Birlingham News online

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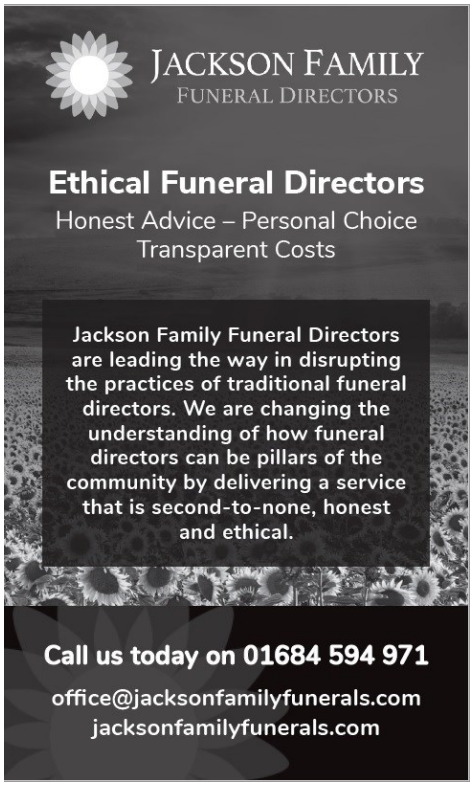
Editorial

British summers are curious events; we are never quite sure when they begin. Sometimes the daily rain showers and cold nights of spring seem to stretch late into June and even though we have had some lovely sunshine recently the evenings have still turned chilly.

The end of summer and the beginning of autumn are also hard to define. In some years the glorious weather continues until the end of September while in others there is an autumnal feel from the beginning of that month.

So, looking at this edition of *Birlingham News* – with its article about the tidying up of the churchyard at the end of August and the schedule for the Flower & Produce Show at the start of September; with a dip in temperature over the last day after the warmth of the last week; and with the nigella featured on the back page now gone over (but the birds are loving the seed heads, apparently) – you could well be forgiven for asking, "Is summer over?!"

But fear not! Rake and Cake and the Show are still more than a month away, and the forecast is showing at least a couple of weeks of sunshine ahead. Summer is still here. Enjoy it while it lasts!



Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 7th August

by Sue Hermon



Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 7th August from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall. The cost is £3 per person and everyone is most welcome to come along for tea or coffee plus a cake or two and a chance to win our free Mystery Entry Prize!

For more information, or to request transport, please contact me on 01386 750096 or email sue.hermon@me.com.

Rake and Cake

Saturday 31st August

by Sue Hayward

Free Coffee and Cake at St James' Church

Saturday 31st August 10.00–12.00am is the annual 'Rake and Cake' morning in the Churchyard.

It will involve raking up the newly strimmed grass and other general gardening jobs. We would love you to join us! Bring any tools that you think you may need, e.g. rakes, secateurs or shears.

Birlingham Village Property Owners: Warning of issue that could cost you in terms of maintenance, and the value of your property

by Steven Byrne, Birlingham PC

Some considerable time ago, members of your Parish Council started investigating a water leak in Lower End which affected the road and a public footpath, with the full co-operation of the adjoining landowners. What at first sight looked like a fairly simple issue has to date taken many years to unravel, involving the various stakeholders including Seven Trent, Wychavon DC, Worcestershire CC, the landowners and of course the Parish Council.

In essence, there appears to be a leak from a damaged "public surface water sewer", exacerbated by two blocked road drains. The public surface water sewers running from the centre of the village to the river had been recorded as such for several decades, until Seven Trent unilaterally redesignated these sewers as "culverted watercourses", without any consultation or discussion with the many residents within Birlingham who would be directly affected. Consultation prior to such a change is a legal obligation on Severn Trent, along with agreeing compensation, as the revised status of "culverted watercourses" transfers all maintenance liability from Seven Trent to the private landowners. This ongoing cost liability could affect the value of an individual's property at point of sale. At this point, I would like to mention Peter Luff in dispatches, who as one of the private landowners affected, and with a detailed knowledge of Realpolitik, threw himself into discussions with Severn Trent, and others! The upshot is that Seven Trent have climbed down and have re-designated the main conduits as "surface water gravity sewers", thus retaining responsibility for them.

