Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 354[3] Wednesday 14th May 2025

Editorial

Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make the VE Day Street Party a success, and thank you to all those who turned up despite the chilly weather. There are a few photographs later in this edition and a full article will appear in the Autumn edition of the *Birlingham Bystander*.

This issue also covers the forthcoming road closures, Parish Council meetings, the Churchyard Tidy-up, the Spring Walk, an exhibition of quilts, the results of the County Council elections and more.

Defford Road Closure

Monday 19th May – Friday 23rd May

Defford Road will be closed two days during the week of Monday 19th May – Friday 23rd May.

Full details are given in later pages.

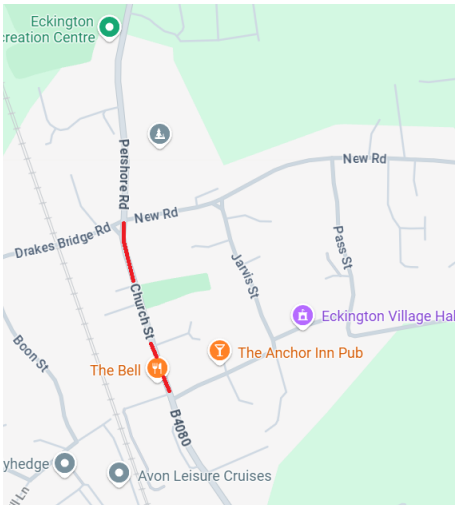
Road Closure in Eckington

Tuesday 13th – Friday 16th May

Church Street, Eckington is closed for work by Severn Trent Water until this Friday, 16th May.

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

A map of Eckington is shown below.



Birlingham IW

Thursday 15th May *by Caryl Mills*



Our May meeting will be our regular visit to Showborough House Sculpture Park. We meet at 2.00pm in the car park and members have tea and cake as part of the afternoon.

The Sculpture Park is open free of charge until 15th June if you are unable to join us

Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 21st May

The Annual Parish Meeting takes place on Wednesday 21st May at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. This meeting will receive reports from various village organisations about their activities during the year.

During the meeting there is an opportunity to express your views on local issues. Any member of the public can ask for an issue to be debated, even if they are unable to attend the meeting.

The agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting is available on a later page or at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2025-05-21A.pdf

The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st May 2024 are available at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_annual_2024-05-21.pdf

The Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by the regular bi-monthly Parish Council meeting. This is also the Annual Parish Council meeting. The agenda for the Annual Parish Council Meeting is available at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2025-05-21B.pdf

The draft minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 19th March are available at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2025-03-19.pdf

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thursday 22nd May

by Pat Chinneck, PCC Secretary

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the Election of Churchwardens is to be held at St James The Great Church on Thursday 22nd May at 10.00am.

All residents of the parish are welcome to attend.

Churchyard Tidy-up

Saturday 24th May *by Sue Hayward & Pat Chinneck*

The next churchyard tidy-up will be held on Saturday 24th May at 10.00am. There will be lots of jobs to do in the churchyard so your help will be very much appreciated. Some tree work has been done recently, which has created opportunities to work further in these areas. However, we have jobs for all ages and abilities whether you are a keen gardener or not.

If you have loppers, secateurs and rakes please bring them along but we will have some you can borrow too. We usually spend about two hours tidying and then stop for a welcome brew and a piece of cake. It's an enjoyable morning, spent in the fresh air – why not give it a try!

VE Day Street Party

by Steve Morris

Although the weather was a bit disappointing on Monday of last week, especially given the sunny days of the week before and the glorious weather we are enjoying this week, at least it stayed dry!

The Jubilee Committee was delighted to see 94 residents and friends turn up for the Street Party and make the most of the occasion.

Thank you to other members of the Jubilee Committee: Tony Hawgood for organising the bunting, the VE Day display; Pat Chinneck for collecting prizes and organising the raffle; Dave Kew for transporting tables and chairs to and from the event; and June Hiden for applying for the road closure. They all did much more than that, of course. Special thanks to Carole Sugg for producing the amazing VE Day cake.

