Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 303 Wednesday 26th April 2023

Editorial

Why are we doing this? That is a question that anyone who volunteers for anything occasionally asks themselves. Now, as we all dash about in the final days before the Coronation, the 30-odd people involved in preparing the Birlingham celebrations no doubt ask themselves that question in moments of stress. However, we know that deep down we enjoy it, that it is a rare national occasion and, above all, that it gives us an opportunity to celebrate in the company of our fellow villagers.

But spare a thought for the King. He did not volunteer for the role, nor even apply for the job that is now his. He has spent his whole life knowing that this was to be his fate. At the age of 74, most people have long since retired and are enjoying the benefits of having free time to relax (and volunteer); King Charles, on the other hand, has had to leave his beloved garden, which he has tended for decades, in order to start a job that will occupy him daily for the rest of his life.

With the current rash of opinion polls questioning the relevance of the monarchy, we wonder how he would respond if stopped in the street and asked whether a republic would be a good idea.

Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 3rd May *by Sue Hermon*



Our special Coronation Cuppa & Chat is being held on Wednesday 3rd May from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall. This event is almost fully booked and everyone who has reserved a place should now have received confirmation. We do have room for two or three more, so if you are interested please call me on 01386 750096 or email sue.hermon@me.com.

The next Cuppa & Chat after this will be on Wednesday 7th June and we look forward to seeing you.



Worcestershire Black Pear Blossom in Lower End, 15th April
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

St James' Church



Churchwarden:
Adrianne Woodward
(Tel. 01386 750936)

All are invited to St James' for a Special Commemorative Service to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III:

* **Sunday 7th**, 10.30am (led by Peter Stansbie).

There will be refreshments after the service.

Election of District Councillors

Thursday 4th May

There are four candidates for the Eckington Ward of the District Council. Statements by each of the candidates are shown on the next page.

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.

Tim Knight

Independent



I'm Tim Knight, your local INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE for the Eckington Ward in the WDC elections.

My wife and I have lived in Eckington since 1998, with our two boys; both began their education at Eckington CofE School, it's future sustainability being the purpose behind Eckington's Neighbourhood Plan (88% village support), a plan that's delivered family housing, homes for older people, affordable homes, and provided a 7-acre Village Green and new school playing field.

I believe Neighbourhood Plans better influence future development in our area, an area that's a beautiful place to live: Not without its challenges, but also presenting many opportunities; requiring drive, passion and determination to make the best of things in either scenario, something I was recognised for while Chief Executive of a local rural housing association (having previously been their Finance Director).

For me it's a case of 'how we can', not 'why we can't'…more often than not it gets the job done.

This is a local election for you to determine who's responsible for delivering your local services, a mantra I have followed/driven as Chair of Eckington PC.

Having successfully served our local community on EPC, I believe I'd make a good District Councillor, your District Councillor, to help support you/your own Parish Council on all local matters affecting you…put your trust in me and I won't let you down.

Being realistic it will be a massive challenge for me to beat the large Political Parties contesting this seat, but with your help, your vote, on 4th May, I do believe you and I can win.

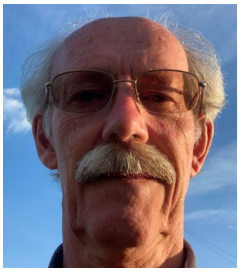
So become a VIP on May 4th

Vote Independent Please

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT, Tim

Mike Le Brun

Green Party



I'm Mike Le Brun your candidate for the Green Party. I live in Defford. Why should you vote for me?

Climate change is the most significant challenge we face. Changes in weather patterns are having a profound impact on our way of life – consider the damage already caused to communities by flooding and rising sea levels.

Only the Green Party puts the environment at the heart of our policies.

What that means for Wychavon. We'd:

- introduce tighter planning rules for new housing – away from large developments on greenfield sites;
- ensure developers fund local services – too many villages have developments built without new facilities such as GP's, buses and schools;
- boost energy efficiency by requiring solar panels and heat pumps on new homes;
- introduce 20mph speed limits near all schools and the centre of villages;
- hold Severn Trent water to account to end dumping sewage in our rivers;
- ensure Wychavon leads the way towards zero carbon emissions by 2030.

