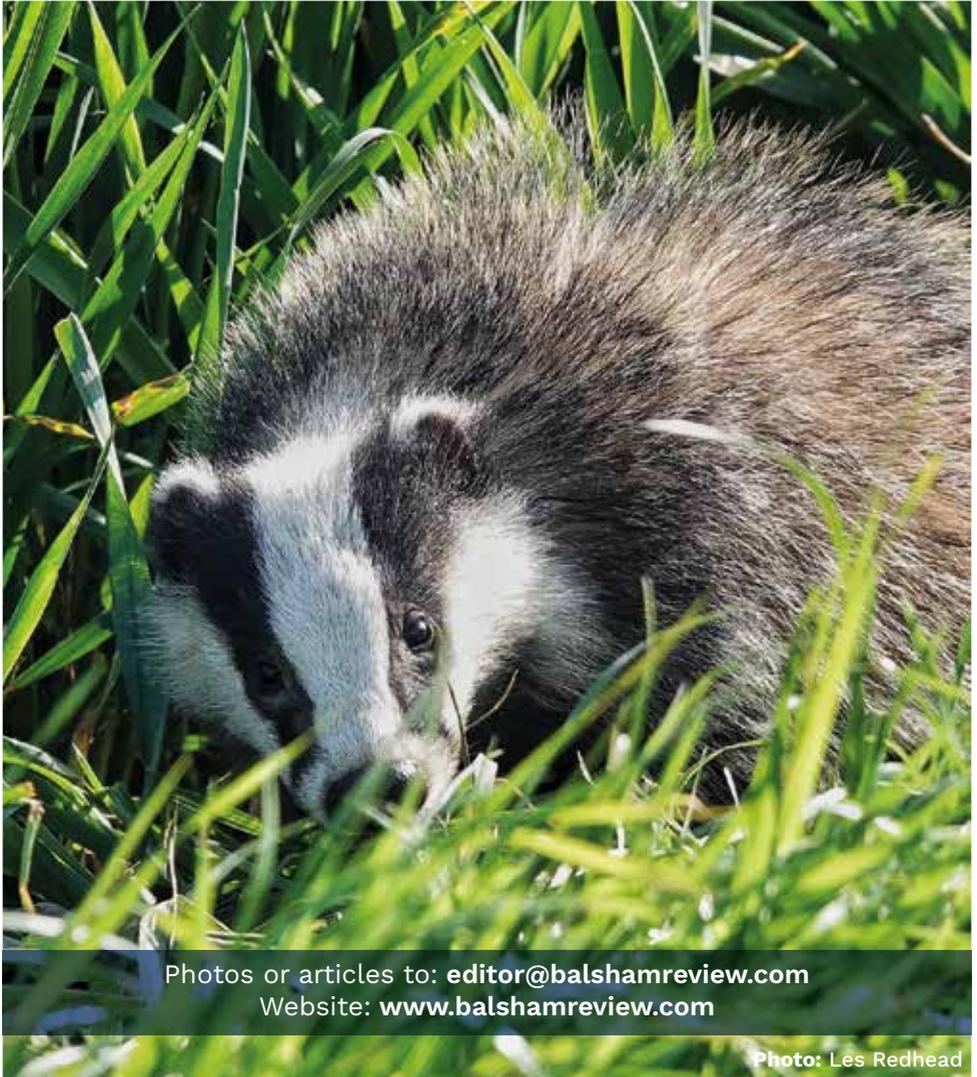




# BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 648

JUNE 2023



Photos or articles to: [editor@balshamreview.com](mailto:editor@balshamreview.com)  
Website: [www.balshamreview.com](http://www.balshamreview.com)

Photo: Les Redhead



Photos: Lesley Bennett

Participants in the guided walk in Balsham Wood learning about Ash Dieback



Photos: Henryk Pisarski

A selection of flora found on the day in Balsham Wood



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Pear - with an unusual pollinator



Photo: Richard Pargeter

California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)

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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:**

THURSDAY,  
JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 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**

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### **This month's visual contributors:**

*Les Redhead, Richard Pargeter,  
Lesley Bennett & Henryk Pisarski.*



## **Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme**

Email [balshamgns@gmail.com](mailto:balshamgns@gmail.com)  
or phone or text **07508 430057**

# Editorial

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This past month of May has given us great opportunities for our village community spirit. As you will see from the pictures in the magazine many of our Lanes and Closes had get-togethers to celebrate the coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla, while the school had special picnics and the WI celebrated too. And the GREAT Big Balsham Sale! Most people I have met have been delighted with their buys and sales, and people seem to have come from all around to find treasures. For some who came it made a great introduction to a village they hadn't visited before.

At last we are having a few days of sunshine and warmth after all the rain we have had in the spring. However we mustn't complain, as the rain was much needed after the dryness of last year. The trees and bulbs gave us a wonderful show, and the prospects of fruit in the autumn could be promising. Unfortunately it looks as if the late frosts came at just the wrong time for my plums and pears, but even though it is early the apples look as if they may be laden. As the seasons have been very late this year, maybe the June drop won't come until



July, and only then will we know what we may have at harvest time. There must be several birds' nests around the gardens here as I am seeing many with beaks full of grubs and other delights for young chicks. I hope the young will manage to fledge without being lost to predators. This really isn't the time to cut back shrubs and hedges, as the birds will desert a nest of eggs or young if they are disturbed.

There are also ground nesting birds with nests now, so please keep to paths when out walking, and control dogs, which love to bounce around in long grass.

