Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 319 Wednesday 13th December 2023

Editorial

The controversy over the Quay at Swan's Neck continues unabated. The beautiful woodland that so many have loved for so long is gone, along with the grassed area where the riverbank could be enjoyed. New saplings have now been planted inside the disputed barbed wire enclosure. The track through the middle of the small wood, which has been used by villagers for decades, has been obliterated.

One resident recently described the area as looking 'like something from the Somme'. Another has referred to 'the annexation of our common land'. These emotive views have been brought on by the swift actions of the last four weeks, which have left people shell-shocked. Tempting though it may be, however, we will not make further trite comparisons with other major world events.

After the woodland was unexpectedly wiped off the map in February, without any warning, the farm stated that 'more effective communications have been established' and they were 'very hopeful that this sort of misunderstanding will be avoided' (see *Birlingham News online* no. 299). On the morning of Monday 6th November, the farm held a meeting with representatives of the Parish Council, at which they announced their decision to fence off the area for replanting. Work began that afternoon. Apparently the promise of 'effective communications' is as ephemeral as the PDF it was written on.

Meanwhile, maps are being compared, authorities consulted and historical research undertaken. No doubt there will be a lull in hostilities over the Christmas period and we will do no more now than show you some photographs of the current scene. In the New Year, *Birlingham News* will present the wealth of evidence that has been collected and put both sides of the argument for you to consider.

In the meantime, we welcome your letters or brief comments on this topic (or any other) at news@birlingham.org. Any correspondence will be published in January (names can be omitted on request).

Birlingham Quay may be only a small part of our village heritage – but its sudden disappearance leaves a large hole in the hearts of many.

Christmas at the Swan

by Zoe Haines



The Swan Inn will be running normal opening hours up to Christmas Eve and then shall be open for drinks 12.00 noon till 2.00pm on Christmas Day.

Due to a family wedding we shall then be closed until the New Year and will reopen as usual on Wednesday 10th January for lunch service.

We would like to thank you all for your kind support and company this year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,
Will, Zoe, Jacob and George

St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward (Tel. 01386 750936)

Services at St James' Church during December will be held at the following times:

* **Sunday 17th**: Carols and Christingles Service, 6.00pm (led by Peter Stansbie).

  This service retells the Christmas story with contributions from all ages and is followed by mulled wine or soft drinks with seasonal picks in the Village Hall.

* **Monday 25th**: Christmas Day Holy Communion, 10.30am (led by Bishop Michael Hooper)

  This is the second service that Bishop Michael has kindly taken for us and will be a fitting start to your Christmas Day celebrations.

  *Please note that there will be **no refreshments** following this service as our flyer incorrectly stated!*

New WhatsApp Group

by Jessica Dormer

We would like to set up a WhatsApp group for the village, to enable people to contact their neighbours as easily as possible. It would be mainly for the more immediate things in life – you might need to borrow something and want to ask if anyone can help out, or perhaps you have a glut of home-grown fruit or vegetables and want to offer them to others. Or you might be looking for recommendations for tradesmen, or help to do something else.

If you are interested in joining, please email Jessica Dormer (Whitehall House) at:

jessica@thedormers.net

and I will send you a link to join the group. Alternatively, message me on WhatsApp on 07939 695113.

Snowdrop Teas 2024

by Caryl Mills

Thank you to everyone who has offered to help with and bake for the Snowdrop Teas in February 2024. This is the main fundraiser for the Church of St James the Great in Birlingham and the money raised each year is used to keep the fabric of the church in good order and to make improvements to the building. In the last few years (thanks to the efforts of the current Chair, Sir Peter Luff) water has been piped to the Church and we are all enjoying seeing the Church lit up in the evenings with the new LED lighting. With the number of services being reduced, this fundraising is more important than ever.

The Friends of St James' are looking for a team of people to organise the Snowdrop Teas so that the task is spread among a number of people rather than just relying on one person. I am standing down from organising the teas after February 2024 so if you are interested in joining the team to make sure that this very popular annual event continues in 2025 please let me know. If you want more information about what is involved then I am very happy to run through it with anyone.

My contact details are:
caryl-mills@hotmail.co.uk,
07766 657666 or 01386 751748.

