Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 328 Wednesday 24th April 2024

Editorial

A few years ago, Birlingham took part in the Wychavon Parish Games, fielding teams in darts, skittles and cross country. Despite entering such a small number of the 15 events, Birlingham managed not to end up at the bottom of the league table.

Perhaps it is time for the village to aim for a mid-table position? If you are interested in taking part, full details are given on the next page.

Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 1st May

by Sue Hermon



Our next Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 1st May from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall. The cost is £2.50 per person and everyone is most welcome to come along for tea or coffee plus a cake or two and a chance to win our free Mystery Entry Prize!

For more information, or to request transport, please contact me on 01386 750096 or email sue.hermon@me.com.

We look forward to seeing you.

Churchyard Tidy-up

Saturday 27th April *by Sue Hayward*

A reminder that the spring churchyard tidy up is on Saturday 27th April, 10.00am – 12.00 noon.

If you've got a couple of hours (or less) to spare, we would love you to join us. Bring suitable clothing, gloves and any bits of gardening equipment you may need. The work usually consists of pruning, weeding, removing ivy etc.

There will be homemade cakes and hot drinks available.

St James' Church



Churchwarden:
Adrianne Woodward
(Tel. 01386 750936)

All are welcome to join us on Sunday 12th May at 3.00pm for a Pet Service on the move! It is being led by Canon Claire and Angela Gerrard plus their dogs.

Please can dog owners and walkers meet at the War Memorial by 3.00pm to follow a route around the village, going down to Lower End, round to Red Star and up Church Street, leading back to the War Memorial.

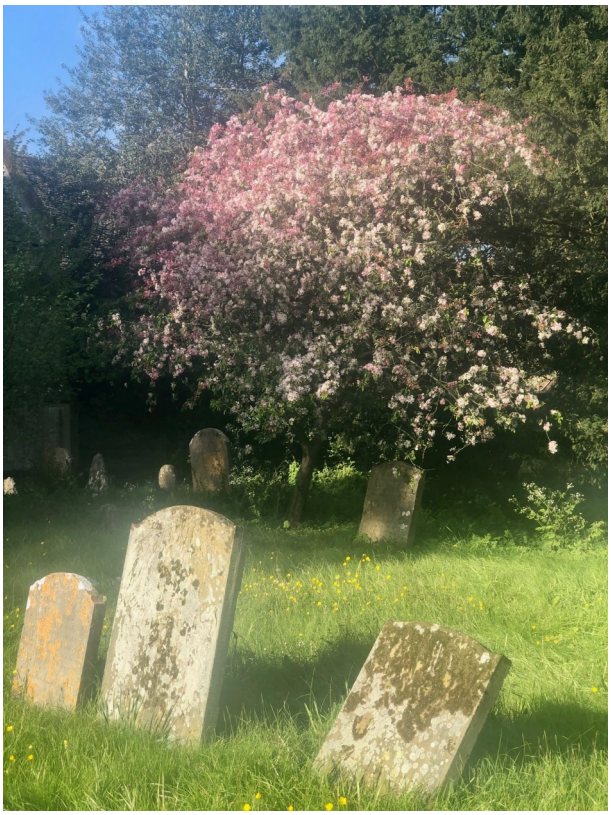
There will be a blessing of the dogs and refreshments, both animal and human, provided in the Church. It is hoped that villagers, whether they are churchgoers or not, will join us on this informal and sociable occasion.

PS Other pets are also welcome but please wait in the church for the return of the dogs.

Bluebells and blossom in the churchyard, 21st April

(Photos: Nikki Hollier)





What are the Wychavon Parish Games?

by Doug Langdon, Chairman WPGA (Tel. 07900 312775)

This is an annual event, which is organised by a group of volunteers and has been going for over 40 years. The Parish Games intend to encourage links with other Parishes across the Wychavon District in a spirit of friendly competition.

There is a £10 fee to enter each event, up to a maximum of £80 for all 15 events. Most Parish Councils are willing to cover this cost. To get involved, all we need is a volunteer to become the "Parish Contact" and start to get other people involved with organising the teams.

Packs containing the Event Rules and Entry Forms are now available from our Secretary Sue Collins 01905 841269. **This year's entries' details have to be submitted by 15th June, so you still have time to get involved.**

Team members MUST live in the Parish or Town Wards that they represent.

There are 15 events that can be entered; the Parish decides how many or how few they enter.