We'd also improve local democracy. We have 3 Green Councillors. But Wychavon is dominated by a single party 35 conservatives vs 10 opposition councillors. A strong council needs a balance of views and opinions.

Paul Middlebrough

The Conservative Party Candidate



I want to introduce myself as one of the four candidates for Birlingham in the elections next week.

As the Conservative Party Candidate, it would be an honour for me to follow in Ron Davis's footsteps who is retiring as your councillor.

I come with previous experience as a Wychavon councillor indeed I was the leader of Wychavon for eight years.

Currently I am an Assistant West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.

As your Councillor I will work with and for you and your Parish Council to;

- Ensure planning decisions are always sensible and appropriate.
- Develop innovative cost-effective ways of providing transport for older and younger residents to get to Pershore, and Worcester.
- Collaborate with police, health, and education to help the community stamp out and prevent antisocial behaviour.

Conservative Wychavon has shown over the years that good fiscal management and effective green policies go hand in hand so making the area and villages like Birlingham such a wonderful place to live.

You can contact me on paul.middlebrough@btinternet.com

I want to join the Conservative team serving Birlingham, Harriett Baldwin MP, Adrian Hardman County Councillor, John Campion Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner.

Pauline Newcombe

Liberal Democrats



Pauline is married to Mark, has two grown up daughters and four grandchildren. She moved to Worcestershire over 34 years ago and started her career with the agency ADAS, working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, providing consultancy to rural communities.

Pauline progressed her career with Countrywide Farmers at Defford Mill before joining the Energy Department, and she now runs a successful family business in the transport and distribution sector.

Pauline enjoys family days out with her grandchildren and the four-legged family member, her dog Elsa.

Pauline says: "I'm really excited to be joining the Lib Dem team and I will be able to bring a wealth of experience to the council. As a resident of Defford I can't wait to make use of my local knowledge to help residents and make our area an even better place to live."

Pauline Newcombe

07984 560823

pauline3cf@gmail.com

Coronation Celebrations

Saturday 6th – Monday 8th May

by Steve Morris

The final preparations are now being made for next week's Coronation celebrations. More than 30 volunteers are involved in the various events (but, of course, we could always do with more!)

Programmes are being distributed to every home in the village and it would help with planning if you could complete the enclosed form, even if you are not able to join us at the celebrations. Forms can be returned to the church porch, by post or online.

The events begin with the screening of the Coronation ceremony in the Village Hall from 10.30am on Saturday 6th May, with a Coronation Quiz in the evening.

There is a special commemorative service in St James' Church on the Sunday morning (7th May). The main event is the Coronation Lunch at the cricket ground later that afternoon. During this event, the children's Make-a-Crown entries will be judged. There will also be a toast to the King and Queen and we will be taking a village photograph of everyone who is there. The afternoon will end with traditional games for adults and children.

During the evening the Coronation Concert will be screened in the Village Hall and will coincide with the switching on of the new church floodlights.

The weekend is rounded off on the Monday (8th) with the Big Help Out, during which we will be tidying up the Jubilee Wood.

During the weekend there will be a Coronation raffle, with some amazing prizes donated by the Swan Inn, Eckington Stores and Revills Farm Shop, among others. The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 7th, before the traditional games.

We hope that many of you will display a piece of royal-themed 'art' in your garden or window to brighten up the village for the weekend - details below.

Thank you to all those who have worked so hard making the preparations. The weather forecast is currently looking good so we hope this will be a memorable and fun weekend.

The full programme is shown below.

Coronation Memories

We are still looking for more memories of the last Coronation in 1953 (not necessarily in Birlingham). Do you have any memories of that occasion or 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 and we will arrange to talk to you about your story.

Programme

Saturday 6th May

Shared Experience – The Coronation
From 10.30am, Birlingham Village Hall

Bring friends and family to watch the Coronation on the big screen in the Village Hall. Please supply your own food and drink for the occasion.

