



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 655

SICUT CANIS CUM OSSIS

FEBRUARY 2024

Photo: Jane Goode



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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

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

Editorial

The Balsham Review team wish all our readers a happy and healthy 2024!

The Ploughmen set the scene for the New Year with their great 'work' on Plough Monday evening and night. We are lucky to have so many who are keen to raise money to help those who live here and nearby. The generosity of villagers has shown as well by their help for the Buttercups, by those at the Balsham Singers concert, by those attending church at the Plough Sunday Service and in many other ways that are not made obvious. Thank you to everyone.

The village also has a thriving Good Neighbour Scheme, which runs coffee mornings for anyone to call in to, and who can give help to those in need. If you feel you could give help, please contact the scheme—the details are on page 13, and equally, if you are in need yourself, perhaps to get around, to get to the shops, or to have someone to talk to, or if you are aware of someone who would benefit from a little help, then again, please make contact.

It is good news that the Church Institute is to continue very much as before, even though the Parish Council felt unable to continue their role as it was. They will continue to be interested in the Institute and in its future, but it will be run in future by the management committee, and our local Church Council will have

the responsibility to keep it going.

I need to thank many people in the village who have given me help over the past year, while I have had two new knees fitted. I am delighted to be able to walk properly again, and I thank everyone who has helped at the hospitals, in the village, and just generally towards making my life better! I really do recommend having the operation. Yes, for a while there was some pain, but I had that before the op was done, and the result now is brilliant. If you are in pain do consider seeing a doctor, to get on 'the list'. Once on the list, it takes time to have it done, and it only gets worse while you wait. Life is so much better all round without the pain!!

You may remember Florenza sent us some Italian family recipes a couple of years ago. She has offered to send in some more, and I think it would be good to have some from others of you who have come to Balsham from other lands. We have a great diversity of nationalities living here, and I am sure many of you are good cooks who could introduce us to home cooking from near and far.

Just as we need to eat, so does the wild life around our village. At least that is what I told myself when the fox came and took all my hens. It

was before the really cold spell, but I assume he (or maybe she) needed to build up strength for the winter ahead. The hens had given up laying for the winter, so I was feeding them to get them ready for the spring ahead. Oh well, I think that will be it - they are a tie when I am away,

but the ducks still wait at the door every morning...

After such a wet autumn and now a series of storms in winter, I wonder what spring will bring us?

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

PAM BARRETT

A very big warm 'Thank You' for all the kind cards, words and donations that we have received in loving memory of Pam.

Thank you to all who attended the funeral and sent their condolences.

With Love

All the Barrett Family

Balsham February Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
2nd Friday	Community Café, 10.00am—12pm	Mays Ave
3rd Saturday	Picture House, Oppenheimer 6.30 for 7.00pm	Church Institute
7th Wednesday	Gardening Club 7.30pm	Pavilion
13th Tuesday	Community Café, 10.00am—12pm	Church Institute
13th Tuesday	WI, 7.30pm	Pavilion
14th Wednesday	St Valentine's Day	
14th Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Service, 10am	Hildersham
19th Monday	Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm	Pavilion
20th Tuesday	Linton & Dist Historical Soc. 7.30pm	Linton V Hall

Balsham Church Institute News

January 2024

As many will be aware the Church Institute in our village has been the subject of much recent discussion by the Parish Council.

In 1912 Ely Diocesan Trustees and the Rev'd Burrell (Rector) acquired the freehold of land on Church Lane, without charge, from Hanslip Long, for a building with building costs being raised by Burrell from the



village. It was to provide a venue for meetings, church gatherings and any events requiring a large building for the use of all the village.

Management of the building was vested in the Parochial Church Council (PCC) but the village was growing and in 1988 improvement plans were proposed with possibly even a full rebuild. After much discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council (PC) would take a 35-year lease of the building on a minimal rent, and expiring 31st December 2023, with a Management Committee to administer the Institute on a day-to-day basis. Considerable improvements have been made over this time through self-financing and with successful grants being awarded as well as assistance from the Parish, District and County Councils etc. These include suspended ceilings,

central heating, double glazing, new flooring, roofing of small hall ('green room'), internal and external decoration, new kitchen facilities, full surround sound AV equipment, free Wi-Fi/Broadband, and most recently new toilets for all users and

LED lighting throughout.

The Institute has been self-financing on a day-to-day basis, but at the

end of the 35-year lease the Parish Council decided that they did not wish to renew this lease and the overall responsibility for the building has reverted to the PCC.

I am delighted to confirm that the day-to-day management will continue very much as it has for the last 35 years, and as it is an independent charity, the current committee will continue to operate the building for the benefit of the whole parish, and so for all users nothing in reality has changed!

I hope these notes will reassure all our loyal regular users and all our party givers that the Institute will continue to provide the venue for all our village's social needs for many years to come.

Dick Paden

CHAIR, CHURCH INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Balsham Church Institute

In this Review there are notes about the Institute and the recent history but although much used for a wide variety of events over the years it is also evident that with a growing community, some information about the building, facilities and contacts is required.

Centrally heated and double glazed, the building has a fully fitted kitchen with oven, 4 ring ceramic hob, microwave cooker and water heaters. Cutlery and crockery sufficient for 80 diners is provided.

Tables (both large and small) and chairs to seat up to 100 persons are available (maximum allowed capacity is 100). Folding doors in the hall allow it to be divided by users if needed.