We suggest individual property owners in Birlingham Village check the status of any culverts or sewers running across their property, and ensure that if these have historically been public culverts/sewers and the responsibility of Seven Trent or other authority, that they still remain so, and have not been transferred into your ownership by way of reclassification without your knowledge. We attach the now updated and revised Birlingham Sewer Record to aid you (*see next page*).

Sewer Map – Lower End

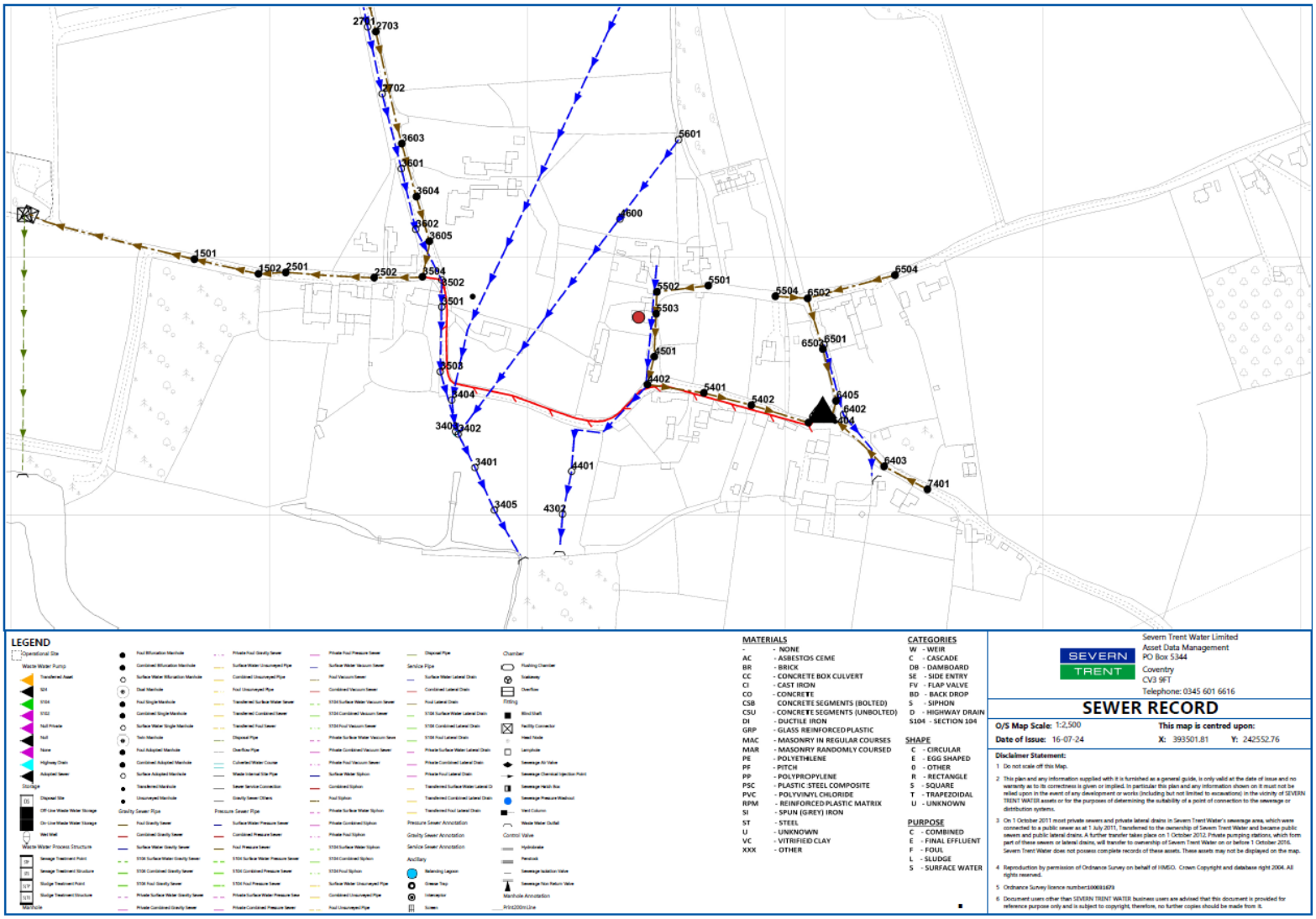
The Sewer Record for Lower End is shown below.

