Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 349 Wednesday 12th March 2025

Editorial

Are you familiar with the Turing Test? This was an idea presented in a paper by mathematician Alan Turing in 1950. Is it possible, he asked, for a machine to exhibit intelligent behaviour equivalent to that of a human, such that a reader is unable to distinguish between the responses produced by the machine and those from a person? In recent years, artificial intelligence (AI) has developed at an extraordinary rate and is approaching the point at which computers are indeed starting to mimic the thought process of humans.

Last month we featured a guest editorial and we can now reveal that the piece was produced by one of the leading AI programs, ChatGPT. We uploaded recent editorials to the program, along with the draft of the newsletter, and asked the simple question, "Can you write an editorial for *Birlingham News*?"

The result was the piece published in Birlingham News No. 347 (with no edits). Not only did our 'guest editor' produce a really good round-up of the contents of the edition, it also came up with its own idea for an overall theme to tie all the articles together. This is an amazing achievement – and also a little scary.

ChatGPT concluded our brief conversation with the words, "I'm glad you found the original version workable. Let me know if you need any final tweaks. Happy editing!"

Since none of our readers appears to have noticed that the editorial was computer-generated, it seems that ChatGPT has passed the Turing Test.

It will be a while before we are completely out of a job but the possibilities – and dangers – of this new technology are clear. We look forward to hearing your views!

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 19th March

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 19th March 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 shortly be available at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2025-03-19.pdf
and the draft minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 15th January can be viewed at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2025-01-15.pdf.

Birlingham IW



Thursday 20th March *by Caryl Mills*

We are opening our March meeting to the whole village, your friends and family.

Tales of Birlingham with Chris Ludlow
Illustrated by old photographs of Birlingham, Chris will be telling tales of Birlingham over the last 60 years. This looks to be a fascinating talk and everyone can join us to find out the history of this village.

The talk starts at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. £3 for non-members.



Fairtrade Coffee Morning

Sunday 23rd March

by Adrianne Woodward

You are all invited to a Fairtrade Coffee Morning on Sunday 23rd March at 11.00am in the church.

You will be welcomed by a cup of Fairtrade coffee/tea and a Fairtrade biscuit – try before you buy! There will be a short talk about the Fairtrade movement by Hilary Fowler and an opportunity to ask questions. You will have the opportunity to purchase Fairtrade goods, including tea, coffee, biscuits, chocolate, cards, hessian shopping bags and Mothering Sunday and Easter themed items. Cash or cheques only for purchases.

This event is open to all the village and is a very worthwhile cause.

VE Day 80th Anniversary

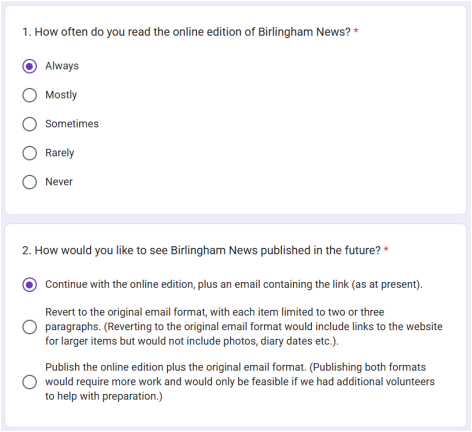
Thursday 8th May

The Jubilee Committee is intending to organise an event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, which falls on Thursday 8th May.

The event will probably be held on either the Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May, or VE Day itself, depending on the level of likely support.

Planning is at an early stage so if you have any ideas for commemorating the occasion we would like to hear from you. If you would like to be involved in organising the event or would be willing to help on the day, please get in touch at news@birlingham.org or phone/text 07801 368953.

Birlingham News Survey



Thank you to all those who have already responded to the *Birlilngham News* survey. The survey will be open until Sunday 16th March.

If you have not yet responded, we would like to hear your views, so that we can decide whether we need to make changes to the way we present *Birlingham News* in the future.

This is your opportunity to tell us what you like (or don't!) and to guide us in the way the village newsletter develops over the coming months.

