Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 356 Wednesday 11th June 2025

Editorial

Local government reorganisation is not a subject that generally gets people very excited (though some of you may recall the outrage when the combined county of Herefordshire and Worcestershire was formed in 1974, a disastrous union that was rectified with the formation of the unitary Herefordshire Council in 1998).

However, our councils have a great impact on our daily life. Currently our local services are split between Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Council. It is now planned for all the councils in Worcestershire to be replaced by either a single unitary authority or two councils, one for the north of the county, the other for the south.

This will determine how our services are provided and you now have the opportunity to give your views on which of the two options you would prefer.

In this issue, we are including some of the information relating to the proposals, taken from the joint authorities' website. There is also a link to their survey, which takes about ten minutes to complete and lets you make your feelings known.

It will not be the most exciting ten minutes you have spent this week but please make time to look at the information and have your say on what the future of Worcestershire will look like.

Funeral Arrangements for Stuart Brown

Stuart Brown's funeral will take place on Tuesday 17th June at 11.00am in St James' Church, Birlingham, with a burial at 12.00 noon.

The family would like to invite their nearest and dearest to join them in paying their respects at the Swan Inn, Birlingham afterwards to celebrate his wonderful life and to say farewell.

Birlingham IW

Thursday 19th June *by Caryl Mills*



On Thursday 19th June, Birlingham IW will be visiting Tewkesbury Museums at John Moore Museum, the Merchants House and the Old Baptist Chapel. Meeting at 2.00pm outside the John Moore Museum; members' entrance fees will be paid.

On Thursday 17th July we will be visiting the Needle Museum in Redditch.

Update from Revd Claire Lording

I saw my oncologist who shared the news that unfortunately I have been diagnosed with secondary breast cancer in some of my bones. This type of cancer is treatable but not curable.

I will be starting a new regime of chemotherapy, which will be the same chemo I had before my surgeries. I will also be having some other treatments which are all designed to contain this cancer. I am very much hoping that I will be able to carry on working but I do realise that I will have to listen to my body.

I realise that this will come as a shock to you all but I remain positive and am incredibly grateful for the care I continue to receive from all those looking after me.

Thank you so much for all your continuing prayers, love and support, which mean the world to me.

Claire



(Above) Red Arrows route on their way to a display at Ragley Hall, 30th May

(Thanks to Paul Darby)



(Right) The Red Arrows over Birlingham

(Photo: Steve Conder)

OVER 60s CHAIR BASED EXERCISE STANDING AND SEATED

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Fun and friendly atmosphere
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No floor work!!

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or email: *lindatbaker1@outlook.com*

Wednesdays at 10:30 - 11:30
Birlingham Village Hall
The Avenue, Birlingham

BIRLINGHAM SHOW ENTRY FORM
ALL ENTRIES MUST BE ENTERED ON THIS FORM
Closing date for all entries – **THURSDAY 4th September 2025 at 8pm**

MARK YOUR ENTRY THUS: (1) ENTRY : (2) ENTRIES

Section A

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Section B

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Section C

25A 25B 25C 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Section D

35 36

Section E

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45

Section F

46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53

Section G

54 55 56 57 58 59

Section H

60a 60b 60c 60d 61 62 63 64 65 66 67

Section I

68 69 70 71

Section J: Please enter date(s) of birth: _____

72 73 74 75 76 77

You will be given an ENTRY CARD for EACH entry

Name: (BLOCK LETTERS)

_____

Address:

_____

_____

_____

Completed Entry Forms will be accepted at The Old Post Office, WR10 3AB during the week commencing 1st September until 8.00 pm on Thursday 4th September 2025.

You can also enter by email by clearly listing all categories you wish to enter including double entries. Please send your entries to **birlingham-produce-show@proton.me**

If you have any queries please contact the committee via birlingham-produce-show@proton.me

ONE ENTRY FORM PER PERSON. Photocopies will be accepted, or additional forms can be acquired from The Old Post Office, Birlingham, WR10 3AB.

