Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 287 Wednesday 28th September 2022

Editorial

Earlier this summer the village came together to celebrate the Queen's 70th year on the throne, as people did throughout the UK and the Commonwealth. Now, just three months later, we have joined together to mourn her death.

It has been interesting to see how people have reacted. Some, who have described themselves as not particularly royalist, have said that they nevertheless watched the funeral on television and were moved by the occasion.

At 8.00pm on the previous evening there was a national 'Moment of Reflection' (described later in this edition). One person said he was sitting in a pub at this time, packed mainly by younger people. At eight o'clock the barman called for a minute's silence. To his surprise, the room fell completely quiet and when the minute was over there was a spontaneous round of applause. He said that it was unexpectedly moving.

Whether through celebrating the Platinum Jubilee or taking part in the mourning, it seems we are all fonder of the Royal Family than we sometimes like to admit.

Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 5th October *by Sue Hermon*



Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 5th October from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall. Thanks to Councillor Adrian Hardman's generous support, we are able to hold the cost at £2.50 per person. Everyone is most welcome to come along for tea or coffee plus a cake or two and a chance to win our free Mystery Entry Prize! 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 October will be held at the following times:

* **Sunday 2nd**: Morning Praise, 10.30am (led by Peter Stansbie)
* **Sunday 16th**: Holy Communion, 10.30am (led by Ven. Chris Liley)

Services are followed by refreshments – all are welcome to attend.

Also a big thank you to those who helped and took part in the Harvest Festival Service . . . details will be in the next edition of the *Birlingham Bystander*.

There is a box containing apples from displays (**not** donations) in the church porch. Please help yourself!

Sunset over the Malverns, 9th September
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)



Parish Council Report

by Ian Yates

Birlingham Parish Council held its meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 21st September in the Village Hall. Several topics were discussed and more details on three of them are summarised below:

- **Full Fibre Broadband (Fibre to the Premise – FTTP)**
  As previously reported, the Government is committed to rolling out Full Fibre across the UK as it provides fast, reliable broadband that will be essential in the future. Rollout in rural areas is expected to take at least 3-5 years but the Parish Council has been working with Airband to bring it to Birlingham in early 2023. Airband has already completed many successful Full Fibre projects in Worcestershire and is committed to installing Full Fibre in Birlingham (and Defford/Besford) provided there is sufficient interest from residents. The fibre optic cables will be installed alongside the existing copper telephone infrastructure but we are aware of the need for a small number of additional poles, which have been marked by notices you may have seen. Airband is paying for the installation so there is no cost to residents. 70 Birlingham residents have already registered their interest in being connected to Full Fibre via Airband's website. Registration does not commit you to use their service. However, should you decide to sign up for Full Fibre once the service is available, the monthly cost will be similar to or possibly less than the cost you are currently paying for slower and less reliable broadband.

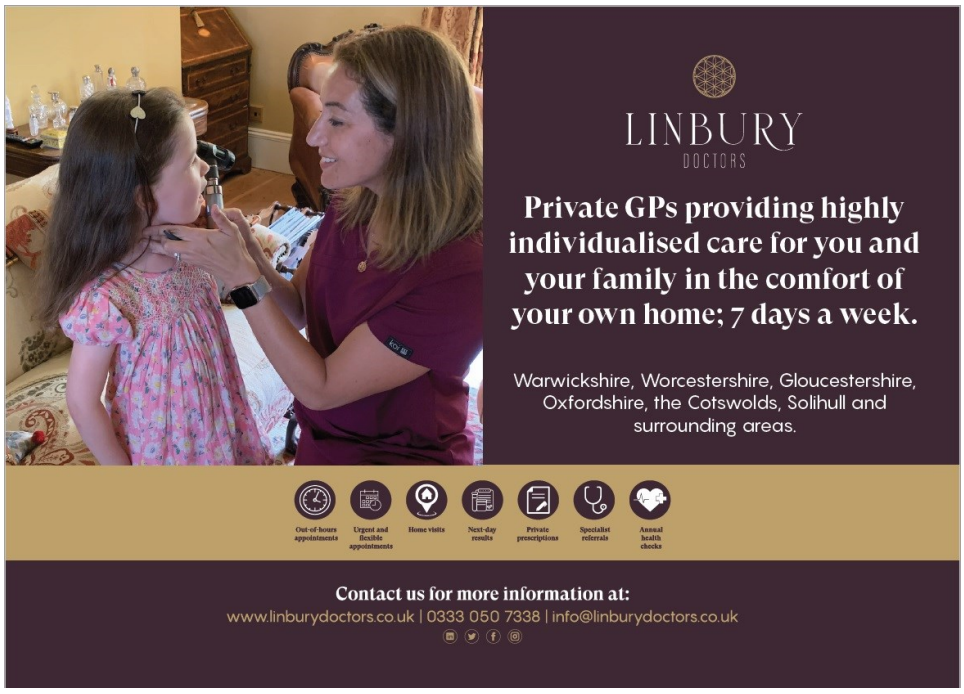
  So if you weren't one of the original list of 70 residents, we would encourage you to register your interest at www.airband.co.uk. Remember, registration does not commit you to use their service so there is no need to worry about any existing fixed-term broadband contract you may have.

