Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 323 Wednesday 14th February 2024

Editorial

All species need to evolve, adapting to an ever changing environment, in order to survive. It is this evolution, over billions of years, that has given us the stunning array of plants, animals and other lifeforms that inhabit our world today. This process has also resulted in our development from simple organisms into the human beings we are now.

Evolution is also an essential process for our organisations. If they are to survive into the future they too must change with the times. The same is true for *Birlingham News*. The simple email that sufficed as a means of broadcasting village news twelve years ago has now evolved into the more sophisticated publication that you have just downloaded.

And in the same way that primitive species, competing for limited resources, tend to be replaced by their more effective descendents, so it is that the original *Birlingham News* is now struggling to share the limited resources with the new online edition. For this reason, we have taken the decision to concentrate on the more time-consuming *Birlingham News online* – as described in the article opposite.

This edition is a prime example of how much more can be offered by the online version. It contains full details of the current Airband situation, a link to the Parish Matters newsletter, an article on the visit by the Wychavon chairman, full information of future road closures, details of an event at Pershore Abbey, and Energy Saving Support information – plus a selection of the many photographs of floods, snowdrops and rainbows that we have received from a number of people over the last two weeks.

Therefore, the current edition of the *Birlingham News* email will be the last in its current format – unless, of course, we hear howls of protest over the next two weeks!

Birlingham News – New Format

We are proposing to make changes to the way we deliver *Birlingham News*.

The first edition of *Birlingham News* was distributed twelve years ago, on 24th February 2012. At that time, it was decided to create an email containing just plain text so that it could be read on as wide a range of devices as possible. Since then there have been huge improvements in technology and now almost every device is capable of accessing the internet and displaying pictures and graphics.

Two years ago we began producing an online edition of *Birlingham News*, published at the same time as the email. This format has allowed us to include much larger articles than can be reasonably included in the email version, as well as providing the opportunity to publish photographs, adverts for events, and other features that are not suitable for the plain text of the email format.

However, producing two different versions of the same edition is time consuming and has become more so as the number of contributors has increased. We have therefore taken the decision to concentrate on the online edition in future. From the next issue in two weeks' time, we will still send out an email but this will simply list the articles in the online edition and provide a link to the PDF.

We will continue to send out urgent email Updates between editions as necessary (such as the request last week for help with the Snowdrop Teas and the news of the break-ins the week before).

Those without internet access will still receive hand-delivered copies of the PDF.

If, for any reason, you can receive the emails but are unable to access the PDF versions, please let us know. Either email us at news@birlingham.org or contact a member of the *Birlingham News* team (June Hiden, Ann Maxwell or Steve Morris).

We will continue to publish two editions a month, on the second and fourth Wednesdays, and we will aim to make *Birlingham News* available from around 6.00pm on the Wednesday evenings. Copy date is the Monday of that week.

Finally, thank you to all those who keep us supplied with articles and photographs, which help us to keep the village informed about what is happening in Birlingham.

Birlingham IW

Thursday 15th February *by Caryl Mills*



The next IW meeting will be held on Thursday 15th February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, when we will have a talk about personal safety from the local police.

Village Break-ins

On Thursday 25th January, the Cricket Club discovered that their sheds at the cricket ground had been broken into, with petrol and diesel cans stolen.

There was also a break-in at the stable block at the Manor the following night. Nothing appears to have been taken there.

If you have seen anything suspicious over the last couple of weeks, please pass the information on to the police as soon as possible (dial 101).

Please also let us know at news@birlingham.org.

Meanwhile, please make sure that all outside sheds and garages are securely locked.

Airband Update

by Ian Yates

There is some good news and some bad news.

The good news is that 72 properties in Birlingham (around 50%) can now be connected to Airband's full fibre service. The list of those properties can be viewed at https://birlingham.org/docs/birlingham_connectable_properties_from_Airband_7-2-24.pdf. In summary:

- Village centre (20)
- Broadway down to the Manor House and barns (10)
- Church Street (22)
- Eckington Road (17)
- Farm on Shorthill (3)

The bad news is that the following areas cannot be connected yet:

- Lower End from Peacock Barn on Broadway all along Broadway Road as far as October House where it meets Shorthill and also including Grange Road, Meadow Lane, Berwick Lane and Nafford
- Whitehall Lane except for Whitehall Cottages and White Posts
- Upper End from the junction with the A4104 to where it meets Shorthill.
- A4104 (Bakers Hill)

