Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 353 Monday 28th April 2025

Editorial

Happy St George's Day – again!

Did you celebrate St George's Day last Wednesday, or did you wait until today?

St George's day is usually celebrated on 23rd April but the Church of England has changed the date this year because, according to Church rules, no saint's day can take place in the week before or after Easter.

Any saint's day falling in Holy or Easter week moves to the week after the Easter fortnight, usually to the first Monday. So officially – according to the Church, anyway – it is St George's Day today.

By coincidence, we are publishing a special edition of Birlingham News today, following on from the normal one last Wednesday. It is rare for us to publish on one St George's Day in the year, let alone two!

This special edition gives you the chance to read about all five candidates for this Thursday's County Council election. Voting arrangements are given opposite.

We are also including a reminder of next Monday's VE Day Street Party. We hope to see you all there!



St George, depicted in stained glass in St James' Church, with Fran Cant's Bulb Sunday display

(Photo: Jayne Mackenzie)

Election of County Councillors

Thursday 1st May

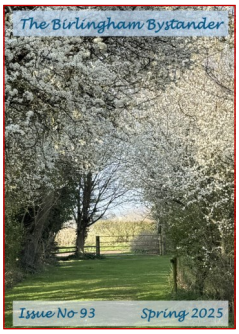
There are five candidates for the Bredon Ward of Worcestershire County Council (which includes Birlingham).

On the next page we include details of the candidates for the Bredon Ward.

Voting will take place on Thursday 1st May from 7.00am until 10.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. You will need to show photo ID (such as driving licence or passport) to vote in this year's local elections.



Spring Bystander



The Spring edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* will be on its way to the printers within the next few days and should be delivered soon afterwards.

The Bystander team will now start putting together the Autumn edition, which will be published in October. So if you have any interesting articles or photographs that you would like to see included in the next issue, please email them to bystander@birlingham.org.

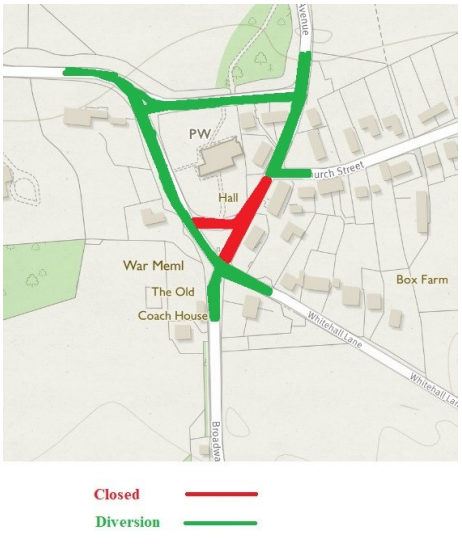


VE Day Road Closure

Monday 5th May

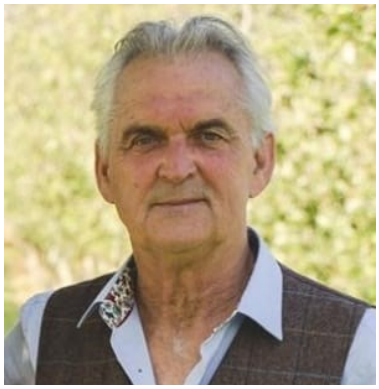
Please note that the road in front of Birlingham Village Hall (between the junctions with Whitehall Lane and Church Street) will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May between 9.00am and 5.00pm. This is to allow for the Street Party to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

The alternative route between Whitehall Lane and Church Street is via Church Lane (at the back of the church).



Joe Davin

Reform UK



I have lived, worked and run a business locally for over 28 years. I am very aware of the challenges our local communities face, especially rural crime. I am a former soldier; volunteer with Gloucestershire Constabulary; mentor with West Mercia Youth Justice service and I sit on the Vale of Evesham Primary Care Network Group as a volunteer.

If elected I will fight for a cleaner environment; safer streets; local businesses and improved and better local services for the young and vulnerable. Please join the fight and support me on May 1st.

Margaret Forrest

Green Party



I am Margaret (Maggie) Forrest, your Bredon Division Green Party Candidate for the Worcestershire County Council elections on 1st May.

I want to be able to represent Bredon Division on the County Council to get the best results for our community in planning applications, resolution of traffic problems, addressing flooding issues, tree planting, grant applications for local organisations and in support of our local schools. I will work with anyone who has great ideas to help us build a thriving community.

At the moment Worcestershire County Council is dominated by a single party which is not good for democracy – a strong council needs a balance of opinion. I am not a career politician. I have lived in Eckington for over 35 years. My children both went to Eckington Under Fives, Eckington First School, Bredon Hill Middle School and Prince Henry's.

I have served on Eckington Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, been a school governor and served on several other village committees. I look forward to being able to represent you on the County Council.

Sharon Gibbons

Liberal Democrats



Sharon moved to Pershore in the 1970s. She joined West Mercia Police in 1980 and retired as a Chief Inspector after 30 years. Sharon served in South Worcestershire, as Inspector for Wychavon and Chief Inspector responsible for the local policing area. She was involved in many initiatives and demonstrated a can-do attitude to her work.

