

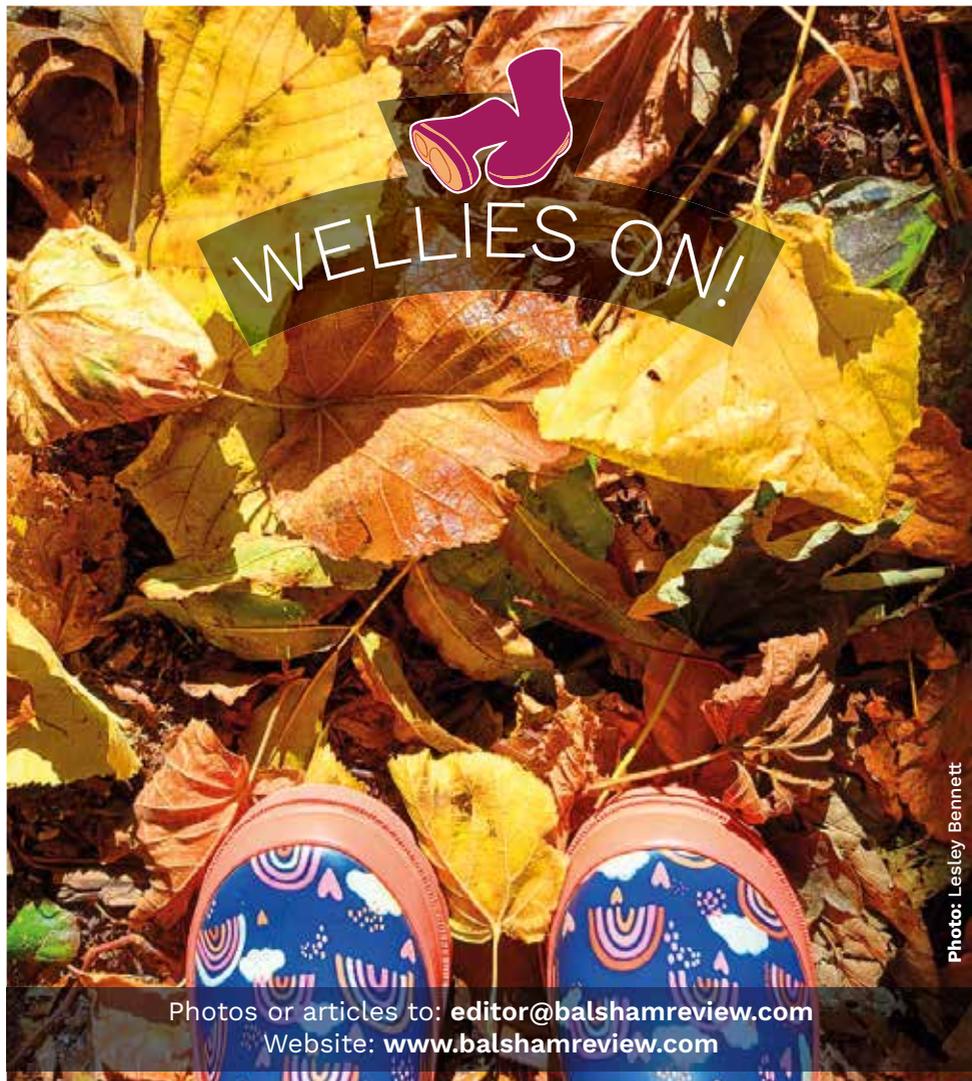


# BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 653

SICUT CANIS CUM OSSIS

NOVEMBER 2023



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Website: [www.balshamreview.com](http://www.balshamreview.com)



Photo: Margaret Creek

Paving which has been laid on The Green to allow easy access for everyone to admire the Map Boards.  
A big thank you for everyone who contributed, and continue to do so

with our Map Project which started ten years ago.

**Margaret Creek**

*(on behalf of the Group)*

Buttercups Pre School  
Christmas Fair

Come and find the perfect Christmas gift from a variety of craft stalls or treat yourself to some delicious treats from the food stalls. All of which are local and small businesses.

Refreshments  
Tombola  
Children's craft activities  
Raffle

More to be announced!

In support of Buttercups Preschool  
Charity no: 1194906

Sunday 3rd December  
2023  
11-3pm  
Church Institute, Balsham  
CB21 4DS

The Ellesmere Devils Panto Society Presents  
**Alice in Wonderland**

Another magical panto performance with fantastic songs, brilliant choreography, stand-out sets, sparkling costumes, and amazingly talented cast of local performers!

**Wednesday 24th January 2024 to  
Saturday 27th January 2024**

**The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth**

**Tickets:**  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/edps](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/edps)  
or Ticket Hotline **0333 666 3366**

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

## DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

FRIDAY,  
NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 2023

*Copy should be submitted  
where possible to  
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or delivered to the  
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## Balsham Review Team

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### **This month's photographers:**

*Sheila Denny, Richard Pargeter,  
Margaret Creek, Penny Cook and  
Lesley Bennett.*



## Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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

# Editorial

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At last a bright sunny day, with no rain, although the thatch was still dripping from the last deluge when I got up this morning. The pond has reached the lawn and filled the flower bed, and our village is at the top of the hill! The old farm pond is filled from below by the water table and from above by run off from the thatched roof and flooded Church Lane, no streams in or out. The ducks are loving it and dabbling everywhere. That means they squelch through the mud, wiggle their beaks through the ground and leave a yucky mess...

A reminder to those of you who fill shoe boxes for needy children: please take your offerings to **Shelford Free Church** on **Saturday, November 18th**, or contact **Jane Furlow** on **01223 893232; 07745 046921/ 842181** or email **jane.furlow@gmail.com** for other details.

There is a report from the **Good Neighbour Scheme**, which was set up at the time of the Covid pandemic, when our village pulled together to keep everyone safe and healthy, with support from so many who live here, helping each other. You will see that it has taken over the role of the **Helping Hands** scheme that took people to appointments etc, before then. I know that there is a need for more help, particularly from drivers. If you are able to offer help, even if it could only be once or twice a month, it would be very

much appreciated, and would give the regular drivers occasional relief. Please contact **07508 430057** or email **balshamgns@gmail.com**

I am sure we were all shocked to hear about the theft of Therese's vehicle earlier in the month. The idea of some form of CCTV has been put forward, but apparently there are problems with the GDPR set up, where it might intrude on the privacy of those who live a normal life, while not stopping those who don't care what they are seen to do. We can have doorbell cameras, although they shouldn't focus as far as the pavement, so wouldn't show vehicles. I don't know how the TV programmes manage that show CCTV, perhaps one of our readers knows.

