



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 644

FEBRUARY 2023

Winter chills!

Photos or articles to: editor@balshamreview.com
Website: www.balshamreview.com

Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Henryk Pisarski

Lighting the Christmas tree.



Photos: Tom Wade

Candles at the Christingle service.



Photo: Terry O'Neill

The Ploughmen outside The Bell Inn.

Contents	Page
Editorial / Diary	4
Letters	5
Christmas Tree Festival	6
Ploughmen	7
Linton Jazz	8
Community Cafés	8
Church Services	9
From the Church	10-11
Attendance Allowances	12
Meadow School	13
Balsham Bowls Club	14
Horticultural Society	16
Linton Historical Society	17
Parish Council	19
District and County Councillor Reports	20
Granta Medical Practices	22
Linton Village College	22
Balsham WI	23
Linton Library/Cricket	24
Cambridge Fire & Rescue	25
The Bell Inn	26
The Black Bull	27
Girl Guides	27
Football Club	28
East Anglian Air Ambulance	29
Cambridge Past, Present and Future	30
Weather	31
Balsham Picture House	32

The opinions expressed in the letters and articles in this magazine are those of the writers who are responsible for the accuracy of the information contained within them

DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 15TH, 2023

Copy should be submitted where possible to
tresrev@aol.co.uk
or delivered to the
'Balsham Review Postbox'
held in the Post Office

Balsham Review Team

Editorial Team: Gill Parry Brown, Clive Bennett, Rodney Bryant, John Cope, Nigel Clark, Pam Down and Gill Watters.

Chairman: Helen Hatfield,
01223 892961

Main editor: Gill Parry Brown
01223 893012

Treasurer: Gill Clarke
01223 894034

Secretary: Pam Down
01223 893088

Contact: Gill Parry Brown
01223 893012

This month's photographers:

Richard Pargeter, Tom Wade, Terry O'Neill, Karis Reyes, Lesley Bennett and Henryk Piasarski.



Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

Email balshamgns@gmail.com
or phone or text **07508 430057**

Editorial

Welcome to our new look Balsham Review. Having Clive Bennett on our team has proved to be a great boon, as he has sorted a much better look, which we hope is easier to read, and which will mean you can find information more quickly. Clive has also encouraged his wife to send photos as well, and we thank her, as well as the several other contributors of photos and articles which help make our magazine useful and entertaining. Do please let us know if you appreciate the new look, and consider sending in items, in word or picture form, yourself. Also please let us know if you feel something we could put in is missing (and maybe send it in yourself).

We have been having great problems with our email -editor@balshamreview

- this month. Although we can send emails none have arrived since 17th January. If you sent one that has been missed we apologise, and hope that we can cover your item next month. In the meantime, for March only, please send items to tresrev@aol.co.uk. By the time for items for April we will have solved the problem, one way or another.

An update for those of you who have asked about my chickens: the two young hens are laying almost every day, and the young cockerel is crowing from time to time; the other four older hens are mainly having a winter rest. They all are kept in an enclosed space so the fox is unable, fingers crossed, to get at them.

Gill Parry Brown

Balsham February Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
1st Wednesday	Garden Club, 7.30pm	Church Institute
3rd Friday	Community Café, 10.00—12.00pm	Mays Ave Hall
14th Tuesday	WI, 7.30pm	Pavilion
18th Saturday	Picture House <i>'Where the Crawdads Sing'</i> 7.00 for 7.30pm	Church Institute
20th Monday	Parish Council, 7.30pm	Pavilion
21st Tuesday	Community Café, 10—12.00pm	Church Institute
21st Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Society, 7.30pm	Linton Village Hall
3rd March Friday	Community Café	Mays Ave Hall
3rd Friday	Community Café, 10.00—12.00pm	Linton Village Hall
4th Saturday	Picture House <i>'Fisherman's Friends - One and All'</i> 7 for 7.30	Church Institute

Letters

*Letters to the Editor for publication **MUST** be signed and include your telephone number. Names can be withheld, if requested.*

The opinions expressed in the letters and articles in this magazine are those of the writers, who are responsible for the accuracy of the information contained within them.

Dear Editor:

ERIC ELLAM

Karl, Teresa and Kelvin, and their families would like to send their heartfelt thanks for all of the love, kindness, and support that they received during their dad's illness and passing. We all found great comfort in knowing we weren't alone during this sad time and know that Dad would have been so touched that so many people came to his Service of Thanksgiving. Special thanks to H.J. Paintin Ltd. for all of their help and understanding and to Reverend Iain McColl for giving the two lovely services. We are grateful to you all.

We would also like to pass on our thanks to everyone who came to the Christmas tree lights switch-on held on the 10th of December. We know that Dad would have loved it and that so many turned out on such a cold night with England about to start a match. It was much appreciated.

With much love,

**Karl, Teresa, Kelvin,
and their families**

GORDON BRINKLEY

David, Susan and families would like to thank everyone who sent cards and messages of sympathy following the death of Gordon (Dad), who passed away peacefully on 8th December, aged 98, just one year after losing his beloved wife of 67 years, Olive. We would like to give special thanks to all those who attended Gordon's funeral at Holy Trinity Church on 17th January and to the Revd Ben Brady and organist Richard Skinner for making the service so personal. Mum and Dad had made their home in Balsham since 1970 and they were ever grateful to have been part of such a wonderful community of friends, neighbours and villagers.

Thank you all.

David Brinkley & Susan Tarasewicz

As is the custom in Balsham Churchyard all those Christmas wreaths still remaining on graves will be removed before Ash Wednesday which falls this year on 22 February and is the beginning of Lent.