A smaller back room (Green Room) can be used for small groups if required and also serves as material storage for regular users and will shortly house the Balsham Village Archive.

New toilet facilities were installed in 2022 with a fully specified disabled toilet and a standard unit with baby changing facilities.

The hall has a full AV system and hi-res projector plus large, motorised screen with connectivity for most media devices – the sound system can deliver full surround sound for Blu-Ray films - the disc player can accept CDs or DVDs. Fast, free

Wi-Fi is also available throughout the building.

In the summer months the securely fenced grassy area to the rear of the building can be used for outdoor activities and has easy access to the adjacent children's playground.

Although there are many regular users of the building there are times when it is vacant which can be booked for groups or singular events – please ask our secretary Ellen Campbell!

Bookings can be made through our email link:

balshaminstitute@gmail.com

Hall hire rates are reviewed regularly and 2024 charges are shown below:

Educational users	£5/hr
Charity-based regular users	£10/hr
Bookings from Balsham Residents	£13/hr
Bookings from non-Balsham residents	£15/hr
Bouncy castle user single charge	£25

Dick Paden

CHAIR, CHURCH INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



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

Rev. Iain McColl	01223 890693	mccoll.iain@gmail.com
Curate: Rev. Ben Brady	01223 344920	revdbenbrady@btinternet.com
Church Warden: Nigel Clark,	01223 893043	n.clark5@btinternet.com
Administrator: Cazzy Walsh		7churches.seven@gmail.com

SERVICES at other CHURCHES when possible

ROMAN CATHOLIC Masses at:

Cherry Hinton: St Philip Howard Church

Saturday: 5.30pm (Vigil Mass) & Sunday: 10.00am & 12 noon

Haverhill: St Felix, Saturday 6.30pm & Sunday 10am

Sawston: Our Lady of Lourdes, Sunday: 8.45am & 11.15am

FREE CHURCH: Horn Lane, Linton. Sundays: 10.30am

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, meeting as a house group, for further information please contact. www.facebook.com/LintonCornerstone

METHODIST: Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

FRIDAY 1st MARCH 2024: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – SERVICE IN BALSHAM CHURCH There will be a service in Balsham Church at 10.30 am followed by refreshments. This is an annual event and the service has been prepared

by the Women of Palestine which seems very appropriate this year. This service is for everyone of all Christian denominations and includes all those who are concerned about the situation in Israel and Gaza. Further details from **Anna McColl** **Tel:** 01223 890693 **Email:** annamccoll3@gmail.com

From the Church

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

This chilling reminder of death is the first part of the sentence said as the clergy smear ashes on the foreheads of those attending church services on Ash Wednesday. And no less demanding, the sentence ends, ***“Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ”***

To non-believers, and believers alike, this can be heard as a further sobering threat: ***“Get your act together, my dear, or you won't get to heaven!”*** But I don't think that's the case.

You may already have guessed, from the bizarre sight of Easter Eggs on supermarket shelves at New Year that, indeed, Easter is particularly early this year, on the 31st of March. And so Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent (some 40 days or so before Easter Sunday), is on the 14th of February.

Lent marks the six weeks of preparation for the events of Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday: the Friday before the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. So, perhaps, that sentence about remembering that “you are but dust” seems a bit premature, and especially mean when we've all just seen our New Year's resolutions crumble!

No, the discomfort, or even shock, of being reminded of one's mortality - is pressing us to ask the right

question. The sort of ‘meaning-of-life’ question: a fundamental question mark in the life of any adult.

But equally, for all of us, the easier option is to swerve back from this thought to the multiple (and necessary) distractions in our lives, drawing us away - arguably in a psychologically healthy fashion - from those uncomfortable questions about our pettiness and failures, the abandoned hopes and, dare we wonder, ultimately the futility of life?

Sadly however, many of the more serious distractions - again, war in Europe, the endless atrocities in the Middle East, and the perilous consequences of unchecked global warming - merely compound our sense of helplessness and fears for the future. “Here's something else the world's unlikely to be able to fix!” So, in the end, what's the point? Isn't it just best to skim over the surface of life as best we can?

The demand to “Turn away from sin”, doesn't seem that helpful perhaps, especially if read primarily as something about being ‘good’ and, even, doing your bit to fix the world.

No, essentially for Christians, Lent is firstly an invitation into the much more difficult space of being clear-eyed about yourself, and about the world, and most particularly about the dark underbelly of the suffering and failures that can't be fixed ... and the futility of it all *if*, anyway, death is its final full stop.

And then, staying there as best you can. Staying there and wrestling and trusting that the path we follow to Good Friday will this year yield up another piece of the puzzle and deliver the glimpse of a deeper answer. An answer that surprisingly, shockingly gives the inspiration for New Life... the life, and selfless

love, and hope and joy of Easter.