The duckling situation this year is dire. I have only two that have survived so far, as they are beginning to replace the down with feathers. As there are now seven solitary drakes sitting around, I assume the ducks are having another try. I suspect foxes do quite well feeding on ducklings. I lost two hens a few weeks ago, but so far haven't been troubled again, thank goodness.

My big bugbear in the garden at the moment is 'Munchjacs' which are devastating the flowers and buds.

Ideas for help, please.

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**Gill Parry Brown**

EDITOR, BALSHAM REVIEW

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# 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

### IT RECYCLING

Our next collection of unwanted, worn out, or broken IT equipment for recycling will be made in late June. Please leave any donations in or on the wooden box marked “deliveries” next to the oil tank in our sideway at 67 High Street, Balsham, before the afternoon of Saturday 24th June.

“IT” means computers as in laptops, towers, tablets and mobile phones, and printers, monitors, scanners, hard drives, keyboards and mice.

**Neil Dunlop**

### BE CONSIDERATE!

We have been informed that dog poo-bags have been thrown over the gate to the electricity sub-station in the High Street, opposite the Black Bull. The only people who have access to clear up this unpleasant mess are the electricity workers. Please refrain from this disgusting habit. There are several bins around the village, and no one has to carry a bag far to reach one, wherever they are with their dog.

**Anonymous**

### HOSPITAL TRANSPORT SCHEME

I recently requested hospital transport for an appointment at Addenbrookes Hospital, because I’m unable to walk or stand and need to be transported in a wheelchair. There is usually a telephone number to ring for transport on the appointment letter. When we rang the number, they were very, very helpful, booked me in and gave me a reference number.

On the day of the appointment I had a telephone call to say the ambulance would be here in about 30 minutes and it arrived on time.

It is useful to book for the return journey at the same time and you will get another reference number which you need to take with you. Tell the reception desk when you get there that you are using hospital transport for your return and they will ensure it all works.

I found the transport scheme very helpful and would recommend ringing to ask if you are eligible for hospital transport.

**Anonymous villager**

# From the Church

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Summer is here! For many, despite the variable British climate, that means more time outside, enjoying hopefully warmer weather and the beauty of the countryside which surrounds us. I especially enjoy walks between our villages and bike rides with my family at this time of year, when we often try and bring some snacks with us or stop at a local pub for refreshment! If you find yourself on a walk or ride through our villages, do remember that our church buildings are always open during the day for any passer-by.

There is something about being outdoors and appreciating the wonder of creation which may naturally lead to praise and thanksgiving. This is echoed in the Bible in psalm 19: *'The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands'* and in these words of the prophet Isaiah: *'the whole earth is full of his glory'*. These inspiring words remind us that, as the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins put it: *'the world is charged with the grandeur of God'*. They may also give us a deeper sense of the sublime, and help us

to cherish the world around us.

With this in mind, this summer we plan to have an outdoor service once a month within our group of churches. Indeed, there are now an increasing number of churches around the country who do something similar. In some places it's called Forest Church or Walking Church; we have settled on calling it Outdoor Church! There will be the opportunity to walk, talk, listen to a reading, and be attentive to the beauty of the world around us, as well as giving thanks for the gift of creation. All are welcome to come along and please feel free to contact me if you'd like to find out more.

As we look forward to the beauty of summer and the great outdoors then, let's also find times to be attentive; to recognise the wonder and mystery of places, people and things. This in turn may help us to feel more fully human; to be grateful for simply being alive; and to share this joy with others.

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**Revd Iain McColl**

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## Outdoor Church

We are excited to announce that the first **Outdoor Church** of this summer will be taking place in Balsham on **Sunday 25th June**. Please meet at Balsham church at 11.00am, from where we will then

go on a short walk through the fields that are close to the church. The walk will take around 30/40 minutes and include short stops for readings and prayers. On our return to the church there will be

refreshments. If you would like to come to the church just for the

refreshments at 11.45am you would be very welcome.

<b>June Services</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>4th</b>		<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> Balsham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	
<b>11th</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> West Wickham <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> Balsham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> Little Abington <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> West Wrattling <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>
<b>18th</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> West Wrattling <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b> Balsham <i>Hannah Threlfall</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> Great Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>
<b>25th</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b> Hildersham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i> <b>Outdoor Church</b> Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> Little Abington <i>Rev Ben Brady</i> <i>Steven Wheeler</i> <i>(preaching)</i>

## Balsham June Diary

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT &amp; TIME</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
2nd Friday	Community Café, 10.00-12pm	Mays Avenue
3rd Saturday	Picture House, <b>'Empire of Light'</b> , 7.00 for 7.30pm	Church Institute
13th Tuesday	Community Café, 10.00-12pm	Church Institute
13th Tuesday	WI, 7.30pm	Maze
19th Monday	Parish Council, 7.30pm	Pavilion
25th Sunday	Outdoor Church, 11.00am	Meet at Church
July 1st	Picture House, <b>'Living'</b> , 7.00 for 7.30pm	Church Institute



# Church Services

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

Information about services in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham can be found on the Church Notice Board and on the website [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://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

<b>Rector:</b> Revd. Iain McColl	01223 890693	mccoll.iain@gmail.com
<b>Curate:</b> Revd. Ben Brady	01223 344920	revdbenbrady@btinternet.com
<b>Church Warden:</b> Nigel Clark,	01223 893043	n.clark5@btinternet.com
<b>Administrator:</b> Cazzy Walsh	01223 891443	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](http://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](mailto:prcook@talktalk.net)

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

# Balsham WI

Our meeting on 9 May was a celebration of the recent Coronation. Members made themselves a crown to wear whilst enjoying a buffet supper and taking part in a royal quiz. Everyone enjoyed sharing their stories of the weekend celebrations and some brought along memorabilia of



past coronations to show. We then had a reverse raffle and toasted the new King and Queen before joining in singing the National Anthem.