Sharon lived in Birlingham for 14 years, and her daughter attended Defford School.

After retirement Sharon retrained as a counsellor and established her own private practice. She became a Town Councillor in Pershore in 2023 and has been active in events such as the Plum Festival and Georgian Christmas market.

Sharon has a proven record of serving the community and has continued to do so since her retirement. She understands the issues faced locally and is passionate about bringing real improvements for everyone.

Sharon says, 'I am excited to be given the opportunity to serve the people living in the Bredon Division. The Conservatives have run out of ideas and a new team with fresh thinking and real-life experience is needed. If elected I will utilise my vast experience to bring about real change and to ensure that local people get a fair deal.'

Adrian Hardman

Conservative Party



I know how delightful and precious Bredon Hill is, both the countryside and the people. I have also served you as a school governor, on the Cotswold Conservation Board, and on various community groups. I worked in agriculture and the BBC before retirement and my life in public service.

As your County Councillor I have worked hard to deliver better road maintenance, and education, I have ensured Health and Social care is delivered to all. I believe it is key that we continue to conserve the Bredon Hill division and its unique biodiversity. This means we must respond to climate change and the flooding that it brings. I will continue to try to protect us from the vast development that the Labour Government wants here. I have been able to support several village community groups with grants. Birlingham has a series of unique issues ranging from lorries to drains, which while I don't know the answer to them all; the village often has ideas.

I will keep your Parish Council well informed as I have done in the past years and work with them to keep Birlingham unique. Please trust me again with your precious vote.

Hannah McGahan

Labour Party

See next page

Hannah McGahan

Labour Party



Hi, my name is Hannah McGahan and I am delighted to be standing as the Labour Party candidate for Bredon.

I am an Open University student about to finish my second year into a six-year social science degree.

Labour are the only party that can bring change to Worcestershire County Council and I believe I can be part of that.

Vote Labour.

STATEMENT OF PERSONS NOMINATED

Worcestershire County Council

Election of a County Councillor

The following is a statement of the persons nominated for election as a County Councillor for

Bredon Division

Name of Candidate	Home Address	Description (if any)	Reason why no longer nominated*
DAVIN Joe	(address in Wychavon)	Reform UK	
FORREST Margaret Jean	Bank House, Jarvis Street, Eckington, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3AS	Green Party	
GIBBONS Sharon Joy	(address in Wychavon)	Liberal Democrats	
HARDMAN Adrian Ingleby	Dormers, Oak Lane, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Glos, GL20 7LR	Conservative Party Candidate	
MCGAHAN Hannah Louise	(address in Redditch)	Labour Party	

*Decision of the Deputy Returning Officer that the nomination is invalid or other reason why a person nominated no longer stands nominated.

The persons above against whose name no entry is made in the last column have been and stand validly nominated.

[1] If a candidate has requested not to make their home address public, the relevant electoral area in which their home address is situated (or country if their address is outside the UK) will be provided

Dated Thursday 3 April 2025

Vic Allison
Deputy Returning Officer

Printed and published by the Deputy Returning Officer, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, Worcs, WR10 1PT



Sheep at Swan's Neck, 31st March

(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

VE Day 80th anniversary Street Party

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May

from 12:30pm
between Church Street and Whitehall Lane

Join us for a Street Party to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day

Trestle tables on the road in front of the Village Hall
Bring your own picnic and a cushion or a chair! (Limited chairs available)

Optional dress code: red, white and blue.



VE Day Raffle

Great prizes from local businesses, including:

Birlingham Nurseries, Martin's Meats, Border in a Box, Revills Farm Shop, Jayne Brassington, The Swan Inn

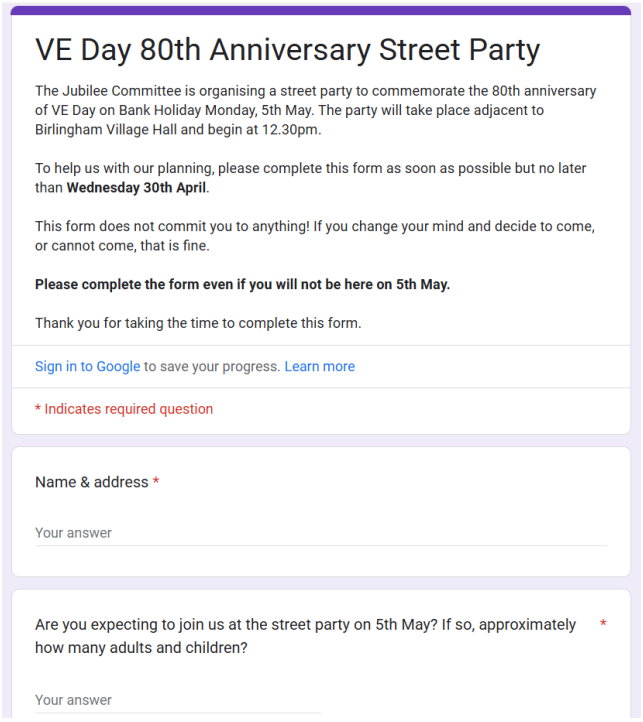
Tickets will be available on the day or can be bought in advance from Pat Chinneck at patchinneck02@gmail.com

If you have not already done so, please take a few moments to complete our invitation at:

https://forms.gle/6n3LtnahBCfrEhrc9

This will not commit you to anything but will help us with planning the event.