Next month we will again combine the December and January issues, so please, if you have an event in December, January or the first week in February, make sure you send your notice in in good time. (Members of groups, remind your correspondents!) Do you have anything Christmassy to send in? Maybe a poem, story, memory or photo... Or for New Year or Plough time?

More rain forecast for tomorrow, maybe I need webbed feet rather than another new knee next month!

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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

### JUDY SYMONDS

To all who knew Judy Symonds, we (Paul, Kayley, Becky and Andy) would like to express our profound gratitude for all the love and support during the days/months following our mother's death. We were blown away by the amount of people who sent cards, attended her funeral and the generosity towards the two charities. We will miss her greatly.

**Becky O'Hanlon**

### JIGSAW PUZZLES GALORE!

By the time you read this it will be dark around 5ish and you might want to be doing a jigsaw. Plenty of choice for puzzles of 500 and 1000 pieces and a few others of different numbers of pieces.

All are in the garage at Nine Chimney

House, Balsham so do come and have a look and take away those you want to do. As it is a library (of jigsaws) there is no charge. Thanks

**Joanna Sanders**

### QUESTIONS TO A PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE

Due to constituency boundary changes, at the next general election Balsham will vote for an MP representing South Cambridgeshire. The Conservative candidate for this revised seat is **Chris Carter-Chapman**.

He invites questions, comments and any issues regarding Balsham and the constituency. These can be addressed to:

**mail@chriscarterchapman.co.uk**

**Adam Augustyn**



## DON'T FORGET!!

The December/January editions of **The Balsham Review** are combined into one edition.

Therefore please ensure that you have any content for this issue in by **November 17th**.

This is particularly important if you have any events planned for these months.

Copy should be sent to **editor@balshamreview.com**

# Balsham November/December Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
1st Wednesday	Gardening Club AGM + entertainment 7.30pm	Pavilion
2nd Thursday	All Souls Remembering 6pm	Church
3rd Friday	Community Café, 10.00am—12pm	Mays Ave
4th Saturday	Picture House, <b>Avatar</b> 7.00 for 7.30pm	Church Institute
12th Sunday	Remembrance Service 10.45am	Church
12th Sunday	Remembrance Service 12.00pm	Wrattling Common
14th Tuesday	Community Café, 10.00am—12pm	Church Institute
14th Tuesday	WI, 7.30pm	Pavilion
20th Monday	Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm	Pavilion
21st Tuesday	Linton & Dist Historical Soc. 7.30pm	Linton V Hall
<b>December</b>		
3rd Sunday	Buttercups Christmas Fayre 11am—3pm	Church Institute
16th Saturday	Balsham Singers Christmas Concert 4pm	Church

## Bin Collections November/December

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday November 1 <sup>ST</sup>	✓		
Wednesday November 8 <sup>TH</sup>		✓	✓
Wednesday November 15 <sup>TH</sup>	✓		
Wednesday November 22 <sup>ND</sup>		✓	✓
Wednesday November 29 <sup>TH</sup>	✓		
Wednesday December 6 <sup>TH</sup>		✓	✓



# Church Services

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**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

Revd. Iain McColl	01223 890693	mccoll.iain@gmail.com
Curate: Revd. 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/Lintoncornerstone](http://www.facebook.com/Lintoncornerstone)

**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**

# From the Church

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In church, November always feels something of a ‘transitional’ month, waiting for the season of Advent, which in turn heralds Christmas. However, a significant fixture in November is Remembrance Day and so also, Remembrance Sunday.

I always have problems with Remembrance Sunday and its place in our national life. For, as a younger man, it seemed obvious (and easy) as a Christian to hold a pacifist position. The appalling, mutual brutality of War was a gross affront to what God wanted for the world. Christians should take no part in it, nor collude with what could appear to be a celebration of military victory. In the end there were no victors, only deep and prolonged damage to both sides. And always seeds sown for further bitter enmity.

Yet the war in Ukraine, particularly, has pushed me further into a corner of doubt. Surely the stance of listening to the needs of both sides, compromise and appeasement, in the face of an authoritarian and duplicitous aggressor, isn’t good enough. When we pray for Ukraine and the people of Russia we’re not simply asking that they start being nice to each other.

Yes, we pray for peace, but also for justice. And we support Ukraine in their desperate fight to preserve

the freedoms of a liberal democracy as we fought, rightly, in two World Wars, to preserve our values and freedoms. Our democratic nation state, with its institutions and balances against tyranny, isn’t perfect. But its relative stability and fairness alone foster future peace and prosperity. Moreover, in a world facing the rising threats of Global warming and the rapidly evolving technologies of Artificial Intelligence and biological sciences, surely the only chance for their containment, and use for the benefit of all, are the regulatory frameworks that only stable, honest and cooperating nation states can provide?

Thus, remembering with gratitude the sacrifices of our forebears in facing down the evils of tyranny seems more important than ever.

So, what, if anything, does the Christian gospel have to add to this? Perhaps we need to raise our sights above a too cosy and complacent proclamation of God’s love for us, to embrace more faithfully our trust in the dreadful, but life-giving paradox of the Cross: God sharing in the profound conflicts in our lives, to bring us all home safely ... together.’

