# Birlingham News online

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## Editorial

Picture any British village in the last hundred years and you will probably imagine a church, a pub, a post office and village shop, along with a red telephone kiosk and assorted post boxes. Local characters would include the vicar, the publican and, of course, the village postman.

Apart from the post office and shop, Birlingham still retains most of those features. It remains a small, tight-knit community, with strong roots in the past but an ability to absorb new arrivals. Its residents, old and new, are fiercely protective of the character of their village.

For nearly 30 years, the role of village postman has been admirably performed by Darren, who has become an important part of the community. Always willing to help out with some small task and happy to stop for a quick chat, Darren is well known locally and dedicated to his job. He not only delivers the mail efficiently, he regularly redirects mail to people who move somewhere else within his round. He has been known to continue this unofficial service for up to 15 years!

It has therefore come as something of a shock for the village to discover that the bosses at Royal Mail have decided to re-organise the rounds and Darren has been despatched to an industrial estate. Clearly, the managers of the postal service have no idea how important a conscientious village postman is to a community.

No doubt Darren's replacement will be just as effective once he settles in but perhaps the strength of local voices will reach those in high places. There is even talk of a petition.

In the meantime, our best wishes go to Darren, with thanks for his dedication to the residents of Birlingham over the last few decades.

## Birlingham IW

**Thursday 16th May** *by Caryl Mills*



On Thursday 16th May we will be making our annual visit to Showborough House in Twyning to the sculpture garden. Entrance is free and members have refreshments paid for by the IW.

If anyone else would like to join us then I am afraid they will have to purchase their own tea and cake.

Meet in the car park opposite the Village Hall at 2.30pm.

## 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.*

## Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting

**Tuesday 21st May**

Due to absences and not being a quorum, the Annual Parish meeting at 7.00pm and the Annual Council meeting at 7.30pm is now rescheduled for **Tuesday 21st May**.

The Annual Parish Meeting takes place at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. This meeting will receive reports from various village organisations about their activities during the year.

During the meeting there is an opportunity to express your views on local issues. Any member of the public can ask for an issue to be debated, even if they are unable to attend the meeting.

The agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting is available on the next page or at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2024-05-21A.pdf

The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 17th May 2023 are available at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_annual_2023-05-17.pdf

The Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by the regular bi-monthly Parish Council meeting. The agenda for the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be available at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2024-05-21B.pdf

The draft minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 20th March will be available at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2024-03-20.pdf

## Save the Date!

**Birlingham Village Fete**

**Saturday 22nd June**

**Details to follow**

# The Birlingham Village Hall 100th Anniversary

*by Paul Burton, Chair of Trustees*

Next year, on 17th April 2025, will be the 100 year anniversary of the inauguration of the Birlingham Village Hall, formed as the Robert Woodward Parish Hall and Institute. The Hall is a credit to, and a real resource for, the village.

Two things come to mind: firstly we could do with a couple more trustees for the Hall. The tasks are not onerous, but thoughts and ideas about how we could use the Hall far more than it is at present would be welcome. The Hall is in superb condition and has a wealth of facilities thanks to previous committee members. If you are interested in joining us, do contact me at paul.burton@btinternet.com. The next meeting of the committee takes place on 25th June 2024 at 7.00pm.

Secondly, I am aware that I am only the latest in a long line of folks who have contributed to making the hall the superb facility it is today. There must be many memories of the plays, dances and goodness knows what else which have occurred over the last 100 years; there will be photographs, and of course, tales. I am proposing that we work with the *Birlingham Bystander* team to make an article that celebrates the last 100 years of the hall. Again, anyone interested in helping and contributing memories and photographs etc. please contact me at paul.burton@btinternet.com.



*Blossom on a rainy day, 10th April*

*(Photo: Nikki Hollier)*



*Bluebells in the churchyard, 21st April*

*(Photo: June Hiden)*



*Wild garlic in New Barn Road, 27th April*

*(Photo: June Hiden)*

# BIRLINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

## TUESDAY 21 MAY 2024

## at 7.00pm

### Birlingham Village Hall

**All residents of Birlingham are invited to discuss local issues**
**- this is an opportunity to voice your thoughts and opinions about your community**

Agenda

1. Election of a Chair
2. Welcome from the Chair
3. Present
4. To receive any apologies for absence
5. To approve minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting (held May 2023)
6. To receive the Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report
7. To receive annual reports from elected representatives:
   - County Councillor Hardman
   - District Councillor Davis
8. To receive annual reports from representatives:
   - Footpath Warden's Report
   - Lengthsman's Report
   - Tree Warden's Report
9. To hear from Birlingham community groups or local organisations.
10. **Open Session** – to discuss parish issues
    The maximum time allowed per questioner to be at the discretion of the Chairman.
    Questions that require a response, must be submitted in writing before 14 May.
11. Closure and next meeting – a time and date to be arranged in 2025

