



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 654

SICUT CANIS CUM OSSIS

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2023/24

Merry Christmas

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Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Richard Pargeter

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

DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

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Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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or phone or text **07508 430057**

Editorial

The Balsham Review Team wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a good New Year

It is amazing how quickly the past year has gone by, and how much has happened in that time. This year I am particularly grateful to Clive Bennett for giving his expertise to the Review Team and changing the look of our magazine, bringing it right up to date. Thank you, Clive. I also would like to thank Lesley, Clive's wife, for her ability with her camera, often being sent out to get a picture to fit the article or situation. Now you all have a year's experience of the 'new-look' Review I hope you all also appreciate it. And while I am thanking parts of our team, I especially would like to thank all the deliverers who get the magazine to you, often in awful weather, and trying to get it to you as near the beginning of the month as possible.

Deliveries takes me to William Harvey, who has organised the delivery of the Sunday papers for the village for as long as I can remember. It has been a great boon to have them on the doormat each week and to have no need to drive to get them myself. So thank you William and your delivery team. The Sweet Talk team from Linton seem to have taken over well, but it won't be the same

without William.

The **Balsham Plough Monday Club** have again got themselves ready for their busiest time of the year. The Christmas tree will again be 'planted' on the green, and all the village are invited to be there when the lights are switched on at six o'clock on **December 9th**. With the lights and carol singing it really sets the scene for the festive season. That leaves the ploughmen a few weeks to recover before they have their grand money- raising event on Monday January 8th. If you don't live on their route do get out to the nearest place to enjoy the spectacle of the dancing and try to recognise some of your neighbours in their agricultural clothes!

This year **The Balsham Singers** have decided to have their Christmas Concert in the afternoon. I am delighted that it will be earlier (tongue in cheek) as it means I can be home for the Strictly Final that evening!! And it also means many people who dislike being out late on winter evenings will be able to go too. See you there.

I see that **The Bell** will be celebrating

the New Year with some fireworks. Thank you, Phil and Mary, for the advance warning so that we can keep our pets indoors.

I have been lucky enough to have two new knees this year, so next year I am looking forward to being able to do all sorts that have been impossible for the past few months. Maybe Lizzie the dog will get slimmer as I am able to walk her further again. And it might do

something for me too! Thank you to everyone who has sent best wishes for a quick recovery. I am keeping up the exercises, so I hope it won't be too long before I can get around all the village dog walks, and can see the changes there may have been.

Good wishes to you all for the coming season.

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

HILARY POTTER

May I please use your columns to give my heartfelt thanks on behalf of David, Andrew and myself for the torrent of love and affection that we received from our friends and neighbours in Balsham and further afield during Hilary's illness and finally her death. From the many offers of help during her mercifully short illness, the dedication to her memory of the Harvest Festival flower arrangements in the church, the many cards and letters which I received from you all and finally the packed church full of flowers and vegetables with some lusty singing at our Celebration of her

life, it was a wonderful send off to a very special lady. Thank you.

Jim Potter

THANK YOU, WILLIAM

By way of the Review, we would like to publicly thank William Harvey for the many, many years he has managed the distribution of Sunday papers in the village, organising the ordering, household deliveries and collecting what we owed.

For the 40 years we have lived here he has provided a truly amazing service. Well done, William, you deserve a well-earned rest.

Dave & Sue Arnold

Balsham December/January Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
December		
1st Friday	Community Café, 10.00am - 12pm	Mays Ave
3rd Sunday	Buttercups Christmas Fayre 11am - 3pm	Church Institute
6th Wednesday	Gardening Club 7.30pm	Pavilion
9th Saturday	Christmas Tree Lighting 6pm	Green
9th Saturday	Picture House, Judy 7.00 for 7.30pm	Church Institute
12th Tuesday	Balsham WI, 7.30pm	Pavilion
16th Saturday	Balsham Singers' Christmas Concert 4.00pm	Church
18th Monday	NO Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm	Pavilion
19th Tuesday	Community Café, 10.00am—12pm	Church Institute
19th Tuesday	Linton & Dist Historical Society 7.30pm	Linton Village Hall
January		
5th Friday	Community Café, 10.00am—12pm	Mays Ave
6th Saturday	Picture House, The Great Escaper , 7.00 for 7.30pm	Church Institute
7th Sunday	Plough Sunday Service, 11.00am	Church
8th Monday	Plough Monday Evening, 4.30pm onwards	Around the Village
9th Tuesday	LALA, Herbs and Herb Gardens , 10.00am	Linton Village Hall
9th Tuesday	WI 7.30pm	Pavilion
15th Monday	Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm	Pavilion
16th Tuesday	Community Café, 10.00am—12pm	Church Institute
23rd Tuesday	Linton & Dist Historical Society 7.30pm	Linton Village Hall



Church Services

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

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

METHODIST: Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

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

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

From the Church



It's that time of year! Advent and the approach to Christmas, when there is so much to look forward to in our parishes: Christmas fairs; Christmas concerts and services; carol singing and more besides, all of which I really enjoy! Yet whilst Christmas decorations may arrive in the shops in early November, it can still be good to keep a balance between the waiting and preparation associated with Advent and the festive atmosphere throughout December. Savouring the waiting and preparation can seem like a counter-cultural pursuit. Sometimes we may be encouraged to cut to the chase and get what we want straight away, as though there is nothing worth waiting for. Advent dares to defy this. Even something as simple as an Advent calendar or candle may remind us that Advent traditionally is a time of reflection and preparation for the joyful celebration of the birth of Christ. The more hectic life may become, perhaps the more important it is to set aside time for stillness and reflection. This in turn may help us

appreciate more deeply the good we may see in each other and the world around us, despite the trials and tribulations we may experience or hear about in the news. It may help us notice, name and celebrate gift, generosity and expressions of love.

Gift, joyful celebration and an instinct for seeing the good, also point towards the deeper reality of the Christmas message and the story of Jesus' birth. Beautifully strange news which offers hope, joy and new life. A child, born in humble circumstances, is the Christ child who is greeted, as Luke's gospel says, as "Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord". Good news conveyed by these simple words, which invite a lifetime's reflection: Jesus is "Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'".

At this time of year then, we may be reminded that, however busy or testing our lives may become, the most important, life-changing good news we could ever hear is being proclaimed in the stillness and joy of our Advent and Christmas celebrations. Good news worth responding to, celebrating and sharing, and which can shape the way we live not only during Advent and Christmas but in all the times and seasons of our lives.