---

**Alistair Collen**

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<b>November Services</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>
<b>5th</b>		<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Steve Jordan</i>	
<b>12th</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i>	<b>10.45am</b> <b>Remembrance Day Services</b> <b>Balsham</b> <i>Rev Ben Brady</i> <b>Weston Colville</b> <i>Steven Wheeler</i> <b>Little Abington</b> <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i>	
<b>19th</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> West Wratting <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>Holy Communion</b> Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	
<b>26th</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> West Wickham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> West Wickham <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> Balsham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i> <b>Café Church</b> Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> Little Abington <i>Steven Wheeler</i>

### **All Souls Services, Thursday 2nd November**

**Little Abington (5.00pm) *Revd Ben Brady***

**Balsham (6.00pm) *Alistair Collen***



# The Balsham Plough Monday Club

## Coming Out of Hibernation

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Around October every year you may notice increased activity from the members of the **Balsham Plough Monday Club (BPMC)**. Between now and Plough Monday 2024 you will spot the members having meetings at The Bell to organise the various activities outlined below and you certainly will see more articles in the Balsham Review informing the Village of key dates. In The Review next month you'll even be treated to a short history of the club. But, for now, please be aware that the BPMC will be again organising the following:

### **Balsham Christmas Tree**

We will once again be erecting and lighting up the Balsham Christmas Tree. We will be lighting up the Tree on a date in early December at the Prince's Memorial shelter (band stand!). There will likely be the usual carol singing, food will be available as well as the ubiquitous mulled wine and mince pies. This is a great family occasion and has been very well received in recent years.

### **The Balsham Plough Monday Club and Plough Monday**

The Balsham Plough Monday Club consists of a group of men who live in or are associated with the village of Balsham and who, once a year, raise money for good causes on Plough Monday. Plough Monday is

the first Monday after Epiphany (January 6th, or Twelfth Night) each year and historically was a night of celebration as it represented the beginning of the winter ploughing season. This day was particularly important in rural communities as agricultural labourers returned to work after the short (but unpaid!) Christmas holiday.

**Plough Monday 2024** will take place on **8th January 2024**. If you hear a great commotion in the village, notice a load of grown men with flaming torches shouting "*pity the poor ploughboy*", no need to be alarmed, it's just the Balsham Ploughmen raising funds for good causes and having great time doing it. Please come out and say hello, watch a Morris Dance or two, grab a mulled wine and donate what you can. You may even win a raffle prize. You're also welcome to join us for a pint or three at the Bell or the Black Bull, festivities tend to go on until the small hours; this is why we call the following day Harrowing Tuesday. Organisational details for Plough Monday 2024 like the route and stops around the village will be publicised over the next couple of months during the run-up to this traditional village occasion.

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**Terry O'Neill**

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# R.A.F. Wratting Common

Remembrance Sunday, 12th November



There will be a short Service at the Memorial on **Sunday, 12th November 2023** at **12 noon**.

The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR. We hope to be joined by some of the Veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Also, Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. Attendees are invited to lay wreaths or crosses for those they wish to remember, and anyone is welcome to attend.

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**

**Dan Heath**

for Friends of Wratting Common

Email:

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

Tel: Mobile: **07736 737 174**

Home: **01440 730 192**

*We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the Airfield Memorial. With just two services per year to arrange, as well as year-round general maintenance, this is not an onerous project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this important memorial to our community's war effort will survive for many generations.*

## Community Cafés

For the rest of this year these will all be from **10:00** to **12:00**:

**Tuesdays** at the **Balsham Church Institute** on:

**November 14th; December 19th**

**Fridays** at the **Mays Avenue Community Hall** on:

**November 3rd; December 1st**

*If you are interested in coming along to the **Community Lunch**, feel free to contact us for more details.*

# Balsham Parish Council

*The Parish Council Meeting took place on 16th October, 2023 in Balsham Pavilion*

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## **Illumination and other improvements to the Prince Memorial:**

Information about the lighting has been received. The PC are going to carry out further research as the batteries will only last 6/7 hours. CCC have confirmed that they do own the green, but they are not seeking retrospective permission for items that have been installed. Permission will have to be sought for all new works.

**War Memorial:** The war memorial lettering has been repainted and the stonemason will come back and recut the lettering on some of the names. This will be completed by the end of October.

## **Planning:**

**Site address:** 95 High Street, Balsham.

**Proposal:** Detached oak framed garden room.

**Reference:** 23/03508/HFUL

**PC Decision:** No recommendation

## **Decisions:**

**Site address:** 50 West Wickham Road, Balsham.

**Proposal:** Single Storey Rear infill extension to replace poorly constructed lean-to.

**Reference:** 23/03380/HFUL

**Granted permission by SCDC**

**Site address:** Mill Farm Buildings, Linton Road, Balsham.

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing agricultural building and replacement with one self-build dwelling, conversion of existing outbuildings

to residential ancillary to the host dwelling, change of use of agricultural land to residential ancillary to the host dwelling along with associated works and infrastructure.

**Reference:** 23/02555/FUL

**Refused permission by SCDC**

## **Update on the Church Institute**

**Lease/Valuation:** A motion was proposed that the PC does not have the funds to purchase the Institute, as the valuation was £115,000, and to raise funds in grants/loans is not practical. The option of a short-term lease is not a practical option either, as a short-term lease will be costly and in 3-5 years' time the PC will be in the same position. The PC will offer advice and assistance to the Church Institute Management Committee if and when required.

The PC were in unanimous agreement that they will not renew the lease or purchase the building.

## **Water issues in West Wickham Road/West Wrattling Road and Linton Road:**

The PC will chase up Highways again as they haven't received an update from CCC Highways.

**CCTV in Balsham:** The PC discussed about the possibility of installing CCTV in Balsham. It was agreed that there would be too many GDPR issues in a public place.

**School Lane:** The condition of School Lane has been reported to

CCC Highways and it is hoped that they will clear the leaves and mud from the lane.

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**Tracy Coston** PARISH CLERK

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**Tel:** 01223 894462 / 07929930385

**Email:** [clerk@balsham.net](mailto:clerk@balsham.net)

**Website:** [www.balsham.net](http://www.balsham.net)

The next  
**Parish Council Meeting**  
will be held on  
**20th November, 2023**  
at **7.30 pm**  
in **Balsham Pavilion.**

**ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND**

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

**OCTOBER 2023**

### **Greater Cambridge Partnership STZ update**

There was a proposal by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) put to us last year, which offered vast improvements to our public transport network, with the caveat that it would eventually need to be self-funded. This was proposed to come in the form of road-charging in Cambridge City, coming into force in 2-3 years' time after the bus improvements. There was a, very lengthy, public consultation undertaken at the back end of last year and the results of which formed an updated proposal, which was published at the end of August.