*Ian Yates*

The Chairman of Birlingham Parish Council
Ian Yates
ian.yates@sipeda.com

7 May 2024
Clerk - **June Hiden, Lamorna, Broadway Road, Birlingham**
birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk

Note: The Local Government Act 1972 provides that a Parish Meeting shall assemble annually between 1st March and 1st June in every year. Anyone who is registered as a local government elector for the Parish of Birlingham is entitled to speak and vote at the Parish Meeting. The Parish Meeting has a general power to discuss parish affairs and to pass resolutions, but such resolutions do not bind the Parish Council.

Annual Parish Meeting agenda 2024

# Election of West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner – Results



John Campion has been re-elected, for the second time, as the PCC for West Mercia with 42% of the vote.

Mr Campion's campaign focused on fighting crime, supporting victims and putting policing back in the heart of communities.

Following the result, which was announced at the Tennis Centre in Telford & Wrekin on 3rd May, Mr Campion said:

"I would like to thank communities across the three counties who have once again put their trust in me to deliver a Safer West Mercia.

"I am proud of what I have achieved as your PCC over the last eight years, but I know there's much more that needs to be done.

"My promise is a simple one, to work hard to ensure you are safe and feel safe.

"Committed to putting your voice at the heart of policing, I will build on the significant investment I have made and will continue to support and challenge your police force to deliver on your policing priorities."

The full results (as published by Wychavon District Council) were as follows:

| Name of Candidate | Description (if any) | Number of Votes* |
|---|---|---|
| CAMPION, John-Paul | The Conservative Party Candidate | 9,222 |
| CURTEIS, Henry Malcolm Thomas, commonly known as Henry Curteis | English Democrats - "More Police - catching criminals!" | 2,252 |
| DEAN, Julian David Geoffrey | The Green Party Candidate | 1,828 |
| MURRAY, Sarah Philippa Jane | Liberal Democrat | 3,996 |
| OVERTON, Richard Andrew | Labour and Cooperative Party Candidate | 4,656 |

Electorate: 103,710 Ballot Papers Issued: 22,157 Turnout: 21.36%

## REJECTED BALLOT PAPERS:

| The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows: | | Number of ballot papers |
|---|---|---|
| A | want of an official mark | 0 |
| B | voting for more than one candidate | 21 |
| C | writing or mark by which voter could be identified | 1 |
| D | being unmarked | 45 |
| E | void for uncertainty | 136 |
| | Total | 203 |

## 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

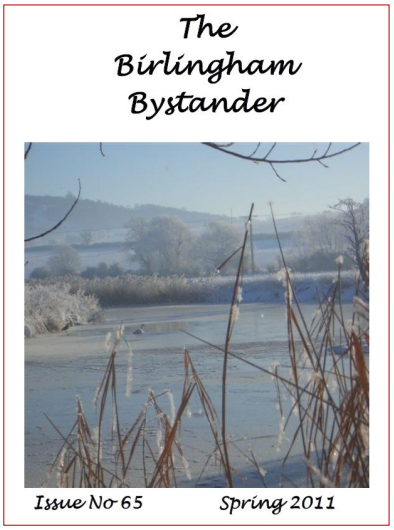
## Bystander Archives

The Spring 2011 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* begins with an account of a classical guitar concert in the Village Hall. There are memories of Birlingham School and articles on windscreen wipers, English rural life and the John Bennett Reserve. Information is given on volunteering opportunities and there is news from the Parish Council.

As well as the Christmas Services, the New Year's Eve party at the Swan is reported, followed by Bulb Teas.

The wedding of Katy Bishton is recorded, along with the diamond wedding of Mary and Eric Mence. The obituaries are for Elsie Herbert, Pat Palmer and Vicki Devenish.

Issue 65 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander065.pdf





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*Rain again, 10th April*
*(Photo: Nikki Hollier)*

## Dates for your diary

**May**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sun 12 | Pet Service, 3.00pm, meet at War Memorial |
| Thu 16 | Birlingham IW |
| Sat 18 | Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Rushwick CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm |
| Tue 21 | Birlingham Annual Parish Meeting, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall (followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm) |

**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) |
| Tue 25 | Birlingham Village Hall Committee Meeting, 7.00pm, BVH |

## 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.*


*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 20th May (for publication on Wednesday 22nd May). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.



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