Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 370 Wednesday 14th January 2026

Editorial

Once again, our village organisations are looking for help in various ways, as detailed in this edition.

If you have some spare time in February you can help with the Snowdrop Teas or donate some items to the bric-a-brac stall. The much-loved Flower & Produce Stall is also looking for new committee members and helping prepare for this once-a-year event would be time well spent.

In addition, the Parish Council is asking for your views on how to spend the Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

Break-in in the Avenue

Field Cottage, between the Old Coach House and Birlingham House, was broken into at 12.40am today (Wednesday 14th January).

Three men broke into the kitchen through the back door but were discovered immediately by the owners. Fortunately nothing was taken and the men fled immediately.

The police were called and were at the scene within 20 minutes.

If you saw anything last night between midnight and 1.00am, or have any footage from CCTV or doorbell cameras, please contact 07775 335996 as soon as possible.

Spring *Bystander*

The Spring edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* is now being compiled and the *Bystander* team would love to hear from you.

If you have any articles or photographs that you would like included in the next issue, please send them by email to bystander@birlingham.org.

The copy date for the Spring edition is Sunday 15th March.

Birlingham IW

Thursday 15th January *by Caryl Mills*



The first meeting of 2026 will take place on Thursday 15th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There will be a short AGM followed by a social evening (wine may be involved!). Subscriptions will be due. £25 for the year in cash only please.

New members always welcome.

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 21st January

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 21st January 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 is available at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2026-01-21.pdf
and the draft minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 19th November can be viewed at:
http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2025-11-19.pdf.

St James' Church

Churchwardens: Pat Chinneck & Adrianne Woodward
(Tel. 01386 750936)



Bric-a-brac Stall

We are planning on having a bric-a-brac stall in church during February to raise extra funds.

If you have any unwanted gifts or smallish items you no longer need, we would be happy to receive them. Please leave them on the trestle table at the back of the church.



Ice in Jubilee Wood at sunrise, 4th January
(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

Potential Community Infrastructure Projects

by Councillor David Glover

Further to my last article, we have had a few informal suggestions on CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) utilisation via *Birlingham News*. From the suggestions received, the primary contenders would be:

- A **sign for the Village Hall**, celebrating its anniversary
- A **replacement marquee** for the Flower & Produce Show and community events, etc.
- **Pickleball equipment** for the Village Hall
- Reinstatement of the legacy **signpost** on Defford Road, adjacent to Upper End

The Parish Council is planning to review all suggestions at the meeting on 21st January and then choose a project for the CIL funds. Please email June Hiden, Parish Clerk at birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to express a view on the contenders or offer any alternatives for the councillors to consider.

The previous article on CIL is included in Birlingham News no. 364.

Music Night

Saturday 30th May

by Chris Hermon

By popular request, the Music Night with Mel and Him will be returning to the Village Hall on Saturday 30th May.

Tickets at £10 each will be on sale nearer the time.

The event was a complete sell-out last year and raised £800 for the Village Hall, and it is expected tickets will go quickly.



Birlingham Flower and Produce Show needs you!

For those of you unfamiliar with the Flower and Produce Show, it is a very special annual event held here in the village. It is an opportunity to show off green fingers, baking skills and artistic talents. It's also a great event for villagers to get together, catch up and enjoy each other's company.

Behind the scenes, there is a small team of volunteers representing the committee that enables the show to happen. The roles are not taxing and very flexible. We meet twice a year as a group and make ourselves available around the first Saturday of September when the show is held.

Without the committee, the show won't go on and we are currently looking for people to join us. If you are interested in becoming a member or simply curious about the show, please contact Sue Hayward on 07766 318901.

West Mercia POLICE

Safer Neighbourhood Team Drop-in Sessions

by PC Alex Prentice, Evesham Safer Neighbourhood Team

Your Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team will be holding several drop-in sessions this month. Please do pop along if you have anything you'd like to discuss, raise concerns about, or just to say hello.

Friday 23rd, 3.00pm – Drakes Broughton Village Hall (outside)
Wednesday 26th, 10.00am – Eckington (outside the village shop)
Tuesday 27th, 10.00am – Cleeve Prior Memorial Hall

We look forward to seeing you and talking about what matters to you in your community.



Candlelit Concert – St. James' Church, Birlingham

Saturday 17th January, 7:30pm

Programme

Zephyr Quintet

Charlotte Baskerville (clarinet), Freddie Brewer (bassoon), Beth Edmenson Cook (oboe), Robert Fox (horn), Bhavandeep Stephenson (flute).