Thanks also to the many other people who helped at various times to make the day a success, including: Stuart Allen (plus the other visiting bellringers), Alan Barke, June Barke, Charlotte Baskerville, Sarah Brown, Paul Burton, Brian Chinneck, Steve Conder, Jessica & Matt Dormer, Martin Downes, Felicity Edmond, Becky Foley, Nigel Haddock, Bev Hanson, Chris & Sue Hermon, Ian Moore, Isobel Revill, Mike Rodwell, Jenny Stanton, Harry Tobiassen, Ian Yates, Mark & Sadie Yeomans.

VE Day Raffle

Thanks to the following local businesses that provided prizes and congratulations to the winners:

The Swan Inn ..... Anne Smith
Revills Farm Shop..... Sadie Yeomans
Martin's Meats..... Charlotte Baskerville
Jayne Brassington ..... Lindsay Campbell-Cann
Birlingham Nurseries .....June Barke, Ann Maxwell
Sadie Yeomans .....Mandy Mouzer
Border in a Box .....Jessica Dormer, David Morgan, ...Vivienne Priest

The raffle raised £338, which has been divided between two charities:

- **Combat Stress**, which provides specialist treatment and support for veterans from every service and conflict, focusing on those with complex mental health issues resulting from their experiences during military service
- **Little Troopers**, which supports all children with one or both parents serving in our British Armed Forces (regular or reserve)

A full report of the VE Day activities plus photos will appear in the Autumn edition of the Birlingham Bystander.





(Above) Bell ringing beforehand (Photo: Felicity Edmond)

(Below) Basil Barke and Carole's cake (Photo: Brian Chinneck)

Photos by Ian Yates (above), Brian Chinneck (below)







(Above) Tony Hawgood's VE Day display. This will be in the church until the end of May

(Below) The raffle prizes (Photos: Brian Chinneck)



Newspaper Deliveries in Birlingham

by Roy Copson

The morning newspaper delivery to Birlingham after many years appears to have ceased.

Roy Copson and Chris Hermon are checking newsagents in the hope that one of them might be interested to deliver here, but they need an idea of how many people would use the service.

If you would like to receive a regular newspaper delivery, please contact Roy at copsonr@btinternet.com or Chris at chris_hermon@hotmail.com.

Morris Dancing at the Swan

Friday 16th May

Bretforton Morris Dancers are dancing outside the Swan Inn from 7.30pm this Friday, 16th May (weather permitting!)

BIRLINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2025

at 7.00pm

Birlingham Village Hall

All residents of Birlingham are invited to discuss local issues
- this is an opportunity to voice your thoughts and opinions about your community

Agenda

1. Election of a Chair
2. Welcome from the Chair
3. Present
4. To receive any apologies for absence
5. To approve minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting (held May 2024)
6. To receive the Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report
7. To receive annual reports from elected representatives:
   - County Councillor Hardman
   - District Councillor Middlebrough
8. To receive annual reports from representatives:
   - Footpath Warden's Report
   - Lengthsman's Report
   - Tree Warden's Report
9. To hear from Birlingham community groups or local organisations.
10. **Open Session** - to discuss parish issues
    The maximum time allowed per questioner to be at the discretion of the Chairman.
    Questions that require a response, must be submitted in writing before 16 May 2025.
11. Closure and next meeting - a time and date to be arranged in 2026

Ian Yates

The Chairman of Birlingham Parish Council
Ian Yates
ian.yates@sipeda.com

12 May 2024

Clerk - **June Hiden, Lamorna, Broadway Road, Birlingham**
birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk

Note: The Local Government Act 1972 provides that a Parish Meeting shall assemble annually between 1st March and 1st June in every year. Anyone who is registered as a local government elector for the Parish of Birlingham is entitled to speak and vote at the Parish Meeting. The Parish Meeting has a general power to discuss parish affairs and to pass resolutions, but such resolutions do not bind the Parish Council.

Annual Parish Meeting agenda 2025

St James' Church, Birlingham

SPRING WALK AROUND BIRLINGHAM



SUNDAY 25 MAY
3.00PM

Meet at the War Memorial for a walk around Birlingham, led by Canon Claire

Bring a dog, a friend, or both!

REFRESHMENTS AND A DOG BLESSING IN THE CHURCH AFTER THE WALK

Quilts Unfolded

An exhibition of quilts by
The Comberton Quilters
and Pershore Patchers & Snowdrop Quilters

Quilting, the stitching together of layers of padding and fabric, existed in ancient Egypt, dating back as far as 3400 BC. Evidence suggests that it also existed in India, China and Mongolia from early times. It was seen in Europe during the Middle Ages, and travelled to America with the early settlers during the 17th century.