At our next meeting on **13 June** we have a visit to see the **Balsham Maze** arranged, followed by tea and cake.

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 are interested in joining us – [balshamwi@gmail.com](mailto:balshamwi@gmail.com) or send a message on Facebook, [@Balsham WI](https://www.facebook.com/BalshamWI)

**Debbie Mower**

[balshamwi@gmail.com](mailto:balshamwi@gmail.com)

## Ashdon Open Gardens



Proceeds to All Saints Church, Ashdon  
Tickets - £5 per adult, Children FREE  
Refreshments and lunches available

*(All Payments Cash only)*

**Sunday 11th June 2023**  
**11am - 5pm**

Tickets from 'The Cart' in the centre of the village on the bridge - **CB10 2ET**  
and All Saints Church Rooms in Church Lane - **CB10 2HG**

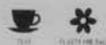


## Clover Cottage

50 Streetly End, West Wickham,  
CB21 4RP

**Sunday 4 June**  
**Sunday 11 June**  
**12 - 4.30pm**

Adults £4 Children free



More information at [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk)

# Granta Medical Practices Update

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Royston Health Centre is now part of Granta Medical Practices. We are very excited to work with the Royston team and extend a warm welcome to our new patients.

I would just like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about where our surgeries are and the telephone options:

- Granta Sawston  
**0300 234 5555 – option 2**
- Granta Linton  
**0300 234 5555 – option 3**
- Granta Barley  
**0300 234 5555 – option 4**
- Granta Royston Market Hill  
**0300 234 5555 – option 5**
- Granta Shelford  
**0300 234 5555 – option 6**
- Granta Royston Health Centre  
**0300 234 5555 – option 7**

You can continue to go to your usual surgery and request to see your usual clinician, but you are also very welcome to go to any other Granta surgery if you wish.

The NHS continues to be under huge pressure across the whole country. Here at Granta, we continue to try to provide the best possible service we can in the face of GP shortages and increased demand.

We know that some of you struggle to get through on the 'phone to us and/or get an appointment. As we all know, there is no easy fix.

However, there are small ways you can help, which in turn helps us.

**Self-care:** You can treat many minor

illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats and upset stomachs at home. Make sure you are stocked up with healthcare essentials such as pain relief (eg Paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment, heartburn/indigestion treatments and a first aid kit.

**Use the NHS UK Symptom Checker [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk):** This helpful tool can guide you through your symptoms and direct you to the most appropriate health service for your needs.

**Use your local pharmacy:** As qualified health professionals, pharmacists can offer you advice and guidance on your symptoms and on the best treatment for you – no appointment required. Pharmacists are available on every high street and in supermarkets, with many being open in the evenings and at weekends. If your symptoms suggest something serious, pharmacists have the right training to make sure you get the help you need.

**Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS):** This service enables patients to have a same day appointment with their community pharmacist for minor illnesses or an urgent supply of a regular medicine. Should you need to be escalated or referred to an alternative service, the pharmacist can arrange this. Please speak to a member of our reception team to be referred into this service.

**Ring NHS 111, Option 2:** If you are experiencing a mental health crisis this First Response Service puts your mental health first. There are a team of specialist mental health clinicians on hand 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, to offer advice and support and signpost you as appropriate.

**Non-urgent appointments:** Before ringing us, check availability of appointments online. You can do this if you have online access via SystemOnline, the Airmid app, or the NHS app.

**Medication:** If you need to order your repeat medication, please do

this online via SystemOnline, the NHS app, or the Airmid app. Details of how to do this can be found on our website **www.**

**grantamedicalpractices.co.uk** If you do not have internet or mobile telephone access, you can send in your repeat medication slip or write in with your repeat request.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to speak to one of our reception team or email us on **cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net**

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**Sandra East**

HEAD OF PATIENT SERVICES

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## Linton & District Historical Society

### April meeting

This thoroughly professional presentation by Peter Gibbons followed the events leading up to, during and after WW11. Film footage taken during this period gave an insight in what could, but thankfully did not happen, and may well have changed the course of history.

Needless to say, many questions and answers followed which made for a thought provoking but nonetheless interesting evening.

### May meeting

Resplendent in his livery of scarlet tunic, black tricorne, blue waistcoat, black breeches and white stockings Mike Wabe the town crier of Watton made sure no-one slept whilst giving an account of the history and anecdotes of his profession which

have been passed down through time. Interspersed with the ringing of the town crier bell, Mike cheerfully entertained us for our final session, until we resume in September.

We hope those supporting us throughout the difficult times of late have found something of interest to them. Thanks must go to Marion who has the unenviable task of compiling a list of speakers as well as running our raffle. Also, to Del and her helpers who make sure refreshments are available.

*If you would like to support and help the society to keep going please contact us, either by email **ldhscamb@gmail.com** or telephone **01223 893915** or **01223 678835**.*

# Marsh Mail

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Village Colleges are a unique feature of Cambridgeshire schools. Our heritage influences our values and our connection with the local community.

