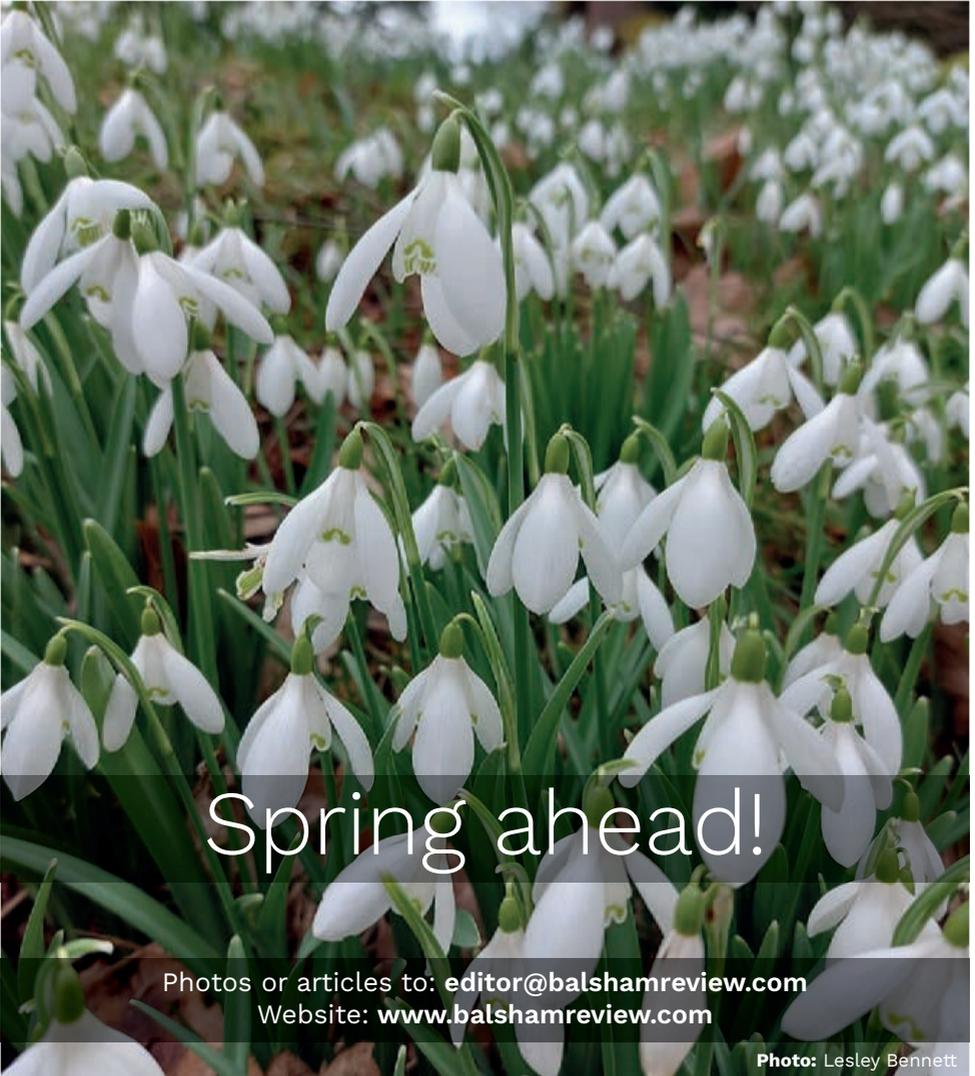




BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 645

MARCH 2023



Spring ahead!

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

Photo: Lesley Bennett



A cast of 67 Linton Village College students, supported by a tech team of 6, performed in 'High School Musical' (full story on page 18).



Photo: Lesley Bennett

A wintry sun - looking towards Linton from Yole Farm.



Photos: Richard Pargeter



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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:

FRIDAY,
MARCH 17TH 2023

*Copy should be submitted where possible to
editor@balshamreview.com
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, Helen Hatfield and Gill Watters.

Chairman: Helen Hatfield,
01223 892961

Main editor: Gill Parry Brown
01223 893012

Treasurer: Gill Clarke
01223 894034

Contact: Gill Parry Brown
01223 893012

This month's photographers:

Richard Pargeter, Dave Arnold and Lesley Bennett.



Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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

Editorial

I don't think I am the only person who has had computer problems lately, partly due to updates from 'the ether', and also other difficulties. Thank you to those of you who sent in your contributions to the Review to our short-term address, but all is now back to normal, and our usual address - editor@balshamreview.com - is now working properly. Perhaps because of this some of you refrained from sending in letters or photographs, we have had very few this month. Please send in what you can, letters, articles, photos, or even ideas that we can write about for you. We have had some verbal and written comments about the new format, and you seem to be pleased with the change. We are!

