Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 342 Wednesday 27th November 2024

Editorial

Autumn seemed very short this year. The leaves started to change colour quite late but then last week we were struck by an unseasonal spell of snow, while many of the leaves were still hanging onto the branches. The cold snap was quickly dispelled, however, with the arrival of Storm Bert (who thinks of these names?), which has made the snow a distant memory already.

Snow is not uncommon and we see some most years, yet it always manages to delight and gives the countryside a magical feel. With the snow come the photos and we make no apology for providing a page of the stunning scenes we have received over the last few days (along with the last remnants of the autumn photos, hanging on like the golden leaves).

There is an old Herefordshire saying, 'Enough ice in November to hold a duck, the rest of the winter is slush and muck!' Did you see any ducks waddling across the ice last week, or was it not quite thick enough? Are we to expect more snow in the New Year or will we be subjected to another wet start to the year? The jury is still out!

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Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 4th December

by Sue Hermon



Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 4th December from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall.

Everyone is most welcome to come along to our seasonal gathering to help get us into the Christmas spirit!

There will be tea, coffee, cake, mince pies, sausage rolls and more plus a glass of fizz and the cost is still only £3.00 per head!

A raffle of prizes provided by Cuppa & Chat will round off the afternoon, with proceeds going to Crisis at Christmas. This is such a worthwhile cause, your support will be much appreciated.

Please note that there will be no Cuppa & Chat in January as it would fall on New Year's Day. Next get-together in 2025 will be on 6th February.

In the meantime we hope to see you on 4th December!

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

St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward
(Tel. 01386 750936)

A warm welcome awaits at St James' for our annual all-age **Carols and Christingles service** on Sunday 15th December at 6.00pm. The service will be led by Revd Jayne Parker, our curate. Do join us after the service for seasonal refreshments in the Village Hall.

Get your Christmas celebrations off to a fitting start by attending St James' **Holy Communion Service** held on Christmas Morning (Wednesday 25th December) at 10.30am. The service will be led by Revd Jayne Parker.



Autumn sunshine on Shorthill, 10th October

(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

New Year's Eve Party

Birlingham Village Hall, 8.00pm – late, £5pp

BRING YOUR PARTY TO THE VILLAGE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

Why not bring your own friends and family along and enjoy a great night out as Birlingham welcomes 2025?

You get to bring your own food and drinks, so so that you enjoy just what you like!

We will supply the cutlery, crockery and glassware which lightens your load –PLUS we do the clearing up!

What's not to love?

Tickets are £5pp and available from Angela Fitch on 01386 751682 or 07585 904636

Tutored Wine & Cheese Tasting

SOLD OUT

by Julia Luff

The Tutored Wine and Cheese evening at the Village Hall on Friday 6th December is sold out.

If you were wondering if you might turn up on the night, please don't, we really are at full capacity.

The Village Hall Committee has enticing plans for more events at the Hall, particularly next year when we celebrate the Hall's 100th birthday.

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

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St James' Church, the day after the snowfall, 20th November
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

Snow in Birlingham

For two days last week, an unexpected fall of snow transformed the village into a magical landscape, as the pictures on this page demonstrate.





(Above) Autumn meets winter in Birlingham *(Photo: Peter Luff)*

(Top right) November 19th but ready for Christmas *(Photo: Julia Luff)*

(Right) Jubilee Wood *(Photo: Nikki Hollier)*

(Bottom right) Bredon Hill, clad in snow, viewed from Lower End *(Photo: Nikki Hollier)*

(Below) Chilled beef *(Photo: Julia Luff)*







St James' Church, Birlingham

CAROLS & CHRISTINGLES



SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER

18:00

St James' Church

JOIN OUR FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICE!

Take part in our traditional Christingle service and sing along to your favourite carols, followed by mulled wine and seasonal refreshments in Birlingham Village Hall

ALL WELCOME

Parish Council Report

by Ian Yates

Birlingham Parish Council held its meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 20th November in the Village Hall. A summary of agenda items follows:

- **'20 is plenty' – identifying the benefits of a 20mph limit in Residential Areas**

  As reported previously, a small working group of residents, headed by Councillor Rupert Day, carried out a survey to establish residents' views and support for the possible introduction of a 20mph speed limit in parts of the village. As part of this initiative, Worcestershire County Council (WCC) were asked to monitor the speed and volume of traffic in Upper End and in the Avenue and this was carried out in September. A summary of the results is shown on the next page.