Birlingham

FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW 2025

SEPT 6TH | FROM 2:00PM

BIRLINGHAM CRICKET CLUB
WR10 3AB

Show Rules

1. Closing date for receipt of entry forms: **Thursday 4th September 2025 at 8pm.** Space permitting, additional entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Committee on Saturday between 9 am and 11 am at double fees.
2. Entry forms will be accepted at The Old Post Office, WR10 3AB or via email at birlingham-produce-show@proton.me during the week commencing 1st September up to 8:00pm of Thursday 4th September 2025. No responsibility can be taken for non- receipt.
3. Entry cards will be issued from The Old Post Office on Friday 5th September 2025 6pm – 8:00pm and on Saturday 6th September at Birlingham Cricket Club from 8:30 am to 11:00 am.
4. Payment must be made at the same time as collection of Entry Cards. Cheques should be made payable to "Birlingham Flower and Produce Show". No entries will be accepted without payment.
5. All exhibits must be staged between 8:30 am to 11:00 am on Saturday 6th September 2025.
6. All produce exhibited in Sections A, B and C must have been grown in the garden or allotment of the exhibitor. All entries should be identified by variety.
7. Each entrant will be responsible for displaying their own entries and for placing their assigned entry cards. These should be attached to the entry where possible.
8. A fee of 10p per entry on the entry form will be made for Sections A – I. No entry charge is made for Section J – Children.
9. TWO ENTRIES ALLOWED IN EACH CLASS, but points will only be awarded for the highest placed entry.
10. The Committee reserves the right to disqualify any exhibitor in any of the classes if, in their judgement, any unfair means have been used to win a prize.
11. Public viewing from 2pm. No exhibits to be removed from benches until 4:00pm. Exhibits to be donated for sale to be handed over by 4:15pm.
12. Presentation of trophies at 4:30pm, followed by Sale of Produce and Raffle.
13. Prize money Section J (Children's Category):
First 4 points £4.00 Second 3 points £2.00 Third 2 points £1
14. The allocation of points and prizes in each class is at the Judge's discretion. The Judge's decision is final. No appeals permitted.
15. All trophies are perpetual and must be returned to the Show secretary at 3 Court Cottages, WR10 3AA, by 24 August each year.
16. Any damage to the trophy during the period of ownership will be the responsibility of the recipient.
17. The Committee will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to any article.
18. Hanging basket competition: Points awarded will be carried through into the main show competition

Contribution of surplus produce and unwanted exhibits will be welcome for the produce sale.

Schedule of Classes

1st, 2nd and 3rd Prize Cards will be awarded for each Class
Only 1 entry in each class to be counted as Points for Cups

Section A: Vegetables

1 White Potatoes	dish of 5
2 Coloured Potatoes	dish of 5
3 Onions,	Utility 4
4 Carrots	3
5 Beetroot	3
6 Edible Squash/Gourd/Marrow	1
7 Runner Beans	6 pods
8 Longest runner bean	1
9 French Beans	6 pods
10 Cherry Tomatoes, any variety	a single truss
11 Tomatoes	dish of 5
12 Courgette	3
13 Cucumbers	2
14 Shallots	9
15 Any other vegetables not included in classes 1 to 14	3 of any kind
16 Capsicums including Chili Peppers	3
17 Container of Mixed Vegetables	Minimum **5** different varieties

Section B: Fruit

18 Apples, Dessert	dish of 3
19 Apples, Culinary	dish of 3
20 Plums	dish of 6
21 Damsons	dish of 12
22 Pears	dish of 3
23 Soft Fruits	10 berries
24 Any other fruit not included in classes 18 to 23	3 large fruit One bunch

Please note that Section A to B must be labelled with their Variety

Section C: Flowers, Foliage and Herbs

25A	Pompom Dahlias	3 blooms for display
25B	Cactus & Semi Cactus Dahlias	3 blooms for display
25C	Decorative Dahlias	3 blooms for display
26	Roses Floribunda	3 stems
27	Roses, H/T	3 blooms
28	Single H/T Rose	1 bloom
29	Sweet peas	5 stems
30	Any other flower	3 stems
31	Pot plant, Flowering, including Cactus	
32	Pot Plant, Foliage, including Ferns	
	(*Classes 31 & 32 to have been in competitors ownership 2 months*)	
33	Cut Flowers	1 vase, 5 assorted blooms
34	5 cut herbs in a container	Collection in named bunches in a container

Section D: Floral Art

35 Arrangement of Foliage **(may include berries)**
36 Arrangement of Flowers
(*all displays to be 18" x 18" or 45 cms x 45cms with no height limit*)

Section E: Cookery

37 Hand baked Bread - *No Bread-makers allowed!*
38 Bread-maker bread - Only bread-makers allowed!
39 Traditional Plain Shortbread (5 Pieces)
40 Sticky Gingerbread Cake (max 8")
41 Lemon Drizzle Cake (max 8")
42 Traditional Victoria Sponge Cake (max 8")
43 Fruit Cake (max 8")
44 Classic Coffee Cake (max 8")
45 5 Plain Scones

