Birlingham News

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 380 Wednesday 10th June 2026

Editorial

In this issue we are featuring the County Council's 'Worcestershire on Demand' minibus service. This transport option is a flexible alternative to the limited public bus timetable. It can be used to get to a number of locations in the district, including Pershore Railway Station and Evesham Community Hospital, for example.

Have you tried this service yet or are you thinking of using it? If so, we would like to hear about your experience at news@birlingham.org.

We would also like to hear your views on the public bus service through Birlingham, if you have used that recently.

Verve Martial Arts
Pershore

Classes in Birlingham Village Hall
every Tuesday

6.00-7.00pm for junior grades
7.00-8.00pm for senior grades

Instructor:
Master Ryan Coles, 6th Dan

07480 241965

www.vervemartialarts.co.uk

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

Birlingham IW

Thursday 18th June *by Caryl Mills*



We will be paying a visit to the Alpine Garden at Pershore College on Thursday 18th June. We will meet at 2.00pm by the gate to the Alpine Garden, which is to the left of the entrance at the College. We will go into Pershore for refreshments after our visit.

All are welcome to join us.

Churchyard Tidy-up

Saturday 20th June *by Pat Chinneck*

The next churchyard working party is planned for Saturday 20th June at 10.00am. The main focus this session will be strimming and raking the long grass but we have lots of other jobs to be done too. We have jobs for all ages and abilities whether you are a keen gardener or not.

If you have strimmers, rakes, loppers, secateurs and trowels 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!

Music Night

by Chris Hermon

The immensely talented musical duo Mel and Him returned to Birlingham Village Hall on Saturday 30th May to play yet again to a very enthusiastic audience.

The evening proved a huge success with a full dance floor enjoying music from the Rock 'n' Roll years to hits of today. The raffle was extremely well supported, with several prizes donated by villagers together with a £30 voucher given by Birlingham Nurseries. An amazing £525 was raised at the event, which has been donated to the Village Hall. The night finished on a high note with Him (Stuart) playing Dire Straits' guitar piece 'Brothers in Arms'.

Many thanks from the organisers Angela Fitch and Chris Hermon to all who attended, bought tickets, donated raffle prizes and helped at the event.



Worcestershire on Demand

Helping people make essential local journeys.



Funded by UK Government

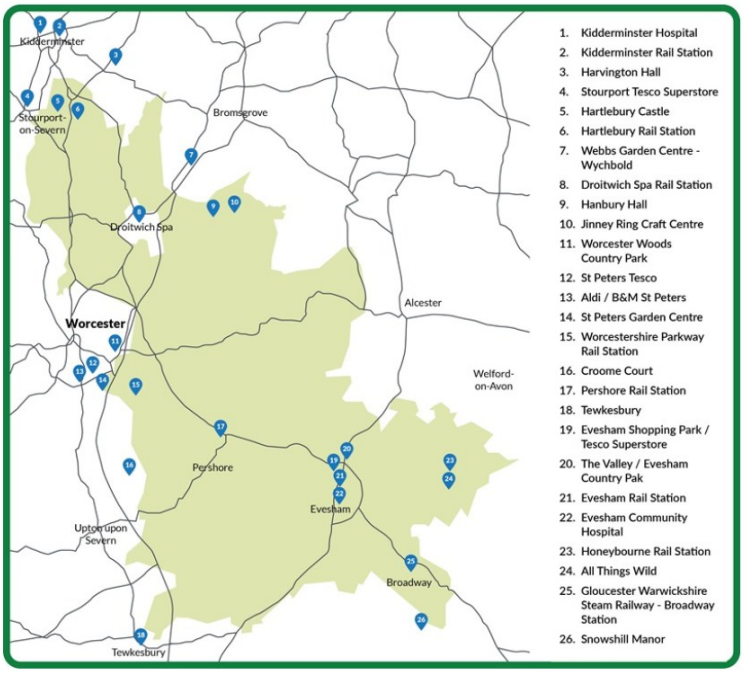
About Worcestershire on Demand

Worcestershire on Demand (WoD) offers an alternative transport option to fixed route public transport services. It helps people make essential local journeys within a defined area, and offers residents and visitors transport within a zoned area and to specific places of interest outside of the zone.