- **Flooding by the Manor House Lower End**

  The ongoing work to try and solve the problem of the leak on the slope by the Manor House continues. In October, WCC Highways closed the road and repaired the collapsed drainage pipe for which the Parish Council were grateful. However, there is still a problem which requires Severn Trent Water (STW) to inspect and then repair their collapsed surface water sewers to the north of Manor Stables, within the Moors land. This is still the main issue causing excess water to flow onto the public highway. Councillor Steven Byrne provided an update for Adrian Hardman and the Parish Council with maps showing the location of the various drains and sewers. However, to date, we have been unable to get STW to carry out the necessary inspection and repair so it was agreed that with Councillor Hardman's help we would try and escalate the action to the Managing Director of Severn Trent.

- **Consultation on Potential Community Infrastructure Projects**

  The Parish Council has £4000 of funding available within its Community and Projects provisions. Also, through recent discussions with Wychavon District Council (WDC), opportunities for grant funding for community facilities and infrastructure have been identified as they become available. In addition, the Parish Council is in receipt of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) of £1543 as a result of certain planning permissions granted. There are different criteria defined for how each of these various funds can be used but in general the monies can be spent on community infrastructure projects.

  The Parish Council intends to compile a list of potential projects on which monies could be spent, or for which applications for grant funding could be made, and consult so that the parish priorities can be agreed

  Councillor Katie Parsons will be contacting Birlingham community groups to invite them to put forward projects using a simple form. The resulting list will then be consulted upon with the local community, as well as inviting any further suggestions.

- **2025/26 Precept**

  The Parish Council reviewed the budget for 25/26 and agreed to limit the increase to just £210 for the parish precept.

- **School buses**

  During the democratic opening, Councillor Paula Aston raised concerns with Councillor Hardman about the unreliability of the school buses from Bredons Hardwicke, via Eckington Bridge to Birlingham. Cresswell, who run the service, have no flood timetable in place and do not communicate with parents if they are not picking up children, just leaving them waiting on the roadside. WCC agreed the situation was unacceptable and the Head of School Transport is dealing with it.



School children being rescued by boat from a Cresswell bus that entered flood water at Eckington Bridge on 25th November (five days after the issue was raised at the Parish Council meeting)

- **Remembrance Service**

  The Parish Council thanked Ian Moore who laid the wreath in Eckington and Councillors Michael Porter and Katie Parsons who read the names and laid the wreath in Birlingham. The meeting was also grateful to Councillor David Glover and his wife Judith for clearing the leaves and cutting the grass around the war memorial ahead of the service.

Full minutes of the Parish Council meeting will be posted on the village website shortly.

‘20 is plenty’ – identifying the benefits of a 20mph limit in Residential Areas

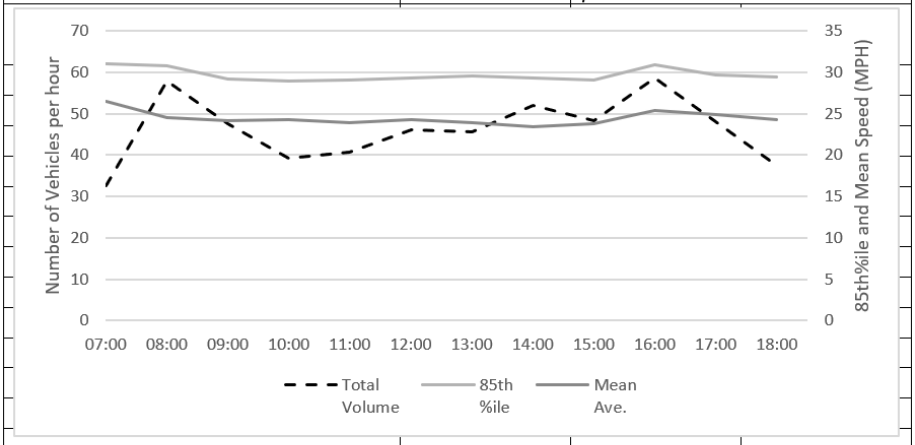
A small working group of residents carried out a survey to establish residents’ views and support for the possible introduction of a 20mph speed limit in parts of the village.