Initially all constructed by hand, quilting became more popular with the invention of the sewing machine in the 1840s. Quilting Bees, a social gathering of women to complete a quilt for a bride in a day, were common during the 19th century.

For much of its history, quilting was primarily a practical technique used for warmth and protection, with early examples found in clothing, jackets, and bedding, but has now evolved from a purely functional craft to a recognised art form.

As well as being pleasing to the eye, quilts often depicted family history and national events and are therefore a valuable way of recording our past. Did you know that quilts were used as a form of communication directing runaway slaves to safe houses? This was known as the Underground Railroad.

The craft of piecing and quilting has been passed down from generation to generation and with the easy availability of bright and beautiful fabrics, patchwork and quilting is once more seeing a revival with many joining social groups to continue this absorbing and fascinating tradition as our forebears once did in The Sewing Bees of the past.



The Comberton Quilters along with The Pershore Patchers & Snowdrop Quilters are proud to be mounting an exhibition of quilts in St Peter's Church, Little Comberton during the annual Street Market on Saturday 24th May 2025, between 2pm - 5pm.

'Cottage Garden' is an award winning quilt made by **The Comberton Quilters** who are a local group of ladies who, in the tradition of the sewing bee, make quilts in a day for charity. A number of our quilts will be for sale, raising money for **Acorns Children's Hospice**, our adopted charity this year.

Pershore Patchers and Snowdrop Quilters are a local quilting group who meet in Birlingham Village Hall twice a month to learn and develop their skills and enjoy a good chat with likeminded friends.

So if you'd like to know more about the art of quilting, joining a group, supporting a charity or simply to enjoy the exhibition, then come along to St. Peter's Church, Little Comberton during their Street Market on Saturday 24th May from 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

By Pauline Jamieson

Defford Road Closure

Monday 19th May – Friday 23rd May

Defford Road will be closed to allow carriageway patching for surface dressing for two (unspecified) days during the week of Monday 19th May – Friday 23rd May.

From the description and maps it appears that the road will be closed from the junction with Upper End to the far side of Defford village.

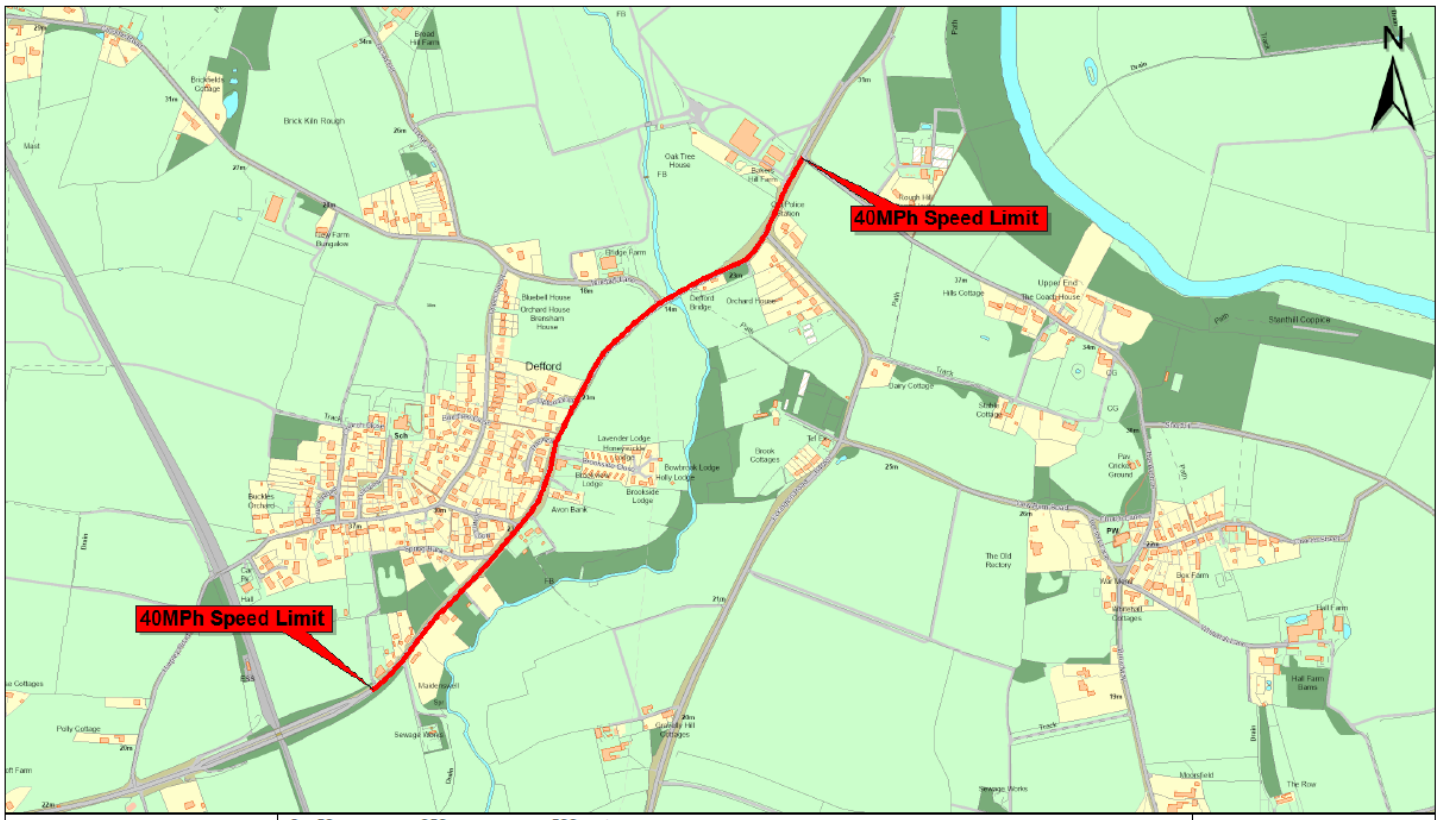
The notice of closure is given opposite, a map of the part of the road to be closed is shown below and the official diversion map is given on the next page.