Coronation weekend: It is not long now until the Coronation in early May. Most of the population won't be able to remember a coronation, but my memories are of everyone excited, (partly by seeing television for almost the first time) and of getting together, either families, or streets, and eating together, special food, (just after rationing finally ended), games and races, and fancy dress. So what about this occasion? What will we do to make it a special memory for the people of Balsham, especially the children? The official plans recommend that there will be a 'Big Lunch' on Sunday and 'volunteering to bring communities together' on Monday. There is a

suggestion that we should have a giant picnic on the rec. but on which day, and lunch or tea-time, and does it need organizing, and if yes, by whom? Whenever, it would need volunteer litter-pickers afterwards, access to the pavilion loos, first aid and several other additional ideas. However, does anyone have any other ideas that can be carried out in the village for the whole community? **Any ideas, any offers, any volunteers?** You could let the Review know, and/or contact the Parish Council, or put something on the village Facebook. Speed will be of the essence, time is going by fast. For those of you who haven't heard lately about my chickens, I have six hens and a handsome cockerel. They have been well protected from the foxes (the only good thing about the bird flu restrictions) and I collected five eggs from them yesterday! Spring has already sprung for them. By the time you read this I hope to have one new knee, at last. So that I don't fall over her when I am less steady on my feet when I come home, Lizzie has gone on her holidays to stay with my sister-in-law (and brother) and reports say that she is enjoying herself in Suffolk. I must say I miss the company in the house, but not the muddy pawmarks after the rain we have had this week. But we did need the rain.

Gill Parry Brown

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

THE 'NEW' REVIEW:

The new cover layout and unifying font in the main body of the magazine make a huge and welcome difference. It's a joy to see colour co-ordination from photo to text on the cover, and what a lovely photo you chose to usher in the new look. As to the new font, it draws the whole magazine together and makes it much easier to read.

Five gold stars for this.

Michelle Gibson

THE 'NEW' REVIEW:

Mrs Judy Neale and I like your New Look Review. It is much easier for us poor-eyesighted folk to keep up to date.

Thank you.

Peter Neale

Balsham March Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
1st Wednesday	Garden Club, 7.30pm	Church Institute
3rd Friday	Community Café, 10.00—12.00pm	Mays Ave Hall
4th Saturday	Picture House 'Fisherman's Friends One and All' 7.30pm	Church Institute
14th Tuesday	Community Café, 10—12.00pm	Church Institute
14th Tuesday	WI, 7.30pm	Pavilion
19th Sunday	Mothering Sunday	
20th Monday	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm	Pavilion
21st Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Society, 7.30pm	Linton Village Hall
31st Friday	Community Café	Mays Ave Hall
April 1st Saturday	Picture House 'The Banshees of Inisherin' 7 for 7.30	Church Institute

Community Cafés

The Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme's Community Café in the Balsham Church Institute will take place at 10:00 to 12:00 on **Tuesdays:** 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:** 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**

Parish Nursing Service

In 2015 the Granta Vale Churches launched this service for an initial three-year trial period. Eight years later and after three outstanding nurses; Teresa, Claire and Kim, I have to tell you that the service will be closing from the end of February 2023. Although of course I make this announcement with some sadness I am also immensely proud of what it has been possible to achieve during the time the service has operated, both in terms of providing support to individuals and their families but also in helping to support and develop caring communities within our villages.

As some of you will know Kim, our Parish Nurse, is retiring and it has not been possible to recruit a suitable replacement. Accordingly, the Parish Nurse Management Group and the Churches have

decided to celebrate what has been achieved and end the service. We are however actively exploring other options by which we can continue to support our communities.

Kim has discussed with all existing patients arrangements for their future care; should you have any concerns regarding a health matter may I please encourage you to contact Granta Medical Practice. Should you wish to discuss a spiritual matter please feel free to contact any member of the Ministry Team.

May I, on behalf of the Management Group, please offer my sincere thanks to all who have supported the Parish Nursing Service in any way over the past eight years.

Keith Day



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	revdbenbrady@btinternet.com
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

It is good to be back in the parishes after six months sabbatical when I was not allowed to take services! During my time off I have reflected on the past and how I might go forward in the future. The realisation that my time needs to be used wisely was a frequent thought. In looking back I saw how God has worked through me in amazing ways to reach out to many different people. At the heart of this was showing God's love for each of us. Bishop Stephen recently spoke of 'time as love', whether to help someone or pause to be quiet, and know that whatever you do it is a gift.

This gift for me was coming back to the congregations within our benefice, knowing they were my family and realising how much I had missed them. Catching up with their stories, celebrating good news and mourning those we have lost. The future then for me will be finding the space to notice God's creation and pray for our fractured world.

Noticing the changes in the season is always a good thing to do. Spring is beginning to take shape with more daylight in the evenings and witnessing new life in the bulbs that are growing in our gardens. My favourites have always been

snowdrops, with petals moving gently in the breeze.

As you enjoy our countryside maybe you will experience a very special moment, like R.S Thomas did. He was a Welsh priest and poet, who wrote the poem *The Bright Field* to describe a shining of grace, beauty, inspiration and epiphany — where we fleetingly encounter the divine or feel a deep connection to the universe. We need to be alert.

I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the pearl
of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it. I realize now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying

on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

As you read this article we will have already moved into the period of Lent, but in the lead up to Easter Day may we be open to those special moments that are so fleeting but also very uplifting.

Rev. Kathy Bishop

February Services	9:30am	11:00am
5th		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Hannah Threlfall</i>
12th	Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion Little Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion Balsham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>
19th <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship Great Abington <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>
26th	Holy Communion West Wrattling <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> Morning Worship Balsham <i>Hannah Threlfall</i>



Help and Support When You Need It

To continue our series of articles about support available, this month we're highlighting some of the support that can be available from the council for people who have some form of physical or mental impairment.

Council Tax discounts

1 Severe Mental Impairment

There are two main criteria:

Someone in the household has a Severe Mental Impairment which is defined as '*a severe impairment of intelligence and social functioning that appears to be permanent*'. This can come from dementia, profound learning difficulties, brain injuries, severe strokes and more.

