Birlingham News

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 388 Wednesday 14th October 2026

Editorial

With the arrival of festive mince pies in the Co-op and robins and reindeers adorning products in other stores, it seems that we cannot escape the approach of *that* time of year much longer.

And, not that we're wishing it away already, in this issue we have advance notice of a New Year's Eve Party at the Village Hall, not to mention a Race Night in January.

You can't ignore it for long – but just keep reminding yourselves that there are still two and a half months of 2026 left to enjoy!

Birlingham Book Club

by Julie Branton



We had our first Book Club meeting on 7th October. There are 14 members in the club; this is on the high side and so the club is full at the moment.

The book that we're reading this month is 'The Birdcage' by Eve Chase.

It seems there might be enough interest for a further group if someone wanted to pick that up.

Birlingham IW

Thursday 15th October *by Caryl Mills*



Our October Meeting is an Open Meeting with John and Carole Matthews of the Vintage Garden Store coming to talk about the history of garden tools. They will be bringing examples of various tools.

Everyone is welcome to join us – £3 (cash) for non-members, refreshments included. Put it in your diary for Thursday 15th October and bring your family and friends along.

Save the Date!

Race Night

30th January 2027

at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall

A village get-together with proceeds going to village causes



New signs at Nafford, as the Environment Agency clamp down on illegal fishing

(Photo: June Hiden)

Village New Year's Eve Party

Thursday 31st December *by Paul Burton*

Following the spectacular success of recent dance nights at Birlingham Village Hall, the Committee plan to host something similar for New Year's Eve. However, to keep ticket prices reasonable, party goers will dance to recorded, rather than live music.

For now, we are gauging interest so if this is something that you might like to be part of please drop me a line at paul.burton52@gmail.com.

The Village New Year's Eve Party will be a modestly-priced, all-ticket event. Bring your own food and drinks and be ready to strut your stuff, or maybe just chat with friends. BTW, guests are welcome, so make it a party night for the whole family!

Any profit made on the sale of tickets and raffle tickets will go towards the upkeep of our Village Hall.

Jayne Brassington

Beauty and Complementary/Holistic Therapist
Animal Angelic Reiki Practitioner

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INTRODUCTORY YOGA CLASS

5TH NOVEMBER at 10am for 1 hour

Birlingham Village Hall

Hello,

I've just moved into the Village and I'd like to start a regular community Yoga practice.

The first session is free, so come along and please bring a mat if you can. The price of any future sessions will be kept to a miniumum.

If you've never done Yoga before then start from where you are and give it a try.

To book your place please contact Julie on 07896628773.

Bend it like Birlingham !!!

Traffic Speed Through the Village

by Amy Purcell



There have been a few concerns raised about vehicles travelling a little too quickly, particularly along the more open stretches of road, through our village. We all want to feel safe and enjoy living here, so it would be great if we could all take a moment to be mindful of our speed when driving through.

The Parish Council has recently added advisory 20mph signs around Upper End and the church, which have helped to reduce speeds in these areas. However, the Parish Council is aware that the signs are not always being adhered to and that there are still occasions when drivers are travelling too quickly. The Parish Council is liaising with Highways about additional road-narrowing signs and refreshing the painted road markings, to help encourage drivers to keep to the speed limits.

Although some of our roads can feel like country lanes, they run through the village and are shared by children, cyclists, walkers, runners and pets. Being mindful of speed also helps to keep traffic noise down for those living nearby.

We'd really appreciate everyone keeping an eye on their own speed and gently reminding friends, family and delivery drivers to do the same when visiting the village.

Thanks everyone for your continued support in keeping our village safe and enjoyable for all.



Jubilee Wood, surprisingly green again after recent rain, 30th September

(Photo: Nikki Hollier)



Looking from the wetlands towards the Malverns at sunset, 5th October

(Photo: June Hiden)



Bredon Hill, viewed over a field of tenderstem going to seed, 7th October

(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 Birches, Whitehall Lane: First floor extension over existing garage (Case No. W/26/02042/HP). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 5th November.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/26/02042/HP

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

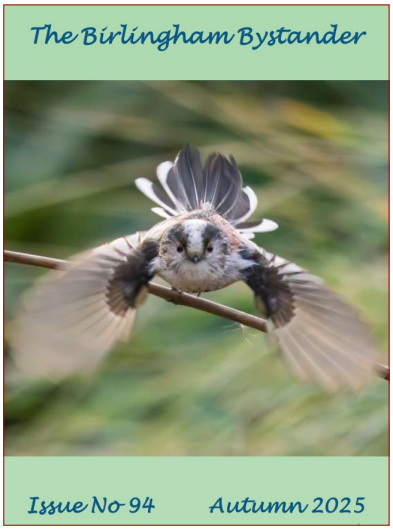
Glebe House, New Barn Lane: Removal of flat roof, new mono pitched roof with hidden flat roof (Case No. W/26/01630/HP). **Approved**. Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/26/01630/HP

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 Autumn 2025 edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* begins with celebrations of the late David Caldicott's 90th birthday, and the wedding of Kat Jones and Matt Williams.

An article by churchwarden Adrianne Woodward describes the various services held at St James' during the summer. Other events included the Sporting Gun Club's summer barbecue, the Flower & Produce Show and the VE Day Street Party.

There is an article about the Millennium Bench, which was restored in 2023 and was re-erected around the Millennium Time Capsule. Carl Brassington says farewell as lengthsman with a little ditty and there is an update on the work of the Friends of St James' Church.

This edition contains the first in a long series of articles by Chris Ludlow, recalling his time in the village from the late 1960s onwards.

Repairs to the lock chamber at Nafford Lock, along with smart new walkways at the top of the chamber, are described. The history of the Birlingham Vineyard is recounted, as is a dramatic horse rescue at Lower Farm. Morris dancing at the Swan and old photographs of the Broadway House Tennis Court conclude the main articles.

Finally, Julia Luff reports the arrival of Darryl Hickman and Aimee Peel, Sue and Pete Rogers, and David and Elaine Morgan.

Issue 94 of the *Bystander* can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/village/bystander/issues/bystander094.pdf

Dates for your diary

October

Thu 15	Birlingham IW – history of garden tools, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall

November

Wed 4	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 5	Introductory Yoga Class, 10.00am, Birlingham Village Hall
Wed 11	Armistice Day Remembrance Service, 10.45am, War Memorial
Wed 18	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 19	Birlingham IW – details TBA

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 26th October (for publication on Wednesday 28th October). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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