Birlingham News

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Editorial

Whether you have been having problems with box tree moths this year, have a great idea for something that would benefit the whole village if only there were some cash available to start it off, or just want to know what's happening in Birlingham in the coming weeks or who won all the awards at the Flower & Produce Show, you will find answers to your questions in this eclectic edition of *Birlingham News.*

Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 7th October *by Sue Hermon*



Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 7th October 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.



Harvest Festival display (Photo: June Hiden)

St James' Church



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

A big thank you those of you who donated Harvest goods, decorated the church and attended the Harvest Festival service. It was great to hear the bells as well . . . so thank you, Stuart! Paul Burton 'volunteered' to make the Harvest Loaf this year. In spite of never making one before it was a success and went down a treat, with cheese, for after-service refreshments. He is already planning how to make next year's loaf even better.

St James' next service will be held on Sunday 11th October at 10.30am. It is an Outdoor Tree Service to be held on the Birlingham Cricket Club ground. The trees on the ground have an interesting history and we will also hear about conservation efforts in other parts of the village. You will be most welcome to attend the service and the refreshments afterwards.

Controlling Box Tree Moth

by Maryanne Dyer

The subject of how to control tree box moth was discussed earlier in the year on the village WhatsApp group. Information on how to deal with the caterpillars of this moth is given later in this edition.

The final spray date for box tree caterpillar is 10th–15th October, before overwintering begins. Action now can help avoid damage early in the season.

Most reports on caterpillar control suggest a biological insecticide (XenTari, Dipel and Bruno) as the best option for killing box tree caterpillars, as it only kills caterpillars and stops them eating within an hour of ingesting a treated leaf.

These controls are harmless to humans, birds, fish and other beneficial wildlife, including bees.

The key thing is to treat the plants in line with the life cycle of the moths; see the spraying timeline in the information leaflet.

More information on the control of box tree moth is available online at www.ebts.org/uk.

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Birlingham Flower & Produce Show 2026
CUP WINNERS

Cup	Winner
The M&B Shield (most points in Show)	Kris Mills
The Harold Herbert Cup (dahlias)	Kris Mills
The Swan Inn Cup (best vegetable)	Sue Hayward
The William Jowett Trophy (floral arrangements)	Donna Mills
The Mrs Ann Porter Cup (best exotic vegetable)	Kris Mills
The Gerald Taylor Cup (best in Show)	Rebecca Foley-Moore
The Butler Trophy (most points, cookery)	Kris Mills
The Court House Salver (most points, fruit)	Bruce Hayward
The Children's Cup	Izabella Garland
The George Wilson Revill Cup (best root vegetable)	Neil Lightbody
The Betty Hughes Cup (most points for resident of Row)	Neil Lightbody
William Trow-Poole Trophy (most points, leisure & craft)	Kris Mills
Joan Hollier Plate (most points, preserves and jams)	James Garland



(Above) The Gerald Taylor Cup for Best in Show
(Winner, Rebecca Foley-Moore, presented by Sue Hayward)



(Right) The George Wilson Revill Cup and Betty Hughes Cup
(Winner, Neil Lightbody)

(Photos: Kris Mills)

