Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 345 Wednesday 8th January 2025

Editorial

Happy New Year – and welcome to the second quarter of the 21st century!

In some ways, it does not seem that long since the Millennium, and yet so much has changed in the last 25 years.

Back in 2000, the internet was still in its infancy and most of us had yet to learn how to 'surf the net'. It would be another four years before Facebook arrived on the scene and the term 'social media' had not been invented. Twitter, Snapchat and other sites were a long way off and internet dating would have seemed an absurd idea.

Mobile phones were less like bricks than they had been but their screens were still tiny and the devices were used mainly for making phone calls, with text messages just becoming commonplace. Even email was a new concept.

We watched television on five channels, though we could record broadcasts on video tape. If you didn't listen to the radio live you lost your chance; there was no on-demand playback of your favourite programmes.

Had *Birlingham News* existed, it would have been delivered to your door in paper form. Artificial intelligence was something that appeared only in science fiction and seemed a very long way off.

Putin had just taken over in Russia and was regarded as someone the West could do business with. How times have changed!

In fact, the whole way we communicate and access information is very different now. Our world has altered dramatically.

How will life develop over the next 25 years, by the middle of the century? It is impossible to predict – though we would love to hear your suggestions!

And so, as mathematicians would say, we wish you a Happy Forty-Five Squared!

Cuppa & Chat

by Sue Hermon



Please note that the next Cuppa & Chat will be on **Wednesday 5th February** (the first Wednesday of the month, as usual – not 6th February, as stated previously).

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 15th January

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 15th January at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. During the meeting there is an opportunity to express your views on local issues, so please go along.

The agenda for the meeting will be available at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2025-01-15.pdf
and the draft minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 20th November will be available at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2024-11-20.pdf

Birlingham IW

Thursday 16th January *by Caryl Mills*



We start 2025 on Thursday 16th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall with our AGM, although this is very brief. We will be having a talk by the Spice Man – for those of you who have been at one of his previous talks, these are always very interesting and informative, as well as very entertaining.

All are welcome to join us; guest fee is £3.

St James' Church

Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward (Tel. 01386 750936)



Here is the church news for the New Year:

* A welcome awaits in St James' at the first service of 2025 on **Sunday 12th January** at 10.30am. It is a **Morning Praise** service led by Angela Gerrard, followed by refreshments.
* The **Bulb Sunday** service this year is being held on **Sunday 9th February** at 3.00pm. Canon Claire Lording will be leading the service, supported by the Director of Music at the Abbey, James MacDowall Scott, as the organist, and members of the Abbey Choir leading the singing and contributing individual items. Refreshments are available to purchase in the Village Hall, at the Snowdrop Teas, after the service.
* There is no service in March but a short talk about Fairtrade is planned to be held in the church, with the opportunity to buy a selection of Fairtrade items. More details to follow.

Also:
St James' is introducing a 'Light up Your Special Date' scheme in 2025. Do you have a special date on the calendar that marks an anniversary, or perhaps a memory of a loved one? If so, you are invited to sponsor the floodlighting of St James' on that date for a donation of £10.00, with the option of having an inscription in a Book of Commemoration.

For more details there are leaflets available in the church or contact Sue Hayward, PCC Treasurer, on dennett90@aol.com.

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! £5 per person.

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; we can sort that out on the night!

We have space for a few more teams. Enter using the paper form which you should have received or by filling in the form online:

https://forms.gle/KYHrZpEvVhYMiwAaA





(Above) Recovering from Christmas
(Right) Plenty of mistletoe left on the trees, 25th December
(Photos: Julia Luff)



Sheep grazing in the broccoli field opposite the Red Star offices, 28th December *(Photo: June Hiden)*



(Photo: Ken Fitch)

Birlingham's little NYE 'do' is a big hit!

by Angela Fitch

Many, many thanks to everyone who saw the New Year in with friends and neighbours at the Village Hall and a special thank you to people who chose to stay on to put the furniture away and clear away the debris, all of which made things so much easier.

Tunes from the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and even a few from the 2000s provided the perfect soundtrack to the night. Everyone had a fabulous time, chatting with friends and throwing a few shapes on the dance floor. Big Ben made its entrance at the appointed time, followed by a rousing village chorus of Auld Lang Syne, followed by Birlingham's own version of the Can Can.

Many thanks from Ken and Angela Fitch for the very kind messages received and to our friends and neighbours who made this little event a great big hit!

Happy New Year everyone!

