Birlingham News online

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No. 305 Wednesday 24th May 2023

Editorial

In his book, *The Luck Factor*, scientist Richard Wiseman demonstrates that whether someone is perceived to be lucky or unlucky depends largely on attitude.

Lucky people are those who embrace the opportunities that are presented to them. Even if things do not turn out well, they will find the positive elements of the experience. Unlucky people tend not to take risks and concentrate on the things in life that have gone wrong. Your attitude to events influences how lucky or unlucky your friends and family think you are.

He gives a great example. You are in a bank when armed robbers come in. They line everyone up against the wall; a gun goes off accidentally and you are shot in the shoulder.

Afterwards, you are asked how lucky you think you have been. One person will say, "Two inches lower and it would have gone through my heart. I was so lucky!" while another will reply, "I've just been shot! And you're asking me if I think I've been lucky?!" It is all a question of attitude.

Frequently, events are beyond our control but whether we focus on the cloud or the silver lining is up to us.

We try to publish *Birlingham News* on time but sometimes we are late, waiting for an important article to arrive; on other occasions, publication on a Wednesday is just impossible, as is the case this week. And that is why you lucky people are getting this edition a day early!



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Funeral of Horace Hewitt

Wednesday 7th June

The funeral of Horace Hewitt will take place on Wednesday 7th June at 11.00am at St James' Church, Birlingham, and afterwards at Eckington Manor.

If you are planning to be there, the family would like to know as soon as possible, so that the caterers have an idea of numbers. Please let Paula Aston know on 01386 751425 or email paston1976@gmail.com

Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 7th June

by Sue Hermon



Our next Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 7th June from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall. The cost is £2.50 per person and 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!

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)

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 services 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.

Dates in June

There will be no regular services held at St James' during June but the church will continue to be open on every Wednesday and Sunday from 10.30am to 4.30pm. If admittance is required at other times please contact Adrianne Woodward on 01386 750936.

- Horace Hewitt's funeral will be held on Wednesday 7th June at 11.00am and afterwards at Eckington Manor.

Dates in July

The following services will be held in July:

- The memorial service and interment of ashes of Pat and Geoffrey Taylor will be held at St James' on Saturday 1st July at 1.00pm 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.
- A baptism on Sunday 2nd July at 2.00pm. This will be a closed service.
- A St James' Day service on Sunday 23rd July at 3.00pm. Details to follow.

Finally, the churchyard is looking rather overgrown as not only did we wait for the snowdrops, crocuses and primroses to die down but also we are now following a 'No mow May' policy in line with our eco-church and Worcestershire Living Churchyard principles. However, pathways to access the graves will continue to be mown and at the end of May a wide border will be mown either side of the main path.



Crimson clover and vetch enjoying the sunshine in our green cover mix.
Fixing nitrogen, capturing carbon, feeding the soil and pollinators. 20th May
(Photo: John Sansome, Revills)

Parish Council Elections

Closing Date, Thursday 26th May

There are still five vacancies on Birlingham Parish Council following the recent Parish Council elections, so a new election has been called.

Nomination papers may be obtained from the offices of the Returning Officer, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT; phone 01386 565437 or email: elections@wychavon.gov.uk.

Nomination papers must be submitted by hand not later than **4.00pm on Thursday 25th May**. They can be delivered between 10.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday to the Elections Team at Pershore Civic Centre.

If more than five people put their names forward, an election will be held on Thursday 22nd June.

More information can be obtained from the Parish Clerk, June Hiden (birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk).

The Notice of Election for Birlingham Parish Council is shown on the next page.

Two restored coaches visit Birlingham, 11th May
(Photo: Julia Luff)



NOTICE OF ELECTION

Wychavon District Council

Election of Councillors

for Birlingham Parish Council

Parish	Number of Councillors to be elected
Birlingham	Five

1. Nomination papers must be delivered to the Returning Officer, Elections Office, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT on any day after the date of this notice, on Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (excluding bank holidays) but no later than **4 pm on Thursday, 25th May 2023**.

