Birlingham News online

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Editorial

For a small village, we do not do badly when it comes to events, as this edition of *Birlingham News* demonstrates. Even though we are now decidedly into autumn, October promises the regular Cuppa & Chat and IW, a musical evening and a walk around the village. You can also expect to receive your copy of the Autumn edition of the *Birlingham Bystander*.

If you need a reminder of the events that have already taken place in September, we have the full list of winners from the Flower & Produce Show and a report from the recent Parish Council meeting, as well as the first of several photos from the Harvest Festival (more to follow in the *Bystander*).

Not only that, but there are some lovely photographs from around the village, showing that Birlingham is not only lively but beautiful as well.

Isabella Rose Lingerie

Luxurious Lingerie for Today's Sophisticated Woman

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Open: Tuesday–Friday 10am-4pm, Saturday 10am–3pm

www.isabellaroselingerie.co.uk

Christopher Lawrence

We are sorry to announce that Christopher Lawrence, of Lower End, died just over two weeks ago.

Our thoughts are with Lesley and the family.

St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward (Tel. 01386 750936)

Musical Evening

There will be a fundraising Musical Evening on Friday 18th October at 7.00pm in St James' Church. Admittance is £5.00 (cash or card), which includes a glass of wine or a soft drink, and nibbles. The programme will include a mix of musical genres featuring the classical choir Sesto with clarinet and flute pieces plus contributions from villagers using a variety of instruments. Do come, it should be a very enjoyable evening.

Autumn Walk

You are invited to St James' Autumn Walk around Birlingham on Sunday 27th October. Please bring a dog or a friend . . . or both!

Meet at the War Memorial outside the church for 3.00pm. After the walk there will be refreshments and pet blessing in the church.

Remembrance Service

Birlingham's annual Remembrance Service will take place on Monday 11th November, Armistice Day. Please assemble around the war memorial by 10.50am. The service will be taken by Peter Stansbie and there will be refreshments available in the church afterwards.



One of the window displays at the Harvest Festival, 14th September

(Photo: Nikki Hollier)

Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 2nd October

by Sue Hermon



Our next Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 2nd October 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.

Road Closure, Lower End

Monday 7th – Friday 11th October

A small part of Lower End will be closed for five days from Monday 7th October for drainage work.

The part of the road to be closed is the short stretch from Birlingham Manor down to the corner. Access to Lower End will be along Church Street or via Shorthill.

‘Tar’ Robertson

by Peter Luff

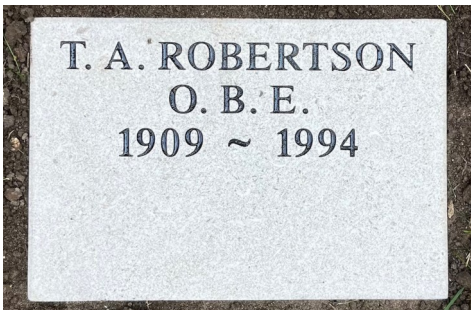
Tommy ‘Tar’ Robertson, one of the most significant and least well-known people whose last resting place is the churchyard of St James’, made an extraordinary contribution to the defeat of Germany in the Second World War.the churchyard of St James.

When I found the simple stone marking where his ashes are interred, I was concerned to see it was broken.

Now, thanks to the generosity of Chris Sheriff of Memory Lane Memorials in Pershore, it has been replaced with a new stone and ‘Tar’ is remembered as he should be.

An article by Peter Luff detailing ‘Tar’ Robertson’s life will appear in the Autumn edition of the Birlingham Bystander, which is due to be published next month.





The old and new stones



Rainbow over Whitehall Lane, 12th September

(Photo: Mike Rodwell)

St James' Church, Birlingham

MUSICAL EVENING



FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER

19:00

St James' Church

Featuring Sesto, a newly formed classical choir, several flute and clarinet pieces, plus contributions by villagers of all ages with a variety of instruments and musical styles

TICKETS £5

Includes a glass of wine or a soft drink, and nibbles.
Payable on the door by cash or card. Proceeds to St James' Church.

ALL WELCOME

Birlingham Flower & Produce Show 2024
CUP WINNERS

Cup	Winner
The M&B Shield	Kris Mills
The Harold Herbert Cup	Kris Mills
The Swan Inn Cup	Clare Kew
The William Jowett Trophy	Kris Mills
The Mrs Ann Porter Cup	Kris Mills
The George Wilson Revill Cup	Neil Lightbody
The Gerald Taylor Cup	Janice Cresswell
The Butler Trophy	Hannah Taylor
The Court House Salver	Bruce Hayward/Rupert Day
The Children's Cup	Isla Campbell-Cribb
The Birlingham Nursery Rose Bowl	The Cygnet
The Betty Hughes Cup	Neil Lightbody
William Trow-Poole Trophy	Kris Mills
Joan Hollier Plate	James Garland



