



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 656

SICUT CANIS CUM OSSIS

MARCH 2024



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Photo: Kathy Day

Hellebore

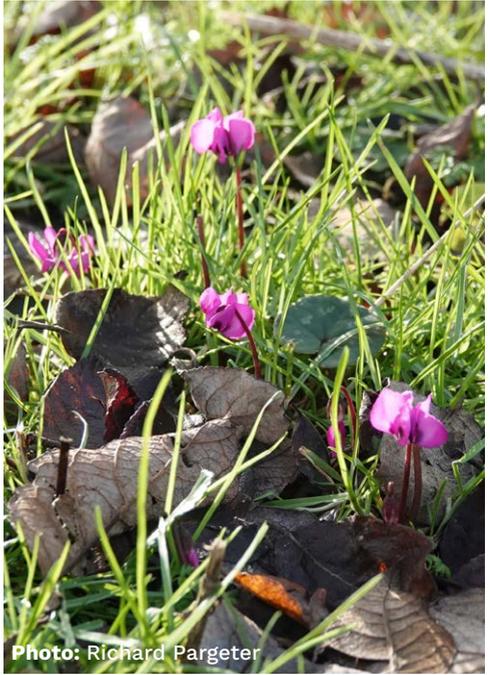


Photo: Richard Pargeter

Cyclamen



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Hazel catkins



Photo: Kathy Day

Hellebore

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

DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

FRIDAY,
March 15TH 2024

*Copy should be submitted where possible to
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or delivered to the
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held in the Post Office*

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Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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

Editorial

Where has the winter gone? It has been so warm that many plants are flowering, and the birds are pairing up. The ducks are laying eggs already and the pigeon nests are occupied by sitting pigeons. Certainly the bulbs can cope with heavy frosts if a real winter does come, but food for young birds will be scarce for some weeks. On the other hand, if we don't have a really cold spell the creatures that are pests in spring and summer, eating our fruit, vegetables and field crops, will survive in great numbers, and we and the farmers will be struggling to produce the food we need. We can't just keep talking about it, I feel that we must all be aware of what we can do to help stop global warming. Sometimes the things we need to do, do not make for what makes life easy, but for future generations we must be 'care full' about what we do.

I'm sure we have all been along the A11 going east and have seen the fields of solar panels near the Newmarket turning. There is a plan being put forward to turn another large area near the A11 into a solar farm, and much of this would be Balsham land. The company who are planning this have been invited to explain their ideas to the village at an **Open Meeting at 7pm on Monday, March 18th**, before that evening's Parish Council meeting.

This will be a public meeting, that anyone may attend. More details will be posted in the Parish Council board opposite the Post Office, and on the village Facebook, although at the time of writing it has not been confirmed that they will accept the invitation. Definitely something to think about: more green electricity is needed, or maybe not in our backyard. Why here, and will there be any advantage to those who live nearby - in our village, cheaper electricity, community help, quiet areas for wild life, or will it lead to disruption on the road to the A11, large lorries and heavy tractors etc while building and a blot on our beautiful landscape when it is finished. Do consider attending the meeting, it will be important to the future of our village.

It is an important time for our village to have good connections to our villagers, so that everyone knows what is happening, what is planned, and how we can all be involved.

This magazine goes to every house in the village, and for some there is the village Facebook, which can give daily news about just about anything of interest—lost cats, flooded roads, pictures of wildlife, notice of groups and meetings, anything non-controversial! We also have a village website: **www.balsham.net** However this often gets rather out of date, partly because new

information is not sent in, and also because it needs someone who can spend a little time regularly to update it. Are you, or do you know, someone who is familiar with working on websites, and has the time to help keep it up and running so that not only villagers can find out about what's on, but also ex-villagers, families, potential newcomers, and anyone who wants to know something about Balsham can use it easily. If the answer is yes, please initially contact Tracy Coston Tel: **894462** or Email: **tracy@coston.me.uk** or **clerk@balsham.net** We need someone with knowledge, time and a wish to help out.

I noticed on Facebook an advance

notice about the **Big Balsham Sale**, which is planned for **Sunday, May 19th**. That should give plenty of time to start clearing sheds, garages, cupboards and attics. There will be more information, and forms to take part, in next month's Review.

We had a big problem with our emails this month, and I know some people had difficulty getting their pieces to me. Very many apologies, and we are back to normal, thank goodness, so there should be no problems in future. I do hope we haven't missed anything you have tried to send in.

