Birlingham News

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 382 Wednesday 8th July 2026

Editorial

Two weeks from now it will all be over: not the series of heatwaves (those look like they will continue all summer) but the World Cup.

Whether or not you stayed up on Monday night to watch the victory over Mexico, you will have noticed the enthusiasm that has gripped the country over the last few weeks. As the nation's pubs and bars receive a much-needed boost, it is great to see people from all walks of life joining together in a common cause, demonstrating that unity is better than division.

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

Konrad Syzmanski

We are sorry to announce that former villager Konrad Syzmanski sadly died on 17th June. Konrad was involved in village organisations for many years.

The funeral will be held at Vale Crematorium, Evesham Road on Thursday 16th July at 12.30pm. Family flowers only. There will be collections for the Stroke Association and Peonie Palliative Care Volunteers.

Our thoughts are with Sally and the family.

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 15th July

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 15th July at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. During the meeting there is an opportunity to express your views on local issues, so please go along.

The agenda for the meeting will be available at:

http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2026-07-15.pdf

and the draft minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 20th May can be viewed at:

http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2026-05-20.pdf.

Birlingham IW

Thursday 16th July *by Caryl Mills*



We will be making a visit to the Lavender Fields at Snowshill on Thursday 16th July. Meet at 2.30pm at the entrance to the fields.

£7.75 admission, tea for members.

Postcode for Satnav is WR12 7JY.

St James' Church



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

On **Sunday 19th July** St James' is holding a **Patronal Holy Communion Service** to mark the special saint's day in honour of our patron, St James the Great. The service starts at 10.30am and will be led by Revd Jayne Parker. All are welcome to attend and to enjoy the refreshments after the service.

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 23rd August, 3.00pm: A Walk Around Birlingham – led by Canon Claire

Almshouse Charity Handyman/woman

by Angela Fitch

The Almshouse Charity in Birlingham is looking for a reliable and friendly person to help with basic, small-scale repairs and to lend a general helping hand around the property and grounds as required.

Hours are flexible and online payments are made on invoice per job. The successful applicant will have their own Public Liability Insurance policy in place.

This casual handyman/woman position would suit either a retired builder/carpenter etc. or an accomplished 'DIYer'.

If this sounds like you, please contact Angela Fitch, Clerk to the Trustees, at angela.fitch@btinternet.com or on 07585 904636.

Poppies for Remembrance Day

by Pat Chinneck

Members of the Art & Craft Group in the village have been busy knitting and crocheting poppies in readiness for a display at St James' Church for Remembrance Day in November.

We have made a great start but now need help from the wider village. If you feel that this is something you could help us with then please contact Pat Chinneck, one of the churchwardens, on patchinneck02@gmail.com. We have the wool and patterns to follow if needed.

Personal Ads

FOR SALE: ***eFOLDi Explorer*** *electric foldable scooter, £900.*

Excellent condition, hardly been used. Bought new.

Contact ksmith@elonex.com.





West Mercia POLICE

Safer Neighbourhood Team Parish Priorities

by PC Alex Prentice, Evesham Safer Neighbourhood Team

The parish priorities for the next three months are given below. These have been identified based on resident feedback, local crime data and ongoing concerns within the community.

Road Safety
Anti-social behaviour
Drugs

These priorities are also available to view on the West Mercia Police website via the section where you can enter your postcode to see information relating to your local policing team. (https://www.westmercia.police.uk/area/your-area/west-mercia/herefordshire-worcestershire/pershore-rural-south-and-rural-north/about-us/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area)

If you have any questions or would like to provide further feedback, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Fallow deer in a Lower End garden, 2nd July

(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

PATRONAL SERVICE

St James' Church, Birlingham



SUNDAY 19 JULY
10.30AM

Come along to our holy communion Patronal service, led by Revd Jayne Parker.

All are welcome to attend and enjoy refreshments together after the service.