(Above) The Court House Salver (Joint Winners, Bruce Hayward and Rupert Day)



(Right) The Joan Hollier Plate (James Garland)

(Photos: Kris Mills)

Birlingham Flower & Produce Show 2024
CLASS WINNERS

Class	Winner	Class	Winner
1 White potatoes	Neil Lightbody	40 Gingerbread	Hannah Taylor
2 Coloured potatoes	Kris Mills	41 Lemon drizzle	Charlotte Baskerville
3 Onions	Neil Lightbody	42 Fruit cake	Sadie Yeomans
4 Carrots	Kris Mills	43 Coffee cake	Kris Mills
5 Beetroot	*No entries*	44 Plain scones	Julia Luff
6 Edible squash, gourd or marrow	Marion New	45 Peppermint creams	Hannah Taylor
7 Runner beans	Sue & Chris Hermon	46 Strawberry jam	Caryl Mills
8 Longest runner bean	Colin Greene	47 Marmalade	James Garland
9 French beans	*No entries*	48 Fruit jelly	James Garland
10 Cherry tomatoes	Marion New	49 Stone fruit jam	James Garland
11 Tomatoes	Clare Kew	50 Any other jam	James Garland
12 Courgettes	Marion New	51 Chutney	James Garland
13 Cucumbers	Marion New	52 Pickles	James Garland
14 Shallots	*No entries*	53 Eggs	Cottage Kennels
15 Any other vegetable	Clare Kew	54 Beer or cider	James Garland
16 Capsicums inc chillis	Kris Mills	55 Spirit or liqueur	Kris Mills
17 Container of vegetables	Sue Hayward	56 Wine	James Garland
18 Apples – Dessert	Maryanne Day	57 Cordial	Caryl Mills
19 Apples – Culinary	Pat Chinneck	58a Photograph – Anybody	Kris Mills
20 Plums	Bruce Hayward	58b Photograph – Animals	Peter Luff
21 Damsons	Val Gilmore	58c Photograph – Anywhere	Kris Mills
22 Pears	Rupert Day	58d Photography – Arty	Charlotte Baskerville
23 Soft fruit	Neil Lightbody	59 Cushion	Sadie Yeomans
24 Any other fruit	Sadie Yeomans	60 Artwork – Original	Sue Hayward
25a Dahlias – Pom pom	*No entries*	61 Line drawing	Kris Mills
25b Dahlia – Cactus	Caryl Mills	62 Quilting or patchwork	Janice Cresswell
25c Dahlia – Decorative	Kris Mills	63 Greetings Card	Sadie Yeomans
26 Roses – Floribunda	Charlotte Baskerville	64 Upcycled Item	Sadie Yeomans
27 Roses – H/T	*No entries*	65 Poetry	Donna Mills
28 Single H/T rose	Marion New	66 Garden in a seed tray	Caryl Mills
29 Sweetpeas	Charlotte Baskerville	67 Fruit or veg character	Dave Kew
30 Gladioli	*No entries*	68 Misshapen vegetable	Sue Hayward
31 Pot plant – Flowering	*No entries*	69 History Lego model	Kris Mills
32 Pot plant – Foliage	Clare Kew	**Children's Classes**	
33 Cut flowers	Marion New		
34 5 cut herbs	Pat Chinneck	70 Fairy cakes – Under 12	Isla Campbell-Cribb
35 Arrangement of foliage	Hannah Taylor	71 Garden Flowers – Under 12	Isabella Garland
36 Arrangement of flowers	Hannah Taylor	72 Artwork – Under 12	Isla Campbell-Cribb
37 Home baked bread	Paul Burton	73 Garden in a seed tray – U12	*No entries*
38 Breadmaker bread	Dave Kew	74 Photograph – Under 12	Isabella Garland
39 Shortbread	Sadie Yeomans	75 History Lego Model – Under 12	Alexander Mills

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 18th September

A meeting of Birlingham Parish Council took place on Wednesday 18th September at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall.

The agenda for the meeting can be viewed at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2024-09-18.pdf
and the draft minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 17th July are at:
www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2024-07-17.pdf

Parish Council Report

by Ian Yates

A summary of agenda items from the Birlingham Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 18th September follows:

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

  Following on from discussions at the May and July meetings regarding traffic concerns from residents in Upper End, a small group of residents carried out a survey to establish residents' views and support for the possible introduction of a 20mph speed limit in parts of the village. Residents in Upper End were contacted initially and this was then expanded to include some properties in the centre as well. Fifty houses were visited and 79% were in favour of a reduced speed limit, taking the total of everyone asked so far to over 80%.

  You may also have noticed that vehicle speed and volume are being monitored in Upper End through a request to Worcester County Council. We are not sure how the place outside Court House was chosen but Rupert Day is contacting Adrian Hardman of WCC to get more information and discover what the next steps should be in the process.

- **Footpath Warden's report**

  FP 520 (to Nafford Lock) – strimmed.

