Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 295 Wednesday 25th January 2023

Editorial

Although it has been bitterly cold these last few days, we have had some wonderful sunshine, the birds are singing from early morning and the evenings are getting lighter. We may have a couple of months of Winter to go but as the crocuses start to appear in the churchyard there is a feeling that Spring is not far away.

Bulb Teas start the weekend after next and the Bulb Sunday Service is on 5th February. Full details of these events are given on this page.

All these events, not to mention the many other activities that take place throughout the year, need volunteers to make them run smoothly. We are lucky in Birlingham that so many people are happy to get involved and help out with the numerous thriving organisations that make our village so vibrant.

In recent weeks, *Birlingham News* has featured articles urging people to volunteer for a range of activities: help with the Bulb Teas, a new Tree Warden and a replacement churchwarden. In the next few weeks we will be asking for ideas on how to celebrate the Coronation.

So, if you can spare a little time, don't wait to be asked; contact one of the village organisations and offer your services. The more we can spread the load, the easier it is to get the things done and the more enjoyable it is for us all.

Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 1st February *by Sue Hermon*



Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 1st February from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall. The cost is still £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 February will be held at the following times:

* **Sunday 5th**: Bulb Sunday Service, 3.00pm (led by Canon Claire Lording)
* **Sunday 19th**: Holy Communion, 10.30am (led by Canon Chris Terry)

Bulb Sunday Service

All are welcome to attend St James' for the annual Bulb Sunday Service, which will take place on 5th February at 3.00pm.

It will be a celebration in song and word to welcome the reappearance of the beautiful snowdrops in the churchyard and a thanksgiving to our Creator God.

There will be contributions from Upton Parish Choir and a variety of talented villagers, and an opportunity to sample the famous Birlingham Bulb Teas after the service.

Organ update

The asbestos has been successfully removed from the organ and Cotswolds Organs are replacing the missing pieces. It is hoped that the organ work will be completed and the newly-tuned organ will be available to be used at the Bulb Sunday Service.

Snowdrop Teas 2023

by Caryl Mills



Snowdrop Teas will be held in the Village Hall on the four weekends in February: 4th/5th, 11th/12th, 18th/19th and 25th/26th.

As usual we are looking for help from villagers to raise money to help the Friends of St James' keep the fabric of the building in good order, keep the churchyard looking as fabulous as it does and to make improvements to the heart of the village. We are looking for people to serve teas, set up and take down the tables in the Village Hall and most importantly bake the cakes that we are renowned for.

If you feel able to help then please contact Caryl Mills at caryl-mills@hotmail.co.uk or 07766 657666.

Bulb Sunday Service

All are welcome to attend St James' for the annual Bulb Sunday Service, which will take place on Sunday 5th February at 3.00pm.

Parish Council Report

by Ian Yates

Birlingham Parish Council held its meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 18th January in the Village Hall. A summary of agenda items follows:

- **Wychavon Planning Department**

  The Parish Council has been concerned about recent delays to planning decisions. One planning application submitted in August 2022 is still waiting a decision. We are told that the delays are due to a lack of staff in Wychavon's Planning Department and the loss of its Head of Planning. District Councillor Ron Davies reported that a new Head of Planning at Wychavon has just been recruited..

- **2023/24 Parish Precept**

  As a consequence of a reduction in amounts planned for projects, the Parish Council have been able to reduce the precept from £7235 (in 2022/23) to £6625 (in 2023/24), a saving of £610. This will reduce the amount payable for a Band D property from £41.47 to £38.66.

- **Newcomers' Drinks Party**

  16 new households have moved into the village over the last two years. This is an unusually high number. Some have already become integrated into village life while, for others, COVID lockdowns have made it difficult. So the Parish Council has decided to invite these new arrivals to an informal drinks party in March as a way of welcoming them to the village.

- **Litter bins**

  Three new litter bins have now been installed around the village. It is hoped that these will help alleviate the problem of poo bags being left on the side of roads and footpaths while also encouraging people not to drop general litter in the village. The bins will be regularly emptied by Wychavon contractors.