The map of the official diversion between Birlingham and Defford is not particularly useful.

It appears that the route from Eckington Road (and Eckington) to Pershore (and vice versa) will be via St James' church. The best route from Birlingham to Defford and beyond depends on the ultimate destination but should be available via your SatNav once the road is closed.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC NOTICE
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
(A4104 Upton Road/A4104 Defford Road, Defford) (Temporary Closure) Order 2025
Order made: to close that part of **Closure 1: A4104 Upton Road** from its junction with C2100 Blubell Ln for a distance of 912 metres in a south westerly direction.
Closure 2: A4104 Defford Road from its junction with C2100 Blubell Ln & A4104 Upton Rd to its junction with C2271 Upper End.
Reason: Carriageway patching for surface dressing over multiple phases by WCC
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: A4104 Defford Rd (part), A4104 Three Springs Rd, B4084 Worcester Rd, A4104 Station Rd, B4083 Terrace Rd, A44 Allens Hill, A44 Evesham Rd, Egdon to Stonebow Rd, A44 Evesham Rd, A44 Spetchley Rd, A4440 Swinesherd Way, A4440 Whittington Rd, A4440 Crookbarrow Way, A4440 Broomhall Way, A38 Worcester Rd, A38 Main Rd, A38 Clifton, A38 Severn Stoke Bank, A4104 Pershore Rd, A4104 Baughton Hill, A4104 Woodmancote and vice versa.
Maximum duration: 18 Months. Anticipated duration: **2 days between 19 May 2025 and 23 May 2025**
Thomas Pollock Head of Commercial Law (Legal & Governance) County Hall Spetchley Road Worcester
15 May 2025

1677277 -2- A4104 Upton Road, Defford
Nick MacPherson CA48457



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Ordnance Survey AC0000809204.