Gill Parry Brown

EDITOR, BALSHAM REVIEW

Balsham March Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
1st Friday	Community Café, 10.00am—12pm	Mays Avenue
2nd Saturday	Picture House, Maestro , 7.00 for 7.30pm	Church Institute
Tuesdays	Craft Group, 10.00am—12pm	Old Butchers
6th Wednesday	Gardening Club 7.30pm	Pavilion
12th Tuesday	Community Café, 10.00am—12pm	Church Institute
12th Tuesday	WI, 7.30pm	Pavilion
18th Monday	Open Village Meeting & Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	Pavilion
19th Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Soc. 7.30pm	Linton Village Hall
21st Thursday	Cambridge Flower Club 6.45pm	Whittlesford VH
22nd Friday	Last day delivery IT recycling	67, High Street
24th Sunday	Buttercups Easter Egg Hunt 11am	Pavilion
27th Wednesday	Easter Lilies, last day to donate	Walnut House, Woodhall lane



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

I can hardly believe it, Christmas seems to have come and gone, Lent is now upon us, and Easter is fast approaching. I was shocked to



see easter eggs/gifts in the supermarkets at the beginning of January. Commercialism at its finest; it persuades everyone that the only way to celebrate something is by spending vast amounts of money. As Christians, what we celebrate at Easter is far beyond monetary value and our celebrations take on a variety of emotions as we travel through Lent towards the glorious day of Easter Sunday. However hard we try to understand the Easter story it will almost always be beyond our comprehension, Jesus, God the Son, should sacrifice himself to such a cruel death on the cross of Calvary so that we can be forgiven into the presence of God.

I am a great believer of hope, if you have heard me preach you know that I refer to the infamous yet wonderful actress Miriam Margolyes. She once quoted *"hope is the chink in the curtain which lets the light shine through"*. As we journey through Lent and Holy Week with hindsight, we know that by the end of the week the resurrection will

come, and Jesus will rise from the dead. Jesus' disciples, however, didn't have that insight to the future, at the cross of crucifixion their

world fell apart. Having something to hope for is so important if we are to keep going and stay positive, when everything around us is tough, demanding, painful, sad, and unwelcome. Jesus saying to his Father, not my will, but Yours be done, surely was the hope of resurrection, hope of reunion with His Father and appearing to his disciples again that gave Him strength and resolve to see through the costly and sacrificial plan for the salvation of the world.

The first Christians had a scary Easter, but it helped them become fearless about the future and to look to the future with hope. I pray that each and every one of us look to the future with hope and that on Easter Day we have the hope to shout we are an Easter people and Alleluia is our Song!

I wish you all a hopeful Lent and a very Happy Easter.

In Christ,

Revd B A Brady

March Services	9:30am	11:00am	4:00pm/6:00pm
3rd <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Revd Ben Brady</i>	
10th <i>4th Sunday of Lent/ Mothering Sunday</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 Ben Brady</i> Morning Worship Balsham <i>Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i>	6.00pm Evening Prayer West Wrattling <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>
17th <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	Holy Communion West Wrattling <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i> Morning Worship Weston Colville <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion Little Abington <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	6.00pm Evening Prayer Hildersham <i>Alistair Collen</i>
24th <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i> 10.00am Creative Church Weston Colville <i>Hannah Threlfall/ Rosemary Mead</i>	Café Church Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McCollr</i> Holy Communion Balsham <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	4.00pm Songs of Praise West Wrattling <i>Scilla & John Harvey</i> 4.00pm Evening Prayer Little Abington <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
31st <i>Easter Day</i>	Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion West Wrattling <i>Rev Ben Brady</i>	Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	

Services for the week before Easter:

Monday 26th	Evening Prayer West Wickham, 7.30pm <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
Tuesday 27th	Evening Prayer West Wrattling, 7.30pm <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>
Wednesday 28th	Evening Prayer Weston Colville, 7.30pm <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
Thursday 28th	Holy Communion Great Abington, 7.30pm <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
Friday 29th (Good Friday)	Devotional service Hildersham, 9.30am <i>Alistair Collen</i>
	Stations of the Cross Balsham, 11.30am <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>
	Last Hour West Wrattling, 2.00pm <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
	Last Hour Little Abington, 2.00pm <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>

Easter Lilies

If you would like to make a donation for Easter Lilies which will be arranged in the church over Easter period as a remembrance to a loved one, please leave your donation by no later than the 27th March

with:

**Alison Clark, Walnut Tree House,
Woodhall Lane, Balsham**

Thank you

Alison Clark & Liz De Ath

Craft Group

A **Mixed Craft Group** has started in the **Old Butchers** on a **Tuesday** between **10am** and **12pm**. Bring your own project and enjoy crafting, good company, coffee and cake. So far we have been joined by fairy makers, knitters, crocheters, and card makers. It would be great to have

some painters, cross stitchers, jewellery makers or something completely different - you can't get much more different than a fairy maker!

Jenny Sargeant



Hidden Disabilities

Does this sound familiar?