Revd Iain McColl

December Services	9:30am	11:00am	PM Services
3rd <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>		United Service of Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Rev Ben Brady</i>	
10th <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	Holy Communion Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Rev Ben Brady</i> Morning Worship and Christingle Balsham <i>Hannah Threlfall</i>	Christingle service (4.00pm) West Wrating <i>John and Scilla Harvey</i>
17th <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Carol Service West Wrating <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Carol Services 3.00pm Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> 4.00pm Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> 6.00pm Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i> 6.30pm Great Abington <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>
24th <i>Christmas Eve (Sunday) 4th Sunday of Advent</i>	Holy Communion Hildersham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	Christmas Eve Crib Service (10.30am) Little Abington <i>Rosemary Mead / Hannah Threlfall</i>	Christmas Eve Carol Services 4.00pm West Wrating <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> 6.00pm West Wickham <i>Hannah Threlfall</i> Carols and Christingle Service 4.00pm Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Midnight Mass 11.30pm Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> 11.30pm Little Abington <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>

December Services	9:30am	11:00am	PM Services
25th <i>Christmas Day (Monday)</i>	Christmas Day Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> West Wrattling <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	Christmas Day Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Christmas Day Morning Worship Balsham <i>Hannah Threlfall</i> Great Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	
31st <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i>	Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	United Service of Holy Communion Balsham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	

January Services	9:30am	11:00am	PM Services
7th <i>Baptism of Christ/ Plough Sunday</i>		United Service of Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Hannah Threlfall</i>	
14th <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion Balsham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i> Morning Worship and Christingle Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	6.00pm Evening Prayer West Wrattling <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>



January Services	9:30am	11:00am	PM Services
<p>21st 3rd Sunday of Epiphany</p>	<p>Holy Communion West Wrattling <i>Revd Iain McColl</i></p> <p>Morning Worship Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i></p> <p>Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/ Rhona McEune</i></p>	<p>Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i></p> <p>Holy Communion Little Abington <i>Revd Ben Brady/ Steven Wheeler</i></p>	<p>6.00pm Evening Prayer Hildersham <i>Alistair Collen</i></p>
<p>28th Candlemas</p>	<p>Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i></p> <p>Holy Communion (BCP) Weston Colville <i>Rev Ben Brady</i></p>	<p>Café Church Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Morning Worship for Candlemas</i> Balsham <i>Hannah Threlfall</i></p>	<p>4.00pm Evening Prayer Hildersham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i></p>

Garden History – with LALA

Linton Area Learning Alliance (LALA) starts a new 10 week course called ***The History of Herbs & Herbals, Physic & Botanic Gardens*** on Tuesday mornings from **9th January 2024**. We meet in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane from 10.00 to 11.45 and we are pleased to welcome tutor Andrew Sankey once again.

Andrew describes the course as follows: The course explores the history of herbs in relation to how they were grown in gardens in Britain. Beginning in the medieval period we'll assess the importance of herbs and how a specific garden to grow and identify herbs became

vital. We'll look at famous herbals, eminent herbalists, and how the first physic gardens evolved into the botanic gardens of today. You'll find out how to make a nosegay, whether 'pilewort' is effective, the truth about the screaming mandrake root, and which poisonous herbs enable you to fly a broomstick!

Please contact me for more information or to register interest. Cost for the 10 weeks remains at £50 and includes a coffee break.

Sue Mudge

T 01223 892737

E mudges.linton@btinternet.com



The Balsham Plough Monday Club

Balsham Christmas Tree

The Balsham Ploughmen will once again be erecting and lighting up the Balsham Christmas Tree this year. The event will take place on Saturday, December 9th, starting at 6pm at the Prince's Memorial shelter (commonly known as the band stand!). There will be carol singing and a barbecue as well as the ubiquitous mulled wine. The tree itself has been sponsored this year by the family of John Robinson. The event is usually very well attended and is now looked upon as a regular village family occasion, so please attend if you can.

Blessing of the Plough

The Balsham Ploughmen will also be present at the church service on **Plough Sunday** (from 11am on **Sunday 7th January 2024**). During the service the Plough will be blessed and the Ploughmen, dressed in their usual slightly distressed country fashion, will recite various verses that should ensure a fruitful and fertile year ahead. Please come along if you would like to.

Balsham Plough Monday 2024

The ancient tradition of Plough Monday was revived in 1972 when a group of Balsham locals, over a few pints, were looking to raise funds for various local charities and, in particular, for the church tower fund. The outcome of these conversations

was that, on a bitterly cold night in January 1972, a newly refurbished wooden plough was brought out from Lower Farm, Balsham with 6 men acting as "horses" and an assorted group of collectors dressed in smocks and string tied breeches. The group was completed by the whip-wielding squire dressed in a top hat and a Betsy, a man dressed as a woman. They toured the village calling at as many houses as they could, collecting a grand total of £75. In 1974, the Ploughmen were joined by the Cambridge Morris Men who performed their own Plough Monday dances and provided music and song. This is still the basic model for Plough Monday today with the addition of some organised stops and more or less (usually less) punctual finish at one of our two wonderful village pubs, the Bell and the Black Bull. Since 1972, the Balsham Ploughmen have raised over **£75,000** for local causes.

The **Balsham Plough Monday** celebrations in 2024 will happen on **Monday 8th January**. The Ploughmen will start at Wood Hall at around 4.30pm and process around the village stopping at Plumian Way, West Wratting Road, The Manor, Fox Road, The Black Bull and, finally, The Bell. As ever, we'll be distributing donation envelopes over the festive period:



Photo courtesy of: Jan Ellam

A snowy Plough Monday at Mays Avenue 1982.

L-R. Ray Brown; Dave Pettit; Jim Daniels (Squire); Norman Ellam; Alan Plumb (Betsy); David Gedny; Pat Gladstone; George Osbourne; Roy Ellam; Cyril Denny. Kneeling at the front Terry Pask & John Robinson.

that will also be your individual raffle ticket. Prizes are many and varied with the first and second prizes being £200 and £100 respectively, not to be sneezed at! If you would like to donate to the Cambridge Cancer Help Centre and numerous other local good causes please either drop your donation envelope off at the Old Butchers, the Post Office, the Black Bull or the Bell or come along to one of the stops on Plough Monday, enjoy a drink and donate what you can. Thanks to everyone who donated

last year and for the continued support of the wonderful people of Balsham.

Finally, this is a local Balsham tradition and should anyone know of local good causes that would benefit from a donation then please contact The Balsham Ploughmen through our Facebook Page (**Balsham Ploughmen/ Facebook**) or via the website (**balshamploughmen.weebly.com**).

Terry O'Neill

Community Cafés

These will all be from **10:00 to 12:00:**

Balsham Church Institute on **Tuesday December 19th & 16th January**

Mays Avenue Community Hall on **Friday December 1st & 5th January**

*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 20th November, 2023 in Balsham Pavilion

PC Resignation: Steve Thurgood has resigned from the Parish Council. The PC thanked Steve for all his hard work and support on the Parish Council, especially at the pavilion and Rosie Green Wood. Steve has kindly offered to continue to look after Rosie Green Wood, and the PC were very grateful for this offer.