Joanna Sanders

Christmas Tree Festival



Photos: Karis Reyes



The first Christmas Tree Festival for several years was held in Holy Trinity Church on the weekend of 3rd and 4th December.

We would like to thank everyone involved for making it such a joyous weekend. The decorated trees evidenced a lot of thought and imagination and there are too many people, who contributed to the success of the event, to thank everyone individually but here is a generic list:

- Our sponsors Cheffins and the late, lamented Balsham Market;
- everyone who very generously donated raffle and Tombola prizes, including the Black Bull and the Bell;
- everyone who provided and decorated a Christmas Tree;
- Steve Jordan's musical ensemble which provided music for the Saturday carol singing;
- everyone who helped on a stall,

- the door, raffle or tombola;
- and last, but certainly not least, the considerable number of people from the village and surrounds who paid us a visit and spent their money – many thanks to you all.

Please forgive us if you aren't included in this lengthy list.

It was rewarding to see so many people – young and old – and dogs, in the Church, mostly with smiles on their faces and a profit of around **£2,400** was made after paying for the trees and other lesser expenses. Half of this amount will be paid to the Ukraine Emergency Fund, while the other half will help with the running costs of the Church building, which is in constant need of expenditure.

We hope everyone who came enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

Liz De'Ath & Karis Reyes

Pity the Poor Old Ploughboy

Balsham Plough Monday Club

You may have noticed that the Balsham Plough Monday celebrations this year happened on Monday 9th January. The Ploughmen started at Dotterel Farm Barns and processed around the village stopping at The Rookery, Woodhall Lane and Plumian Way ending the evening at the Bell and finally the Black Bull. As ever, we're extremely grateful to the hosts of the stops for providing us with much needed sustenance, they will all receive a specially commissioned plaque mounted on an oak plinth that was part of our old plough by way of a thank you.

This year the Balsham Ploughmen have raised around **£3,500** although this figure will almost certainly increase as further donations come in. The plan is to use these funds to work with the Parish Council to refurbish the Princes Memorial, commonly known in Balsham as "the bandstand".

Thanks to everyone who donated and for the continued amazing support of the wonderful people of Balsham.

Terry O'Neill



Photos: Terry O'Neill

“All That Jazz”

Sunday 5th March 2.30pm Linton Jazz will be celebrating their 25th Birthday at the Haverhill Arts Theatre.

Linton Jazz is a fantastic Big Band of local musicians who raise thousands of pounds every year for many different causes and charities. The total is well over **£280,000** and has been raised by doing what they do best, having fun and promoting live music. Some of the charities

include Cancer Research, Anthony Nolan, Addenbrookes, Reach, Bartlow Walk, St Marys Church, The Sick Children’s Trust, Arthur Rank plus many local charities.

Tickets are available from Haverhill Arts (£10 std, £5 under 16s).

haverhillartscentre.co.uk/

Karen Sanderson

MUSICAL DIRECTOR, LINTON JAZZ

Community Cafés

Happy New Year to you all. The Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme’s Community Café in the Balsham Church Institute will take place at 10:00 to 12:00 on **Tuesdays:** February 21st, March 14th, April 18th, May 16th, June 13th, July 18th

We are now also running a Community Café at the Mays Avenue Community Hall, also at 10:00 to 12:00 on **Fridays:** Feb 3rd,

March 3rd, March 31st.

If there is sufficient interest, we will organise further bookings. Drinks and cakes are available for free. All are welcome.

If you need any help, or would like to become a volunteer helper, please contact:

balshamgns@gmail.com

or text or call **07508 430057**

Collection of Redundant Devices

Please remember that we are the Balsham collection point for redundant IT equipment, mobile phones etc for recycling. It saves them going to landfill, some can be rejuvenated for use by charities and schools, or contain useful parts. All proceeds go to local charities. The January collection has just

happened, please donate ready for the next collection in March.

Just leave them in the wooden “Deliveries” box in the sideway of 67 High Street Balsham...

Any queries phone **890686**.

Best wishes.

Neil Dunlop



Church Services

Services will be shown on the benefice website and the Church Notice Board.

Although we have returned to a regular pattern of services inside our churches, we are continuing to run a weekly online meeting each Sunday at 10.30am, which is an opportunity for ‘virtual’ coffee and chat for those who wish. More information about this can be found on the website www.grantavale.org.uk under the calendar section, or by signing up to our weekly newsletter, details of which can also be found on the website.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Rev. Iain McColl	01223 890693	mccoll.iain@gmail.com
Curate: Rev. Ben Brady	01223 344920	
Church Warden: Nigel Clark,	01223 893043	n.clark5@btinternet.com
Administrator: Cazzy Walsh		7churches.seven@gmail.com

SERVICES at other CHURCHES when possible

ROMAN CATHOLIC Masses at:

Cherry Hinton: St Philip Howard Church

Saturday: 5.30pm (Vigil Mass) & Sunday: 10.00am & 12 noon

Haverhill: St Felix, Saturday 6.30pm & Sunday 10am

Sawston: Our Lady of Lourdes, Sunday: 8.45am & 11.15am

FREE CHURCH: Horn Lane, Linton. Sundays: 10.30am

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, meeting as a house group, for further information please contact. www.facebook.com/Linton_cornerstone

METHODIST: Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

ECUMENICAL PRAYER MEETINGS 4th Monday of the month at 2pm, when possible. If you would like to attend contact Penny Cook **892203, 07754 723355** or prcook@talktalk.net

BALSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME if you need help or can offer help for the community please contact: balshamgns@gmail.com or phone **07508 430057**

From the Church

When our village churches were first built, some six or seven hundred years ago, Christmas was a season of celebration and feasting that



Our forebears endured precarious lives. But in our generation, we have learned to take for granted predictable seasonal weather,

lasted for well over a month. Officially the festivities ended on 2nd February, the Feast of Candlemas.

