Birlingham News *online*

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 344[2] Saturday 28th December 2024

Editorial

It is Boxing Overmorrow and the Christmas events have taken place but there is still plenty to look forward to, including the New Year's Eve Party at the Village Hall and a Village Quiz in January.

This has been an 'interesting' year, as illustrated by our annual review of the year in pictures, some from previous editions of *Birlingham News*, others not previously published. We look forward to receiving many more photos and stories about the village from you in the coming year.

We hope you all had a very merry Christmas and we wish you a happy New Year.



Snowdrops in the churchyard, 22nd December
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

Cuppa & Chat

by Sue Hermon



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 Wednesday 5th February, when we look forward to seeing you all for our first Cuppa & Chat of the year.

A very Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone from all of the Cuppa & Chat team

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 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

Village Quiz

Saturday 18th January

by Jessica Dormer

Do come along to the Village Quiz on Saturday 18th January! We're raising funds jointly, for the Village Hall and the Friends of St James's Church. Starts at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Bring your own food and drink!

You can enter as a team – up to 6 of you – or in smaller groups or as individuals. We will combine smaller groups to make teams of 5 or 6 so don't worry if you can't make up a team.

To enter, please complete the form here: https://forms.gle/bNScyx1v5BdrTx1m7

Thank you

Thank you to all those who have contributed to *Birlingham News* this year.

In particular, thank you to our regular contributors, who keep us up to date with news and events in the village: Sue Hermon, Caryl Mills, Adrianne Woodward and Ian Yates.

Thanks also to those who regularly keep us supplied with topical photographs for the online edition: Paul Burton, Brian Chinneck, Chris Hermon, June Hiden, Nikki Hollier, Julia Luff, Peter Luff, Jayne Mackenzie, Ann Maxwell and Ian Yates, plus others who have sent us occasional photos.

Finally, thank you to the many people who have made other contributions to *Birlingham News* over the last twelve months.



(Photo: Brian Chinneck)

St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward
(Tel. 01386 750936)

The **first service of 2025** will take place on Sunday 12th January at 10.30am. This service will be Morning Praise.

Thanks go to Fran and Steve Cant who decorated the Christmas Tree in the church porch and the flower arrangers for such beautiful arrangements inside the church.

A Happy New Year to all in Birlingham, from the Churchwarden and members of the PCC.

Update from Claire

Thank you so much for all your care and support as I have recovered from my recent surgery. My consultant has shared with me the good news that my lymph nodes were clear. However, to enable the best possible outcome I am going to need further surgery on 16th January. This will be followed by some more chemotherapy over the next few months. Please continue to pray for me, for all being treated for cancer and all health professionals. I will rearrange commitments and so on so that I can have recovery time after surgery – I will be sensible, I promise!

I am giving thanks for the incredible care the NHS are giving me. I also give daily thanks for all of you and for your amazing love and support. I really couldn't be anywhere better.



Flooding on 30th November
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)



Carols and Christingles

15th December

(Top to bottom, left to right)

◊ Hettie Smith singing Silent Night

◊ Building the crib

◊ Revd Jayne Parker explaining the christingles

◊ The decorated font

◊ Receiving the christingles

(Photos: Brian Chinneck)











Birlingham Christingle 2024 Video.mp4

Brian has also created a slideshow of all the photos with Hettie's performance of Silent Night as the backing to the video. This can be accessed via Dropbox at https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/e0lxigrrzy6l9wo7vrw7v/APHarnm6MKhmy5Ms4LXEkps?rlkey=7kzqyvcior20uyja5ltg6mem2&st=rjoyhw6k&dl=0

VILLAGE QUIZ!