The Executive Board, who ultimately make the decision on whether to take the scheme forward or not, met in the last week of September. As there wasn't unanimity amongst the voting members of the Board, the proposals were rejected, and the revised scheme won't be taken forward at this time.

We're uncertain what the next steps are now – the GCP will either have to come up with another revised version of the scheme, start the whole process again, or simply scrap the entire project.

On a related note, the scheme for a new travel hub (park & ride) near Babraham, along with the off-road bus route joining this to the new train station at Addenbrookes, has also been paused whilst the GCP try to find more money to fund this, as the project costs have increased exponentially.

### **A1307 Works**

When the Bartlow roundabout work is complete, the final elements of the upgrades to the road will be the remodelling of the Dean Road junction and then the completion of the 'Greenway' around Abington and joining up with the crossing over the A11. The work for this will start in November on Newmarket Road, Abington.

For more up to date information go to the Greater Cambridge Partnership website:

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/public-transport-schemes/cambridge-south-east-transport/cambridge-south-east-transport-phase-1-background/cambridge-south-east-transport-phase-1-current-schemes>

### Mobile food hub

There is a mobile food hub that visits Linton Village Hall on Coles Lane every Tuesday between 1pm and 2pm. There is no registration required just turn up on the day. For more information on the scheme: Hope CIC (the charity running the scheme) website: <https://hopeagainst.org/hope-cic-mobile-food-hub> or 07474725477.

### Free Electric Blankets

South Cambs District Council are offering a free electric blanket to those most in need, in the run up to the winter months. Those that qualify for these will need to be claiming Council Tax Support and also one of the following criteria:

- Attendance allowance
- Personal independence Payment
- Disability Living Allowance

Full detail of the scheme can be found here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/free-electric-blankets-will-help-residents-most-in-need-this-winter/>

### RAACs

These have been in the news in recent months as some schools in the UK have been found to have Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) material used in them, which has been found to be dangerous. The good news locally is that no schools in Cambridgeshire have this material used in their construction, so no need for any major works being undertaken.

### Contact Information

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#### Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR  
[geoff.harvey@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.harvey@gmail.com)

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#### Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR  
[henrybatchelor89@gmail.com](mailto:henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)

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## Increase in Allotment Charges

At a recent meeting of the Parish Council it was agreed that allotment charges will increase with effect from September 2024.

The charges will be as follows:

- For Balsham residents, the annual charge for a half plot will rise from £7.50 to **£10.00**, for a full plot it will increase from £15.00

to **£20.00**.

- The new annual charge for tenants who live outside Balsham will be **£15.00** for a half plot and **£30.00** for a full plot.
- The charge for optional water usage will remain at **£10** per annum.

### Heather Pierce

PARISH COUNCIL ALLOTMENT REPRESENTATIVE

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# 1st Balsham Cubs



Balsham Cubs is for children from the age of 8 to 10.5 and takes place in the village on Wednesday evenings from 6.30 – 8pm. We do many varied activities (according to the weather conditions).

This year we have been camping, been on a hike, lit fires and cooked on them, as well as games too numerous to mention – a particular favourite of the Cubs are Wide Games which are played outside. We like to be outside whenever the weather allows.

Cubs also enjoy cooking activities and crafty makes from time to time. And we also cover traditional



scouting skills such as knots. Whilst doing all this the Cubs are working towards achieving their silver challenge badge which is a major achievement and recognition of a high level of commitment. Several cubs have been awarded this recently before moving on to Scouts.

At the current time we have spaces available – an unusual occurrence! If you are interested in your child joining us when they are 8, please let us have their name and contact details for our waiting list.

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## Debbie Mower

AKELA

[debbie.mower@balshamscouts.org.uk](mailto:debbie.mower@balshamscouts.org.uk)

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# A Very Big Thank You!

Twenty eight years ago when my husband Kerry and I were invited out to Kenya, we expected it to be a single visit to share the love of Jesus at village churches. We travelled round villages accompanied by a pastor, several on the shores of Lake Victoria, some high in the mountains. Our transport varied from bicycle taxis, the backs of old lorries and one very memorable time on a leaky boat for five hours in the dark while two men kept bailing and we kept praying!

The church meetings were sometimes under a tree, or in crowded houses. Occasionally we met in churches built of mud with grass roofs. Our accommodation was in locally built houses. We were always made very welcome and it was very humbling to receive such generous hospitality from people who had so little to give.

As we travelled we saw so many practical needs and remembering Jesus as well as being The Son of God was also very practical, feeding the hungry, healing the sick and cooking breakfast for the disciples, we knew we both wanted to do something to help. We returned home and made plans to spend more time in Kenya.

We built a house in the compound of the pastor we had been traveling with, Kerry bought two tractors and helped local farmers to transport their sugarcane to the factory, while

I started treating many children with badly neglected wounds. To start with we used my kitchen and in time with guidance from the local health authorities we built a clinic and a group of us trained as community health workers. We then started an immunisation programme, with ante-natal and post-natal care,



also treating tropical diseases.

Kerry had several serious attacks of malaria and we decided we needed to return home just going out for shorter periods of time. The clinic continued to work well, and in time the government brought in more health care so we changed the use of the building to a training centre in tailoring, carpentry and computer work. When Kerry died I received donations in his memory for the work in Kenya

and returned the following year with my two granddaughters. We linked up with a Christian drilling team and financed the drilling of two bore holes providing clean water for two communities. Since then I've been overwhelmed by so many people who have very generously provided for us to continue drilling more bore holes in different areas.



It was also very much on my heart to help widows with children to start small businesses to help provide for their families. During Covid I started making washable face masks which I advertised and sold locally to raise money for this project. My sincere thanks to so many of you who bought the masks, you enabled me to start nine small

businesses giving so much help and encouragement to those families.

I went out in August with my granddaughter and two other ladies, for the last time, and was so blessed to be able to see seven more bore holes completed on this visit, as well as the businesses started and a new house built for a family whose home had been destroyed by floods.



Photos: Penny Cook

My thanks to all who helped with funds for bore holes and face masks, you have improved the quality of life for so many people, indeed with helping provide clean water you have saved lives, **THANK YOU.**

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**Penny Cook**

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Photo courtesy of: Jan Ellam

Meadow School, Mr Cutlers Class early 1980's.



