Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 285/6 Wednesday 14th September 2022

Editorial

We have just lived through an extraordinary, very sad few days. Last Monday, Liz Truss was elected as leader of the governing party, becoming Prime Minister the following day. Two days later we were all shocked by the unexpectedly sudden death of our Queen. In a very short time, so much has changed.

One has to feel for those who have spent years planning for the death of the monarch, with all the meticulous detail that is required for the ceremonies and practicalities that need to be put into effect so rapidly; also for those at the BBC and other media groups who have devoted decades to preparing and constantly updating programming schedules. It is to their credit that everything has run so smoothly – but next week they will all have to begin planning again from scratch.

The last week will no doubt feature heavily in future history books. As yet, we have no idea what the results of those two remarkable changes in leadership will be as they ripple forwards into the future but we can be certain that the country will feel some long-term effects.

In less stable countries, a change in either the government or the head of state, thrust upon the population without any consultation, might result in major unrest and demonstrations. Here, we have taken the new regimes in our stride and dissent has been muted, rather than exaggerated. This was exemplified by the decision of Extinction Rebellion, probably the UK's largest protest organisation, to cancel its plans for the occupation of Hyde Park and a campaign of mass action last weekend. The rail and Royal Mail unions have also abandoned their proposed strikes. Even the rebels do not want to upset us in this time of national mourning.

It says something about how comfortable we are in our democracy that, during a period of just 48 hours, we accepted both a new Prime Minister and a new King, neither directly elected. There will be time for government elections later; King Charles III is already settling into his role.

By next week, the upheaval of the last few days will begin to retreat in our memories and we will be getting used to the phrase, 'God save the King'.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, peacefully at Balmoral Castle, was reported last Thursday, 8th September.

A bell was tolled, half-muffled, at St James' Church on Friday from 12.00 noon until 1.00pm. The Union Flag at the church was flown at half-mast from 7.00am that morning.

During the period of national mourning, which lasts until after the Queen's funeral, St James' Church will be open from 10.30am to 4.30pm daily for people to pay their respects. There is a table where you can light a tealight in memory of Her Majesty.

Any floral tributes can be left at the Preaching Cross in the churchyard – to the right of the main gate as you enter.

There is a book of condolence at the Abbey in Pershore and Buckingham Palace has set up an online Book of Condolence for people to leave their tributes.



(Photo: Chris Woodward)

Accession of King Charles III

His Majesty King Charles III was proclaimed at the Accession Council at 10.00am on Saturday. For the first time, the Accession Council was televised.

The bells were rung unmuffled for half an hour from 11.00am on Saturday to proclaim the accession of the King. The Union Flag at St James' Church was raised at 11.00am on Saturday and lowered to half-mast again at 1.00pm on Sunday .

Moment of Reflection

There will be a Moment of Reflection on the eve of the funeral of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Sunday 18th September. All members of the community are invited to gather together on the village green at 7.50pm. Ian Yates, Chairman of Birlingham Parish Council, will read a few words of welcome – see next page.

At 8.00pm there will be a minute's silence. The vigil will conclude with all present saying, 'God Save the King' and singing the National Anthem.

Funeral

The funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II will take place on Monday 19th September at 11.00am. The day has been declared a bank holiday.

The bells of St James' Church will be rung half-muffled from 10.00am until 11.00am on Monday. The Union Flag will remain at half-mast until Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, please note that the Toast the Harvest event organised for this Friday, 16th September, has now been cancelled. The Harvest Festival will go ahead as planned on Sunday 18th September (details on next page).



The table in the church where you can light a tealight in memory of Her Majesty

National Moment of Reflection

Sunday 18th September *by Ian Yates*

You will have seen that the Government has announced that there will be a National Moment of Reflection, which will take place at 8.00pm on Sunday evening, the eve of Her late Majesty's funeral.

For those of you who would like to mark this event with others from Birlingham, we will be gathering on the village green at 7.50pm so that we can observe the one minute's silence together. We hope you can join us.

Toast the Harvest - Cancelled

by Peter Luff

As the date of Toast the Harvest (Friday 16th September) falls within the period of official mourning, the Friends of St James' have cancelled the event. They hope to find a date for a new occasion in due course.