2. Nomination papers may be obtained from the offices of the Returning Officer, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, Worcs, WR10 1PT, phone 01386 565437 or email elections@wychavon.gov.uk

3. If any election is contested, the poll will take place on Thursday, 22nd June 2023.

4. Applications to register to vote must reach the Electoral Registration Officer by 12 midnight on Tuesday 6 June 2023. Applications can be made online: **https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote**

5. Applications, amendments or cancellations of postal votes and amendments or cancellations of proxy votes must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, Worcs, WR10 1PT by 5 pm on Wednesday, 7th June 2023.

6. Applications for a Voter Authority Certificate or an Anonymous Elector's Document valid for this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer by 5pm on Wednesday 14 June 2023. Applications can be made online: **https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate**

7. New applications to vote by proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, Worcs, WR10 1PT by 5 pm on Wednesday, 14th June 2023.

8. Applications to vote by emergency proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, Worcs, WR10 1PT by 5pm on Thursday, 22nd June 2023

Dated: Wednesday 17 May 2023 Vic Allison - Returning Officer

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

Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting

The Birlingham Annual Parish Meeting took place on Wednesday 17th May. In the absence of the chairman the meeting was chaired by Paula Aston.

The Annual Parish Meeting included the following:

- The Chairman's annual report
- Annual report from District Councillor Ron Davis
- Annual reports from the Footpath Warden
- Annual report from the Jubilee Committee

All these reports are reproduced below.

Chairman's Report – Parish Meeting, May 2023

This report is a summary of the many activities that have taken place over the last 12 months.

As always, I would like to begin by thanking everyone who have given their time for the benefit of the parish; all the members of the Parish Council; Vice Chair Paula Aston, Maxine Cook, Julia Luff, Steven Byrne, Terry Griffin and Michael Porter. They have all been involved in the many different projects undertaken by the Parish Council over the last 12 months as detailed later in this report. A special thank you also to June Hiden for the long hours she puts in as Clerk. Her knowledge and experience is invaluable.

Our thanks also go to those involved in the Parish Council's scheme of delegation; Carl Brassington the village Lengthsman, who has worked hard to keep our gullies, drains and verges clear, significantly reducing the impact of flooding. Rupert Keys Tree Warden who has monitored and maintained the village trees. Bruce Hayward Footpath Warden ably assisted by Mark Smith who have spent many hours maintaining the parish footpaths.

I would also like to thank the following; County Councillor Adrian Hardman, for his help with organising the work on the resurfacing of the village roads and for arranging funding for Cuppa and Chat, speed roundels and telephone box restoration. District Councillor Ron Davis, who despite ill health has continued to keep us informed on Wychavon matters. It is much appreciated that they find time to attend our meetings whenever possible. Thanks also to Steve Morris who continues to develop and maintain the village website, including a page for the Parish Council and amongst his many activities heading up the Jubilee Committee and Birlingham News.

Annual Parish Meeting

Due to an overseas holiday, I will not be present at this year's meeting. Instead it will be ably chaired by Paula Aston who is the Parish Council's deputy chair.

Parish Council Financials

In November a budget meeting was held to discuss setting the parish precept for 23/24 based on government guidelines. As a consequence of a reduction in amounts planned for projects, the Parish Council were able to reduce the precept from £7235 (in 2022/23) to £6625 (in 2023/24), a saving of £610. This reduced the amount payable for a BandD property from £41.47 to £38.66.

Each year the parish council makes provisions from their budget to cover possible future costs in areas such as:

- To cover costs that the parish council are charged to run an election.
- To build a community fund to support village projects.

My thanks to Councillor Terry Griffin and Clerk June Hiden for their management of the parish finances.

(*Continues on next page*)

District Councillor Ron Davis

It has been my privilege to have served as your District Councillor for the past 16 years and I am confident that Paul Middleborough will do a fantastic job for you. Paul has a great deal of experience and will able to assist you on most problems that may come your way.

The last 12 months has been very difficult for me personally with my health issues but I am hopeful that things will improve over the coming months.

If I can be of assistance to your Parish in the future please contact me.

My sincere good wishes to you all.

Ron Davis

Birlingham Footpath Warden's Annual Report

Birlingham has two volunteers who, together with local landowners and others, look after the Parish footpaths on behalf of the County Council. The County Council meet any small expenses incurred, and will often supply 'furniture' (e.g. gates, stiles etc.) that needs to be replaced.

