Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 301/2 Wednesday 12th April 2023

Editorial

April and May look like being an extremely busy time in the village. A handful of events in the next couple of weeks are followed by the District Council elections at the start of May and then the Coronation weekend.

There has been much muttering about how keen the British people are to celebrate the first coronation for 70 years. However, there is no shortage of enthusiasm in Birlingham. The survey received many more responses than the one for last year's Jubilee and the open meetings have been well attended.

The programme has now been finalised and it looks like being a great weekend. All we need now is some decent weather!

Churchyard Tidy-up

Saturday 22nd April

by Sue Hayward

Calling all villagers! The Churchyard is in need of its spring tidy-up. The jobs include cutting back the fuchsias, sorting out the self-seeded elders, ridding walls and gravestones of ivy. If you would like to join us, please assemble in the churchyard on Saturday 22nd April at 10.30am armed with secateurs, loppers etc. Depending on the number of volunteers, it shouldn't take more than a couple of hours; less hopefully.

Tea and coffee will be available, together with homemade cake!

For further information and registering your interest, please e-mail me on dennett90@aol.com.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday 19th April

by Adrianne Woodward

Notice is given that the APCM of St James', in the Parish of Birlingham, will be held on Wednesday 19th April in the church at 6.30pm.

All those on the Church Electoral Roll and other interested parties are invited to attend.

Birlingham IW

Thursday 20th April

by Caryl Mills



The next meeting of Birlingham IW is on Thursday 20th April, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Our speaker is the Spice Man – Robert Totterdell – who will be talking about Nathaniel's Nutmeg in a Nutshell.

Visitors welcome - £3 fee.

St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward (Tel. 01386 750936)

Vicar: Revd Canon Claire Lording (Tel. 01386 552071)

It has been a challenging time at St James' since the pandemic. Unfortunately our regular congregation has now been reduced to four to six people at a usual service and the PCC now has only five members (gratefully supported by Martin Frost and Andrew Jowett, who are helping with the fabric as non-PCC members). There is a huge pressure on those who are involved to carry out all the duties required of a church and to maintain regular worship. We are so pleased that the few do so much, but it is not sustainable.

In light of this, the PCC has decided that instead of offering two regular service a month, as we have done for some time, we are going to focus instead on special services as and when they fit in the church's year. Please do look out for more information through *Birlingham News* and on the village noticeboards.

For the next few months we will have following services:

* **Sunday 7th May**: Coronation Morning Praise, 10.30am
* **Sunday 23rd July**: A special service to celebrate St James'. Details to be confirmed

If you would like to get more involved with the life and worship of St James' we'd love to hear from you!

Church Floodlights Switch-on

Sunday 7th May

by Peter Luff



To mark the Coronation, the new church tower floodlighting will be turned on officially at 9.00pm on Coronation Sunday, 7th May. The work has been paid for by the Friends of St James', who will organise a short celebration to which the whole village is invited. Further details to follow.

The LED lighting is low-powered, providing gentle illumination of the tower that should be both attractive and in keeping with the village character. Its colour temperature means it causes no issues for bats.

There will then be a period of several weeks trialling different options for days of the week and times for use of the lighting, after which the village will be consulted on what is felt most appropriate. Details of this consultation will be available after 7th May.

Coronation Celebrations

Saturday 6th – Monday 8th May

by Steve Morris

Thank you to all those who took the time to complete the Coronation survey and make their preferences known. As a result, the programme of events for the Coronation celebrations from Saturday 6th to Monday 8th May has now been finalised. Brief details of the events are given opposite and on the next page.

