Birlingham News

Published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

No. 385 Wednesday 26th August 2026

Editorial

Hopefully everyone had the opportunity to see the almost-full solar eclipse two weeks ago. In case you didn't, we have some stunning photographs from Peter Luff.

If you have now discovered a new enthusiasm for celestial events, there is a chance to see another exciting spectacle in the early hours of Friday morning (28th August). By then, the moon will have moved round to the other side of the Earth and there will be a near-complete lunar eclipse. The full moon will glow red and, as it will be close to the horizon, will appear much larger than usual.

You will need to be up early though – or stay up very late. The eclipse begins at 3.33am and reaches its maximum at 5.12am, when 90% of the moon will be in shadow.

St James' Harvest Loaf

by Adrianne Woodward

Our grateful thanks are extended to Peter Horsburgh who has skillfully baked the St James' Harvest Loaf for many years and now feels that it's time to pass on the baton (or loaf). His bread was amazing and with cheese formed the basis of the Harvest after-service refreshments.

So we are looking for a volunteer to make a Harvest Loaf – experience not necessary, just enthusiasm. It's a shame that there isn't a Harvest Loaf category in the Village Show . . .

If you are tempted to have a go, just contact Adrianne Woodward on 07718 316621 for more details.

Swan Summer Break



The Swan Inn is currently closed for the annual staff shut-down and will reopen on Wednesday 9th September.

St James' Church



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

All are welcome to attend the St James' annual Harvest Festival service being held on Sunday 13th September at 10.30am and led by Peter Stansbie.

Donations of fresh, dried and tinned goods can be left in the church during the preceding week or brought to the service. As usual, all donations will be gifted to Maggs, a charity that helps the homeless, based in Worcester.

NB There is a wedding in the church on Saturday 12th September at 11.30am – so no donations on Saturday morning please!

St James' Harvest Loaf

See separate article opposite.

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 11th October: Outside Tree Service 10.30am on Birlingham Cricket Ground

Wednesday 11th November: Armistice Day. Remembrance Service, 10.45am, War Memorial

Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 2nd September *by Sue Hermon*



The next Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 2nd September 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.

Birlingham Village Skittles Night

Wednesday 26th August, 7.30pm at Pershore Sports Centre

by Alan Barke

Come one, come all! Join your fellow villagers for a fun-filled evening of skittles at Pershore Sports Centre. Whether you're a seasoned pro or have never picked up a skittle ball in your life, this is a great chance to relax, laugh and enjoy some friendly competition with neighbours and friends.

This evening also marks a special occasion, as we bid a fond farewell to our captain, Bruce, who is retiring after 10 years of dedicated guidance and stewardship of the team. Please come along to raise a glass and thank him for everything he's done for Birlingham skittles!

No experience necessary – just bring your competitive spirit (or lack thereof!) and a good sense of humour. Refreshments available, and all ages welcome.

Come along for a great night out – the more, the merrier!

We hope to see you there!

First three matches of the new season:

Monday 7th, Wednesday 16th and Tuesday 22nd September


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





The solar eclipse seen from Birlingham, 12th August

The photo top left was taken a minute before the eclipse reached its peak at 7.12pm *(Photos: Peter Luff)*





Sunset in Lower End, 29th July (Photo: Nikki Hollier)



Nafford Weir, 1st August (Photo: June Hiden)

MOUSTACHE OF THE MONTH

NO. 4 RESULTS

BY HAIRY SPOTTER

DID YOU NAME THIS FAMOUS MOUSTACHIST?



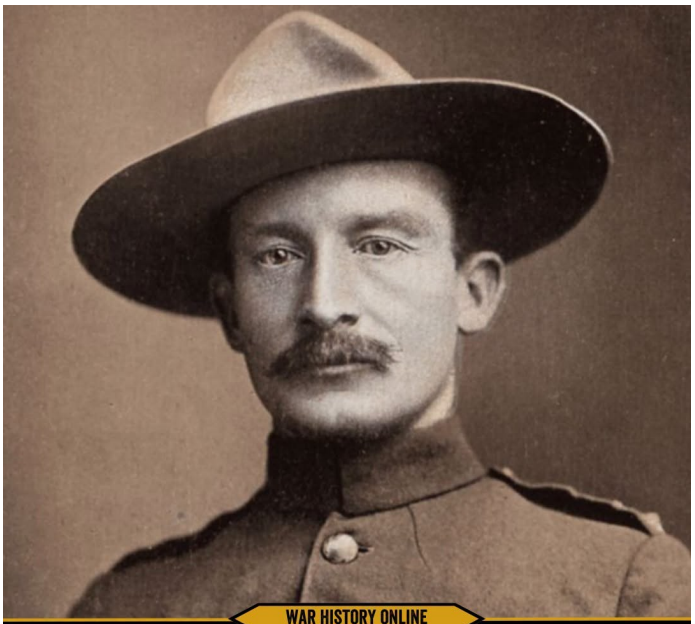


Our massive postbag contained suggestions ranging from Freddie Mercury to 'CJ from Reginald Perrin'. Honourable mentions go to:

Chris Hermon & Robert Kirkham-Evans

Close – but not close enough! The prize will rollover to next time. The answer is of course **Basil Fawlty (John Cleese)**.

MOUSTACHE TRIVIA



From 1860 to 1916, the British Army legally required every soldier to grow a mustache. Any man who shaved his upper lip faced strict disciplinary action, including the possibility of imprisonment.

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

Suspicious Activity in Birlingham

Two men claiming to be from British Transport Police but with fake ID called at two houses in the village on Friday 14th August. Since then, West Mercia Police have been making house-to-house enquiries.

If you have any information about this incident or saw anything suspicious on that day, please email PCSO Lee Stirling at lee.stirling@westmercia.police.uk.

West Mercia Police advise: *Any police officers that attend a person's address will have ID in the form of a police warrant card issued by their particular force. If persons are unsure, they can always call 101 to verify the officers' identity, which is strongly recommended.*

Planning Applications

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

Brockham, Upper End: Fell one oak and twenty six Leyland cypress, as detailed on the application form and any accompanying information (Case No. W/26/01835/TPOA). 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/26/01835/TPOA



Cutting the maize, 30th July (Photo: Nikki Hollier)



Defibrillator Code

The code to unlock the defibrillator at the front of the Village Hall is:

C1234

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 26	Birlingham Village Skittles Night, 7.30pm, Pershore Sports Centre
Wed 26 – Wed 9 Sep	Swan Inn closed
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
Mon 7	Birlingham Village Skittles, 7.30pm, Pershore Sports Centre
Sun 13	Harvest Festival, 10.30am, St James' Church
Wed 16	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 17	Birlingham IW, details TBC

October

Wed 7	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sun 11	Outside Tree Service, 10.30am, Birlingham Cricket Ground
Thu 15	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 7th September (for publication on Wednesday 9th September). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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