Section F: Preserves & Jams

46 1 jar of Strawberry Jam
47 1 jar of Marmalade
48 1 jar of Fruit Jelly
49 1 jar of Stone Fruit Jam
50 1 jar of Jam not included in classes 46 to 49
51 1 jar of Chutney, including Piccalilli
52 1 jar of Pickles
53 1 jar of condiment, sauce, or relish

Section G: Home Produce

54	Home laid Eggs (any variety)	5 on a plate
55	Homemade Beer or Cider	1 Bottle
56	Homemade Spirit or Liqueur	1 Bottle
57	Homemade Wine	1 Bottle
58	Homemade Cordial	1 Bottle
59	Homemade Juice	1 Bottle

Section H: Leisure Craft (All exhibits to have been taken / completed in the last 12 months)

60 Any Photograph, colour or B&W, maximum size 7" x 5"
a) Anybody b) Animals c) Anywhere d) Arty
61 Cushion in any Medium, (*maximum size 18" square*)
62 An Original Artwork maximum including frame is A3
63 An Original Line Drawing maximum including frame is A3
64 A Piece of Quilting or Patchwork - maximum 1 metre Square.
65 Handmade greetings card
66 An "Upcycled' Item
67 A Piece of Poetry

Section I: Novelty Section

68 Garden in a Seed Tray
69 A character made from Fruit or Vegetables
70 Most Misshapen Vegetable
71 Scene from history made from Lego (no sets allowed!)

Section J: Children up to 12 years

(age to be attached to exhibit)

72 Decorated Fairy Cakes (3 per plate)
73 Garden Flowers in a Jam Jar
74 A piece of Artwork using Recycled Material
75 Garden in a seed tray
76 Any Photograph taken during the current year, colour or B&W, maximum size 7" x 5"
77 Scene from history made from Lego (no sets allowed!)

A small charge is made to cover the continued running costs of the show

Any questions regarding the entry process can be made by email to the committee via

birlingham-produce-show@proton.me

Members of the organising committee

David Kew
Kristian Mills
Sue Hayward
Lindsey Campbell-Cann
Charlotte Baskerville
Nick Baskerville
Paul Burton

Birlingham Flower and Produce Show

We appreciate you suggestions and ideas to help improve the show. Please email the show committee at **birlingham-produce-show@proton.me.**

comments: _____

_____

We are always looking for new volunteers to help on the day, or to join the show committee. To help please contact the show secretary for more details.

Thank you for your support from the Birlingham Show Committee

CUPS

THE WILLIAM TROW-POOLE TROPHY
For the highest number of points in Section H

THE JOAN HOLLIER PLATE
For the highest number of points in Section F

THE M & B SHIELD
for highest number of points in the show

THE HAROLD HERBERT CUP
for Decorative/Cactus Dahlia in Classes 25B and 25C

THE SWAN INN CUP
for the Best Vegetable exhibit in Classes 1 to 17

THE W JOWETT TROPHY
for the best Floral Arrangements in Classes 35 and 36

THE MRS ANN PORTER CUP
for winner of Class 16

THE GEORGE WILSON REVILL CUP
for best Root Vegetable in Classes 4 and 5

THE GERALD TAYLOR CUP
for best exhibit in the Show

THE BUTLER TROPHY
for highest number of points in Classes 37 to 45

THE COURT HOUSE SALVER
for highest number of points in Classes 18 to 24

THE CHILDREN'S CUP
for highest number of points in classes 71 to 76

THE BIRLINGHAM NURSERY ROSE BOWL
for winner Hanging Basket Competition.

THE BETTY HUGHES CUP
for Resident of The Row gaining highest number of points in Show.

THE COMMITTEE WISH TO THANK ALL WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED THE SHOW IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS

Local Government Reorganisation

The district and county councils in Worcestershire are being reorganized, as shown on this and the following pages.

The information below is taken from the shapeworcestershire.org website.

https://shapeworcestershire.org/interim-plan-for-worcs

What's changing in Worcestershire?

In March 2025, all seven councils in Worcestershire submitted an interim plan to the Government.
This set out what the make-up of councils in the county could look like in the future.
This plan has two options which are described in the section below or you can use the link below to read the plan in full.

Interim plan for local government reorganisation in Worcestershire March 2025 (pdf) ⬇ Download

The options

Replace all councils with one unitary council



This would replace the county council and six district, city and borough councils with just one council for the whole of Worcestershire.

It would provide all services from collecting bins to school admissions.

The new council would geographically cover the same areas as Worcestershire County Council does now.

The population the new council would serve would be 614,185 rising to an estimated 678,580 by 2043.

Replace all councils with two unitary councils



This means the county would be split into two new councils with one for the north of the county and one for the south of the county, as shown on the map below. Each one would be responsible for all services in their part of the county.

