Birlingham News online

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Editorial

You may have heard the news that Revd Claire Lording is not well and has had a breast cancer diagnosis. She has taken this news with her usual positive style. Her latest health update is printed below.

Our best wishes go to Claire during these difficult times and we hope for a speedy recovery when the treatment is complete.

Eckington Stores

We have a range of locally produced products:

- Fladbury meat pies
- LDA fresh meat
- Drapers bread and cakes
- La Parisienne French style bread & cakes
- Pegoty Hedge ready meals
- Pegoty Hedge organic beef
- Bennetts ice cream
- DJ Perks fruit and vegetables
- Meat Company sausage and bacon
- Happy Chucks eggs

We open 7 days per week:

- 0600 to 1830 Monday to Friday
- 0600 to 1800 Saturday
- 0600 to 1300 Sunday

John, Sue and Mark
Tel 01386 750266



Traditional Mole Catching
Fully Insured, Humane
Member of the Guild of British Molecatchers

Matthew Brain
07817 279235
moley70@yahoo.co.uk
Oak Tree Farm
Hawbridge
Stoulton
Worcestershire
WR7 4RJ

Update on Darren

by Carl Brassington

The response from the village to the petition idea was overwhelming, with fifty-plus households signing up, and people are still coming in.

I called and saw Rob Gilbert at the sorting office and handed him the petition. He explained that it is a company-wide initiative and not just about Darren. I stressed our point of view and he was receptive but I wouldn't hold your breath.

Thanks to everyone who signed up we will just have to wait and see.

Birlingham IW

Thursday 20th June *by Caryl Mills*



The June meeting is a change to the programme. IW will be holding one of our popular Cocktail Evenings on Thursday 20th June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There will be cocktails and mocktails, along with good company.

Update from Revd Claire Lording

"*I have now had some test results which have confirmed that the first stage of my treatment for breast cancer will be chemotherapy. After this has been completed I will have surgery. I don't have firm dates for when my chemotherapy will start but I imagine it will be in the next few weeks.*

My treatment will have an impact on my work as I will have to pace myself and make sure that I am looking after myself as much as I can. I will share with you how this will all look once I know.

Thank you again for all your care and concern. You are all an incredible source of strength. Please continue to pray for me and all health professionals."

Claire



Paddleboarding at Swan's Neck, 4th May
(Photo: Peter Luff)

Join us for an afternoon of fun at

Birlingham Village Fete

Saturday 22nd June 2024

At Birlingham Cricket Club

Starting at 2pm

Tombola, Tea and Cakes, Bar, BBQ, Ice Cream, Name the Bear, Sweets in a Jar, Beat the Goalie, Plants, Bric a Brac, Local Produce, Raffle, Books, Classic Cars and more.....

Free entry for all

All proceeds to St James Church

Please contact Paula Aston (07932 637746) to make donations for Bric a Brac, Tombola prizes, books, cakes, plants and Raffle Prizes

Birlingham Village Fete

Saturday 22nd June *by Paula Aston*

If there any local businesses in the village that would like to have a small stall to promote their products please give me a call.

Drop-offs for the stalls:

- ◊ Tombola Prizes can be dropped at Tadpole Cottage or contact Burce Hayward to collect
- ◊ Books/jigsaws can be dropped at Court Barn, Upper End or at the Church for Denise Nayna
- ◊ Any cakes can be dropped off at Hills Cottage on Friday 21st June or at the Cricket Club after 10.00am on Saturday 22nd June.
- ◊ Bric a Brac to be donated can be dropped at the Cricket Club after after 10.00am on Saturday 22nd June.

Plant donations can be made to Pat Chinneck at Elm View (just past the pub).

Any questions, please contact me on 07932 637746.

St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward (Tel. 01386 750936)

Services at St James' Church over the summer will be held at the following times:

- ∗ **Sunday 14th July**: a 'Hymns and Pimms' service will be held to celebrate our patron St James, led by Canon Claire Lording at 3.00pm. Details to follow.
- ∗ **August**: No service.
- ∗ **Sunday 15th September**: Harvest Festival, St James' Church, 10.30am.