New planting at Swan's Neck

(Photos: Julia Luff)











(Above) Swan's Neck in happier times (2nd July 2017)
(Photo: Steve Morris)

Christmas Bin Collections

Dates for bin collections in Birlingham over the Christmas period are as follows:

- **Black bins**: Wednesday 27th December (replacing Monday 25th December) plus up to two extra black refuse sacks placed next to the bin

  Tuesday 9th January (replacing Monday 8th January) – **no** extra black refuse sacks

- **Green bins**: Wednesday 3rd January (replacing Monday 1st January) plus any number of clear recycling sacks placed next to the bin

- **Brown bins**: Monday 1st January as usual

Clear recycling sacks will be available from Pershore Civic Centre but any clear sacks can be used.

Make sure that your bins are out by 7.00am as collections may be earlier than usual.

The bin collection calendar for next year is shown opposite, Wychavon District Council's useful guide to what can and cannot go in your green recycling bin over Christmas is on the next page.

Full details of Christmas collections and other information about waste and recycling are available at:

https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/christmas-waste-and-recycling



Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been received by the Parish Council:

Rose Cottage, Church Street: Certificate of Lawfulness to demonstrate that an existing extension to caravan complies with definition of a mobile home under the Caravans Act 1968. (Case No. W/23/02032/CLE). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on !st January.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:
https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/23/02032/CLE

Broadgrove Nursery Farm Shop, Eckington Road: Permission in Principle for the construction of up to 4no. dwellings (Case No. W/23/02328/PIP). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 20th December.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:
https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/23/02328/PIP

Birlingham Nurseries, Upper End: Construction of one secure storage unit and one covered storage unit ancillary to the use of the nursery (Case No. W/23/02421/FUL). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 31st December.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:
https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/23/02421/FUL

Brockham, Upper End: Erection of single storey and two-storey extensions, and garage, with internal and external alterations, to include modified access (Case No. W/23/02237/HP). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 14th December.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:
https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/23/02237/HP

The following planning applications have been determined by Wychavon District Council:

Whitehall House, Whitehall Lane: Proposed front and rear single storey extensions (Case No. W/23/01943/HP). **Approved**. Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:
https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/23/01943/HP
The Parish Council comments are available at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_23_01943.pdf

The Bungalow, Upper End: Change of use of land to residential garden (Case No. W/23/01802/CU). **Approved**. Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:
https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/23/01802/CU
The Parish Council comments are available at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_23_01802.pdf

Your naughty and nice Christmas recycling guide

by Wychavon District Council

Here is our guide to help you get your recycling right and cut your waste this Christmas. Visit our recycling search to find out about all the items you can recycle at home.

The Nice List

These go in your green bin/clear sack or can be taken to a Household Recycling Centre where indicated.

Wrapping paper – if it is not glittery or metallic/plastic lined. Scrunch your wrapping paper into a ball and if it holds its shape it can be recycled

Cardboard packaging – please flatten before putting in your green bin/clear sack.

Glass bottles – all colours can go in your green bin. If on a sack collection, please take to a Household Recycling Centre or one of our bring banks.

Crackers – if the wrapper can be scrunched and holds its shape then it can be recycled along with the cardboard tube, paper joke, paper hat and the snapper. Any plastic prize inside needs to go in your black bin/sack.

Plastic bottles – all colours except black can go in your green bin/clear sack. Leave lids on.

Advent calendars – the outer cardboard and plastic inner can go in your green bin/clear sack if it is free from foil or chocolate and is not made of black plastic.

Plastic tubs - pots or trays, such as those used for nibbles or dips (as long as not black plastic), can go in your green bin/clear sack.

Metal drinks cans - these go in your green bin/clear sack.

Tin foil – if clean and free from food this can be recycled at a Household Recycling Centre. Please do not put in your green bin/clear sack.

Cardboard takeaway boxes – if not too greasy and free from food these can go in your green bin/clear sack

Plastic or metal sweet/biscuit tins – these go in your green bin/clear sack.

Christmas cards – these go in your green bin/clear sack or save them to reuse as tags next year.

The Naughty List

These items go in your black bin/sack.

Tinsel and other non-paper-based decorations.

Black plastic – of any kind.

Polystyrene – like the kind used in packaging.

Paper napkins and plates.

Metallic or plastic-backed wrapping paper (do the scrunch test to check).

Glitter-covered products and bows or ribbons (unless you can save them to use next year).

Santa's Helpers

Additional ways to reduce and reuse.

