Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 316 Wednesday 8th November 2023

Editorial

Today is the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's First Folio, the collection of all his works put together by friends seven years after his death. They produced 750 copies, of which 235 survive. Given the lack of technology at the time and the difficulty of protecting anything so fragile over such a long period, it is remarkable so many still exist.

Meanwhile, a new series is starting on Radio 4 today in which historian Mary Beard looks at the lives of specific Roman individuals, derived by looking at surviving evidence from the time. In other news, 100 undelivered letters sent to French sailors 265 years ago have been unearthed at the National Archives in Kew and researchers have been able to trace the fate of some of those men.

It is extraordinary how historians are able to piece together fragmentary evidence to give us such a vivid picture of life from hundreds – or even thousands – of years ago. It is wonderful that so many artefacts and so much material, such as the first folios, have managed to survive.

Historians in another 400 years will face a very different problem. Barring some worldwide technological failure, they will be confronted by vast quantities of information from previous eras. All our lives will be documented in minute detail, particularly those who regularly post on Facebook, Twitter and the like. Perhaps even our bank accounts and supermarket purchases will be recorded for posterity. However, no doubt those future researchers will have some sort of AI tools to help sift through the overwhelming volume of data, with the ability to create a daily account of any individual in seconds.

While we would certainly not attempt to make a comparison between Shakespeare's First Folio and *Birlingham News*, it is encouraging to think that in the year 2423 the residents of Birlingham, if it still exists, may be able to look back at these pages and get a glimpse of what life was like in the village in the first quarter of the twenty-first century.

Perhaps this also provides us with the opportunity to talk directly to the future. If you could send such a message, what would it be?

St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward (Tel. 01386 750936)

You are reminded that our annual Birlingham Remembrance Day Service will be taking place around the War Memorial on Saturday 11th November at 10.50am. Please be in place before 10.50am. Peter Stansbie is taking the service and refreshments will be served in the church afterwards.

There will be no service in St James' on Remembrance Sunday but services will be held in Eckington and at Pershore Abbey.

Services in December:

* **Sunday 17th December** at 6.00pm: Carols and Christingles.
* **Monday 25th December** at 10.30am: Christmas Day Communion

Details to follow.

Finally, a big thank you to all of the villagers who came to the Benefice Eucharist and helped to swell the numbers in the congregation to 85! It was wonderful to have the church full and the musical contributions of the Abbey choir and their Musical Director plus the bellringers made it a service to remember. Pat Chinneck and Caryl Mills, who provided the refreshments, are not only to be congratulated on the quality but also their speed of delivery in spite of the large numbers.

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 15th November

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 15th November 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_2023-11-15.pdf
and the draft minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 20th September can be viewed at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2023-09-20.pdf.

Birlingham IW

Thursday 16th November *by Caryl Mills*



The next meeting of Birlingham IW will be on Thursday 16th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Our speaker will be John Butterworth, who will be talking about Christmases at a Famous Hotel. So something seasonal!

All welcome. Visitor fee £3.

Churchyard Tidy-Up – Thanks

by Pat Chinneck

We had an excellent turnout on 28th October for the Churchyard Tidy-Up and consequently a lot of jobs were achieved. It's especially lovely to be able to see more of the churchyard as you look across from Church Street.

Thank you to all those villagers involved.

St James' Tower Lights

by Peter Luff

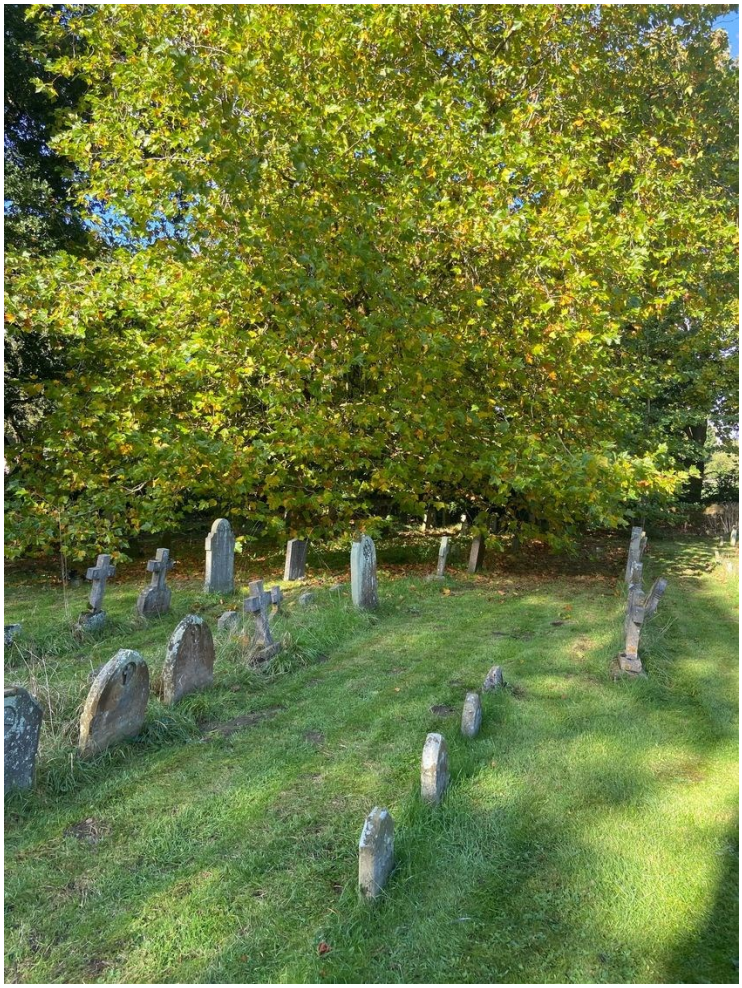
Following lengthy trials and consideration of the responses to the consultation over the use of the new tower floodlight, the Parochial Church Council has decided the light should be on seven days a week from dusk to 22.00hrs.