Village Fete Raffle

Margaret Barke (07972 678550) is selling tickets for the Village Fete Raffle **now**.

Your support would be appreciated, especially if you are unable to attend on the day. There are donations from The Swan, Revills Farm Shop, Birlingham Nursery, Three Little Pigs and Esprit de Corps, plus bottles of wine for prizes.

Tickets are £5 for a strip of five tickets and can also be purchased at the fete.

Berwick Brook, 3rd June
(Photo: June Hiden)



UK Parliamentary election: West Worcestershire constituency
STATEMENT OF PERSONS NOMINATED AND NOTICE OF POLL

A poll will be held on Thursday 4 July 2024 between 7am and 10pm

The following people have been or stand nominated for election as a member of the UK Parliament for the above constituency. Those who no longer stand nominated are listed, but will have a comment in the right hand column.

Candidate name	Address of candidate*	Description of candidate	Names of subscribers to the nomination Proposers(+), Seconders(++) & Assentors		Names of Signatories Proposers(+), Seconders(++) & Assentors		Names of Signatories Proposers(+), Seconders(++) & Assentors		If no longer nominated reason why
BALDWIN Harriett Mary Morison	(address in the West Worcestershire Constituency)	The Conservative Party Candidate	Chambers David I(+) Britten-Long Georgina Thomas Bridget M L Farrall Peter Hardman Beverley A	Hodges Michael J(++) Edwards Savannah E McDermott Evelyn G Hardman Adrian I Maclusky Julie C	Daly Ian(+) Hanks Karen M Barbour Sebastian Clifford Leon D Owenson Jeremy	Baldwin James S(++) Watkins David E L Wigglesworth Virginia E Nixon Margaret E Thomas Jeremy F	Thomas Daphne M(+) Daly Beverley Love Gillian Sington Jonathan P Waddell Andrew M	McDermott Sarah C(++) McGregor Alistair J Wood Valerie A Sington Brenda M Watkins Stephen P	
BARBER Seonaid Dawn	(address in the West Worcestershire Constituency)	Party Of Women	Papadakis Harry(+) Cook Wendy Pocock John E Parsons Graham T Staddon Jane L	Daly James J(++) White Miranda F Pocock Jennifer J Moseley Karen De Burgh Joanna					
BOATRIGHT-GREENE Dan	(address in Wychavon)	Liberal Democrat	Hobbs Clifford G(+) Smith Stanley W Drage Elaine M Bennett Alison L McLaren Susan E	Turier Elizabeth(++) Smith Elizabeth R Mead David E Bennett Paul Mills Neville A					
EDMONDSON Christopher Hugh	(address in Wychavon)	Reform UK	Ellis Richard C(+) Price Ian J Adams Neil J Ellis Sandra Kitching Timothy	Kitching William G(++) Hughes Martin G Hodgetts Anthony P Roan Michael W Kitching Sara L					
HAROON Kash	(address in the Barking Constituency)	Labour Party	Cummins Anna M(+) Willis Martin H Jackson Nicholas P Brookbank Peter G Rees Susan J	Burdon Brian J(++) Dalley Susan D Wolff Suzanne M Brookbank Carole A Rees John S					
MCVEY Natalie	(address in the West Worcestershire Constituency)	Green Party	Victory Malcolm G(+) Jordan Peter McMichael Hugh B Horton Graham R Main Stephen	Victory Frances D(++) Burge Anne Sage Dinah M Horton Ruby A Main Shanti					

*If a candidate has requested not to make their home address public, the constituency or relevant area in which their home address is situated (or the country if their address is outside the UK) will be provided.

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting

by Ian Yates

The Birlingham Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting took place on Tuesday 21st May. This report covers items from both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting, which were held one after the other.

- **Annual Parish Meeting**

  The meeting was attended by eight residents, four members of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk, Adrian Hardman from WCC and Paul Middlebrough from WDC. The meeting heard annual reports from the parish chairman, councillors, representatives and community groups and these will be available in the minutes.

