Birlingham News online

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

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Editorial

After forty days and forty nights of rain, it is not surprising that we are seeing near-biblical scenes of flooding in the village. With light rain forecast for at least another two weeks it looks like it will be a while before the waters recede.

Doug Anderson's aerial photograph from Nafford illustrates the scale of the current flood, while Peter Luff's picture on the next page captures the beauty of a waterlogged Asham in late afternoon.

We also have a message from the local police, warning of the potential dangers from the floods, particularly when attempting to drive through them. Please take care near flooded areas and stay safe.

Birlingham IW

Thursday 19th February

by Caryl Mills



On Thursday 19th February we will be hosting Mark Hartshorne who will be talking to us about 'Inside the mind of a cryptic crossword compiler'. The talk will be held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

All are welcome to listen to this fascinating subject. Guest fee is £3 – refreshments included.

Snowdrop Teas

Every Saturday and Sunday, 11.00am to 4.00pm, until 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 and crocuses, the sales of snowdrops and of teas and cakes make a vital contribution to keeping Saint James' safe and sound.



Flooding viewed from Nafford, 8th February

(Photo: Doug Anderson)

West Mercia POLICE

Flooding

by Lee Stirling, Police Community Support Officer, Evesham & Pershore

Please take extra care during any journeys you have planned over the coming days as throughout the Evesham and Pershore rural areas there is flooding on numerous roads, lanes and fords.

Do not attempt to go through flood waters as you will not be aware of how deep the water is. Six inches of flowing water is enough to sweep a person off their feet, 12 inches will make a car float and two feet of moving water will wash a car away. We have already had incidents of vehicles being stranded in flood waters across the area.

Please take notice of the 'Road Closed' signs and barriers. It is illegal to move, drive through or tamper with Highways barriers. Anybody doing so could potentially face prosecution or a fine.

We will be patrolling throughout our villages over the next few days to ensure everyone is complying with the road closures and staying safe.



Flooding in Asham Meadow, 8th February

(Photo: Peter Luff)

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.

Saturday 14th Feb, 10.00am – Offenham (outside village shop)

Wednesday 23rd Feb, 10.00am – Bredon (outside the village hall)

Tuesday 24th, 10.00am – Cleeve Prior Memorial Hall

Saturday 7th Mar, 12.00pm – Badsey (outside Spar)

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

BULB SUNDAY

St James' Church, Birlingham



SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY

15:00

A warm welcome awaits everyone at this annual service.

Revd Canon Claire Lording will be leading the service, supported by Upton Parish's Director of Music, John Holloway, as organist and members of the Upton Parish Choir.

Refreshments will be available in the Village Hall afterwards, with proceeds raised going towards the upkeep of the church.

Fairtrade Coffee Morning

Sunday, 8th March at 11.00am

St James' Church, Birlingham

Fairtrade coffee and biscuits on arrival

Short talk about Fairtrade by Hilary Fowler

who will be selling:

Coffee, tea, biscuits, chocolate and other foodstuffs from around the world

Cards and notecards

Easter items



The carpet of snowdrops in the churchyard last week

(Photo: Nikki Hollier)



"Who is going to ring the bell?"

(Photo courtesy of Chris Reynard)

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:

Woodfield Farm, Broadway Road: Prior notification for the erection of a new agricultural building (Case No. W/25/02793/AGR). **No objection**. Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

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

Personal Ads

Bicycle. I have a bicycle that I no longer use and it would be good to get something for it that I could forward onto a charity.

The frame is welded steel , 21-inch (535mm) with 21 gears, so it is an 'all terrain' type of bike, although at present the tyres are 'road style'.

If you are interested, please email: richardldevenish@gmail.com.

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.

Bystander Archives



The Autumn 2021 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* begins with the celebrations for the 75th Anniversary of the Almshouses Association, Chris and Adrianne Woodward's golden wedding and Richard Devenish's 90th birthday.

Craig Openshaw swam 47 miles of the River Avon and Alan Williams won Silver at Chelsea. Paula Aston concludes her account of the renovations at Hills Cottage.

There are reports of the Cricket Club's 2021 season and the annual Flower & Produce Show. Events at the church included the Harvest Festival.

A jug and glass owned by Revd Arthur Cotton, the Rector of Birlingham with Nafford from 1914 to 1925, was donated to the church by his descendants. In other church news, Peter Luff reports on delays to improvements to the church, there is a call for church cleaners and the Friends of St James' held a garden party.

There are articles on the Millennium Map and Millennium memories. Preparations for the Platinum Jubilee in 2022 were under way.

Malcolm Wilson reflects on his time as Harvesting Manager at Red Star Growers and this is followed by an article on the wild flower fields. Photographs show the latest Environment Agency works at Nafford Weir.

Lindsay Campbell-Cann and Alex George are welcomed to the village, along with Amy Purcell and Sandy Stewart.

There are memories of Norma Bennett and an obituary for Richard Foulkes.

Issue 86 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:

www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander086.pdf

Dates for your diary

February

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

March

Wed 4	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 8	Fairtrade Coffee Morning, 11.00am, St James' Church
Wed 18	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
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 23rd February (for publication on Wednesday 25th February). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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