Unfortunately, this situation is unlikely to change in the short term as we have received the following update from Airband:

> *"that currently we are not planning to return to do any works in the near future. We are doing lots of design work which is absorbing all of our resources and will continue to do so into summer 2024. Therefore, we cannot secure budget to complete any further works on projects that are commercially led builds, where we have no contractual obligation to build but are doing so on the basis that we will make a good return on the company investment. Unfortunately, Defford and Birlingham falls into this category as we are not contractually appointed to work here."*

I have spoken to the Airband project manager and he was very apologetic about what will likely be a 12-month delay before work in Birlingham restarts. He said:

> *"I know this isn't the news that residents want to hear and I certainly will push for our return to deliver our service at the earliest possible opportunity. Right now I cannot confirm when that will be but I am confident we will and it's just a matter of time."*

Snowdrop Teas

Saturday 17th – Sunday 18th Feb.
Saturday 24th – Sunday 25th Feb.

Snowdrop Teas will be served in the Village Hall for the next two weekends, from 11.00am to 4.00pm each day. You are welcome to come along.

If you would like to help with this important fundraiser for St James' Church by serving teas or baking a cake, please contact Caryl Mills on 07766 657666 or email:
caryl-mills@hotmail.co.uk



Please note that the Birlingham News request last week for help with the Snowdrop Teas resulted in enough people volunteering to cover the rest of the month – although more help is always welcome.

Parish matters

WYCHAVON

News from Wychavon District Council for town and parish councils

The latest edition of Wychavon District Council's *Parish matters* newsletter includes:

- Wychavon Community Network Conference
- Free Energy Home Improvements now available to residents in Wychavon
- Wychavon Community Legacy Grants Expressions of Interest now open
- Homes for Ukraine update

The newsletter can be viewed at:
http://www.birlingham.org/docs/parish-matters-2023-feb.html



Visit of Chairman of Wychavon to see Birlingham Snowdrops

by Peter Luff



The village welcomed Cllr Robert Raphael, Chairman of Wychavon District Council, to see the snowdrops in the churchyard and to enjoy tea in the Village Hall.

Cllr Raphael and his mother Diana, Consort during his year as Chairman, came to Birlingham on Saturday 10th February, when floods had closed Eckington and Pershore bridges. This meant it was on the quiet side for visitor numbers – and it gave the Raphaels a 50-minute journey from their restaurant and home in Hampton – but the sun shone and the snowdrops looked magnificent.

Cllr Raphael has pledged to visit all 77 parishes in Wychavon during his year as Chairman. So far he has visited 52 with 15 left to go. He and his mother were hugely impressed by their first visit to see the display of snowdrops. They met and thanked volunteers, including the organiser of the Teas, Caryl MIlls. They told Michael Porter and Rupert Day, who were on duty in the servery, that it made pleasant change to have tea, coffee and cakes made for them rather than making them for customers at their Hampton Ferrry restaurant.



Photo (below) by Nikki Hollier
All other photography by Peter Luff





Road Closure Cancelled – Upper End (12-16 February)

The road closure at Upper End, due to have taken place this week to allow for utility works by Airband, has been cancelled.

Road Closure – Upper End, The Avenue and Church Lane (March/April)

Upper End and the Avenue, from the junction with Defford Road to the junction with Whitehall Lane, and Church Lane, will be closed for one day between 17th and 24th March, and a further day between 12th and 30th April. This is to allow for pre surface dressing and carriageway surface dressing.

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

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC NOTICE
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
(C2271 Upper End/U46414 The Avenue/U46415 Church Lane, Birlingham) (Temporary Closure) Order 2024

Proposed Order: to close that part of: **Closure 1: C2271 Upper End** from its junction with A4104 Defford Road to its junction with C2271 Rectory Lane. **Closure 2: U46414 The Avenue** from its junction with C2271 Upper End to its junction with C2271 Rectory Lane. **Closure 3: U46415 Church Lane** from its junction with U46414 The Avenue to its junction with C2271 New Barn Lane.

Reason: Phase 1: Pre surface dressing patching by WCC. **Phase 2:** Carriageway surface dressing and sweeping, lining and cats eyes by WCC.