PC Vacancy: If anyone would like to stand for the Parish Council please contact me in the first place for a chat.

Illumination and other improvements to the Prince Memorial

Memorial: The PC agreed to look further into the cost of a power supply for the lighting, new flooring in the Prince Memorial and additional paving slabs around the Prince Memorial.

War Memorial: The war memorial cleaning, re-lettering and repainting has been completed.

Planning:

Site address: 2 Church Lane, Balsham.

Proposal: Addition of a 2-storey side extension, single storey rear extension and change to the front porch from flat roof to pitched gable roof.

Reference: 23/03264/HFUL

PC Decision: No objections.

Site address: 18 West Wickham Road, Balsham.

Proposal: T1 Walnut - Crown lift to

2.5m above ground level - this is to allow more light in to the house and a garden.

Reference: 23/1278/TTPO

PC Decision: Approved.

Site address: 58 High Street, Balsham.

Proposal: T1 Cherry. Overshading rear garden. Marginally qualifies for notification at approximately 10cm dbh approx. Fell and remove to allow replanting of border

Reference: 23/1277/TTCA

PC Decision: No objections.

Site address: Streetly Hall Farm, Webbs Road, West Wickham.

Proposal: Farm-based anaerobic digestion renewable energy facility, construction of vehicular access/road to A1307, associated infrastructure and landscaping

Reference: CCC/23/110/FUL

PC Decision: The public meeting was held on Saturday 18th November and Nick Coates attended on behalf of the PC. The PC were concerned about the amount of increase in traffic through the village and the A1307. Consideration must be given to school exit and entry times. Some of the crops will be stored at Grange Farm, which will then be transported to Streetly End.

Allocation of S106 funds to the Scout Hut:

The PC approved the costings for the improvements to the office and extractor fans and have asked for quotes to be finalised.

Water issues in West Wickham Road/West Wrating Road and Linton Road: The drains have been cleared in Linton Road, but it hasn't improved the issues.

Highways have indicated that the ditches need to be cleared by the riparian owners in West Wrating Road.

The drains are still blocked in West Wickham Road and the ditch needs digging out.

The next
Parish Council Meeting
will be held on
17th January, 2024 at 7.30 pm
in **Balsham Pavilion.**
ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

Tracy Coston PARISH CLERK

Tel: 01223 894462 / 07929930385

Email: clerk@balsham.net

Website: www.balsham.net

District & County Councillor's Report

NOVEMBER 2023

Possible Solar Farm Application

We were alerted to a proposal from a solar energy company of a possible planning application in our area for a new, very large, solar farm. There is very little detail at the moment but we do know that the potential area amounts to several hundred hectares. The current 'search area' for land is from the east of Balsham down to the north of Linton, then over to the east of Fulbourn. If this whole area were to be turned into a solar farm, which is unlikely in our view, it would be the largest solar farm in Europe, by some way. Watch this space!

Anaerobic Digestion Plant Proposals

In our area we have not one, but two live planning applications submitted to the relevant local authorities for bio energy digestion plants. These are plants that breakdown agricultural materials and turn them into energy. For reference there is one on the

A505 between Royston and Baldock.

1. The first application is located just over the Suffolk border outside Haverhill and off the A1307. The site runs up the Cambridgeshire border and ends at the edge of West Wickham/Weston Colville. You may have seen signs for the anti-lobbying group 'Muck Off Acorn' – this refers to this application. As the application is in Suffolk it will be Suffolk County Council that will make the decision on this but whilst the time for public comments has closed, you can still look at the plans and write to the case office dealing with the application – andy.rutter@suffolk.
- 2 The second application is in the parish of Streetly End, West Wickham. This site is smaller than the first and as it is in Cambridgeshire will be decided by Cambridgeshire County Council. The council are taking public

comments now and this can be done via their website.

19 Bus Service Continues

We have previously reported that the number 19 bus service, which runs through some of our smaller villages, such as The Camps and Bartlow, was in danger of having funding pulled for it earlier this year. Luckily, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority have agreed to continue to fund the service, at least for another year. However, as ridership of this service is quite low, any encouragement that can be given to people to use it will go a long way to show it's a vital service that should be permanently retained.

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, it can be found on the Hope CIC (the charity running the scheme)

website - <https://hopeagainst.org/hope-cic-mobile-food-hub> or on 07474 725 477.

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.scambsgov.uk/free-electric-blankets-will-help-residents-most-in-need-this-winter/>

Contact Information

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com



James Golightly, headteacher at the Meadow School for 12 years retired in December 1987.

At a special Christmas assembly he was presented with various gifts - including a camera.

Photo courtesy of: Jan Ellam

South Coast 100km Challenge



It seems so long ago that I took on my 62 mile walk along the South Coast raising money for Cancer Research UK. I started on Saturday morning at 7.30am walking in the heat, and it was brutally tough with no shade and lots of ups and downs.

The seven sisters were relentless. I walked continuously through the night and continued in the heat till I finally finished at 6.42pm on Sunday evening with a walking time of 31 hours 42 minutes and 18 seconds.

I just wanted to thank everyone who sponsored me and wished me well before I did my walk.

I am amazed by people's generosity and extremely proud that with all of your help I raised the grand total of **£1,821.00** for research into trying to find a cure for this dreadful disease. Thank you

Gail Collis



BALSHAM SINGERS
present

**A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON
OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

Directed by JOHN CLENAGHAN
& Accompanied by RALPH WOODWARD

Holy Trinity Church Balsham
Saturday 16th December
at 4pm

Come and get festive!

Win a superb Christmas hamper
in our raffle!

Tickets £12, Under 16s **FREE**, to include refreshments.

Available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers
Also available from Balsham and Abington Post Offices

NET PROCEEDS DONATED TO
The Sick Children's Trust

Cambridge Wind Band

presents

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas"

A CONCERT OF
CHRISTMAS FAVOURITES

Saturday 9th December • 3.30 pm

CONDUCTOR: VIV HALTON

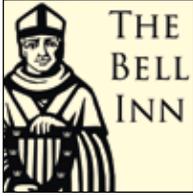
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST'S CHURCH
HILLS RD, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 8RN

TICKETS: £15/£10/£7 includes festive refreshments
Available in advance from www.camwindband.com

SPONSORED BY BOUYGUES CANTAB CRITERION

CAMBRIDGEWINDBAND CWB WIND CAMBRIDGEWINDBAND

The Bell Inn



Hi Everyone,
There are still dates available for our Christmas Party menu, which is available Tuesday - Saturday 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, or call in 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 December:

There will be no **BOGOF Wednesdays** in December due to Christmas Party bookings. Also no **Lunch Club** for December.

