



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 649

JULY 2023



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

A letter from George Leader to the village of Balsham!

Twelve months ago, I locked the door at 10, The Rookery for the last time in the place I had called home for over 56 years. Having lost my dear wife, Diane two years before and then gone through the Covid lockdown I decided the right thing for me was to move across to the other side of the world to live with my daughter Maria and her family in Tasmania, Australia.

My whole life has opened up again and I am loving my senior years having just celebrated my 86th birthday. My two grandsons make sure I don't get bored - if I am not gardening, fishing, walking, or eating they soon

find me something else to do.

Balsham will always be the place I call home with the most amazing people who helped me through the two terrible years I lived alone - from neighbours to old friends, the wonderful family that is the Post Office and so many more that I can't list you all.

I just wanted those that knew Diane and I to see that I am still very much alive and kicking and to say Balsham and its people are talked about regularly over here.

George Leader



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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:

WEDNESDAY,
JULY 19TH 2023

*Copy should be submitted
where possible to
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or delivered to the
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Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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Editorial

It has been a glorious June so far, with plenty of warm dry days. All the rain we had earlier in the year has brought forth splendid flowers now, although they all seemed rather later than usual.

As you walk through the churchyard you may see scaffolding around the War Memorial. The Memorial is being cleaned, and some names are being repaired, all work being paid for by the Ploughmen. Thank you for this.

There is an article in the magazine about the grass in the churchyard. The rain in March and April meant that the grass grew particularly well in May, wonderful for the wildlife, but giving us a problem in June. We do need more help in order to keep the churchyard both tidy for enjoyment of the area, and also a place where small creatures can live to help save our planet. Most helpers gather in the churchyard on a Monday morning for a convivial session, working together, and would especially welcome a few recently retired people with a couple of hours to spare.

Another area that is in need of help is the Community Orchard, on the allotment field. The parish council would like to plant some new fruit trees to replace those that have died, but without regular watering the replacements wouldn't last any longer than the originals. Perhaps if a few

neighbours could get together and take care of a group of trees, that would help, and if several Lanes and Closes each took some on, the whole community could benefit from the fruit in season.

The allotment field and the recreation ground have recently been areas of complaint because some dog walkers have been ignoring their dogs' toilet habits. If you are walking through or past the area where there are allotments you must keep your dog on a lead. Where you are at the far side of the field, dogs must be under control, and any piles must be picked up, but of course that is important wherever you are around the village. In the past it has been said that it is people chatting and ignoring their dogs' habits. Nowadays it is more likely to be those looking at their phones!

I have been hearing lately about how many villagers **do** read the Review, rather than put it with the rest of the junk mail that comes through their doors. Some have said they would like more, interesting articles. It is up to you! Please let us know if you can write for us, have an idea for articles, or know someone who can help. Ideas and offers, please.

Gill Parry Brown

EDITOR, BALSHAM REVIEW

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

DOG MESS

It's a real shame to report this but responsible dog owners are again being grossly let down.

Someone's dog dumped in front of the goalposts on the Recreation Ground - a day I chose to go and play football with my grandkids.

Dogs are often seen off the lead on the Recreation Ground whilst owners are having a chat. The owners are then oblivious to what their dog is doing.

Please be more considerate.

A villager

THANK YOU

Plants, Crafts and Things for Girl Guiding Trip to India, August 2024

I would like to thank everyone who supported my pop-up shop selling Plants, Crafts and Things at the

garden gate in late May to raise funds for my forthcoming trip to India with Girl Guiding. I have been selected to represent Cambs East Guiding on a trip to the Sangam World Centre for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, near Pune, India, in August 2024. I will be travelling with a team of Guides, Rangers and Leaders for two weeks. In addition to Sangam, we will also be visiting Delhi, Jaipur and Agra. We will be taking part in community outreach projects and cultural events during the trip.

I will share more information nearer the time but please watch out for further pop-up Plants, Crafts and Things stalls later in the year.

Thanks very much

Ella T

NINE CHIMNEYS LANE

A1307 road closure 15-17 July

I'm sure a lot of you will have seen this already, but the A1307 is due to be closed to resurface the recently completed section between

Hildersham and Linton. This will be over a complete weekend, so will cause some disruption to all the villages.

