Birlingham News

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 378 Wednesday 13th May 2026

Editorial

We are perhaps fortunate that party politics does not play a part in Birlingham's local council. Its seven members are independently minded but somehow manage to work together for the good of the community as a whole.

This edition of *Birlingham News* contains details of the annual meetings that have been organised by the Parish Council and take place next week.

Being a member of the Council is not a particularly arduous role but offers a chance to make a real difference to the village. At the moment there are two vacancies, so why not go along next Wednesday to see what it is all about and have a chat to existing councillors?

Alternatively, if you want to try something even less demanding, have a go at Hairy Spotter's new *Moustache of the Month* competition, which you can find later in this issue!

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 this **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

Birlingham IW



Thursday 21st May *by Caryl Mills*

We are now entering our summer programme and our first visit is to the **Sculpture Gardens at Showborough House**, near Twyning. We are meeting at 2.30pm in the car park and if you wish to join us then you would be most welcome. There is no charge to enter the gardens. IW members will receive refreshments but others will have to purchase their own tea and cake!



Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 20th May

The Annual Parish Meeting takes place on Wednesday 20th May at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. This meeting will receive reports from various village organisations about their activities during the year.

During the meeting there is an opportunity to express your views on local issues. Any member of the public can ask for an issue to be debated, even if they are unable to attend the meeting.

The agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting is available on the next page or at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2026-05-20A.pdf

The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st May 2025 are available at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_annual_2025-05-21.pdf

The Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by the regular bi-monthly Parish Council meeting. This is also the Annual Parish Council meeting. The agenda for the Annual Parish Council Meeting is available at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2026-05-20B.pdf

The draft minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 18th March are available at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2026-03-18.pdf

BIRLINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2026

at 7.00pm

Birlingham Village Hall

All residents of Birlingham are invited to discuss local issues
- this is an opportunity to voice your thoughts and opinions about your community

Agenda

1. Election of a Chair
2. Welcome from the Chair
3. Present
4. To receive any apologies for absence
5. To approve minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting (held May 2025)
6. To receive the Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report
7. To receive annual reports from elected representatives:
   - County Councillor Hardman
   - District Councillor Middlebrough
8. To receive annual reports from representatives:
   - Footpath Warden's Report
   - Tree Warden's Report
9. To hear from Birlingham community groups or local organisations
10. **Open Session** – to discuss parish issues
    The maximum time allowed per questioner to be at the discretion of the Chairman.
    Questions that require a response, must be submitted in writing before 15 May 2025.
11. Closure and next meeting – a time and date to be arranged in 2027

Ian Yates

The Chairman of Birlingham Parish Council
Ian Yates
ian.yates@sipeda.com

08 May 2026

Clerk - **June Hiden, Lamorna, Broadway Road, Birlingham**
birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk

Note: The Local Government Act 1972 provides that a Parish Meeting shall assemble annually between 1st March and 1st June in every year. Anyone who is registered as a local government elector for the Parish of Birlingham is entitled to speak and vote at the Parish Meeting. The Parish Meeting has a general power to discuss parish affairs and to pass resolutions, but such resolutions do not bind the Parish Council.

Annual Parish Meeting agenda 2026

MOUSTACHE OF THE MONTH

NO. 1

BY HAIRY SPOTTER

CAN YOU NAME THIS FAMOUS MOUSTACHIST?

Send your answer on the back of a £20 note to:

Moustaches Direct
C/O The Old Telephone Box
Centre Ville
Birlingham

Alternatively, use our FREEPOST address:
news@birlingham.org



Advertisement Feature

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St James' Church, Birlingham

SPRING WALK AROUND BIRLINGHAM



SUNDAY 17 MAY
3.00PM

Meet at the War Memorial for a walk around Birlingham, led by Canon Claire

Bring a dog, a friend, or both!

REFRESHMENTS AND A DOG BLESSING IN THE CHURCH AFTER THE WALK



New signage at Wetland Reserve on 2nd May

(Photo: June Hiden)



Sherpool, 26th April

(Photo: June Hiden)





Repairs to lock gates at Nafford Lock

(Above) Downstream gates before removal, 24th April
(Photo: Sue Hermon)

(Above) Downstream gates after removal, 2nd May
(Photo: June Hiden)

(Below) Gate being repaired, 2nd May (Photo: June Hiden)



(Below) Upstream gates, 24th April (Photo: Sue Hermon)



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

Eckington Stores

We have a range of locally produced products:
- Fladbury meat pies
- LDA fresh meat
- Drapers bread and cakes
- La Parisienne French style bread & cakes
- Pegoty Hedge ready meals
- Pegoty Hedge organic beef
- Bennetts ice cream
- DJ Perks fruit and vegetables
- Meat Company sausage and bacon
- Happy Chucks eggs

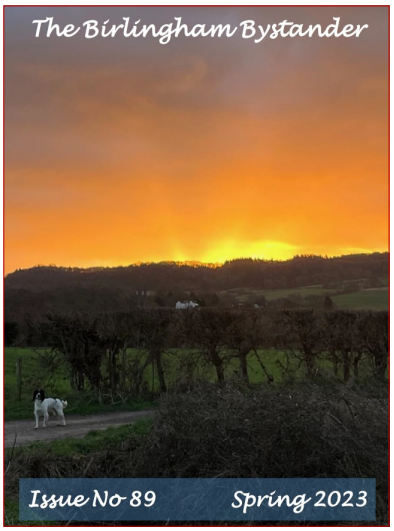
We open 7 days per week:
- 0600 to 1830 Monday to Friday
- 0600 to 1800 Saturday
- 0600 to 1300 Sunday

John, Sue and Mark
Tel 01386 750266

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 Spring 2023 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* begins with a celebration of the wedding of Chris Yeomans and Katie Eddy, and the christening of Francesca Bennett.

There are articles on the October wine harvest at Clock House and the November outdoor service. These are closely followed by Remembrance Day, and Carols and Christingles. Into the new year, there are the Snowdrop Teas and a talk at the IW on the Great British Bake Off. There is also a report on the trial floodlighting of the church tower that had been installed.

The centre pages feature photographs of the return of the refurbished phone box and the Millennium bench, which arrived back in the village a day apart.

The programme for the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III is published. There are extracts from Plain Hints to Bell-Ringers, a very old pamphlet that originally belonged to Miss Duke. The final article is a history of the planting and felling of the poplar plantation at Swan's Neck.

For once, there were no Comings or Goings but there was a drinks party to welcome the 16 new households that had arrived since the end of the pandemic.

Issue 89 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander089.pdf

Dates for your diary

May

Fri 15	Plant Sale, 10.00am, Broadway House
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, 2.30pm, Showborough House, near Twyning
Sat 23	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Old Elizabethans CC 4th XI, 12.30pm
Sat 30	Music Night, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 31	Benefice Eucharist, 10.30am, St James' Church

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
Sun 7	Hymns, Pimms and Poems, 3.00pm, St James' Church
Sat 27	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Luctonians 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 25th May (for publication on Wednesday 27th May). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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