Alistair Collen

LICENSED LAY MINISTER, GRANTA VALE MINISTRY TEAM

The service on **Ash Wednesday** will be held at **10.00am** on **Wednesday 14th February** at **Hildersham**

February Services	9:30am	11:00am	PM Services
4th		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	
11th	Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Rhona McEune</i> Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Holy Communion Little Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Rhona McEune</i> Morning Worship Balsham <i>Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	6.00pm Evening Prayer West Wrattling <i>Alistair Collen</i>
18th	Holy Communion West Wrattling <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Natalie Davies</i> Morning Worship Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Morning Worship Weston Colville <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Natalie Davies</i> Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Rev Ben Brady Steven Wheeler</i>	6.00pm Evening Prayer Hildersham <i>Alistair Collen</i>
25th	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion (BCP) Weston Colville <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i> Café Church Hildersham <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	4.00pm Evening Prayer West Wrattling <i>Revd</i> Little Abington <i>Rhona McEune/ Steven Wheeler</i>

Wednesday 14th Feb - Ash Wednesday service, 10.00am at Hildersham.
Service led by Revd Ben Brady

Buttercups Community Pre-School

...and in the blink of an eye we've moved on from wishing everyone a Merry Christmas to wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

So, you might remember that Buttercups hosted their very first Christmas Fayre early in December which was no small task to engineer. Those of you involved in any kind of fundraising event will be aware of the hard work and co-ordination involved! It was with a fair amount of trepidation as to whether we would be able to pull this off, a mammoth team effort by the committee and Buttercups staff, that we were finally ready to open the doors that morning of the 3rd. Absolutely nothing could have prepared us for that day, in fact it was such a whirlwind of bustling activity we don't know where the time went. You, the community, went above and beyond in your support for us, from the amazing people who donated and brought us the widest range of treats for the café, to the people who came along to say hello, through to our amazing stall holders with their awesome wares and the generous donations given. It was such a wonderful day that saw many new friendships forged and the icing on the cake? The overwhelming total of **£2,000** we made! It just blew us

away. Thank you to each and every one of you who supported us.

It has to be said, "same time, same place this year?" Okay, okay – it was worth a try though!



We would like to remind you all that our 'Easyfundraising' scheme is an ongoing way in which to support Buttercups even for something as mundane as our weekly food shop! Please do bear us in mind when you're ordering your healthy food after the indulgent Christmas holiday! You just download the easyfundraising app and search under the 'cause section' for us (Buttercups community pre-school).



I know at Buttercups the children and staff alike are looking forward to some better weather so we might see our mud kitchen have more use without having to change the children multiple times and sometimes ourselves for that matter! There is, after all, a limit as to how much mud we like to engage with! Looking forward to catching up with you all next month.

Kirsty Salmons

LEAD PRACTITIONER & MANAGER

Poppy Thanks

Thanks are due to everyone who once again, so willingly and efficiently, helped me in organising the four villages' Poppy Appeal collections at Remembrancetide 2023. Special thanks for all and the QR code at the Chestnut Tree, the individual donations via the collecting tins and gift aid envelopes at the Bell Inn, the Black Bull Inn, the Coffee Shop, the Post Office and

Holy Trinity Church. The total amount raised for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal was **£1227.64** which includes donations from PCs and PCCs, the Hub and Coffee Morning at West Wickham, The Meadow School and West Wrattling Sports Pavilion. With my thanks.

Margaret Johnson

VOLUNTARY POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER

Balsham Singers

Balsham Singers enjoyed a most successful concert on the afternoon of 16th December

It was the first time in our history that we had an afternoon performance and it proved to be very popular.

We were disappointed that we were not able to sell any tickets on the door this year due to successful advanced sales and church capacity. We will be reviewing our options

before our next concert in May.

We were delighted to be gifted two lovely hampers to raffle by Pam Down who has been a stalwart supporter for many years. The proceeds of the raffle **£450** were donated to **Arthur Rank Hospice Charity**. This charity has supported many local people at the most difficult time and is tremendously valued.



Sara Szabo and Valerie Hefford presented the cheque to the fundraising officer Yoyo Kunzwa

Balsham Gardening Club

Balsham Gardening Club met on 6th December in the Pavilion for our Christmas meeting. Along with drinks and nibbles, we had good fun with a mainly gardening and Christmas themed quiz, organised by Jennie Tipler after a late change of plan. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 7th February**, starting at **7:30** in the Pavilion. We have a speaker lined

up, **Nigel Start**, talking about **'Coping with climate change'**. Nigel has been gardening in the Cambridge area since the 1970s, producing much of his own fruit and vegetables, and is a well-known speaker on gardening topics. Guests are very welcome to join us for what promises to be an interesting evening.

Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

Now in our fourth year of operation, the Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme (BGNS) offers various types of support for Balsham residents.

- Daily pick up of prescriptions from Linton Health Centre. Most of these are left at Balsham Post Office, but we can deliver to your home if you have need.
- Transport to local medical appointments, shopping or visits to relatives in hospital. A trip to Addenbrookes generally costs £6 for a return trip, or £12 if it's a long visit and needs one driver there and a different one for return. That's still cheaper than a taxi.
- Support of other kinds, such as help with computers, filling in forms or small jobs in the home

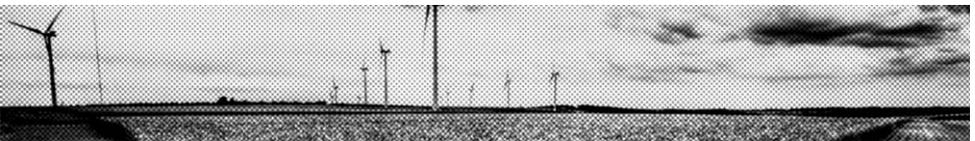
(e.g. replacing a light bulb).

- A Community Lunch once a month (no charge). Get in touch if you would like to come.
- Two **Community Cafés** each month (*no charge*). Dates for these are:

Mays Avenue – Fridays 10-12 – 2nd February; 1st March; 5th April; 3rd May; 7th June; 5th July.

