Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 278/9 Wednesday 15th June 2022

Editorial

The bunting was up, the marquee erected and the first raffle tickets sold. Houses were being decorated in red, white and blue; commemorative mugs ordered.

By Friday 3rd June everything was ready and the sold-out Cuppa & Chat had taken place two days before. All we needed was people to fill the events – and we weren't disappointed.

The village marquee was packed to the edges with 50 keen quizzers on the Friday night and the main event on the Saturday, the Street Party, attracted 130. The church was full on Sunday morning for Adrianne Woodward's carefully choreographed Celebratory Service; a good crowd came to watch the thrills and spills of the Pram Race; and the Treasure Hunt that afternoon was equally well supported.

Most importantly, everyone seems to have had a good time over the weekend. Of course, some took the opportunity of the four-day weekend to go away and others were involved in events elsewhere but even so it has been estimated that 170 people took part in one or other of the events – not bad for a village with a population of 330.

Meanwhile, 40 villagers helped set up and run the events, and half a dozen local businesses supported the celebrations with raffle prizes and sponsorship. It was great to see the community coming together so successfully on such a historic occasion.

Now the bunting is down, the marquee packed away and the raffle drawn. It will likely be at least a generation before we celebrate another Royal Jubilee – but, in the meantime, no doubt Birlingham will find other excuses to party!

Church News

by Adrianne Woodward

It was wonderful to listen to the bells on 5th June calling Birlingham Village to worship at the Platinum Jubilee Celebratory service. There was a congregation of around 70 in St James' church who listened to contributions in music and words by villagers of all ages. The service was led by Peter Stansbie with just the right mixture of reverence and humour.

A big thank you to Georgina Garle, Martha Smith, Madeleine Frost, Ollie Aston, Will Cooke, and Richard and Matilda White who all read so well. Also a special mention to Hettie Smith who sang so beautifully and Basil Barke who treated us to a rousing rendition of *Rule Brittannia* - in his own inimitable style.

There was a team of people who contributed to the smooth running of the service. Nick Baskerville was the sound engineer, Paula Aston, Becca Garle and Deborah Frost organised the refreshments, Pat Chinneck was the indispensible troubleshooter and Carl Brassington provided the brawn!

SAVE THE DATE! There will be a Pet Service on Sunday 3rd July at 3.00pm to be led by Revd Canon Claire Lording. All humans and animals will be most welcome! Details to follow.

Platinum Jubilee Thanks

By Steve Morris

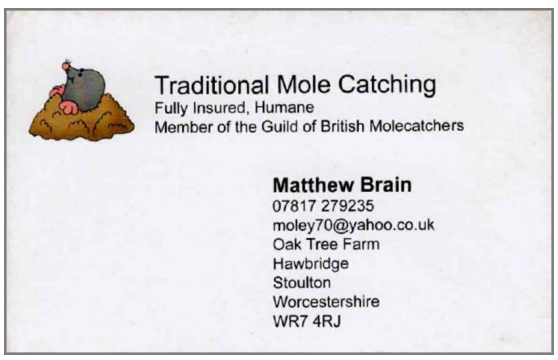
Apart from a bit of a breeze during the Street Party, we were lucky with the weather over the Jubilee weekend and all events went ahead as planned. The turnout was amazing, with over half the village population attending one or more of the activities.

Huge thanks to the organisers of the individual events and to the dozens of people who helped set up, run and pack down the Jubilee activities. There will be full reports of all the events in the Autumn edition of the *Bystander*.

Results from the Jubilee Quiz, Pudding Fit for a Queen competition, Pram Races, Treasure Hunt and raffle are included on the following pages.