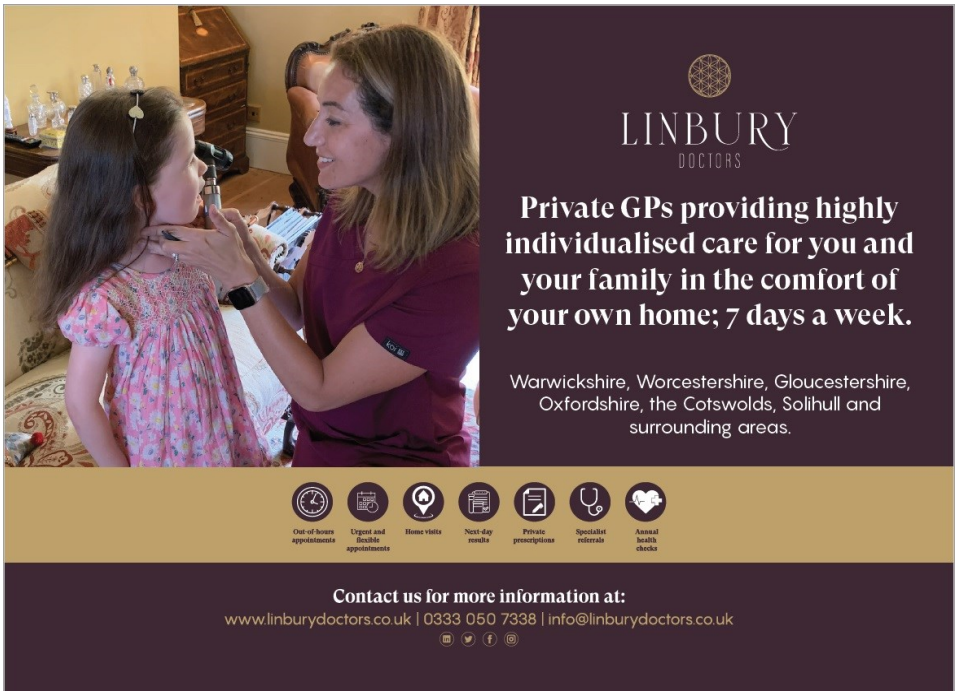
Christmas trees – real ones can be taken to Household Recycling Centres.

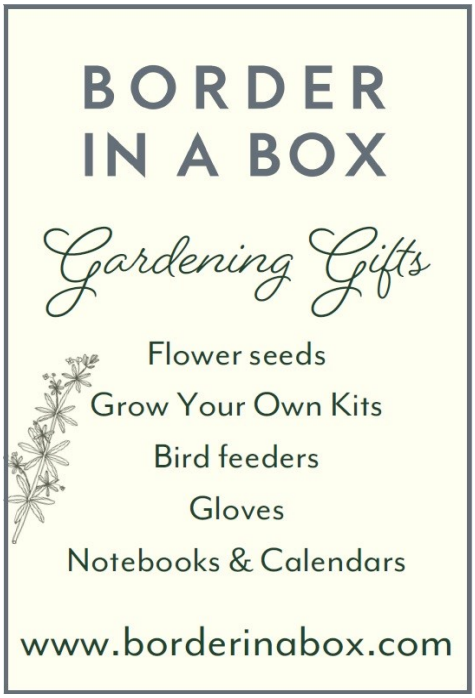
Food waste – portion plan and use up leftovers. Visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for tips.

Clothing – if good quality donate them to a charity shop or put them out for collection with your black bin/sack in a plastic bag and we will take them to be reused or recycled.

Unwanted toys/gifts – donate them to a charity shop.

Batteries – take them to any supermarket or retailer that sells batteries and use their battery recycling point. You can also put them in a plastic bag and leave them on top of your **black bin** for recycling.





Thatch re-ridging at the Old Post Office

20th-27th November

(Photos: Nick Baskerville)



The old ridge removed





New ridge going on



Before cutting out



Cutting out

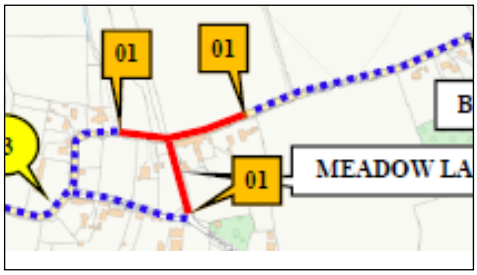


Finished

Road Closure – Broadway Road

Broadway Road, from the Almshouses to South Mede House, plus Meadow Lane to the junction with Berwick Lane, will be closed for three days from 24th January. This is to allow for utility works by Openreach.