How things have changed. We know now that Christmas is over when Easter chocolates start appearing on the supermarket shelves early in January!

The Bible reading for Candlemas records the words of a holy, old man who finds the child Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. Simeon thanks God for this gift of having at last seen the child destined to be a “light of revelation” and hope to the world, and so he can die in peace. Candlemas gets its name from the candles, the lights people would bring to church on that day, to be blessed and lit through the long dark days of winter and deprivations of Lent before Easter finally arrived.

Yet for us, this February, finding things to reasonably hope for may seem something of a stretch.

and steady progress on many fronts: an increased standard of living, longer healthier lives, and an increasingly democratic world. And all this progress, probably not driven by a God in the sky as much as by the science and reason which have made us, we believe, the masters of our own destiny.

However, there’s much happening in the world today to make you wonder if the progress we enjoyed is stalling. The relationships within, and between nations are again creaking badly. And we are only promised increasingly severe weather events and uncertain seasonal patterns.

Falling back on the certainties of our ancestors isn’t an option. So is there anything we might still learn from the light and hope of Candlemas, within the whole pattern of the Christian year, to help sustain us in our uncertain times? Things, which perhaps our village forebears, in their lives

bound more closely together, took for granted. But in a world of rivalry, greed and increasing suspicion that we fail to see. I think there is. In our community, we all need each other. And to 'make it' with each other we need the light of seeing our mutual vulnerabilities,

and the light of compassion and sacrifice, and the light to find joy in each other as the only underpinning giving our lives real meaning and true hope.

Alistair Collen

February Services	9:30am	11:00am
5th		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
12th	Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Church Warden led</i>	Holy Communion Little Abington <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Morning Worship Balsham <i>Hannah Threlfall</i>
19th	Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Ben Brady</i> Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Church Warden led</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>
26th	Holy Communion West Wrating <i>Revd Iain McColl / Alistair Collen</i> Morning Worship Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Holy Communion Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>

Weds 22nd Feb - Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday at Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham 7.30pm

Help and Support When You Need It

We from the Parish Nurse support group thought it might be useful to do a series of short articles on the various forms of help available for people who have some form of physical or mental impairment. It's so easy to forget what help is available or to think it's not meant for you.

Attendance Allowance - government funding to help with medical problems

Someone can get Attendance Allowance if they've reached State Pension age and the following apply:

- they have a physical disability (including sensory disability, for example blindness), a mental disability (including learning difficulties), or both. This includes the disabilities that arise from a potentially terminal illness, such as cancer.
- their disability is severe enough that they need help with care or someone to supervise them, for the sake of safety
- they have needed that help for at least 6 months (unless they might have 6 months or less to live in which case they can claim immediately)

Attendance allowance is paid at two different rates, as shown below.

Rate	Level of help you need
<i>Lower rate</i> £61.85	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, or supervision at night
<i>Higher rate</i> £92.40	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or a medical professional has said you might have 6 months or less to live

You can spend your Attendance Allowance however you like - it's up to you. Lots of people spend it on something that makes life a bit easier, for example: paying for taxis, helping towards bills (like food and fuel), paying for a cleaner or gardener.

Some other benefits you get may increase if you get Attendance Allowance.

You do not have to have someone caring for you in order to claim but if you do have a carer, or are a carer for someone, check out Carer's Allowance as you may be eligible for that too.

To find out more about Attendance Allowance and to make a claim go to **www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance**

And don't forget, if you're in Balsham and need help with completing forms, just contact the Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme on **07508 430057**.

The Meadow School

Well, we have had a busy start to 2023 and the Spring Term!

OFSTED:

On the Monday of the first full week back, we received a phone call from OFSTED stating that they would be visiting The Meadow for a 2-day ungraded inspection. One inspector visited and carried out an intense and vigorous inspection of Early Reading and Art as well as focusing on behaviour, safeguarding, staff workload and wellbeing, plus pupils' wider development. We could not have been prouder of the staff and children who carried on showcasing what they do each and every day to a high standard. Details of the report will be published shortly.

Balanceability and Scooterability

- Reception and Year 1

As part of our Sports Premium funding, we have provided sessions on how to ride and scoot safely for all Year 1 and Reception aged children. The children showed their use of one of the characteristics of effective learning 'Persevering Parrot' an awful lot! Many of them told the instructor, Julie, that they knew how to scoot or use a balance bike and were very surprised when

they had to learn how to glide. The children have more sessions to complete, and we are looking forward to seeing how they continue to progress!

Learning Themes:

The children have launched into their new learning topics for the Spring Term which are:

Foundation and Key Stage 1: Fire and Ice (focusing on the significant individuals: Scott and Polar Antarctic explorers)

Years 3 and 4: Roman Britain / Empire (Where did they come from and where did they settle?)

Years 5 and 6: Earth Matters – Extreme weather and the effect of climate change on people's lives and environments (extreme weather events in History)

Year 3 and 4 have already had their experience day to launch The Romans. It was fantastic to see so many of the children in their Roman themed costumes, partaking in a range of activities: shield making, making mosaic bookmarks, making their own clay coins and being archaeologists and digging for Roman artefacts. The children thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience.