Balsham Church Institute – Tuesdays 10-12 – 13th February; 12th March; 16th April; 14th May; 25th June; 16th July

If you would like to get in touch to ask for help or to offer help of any kind, call **07508 430057** where you can leave a voicemail, or email **balshamgns@gmail.com**



Banking Hubs: Banks in Haverhill

Some banks in Haverhill have already closed, and others have plans to do so quite soon. A banking hub is due to open there.

Banking Hubs offer easy access to face-to-face cash and banking in the heart of communities across the UK. They are owned by Cash Access UK and operated by the Post Office. Each Banking Hub has a counter where you can:

- pay in cash and cheques
- withdraw cash
- check your balance
- pay utility bills
- top up your gas and electricity
- access change-giving services (for small businesses)

You can also talk to your bank or building society face-to-face about more complicated banking enquiries like payments and transfers, managing your account, and how to use online banking. Community Banker availability varies between Hubs and is based on local demand. Please check which Community Bankers are in your local Hub. You can view the services available from Community bankers from the **Community Banker Services** page.

Don't forget that you can also use our **Balsham Post Office** for many banking services—just ask when you call in what your bank's connections are available.

Plough Sunday

Balsham Church was full for the annual Plough Sunday service on January 7th when the old Plough was brought to Church to be blessed and many Ploughmen attended the service.

Each first Sunday of the month the service is hosted by a different parish in the Granta Vale benefice. It was

Balsham's turn to host the Benefice Service and their chosen charity was the Mosaic Charity, which is active in helping Christians in the Middle East, this year especially Iraq and Jordan, as well as Palestine.



Photo: John Robinson

The Balsham Plough Monday Club and Plough Monday



Photo: Henryk Pisanski

Plough Monday 2024 took place on the 8th January 2024. The Balsham Ploughmen toured the village pulling an old plough to raise funds for local good causes and to support the Cambridge Cancer Help Centre. As is traditional these days, the festivities started with a blessing of the plough in church on Sunday 7th, thanks to all at Holy Trinity Balsham and specifically to Hannah Threlfall for organising Plough Sunday and for following the Plough, on Plough Monday. On the night, many locals came outside in the freezing cold to say hello, watch a Morris Dance or two, grab a mulled wine and to donate. Entertainment was provided by the Cambridge Morris Men who performed amazingly well given the

weather conditions. Further entertainment was provided by a fiery Mr Kipling.

The Balsham Plough Monday Club would like to thank all of our wonderful hosts for providing sustenance along the route and to the management and staff of The Black Bull and The Bell for putting up with us until the early hours. We would also especially like to thank Phil and Mary at The Bell for providing an amazing lunch on Harrowing Tuesday, we all felt relatively human again after our bangers and mash.

The raffle was drawn on Thursday 11th January and all of our prize winners have now been informed and the prizes distributed. Thanks



Photos: Henryk Pisarski

to all those who donated, if you didn't win then there's always next year.

The final total raised isn't yet finalised, however, the total is already over **£3,700**. Thanks for everyone who has donated.

Further details of the Balsham Plough Monday Club, including photos of the Plough Monday 2024, can be found on our website and Facebook

page. All are welcome to come along next year and experience this traditional & unique Cambridgeshire village occasion. Finally, if you have any ideas about good causes that the Balsham Ploughmen can support in future then please contact myself or any of the Ploughmen.

Terry O'Neill



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Richard Pargeter

A Jay



Photo: Richard Pargeter

A frosted Berberis

The Meadow Primary School

As the year drew to a close and the festive spirit filled the air, December brought with it a flurry of activities, heartwarming performances, and opportunities for us to come together.

Spreading Festive Cheer

The school's festive spirit soared to new heights during our 'Santa Dash' event last term. Wearing their vibrant Christmas jumpers, our enthusiastic students embarked on a merry walk around the Balsham Recreation Ground. They formed a cheerful parade, spreading warmth and cheer through their infectious songs and cheerful melodies.

Jingle all the way

Of course, Christmas in a primary school is not Christmas without a nativity production and our youngest members of the school brought the spirit of Christmas to life through their glorious and captivating performance. The Key Stage 1 Nativity was a delightful spectacle with children taking on the roles of camels, sheep, angels and, of course, school caretakers!



Meanwhile, the Key Stage 2 Carol Concert was a celebration of talent and unity. Their harmonious voices not only filled the aisles of Balsham Church but the hearts of those listening. Both events served as a reminder of the magic of the season, leaving the audience filled with the joyous spirit of Christmas.

Sending sleigh - loads of thanks

We would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to Steve Jordan for his incredible talent and dedication in bringing the magic of music to life in both of these festive events. Thank you for sharing your musical gift and helping make our celebrations truly unforgettable. Another thank you we would like to give is to Nigel Clark and the members of the Balsham Church for being so accommodating and supporting us in using their beautiful setting.

The New Year

Now we have waved goodbye to last year and welcomed the arrival of a new term at The Meadow. We have lots of exciting opportunities for learning and personal growth planned and look forward to what the new year has in store for our pupils.

As we soar into the new term, our youngest learners in Key Stage 1 are gearing up for an exciting exploration into the skies with their captivating topic, **"What's Up There?"** This will involve learning

about The Wright Brothers, exploring a range of aircraft and thinking about where flight can take you.