Inevitably the scale of the map makes the detail difficult to read. However, the original A3 landscape PDF is available at:

https://www.birlingham.org/docs/sewers_2024_lower_end.pdf

This map was sourced by homeowners in Lower End. We hope to obtain sewer maps for the rest of the village and include these in a future edition of *Birlingham News*. We will also attempt to provide the sewer maps in sections at a better scale.

In the meantime, if residents are concerned about the status of culverts or sewers running across their property they should contact Severn Trent Water directly.





Asham Meadow, 27th May

(Photo: Ann Maxwell)

BIRLINGHAM SHOW ENTRY FORM
ALL ENTRIES MUST BE ENTERED ON THIS FORM
Closing date for all entries – **THURSDAY 5th September 2024 at 8pm**

MARK YOUR ENTRY THUS : 1 ENTRY : 2 ENTRIES

Section A

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Section B

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Section C

25A 25B 25C 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Section D

35 36

Section E

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45

Section F

46 47 48 49 50 51 52

Section G

53 54 55 56 57

Section H

58a 58b 58c 58d 59 60 61 62 63 64 65

Section I

66 67 68 69

Section J: Please enter date(s) of birth: _____

70 71 72 73 74 75

You will be given an ENTRY CARD for EACH entry

Name: (BLOCK LETTERS)

_____

Address:

_____

_____

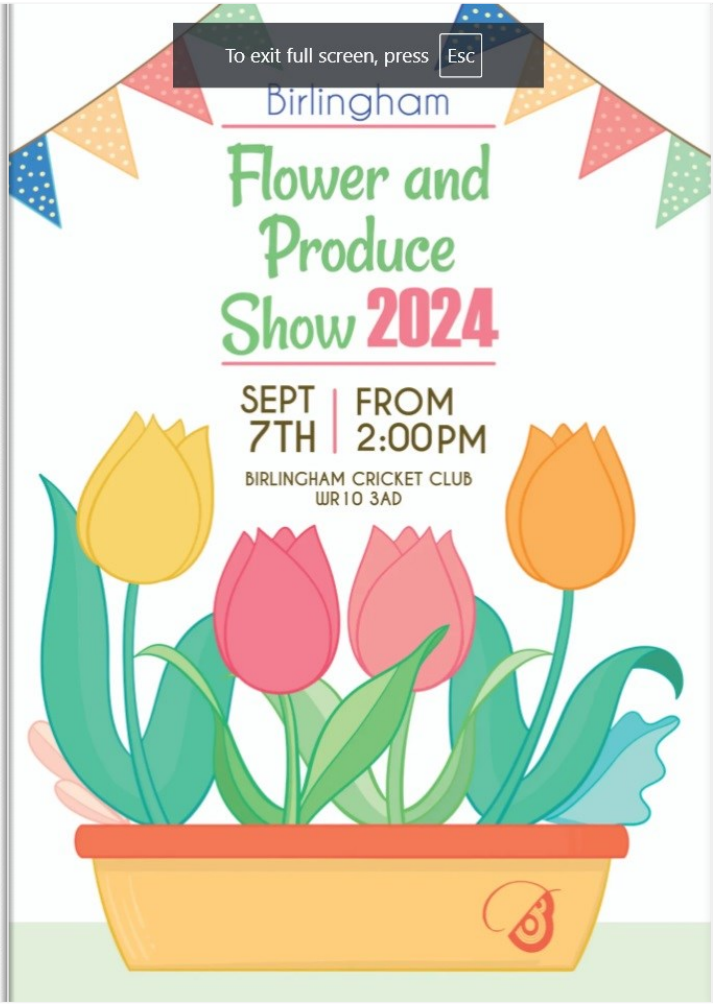
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Completed Entry Forms will be accepted at The Old Post Office, WR10 3AB during the week commencing 2nd September until 8:00 pm on Thursday 5th September 2024.