The programme (including events organised by other village organisations) is as follows:

Wednesday 3rd May

◊ Coronation Cuppa & Chat (organised by the Cuppa & Chat team)

Saturday 6th May

◊ Shared Experience – Coronation televised in Village Hall, from 10.30am

◊ Quiz Night, 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Sunday 7th May

◊ Church Service, 10.30am (organised by the Churchwarden)

◊ Coronation Lunch at cricket ground from 1.00pm (including children's competition and traditional games for all ages

◊ Shared Experience – Coronation Concert televised in Village Hall

◊ Church Floodlights Switch-on (organised by the Friends of St James')

Monday 8th May

◊ Big Help Out – tidying up Jubilee Wood

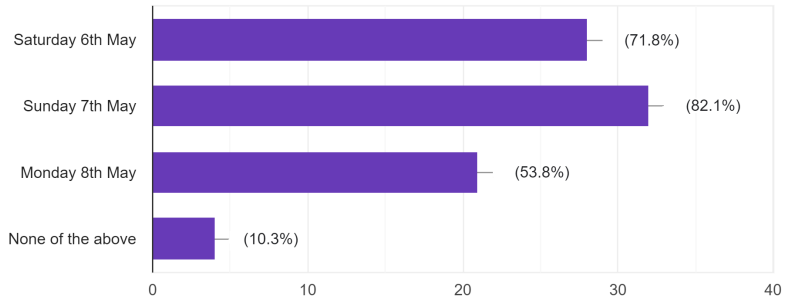
Friday 5th – Monday 8th May

◊ Coronation Garden/Window Art Project

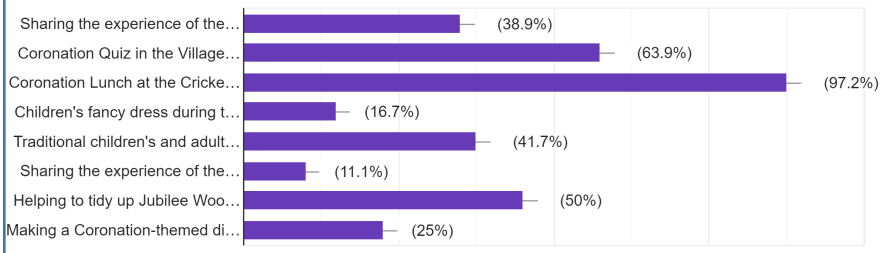
A programme will be delivered to every house over the next few days. Please take a moment to complete the accompanying form, so that we have some idea of numbers attending each event, and return it to the box in the church porch (or complete the form online.

The main results of the survey are shown below.

1. On which of these days might you take part in Coronation activities? (Tick one or more boxes)



2. A number of possible activities have been suggested. Which of these might you attend? (Tick as many boxes as you like)



EVENT DETAILS

Full information for all the Coronation events will be included in the next edition of *Birlingham News* on 26th April. In the meantime, here are a few brief details.

Quiz Night (Saturday)

Following his success at last year's Jubilee, Brian Chinneck has been persuaded to reprise his role as quiz master. He will be hosting another quiz in the Village Hall at 7.00pm on the Saturday. We have been promised that not all the rounds will relate to the Coronation!

Coronation Lunch (Sunday)

The main event of the weekend is the picnic lunch at the cricket ground on the Sunday (following the church service in the morning). Tables will be provided but please bring your own chairs if possible (some will be available but bring cushions!) Also bring a glass for the Toast to the King.

The detailed timetable has not yet been finalised but will include the Toast, a children's competition, traditional games for children and adults, a village photograph and the drawing of the raffle.

Big Help Out (Monday)

As part of the Big Help Out community scheme, we will be tidying up the Jubilee Wood, with more trees to be planted in the autumn.

Shared Experiences

While many will want to watch the Coronation on the Saturday or Concert on the Sunday at home with family and friends, for those who would like to share the experience with others, both events will be televised at the Village Hall.

The Sunday evening will also see the switching on of the church floodlights.

Coronation Art Project

This project aims to create a trail of home-made public art around Birlingham – details on next page.

Raffle

No village event is complete without a raffle, so please bring some loose change to all the events! We are promised some great prizes and the winners will be drawn on the Sunday afternoon.

Coronation Garden/Window Art Project

As part of the Coronation celebrations, we are hoping to create a trail of home-made public art around Birlingham.

The idea is that households who wish to take part put together a Coronation-themed piece of art, either to be displayed in their garden or in a window. We will plot all the entries on a map so you can stroll around the village and see everyone's efforts.

It doesn't have to be a human figure, though we are hoping we will see some of the royals at least! But if your strengths don't lie with portraiture, you could have a bash at a crown, or the state coach, or something else entirely.