You go along to a well-attended venue for a talk about a subject of interest to you. The speaker stands up to face the audience to introduce themselves and the topic. We are then asked if everyone can hear? A few muttered responses – presumably positive. “OK that’s fine” says the speaker, and proceeds to sit down, starting the talk with head down and reading from notes in front of them. Unfortunately, when pictures /documents etc. are shown on the screen the speaker stands up to face the screen to give an explanation of what is being shown and does not face the audience.

I understand completely that it must be daunting for anyone speaking to an audience; they may be nervous and speak too quickly, quietly or prefer to sit down or read from notes. However interesting the subject matter, it can be disappointing all round.

Hidden Disabilities:

If you are deaf or have hearing loss there are some adjustments to this type of incident that can help out speaker and audience alike. If speakers were to prepare printouts

of their talk and handed them out at the start, as well as adding explanations to any pictures/ documents etc. projected onto the screen it would be tremendously helpful.

There is a lot of information on supporting people with hearing loss available from the RNID

Tel: **0808 808 0123**

Email: **contact@rnid.org.uk**

Name address supplied

Editor: There is a scheme with aids for those with hidden disabilities which can be found by Googling: **The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard**. Those who qualify for help include:

- Sensory loss, including difficulty seeing or hearing.
- A physical disability that may not be obvious.
- Autism.
- A learning disability.
- Dementia including Alzheimer's disease.
- Anxiety or any other mental health condition.

IT Recycling

The next collection will be mid-March. If you have any IT equipment for recycling, please leave it by Friday 22nd March, in the "Deliveries" box in our sideway, 67

High Street Balsham.

Many thanks

Neil Dunlop

Buttercups Community Pre-School

Well, it doesn't seem five minutes since we were wishing you all a Happy New Year and here we are already in Spring!

The children were very keen to play their part during the National RSPB Birdwatch week which saw them using some locally collected pinecones, cover them with a variety of seeds which they took away for the birds at their homes to enjoy. It was a creative activity that inspired the use of natural materials.

The children had fun when we celebrated Chinese New Year... of the dragon – there was much roaring coming from the setting as the children fully embraced the multiple guises of the creatures from fierce and fiery to delicate and peaceful! The celebrations then turned in another, quieter direction as the children enjoyed Pancake Day – we had lots of fun ideas for toppings but unsurprisingly it seems chocolate spread was one of the most popular!

Now for some very eggcellent, eggstrordnarily eggciting, news (sorry, it just had to be done!) Buttercups are holding their first **Egg Hunt** and we would love to invite the people of Balsham as well

as our families to come and join us. We will be based at the pavilion on the day – we'd like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Parish Council for allowing us to use their facilities. For more information, please see the poster.

Last but no means least, we'd like to say a big thank you to those who took part in our 'bags2school' fundraiser, we received a good response not to mention a good number of bags. Your support, as always, is gratefully appreciated.



Kirsty Salmons

LEAD PRACTITIONER & MANAGER



Ever Considered Having An Allotment?

This year there are a number of allotments available so this is your opportunity to get out there and grow your own fruit and veg.

If you feel that you can't manage a full plot, no problem, because you can try a half plot.

For Balsham residents a half plot costs **£7.50** a year, rising to **£10.00** next September, while a full plot costs **£15.00** rising to **£20.00**. Tenants who live outside of Balsham pay **£15.00** for a half plot and **£30.00**

for a full plot. A £50 deposit is returnable if the allotment is left in good order when it is relinquished. The charge for water, where available, is **£10** per annum.

So, if you want to improve your diet, your fitness and your wellbeing, now is the time to apply by sending your name, address, phone number and email to

balshmallotments@balsham.net indicating what size plot you would be interested in.

Balsham WI

At our February meeting our speaker was **Jan Cassidy** with a talk about **Women in Prison** and how it affects their families and their mental health. Women make up 4% of the total prison population in England and Wales which means that there are few prisons in the country and therefore they will be a long way from home for visits.

Women are more likely to be imprisoned for minor crimes and therefore have a relatively short sentence, but this causes major disruption to children who must be taken into care. As many are re-offenders the whole cycle repeats itself. It is estimated that 67% of the total prison population suffers from Mental Health problems. Many questions were raised about the facts and Jan suggested that research showed that maybe longer

sentences with better support, or community sentences would bring about better outcomes with less re-offending.

At our next meeting on **12 March**, we will be having a session on **Mindfulness** by **Mel Cunningham**.

the**WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN

This will be a session on reducing stress, followed by our brief annual meeting.

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 Gardening Club

Balsham Gardening Club met to hear **Nigel Start** on '*Coping with Climate Change, a survival guide for East Anglia*'. He started by describing the challenge of greater weather extremes, especially hotter summers, longer dry spells, fierce winds, and sudden winter cold. He went on to share his experience of gardening locally, giving us lots of great ideas for our own gardens and allotments.

