Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 350 Wednesday 26th March 2025

Editorial

Opinion polls are only as good as the sampling methods they use.

We have had an excellent response to our *Birlingham News* survey but, as some people have been away, we are keeping it open until Sunday. Thank you to all those who have completed it so far.

Inevitably, the majority of responses are coming from those who regularly download *Birlingham News*. Please encourage anyone you know to fill in the survey, even if they are not regular readers, so that we can get an accurate representation of the whole village.

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 distributed to the members shortly. They will also be available at the meeting, or on request.

Birlingham Village Hall

by Paul Burton, Chair of the Birmingham Village Hall

On 17th April 2025, the Robert Woodward Parish Hall and Institute (Birlingham Village Hall) will be 100 years old. We are planning celebrations on the day but a more reflective occasion later in the year after the excitement of the VE celebrations. I am asking the villagers, especially those who have lived in the village for many years, if they can find any photographs of the Hall or memorabilia and provide any memories of events. The sort of photographs we are looking for are those activities in the Hall: pantomimes, dances and other occasions.

There must be photographs of the Hall before the extensive renovations 20–30 years ago and of course photographs of the renovations/reroofing. I am happy to scan and return photographs swiftly. Alternatively please send any images and memories to paul.burton@btinternet.com.

The Hall is a wonderful facility and those of us that are comparative newcomers to the village are, to quote an oft used phrase, standing on the shoulders of giants: those who put so much work into renovating the Hall. The Village Hall is a Charitable Trust that should have 11 Trustees; at the moment we only have five. I am asking those who have recently come to the village (since lockdown) to come and join us as Trustees. The work is not onerous but we would welcome new blood and ideas on how we can make the best use of this village asset.

Again, if you are interested please email me at paul.burton@btinternet.com or phone me on 07715 380969 – you will be very welcome.

Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 2nd April

by Sue Hermon



Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 2nd April from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall. Everyone is most welcome to come along.There will be tea, coffee and a selection of cakes and the cost is still only £3.00 per head!

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



Defibrillator Code

The code to unlock the defibrillator at the front of the Village Hall is:

C1234

St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward
(Tel. 01386 750936)

Church news for April:

* Many thanks to those who attended the **Fairtrade Coffee Morning** on 23rd March and to Hilary Fowler who provided all of the goods and an interesting talk. A total of £145 was raised by the selling of Fairtrade items as varied as dates from Palestine, Ukrainian honey and delicious biscuits from Scotland! The money will all go to spreading the worthwhile Fairtrade cause. The Co-op and Waitrose all have a wide range of Fairtrade goods . . . they cost slightly more but help to restore a little bit more equality to this world.
* The **Easter Sunday Holy Communion Service** will be held on 20th April at 10.30am. It will be taken by Revd Jayne Parker and there will refreshments, including eggs, after the service.
* Dates for your diary . . . Sunday 25th May at 3.00pm, **St James' Spring Walk** – details to follow.

VE Day 80th Anniversary

Street Party

Monday 5th May

The Jubilee Committee is organising a street party to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day on the Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May. The party will take place adjacent to Birlingham Village Hall and begin at 12.30pm.

Dress code (optional): Red, white and blue.

Full details will be available in the next edition of *Birlingham News*.

If you would like to help in any way, please get in touch at news@birlingham.org or phone/text 07801 368953.


Daily Mail

VICTORY EDITION

HISTORIC VE-DAY TRIBUTE

3-POWER ANNOUNCEMENT TO-DAY; BUT BRITAIN KNEW LAST NIGHT

VE-DAY – IT'S ALL OVER

All quiet till 9p.m. – then the London crowds went mad in the West End

PM put off the big speech

By Day By Night

U.S. made it VE-Day all the same

Work walk-out

Beacon chain begun by Piccadilly's bonfires

SCHACHT SAVED BY 'FIFTH'

The war still goes on here—

PRAGUE BOMBED AS SS SHOOT CZECH CIVILIANS

GOEBBELS' BODY IN A SHELTER

CZECHS TOLD TO 'SMASH GERMANS'

Thanksgiving

ARRESTED POLES MAY BE TRIED BY LUBLIN

Birlingham Footpaths

by John Sansome

There is a network of public and permissive paths throughout Birlingham for all to enjoy.

Please keep dogs under close control and remain on the paths at all times.

Please take extra care on Asham Meadow, where the curlews will soon be starting to nest.