Coronation Quiz
7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall

Teams of 3–5, six rounds of ten questions, prize for winning team. Please bring nibbles, drinks and glasses if you would like to.
Entry fee £3 per person. Numbers limited so please book early.

Sunday 7th May (daytime)

Coronation Church Service
10.30am, St James' Church

A Coronation-themed service will be held at St James' Church at 10.30am, led by Peter Stansbie. Refreshments will be provided after the service.

Coronation Lunch
1.00pm, Cricket Ground

The main event of the weekend is the picnic lunch at the cricket ground, courtesy of Henry Porter. Bring your own picnic (food, drink, plates etc.) 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.

Timetable
1.00 Arrival and set-up
1.30 Children's Make-a-Crown competition (see opposite)
2.00 Picnic lunch
3.00 Toast to the King and Queen
3.15 Raffle
3.30 Traditional games for adults and children

Sunday 7th May (evening)

Shared Experience – Coronation Concert
From 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall

Another chance to share the experience of the Coronation with the community. The Coronation Concert will be screened on the big screen in the Village Hall. Please bring your own food and drink for the occasion. Come and go as you please!
There will be a short break for the church floodlights switch-on.

Church Floodlights Switch-on
9.00pm, St James' Church

To mark the Coronation, the new church tower floodlighting will be turned on officially at 9.00pm. 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.
Refreshments in the Village Hall after the switch-on.

Monday 8th May

Big Help Out
Approx. 11.00am, Jubilee Wood

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.

Make-a-Crown Competition
There will be a competition for children at the picnic on Sunday.
Design a wearable crown fit for royalty. This can be made out of any material, to any design but must be able to be worn by the King.
Age categories 10 and under, and 10–16.

Coronation Garden/Window Art Project
This project aims to create a trail of home-made public art around the village; see over the page for details.

Raffle
Bring some loose change for the raffle! There are some great prizes, and winners will be drawn on Sunday afternoon.

Bar
Feel free to bring your own food and drink to any of the events. A limited bar (beer, wine, fruit juice) will be available.

Coronation Memories
Do you have any memories of the last Coronation in 1953 or stories told you by your parents or family? If so, please email memories@birlingham.org.

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.



Birlingham Coronation Celebrations sponsored by

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 28th April** so we can create the trail map. Email jessica@thedormers.net or text or WhatsApp on 07939 695113.

UPTON NEWS and District

Churchyard Tidy-up

by Sue Hayward

A massive thanks to everyone who joined us on Saturday 22nd April for the first churchyard tidy-up of the year. Fifteen keen villagers (that included Madeline Frost, Jacob and George Haines) turned up with loppers and secateurs. We got lots done to clear the graves hidden by greenery, tamed the fuchsias and elders, removed a lot of the ivy.

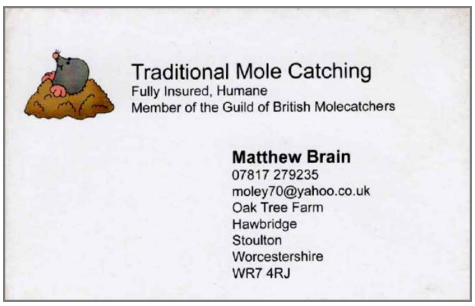
Another session will be arranged for the autumn so watch this space.

Blossom in Rectory Lane,
21st April
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

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.

Memorial Service for Pat and Geoffrey Taylor

Saturday 1st July

The funeral of Pat and Geoffrey Taylor took place on Tuesday 25th April at St Nicholas Church, Kenilworth

A memorial service will be held on Saturday 1st July at 1.00pm at St James' Church, Birlingham, and afterwards in the Village Hall. The family would find it helpful to have an idea of numbers for catering purposes. Please contact Pat and Geoffrey's daughter, Charlotte Wilkes, by email at charlottelmwilkes@gmail.com.



Dates for your diary

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 Screening, 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, 1.00pm, Cricket Ground
Sun 7	Coronation Concert Televised, 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 Annual Parish Meeting, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 18	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall

June

Wed 3	Coronation Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 15	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 8th May (for publication on Wednesday 10th May). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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