In Years 3 and 4, the adventure unfolds with their topic, "**South American Adventure.**" Students will delve into the interesting and varied cultures, geography, and history that make South America a captivating continent. From the lush rainforests to the Inca Empire, the children will acquire lots of new knowledge and interesting facts.

For our upper Key Stage 2 students, the theme is "**Where in the World**" with a particular focus on the United States of America. The children will embark on a cross-country exploration, unravelling the diverse tapestry that makes the USA such a captivating and influential nation.

High-Flying Adventures at Duxford

Our little explorers of Key Stage 1 have kick started their learning already this term by embarking on a thrilling adventure to Duxford Air Museum. The day unfolded with wide-eyed wonder as our young aviation enthusiasts marvelled at all the majestic aircraft that once soared through the skies. Their faces lit up with awe as they explored the historic hangars, discovering vintage planes that echoed stories of courage and innovation. The museum's interactive displays engaged their curious minds, allowing them to touch, feel, and even go inside some legendary planes.

Faye Facer

ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHER & EYFS LEAD

Linton Village College

December

It was lovely to welcome back the Class of 2023 at our **Presentation Evening** at the end of November to collect their GCSE exam certificates as well as awards nominated by their teachers for academic achievements. After the speeches and presentations, guests were treated to an amazing spread kindly put on by the Friends of LVC.

You may have spotted LVC students walking through the village and local countryside during our annual sponsored walk the following day. It was great to have the whole school

involved on the 12-kilometre route fundraising for the Friends of LVC. With the fancy dress theme of '**At the Movies**', students and staff made an amazing effort and made the walk that bit more colourful.



Friends and volunteers did a fantastic job of marshalling the route. We are very grateful for the support of this amazing group of parents/ carers and community members to enhance and enrich LVC students' educational experiences.

The autumn term has seen a fantastic array of arts events and activities. Platform 23 exhibition at Michaelhouse Café in Cambridge showcased wonderful artwork from our students. We hosted a Year 2 singing festival involving our feeder primary schools, which also included a performance from our choir, Linton Voices. Students taking Dance as an option were also involved on a trip to Dance East to develop skills in some intensive workshops.

Laura Heard

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE PR & COMMUNICATIONS

January

January At Linton Village College we are lucky to have a Student Senate that actively contributes to the running of the school.



I am involved in The Senate and, along with Will and Lilian, LVC's Head Students, and the House Captains and Prefects, I meet regularly and

work alongside the College's staff House Leads and Ms Price, Inclusion Lead. LVC has four houses: Voyager, Endeavour, Pioneer and Discovery.

We meet once every two weeks and discuss up-and-coming events and how we can contribute to the school and the wider Linton community. The Senate helps to organise and run regular competitive House Events with input from House Leads. It is also a valuable opportunity for us to voice our opinions and suggestions. We hold forums with the wider student body to gain student voice on topics such as catering, behaviour and the curriculum. We have also recently met with our local Member of Parliament, Lucy Frazer.

In terms of charitable endeavours, we have been involved in fundraising and meeting with the Friends of LVC to support with our annual sponsored walk which raises valuable funds to enrich our educational experiences and learning environment at LVC. Last term, The Senate was also involved in organising charitable events such as our Christmas jumper day raising money for Tom's Trust, the reverse advent collection for Jimmy's in Cambridge and the 'Bearpee Challenge' for Children in Need.

We are looking forward to 2024 and opportunities to raise further money for worthy causes over the coming year.

Rupert Warden-Hill

DEPUTY HEAD STUDENT, LVC

Linton & District Historical Society

Following on from yet another wet, windy and overcast day towards the end of December, those coming to the final meeting of the year where suitably cheered, when we welcomed back David Caulfield with his amusing tales, accompanying music and nostalgia from the 60/70's. This inevitably led to shared stories from his audience, not all of a musical nature!! Together with some festive food, mystery gift wrapped raffle prizes all made for a very pleasant evening.

Our January meeting welcomed Emily Matthews from the Dogs' Trust. After a particularly cold day, those attending were welcomed with a hot drink before settling down to hear the story behind the Trust. Emily's presentation accompanied with some lovely videos of how 'life in the dog house' is not a bad place to be!

With dedicated staff helping these dogs to recover from disturbed or unknown backgrounds, also those dogs who were handed over as their

owners were are no longer able to care for them. Finally, it was good to see happy dogs handed over to their equally happy new owners. As always, questions and answers made for some interesting stories and observations.

For further details of the LDHS please email ldhscamb@gmail.com or call: **01223 893915** or **01223 678835**.

Margaret Creek

For those with sporting interests why not join us for our next meeting on **Tuesday 20th February** with **Nigel Fenner** speaking on **'A student-led revolution out of Cambridge with global impact'** *thanks to a local tobacconist, but no thanks to the University* starting **7.30pm** **Linton Village Hall**, Coles Lane *(easy parking in the Health Centre car park opposite)*

Bin Collections February/March

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday February 7 TH	✓		
Wednesday February 14 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday February 21 ST	✓		
Wednesday February 28 TH		✓	
Wednesday March 6 TH	✓		

Balsham Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting took place on 15th January, 2024 in Balsham Pavilion

PC Vacancy: Jeremy Wade was co-opted onto the Parish Council. The PC thanked Lynda Henderson for standing.

Balsham Feast: The PC agreed to donate £800.00 to the Balsham Feast. If any other local businesses or individuals would like to have a donation towards the Feast please contact Debbie Paton.

