# Birlingham News

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 376 Wednesday 8th April 2026

## Editorial

Switch on the news tonight and it will be filled with two major world events.

First there is the imminent return to Earth of Artemis II, the extraordinary mission that has taken four human beings to the far side of the Moon, further from their home world than anyone before – a space voyage that is exciting young and old alike for the first time in over fifty years.

Second, vying for the top slot in the bulletin, will be the threat by the American president to bomb the hapless population of Iran and their civilian infrastructure, "bringing them back to the Stone Ages where they belong": seemingly an act of retribution against the Iranian people for the intransigence of a cruel dictatorship, and currently held in abeyance.

Yet though we may alternately marvel and worry about these momentous events, in reality they will not affect our lives here in Birlingham in any permanent way. The village will look the same tomorrow as it does today and if we had not listened to or watched the news we would be none the wiser about what was happening outside our own small universe.

In the face of these historic events, it may seem trivial to be worrying about tidying up the churchyard or attending the seasonal AGMs – and yet these are the activities that will actually affect our lives here today.

So hopefully this edition of *Birlingham News* will remind you that, whatever is going on in the world – or above it – it is the community around us that really matters.

*Bluebells by Brockham, 5th April*

*(Photo: Nikki Hollier)*



## Churchyard Tidy-up

**Saturday 18th April** *by Pat Chinneck & Sue Hayward*

The first churchyard tidy-up of 2026 will be held on Saturday 18th April at 10.00am. There will be lots of jobs to do 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, trowels 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!

## Birlingham IW

**Thursday 15th April** *by Caryl Mills*



Due to popular demand, we are holding a cocktail evening on Thursday 16th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The theme to the evening will be cocktails for spring and summer, which will include mocktails for those who are driving or not drinking.

Guests are welcome at £3 per person.

## Friends of St James' Church, Birlingham AGM

**Monday, 20th April** *by Jessica Dormer*

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held at 6.30pm on Monday 20th April in St James' Church, Birlingham.

All are welcome to attend.

Minutes of the last AGM are shown on the following pages.

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Monday, 11th May** *by Deborah Grant, PCC Secretary*

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the Election of Churchwardens is to be held at St James the Great Church on Monday 11th May at 10.30am.

All residents of the parish are welcome to attend.

# Friends of St James' Church Birlingham
# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
# Held in the church on Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 6pm

**Present**
Peter Luff (President), Andrew Jowett (Chair), Paul Burton (Treasurer), Jessica Dormer, (Secretary), Revd Canon Claire Lording, Sue Hayward, Adrianne Woodward, Anne Maxwell, Stuart Allen,

**Apologies :** Denise Nayna, Caryl Mills, Martin Frost, Michael Porter

| Agenda Item | |
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| **1. Minutes** | The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd April 2024, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.<br>Proposed Peter Luff. Seconded Sue Hayward. |
| **2. Chairman's Report** | The chairman's report, having been circulated, was accepted.<br>Proposed Adrianne Woodward. Seconded Claire Lording.<br><br>24/25 Snowdrop Teas were again very successful despite the poor weather. Thanks were expressed to Julia Luff and SH for taking on the challenging task of managing the Teas. This has been a great success. SH advised that they had agreed to continue for 2026; that improvements would be seen next year, and that 1,000 visitors, as seen this year, was felt to be around the maximum capacity.<br>PL expressed thanks to AJ for his work in growing all the bulbs for the Bulb Sales.<br><br>The joint Friends and Village Hall quiz was also well supported and felt to be a great success with potential for another later in the year. (Post meeting - note our thanks to Jessica, Paul and Brian and team)<br><br>PL was thanked for his efforts in increasing subscriptions by around 42%. Although there is currently a large group of subscribers it is important the committee does not become complacent about membership.<br><br>Thanks were also expressed to PB for working hard to maximise growth of funds. The Quinquennial review will take place during 2025, necessitating ongoing fund-raising. |
| **3. Accounts and Treasurer's Report** | The Accounts and Report, which had been circulated, were accepted.<br>Proposed Adrianne Woodward. Seconded Sue Hayward.<br><br>Income increased from 2024, due to the membership drive and the interest received following the movement of funds to the CCLA account. Expenditure was lower than the previous year, mainly as the floodlighting was still being paid for in 2024.<br>Reserves are therefore higher than in 2024, although there are some invoices awaited from the PCC.<br>Everything has been reported to the Charities Commission, and the next task is to collect Gift Aid reimbursements.<br><br>PL asked why Quiz payments were included in the 2024 accounts when the Quiz took place in 2025. PB confirmed this was because tickets were sold in December 2024.<br><br>Total on deposit £42,887 at end of 2024. |