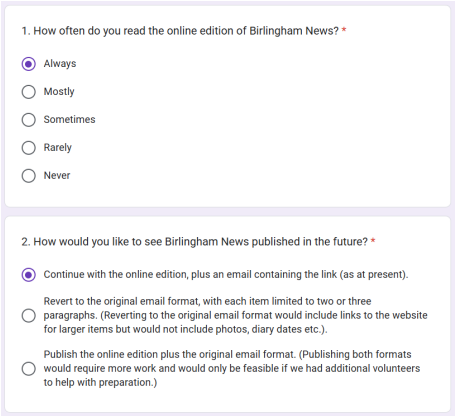
Birlingham News Survey

Thank you to all those who have already responded to the *Birlingham News* survey.

The survey has been extended until Sunday 30th March, to allow those who have been away to complete it. We will present the results in the next edition of *Birlingham News* on 9th April.

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.

Please take a few moments to complete the survey, which is available at:
https://forms.gle/Qah37HDdnUVsriy67


1. How often do you read the online edition of Birlingham News? *

- Always
- Mostly
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

2. How would you like to see Birlingham News published in the future? *

- Continue with the online edition, plus an email containing the link (as at present).
- Revert to the original email format, with each item limited to two or three paragraphs. (Reverting to the original email format would include links to the website for larger items but would not include photos, diary dates etc.).
- Publish the online edition plus the original email format. (Publishing both formats would require more work and would only be feasible if we had additional volunteers to help with preparation.)



'Pensioners Bridge' on the riverside walk from Sherpool to Nafford, installed by Smiths Angling Club on 16th July 2024

(Photo: Nikki Hollier)



Nothing tangled about this web, 20th March

(Photo: Julia Luff)

Parish Council Report

by Ian Yates

Birlingham Parish Council held its meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 19th March in the Village Hall. A summary of agenda items follows:

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

  Local residents from Upper End attended the Parish Council meeting and there was a lengthy discussion about this project as it has hit a 'brick wall'. The proposal we put forward to Worcestershire County Council identified many of the relevant points set out in *The Government Guidance Setting Local Limits* (updated March 2024). However, the proposal was rejected by the Head of Traffic Management at WCC as not meeting their policy relating to 20mph limits, which only considers it in limited situations as follows:

  - Outside schools through advisory limits.
  - At accident collision cluster sites.
  - In connection with major projects as appropriate.
  - For all new residential development through appropriate design.

  As a result, the Parish Council will now be writing to Marc Baylis, the Cabinet Member responsible for Highways and Transport at WCC asking why WCC is not aligned with the National Guidance on the issue of assessing speed limits and how their decision was taken.

  In addition there was also a discussion on other actions that the Parish Council could consider. These included:

  - Improved signage, including radar-activated speed signs
  - Traffic calming in the form of additional painted lines ,indicating where the road narrows
  - Further meetings with the farm to ensure that the existing guidance to hauliers regarding preferred routes and time restrictions on access to the village is being followed.

- **Wychavon District Council Report – Paul Middlebrough**

  Wychavon Finances

  The Council approved a budget with a 2.5% council tax increase in 2025/26.

  A £19,000 fund was made available to help communities across Wychavon mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. Wychavon is making £250 available to town and parish councils to support activities on and around Thursday 8th May to celebrate a significant milestone in the nation's history. As well as the dedicated fund, Wychavon is also scrapping fees for road closure notices for anyone holding a street party on 5th May, 8th May or over the weekend from 9th to 11th May 2025.

  Changes to Councils

  Whatever happens on 31st March 2028, Wychavon District Council, along with Wyre Forest, Worcester City, Redditch, Malvern Hills and Bromsgrove councils, as well as Worcestershire County Council, will cease to exist. The service provided by all the councils will be run by either a new council covering the footprint of the existing Worcestershire or two councils, one covering the north of Worcestershire and the other covering the south of Worcestershire.

  The new councils are called unitary councils, covering all county and district functions from dustbins to coroners, planning to potholes. Many county areas have already gone through the changes, such as Wiltshire, Dorset and Shropshire. At Wychavon we are having a council meeting on 19th March to decide whether the council supports the one-Worcestershire or a two-Worcestershire approach. The Government will decide in November what will happen.

- **Lengthsman's report – Carl Brassington**
  - 6 January: Flooding in Broadway was a result of the blocked/broken drain in this stretch, which is on Highways investigation list. Reported again on 10 January and 17 February. Reference number 70645.
  - 9 January: Potholes near the Court House reported to Highways have now been filled. What3Words: items.glory.factored. Reference number 70517.
  - 9 January: Potholes near Barncroft reported to Highways have now been filled. What3Words: pimples.reset.caps. Reference 70516.
  - 15 March: The faded and damaged 30mph repeaters on Shorthill and Church Street have been reported again. Reference 75716.
  - 7 March: Footpath 504 adjacent to Leyfield, Church Street. Resident reported the stile was dangerous and it has been reported to WCC as it is very dilapidated and could collapse. Footpath Warden also informed. Reference number 75239.