Balsham July/August Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
1st Saturday	Picture House, Living, 7 for 7.30pm	Church Institute
7th Friday	Community Café, 10-12pm	Mays Avenue
10th Tuesday	WI	Pavilion
15th—17th	Road Closure, Linton/Hildersham	A1307
17th Monday	Parish Council, 7.30 pm	Pavilion
18th Tuesday	Community Café, 10-12pm	Church Institute
19th Wednesday	School Breaks Up	School
22nd Sunday	Charity Football Match 3pm	Rec.
5th Aug Saturday	Bowls Pairs League Finals	Bowling Green



Bin Collections July

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Monday July 3 RD		✓	✓
Monday July 10 TH	✓		
Monday July 17 TH		✓	✓
Monday July 24 TH	✓		
Monday July 31 ^{STD}		✓	✓



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

Summer can be a wonderful time for celebrations! At the time of writing, I'm looking forward to taking my children to the **June Revels** at



Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop, said that when reading the gospels, you sometimes get the impression that if anywhere in ancient

the Meadow Primary School, a really enjoyable occasion. We also have a number of weddings to look forward to in our group of churches over the summer. I feel wedding celebrations can have a ripple effect of joy into the community around them; a celebration of love, hope and faith which is both deeply personal and draws in a community of people who promise to uphold the couple in their lives together.

Then there are the numerous summer festivals. I'm a particular fan of the Christian festival Greenbelt held on the August bank holiday weekend, with its focus on arts, activism and faith. We've been going as a family for many years and in the words of Padraig O Tuama, an Irish poet and theologian who regularly speaks at Greenbelt, it provides for many a '*sacrament of green*'. It also creates, for those few days around that bank holiday weekend, a special community which debates, prays, and enjoys a party together!

Indeed, the Christian faith has long been rooted in this kind of community.

Galilee you heard a loud noise and a lot of laughter and talking and singing, you could be reasonably sure Jesus of Nazareth was nearby. His indiscriminate generosity and willingness to mix with people considered unsuitable by some parts of his society were vividly recollected by the gospel writers. Jesus sought out company, and the effect of his presence was to create a celebration, to bind people together.

Speaking of celebrating community, I'm delighted to announce that Hannah Threlfall, whom some of you may know as an ordinand – or minister-in-training, has recently taken on the role of Community Minister in our parishes for two days a week. This role will include pastoral care for people and supporting local initiatives which encourage community, compassion and faith. Our ministry team looks forward to supporting Hannah in this exciting new role and please do ask Hannah more about it if you see her around.

Revd Iain McColl

July Services	9:30am	11:00am	6:00pm
2nd		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	
9th	Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion Hildersham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i> Morning Worship and Baptism Balsham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/ Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion Little Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i>	Choral Evensong West Wickham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>
16th	Holy Communion West Wrattling <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Church Warden led</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Outdoor Church Great Abington <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	Evening Prayer Hildersham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>
23rd	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Café Church Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	Evening Prayer Little Abington <i>Rev Ben Brady/ Steven Wheeler (preaching)</i>
30th	Holy Communion West Wrattling <i>Rev Ben Brady</i> Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Steven Wheeler</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i> Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Steven Wheeler</i> Holy Communion Hildersham <i>Rev Ben Brady/ Alistair Collen</i>	

The Churchyard

Many of you walk through the churchyard, some every day, some once in a while, and some come to attend your relatives' graves. All of you must have noticed that we have been allowing the grass to grow, partly as a response to the idea of **'No mow May'**, which is intended to allow wild flowers and small creatures to flourish, and help with the problems of climate change.

When May ended we hoped to start cutting grass immediately, but unfortunately we had a problem with our new mower and we were not able to start straight away. Now we have the mower back we have first cut the main paths used to get around the churchyard, many mainly used by dog walkers to get to the Rec. or to the water tap, next are the edges of the tarmac paths, to neaten them and save long grass from bending onto the paths, and now we are cutting the south side of the churchyard where the modern graves are. The area of cremated remains has been carefully attended all along, so many thanks for that.

We do have a management plan for looking after the churchyard, having areas for spring flowers, others for summer flowers, and some left for a longer time, giving shelter for creatures in winter. The rest of the grass will be cut when it can be done. We also have, or plan, compost heaps, log piles, bird boxes, and



'bug hotels'.

Our problem is a lack of volunteers to do the work. We have a sit-on mower, motor mower, and various trimmers to attack the grass, but a very small group of people who come to help. This is not a job just for those who go to church. The churchyard belongs to everyone in the village—you all have the right to be buried there. You also have the duty to look after the graves of your relatives, to make sure they are safe—no wobbly gravestones, or big dips when the soil settles, and actually no extra plants etc. Ely Diocese allows one vase or pot for a grave, but we do not keep strictly to that. Perhaps we should, it would make mowing easier!

