Birlingham News online

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Editorial

There is still a vacancy on Birlingham Parish Council, providing an opportunity for someone else in the village to get involved. The Parish Council meets once every two months, and so it is not a particularly onerous task.

The report from the September meeting of the council is included in this edition of *Birlingham News* and will give you an idea of the types of activity undertaken by the council. Contact details for the Parish Clerk are included at the end of the report.

So, if you can spare a couple of hours every other month and want to have an influence on the future of the village, ask the Parish Clerk for more details.

Autumn equinox in Birlingham, 22nd September (Photo: Peter Luff)

Cuppa & Chat



Wednesday 1st October *by Sue Hermon*

Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 1st October from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall. Everyone is most welcome to come along. There will be tea, coffee and a selection of cakes and the cost is still only £3.00 per head, which includes a chance to win the mystery prize!

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

St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward (Tel. 01386 750936)

You are invited to St James' **Autumn Walk** around Birlingham on Sunday 26th 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.

For the next three weeks, any queries relating to the church should be directed to Pat Chinneck on 07341 273493.



Birlingham Flower & Produce Show 2025
CUP WINNERS

Cup	Winner
The M&B Shield	Kris Mills
The Harold Herbert Cup	Rosanna Reynard
The Swan Inn Cup	Colin Greene
The William Jowett Trophy	Hannah Taylor
The Mrs Ann Porter Cup	Kris Mills
The Gerald Taylor Cup	Brian Chinneck
The Butler Trophy	Kris Mills
The Court House Salver	Bruce Hayward
The Children's Cup	Nicholas Mills
The Birlingham Nursery Rose Bowl	Ela Revill
The Betty Hughes Cup	Neil Lightbody
William Trow-Poole Trophy	Donna Mills
Joan Hollier Plate	James Garland



(Above) The Swan Inn Cup for Best Vegetable (Winner, Colin Greene)



(Right) The Harold Herbert Cup for Decorative/Cactus Dahlia (Winner, Rosanna Reynard)

(Photos: Kris Mills)

Birlingham Flower & Produce Show 2025
CLASS WINNERS

Class	Winner	Class	Winner
1 White potatoes	Neil Lightbody	40 Gingerbread	Kris Mills
2 Coloured potatoes	Kris Mills	41 Lemon drizzle	Hannah Taylor
3 Onions	Neil Lightbody	42 Victoria sponge	Caryl Mills
4 Carrots	Marion New	43 Fruit cake	Kris Mills
5 Beetroot	*No entries*	44 Coffee cake	Kris Mills
6 Edible squash, gourd or marrow	Colin Greene	45 Plain scones	Charlotte Baskerville
7 Runner beans	Sue & Chris Hermon	46 Strawberry jam	James Garland
8 Longest runner bean	Sue & Chris Hermon	47 Marmalade	James Garland
9 French beans	Sue & Chris Hermon	48 Fruit jelly	Caryl Mills
10 Cherry tomatoes	Marion New	49 Stone fruit jam	James Garland
11 Tomatoes	Paul Burton	50 Any other jam	Charlotte Baskerville
12 Courgettes	Paul Burton	51 Chutney	James Garland
13 Cucumbers	Marion New	52 Pickles	James Garland
14 Shallots	*No entries*	53 Condiment, sauce or relish	James Garland
15 Any other vegetable	Marion New	54 Eggs	Cottage Kennels
16 Capsicums inc chillis	Kris Mills	56 Spirit or liqueur	Gloria Winfield
17 Container of vegetables	Caryl Mills	57 Wine	*No entries*
18 Apples – Dessert	Paul Burton	59 Juice	James Garland
19 Apples – Culinary	Bruce Hayward	60a Photograph – Anybody	Donna Mills
20 Plums	Bruce Hayward	60b Photograph – Animals	Brian Chinneck
21 Damsons	Bruce Hayward	60c Photograph – Anywhere	Brian Chinneck
22 Pears	Neil Lightbody	60d Photography – Arty	David Kew
23 Soft fruit	Charlotte Baskerville	61 Cushion	Sadie Yeomans
24 Any other fruit	Sadie Yeomans	62 Artwork – Original	Sue Hayward
25a Dahlias – Pom pom	Rosanna Reynard	63 Line drawing	Kris Mills
25b Dahlia – Cactus	Rosanna Reynard	64 Quilting or patchwork	Sadie Yeomans
25c Dahlia – Decorative	Rosanna Reynard	65 Greetings Card	Caryl Mills
26 Roses – Floribunda	Bruce Hayward	66 Upcycled Item	Joy Salt
27 Roses – H/T	Sue Rogers	67 Poetry	Donna Mills
28 Single H/T rose	Sue Rogers	68 Garden in a seed tray	Donna Mills
29 Sweetpeas	Colin Greene	69 Fruit or veg character	Sue Hayward
30 Gladioli	*No entries*	70 Misshapen vegetable	Charlotte Baskerville
31 Pot plant – Flowering	*No entries*	71 History Lego model	Donna Mills
32 Pot plant – Foliage	Charlotte Baskerville	**Children's Classes**	
33 Cut flowers	David Kew		
34 5 cut herbs	Pat Chinneck	72 Fairy cakes – Under 12	Nicholas Mills
35 Arrangement of foliage	Gloria Winfield	73 Garden Flowers – Under 12	Nicholas Mills
36 Arrangement of flowers	Hannah Taylor	74 Artwork – Under 12	Brooklyn Garland
37 Home baked bread	Marion New	75 Garden in a seed tray – U12	Alexander Mills
38 Breadmaker bread	James Garland	76 Photograph – Under 12	Alexander Mills
39 Shortbread	Gloria Winfield	77 History Lego Model – Under 12	Nicholas Mills

