Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 292[2] Wednesday 14th December 2022

Editorial

In the words of Noddy Holder, 'It's Christmas!' (Well, almost.)

So this edition contains details of all events in the village over the next two weeks: the Meet and Greet on Saturday, Carol and Christingle Service on Sunday and Christmas Day service a week later. We also have a reminder of Christmas opening times at the Swan.

Christmas is a time of great celebration and excessive consumption – and hence an excessive amount of waste. As well as giving you details of Christmas bin collections, we are also including some handy tips from Wychavon District Council on which of your Christmas items can be recycled. Please take a few minutes to read through the list and recycle as much of your Christmas waste as you can.

On the day after Boxing Day you can leave two extra black bags out if your black bin is full – but let's try not to use that option!

Finally, we would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas from the *Birlingham News* team.

Christmas Meet and Greet

Saturday 17th December *by Ruth Keys*

On Saturday 17th December, from 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall, there will be a Christmas Meet and Greet with carols, mince pies and mulled wine. A chance for 'new to the village' residents to meet the 'old timers' for a bit of festive cheer!

St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward (Tel. 01386 750936)

Carol and Christingle Service

The Carol and Christingle Service takes place at St James' Church on Sunday 18th December at 6.00pm.

This will be a family-friendly service with the chance to sing well-known carols and listen to the contributions of villagers of all ages as they take us through the story of the First Christmas. Children (and adults if they so wish!) can help to make the Nativity scene around the stable and receive Christingles.

We are hoping to conduct this service by candlelight . . . so perhaps it would be a good idea to bring a torch in case the light is too low to read the service sheet!

After the service there will be seasonal refreshments served in the Village Hall. So do come and raise a glass (or a cup) to the start of Christmas Celebrations at St James'.

Christmas Day

On Christmas Day, Holy Communion will be held at 10.30am, led by Revd Alma Organ.

The Almshouses in the snow, 11th Deceber
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)



Christmas at the Swan

by Zoe Haines

Join us this festive period to celebrate with friends and family with our two and three course menu, featuring dishes to get you in the Christmas spirit.

We shall be open all day on Christmas Eve from 11.30am through to 11.00pm, serving food 12.00-2.00pm and 6.00-9.00pm. Christmas Day we shall be open for drinks 12.00-2.00pm for a cheeky tipple while the turkey is cooking!

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and shall reopen the pub 6.00pm Wednesday 11th January after a few weeks of hibernation with the boys!



Parish Council Report

by Ian Yates

Birlingham Parish Council held its meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 16th November in the Village Hall. Several topics were discussed and more details on some of them are summarised below:

- **Full Fibre Broadband (Fibre to the Premise – FTTP)**
  As previously reported, the Parish Council has been working with Airband to bring Full Fibre Broadband to Birlingham much earlier than the government's general rollout, which continues to be pushed back according to recent media reports. Airband has already completed many successful Full Fibre projects in Worcestershire and is planning to install Full Fibre in Birlingham (and Defford/Besford) provided there is sufficient interest from residents. With more than 70 Birlingham residents having already registered their interest in being connected via Airband's website, we believe there is sufficient to ensure the project goes ahead. However, if you have not yet registered we would encourage you to do so at www.airband.co.uk. Airband is paying for the installation so there is no cost to residents. 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. The latest update is that Airband will start to install the Full Fibre infrastructure in January or February.

- **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. A new concrete base will be constructed and the box returned and installed before Christmas.

- **Millennium Bench**
  The base for the bench has now been constructed around the time capsule on the village green. Our thanks to Rupert Keys for volunteering his time and effort to do this. The bench itself will be installed w/c 5th December by the carpenter who has been restoring it.

- **Tree Warden**
  Our current tree warden is unable to continue due to work commitments. The Parish Council would like to hear from anyone who would be willing to volunteer for this role, which is not onerous. If you are interested, please contact our clerk, June Hiden, at birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk and she can provide more information.