Harvest Festival

Sunday 18th September *by Adrianne Woodward*

The Harvest Festival is still going ahead at 10.30am on Sunday 18th September, led by Revd Alma Organ. (This is in accordance with guidance about the continuity of normal parish worship.)

Not only will it be a family service, with contributions from all ages, but also prayers will be said for the late Queen and her successor, King Charles III. The service will conclude with the singing of 'God save our gracious King'.

You are invited to stay for refreshments following the service.

Donations of harvest goods (fresh, dried and tinned produce) can still be placed in the church or the box in the church porch – or if you are planning to come to the service do bring your donation with you. The donations will be given to the Maggs Day Centre – a charity which feeds the homeless.

The church will continue to be open from 10.30am to 4.30pm up until Monday 19th September to give you the opportunity for quiet reflection and to light a tealight in memory of our late sovereign. The Abbey has a Book of Condolence and there is also an online book for people to post their tributes. Floral tributes can be laid on the preaching cross – in the churchyard just to the right of the main gate.

Skittles League

by Bruce Hayward

After two years away from the Pershore Skittles League, Birlingham has re-joined, and is looking for people who would like to join the squad.

We tend to play once a week - on different days each week. We start at 8.00pm, and usually finish by 10.00pm. We play at the Pershore and District Sports Club on the Defford Road in Pershore. There is a bar on-site.

For anyone new to skittles, it is not strenuous, there is plenty of time for a chat, and the Birlingham team do not take it too seriously! If you are interested, please contact me on 01386 751382.

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 21st September

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 21st September at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. During the meeting there is an opportunity to express your views on local issues, so please go along.

The agenda for the meeting is available at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2022-09-21.pdf
and the draft minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 20th July can be viewed at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2022-07-20.pdf.



Sunset over Bredon Hill, viewed from Church Street, 17th May
(Photo: Diana Grimston)

Birlingham Flower & Produce Show 2022
RESULTS



CUP WINNERS

Cup	Winner
The M&B Shield	Kris Mills
The Harold Herbert Cup	Colin Greene
The Swan Inn Cup	Clare Kew
The William Jowett Trophy	Gloria Winfield
The Mrs Ann Porter Cup	Clare Kew
The George Wilson Revill Cup	*Not awarded*
The Gerald Taylor Cup	Madeleine Frost
The Butler Trophy	Kris Mills
The Court House Salver	James Garland
The Children's Cup	Madeleine Frost
The Birlingham Nursery Rose Bowl	Gwyn Webb, Lamorna Annexe
The Betty Hughes Cup	Neil Lightbody
William Trow-Poole Trophy	Donna Mills
Joan Hollier Plate	James Garland



(Left) Garden in a seed tray – Under 12 , by Madeleine Frost, winner of the Children's Cup



(Above) Entries for Class 41, Lemon drizzle cake (Photos: Nikki Hollier)