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



VE Day 80th Anniversary Street Party

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

To help us with our planning, please complete this form as soon as possible but no later than **Wednesday 30th April**.

This form does not commit you to anything! If you change your mind and decide to come, or cannot come, that is fine.

Please complete the form even if you will not be here on 5th May.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.

Sign in to Google to save your progress. Learn more

* Indicates required question

Name & address *

Your answer

Are you expecting to join us at the street party on 5th May? If so, approximately how many adults and children? *

Your answer

Road Closure in Eckington

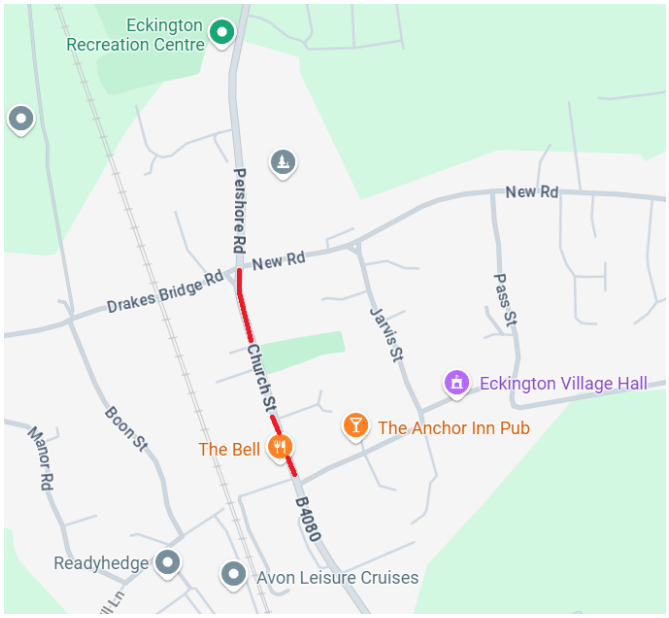
Tuesday 13th – Friday 16th May

Church Street, Eckington will be closed for work by Severn Trent Water for four days from Tuesday 13th until Friday 16th May.

The official diversion from one end of Eckington to the other is given as a route via Tewkesbury and Upton Upon Severn. (This is because the Council are required to specify an alternative diversion along B roads, rather than the most obvious routes.)

It should be possible to avoid Church Street via New Road, Jarvis Street and Cotheridge Lane; however, this route is not suitable for lorries or other heavy vehicles.

The notice of closure is given opposite and a map of Eckington is shown below.



WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC NOTICE
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
(B4080 Church Street, Eckington) (Temporary Closure) Order 2025

Proposed Order: to close that part of B4080 Church St from its junction with U46421 New Rd to its junction with U46431 Station Rd.

Reason: Utility work by Severn Trent Water

Exemptions: to permit access to any land or premises fronting the highway affected where there is no other form of access; and to allow the works to be undertaken.

Alternative route: B4080 Tewkesbury Rd, B4080 Eckington Rd, B4080 Main Rd into Gloucestershire, A38 Tewkesbury Rd, A4104 Worcester Rd, A4104 Baughton Hill, A4104 Woodmancote, A4104 Defford Rd, B4080 Pershore Rd and vice versa.

Maximum duration: 18 Months. Anticipated duration: **4 days** Commencing: **13 May 2025**

Thomas Pollock Head of Commercial Law (Legal & Governance) County Hall Spetchley Road Worcester

17 April 2025

1675201 -1- B4080 Church Street, Eckington
Streetworks Admin WCPO00066857



Hawthorn blossom in Gullifords Meadow, Nafford, 7th April

(Photo: June Hiden)

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



Nafford Lane, 4th April
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

Planning Applications

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

The Old Orchard, Church Street: Undertake tree works, as detailed on application form and in any accompanying information (Case No. W/25/00746/CAN). **No objection**. Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/25/00746/CAN



Defibrillator Code

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

C1234

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

May

Thu 1	County Council Elections, 7.00am–10.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
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 13 – Fri 16	Church Street, Eckington closed
Thu 15	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Wed 21	Birlingham Annual Parish Meeting, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall (followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm)
Thu 22	Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the Election of Churchwardens, 10.00am, St James' Church
Sat 24	Churchyard Tidy-up, 10.00am, St James' Church
Sat 24	Quilts Unfolded, 2.00-5.00pm, St Peter's Church, Little Comberton
Sun 25	St James' Spring Walk, 3.00pm, St James' Church
Sat 31	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Harvington CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm

June

Wed 4	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 8	Outside Eco Service – details to follow
Sat 14	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Bredon CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm
Thu 19	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 12th May (for publication on Wednesday 14th May). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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