All we ask is that all artworks are related to the coronation or the royal family, and can be displayed for all to see from the road.

Things should be in place by Friday 5th May, and remain there until the end of the bank holiday weekend. You are welcome to keep your contribution on show for longer than that, of course.

If you are interested in taking part, please let Jessica Dormer (Whitehall House) know **by Friday 29th April** so we can create the trail map. Email jessica@thedormers.net or text or WhatsApp on 07939 695113.

Cuppa & Chat



Wednesday 3rd May

by Sue Hermon

Cuppa & Chat will be holding a special afternoon tea in Birlingham Village Hall on Wednesday 3rd May from 3.00pm to 4.30pm to celebrate the occasion of the Coronation of King Charles III.

The cost is £2.50 per person to include sandwiches, mini sausage rolls and savouries, mini scones with clotted cream, mini cakes, tea and coffee plus a glass of fizz!

Advance reservation. There are a few places left available to book. Please email sue.hermon@me.com or phone 01386 750096 before next Wednesday (**19th April**) to reserve your place.

Coronation Memories

Do you have any memories of the last Coronation in 1953 (not necessarily in Birlingham)? Or do you have stories told you by your parents or family? Do you have memorabilia from that year or from previous coronations or jubilees?

If so, we would like to hear from you. The Birlingham Memories Group is putting together a collection of memories from the previous coronation and other royal occasions. If you have any royal memories, please email memories@birlingham.org.

Help with Deliveries

Sue and Chris Hermon are organising the delivery of flyers and programmes for the Coronation celebrations. Although they have a good team, more volunteers are always welcome. Even one or two extra would lighten the load!

If you can spare the odd half hour to help out, please email Sue at sue.hermon@me.com.

Birlingham Coronation Celebrations sponsored by

UPTON NEWS and District

Parish Council Report

by Ian Yates

Birlingham Parish Council held its meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 15th March in the Village Hall. A summary of agenda items follows:

- **Broadgrove Farm Planning Application**

  Several residents attended the Parish Council meeting to give their comments on the Broadgrove Farm planning application during the Democratic Opening. These, along with other written comments that had been received from villagers, were considered by council members when drafting the formal response to Wychavon's planning department.

- **Communication between Woodfield Farm and Birlingham Village**

  Council members were very pleased that a representative from Woodfield Farm was able to attend the Parish Council meeting. This followed previous discussions, already reported in *Birlingham News* on 22nd February, that had the objective of improving communication between the farm and the village (and vice versa) to ensure that all parties are kept informed of planned activities. It was helpful to be able to share views on several of the items on the agenda and it is hoped that attendance by the Farm will continue from time to time.

- **New Tree Warden**

  As previously reported, the Parish Council has been looking for a new Tree Warden and we are very pleased to report that Rupert Day has agreed to fulfil the role for the next twelve months.

- **Footpath 506C**

  This is the footpath that runs behind the Old Rectory and then across the asparagus field parallel to New Barn Road. There is an alternative permissive path that runs around the edge of the asparagus field but we are grateful to Revills at Woodfield Farm for ensuring the official path across the field is walkable following feedback from villagers.

- **Telephone Kiosk and Millennium Bench**

  As already reported in *Birlingham News*, both of these have now been reinstalled following restoration and very positive comments have been received from villagers. Council members thanked Maxine Cook for all her efforts on these projects. Some final work needs to be completed with gravel spread around the base of the bench. It was also agreed that the carpenter who restored the bench would be contracted to maintain it annually to ensure that the correct preservative is used.

- **Newcomers' Drinks Party**

  A very successful newcomers' drinks party was held on Sunday 5th March to welcome the 16 new households that have moved into the village over the last two years. The Luffs were thanked for hosting the event.

- **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.

- **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 is still on schedule to start in July 2023.

- **Elections**

  Members of the Parish Council are elected every four years. The next election will take place on 4th May 2023. Nomination Papers had to be submitted by hand not later than 4.00pm on Tuesday 4th April.