Nigel explained how we can adapt our gardening to keep moisture in the soil and new pests at bay. Depending on individual gardens, his recommendations include increasing soil organic matter, cover crops, polytunnels, deep mulches, and storing more rainwater. Just as importantly, we can change the plants we grow, moving away from fine lawns, summer bedding and tender plants, to bulbs, hardy shrubs, biennials and perennials. While it's a

challenge choosing better adapted plants, Nigel was very encouraging, with pictures of beautiful flowering plants and tasty fruit and veg that he's growing successfully.

Before we finished the meeting with refreshments and conversation, the club elected David Arnold as chair and re-elected other committee members until the summer.

On **Wednesday 14th February**, the club visited **Fullers Mill** at West Stow to see the snowdrops. The garden has a huge number of varieties and the display was wonderful.

The Gardening Club meets again on **Wednesday 6th March at 19:30** in the **Pavilion**, when we'll be making bird boxes and bug hotels.

Guests are welcome, please contact Dave Arnold on **07899 061 963** if as a guest you wish to build a bird box or bug hotel.



Some photos from Fullers Mill. *Photos courtesy Dave Arnold.*

Marsh Mail



The Linton Village College team that came first in the Panathlon Xtend multi-skills event.

So far this term we have seen some noteworthy successes that reflect one of our whole school values, that of having an inclusive cultural environment. It is very important to us at LVC.

Run by the **Panathlon Foundation**, a team from LVC took part in the the **Panathlon Xtend** multi-skills event at Comberton Village College. The LVC team came first out of all the schools from South Cambridgeshire and will now represent South Cambridgeshire in the county finals in March.

Panathlon Xtend is a programme for children with disabilities and special needs in Key Stage 3. Research shows that disabled children's participation in sport drops off in the Key Stage

3 age groups (11 to 14-year-olds). Panathlon started Xtend programme in January 2019 to make sure they helped keep pupils active and engaged after they leave primary education. We wish our team well.

Another LVC success has been with our Dog Mentor Ralph. The **Dog Mentor Programme** was devised by Jenny Duckworth the Dog Mentor programme founder. The programme has built upon the *'benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially'*.

Our very special Dog Mentor Ralph won the 'You had me at hello' award this month. Ralph trained to



Ralph the Dog Mentor.

be a Dog Mentor in the Summer of 2022 and lives with our Assistant SENCO (special educational needs coordinator) Katie Tooke. Along with

Katie, Ralph also has five other Learning Support Assistant Dog Mentor Handlers. Ralph spends his Thursday's bringing positive experiences to pupils and staff alike at LVC. Asking Katie what is so special about Ralph, she said *'it's the smile he puts onto pupil's faces, it's absolutely priceless!'*

For more information on the **Panathalon Foundation** visit: www.panathalon.com. And for more information on the **Dog Mentor Programme** visit: www.thedogmentor.co.uk.

Laura Heard

LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE PR & COMMUNICATIONS



Spring has arrived at Wandlebury! Photos courtesy Penny Cook.



Granta Medical Practices

Our telephone system is being upgraded!

You said, we listened! Our new phone system now allows you to stay in the queue whilst not staying in the queue! If you are holding on waiting to be spoken to, you will be given the option to request a call back. You can then come off the line and we will ring you back when it's your turn to go through to reception, keeping your place in the phone queue.

Don't forget though, you don't have to ring up at 8am to get an appointment. If your health condition is urgent you will be seen on that day, regardless of the time you ring. If you need a routine appointment you can ring any time of the day,

you can book online (*new appointments are released online at 8am and at 2pm daily*), or you can use our online consultation tool, Accurx Patient Triage, a link to which can be found on our website.

Finally, I just wanted to say thank you to all of you that have taken the time to give us positive feedback recently. All of our staff work really hard to provide the best possible service, in the face of increasing pressures in primary care. Every single compliment is shared with the entire team, and really makes a difference. Thank you.

Sandra East

HEAD OF PATIENT SERVICES

Balsham Singers

Balsham Singers are busily rehearsing for their next concert on **May 18th**, this time in the evening at **7.30pm** in **Balsham Church**. We hope to welcome a large audience as we did at Christmas.

We produce an attractive programme and welcome new

advertisers. Our audience is drawn from a wide local radius and your business may reach new clients. If you would like more information please contact Jo Stinton for details. Email: jonotnits@gmail.com

Jo Stinton



Linton Library News

Everyone loves something for free...

When did you last use your library card? If it's sitting neglected in a wallet or coat pocket, bring it along to the library so we can get you borrowing again. Or using our computers. Or downloading eMagazines and eNewspapers. Or using research websites such as Britannica Online and Ancestry.