Wednesday 13th – Crimbo-Bingo.
Eyes down at 8pm.

Saturday 16th - Live Music, Local Band: The Over 'N' Outs.

Sunday 24th - Christmas Eve party and Christmas prize draw. Draw tickets in pub £2.00.

Christmas Day - Open 12.00 - 2.30pm Drinks only.

Boxing Day - Open All Day.

Thursday 28th - Christmas Charity Quiz 8.00pm.

New Year's Eve - Party Night with fireworks at midnight. Please keep animals safe inside.

New Year's Day - Open 12.00 -

5.00pm. Brunch menu served 12.00 - 3.00pm. Please book in advance.

Diary for January:

During January, we will be running our annual 'In House' darts tournament, to register, please call in the pub.

Monday 8th - Plough Monday. (our turn to host, open until late).

Tuesday 30th - Charity Quiz.

Wednesday 31st - Lunch Club, advance bookings only.

Live sport continues to be shown 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.

We would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Thank you for your continued support.

Phil & Mary



“Thank you Phil and Mary Taylor Cole for the lovely bonfire and firework display. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.”

Sara Fenwick

Marsh Mail

Sixty-nine Year 9 and 10 students from Linton Village College spent the Remembrance weekend on the Battlefields trip in France and Belgium.



The trip gave students the opportunity to explore trench lines on the Western Front that had been preserved since the end of the First World War whilst guides talked them through how disease, infestation, and poor sanitation was rife.

At 11 o'clock on Armistice Day, students had an incredibly special opportunity to mark the 105th anniversary of the end of the First World War at a graveyard in the Somme Valley that was dedicated to men in the 36th Ulster Division, many who died in the very first hours of the Battle of the Somme on the 1st of July 1916. Pupils visited a number of other memorials, including the memorial for unknown soldiers

at Thiepval and the Newfoundland Memorial Park.



Some students were fortunate to be able to visit the sites of some their ancestors who gave their lives during the fighting on the Western Front in the First World War and whose graves we visited on the trip on personal pilgrimages. Lucy, in Year 9, visited the grave of one of her great great grandfather's brothers who died in Ypres at the age of twenty seven.

Meanwhile, Thomas in Year 10 discovered that one of the tour guides is an expert on his ancestor who was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military honour in the British Army, for his gallantry and bravery in the First World War.

It was a very special and poignant extra-curricular event that staff and students gained a great deal from.

Laura Heard

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE PR & COMMUNICATIONS

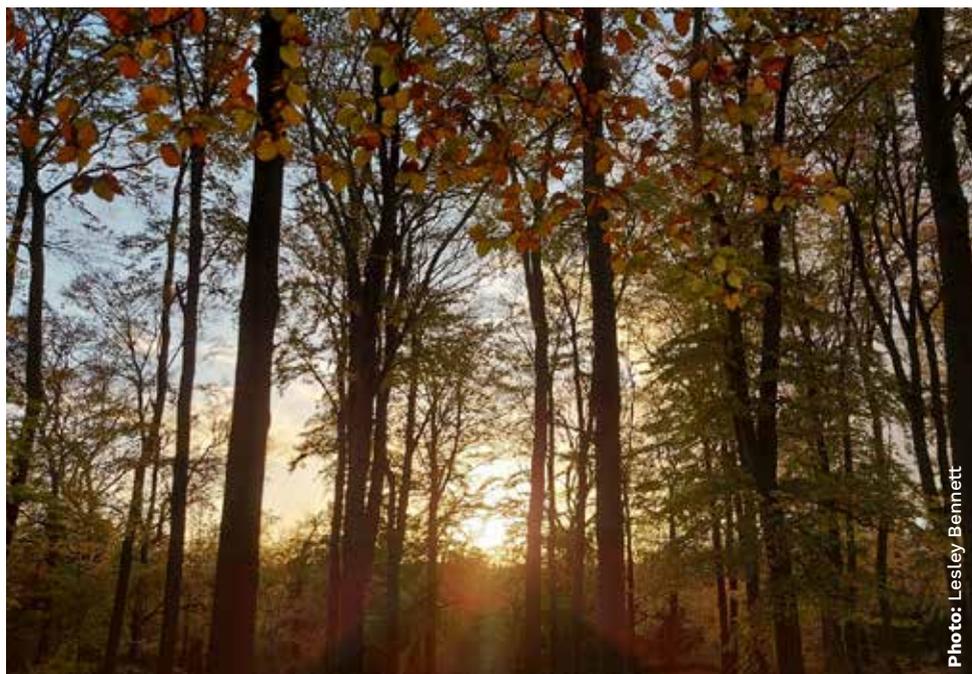


Photo: Lesley Bennett

The Beechwoods in a low winter sun.



Balsham:-
Remembrance Sunday service.



Photos: Joanna Saunders

The stones to the left of the font were decorated by the Brownies.

The Meadow Primary School

We now find ourselves wrapped in the cosy embrace of colder weather here at The Meadow. This past month has seen plenty of opportunities for us to come together to celebrate our collective and individual achievements as well as commemorate and remember important parts of our history.

Honouring Remembrance Day: A School's Touching Tribute



On the playground, where laughter and noise usually echo through the air, stood a solemn and poignant sight this Remembrance Day. All children and adults at The Meadow came together in a touching tribute that showcased their reverence for those who sacrificed their lives in service.

In a tradition that has become a cherished part of the school's Remembrance Day celebrations, children gathered around a giant poppy clutching their pennies. After the 2 minutes silence, children approached the poppy, respectfully placing their money upon it. They understood that these pennies were

not just a collection of coins but a collective token of respect, a gesture of remembrance for those who had given their all.



Celebrating Stars Among Us

Every week at The Meadow, our assembly hall transforms into a stage of recognition. These weekly gatherings are a celebration of the unique talents, progress, and endeavours that make our school community shine. Whether it's a child mastering a new skill, showing resilience in overcoming challenges, or simply displaying remarkable growth, every achievement is a star in our constellation. We are incredibly proud of all the achievements of the children in our school and this celebration reinforces our ethos that every child is respectful, caring, and passionate about learning and trying our best.