  FP 508 (path to Defford from Gravelly Hill): repair to boardwalk has started but is incomplete leaving a large step. Clerk is following up with Philip Coulson, Rights of Way Operations Manager at WCC.

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

  Missing fingerpost in Upper End: Reported to WCC and it has been recorded on their system but they have no resources to replace it at present.

- **Lengthsman's report (issues reported)**

  Drainage

  Gully between Barncroft and Brockham
  What3Words: martini.pitchers.guideline. Engineers to upgrade the gully and its chamber, as it is offset, which causes difficulty when it is being cleaned.

  Postcode WR10 3AA
  Gully full. What3words: snooping.dots.quirky.

  Defford Road
  Kerb drains blocked.

  Rectory Lane
  Gully full. What3words: intruded.noodle.wrong.

  The Avenue
  Gully full. What3words: packets.secondly.clincher.

  Verge markers, Upper End

  Opposite Maryworth Barn: Damaged verge markers.

  Access cover

  Dislodged, Broadway Road.
  What3words: rehearsed.indoor.losing.

- **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, who were 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 District Councillor as preferable to the industrial units. However, this application was refused! The applicant appealed the decision and this appeal was again supported by the Parish Council and we are pleased that the appeal has been successful.

  The key points the Inspector noted were that the location is not suitable for housing and is contrary to the SWDP, but notwithstanding this point they noted that the type and scale of development would not cause significant harm to the character and appearance of the local area – the fact that this site is previously developed land, relatively close to the village and has planning permission for a commercial scheme added weight to this. The inspector then considered the lack of housing land supply, which means that the presumption in favour of sustainable development applies. He concluded that the harm caused would not significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefit of supplying housing, granting the appeal.

- **Full Fibre Broadband**

  Most of the full fibre work in the village has now been completed by Airband. A final report on any work still to be done has been requested. The circumstantial evidence mentioned in July regarding the Nokia router causing intermittent service is now a recognised issue within Airband. Those residents who have requested Airband to replace their Nokia router with the Linksys alternative report no further issues.

- **Report from District Councillor 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. A road closure from 7th to 11th October has been announced for WCC Highways to repair the gully and collapsed drainage pipe. Further investigation work is still required by Severn Trent Water.

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

District Councillor's Report – Paul Middlebrough

Constitutional matters

Wychavon is now represented by three Members of Parliament: Nigel Huddleston and Dame Harriett Baldwin, and a new member, Chris Bloore.

During August, following the resignation of two Wychavon councillors, two by-elections were held. Craig Reeves was elected for Harvington and Mark Ward for Badsey.

Planning Matters

National planning issues have been to the forefront of discussion.

New towns

The Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, announced that she wants to accelerate housing projects. She said there would be a new taskforce to speed up developments, including a new 10,000-home town planned for the area around Worcestershire Parkway station. The scheme is already in the proposed review of the South Worcestershire Development Plan.

Little has moved forward other than that the New Towns Taskforce has been appointed.

Review of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

A consultation has been started to review the NPPF.

In the Governments words, *This consultation seeks views on our proposed approach to revising the National Planning Policy Framework in order to achieve sustainable growth in our planning system. We are also seeking views on a series of wider policy proposals in relation to increasing planning fees, local plan intervention criteria and appropriate thresholds for certain Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.*

The Government has posed 106 questions within 13 chapters of the consultation paper, a very technical paper that does not lend itself to easy completion.

The council response is to express concern at:

- The huge increase (90%) in annual housing numbers required for the three South Worcestershire Councils.
- Lack of absolute certainty that the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review will be given full status and the five-year land supply implied will be certain.
- Proposals to extend development in green belt.
- Lack of overt support for neighbourhood plans.
- No assurances on necessary infrastructure.



The traffic-monitoring device in Upper End – for full details, see the Parish Council report on the previous page

(Photo: Chris Reynard)



(Above) A sunny September day, 16th September

(Photo: Chris Hermon)



(Left) Sherpool, 15th September

(Photo: June Hiden)

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 applications have been received by Wychavon District Council:

The Bungalow, Upper End: Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use and operational development of the single dwellinghouse known as The Bungalow, specifically not subject to any agricultural occupancy conditions (Case No. W/24/01789/CLE). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 10th October.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/24/01789/CLE

St James' Church, Rectory Lane: Undertake tree works, as detailed on application form and in any accompanying information (Case No. W/24/01804/CAN). 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/24/01804/CAN

Personal Ads

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.

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PK Prosser Knowles



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For more information visit: www.prosserknowles.co.uk

Dates for your diary

October

Wed 2	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 17	Birlingham IW – details to be confirmed
Fri 18	Musical Evening, St James' Church – details to follow
Sun 27	St James' Autumn Walk, 3.00pm, St James' Church

November

Mon 11	Remembrance Service, 10.50am, War Memorial
Wed 20	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 21	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 7th October (for publication on Wednesday 9th October). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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