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.

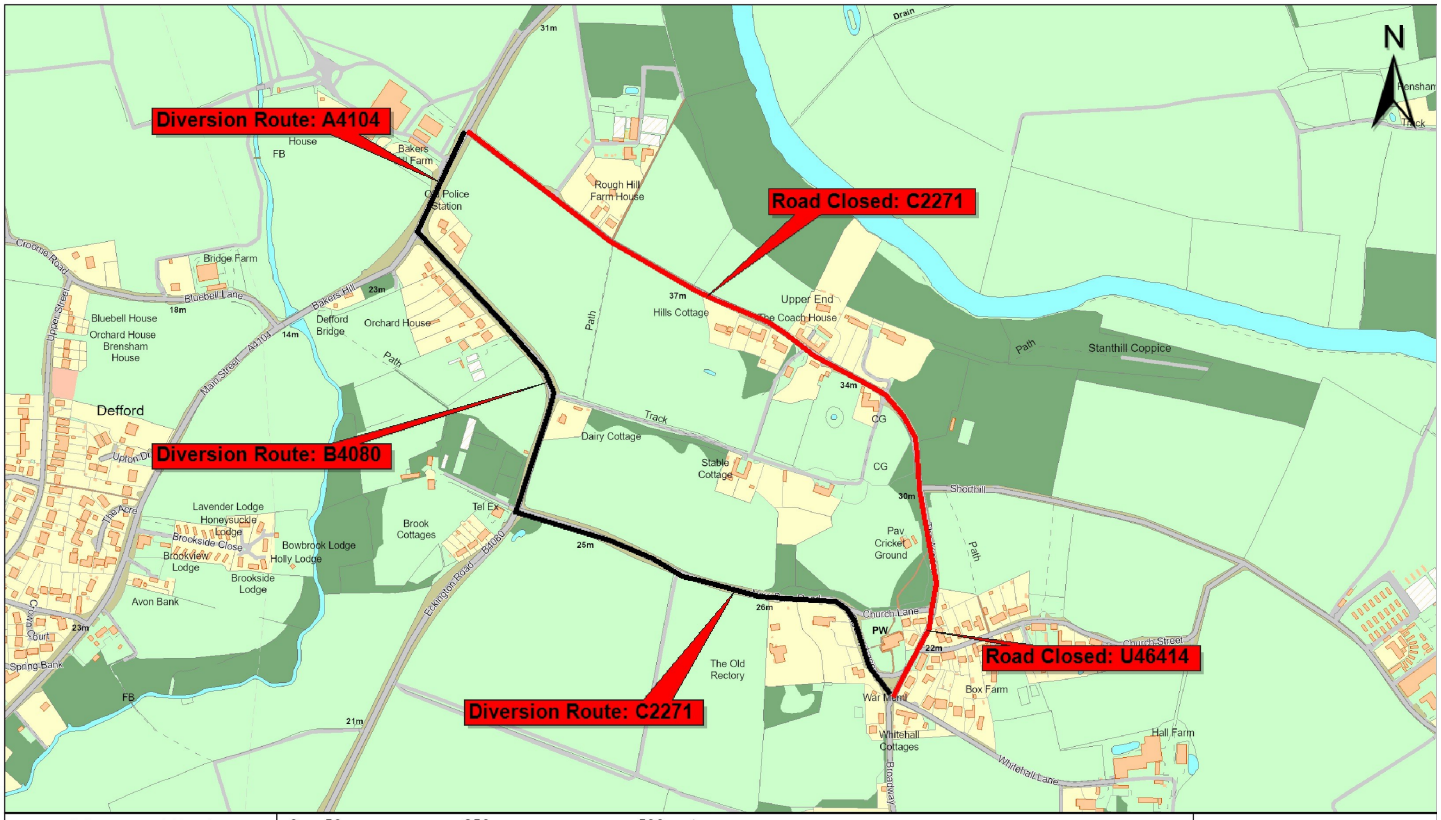
Alternative route: A4104 Defford Road, B4080 Eckington Road, C2271 New Barn Lane, C2271 Rectory Lane and vice versa.