Photo: Lesley Bennett

After Storm Babet

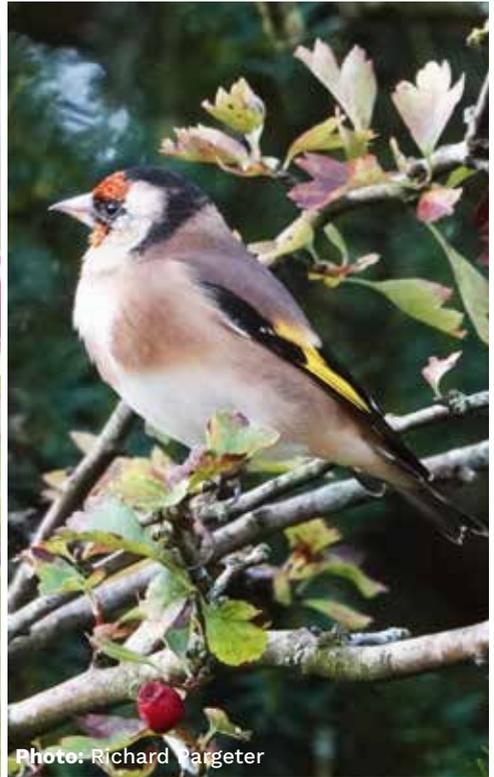


Photo: Richard Pargeter

Goldfinch

# The Meadow Primary School

October has cast a spell of autumnal charm over The Meadow Primary School. As the leaves outside begin their colourful dance to the ground, the students, and staff within the hallowed halls of our school are settled, content and ready to see what this transformative month has in store.

## **The Meadow Mile: A Whimsical Walk for Funds and Fun!**

The spirit of generosity and creativity was on full display as students from Meadow came together for an annual event, 'The Meadow Mile,' to raise funds for new books for the school's library and classrooms. Clad in imaginative and colourful fancy dress costumes, the children's imagination knew no bounds. The sight of tiny astronauts walking alongside fairy-tale princesses and swashbuckling pirates brought a sense of joy and unity to the event. This important event aims to enhance the reading and learning experience for all children, fostering a love for literature and knowledge, something which we are deeply passionate about as a school community.

## **Pedalling Towards Safety with Bikeability**

As part of The Meadow's commitment to holistic education, Year 5 students also participated in the Bikeability program, which promotes safe and confident cycling. Under the guidance of certified instructors, students



honed their cycling skills and learned essential road safety rules. Bikeability not only encourages physical activity but also instils valuable life skills related to traffic awareness and sustainable transportation. The program equips students with the confidence and knowledge needed to navigate roads safely, promoting a culture of active and eco-conscious commuting.

## **Exciting Educational Adventures**

Something we are passionate about at The Meadow is ensuring children have opportunities to enhance their learning through exciting experiences that will capture their interest and foster curiosity. This half term the children in our older years have had the opportunity to explore history at West Stow and connect with the outdoors at Wandlebury. Years 4, 5 and 6 were able to delve into the world of Anglo-Saxon history. West Stow's reconstructed village provided a captivating glimpse into the life and times of the early medieval period, allowing students to step back in time and experience history firsthand.

Our years 3 and 4 embarked on an unforgettable educational journey during their school trip to Wandlebury. With curiosity in their hearts and a thirst for knowledge, these young adventurers delved into the past, learning to winnow grain using a



quern and crafting delicious bread over an open fire. They honed their skills with slingshots, mirroring the tools used by ancient hunters. The tour of the Iron Age hillfort immersed them in history, while their hands-



on experience in creating a mini fence/wall with wattle and daub showcased their creativity. This enriching day at Wandlebury was not just a field trip; it was a voyage through time, bringing history to life for these eager learners.

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### **Faye Facer**

ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHER & EYFS LEAD

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## **Balsham Singers**

**Balsham Singers** will present their **Christmas Concert** this year on **Saturday 16th December at 4pm.**

For the very first time we are holding the concert in the afternoon. Held in **Holy Trinity Church Balsham**, it will be a joyous occasion. The music a delightful mix of traditional carols and modern Yuletide music with all the expected, Bells, Pipes and Shepherds and Angels.

The tickets will be available from the Post Offices in Balsham and Abington, and online from ticket source and will cost **£12; 16yrs and under FREE.**

Online: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers)

Do you love to sing? Why not come along and see what we do? The choir sings music from many genres: classical, traditional, pop and musical theatre, and are often treated to an arrangement from our talented MD John Clenaghan. We are always open to new members in all voice parts but especially tenors and basses, there are no auditions, you don't have to read music but you must love to sing.

***Give us a go!***

# Linton Library News

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We were pleased to welcome **Brian the Lion** to help present the **Summer Reading Challenge** certificates and medals. Well done to everyone who took part in the challenge over the summer. Brilliant reading everyone!



As the nights draw in and the weather cools, find a warm welcome at your Library. Stop by to find out what's new, browse the shelves, sit and read, help with the jigsaw or use our free Wifi. Did you know that you can download thousands of books, audiobooks, newspapers and magazines in digital form from the library, for **FREE**?

**Come visit Linton Library this November for:**

**Storytime. Rhyme-time. Duplo-time 10am – 11am, every Tuesday**

(in term time). Stories, songs and Duplo play for 0-4 year-olds.

**Games Afternoon** for adults.

**Tuesday 7th and 21st at 2pm – 4pm**, meet new people and try new games (you can even bring your favourite with you for us all to try).

**Knit and Natter.** Bring along any craft project you're working on, **2pm – 3pm** on **Tuesday 14th and 28th.**

**Daylight Readers.** Our Book Groups meet on **Friday 17th**, one at **10.30am** and the other at **2.30pm**, and always welcome new members!

**Justine** from **Reach Community Projects** will be here to offer advice and help with debt/ budgeting or applications and more between **3pm – 4.30pm** on **Thursday 2nd and 16th.** Drop in if you have any concerns or worries.

If you have any spare indoor pot plants, we'd be grateful for any to help make the library a greener space.