- **Telephone Kiosk**
  The telephone box has now been fully restored by a specialist company and will be returned to its original position opposite the Village Hall as soon as a new concrete base has been built for it. The original base was broken and cracked and fell apart when the box was removed. The Parish Council is looking for a contractor or volunteers to build the base. If you can help, please contact the Parish Clerk birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk.

- **Floodlighting of St James' Church**
  The Parish Council received a note from the Friends of St James' Church regarding the updating of the floodlights. In it they said that residents regularly ask what has happened to the floodlighting of the church tower. The answer is that the system needs to be replaced as the current arrangements don't meet modern energy efficiency, environmental or safety standards. The Parochial Church Council (PCC), together with the Friends of St James', have taken advice on the options and applied to the Worcester Diocese for permission to make the improvements and were looking for the Parish Council's views before proceeding. Recognising the need to respect the character of the village, the floodlighting would be restricted to just the south side of the tower using either one or two LED lamps, meaning there should be no impact on any residential property. There would also be a limit to the hours of use: Saturday and Sunday evenings, on special local or national occasions and when events are being held in the church, from twilight until about 10.00pm. They have been advised that there are no special ecological or environmental requirements, given that the new LED lights use a colour temperature range that will not impact bat activity.

  Having considered the above and taken into account that the replacement of the two existing floodlights with one or two LEDs would be much more energy efficient, the Parish Council fully supported the proposal.

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



Eckington Stores

Shop locally from our large range of products:

- Grocery and household items
- Bread and milk
- Ham, cheese, bacon and eggs
- Fruit and vegetables
- Newspapers and magazines
- Frozen food and ice cream
- Alcohol and cold drinks
- Confectionary

We are agents for:

- The National Lottery
- My Hermes Parcelshop

Please pop in to see our full range of products

John, Sue and Mark
Tel 01386 750266



(Above) Gardeners' World magazine, September edition – Nikki's garden centre of page

Local Success in Garden Magazines

Three months ago we included an article about Nikki Hollier's Silver Medal at the RHS Chelsea Show. That garden has now been featured in the September edition of *Gardeners' World* magazine (see above).

Nikki is now also writing for *Country Homes and Interiors* magazine.

Purple plants – 5 best to choose for the perfect purple border

This combination of purple plants and flowers is the perfect recipe for a border

Sign up to our newsletter



(Image credit: Alamy)

BY NIKKI HOLLIER
PUBLISHED 10 JULY 2022

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM
ANDREA CHILDS

From vibrant royal purple to palest lilac, deep violet to sweet lavender, purple plants are some of the most beautiful for borders – and have seen a huge surge in popularity following the UK's Chelsea Flower Show which showcased purple planting to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

And it's not just purple flowers – the foliage of many plants can have a purple hue, adding depth and drama to a garden border.

Country Homes and Interiors magazine, October edition

Moment of Reflection

There was a Moment of Reflection on the eve of the funeral of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Sunday 18th September. Members of the community gathered together on the village green at 7.50pm. Ian Yates, Chairman of Birlingham Parish Council, read a few words of welcome, which are reprinted opposite.

The following morning, the bells of St James' Church were rung half-muffled for an hour before the funeral service.

Thank you all for gathering here this evening, for this brief vigil on the eve of the funeral of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

In a few moments we will join with people across the United Kingdom in a Moment of Silent Reflection. The start and end of the Minute here will be marked by a whistle. During the Minute we will have an opportunity, in silence, to reflect on the lifetime of service which Her late Majesty devoted to the United Kingdom, the Realms and Territories and to the Commonwealth.

The Queen was sure in her faith and steadfast in her duty, bringing constancy through 70 years of change. We will remember Her late Majesty with affection and gratitude and silently give thanks in our hearts for her unswerving devotion to us and to our Country.

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

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.

Jubilee Mugs

by Steve Morris

Many of you are still waiting for the delivery of your Jubilee mugs and we thought we should give you an update on the current situation.

As you probably know, the original consignment was misprinted by our suppliers. Although these were suitable for children, they were not appropriate for adults. This was just before the Jubilee weekend, by which time stocks in the UK had run out and our suppliers had to order a new batch from the factory in China. The factory has been suffering delays due to the continuing lockdowns and obviously the time taken to transport them to the UK is considerable.

We have been chasing the company for the replacement mugs and we hope to have some more positive news soon. Thank you for your patience.





Dates for your diary

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

November

Wed 2	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 6	Morning Praise, 10.30am, St James' Church

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 10th October (for publication on Wednesday 12th October). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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