You can also enter by email by clearly listing all categories you wish to enter including double entries. Please send your entries to **birlingham-produce-show@proton.me**

If you have any queries please contact the committee via birlingham-produce-show@proton.me

ONE ENTRY FORM PER PERSON. Photocopies will be accepted, or additional forms can be acquired from The Old Post Office, Birlingham, WR10 3AB.



Show Rules

1. Closing date for receipt of entry forms: **Thursday 5th September 2024 at 8pm.** Space permitting, additional entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Committee on Saturday between 9 am and 11 am at double fees.
2. Entry forms will be accepted at The Old Post Office, WR10 3AB or via email at birligham-produce-show@proton.me during the week commencing 2nd September up to 8:00pm of Thursday 5th September 2024. No responsibility can be taken for non- receipt.
3. Entry cards will be issued from The Old Post Office on Friday 6th September 2024 6pm – 8:00pm and on Saturday 7th September at Birlingham Cricket Club from 8:30 am to 11:00 am.
4. Payment must be made at the same time as collection of Entry Cards. Cheques should be made payable to "Birlingham Flower and Produce Show". No entries will be accepted without payment.
5. All exhibits must be staged between 8:30 am to 11:00 am on Saturday 7th September 2024.
6. All produce exhibited in Sections A, B and C must have been grown in the garden or allotment of the exhibitor. All entries should be identified by variety.
7. Each entrant will be responsible for displaying their own entries and for placing their assigned entry cards. These should be attached to the entry where possible.
8. A fee of 10p per entry on the entry form will be made for Sections A – I. No entry charge is made for Section J – Children.
9. TWO ENTRIES ALLOWED IN EACH CLASS, but points will only be awarded for the highest placed entry.
10. The Committee reserves the right to disqualify any exhibitor in any of the classes if, in their judgement, any unfair means have been used to win a prize.
11. Public viewing from 2pm. No exhibits to be removed from benches until 4:00pm. Exhibits to be donated for sale to be handed over by 4:15pm.
12. Presentation of trophies at 4:30pm, followed by Sale of Produce and Raffle.
13. Prize money Section J (Children's Category):
First 4 points £4.00 Second 3 points £2.00 Third 2 points £1
14. The allocation of points and prizes in each class is at the Judge's discretion. The Judge's decision is final. No appeals permitted.
15. All trophies are perpetual and must be returned to the Show secretary at 3 Court Cottages, WR10 3AA, by 24 August each year.
16. Any damage to the trophy during the period of ownership will be the responsibility of the recipient.
17. The Committee will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to any article.
18. Hanging basket competition: Points awarded will be carried through into the main show competition

Contribution of surplus produce and unwanted exhibits will be welcome for the produce sale.

Schedule of Classes

1st, 2nd and 3rd Prize Cards will be awarded for each Class
Only 1 entry in each class to be counted as Points for Cups

Section A: Vegetables

1 White Potatoes	dish of 5
2 Coloured Potatoes	dish of 5
3 Onions,	Utility 4
4 Carrots	3
5 Beetroot	3
6 Edible Squash/Gourd/Marrow	1
7 Runner Beans	6 pods
8 Longest runner bean	1
9 French Beans	6 pods
10 Cherry Tomatoes, any variety	a single truss
11 Tomatoes	dish of 5
12 Courgette	3
13 Cucumbers	2
14 Shallots	9
15 Any other vegetables not included in classes 1 to 14	3 of any kind
16 Capsicums including Chili Peppers	3
17 Container of Mixed Vegetables	Minimum **5** different varieties

Section B: Fruit

18 Apples, Dessert	dish of 3
19 Apples, Culinary	dish of 3
20 Plums	dish of 6
21 Damsons	dish of 12
22 Pears	dish of 3
23 Soft Fruits	10 berries
24 Any other fruit not included in classes 18 to 23	3 large fruit One bunch