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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)

# Buttercups Community Pre-School

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We all had great fun when the Farm came to visit Buttercups – attempt number two after the good old British weather previously made sure we were rained off! The children, both our graduates and our new starters loved the ‘hands-on’ experience of meeting the animals, they enjoyed the farm themed activities and they especially loved (as I’m sure their grown-ups did too) our café with all the yummy treats which was manned by our lovely committee members.



The start of the term has seen us getting to know some new friends who are called **The Colour Monsters**, they help the children get to know

how they are feeling. These cuddly little characters have a book all about themselves too, the Worried Colour Monster isn’t sure how they feel about all the new things, but it seems that the Happy Colour Monster is the overall favourite character which is good!

The children have been making the most of the sunshine and exploring our mud kitchen with its new make-over, in particular, our wonderful new sand pit. This wouldn’t have been possible without some generous donations from people in the village, thank you so much.

## **Save the Date:**

**Sunday 3rd December**, yes, we’re afraid we are going to mention that word... it’s our **Christmas Fayre!** We’ll be at the Institute from **11.00 - 3.00**. We’d love to see you there and we look forward to sharing our latest news with you.

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## **Kirsty Salmons**

LEAD PRACTITIONER & MANAGER

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## **Recently Moved into the Village?**

**Have you seen a copy of *Balsham - a Village Story, 1617-2017?***

Every household in the village is entitled to one gift book, so if you are new to the village and have not seen one, please contact:

**6, Trinity Close, Balsham**

Tel: **01223 893915** or

email: **1617mapproject@gmail.com**

If you have had one gifted to your household, but would like another, they are available for £5 from the Post Office or the above contact. You can also read more about our **Map Project** at **[www.balshammap.net](http://www.balshammap.net)**

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**Margaret Creek**

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# Linton & District Historical Society

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Suitably attired as Victorian school mistresses, Linda Bevan and Jo Porth spoke to us about the history of Sturmer village school from when it opened in January 1877 until its closure in 1947. It is now used as a village hall for various groups to meet, occasionally inviting children to spend a day to see how their ancestors were taught without the use of modern facilities and technology. Many of us attending the meeting, although not from the Victorian era, could relate to some of the practices still around when attending school in the 40's & 50's. A **Heritage Trail** has also been created around the village with information points telling the story of Sturmer. A most entertaining evening about history on your doorstep.

**Our next meeting is on Tuesday  
21st November**

At Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, (*parking available in the public car park in the Health Centre opposite*) starting 7.30pm where refreshments will be on offer before we hear:

## **The Story of George Brewster**

An 11 year-old chimney sweep 'apprentice'.

On a cold February in 1875 he was sent up a boiler chimney at Fulbourn Mental Asylum by his master. He sadly suffocated - nothing out of the ordinary for Victorian England. However, the story afterwards is remarkable. Joanna Hudson will tell us more, please come and join us.

For further details about our society please contact us either by email: [ldhscamb@gmail.com](mailto:ldhscamb@gmail.com) or telephone: **01223 893915** or **01223 678835**.

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## West Wickham & District Local History Group

One place, one time, one life: **Lord Fairhaven's life at Anglesey Abbey** was a most interesting talk given by **Helen Ackroyd** at the West Wickham and District Local History Group on 9th October. Surprisingly, some people attending the meeting had enjoyed the gardens but never been inside the house.

Founded as a Priory around 1135, Anglesey has seen huge changes over the years. Helen explained the

more recent history regarding the fascinating Fairhaven dynasty, and how the house was altered as we see it today holding the vast collection of books and treasures bought by Lord Fairhaven.

Anglesey Abbey cannot really be described as a museum, as it retains its welcoming character and comfortable family atmosphere.

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**Margaret Creek**

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# The Bell Inn

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The Autumn weather has finally set in, so the open fires are here to welcome you in both bars.

**Food served Tuesday - Saturday 12 - 2pm and 5.30 - 8.30pm. Sunday 12 - 3.30pm.**

Bookings are now being taken for our **Christmas Party** menu, which is available **Tuesday - Saturday** from **Wednesday 15th November until Friday 22nd December**. Menu choices will be required at least 7 days prior to your booking date. You can find the menu on The Bell Inn, Balsham Facebook page, or call in to the pub for a copy.

We are pleased to announce that we are in the **2024 Good Beer Guide**, so pop in to sample the ever changing real ales, a dark beer is always available, which earned us a

CAMRA award in 2022.

## **Diary for November:**

Every Wednesday evening, **Buy One Get One Free** Sausage and Mash or Scampi and chips (*full menu also available*).

**Sunday 5th, Bonfire Night.** The fire pit will be lit, marshmallows and sparklers will be available, and a short but spectacular firework display will take place at **8pm**.

**Wednesday 8th, Bingo.** Eyes down at **8pm**.

**Tuesday 28th, Charity Quiz.**

**Wednesday 29th Lunch Club** (*bookings and pre orders only*).

**Live sport** on Sky and TNT sports.

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

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## **Phil & Mary**

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Photo courtesey of: Jan Ellam

Installing the previous playground roundabout.

# The Black Bull

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## **November greetings to all Balsham Villagers from all at The Black Bull**

Thank you to all of you who have visited this last month. We had a few wonderful private events as well, with cricket club dinners, anniversary celebrations and weddings – lovely to see the Bull in full swing.

### **Taster Menus**

Rob's taster menus continue to thrill and are building quite a following with hot demand. We tried a Thursday night for the first time last month which proved particularly popular so he has set his next one for **Thursday 16th November**.

As many of you know now, we run these like a dinner party with everyone sitting down and being served at the same time, albeit at your own tables.

Rob is always experimenting – we are never quite sure how it will turn out – but there have been only delights so far! Like any true artist, there is no formula – just instinct and intuition that comes from a life dedicated to his passion. As ever, be sure to book your table early as we cannot do that many tables at this level.

### **Christmas Bookings**

Key dates are filling up! If you have a larger group or have specific dates then please get in touch ASAP. We have closed the books now for Christmas Day at the Red Lion but still have some tables left at The Black Bull.