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

Elections for Parish and District Councillors

Thursday 4th May

Nominations for Birlingham Parish Council and for the Eckington Ward of Wychavon District Council (which includes Birlingham) closed on Tuesday 4th April.

There were only two nominations for the seven seats on Birlingham Parish Council. Therefore Paula Aston and Ian Yates have been duly elected. The Notice of Uncontested Election for Birlingham Parish Council is shown on the next page.

There are four candidates for the Eckington Ward of the District Council. The list of candidates is shown on the next page. More information on the candidates will be included in the next edition. The Statement of Persons Nominated and the Notice of Poll for all Wychavon elections can be viewed at www.birlingham.org/pc_info/district_elections_2023.pdf

Voting will take place on Thursday 4th May from 7.00am until 10.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. You will need to show photo ID to vote in this year's local elections.

Please note the following key local election 2023 dates:

- **Register** to vote deadline 11.59pm on Monday 17th April
- **Postal vote** application deadline 5.00pm on Tuesday 18th April
- **Proxy vote** application deadline 5.00pm on Tuesday 25th April

NOTICE OF UNCONTESTED ELECTION

Wychavon District Council

Election of Parish Councillors for Birlingham on Thursday 4 May 2023

I, being the Returning Officer at the above election, report that the persons whose names appear below were duly elected Parish Councillors for Birlingham.

Name of Candidate	Home Address	Description (if any)
ASTON Paula Louise	Hills Cottage, Upper End, Birlingham, WR10 3AA	
YATES Ian Francis Penderel	(address in Wychavon)	

Dated Wednesday 5 April 2023

Vic Allison
Returning Officer

Printed and published by the Returning Officer, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, Worcs, WR10 1PT

Wychavon District Council

STATEMENT OF PERSONS NOMINATED AND NOTICE OF POLL

Date of Election: Thursday 4 May 2023

1. Polling will take place between the hours of 7:00 am to 10:00 pm on Thursday 4 May 2023, for the election of District Councillors for each of the undermentioned Wards, there remaining in each case more validly nominated candidates than seats.
2. The name, description (if any) and address of each candidate, together with the names of the proposer and seconder are shown below for each Ward.
3. Any candidate who has an entry in the last column (invalid), is no longer standing at this election
4. Where contested, this poll is taken together with the election of Parish Councillors

Eckington ward

Name of Candidate	Home Address	Description (if any)	Name of Proposer	Invalid
KNIGHT Tim	7/8 Hacketts Lane, Eckington, Nr Pershore, Worcs, WR10 3DG	Independent	Barber Ann P, Barber Graham W	
LE BRUN Mike	Helderbank, Harpley Road, Defford, WR8 9BL	Green Party	Leakey David, Hudzieczek Anna,	
MIDDLEBROUGH Paul	The Forge, Church Lane, Norton, Worcester, WR5 2PS	The Conservative Party Candidate	Davis Ronald, Davis Mary E	
NEWCOMBE Pauline Ann	3 Brutons Orchard, Defford, Worcester, WR8 9BQ	Liberal Democrats	Winter Sarah A, Winter David B	

London Marathon

Sunday 23rd April

Sam Luce is running the London Marathon on Sunday 23rd April for the British Heart Foundation in memory of her mother, who suddenly passed away in May 2021. Sam moved into the village with her partner, Nigel, and their Beagle, Ernie, in October 2021.

Sam says, "You may have seen me running round the village (several times). The marathon is fast approaching, so if you do see me pounding around the lanes, please give me a cheer or a toot on the horn for that ever needed encouragement. Running 18 - 20 miles is several laps of our beautiful village!"

Sam's story is shown opposite and the Just Giving page where you can donate towards the British Heart Foundation, can be found here.

Sam's Story

I am running the London Marathon to help to raise money for further research into heart failure.

On the morning of 29th May 2021, I received a phone call from my Dad that changed our lives forever. Our beautiful mother had passed, aged 64.

Our 'queen' was the head of our family, she was the organiser, the creator and the 'go to person' when you needed anything!

My mum was absolutely fine in herself the night before her passing. She had had a normal day at the allotment with Dad. I spoke with her that night and we had arranged for them to come for dinner the following day. That didn't happen, my mum went to bed that evening and never woke up.