- **Drains and flooding**

  The recent heavy rain has shown that there are still issues with some of the drains in the village. This has led to flooding by the Manor House and at Upper End, and the Parish Council Clerk is working with Severn Trent and Highways to address the problem.

- **Roundels**

  As soon as the weather improves the four sets of 30mph roundels will be repainted, as they have been damaged by flooding and road repairs.

- **Telephone kiosk**

  Some of you may have noticed that a new concrete base for the telephone box has been constructed opposite the Village Hall. This work, which was carried out by a local builder, was delayed due to the very cold weather before Christmas, which would have prevented the concrete from setting. We are now waiting for the contractor to confirm a date for the return and installation of the restored box.

- **Tree Warden**

  We are looking for a volunteer to take on the role of village Tree Warden as our current Tree Warden is unable to continue due to work commitments. An advert giving more details has recently been published in Birlingham News and the Parish Council would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in helping. The role is not onerous. Please contact our clerk June Hiden at birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk and she can provide more information.

- **Full Fibre Broadband (Fibre to the Premise – FTTP)**

  The Parish Council has recently received an update from Airband, who have advised us that the start date for installation of the fibre infrastructure in Birlingham has been delayed until July 2023. Although disappointing, the revised schedule still means that Birlingham will get full fibre years ahead of an installation under the government's general roll-out. This should mean that by the end of the year residents will then benefit by having a choice between a full fibre service from Airband or remaining with their current 'fibre to the cabinet' provider.

- **Millennium Bench**

  The base for the bench has been constructed around the time capsule on the village green. As soon as the weather improves, the bench will be installed by the carpenter who has been restoring it.

Jayne Brassington

Beauty and Complementary/Holistic Therapist
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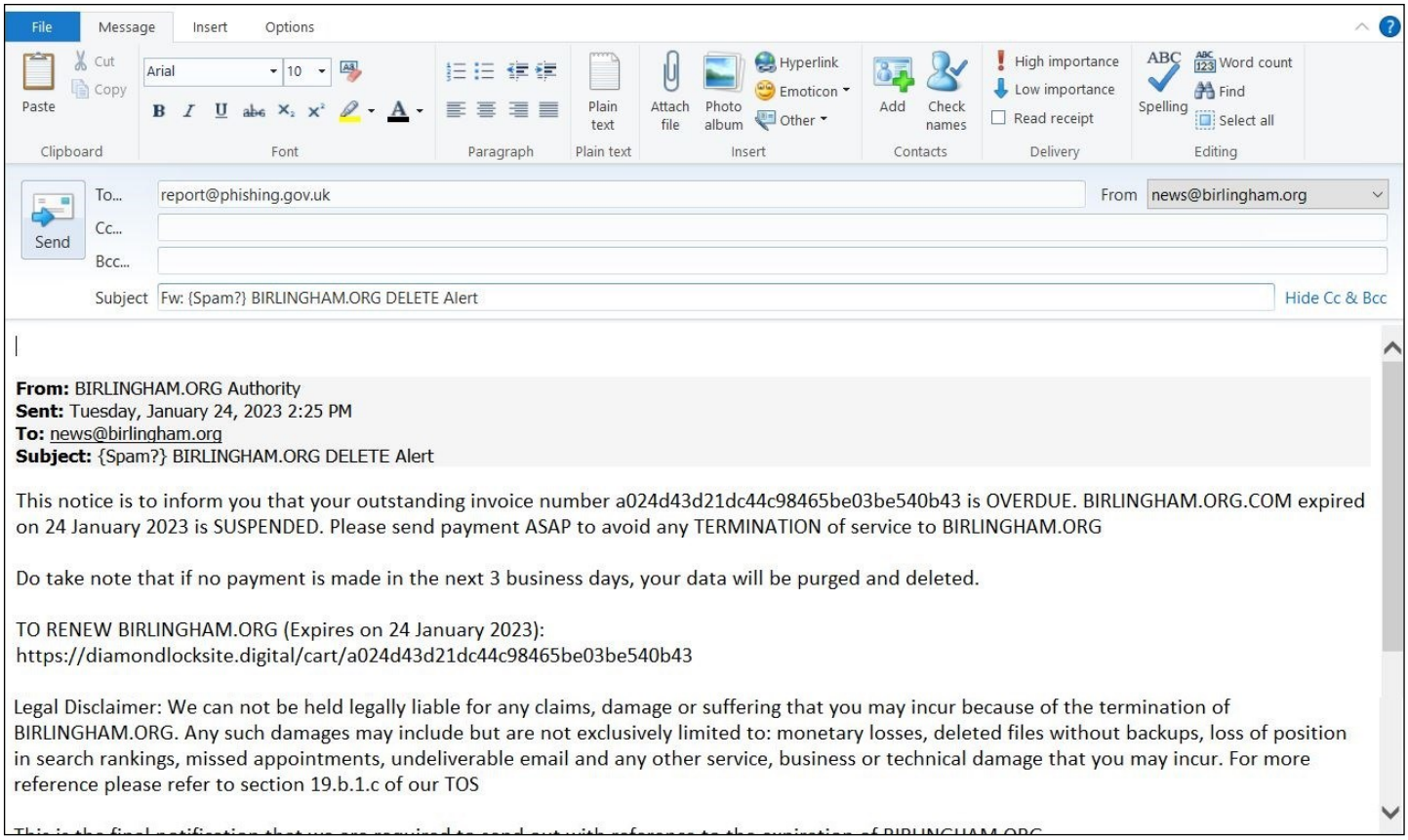
These days we are all plagued by 'phishing' emails, purporting to be from official organisations and urging us to act quickly and click on a link. Clearly you should never do that, even if the email looks genuine and is from an organisation you regularly deal with.