### **Some dates ahead for your diaries:**

**Pint of Music: Friday 27th October**

– *Simon Howard*

**Steak Specials Board: Fri 27th & Sat 28th October**

**Rob Taster Menu: Thurs 16th Nov 7:30 for 7:45pm**

We are continuing our extension of our Black Bull Brunches programme to include Saturdays as well as Sundays due to popular demand – every few weeks – next ones:

**Saturday 11th /Sunday 12th**

**November**

**Saturday 25th/Sunday 26th**

**November**

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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# Balsham Football Club

## RESULTS

DATE	HOME	AWAY	SCORE	RES
23 Sept	Steeple Morden	Balsham	3-3	D
30 Sept	Balsham	Guilden Morden	1-3	L
7 Oct	Histon Hornets	Balsham	2-1	L
14 Oct	Cambridge Ambassadors	Balsham	4-1	L

## FIXTURES

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	COMP
28 Oct 3pm	Balsham	Comberton Utd Reserves	Balsham Rec	League
4 Nov 2pm	Clare Town Res	Balsham	Clare Field	League
11 Nov 1.45pm	Litlington Ath	Balsham	Litlington Ground	Cup
18 Nov 2pm	Guilden Morden	Balsham	Guilden Morden Rec	League
25 Nov 2pm	Ashdon Utd Sat.	Balsham	Ashdon Rec	League
2 Dec 2pm	Balsham	Cambourne	Balsham Rec	League

## Granta Medical Practices

**Flu vaccines:** If you are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccine but have not yet had it, please call us today on **0300 234 5555** to book your appointment – it's not too late! If you are eligible for shingles and pneumo vaccines you can get these as the same time.

**Covid vaccines:** We are vaccinating our housebound patients and care home residents. For anyone else eligible, vaccines are available at various walk-in centres and vaccination sites. For further information please go to <https://>

[www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/](https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/)

**Accurx Patient Triage:** Our online consultation tool is now live. Accurx replaces our email service, is easy to use and is a secure way of liaising with us. Accurx is PC-based – you do not need to download an app and you don't need to create an account. Accurx can also be used for administrative queries, such as insurance forms, etc. Simply go to our website and click on the link to start. If you don't use online services

you can still ring or pop in to see us.

**Repeat prescriptions:** Now is the time to start thinking about your repeat medication stocks over the Christmas period. When is your repeat due? Does it work around

your Christmas plans? Avoid the last minute rush and plan ahead now!

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**Sandra East**

GRANTA PATIENT SERVICES

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[www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk)

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## Balsham WI

At our October meeting Jonathan Crisp, from Cambridge County Council, came along to give a talk on **Recycling in the County**. We learnt how the recycling system works, and how much cash can be generated when stuff is recycled rather than going to landfill which costs the council money. He emphasized that our refuse bins are for packaging materials and that larger objects and textiles, electricals and tools should be disposed of at the County recycling depots at Milton and Thriplow. We are apparently very lucky in South Cambs as the council can recycle many things that other councils cannot. Plenty to think about after this meeting, especially that food waste is a major contributor to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and that the average

household wastes over £70 worth of food a month.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, November 14th** when our speaker will be **Linda Cook** from **Turn and Burn**, who will be showing us how to do pyrography, with a chance to have a go, hopefully. We also plan to have a sales table for members to sell any handmade items.

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** or send a message on Facebook, **@Balsham WI**

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**Debbie Mower**

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Photo courtesy: Edwards family

Balsham Fun Run

# The Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

Annual Meeting October 4th 2023

- Number of **Transport Trips** this year: **176**; Drivers: **11**; Residents helped: **40** (*all of these are an increase on the previous year*)
- **Prescription Run** each day Monday to Friday: **5 drivers plus reserves**
- **Community Café** twice a month for up to **25 residents**. Students from Granta school came once and Buttercups pre-school came once.

Other help given to residents:

- Financial support
- One-to-one support
- Dog sharing
- Shopping

## Finance

A report was tabled. **£1110.83** of BGNS reserves has been spent on supporting residents. We have also received donations, including £500 from Balsham Parochial Charities, for which we are very grateful.

## Developments this year

- A second Community Café has started in the Mays Avenue room on the first Friday of each month.
- Community Lunch on the third Sunday of the month in the Church Institute. Members of the village church are doing the catering. Up to 50 people have been attending.
- Items of medical equipment such as walkers and a couple of wheelchairs have been donated and are loaned out.

## Warm Hubs

Last year the idea of providing warm hubs was suggested. After canvassing the thoughts of residents, there didn't seem to be much interest. However, as a result of this idea, the second Community Café was begun in Mays Avenue.

If you would like to support the work of the **Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme** in any way, get in touch on: **07508 430057** or email **balshamgns@gmail.com**



Photo courtesy of: Jan Ellam

Miss Dyball, Head Teacher of Balsham School 1943-1965

# Balsham Horticultural Society

'Your friendly local gardening club'

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Our October meeting saw the garden club gather following our summer break in our new venue in the Sports Pavilion. Our chairman Sue Lock began by paying a tribute to our long serving member and past Chairman, **Hilary Potter**, who did so much and with such enthusiasm for our garden club, who has sadly died. Hilary will be remembered fondly and will be a much-missed member.

Following a last minute change of speaker, we were able to welcome **Robert Brett**, the curator of the **RHS gardens at Hyde Hall**, whose talk was entitled '*Your and My Need For Plants.*'

Robert was a very engaging and knowledgeable speaker. He joined Hyde Hall eight years ago and spoke of the work done, both by Hyde Hall and the RHS in general. The membership currently stands at 625,000, with 3 million visitors to all the RHS gardens. He spoke initially of the projects the RHS undertakes, from community outreach projects, for example in hospitals around the country creating gardens for patients and relatives to enjoy and find solace, to The Britain in Bloom initiative to bring communities together and enhance their villages/towns. The organization has 300,000 volunteers who amongst other things help to plant 176,000 trees and 966,065

shrubs every year.

Hyde Hall is a 365 acre site, initially a farm house on a windy hill and farmland, owned by the Robinson Family, and given to the RHS in 1993 making it 30 years old this year. They have apprenticeships for five students encouraging them to follow a life in horticulture. They have a new education centre and 7,000 school children a year come to learn.

Thinking of the future and the effects of climate change, they have a sustainability strategy using plants that enjoy dry conditions, so watering is kept to a minimum. They have used peat free compost for the past ten years.