Maximum duration: 18 Months. Anticipated duration: **(Phase 1) 1 day (Sunday) between 17 March 2024 and 24 March 2024. (Phase 2) 1 day between 12 April and 30 April 2024**

Thomas Pollock Head of Commercial Law (Legal & Governance) County Hall Spetchley Road Worcester

22 February 2024

1527743 -1- C2271 Upper End/U46414 The Avenue/U46415 Church Lane, Birlingham
Jared Witcomb CA48457



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Upper End, Birlingham Diversion Route

Indicative Scale: 1:7,500

Date Printed:7/12/2023

worcestershire county council

Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

‘Wondrous Machine’
with the Elgar Chorale of Worcester

A choral celebration of Pershore Abbey’s new Ruffatti organ



Worcester’s well-known chamber choir, The Elgar Chorale, directed by Piers Maxim, returns to Pershore Abbey in March and is joined by Paul Trepte, recently retired former Director of Music and Organist at Ely Cathedral, in an exciting programme of music from Eastern Europe showcasing the recently installed Ruffatti pipe organ at the Abbey.

Featuring composers Zoltán Kodály, Leoš Janáček, Antonín Dvořák, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Henryk Górecki, the Chorale is also joined by John Upperton (tenor), Shulah Oliver (violin) and Natasha Gale (harp) bringing a wonderful variety of musical pieces to the audience.

Do join the Elgar Chorale for ‘Wondrous Machine’ at Pershore Abbey. It takes place on Saturday 23rd March 2024 at 7.30pm and tickets (£18 full, concessions (over 60) £16, side aisles £15, under 18 free) are available from BLUE, 19 Broad Street, Pershore. 01386 553847, Pershore Visitor Centre, Town Hall, 34 High Street, Pershore. 01386 561561or on our website www.elgarchorale.com.



Rainbow – Broadway Road towards the farm, 11th February (Photo: Nikki Hollier)

More Flooding Photos



H&W Fire and Rescue Service on Eckington Road at 7.45am on Saturday 10th February. They came to help rescue a tractor that had got stuck in the floods, but on arrival found the tractor had rescued itself
(Photo: Julia Luff)



Little chance for crops to grow in this field just reaching towards Swans Neck, flooded for the second time this year, 10th February (Photo: Julia Luff)



The 'footpath' from Gravelly Hill towards Asham, 10th February
(Photo: June Hiden)



High water on the clay shooting ground, 11th February
(Photo: Chris Hermon)



Sunset over flooded Swan's Neck, 11th February
(Photo: June Hiden)

Energy Saving Support

by Lucy Caden-Robinson, Age UK Herefordshire & Worcestershire

As a Wychavon resident you could be entitled to a FREE review of your energy usage provided by Age UK Herefordshire & Worcestershire, helping you find practical ways to make improvements that will keep you warm this winter.

This may include the installation of energy-saving equipment at no cost. They can also explore any benefits and discounts that you may be able to access for further support.

Call them on 0800 008 6077 or email referralhub@ageukhw.org.uk to book a review for you or someone you care for.



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 following planning applications have been determined by Wychavon District 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). **Certified**. Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:
https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/23/02032/CLE

The Parish Council comments are available at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_23_02032.pdf

The Russells, Whitehall Lane: Window and door replacement, and installation of solar panels and battery (Case No. W/23/02477/HP). **Approved**. Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:
https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/23/02477/HP

The Parish Council comments are available at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_23_02477.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

The Autumn 2009 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* begins with an article from Ian and Fran Dawes in Australia.

Reports are included from the Friends of St James', the Drama Group, the Cricket Club, the Flower & Produce Show and the Village Fete. There is an article by Molly Salt about a visit to the Gwen Finch Wetland Reserve.

Matilda Clode's wedding is recorded and Matilda White was christened. There are welcomes for Dean and Mandy Matthews and the Harley family, and goodbyes to the Meanwells and Harrisons. The obituaries are for Dorothy Paggett and Joyce Clarke.

Issue 62 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander062.pdf



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Dates for your diary

February

Thu 15	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 17/Sun 18	Snowdrop Teas, 11.00am-4.00pm
Sat 24/Sun 25	Snowdrop Teas, 11.00am-4.00pm

March

Wed 6	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Wed 20	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 21	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 31	Easter Day Holy Communion, 10.30am, St James' Church

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 26th February (for publication on Wednesday 28th February). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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Published online twice monthly by Birlingham Jubilee Committee (email: news@birlingham.org)