The service can also provide journeys to connecting transport services, such as other local buses or to local train stations.

WoD allows passengers to book onto the service from an app. Passengers can request transport for a specific time or, to arrive at their destination at a specific time and this will give a selection of boarding times available. Transport will collect the passenger from a designated pick-up point and will drop off at the required location. Unlike fixed route bus services, the service is flexible depending on the destinations and collection points.

Wychavon Zone



How does it work?

Passengers will need to download the app via Google Play or the Apple App store. Once registered, passengers can book journeys via the app to other locations within the zone and Places of Interest outside the zone. A branded vehicle picks you up at your request, changing its route as needed so that all passengers who are travelling on the vehicle can get to where they need to go.

Where does the service operate?

Worcestershire County Council has successfully launched 'Worcestershire on Demand' in North Worcestershire and Malvern Hills. Following the success of these areas, further locations across the county will be piloted to allow the Council to understand better how this type of service could benefit the region, starting with the new Wychavon zone on 4 August 2025.

How do the 'zones' work?

Journeys can be booked from within the highlighted zone to another destination within that zone. Journeys can also be made to designated places of interest outside of the zone – such as retail parks, hospitals, country parks and train stations. Please see the maps above for details of the points of interest in the different WoD zones. At least one of the journeys needs to be starting or ending within the zone. Journeys can't be made to 'Places of Interest' from outside of the zone. Please note that you cannot travel between the different zones (i.e. you cannot request a journey from Malvern Zone to the Wychavon Zone).

Booking a journey

The best way to book a journey is through our trusted app which can be downloaded through Google Play or the Apple App store. Click on the images below to visit the websites. Search for 'Worcestershire on Demand'

Available on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Booking through this app will provide live updates through messages giving the vehicle arrival time, the registration number of the vehicle and you can track the vehicle location and the registration of the vehicle giving accurate information to plan journeys.

If a passenger doesn't have access to the app, bookings can be made via the telephone however, live information can't be given if bookings are made by phone.

How far in advance should I book?

Prebooked journeys can be made up to 5 days in advance. Services can get very busy so it's always advisable to book ahead. Services can also be booked for the same day or to travel 'now'. We'd recommend ensuring that you book your return journey before departing to ensure availability and avoid disappointment.

What if there is no availability?

This means there are no journeys available for the time selected. Try altering the timeframe as this will show available booking options.

When do services operate?

Services operate Monday to Saturday, 7:00am to 7:00pm. Services do not operate on Sundays or bank holidays.

How much does it cost?

Journeys can be booked up to 5 days in advance.

- each journey costs £2.50
- group booking offers are available (each additional passenger pays £1.25 for a journey)
- under 5-year old's travel free

How do I pay for my journey?

Once you have downloaded the app via the apple or android store, you will need to create an account. When registering through the app, you can add your card details and pay directly through the secure payment system, making your journey easy and simple. The driver will then get a notification to advise that you have paid via the app. Alternatively, payments can also be made on board the service by cash or contactless card.

Can I use my bus pass?

Yes, concessionary passes are accepted after 9.30am (for pre-booked journeys only) as well as 'Here to Help' bus passes. From January 2025 we will also be offering free travel on the WoD service to veterans with a 'HM Armed Forces Veteran Card'.

Please note that if a concessionary passholder makes a booking for themselves and one or more fee paying additional passengers, the first fee paying passenger will be charged at the full price of £2.50 with each further additional passenger being charged at the reduced rate of £1.25.

Accessibility and child seats

Are the buses accessible?

Yes, wheelchair accessible vehicles are available. Please make sure to indicate that you require a wheelchair accessible vehicle when booking your journey to ensure a suitable vehicle is assigned to your trip. You can do this by navigating to the 'Concessions' menu in the WoD app and toggling on the 'Wheelchair accessibility' option before making your request.

Are child seats available on board?