The north unitary would be made up of the current council areas of:

- Bromsgrove District Council
- Redditch Borough Council
- Wyre Forest District Council

The population the new council would serve would be 290,991 rising to an estimated 316,000 by 2043.

The south unitary would be made up of the current council areas of:

- Malvern Hills District Council
- Worcester City Council
- Wychavon District Council

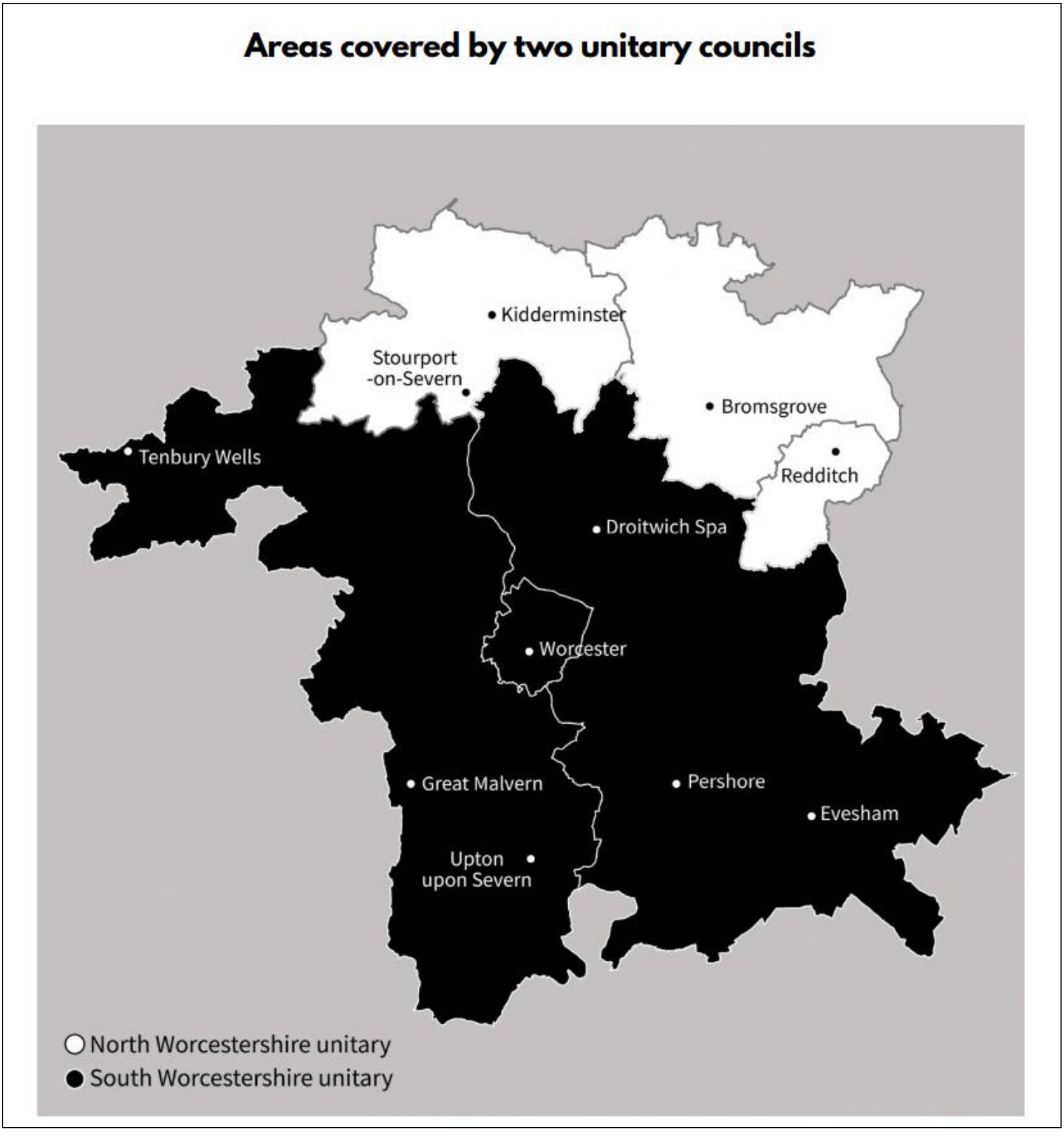
The population the new council would serve would be 323,194 rising to 362,560 by 2043.

The map below shows how the county would be divided if the option of two unitary councils were adopted.

Three of the district councils would be included in the new North Worcestershire council; the other three (including our own Wychavon District Council) would form the new South Worcestershire council.