Please, if you have some spare time, especially on a Monday morning, do offer to join the group, who will welcome you, and give you all the information and help you need to help keep your churchyard tidy.

Linton Library News

Ready, Set...Read! Sign up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge

at the Library from

Saturday 8th July

- it's free to join!

The Challenge is designed to keep children reading all summer, with

rewards along the way

and a medal and certificate for everyone who finishes. It's fun and relaxing to read, plus the Summer Reading Challenge will help keep reading skills in shape during the long break from school.

Don't forget, if you are travelling on holiday you can pack a mobile device with library eBooks, eAudiobooks and eComics to keep your luggage light!

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 13th and 27th** – no appointment necessary.

Have you heard of **Social Tariffs**? They are low-cost broadband and mobile phone package deals offered to customers claiming government benefits. Ask for more details or check out: www.ofcom.org.uk/cheap-broadband or www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/about/help-to-get-online.

Here's what's happening this month:

For 0-4 years, there's **Story, Rhyme and Duplo** time at **10.30 – 11.30am** on **Tuesday 4th and 18th**. Plus, our new

Duplo time drop-in 10.30 – 11.30am on Tuesday 11th.

Knit and Natter: 2pm on Tuesday 11th and 25th. Bring along your latest craft project. **Daylight Readers**, our Book Club, meets on **Friday 21st at 10.30am and 2.30pm**. Let us know if you would like to join.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 7th August

Lego

Wednesday 16th August

Bee Keeping

Monday 21st August

Magic Show

Ann King & Melanie Symonds

COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

Opening hours

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

Customer Services

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

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

District & County Councillor's Report

JUNE 2023

Greater Cambridge Partnership – Sustainable Travel Zone Consultation Results

The results of the consultation were published at the end of May. With more than 24,000 responses this has been a mammoth task and has produced a mountain of data. The headlines are:

- Over 70% want to see improved public transport.
- 58% are against the charging fee, for the proposals as they stand.

What happens now? The GCP Assembly and Board will review the results and look at options for changing the proposals in the light of the consultation results. There will then be further discussion with the Mayor, who has responsibility for transport policy, and with the County Council who are the Highways Authority. This will take some time, probably running into the Autumn.

We hope that this will result in new proposals that will be more acceptable to the public. The Government also has to agree the way forward so that the initial funding of £50 million can be released so that the improvements to the transport system can start going ahead. The total funding available will be around £200 million. This is

an opportunity that is unlikely to come again if some form of congestion charging is not adopted.

All the information is available at www.greatercambridge.org.uk/mc-2022

Four Day Week Trial

This District Council has recently taken a decision to extend their 4-day week trial to its bin crews, meaning that they would only collect bins between Tuesday and Friday each week. This will mean, for our area where the bins are collected on a Monday, a change in collection day. This will be actioned at the end of the summer and will be heavily communicated, so please do keep your eyes peeled for the notices.

Resurfaced Roads

Some of our communities have been lucky enough to get roads in their parishes resurfaced. If you're wondering why yours hasn't been, it's likely that the roads selected were either in a very bad state, or had preventative work done to them, to stop them falling into serious disrepair.

If you feel that your road should be included in the forward plan to be resurfaced, contact Henry and he can put a proposal forward to the local Highways Department on your

behalf.

Potholes

We reported last month on the pothole situation and the pressure that the Highways department were under. This month we have some figures for you. Since Christmas, Highways have filled in 27,000 potholes with another 10,000 to go and are fixing roughly 2,500 per week – so if no more reports came in then we would be pothole free in a month (although, in reality, this

won't be the case). New reports are, of course, coming in all the time but due to the better weather, this is at a much slower rate.

Contact Information

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Granta Medical Practices

National flu immunisation programme 2023

Eligibility for the free NHS flu vaccination is changing. This year the free NHS flu vaccine will not be offered to over 50's. Instead the following people will be invited:

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2023
- primary school aged children (from Reception to Year 6)
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals

- frontline workers in a social care setting without an employer led occupational health scheme, including those working for a registered residential care or nursing home, registered domiciliary care providers, voluntary managed hospice providers and those that are employed by those who receive direct payments (personal budgets) or Personal Health budgets, such as Personal Assistants

We are finalising plans for our flu clinics and next month we will let everyone know what the dates are.

