARE BACK.

Having been unable to run the Parish Games for the last 2 years because of the pandemic, we are now all systems go for this year.

The Games are a series of fifteen events, which are competed for by residents of the various parishes within Wychavon. Events are: Angling; Bell Boating; Bowls; Crib; Cross Country; Ladies' Darts, Men's Darts; Dominoes; Men's Five-a-Side; Petanque; Pool; Ladies' Rounders; Skittles, Junior and Senior Table Tennis. As you can see, there is something for everyone, and participants enjoy visiting clubs, pubs and village halls in other parts of the District. Many Parishes start by entering just one event and then enter more in the following year. No Parish is too small to take part; Wick, with under 500 on the electoral roll, always enter the majority of events. The entry fee for this year will be discussed at the AGM in April. This is paid by the Parish Council.

We would love to see Birlingham back in the Games.

Packs of rules and an entry form will be sent out to Parish organisers within the next few weeks. To save costs, these are only routinely sent out to those Parishes who took part last year. However, we would be more than happy to send one to your Parish if you wish – just let me know.

SUE COLLINS
Secretary

With Support from SEVERN TRENT WATER

Dates for your diary

March

Sat 26	Bring and Buy Sale for Ukraine, 11.00am-4.00pm, Village Hall
Mon 28	Platinum Jubilee open meeting, 7.15pm, Birlingham Village Hall

April

Sun 3	Benefice Eucharist, 10.30am, Pershore Abbey
Wed 6	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 17	Easter Sunday Holy Communion, 10.30am, St James' Church
Tue 26	Friends of St James' Church AGM, 6.00pm, St James' Church

May

Sun 1	Morning Praise, 10.30am, St James' Church
Wed 4	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 17	Holy Communion, 10.30am, St James' Church
Wed 18	Birlingham Parish Council Annual Meeting, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall, followed by Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

Birlingham News online is available at www.birlingham.org. Details of future editions will be emailed to subscribers of *Birlingham News*. These emails are available to residents of Birlingham, their families and friends. If you know anyone who would like to receive these emails, or have any comments or items for inclusion in either the email or online edition of *Birlingham News*, or wish to be removed from the mailing list, please write to news@birlingham.org.

Birlingham News online is open to any organisation or business within the parish to promote events. Inclusion of an event does not imply that Birlingham Jubilee Committee supports either the event or the views of the organisation promoting it.

The copy date for the next edition is Sunday 10th Apriil (for publication on Wednesday 13th April). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, in any form or by any means, without permission from the Publisher.
© 2022 Birlingham Jubilee Committee
Published online twice monthly by Birlingham Jubilee Committee (email: news@birlingham.org)