  Birlingham Village Hall

  Paul Burton, the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, reminded the meeting that this year was the 100th anniversary of the hall and that he was looking for volunteers to help organise and provide historical material to celebrate the event. He can be contacted at paul.burton1@btinternet.com.

  Speeding in Upper End

  During the Open Session a presentation was made on behalf of residents in Upper End entitled 'Making Upper End safe and with an acceptable quality of life for residents'. The concern raised was the increase in traffic since the pandemic with more home deliveries and an increase in HGVs since the expansion of Redstar's refrigerated packing sheds. Amongst other things, this is causing traffic problems at pinch points, erosion of verges and structural damage at Court Cottages. It proposed a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph.

  Comments on the presentation were opened to the floor and a wide-ranging discussion took place. Members of the Parish Council gave details of work they had done in 2017/18 working with the police to survey traffic speeds and encourage enforcement but actions were limited as the volume of traffic was considered too low to justify enforcement resources. Adrian Hardman explained that 20mph zones are only introduced near schools or accident black spots and they are waiting for guidance from the government on further 20mph zones after the backlash to these in Wales. Traffic calming measures such as speed bumps also require street lighting for safety reasons.

  The Parish Council fully supports the concerns raised and agreed to the following:

  - To carry out a survey of residents to understand their views on the installation of traffic calming measures.
  - To contact the police to request another survey be carried out to obtain new traffic speed and volume data.
  - To discuss with the Highways Authority the cost and installation of signs or white lines on the road indicating that the road narrows.
  - To investigate the cost of installing a flashing speed sign that would remind drivers of their speed and the limit.

  In addition, at Paul Middlebrough's suggestion:

  - The Parish Council could contact the 'Safer Neighbourhood team' and request they make random visits to the village to check speeds.
  - Residents can report antisocial driving to the 'Neighbourhood Matters' website.

  Damage to verges in Upper End

  Rupert Day raised concerns about damage that has been caused to verges mainly by tractors and HGVs since the resurfacing work was completed. He has written to the farm and is taking photos each time this occurs.

- **Full Fibre Broadband**

  Since the last update in March, when Airband's work in the village had stopped, there has been good progress. Birlingham has been allocated a new project manager and the Parish Council has been working with him to encourage the build in both Upper and Lower End to be completed. There was a meeting in Upper End on Monday 20th May between Airband, the farm and landowner to agree the installation of a trench and duct in the fields on the right-hand side, as you enter the village, from the A4104 to Hills Cottage. This will bring the fibre cable into Upper End. The farm kindly agreed for the work to go ahead despite the field being cropped and the landowner signed the wayleave. Work started on Wednesday 22nd. A second meeting was held in Lower End to find ways to minimise road closures while the work to complete connections on Broadway, Grange Road and Berwick Lane goes ahead.

- **County Councillor's Report – Adrian Hardman**

  A full copy of his report will be included in the Minutes. However here are some highlights:

  - Worcestershire County Council continues to navigate a challenging financial landscape into the financial year 2024/25. Despite sustained efforts to manage costs, we face significant demand and cost pressures in key service areas: Children's Social Care Placements, Home-to-School Transport, and Adult Social Care. These pressures are compounded by the council's fixed cash budget and limited income generation capabilities due to national restrictions on council tax, business rates, and trading income.
  - In the Current Financial Year (2023/24): The council anticipates a significant overspend, around some £20M; albeit mitigated by additional business rates income, further adult social care grants, and the one-off use of reserves.
  - The Budget for 2024/25: Despite an increase in public health-related grants and business rates pool funding (rising by £27.9 million), we are not keeping pace with the escalating demand pressures. The budget proposals aim to address these ongoing financial strains, projecting into the 2024/25 fiscal year to manage the structural deficit effectively.
  - In February 2024, the government acknowledged WCC's financial position, awarding an additional £5 million in grants for social care. Additionally, a 2.99% increase in council tax, coupled with a 2% uplift in the adult social care levy, has been approved through Full Council. These measures, alongside targeted investments in children's and adult social care, enable the council to uphold its capital commitments across critical areas such as the economy, environment, highways, and education.