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

Trees Call to Action Project (TCAP)

by Ian Yates

The Trees Call to Action Project (TCAP) is an exciting new project that will enable communities and landowners to learn how to care for trees or to access funds for tree and hedgerow planting. The fund was developed by Defra in partnership with the Forestry Commission and is being delivered by the Heritage Fund.

The Heart of England Forest, Stratford District Council, Warwick District Council and Wychavon District Council are working in partnership to support tree planting across our local landscape and community spaces. Working together with TCAP staff, communities and landowners will be creating new green spaces to benefit the environment and reconnect people with nature for physical and mental wellbeing for generations to come.

To find out more about how you can benefit from the project we're inviting you to get in touch. Planting does not have to be on a large scale; it could be an orchard, hedgerow or simply planted for aesthetics.

There are many benefits to tree planting within your community including:

- Cleaner air
- Carbon sequestration
- Building community spirit
- Offering green spaces for general health and wellbeing
- Providing homes and food for wildlife and increasing biodiversity

If you are interested in working with the project, we can offer the following:

- Help and guidance in finding, accessing, and applying for grants/funding for tree planting
- Assistance for tree planting plans; when, where and which trees to plant
- Volunteer training in tree planting, care and maintenance

If you would like more information you can either contact your local TCAP Officer, Craig Wood at craig.wood@heartofenglandforest.org, phone 07843 813941, or contact the Parish Council Clerk, June Hiden, at birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk

This project is funded by the Trees Call to Action Fund. The fund was developed by Defra in partnership with the Forestry Commission and is being delivered by the Heritage Fund. You can also find out more about the team here: https://heartofenglandforest.org/news/meet-trees-call-action-fund-tcaf-project-team

You can sign up for the monthly e-newsletter from the Heart of England Forest to receive news and updates: https://heartofenglandforest.org/sign-our-e-newsletter

Christmas Bin Collections

Dates for bin collections in Birlingham over the Christmas period are as follows:

- Tuesday 27th December (replacing Monday 26th December): black bins (plus up to two extra black refuse sacks placed next to the bin)
- Monday 2nd January (as normal): green bins (plus any number of clear recycling sacks placed next to the bin) & brown bins

Clear recycling sacks will be available from Pershore Civic Centre but any clear sacks can be used.

Make sure that your bins are out by 7.00am as collections may be earlier than usual.

Note that from January, all bin collections in Birlingham will be on Mondays.

The bin collection calendar for next year is shown opposite, Wychavon District Council's useful guide to what can and cannot go in your green recycling bin over Christmas is on the next page.

Full details of Christmas collections and other information about waste and recycling are available at https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/festive-waste-and-recycling-guide.



(Above) Postbox in Broadway Road, 11th December (Photo: Nikki Hollier)

(Right) Winter across the asparagus fields, 7th December (Photo: Julia Luff)





Your naughty and nice Christmas recycling guide

by Wychavon District Council

Here is our guide to help you get your recycling right and cut your waste this Christmas. Visit our recycling search to find out about all the items you can recycle at home.

The Nice List

These go in your green bin/clear sack or can be taken to a Household Recycling Centre where indicated.

Wrapping paper – if it is not glittery or metallic/plastic lined. Scrunch your wrapping paper into a ball and if it holds its shape it can be recycled

Cardboard packaging – please flatten before putting in your green bin/clear sack.

Glass bottles – all colours can go in your green bin. If on a sack collection, please take to a Household Recycling Centre or one of our bring banks.

Crackers – if the wrapper can be scrunched and holds its shape then it can be recycled along with the cardboard tube, paper joke, paper hat and the snapper. Any plastic prize inside needs to go in your black bin/sack.

Plastic bottles – all colours except black can go in your green bin/clear sack. Leave lids on.

Advent calendars – the outer cardboard and plastic inner can go in your green bin/clear sack if it is free from foil or chocolate and is not made of black plastic.