In the meantime, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to ring us on **0300 234 5555** or email **cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net**

Sandra East

HEAD OF PATIENT SERVICES

Balsham Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting took place on 19th June, 2023 in Balsham Pavilion

Dogs on the allotments:

The Parish Council has received a number of complaints about dogs being off leads on the allotments. Please can you keep dogs on leads and clear up all dog poo and dispose of it in a dog bin.

Water leak in West

Wrattling Road: Highways have visited the water leak and have reported it to Cambridge Water, who are trying to find the source of the leak. There also maybe a secondary leak from the pond overflow. The Diocese are aware of the issue.

Illumination and other improvements to the Prince

Memorial: The lighting quote is still to be received. The PC discussed laying new flagstones around the Prince Memorial and extending the seating.

Cleaning the War Memorial: The scaffolding is going to be erected at the beginning of July and then the cleaning will be carried out, followed by the re-letting. The Ploughmen are funding the cleaning and the re-letting.

Community Orchard: The grass around the edge and in the middle of the community orchard will be cut by the contractor. If there are



any local residents who would like to volunteer to help with the orchard, please contact me.

Update on the Church

Institute: The PCC have arranged for a valuation of the building to take place. The cost of the valuation will be split between the PC and the PCC.

Planning:

Site address: Rectory Farm, Cambridge Road, Balsham.

Proposal: Change of use of 2 agricultural buildings to Use Class E (g).

Reference: 23/01927/FUL

PC Decision: No objections

Site address: 7 West Wrattling Road, Balsham.

Proposal: Construction of a single storey garden room extension, demolition of existing garage/outbuilding and replace with an outbuilding and removal of the shutters.

Reference: 23/01920/LBC / 23/01809/HFUL

PC Decision: No objections

Tracy Coston PARISH CLERK

Tel: 01223 894462 / 07929930385

Email: clerk@balsham.net

Website: www.balsham.net

Balsham Knitters

There are a group of around 5 ladies who knit 6 inch squares and garments for children for two charities. These are made up into blankets either 36 squares for the Frail Elderly at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital (when they go home I think they can take the blankets with them). Blankets of 48 squares go to Christian Hope International, a charity in Romford. These then go out to Eastern Europe by container with another charity called Mission without Borders.

The two knitters of the Coronation blankets (*red, white and blue see photos*) join up all the squares very neatly. Otherwise I sew the squares together on my sewing machine

Some of the knitters are members of Balsham Mothers' Union which



- the youngest being 80 and the oldest 91! However we meet up about 8 times a year and have various speakers or just tea and a chat.

Joanna Sanders

BALSHAM MOTHERS' UNION



Blankets knitted by Janet Andrews and Celia Barker.



Photo: Jenny Sargeant

I hadn't seen a thrush in our garden for years and then one started appearing. It was visiting our shed this morning.



Photo: Lesley Bennett

The June meeting of the Balsham WI included a visit to the Balsham Maze.





The effects of 'No mow May' in the churchyard.



Photos: Lesley Bennett

Ripening wheat.



Photo: Josh Bennett



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Flax flowering off Woodhall Lane.

Another Long Walk

On Saturday 2nd September I will be taking on my next challenge by walking **62.4 MILES** along the South Coast.

Starting in Eastbourne up to Beachy Head along the magnificent Seven Sisters then onto the South Downs Way with stunning views of the coastline I will reach Brighton

half way point (35.5 miles). I will then walk continuously through the night along Devil's Dyke with ups and downs before finishing in historic Arundel on Sunday 3rd September **62.4 MILES**.

My chosen charity is **CANCER**



RESEARCH UK, if you would like to support me in raising much needed funds for research into this dreadful disease then please visit

my Fundraising Page:
**www.Justgiving.com/
Gail-Collis.**

or drop off cash/
cheque made payable
to Cancer Research UK
to 35 The Rookery,
Balsham. **Thank-you**

Gail Collis
(NÉE CLEMENTS)

Ed. Gail has walked the Jurassic Coast and Round the Isle of Wight in previous years and raised much money for Cancer UK. Good Luck, Gail!

Looking after yourself during the hot weather

With more hot weather expected this month, it's really important that you look after your health and keep an eye out for others.

Here are a few tips on keeping well:

- Make sure you drink plenty of water
- Try to avoid spending extended periods in the sun. Stay out of the sun during 11am-3pm (the hottest part of the day).
- If you're heading out in the heatwave walk in the shade, apply sunscreen and wear a hat.
- If you feel dizzy, weak, anxious or

have intense thirst and headache, move to a cool place as soon as possible - drink some water or fruit juice to rehydrate and cool down.