Novelette in C – Poulenc arr. Emerson

Three Shanties – Arnold

1. *Allegro con brio*
2. *Allegretto semplice*
3. *Allegro vivace*

Suite no. 1. – Debussy arr. Hallam

1. *Minstrels*
2. *La fille aux cheveux de lin*
3. *Golliwogg's cake-walk*

Beethoven's Fifth Bossa Nova – Greaves

I Got Rhythm – Gershwin arr. Skirrow

Interval



St James' Church on Boxing Day

(Photo: Peter Luff)

Charlotte Baskerville (recorder) accompanied by Rod Varty (piano)

1st movement from *Recorder Concerto in F* – Sammartini

Phoebe Underwood (violin) accompanied by Rachel Clarkson (violin)

Chorus from *Judas Maccabeus* – Handel

Phil Mackenzie (voice and guitar)

Feel My Love – Boby Dylan

Sound of Silence – Simon and Garfunkel

I can tell by your eyes – Rod Stewart

Charlotte Baskerville (soprano) and Meg Brand (soprano) accompanied by Rod Varty (piano)

Stabat Mater – Pergolesi

Laudamus te from *Gloria* – Vivaldi

James MacDowall Scott (organ)

1st movement from *Symphony no.6* – Widor

Jayne Brassington
Beauty and Complementary/Holistic Therapist
Animal Angelic Reiki Practitioner
Relaxation and Rejuvenation
Paddock Barn Broadway Road Birlingham WR10 3AF
By appointment only
For full details of available treatments visit
www.salonespritdecorps.com
www.animalholistichealing.co.uk
mob 07770401359
Email jebrassington@btinternet.com

Invitation
TO HELP

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES' CHURCH, BIRLINGHAM

SNOWDROP TEAS 2026



fi

Birlingham Village Hall

Every Saturday and Sunday, 11am - 4pm
31st January to 22nd February

The annual Snowdrop Teas support the maintenance of Birlingham's Church and Churchyard, the exquisite centrepiece of our village. As we welcome people from far and wide to see the snowdrops & crocuses, the sale of snowdrops and of teas & cakes make a vital contribution to keeping St James' safe and sound.

If you can bake us a cake (or cakes!)
or do a stint in the kitchen, please
email Julia Luff at luffjulia@hotmail.com
or ring Sue Hayward on 07766 318901

Bulb Sunday Church Service,
February 22nd at 3pm

WYCHAVON

Bin collection calendar 2026



- Black bin week
- Green bin (recycling) week/ Brown bin week (garden waste customers only)*
- Christmas and New Year collections

January 2026

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

February 2026

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

March 2026

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

April 2026

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

May 2026

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

June 2026

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

July 2026

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

August 2026

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

September 2026

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

October 2026

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

November 2026

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

December 2026

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

*** Garden waste customers please put your brown bin out for collection the same day as your green recycling bin.**

Bank holiday collections as normal except Christmas and New Year.
For further information please visit www.wychavon.gov.uk/waste

Help shape the future of Wychavon Town



You are invited to share your views on a key document that will help shape the future of Wychavon Town.

We are running a public consultation on the Wychavon Town Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) from Monday, 12 January to 5pm on Tuesday, 17 February 2026.

The SPD acts as a set of guidance for developers as they work up their proposals and will be used by planners when deciding planning applications related to Wychavon Town, formerly known as Worcestershire Parkway.

The document sets out the vision, objectives and spatial framework to create the new town which will include 10,000 low carbon homes, low-traffic neighbourhoods, four parks and plenty of green space. There will also be a vibrant town centre, neighbourhood centres, flexible community spaces, employment land, primary and secondary schools, a sports hub, sports pitches and a GP and healthcare centre.

Details of how the development of the town will be monitored and managed to ensure key infrastructure goes in at least at the same time as housing, is also set out in the document.

You can have your say by filling in the online survey which can be found on the Wychavon Town website

Paper copies of the SPD will be available from local libraries, Stoulton Village Hall, Norton Parish Hall, Worcestershire Parkway Railway Station ticket office, the Civic Centre in Pershore, Council House in Malvern and The Hive in Worcester.

When the district of Wychavon, and the council it belongs to, was created in 1974, lots of people wondered if it would work. Bringing together rural Evesham and Pershore with the industrial heritage of Droitwich Spa felt like an odd mix. Locals even joked at the time "you can't put salt on plums." And because Wychavon wasn't a real place on the map, building a shared identity took time.

But over the last 51 years, something real has taken root. People have come to recognise Wychavon as more than just a local government administrative boundary - it's become a collection of connected communities, shaped by shared experiences, local pride, and the things we've achieved together. With Local Government Reorganisation bringing the council, and as a result the district, to an end by April 2028, we didn't want that sense of belonging to disappear.

We considered other names. The type you would expect to see given to a new town like this. But we wanted something with meaning and significance.