- What a year is has been for flooding and with 10 named storms over the winter this led to considerable disruption with the closure of Eckington bridge on numerous occasions and we had to rebuild the parapets on both sides. We anticipate one more road closure for a day, on the B road.
- I was pleased that we were able to do the resurfacing work in the village and I know that this did not exactly run to plan but from what I can see it is an improvement, but we still have some drainage work to finish off. I'm afraid that we have still to resolve the flooding issue in lower end and I will try to get some roadmovement on this issue.
- Just a final point on the Pershore reorganisation of education, I understand that this probably will be delayed by at least a year due to funding issues.
- In closing, I would just like to leave you with this one key statistic: 72.5% of the budget at Worcestershire County Council is currently spent on 2.5% of the population and these are the most vulnerable in society and the County Council are committed to ensuring these members of our community are supported and protected.

♦ **District Councillor's Report – Paul Middlebrough**

A full copy of his report will be included in the Minutes. However here are some highlights:

- At the District Council elections in May 2023 the conservative group remained the largest:
  Conservatives 29, Greens 6, Labour 1, Liberal Democrats 7
- The leader of the Council Chris Day is the councillor for Ombersley.
- Wychavon remains in a sound financial position and has not been faced with reductions in services. The budget for 2024/25 was agreed at £12,852,000 which results in a Band D council tax increase of £5 resulting in Band D council tax being £125.08.
- This is the first rise in Wychavon's council tax for 6 years and reflects the challenges of increases costs and demands for services. That being said Wychavon's District charge is the third lowest in England.
- The Revision of the South Worcestershire Development Plan is now expected to be approved early next year. This is very serious for some areas because Wychavon does not have a five-year land supply and so applications for medium to larger sized developments have been hard to resist.
- Anti-social behaviour, inconsiderate and aggressive driving are constant worry together with IT fraud and domestic abuse. I would encourage households to join the West Mercia Neighbourhood Matters website.
- Wychavon Rural Fund – Capital grants of between £2,500 and £25,000 are available to both private, public or voluntary sector organisations. £25,000 has been awarded to Avon Navigation Trust's £38,000 project to construct a new, fixed bridge near Strensham Lock to improve the footpath network.

♦ **Footpath Warden's Report**

Birlingham has two volunteers who, together with local landowners and others, look after the Parish footpaths on behalf of the County Council. The County Council meet any small expenses incurred and will often supply 'furniture' (e.g. gates, stiles etc.) that need to be replaced. They also provide an annual strimming service for certain paths which are difficult to maintain.

The main work in the past year for the volunteers has been the controlling/clearing of undergrowth. At each Parish Council meeting a report is made of work undertaken during the previous two months.

All the footpaths in Worcestershire are shown on the Public Rights of Way web map which is maintained by the County Council Countryside Service; visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside and click on Public Rights of Way and then Interactive Map. (There is a link from the village website). If anyone has any concerns or suggestions regarding the footpaths in the Parish, please contact Bruce Hayward at Tadpole Cottage on 751382 or via the Parish clerk.

♦ **Lengthsman's Report**

The following items have been reported to the Highways Authority:

- The 30mph repeater sign on Shorthill has faded and needs replacing.
- Blocked gully on Grange Road opposite The Grange
- Kerb drains blocked again on Defford Road Upper End
- Flooding continues at Lower End opposite the Manor House.

NOTE: There have also been several onsite meetings recently between local residents, Wychavon DC and Highways to try and resolve this situation which has existed now for over 9 years. The owner of the Manor House has had trial pits dug by way of investigation work and the owner of the Moors has also carried out drain investigations on their property. The owner of Peacock Barn is escalating action to senior management at STW.

♦ **Communities Together Project**

In March we reported on a meeting between community groups and the Communities Officer at WDC to discuss possible grant funding for projects in the village. Further to this initial meeting we have been notified that a Community Infrastructure Levy payment of £1543.91 is being paid by WDC to Birlingham Parish Council as a Neighbourhood Fund. The money can be spent on the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Examples:

- **Physical infrastructure**: e.g. highways, transport links, cycleways, energy supply, water, flood alleviation, waste management
- **Social infrastructure**: e.g. education, health, social care, emergency services, art and culture, sports halls, community halls
- **Green infrastructure**: e.g. parks, woodlands, play areas, public open space.