All for free!

Visit a warm Linton library this March:

Our Monthly talk, this time **Build a Life-enhancing Pond**, is on **Wednesday 13th, 2.00–3.30pm**. It's **free** but please book your place by contacting the library or email: **cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

Do you, or someone you know, have difficulties getting to the library? Come along to our **Library at Home Service** drop in session on **Tuesday 19th, 1.00–2.30pm** to find out more.

Our monthly drop-in **Beano Comic Club** is on **Saturday 9th, 10–12pm**. Each month there will be a different pile of Beano's for you to sit and read here in the library. You could even try drawing one of the characters.

Our friendly group for 0–4-year olds, **Storytime. Rhyme-time. Duplo-time, 10am – 11am, every Tuesday** (in term time). Stories, songs and

Duplo play.

Games Afternoon: Tuesday 12th and 26th, 2pm – 4pm, meet new people and try new games (you can even bring your favourite with you).

Knit and Natter: Bring along any craft project you're working on, **2pm – 3pm** on **Tuesday 5th and 19th**.

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

DON'T FORGET!

The deadline for submitting content for the next issue of the Review is

**FRIDAY
MARCH 15TH**

District & County Councillor's Report

FEBRUARY 2024

Civil Parking Enforcement

As previously reported the local authorities in South Cambridgeshire have spent the last few years preparing and applying to the Secretary of State to take parking enforcement powers away from the Police and manage locally. The new traffic wardens are now active, out on the street, and issuing parking fines. There were certainly some unhappy people at the station in Whittlesford in first week of Feb!

The County Council have a list of problem areas in each of our villages, supplied by Henry with support from Parish Councils, but if anyone feels that there are specific areas where parking is really an issue, do let him know directly.

On a related note – the Councils are now also going through the formal process to take bus lane enforcement away from the Police and manage this in-house as well.

Home Energy Support

The District Council is in a partnership with 6 other local authorities in Cambridgeshire, called Action on Energy. This partnership is aimed to help people create more energy efficient homes, therefore making them cheaper to run. There are various grants available which many people aren't aware they may

be entitled to. Full information, and links, can be seen here - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/home-energy-support-for-south-cambridgeshire-residents/>

Housing Strategy Consultation

The Housing Department at the District Council launched a public consultation last month, January, asking for people's views on how the Council should approach the types of housing it asks for and the issues that people come up against – these comments will help shape the new Strategy before its adoption. Link here - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/the-greater-cambridge-housing-strategy-2024-2029>

Air Quality Strategy

Similar to the item above, the District Council are currently running a public consultation on their draft air quality strategy. Please do comment - <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/air-quality-strategy>

Cambridge 2040

For those of you wanting to keep abreast of this – there is currently a proposal from the Minister for Levelling Up and Housing, Michael Gove, to build circa 150,000 houses (it was originally 250,000) in Cambridge to support the growing

tech and life science sector in the region. This has hit some stumbling blocks. Namely the lack of water in Cambridgeshire with no concrete plans to improve this before 2030, as well as the fact that South Cambs has a lot of land called ‘Green Belt’ which is a protected area that can’t be developed on, usually at the edge of cities. In spite of these issues, the plans remain on the table and the local authorities - South Cambs District Council, Cambridge City Council & Cambridgeshire County Council - are fighting to stay at the table to maintain some influence on the proposals, if and when they come to fruition. Lots more to come on this.

Budgets

**South
Cambridgeshire
District Council**

February is always the time when local authorities set their budgets for the forthcoming municipal year.

The County Council needs to find around £20m worth of savings whilst maintaining the services they provide, not an easy task. The District Council is in a much healthier financial position and won’t need to make savings this coming year.

Anaerobic Digestion Plant Proposals

The two planning applications for

biodigesters in our area, Acorn in Haverhill and Streetly End Farm in West Wickham, are edging closer to a decision. If you’d still like to comment upon either, email the planning officers directly:

- 1 Acorn, Haverhill –
andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk
- 2 Streetly Hall Farm,
Streetly End, West Wickham
helen.wass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Weed Killing Policy

Some may recall that last year the County Council altered its weed killing policy to move away from using chemicals to kill weeds in every situation. This policy has been reviewed after a year of being in effect and is likely to be altered, although the Council will be asking for people’s views on this via a public consultation on the change to policy. Keep an eye on our reports for the link to this in coming months.