You/they are receiving one of a number of qualifying benefits. This can include (but isn't limited to) means-tested and non-means-tested benefits such as attendance allowance, disability living allowance, personal independence payment, some parts of universal credit and severe disablement allowance.

The size of the discount depends on the make-up of the household and it may be backdated

2 Disabled Band Reduction Scheme

You may be eligible for this scheme if you live in a larger property than you would otherwise need,

purely because you or another occupant is disabled.

If you qualify, your bill will be reduced to the next lowest Council Tax band. For example, if your property is in Band D, you'll pay the Band C rate. If your home is already in the lowest band (Band A), you'll get a 17% discount on your Council Tax bill instead.

Visiting Support Service

South Cambridgeshire District Council offers a visiting support service to all residents over the age of 65 (or under 65 if you're in sheltered accommodation). That means any resident in the South Cambridgeshire area - not just those in council housing.

The team offers free help with:

Finances (*eg setting up payment plans, applying for benefits, sorting out debt*)

Health (*eg access to medical care, help with medicines and personal care*)

Loneliness (*eg help to get out more and find activities you'd like to do*)

It's surprising how much they cover. If you want to find out more have a look on the District Council website or ring **01954 713000**

It's also well worth while checking out the other support that the council offers. For example, they may provide an occupational therapist to

assess what simple safety changes can be made to a home, such as grab rails. They also have grants (eg Disabled Facilities Grant) to help pay for adaptations.

For more information on the above see www.gov.uk

If you come to the community cafe

which is held at the Balsham Institute once a month we have leaflets about some of the council services available and may be able to give you more information. See the separate notices in the Review and posters in the Post Office to find out when the next cafe is.

Balsham Mothers' Union

This branch, which was formed at the end of the nineteenth century (in 1896), is still going – we are an elderly group of 12 members of whom 8 - 10 attend our meetings which take place in members' houses.

The programme for 2023 is being finalised with some meetings in Balsham with a speaker, some meetings just for tea and chat. Otherwise there are invitations to join other branches – there are only four branches in the Granta Deanery namely Linton, Sawston, Stapleford and ourselves. There is

the annual Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union Garden Party in the Bishop of Ely's garden in July. We do not meet in January or August. Ely MU are linked with 5 dioceses mainly in Africa and one in India and between 10-12 December all the dioceses are prayed for by the 4 million members of the Worldwide Mothers' Union (which was founded 1876). There are some good photos of MU members of Balsham in the 1920s with all the members in hats of course!



District & County Councillor's Report

FEBRUARY 2023

A1307 Update

The upgrades to the A1307 are moving forward at some pace now. The Greater Cambridge Partnership (the body implementing these schemes) are now in the final phases of making the changes to 'our' section of the road, between Haverhill and the A11. The next phases that are being constructed are:

- 1** Completing the improved footpath between Pilgrims (*previously Dalehead Foods*) and Hildersham. This work includes the removal of the eastbound layby as that is needed to accommodate the widened path. This work has started now and will take a few months to complete.
- 2** The installation of a new roundabout at the Bartlow Road, Linton junction of the A1307. This is a relatively major piece of infrastructure and will take at least 9 months to complete. There will be minimal disruption whilst the work is happening as the plan is to construct a temporary carriageway around the construction site so that the A1307 will very rarely need to fully close.

Budgets & Council Tax

February is always budget setting time for local authorities. This is where they set out the areas of the

council that they will be spending/ allocating their budgets. It is also when they can choose to raise council tax to help pay for the services that they have to provide.

County Council – the County Council will be implementing a 4.99% increase on council tax. This is split as 2% increase on Adult Social Care and 2.99% on the Basic Council Tax rate. This equates to £73 per year for a band D rated property.

District Council – SCDC will be implementing an additional £5 per year on band D properties, which equates to circa a 3.5% rise.

There are also other precept setting authorities in Cambridgeshire. They are, at time of writing, proposing the following increases:

Fire Authority - £4.95 per annum increase for band D properties

Police & Crime Commissioner – 5.8% increase which equates to 29p per week on a band D property.

Combined Authority – This is a brand new tax that is being introduced which will exclusively help to support bus services in Cambridgeshire. The proposal is £12 per year for band D properties.

Weston Colville Warm Hub
Cambridgeshire ACRE and South Cambs District Council are working with communities all across the

district to open Warm Hubs to help people struggling with fuel cost or just wanting an opportunity to get together. There are now 20 up and running with another 7 on the way. Weston Colville has opened its first Warm Hub, which is open:

Reading Room:

Monday - Friday, 11am – 5pm

Refugees

The District Council has received Government funding to buy an additional 30 houses, that are to be used to house Ukrainian and Afghan

refugees. It is hoped to have them in place by the end of the year. In the longer run, when no longer required for this purpose, the houses will become part of the social housing stock.

Contact Information

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Care Together

Care Together is a programme led by Cambridgeshire County Council in collaboration with our partners and local communities. The aim is to help more older people to remain living independently and happily in their own home for longer. It will change the way care and support for older people in the community is commissioned and delivered.

To ensure that it is helpful for you, we would like your participation in answering an online questionnaire.