Parish Council Report

by Ian Yates

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

- **Addressing concerns over speeding, residential disruption and pedestrian safety**

  Work continues to address resident concerns. The Parish Council have sent a letter to Karl Perks, the new Cabinet member responsible for highways and transport at Worcestershire County Council, asking him to explain why our proposal for a 20mph limit was rejected. Also that under the last administration it appeared that WCC was not, in any way, aligned with the National Guidance on the issue of assessing speed limits and the Parish Council wondered whether this is something that he might review. To date, we have not received a response and so Councillor Adrian Hardman has taken the action to follow this up.

  In the meantime, and as previously reported, it was agreed that 20mph advisory signs would be erected at key points on access roads. This is now common practice in many local villages and we were pleased that it had the full support of Red Star with their direction signs being updated to include the advisory limit. The signs have now been purchased by the Parish Council and you will have noticed that they have been installed. Our thanks to Councillors Rupert Day and Steven Byrne for doing the work. Initial feedback from residents in Upper End indicate that motorists are heeding the advisory limit.

  Further work is in hand to identify hauliers who are ignoring Red Star's transport policy by entering the village before 6.00am and the farm is happy to receive any photographic evidence from residents. Some evidence has already been provided and the farm is being helpful and proactive in contacting the haulage companies concerned to remind them of the Traffic Policy first published in 2018. This makes clear the correct route to enter and exit the village, the need for drivers to be careful and considerate and avoid damage to verges and roadside posts, that no vehicles should park on access roads to the village and that HGVs must not arrive in the early hours of the morning as the farm does not open before 6.00am.

  As a follow-up to the June meeting with Red Star, Councillor Day will arrange another in October to review progress and agree any further actions.

  The Parish Council will also send a request to Worcester Highways Department to have the roundels repainted as they have become badly worn. At the same time, it is hoped that the previously-requested road-narrowing white lines near Court Barns will be installed. Councillor Adrian Hardman agreed to follow up this request.

- **Community Initiatives**

  In the last couple of months, village groups have been sent a questionnaire to help the Parish Council understand priorities that might be promoted, supported and subsidised. A number of ideas and suggestions have been received and details will be summarised by Councillor David Glover in a *Birlingham News* article. He will also be attending a Wychavon Area Community Signposting session on 8th October to understand how their initiatives fit with our own initiatives for health and wellbeing.

- **Swan's Neck**

  Several residents had asked what the permissive sign attached to a post at Swan's Neck was referring to, so Councillor Ian Yates met with Michael Porter and John Sansome from GWR.

  Everyone is familiar with the felling of the poplar trees in 2023, the fencing off of land that GWR own and the planting of new trees in the fenced area, which resulted in a reduction in the grassed area that residents could use to enjoy views of the river.

  During fencing, the farm realised that if they fenced all the way to the riverbank, it would be impossible for boats to moor at Swan's Neck. So, they granted the Avon Navigation Trust (ANT) a licence for a 2-metre strip of land that runs parallel with the bank allowing boat owners access. While doing this they also decided to remove the new fencing that would have marked the edge of the 2-metre strip to give villagers a larger area to enjoy. The section of fence was removed in November 2024, opening up a triangular area ,and it is this area that the permissive sign relates to. We agreed that the permissive sign was confusing, and they will add an arrow pointing to the area they have opened up.