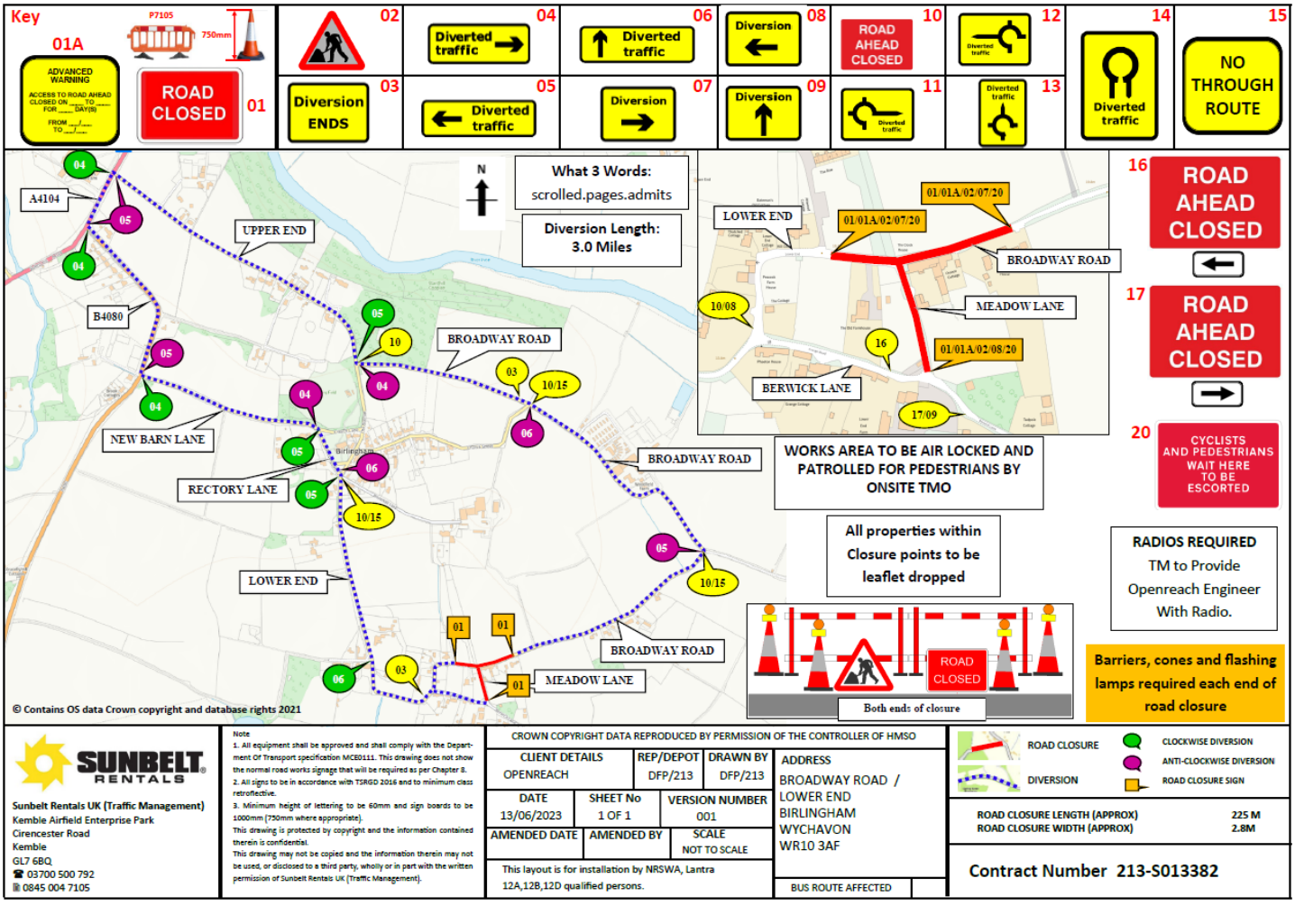
The notice of closure is given opposite and the diversion map is below.



WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC NOTICE
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
(U46419 Lower End & C2271 Broadway Road, Birlingham) (Temporary Closure) Order 2024

Proposed Order: to close that part of: **Closure 1: U46419 Lower End** from its junction with U46418 Berwick Lane to its junction with C2271 Broadway Road.
Closure 2: C2271 Broadway Road from its junction with U46419 Meadow Lane in both directions for a distance 65 metres.
Reason: Utility works by Openreach
Exemptions: to permit access to any land or premises fronting the highway affected where there is no other form of access; and to allow the works to be undertaken.
Alternative route: C2271 Lower End, C2271 Rectory Lane, C2271 New Barn Lane, B4080 Eckington Road, A4104 Defford Road, C2271 Upper End, C2271 Broadway Road (part) and vice versa.
Maximum duration: 18 Months. Anticipated duration: **3 days (24hrs).** Commencing: **24 January 2024**
Thomas Pollock Head of Commercial Law (Legal & Governance) County Hall Spetchley Road Worcester
28 December 2023