(<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/36MHL6/>)

uk/s/36MHL6/

If you do not have access to the internet, please call **01954 286 002** or **07771 545 674** Monday – Friday between 9am – 2pm to request a paper copy or if you prefer to

answer the questions over the telephone instead of on paper or online. Please leave a contact number if asked to do so. Outside these hours paper copies can be requested via the email **care.**

together@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

In some communities there will be central collection and return points for printed questionnaires, so please check with your local library or Parish Council office for this option.

Leneva Nwachukwu

COMMISSIONER, PEOPLE SERVICES,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO ACCESS THE
QUESTIONNAIRE ON
A SMARTPHONE

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/care-together-a-proposed-2.9m-catalyst-for-a-fairer-and-more-caring-cambridgeshire

Balsham Gardening Club

'Born To Be A Gardener' was the talk given by Sharka Baxter for our first meeting of 2023.

Sharka told us that she was born in the Czech Republic close to the border of Slovakia and her childhood was spent mostly with her grandma helping with the garden, growing their own vegetables, keeping chickens and rabbits. They preserved everything they grew, bottling, preserving, making chutney and jams. It was the 'good life' in every sense of the word. Her jobs included collecting potatoes with a friend and looking for caterpillars in vegetables.

When she came to England with her husband and children, her aim was to get her children closer to nature and share their garden with wildlife and grow wildflowers. As her interest in horticulture continued to grow, in 2008 Sharka took an RHS course in horticulture and then became a volunteer at Wimpole Hall gardens to increase her knowledge and gain more skills. She enjoyed engaging with the visitors. She started changing her own garden and added a pond. Friends began to ask for help with their gardens, creating borders and making garden plans. This led to Sharka taking a gardening design course. She took a job at Scotsdales garden centre and enjoyed potting up plants and then creating displays for Mother's

Day for example.

With her children now adults, she made a new front garden for a friend's mother and this led to her starting her own garden design company, called 'Utopian Gardens'. She was asked by a company selling patio black spot cleaners to make a small border for a stand at Chelsea. It was interesting for our members to see the slides of the development of the garden and stand. Sharka is a very talented and engaging lady. She now plans to change her company name to 'The Dancing Gardener.' Her aim is always to work with her clients and to direct, encourage, support, inspire, guide and nurture them.

Harold's tips for March:

- Do not be in a hurry to sow seeds.
- Chit potatoes in old egg boxes.
- Plant shallots in a sheltered spot.
- Prune Roses
- Cut down grasses
- Keep off the ground if wet.

The Garden Club had a spur of the moment trip to Chippenham Park, near Newmarket, on a sunny day in February. Our aim was to see the snowdrops and aconites which were flowering freely especially in the woodland area. Many of us also had a very good lunch, chosen from soup, hot dogs (from their own pork) and super cakes! Some great photos were taken too!



Photos: Dave Arnold



A trip in the February sun to see the snowdrops & acconites at Chippenham Park.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday March 1st at 7:30pm in the Church Institute

‘Plants to Drugs’
Dr Gwenda Kyd

ALL WELCOME | REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE

The Meadow School

This may have been one of the shortest half terms so far, but we have fitted an awful lot into it! We are now more than half way through the academic year- time really is flying!

Learning Themes:

Here is a selection of some of the work the children have created so far in their new Learning topics for the Spring Term:



In the **Infants**, their artist of the month is Giuseppe Arcimboldo. He is famous for creating portraits from fruit and vegetables. Year 1 created their own Giuseppe Arcimboldo inspired portraits.



In Science, **Year 3/4** have been looking at the impact of liquids on tooth enamel. They put eggs in different liquids and left them for the week. Then they unveiled their eggs to see what the different liquids had done to the eggshell (similar to enamel on our teeth). What eggcellent findings!

In Gymnastics, **Year 5/6**, pupils have made superb progress in performing handstands!



School Readers:

We are looking for volunteers to come in and hear children read! The children in school really benefit from and enjoy reading with adults in school. If you are able to

spare a couple of hours a week, please contact nbutcher@meadowprimary.org.

Music:

On the last afternoon of the half term, we had a visit from Linton Village College's Proper Classical Orchestra at a special assembly for the Meadow. They played two movements from Handel's Water Music Suite No.1, and were preceded by our two talented violinists, who both played their own solo pieces commandingly and with great musical skill. They were directed by our visiting violin teacher, Mr Partridge, who also teaches at LVC.



Nicky Butcher

DEPUTY HEAD, THE MEADOW SCHOOL, BALSHAM

Marsh Mail



LVC students were busily involved in lots of extra-curricular opportunities in February.

A cast of 67 students from all year groups, supported by a tech team of 6 students, performed in *'High School Musical'* at the start of the month. The plot of the Disney musical, based on 2006 film, is set in an American high school and encourages students to be individual and true to their own beliefs and interests. Feedback from the school community and members of the public was fantastic. The students were thrilled to receive a standing ovation on the final night.

Years 8-11 students were involved in the South East Cambridgeshire Schools Debate semi-final, debating *'This House believes that the UK voting age should be 16'*. MP Lucy Frazer was involved in judging the competition and was highly

impressed by the quality of the students' debating skills and their confident performances. The selected winners were Will in Year 10 and Ben in Year 11, who will represent LVC at the debating final held at the House of Commons in March.

Mental health has also been a focus at the College over the last month with a number of male-only forums taking place to discuss how provision can be best accessed by male members of the College community. Mental health support has developed to include self-referral to a member of the mental health and wellbeing team.