Birlingham Flower & Produce Show 2022
CLASS WINNERS

Class	Winner	Class	Winner
1 White potatoes	Neil Lightbody	40 Gingerbread	Kris Mills
2 Coloured potatoes	Charlotte Baskerville	41 Lemon drizzle	Paul Burton
3 Onions	Neil Lightbody	42 Fruit cake	*Not awarded*
4 Carrots	*Not awarded*	43 Coffee cake	Kris Mills
5 Beetroot	*Not awarded*	44 Plain scones	Charlotte Baskerville
6 Edible squash, gourd or marrow	Charlotte Baskerville	45 Peppermint creams	James Garland
7 Runner beans	Neil Lightbody	46 Strawberry jam	*Not awarded*
8 Longest runner bean	Neil Lightbody	47 Marmalade	*Not awarded*
9 French beans	Sue Hayward	48 Fruit jelly	James Garland
10 Cherry tomatoes	Marion New	49 Stone fruit jam	Charlotte Baskerville
11 Tomatoes	Clare Kew	50 Any other jam	Charlotte Baskerville
12 Courgettes	*No entries*	51 Chutney	Steve Jeavons
13 Cucumbers	Joan Hollier	52 Pickles	Clare Kew
14 Shallots	*No entries*	53 Eggs	Steve Jeavons
15 Any other vegetable	Clare Kew	54 Beer or cider	Wendy Martin
16 Capsicums inc chillis	Clare Kew	55 Spirit or liqueur	Kris Mills
17 Container of vegetables	Clare Kew	56 Wine	*Not awarded*
18 Apples – Dessert	Kris Mills	57 Cordial	Pat Chinneck
19 Apples – Culinary	Pat Chinneck	58a Photograph – Anybody	Kris Mills
20 Plums	Bruce Hayward	58b Photograph – Animals	Donna Mills
21 Damsons	James Garland	58c Photograph – Anywhere	Kris Mills
22 Pears	Wendy Martin	58d Photography – Arty	Kris Mills
23 Soft fruit	Charlotte Baskerville	59 Cushion	Sadie Yeomans
24 Any other fruit	Brian Johnson-Thomas	60 Artwork – Original	Joy Salt
25a Dahlias – Pom pom	*Not awarded*	61 Line drawing	Donna Mills
25b Dahlia – Cactus	Jayne McKenzie	62 Quilting or patchwork	Sadie Yeomans
25c Dahlia – Decorative	Colin Green	63 Greetings Card	Kris Mills
26 Roses – Floribunda	Bruce Hayward	64 Upcycled Item	Donna Mills
27 Roses – H/T	Jean Williams	65 Poetry	Colin Green
28 Single H/T rose	*No entries*	66 Garden in a seed tray	Kris Mills
29 Sweetpeas	Grace Garland	67 Fruit or veg character	Donna Mills
30 Gladioli	Wendy Martin	68 Misshapen vegetable	Caryl Mills
31 Pot plant – Flowering	Joan Hollier	69 History Lego model	Kris Mills
32 Pot plant – Foliage	Marie Johnson-Thomas	**Children's Classes**	
33 Cut flowers	Jean Williams		
34 5 cut herbs	Sue Hayward	70 Fairy cakes – Under 12	Isla Campbell-Cribb
35 Arrangement of foliage	James Garland	71 Garden Flowers – Under 12	Madeleine Frost
36 Arrangement of flowers	Gloria Winfield	72 Artwork – Under 12	Madeleine Frost
37 Home baked bread	Paul Burton	73 Garden in a seed tray – U12	Madeleine Frost
38 Breadmaker bread	Dave Kew	74 Photograph – Under 12	Madeleine Frost
39 Shortbread	James Garland	75 History Lego Model – Under 12	*No entries*

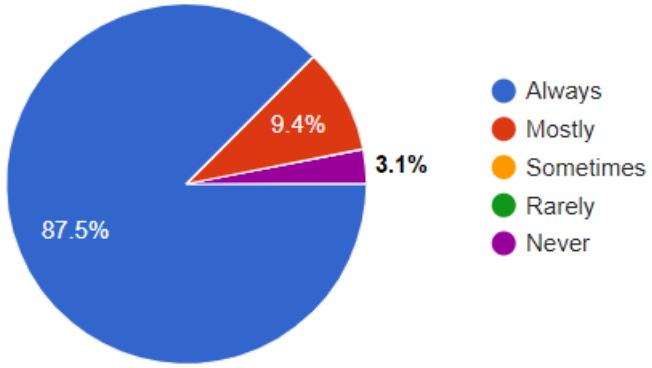
Birlingham News online Survey Results

In July we are asked you to complete a short online survey to let us know your views on *Birlingham News online*, which has been published since February.

Thank you to all those who took the time to complete the survey. The full results for each of the seven questions are given below.

Our analysis of the results and our responses to the main comments are given below.

1. How often do you read the original email edition of *Birlingham News*?



We are pleased, but perhaps not surprised, that 97% of the people who responded to this survey always or mostly read *Birlingham News*.

How those who never read *Birlingham News* stumbled across the survey is more of a mystery!

2. Are there any changes you would like to see to the *Birlingham News* email or do you have other comments?

None – it's great and is about the right length and regular enough. It ain't broke so don't fix it – please.

Thank you to all those who submitted supportive remarks like this one (also the positive remarks for the online edition, which we have not repeated below). We will continue to publish *Birlingham News* as it is at present but we are always interested to hear suggestions for improvement.

Excellent news coverage. Might include house sales etc.

It is difficult to know where to draw the line on the detail provided and how necessary particular information is. House sales, for example, are available instantly on Rightmove and are constantly changing. However, we are happy to include any new type of information if there is a significant demand for it.

Could you put the cricket fixtures in the email please?