Contact Information

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

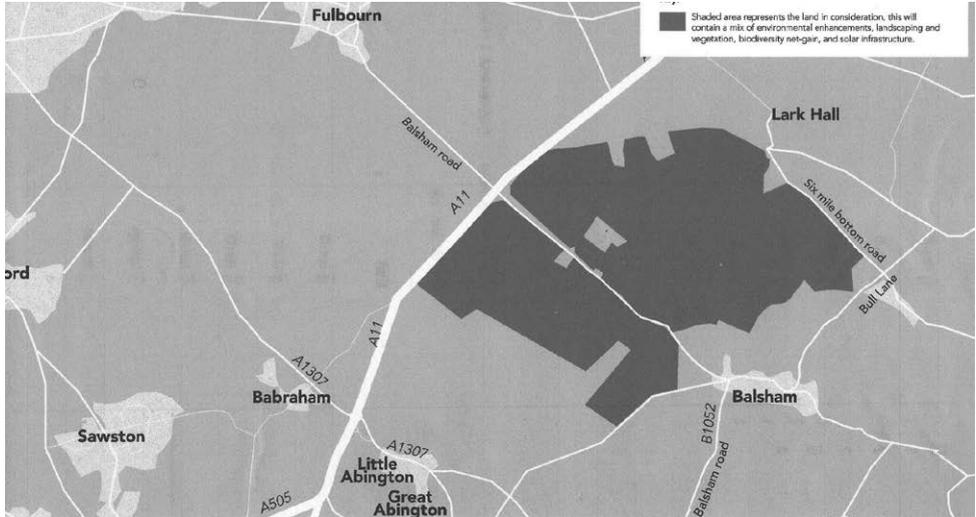


Balsham Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting took place on 19th February, 2024 in Balsham Pavilion

Solar Farm Presentation:

Downing Renewable Developments LLP are attending the PC meeting on **18th March at 7pm** at the Green Room in the Pavilion to present about the Solar Farm proposals. The PC doesn't have any details about the Solar Farm apart from this map:



Planning:

Site address: 41 Plumian Way, Balsham, Cambridgeshire.

Proposal: T1 - Field maple. Lapsed pollard - re pollard at previous pruning points. Leaving a pollarded stem of approximately 4m.

Reference: 24/0138/TTCA

PC Decision: No objections.

Site address: 42 High Street, Balsham, Cambridgeshire.

Proposal: Holm Oak tree, Remove. The tree is causing the boundary wall of the property to crack significantly. As the tree continues to grow and high winds continue to make the tree move, the damage to the wall increases and risks

collapsing onto the public highway.

Reference: 24/0214/TTPO

PC Decision: No objections.

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: Approve.

Site address: 118 High Street, Balsham.

Proposal: Sycamores: S1 to S8 - Re-pollard to previous pollard points (last undertaken in 2019)

Chestnuts: C1 & C2 - Re-pollard to previous pollard points (last undertaken in 2019).

Reference: 24/0175/TTPO

PC Decision: Approve.

Tracy Coston PARISH CLERK

Tel: 01223 894462 / 07929930385

Email: clerk@balsham.net

Website: www.balsham.net

The next
Parish Council Meeting
will be held on
Monday 18th March, 2024
in **Balsham Pavilion.**

Solar Farm presentation
at **7.00 pm**

followed by
Parish Council Meeting
at **7.30pm**

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

Bin Collections March/April

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday March 6 TH	✓		
Wednesday March 13 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday March 20 TH	✓		
Wednesday March 27 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday April 3 RD	✓		

Bird Feeders and Squirrels

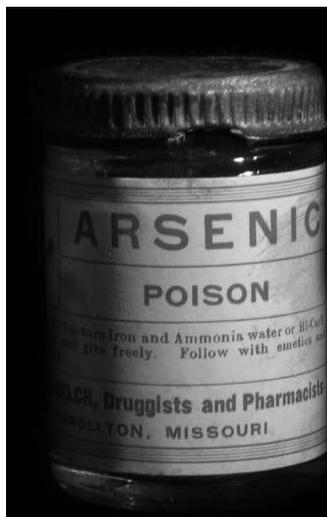
I have been using a couple of older bird feeders for peanuts, but have had trouble with the many squirrels that have been attacking the wire frame. I decided a jubilee clip might be the answer. I put it round the wires at the bottom of the holder, and



wonderfully it has stopped the squirrels (so far). I had to buy a pack of 10, and now have several spare ones. If you think one could help you do ask - call me on **01223 893012.**

Gill Parry Brown

Linton & District Historical Society



**OUR NEXT MEETING is on
Tuesday 19th March 2024**

Neil Dickerson will tell us about

'Arsenic's Toxic Legacy' People, Places & Peppermints

*how its compounds appeared to offer
marvellous solutions so long as a
blind-eye was turned to the problems
of its dreadful toxicity*

HISTORY, HORROR & HUMOUR!

Meeting starts at 7.30pm Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton (easy parking in the Health Centre car park opposite).