1514604 -1-U46419 Lower End, Birlingham
Streetworks Admin WCPO00059177



Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter

The latest SNT newsletter contains contact details, which are reproduced below, for members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The full newsletter is available at:

http://www.birlingham.org/docs/safer_neighbourhood_team_2023_nov.pdf

On the beat in **Pershore Rural**

Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter **November 2023**

Team contact details

Team email: pershorerural.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Safer Neighbourhood Officer: PC 21751 KEELER **Mobile:** 07815946084

Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 6562 DOUGHTY **Mobile:** 07814040601

Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 40501 SMITH **Mobile:** 07971395274

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team has one Safer Neighbourhood Officer and two Police Community Support Officer. The two community support officers work between the rural Pershore areas and Pershore town. Our team does not work 24 hours and as such the team mailbox is not monitored 24/7. Between a mixture of shifts the team work between 08:00 and 22:00.

How to contact SNT

Pershore Rural has a direct email address which all members of the team have access to, pershorerural@westmercia.police.uk. Please do email us with queries and non-crime incidents. These types of incidents including: nuisance vehicles, suspicious circumstances, anti-social behaviour (if past the incident), nuisance noise, neighbour disputes and fly tipping. These incidents whereby they do not require an immediate response or crime reference can be directly emailed to us and we aim to get back to you as soon as possible.

If your matter is a non-urgent crime such as reporting criminal damage after the event, vehicle crime and burglaries please call 101 or alternatively you can report these online at: Home | West Mercia Police.

If you are in immediate danger and need to contact us regarding an incident which is happening at that time and you need urgent assistance please call us on 999.

We also try and regularly update our areas on ongoing issues through Neighbourhood Matters and our Facebooks and Twitter pages: PershoreCOPS.

NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS

John Campion
Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia

Urgency: 3 2 1

GOOD NEWS

Free online driver awareness session



FREE DRIVER AWARENESS SESSION

Could you do with brushing up on your Highway Code knowledge? Do you know what all the road signs mean?

If you think you'd benefit from a refresh, PCC John Campion is holding a free driver awareness session as part of his Roads Focus campaign.

The session, which will be run by TTC and take place on Thursday 14 December, 6:00pm - 8:00pm via zoom.

Interested? Book your place below…

Roads Focus - Driver awareness session Tickets, Thu 14 Dec 2023 at 18:00 | Eventbrite

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

Planning Applications

The list of planning application appears on page 123.

JACKSON FAMILY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Ethical Funeral Directors

Honest Advice – Personal Choice
Transparent Costs

Jackson Family Funeral Directors are leading the way in disrupting the practices of traditional funeral directors. We are changing the understanding of how funeral directors can be pillars of the community by delivering a service that is second-to-none, honest and ethical.

Call us today on 01684 594 971

office@jacksonfamilyfunerals.com
jacksonfamilyfunerals.com

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 Autumn 2008 edition of the Birlingham Bystander is a bumper issue of 64 pages.

Historical articles include 'A Walk Through Time on Bredon Hill' by Ann Maxwell, the 1947 cine film of Birlingham and the Birlingham Almshouses.

There is a report of a tour of the bell tower by the IW, and a report from the bellringers. Several items relate to the church and its future. There is detailed information on the Environment Agency Fisheries Monitoring Programme.

Events included a jazz evening at the Village Hall, the Village Fete, the Bishop's Castle Tandem Triathlon, the Car Rally, the IW quilt workshop, the Flower & Produce Show.and the Friends of St James' Golf Day.

The wedding is reported of James Phelps and Helen Randall. There are obituaries for Geoff Hill, Ray Nash and Norah Reinwart.

Issue 60 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander060.pdf

Jayne Brassington

Beauty and Complementary/Holistic Therapist
Animal Angelic Reiki Practitioner

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By appointment only
For full details of available treatments visit
www.salonespritdecorps.com
www.animalholistichealing.co.uk
mob 07770401359
Email jebrassington@btinternet.com

Dates for your diary

December

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
Tue 26	Swan Inn closed until 10th January

January

Wed 3	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Wed 10	Swan Inn reopens
Wed 17	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 18	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 Friday 22nd December (for publication on Wednesday 27th December). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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