Birlingham News

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 383 Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Editorial

As the holidays approach, it's time to get out in the garden or the greenhouse and start finalising your entries for the Birlingham Flower & Produce Show.

Full details will be included in the next edition of *Birlingham News.*

E Hill & Son
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Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 5th August *by Sue Hermon*



The next Cuppa and Chat will be held on Wednesday 5th August from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall. Villagers past and present are most welcome to come along to meet new arrivals or catch up with old acquaintances.

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.

Almshouse Charity Handyman/woman

by Angela Fitch

The Almshouse Charity in Birlingham is looking for a reliable and friendly person to help with basic, small-scale repairs and to lend a general helping hand around the property and grounds as required.

Hours are flexible and online payments are made on invoice per job. The successful applicant will have their own Public Liability Insurance policy in place.

This casual handyman/woman position would suit either a retired builder/ carpenter etc. or an accomplished 'DIYer'.

If this sounds like you, please contact Angela Fitch, Clerk to the Trustees, at angela.fitch@btinternet.com or on 07585 904636.



The Wetlands at 8.00pm on 17th July
(Photo: June Hiden)

St James' Church



Churchwardens:
Adrianne Woodward & Pat Chinneck
(Tel. 01386 750936)

Do come and join us for a summer walk around Birlingham on Sunday 23rd August led by Canon Claire Lording.

Meet outside St James' at 3.00pm and bring a dog or a friend. Dog blessing, and dog and human refreshments, will be available in the church afterwards.


Birlingham
FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW
2026
SEPT 5TH | FROM 2:00PM
BIRLINGHAM CRICKET CLUB
WR10 3AB



Nafford Lock works completed

(Above) Lock open on evening of 9th July after being closed during the day. Work boats still on site and some hand rails etc. to be fitted. (Photo: June Hiden)

(Below) Lock fully open, 17th July. Clearance making way for grassing and tree planting. Smiths Industries will take on the care for the area (Photo: Chris Hermon)



Parish Council Report

Birlingham Parish Council held its meeting at 6.00pm on Wednesday 15th July in the Village Hall. The meeting started an hour earlier than previously published due to the World Cup semi-final between England and Argentina being played at 8.00pm.

A report was received from District Councillor Paul Middlebrough, which is included below.

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

Report from District Councillor Paul Middlebrough

As I write this today Wednesday 8th July the heat is being turned up on Wychavon by the Government.

Planning

The Government has stripped nine local authorities, including Wychavon, of their powers to determine planning applications for major developments over 'inadequate' performance.

Planning Minister Matthew Pennycook wrote to the councils individually informing them of the decision to 'designate' them under section 62A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

This means developers with housing schemes of more than 10 homes or on sites of more than 0.5 hectares, those looking to build buildings of more than 1,000 square meters, or all other developments on land of more than 1 hectare no longer need to apply to the councils for planning permission. If they choose not to apply to the council the applications will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate instead.

At Wychavon we are astounded this has been done based on planning numbers between 2023-2025 which whilst refused by Wychavon were subsequently approved by the Planning Inspectorate.

Things have now changed at Wychavon, where the five-year shows that the council has a 5.48 year housing land supply with a 20% buffer in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Legal action has been instigated by Wychavon to have the designation overturned on the grounds our planning procedures are sound in accordance with the Government's NPPF, the action we have taken. A Judicial Review Pre-Action Protocol letter has been sent to the Government's solicitors. This set out in detail the basis of the Council's claim and invited the Secretary of State to confirm whether he will agree to suspend the effect of the designation decision.

Local planning applications should be determined locally and the designation undermines all tiers of local government.

Local Government Reorganisation

The House of Commons goes into recess in the week commencing 13th July 2026. It is expected that the reorganisation of local government in Worcestershire into one or two unitary authorities, with abolition of Wychavon District Council, will be announced. Whilst residents in Wychavon didn't want it to happen, it now seems inevitable and so Wychavon will work to ensure the new Unitary authorities are a success when they come into being on 1st April 2028.