Cricket Net: The PC have agreed to consider purchasing a mobile net for the Cricket Club to stop the risk of a ball rebounding off the gym equipment.

County Councillor's report: CCC have employed two traffic wardens to take over traffic enforcement from the police. The PC asked for a visit to Balsham within school drop off or collection time. Kingsway Solar Farm are going to submit a planning application on land between Balsham and West Wratting. The information will be made public in February

Illumination and other improvements to the Prince

Memorial: The PC agreed to ask for a renewed quote for the flooring in the Prince Memorial and additional paving slabs around the Prince Memorial.

Planning:

Site address: 19 Princes Close, Balsham.

Proposal: Erection of a two bedroom detached dwellinghouse.

Reference: 23/04543/FUL

PC Decision: No recommendation. To take the neighbours comments into consideration.

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 (Re-submission of 23/02555/FUL)

Reference: 23/04543/FUL

PC Decision: No objections.

Decisions:

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

Granted permission.

Site address: 18 West Wickham Road, Balsham .

Proposal: T1 Walnut - Crown lift to 2.5m above ground level - this is to allow more light into the house and a garden.

Reference: 23/1278/TTPO

Granted permission.

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

Granted permission.

Projector screen for the pavilion:

The PC agreed to purchase a screen for the pavilion after a request from a hirer.

Precept: The PC discussed the budget and agreed a precept of £50,877.00, this will maintain a band D precept of £ 66.68 (PC contribution).

The next
Parish Council Meeting
will be held on
Monday
19th February, 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

JANUARY 2024

Solar Farm Application - update

We have previously reported on a potential planning application coming forward in our area for a solar farm. The size of the area being considered is fairly significant, some 900 hectares. so if this were to gain planning permission, it would currently make it one of the largest solar farms in Europe. The geographic area being looked at is from the north of Linton/ Abington up to Balsham and west, roughly following the route of the Roman Road, across the A11 to the edge of Fulbourn.

The promoters of this idea, Kingsway Solar, are due to be going public this month, February.

Anaerobic Digestion Plant Proposals

In our area we have not one, but two 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 – andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk

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 period for public comments on this application closed in early December but you can always contact that planning officer directly, should you want to raise

concerns after this time – helen.wass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Contact Information

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Balsham Football Club

RESULTS

DATE	HOME	AWAY	SCORE	RESULT	COMP
28 Oct	Balsham	Comberton	0-6	L	League
11 Nov	Litlington	Balsham	1-4	W	Cup
18 Nov	Guilden Morden	Balsham	2-4	W	League
25 Nov	Balsham	Histon	2-2 3-4 pens	L	Cup
9 Dec	Balsham	Wisbech	2-2 2-4 pens	L	Cup
6 Jan	Linton Granta	Balsham	0-1	W	League
13 Jan	Whittlesford	Balsham	4-2	L	League

FIXTURES

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	COMP
28 Jan 2pm	Sawston	Balsham	Lynton Way Rec	League
3 Feb 2pm	Balsham	Histon	Balsham Rec	League
10 Feb 2pm	Balsham	Steeple Morden	Balsham Rec	League
17 Feb 2pm	Balsham	Clare Res	Balsham Rec	League
24 Feb 2pm	Clare Res	Balsham	Clare Playing Field	League
2 March 3pm	Balsham	Fulbourn	Balsham Rec	League

Balsham Bowls Club 2024 Season

Following a very successful year we look forward to a new season with practice roll-ups on Monday evenings at 6pm starting at the end of April and an Open Day to follow early in May. (Final dates to be confirmed)

We look forward to better weather this year so our planned popular **Open Day** can kick start the season!

If you would like to have a go with a view to joining the Club, you will be very welcome to come along.

You will find more information on our website: balshambowlsclub.co.uk and on Balsham village Facebook page nearer the time.

Last season we entered a new Pairs Team in the Steeple Bumpstead League to enable successfully recruited new members a much greater opportunity of playing competitive league games.

This worked out well for all involved and our enthusiastic team members gained so much. This team will continue for 2024 season.

Overall we have 5 teams playing in the Steeple Bumpstead and Cambridge and District Leagues and the Club will be re-introducing an internal singles and pairs competition during the season. This will open up more opportunities for games and experience within the Club. Other practice/competition ideas may be possible during the latter part of the season.

This year we will join in again with

the **Balsham Feast** held on July 6th. It's a great opportunity to give the local community another chance to come and find out about bowls and have a bit of fun! More information will be available nearer the day.

Later in the season, the **Annual Open Pairs Competition** is **Sunday September 22nd** starting 10am, after the **Annual Tour** which is to **Weymouth** from **September 6th-9th**.

Not to forget **Carpet Bowls**; played at the Bowls Pavilion all year round on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** afternoons **2.00-4.30pm**.

Bowls is easy to play, and we welcome all ages from 10 to 90+, however, skills and tactics will develop the more you play!

Contact us: via email at balshambowls@gmail.com or Christine Till **07530 649 573**

West Wickham & District History Club

Details of the next meeting on **Monday 12th February:**
'A curse upon the land?'
19th century Enclosure in West Wickham and changes to the landscape.

7.30pm West Wickham Village Hall

£2 for non-members.

All welcome.

The meetings are held on the
2nd Monday of the month
at **7.30pm** in
West Wickham Village Hall.