- Seek medical advice from a pharmacist if symptoms get worse.
- Look out for others, especially older people, young children and babies and those with underlying health conditions. Don't forget your neighbours too!

For more information go to:

**[https://www.cprepared.org.uk/
severe-weather/hot-weather](https://www.cprepared.org.uk/severe-weather/hot-weather)**

Balsham Cricket Club

Balsham Saturday Results

Saturday 6th May	Saffron Walden IV	Home	Cancelled - Rain
Saturday 20th May	Helions Bumpstead	Away	LOST - Conceded
Saturday 27th May	Haslingfield	Home	LOST by 8 Wickets
Saturday 3rd June	Burrough Green	Away	LOST by 2 Wickets
Saturday 10th June	Little Shelford II	Away	LOST by 6 Wickets
Saturday 17th June	Abington II	Away	WON By 17 Runs

Balsham Midweek Results

Wednesday 3rd May	Chesterfords	Away	LOST - Conceded
Wednesday 17th May	Haverhill	Home	TIED
Wednesday 24th May	Abington II (Cup)	Home	WON by 4 Runs
Wednesday 31st May	Hundon	Home	WON by 7 Wickets
Wednesday 7th June	Abington II	Away	WON by 5 Wickets
Wednesday 14th June	Newmarket II, (Cup)	Home	WON by 32 Runs

Balsham Saturday Fixtures - League 3 South

Saturday 1st July	Abington II	HOME
Saturday 8th July	Saffron Walden IV	Away
Saturday 15th July	Haslingfield	Away
Saturday 22nd July	Linton II	Away
Saturday 29th July	Little Shelford II	HOME

Balsham Midweek Fixtures

Wednesday 5th July	Reach	Home	Cup Match
Wednesday 12th July	Haverhill	Away	League Match
Wednesday 19th July	Hundon	Away	League Match
Wednesday 26th July	Abington II	Home	League Match
Wednesday 2nd August	TAC	Home	League Match

Balsham Bowls Club

The very wet weather in March and April meant we were unable to open the green at the usual date and we had to cancel games because of the wet conditions. However, despite the arctic conditions, all our teams have started their leagues.

This season the club is running five teams in three different leagues.

The Cambridge District League team which requires four rinks of triples looks well set to better last season's runners up spot with four wins out of five including away successes at Cambs County and Chesterton.

We have two teams in the Friday night triples league which is three rinks of triples with the A team well placed, and the B team mid table having used many of our new members.

We also have two teams in the pairs league which requires three rinks of pairs with the A team leading their section and the B team which is for new and inexperienced players enjoying competition bowling.



So hopefully the weather will improve and we have some nice bowling weather from now on.

We are hosting the **Pairs League Finals** day on **Saturday August 5th**, and hopefully we will be involved having been runners up last year.

This year's club tour is to **Eastbourne** where we will be playing three games from **Friday 1st Sept to Monday 4th Sept** and balance payments are now due.

Finally our **Pairs Open Competition** is on **Sunday 17th Sept**. Entry forms are available from Christine and Phil.

Peter Day
01223 291 901

Tennis in West Wrattling

Great value local tennis club membership for all the family. New members always welcome.

The **West Wrattling d'Abo Tennis Club** is open to existing, returning and new members from across the local area. Our full-size, all-weather macadam

court is located in a peaceful corner of the village recreation ground.

For more information, to sign up and to make court bookings, visit: **www.WestWrattlingTennis.co.uk** or contact **admin@westwrattlingtennis.co.uk**

The Meadow School

The final half term has arrived and with it the sunshine (finally)!

This will be a very busy half term with lots of sporting and outside events as well as preparing the Year 6s to leave Primary School. However, it is also the half term that we host transition events with our new Reception children coming into school, initially with their parents/carers, for Messy Play and Stories and Songs in preparation for September! It was lovely to see many happy, confident and smiling 'little people' in school.

Summer Fete and Sports Day:

We have already held our annual school **Summer Fete** in very warm sunshine and children enjoyed the bouncy castles, class stalls, BBQ and cafe and we are now looking forward to **Sports Day** which consists of a carousel of team activities which encourages co-operation and support as well as competitive races.