The Parish Council intends to compile a list of potential community infrastructure projects on which any Neighbourhood Fund could be spent, or for which applications for grant funding could be made. Village community groups will be invited to put forward projects and will be contacted shortly.

♦ **Portrait of the King**

. . . And as a final item, the Parish Clerk has received a portrait of his Majesty King Charles III (free of charge with government backing). The suggestion is that this is hung on the wall in the Village Hall and will be discussed with the Hall Committee.

***The full reports from the Annual Parish Meeting will be included in the next edition of* Birlingham News.**

Summer Garden Party

Sunday 21st July 2024 from 2 – 4 p.m.

at The Tynings,
(A National Garden Scheme participant)
Church Lane, Stoulton.

Entrance £8 (children £4)

To include homemade cake and tea/coffee
(to be served in Stoulton Village Hall)

Live Folk Band, Plants for sale
(Church will be open with flowers in the church)

All proceeds will go to St Edmund's Church Fabric Fund



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 application has been received by Wychavon District Council:

Peacock Barn, Lower End: Change of use from agricultural to domestic garden – including permission for garden room (Stuga). Retrospective (Case No. W/24/00948/FUL). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 27th June.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/24/00948/FUL



The Pigsty Holiday Cottage

Marian Kirkland

The Pigsty
Lower End
Birlingham
Worcestershire
WR10 3AD

Tel: 07723 923420

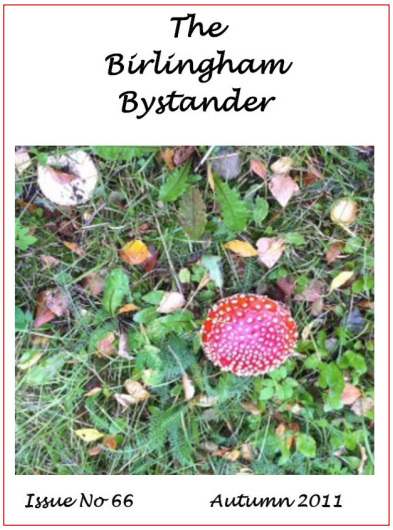
Bookings are now being taken for newly renovated cottage

Please contact Marian:
mariankirkland123@gmail.com

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

Bystander Archives



The Autumn 2011 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* begins with a concert in the Village Hall and a poem by Val Gilmore about the Village Day Out to Weston-Super-Mare.

There are recollections of Tripoli by Harry Porter, a history of the Grange by Walter Clode and reminiscences of his travels by Steve McVittie.

Reports of several organisations include the Friends of St James' Golf Day. The Swan Inn hosted Cotswolds Motorbike Club.

There was a visit to the Gwen Finch Wetlands. Joan Hollier retired from the flower rota (for the first time!)

Events include the fete and the Flower & Produce Show.

Martha Smith was christened, James and Ela Revill were married. The marriage was also recorded of Timothy Jenks, whose grandfather lived in the village from 1902. David and Clare Kew were married in Gibraltar. Anne and Harry Porter celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Sylvia and Henry Morgan are welcomed to the village, while Mike Bibby and Pauline Gardiner moved to Pershore.

There are obituaries for Muriel Smith (nee Addison), Catherine Wallace and Barbara Webb. Rosemary Revill had just died at the age of 99.

Issue 66 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:

www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander066.pdf

Dates for your diary

June

Thu 20	Birlingham IW Cocktail Evening, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 22	Village Fete, 2.00pm, Cricket Ground
Tue 25	Birlingham Village Hall Committee Meeting, 7.00pm, BVH

July

Wed 3	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 4	General Election, 7.00am-10.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 13	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Burghill, Tillington & Weobley CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm
Sun 14	'Hymns and Pimms' service for St James, 3.00pm, St James' Church
Thu 18	Birlingham IW (details to be confirmed)
Sat 27	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Barnards Green CC 3rd XI, 12.30pm

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 24th June (for publication on Wednesday 26th June). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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