Yes, we will include this information, as we do monthly for the church and Cuppa & Chat, if it is provided to us.

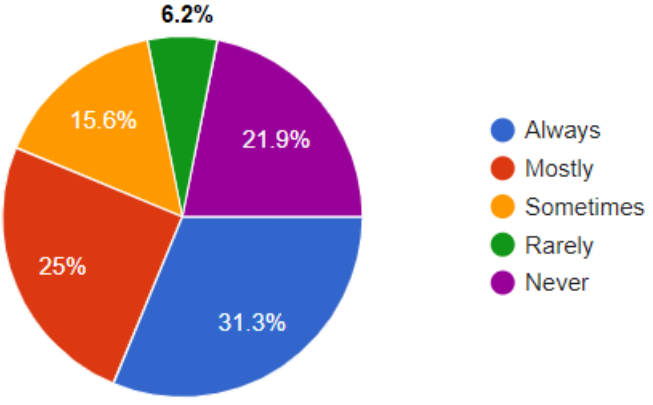
Judging by the usefulness of the Eckington Noticeboard on Facebook, can we have a similar page for Birlingham?

We have thought about this but are concerned that the page might succumb to abusive posts, as has happened on other sites. However, we would be happy to consider this further.

Make people aware that there is an online edition that they can access.

Every edition of *Birlingham News* since February has included mentions of and links to the online edition. We will do our best to publicise it further.

3. How often do you read the new PDF edition, *Birlingham News online*?



It is extremely encouraging that 72% of the people who responded to this survey read *Birlingham News online* at least sometimes.

We would be interested to hear from the fifth of our readers who never look at the online edition, to see if there are improvements we can make.

4. Are there any changes you would like to see to *Birlingham News online* or do you have other comments?

This is a useful resource for the village, and good to have cricket match dates etc. What about details of other village groups and dates of meetings?

We are pleased to include details of any village groups and meetings, if they are sent to us. If you are a member of any group not currently represented, please ask the group to get in touch with us.

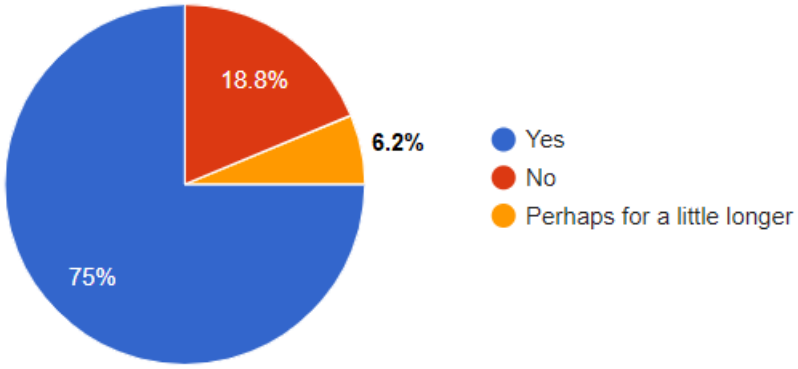
I think you need one or the other, not both, it's confusing.

The aim of the online edition is to provide additional information and photographs that cannot be included in the standard email. There is nothing in the email that does not appear in the online edition but not everyone can easily access this edition. Therefore we hope that people will choose whichever format suits them best.

How does one access the online edition?

There is at least one link to the online edition in every issue of the *Birlingham News* email. There is also a link on the Home page of the village website, birlingham.org. All previous editions of both the email and online versions can be accessed at www.birlingham.org/village/bn.

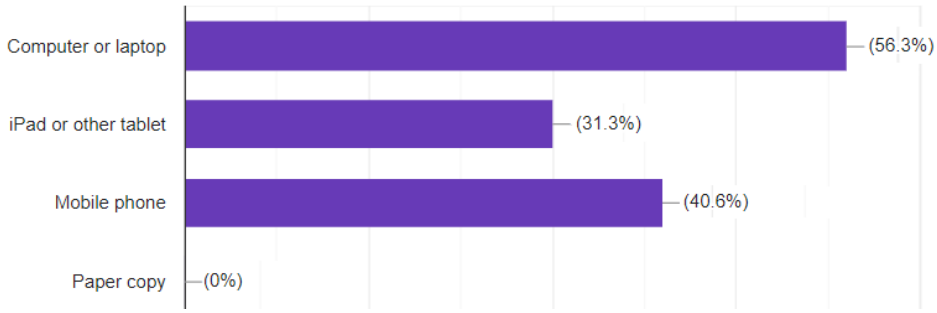
5. Do you think we should continue publishing *Birlingham News online*?