Full details of the options are contained in an 8-page document that can be downloaded from the website.

https://shapeworcestershire.org/interim-plan-for-worcs



The survey takes about 5 minutes to complete and closes on Sunday 29th June.

https://shapeworcestershire.org/have-your-say

Now it's time to have your say

If you have read the information on this site about the proposed changes to your councils and you are ready to have your say then tap or click the 'take our council changes survey' button below to give your views.

If you haven't yet read the information on this site then you can still give us your views now but we encourage you to go and read the information first as it will help you make an informed choice.

The deadline for responses is 11.59pm on Sunday, 29 June 2025.

If you need the survey as a paper copy or in an alternative format then get in touch with our team by using the button below.



There will be elections for the new council or councils in May 2027 and the new authorities will take over services the following year.

https://shapeworcestershire.org/what-happens-next

What happens next?

Between 1 and 29 June, we are engaging with residents, businesses, community organisations, parish/town councils and other partners we work with on the two proposed options for Worcestershire.

Your feedback, along with other information, will be used to help work up detailed proposals on the two options to be presented to councillors in autumn 2025. They will see your feedback as part of these discussions.

Councillors will then confirm their choices before submission to the Government by 28 November 2025.

The Government will then analyse all the proposals it receives and decide which ones to take forward. Once a plan for Worcestershire is agreed, the Government will carry out a formal consultation before asking Parliament to approve the new structure. Elections to a shadow council, or two shadow councils, will then take place. This is expected to be in May 2027.

It is expected the new council(s) will take over running services from 1 April 2028.



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:

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). **Approved.** Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

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

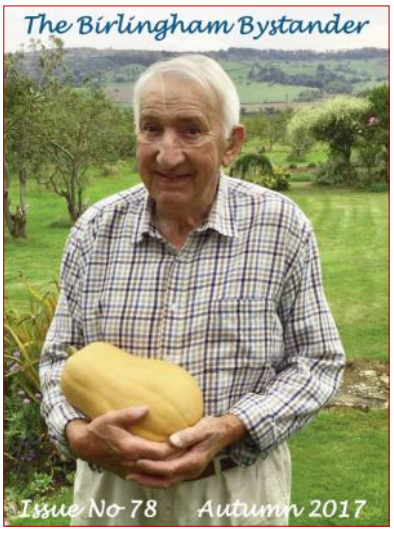
The Parish Council comments are available at:

http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_25_00571.pdf

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 Autumn 2017 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* records the Birlingham Village Family Day, the Annual Parish Meeting, the Vintage Sports Car Rally, a Morris Men tour, Worcestershire Open Studios and of course the Flower & Produce Show. Other events included the Harvest Festival and a Race Night.

There are articles on Hartlebury Castle, the history of Woodfield House and the Pershore Foodbank, with others relating to cricket, darts and cycling, plus several others.

Steve Addison is welcomed, as are David and Kirsty Niven, and the birth of Freddie Brown is recorded. Jon and Helen Komor and Dan Stratford left the village.

The issue celebrates the weddings of Lyndsey Fairburn & Richard Mead, Karen Brookes & Ross Archer, and Kate Parkhouse & Ben Williams, along with Des Hollier's 90th birthday and Daphne and John Hill's Golden Wedding Anniversary. There are obituaries for Billy Jowett and David Williams.

Issue 78 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander078.pdf

West Mercia POLICE

Safer Neighbourhood Team Drop-in Sessions

Saturday 14th June, 3.00-4.00pm
Birlingham Village Hall

by Luke Harris, PCSO, Evesham Safer Neighbourhood Team

The Safer Neighbourhood Team is bringing the engagement van to the following locations:

Friday 13th, 3.00-4.00pm – Bredons Norton
Saturday 14th, 3.00-4.00pm – Birlingham
Sunday 15th, 3.00-4.00pm – Great Comberton
Monday 16th, 3.00-4.00pm – Little Comberton
Tuesday 17th, 3.00-4.00pm – Westmancote

Come on down to have your say on local issues and meet the team.

Dates for your diary

June

Sat 14	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Bredon CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm
Sat 14	Safer Neighbourhood Drop-in Session, 3.00-4.00pm, Village Hall
Thu 19	Birlingham IW, 2.00pm, John Moore Museum, Tewkesbury
Sat 28	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Droitwich Spa CC 4th XI, 12.30pm

July

Wed 2	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 5	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Astwood Bank CC 4th XI, 12.30pm
Wed 16	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 17	Birlingham IW, Needle Museum, Redditch
Sat 26	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Avoncroft 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 23rd June (for publication on Wednesday 25th June). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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