Y5/6 Quadkids

Continuing with the sporting theme, we took 10 children to Wilberforce Road Athletics Stadium to compete against 15 other teams in 4 events. The events were a 75m sprint, 650m race, howling vortex throw and a standing long jump. The weather was fantastic as was the team spirit. We were delighted to finish 5th out of 15th.

So now there are just a few more weeks until we break up on Wednesday 19th July but before we can do that we have Year 6 Leavers Events, Year 5/6 Production of **Pirates of the Currybean**, **Open Evenings** for pupil and parents/carers to meet the new teacher and **The Summer Disco** as well as teaching and learning!

Nicky Butcher

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER, THE MEADOW SCHOOL





SUFFOLK PUNCH OPEN DAY



THE SUFFOLK
PUNCH TRUST
HARNESSING HISTORY

In aid of the Suffolk Punch Trust

Sunday 16th July

2pm – 5pm

Entry: £2 per adult. Children Free

Come and meet our Suffolk Punches Xing, Gina, 2-year-old Misty and new foal Belle.

Enjoy tea, and cake, play the prize raffle and have a wander around the house gardens all in support of the Suffolk Punch Trust, the leading charity dedicated to protecting this critically endangered breed.



Where to find us:

Brettons, Church Lane, Burrough Green
CB8 9NA

Parking will be available on the Village Green

Dogs welcome. Cash Only.

For any enquiries please contact:
charlotteway123@hotmail.com

The Bell Inn

Hi Everyone!

The Bell Inn beer garden is a great place to enjoy a meal and drink with friends and family during the summer months.

We are also dog friendly, but please supervise your dogs, and clean 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.

On **Saturday 22nd July**, we have our charity football match, **The Bell Inn Landlord's X1 v AFC Balsham**, followed by **Barbecue and Disco/Karaoke**. This year we are raising money for The Cystic Fibrosis Trust, inspired by baby Gus Halpen who has been diagnosed with CF. Gus's family are customers of The Bell Inn, and family to Mary, the Landlady. The game will kick off at **3pm** on **Balsham Rec**, please come along to watch, and help us raise



money for the charity. Please bring some cash for raffle tickets, contributions, and to sing your favourite song on the karaoke later.

The monthly **Charity Quiz** is **Tuesday 25th July**, new quizzers are always welcome.

Our regular **Lunch Club** is **Wednesday 26th July**, which is bookings and pre orders only.

Wednesday evening is **'buy-one, get-one-free'** on Scampi & Chips or Sausage & Mash, please book in advance if possible. Advanced notice, our **Annual Beer Festival** will take place over the **August Bank Holiday** weekend.

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 call in the pub to see us.*

Thank you for your continued support.

Phil & Mary

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 another busy one!

Fathers' Weekend was one of our busiest ever. We will definitely be doing steak and lobster again – clearly a winner. Great to have Harri Beasley back and to be able to have our music nights outside again.

Rob's next **Taster Menu** date has been set – **Saturday 29th July**. We run these like a dinner party with everyone sitting down and being served at the same time, albeit at your own tables. Rob will treat us again to an inspired array of tastes, flavours and textures, often unusual, always stunningly presented in Rob's

inimitable style. They are getting quite a following now, so be sure to book your table early as we cannot do that many tables at this level.

Some dates ahead for your diaries

Rob's Taster Menu:

Saturday 29th July

Rob's Caribbean Summer

Barbecue: Saturday 26th August

Our Black Bull **Sunday Brunches** programme continues to popular demand – every few weeks – next ones: **Sunday 9th July & Sunday 23rd July**.

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

Reminder that we are now happily back open seven days a week again.

Best wishes from all of us.

Alex, Rob, Liz, Luke & the teams

01223 893 844

info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk



Firing up the BBQ?

BBQ season has arrived! Take extra care when cooking outside, and follow our top tips to avoid your dinner going up in flames.

- Keep BBQs away from the house, shed and trees.
- Don't drink too much alcohol if you're in charge of the cooking.
- Never leave cooking unattended.

A Collection for the People of Ukraine

A dire need for basic food, household, toiletries and health supplies.

A collection for the people of Ukraine will be held by Saffron Walden Rotary on **Saturday 15th July** from **9.00am** until **12.30pm** on the **Abington School** playground, as in the previous two collections.

As the war continues families are losing their homes and possessions and are often without a breadwinner for the family. This creates a need for everyday food items, shoes, clothes, especially underwear, toiletries, all types of personal washing and shampoo items, sanitary towels and sanitary pads. Items for children include nappies for babies and colouring books and school supplies for young children.

