

## Shirley & Wythall area guide

Postcode district: B47 & B90

### Location

The Shirley & Wythall postcode district lie within or include part of the following towns, counties, localities, electoral wards and stations: Alvechurch, Billesley, Birmingham, Blythe, Blythe Valley Park, Cheswick Green, Drakes Cross and Walkers Heath, Hillfields, Hillcrest Park, Hollywood, Majors Green, Monkspath, Shirley, Shirley East, Shirley South, Shirley West, Solihull, Tanners Green, Tanworth, Tidbury Green, Wythall and Wythall South.

### History:

Before Shirley became its own parish in 1843, it was part of Solihull and part of the Manor of Ulverlei (Olton) prior to that. The earliest habitation in Shirley is thought to be at Berry mound in Solihull Lodge, which was the site of an Iron Age Hill Fort dating back to the first century BC and which covered approximately 12 acres. Since the 19th century Shirley has developed from a predominantly farming area to a prominent residential suburb of Solihull. The population grew rapidly between the late 19th and early 20th century, as people moved out of Birmingham into the area.



Midlands' bus enthusiasts began collecting old vehicles in 1964. The Birmingham Omnibus Preservation Society was formed in 1973 to co-ordinate such work, but had no permanent home. In 1977 as the Birmingham & Midland Motor Omnibus Trust it bought a site of half a hectare at Wythall which would become the Midland Bus Museum. Buildings were progressively erected and expanded as was the site itself, much of the work done by volunteers. A new hall was opened in 2005 built with the aid of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Transport Museum, which is regularly open to the public, houses 90 buses and coaches, the majority of them former Midland Red and West Midlands buses, 30 battery vehicles, other vehicles including fire engines and a substantial archive. There is a miniature steam railway.

### Present day

The population of B90 is now over 42,000 with a median age of 40 years old. Retirees make up the highest percentage of the population, sitting at 22%. The majority of the properties in this area are semi-detached, and they make up 51% of the total. 85% of the homes in B90 are owner occupied.

Wrens Nest Close and Birchy Close are a couple of the more expensive roads to live on in the area. The average price for properties located on Wrens Nest Close is approximately £522,000, which may vary depending on house type and size. All five of the properties are detached homes. This is a good area with some open land surrounding it, and there is a school just down the road in Tidbury Green. The average value for properties on Birchy Close is about £512,000, but may change accordingly. The properties on this street are detached as well and there are a couple of schools close by, although not a supermarket or petrol station.



Some of the most affordable streets here are Lambscote Close and Atherstone Close. The average price for properties on Lambscote Close is roughly £100,000, which may fluctuate. The properties located on this street are flats and terraces. There are a few schools nearby, as well as a supermarket and a petrol station. The average value for properties on Atherstone Close is approximately £107,000, which may vary accordingly. The properties here are mostly flats, but there are some detached home as well. There are a number of schools, a couple of petrol stations, and a supermarket within a short distance.

### Amenities

A popular attraction for visitors and locals is Shirley Heights at Nelson's Dockyard National Park, which offers breathtaking scenery of landscapes and Antigua. There are shops, restaurants, tours, the marina, and also the

Dockyard Museum that is filled with artefacts.

There are a few good pubs and bars that offer an enjoyable evening such as The Orchard, Crown, The Farm, The Drawbridge, Plume of Feathers and The Shirley Inn.

There are many primary, secondary, and special schools located in the Shirley area as well. Some of the primary schools are Mill Lodge Primary School, Peterbrook Primary School, and Haslucks Green School. Some of the secondary schools are Light Hall School, Woodrush Community High School, and Kings Heath Boys Mathematics and Computing College.



There are two primary schools within Wythall parish, the Coppice Primary School in Drakes Cross, and Meadow Green Primary School in Wythall village. There was previously a school in Silver Street from circa 1875 to 1992. This catered for all school children in Wythall and the surrounding area, after the initial primary age, until a growing population required more school development.



Woodrush High School in Drakes Cross opened in the 1958 for children aged 11 and over, and Shawhurst Infants School (next door to Woodrush) opened around 1967, leaving what was by now called Silvermead School as a junior school. Meadow Green School opened in the early 1960s to give additional junior and infant provision. During 1991-92 an extension was built on Shawhurst Infants School, and its development became the Coppice Primary School.

The Silvermead site was then closed, although many of its buildings have been converted into homes as Silvermead Court. The Coppice Primary School became an Academy in December 2011 and now is the largest primary school in the area and in 2012 started to develop into a three form entry school.

The local secondary school, the Woodrush Community High and Sixth Form, has an Astroturf and playing fields backing on to the Coppice Primary School.

Parkgate will bring about 20 new shops to Shirley Town Centre alongside an ASDA superstore and numerous cafés and restaurants. To date Peacocks, 99p Stores, Shoe Zone, JD Wetherspoon, Loungers, Pizza Express, Prezzo and The Gym are all signed up, with other occupiers going through the final contractual stages.



The development has been designed to complement and extend the existing shopping area along Stratford Road, to not only encourage shoppers back into Shirley Town Centre but also to spend time wandering around.



In order to offer local people more town centre housing opportunities, Bloor Homes is building 26 three bedroom town houses and 16 one and two bedroom apartments within the development, many of which will overlook Shirley Park itself. Called Parkgate Mews, many of the new homes will have balconies and all will have allocated car parking.