Young Voices at The O2 Arena:



Years 5 and 6 are getting very excited about performing at The O2 in London alongside 5,000-8,000 other children as a single choir, to

friends and family! They will be performing with the singer Heather Small. As well as being an amazing experience, it will help with their self-belief, self-motivation, confidence and ability to communicate as part of a team- which is invaluable!

Nicky Butcher

THE MEADOW SCHOOL, BALSHAM

Balsham Bowls Club 2023

After a revitalised season and enjoyable tour in 2022 we finished the year with another successful Bingo night and hot supper at the beginning of December. It was nice to see people from the village alongside members of the Club. 2022 brought us a number of new and enthusiastic players to the game. We can now hopefully look forward to a stronger Club for the coming year where we plan to be entering more teams with therefore more game opportunities for the members. We are also considering an internal Club competition alongside the regular Monday roll up.

If you are interested in playing , we very much welcome new members to the our club. Please visit our Website [Balsham Bowls Club](http://BalshamBowlsClub.com), or email balshambowls@gmail.com or call Christine on **07530649573**.

The season will kick-off once again with an Open Day at the end of April, date to be confirmed. All members welcome and anyone interested in having a go will be welcome to come along and find out more about the Club and spend time with our coaches.

The Club has been a successful and an integral part of the village since it was founded in 1946. Now more than ever we want to welcome any new and existing residents in Balsham and the surrounding villages to contact us and give the game a go.

Members of the W.I. enjoyed a great evening with us last year, and loads of people of all ages enjoyed a go at target bowls on Village Feast Day! Why not you too?

Bob Stigwood



Photo: Lesley Bennett

The church colourfully illuminated for a wedding on New Year's Eve.



Photo: Henryk Pisarski



Photo: Henryk Pisarski



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Winter scenes around the village

Balsham Horticultural Society

'Your friendly local gardening club'

It seems a long time ago since we met for our Christmas meeting, but we all enjoyed a very jolly and different evening. Bryan Thurlow alias 'The Perennial Mr Potter' gave a light hearted and amusing performance as a Suffolk gardener in bygone days. He came dressed in the part & with an assortment of props. As an actor he gives various talks in different guises. The evening was concluded by a festive raffle.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday February 1st at 7:30pm in the Church Institute. Our speaker will be Peter Jackson from Scotsdales discussing '*Plants for Winter Interest*'. £3 for guests. Refreshments & Raffle. All welcome.

We wish members and all friends a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Hazel Leeson

BALSHAM GARDEN CLUB COMMITTEE

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 1st February 7:30pm in the Church Institute:

Peter Jackson

'Plants for Winter Interest'



REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE | ALL WELCOME.

Linton & District Historical Society

December Meeting

At our final meeting of 2022 we welcomed Maurice Moore and Bryan Saddington who shared their stories from their time whilst serving with the Linton Fire Brigade. From first call outs up to the present day we heard how the service has developed over the years with the use of modern technology and

equipment. Health and safety coupled with fire prevention play a key role in their work today.

Whilst enjoying seasonal refreshments and a gift-wrapped raffle, Maurice and Bryan answered our questions informatively on the dangerous and harrowing work the Fire Service undertakes to keep us safe.

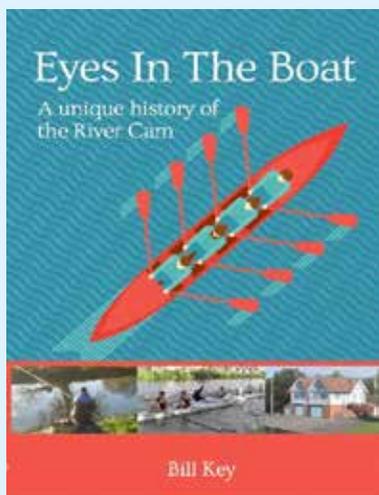
NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 21st February

'Eyes in the Boat'

A unique history of the River Cam

by Bill Key



Starting 7.30pm Linton Village Hall Coles Lane
(*easy parking in the Health Centre car park opposite*)

Visitors welcome - Raffle – Refreshments

For further details telephone **01223 893915** or **01223 678835**

Email ldhscamb@gmail.com



Photos: Lesley Bennett

Balsham Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting took place on 17th January, 2023 in Balsham Pavilion

Highways: The PC have reported the condition of Church Lane and the road along the front of the House on the Green again. The PC have applied for the Highways Improvement Scheme for countdown signs on the entrances to the village.

Footpath from Barton's Close to allotments and Woodhall Lane

allotments: The PC approved a quote for improvements to the path to improve the surface for users.

Quote for telephone box: The PC agreed a quote for mending the door at the telephone box near Nine Chimneys Lane.

Prince Memorial: The PC have decided not to plant a tree for the Jubilee due to the issues of keeping it watered, but they would like to help with the Ploughman's project to light the Prince Memorial.

Planning:

Proposal: 2 Nine Chimneys Lane, Certificate Of Lawfulness Under S192 For external window/patio door alterations.

Reference: 23/00001/CL2PD

PC Decision: No objections.

Proposal: Rectory Farm Cambridge Road, Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to use class E (g)

Reference: 22/05552/PRIOR

PC Decision: No objections

Proposal: 5 Woodhall Lane, Dormer extension with rear facing windows.

Reference: 22/05185/HFUL

PC Decision: No objections

Decisions:

Proposal: 7 Princes Close Balsham, Two storey extension and pergola to side.