Our service operate with a variety of vehicles. We do not provide child seats on board, as every child is different it would be impossible to meet every individual requirement. Parents and carers are welcome to bring their own child seats if they wish, but please note that responsibility for fitting these rests with the parent or carer. Our drivers cannot assist with fixing child seats into the vehicle. We are unable to guarantee that the vehicles we operate will have seats suitable for a child seat to be fitted.

Please note that there is no legal requirement for a child to use a car seat when travelling on a minibus, however, children aged three or older must use an adult seat belt if travelling without one. More information can be found using this link: Child car seats: the law: When a child can travel without a car seat - GOV.UK

Pick-up and drop-off points

Where are the pick-up and drop-off points?

When you request your ride, the app will show you the nearest pick up/drop off points to your requested departure and arrival locations. Please note that these points can change up until you receive your final ride confirmation SMS message. The service is not door-to-door so there will usually be a short walk either at end of the journey.

Will the service pick me up from my house?

No, the service is not a door-to-door service, but will collect you from an agreed location near to your home address. The pick-up location can change up until the journey is finalised. The journey is finalised one hour before the planned pick-up time, when the pick-up location is locked and the communicated pick-up window reduces from a 30-minute window to a 6-minute window, to give you a more accurate time to be at your journey's start location. If you require door-to-door transport, you might want to consider looking at one of the popular Community Transport schemes across Worcestershire .

Where do I wait, what is the exact location?

The location of where to meet the bus will be confirmed via the WoD app. You will get regular updates though text messages to tell you when your vehicle is near and give the details of the vehicle and you can live track the vehicle using the app.

Further information

What colour is the bus?

The buses are brightly coloured in green with multi-coloured arrows. This is the branding of the service.



Can I take my dog on the service?

Only support dogs are allowed.

Can I take my bike?

Bikes are not permitted on the vehicle due to the space available.

Where can I get help?

For enquiries, or issues relating to the app:

- email: WOD@worcestershire.gov.uk
- call: 01905 846180 (office hours between 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays)

Website:
https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/bus-travel-worcestershire/worcestershire-demand





Cover crop just beginning to flourish at the start of Sherpool Lane, 12th May



Oxeye daisies next to Berwick Brook, 29th May

(Photos: June Hiden)

MOUSTACHE OF THE MONTH

NO. 2

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

Birlingham Moustache Rescue

Our international rescue service saves moustaches from all over the World.

Every day thousands of moustaches are shaved off and cast into the dark drain.

Fickle fashion trends condemn thousands of healthy, vibrant moustaches to oblivion.

Moustache Rescue offers loving homes for distressed and abused moustaches.

Help us to save more moustaches before they become extinct.

Call 0800 Moustache Rescue

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 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). **Approved**. Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

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

The Parish Council comments are available at:

http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_26_00750.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 2023/24 edition of *The Birlingham Bystander*, was delivered in January 2024.

Church-related events include the St James' Patronal Service, Harvest Festival and Snowdrop Teas, and there is an article on the new church tower lights.

There are village reports for Birlingham Art Live, the Flower & Produce Show, and the events organised by the Jubilee Committee celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III.

Other articles cover running the London Marathon, BBC Gardeners' World Live, IVF, cover crops, a history of Eckington Bridge, two classic coaches and tree planting at Swan's Neck

New arrivals are welcomed at Polyanna Cottage and the Grange. There is an obituary for Monica Wild.

Issue 90 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander090.pdf

Personal Ad

FREE

Traditional style Wesley Barrel large 2 seater settee, floral pattern, good condition.

Space required.

Tel 01386 750505



Dates for your diary

June

Thu 18	Birlingham IW, 2.00pm, Pershore College
Sat 20	Churchyard Tidy-up, 10.00am, St James' Church
Sat 27	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Luctonians CC 1st XI, 12.30pm

July

Wed 1	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 4	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Challengers Hereford CC 1st XI, 12.30pm
Wed 15	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 16	Birlingham IW, details TBC
Sat 18	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Worcester Nomads CC 3rd XI, 12.30pm

Birlingham News 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 *Birlingham News*, or wish to be removed from the mailing list, please write to news@birlingham.org.

Birlingham News 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 22nd June (for publication on Wednesday 24th June). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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