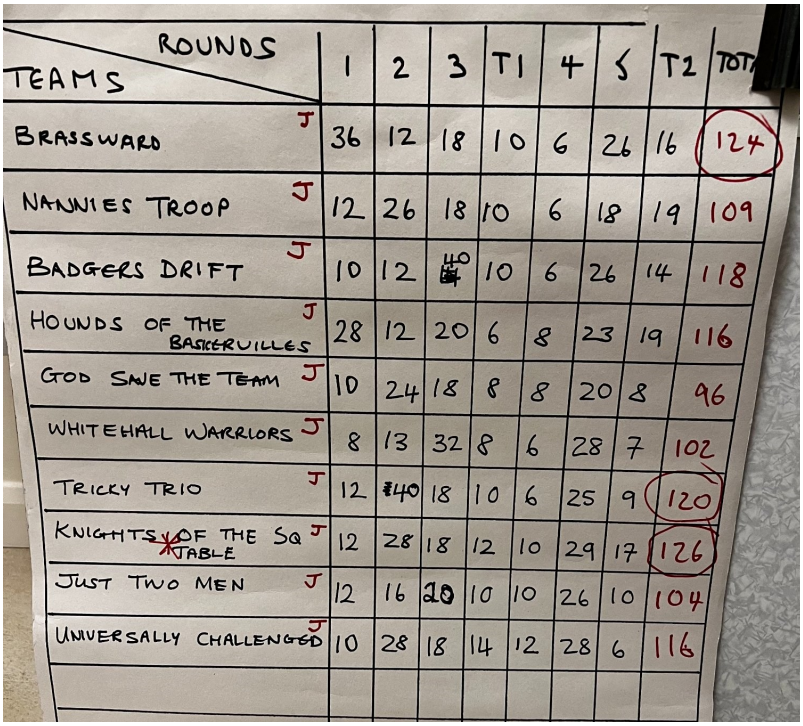
A moment of village history as the new standpipe supplies its first water at St James' Church, 4th June (Photo: Peter Luff)





Platinum Jubilee Results

Jubilee Quiz



TEAMS \ ROUNDS	1	2	3	T1	4	5	T2	TOT
BRASSWARD	36	12	18	10	6	26	16	124
NANNIES TROOP	12	26	18	10	6	18	19	109
BADGERS DRIFT	10	12	40	10	6	26	14	118
HOUNDS OF THE BASKERVILLES	28	12	20	6	8	23	19	116
GOD SAVE THE TEAM	10	24	18	8	8	20	8	96
WHITEHALL WARRIORS	8	13	32	8	6	28	7	102
TRICKY TRIO	12	40	18	10	6	25	9	120
KNIGHTS OF THE SQ TABLE	12	28	18	12	10	29	17	126
JUST TWO MEN	12	16	20	10	10	26	10	104
UNIVERSALLY CHALLENGED	10	28	18	14	12	28	6	116

Treasure Hunt

Results out of 70:

The Nightriders	**57.5**
Caryl	56
Buddisters (Steve and Sarah)	54
Ade's Adventurers	54
BabaG's Crew	53
Katie and Terry Parsons	53
Birlingham Gang	52
The Kew Gardeners	52
All Hope and No Glory	52
Alex and Millie	46.5
Pram Race Disaster	46
Confused of Birlingham	44
The Swan	37
Roses	36

If the Nightriders Treasure Hunt team would like to contact Paul Burton at paul.burton1@btinternet.com he will arrange for them to collect their prize!

Pudding Fit for a Queen

The Pudding Fit for a Queen competition at the Jubilee Street Party had many entries.

All entries were judged blind by our expert tasters Val Gilmore, Adrianne Woodward and William Cook.

The over 10s competition was won by Oliver Aston (age 10) from Hills Cottage and the Under 10s by Nicholas Mills.



Over 10s entries



More pictures will be in the *Bystander* later this year.

(Left) Winning entry

Under 10s entries



Pram Races



Adult race

1st	Will Haines with George and Jacob
2nd	Andy Chinneck and Madeline Frost
3rd	Gareth and Adrianne Woodward
4th	Brian Chinneck and Will Cook
5th	Richard and Mathilda White (and Lottie)
6th	Phillipa and Henry White (flat tyre!)