We were really pleased to be the venue once again for the **Linton Children's Book Festival**. It was a fantastic weekend of literary talks and workshops for children of all ages, including amazing visiting authors and illustrators. Many LVC students took part as volunteers and also benefited from sessions before the festival during the school day. It was lovely to see so many families enjoying the great variety of activities on offer, include a petting zoo in our Drama Studio!

As a Village College LVC students also have access to the Henry Morris Memorial Trust. This is a local charity that makes cash awards to young people aged 13-19 in Cambridgeshire.

The fund was established to support individuals or groups of students to engage with travel or home-based projects. Many LVC students have benefited from enriching and educational experiences as a result of this opportunity.

This year, Kuba Chatkowski in Year 9 was amongst the students that were successful in achieving a financial grant from the Trust. He made use of this to independently initiate a visit to meet the Prime Minister of Romania over the Easter holidays at Victoria Palace in Bucharest. Kuba's interview was recorded and photographed and he received a state medal from the Prime Minister in recognition of his initiative. I am really proud of Kuba for the Linton Learner qualities that he demonstrated.

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## Helena Marsh

PRINCIPAL, LVC

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Kuba Chatkowski meeting with the Prime Minister of Romania

# The Meadow Primary School

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Well, it has been a busy Summer Term 1 at the Meadow and we can't believe that we are nearly at the end of this academic year!

## **Swimming:**

Summer Term means swimming term! All children are taught by our swimming instructor weekly in our own school pool. We are so fortunate to still have this facility and also parents who have very kindly donated towards the very expensive running costs of the pool. The children love these sessions and it is such an important life skill to learn from an early age.

## **Year 6 SATs (Standard Assessment Tests):**

Year 6 have completed their End of Key Stage 2 Tests that all 11 year old pupils have to complete. Our Y6 children have been amazing! They have had to persevere and show real resilience in completing these tests in English (Reading comprehension; Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation), Maths (Arithmetic and 2 Reasoning papers) and Writing (which will be assessed by teachers). Whatever the results from these tests, we know how hard the children have worked and we also know that the tests do not reflect their character, personality, achievements and the amazing children they are. Our Teaching Assistants came to school early and cooked for all of the Year

6 children a banquet each morning: cereal, toast, fruit and bacon rolls. We were absolutely amazed at the amount of food our children consumed but this definitely set them up for the day and the tests ahead of them!

## **The King's Coronation:**



We celebrated the King's Coronation. Dressed in red, white and blue and, of course, our regal headwear, the children participated in different activities in their classrooms which culminated in a whole school recital of *God Save the King* and a picnic lunch. The weather was not as kind to us as we hoped and we had to cancel our outdoor lunch picnic plans. Instead, we decorated the hall and Years 1-6 went in there together to eat and Reception and Y6 buddies picnicked in the Early Years classrooms. We have had a great day!

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## **Nicky Butcher**

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER, THE MEADOW SCHOOL

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# Coronation 2023 – street parties!



Old House Road



Princes Close



The Rookery



Coronation flowers in the church



Photo: Lesley Bennett

# Balsham Man Runs in The Marathon des Sables

A surgeon from Balsham has completed 'the toughest footrace on Earth' in a bid to help children with brain tumours.

James Tysome, a consultant ENT and skull base surgeon at Addenbrooke's Hospital, spent six gruelling days crossing through 250kms of sand dunes, while scaling rocky mountains and white-hot salt plains, all to raise money for the children's brain tumour charity Tom's Trust.

As temperatures soared to 55 degrees centigrade, James, who set off on Sunday 23 April, had to use his skills to endure and push through, and even made it through a sandstorm. James battled through the inhospitable and hostile conditions, pushing his body and mind to the limit, with no relief from the sun. Running conditions underfoot in the competition are extremely challenging, as running across sand presents an additional load on the legs and feet.

The fatigue and impact of the previous three days was met with the longest stage of the competition on day four, with James pushing through 90kms in one stretch including running through the night. On day 7 he finally reached the finish line. James has smashed his target of

£3,000 and has raised more than **£5,200**, a phenomenal amount which will ensure five families receive the mental health care they need after a brain tumour diagnosis.

James said: *"The Marathon des Sables was an incredible race. 250km across the Sahara desert in six stages through epic scenery with strong camaraderie between the 1,000 runners. Conditions were more difficult than usual as there was a heat wave with temperatures up to 55°C, which made running through sand dunes hard work and resulted in 30 percent of runners dropping out over the course of the week. I was pleased to make it through to finish the race and to*

*have the opportunity to raise money for Tom's Trust as the suffering in the desert cannot compare to the difficulties faced by children with brain tumours and their families."*

James also had to carry everything he needed on his back, provided only with water rations and the communal goats' hair Berber tents supplied and pitched each night for him and his fellow competitors to sleep in.



Anyone wishing to get behind James and show your support can do so at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jamestysomemds](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jamestysomemds)

# Linton Library News

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Did you know that Cambridgeshire Libraries offer a **Library at Home** service to readers who find it difficult to get to the library? A local volunteer can visit monthly at a mutually convenient time, bringing library books and audiobooks. It's a free service. For more information about becoming a Library at Home customer or volunteer, please ask in the library, email **volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk** or visit the library website below.

Looking for some new company or things to do? The library is a great place to meet up with people and try something new. Here's what's happening this month:

In **HiVIS Fortnight (1st-14th)** we highlight library services for people with a vision impairment. We want everyone to enjoy books, even if reading print is a challenge. We offer books in a range of formats including Large Print, audio and electronic.