Calling All Volunteers

We invite individuals to become part of our school community. Your role would involve spending just a few hours a week listening to students as they read aloud. Your presence and support can significantly impact their confidence, fluency, and enthusiasm for literature. No special qualifications are needed—just a willingness to listen, encourage,

and engage with our young readers. If this is something you think you can commit to, please get in touch with our English Lead and Deputy Headteacher, **Mrs Butcher** via our school office. Contact us at: Email: **office@meadowprimary.org** or call: **01223 894400**

Faye Facer

ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHER & EYFS LEAD

Girlguiding Linton District

Christmas is coming and we are getting busy. Pantomime season is upon us and it will soon be time to say “oh yes you can.” It is also time for Christmas fairs and decorating a Christmas tree at the village Christmas tree festivals. Our District went away to Blackland Farm for a few days in October. Once there, they took part in a host of different activities. This included things such as crate climbing, bungy trampolining, making pasta and doing all sorts of other activities and crafts. Our Trefoil Guild is looking forward to their Christmas meal. They have also planned lots of exciting activities for next year too. We have had two leaders who have gained their going away with license and a third took their license at the Blackland Farm trip. All our amazing leaders are volunteers and give their time and energy freely, giving the girls the opportunity of trying new challenges and having

lots of adventures too and helping girls know they can do anything. We are always on the lookout for help and are in need of someone to help lead our district. We are in very exciting times, so if you would like to find out what we do please take a look at our website: **www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested**. Also, if you have a girl who would like to join in the fun, please go to **www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus**

Come and see us and see what we do, there is something for everyone and at every age too. We even have a **Trefoil Guild** so if you are 18+ you can join in the fun:

https://www.trefoilguild.co.uk/

Linton is the most incredible district, full of friendship with the most amazing, wonderful, dedicated leaders, Young Leaders and dozens of awesome girls

Louisa

M 07711 614 328

Linton Library News

We wish you all a Happy Christmas! We have lots of Christmassy books for all ages to snuggle up with, comfy chairs and study space if you're feeling chilly at home.

If you have some free time, could you be a Library at Home volunteer? Cambridgeshire Libraries offer a free Library at Home service to readers of any age who find it difficult to get to the library due to disability, illness or caring responsibilities. We need a local volunteer who can visit a reader monthly, bringing library books and audiobooks chosen according to the reader's preference and have a friendly chat if you'd like. For more information about becoming a Library at Home volunteer, or customer, please ask at your local library, call **0345 045 5225**, email volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or visit our website <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/advice-and-support/library-at-home-service>

Come visit Linton Library in the warm this December 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 5th and 19th 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 12th.**

Daylight Readers. Our Book Groups meet on **Friday 15th**, one at **10.30am** and the other at **2.30pm**, and always welcome new members!

Ann King & Melanie Symonds

COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

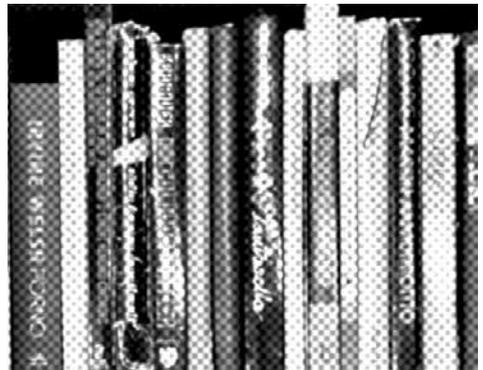
Opening hours

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

Customer Services

(regular office hours): **0345 045 522**
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

The library will be shut for Christmas from Monday 25th December until Tuesday 2nd January 2024.



Linton & District Historical Society

SEASONS GREETINGS TO EVERYONE!



George Brewster, a little-known child chimney sweep whose death would lead to Acts of Parliament being introduced to cease the use of child labour was the topic of a well-researched talk. **Joanna Hudson** told the story to a captive audience of George who died whilst sweeping a chimney at the then named Fulbourn Lunatic Asylum in 1875.

Using a wide range of records relating to his story, all those attending the meeting fully supported Joanna's quest to have a Blue Plaque erected to highlight the plight of young George and his contemporaries. A well-presented, informative and most interesting evening.

Next meetings:

Tuesday 19th December

We welcome back **David Caulfield**

with **Songs & Stories of the 60s/70s**. David's anecdotes during his time as a semi-pro in a 60's group proved very popular last year as many of us could relate to this era. So if you want to catch up with David or if you missed out last time, please come along and join us for our final talk of 2023!!

At Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, *(parking available in the public car park in the Health Centre opposite)* starting 7.30pm. With refreshments and raffle.

Tuesday 16th January

THE DOGS TRUST

We are hoping **Paige Pope** can finally get to talk to us on this very popular subject. Covid restrictions and victim to a pothole on her route last time meant she was unable to get here. Let's hope its third time lucky for Paige and you will extend her a warm welcome.

At Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, *(parking available in the public car park in the Health Centre opposite)* starting 7.30pm. With refreshments and raffle.

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

Margaret Creek

West Wickham & District Local History Group

Sedley Taylor: Education, Philanthropy, Friendship presented by Gabrielle Cliff Hodges was the subject of the November Meeting. When Gabrielle learnt that the Reading Room at Weston Colville was co-founded by Sedley Taylor, a Cambridge academic, she decided to find out more. The title of her talk summed up his achievements as well as his popularity throughout his lifetime. Through his friendship with William Henry Hall, a local landowner, they decided to set up a village reading room. These were

extremely popular during this period, thus enabling village men and boys (not usually women or girls) to meet up, play games and be provided with hot (non-alcoholic) drinks, and have access to books and newspapers. After his death the road in Cambridge named after him was built on land owned by Trinity College in the 1920's. There was much more to this man and his many achievements, also his family and their connections which made for a thoroughly interesting evening.

Bin Collections December/January

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday December 6 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday December 13 TH	✓		
Wednesday December 20 TH		✓	✓
Thursday December 28 TH	✓		
Wednesday January 3 RD		✓	
Wednesday January 10 TH	✓		
Wednesday January 17 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday January 24 TH	✓		
Wednesday January 31 ST		✓	
Wednesday February 7 TH	✓		

Buttercups Community Pre-School

Calling all Santa's helpers and festive folk – we need you!

Never has it been so easy to raise money thanks to **'EASYFUNDRAISING'** and who better to support than your local Buttercups Community, Pre-school charity?



You just download the **easyfundraising app**, search under the cause section for us (Buttercups Community Pre-school), then, every time you go to purchase something on-line, log into your easyfundraising account first, select the shop you want and

order your goods as normal. Easyfundraising will automatically link your purchase and donate the money to pre-school. We just see the donation amount on our account so all purchases are confidential and Buttercups Pre-School will receive a percentage of your purchases.

Continuing on the festive note, don't forget our **Christmas Fayre** at the Church Institute here in the village on **Sunday 3rd December** from 11.00am-3.00pm. There will be a variety of stalls including crafts and gift ideas from local businesses, bottle tombola, children's craft activities and much more. We will also be selling raffle tickets – lots

of local businesses have been extremely generous and we have some fantastic prizes such as Champagne afternoon tea for 4 at Quy Mill Hotel, tickets for Audley End train, Scotsdales voucher, Mops Hairdresser's voucher, £40 junior golf club voucher, to name just a few. We will also have a lovely selection of home-made cakes and savouries in our café. Please pop along and say hello and support your local pre-school in their big fundraiser of the year.