The following events take place on one given date for each event and generally last 2–4 hours. The figures in brackets are team numbers:

- Rounders (9, Max 12)
- Five-a-Side Football (8)
- 5K Park Run (6)
- Bellboating (6+1 Sub)
- Petanque or Boules (2)
- Angling (Max 3)
- Bowls (Max 4)
- Senior Table Tennis (2)
- Junior Table Tennis (2)

These events usually take place between July and September; we avoid August!

The following events are on a knockout basis and take place between September and October:

- Crib (6)
- Dominoes (3 pairs)
- Ladies Darts (5)
- Men's Darts (5)
- Pool (5)
- Skittles (10)

A parish can use hosting facilities in neighbouring parishes if they do not have the facilities locally. Skittles matches are played on neutral alleys, which are organised by our Event Organiser.

Trophies are awarded for each event, to the winners and runners-up.

There are overall trophies that can be won. These are:

- Silver Salver – presented to the parish or ward that has accumulated the most points overall. (Points are awarded to all teams that have entered an event.)
- The Cup – presented to the parish or ward that has accumulated the next highest number of points.
- Small Parishes Award – presented to the parish with up to 500 people on the electoral roll that has scored the highest number of points overall.
- Medium Parishes Award – presented to the parish with between 501 and 999 on the electoral roll.
- Award of Merit – presented to a parish which has entered all or greatest number of events, but not won any of them.

What next?

If you are willing to become or know somebody who is willing to become the Parish Contact for Birlingham then please get in touch with Sue Collins, 01905 841269.

I live in Eckington so I'm happy to meet with anyone who wants to know more.

For further information we have a website, wychavongames.org, and a facebook page: Wychavon Parish Games – Home.

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Election of West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner

(Text and photographs courtesy of BBC News website)

Five candidates are set to battle it out to become West Mercia's police and crime commissioner (PCC) for the next four years.

On 2nd May, voters will head to the polls across Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, and Telford and Wrekin.

The role of PCC was established in 2012. A PCC holds police forces to account, sets priorities and budgets, and also commissions services to help victims and prevent crime.

These are the candidates standing to be West Mercia's PCC:

John Campion – Conservatives



John Campion was elected the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner in 2016 and again in 2021. He is also a former leader of Wyre Forest District Council.

He said he would look to cut crime further, support victims and survivors, and to put policing back into the heart of communities.



Henry Curteis – English Democrats

A Shropshire-based jewellery manufacturer, Henry Curteis is creative director of the English Democrats.

He has called West Mercia a low-performing force, and argued for an end to 'politically correct policing' to ensure budgets are spent on front-line officers.

Julian Dean – Greens



Julian Dean is currently the leader of the Green Party on Shropshire Council.

He said his priorities would be to protect people, property and the environment.



Sarah Murray – Liberal Democrats

Sarah Murray is currently a city councillor in Worcester and is a special educational needs teacher.

She said her career in law, education and mental health had made her acutely aware of the impact of cuts on young people.

Richard Overton – Labour and Cooperative



Richard Overton is currently deputy leader of Telford and Wrekin Council, and cabinet member for homes and enforcement.

He said his priorities would be to invest in community policing, in tackling violence against women, and preventing violent offences such as knife crime.

Voting takes place in Birlingham Village Hall on Thursday 2nd May from 7.00am to 10.00pm.

Please remember to take photo ID with you.

This election will be judged on a first past the post system and the winner will be announced on Friday 3rd May in Telford.

Road resurfacing brought parts of Birlingham to a standstill for short periods on 16th April
(Photos: Steve Morris)





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

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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

April	
Sat 27	Churchyard Tidy-up, 10.00am-12.00, St James' Church
May	
Wed 1	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 2	Election of West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner
Sat 5	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Worcester Amigos CC 1st XI, 12.30pm
Sun 12	Pet Service, 3.00pm, meet at War Memorial
Wed 15	Birlingham Annual Parish Meeting, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall (followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm)
Thu 16	Birlingham IW (details to be confirmed)
Sat 18	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Rushwick CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm
June	
Sat 1	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Martley CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm
Wed 5	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 8	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Ledbury CC 1st XI, 12.30pm
Thu 20	Birlingham IW (details to be confirmed)
Sat 22	Village Fete (details to be confirmed)

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 6th May (for publication on Wednesday 8th May). 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)