On **Thursday 1st** we will be celebrating **National Dinosaur Day** – come along if you're feeling brave!

For 0-4 years, there's **Story, Rhyme and Duplo** time at **10.30 – 11.30am on Tuesdays 6th and 20th**. Plus, our

new **Duplo time drop-in 10.30 – 11.30am Tuesdays 13th and 27th. Knit and Natter, 2pm on Tuesday 13th and 27th**. Bring along your latest craft project.

**Daylight Readers**, our Book Club, meets on **Friday 16th at 10.30am and 2.30pm**. Let us know if you would like to join.

Justine from **Reach Community Projects** (who offer much more than the food bank) will be in the library to offer advice and help **3 – 4.30pm on Thursday 15th and 29th**.

Calling all teenagers (12+)! If you would like to volunteer to help out with the **Summer Reading Challenge**, please contact the library.

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## Ann King & Melanie Symonds

COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

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### Opening hours

<b>Mon</b> CLOSED	<b>Thurs</b> 2-5pm
<b>Tues</b> 10am-5pm	<b>Fri</b> 10am-5pm
<b>Weds</b> 4-7pm	<b>Sat</b> 10am-1pm

### Customer Services

(regular office hours): **0345 045 522**

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)

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## Jigsaws

**Jigsaws galore in Nine Chimney House garage in Balsham!**

Please come and have a look and perhaps take some away to do. Mainly 1000 or 500 pieces.

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**Joanna Sanders** Email: [sanderschimneys@uwclub.net](mailto:sanderschimneys@uwclub.net)

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# Balsham Churchyard

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Throughout Britain the week from **Saturday 3rd to Sunday 11th** of June 2023 is being celebrated to care for and enjoy local churchyards and burial grounds. Often churchyards are the main places where wildlife, plants, insects, and other creatures are able to live. In our churchyard

Photo: Lesley Bennett



we have been setting some areas aside for spring wild flowers and summer wild flowers, as well as building log piles and compost bins. We have also been making lists of the wild flowers growing in the area, and last summer a Cambridge Flora Group visited and found many that we had missed. We are hoping to gather information about other wildlife, but it would help to have some people who have good knowledge to help. Everyone is very welcome to come into the

churchyard at any time, but especially during the special week, and to add to our lists, and take photos to add to our records.

We have been using the ‘No mow May’ system this year, and will be mowing the paths soon, we hope, but that depends on the weather, people available to do the mowing, and the availability of the mower. If you would like to join the villagers who care for the churchyard do please let us know. The churchyard is legally a place for **all** villagers regardless of whether or not they are churchgoers or Christians, and everyone is welcome to come to walk round, sit quietly or just enjoy the peace.

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**Gill Parry Brown**

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## The Black Bull



***Greetings to all Balsham Villagers from all at The Black Bull***

Thank you to those who joined us

this last month – it was a busy one! The **Coronation Beer Festival** slipped down a treat, helped by a great new find in Simon Howard Music to join our ever popular pool of buskers.

Rob's latest **Taster Menu** was another big success - over 30 were again treated to an inspired array of

tastes, flavours & textures, often unusual, always stunningly presented in Rob's inimitable style. Another great success and definitely more to come – watch this space.

We have some exciting news in that we have finally found enough staff to **re-open seven days a week** again from **Monday 12th June**.

We are also delighted to welcome Tommy back. Tommy will be our trouble shooter for the time being – helping us out across both pubs where needed most.

Some dates ahead for your diaries:

**Father's Day Weekend:  
Steak Night Specials Board–Friday**

**16th & Saturday 17th June**

**Friday 16th June: Harri Beasley Music** returns – always a crowd puller.

Our **Black Bull Sunday Brunches** programme continues to popular demand – every few weeks – next ones: **Sunday 11th June & Sunday 25th June**.

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

*Best wishes from all of us.*

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**Alex, Rob, Liz, Luke & the teams**  
01223 893 844  
info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk

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## The Bell Inn

**Hi Everyone!**

The summer is here at last, and The Bell Inn beer garden is a great place to enjoy a meal and drink with friends and family. We are also dog friendly, but please supervise your dogs, and clear up after them.

You can book our Summer Houses for dining for groups of 4 - 6 people. It is advisable to book for all dining where possible, as bookings will be prioritised, and it allows us to staff accordingly, to give you the best experience.

We have live music on **Saturday 24th June**, courtesy of local band **Stone Cold Stumble**.

The monthly **Charity Quiz** is **Tuesday**

**27th June**, new quizzers are always welcome.



Our regular **Lunch Club** is **Wednesday 28th June**, 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.

*For menus, events etc, please see The Bell Inn Balsham Facebook page, call **01223 892999**, or pop in the pub to see us.*

*Thank you for your continued support.*

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**Phil & Mary**

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# Balsham Cricket Club

## Balsham Saturday Cricket Fixtures

Saturday 3rd June	Burrough Green	Away
Saturday 10th June	Little Shelford II	Away
Saturday 17th June	Abington II	Away
Saturday 24th June	Fulbourn II	HOME
Saturday 1st July	Abington II	HOME

## Balsham Midweek Cricket Fixtures

Wednesday 31st May	Hundon	HOME	League Match
Wednesday 7th June	Abington II	Away	League Match
Wednesday 14th June	tba		Possible Cup Match
Wednesday 21st June	TAC	Away	League Match
Wednesday 28th June	Chesterfords	HOME	League Match
Wednesday 5th July	TAC	HOME	League Match

## Sawston Open Gardens 2023

Four Sawston gardens will open their gates to visitors on **Sunday 2nd July** to support the National Garden Scheme (NGS). The NGS began in 1927 to raise money for the Queen's Nursing Institute, by opening private gardens to the public for a small fee. From small beginnings, the scheme has expanded to 3,500 gardens across the country and now raises about £3 million annually. The main beneficiaries are major nursing and caring charities, such as Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and the QNI. The NGS also supports a number of other charities involved in gardens and health and gives bursaries to help gardening

projects. Learn more about the NGS at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk).