Some of these emails are obviously fake (like the example given below) but many of them are based on real emails and look very convincing. Even so, if you have any doubts, you should always contact the organisation via its normal website rather than using any links in the email.

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) report@phishing.gov.uk. It will go to the National Cyber Security Centre who will analyse the suspect email and any websites it links to and use any additional information you've provided to look for and monitor suspicious activity.

The more we report these emails, which only takes seconds, the more they will be able to shut down the fraudsters. Just click on the Forward button, enter report@phishing.gov.uk in the To box and click on Send.

If you think you may have been a victim of fraud as a result of phishing you should also report this to Action Fraud. It's quickest to report fraud to Action Fraud online using the online reporting tool at https://www.actionfraud.police.uk, but you can also report by phone on 0300 123 2040 Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 8.00pm.



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Coronation of King Charles III

Saturday 6th May – Monday 8th May

by Steve Morris

The Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6th May, with other events on the Sunday and bank holiday Monday. The Jubilee Committee will call an open meeting in mid-February so that the village can decide how to celebrate this momentous occasion.



Meanwhile, the Jubilee mugs are now being distributed, along with details of how to get a refund. If you have ordered one or more mugs and not received them by next Wednesday, 1st February, please contact us at news@birlingham.org.



January sunrise over Bredon Hill,
13th January at 7.45am
(Photo: Julia Luff)

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

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

January

Sun 29	Benefice Sung Eucharist, 10.30am, Pershore Abbey

February

Wed 1	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 4/Sun 5	Snowdrop Teas
Sat 4/Sun 5	Final Tiddesley Wood Log and Woodchip Sale, 10.00am–1.00pm
Sun 5	Bulb Sunday Service, 3.00pm, St James' Church
Sat 11/Sun 12	Snowdrop Teas
Thu 16	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 18/Sun 19	Snowdrop Teas
Sun 19	Holy Communion, 10.30am, St James' Church
Sat 25/Sun 26	Snowdrop Teas

March

Wed 1	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 5	Morning Praise, 10.30am, St James' Church
Wed 15	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 16	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 19	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 6th February (for publication on Wednesday 8th February). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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