There were no proper goodbyes for us. The shock, the pain, the heartache will never disappear. Losing our mother is a pain that I cannot describe in words. Life is so cruel at times, there are so many things that Mum has missed already and will continue to do so.

I want to support the British Heart Foundation by helping to raise as much money as I can for research, and to ensure that no one receives the phone call that I did that morning.

This one is for you Mother.

When I spoke at your funeral, I told you that we would all continue to do you proud and we will! I know that you will be with me all the way round.

Evesham Walking Festival

Sunday 2nd July

by Alan Saunders, Secretary, Evesham Rambling Club

It's that time of year again and I'm pleased to say that Evesham Rambling Club has another full programme for our fourth Walking Festival.

We have a circular walk starting in Birlingham and apart from people coming from out of the area to discover our delightful Worcestershire countryside, we hope to welcome local walkers as well.

The programme is shown opposite.



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Geoff Taylor

We are very sorry to announce that Geoff Taylor died on Thursday 30th March.

Geoff's wife, Pat, died earlier in March. She and Geoff lived in Church Street for 37 years and both will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts are with Pat and Geoff's family.



The Pigsty Holiday Cottage

Marian Kirkland

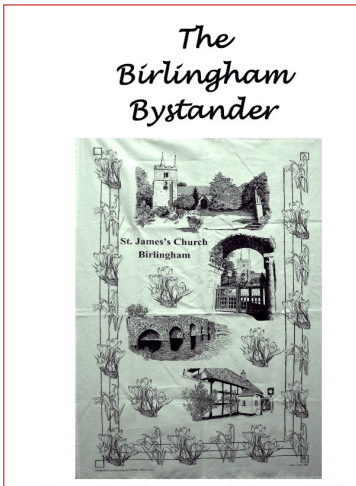
The Pigsty
Lower End
Birlingham
Worcestershire
WR10 3AD

Tel: 07723 923420

Bookings are now being taken for newly renovated cottage

Please contact Marian:
mariankirkland123@gmail.com

Bystander Archives



The Autumn 2004 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* was a bumper issue, with a record 52 pages. Carole McKenna joined the editorial team, replacing Eileen Hine and Bill Culshaw.

The edition begins with a farewell to Bill Quarrell, Captain of the Belltower for almost 25 years, who was moving to Devon. Other articles include one about the Standard Motor Club by John Worby, ancient hedgerows, a report of the Lord's Taverners vs Birlingham Cricket Club by Mark Yeomans, the Addison Family Reunion, the Vintage and Classic Car Rally, the St George's Day Supper and the felling of the Berwick Brook Poplars.

Events include the Birlingham Fete, the Flower & Produce Show and the Harvest Supper. There are many more articles and reports in this packed edition.

Winifred Mence celebrated her 100th birthday. The weddings of Simon Brown, Danae Stanton and Katie Gill are reported. Jessie and Georgia Hoyle were christened; Gerry and Irene James celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. There are obituaries for Bob Howells and Vera Quiney.

Goodbyes include David and Jane Williams-Thomas. Ali and Ken Hastings are welcomed, along with Glen and Bev Hanson, Jude and Victoria Taylor-Rodriguez, and Edward and Jackie Farrar.

Issue 52 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander052.pdf

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

April

Wed 19	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 6.30pm, St James' Church
Thu 20	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 22	Churchyard Tidy-up, 10.30am, St James' Church

May

Wed 3	Coronation Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 4	District Council Election, 7.00am–10.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 6	Coronation Televised, from 10.30am, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 6	Coronation Quiz, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 7	Coronation Celebration Service, 10.30am, St James' Church
Sun 7	Coronation Big Lunch, Cricket Ground
Sun 7	Coronation Concert Televised, from 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 7	Church Floodlights Switch-on, 9.00pm, St James' Church
Mon 8	Coronation 'Big Help Out', Jubilee Wood
Wed 17	Birlingham Parish Council Annual Meeting, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall, followed by Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm
Thu 18	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, 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 24th April (for publication on Wednesday 26th April). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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