- **Parish Council Vacancy**

  Councillor Katie Parsons has decided to step down, so there is a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in joining, please contact June Hidden, the Parish Clerk at birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk.

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

Footpath Closure

The footpath between the end of Berwick Lane and Nafford will be closed for the next three weeks to allow for the inspection of the weir and footbridge.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(2) (as amended)

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Notice of closure of Footpath BL-522 Birlingham, Worcestershire ("the highway") as an **Emergency Measure**.

It appears to Worcestershire County Council that because of the likelihood of danger to the public due to an inspection of the weir and Footbridge, there is an urgent need to close the highway immediately in the following terms: -

1. The effect of the Notice is that no person shall proceed along Footpath BL-522 Birlingham for its entire length.

2. This provision shall continue in force for a maximum of 21 days (unless further provision is made for its continuance). It is anticipated that it will remain in force for 21 days.

3 There is no suitable alternative route.

Nothing in this Notice shall prevent at any time access for pedestrians to any premises situated on or adjacent to the highway, or to any other premises accessible for pedestrians from and only from the highway.

THOMAS POLLOCK
Head of Commercial Law (Legal and Governance)

Dated: 24 March 2025





Blossom at Birlingham Sporting Gun Club, 24th March

(Photo: Peter Luff)

St James', Birlingham

EASTER DAY

April 20 2025



0600 Dawn Service and First Eucharist of Easter *(Pershore Abbey)*
followed by breakfast of boiled eggs and rolls at St Andrew's Centre. (Please bring an egg cup with you!)

0800 Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey)*

1030 Sung Eucharist *(Pershore Abbey)* *with* ***LIVESTREAM***

1030 Holy Communion *(St James', Birlingham)*

ALL WELCOME

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

Facebook: @pershoreabbeycom YouTube: Pershore Abbey Community

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Worcestershire County Council
Election of Councillors

1. An election is to be held of **ONE** County Councillor for each of the following Electoral Divisions listed in column 1 below:

Column 1 **Electoral Divisions in the District of Wychavon**	Column 2 **Deputy Returning Officer**
Bowbrook Bredon Broadway Droitwich East Droitwich West Evesham North West Evesham South Harvington Littletons Ombersley Pershore Upton Snodsbury	Vic Allison The Committee Room, Civic Centre, Wychavon District Council, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore WR10 1PT Office Hours: 10am to 4pm Telephone: 01386 565437

3 Nomination papers must be delivered to the Deputy Returning Officer at the address stated in column 2 above for the relevant electoral division during office hours on any working day from the date of publication of this notice (excluding bank holidays) but no later than **4pm on Wednesday 2 April 2025**.

4 Nomination papers may be obtained from the offices of the Deputy Returning Officer at the address stated in column 2 during the times stated above or from the Electoral Commission's website https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-candidates-and-agents-local-government-elections-england/resources-candidates-and-agents-local-government-elections-england

5 If any election is contested the poll will take place on **Thursday, 1 May 2025**.

6 Applications to register to vote must reach the Electoral Registration Officer by 12 midnight on Friday, 11 April 2025. Applications can be made online: **https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote**

7 Applications, amendments or cancellations of postal votes and amendments or cancellations of proxy votes must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at the address in column 2 by 5pm on Monday, 14 April 2025. Applications can be made online: **https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote**

8 Applications for a Voter Authority Certificate or an Anonymous Elector's Document valid for this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer by 5pm on Wednesday 23 April 2025. Applications can be made online: **https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate**

9 New applications to vote by proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at the address in column 2 by 5 pm on Wednesday, 23 April 2025. Some applications can be made online: **https://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote**

10. Applications to vote by emergency proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at the address in column 2 by 5pm on Thursday, 1 May 2025.

Dated: Thursday 20 March 2025

Hazel Best
County Returning Officer
Worcestershire County Council,
Ground Floor,
North Wing,
Wildwood,
Wildwood Drive,
Worcester,
WR5 2QT

Printed and published by the County Returning Officer, Worcestershire County Council, Ground Floor, North Wing, Wildwood, Wildwood Drive, Worcester, WR5 2QT



Sunset over the Malverns, 15th March
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

Planning Applications

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

Hills Cottage, Upper End: Undertake tree works, as detailed on application form and in any accompanying information (Case No. W/25/00285/TPOA). **Approved.** Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/25/00285/TPOA

Dates for your diary

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

May

Sat 3	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Pershore CC 4th XI, 12.30pm
Mon 5	VE Day Street Party, 12.30pm, adjacent Village Hall
Wed 7	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 8	VE Day 80th Anniversary
Sat 10	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Five Ways Old Edwardians CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm
Thu 15	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Wed 21	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 25	St James' Spring Walk, 3.00pm, St James' Church
Sat 31	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Harvington CC 2nd 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 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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