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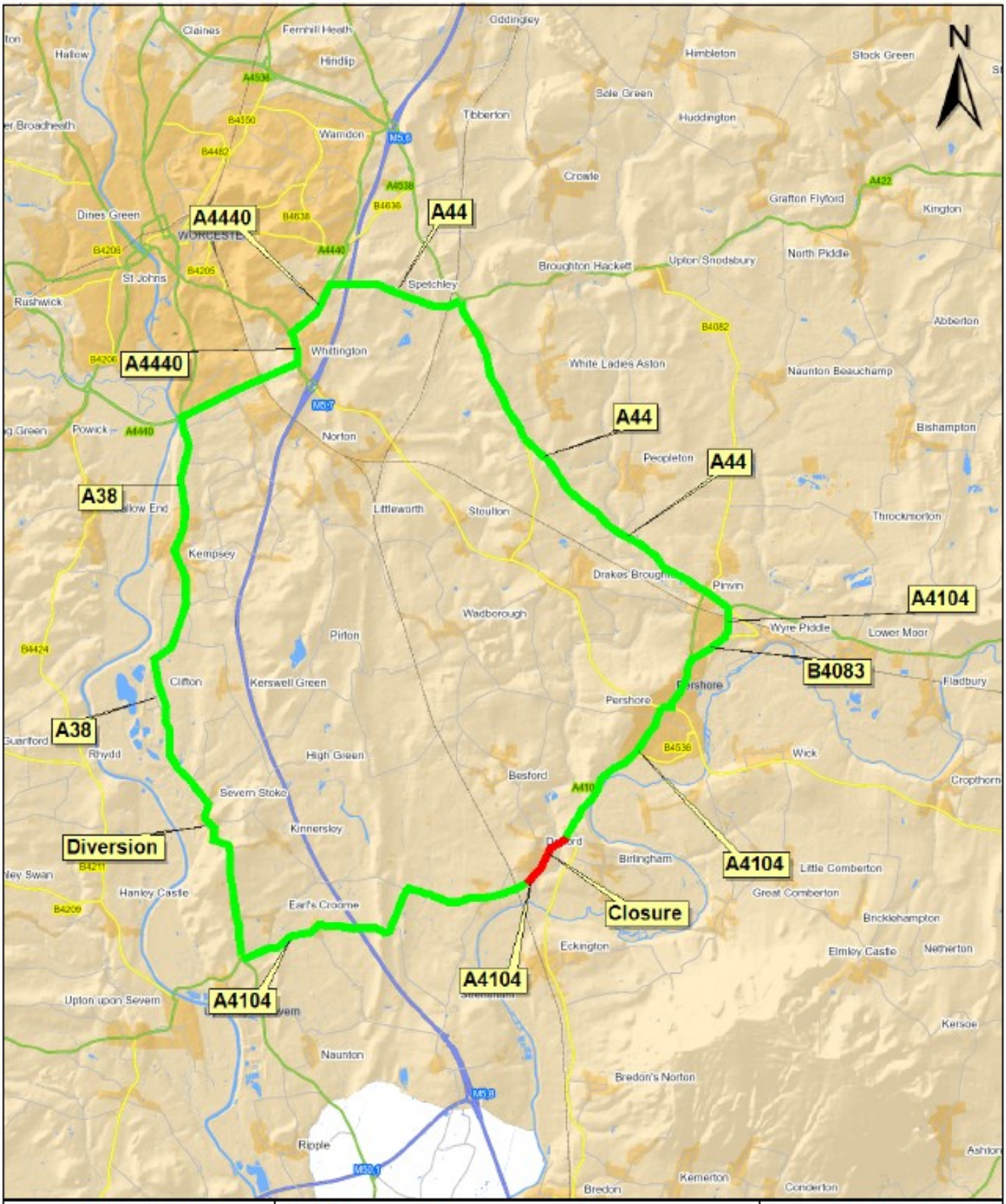
Indicative Scale: 1:10,000

Date Printed:2/9/2024

A4104 Defford Road
1855A41045/00025
WR8 9BA

worcestershire county council

Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP


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Fernhill Heath
Hallow
Hindlip
Oddingley
Himbleton
Stock Green
Sale Green
Tibberton
Huddington
Warndon
Crowle
Grafton Flyford
Kington
Dines Green
WORCESTER
St Johns
Rushwick
Broughton Hackett
Upton Snodsbury
North Piddle
Spetchley
Abberton
Whittington
White Ladies Aston
Naunton Beauchamp
Norton
Bishampton
Peopleton
Littleworth
Stoulton
Throckmorton
Kempsey
Drakes Broughton
Pinvin
Wadborough
Wyre Piddle
Lower Moor
Pirton
Clifton
Kerswell Green
Pershore
Fladbury
Rhydd
High Green
Wick
Besford
Cropthorn
Severn Stoke
Kinnersley
Birlingham
Little Comberton
Great Comberton
Hanley Castle
Earl's Croome
Bricklehampton
Eckington
Elmley Castle
Netherton
Upton upon Severn
Kersoe
Naunton
Bredon's Norton
Ripple
Kemerton
Bredon
Conderton
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A4104 Defford Road Diversion
worcestershire county council
Indicative Scale: 1:100,000
Date Printed:6/2/2025
Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL

Worcestershire County Council

Election of a County Councillor for

Bredon Division

on Thursday 1 May 2025

I, Vic Allison, being the Deputy Returning Officer at the above election, do hereby give notice that the number of votes recorded for each Candidate at the said election is as follows:

Name of Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of Votes*
DAVIN, Joseph David commonly known as DAVIN, Joe	Reform UK	981
FORREST, Margaret Jean	Green Party	260
GIBBONS, Sharon Joy	Liberal Democrats	1226
HARDMAN, Adrian Ingleby	Conservative Party Candidate	1239 Elected
MCGAHAN, Hannah Louise	Labour Party	69

* If elected the word 'Elected' appears against the number of votes.

The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:		Number of ballot papers
A	want of an official mark	0
B	voting for more Candidates than voter was entitled to	0
C	writing or mark by which voter could be identified	0
D	being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	8
	Total	3783

Vacant Seats: 1 Electorate: 8787 Ballot Papers Issued: 3783 Turnout: 43.1%

And I do hereby declare that

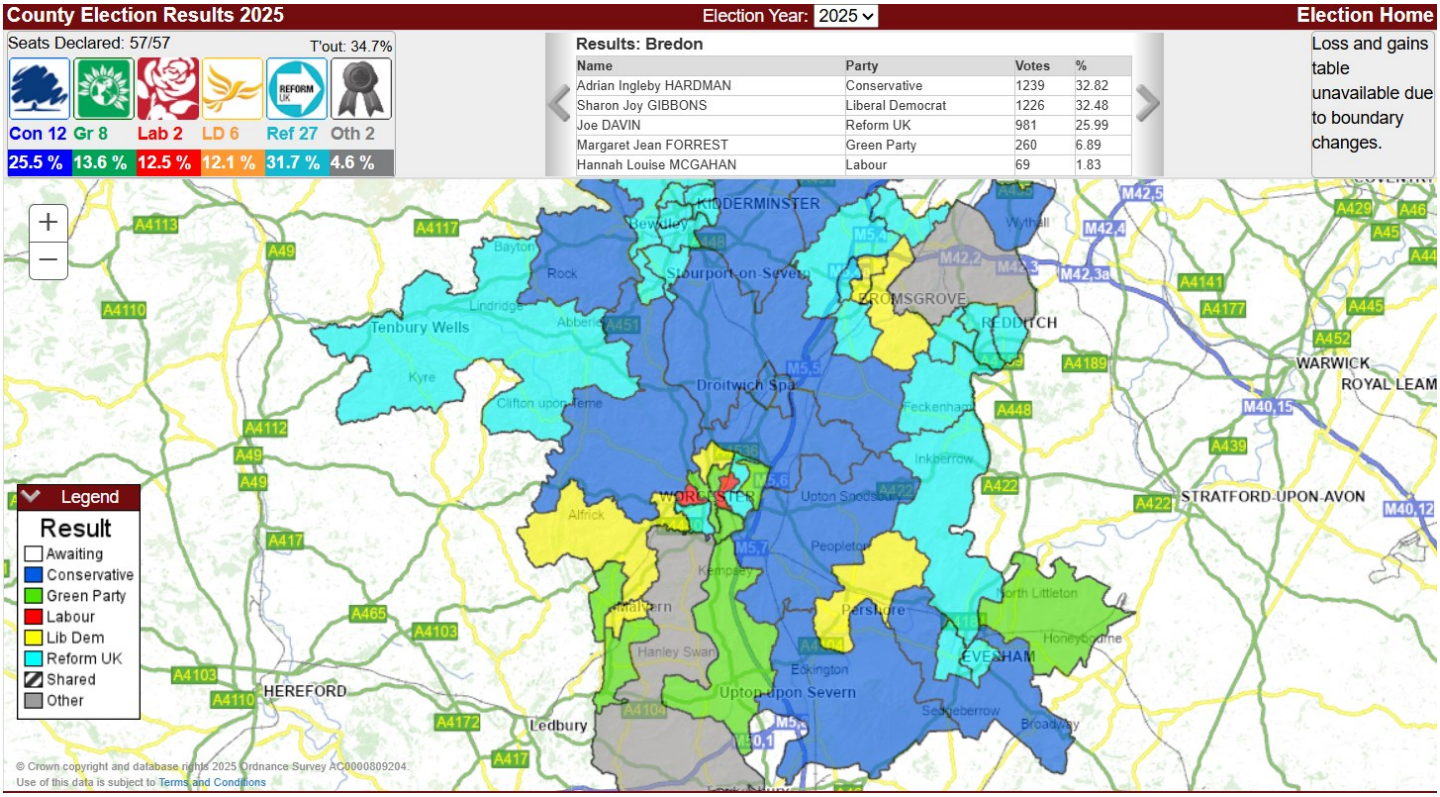
Adrian Ingleby Hardman

is duly elected.

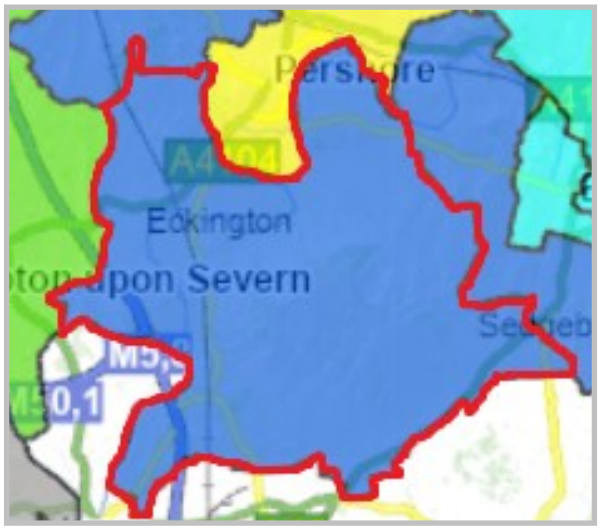
Dated Friday 2 May 2025

Vic Allison
Deputy Returning Officer

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



County Council election summary courtesy of Worcestershire County Council



Bredon Ward

A Message from Councillor Adrian Hardman



"I would like to reassure the electors of Birlingham that I will be taking their concerns and issues seriously over the next three years, no matter who runs the County Council now it is in no over all control.

District Councillor Paul Middlebrough and I are always on duty, and trying to help sort out your problems. I am sorry not to have spoken to every elector but the Bredon Division is 46 square miles, and the boundary changes only enlarged it.

Thanks to the Birlingham residents who voted, even if it wasn't for me. I will have to try harder, but I thank you all for your support and kindness."



Hot air balloon landing in Lower End, 1st May
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

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 received by Wychavon District Council:

Chance Cottage, Broadway Road: Single storey extension to replace existing conservatory; outbuilding extension; installation of roof lights; creation of porch and bay window; replacement of flat roof dormers with pitched roofs (Case No. W/25/00571/HP). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 29th May.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/25/00571/HP

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 2017 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* was the first to be produced by the Jubilee Committee. A new editorial team was formed, consisting of Paula Aston, Daphne Hill, John Hill, June Hiden, Jayne Mackenzie and Steve Morris, with Henry Morgan as editor.

The front cover features Zoe Haines and new arrival, Jacob. The issue includes a variety of articles, such as the removal of an electricity pole, a male rhea loose in the nature reserve, Victoria Rodrigues' flower shop, Judy Bishton's work in the Calais refugee shelters and the damage caused by Storm Doris.

Events include Christmas at St James', a race night, Bulb Sunday, the village pram race and the Flower & Produce Show. There are articles on the IW, the Village Design Statement, the Village Hall, the Jubilee Committee, the darts team, the bell ringers, the Parish Council and the Friends of St James'. This edition was the first to include the Kids Zone, with two articles by local young people.

There is a welcome for Michael and Lizzie Porter and a farewell to Richard and Val Foulkes. The obituaries are for Anthony Porter and Roland Hill.

Issue 77 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander077.pdf

Dates for your diary

May

Tue 13 – Fri 16	Church Street, Eckington closed
Thu 15	Birlingham IW, 2.00pm, Showborough House
Fri 16	Bretforton Morris Dancers, 7.30pm, the Swan Inn
Mon 19 – Fri 23	Defford Road closed
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 – details to follow
Sat 28	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Droitwich Spa CC 4th 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 26th May (for publication on Wednesday 28th May). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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