2025 is a perfect square:

$$2025 = 45^2 = (20+25)^2 = (20\times 2+5)^2$$

Sum of consecutive integers squared:

$$2025 = (1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9)^2$$

Sum of cubes:

$$2025 = 1^3+2^3+3^3+4^3+5^3+6^3+7^3+8^3+9^3$$

Sum of two perfect squares:

$$2025 = 27^2+36^2$$

Product of perfect squares:

$$2025 = 5^2\times 3^4 = 25\times 81$$

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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 flooding in Lower End, 7th January *(Photo: Peter Luff)*

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES' CHURCH, BIRLINGHAM

SNOWDROP TEAS 2025



Birlingham Village Hall
February Saturdays and Sundays, 11am - 4pm

Every resident in the village is welcome to come in for a complimentary cup of tea - bring this flyer with you!

Snowdrop Teas support the maintenance of Birlingham's Church and Churchyard, the exquisite centrepiece of our village. As we welcome people from far and wide to see the snowdrops & crocuses, the sale of snowdrops and of teas & cakes makes a vital contribution to keeping St James' safe and sound.

Bulb Sunday Church Service, February 9th at 3pm

If you can bake us a cake or do a stint in the kitchen, please email Sue Hayward at dennett90@aol.com, or ring Julia Luff on 07796 693687

West Mercia POLICE

Safer Neighbourhood Team Drop-in Session

Saturday 18th January – Eckington Village Hall

by Alex Prentice, Police Constable,
Evesham Safer Neighbourhood Team

Please see dates opposite for the upcoming drop–in sessions for the Evesham Rural Team.

These drop-in sessions gives you the opportunity to raise any concerns and to find out what we are doing to tackle the issues that matter to you.

Everyone is welcome and it would be great to see you there.

For more information please contact me at:
alexandra.prentice@westmercia.police.uk

January

Thursday 9th, 10.00am – Cleeve Prior Memorial Hall
Friday 10th, 10.00am – Meon Vale, Langate Fields
Friday 10th, 12.00pm – Honeybourne Village Hall
Wednesday 15th, 10.00am – Signpost, Broadway
Wednesday 15th, 2.00pm – Beckford, The Old Post Office
Thursday 16th, 10.00am – Bredon Village Hall
Saturday 18th, 10.00am – Strensham Village Hall
Saturday 18th, 1.00pm – Eckington Village Hall
Saturday 18th, 2.30pm – Sedgeberrow Village Hall
Sunday 19th, 10.00am – Badsey outside Spa
Sunday 19th, 9.00am – Offenham Main St outside Post Office
Thursday 23rd, 10.00am – Cleeve Prior Memorial Hall



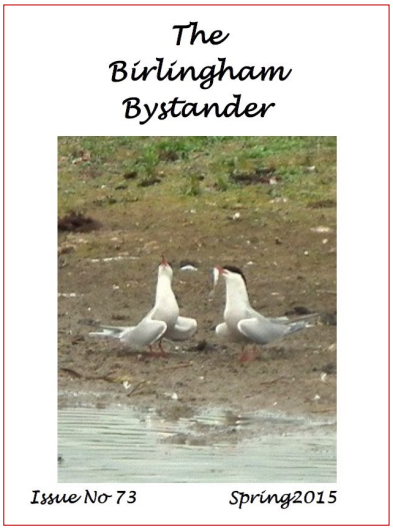
Sunset over Bredon Hill, 20th December *(Photo: Julia Luff)*

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 2015 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* begins with an article by Bill Trow-Poole. This is followed by reports of services, the IW, the new Cuppa & Chat and the Village Hall.

There are descriptions of the New Year's Eve party at the Village Hall, Carols in the Courtyard, the Flower & Produce Show and Bulb Sunday.

The issue includes a fascinating letter and photograph from Walter Fielding-Cotterell in Australia. Walter was born in Whitehall Cottages.

The baptism of India Guest is reported, along with obituaries for Harry Porter, Bill Trow-Poole, Gerry James, Joan Gill and Bill Quarrell – all great characters from the past.

Issue 73 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander073.pdf

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We have a range of locally produced products:
- Fladbury meat pies
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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

January	
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	Safer Neighbourhood Team Drop-in Session, 1.00pm, Eckington Village Hall
Sat 18	Village Quiz, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
February	
Sat 1/Sun 2	Snowdrop Teas, 11.00am-4.00pm
Wed 5	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 8/Sun 9	Snowdrop Teas, 11.00am-4.00pm
Sat 15/Sun 16	Snowdrop Teas, 11.00am-4.00pm
Thu 20	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 22/Sun 23	Snowdrop Teas, 11.00am-4.00pm

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

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