Reference: 22/04541/HFUL

Decision: SCDC refused permission

Proposal: 8 Field End Balsham, Convert loft of existing detached double garage to side into roof extension with rear facing dormer window. Site address: 8 Field End Balsham

Reference: 22/04417/HFUL

Decision: SCDC granted permission

Precept:

The PC discussed the budget and accounts and agreed to set a precept of £ 50,763, which will keep the precept payment at the same amount as last year.

Pavilion Electricity costs: The PC were shocked to see how much the electricity prices had increased.

The timing of the flood lights will be reduced and heaters will only be turned on when there is a booking.

The next PARISH MEETING will take place on MONDAY 20th February, 2023 at 7.30 pm in Balsham Pavilion. ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

Tracy Coston

PARISH CLERK

Tel: 01223 894462 / 07929930385

Email: clerk@balsham.net

Website: www.balsham.net

District & County Councillor's Report

JANUARY, 2023

Making Connections' Consultation

Thank you to all those that fed their views into the Greater Cambridge Partnership's public consultation on their proposals to improve public transport in our area with the introduction of a 'sustainable travel zone' which would be funded via a congestion charge.

There were record numbers of responses to this, as hoped, as it is, in our opinion, one of the most important consultations that we'll be asked to respond to. There were in the region of 24,000 responses, which equates to around 15% of the entire population of South Cambridgeshire (this doesn't sound like a lot, but it is!).

Local Plan

The Local Plan (the District Council's process of identifying sustainable locations for housing and economic development within South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City for the next 30 years) is moving forward. The latest update is that due to the very fast economic growth in the area (the predicted job growth has already been achieved halfway through the current Local Plan) the government-set formula for calculating housing need has had to be reassessed. Using the calculation there is now a

need to find a place for a further 8000 houses on top of what has already been allocated. This is likely to mean either another new town in the District, or lots of small to medium-sized developments on the edge of existing settlements/villages as well as in the Green Belt. Another complication is that the Environment Agency is now taking quite a hard-line on water supply. They are saying that the area currently doesn't have enough water supply to fulfil the current Local Plan, let alone the emerging one. There is a plan in place to use Grafham Water's supply but this isn't currently planned to come online until 2027.

So not a straightforward predicament but do keep watching this space as the situation develops.

POPs in WUDS

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are found in various Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS) such as sofas and upholstered dining chairs. Such materials should not be landfilled. The law against landfilling of POPs was introduced in 2007, but the Environment Agency recently announced it would become more rigorous in its enforcement. The Environment Agency announced in

August 2022 that it would soon expect councils to cease landfilling upholstered seating, and instead to incinerate it. It published its Final Regulatory Position Statements on this matter on Monday 19 December 2022, with implementation starting on Sunday 1 January 2023.

The short notice over Christmas has provided little time to organise incineration capacity, and the County Council is therefore seeking an extension of at least a month while it works through options and liaises with its waste contractor Thalia (formerly Amey) and with the district councils who collect Cambridgeshire's waste. This does however mean that from 1 January the Council will not be able to dispose of soft furnishings until a method of disposal acceptable to the Environment Agency has been identified and put in place.

King Charles III Coronation Street Parties

The Council has published guidance for local groups seeking to organise parties and highways events in the street to mark the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023. All street party applications must be received by the County Council at least eight weeks in advance (Friday 10 March 2023) via the Council's website. Highway Events applications must be submitted at least twelve weeks

in advance (Friday 10 February 2023). More information about the process can be found at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/highway-events/coronation-events>

Ukraine – new hosts for guests needed

Cambridge City and South Cambs have between them about 500 hosts for Ukraine guests. With the war in Ukraine continuing, the six-month hosting arrangements have needed to be renewed, though not all hosts are in a position to do so. Anyone who might be able to provide a spare room for a guest from Ukraine is asked to get in touch with SCDC. We need new homes for about 200 people. For this reason the councils have launched the GOT A SPARE ROOM campaign. If you are interested all you have to do is text **ROOM to 88802**.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine-it-all-starts-with-a-spare-room/>

Contact Information

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Granta Medical Practices Update

Coming up next month, Granta Medical Practices, in conjunction with the Patient Participation Group, will be running their biggest ever patient survey. This will be a real opportunity to make your voice heard. Whilst we may not be able to fix the NHS, by taking part you could help us shape the future of Granta in the face of these challenging times.

The survey will be available shortly online and also in paper form in our surgeries – we will let you all know when we go live.

Thank you in advance for completing the survey and letting us know your views.

Sandra East

HEAD OF PATIENT SERVICES

Marsh Mail



The month of December was filled with festivities including our Christmas Arts Showcase, a trip to watch the choir at Kings College and a range of charitable events, including a reverse advent and fundraising through a Christmas jumper day and fayre.

It has also been a really busy time of year for our oldest students who have received their mock exam results and have been making applications for their sixth form colleges. We are fortunate to have a very strong team of invigilators from the local community. The expertise and organisation of this group of staff really helps to create a smooth and efficient exam process. It was lovely to welcome back last year's Year 11 cohort and their families for the GCSE presentation & awards evening and to hear about how well they have

transitioned to post-16 education. The speeches from form tutors and conversations afterwards highlighted the importance of relationships between staff and students and each other as part of the school community.

We are grateful for the amazing work of the Friends of LVC who support school events such as this. A new Friends committee is in place and they play an active role in raising funds to improve educational facilities and experiences for our young people. LVC students also benefit hugely from the funds from the Linton Fireworks display.