The aid which the Rotary Club has been collecting over the last year is delivered to the Felsted based charity

UK-Aid who in turn takes it to distribution centres in Moldova and Ukraine for the benefit of refugee and dispossessed families in those countries. Many hundreds of families have been helped, although many more are still in need.

Cash donations to assist in transportation costs are also accepted and these can also be made at the Rotary collection point in cash or by credit card on 15th July.

The collections at Abington have received tremendous support from local people and those from surrounding villages, so it is hoped that we will get a good response again for those living in such hardship.

Rotary Saffron Walden is very appreciative of all the support it gets in its many different fundraising efforts.



Surplus Tech Appeal for Ukrainian Refugees

Ukrainian refugee families arriving in Cambridgeshire require laptops, chromebooks and mobile phones to enable continuation of education and communication

So far over 100 households in the city have signed up to be 'sponsors' for 230 refugees under the Homes for Ukraine scheme

www.Laptops4Learning.co.uk

repair and refurbish, making your surplus tech sustainable

How it works

- 1 Companies/organisations donate their laptops, tablets and mobile phones enabling sustainable supply
- 2 Laptops4Learning's TechAid UK solution repairs and refurbishes ready for onward use
 - Our TechAid UK solution brings together businesses and charities to enable supply of sustainable tech, saving CO2 emissions, e-waste and extraction of scarce natural resources
 - Our tech couriers collect laptops, chromebooks, tablets and mobile phones
 - Once on our site, our engineers repair and refurbish devices,



making them ready for plug-and-play use

- All data storage (HDD/SSD) is securely erased to HMG Infosec Standard 5 Enhanced in our suite of servers
- Full certification by serial number of HDD/SSD is provided
- Sustainability report provided
- Feedback for CSR and company newsletter

3 Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign distribute devices to Ukrainian families in need

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign is a volunteer-run charity (reg. no. 1172836), established in 2015 in response to the Syrian refugee crisis, that works in partnership with Cambridge City Council. We are proud to be working with Laptops4Learning to meet the needs of Ukrainian refugees arriving in Cambridgeshire.

Contact **Laptops4Learning** if your company can support us in the delivery of devices to help this vital initiative:

Email:

info@laptops4learning.co.uk

Tel:

01438-747480

Cambridge Past, Present and Future

Everyone can explore Wandlebury this summer!

Our new off-road mobility scooter is available this summer to help you reach the wilder woodlands and further meadows at Wandlebury Country Park. With more than 8km of paths and 140 acres there's a lot to discover! People who have used it have been saying how much more they enjoyed their visit as they can go further and spend a longer time exploring. The scooter is easy to use and available 7 days a week. There is no charge and please call **01223 243830 Mon- Fri 10am -4pm** to book in advance.



Events at Wandlebury

- **Wed 12 Jul | 10am – 12pm | Free**
Tree Identification at Wandlebury
Gentle guided walk around the beautiful Country Park to learn about native trees. Meet at main noticeboard.
- **Sat 22 Jul | 10am – 4pm | £60**
Learn to Scythe at Wandlebury
Learn the basics of scything – the traditional method of cutting meadows to increase their value for nature.
Places are limited and advance booking is essential.
Over 18's only.
- **Sun 23 Jul | 10am – 3pm | Free**
Wandlebury Scything Festival
Come and celebrate scything and hay-making, on a day filled with demonstrations, have-a-go sessions and Team Mowing.
- **Sun 6 Aug | 3pm – 5pm**
Members £7.50, Adults £10
Children £5, Under 5's Free
Summer Jazz at Wandlebury
Join us for an afternoon of jazz hosted in the beautiful paddock. Advanced booking is essential.

East Anglian Air Ambulance

Firstly (another) HUGE thank you to everyone who supports EAAA, by whatever means. What you are doing is working but this is no reason to rest on our laurels – our target to cover all our costs continues high – about **£17m** in fact! So, when you see that little red collection box ‘winking’ at you by the till, please respond with a few coins, some coins, lots of coins! Purchasing methodology is changing, rapidly, so please carry real money even though you often use ‘plastic’ to pay.