The children had great fun taking part in our sponsored bean bag



challenge and we would like to thank the parents who supported their children by sponsoring them. We raised a grand total of £300.

Now the Autumn term is well underway the children have got into a great routine of seeing Coach Stav for their sports session each week. The children are having immense fun learning all sorts of moves and exercises which is seeing them bursting with a new found confidence, the smiles and pride when they receive their participation stickers say it all.

Kirsty Salmons

LEAD PRACTITIONER & MANAGER

The Black Bull

December greetings to all Balsham Villagers from all at The Black Bull

Taster Menus & Specials Nights

Thank you to all who have supported our various events over the last few months. Whether Taster Menus or Specials Nights it is great to see them going from strength to strength. There will certainly be more to come from early next year.

The next **Taster Menu** will be **Wednesday 14th February** – groups are just as welcome as couples!

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.

Our next **Special Menu** night will be celebrating **Chinese New Year** on **Friday 9th February** when we will see one of our front of house managers, Kirsty, (who lived and worked in China for ten years) team up with Rob to produce a Chinese cuisine special menu.

Christmas Bookings

We still have a number of dates and times free over December so please do book in as soon as you know. Please be aware that walking-in on the off chance over this next month might be a bit hit or miss. We will always do our best but often over this month it just won't be possible to squeeze in any extras.

Boxing Day lunch will be Sunday roast style menu. Booking is strongly advised.

Christmas Day Lunch is all but full – please ask to see if we can fit you in.

New Year's Eve – we will be releasing our specials menu shortly.

Festive Period Opening Hours

We close for certain times over the festive period to allow staff some time with their friends and family too: so this year we are open 24/7 as usual except

Closed:

Christmas Day evening Monday 25th December

Boxing Day evening Tuesday 26th December

New Year's Day evening Monday 1st January

Staff Holiday Tuesday 2nd – Wednesday 10th January (re-open 10th evening)

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 9th /Sunday 10th Dec

Saturday 23rd/Sunday 24th Dec

Saturday 13th /Sunday 14th January

Saturday 27rd/Sunday 28th January

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

Best wishes from all of us

Alex, Rob, Liz, Luke & the teams

01223 893 844

info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk

Granta Medical Practices

Please find below details of when our surgeries will be open over the Christmas and New Year break.

Please remember to order your repeat prescriptions in plenty of time so that you do not run out of your medication over the holidays. The table below shows you when you will be able to collect your prescriptions, depending on the date you place your order.

Don't forget, there are **Prescription Collection Points** at **Sawston, Linton**

and **Shelford**. Sign up today via **cpicb.grantadisensing@nhs.net** to pick up your medication at your convenience over the holidays.

Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs by having a supply of health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol/ibuprofen), cough and sore throat remedies, a

Date	Opening hours	Repeat prescription schedule
Fri 22nd December.	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Friday 29th December
Sat 23rd December	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston)	Place order today pick up Tuesday 2nd January
Sun 24th December (Christmas Eve)	Closed	Place order today, pick up Tuesday 2nd January
Mon 25th December (Christmas Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up Tuesday 2nd January
Tues 26th December (Boxing Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up Tuesday 2nd January
Wed 27th December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Tuesday 2nd January
Thurs 28th December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Wednesday 3rd December
Fri 29th December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up Thursday 04th January
Sat 30th December	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston)	Place order today, pick up Friday 5th January
Sun 31st December (New Years' Eve)	Closed	Place order today, pick up Friday 5th January
Mon 1st December (New Years' Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up Friday 5th January
Tues 2nd December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up pick up Friday 5th January

first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn/indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time and help you feel better quicker, but will also help save the NHS much needed resources.

Local pharmacists can also offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. They are available on every high street and in supermarkets, with many open in the evening and at weekends.

Whilst we are closed, if you need urgent medical assistance please use the NHS 111 service. If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring 999.

For further information on available healthcare services, please go to www.nhs.uk or our website: www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk

We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season.

Sandra East

GRANTA PATIENT SERVICES

Balsham WI

At our meeting in November the speaker was Linda Cook (with her husband Tony) who told us about their business, **Turn and Burn**, which produces turned wood items by Tony and decorated (including upcycled) items which Linda produces using pyrography. She told us a little about the history of pyrography and about the machines she uses and showed us a wide range of items that they produce. Members were then invited to have a go and make themselves a Christmas Bauble, and to purchase Linda's items if desired. Whilst waiting their turn for pyrography, members were also able to make a small Christmas Tree decoration using ribbon and beads – quite simple, although

fiddly, and resulting in an attractive item to hang on the tree.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 12 December** and is our annual Christmas celebration. Our meeting on **9 January 2024** features a talk

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

on the **History of Jewellery** by Jason Middleton.

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](https://www.facebook.com/BalshamWI)

Debbie Mower

Cambridge Carbon Footprint

We are once again delighted to offer to residents, and organizations, across Cambridge and South Cambs the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera, for free, to help create more cozy and efficient homes. Learn how to interpret thermal images, to discover draughts, gaps in insulation, heating problems, etc. Having this information is great for deciding on home improvements, and making fixes, both for homeowners and renters.

“A really useful tool for assessing the home’s heat loss and for planning improvements”
A borrower

The Project also encourages individuals or organizations to undertake training to survey multiple homes.

In 2022 a Heydon Parish Councillor borrowed a camera and undertook a survey of 20% of the village’s homes and intends to do more this year.

Training Sessions:

Three free training sessions will take place online from 7:00-8:30 pm on:
Thu 14 Dec, Mon 22 Jan, Thu 29 Feb.

Camera Borrowing:

We only lend cameras to people already trained. Bookings for cameras will open after the first training session. Free Loans of 14 cameras will then start, till early April. Each loan: Fri pm to Mon am, or Mon pm to Fri am, from 14 volunteer camera hosts around South Cambs and Cambridge City.

An excellent scheme - very much appreciate the opportunity to borrow the camera - thank you!

Balsham Gardening Club

‘Your friendly local gardening club’

Balsham Gardening Club met for its **AGM** on 1st November in the Pavilion. The chair, secretary and treasurer summarised the year’s activities and accounts. After the formal part we thanked the committee for their hard work and presented Sue Lock and Hazel Leeson with flowers as they retired from the committee. We were then entertained by Brian Thurlow with his funny and thoughtful

‘**Evacuees Story**’. Through the character of Billy Jackson, he gave us a colourful story of a young boy and his family, starting in 1930s Bethnal Green as war approached, capturing the excitement through a child’s eyes while showing the wider horror of war.

The story continued with Billy’s evacuation to his aunt and uncle’s farm in rural Suffolk, where he and

his sister enjoyed the freedom of the countryside with their cousins, as their father joined the army and his mother worked in a munitions factory.