Please take a few moments to complete the survey.

The survey is available at:

https://forms.gle/Qah37HDdnUVsriy67

Results of the survey will be published in the next edition of *Birlingham News*.

Swan Inn Closure

The Swan Inn will be closed for the rest of this week for staff holidays.

It will reopen as normal next Wednesday, 19th March.



Friends of St James' Church, Birlingham

Charity Registration Number : 1094752

Wednesday 9th April

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on Wednesday 9th April 2025 in St James' Church, Birlingham at 6.00pm

All are welcome to attend

The agenda, minutes of the last AGM and reports will be in the next issue of *Birlingham News*





Spring flowers in the churchyard and sun over Jubilee Wood, 27th February *(Photos: Nikki Hollier)*

FAIRTRADE
COFFEE MORNING

SUNDAY 23 MARCH
1100
ST JAMES' CHURCH, BIRLINGHAM

FAIRTRADE COFFEE
AND BISCUITS ON ARRIVAL

SHORT TALK ABOUT FAIRTRADE
BY HILARY FOWLER

CARDS, NOTECARDS AND GIFTS

MOTHERING SUNDAY
AND EASTER ITEMS

COFFEE, TEA, BISCUITS AND
CHOCOLATE

WE ARE A
FAIRTRADE
COMMUNITY

**COME ALONG
AND TREAT YOURSELF**

CASH AND CHEQUES
FOR PURCHASES ONLY

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 determined by Wychavon District Council:

The Bungalow, Upper End: Certificate of lawfulness for the existing operational development and use of the single dwellinghouse known as The Bungalow, specifically not subject to any agricultural occupancy conditions (Case No. W/25/00056/CLE). **Certified**. Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/25/00056/CLE

The Parish Council comments are available at:

http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_25_00056A.pdf and

http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_25_00056B.pdf

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

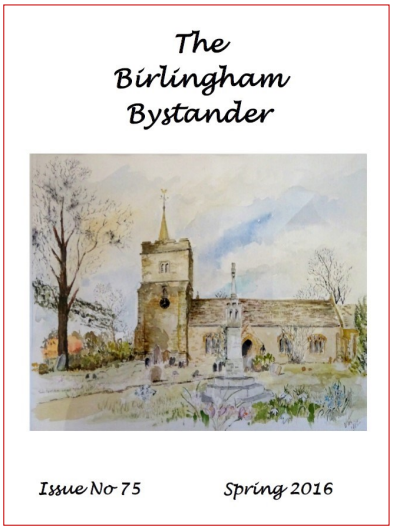
St James' Church, Rectory Lane: Undertake tree works, as detailed on application form and in any accompanying information (Case No. W/25/00336/CAN). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/25/00336/CAN

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.

Bystander Archives



The Spring 2016 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* begins with an article about Canon John Parsons, a former rector of St James' Church. This is followed by the history of English Change Ringing.

The Christmas services, Christmas Fayre and Bulb Sunday are recorded, along with articles on the IW, the darts team, the Flower & Produce Show and Cuppa & Chat. There is a report of the New Year's Eve Party at the Village Hall.

Jacqueline and Terry Griffin are welcomed.

Wimpy Bennett stood down from the editorial team, after many years as a member. For the previous edition, Clare Kew had replaced Mary Sadler.

Issue 75 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander075.pdf

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Fresh local milk self serve. Local meats. Selection of frozen Fish, pies etc. Defford
Large selection of cheese. Gift Ideas. Hampers & Much more ..... Worcestershire
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Dates for your diary

March

Wed 12-Tue 18	Swan Inn closed
Wed 19	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 20	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall: Tales of Birlingham with Chris Ludlow
Sun 23	Fairtrade Coffee Morning, 11.00am, St James' Church

April

Wed 2	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Wed 9	Friends of St James' Church AGM, 6.00pm, St James' Church
Thu 17	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 20	Easter Sunday Holy Communion, 10.30am, St James' Church

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

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