There are, however, many other ways through which you can support us and help make a difference. 2022 saw EAAA tasked with over **2500 missions**, attending **443 cardiac arrests**, **386 road traffic collisions**, **268 falls**, **354 other medical emergencies** and, would you believe, **60 assaults!**

Unfortunately, where cardiac arrests are concerned, survival rates for patients who do not receive early bystander CPR or defibrillation are incredibly low, so we know anytime the bells ring for a cardiac arrest mission, time is essential. The wife of one such patient, Chris, was able to give CPR followed by the crew’s assessment, critical care on scene and subsequent treatment at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. Recovery has not been straightforward, Chris having



suffered two strokes, a bleed on his brain and another cardiac arrest. He spent four weeks in a coma, six in critical care plus another week on a ward. Nearly a year on, Chris is recovering well and reflects how crucially important to his survival had been his wife’s CPR, EAAA critical care and the whole sequence of support.

To get involved and to give more patients like Chris a chance of survival please volunteer to support our hugely worthwhile charity. Our ‘Trek 24’ walks are back in Suffolk and Norfolk – why not join in, have a great day in the countryside and support EAAA in the process. Or just volunteer at an event not too far from you – do please get in touch via info@eaaa.org.uk

Michael White
info@eaaa.org.uk

Gardening with climate change - what we can do!



West Wickham Village Hall, CB21 4ES
12 August 2023, 10.00 – 16.00

We welcome you to this unique and exciting opportunity to find out more about climate change, how it is affecting our gardens, and what we can do as gardeners to adapt, and mitigate the impacts.

Attendance is free of charge.

(This is a not-for-profit event, organised by gardening clubs in Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire.)

Morning session

Three expert and stimulating speakers, each tackling different aspects of gardening and climate change.

Afternoon session

A wide range of family friendly, exciting and informative demonstrations and activities, based around gardens and climate change, including:

Plant nurseries * seed suppliers * book shop * wildlife trust * wild ponds * water conservation information * advice from experts * peat-free compost advice * tree-planting * scything demonstration * pollinator counts * children's mask-making * bug hotel making * bird-box making * nature trail * and more.....

For full details, please go to: www.climatechange gardening.org

Balsham Weather May 2023



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

recorded by Peter Neale, Nine Chimneys Lane.

Daytime temperatures (in the shade)

Highest: 22° C on 27th May

Lowest: 11° C on 13th May

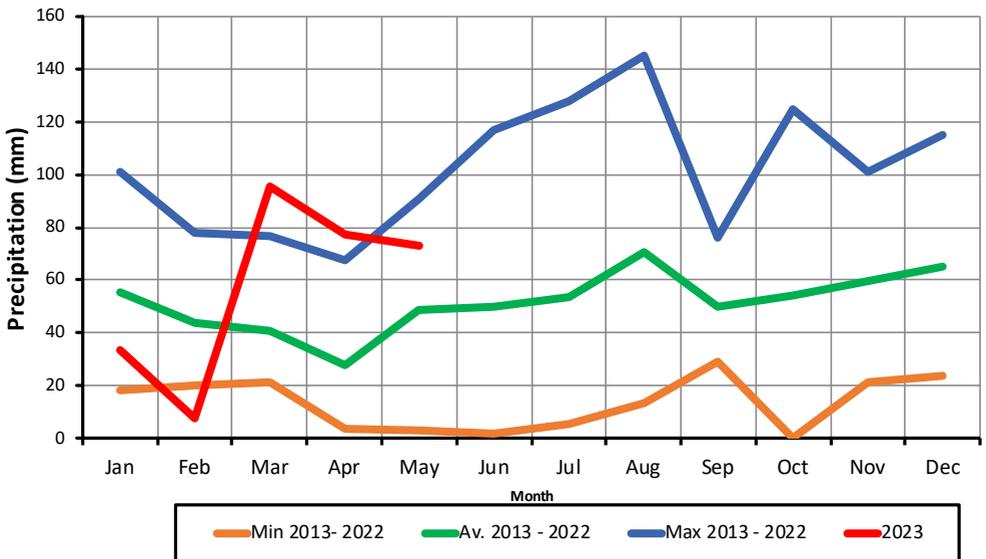
Night time temperatures

Highest: 13° C on 9th May

Lowest: 5° C on 3rd May

May Rainfall Measured at Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total May 2023 Rainfall: 73mm / 2.92" (11 days of Rain)



recorded by Peter Neale, Nine Chimneys Lane.



Saturday July 1st

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

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!

LIVING serves as a reminder to value what it is to live and is beautifully acted.

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

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

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday August 5th

Cate Blanchett as leading actress and BAFTA Award winner in the acclaimed film **TAR** (15) starring as the iconic musician Lydia Tar – a BAFTA award winning film examining the changing nature of power and its impact in our modern world.