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| **4. Election of Trustees** | The following members of the committee stepped down, having completed their terms of service:<br>• Caryl Mills,<br>• Peter Luff – re-elected for one further year,<br>• Paul Burton – re-elected to the committee for three further years,<br>• Martin Frost – re- elected to the committee for one further year.<br><br>The members of the 2025-26 committee are as follows:<br>The ex officio incumbent:<br>1. Claire Lording<br><br>Members of the PCC<br>2. Adrianne Woodward<br>3. Sue Hayward<br>4. Denise Nayna<br><br>The following trustees were elected at the 2023 AGM for a 3 year term 2023-26:<br>5. Andrew Jowett<br><br>The following trustees were elected at the 2024 AGM for a 3 year term 2024-27:<br>6. Jessica Dormer<br><br>The following trustees were elected at this AGM for terms as shown:<br>7. Peter Luff : 1 year 2025-26<br>8. Paul Burton : 3 years 2025-28<br>9. Martin Frost : 1 years 2025-26<br>10. Stuart Allen : 3 years 2025 - 2028<br><br>Proposed Anne Maxwell. Seconded Claire Lording. |
| **5. Election of Officers** | Nominations were sought from among the trustees for the posts as officers of the Friends and, there being one nomination for each post, the following were declared elected:<br><br>President : Peter Luff<br>Chairman : Andrew Jowett<br>Treasurer : Paul Burton<br>Secretary : Jessica Dormer<br><br>Proposed Adrianne Woodward. Seconded Sue Hayward. |
| **6. Independent Examiner** | Sadie Yeomans will be asked to continue as Independent Examiner.<br>Proposed Jessica Dormer. Seconded Sue Hayward. |
| **7. Any Other Business** | CL expressed thanks to the Friends, on behalf of the PCC, for all their support, which gives the PCC confidence in their activities.<br>AW thanked AJ particularly, for his help in the ongoing process of appointing an architect to carry out the Quinquennial review.<br>SH advised that the new sound system would be installed imminently, at a cost of £1800. Tree work would be carried out shortly, and the leaking roof was now thought to be just a few slipped tiles and hopefully easily remedied. |
| **Date of Next Meeting** | May or June tbc. This will be an ordinary meeting. CL will be asked for available dates. **Action JD.** |

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6:29pm.



*Spring lambs in Upper End, 6th April*

*(Photo: Chris Hermon)*



*Red-legged partridges in a garden in Lower End, 5th April*

*(Photo: Nikki Hollier)*

## Pershore Public Transport Forum

**Saturday 11th April**

*by Julian Palfrey*

Local transport campaigners Vale Bus and Rail have arranged a Public Transport Forum at Pershore Town Hall, High Street, Pershore on Saturday 11th April from 10.00am until 12.00.

The forum is aimed at increasing public awareness of existing timetabled bus services in the Pershore area and improving publicity and promotion to help boost usage.

Vale Bus and Rail (VBR) is also urging Worcestershire County Council as public transport authority to update and improve neglected services such as the Pershore PlumLine and Village Hopper buses (the Pershore PlumLine timetable has now been unchanged for 12 years). Measures proposed include simplifying over-complicated timetables, improving customer information and facilities, and developing minimal cost improvements through re-timings and making better use of existing manpower and resources.

VBR is also dedicated to better co-ordination and integration of services and much improved bus/rail links.

We would very much welcome the views of members of the public regarding issues with their local bus services and would like to invite representatives from your council to the meeting. Invitations are also being sent to the County Council's public transport team, bus operators and local county and district councillors.

We also welcome local residents and we do hope that you will be able to join us on the 11th.

West Mercia POLICE

## Safer Neighbourhood Team Drop-in Sessions

*by Rebekah Ashley, West Mercia Police, Police Community Support Officer, Pershore*

We are encouraging the public to have their say. Your local Safer Neighbourhood Team will be available in the mobile police station at the following time and location:

**Saturday 11th April, 1.30pm-3.30pm – Asda Pershore Supermarket, Off King George's Way, Cherry Orchard**

Please take this opportunity to raise any concerns you may have and to find out what we are doing to tackle the issues that matter to you.

Everyone is welcome and it would be great to see you there. For more information please contact: pershoretown.snt@westmercia.police.uk.

## 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:**

**Land at (OS 9284 4361)**, Eckington Road: Permission in principle for the erection of between 5-9 no. dwellings (Case No. W/26/00163/PIP). **Refused**. Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/26/00163/PIP

The Parish Council comments are available at:

http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_26_00163A.pdf

http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_26_00163B.pdf

## Personal Ads

*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 Winter 2022 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* begins with an article about the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022.

Neil and Pat Lightbody, and David and Enid Caldicott all celebrated their diamond wedding anniversaries.

Nicholas Coulton provides his memories of Birlingham in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Events covered include the Flower & Produce Show, the Harvest Festival and a clutch of events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee earlier in the year in June.

Nikki Hollier describes her garden at the Chelsea Flower Show and there is another article about the 2022 show gardens designed and built by Rupert Keys and Ruth Gwynn. Peter Luff talks about the provision of water and floodlights at the church. The final part of the series about the renovations at Hills Cottage is included.

Welcomes are extended to Matt and Jessica Dormer, and the return of Andrew and Ali Jowett is recorded. Felicity and Peter Collier left the village. There are obituaries for Helen Porter, Pat Farey and Walter Clode.

Issue 88 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander088.pdf

## Dates for your diary

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| **April** | |
| Thu 16 | Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall |
| Sat 18 | Churchyard Tidy-up, 10.00am, St James' Church |
| Sat 18 | Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Worcester CC 3rd XI, 12.30pm |
| Mon 20 | Friends of St James' AGM |
| **May** | |
| Wed 6 | Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall |
| Sat 9 | Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Kington CC 1st XI, 12.30pm |
| Mon 11 | Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 10.30am, St James' Church |
| Sun 17 | Spring Walk around Birlingham, 3.00pm, St James' Church |
| Wed 20 | Birlingham Annual Parish Meeting, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall (followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm) |
| Thu 21 | Birlingham IW, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall |
| Sat 23 | Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Old Elizabethans CC 4th XI, 12.30pm |
| Sat 30 | Music Night, 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 20th April (for publication on Wednesday 22nd April). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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