Refreshments and Raffle. All welcome – visitors £5

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

Cambridge Flower Club

National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies affiliated

Visitors welcome at the Memorial Hall, Mill Lane, Whittlesford CB22 4NE on third Thursday evenings.

Refreshments from 6.45pm Demonstration at 7.15pm. Membership £40 p.a. Visitors £8.00 per meeting.

March 21st:

Julie Woods: Workshop *"Spring Zing"*

April 18th:

Jane Knights & Amanda Waples
Demonstration: *"Take Two"*

May 16th:

Barbara Collins: Demonstration:
"Spring into Summer"

July 18th:

July Doreen Robinson
Demonstration: *'Fen Scape'*

Aug 15th:

OPEN MEETING:
Coral Gardiner

Demonstration: *'Put your Garden on a Pedestal'*

Further information from Freda Orgee **01223 891464** or
fredaorgee@gmail.com



The Bell

Hi Everyone,
Spring is in the air so please remember to book early for **Mother's Day**, and **Easter Sunday**.

Diary for March:

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

Sunday 10th - Mothers Day.

FREE glass of wine for the Mums with lunch bookings!

Wednesday 13th - Bingo.

Eyes down at 8pm.

Monday 25th - Book Club

3.30pm and 7.30pm.

Tuesday 26th – Charity Quiz

8pm. All welcome

Wednesday 27th- Lunch Club

Advance bookings and pre orders only. *March Lunch Club courtesy of Balsham Ploughmen.*

Sunday 31st - Easter Sunday.

FREE small gift for child diners.

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

Balsham Football Club

RESULTS

DATE	HOME	AWAY	SCORE	RESULT	COMP
27 Jan	Sawston Phoenix	Balsham	2-3	W	League
3 Feb	Balsham	Histon Hornets	0-4	L	League
17 Feb	Balsham	Clare Res	1-1	D	League

FIXTURES

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	COMP
2 March 3pm	Balsham	Fulbourn	Balsham Rec	League
9 March 3pm	Comberton	Balsham	Comberton Rec	League
16 March 3pm	Ashdon United Saturday 1st	Balsham	Ashdon Rec	League
23 March 3pm	Balsham	Cambourne	Balsham Rec	League
30 March 3pm	Cambourne	Balsham	Cambourne Fitness and Sports Centre	League
6 April 3pm	Balsham	Ashdon United Saturday 1st	Balsham Rec	League

The Balsham Plough Monday Club

As I mentioned in the Review last month Plough Monday 2024 took place on the 8th January 2024. The Balsham Ploughmen toured the village to raise funds for local good causes and to support the Cambridge Cancer Help Centre.

In order to draw a line under Plough Monday 2024 and so that we can move on to Plough Monday 2025 (*who knows where the time goes*) I thought that it would be good to publicise some of the good causes that we'll support this year.

Firstly, as mentioned in previous articles, we'll be making a donation to the **Cambridge Cancer Help Centre**, they do some amazing work.

Secondly, we'll be making a donation to the **Buttercups Pre-School**, a well-known Balsham institution that has supported so many Balsham children over the years.

We still have some reserved funding for the cleaning of the **Balsham War Memorial** that has now been completed. The funding for this is a joint endeavour with the Parish Council. The War Memorial looks great after the wash and brush up, please make an effort to look at the names listed (now that they're readable) and learn about their ultimate sacrifice, perhaps from some of our more well-established residents, perhaps over a pint at one of our pubs.

Talking of our more mature residents (and pubs), the Ploughmen will be subsidising the pre-Easter **OAP Lunch at The Bell on Wednesday 27th March**. If you would like to

attend (over 65s only) then please call Phil or Mary at The Bell or call in to book a table. These events are usually well attended so please do this in good time in order to secure your table.

We will be making donations to the **Balsham Good Neighbours Scheme**, the Balsham Feast and to the **Balsham Review**. All of these activities are run on a purely voluntary basis and all add to the vibrancy of our wonderful village.

So, that's about it for Plough Monday 2024. However, by way of a (printable) anecdote from PM2024, I asked one of the senior Morris Men on the night why they continue year after year to travel such distances to attend the Balsham Plough Monday event, some come from as far as Northampton and even Berkshire. His answer was that Balsham Plough Monday is a **unique event** and that they always look forward to attending. Think about that, **unique**, that means that this village is doing something that doesn't happen anywhere else. All of the Balsham Ploughmen remain extremely proud to continue the tradition of Plough Monday, to engage with all in the village (especially our newer residents) and to do some good in the process if we can.

