Birlingham News online

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Editorial

This autumn sees the 40th anniversary of the *Birlingham Bystander*. Over the years, the *Bystander* has chronicled the events of the village and its format has changed little.

However, there was one feature of the earlier editions that no longer appears in the current format: irregular articles expressing a controversial view on a range of topics, attributed to 'V'. Some of V's more outrageous comments from the first ten years of the *Bystander* are reprinted on the next page.

Sadly, V is no longer with us; one by one we lose our village characters. Yet, while it is a shock when one of these wonderful people disappears (literally overnight), we do not tend to notice that others among us are gradually, year by year, developing into 'characters'.

The *Birlingham Bystander* has moved with the times and is no longer a place suitable for expressing outspoken observations, let alone the racism, homophobia and intolerance that was allowed to sneak in a few decades ago. *Birlingham News online* is more flexible though, and while it will not publish extreme views, it can be used as a platform for expressing opinion.

So, if you feel a growing sense of cantankerousness or a burning desire to air your thoughts on local issues, drop us a line. Surely somewhere out there is a new 'V', looking for the opportunity to stir our oft slumbering village.

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Birlingham IW

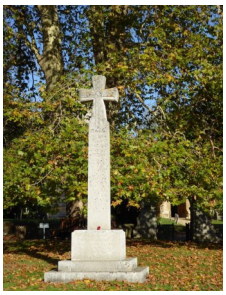


Thursday 20th October *by Caryl Mills*

Birlingham IW will be holding its next meeting on Thursday 20th October. The meeting is held in the Village Hall and starts at 7.30pm.

Our speaker is Paul Harding of Discover History and the subject is World War 2. Paul has spoken to us a number of times and is very interesting and informative.

All are welcome – for non-members there is a charge of £3. Refreshments afterwards.



Remembrance Service

Friday 11th November *by Adrianne Woodward*

Birlingham will be commemorating Armistice Day on Friday 11th November at an outside service taken by Peter Stansbie.

People are asked to assemble by 10.50am around the War Memorial on the Village Green for the short service of remembrance.

Refreshments will be available afterwards in the church.

Hot air balloon over Birlingham, 2nd October
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)



V's Views (1982-1992)

On proposed car parking charges in Pershore:

No doubt a number of local groups will emerge to plead exemption for the cars of single parents, artistic gays and budding poets.

On a proposed golf course at Elmley Castle:

Predictably there will be an outraged outburst from environmental experts who will remind us of the danger to blue tits from mishit drives!

On new houses in the village:

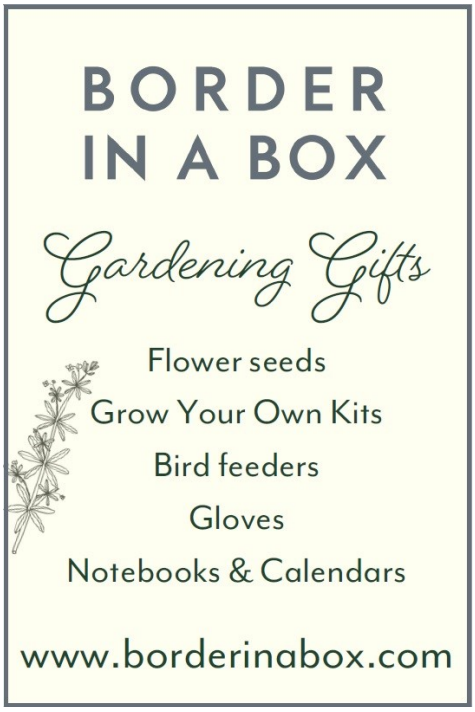
There is an obvious danger that the new-comers could swamp the village with an outlook that is suburban rather than rural.

On litter:

In Birlingham, alas, dirt and filth has reached record levels . . . We recognise that hippies and travellers are necessary for the profitable marketing of produce. However . . .'

It was not all politically incorrect rants, though. In 1990, V commented:

At the end of a long and (for some) glorious summer it is only sensible to wonder whether the soothsayers are right and that these lovely warm days are but a signal of the disaster that is bound to result from global over-heating and the holes in the ozone layer.





Wychavon Residents' Survey

Closing Date Sunday 23rd October

by Tracy Perkins, Wychavon District Council

What do you think of the place where you live? How do you rate Wychavon's services? What do you think should be our priorities for the next 12 months?

The annual Wychavon Residents' Survey is now open and we want to hear what you have to say. The survey will only take 10 to 15 minutes to complete and feedback will be used by councillors to influence the projects we focus our time and money on over the next 12 months.

More than 1,000 people took part in last year's survey, with 81% of people saying they were satisfied with their local area as a place to live and 63% happy with how Wychavon ran things.

In response to feedback from previous surveys Wychavon has:

- Created a £150,000 fund to support communities to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic
- Launched ambitious investment prospectuses for the future of Droitwich Spa, Evesham and Pershore town centres
- Set up the popular Wychavon 'Adopt a Street' campaign, funded free anti-litter education sessions in schools and installed more than 50 new bins, in response to concerns about litter
- Put a renewed focus on further improving the level of customer service we provide

So what you tell us really does make a difference. The survey closes on Sunday 23rd October and can be accessed at:

https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WRS2022/

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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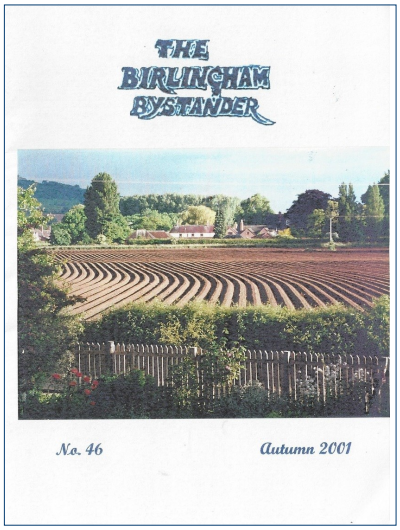
Call Lauren to make an appointment: 07554 732815

email: loz.jade1998@gmail.com

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.

Bystander Archives



The Autumn 2001 edition of the Birlingham Bystander contains an eclectic collection of articles, including Wimpy Bennett's trip from Peru to Bolivia, the Manor House gazebo, fund-raising for the Village Hall upgrading project, a report of a Drama Group show, the opening of the Gwen Finch Wetland Reserve by David Bellamy and Sue Jeavons, and rainfall records at Woodfield Farm over the previous 20 year. A new organisation, the Friends of St James' Church, was about to be created.

Regular events include the church fete, the Flower & Produce Show, the Harvest Festival and Harvest Supper.

The church was in high demand, with the weddings of locals Clare Caldicott, Pippa Young, Anna Bennett and Joanna Wheatley, and the christening of Madeleine Tucker. There are obituaries for Alwyn Gill, Elsie Bennett, George Warton, Billy Taylor, Margaret Hancock and George Glover.

The golden weddings of Geoff and Gwen Hill, Anne and Harry Porter, and Pat and Betty Palmer are reported, as well as the ruby wedding of June and Basil Barke. New residents are welcomed to seven houses, including Carole Sugg, Caryl Mills and Paul and Mandy Mouzer. A similar number of goodbyes include Andrew and Dorothy Paggett, who were leaving 1 Tudor Cottage.

Issue 46 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:

www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander046.pdf

Dates for your diary

October

Sun 16	Holy Communion, 10.30am, St James' Church
Thu 20	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
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
Fri 11	Remembrance Service, 10.50am, Village Green
Wed 16	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 20	Holy Communion, 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 24th October (for publication on Wednesday 26th October). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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