The gardens are open from 1-5 pm. Mary Challis Garden at 68 High St, The Orchards 11 Mill Lane, 10 Wynemares & 34 Cambridge Rd. Collect a map at the first garden you visit. Entrance £6. Homemade cakes and tea served in the Mary Challis Garden from 1.30-4.30 pm, plus plants for sale. Parking available in the Co-op car park, but is limited to 3 hours.

Do please come along to view some of Sawston's finest gardens and support these important charities.

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**Mike & Ann Redshaw**  
Tel: 01223 834511

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# Balsham Football Club

After another successful second year of football for AFC Balsham, we finished second in Division 3A. We are looking to add more strength and depth to the men's football team. All football players welcome to attend training sessions starting on **24th May from 18:00pm until 20:00pm** to start with, and then every Wednesday night after that until the new season starts.

Training throughout the year will contain elements of the below sessions to enable the team to progress and build chemistry for the players selected to play for AFC

Balsham.

Hard work, discipline and commitment will be required by the players and coaching staff for the team to reach the levels required to succeed in the Cambs FA league. Most importantly we want everyone get enjoyment, satisfaction and camaraderie from taking part.

Training will consist of:

- Fitness Work
- Ball Work
- Team Play

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**Alistair Collins**  
Tel: 07956 833 094

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## RESULTS

DATE	HOME	SCORE	RES
22 April	Balsham 1st Team	4 – 0	W
25 April	Melbourn Reserves	3 – 5	W
29 April	Hundon Res (Sat)	2 – 5	W
06 May	Balsham 1st Team	4 – 0	W

***Congratulations to AFC Balsham for gaining promotion for a second year running. It was decided when they won the last match of the season, beating local rivals from the Wilbrahams FC. A fine achievement!!***

## Community Cafés

The Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme's **Community Cafés** take place on a Tuesday each month in the Church Institute, and on a Friday in the Mays Avenue Community Hall, both at 10am–12pm. Drinks and cakes are available free.

***All are welcome!***

If you need any help, or would like to be a volunteer helper please contact **balshamgns@gmail.com** or text or phone **07508 430057**

The next dates are:

**Church Institute:** June 13th; July 18th

**Mays Avenue:** June 2nd, July 7th

# Balsham Parish Council

*The Annual Parish Council Meeting took place on 15th May, 2023 in Balsham Pavilion*

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The Annual Parish Meeting was attended by 10 members of the public. The Church Institute, Balsham Charities, Allotments and the PC accounts were all circulated and reported on.

## **The Chairman's (Gordon Fiddy's) report:**

I want to thank all of my fellow councillors for their support throughout the year. With particular thanks to:

**Steve Thurgood** for the hours spent maintaining Rosie Green Wood and as a member of the Recreation Committee.

**Heather Pearson** for the management of the allotments.

**Steve Wilcox** for his contribution as a member of the Church Institute committee.

And of course to **Tracy** for keeping us all on the straight and narrow.

Looking back over the year there has been a steep learning curve for myself and the three newly co-opted councillors.

We were not as productive as we could have been. The time between agreeing to start investigations, request quotations, assess value for money, placing an order and having the order delivered and installed is taking too long. We need to find ways to reduce this time frame.

There were a number of meetings held to discuss the lease of the

Church Institute which resulted in the Parish Council sending a proposal to the Parochial Church Council that is currently under consideration.

With good financial management we were able to set the precept for 2023/2024 that forms a small part of the council tax to a minimum. This in turn means that we have to spend wisely and take advantage of grants which might be available.

We already have a number of "projects" under consideration:

## **20mph zones**

**Zero carbon grant:** Possibility of applying for a grant to have solar panels and battery storage for the Pavilion.

**Prince Memorial (in partnership with the Ploughmen):** Replace broken flagstones, install additional seating, paving round the memorial, low level lighting, possibility of having one of the flagstones engraved.

## **Cleaning of the war memorial**

Finally, I want to thank all the people who give up their time to run various clubs and groups.

## **Annual Parish Council Meeting Election of Chair and Vice-Chair:**

Gordon Fiddy was duly elected as Chair and James Kiddy as Vice-Chair.

## **Planning:**

**Site address:** Dotterell Hall, Cambridge Road, Balsham.

**Proposal:** Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to 3 No. Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion.

**Reference:** 23/01613/PRIOR

**PC Decision:** No objections

**Site address:** 86 High Street, Balsham, Cambridgeshire

**Proposal:** T1: Sycamore - prune back from neighbours drive by 3m and to clear GPO wires by 2m.

**Reference:** 23/0438/TTCA

**PC Decision:** Approve

**Site address:** 16 Dairy Way, Balsham

**Proposal:** Horse chestnut 1 (T1) - crown lift to first true branch at 4.5m, reduce limb over neighbours property back to previous pruning point (2m lateral reduction of limb) - tree is causing excessive shading to rear of property

Horse chestnut 2 (T2) - crown lift to 3m

Sycamore - remove tree to near ground level - poor form, suppressed growth affected by large adjacent horse chestnut (T1), tree is growing with a significant lean over adjacent garden/shed.