Worcestershire County Council (WCC) were asked to monitor the speed and volume of traffic in Upper End and in the Avenue and this was carried out in September.

A summary of the results is shown opposite.

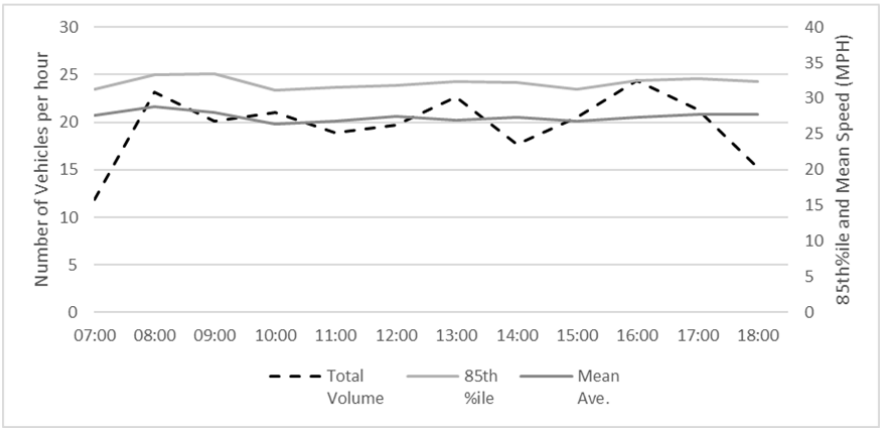
Upper End

	Daily Volume	Mean Av. Speed	85th %ile Speed
Westbound	313	25	30
Eastbound	318	24	29
Combined	**631**	*Figures above shown in miles per hour*	



The Avenue

	Daily Volume	Mean Av. Speed	85th %ile Speed
Westbound	161	28	33
Eastbound	112	27	33
Combined	**273**	*Figures above shown in miles per hour*	



The Parish Council discussed the results along with WCC Councillor Adrian Hardman who was present at the meeting. The issue of traffic in the village has been addressed many times, the last being in 2016 when the Parish Council looked at both traffic numbers and speed. This did not progress since it was found that cars were sticking to the 30mph limit but raised the question as to whether 30mph was an appropriate speed for our roads.

Reviewing the results:

1. Overall traffic does not seem to have increased from 2016.
2. Speeding (i.e. over 30mph) decreased from 20% in 2016 to 14% in 2024.
3. The key target area of 20mph-30mph was 69% in 2016 and 67% in 2024 (i.e. no change).
4. Speeds of 20mph and less have nearly doubled from 11% in 2016 to 19% in 2024.

The working group drew two potential conclusions:

1. Reducing the speed limit to 20mph would capture 86% of all traffic – on the understanding that those who currently obey the speed limit would continue to do so.
2. The traffic is becoming more ‘speed aware’ and therefore is more likely to adhere to new speed limits – a key issue around enforcement.

It would also have a positive impact on those 14% inclined to speed.

Two actions for the working group were agreed:

1. WCC’s Head of Highways will be invited to meet with the working group to discuss a proposal for a 20mph limit in parts of the village. This should help inform whether current government policy supports such a proposal. The question of the funding required for any change can also be discussed. In addition, the use of a Transport Consultant who can advise on policy and likelihood of success will also be considered before a formal submission is made.
2. Separately, the group will look at other measures such as white-line marking to highlight where roads narrow and active speed signs.

Eckington Wharf Webcam

The webcam at Eckington Wharf provides a useful way to see (literally!) whether traffic is currently able to get between Birlingham and Eckington across Eckington Bridge.

Instructions for finding the webcam view are given opposite.

The image is updated approximately every 30 seconds.

Thanks to Mike Rodwell for providing the link.

1 Go to https://www.farsondigitalwatercams.com/locations/eckington.

The webcam screen is displayed.