Over 81% of you have said we should continue. Even some of those who never read the online edition want us to carry on!

Therefore we will publish *Birlingham News online* until at least the end of the year, when we will review the situation again.

6. How do you access *Birlingham News* and *Birlingham News online*?



It is interesting to see that so many of our readers access *Birlingham News* via their phones, presumably without difficulty.

We are not surprised that those who receive a regular paper copy of the email have not been able to access this survey.

7. Please select your postcode.

Postcodes	Area	% responses by area	% recipients responding
WR10 3AA	Upper End	13%	25%
WR10 3AB	Village Centre	31%	43%
WR10 3AQ	Church Street	6%	8%
WR10 3AD-3AG	Lower End	31%	22%
WR10 3BX, 3DA, 3DB, 3DJ	Defford Road, Eckington Road, Nafford	13%	19%
OTHER	Out of village	6%	6%

Birlingham News is currently distributed to over 90% of households and roughly a quarter of those responded. While responses in Church Street were curiously low, the village centre (the Avenue, Whitehall Lane and the houses around the church) excelled itself.

Thank you very much to everyone who took the trouble to complete our survey.

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



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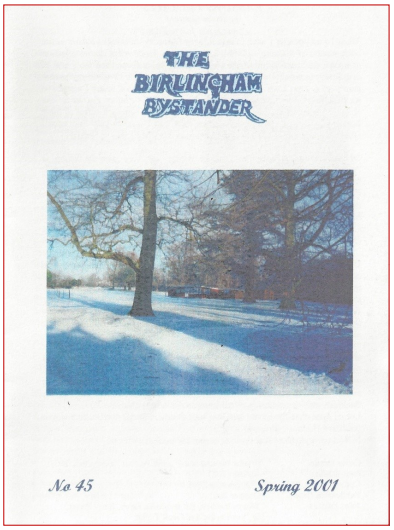
Personal Ads

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING 2.00-4.00pm Tuesdays at Stoulton Village Hall, Church Street, Stoulton, WR7 4RE. First Session FREE. For more details please ring Sue Jeavons 01386 750695.

Ukrainian couple recently moved to the village are looking for casual project work or regular work each week for one or both while English is improved. He worked as a security guard and maintenance man and is a keen amateur gardener. She was a kindergarten assistant and is keen to take on caring or cleaning work. For full details please contact Maryanne Dyer on 07540 407544.

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.

Bystander Archives



The Spring 2001 edition of the Birlingham Bystander begins with Passing Thoughts by Maxine Sherwood on her bookshop in Pershore and a piece by 'V' on over-regulation. These are followed by articles by Anna Bennett on her move to Scotland and Anna Saville on backpacking in Peru.

There is a report of Birlingham Drama Group's latest production and an article on the future refurbishment of the Village Hall. Other items include one on the Row, a planned open day at the Gwen Finch Nature Reserve, the Coventrys of Croome and the Millennium celebrations, plus a number of other reports.

Events at the church include the baptism of Holly Williams-Thomas, a thanksgiving service for William Worby and the wedding of Paul Wheatley. Obituaries include Reg Kibby, Ron Pates and Gabrielle Holcroft. Welcomes included Ken and Angela Fitch and goodbyes Brian and Lynn Collins.

Issue 45 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander045.pdf

Jayne Brassington

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Email jebrassington@btinternet.com

Dates for your diary

September

Sun 18	Harvest Festival, 10.30am, St James' Church
Sun 18	Moment of Reflection, 7.50pm, Village Green
Wed 21	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Village Hall
Sat 24 & Sun 25	Tiddesley Wood Log and Woodchip Sale, 10.00am–1.00pm

October

Sun 2	Morning Praise, 10.30am, St James' Church
Wed 5	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 16	Holy Communion, 10.30am, St James' Church
Sat 29 & Sun 30	Tiddesley Wood Log and Woodchip Sale, 10.00am–1.00pm

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 Monday 26th September (for publication on Wednesday 28th September). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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