We look forward to our school production taking place on 2nd–4th February. Tickets for '*High School Musical*' are available via Ticket Source.

Helena Marsh

HEADTEACHER LVC

Balsham WI

It was a case of *whodunnit* at our December meeting when we were finally able to host our Murder Mystery evening which had to be postponed last December due to Covid. The scene was set of a swanky New York mansion where a gruesome murder had taken place and seven of our members took on the roles of the various suspects. The rest of the members listened as the suspects interrogated one another, trying to work out who was the murderer. It turned out that none of us had been able to guess who was guilty so we may need to brush up on our detective skills and have another round of this at some point in the future as it was a really fun evening!

Our first meeting of 2023 was held on Tuesday 10th January and we welcomed the very knowledgeable Jan Ellam who gave us a talk on old Balsham, with the help of "*Elsie May Plumb's Schoolgirl's Book of Verse*" – a delightful 96-verse poem written about the village by Elsie in 1931. We followed in Elsie's footsteps as she made her way from her home in one of the cottages which once stood at the Lime Kilns on Cambridge Road, into and around Balsham and back again. On the way we learnt some fascinating snippets about our village's past, such as there were once 8 pubs, 2 windmills and many shops and businesses! Some of us also got to

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

see pictures of our own houses as they were at the time. We also had a photograph display to look at and some of our members brought in some memorabilia and photos of events in the village. It was such an interesting evening and we could have listened to Jan's stories all night! In addition we also welcomed four new members so it was lovely to see some new faces.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th February and with that being Valentines Day the theme for the evening will be Show the Love, in this case some self love. We welcome both Laura Hawksley who is a Biodynamic Massage Therapist, who will be giving a talk and a demonstration on the value of light touch massage for wellbeing and managing chronic conditions, and also Bodysshop at Home representative Charlotte who will be talking to us about all things skin care and will be showcasing some of her products.

We are a friendly bunch and new members are always welcome. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Pavilion. Please get in touch if you would be interested in joining us at balshamwi@gmail.com, or send us a message on Facebook, [@Balsham WI](https://www.facebook.com/BalshamWI).

Sarah Evans
01223 290802

Linton Library News

You'll always find a warm and friendly welcome in your library. Drop in just to choose books, or stay to read, relax with a jigsaw puzzle or use our free WiFi or a library computer. If you are looking for advice on cost-of-living support, staff will be happy to signpost you to information.

We have the following social events in Linton Library this month, all are welcome:

Our new monthly '**Read a Little Aloud**' session is on Friday 3rd, 10.45am – 11.30am. Relax and listen as library volunteers and staff read from a variety of stories, poetry and literature for adults. Join in if you like! It takes place every first Friday of the month.

Knit and Natter will take place at 2pm on Tuesdays 7th and 21st. Bring along your latest craft project.

We have a **Family Lego** session on Monday 13th 2–3pm, call in to book your place. Rhyme and Storytime will be 10.30 – 11am on Tuesday 28th. If you need help with a Bus Pass renewal our Digital Buddy is happy to help - appointments are available on Thursday afternoons from 2pm, please book at the library.

We have a locked display case, if any individual or local society would like to make a display for a month, please ask in the library.

Opening hours: Tuesday 10am–5pm; Wednesday 4–7pm; Thursday 2–5pm; Friday 10am–5pm; Saturday 10am–1pm

General library enquiries:
your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Customer Services (regular office hours): **0345 045 522**

Ann King

Cricket Club

This time last year, the cricket club was teetering on the brink and our plea in the Review for more players pretty much saved the club. A year on and we are celebrating a truly successful season, which culminated in promotion and some record-breaking performances. So, we are now looking to build on this success and keep the momentum going. With the aims of both re-starting the midweek team and strengthening the squad for the Saturday team,

we would like to attract even more new players. So, if you have maybe not played for a while or are a youngster looking to move into adult cricket (anyone from the current Y8 and above is eligible), please contact club captain Adrian Reedman on **Ade07887@gmail.com** or **07887 824133**. We already have winter nets booked, so plans are taking shape for 2023 already. Why not come and join us on the journey!"

Colin Eade

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service



CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH
FIRE AUTHORITY
Working together to improve community safety

CFRS is keen to assist the population stay warm and live safely, not just this winter but always. With continuing cost-of-living rises to endure, especially energy, many people are looking at ways to reduce their usage and find alternative ways of heating their homes.

Here are some general tips to help save safely this winter:

- Check that all heating appliances are in good working order and not subject to outstanding recall – check the ‘Office for Product Safety and Standards’.
- Keep all flammable furniture and clothes well away from heaters and fires.
- Ensure appropriate fuels are burnt in fires and stoves to avoid chimney fires.
- Keep escape routes clear of clutter – parcels, heaters, shoes etc.
- Keep up servicing routines on gas boilers and appliances to prevent leaks and potential CO poisoning – Homeowners check your energy provider’s website re their Priority Services Register (if eligible you may qualify for a free annual gas safety check) –

Landlords **must** arrange an annual gas safety check!

Key areas and advice to try to help save on costs –

Open fires and chimneys – the Service attends around 100 fires a year involving chimneys, most of which could be avoided by following some simple safety tips:

- Appoint a skilled and technically competent chimney engineer – search HETAS.
- Keep flue shafts clear, well maintained and swept annually before winter lighting to ensure no accumulated debris might cause a fire. Inspect the brickwork and beams.
- Always use a fireguard to protect against flying embers.
- Make sure that embers are extinguished before turning in.