'We Are Wychavon' Funding

Residents, families, businesses and community groups across the district are set to benefit from the first phase of the £5 million 'We Are Wychavon' Support Fund. The money will be invested over the next two years and is built around four key themes of supporting wellness, supporting business, supporting families and young people, and supporting sustainable communities.

The first package of schemes, which will be introduced over the coming months, includes:

- Free swimming for under-16s
- Free swimming for over-60s
- Free learn-to-swim sessions for all ages
- Reduced fares on the Worcestershire on Demand bus
- One hour's free parking in short-stay council car parks
- Support for businesses to create apprenticeships
- Targeted support to help tackle youth unemployment
- Funding for families facing financial hardship who do not qualify for existing support
- Enhanced speech and language support for children
- New Ward Budgets enabling councillors to support small-scale community projects that do not qualify for existing grant schemes

Details of how each scheme will work and residents can access them are currently being finalised and will be announced through Wychavon's website, e-newsletter, social media and the local media.

Instead of being focused on a specific part of the district, schemes have been chosen so as many residents as possible have the opportunity to benefit from them.

Further schemes will be announced in phases as the programme develops.

PAUL MIDDLEBROUGH
THE FORGE
CHURCH LANE
NORTON
WR5 2PS

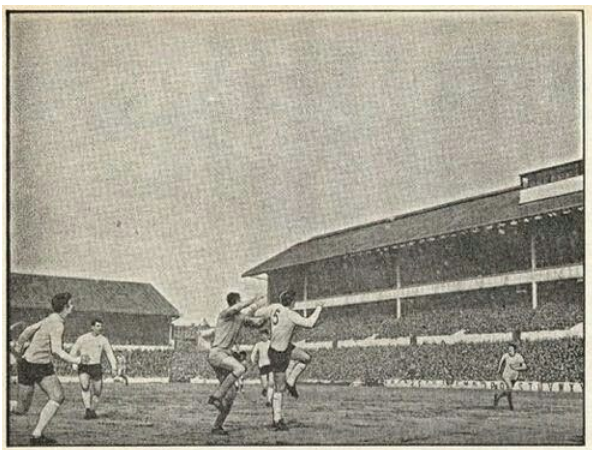
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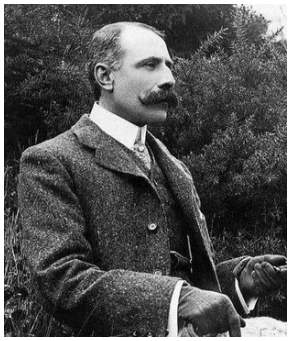
MOUSTACHE OF THE MONTH

NO. 3 *RESULTS*

SPOT THE MOUSTACHE COMPETITION



BY HAIRY SPOTTER



The moustache is courtesy of Mr Archibald deVille-Shufflebottom who can be easily identified in the third row of the second tier in the grandstand. Here is a picture of himself.

Our lucky winner Mrs Ariadne deVille-Shufflebottom wins a voucher for an all-inclusive stay at one of our moustache-friendly hotels, courtesy of this month's sponsors.

Advertisement Feature

Birlingham Moustache Friendly Hotels Group

Enjoy an all-inclusive stay at one of our luxurious resorts and bring your furry friend with you