Please note that Section A to B must be labelled with their Variety

Section C: Flowers, Foliage and Herbs

25A	Pompom Dahlias	3 blooms for display
25B	Cactus & Semi Cactus Dahlias	3 blooms for display
25C	Decorative Dahlias	3 blooms for display
26	Roses Floribunda	3 stems
27	Roses, H/T	3 blooms
28	Single H/T Rose	1 bloom
29	Sweet peas	5 stems
30	Gladioli	3 spikes
31	Pot plant, Flowering, including Cactus	
32	Pot Plant, Foliage, including Ferns (*Classes 31 & 32 to have been in competitors ownership 2 months*)	
33	Cut Flowers	1 vase, 5 assorted blooms
34	5 cut herbs in a container	Collection in named bunches in a container

Section D: Floral Art

35 Arrangement of Foliage **(may include berries)**
36 Arrangement of Flowers
(*all displays to be 18" x 18" or 45 cms x 45cms with no height limit*)

Section E: Cookery

37 Hand baked Bread - *No Bread-makers allowed!*
38 Bread-maker bread - Only bread-makers allowed!
39 Traditional Plain Shortbread (5 Pieces)
40 Sticky Gingerbread Cake (max 8")
41 Lemon Drizzle Cake (max 8")
42 Fruit Cake (max 8")
43 Classic Coffee Cake (max 8")
44 5 Plain Scones
45 Peppermint Creams

Section F: Preserves & Jams

46 1 jar of Strawberry Jam
47 1 jar of Marmalade
48 1 jar of Fruit Jelly
49 1 jar of Stone Fruit Jam
50 1 jar of Jam not included in classes 46 to 49
51 1 jar of Chutney, including Piccalilli
52 1 jar of Pickles

Section G: Home Produce

53	Home laid Eggs (any variety)	5 on a plate
54	Homemade Beer or Cider	1 Bottle
55	Homemade Spirit or Liqueur	1 Bottle
56	Homemade Wine	1 Bottle
57	Homemade Cordial	1 Bottle

Section H: Leisure Craft (All exhibits to have been taken / completed in the last 12 months)

58 Any Photograph, colour or B&W, maximum size 7" x 5"
a) Anybody b) Animals c) Anywhere d) Arty
59 Cushion in any Medium, (*maximum size 18" square*)
60 An Original Artwork maximum including frame is A3
61 An Original Line Drawing maximum including frame is A3
62 A Piece of Quilting or Patchwork - maximum 1 metre Square.
63 Handmade greetings card
64 An "Upcycled' Item
65 A Piece of Poetry

Section I: Novelty Section

66 Garden in a Seed Tray
67 A character made from Fruit or Vegetables
68 Most Misshapen Vegetable
69 Scene from history made from Lego (no sets allowed!)

Section J: Children up to 12 years

(age to be attached to exhibit)

70 Decorated Fairy Cakes (3 per plate)
71 Garden Flowers in a Jam Jar
72 A piece of Artwork using Recycled Material
73 Garden in a seed tray
74 Any Photograph taken during the current year, colour or B&W, maximum size 7" x 5"
75 Scene from history made from Lego (no sets allowed!)

A small charge is made to cover the continued running costs of the show

Any questions regarding the entry process can be made by email to the committee via

birlingham-produce-show@proton.me

Members of the organising committee

David Kew
Kristian Mills
Sue Hayward
Lindsey Campbell-Cann
Charlotte Baskerville
Nick Baskerville
Hannah Taylor
Paul Burton

Birlingham Flower and Produce Show

We appreciate you suggestions and ideas to help improve the show. Please email the show committee at **birlingham-produce-show@proton.me.**

comments: _____

We are always looking for new volunteers to help on the day, or to join the show committee. To help please contact the show secretary for more details.

Thank you for your support from the Birlingham Show Committee

CUPS

THE WILLIAM TROW-POOLE TROPHY
For the highest number of points in Section H

THE JOAN HOLLIER PLATE
For the highest number of points in Section F

THE M & B SHIELD
for highest number of points in the show

THE HAROLD HERBERT CUP
for Decorative/Cactus Dahlia in Classes 25B and 25C

THE SWAN INN CUP
for the Best Vegetable exhibit in Classes 1 to 17

THE W JOWETT TROPHY
for the best Floral Arrangements in Classes 35 and 36

THE MRS ANN PORTER CUP
for winner of Class 16

THE GEORGE WILSON REVILL CUP
for best Root Vegetable in Classes 4 and 5

THE GERALD TAYLOR CUP
for best exhibit in the Show

THE BUTLER TROPHY
for highest number of points in Classes 37 to 45

THE COURT HOUSE SALVER
for highest number of points in Classes 18 to 24

THE CHILDRENS CUP
for highest number of points in classes 66 to 72

THE BIRLINGHAM NURSERY ROSE BOWL
for winner Hanging Basket Competition.