Portable electric heaters

Many may not have been recently used, perhaps kept for emergencies, so check that yours works safely and is plugged into a wall socket – NOT an extension lead or, even **worse**, an adapter! They must be cooled and switched off before moving, and not across a passageway

Do not use them, gas or electric, in bathrooms or too near to wet drying clothes.

Candles!

Whether being used for cooking (heaven forbid!), lighting (to save electricity), decoration, scent or as a religious symbol, these popular accessories can be dangerous.

- Use only a proper candle holder, eg a ceramic dish, on a level heat-resistant surface with plenty of space around it and away from draughts, curtains, furniture and other flammable surfaces.

- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets – dogs wagging tails!
- Never place on televisions or other polished surfaces.
- Never attempt to move a lighted candle - or leave alight when going to bed!

On behalf of Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Michael White

The Bell Inn

Hi Everybody, we hope you had a great Christmas and New Year. During February, we will be running our in-house knockout pool competition, commencing on Wednesday 15th. Everyone is welcome to enter.

Book early for Valentine's Day, we will have a special menu, which will be for bookings, and pre - orders only, obviously spaces will be limited.

The monthly charity quiz is Tuesday 28th, new quizzers are always welcome.

Our regular Lunch Club is Wednesday 22nd, which is also bookings and pre orders only.

We have live music on Saturday 25th, with popular local band Bad Monkey Driver, starting at 8.30.



Why not book a pre-show dinner? Wednesday evening is buy-one get one free on Scampi and chips or Sausage and mash, please book in advance.

Live sport continues to be shown on Sky and BT sports.

As an advanced warning, the kitchen will be closed for holidays from 1st March, reopening on Tuesday 14th March, we apologise for any inconvenience this may

cause.

Thank you for your continued support.

*For event details, bookings and menus, please see The Bell Inn Balsham Facebook page, call **01223 892999**, or pop in the pub to see us.*

Phil & Mary

The Black Bull



Happy New Year to all Balsham Villagers from all at The Black Bull

Thank you all for supporting us through 2022. So nice to be getting back to more normal rhythms.

We are excited to be making plans for 2023.

Our regular **Thursday Coffee Club** is back in rude health. Open to all: 10:30-11:30am

Our Black Bull **Sunday Brunches** programme continues to popular demand – every few weeks – next ones: **Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th February (St Valentines W/E**

Brunch), Sunday 26th February

Places are limited so that we can still get ready for lunch, so please book ahead.

Standby for mid-week special lunch menu offer.

St Valentine's Day – Tuesday 14th February – opening especially with special Rob menu.

Saturday 4th March – Rob 5-course Taster Menu

Mothering Sunday 19th March – open all the way through the day – please book ahead if you have a preferred time.

Best wishes from all of us.

Alex, Rob, Liz & the teams

01223 893 844

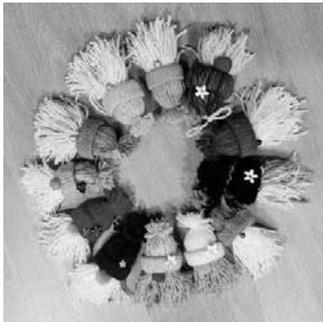
info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk

Girlguiding Linton District

It's been a fabulous year for all our units, culminating in a winter camp for 1st Linton Guides, held outside in the woods at the Jarman Centre. They even had a bouncy obstacle course. They also made Christmas gnomes with bobble hats for Christmas too.

There were visits to the pantomime for some of our Guides and

Brownies. Oh no there weren't... oh yes there were...



Our Trefoil Guild enjoyed their Christmas dinner night out together. There have also been many more badges earned and presented too. Some of our leaders are finding it difficult to sew their badges on as their camp blankets have so many now.

We are celebrating the end of a year of county events bringing us closer together, meeting new faces and making new friends from around the whole of Cambridgeshire, stretching from Wisbech to Melbourn. Don't forget you are always welcome to come and see what we do.



Horseheath Brownies 7-10 yrs, 1st and 2nd Linton Guides and Brinkley Guides 10-14 yrs, and Linton and Brinkley Rangers 14-18 yrs, INSPIRE 18-26 yrs and Trefoil Guild for adults only. We are a busy district but we do have a lot of fun.

Linton Rainbows 5-7 yrs, Linton, Balsham, Burrough Green and

Contact Louisa on **07711614328** or **Lintondistrict@gmail.com**

Balsham Football Club

RESULTS

DATE	HOME	AWAY	SCORE	RES
26 Nov	Comberton Utd Res	Balsham (Cup)	7-3	L
7 Jan	Balsham	Cambridge Ambassadors 1st	4-4	D
14 Jan	Balsham (Cup)	Sawston Utd Res	1-0	W
21 Jan	Balsham	Comberton Utd Res	2-1	W

FIXTURES

DATE	TIME	HOME	AWAY	VENUE
28 Jan	1.45pm	Comberton Utd Res	Balsham (Cup)	Comberton VC
4 Feb	2.00pm	Balsham	Thaxted Rangers Res	Balsham Rec
11 Feb	2.00pm	Wilbrahams	Balsham	Gt Wilbraham Rec
18 Feb	2.00pm	Balsham	Papworth Res	Balsham Rec
25 Feb	2.00pm	Papworth Res	Balsham	Papworth Everard Rec
4 Mar	2.00pm	Sawston Lightning	Balsham	Lynton Way Rec

East Anglian Air Ambulance



It is highly unlikely that anyone across East Anglia has not heard, or heard of, EAAA and the wonderful work it undertakes. The scale of the operation – two state-of-the-art+ HS145 helicopters plus rapid response vehicles means that a substantial bank account is required to meet costs. What are the costs? you might ask – well, about **£3,750** a mission on average which currently translates to around **£17m** this year!