5 star accommodation with special treats for your moustache

Long woodland walks and moustache activities on site

Moustache sitting service for when you need that time alone

Ask about our specialised moustache waxication offers

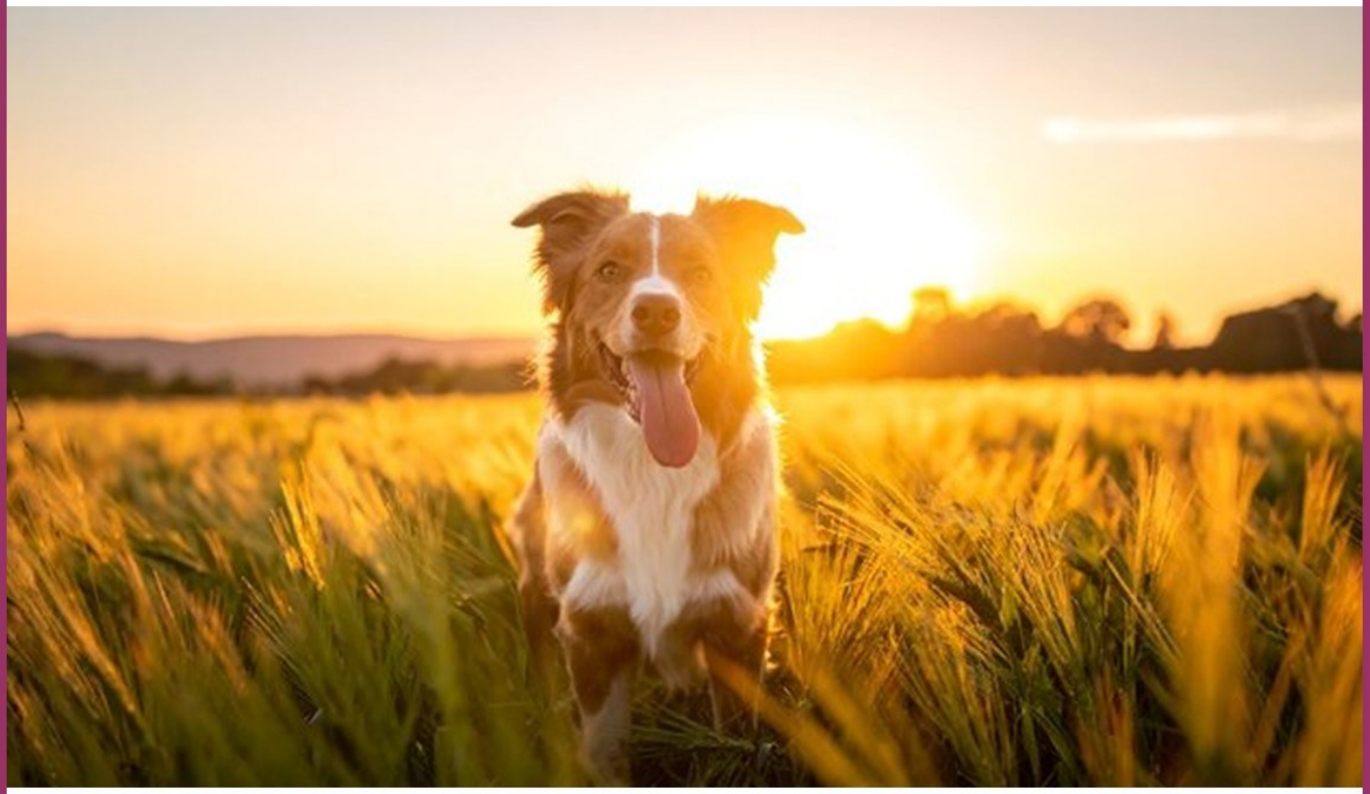
Singles welcome



The view across to Nafford, 14th June *(Photo: Nikki Hollier)*

St James' Church, Birlingham

SUMMER WALK AROUND BIRLINGHAM



SUNDAY 23 AUGUST
3.00PM

Meet at the War Memorial for a walk around Birlingham, led by Canon Claire

Bring a dog, a friend, or both!

DOG BLESSING, FOLLOWED BY REFRESHEMENTS SERVED IN THE CHURCH AFTER THE WALK



Cultivation on a sunny, dusty day, 15th July (Photo: Steve Conder)

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

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.

Dates for your diary

August

Wed 5	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 8	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Malvern CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm
Sat 15	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Fownhope Strollers CC 1st XI, 12.30pm
Thu 20	Birlingham IW, details TBC
Sun 23	A Walk Around Birlingham, 3.00pm, St James' Church
Sat 29	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Bredon CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm

September

Wed 2	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 5	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Rushwick CC 3rd XI, 12.30pm
Sat 5	Flower & Produce Show, 2.00pm, Birlingham Cricket Club
Wed 16	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 17	Birlingham IW, details TBC

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 10th August (for publication on Wednesday 12th August). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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