Lunchtime drop-in appointments with the College counsellor are also available. All male mental health forums will continue to take place once a half term.

Helena Marsh

HEADTEACHER LVC



Some of the cast from *'High School Musical'*



The debating contestants.



Photos: Larry Davies

A window on the north side of the church illuminated by the low winter light.



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Daffodils in the churchyard (Spring 2022).

Balsham Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting took place on 20th February, 2023 in Balsham Pavilion

Highways: The PC have held a meeting with CCC Highways and other Parishes and they were very concerned about the lack of finances for Highway repairs.

Prince Memorial: The PC has spoken to a lighting technician about the possibility of lighting the Prince Memorial on a timer.

Planning:

Proposal: 13 Nine Chimneys Lane: Demolition of porch, utility, garage and chimney. Single storey front side and rear extension with alterations to fenestrations and installation of roof lights.

Reference: 23/00001/CL2PD

PC Decision: No objections.

Proposal: 82 High Street: T1 reduce crown of laburnum tree by 1 metre all around.

Reference: 23/0163/TTCA

PC Decision: Approved

Proposal: 97 High Street: S73 application to vary condition 2 (Approved plans) and remove condition 8 (Boundary Treatment) of planning permission S/4176/19/VC (Variation and removal of conditions 2 (Approved plans), 3 (Materials), 4 (Traffic Management), 6 (Access), 14 (Contamination), 15 (Surface Water and foul water drainage) and 16 (Written scheme of investigation) pursuant to planning permission S/4477/17/FL) to allow for a 1.5m high brick wall on the front

boundary and to include details of other boundary treatment.

Reference: 23/00484/S73

PC Decision: The brick wall is too high and should only be 1.2m.

Proposal: Dotterell Hall Cambridge Road: Change of use to convert existing agricultural building to 3no dwellings.

Reference: 23/00360/PRIOR

PC Decision: Approved

Proposal: 5 Woodhall Lane: SCDC approved the dormer extension with rear facing windows.

Reference: 22/05185/HFUL

Cricket matches: The PC agreed to erect a sign near the adult gym equipment asking the public not to use it during matches for safety reasons.

Cleaning and re-lettering of the war memorial: The Diocese have agreed for the work to go ahead in principle and the faculty has been advertised.

Church Institute Lease: Advice has been received from the solicitor and the PC will discuss and make a decision at the next meeting

The next PARISH MEETING will take place on MONDAY 20th March, 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

Balsham WI

The theme for our February meeting was **'Show the Love'** which was very appropriate with it being Valentine's Day, although in this case it was all about self-love as we welcomed two very interesting speakers who are experts on looking after yourself. First up was Laura Hawksley of LifeMarks, who specialises in Biodynamic Massage and Scar Work. Laura explained how scars from trauma and surgery can cause stiffness and pain after time and how light touch massage can go deep into the cells to promote relief no matter how old the scar is. She demonstrated this on one of our members who had a scar on their hand following an accident some time ago and they could certainly feel a difference after.

Next, we had **'Bodyshop at Home'** consultant Charli, who lives in Balsham and had brought along a selection of products for us to sample. She also gave us an interesting talk on how Bodyshop founder the late Dame Anita Roddick built her ethical beauty business from humble beginnings over 40 years ago and her charity

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

work helping the children of the Romanian orphanage crisis in the 1990s. We had a fun quiz and plenty of time to

sample and order some of the lovely products. Charli is on Facebook under Beauty and the Beag – do look her up if you are a fan of the Bodyshop, she has promotions and offers happening regularly.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 14th March**

and we will be welcoming local bee keeper and expert Andrew Durham for a talk on the invasive Asian

Hornet. These non-native species pose a serious threat to our honeybees and are as invasive as Japanese Knotweed so this will be especially interesting for the gardeners among us.

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

Arthur Rank Hospice News

Sparkle at this year's Star Shine Night Walk!



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's flagship event Star Shine Night Walk is back again! Join in and make the streets of Cambridge glow green on Saturday 13 May. The 10km fundraising walk has long held a special place in the local community's heart, with many returning year after year to walk in memory of loved ones.

Starting and finishing at the Cambridge Rugby Union Football Club, in Grantchester. Road walkers can look forward to a celebratory and uplifting atmosphere during this accessible route around Cambridge.

Registration opens in March at www.arhc.org.uk/ssnw - where you

can also sign up to volunteer to make the iconic event a sparkling success.

Help us reach our 300-team target for Chariots of Fire



One of Cambridgeshire's largest charity events, Chariots of Fire, takes place on Sunday 19 March. More than 260 teams have already signed up and there is still time to get involved and help us reach our 300-team target.

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity is the event organiser HCR Hewitsons Charitable Trust's chosen partner. The event is set to raise **£71,000** to help fund the expansion of their Charity shops.

To enter a team, visit www.chariots-of-fire.co.uk before 5pm on 15 March

If you don't wish to enter, but would like to get involved, please come and watch the race and visit our pop-up shop or visit the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/campaign/chariotsoffire2022

Sarah Cawley

HEAD OF PR AND COMMUNICATIONS

Granta Medical Practices Update

Our Patient Participation Group (PPG) survey will go live 1st March 2023, and will remain open until 31st March 2023. Please find below the web link and QR code to take part.