The LCD light consumes 45W so it will cost a little over a penny an hour. Its colour temperature means it doesn't interfere with bats.

The PCC and the Friends of St James' hope the village enjoys the gentle illumination this winter and for many years to come.



St James' Chuch, floodlit during the full moon, 29th October
(Photo: Chris Hermon)



Snowdrop Teas 2024

by Caryl Mills

We will be holding teas on 3rd and 4th, 10th and 11th, 17th and 18th, and 23rd and 24th February. I cannot guarantee that we will have such a successful year as this year but the teas only happen because of the fantastic support and help of the people of Birlingham.

We will be needing help with serving teas, setting up the Hall and taking down the tables and most importantly baking the cakes that draw the crowds. If you are able to help please let me know - more details will be available in January 2024. We also need some more teapots as some are coming to the end of their useful life. I am happy to take donations at any time.

If you have any old jigsaw puzzles that you would like to donate to sell for the church funds then please do sort them out. They were popular last year. More details nearer the time.

Most importantly - this will be the last year that I will be organising the Teas. The Friends of St James' are looking for a team of people to take on this important fundraiser, which helps maintain the fabric of the Church and our churchyard. If you feel able to assist then there will be the opportunity to find out what it entails during the Teas next year. If you want to discuss this then please do not hesitate to contact me, caryl-mills@hotmail.co.uk, 01386 751748.

The churchyard after recent mowing, 26th October
(Photo: Peter Luff)

Revills Farm Update

by John Sansome

Here are a couple of things which are happening on the farm that may be of interest:

Swan's Neck

We have paid for Western Power to disconnect the electricity supply to the old irrigation pump house at Swan's Neck. When this is complete we will be removing the pump and structure ahead of the tree planting this winter. The second pump house is still in use.

Hedgerow coppicing

We are undertaking a small area of hedgerow coppicing on the farm this winter. Coppicing is a method of rejuvenating overgrown hedgerows which are thin in the bottom by cutting back the main stem to just above ground level. The stem is cut on an angle to encourage the water to run off over winter. In the spring, lots of shoots will grow from the base. We will combine the coppicing with 'gapping up' - new plants will be established in the gaps of the old hedge to produce a continuous hedge that provides an improved wildlife corridor.

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

Bystander Archives

The Spring 2008 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* begins with a charity event for St Richards' Hospice and articles about the village alpacas and Mark Yeomans' Lagonda. Michael Porter writes about changes in farming practices and the centre pages contain a selection of colour photographs around the village.

The Birlingham Drama Group hosted two events and June Barke writes about Birlingham Independent Women. Linda and Steven Byrne describe the Peking to Paris Endurance Rally in their Aston Martin DB6. Other articles include wine making in Birlingham, the Parish Council and Richard and Lenka Hill's new life in the Czech Republic.

Issue 59 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:

www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander059.pdf



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

Planning Applications

The following planning application has been determined by Wychavon District Council:

Broadgrove Nursery Farm Shop, Eckington Road: Commercial redevelopment of nursery site with 7no. units (Case No. W/23/00042/FUL). **Approved**. Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/23/00042/FUL.

The Parish Council comments are available at:

http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_23_00042.pdf.

Dates for your diary

November

Sat 11	Remembrance Day Service, 10.50am, Village Green
Sun 12	Remembrance services at Eckington and Pershore Abbey
Wed 15	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 16	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall

December

Wed 6	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 17	Carols and Christingles, 6.00pm, St James' Church
Thu 21	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Mon 25	Christmas Day Communion, 10.30am, St James' Church

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.

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 20th November (for publication on Wednesday 22nd November). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, in any form or by any means, without permission from the Publisher.
© 2023 Birlingham Jubilee Committee
Published online twice monthly by Birlingham Jubilee Committee (email: news@birlingham.org)