Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 308 Wednesday 12th July 2023

Editorial

On 18th April 1930, the BBC's news announcer began the single daily broadcast with, "There is no news today," after which a piano concerto was played for the rest of the 15-minute programme.

Such days have long since gone. There is always a war, a natural disaster or a celebrity scandal going on somewhere in the world and the numerous current affairs programmes and 24-hour news channels are never short of something to fill their schedules.

Yet most of this 'news' has no real effect on how we live our lives; if we were to turn off the television or radio we would be no less happy – probably the reverse. In Birlingham, in particular, it would be easy to insulate ourselves from the troublesome world outside and be concerned only with parochial matters. What a happy bunch we would be!

In fact, here in the village, there is sometimes little for *Birlingham News* to report. This week, for example, we have reminders of future events, a first appearance of the Flower & Produce Show, information about keeping dogs under control and a couple of links to external newsletters. Apart from that, we cannot honestly say that anything has *happened* in the village.

Therefore in this issue we are happy to report, "There is no news today." We cannot play you a piano concerto but we can show you some recent photos of the village.



St James' Day Service



Sunday 23rd July

Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward (Tel. 01386 750936)

The St James' Day service will be held on **Sunday 23rd July** at 3.00pm led by Peter Stansbie.

All are welcome, especially members of the groups that give St James' their support in various ways ... the flower arrangers, bell ringers, cleaning groups, chuchyard work parties and the Friends. All play their own individual yet important part in the life of St James'. There will be input by various members of the village during the service and refreshments will be served at the end.

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 19th July

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 19th July at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. During the meeting there is an opportunity to express your views on local issues, so please go along.

The agenda for the meeting is available at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2023-07-19.pdf
and the draft minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 15th March can be viewed at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2023-03-15.pdf.

Birlingham Flower & Produce Show

Saturday 2nd September

by Caryl Mills



The Flower & Produce Show will be taking place on Saturday 2nd September on the Cricket Ground. The Schedules for the Show will be delivered around the village in the next week. The Hanging Basket Competition will be judged at the end of July so please ensure any baskets you want to be judged are visible from the road.

The Committee is also looking for volunteers to join the committee or even just to help on the day. If you are able to assist please contact Caryl Mills caryl-mills@hotmail.co.uk or Dave Kew davidkew20@gmail.com.

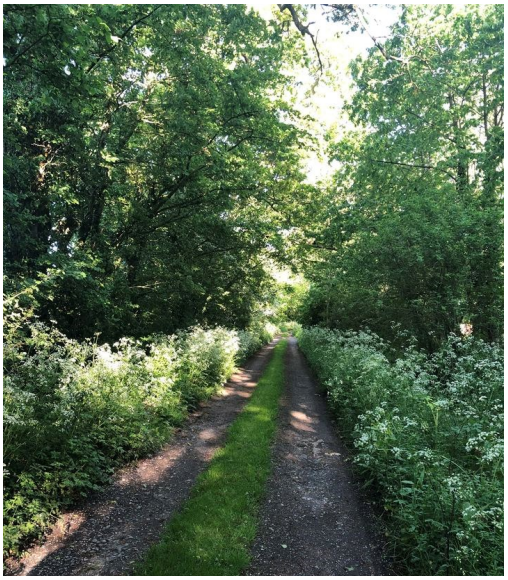
Eckington Bridge Closure

Tuesday 25th July – Friday 25th August

A reminder that Eckington Bridge will be closed for a month from Tuesday 25th July until Friday 25th August. This is to allow the rebuilding of the part of the bridge that was destroyed in the fatal accident on 26th August last year.

Full details, including the notice of closure and diversion maps, are included in the last edition of *Birlingham News Online* at www.birlingham.org/village/bn/bn307.pdf.







(Above and left)
Images from around the village, 15th May
(Photos: Nikki Hollier)

(Below)
Paddle boarding at Swan's Neck, 22nd June
(Photo: Julia Luff)



Why it's important for dogs to be kept on a lead



It is important that ALL road users are aware of The Highway Code, are considerate to other road users and understand their responsibility for the safety of others.

Sadly, there are several people in the village who think it's OK to let their dogs run loose because their dog is well trained.

> **The Road Traffic Act 1988 section 27 - A person who causes or permits a dog to be on a designated road without the dog being held on a lead is guilty of an offence.**

The dog may be trained, but it can still get distracted and run after a squirrel or other animal or pet. The consequences of the dog losing concentration for a split second can have major consequences. Not only is it distressing to witness, but it's unfair on the dog to put them in a situation where they could get injured, lose their life, or injure or scare others.