Birlingham Flower & Produce Show 2026
CLASS WINNERS

Class	Winner	Class	Winner
1 White potatoes	Neil Lightbody	40 Gingerbread	Rebecca Foley-Moore
2 Coloured potatoes	Colin Greene	41 Lemon drizzle	Kris Mills
3 Onions	Neil Lightbody	42 Victoria sponge	Pat Chinneck
4 Carrots	Neil Lightbody	43 Fruit cake	Kris Mills
5 Beetroot	*No entries*	44 Coffee cake	Amy Purcell
6 Edible squash, gourd or marrow	Sue Hayward	45 Plain scones	Charlotte Baskerville
7 Runner beans	Colin Greene	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	Caryl Mills
11 Tomatoes	Paul Burton	50 Any other jam	Caryl Mills
12 Courgettes	*No entries*	51 Chutney	James Garland
13 Cucumbers	*No entries*	52 Pickles	James Garland
14 Shallots	*No entries*	53 Condiment, sauce or relish	James Garland
15 Any other vegetable	Sue Hayward	54 Beer or cider	*No entries*
16 Capsicums inc chillis	Kris Mills	55 Spirit or liqueur	Rebecca Foley-Moore
17 Container of vegetables	Sue Hayward	56 Wine / 57 Cordial	*No entries*
18 Apples – Dessert	Pat Chinneck	58 Juice	Caryl Mills
19 Apples – Culinary	Bruce Hayward	59a Photograph – Anybody	Kris Mills
20 Plums	Bruce Hayward	59b Photograph – Animals	Kris Mills
21 Damsons	Val Gilmore	59c Photograph – Anywhere	Brian Chinneck
22 Pears	Neil Lightbody	59d Photography – Arty	Donna Mills
23 Soft fruit	Neil Lightbody	60 Cushion	Sadie Yeomans
24 Any other fruit	Pat Chinneck	61 Artwork – Original	Donna Mills
25a Dahlias – Pom pom	Colin Greene	62 Line drawing	Colin Greene
25b Dahlia – Cactus	*No entries*	63 Quilting or patchwork	Jane Bartlett
25c Dahlia – Decorative	Kris Mills	64 Greetings Card	Sadie Yeomans
26 Roses – Floribunda	Charlotte Baskerville	65 Upcycled Item	Sadie Yeomans
27 Roses – H/T	James Garland	66 Poetry	James Garland
28 Single H/T rose	Sue Hayward	67 Garden in a seed tray	Rebecca Foley-Moore
29 Sweetpeas	Colin Greene	68 Fruit or veg character	James Garland
30 Gladioli	*No entries*	69 Misshapen vegetable	James Garland
31 Pot plant – Flowering	Amy Purcell	70 History Lego model	Kris Mills
32 Pot plant – Foliage	*No entries*	**Children's Classes**	
33 Cut flowers	*No entries*		
34 5 cut herbs	Sue Hayward	71 Fairy cakes – Under 12	Izabella Garland
35 Arrangement of foliage	Donna Mills	72 Garden Flowers – Under 12	Brooklyn Garland
36 Arrangement of flowers	Donna Mills	73 Artwork – Under 12	Nicholas Mills
37 Home baked bread	Amy Purcell	74 Garden in a seed tray – U12	Izabella Garland
38 Breadmaker bread	*No entries*	75 Photograph – Under 12	Izabella Garland
39 Shortbread	James Garland	76 History Lego Model – Under 12	Alexander Mills

Parish Council Report

by Ian Yates

Birlingham Parish Council held its meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 16th September in the Village Hall.

A summary of agenda items follows:

- **New councillor**

  We were pleased to welcome Karl Grimston, who has agreed to join the Parish Council, filling one of the two vacancies. There will be further news on the person filling the second vacancy once the formalities have been completed.

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

  There are five actions being taken:

  1. Roundel and line repainting: The roundels at the entrance to Upper End and in New Barn Road will shortly be repainted as the existing ones have become badly worn. The white lines in Upper End will also be refreshed at residents' request. This work should have been completed in the summer but was delayed due to staff shortages at Highways at WCC.
  2. Statutory 'No HGV' signs: The village continues to suffer from articulated lorries not following Red Star's published route into the village via Upper End. We have been getting HGVs entering via New Barn Road and then either becoming stuck by the church or taking to the grass by the war memorial. Some have even continued past the church and down the road to Lower End, causing chaos where tight bends make progress impossible. It is clear that the advisory 'No HGV' signs at the entry to New Barn Road and just past the church could be improved and we are requesting that these be replaced with statutory signs so enforcement can be applied as necessary. Some concerns were raised at the impact this might have on Upper End residents, which should be taken into account in any decision.
  3. 'Road narrowing/pedestrians in road' sign: We have requested this sign be installed on New Barn Road which is single track with no pavements. There is a real safety concern as children and walkers use it regularly and are at risk from vehicles at excessive speeds.
  4. General speeding in the village: Although everyone expresses concern about speeding in the village it is often residents also that are guilty of this. An article will be published in Birlingham News reminding everyone to slow down.
  5. Members of the Parish Council will be meeting with Red Star Growers again on 30th September to ensure that disruption to residents in Upper End from lorries and tractors at unsocial hours continues to be understood and that all possible actions to alleviate it are taken.