**Reference:** 23/0411/TTPO

**PC Decision:** No objections

### **Highways:**

The PC has received a lot of complaints about which roads have been resurfaced by CCC in Balsham. This is the response received:

*“Over the past 10 years, I have worked closely with the Asset Management team to use the data collected by their annual scanner*

*machines, along with visual inspections, to assess and select roads for Surface Treatments. These roads form the basis of our annual carriageway Surface Treatment programs, and are re-assessed annually to ensure the current list meets the priority requirements. The scanner data has only been obtained for Classified Roads, therefore, it has been necessary to rely on information from Local Highway Officers and our own visual inspections for unclassified roads. The last submission of roads we had from LHOs was several years ago now, as we already have a fairly large list across the county, and changes of staff have meant an inconsistency in submissions in recent years. The roads treated in Balsham this year would have been put on a list by a previous LHO, not Bradley, and also may have been added by our own inspections.*

*The County’s Asset Management Strategy has been explained and the preventative approach to highway maintenance, which focuses on roads exhibiting early signs of deterioration. The County receives an annual Capitally Funded Budget that is for preventative carriageway maintenance alone. We do have a small discretionary budget to carry out preparation works on the selected roads, but if a road is already exhibiting signs of extensive deterioration, then it will not be suitable for this type of treatment from this capital budget.*

*When carrying out Surface Dressing and Micro Asphalt, it is not uncommon for us to receive comments regarding the surface treatment of roads when it is considered that there are roads in worse condition in the area that have not been done. This may well be the case, but as I explained, that type of road would probably not be suitable for a surface treatment. By surface treating the roads that are showing early signs of deterioration, we are preventing them falling into the next category of road condition. Surface Treating a road will seal the surface in against water ingress,*

*reducing the likelihood of potholes forming, it will restore texture and grip for vehicles using the road, and thereby extend the life of the existing road surface by a considerable number of years.”*

**The next Parish Meeting will be held on 19th June, 2023 at 7.30 pm in Balsham Pavilion  
ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND**

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**Tracy Coston** PARISH CLERK

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**Tel:** 01223 894462 / 07929930385

**Email:** clerk@balsham.net

**Website:** www.balsham.net

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## **District & County Councillor's Report**

**MAY 2023**

### **Four Day Week Trail**

You may recall the, as of January, South Cambs DC has been running a four-day week trial for office-based staff, the results of the which are now available.

All local authorities across the country are facing huge problems in recruiting and retaining staff. It is impossible to compete with the private sector especially for planning and environmental officers and so councils have to offer something other than money. The cost of having to use agency staff to fill unfilled posts is currently running at £2m per year - which is a lot of money for a District Council like South Cambs. For these reasons South Cambs District Council has had to think laterally and hence the Four Day Week trial. Officers have had to

work differently and more intensely in order to do 100% of the work in 80% of the time to receive 100% of the pay. The results have been enormously encouraging: performance (*which has been independently assessed*) has been maintained and in some instances improved and staff who were thinking of leaving are now likely to stay. Officer feedback was 88% positive; and satisfaction feedback from residents was not impacted. The recommendation is to extend the trail for a further year.

Councillors are also to be asked to include the refuse collection services in the 4 Day Week trail as of this summer. Many councils already do not collect bins on a Monday because of all the disruption caused by bank holidays so this is being looked at as a way of extending the benefits

to more colleagues.

### **Winter Gritting/Maintenance**

This Winter season has just concluded and from a Highways Gritting perspective it has been generally, a mild one, but this hasn't meant the gritters stayed parked up! The team carried out 51 full runs and 6 part runs across the County. A total distance of 111,286 km or 69,000 miles or two and a half times round the world! We used nearly 9,000 tonnes of salt. Which brings us to...

### **Potholes**

This winter has seen a rise in the number of potholes and surface defects across the road network. Whilst the demand has been increasing, the County Council has been recording and fixing potholes as fast as they can. They have put in additional repair gangs and currently have 8 patching Gangs and 2 Dragon Patchers working full time. They are aiming to fix most permanently first time. However, they are having to do temporary repairs where the road

is very poor condition and when they are fixing in rain and wet weather. These temporary fixes are recorded, and they will be going back to do a permanent repair.

Hopefully there will be a fall in pothole numbers over the coming months as the roads dry out and the Council repairs all those they know about. Their normal additional proactive Dragon Patcher is now with us for the summer and will be working across the County. £3.6million additional funding for road defect repairs from Government will be used to bring in additional dragon patchers to work proactively on a find, record and fix regime.

### **Contact Information**

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#### **Geoff Harvey**

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR  
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

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#### **Henry Batchelor**

COUNTY COUNCILLOR  
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

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## **Bin Collections** June/July

*Apologies for the incorrect information in the last issue -  
an administrative error of epic proportions!*

<b>DATE</b>	<b>BLACK</b>	<b>BLUE</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
<b>Monday JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup></b>		✓	✓
<b>Monday JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup></b>	✓		
<b>Monday JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup></b>		✓	✓
<b>Monday JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup></b>	✓		
<b>Monday JULY 3<sup>RD</sup></b>		✓	✓

# Cambridge Past Present and Future

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After a very successful first year the **Cambridge Nature Festival** is back from **Friday 26 May to Sunday 2 July** across the city and aims to get us all more in touch with the nature on our doorsteps! Voted as one of the best free festivals in the UK last year, the Cambridge Nature Festival will include over 80 events and activities with something for all ages, abilities and interests at various venues.