The main work in the past year for the volunteers has, as usual, been the controlling/clearing of undergrowth and repairs to stiles and finger-posts.

At each Parish Council meeting a report is made of work undertaken during the previous two months.

All the footpaths in Worcestershire are shown on the Public Rights of Way web map which is maintained by the County Council Countryside Service; visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside and click on Public Rights of Way and then Interactive Map. (There is a link from the village website).

If anyone has any concerns or suggestions regarding the footpaths in the Parish, please contact me at Tadpole Cottage on 751382 or via the Parish clerk.

Bruce Hayward

(Chairman's Report continued)

Millennium Bench

The bench was removed from around the plane tree on the village green to prevent damage. Councillor Maxine Cook identified a carpenter to restore it which turned into a labour of love as many parts had to be refabricated. The Parish Council is very grateful to carpenter Ian Morphett for doing the work, much of which was at his own cost. Rupert Keys kindly volunteered to do the ground work so that the bench could be re-sited around the time capsule and it was finally installed in February 2023.

Telephone Kiosk

The telephone box was in a sad state of repair. It is no longer owned by BT and was adopted by the Parish Council a few years back. The Parish Council agreed to have it restored and Councillor Maxine Cook found a company that specialises in this work. Councillor Adrian Hardman kindly agreed to fund 50% of the cost with the balance coming from Parish Council's project fund and the Jubilee Committee. The restoration work was completed and the box reinstalled on a new concrete base in February 2023 with many complimentary comments from villagers.

Full Fibre Broadband

The Parish Council has been progressing a project under the Government's Gigabit Voucher Scheme that can be used to fund the provision of Full Fibre Broadband to homes as part of a community project. Full Fibre Broadband replaces the copper telephone cable that runs between the telephone cabinet and house with a fibre optic cable. The benefit is higher speeds (up to 1Gb/s) and a more reliable service. After much discussion with Airband they agreed to undertake the project as part of the infrastructure they were installing in local villages. It is hoped the work in Birlingham will start in July 2023. My thanks to Councillors Steven Byrne and Michael Porter.

Dog/litter Bins

The Parish Council included funding for three additional bins in its 2022/23 precept. Wychavon District Council, who empty the bins, approved the proposed locations which are the junction of Broadway with Grange Road, top of Sherpool Lane (junction of Broadway with Shorthill) and junction of Shorthill with Church Street. These are areas popular with dog walkers. The bins have now been installed and are in regular use.

Roads and flooding

The Parish Council dealt with a large number of road and flooding issues in the village including:

- Water Leak in Berwick Lane. After several attempts this seems to now be fixed.
- Flooding near the Manor House. Work was carried out to address the problem of water running across the road near the Manor House. However water is starting to run again and Severn Trent Water have been called out as a result to inspect it further. This is ongoing.

The Parish Council thanked Clerk June Hiden for their assistance in getting this work done.

War Memorial – Frederick Quarrell

You may recall that during some research into the First World War it was discovered that Frederick Quarrell, a villager who died during the war, did not have his name included on the Birlingham war memorial. The Parish Council therefore decided to apply for funding to pay for his name to be added. Planning permission was required as the war memorial is a listed monument. However the Parish Clerk June Hiden identified a stone mason and the inscription has been added.

Speed advisories

The Parish Council discussed with Worcestershire County Council the installation of speed advisory roundels. The existing 30/40mph roundels located near the entrance to Birlingham Nurseries were completely worn away and needed remarking. Additional roundels were also painted at Upper End near Court Barns and have since been repainted due to wear and tear. The Parish Council thanked Adrian Hardman who agreed to fund the work.

(*Continues*)

Jubilee Committee

The Jubilee Committee has had an extremely busy year, with both the Platinum Jubilee in June last year and the Coronation this May.

Two of our existing **members**, Maxine Cook and Chris Hermon (both founding members), have now retired. However, we have been joined by Pat Chinneck and Tony Hawgood, both of whom have worked extremely hard over the last twelve months.

The **Platinum Jubilee** events included a Quiz Night, Street Party, Pudding Fit for a Queen children's competition, Celebratory Church Service (organised by churchwarden Adrianne Woodward on behalf of the PCC), Pram Race and Treasure Hunt.