Fund–raising for the Village Hall and Friends of St James 's Church

Saturday 18th January 2025

7pm – around 9:30pm

Birlingham Village Hall

Bring your own food and drink

£5 per person

To enter – look out for the flyers, or the form on the WhatsApp group, or contact Jessica on 07939 695113



More floods on 30th November *(Photo: Nikki Hollier)*

New Year Bin Collections

Dates for bin collections in Birlingham over the New Year period are as follows:

- **Green bins**: Monday 30th December (as usual) plus any number of clear recycling sacks placed next to the bin
- **Brown bins**: Monday 30th December (as usual)
- **Black bins**: Monday 6th January (as usual) **plus up to two extra black refuse sacks placed next to the bin**



Clear recycling sacks are available from Pershore Civic Centre but any clear sacks can be used.

Make sure that your bins are out by 7.00am as collections may be earlier than usual.

Wychavon District Council's useful guide to what can and cannot go in your green recycling bin is below.

Full details of Christmas collections and other information about waste and recycling are available at:

https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/christmas-waste-and-recycling

Your naughty and nice Christmas recycling guide

by Wychavon District Council

Here is our guide to help you get your recycling right and cut your waste this Christmas. Visit our recycling search to find out about all the items you can recycle at home.

The Nice List

These go in your green bin/clear sack or can be taken to a Household Recycling Centre where indicated.

Wrapping paper – if it is not glittery or metallic/plastic lined. Scrunch your wrapping paper into a ball and if it holds its shape it can be recycled

Cardboard packaging – please flatten before putting in your green bin/clear sack.

Glass bottles – all colours can go in your green bin. If on a sack collection, please take to a Household Recycling Centre or one of our bring banks.

Crackers – if the wrapper can be scrunched and holds its shape then it can be recycled along with the cardboard tube, paper joke, paper hat and the snapper. Any plastic prize inside needs to go in your black bin/sack.

Plastic bottles – all colours except black can go in your green bin/clear sack. Leave lids on.

Advent calendars – the outer cardboard and plastic inner can go in your green bin/clear sack if it is free from foil or chocolate and is not made of black plastic.

Plastic tubs - pots or trays, such as those used for nibbles or dips (as long as not black plastic), can go in your green bin/clear sack.

Metal drinks cans - these go in your green bin/clear sack.

Tin foil – if clean and free from food this can be recycled at a Household Recycling Centre. Please do not put in your green bin/clear sack.

Cardboard takeaway boxes – if not too greasy and free from food these can go in your green bin/clear sack

Plastic or metal sweet/biscuit tins – these go in your green bin/ clear sack.

Christmas cards – these go in your green bin/clear sack or save them to reuse as tags next year.

The Naughty List

These items go in your black bin/sack.

Tinsel and other non-paper-based decorations.

Black plastic – of any kind.

Polystyrene – like the kind used in packaging.

Paper napkins and plates.

Metallic or plastic-backed wrapping paper (do the scrunch test to check).

Glitter-covered products and bows or ribbons (unless you can save them to use next year).

Santa's Helpers

Additional ways to reduce and reuse.

Christmas trees – real ones can be taken to Household Recycling Centres.

Food waste – portion plan and use up leftovers. Visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for tips.

Clothing – if good quality donate them to a charity shop or put them out for collection with your black bin/sack in a plastic bag and we will take them to be reused or recycled.

Unwanted toys/gifts – donate them to a charity shop.

Batteries – take them to any supermarket or retailer that sells batteries and use their battery recycling point. You can also put them in a plastic bag and leave them on top of your **black bin** for recycling.

