Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 320[2] Wednesday 27th December 2023

Editorial

Like the calm in the morning after a great storm, Christmas is suddenly over. We are in that lull in festivities from Boxing Morrow until New's Year Eve when we can all relax with a huge sigh of relief.

Traditionally, it is the time when we look back at the year that is ending and make resolutions for the new one that is about to begin. For our part, we are providing you with a review of the year in Birlingham in pictures, some from previous editions of *Birlingham News online*, others not previously published. We look forward to hearing your resolutions for the year!

We hope you all had a very merry Christmas and we wish you a happy New Year.

Winter *Bystander*

We have had a few delays with the Winter issue of the *Birlingham Bystander*. However, it is now at the printers and will be in production when they return to work after Christmas.

This is a substantial edition, which will hopefully boost your spirits in the dark days of January.

We are already collecting material for the Spring *Bystander*, which will be published in April/May. The copy date for that edition is 7th March, so if you have any articles you would like us to include, please email them to bystander@birlingham.org.

With best wishes for the New Year
The Bystander Team



Cuppa & Chat

by Sue Hermon



It was lovely to see so many at our festive December Cuppa & Chat get together. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did.

There will be **no Cuppa & Chat in January** as several helpers are unavailable, but we will see you all again on Wednesday February 7th.

We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and our very best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

From all the Cuppa & Chat team



St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward (Tel. 01386 750936)

There are no services in January.

Thanks go to Fran and Steve Cant who decorated the Christmas Tree in the church porch and the flower arrangers for such beautiful arrangements inside the church.

A Happy New Year to all in Birlingham, from the Churchwarden and members of the PCC.

Swan Inn Re-opening

Wednesday 10th January

The Swan Inn will re-open after its Christmas break for lunch on Wednesday 10th January.



Thank you

Thanks to all those of you who have contributed to *Birlingham News online* this year.

In particular, thank you to our regular contributors, who keep us up to date with news and events in the village: Sue Hermon, Caryl Mills, Adrianne Woodward and Ian Yates.

Thanks also to those who keep us supplied with topical photographs for the online edition: June Hiden, Nikki Hollier, Julia Luff, Peter Luff and Ann Maxwell.

Finally, thank you to the dozens of people who have made other contributions to *Birlingham News* over the last twelve months.



Carols and Christingles

17th December

(Left to right, top to bottom)

◊ *Peter Stansbie giving Christingle explanation*
◊ *Hettie Smith singing Silent Night*
◊ *The Crib*
◊ *Crib scene – Tom & Alfie Yates*
◊ *Madeleine Frost*
◊ *Gabriella Ursell*
(Photos: Chris Hermon)











New Year Bin Collections

Dates for bin collections in Birlingham in the New Year are as follows:

- **Black bins**: 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**: Wednesday 3rd January (replacing Monday 1st January)

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.



Wychavon District Council's useful guide to what can and cannot go in your green recycling bin over Christmas is repeated below.

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

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.

BIRLINGHAM 2023

The Year in Pictures

January



Sunrise over Bredon Hill, 13th January at 7.45am

(Photo: Julia Luff)



A hoar frost at Nafford, 25th January

(Photo: Julia Luff)

February



The damaged area in Jubilee Wood on 1st February





(Above and right) Swan's Neck during the felling operation on 6th February

(Photos: Michael Porter)



(Left) Rowan Williams entertained Birlingham IW on 16th February with a talk on his time on The Great British Bake-off





Snowdrops for sale and in St James' churchyard, 8th February
(Photos: Nikki Hollier)





The return of the phone box, 16th February
(Photo: Tony Hawgood)



The phone box back in situ
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)





New planting in Jubilee Wood on 27th February, 100 plants including common alder, silver birch, crab apple, wild cherry, hazel and hawthorn

(Photo: John Sansome)

The refurbished Millennium Bench, installed on 17th February

(Photo: Maxine Cook)

March



Trial of floodlighting, 7th March
(Photo: Peter Luff)

April



Worcestershire Black Pear Blossom in Lower End, 15th April

(Photo: Nikki Hollier)



Blossom in Rectory Lane, 21st April

(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

Coronation Lunch, 7th May












Two restored coaches visit Birlingham, 11th May

(Photo: Julia Luff)



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)

June



Paddle boarding at Swan's Neck, 22nd June

(Photo: Julia Luff)

July





Work beginning on the bridge, 25th July

(Photos: Ann Maxwell)

August



Scaffolding erected on the bridge, 1st August
(Photo: Ann Maxwell)



Reflections on River Avon, 16th August
(Photo: Julia Luff)



Birlingham Art Live, 26-27th August



Repairs completed, 21st August
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

September



Flower & Produce Show, 3rd September
(Photo: Kris Mills)



Pershore Abbey from Broadway Road, 4th September
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)





Balloon over Birlingham, 6th September:
(Left) Approaching the church (Photo: Nikki Hollier)
(Right) Coming down (Photo: Ann Maxwell)

October



A selection of the cover crops growing in the fields around Birlingham. Mixtures of crimson clover, buckwheat, vetch, phacelia, rye, berseem clover, oats and barley. They play an important role in our crop rotation, protect the soil, capture nutrients, support pollinators, feed the soil life and even look pretty whilst they do it! 6th October
(Photo: John Sansome)




Views of the floods from Gravelly Hill, 21st October

(Photos: Nikki Hollier)

November

Swan's Neck



Facing east, before fencing, 10th November

(Photo: Julia Luff)



Facing east, after fencing, 15th November

(Photo: Ian Yates)



Facing west, after fencing, 15th November

(Photo: Ian Yates)



New planting, 29th November

(Photo: Julia Luff)

Thatch re-ridging at the Old Post Office, 20th-27th November



Before cutting out



Finished

(Photos: Nick Baskerville)

December



Carol Service – Distribution of Christingles, 17th December

(Photo: Chris Hermon)

(Top) St James' on full moon, 29th October
(Photo: Chris Hermon)

(Bottom) Sheep grazing cover crops on Shorthill, 2nd December
(Photo: June Hiden)





New WhatsApp Group

by Jessica Dormer

We have 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.

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.

Dates for your diary

January

Wed 3	**No** Cuppa & Chat
Wed 10	Swan Inn reopens
Wed 17	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 18	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall

February

Wed 7	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 15	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 8th January (for publication on Wednesday 10th January). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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