They returned to London shortly before the blitz, with the family sheltering at night in Bethnal Green underground station, emerging one morning to find their house destroyed by the bombing.

After spending the rest of war in Suffolk, and their father sadly being

killed in action, they returned to London to live in a prefab, delighting in a brand new house with an inside loo and bathroom.

The Gardening Club meets again on **Wednesday 6th December at 7.30pm**, in the Pavilion, for Christmas drinks and activities. Our member Dave Arnold will be showing us how to make **Christmas Decorations**.

All are welcome.

Andy Mitchell

Balsham Football Club

RESULTS

DATE	HOME	AWAY	SCORE	COMP
23 Sept	Balsham	Comberton	0-6	League
30 Sept	Litlington	Balsham	1-4	Junior Cup
7 Oct	Guilden Morden	Balsham	2-4	League
14 Oct	Balsham	Histon Hornets	2-2 (<i>away win pens 3-4</i>)	League Cup

FIXTURES

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	COMP
2 Dec 2pm	Balsham	Cambourne Town	Balsham Rec	League
9 Dec 1.45pm	Balsham	Wisbech St Mary Res	Balsham Rec	Cup
6 Jan 2pm	Balsham	Linton Granta A	Balsham Rec	League
13 Jan 2pm	Whittlesford Utd	Balsham	The Lawn	League
20 Jan 2pm	Balsham	Steeple Morden	Balsham Rec	League
27 Jan 2pm	Sawston Phoenix	Balsham	Lynton Way Rec	League
3 Feb 2pm	Balsham	Histon Hornets	Balsham Rec	League

A White Christmas

The annual question at this time of the year of 'Will we get a White Christmas?' got me remembering the 'Big Freeze' in 1962/63. Sixty years ago now, and the lead up to Christmas was approached very differently then.

For many people the holiday didn't really start until 24th December when they finished work, and then it was a mad rush to get everything ready for the



Photo courtesy of: Pam Pask

day itself. I don't really know how my mum and dad managed it but Christmas morning was magical: the tree, the decorations and presents had all arrived in the night.

However, on 22nd December of that year the Met Office was warning about heavy rain moving over the country. It quickly turned to snow and by Christmas Day had covered the country, 12 inches deep in some places, but with strong winds and blizzard conditions it could be much deeper in places. Here in Balsham all roads in and out of the village were impassable. Visits to and from relatives were cancelled and there was nothing we could do but hunker down and keep warm. Fires were banked up (not a lot of central heating then) and hot water bottles brought out of storage.

To start with it was great fun, us

children could skate on the ponds, build snowmen and igloos, but reality quickly set in when the holiday was over. The temperature had dropped well below zero and in fact barely went above this for 3 whole months.

It was a time of hit and miss public transport, bins not emptied, frequent power cuts and frozen pipes. The village school mostly remained open,

but it was noted that some days were just too cold to open and that water in the outside toilets remained frozen from Christmas to March. The Linton College bus was infrequent, I seem to remember if it had not arrived after half an hour then we could go home.

Here in Balsham we could at least get our milk and bread fairly regularly; having a dairy and bakery in the High Street was a boon, although you needed to get the milk in quickly as the birds would peck the tops off and eat the frozen cream.

The Roadmen's days were spent snow clearing, with help from various villagers who could not get to their place of work, and for which they were paid. My dad was busy with the farm tractor digging cars out of snowdrifts. One early morning he was asked to clear Linton Road so

that the Consultant who lived at Mill House could get to Addenbrookes: he had an urgent delivery of a baby to attend to. All went well and dad was really chuffed to get a bottle of whisky as a thank you. It was also a time of everyone pulling together, older people were checked on and paths cleared, pubs were welcoming and used as what we would now call

a 'warm hub' and there was always a cup of tea to be had somewhere. Eventually, after 60 days, we woke up early in March to find there was no frost, life soon returned to normal and thankfully, so far, we have never had such a severe winter since.

Jan Ellam

Cambridge Past, Present and Future

If you are (or know) a keen nature lover and would like to learn more about how we manage our woodland, you're invited to join us for a unique **Wandlebury Woodland Experience Day** - the perfect treat or gift in time for Christmas. Lead by our estate team, join us for the day in Wandlebury's winter woodland on **24 January 2024** from **10.30am - 2.30pm**. For £99 per person you can enjoy an action packed day of guided woodland walks, interesting talks on woodland management, get hands-on with some coppicing work, enjoy a locally sourced delicious lunch around the fire, with drinks and snacks provided throughout the day. **Places are limited** - don't delay and book your place online today. Each order comes with a **FREE** festive card insert to print at home!

What's the difference between mushrooms and fungi?

This answer is not 'a trip to A&E'. Mushrooms are the beautiful 'fruiting body' we see growing in fields and woods, they are the reproductive structures of fungi. A

Fungus is the entire organism: the mycelium (roots) and the mushroom (fruit). Autumn is the best time to see the mushrooms and this year there are lots about. See how many different kinds you can spot on your walks and we'd love to see your pictures on Facebook or Instagram.

Winter Tree Walk at Wandlebury **Wed 6 Dec** 10am - 12pm **FREE**

(donations welcome).

Guided walk to learn how to identify our native trees using bark, buds, shape and form. *Meet at car park noticeboard.*

Winter Wreath Making

(£35 per wreath)

Fri 8 Dec: 1-3pm and 4-6pm.

Sat 9 & Sun 10 Dec: 10.30am-12.30pm, 1.30-3.30pm, 4.30-6.30pm
Enjoy festive wreath making with hot drinks and mince pies.

Volunteer Work Party - Wandlebury

Tues 12 Dec: 10.30-1.30pm **FREE**

All instruction, equipment and tools provided. Wear tough clothes and boots and bring drinks/snacks. No need to book, just turn up. *Meet at car park noticeboard.*

Bus Timetables

16A | Great Thurlow - Cambridge | *From 4th June 2023*

MONDAY - FRIDAY

Balsham, opp West Wrating Road	07:29
Fulbourn, o/s Six Bells	07:42
Teversham, opp Marshall's Close	07:49
Addenbrooke's Hospital (Bay A)	08:04
Cambridge, o/s Downing College	08:19
Cambridge Drummer St (Bay 8)	08:21

Emmanuel Street (Stop E1)	16:42
Cambridge, Long Rd 6th Form Coll	16:57
Addenbrooke's Hospital (Bay B)	17:10
Teversham Marshall's Close (near)	17:23
Fulbourn, opp Six Bells	17:30
Balsham, West Wrating Road	17:41

SATURDAY

Balsham, West Wrating Road	10:57
Fulbourn, Windmill Hill	11:09
Cambridge, Regent Street	11:24
Cambridge Drummer St (Bay 8)	11:26