For those of you that do not have access to a computer or mobile telephone, please call into any Granta surgery and pick up a paper copy.



www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KP86J9B

Sandra East

HEAD OF PATIENT SERVICES

The Black Bull



Rob's Dinner Party

Saturday 11th March

Rob's Special Set Menu Night

We are running a series of special set menu nights. This is where Rob designs a one-off set menu as if for a private dinner party.

Tables have to be limited for this sort of event.

Same menu for all.

7:30pm for 8pm sit down.

Mothering Sunday

19th March

Now open for bookings:

11:45am - 7:30pm

This is always our busiest day of the year. We extend our service times and are very particular about

bookings numbers and timings so that we can ensure a great day for everyone. We would be delighted to fit you in, so please do book ahead if of interest as available times get restricted quickly.

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

New: Mid-week Light Lunch Menu

We know you don't always want to go full out. Sometimes you just want a quick escape and then back to the programme.

So now you can pop in for a quickie and get on your way without losing your day or blowing your weekly treats allowance!

Best wishes from all of us.

Alex, Rob, Liz & the teams

01223 893 844

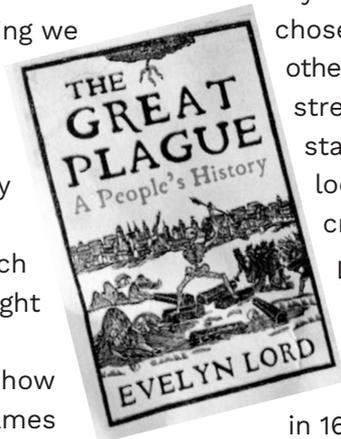
info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk

Linton & District Historical Society

The Great Plague

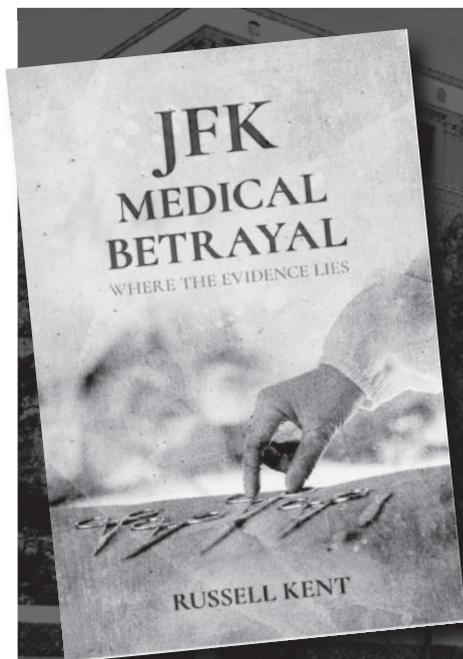
When Death Came to Cambridge 1665

At the February meeting we were treated to a fascinating evening with Evelyn Lord who read from her recently published and well researched book, which gives a wonderful insight when plague reached Cambridge. Records show when it began, the names of the first cases, where



they lived and the occupations of the victims as it spread throughout the city. Some of the more wealthy chose to flee and but many others who lived in the crowded streets had no choice but to stay in their homes, behind locked doors with a red cross painted on the doors.

Did the plague reach this area? A brief look at the Balsham burial records for 1665-1667 shows that in 1665 there were 8 deaths, 1666 14 and 1667 it rose to 17.



NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 21st March 2023

We welcome Russell Kent to give us an insight into his book *JFK Medical Betrayal - Where the Evidence Lies* concerning the aftermath of the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

LINTON VILLAGE HALL,
COLES LANE, 7.30 p.m.
Refreshments and Raffle

Visitors and new members always welcome

Balsham Bowls Club 2023

Phil Elliott joined the Committee as Chairman at the October AGM to help the President and team in coordinating and driving the Club forward.

There is no bowling yet but it is still a busy time for the club preparing for the 2023 season.

Teams are working on the green, the hedging, equipment, new or existing, and some re-siting.

They are also establishing fixtures, some new, in various leagues and matches, and then producing a helpful fixture and information booklet; and also fine-tuning the website to match up.

I hope the following might be interesting!

Some snippets of ***“History of Flat Green Lawn Bowls”***

The game of bowls in one of its various forms can be traced back to Ancient Egypt 5000BC.

We clearly like rolling throwing and hitting other objects with a rounded object, usually a ball for competition, sport or fun!

The oldest bowling green still played on in England is apparently in Southampton where records show it has been in operation since 1299AD

History suggests it's an inspirational game as on July 18th

1588 Sir Francis Drake apparently carried on playing bowls, fine tuning his strategy and tactics, to then “thrash the Spaniards” when he heard about their Armada approaching!

Bowls in various forms has continued since those days and experienced a particular revival in the mid-19th century especially in Scotland. The Scots developed flat greens and drew up rules that remain largely unchanged. The invention of the lawn mower around that time was a big help!!

National and International Associations were being formed in the 1800's and now there are 46 countries across 6 continents that are members of the WBF (World Bowling Federation).

Around that time also, along came the Scotsman, Thomas Taylor, who invented and patented a machine for shaping bowls accurately. His company is still manufacturing bowls some 225yrs later, and is probably the oldest and most experienced in the world!!

They also introduced the world's first testing table for bias of bowls.

Originally bowls were made of stone, but after 1509 the special hard wood *lignum-vitae* was imported from the West Indies and was then used, chiselled by hand,

to make them. In 1931 the first successful resin compound bowls were produced.