BIRLINGHAM 2024

The Year in Pictures

January



Bredon Hill from Gravelly Hill, 1st January
(Photo: June Hiden)



Aptly named Wetlands, 2nd January
(Photo: Julia Luff)



Aerial View of Eckington Bridge, 4th January
(Photo: George Sharpe)



Seven swans a-swimming: parents and five offspring on the River Avon near Woodfield Farm, 20th January
(Photo: Paul Burton)

February



Visit of Chairman of Wychavon District Council to see the snowdrops, 10th January
(Photo: June Hiden)



Snowdrops in the churchyard
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)



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)



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



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



Early morning sky on 27th February
(Photo: Judi Glover)



Seat washed up in Asham Meadow after the floods retreat, 28th February *(Photo: Julia Luff)*

March



Eckington Bridge closed for maintenance from 23rd March until 7th April



Part of the bridge requiring maintenance

(Photos: Nikki Hollier)



Spring flowers in Lower End, 24th March
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)



Newborn lambs in Birlingham, 30th March – it must be spring!
(Photo: Chris Hermon)

April

Wild garlic in New Barn Road, 27th April
(Photo: June Hiden)





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

May



(Above) Northern Lights over Tiddesley Wood at 11.00pm
(Photo: Ian Yates)
(Below) Lower End cottages at 11.25pm
(Photo: Mark Smith)



Northern Lights in Whitehall Lane, 10th May
(Photo: Matt Dormer)





Nafford Weir, after a great effort by Smiths Angling Club, 7th May

(Photo: Peter Luff)

June



Birlingham Village Fete, 22nd June

(Photo: Peter Luff)

July



2024 saw the 200th year of life at The Row and to celebrate there was a little get-together on 26th July and the presentation of a commissioned gate to mark this magnificent milestone

(Photo: Angela Fitch Photography)



Six cygnets on Sherpool Lake, 27th July

(Photo: Jayne Mackenzie)

August



Waiting for the Pilates class . . . or perhaps I'll head for the Swan, 20th August

(Photo: Julia Luff)



September



Birlingham Flower & Produce Show, 7th September: the Court House Salver (Joint Winners, Rupert Day and Bruce Hayward)

(Photos: Kris Mills)



The churchyard after the previous Saturday's annual tidy-up, 3rd September

(Photo: Nikki Hollier)



One of the window displays at the Harvest Festival, 14th September

(Photo: Nikki Hollier)



Rainbow over Whitehall Lane, 12th September

(Photo: Mike Rodwell)



Reflections at Nafford, 16th September
(Photo: June Hiden)



Autumn cyclamen in the churchyard, 16th September
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

October

More Northern Lights, 10th October



View from Lower End *(Photo: Amy Purcell)*



From lay-by on the Pershore Road *(Photo: Steve Conder)*



Autumn sunshine on Shorthill, 10th October
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)



Bredon Hill from Shorthill, 24th October
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

November







Snow in Birlingham, 19th November

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

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

(Right) St James' Church, the day after the snowfall (Photo: Nikki Hollier)

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

(Below) Chilled beef (Photo: Julia Luff)







Snowdrops in blankets: pots of snowdrop bulbs getting ready for the Teas, 19th November

(Photo: Ali Jowett)



School children being rescued by boat from a Cresswell bus that entered flood water at Eckington Bridge on 25th November

December



Festive Cuppa & Chat, 4th December

(Photo: Chris Hermon)



Carols & Christingles, 15th December

(Photo: Brian Chinneck)

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

Eckington Stores

Shop locally from our large range of products:

- Grocery and household items
- Bread and milk
- Ham, cheese, bacon and eggs
- Fruit and vegetables
- Newspapers and magazines
- Frozen food and ice cream
- Alcohol and cold drinks
- Confectionary

We are agents for:

- The National Lottery
- My Hermes Parcelshop

Please pop in to see our full range of products

John, Sue and Mark
Tel 01386 750266

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.



Sunrise on the Winter Solstice through Jubilee Wood
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

Dates for your diary

December

Tue 31	New Year's Eve Party, 8.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall

January

Wed 1	**NO** Cuppa & Chat
Sun 12	Morning Praise, 10.30am, St James' Church
Wed 15	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 16	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 18	Village Quiz, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall

February

Wed 5	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 20	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall

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 December (for publication on Wednesday 8th January). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, in any form or by any means, without permission from the Publisher.
© 2024 Birlingham Jubilee Committee

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