Kids' race

1st	Will Cook
2nd	Jacob Haines
3rd	Madeline Frost
4th	George Haines

Raffle

Donated by	Prize	Winner
Swan Inn	£40 voucher	Tony Hawgood
Swan Inn	£30 voucher	Paul Burton
Birlingham Nurseries	Garden sign worth £25	Felicity Collier
Revills Farm Shop	£20 voucher	Adrianne Woodward
Revills Farm Shop	£20 voucher	Steve Byrne
Jayne Brassington	£20 voucher	Tony Hawgood
Eckington Stores	Biscuits, jam and marmalade	Paul Burton
Three Springs Nursery	£10 voucher	Richard Devenish
	2 picture frames	Sue Hermon
	3 cushion covers	Carl Brassington
	Corkscrew	Glen N
	2 sizzler platters	Barbara Chidlow
	Osprey purse	Kris Mills
	Gin liqueur	Ian Yates

Thank you to our sponsors for their generous support of the Birlingham Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



The Pigsty Holiday Cottage

Marian Kirkland

The Pigsty
Lower End
Birlingham
Worcestershire
WR10 3AD

Tel: 07723 923420

Bookings are now being taken for newly renovated cottage

Please contact Marian:
mariankirkland123@gmail.com

Jubilee Mugs

The children's Jubilee mugs were handed out last weekend. If you were expecting one and have not had it yet, please let us know at news@birlingham.org.

The main Birlingham Jubilee mugs should be arriving soon but it is not too late to order one. Priced at £10, these bone china mugs, personalised for Birlingham, feature the official Platinum Jubilee design. If you would like to order one of these mugs, please email us at news@birlingham.org.



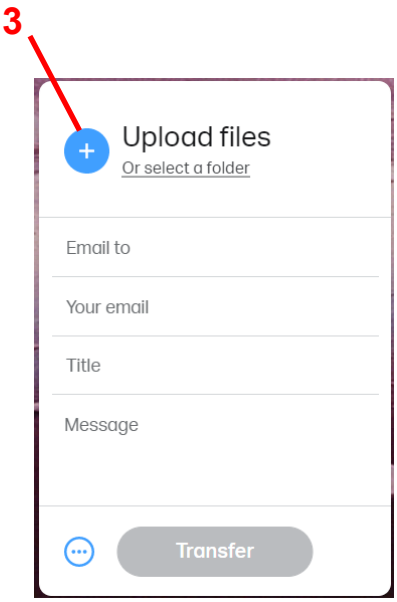


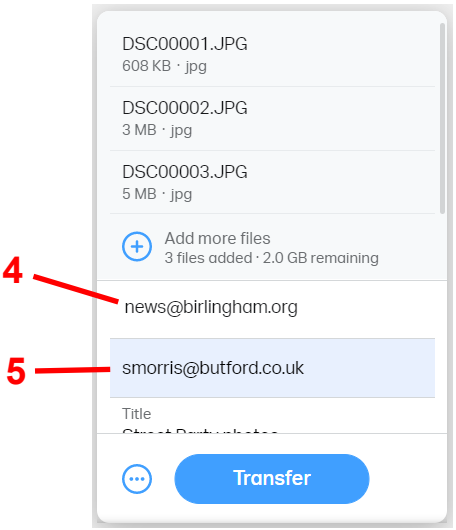
Jubilee Photos

We would love to see all your photos from the Jubilee events. These can be uploaded as follows:

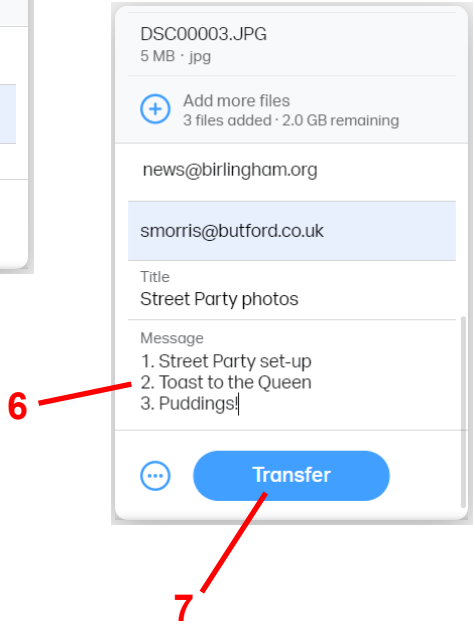
1. Go to <A>https://wetransfer.com/</A>.
2. Click on the button to accept cookies and the button to accept the terms.
3. Click on the blue + button and select your photos (one or more files or a whole folder).
4. For the 'Email to' type 'news@birlingham.org'.
5. In the next box, type your email address.
6. If you want to add captions, put these in the Message box (or email the captions to us separately).
7. Click on Transfer.
8. You will be emailed a verification code. Type this into the box and click on Verify.

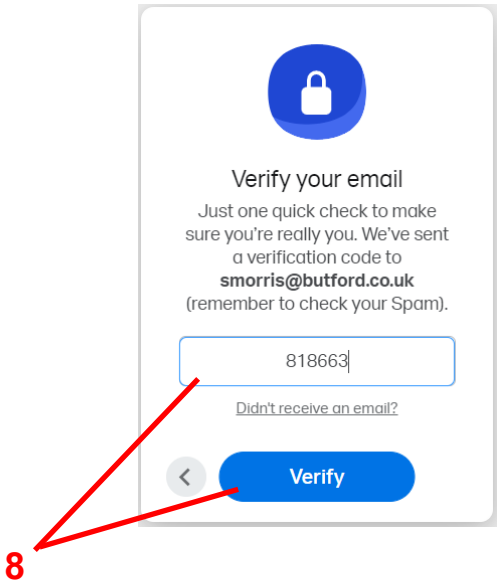
The files will then be sent and we will make them available for everyone to see.
If you have any problems, let us know at news@birlingham.org.





To add multiple files at once, hold down CTRL and click on the files.





RHS Chelsea Silver Medal

by Kaiden Chase, Western Globe News



A Birlingham woman who left a 20-year career in global IT to follow her heart and retrain as a garden designer, has been awarded a prestigious Royal Horticultural Society medal for her first ever garden at the world famous Chelsea Flower Show.

Nikki Hollier, whose company Border In A Box sells gift-packaged, ready-made garden border templates, designed and created a beautiful container garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show last month.

The 'Mandala, Meditation and Mindfulness Garden' – one of five unique small space gardens on display this year – was a hit with media, television celebrities and VIPs on Press Day, and the general public for the rest of the week.

She was awarded a prestigious RHS Silver Medal for her work.

Many commented on the serenity and peace of Nikki's pandemic-inspired garden, which was designed as a calm, yet rejuvenating haven in which to sit and reflect and listen to the bees humming and the birds singing. A beautiful water feature took centre stage against the backdrop of a muted violet wall with a mandala, surrounded by trees, white flowers and herbs.

While she's no stranger to the show gardens arena, Nikki is thrilled with her success.

She said: "What a rollercoaster of a week! It's hard to articulate what it's like creating a garden at the prestigious RHS Chelsea Flower Show to be honest. One minute I was chatting with Lady Edith from Downton Abbey, then having a giggle with comedian Tom Allen, but the highlight was seeing HM The Queen pass by my garden in her buggy.

It's been a long three weeks and I am exhausted, but I've created some lifelong friends and memories and I'm excited to see what projects come next. Special thanks must go to my mentor Paul Hervey-Brookes who was a real trouper, and of course to all my sponsors."

Nikki's garden design story began ten years ago when she moved into a new-build house with its standard patch of turf and customary bare fence. Faced with an uninspiring outdoor space and working to a tight budget, she enrolled at Pershore College, where she learned how to create beautiful borders.