For the **Coronation**, we had another Quiz Night, Celebratory Service (again organised by Adrianne Woodward) and Coronation Lunch at the cricket ground (courtesy of Henry Porter), which included a children's Make-a-Crown competition. We also screened the Coronation itself on the Saturday and the Coronation Concert on the Sunday in the Village Hall. The concert coincided with the switching on of the new church floodlights. All these events were well attended.

Birlingham News is delivered to nearly 95% of households, as well as many former residents. We deliver two issues per month on the second and fourth Wednesdays. Thank you to the many people who now contribute on a regular basis and particularly Ian Yates for his extensive Parish Council reports.

Birlingham News online has gained in popularity and we now regularly have 70 or downloads. We have just published the 30th edition.

In the last twelve months we have produced a further two issues of the **Birlingham Bystander** and the Jubilee Committee's 13th edition (Issue 89) has just been delivered.

The **village website** continues to receive many visitors but more volunteers are still needed to take on specific groups of web pages.

(*Continues*)

(Chairman's Report continued)

Planning

The Parish Council commented on several planning applications during the year. This is to provide Wychavon District Council who are responsible for planning decisions with a local perspective based on the residents' feedback in the Village Survey and Village Design Statement. My thanks to Councillor Steven Byrne who as Planning Group coordinator was responsible for collecting comments and summarising them for WDC.

Newcomers Drinks Party

Sixteen 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 decided to invite the new arrivals to an informal drinks party in March as a way of welcoming them to the village. My thanks to Councillor Julia Luff for organising and hosting this event.

Communication between Woodfield Farm and Birlingham Village

As a result of resident comment and some opposition to tree felling carried out by Revills at Swan's Neck, Councillor Julia Luff and I met with Michael Porter and John Sansome of Revills/RedStar. It was realised that the lack of communication between Revills/RedStar and the village (and vice versa) can sometimes be responsible for creating a false perception of why something is being done. This leads to a deterioration of goodwill between the village and the farm, which is unhelpful in resolving issues. Therefore the objective of the meeting was to agree how, through better communication, we could ensure we are kept informed of planned activities that might affect residents, so giving us an opportunity to provide feedback. It was a very constructive meeting and we agreed that the Parish Council will act as the interface between residents and Revills/RedStar on any issues that residents may be concerned about.

Remembrance Day

The Parish Council provided wreaths for both the Eckington and Birlingham remembrance services.

In conclusion, within the constraints of its budget, the Parish Council has been able to carry out a large program of activities on behalf of villagers and the community.

Ian Yates
Chairman, Birlingham Parish Council

(Jubilee Comittee continued)

About half the trees planted in the **Jubilee Wood** in 2021 have survived and are now showing good growth. The existing trees continue to grow and produced a good display of blossom this spring. This Saturday (20th May) we have organised a group of volunteers to tidy round the trees as part of the Big Help Out (postponed from Coronation Monday). Thanks to past Tree Warden, Rupert Keys, and new warden, Rupert Day, for their continuing advice on the upkeep of the wood.

We hope that the **Memories Group** will be up and running again soon.

Our **equipment** includes a water boiler (currently on loan to the church), 25 trestle tables, bunting, 30 camping chairs, 26 plastic chairs, heaters, glasses, music stands and road signs, all of which are available for village residents and organisations to borrow for private or public functions. We also have a one-third share in the village marquee.

Thank you to the many dozens of people who have been involved in all these various activities over the past 12 months.