We receive an absolutely astounding level of active and passive support from young and, not so, young alike. We need more – please.

If you have an idea by which money for EAAA can be raised please get in touch.

Quiz's, walks, rambles, scrambles! climbs, orienteering, collections (at parties or at work), anything – the

list doesn't stop there. It's fun too! This year our 'Trek24' raised over **£88k**, 'Only The Brave' over **£83k** and the 'Together We' series a further **£74k** plus – please do get in touch*. info@eaaa.org.uk to find out how you can join the teams or do your own thing. Remember, we run a weekly regional lottery and an accumulator – up to **£25k**. 2023 EAAA pocket diaries are still available for new lottery players and their introducers!

Another 'New Years Resolution? So, what's stopping you? Please help East Anglian Air Ambulance to save more lives.

Michael White
info@eaaa.org.uk

**find out about 'gifts in wills' – an increasingly important component of our overall income.*

Cambridge Past, Present and Future

Join thousands of local people and become a member of Cambridge Past, Present & Future. Your gift will support caring for and sharing nature and heritage all year round and you will have **free parking at Wandlebury for the next 12 months**, free entry to our historic properties on open days, two copies of The Ring magazine and discounted private hire of the Stables education centre parties and events.

Membership rates have remained the same for several years and are very good value at £15 for students, £27 a year for an individual and £37

a year for a family. If you are Friend of Cambridge Botanic Garden you can join for **£21.60** - please use the discount code from a recent CUBG Friends newsletter.

As an independent charity with no government or council funding we rely on memberships and donations to fund our work and have to raise more than £300,000 every year.

Half term Holiday Bushcraft at Wandlebury

Mon 13 to Fri 17 Feb 8.30am- 4pm for 5-12year-olds

£40 per child per day. Please book in advance.



Balsham Weather November/December 2022



Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

recorded by Peter Neale, Nine Chimneys Lane.

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 16° C on 11th November

Lowest: 7° C on 21st November

Highest: 19° C on 19th December

Lowest: -2° C on 15th December

Night time temperatures

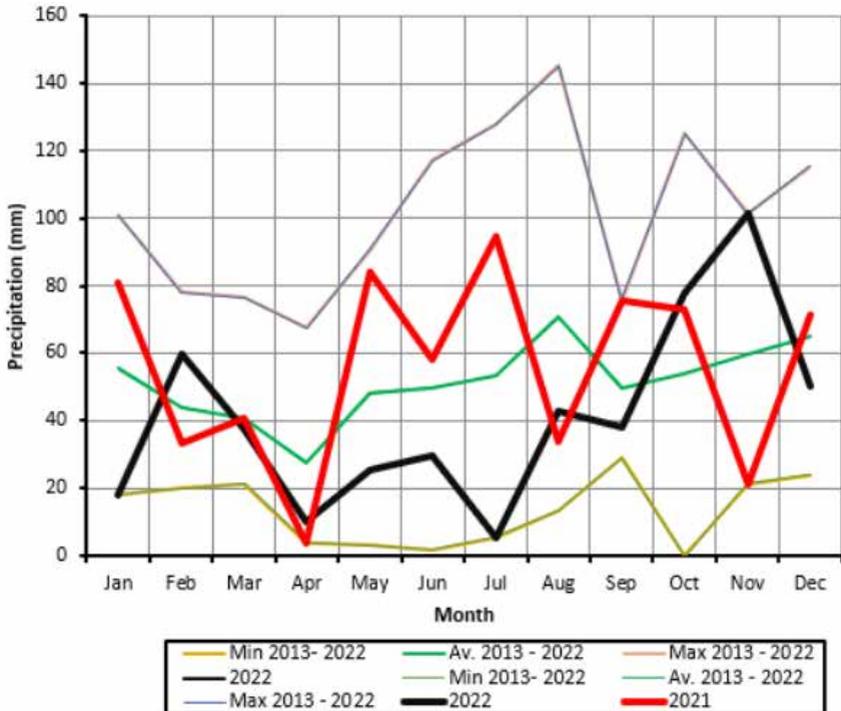
Highest: 12° C on 11th November

Lowest: 2° C on 21st November

Highest: 12° C on 19th December

Lowest: -8° C on 15th December

November/December Rainfall Measured at Lower Farm, Balsham



recorded by Anne Kiddy, Lower Farm, Balsham



Saturday; February 18th *NOTE THE DATE CHANGE !!*
Doors open 7pm and film at 7.30 in Balsham Church Institute

WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING (15) starring Daisy Edgar-Jones and Harris Dickinson in this released film based on the acclaimed best-selling book.

From the best-selling novel comes a captivating mystery telling the story of Kyo, an abandoned girl who grows up in the marshlands of North Carolina isolated from her community of Barkley Cove. When a young man with whom she has made a friendship is found dead she is suspected by the community but as the story unfolds more secrets of that marshland are laid bare.

A must see movie acclaimed by the critics !

***Guest visitors £3/ ni and Annual membership just £12 for adults
Dave's bar will be open for pre-show drinks and nibbles as normal***

Advance notice for our March evening which will be the recently released musical sequel film.

'Fisherman's Friends - One and All' (12)

follow the celebrity singers as friendships are put to test!

Saturday March 4th 2023

Doors open 7.00pm and film at 7.30 in Balsham Church Institute