1999 the laws of the sport permitted coloured bowls, and Taylors were the first to produce bowls using a melamine crystal compound that is stable in ultra violet light. The manufacture of black bowls still uses the original resin base.

The bowls in use today go through many technical and intricate steps before they are ready for sale.

There is a video “Made in Britain Taylor Bowls” which is absolutely fascinating. There is also a Taylor Bowls Flagship Visitors Centre in Glasgow with more to show there.

Bob Stigwood

The Bell Inn

Due to what we believe to be a well-deserved and long-awaited holiday, our kitchen will be closed from Wednesday 1st March, reopening on Tuesday 14th. During this period the pub will be open Mon - Thu 3.00pm - 10.30pm, Fri - Sat 12.00pm - 11.00pm, and Sun 12.00pm - 10.30pm. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. Happy Kebab will continue as normal on Monday evenings, and Lol's Pizza van will be at The Bell Inn on Saturday 4th March from 5pm - 8pm. As usual, you are welcome to eat your kebab or pizza in the pub, with a drink from the bar. We have already taken bookings for Mother's Day, but still have some tables available at time of writing this, please book early to avoid

disappointment.

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

Our regular Lunch Club is Wednesday 29th which is bookings and pre orders only.

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.

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

Linton Library News

We are pleased to welcome Melanie Symonds as the new Library Assistant to replace Lindsay. Do call in and say hello!

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, 11.15 – 12.15am (*please note the new time*). 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 Tuesday 7th and 21st. Bring along your latest craft project.

Rhyme and Storytime will be on Tuesday 14th and 28th at 10.30 – 11am.

We will have a **Games Afternoon**

(for adults) on Tuesday 14th, 2 – 4pm. Try your hand at Rummikub or Five Crowns. Beginners welcome. **Daylight Readers**, our Book Club, meets on Friday 17th.

Ask at the library if you are interested in joining.

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.

Ann King & Melanie Symonds

COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

Opening hours

Tuesday 10am-5pm

Wednesday 4-7pm

Thursday 2-5pm

Friday 10am-5pm

Saturday 10am-1pm

Customer Services

(regular office hours):

0345 045 522

Charles Manning Jaggard 1856—1940

*Some time ago **Jan Ellam** had a message from a local historian, **Pam Free**, from St Tudy, a small village in Cornwall, not far from Padstow and Tintagel. Charles Manning Jaggard was the subject of the email, and Pam was enquiring about his background as he had been born in Balsham. Jan and Pam each investigated his life and this is a combination of their discoveries.*

Charles was born in Balsham where his parents were the school master and school mistress at Balsham School which was at that time probably in the buildings, now vestries, attached to the north of the church. By 1871 when he was 15, Charles was teaching, presumably in the new building, now 'The Old School', which was opened in 1863. He married Amelia (in Coventry) in 1880 and in 1881 was living in 4 Church Lane, the left hand of a pair of cottages, now a single dwelling known as Long Thatch.

However by 1882 Charles and Amelia had moved to Colerne in Somerset. While there Charles became known as a very talented batsman and formidable batsman with Bath Cricket Club, and newspapers of the time record that he bowled W G Grace out for 99! Sadly within the next two years Amelia and the two

babies they had all died and Charles' life seems to have changed.

In 1886 he was in the Navy, employed as a schoolmaster moving around, serving on Impregnable, Ganges, Monarch, Impregnable again, and finally Ganges. His character was noted as 'good' at the beginning of his service, but deteriorated to 'indifferent', and finally 'objectionable'. He was discharged from the Navy 31.12.93.

In 1900 Charles became the first Headmaster of St Tudy school and married Fanny Hocken from St Tudy, but in Marylebone, London. She later left him, taking their daughter Eliza back to Cornwall, where Fanny died in 1911. Between 1908 and 1916 he spent much time in and out of workhouses, often ill, sometimes with jaundice (no NHS to help), but where he seems to have used his learning in the work he did in them.

In 1916 Charles married again, this time Susan Cumber, née Berry, and also became Senior Master of St Michael's School in Sevenoaks. There he found his niche and became a much loved and respected teacher, retiring in 1932. He died in 1940 after a long and very varied and full life.

Gill Parry Brown

Balsham Football Club

RESULTS

DATE	HOME	AWAY	SCORE	RES
28 Jan	Comberton Utd Res	Balsham (Cup)	3-2	L
4 Feb	Balsham	Thaxted Rangers Res	5-0	W
11 Feb	Wilbrahams)	Balsham	5-0	L
18 Feb	Balsham	Papworth Res	3-2	W

FIXTURES

DATE	TIME	HOME	AWAY	VENUE
25 Feb	2.00pm	Papworth Res	Balsham	Papworth Everard
4 Mar	3.00pm	Sawston Lightning	Balsham	Lynton Way Rec
11 Mar	3.00pm	Ashdon Utd Sat 1st	Balsham	Ashdon Rec
18 Mar	3.00pm	Balsham	Duxford Utd 1st	Balsham Rec
25 Mar	3.00pm	Balsham	Barrington Res	Balsham Rec
1 Apr	3.00pm	Thaxted Rangers Res	Balsham	Saffron Walden County High



Bin Collections March

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
MARCH 6 TH	✓		
MARCH 13 TH		✓	✓
MARCH 20 TH	✓		
MARCH 27 TH		✓	✓

