Birlingham News

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 377 Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Editorial

The first signs of spring are with us at last: the clocks have changed, the evenings are lengthening, the churchyard has been tidied, the first ducklings are swimming on the river and the *Birlingham Bystander* is winging its way to the printers.

As the end of the AGM season approaches, this edition of *Birlingham News* contains details of the St James' Spring Walk, a Tool Marking Event by West Mercia Police and the discovery of an unusual (for Birlingham) orchid.

So it's time to get out in the garden with your freshly-marked tools or go for an evening walk and share some photos of the village with us for future editions.

St James' Church



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

An invitation is extended to all to join us for St James' annual Spring Walk around Birlingham village on Sunday 17th May led by Canon Claire, plus dog.

The walk starts from the War Memorial on the village green at 3.00pm, do bring your dog, or a friend.

Refreshments, both dog and human, and dog blessings, are provided in the church afterwards.

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 31st May – Benefice Eucharist at St James' 10.30am

Sunday 7th June – Hymns, Pimms and Poems 3.00pm; details to follow

Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 6th May

by Sue Hermon



The next Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 6th May from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall. Everyone is most welcome to come along. There will be tea, coffee and a selection of cakes and the cost is still only £3.00 per head!

For more information, or to request transport, please contact me on 01386 750096 or email sue.hermon@me.com.

Green-Winged Orchid

by Michael Porter



The orchid shown was spotted in the new woodland (2,500 trees and shrubs) that Henry Porter and I have planted either side of Upper End.

It is a green-winged orchid and according to the Wildlife Trust, "Orchid seeds do not contain enough energy in the form of food reserves to germinate on their own and have to form a partnership with mycorrhizal fungus to grow. The loss of these fungi through cultivation or application of artificial fertilisers and herbicides explains why these orchids are generally only found in unimproved grasslands."

That probably explains why we see so few examples of interesting (but not necessarily rare) species in Birlingham – excessive and intensive farming!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday, 11th May at 10.30am

St James' Church, Birlingham

All residents of the parish are welcome to attend

Spring *Bystander*

The Spring edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* is now at the printers and should be delivered to you within the next two weeks.

The *Bystander* team has now started putting together the Autumn edition, which will be published in October. So if you have any interesting articles or photographs that you would like to see included in the next issue, please email them to bystander@birlingham.org.



Birlingham Village Hall

Chair's Report 2025

The Bookings

True to our remit of providing a space for community activities and learning, we have managed to increase the bookings at Birlingham Village Hall (BVH) during 2025.

This includes chair-based exercise classes on most Wednesday mornings and a Parkinson's exercise class on Wednesday afternoons. This has meant some rearrangements once a month to accommodate the setting up of Cuppa & Chat. We are grateful to Cuppa & Chat organisers for the flexibility during the change-over between groups. The recent introduction of weekly Taekwondo sessions on Tuesday evenings is also a welcome addition both for the Hall and a younger cohort of users.

These activities make a good fit with existing sessions, including Tuesday morning's Art Group, Friday evening's karate, the monthly Independent Women (IW) and Pershore Patchers meetings together with the Three Little Pigs craft classes held over many weekends throughout the year.

There have been parties and wakes (at least five) and the Hall played its usual role as a Polling Station in May.

Birlingham's Bulb Teas were spectacularly successful this year for the Friends of St James' as was the joint quiz night, which raised money for both BVH and FoSJ.

On behalf of all the BVH Trustees, I thank Chris Hermon and Angela Fitch for organising the first Birlingham Music Night, a sold-out event, which raised £800 for the Village Hall. The second Music Night is scheduled for Saturday, 30th May.

The Village Hall

The Hall itself continues to be a superb facility thanks in no small part to those who have gone before us raising monies and working hard to provide the present excellent facilities; we stand on their shoulders!

In February, as a result of grant funding from Wychavon District Council, we were able to upgrade the general lighting in the hall to include dimmable, colour-changeable LED lighting, which replaces the ageing mercury vapour lamps and the largely ineffective track lights. At the same time stratification fans were installed to improve heating/cooling and also to reduce the Hall's carbon footprint.

Work has been undertaken to rectify a leak in the kitchen roof, leaving some relatively minor repair work to the wall affected. There are some minor pipework issues needing attention, but apart from those the Hall is in good condition.

The Trust continues to maintain the defibrillator with the assistance of Pershore First Responders, who have added a 'Stab Kit' to the box. Expenses for replacement parts continue to be shared between the Hall and Parish Council.

The Future

As fuel prices continue to rise, the cost of running an ageing oil-fired boiler is likely to hit income and reserves harder than in previous years. Advice is being sought as to the best available option and a cost-effective long-term way forward.

Lastly I would like to thank Ken Fitch and the committee for their support whilst I was indisposed in the autumn.

Paul Burton – Chair of Birlingham Village Hall

West Mercia POLICE

Safer Neighbourhood Team

Tool Marking Event

Thursday 7th May, 12.00pm

by PCSO Hill

Your local Safer Neighbourhood Team will be conducting a **Tool Marking Event** at TFM Farm & Country Superstore on Thursday 7th May at 12.00pm.

Please take this opportunity to bring along any tools that you would like marked and as always you can raise any concerns you may have with your local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Everyone is welcome and it would be great to see you there.

Eckington Stores

Shop locally from our large range of products:

- Grocery and household items
- Bread and milk
- Ham, cheese, bacon and eggs
- Fruit and vegetables
- Newspapers and magazines
- Frozen food and ice cream
- Alcohol and cold drinks
- Confectionary

We are agents for:

- The National Lottery
- My Hermes Parcelshop

Please pop in to see our full range of products

John, Sue and Mark
Tel 01386 750266

Planning Applications

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

Woodfield House, Broadway Road: Single storey extension and raised patio area off the south-west side of the proposed building (Case No. W/26/00750/HP). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 4th May.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/26/00750/HP

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

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.

Dates for your diary

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

June

Wed 3	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 6	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Almeley CC 1st 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 11th May (for publication on Wednesday 13th May). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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