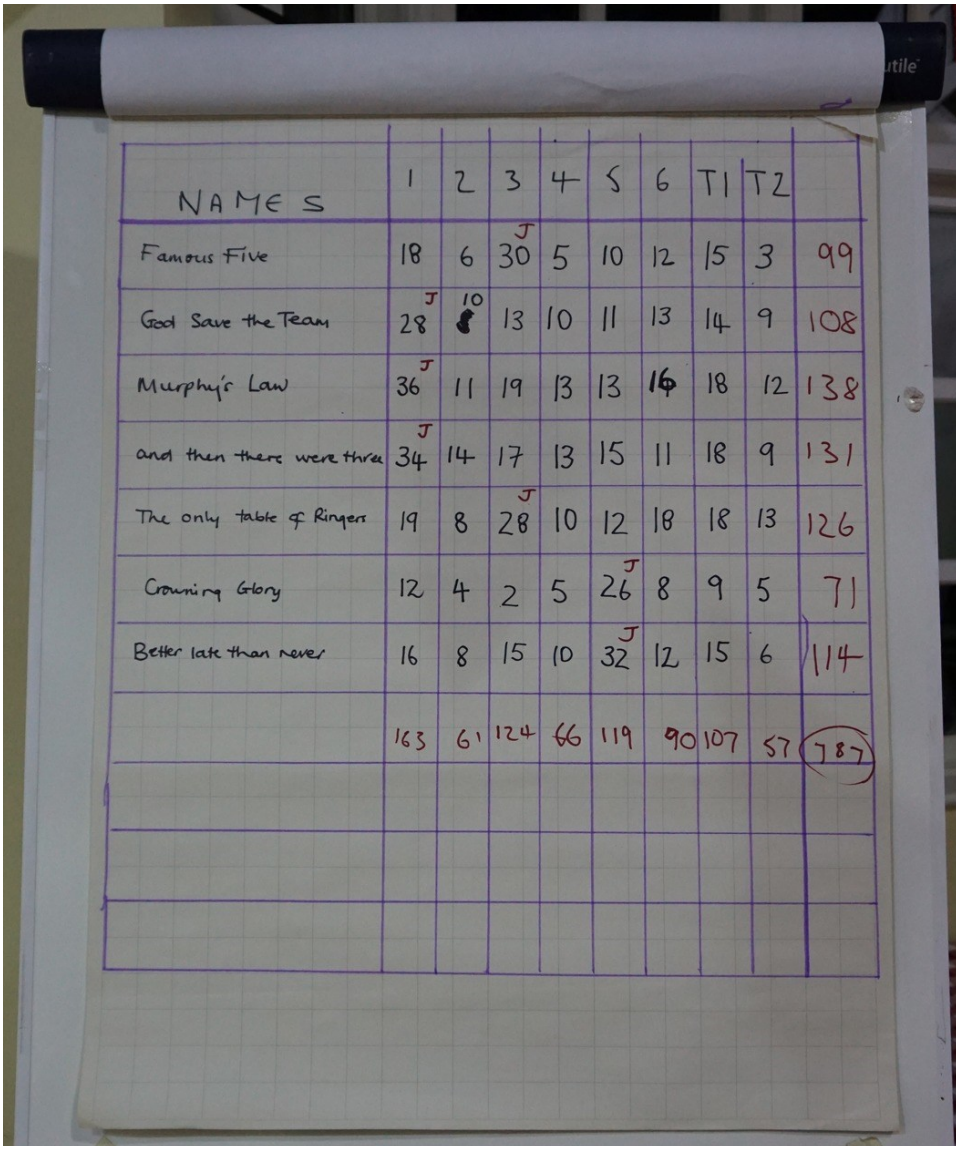
Steve Morris
Chairman, Jubilee Committee



Volunteers tidying Jubilee Wood, 20th May

Coronation Quiz

The results sheet



NAMES	1	2	3	4	5	6	T1	T2	
Famous Five	18	6	30 J	5	10	12	15	3	99
God Save the Team	28 J	10	13	10	11	13	14	9	108
Murphy's Law	36 J	11	19	13	13	16	18	12	138
and then there were three	34 J	14	17	13	15	11	18	9	131
The only table of Ringers	19	8	28 J	10	12	18	18	13	126
Crowning Glory	12	4	2	5	26 J	8	9	5	71
Better late than never	16	8	15	10	32 J	12	15	6	114
	163	61	124	66	119	90	107	57	787