East Anglian Air Ambulance



The budget to cover operations, on the ground and in the air, for 2023 is around **£17.5m!** Not a small figure toward the raising of which many supporters, of most ages and most walks of life, give of their time, expertise and resources - people like YOU. Whatever your station in life, please do contact EAAA to join The Team who enjoy being a part of something good, indeed, something exceptional. Find out about our personal challenges - **Trek 24** and **Only The Brave** (we are busy working on new events and dates for 2023) - which together raised over **£170,000!** Last year, 'Gifts in Wills' funded more than one in four of our missions whilst our weekly lottery covered around 50% of our costs! So, wherever you are reading this,

East Anglian Air Ambulance is equipped, expertly manned and ready to turn out whatever the weather to help you in your hour of need! Please do help us to maintain, and improve, our service to all who might need it.

To join our lottery, suggest ideas for fundraising or offer to help, please contact EAAA on **03450 66 9999** or via **info@eaaa.org.uk**

Oh, and when you come across one of our red collection boxes (even if you are paying by card) please dig around for a cash contribution. Thank you, again, for supporting East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Michael White
info@eaaa.org.uk

Cambridge Past, Present and Future



Earlier this month, on a freezing foggy day we welcomed some new inhabitants to Wandlebury Country Park! A herd of eight Belted Galloway cattle has joined the existing three Highland cattle. They have a distinctive black and white striped coat, a bit like a humbug sweet.

Ed Wombwell is the Estate Manager of Cambridge Past, Present & Future, the local charity which owns Wandlebury Country Park, and he is delighted with the new arrivals, *“We have some beautiful wildflower meadows in the park and the cows help to keep the grasses down, which benefits the flowers. Grazing these cows will help to increase the amount of nature in the park. We don’t have any barns, so our animals are outside all-year, which is why we have chosen this hardy Scottish breed. They are also really*

attractive animals and we hope that visitors to the park will enjoy seeing them.”

Woodland & Wildlife Walk at Wandlebury

Wednesday 22 March 10-12pm

C A M B R I D G E
P A S T, P R E S E N T
& F U T U R E

A guided walk with our wardens to learn about and enjoy the woods and local wildlife. Free, donations welcome.

Meet at car park noticeboard.

Volunteer Work Party at Wandlebury

Help us care for green spaces and their wildlife - get active, meet others and enjoy learning.

All instruction, equipment and tools provided. Wear tough clothes and footwear and bring packed lunch. No need to book, just turn up.

Meet at car park noticeboard.

Tuesday 14 Mar, 10.30am-1pm

Tuesday 28 Mar, 10.30am-1pm



Balsham Weather January 2023



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

recorded by Peter Neale, Nine Chimneys Lane.

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 13° C on 4th January

Lowest: 1° C on 17th January

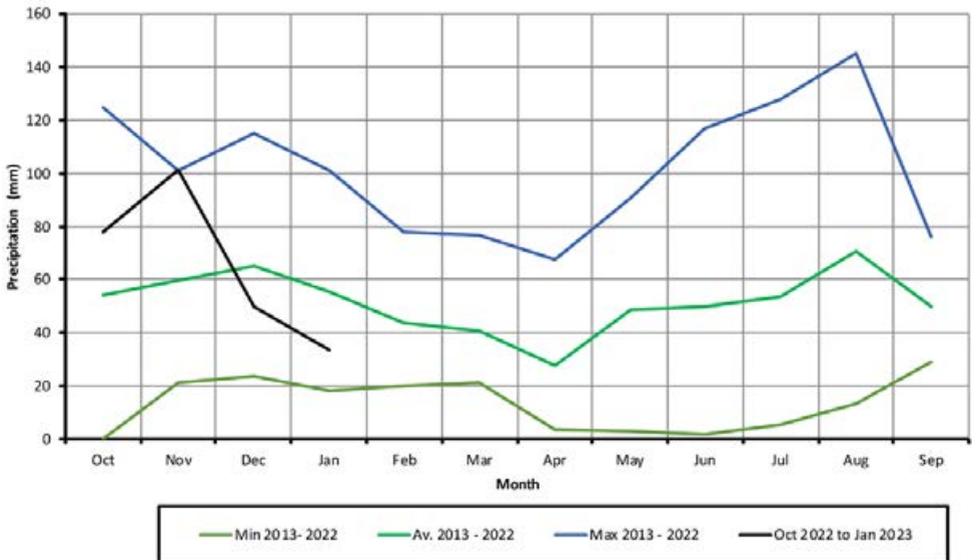
Night time temperatures

Highest: 18° C on 5th January

Lowest: -5° C on 17th January

January Rainfall Measured at Lower Farm, Balsham

Total January Rainfall: 33.6mm / 1.32"



recorded by Anne Kiddy, Lower Farm, Balsham



FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS: ONE AND ALL



Saturday March 4th

Doors open 7pm and film at 7.30 in Balsham Church Institute

Fisherman's Friends One and All (12)

The sequel to the 2013 hit film. Following the unexpected success of the band's debut album "No Hoppers, Jokers and Rogues", we re-join them almost a year later, struggling with the pressures, pitfalls and temptations of their newfound fame, second album syndrome, and performing on the pyramid stage at Glastonbury.

***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 April evening which will be the recently released and widely acclaimed film:

The Banshees Of Inisherin (15)
starring Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson

Saturday April 1st 2023

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