THE BETTY HUGHES CUP
for Resident of The Row gaining highest number of points in Show.

THE COMMITTEE WISH TO THANK ALL WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED THE SHOW IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS

Parish Council Report

by Ian Yates

Birlingham Parish Council held its meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 17th July in the Village Hall. A summary of agenda items follows:

- **Co-option of seventh councillor**

  There has been a vacancy on the Parish Council since the last election and we were pleased to receive an application from Rupert Day, who was co-opted at the meeting with unanimous support from councillors. The Parish Council is now Rupert Day, Katie Parsons, Michael Porter, Steven Byrne, David Glover, Paula Aston (Vice Chair) and Ian Yates (Chair).

- **'20 is plenty' – identifying the benefits of a 20mph limit in Residential Areas**

  Following on from discussions at the May meeting regarding traffic concerns from residents in Upper End, a proposal was put forward to carry out a survey of residents to establish their views and support for the possible introduction of a 20mph speed limit in parts of the village. Residents in Upper End will be contacted initially and, depending on the feedback, the survey will then be expanded to other parts of the village. The Parish Council gave its support for the survey to be carried out, which should take place in August.

- **Footpath Warden's report**

  FP 506 (west from village green) – strimmed and fallen branch cleared.

  FP 511 (Withy Walk) hedges cut back (by landowner and warden)

  FP 519 (stile by the Row) – cleared

  FP 520 (from Nafford Lock up to Nafford Road) – strimmed

  FP 521 (kissing-gate at entrance to Asham Meadow) – cleared

  FP 508 (path to Defford from Gravelly Hill): boardwalk is still scheduled for repair; no update available regarding timescales.

  FP 518 (Asham Lane – to the north of Asham Meadow): still awaiting clearance under the proactive strimming programme run by the County Council.

- **Planning – Broadgrove Nursery, Eckington Road**

  You will recall that a planning application for seven industrial units on the site was approved despite opposition from neighbours supported by the Parish Council and the case being taken to Planning Committee. Subsequently a second and alternative Planning in Principle (PIP) application was made for four residential houses on the site. This application was supported by neighbours, the Parish Council and the District Councillor as preferable to the industrial units. However, this application was refused! The applicant has now appealed the decision and the Parish Council will be supporting the appeal which closes on 1st August.

- **Full Fibre Broadband**

  Since May the work in Lower End has been completed and several properties connected. Most of Upper End has also been completed with a few exceptions that are on-going. There have been reports on the village WhatsApp group from some recently connected properties of an intermittent service. This was discussed and there is circumstantial evidence both from Birlingham users and users in other local villages that the Nokia router supplied by Airband may be the cause of these problems. Those that have requested Airband swap out their Nokia router for the Linksys alternative have enjoyed an uninterrupted service and both David Glover and Chris Reynard are happy to provide more information.

- **County Councillor's Report – Adrian Hardman**

  See separate item on next page.

- **District Councillor's Report – Paul Middlebrough**

  See separate item on next page.

- **Flooding by the Manor House Lower End**

  The ongoing work to try and solve the problem of the leak on the slope by the Manor House continues. The leak has stopped due to the dry(ish) weather but will no doubt return, causing a significant hazard when it freezes in the winter. Steven Byrne and Peter Luff have been working tirelessly on this and you will find an interesting article from Steven elsewhere in this edition of *Birlingham News* regarding Severn Trent's attempt to pass responsibility for the drains to landowners.

- **Millennium Bench**

  The carpenter who restored the bench for us has returned to carry out annual maintenance. The bench has been rubbed down and retreated with oil.

Full minutes of the Parish Council meeting will be posted on the village website shortly.

