Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 309 Wednesday 26th July 2023

Editorial

Rivers have always provided major boundaries, making life difficult for the human race as it began to move around and needed to trade with other communities.

Bridges therefore began to appear thousands of years ago. The first bridge across the River Thames was built in London by the Romans in AD 45.

The earliest recorded bridge across the Avon between Birlingham and Eckington was constructed in 1440, replacing an existing ferry. The current bridge, consisting of six red sandstone arches, was built in 1772, which must have been a major engineering feat. If it were not for this bridge, we would probably still be patrolling the river bank, angrily waving sticks at the tribes of Great Comberton and Eckington, at a very close but safe distance on the other side.

In modern times we have become used to the bridge being made impassable, often for many days, by frequent winter floods. On 20th July 2007, two months' worth of rain fell in 14 hours. Both Eckington bridge and the bridge over Bow Brook to Defford disappeared under water. The road to Pershore was also flooded, effectively making Birlingham an island for three days.

Eckington bridge, however, was not designed for modern traffic and in the 1980s traffic lights were installed (despite strong objections relating to light pollution in the *Birlingham Bystander*). Even so, there have been occasional accidents, the worst being the fatal crash last August, resulting in a section of the 250-year-old parapet being demolished.

During the closure, the 10-minute, 4-mile round trip to Eckington Stores will become 16 miles, taking up to 40 minutes. When the bridge reopens in a month's time, we will no doubt appreciate how important this wonderful structure is to our daily lives.

Parish Council Report

The report of the Birlingham Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 19th July will be included in the next edition of Birlingham News, which is scheduled for Wednesday 9th August.

Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 2nd August

by Sue Hermon



Our next Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 2nd August 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)



Many thanks to all those who attended and took part in our St James' Patronal Service on 23rd July. It made us realise how much input, by varying groups of people, combine to keep St James' functioning.

Do keep an eye out for our newly-bought St James' flag, which will be flying soon. The flag is usually flown daily, except when other diocesan flags take precedence, and can be recognised by the three scallop shells on it, a symbol of St James. It was designed by Major Harry Porter.

There are no church services in August at St James' but Pershore Abbey will offer a full programme of services throughout the month.

The church will continue to be opened on Wednesdays and Sundays, from 10.30am to 4.30pm. A key is available for access on other days from me on 01386 750936.

Shrubs and Trees Overhanging the Public Highway

The Parish Council has been asked to remind everyone about pruning shrubs and trees, particularly those that overhang the public highway. The owner or occupier of a property has a legal responsibility to ensure that the public highway adjacent to a property is not obstructed by vegetation from their property. Local Authorities also have a legal duty to ensure that public highways are unobstructed, so usually inspect roads regularly and often receive complaints from members of the general public.

The public highway is defined by law as consisting of any verge, footway, carriageway, bridleway or footpath that is maintained at public expense and over which the public has a right of way.

When Local Authorities become aware of such obstructions, they will usually advise the property owner or occupier of the problem. They may sometimes raise the issue with an owner/occupier even if the vegetation only overhangs the pavement/ roadway by a small amount. If the owner/occupier does not take corrective action within a reasonable time, the Local Authority can issue a formal notice for the work to be undertaken and, if that is ignored, they can do the work and charge the owner/ occupier.

So please check your boundaries and if any shrubs or trees are starting to obstruct roads, verges or public footpaths, cut them back!

Eckington Bridge Closure

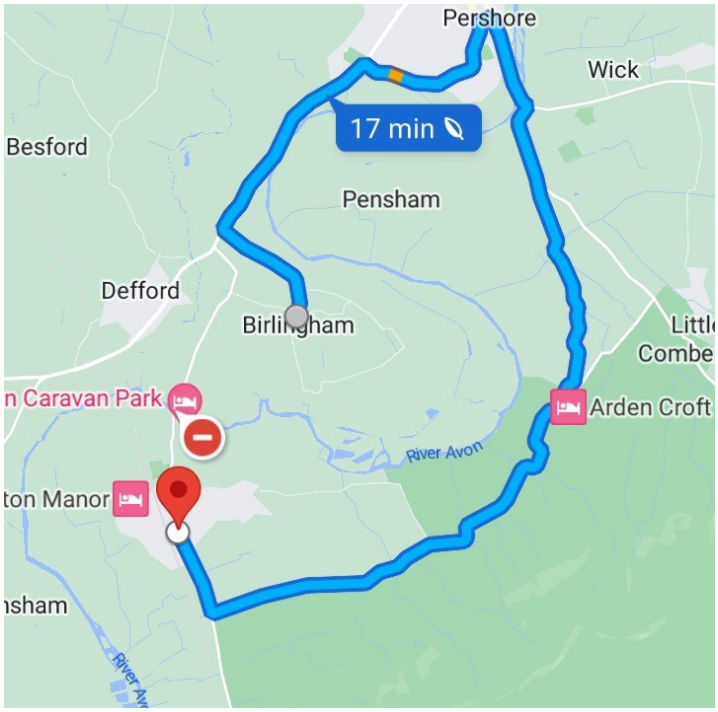
Tuesday 25th July – Friday 25th August

Eckington Bridge is now closed to vehicles 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.

Currently the bridge can be crossed by pedestrians and bicycles only.

Full details, including the notice of closure and diversion maps, are included in a previous edition of *Birlingham News Online* at:

www.birlingham.org/village/bn/bn307.pdf.



Work beginning on the bridge, 25th July (Photos: Ann Maxwell)







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



Busy bee,
16th July
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

LOCAL FINANCIAL PLANNERS

PK Prosser Knowles



In an uncertain and complex world, you need your finances to be made **straightforward and secure**. At Prosser Knowles, we do just that. We provide personal, face-to-face financial planning and wealth management services designed to help you gain control of your finances, protect your loved ones and **achieve your goals**.

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For more information visit: www.prosserknowles.co.uk

Personal Ads

Babysitting/garden watering. Georgina Cook (age 16) is available to babysit for both daytime and evenings Contact details are georginacook07@icloud.com or mobile 07774 988 959. Happy to water gardens too if anyone is away on holiday!

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

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, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
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
Wed 20	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 21	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 7th August (for publication on Wednesday 9th August). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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