AVON NAVIGATION TRUST

Mill Wharf, Mill Lane, Wyre Piddle, Nr Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 2JF
Telephone: 01386 552517, Fax: 01386 556881
Navigation Concern / Incident Tel: 0300 999 2010
Email: office@avonnavigationtrust.org, Web: www.avonnavigationtrust.org

NAVIGATION RESTRICTION NOTICE

NAFFORD LOCK UPDATE

29th June 2026

LOCK OPEN (RESTRICTED HOURS OPERATED BY LOCK KEEPERS):

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th July, 8am - 6pm both days

LOCK CLOSED: Monday 6th, Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th July

LOCK FULLY OPEN: Thursday 9th July

Work has progressed well at Nafford lock, however the extreme heat wave of last week has slowed progress with the team unable to work the longer hours planned in those conditions. This means that the site will not be safe for boaters to lock through independently on Saturday 4th July.

Therefore, the lock will be open but with restricted hours on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th July, between 8am - 6pm on both days. Please stay on board and our volunteer lock keepers will lock you through during these hours.

The lock will then need to be closed on Monday 6th, Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th July for us to remove our equipment and the site made safe in order to fully re-open with no further restrictions on Thursday 9th July.

Thank you for your patience and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to your plans.

Please contact us at customerservice@avonnavigationtrust.org or 01386 552517 if you would like to discuss this information and/or obtain an update from a member of the Customer Service Team.





Nafford Lock close to completion

(Above) Upstream gates being worked on, 29th June

(Above) Downstream gates – seeming a long way off being ready

(Below) Beams painted with winding gear attached, 28th June

(Below) Lock open for the weekend, 4th June

(Photos: Top – Peter Luff, Bottom – June Hiden)





MOUSTACHE OF THE MONTH

NO. 3

SPOT THE MOUSTACHE COMPETITION

BY HAIRY SPOTTER



This month's Moustache of the Month competition is slightly different.

Use your skill and knowledge to pinpoint the moustache cunningly removed by 21st Century technology.

Just photocopy the entry form, clearly marking your chosen position. As many goes as you like on a £20 note.

Entries to:

Spot the moustache competition
Behind the phone box
Centre Ville
Birlingham
England

Or email our competition address, news@birlingham.org.

The judges' decision is final and no arguing as it won't do any good.



Hydration breaks are in the news right now but there are no irrigation breaks in Birlingham! (2nd July) *(Photo: Peter Luff)*

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 received by Wychavon District Council:

The Row, Lower End: Discharge of Condition 3 (Materials) of Listed Building Consent number W/25/02611/LB (Case No. W/26/01429/CCO). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/26/01429/CCO



Defibrillator Code

The code to unlock the defibrillator at the front of the Village Hall is:

C1234

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



Only two years away now, and the Spring 2024 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* begins with George and Isabel Revill's Diamond Wedding Anniversary and the birth of Pippa Yates.

Church-related events include Carols and Christingles, the Christmas Day Service, the Bulb Sunday Service and the Snowdrop Teas (including the visit of the Chairman of Wychavon District Council to see the Birlingham snowdrops) and flower arranging.

This packed edition includes an eclectic range of articles, with subjects including the Village WhatsApp Group, the Quay at Swan's Neck, Birlingham Floods, a potted history of Birlingham Nurseries and First Gras, an accident on Eckington Bridge in 1993, Birlingham bees, thatching at the Old Post Office and Michael Porter's memories.

There are obituaries for Pat and Geoff Taylor, and Horace Hewitt.

Issue 91 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander091.pdf



Nafford Meadow, 15th June

(Photo: June Hiden)

Dates for your diary

July

Wed 15	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 16	Birlingham IW, 2.30pm, entrance to Lavender Fields at Snowshill
Sat 18	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Worcester Nomads CC 3rd XI, 12.30pm
Sun 19	Patronal Holy Communion Service, 10.30am, St James' Church

August

Wed 5	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 8	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Malvern CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm
Sat 15	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Fownhope Strollers CC 1st XI, 12.30pm
Thu 20	Birlingham IW, details TBC
Sun 23	A Walk Around Birlingham, 3.00pm, St James' Church
Sat 29	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Bredon CC 2nd 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 20th July (for publication on Wednesday 22nd July). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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