Coronation Raffle

Donated by	Prize	Winner
The Porters	Birlingham Damson Vodka	Tony Hawgood
Swan Inn	Meal for two & bottle of wine	Alex – Baytree Cottage
The Meat Company	£25 voucher	Paul Burton
Birlingham Nurseries	Selection of plants x2	Caryl M & Paul B
Jayne Brassington	£20 voucher	Deborah – Box Farmhouse
Eckington Stores	£20 voucher	Lauren Hawgood
Eckington Stores	£10 voucher x4	Nick & Charlotte; Kate – Polyanna Cottage; Mr MacDonald; Rosanna
Reynard		
Revills Farm Shop	£10 voucher x2	Martin Frost; Wendy Yates
Three Springs Nursery	£10 voucher	Barbara & Graham Chidlow
Border in a Box	Coronation Garden seeds x3	Joan H; Lauren Hawgood; Anna
	Coronation Jigsaw	Neil & Pat
	Bottle of Champagne	Marian K
	2 bottles red wine	Sam Luce
	Bottle of rosé wine	Sarah & Steve

Eckington Stores

We have a range of locally produced products:

- Fladbury meat pies
- LDA fresh meat
- Drapers bread and cakes
- La Parisienne French style bread & cakes
- Pegoty Hedge ready meals
- Pegoty Hedge organic beef
- Bennetts ice cream
- DJ Perks fruit and vegetables
- Meat Company sausage and bacon
- Happy Chucks eggs

We open 7 days per week:

- 0600 to 1830 Monday to Friday
- 0600 to 1800 Saturday
- 0600 to 1300 Sunday

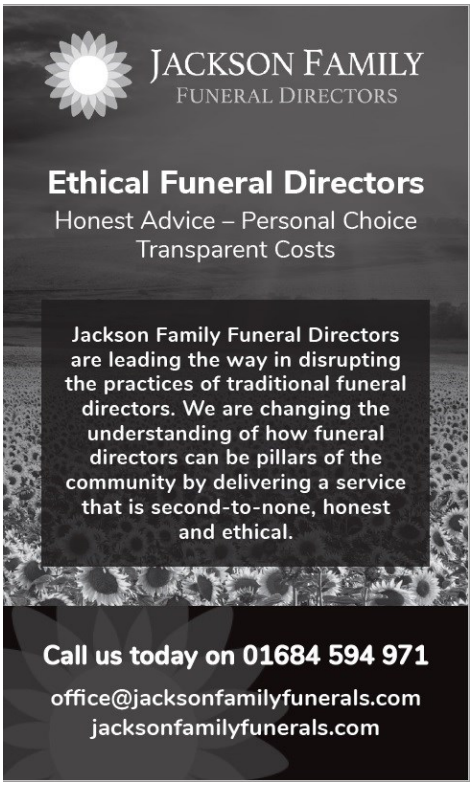
John, Sue and Mark
Tel 01386 750266

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.

Wychavon Councillor Report

by Paul Middlebrough

The three weeks since the District Council Elections on 4th May have flown by for me.

As well as attending the Council's annual meeting, once again I have been undergoing training and getting used to the Wychavon ways.

I should like to thank all of you who voted in the election and your ward, Eckington, had the highest turnout of all the wards, with 45.72% compared with the average turnout of 32.53%.

The political composition of the Council is:

Conservative	29
Liberal Democrat	7
Green	6
Labour	1

At the annual meeting Robert Raphael from Evesham was elected as Chairman and Bradley Thomas was re-elected for a 4-year term as Council Leader.

At the meeting I was elected to the role of Chairman of Member Conduct Committee, and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee.

The Member Conduct Committee serves to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members of Wychavon District Council and members of Parish Councils within the District.

I thought you might like to know that Beverley Hardman, wife of your County Councillor Adrian Hardman, joined the Executive Board, overseeing Climate Change, Environmental Policy, and Regulatory Services.

My work has already started, and I have attended two of the ward's four parish councils, Eckington and Strensham. I am sure, like me, you were disappointed to see the Birlingham Parish Council was not quorate and now has to go through another election process. I hope it is up and running soon.

If you have any queries or issues relating to Wychavon or other public services do not hesitate to contact me.

Telephone 01905 821 732
Email paul.middlebrough@btinternet.com or paul.middlebrough@wychavon.net

Dates for your diary

June

Wed 7	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 10	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Barnards Green CC 3rd XI, 12.30
Thu 15	Birlingham IW outing, 2.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 17	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Old Elizabethans 3rd XI, 12.30

July

Sat 1	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Harvington CC 1st XI, 12.30
Wed 5	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 15	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Ombersley CC 3rd XI, 12.30
Thu 20	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 12th June (for publication on Wednesday 14th June). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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