Balsham Cricket Club

At the start of the season, the cricket club had two main objectives:

- 1 Ensure that we followed up on last season's promotion by consolidating our position in the higher league
- 2 Enter a team in the midweek league and compete effectively

It is safe to say that we achieved what we set out to do... and then some!!

As previously covered in the Review, the midweek team competed so effectively in the midweek league that they won it! A settled, committed side and some very fine batting and bowling performances were the key components and overcoming some good, experienced sides was a considerable achievement.

The Saturday side also over-achieved. In a league containing some strong teams, such as Haslingfield and the rejuvenated Burrough Green, they put in some

good performances and ended the season in third place. Given the strength of the opposition, this is better than we had hoped for and augurs well for the future. Mention should be made of the two hundreds – 126 by Harry Wendelken and 131 by Torin Reedman – made during the season and also of the wicket-taking contributions from Adrian Reedman, Paul Brown and Monir Uzzaman.

We are probably a couple of years away from being able to field a second team on a Saturday, but an influx of new blood would make that a possibility sooner rather than later!!

Contact:

colineade67@btinternet.com if you are interested in joining us on our journey.

Roll on 2024!

Colin Eade

SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE OFFICER, BALSHM CC

The Bell

Hi Everyone,
We hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year.

Just to remind you Real Ale enthusiasts 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 February:

We are continuing with our **BOGOF Wednesday** nights, which is available on sausage and mash and scampi and chips. Please book if possible.

Wednesday 7th - Bingo. Eyes down at 8pm.

Wednesday 14th - Special Valentine's Night menu. Bookings and pre orders only. Menu available in pub or The Bell Inn Balsham Facebook page.

Monday 19th - Book Club, 3.30pm and 7.30pm.

We will be running our annual In house **Pool Tournament**, commencing on **Wednesday 21st**, to register, please call in the pub.

Tuesday 27th - Charity Quiz 8pm.

All welcome

Wednesday 28th- Lunch Club, advance bookings & pre orders only. For events etc please see The Bell Inn Balsham Facebook page, call **01223 892999**, or call in the pub to see us.

Thank you for your continued support.



Phil & Mary

The Black Bull

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

Happy New Year to Balsham from The Black Bull

We are delighted to be jumping straight back into our Special Menu nights again this 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 **Saturday 10th 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.

NB Mothers' Day this year is Sunday 10th March. This one gets very busy very quickly, so please do book well ahead if of interest. We will be offering our usual Sunday spread.

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 10th /Sunday 11th February** **Saturday 24th/Sunday 25th February** 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
info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk

Granta Medical Practices

Appointments update

Here at Granta, we continue to offer a mixture of face to face, telephone and online appointments. I would like to take this opportunity to explain how our appointments system works and what is available to Granta patients.

Firstly, please be assured that no-one apart from clinicians make clinical decisions about your care when you first contact us. Our reception teams have clear criteria, set by GPs, as to what can be put straight onto a clinician's urgent list. However, if they or you are unsure, they will take your details and discuss your concerns with the clinical team and then get back to you.

When ringing for an appointment you will be asked if there is a particular clinician you would like to see, either for continuity of your presenting problem or continuity of overall care. It may be that you don't mind who you see – you just need to speak to someone about your current medical problem.

Please do help our reception team by providing as much information as possible. All information is treated as confidential and will only be used for triage purposes. They are simply trying to make sure you are seen by the right person, in the right place, at the right time.

If you do feel that your problem is not urgent, you will be asked if a routine appointment may be more suitable, or perhaps a long term medical conditions appointment, a palliative care appointment, or whether we can help you in any other way.

If your appointment starts with a telephone call then, together with the clinician, it can be decided whether a face to face appointment will be the appropriate next step.

Routine appointments are available a few weeks in advance, all pre-bookable via our reception teams and online. New routine appointments are released daily at 8am and at 2pm to allow for regular availability. If you ring and there is nothing available, our reception team can send you a link that is valid for 7 days (that you can check daily) to pre-book a face to face or telephone appointment, so that you do not need to ring back.

Alternatively, if you would prefer, you could use Accurx Patient Triage via our website to have an online consultation with a clinician. We do ask however that you only send routine queries as it can take up to 72 hours to respond.

There will always be sickness, annual leave and the perception that clinicians are not seeing patients.

However, on average, Granta's doctors and nurses see around 4,000 patients face to face per week, and consult with another 3,500 via the telephone and online. We continue to try and accommodate all of our patients in a way that suits

and please be assured that we are continuously reviewing and revising patient access.

Sandra East

GRANTA PATIENT SERVICES

Balsham WI

Our January meeting featured a talk on the **History of Jewellery** by **Jason Middleton**. We had a very interesting and illustrated talk on how jewellery has been used from the earliest humans, in the form of bone and shell necklaces, to extremely valuable pieces made of precious metals and gems worn by royalty among others.

Main reasons for jewellery include religion, wealth and power, love and devotion, funereal and tokens for the afterlife. A lot of jewellery gets recycled by melting down the metal and resetting the stones and the reason we have knowledge of old jewellery is from those found in tombs and burial places. Jason also had some samples for

us to see including how a diamond is cut to make it sparkle so much.

Our next talk on **February 13** is by **Jan Cassidy** on **Women's Health in Prison**, which should give food for thought on one of the potential

the**WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN

resolutions for the coming year.

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, Balsham.

Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us –

balshamwi@gmail.com or send a message on Facebook, **@Balsham WI**

Debbie Mower

Balsham Picture House



Balsham Picture House is now starting 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 or Dick Paden for details.