- **Footpath Warden report**
  - FP 503 (near Brockham) – waymarked and cleared vegetation
  - FP 514 (near sewage works) – finger post re-installed
  - FP 518 (Asham Lane – to the north of Asham Meadow): cleared under the proactive strimming programme run by the County Council.
  - FP 522 (from Nafford Lock to Nafford Weir) – area cleared and taped off with footpath being re-defined by The Avon Navigation Trust.

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

  See separate item below.

- **Community initiatives**

  Village groups have previously been sent a questionnaire to help the Parish Council understand priorities that might be promoted, supported and funded. As you have read in Paul's report, there is grant money available and so the Parish Council will be proposing and/or identifying projects and contacting Paul to discuss suitability and funding.

- **On Demand bus service**

  The Parish Council is enquiring why visits to Worcester Royal Hospital are not covered by the service and if this can be changed.

- **Swan's Neck sign**

  The Avon Navigation Trust sign that was located in the middle of the common area at Swan's Neck was removed last year, at Parish Council request, to open up the view. It was meant to be refurbished and then resighted up against the fenced-off area where it would be less intrusive. The sign has not yet been returned and as a result a narrowboat was moored for an extended period at Swan's Neck blocking access to the river for villagers. The Parish Council is following up with ANT as the sign makes clear that mooring is limited to two days.

- **New lengthsman**

  Our new lengthsman started work in July, having completed the statutory training. He has been dealing with clearance of gullies and grips to assist with preventing ditches becoming blocked, vegetation blocking road signs and splays at junctions.

- **Remembrance Day**

  As in previous years, the Parish Council will be providing wreaths for both the Birlingham (11/11/2026) and Eckington (8/11/2026) remembrance services.

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

Report from District Councillor Paul Middlebrough

What a summer!

- Scorching dry weather
- A new Prime Minister
- Local government reorganisation started
- Local government reorganisation paused
- Legal action to overturn the designation imposed by government on planning roles going very slowly in the courts
- Wychavon's promises implemented: free swimming for over 60s and under16s, free learn-to-swim sessions for all ages
- One hour's free car parking

Hope you had a good summer!

Local Government Reorganisation

On 16th July, the Government's decision regarding local government reorganisation in Worcestershire was announced to create North and South Worcestershire Councils.

They are now pausing local government reorganisation but the government has been cagey on the details of what is happening.

The review of the process will take place over party recess time so should be completed by October.

There are so many questions in the air:

- Will elections to Wychavon take place next year?
- Will unitary council elections be postponed?
- Is the real agenda to introduce elected mayors and strategic unitary authorities before unitary councils?

Wonder what we will know or not know by the time of your next meeting in November.

What a malarky!

One certainty

As part of the 'We Are Wychavon' funding, each councillor now has access to £10,000 to be spent on projects, activities etc. in their ward which do not qualify for other Wychavon grant streams.

I welcome applications from any group to put forward schemes, which I will consider.

I do remind you, though, that £10,000 is not a lot of money and it has go around the four Parish Council areas in my Ward: Besford & Defford, Birlingham, Eckington and Strensham.

I welcome applications for small sums of, say, £100 just as much as larger schemes, though I cannot promise to give you everything you have asked for.

The process is simple and the link is: Wychavon Ward Budgets – Wychavon District Council. (See Parish Council action in Community Initiatives above.)