Local authorities have the power to issue a Dog Control Order, which has a maximum fine of £1,000 – which can be issued as a fixed penalty notice in place of a prosecution.

Other things you could be fined for under this order include failing to remove dog poo, not putting and keeping your dog on a lead when asked to do so, permitting a dog to enter land they're not allowed on, and taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land.

The Highway Code, Rule 56, also says: Do not let a dog out on the road on its own. Keep it on a short lead when walking on the pavement, road or path shared with cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians. This includes bridleways.

The Road Traffic Act 1998, Section 27, also specifies that all dogs – whether near a road or not – should be kept under control by the owner or whoever is in charge at the time.

That means that if you pass the lead of your dog to your young child – however well-intentioned that act might be – and the dog then bolts while your child loses grip on the leash, you can face prosecution.

The Act clearly states that reasonable care must be taken to ensure the dog does not cause injury or damage by straying onto a road. And letting your dog off the lead near a highway just because you think it's infallible is not 'reasonable care'.

Visibility

Although there are no legal requirements, it's important to be mindful of the light and weather conditions – even on a sunny day, you could still find yourself in a tunnel, or in heavy shade cast by trees or tall buildings. wearing reflective and high vis clothing is common sense and can reduce the risk of any collision.

Dangerous dogs

It's against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control anywhere, such as:

- in a public place
- in a private place, for example a neighbour's house or garden
- in the owner's home

The law applies to all dogs

Your dog is considered dangerously out of control if it:

- injures someone
- makes someone worried that it might injure them

A court could also decide that your dog is dangerously out of control if either of the following apply:

- it attacks someone's animal
- the owner of an animal thinks they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking their animal

Penalties

You can get an unlimited fine or be sent to prison for up to 6 months (or both) if your dog is dangerously out of control. You may not be allowed to own a dog in the future and your dog may be destroyed.

If you let your dog injure someone you can be sent to prison for up to 5 years or fined (or both). If you deliberately use your dog to injure someone you could be charged with 'malicious wounding'.

If you allow your dog to kill someone you can be sent to prison for up to 14 years or get an unlimited fine (or both). If you allow your dog to injure an assistance dog (for example a guide dog) you can be sent to prison for up to 3 years or fined (or both).

Always remember that the people you encounter may have impaired sight, hearing or mobility and that this may not be obvious, so please be considerate to your fellow villagers and your dog.

Jayne Brassington

Beauty and Complementary/Holistic Therapist
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Newsletters Two newsletters have arrived

Rural Beat (www.birlingham.org/docs/ruralbeat_summer_2023.pdf) contains information on preventing thefts from vehicles and free farm security surveys.
Our News (www.birlingham.org/docs/neighbourhood_watch_2023_07.pdf) is the latest newsletter from Neighbourhood Watch.





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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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 Spring 2006 edition of the Birlingham Bystander not only achieves a new record of 56 pages but is also the first one to be printed in full colour. The issue begins with a Frank Sinatra tribute act in the Village Hall and there is a report of the latest Drama Group's performance, as well as a piano recital at the Hall.

There are reports of Christmas at St James' Church and Bulb Sunday, along with Carols on the Village Green. Historical articles include the second half of June Barke's history of the Village Hall, Harry Porter's memories of Upper End and John Comins' history of village rectory houses.

There is controversy over the plane tree and village green. Other articles include one on bee keeping by Rosanna Reynard, a trip to the Grand Canyon by Ian Winnard, and Darren Hedges on being the new manager of Revills Farm Shop.

There were two weddings – Hannah Kirkland and Luke Comins – and there is an obituary for Edith Phelps. Ceri Matthews, Chris Morgan and Pam Robinson are welcomed and there is a goodbye to Iris Romary. Henry White was christened.

Issue 55 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander055.pdf

Dates for your diary

July

Sat 15	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Ombersley CC 3rd XI, 12.30pm
Wed 19	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 22	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Worcester CC 3rd XI, 12.30pm
Sun 23	St James' Day Service, 3.00pm, St James' Church
Tue 25	Eckington Bridge closed (until 25th August)

August

Wed 2	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 5	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Burghill, Tillington and Weobley CC 2nd XI , 12.30
Thu 17	Birlingham IW, 2.00pm, Spetchley Gardens (meet at garden entrance)
Sat 19	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Rushwick CC 2nd XI , 12.30

September

Sat 2	Flower & Produce Show, Cricket Ground
Wed 6	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 9	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Bartestree & Lugwardine CC 2nd XI , 12.30

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 July (for publication on Wednesday 26th July). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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