Naming this new place Wychavon Town keeps the story of our district alive. It protects a name residents know, keeps continuity for future generations, and offers a unifying identity in an area that has always blended different places and people. And once LGR is complete, we expect the town will simply be known as Wychavon.

Featuring 10,000 high-quality, energy-efficient homes across 1,134 hectares of walkable, vibrant neighbourhoods, Wychavon Town will be designed to foster a sense of belonging, support low-carbon lifestyles, and provide easy access to both green space and essential services. We expect Wychavon Town to set the standard nationally for new town development.

Join our drop-in events

Drop-in consultation events are also being held on the following dates where officers will be available to discuss the proposals for Wychavon Town:

- Tuesday, 20 January from 4.30pm to 7.30pm at Stoulton Village Hall, Church Lane, Stoulton WR7 4RE
- Wednesday, 28 January from 4pm to 7pm, Littleworth Suite, Norton Parish Hall, Wadborough Road, Littleworth, WR5 2QB.

Once the consultation closes, feedback will be analysed and changes made to the SPD, if required, before it is formally adopted before the end of June 2026.

Cllr Emma Kearsey, Wychavon's Executive Board Member for Planning and Infrastructure, said: "Our vision for Wychavon Town is to create a place that fosters a sense of belonging among those who live there, supports low-carbon lifestyles and provides easy access to nature and essential services.

"Crucially, it will be an infrastructure-led development with schools, transports links, health facilities, community buildings and other key services in place when they are needed.

"The SPD is crucial to helping us achieve both these aims. I urge people to get involved in the consultation and help shape the future of Wychavon Town."

The Wychavon Town website can be found at https://wychavontown.co.uk/

Gardener Required

With the untimely death of the very splendid Peter Evans, who was my help around & sometimes in my house, I am now looking for a replacement, who would be essentially gardening. I am thinking of 2 hours per week.

Anyone interested please contact 01386 751829 or at:

richardldevenish@gmail.com.

I hope to hear from somebody with the experience, of which I have almost nil.

Richard Devenish

Personal adverts should consist of a maximum of 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.

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

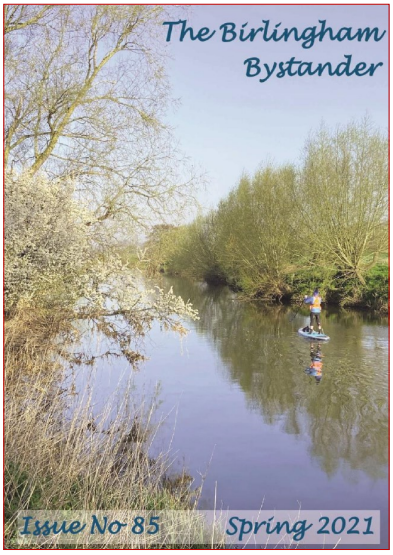
Planning Applications

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

Woodfield Farm, Broadway Road: Prior notification for the erection of a new agricultural building (Case No. W/25/02793/AGR). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 19th January.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/25/02793/AGR

Bystander Archives



The Spring 2021 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* starts with reports and photos from the COVID Christmas. There is an article about a 65-year-old postcard finally being delivered to Chris Hermon. This is followed by pieces on the Almshouses and the Easter Service.

There is an article by Julia Luff in which she compiled people's lockdown memories from the previous year and another Hairy Spotter piece by Carl Brassington.

The entries for the Bystander photo competition are followed by articles on a fallen oak tree in Upper End, gift bags for the NHS, the first part of an article about the renovations at Hills Cottage, the proposed changes at St James' Church, the disappearance of Ivy the cat, the flood bank and the John Bennett Memorial Pool, and Gill and Kelvin Hartshorne's arrival in Sussex.

A few houses had changed hands. Among others, there are welcomes for Jenny and Tony at Rose Cottage, Mat and Teresa at Bell Barn, Terry and Katie at the Russells, and Paul and Caroline at Orchard View. There are goodbyes to Gill and Kelvin Hartshorne, Alan and Linda Bradley, and the Hastings family, and there are obituaries for John Shepherd and Pamela Robinson.

Issue 85 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:

www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander085.pdf

Dates for your diary

January	
Sat 17	Candlelight Concert, 7.30pm, St James' Church
Wed 21	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 22	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 31	Snowdrop Teas, 11.00am-4.00pm
February	
Sun 1	Snowdrop Teas, 11.00am-4.00pm
Wed 4	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 7/Sun 8	Snowdrop Teas, 11.00am-4.00pm
Sat 14/Sun 15	Snowdrop Teas, 11.00am-4.00pm
Thu 19	Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 21/Sun 22	Snowdrop Teas, 11.00am-4.00pm
Sun 22	Bulb Sunday Service, 3.00pm, 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 26th January (for publication on Wednesday 28th January). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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