Autumn cyclamen in the churchyard, 14th September – see also back page *(Photo: Michael Porter)*

Box Tree Moth & Caterpillar

An EBTS Guide



What to do



Spraying Timetable

Over the years EBTS Belgium member, Karel Goossens has come up with a spraying timetable that will keep the caterpillar to a minimum.

March/April

Hopefully you won't need to spray if you killed off all the caterpillars effectively in October the previous year, but its worth checking in case you missed any.

July 10-15

This should be your first of four sprays needed to keep the caterpillars under control.

August 16-20

This is the mid summer spray for the second of three batches of caterpillars the UK gets in a year.



September 13-18

Your third spray to kill off the third batch of caterpillars.

October 10-15

Spray no later than 15 October as some of the caterpillars are likely to start overwintering soon after this date which means they won't eat a treated leaf and will wake up hungry next year!



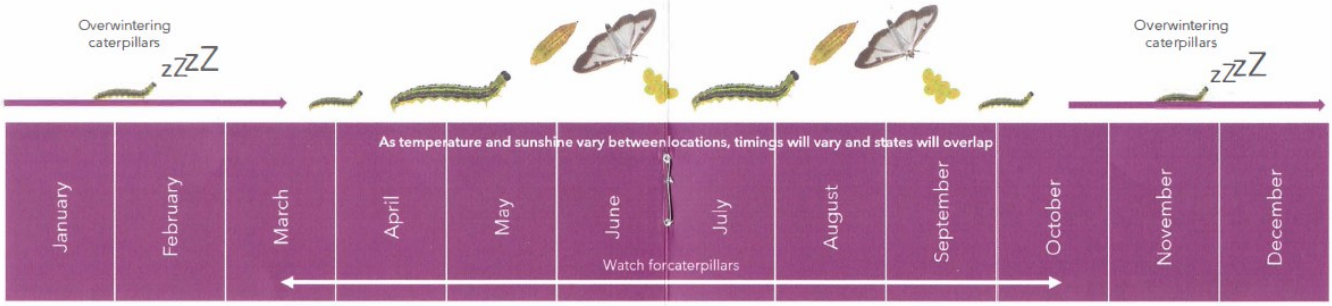
Remember

- Always on a dry day – it must not rain within six hours of spraying
- Spray up to five days earlier if needed, depending on the weather, but no later
- The point of this system is to interrupt the moth's reproductive cycle

Please register your trap, moths caught and any caterpillar sightings online

www.ebts.org/bmctracker











Common variant

Melanic variant



Caterpillars/Larvae

Greenish yellow in colour, developing black heads and dark & light strips with spots along their length. Growth is dependent on temperature, taking 3-4 weeks to become fully grown at 4cm long and then living a further 2 weeks.

Temperature threshold for growth >8.4c

Can survive to -30c overwinter wrapped between leaves.

Pupae

Are cocooned in white webbing spun around leaves and are between 1.5-2.0cm long.

The process of turning from caterpillar to moth takes about a week.

Temperature threshold for this state >11.5c

Moths

Have a wing span of about 4cm and either have a thick dark brown border around a white coloured wing with distinctive dots halfway down the leading edge of the wings (common variant) or less commonly the wings are almost entirely brown with white dots (melanic variant).

During their lives they can fly up to 10km and they start laying eggs 2-3 days after they first start flying.

Eggs

Each female can lay up to 700 eggs of 0.8-1.0mm diameter which are laid in groups of 5-30 on the underside of leaves and look like fried eggs. These are coloured greenish yellow at first with black dots appearing as the larval head capsule is formed.

Temperature threshold for egg development >10.9c

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Autumn cyclamen in the churchyard
(Photo: Michael Porter)

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

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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

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 – history of garden tools, 7.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall

November

Wed 4	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Wed 11	Armistice Day Remembrance Service, 10.45am, War Memorial
Wed 17	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 18	Birlingham IW – details TBA

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

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