Winter Snowdrop Walks at Wandlebury

The snowdrops at Wandlebury are already flowering, with January and February the best months to enjoy them along with a carpet of bright yellow aconites with their burst of spring energy.



Photo: David Floyd

Wandlebury Country Park is open every day, with a pop-up café available Thurs-Sun and at half-

term. There are miles of walks through the woods and meadows with an off-road mobility scooter for free hire for those members of the family who might welcome some help exploring the park and enjoying the winter flowers.

Iron Age & Archaeology Walk

Wednesday 7 Feb 10.30am – 12.30pm.

FREE (donations welcome).

Join one of our wardens on a gentle guided walk around the park to see and learn about Wandlebury's Iron-Age history. Meet at the noticeboard in the car park. No need to book. Please wear footwear and clothing for being outdoors.

In My Garden

Each year I walk round my garden on New Year's Day, making a list of every flower that is blooming that day. This year, as I had family here, and the weather was fine, I did the same on Christmas Day. Usefully there were extra eyes to help look. Between Christmas Day and the New Year we had some very cold weather and several flowers from Christmas Day didn't last that week. This year's Christmas list was:

Rose; Knautia; Christmas Rose; Primrose; Pink Hellebore; Wallflower; Purple Honesty; Heather; Mahonia; Iris Unguicularis; Viburnum Tinus; Viburnum Fragens; Stinking Hellebore

The New Year list added:

Narcissus; Winter Sweet; Comfrey; Winter Honeysuckle; Feverfew; Anchusa; but the Knautia didn't last
Some have already been nibbled by the Muntjac.

As I write this I am preparing for the **Big Bird Count**, but I feel it is unlikely I will have many varieties to list. I always have at least 8 jackdaws around and they chase the smaller birds away. I'll let you know what I see, and hope many of you can let the Review know what you managed to count.

Gill Parry Brown

Balsham Weather November/December 2023



Photo: Kathy Day

Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

NOVEMBER:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 14° C on 18th November

Lowest: 2° C on 29th November

Night time temperatures

Highest: 10° C on 19th November

Lowest: -3° C on 30th November

DECEMBER:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 13° C on 23rd December

Lowest: 2° C on 2nd December

Night time temperatures

Highest: 11° C on 25th December

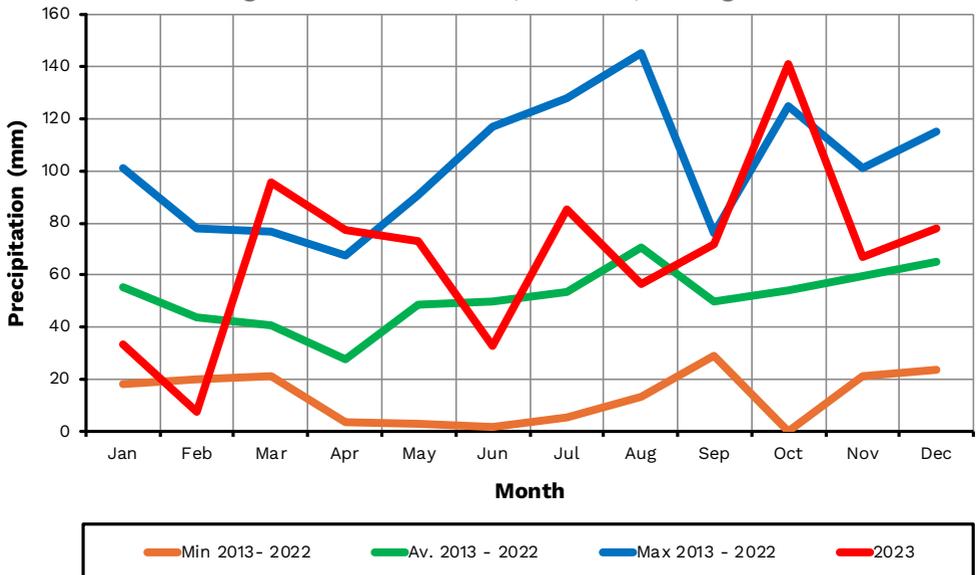
Lowest: -3° C on 3rd December

November/December Rainfall at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total November 2023 Rainfall: 67mm / 2.68" (14 days of Rain)

Total December 2023 Rainfall: 78mm / 3.07" (16 days of Rain)

making a total of over 32" (812.8mm) during 2023!





Saturday February 3rd

Doors open 6.30pm and film at 7.00pm in Balsham Church Institute

Oppenheimer (15)



The film for February is the award winning Christopher Nolan film **OPPENHEIMER** (15) starring *Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt, Matt Damon and Robert Downey Jr.*

The film thrusts you into the mind of the brilliant physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer as the Manhattan Project develops the first atomic bomb. The story commences with a mysterious summons received by Dr. Oppenheimer to appear before a secretive government committee - allegations against him are shrouded in secrecy but hint at suspicions of communist sympathies. The film masterfully intertwines the present-day hearings with poignant flashbacks that reveal pivotal moments in Oppenheimer's life.

As this film is 3 hours long BPH is taking the unusual step to have an early start. We also plan to have a small break in the middle to recharge glasses at the bar and do whatever else may be needed! And if you find our seats a little firm for 3 hours, perhaps a small cushion might be advisable!!

Dave's bar open as usual before (and in the middle of) the film for refreshments – extra stocks laid in!

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