County Councillor's July 2024 Report – Adrian Hardman

A full copy of his report will be included in the Minutes. However, here are some highlights:

- We have launched two consultations that could be of interest to the Parish Council: one is on electric vehicle charging points and this is a more complex subject than one could imagine. But if anyone has time it's worth a read.
- The second is on an idea that parish councils will take over the mowing and control of vergers on the C roads and unclassified roads so that they could then manage them in a more environmental way. I think it's true to say I am extremely sceptical of this, and I have a feeling that someone in Highways is using the environment as a method to shunt cost to parish councils.
- The saga of the RAAC at County Hall continues and we are now moving out of the building entirely and moving staff into Wychavon and the rest into Wildwood, which is a building we own on the same campus. We will also be spending £350,000 on another structural survey, and plan to spend £2M on restoration works, which will solve little. I have strong views on this, which is one of the reasons I am on the back benches!
- We ended the financial year only some £4.6 million overspent by using a considerable amount of reserves and a bit of use of something called minimum revenue provision; in effect, it is a way of extending the mortgage! The amount the Council owes went through £700M this year and is costing £30M to service.
- We will be doing some work to put in a new gulley in Upper End on 18th July.
- I have asked the grass to be cut around the junctions on the main road, since we are moving the schedule up because of all the rain to do a late July cut of the system.

District Councillor's July 2024 Report – Paul Middlebrough

A full copy of his report will be included in the Minutes. However, here are some highlights:

- **Air Quality** An Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to go out to public consultation for a six-week period. Although only Worcester City is designated as an Air Quality Management Area within the South Worcestershire area, the SPD will also be considered and adopted for use by Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils to highlight the importance of air quality and help to keep Nitrogen Dioxide within acceptable levels to avoid further Management Areas being identified.
- **Wychavon Finances** At 31st March 2024 the key message is that the Council is in a strong financial position and was able to contribute £0.503M to general reserves at the end of 2023/24. General balances at the end of 2023/24 will therefore increase from £14.616M to £15.119M. Overall, the Council's cash investments earned £4.923M of interest income in 2023/24 (£2.061M in 2022/23).
- **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)** A total spend of £985,518 UKSPF was reported for 2023/24 against a target for the year of £1,274,776. The underspend will be carried forward into 2024/25. A total spend of £66,209 REPF was reported for 2023/24 against a target for the year of £204,821. The underspend will be carried forward into 2024/25. Strensham Lock £25,000 solar roof panels – Strensham Village Hall solar panel projects £8,120 received grants.
- **Round Five Community Legacy Grant** 14 parish councils made expressions of interest. Invited 10 of the applicants to proceeded to the next stage and prepared a full application. The other four projects were not of sufficient scope or ambition to be suitable for a Community Legacy Grant. Eight applications were received requesting amounts totalling £1,257,795. A total of £976,795 was awarded to the six projects, including £169,940 for the Eckington Community Remembrance, Health and Wellbeing application.

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:

Birlingham Nurseries, Upper End: Retrospective application for the construction of one secure storage unit and one covered storage unit ancillary to the use of the nursery (Case No. W/23/02421/FUL). **Approved**. Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/23/02421/FUL

The Parish Council comments are available at:

http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_comments_23_02421.pdf

Personal Ads

Babysitting. If anyone requires any babysitting within the village please contact me. Details below.

Georgina Cook (age 17)
Telephone 01386 751421

Personal adverts should consist of one paragraph of text, maximum 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.



Nigella in Lower End, 25th June

(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

Dates for your diary

July

Sat 27	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Barnards Green CC 3rd XI, 12.30pm

August

Wed 7	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 15	Birlingham IW – no meeting
Sat 17	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Canon Frome CC 1st XI, 12.30pm
Sat 31	Rake and Cake in the Churchyard, 10.00-12.00am
Sat 31	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Pershore CC 3rd XI, 12.30pm

September

Wed 4	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 7	Birlingham CC 1st XI vs Worcester CC 3rd XI, 12.30pm
Sat 7	Flower & Produce Show, 2.00pm, Cricket Ground
Sun 15	Harvest Festival, St James' Church – details to be confirmed
Wed 18	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 19	Birlingham IW – details to be confirmed

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 12th August (for publication on Wednesday 14th August). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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