Emmanuel Street (Stop E1)	17:40
Cambridge, Leisure	17:48
Fulbourn, Windmill Hill	17:58
Balsham, West Wrating Road	18:09

Source: <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/routes/east/16a/cambridge-gt-thurlow/xcao016a.i>

19 | Haverhill - Burrough Green | *From 1st April 2022*

MONDAY - FRIDAY

Haverhill Bus Station	10:20	12:20	14:50
Haverhill, Sainsbury's	10:25	12:25	14:55
Nosterfield End	10:29	12:29	14:59
Castle Camps	10:33	12:33	15:03
Shudy Camps	10:38	12:38	15:08
Bartlow, Camps Rd	10:41	12:41	15:11
Linton, High Street	10:47	12:47	15:17
Balsham, The Bell	10:53	12:53	15:23

Balsham, The Bell	08:00	09:16	11:46	13:46	16:16
Linton, High St	08:08	09:23	11:53	13:53	16:23
Bartlow, Camps Rd	---	09:28	11:58	13:58	---
Shudy Camps	---	09:31	12:01	14:01	---
Castle Camps	---	09:36	12:06	14:06	---
Nosterfield End	---	09:40	12:10	14:10	---
Haverhill, Sainsbury's	---	09:43	12:13	14:13	---
Haverhill Bus Station	---	09:48	12:18	14:18	---

(No Service Saturday, Sunday or Public Holidays)

46A | Haverhill - Linton - Newmarket | *From 22nd June 2023*

TUESDAYS ONLY

Linton, o/s The Crown PH	09:21
Balsham, West Wrating Rd	09:34
West Wrating, Spicer's Close (near)	09:40
West Wickham, White Horse	09:46
Weston Colville, Church End	09:55
Dullingham, Church Close	10:07
Newmarket, Bus Station	10:15
Newmarket, Tesco's	10:22

Newmarket, Tesco's	13:03
Newmarket, Bus Station	13:10
Dullingham, Church Close	13:18
Weston Colville, Church End	13:30
West Wickham, White Horse	13:41
West Wrating, opp Spicer's Close	13:47
Balsham, opp West Wrating Rd	13:53
Linton, opp The Crown PH	14:06

Source (19 & 46A): <https://startraveluk.com/bus-timetable/>

Balsham Weather October 2023

Photo: Dave Arnold



Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

recorded by Peter Neale, 11 Nine Chimneys Lane.

Daytime temperatures (in the shade)

Highest: 25° C on 8th October

Lowest: 9° C on 15th October

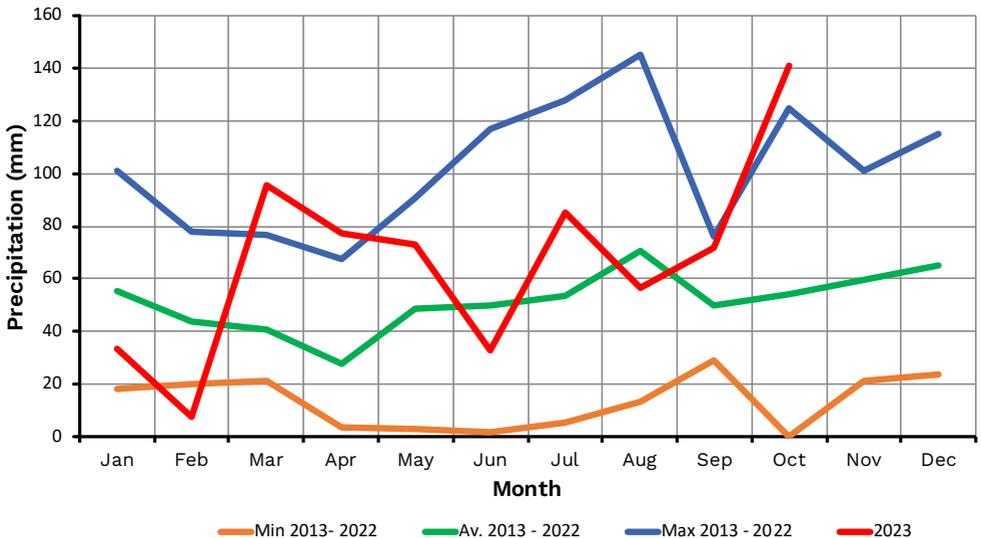
Night time temperatures

Highest: 15° C on 2nd October

Lowest: 2° C on 16th October

October Rainfall Measured at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total October 2023 Rainfall: 141mm / 5.64" (14 days of Rain)



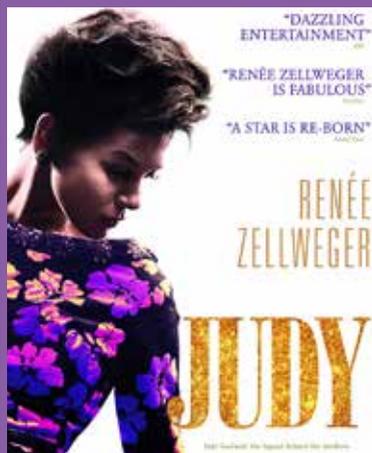
recorded by Peter Neale, 11 Nine Chimneys Lane.



Saturday December 9th

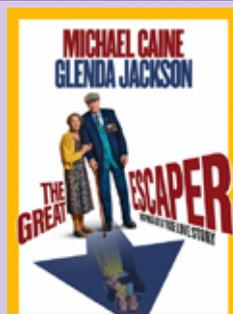
Doors open 7pm and film at 7.30 in Balsham Church Institute

Judy (12)



Judy (12) Thirty years after starring in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), beloved actress and singer Judy Garland (*Renée Zellweger*) arrives in London to perform sold-out shows at the *Talk of the Town* nightclub. While there, she reminisces with friends and fans and begins a whirlwind romance with musician Mickey Deans (*Finn Wittrock*), her soon-to-be fifth husband.

Mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls are on the house to celebrate our Christmas evening so come along and enjoy!



The January film is **The Great Escaper** (12A) starring Michael Caine and, in sadly her last film role, Glenda Jackson and is the true and beautiful story of the Normandy RN veteran, Bernard Jordan, breaking out of his care home on the South Coast in 2014 and getting over alone to the Normandy beaches to be present at the 70th Commemoration of the D day landings in 1944.

The Picture House will be showing it on **Saturday January 6th 2024** so come along and see this inspiring feel good film!

Balsham Picture House is now in its 8th Year of showing newly released films every month and has built up a huge library of Blu-Rays which are available for any member to borrow to show again at home for a small donation.

Please contact **Nigel Clark** (n.clark5@btinternet.com) or **Dick Paden** (dickpaden277@btinternet.com) for details.

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