  GWR will shortly be clearing the area inside their fence which is currently heavily overgrown with thistles and weeds and will replace the trees that have died due to the drought. Whilst doing this, we asked if they could also clear the area under the withy trees to open it up for villagers. They kindly agreed to do this.

  Due to the smaller grassed area at Swan's Neck, the large ANT sign was now very dominant, sitting in the middle of the view. Councillor Yates contacted ANT to see if it could be relocated and an on-site meeting was held with the CEO of ANT. As a result the sign has been taken down and following agreement with GWR will be moved back against their fenced boundary where it will not block the view.

- **Wychavon District Council Report – Paul Middlebrough**

  Local Government reorganisation

  Last week, Wychavon, Malvern Hills and Worcester City councils all decided that a South Worcestershire unitary authority was the best option for our residents. This will place district and county services in South Worcestershire under the authority of the elected unitary council.

  Wychavon councillors unanimously endorsed this decision, noting that it maintains democratic control at a level closer to local residents in comparison to a county unitary authority.

  This is a process imposed on the council by the Government which was not asked for. The next step is to show the implications of creating South Worcestershire, what it will mean for residents, the services, council tax, working with communities. A report will be sent to Government by the end of November. Then we await what the Government say, probably by spring of next year. Hopefully they will agree but equally they may say a single county unitary is what they want and impose it on Wychavon residents.

  Let us see.

Continues on next page

- **Church Lane**

  A resident narrowly avoided a traffic accident on the junction between Church Lane and New Barn Road and pointed out that following road resurfacing the white lines at the junction were missing. This was reported to Worcestershire Highways and quickly rectified.

  In the early hours of 30th August, a lorry hit a large, low hanging branch in Church Lane bringing it down. The tree was on private land but it was reported to Worcestershire Highways and they sent a crew out to deal with it.

  The Parish Council thanked Councillor Adrian Hardman and Barry Barnes from Highways for promptly dealing with both the above issues.

- **Footpath Warden – Bruce Hayward**

  We have been sent a survey regarding a 'Review of Worcestershire County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan'. A response was drafted and approved for submission at the Parish Council meeting.

- **Flooding by the Manor House**

  This saga continues! Severn Trent sent a team to investigate the blockage but they arrived with a camera too large for the pipe. So no work was possible. We remain concerned that as we enter autumn/winter, flooding will return with the danger of ice on the road. Councillor Steven Byrne will continue to regularly liaise with Severn Trent. Councillor Hardman has agreed to contact the CEO of Severn Trent again to try and get action.

- **School Catchment Areas**

  We are hearing rumours that in 2026 there could be changes to the catchment areas, which would affect the schools that Birlingham children could attend. At this point it is just rumours, but Councillor Paula Aston has agreed to investigate further and advise of her findings at the next meeting.

- **Parish Council Vacancy**

  A reminder that there is a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in joining, please contact June Hiden, the Parish Clerk, at birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk.

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







Wildlife in Lower End

(Top left) Green woodpecker, 28th June

(Top right) Buzzard, 6th August

(Left) Fallow deer eating apple tree, 18th May

(Photos: Nikki Hollier)

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 Old Rectory, New Barn Lane: Undertake tree works, as detailed on application form and in any accompanying information (Case No. W/25/01989/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/25/01989/CAN

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

White Posts, Whitehall Lane: Undertake tree works, as detailed on application form and in any accompanying information (Case No. W/25/01935/CAN). **No objection.** Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at:

https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/25/01935/CAN

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.

LOCAL FINANCIAL PLANNERS

PK Prosser Knowles



In an uncertain and complex world, you need your finances to be made **straightforward and secure**. At Prosser Knowles, we do just that. We provide personal, face-to-face financial planning and wealth management services designed to help you gain control of your finances, protect your loved ones and **achieve your goals**.

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If you feel that a complimentary initial consultation with one of our experienced advisers would be beneficial to you, please contact us on **01452 260 840** or **01905 619 100 or** you can e-mail **enquiries@prosserknowles.co.uk**

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

Dates for your diary

October

Wed 1	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 16	Birlingham IW – details to follow
Sun 26	St James' Autumn Walk, 3.00pm, War Memorial

November

Wed 5	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 8	Birlingham's Music Night, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Tue 11	Remembrance Service, 10.45am, War Memorial
Wed 19	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 20	Birlingham IW – details to follow

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 6th October (for publication on Wednesday 8th October). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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