She won a Silver Medal and the 'People's Choice Award' at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival in 2016, where she met Alan Titchmarsh. Alan purchased the life-size sheep sculptures from her show garden and when she delivered them to him, he gave her a tour of his own garden! She says he loved the concept of Border in A Box and gave her lots of tips and encouragement.

The business was launched in 2017 and she went on to win Worcestershire Innovation's 'Make It Happen Challenge' in 2018, and a Platinum & Best Border at BBC Gardeners' World Live in the same year.

"Building gardens at Malvern and Birmingham taught me so much about the design process, the importance of attention to detail and the art of putting on a show", she says. "As it turns out, it was brilliant groundwork to get me in tune with the Chelsea experience and I am so thrilled that I was part of it this year."



(Top) Nikki with her Silver Medal

(Left) The Mandala, Meditation and Mindfulness Garden

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

Eckington Stores

We have a range of locally produced products:

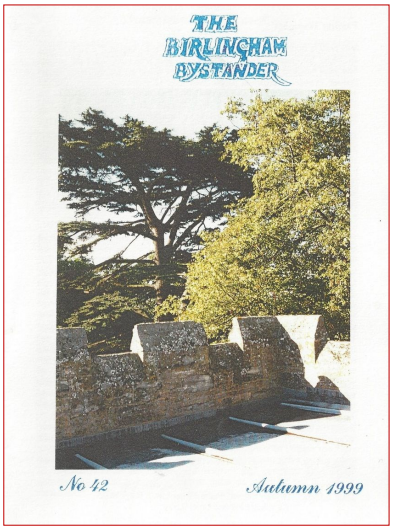
- Fladbury meat pies
- LDA fresh meat
- Drapers bread and cakes
- La Parisienne French style bread & cakes
- Pegoty Hedge ready meals
- Pegoty Hedge organic beef
- Bennetts ice cream
- DJ Perks fruit and vegetables
- Meat Company sausage and bacon
- Happy Chucks eggs

We open 7 days per week:

- 0600 to 1830 Monday to Friday
- 0600 to 1800 Saturday
- 0600 to 1300 Sunday

John, Sue and Mark
Tel 01386 750266

Bystander Archives



The Autumn 1999 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* begins with a controversial article on fox hunting by Harry Porter. This is followed by Wimpy's article on 'Farming in Crisis' - and her recipe for curried pumpkin soup. Henry Porter's debut novel is reviewed and Anna Bennett writes about her time in Kenya.

Severn Trent were preparing to bring mains sewerage to the village, which was not welcomed by all. There were articles on the Gwen Finch Wetlands Reserve and otters in the River Avon. The church organ is praised by the Worcester Diocesan Organ Adviser.

The church fete and Flower & Produce Show are reported. There is an obituary for Arthur Rice, Joan and Alwyn Gill's golden wedding, a couple of weddings and two christenings, including that of Amber Butler. Welcomes include Bruce Hayward and goodbyes go to quite a few Barkes (some of whom have since returned).

It is interesting to note that the subscription slip states that producing and photocopying the 24-page black-and-white *Bystander* cost about £500 per issue. Advances in technology mean that the current full-colour *Bystander*, averaging 48 pages, costs no more now than it did then.

Issue 42 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander042.pdf

Planning Applications

The following planning application has been received by the Parish Council:

5 Brook Cottages, Eckington Road: Change front garden to driveway (Case No. 22/01002/HP). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 6th July.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/22/01002/HP.

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.

Dates for your diary

June

Sun 19	Holy Communion, 10.30am, St James' Church

July

Sun 3	Pet Service, 3.00pm, St James' Church
Sun 17	Holy Communion, 10.30am, St James' Church
Sun 20	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall

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 26th June (for publication on Wednesday 29th June). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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Published online twice monthly by Birlingham Jubilee Committee (email: news@birlingham.org)