Plastic tubs - pots or trays, such as those used for nibbles or dips (as long as not black plastic), can go in your green bin/clear sack.

Metal drinks cans - these go in your green bin/clear sack.

Tin foil – if clean and free from food this can be recycled at a Household Recycling Centre. Please do not put in your green bin/clear sack.

Cardboard takeaway boxes – if not too greasy and free from food these can go in your green bin/clear sack

Plastic or metal sweet/biscuit tins – these go in your green bin/clear sack.

Christmas cards – these go in your green bin/clear sack or save them to reuse as tags next year.

The Naughty List

These items go in your black bin/sack.

Tinsel and other non-paper-based decorations.

Black plastic – of any kind.

Polystyrene – like the kind used in packaging.

Paper napkins and plates.

Metallic or plastic-backed wrapping paper (do the scrunch test to check).

Glitter-covered products and bows or ribbons (unless you can save them to use next year).

Santa's Helpers

Additional ways to reduce and reuse.

Christmas trees – real ones can be taken to Household Recycling Centres.

Food waste – portion plan and use up leftovers. Visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for tips.

Clothing – if good quality donate them to a charity shop or put them out for collection with your black bin/sack in a plastic bag and we will take them to be reused or recycled.

Unwanted toys/gifts – donate them to a charity shop.

Batteries – take them to any supermarket or retailer that sells batteries and use their battery recycling point. You can also put them in a plastic bag and leave them on top of your **black bin** for recycling.

Eckington Stores

Shop locally from our large range of products:

- Grocery and household items
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- Ham, cheese, bacon and eggs
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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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Snow in Broadway Road, 11th December (Photo: Nikki Hollier)



Knightsgrove Events

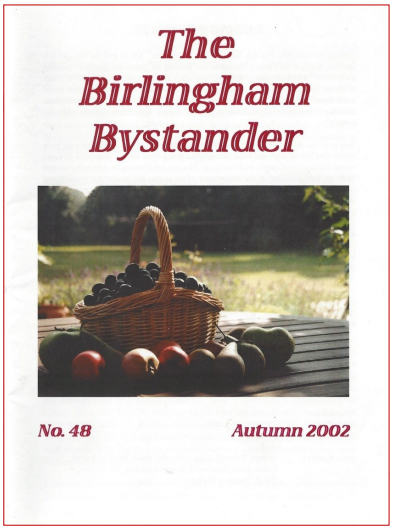
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Personal Ads

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 2002 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* begins with a typically forthright article by 'V' on Europe and the cost of vegetables, followed by the first part of a history of the hamlet of Woolashill. Other articles cover a surprise party for Joan Gill, further reports on the village school from 1908 to 1918 and a continuation of Dawn Addison's account of her childhood in Birlingham. There is an update on the Village Hall upgrades and there were a few changes to the Parish Council, with Chris Reynard becoming Chairman.

Events reported are the Birlingham Car Rally, Harvest Lunch, Flower & Produce Show, a poetry evening and the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Weddings include Jo Bishton, and baptisms Jasmine Worby and Connie Williams-Thomas. Richard and Philly White are welcomed to the village. There are obituaries for Catherine Macpherson, Garry Bennett and Dennis Phillips.

Issue 48 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander048.pdf



Dates for your diary

December

Sat 17	Christmas Meet and Greet, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 18	Carol and Christingle Service, 6.00pm, St James' Church
Sun 25	Christmas Day Holy Communion, 10.30am, St James' Church

January

Sun 1	Morning Praise, 10.30am, St James' Church
Wed 4	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 7 & Sun 8	Tiddesley Wood Log and Woodchip Sale, 10.00am–1.00pm
Sun 15	Holy Communion, 10.30am, St James' Church
Wed 18	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 21	Burns Night Supper, 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 Monday 26th December (for publication on Wednesday 28th December). 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)