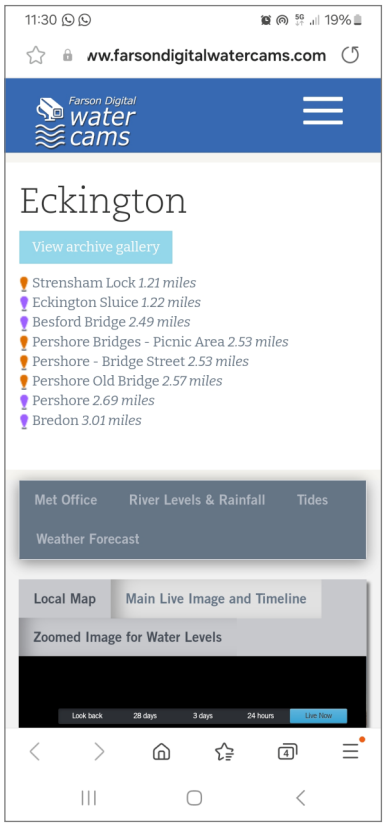
2 Scroll down until you see 'Zoomed Image for Water Levels' and the video display box.

3 Click on the 'play' icon (triangle in circle)

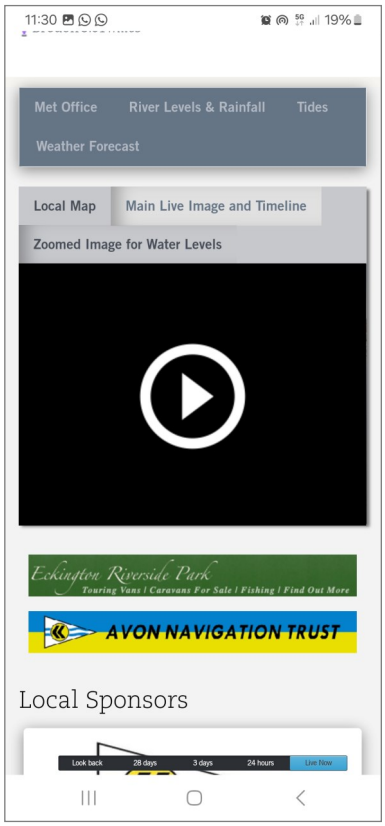
The webcam view is displayed.

4 Use your finger and thumb to zoom in on the image.

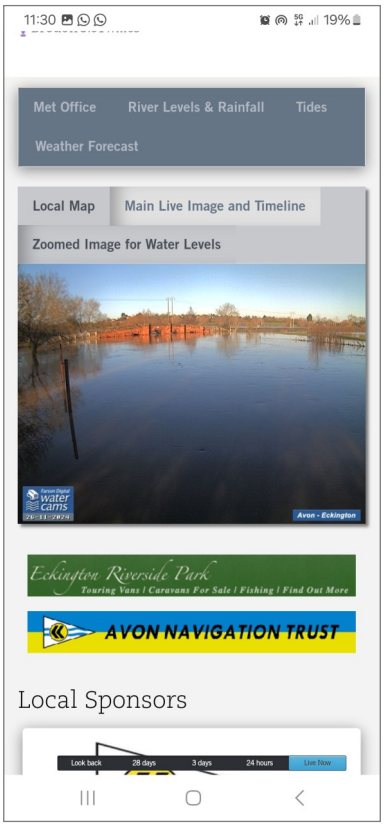
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Letters to the Editors

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



Bredon Hill from Shorthill, 24th October

(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

Planning Applications

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

The Bungalow, Upper End: Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use and operational development of the single dwellinghouse known as The Bungalow, specifically not subject to any agricultural occupancy conditions (Case No. W/24/01789/CLE). **Refused**. Full details and reasons for refusal can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/24/01789/CLE

The Parish Council comments are available at:

http://ww.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_24_01789.pdf

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Dates for your diary

December

Wed 4	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Fri 6	Tutored Wine & Cheese Tasting, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 15	Carols and Christingles, 6.00pm, St James' Church
Wed 25	Christmas Day Holy Communion, 10.30am, St James' Church
Tue 31	New Year's Eve Party, 8.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall

January

Wed 1	**NO** Cuppa & Chat
Wed 15	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 16	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall

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 9th December (for publication on Wednesday 11th December). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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