Hyde Hall has created a wildwood, planting 5,000 trees around its periphery as well as preserving wild flower seeds and establishing a wild flower meadow which now has seven species of orchid and engaging in plant trials.

We meet again on **Wednesday 1st November at 7:30pm**. Please note: in the **Sports Pavilion**. It will be our AGM and we will have **Brian Thurlow** give one of his memory talks, followed by a Raffle & refreshments.

***All are welcome - new members especially.***

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**Hazel Leeson**

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# Poppies for Remembrancetide

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

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Poppies will be available locally at the Post Office, Coffee Shop, The Bell Inn, The Black Bull and at Church Services in Balsham, also at The Chestnut Tree Pub in West Wrating, from 27/28th October until Remembrance Sunday, 12th November. My grateful thanks to all of them and to those who are helping me distribute poppies. With changing circumstances, there will not be a local house-to-house collection.

For those of us who no longer use cash there is now an easy way to make a donation for your poppy. There are QR codes specific to our area, ECF03, on collecting tins - just scan and donate, cashless, anonymous and gift aid applied if wished. I will only receive the total sum of donations made in this way, not even tin specific. Cash is of course most acceptable in the collecting tins, or cheques in envelopes labelled

**POPPY APPEAL** handed in at the Post Office, where there are also gift aid forms with envelopes, upon request (increases your donation by 25% at no cost to you). Wooden crosses will also be available in the Post Office, Coffee Shop and Chestnut Tree, plus reflective poppies etc, but 2023 enamel pins have not been possible owing to supply difficulties. Supermarkets will have these. A few non-dated pins may be available locally.

Totally recyclable, plastic free Poppies have been developed, but for use only when others have been used up, to avoid unnecessary waste.

Please give generously to help the Royal British Legion support our ex-service men and women.

Thank you.

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**Margaret Johnson**

POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER

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## Cambridge Past, Present and Future

### **Woodland & Wildlife Walk at Wandlebury**

**Wed 15 Nov | 10-12pm | FREE**

Join our Wardens for a gentle guided walk to learn about and enjoy the woods and their wonderful wildlife. Meet at car park noticeboard.

### **Merlin Sheldrake In Conversation**

**Wed 22 Nov | 7.20-8.20pm | £5 or**

### **FREE for Cambridge PPF Members St. Barnabas Church, Mill Rd, Cambridge**

Charity fundraising event with a talk and Q&A from the celebrated author of prize winning, international best-selling book *Entangled Life*.

Booking essential.

# Balsham Weather September 2023

Photo: Lesley Bennett



## Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

recorded by Peter Neale, 11 Nine Chimneys Lane.

Daytime temperatures (in the shade)

**Highest:** 31° C on 10th September

**Lowest:** 16° C on 22nd September

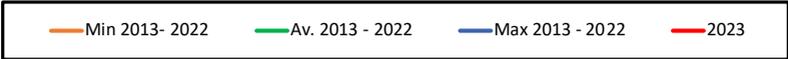
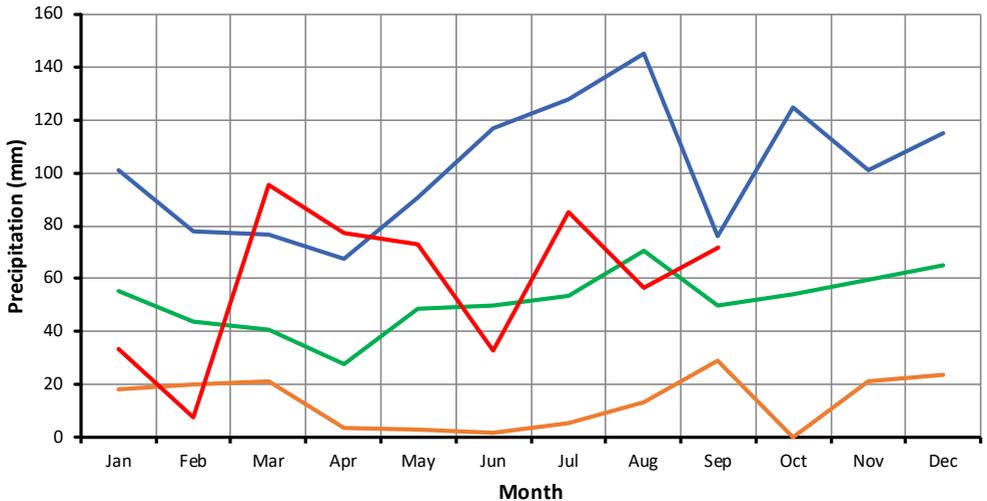
Night time temperatures

**Highest:** 20° C on 9th September

**Lowest:** 9° C on 23rd September

## September Rainfall Measured at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total September 2023 Rainfall: 72mm / 2.88" (9 days of Rain )



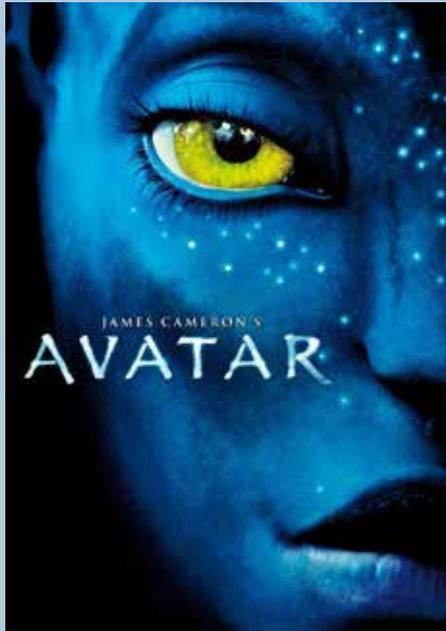
recorded by Peter Neale, 11 Nine Chimneys Lane.



**Saturday November 4th**

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

## **Avatar (12)**



**Avatar (12) James Cameron's** acclaimed first film Avatar

A paraplegic Marine dispatched to the moon Pandora on a unique mission becomes torn between following his orders and protecting the world he feels is his home. Made in 2009 this film won 3 Oscars and stars **Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana** and **Sigourney Weaver** and is the forerunner of the sequels.

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

*At the time of going to press the December film had not yet been decided upon. Please refer to the noticeboard at the Balsham Church Institute for details of the next film.*

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