There will be sonic pond dipping, hands-on creative activities, nature walks, live music, bat punt safaris, BioBlitzes, wildlife workshops and much more. Most of the events will be free or affordable and will take place in Cambridge and the surrounding countryside.

If you didn't get a chance to give but would like to support our work to protect and care for nature and also support volunteering opportunities you can donate to a new match funding opportunity to **Protect Cambridge's Nature** where every £1 gifted will become £4 and is matched by **Save our Wild Isles Community Fund** and **BA Better World Community Fund!**

We want to raise **£10,000** so that this winter we can:

- Restore woodland and scrub to capture carbon and improve habitat
- Lay new hedges
- Improve flower meadows
- Care for orchards and collect fruit for food banks

- Install and maintain bat and bird boxes

During the campaign every £10 given will become £40, £50 becomes £200 and £250 becomes £1,000!

## **Tree ID Walk at Wandlebury**

**Tue 6 June** 10-12pm. Gentle guided walk around the park to learn about native trees. **Free** - donations welcome. Meet at main noticeboard.

## **Walk with a warden at Wandlebury**

**Tue 13 June** 10.30am-12.30pm. Gentle guided walk with a Warden to explore the wildlife and history of Wandlebury Country Park Free, donations welcome. Meet at main noticeboard.

## **Summer Jazz at Wandlebury**

Forget Cheltenham or Glastonbury - we're hosting the music event of the summer, right here in Wandlebury on **6th August**.

Join us for a **Summer Afternoon of Jazz**, supported by Carter Jonas, with music from the **Duxford Saturday Workshop Jazz Band**.

Bring a picnic, and stock up on delicious homemade sweet treats from **Tilly's Travelling Tearoom** and grab yourself a refreshing Pimms from **Sip&Savour's** beautiful outdoor bar. Have you got your tickets yet? Book now - numbers are limited.

## **Can you help us make this event really special?**

We are looking for volunteers to help on the day with stewarding - please get in touch:

**development@cambridgeppf.org**

# Balsham Weather April 2023



Photo: Lesley Bennett

## Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

recorded by Peter Neale, Nine Chimneys Lane.

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

**Highest:** 19° C on 30th April

**Lowest:** 8° C on 24th April

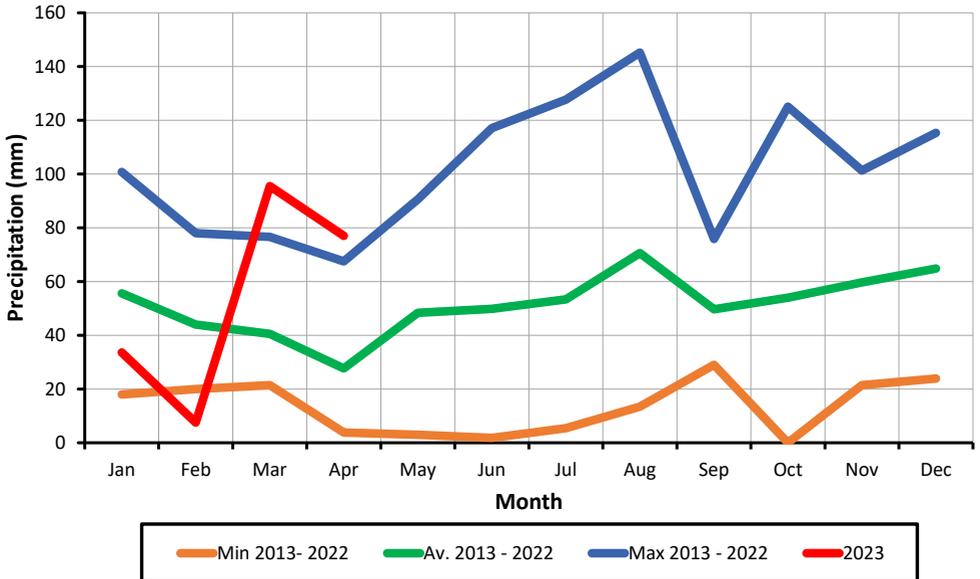
Night time temperatures

**Highest:** 8° C on 17th April

**Lowest:** -3° C on 3rd April

## April Rainfall Measured in Nine Chimneys Lane

Total April Rainfall: 77mm / 3.08" (14 days of rain)



recorded by Peter Neale, Nine Chimneys Lane



**Saturday June 3rd**

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

## **Empire of Light (15)**



A Sam Mendes (*Skyfall* & *1917*) film and perhaps the best film made so far! Set in Margate in the 1980's Hilary (*Olivia Colman*) is a cinema manager struggling with her mental health. Stephen (*Michael Ward*) is a new employee longing to escape the provincial town where he faces daily adversity. Together they find a sense of belonging and experience the healing power of music, cinema, and community.

***Dave's bar will be open for pre-show drinks and nibbles as normal.***

**Join the Picture House with annual membership of just £12 or come as a guest member at £3/film show**

**Advance notice for our July film (Saturday July 1st):-**

**Living (12)** Set in the post WW2 London of 1953, Bill Nighy is a veteran civil servant realising he has not been living life to the full after a shattering health diagnosis and seeks to fulfil this before it is too late with help from colleagues and a stranger!