Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 321 Wednesday 10th January 2024

Editorial

Are you already fed up with talk of the General Election and its possible dates? Are you dreading the constant political debate and punditry? You are not alone!

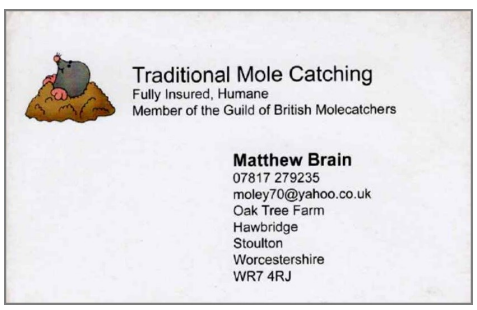
This is going to be a year of important elections worldwide, not just in the UK. The USA seems to be heading for a second Trump presidency; Narendra Modi is standing for a third term in charge of India, where democracy is increasingly fragile; and Putin's re-election in Russia is a foregone conclusion. They make our forthcoming UK election seem tame and almost bland.

With so much election talk already, it is perhaps not surprising that many are starting to 'switch off'. Yet, this is our once-in-five-years opportunity to have our say.

It is all too easy to blame our apathy on corrupt or self-centred politicians; we only ever hear about the misdemeanours and failings of those in control. However, the vast majority of politicians, of all colours, at both national and local level, are hard working and care deeply about the communities they represent. Sadly such dedication is not considered newsworthy by the media.

So this year, spare a thought for the hundreds of well-meaning, hopeful candidates from all the parties and the thousands of activists who work tirelessly to support them. If we are not prepared to get involved in the political process, the least we can do is take some time to consider carefully what is on offer and cast our votes.

In the end, it is the electorate that must take responsibility for those who are elected – and we get the politicians we deserve.



Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 17th January

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 17th January 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 will be available at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2024-01-17.pdf
and the draft minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 15th November will be at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2023-11-15.pdf.

Birlingham IW 2024

Thursday 18th January *by Caryl Mills*



The first meeting of 2024 is on Thursday 18th January, 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Officially it is our AGM but the business side only takes a few minutes. There will be a speaker talking about our local Library Services.

It is also subscription time; we are not raising subscriptions again this year so either bring £25 in cash or a cheque made payable to Birlingham IW with you to join up. We have an interesting programme of talks, outings and events for you to join in with. Let your friends and neighbours know to come along. We look forward to seeing you all.

Flower Arranging

by Jayne Mackenzie

I would like to give huge thanks to Joan Hollier who, after many years of loyal flower arranging in the church, is stepping down. Joan (and in later years with the help of her daughter, Angie) has decorated her windowsill with expertise and skill to produce wonderful arrangements which have given pleasure to so many people.

Judi Glover has kindly agreed to take over decorating Joan's windowsill.



Joan's arrangement for last year's Coronation

St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward (Tel. 01386 750936)

Services at St James' Church during the next three months will be held at the following times:

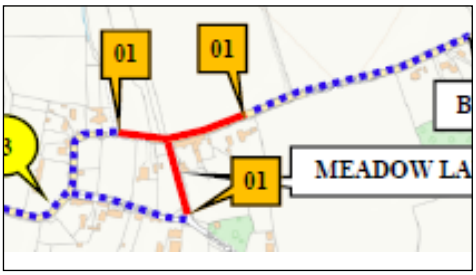
* **January**: No services
* **Sunday 4th February**: Bulb Sunday Service, 3.00pm.

  The service will be led by Canon Claire Lording and will include items from the Upton Parish Choir and their Director of Music, John Holloway, will be the organist. Teas can be bought after the service in the Village Hall. Proceeds will go to the Friends of St James' to help with the upkeep of the fabric of the church.
* **Sunday 31st March**: Easter Day Holy Communion, 10.30am

  The service will be led by Bishop Michael Hooper. Refreshments will be available in the church after the service.

Road Closure – Broadway Road

A reminder that 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.



NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS

John Campion
Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia

Urgency: 3 2 1
PCC GENERAL MESSAGE

Free Driver Awareness Sessions



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

PCC John Campion is committed to making West Mercia's roads safer. As part of this commitment, he has relaunched the Roads Focus campaign in partnership with local authorities.

Working together with West Mercia Police, which includes local policing teams and the Road Safety Team, local councils and council highways teams, the PCC's 'Roads Focus' campaign will see drop-in and driver awareness sessions take place across West Mercia.

The driver awareness sessions, run by TTC, are open to everybody and will give you an opportunity to refresh your knowledge of the Highway Code and improve your overall driver behaviour.

Driving Awareness Sessions:

Two **free** driver awareness session will be taking place **6pm – 7:30pm**:

Tuesday 23 January – Via Zoom – Book your spot here

Wednesday 31 January – Via Zoom – Book your spot here

Recent Flooding in Birlingham



Traffic chaos, 5th December
(Photo: Louise Isobel)



Aerial View of Eckington Bridge, 4th January
(Photo: George Sharpe)



Bredon Hill from Gravelly Hill, 1st January
(Photo: June Hiden)



Aptly named Wetlands, 2nd January
(Photo: Julia Luff)



New trees getting a drink at Swan's Neck, 3rd January
(Photo: Ann Maxwell)



Floods recede in Berwick Lane, 5th January
(Photo: Julia Luff)

Planning Applications

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

The Russells, Whitehall Lane: Window and door replacement, and installation of solar panels and battery (Case No. W/23/02477/HP). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 1st February.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/23/02477/HP

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

Hills Cottage, Upper End: First floor extension over existing carport. The enclosure of carport bay at ground floor level to create entrance hall and construction of zinc standing seam roof to link house to carport. Addition of PV solar panels (Planning Application Case No. W/22/02657/HP). **Approved**. Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/22/02657/HP

The Parish Council comments are available at:

http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_22_02657A.pdf

http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_22_02657B.pdf

http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_22_02657C.pdf

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



Unbelievably, we are now starting our sixth year of publishing previous editions online of the *Birlingham Bystander* – just three more years until we are up to date!

The issue begins with articles on the Karate Club, Australian Fires and Fell Running. There is a report and photos of New Year's Eve at the Swan and two events organised by the Drama Group. The phone box had just been adopted by the Parish Council. Among many other articles there is a piece on the 'Berlingeham' entry in the Domesday Book.

Oliver and Jessica Humphreys were christened and there were obituaries for Arthur Pritty, Esmee Driver and Peter Clarke. Martin and Debbie Downes and family were welcomed back, along with Ed and Lynn Thompson. Audrey Peace and Carole McKenna moved from Dairy Cottage, and Jane Thorndale and Peter Bryenton left Rectory Cottage (its last inhabitants).

Issue 61 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:

www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander061.pdf

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

Dates for your diary

January

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

Sat 3/Sun 4	Snowdrop Teas
Sun 4	Bulb Sunday Service, 3.00pm, St James' Church
Wed 7	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 10/Sun 11	Snowdrop Teas
Thu 15	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 17/Sun 18	Snowdrop Teas
Sat 24/Sun 25	Snowdrop Teas

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 22nd January (for publication on Wednesday 24th January). 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.
© 2024 Birlingham Jubilee Committee
Published online twice monthly by Birlingham Jubilee Committee (email: news@birlingham.org)