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

Arthur Rank Hospice

Family Fun for a Purpose:

Mission Mud

Gather your friends and family for a day of laughter, camaraderie, and unforgettable moments. **Mission Mud** isn't just about conquering obstacles; it's about creating lasting memories while supporting adults in Cambridgeshire who are living with advanced serious illnesses or other life-limiting conditions.

Whether you're a seasoned mud runner or a first timer, this event is designed for everyone. Join us at The **Playground, Waterbeach** on **March 23** to turn mud into a mission of help and hope for the families supported by Arthur Rank Hospice Charity.

Sign up via theplaygrounduk.com/mission-mud or call **01223 675888**

Take a night time walk around the beautiful streets of Cambridge for charity

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity are busy preparing for the **2024 Star Shine Night Walk** which will be returning on **Saturday 11th May!**

Get your walking shoes ready for a 5 or 10-mile stroll in the evening, through the beautiful streets of Cambridge, to raise money for local hospice care. We can't wait to see you setting the streets aglow again! Find out more at:

www.arhc.org.uk/ssnw

Can you Volunteer?

Did you know that Arthur Rank Hospice Charity has over 500 volunteers covering a wide range of roles based in **Cambridgeshire** including **the Fens**. Some may even suit you if you'd like to **volunteer from home!** Many volunteers say they get as much back as they put in. So, if you would like meet new people, enhance your CV, gain new skills or just give back to your community contact Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and become part of **something special!** Find out more at arhc.org.uk/volunteer or email volunteer@arhc.org.uk or telephone **01223 675872**.

Pick up pre-loved items at bargain prices

Did you know that Arthur Rank Hospice Charity has many retail outlets? They have shops in Burleigh St, Mill Rd and Regent St in Cambridge, Cottenham, Great Shelford, a Retail Hub and an Outlet in Pampisford/Sawston, where you can find bargain clothes, bric-a-brac and furniture! Do your bit for your local community (and the planet) and recycle/upcycle by donating or purchasing preloved items. Please visit arhc.org.uk/shops for more information. They are also looking for volunteers to help in the shops, so if you can help please visit arhc.org.uk/volunteer or email volunteer@arhc.org.uk or call **01223 675872**.

Balsham Weather January 2023



Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

JANUARY:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 14° C on 23rd January

Lowest: 1° C on 17th January

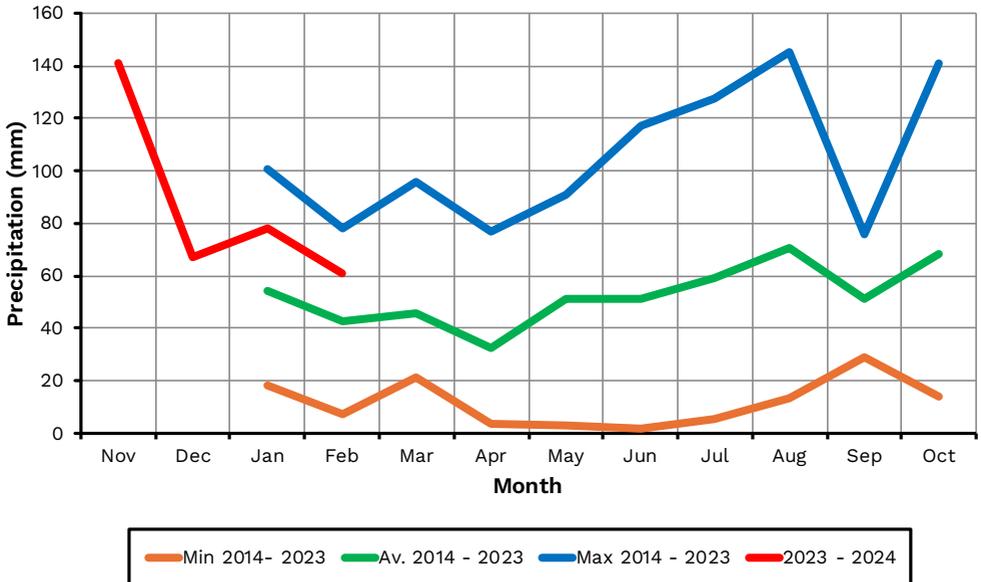
Night time temperatures

Highest: 8° C on 30th January

Lowest: -6° C on 18th January

January Rainfall at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total January 2023 rainfall: 60.96mm / 2.40"





Saturday March 2nd

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

Maestro (15)



The film for March is the Oscar nominated film **MAESTRO (15)** and stars include *Bradley Cooper* and *Carey Mulligan*.

MAESTRO tells the complex love story of conductor-composer Leonard Bernstein and actress Felicia Montealegre Cohn Bernstein, a story that spans over 30 years—from the time they met in 1946 at a party and continuing through two engagements, a 25 year marriage, and three children. *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** (n.clark5@btinternet.com) for details.*

Dave's bar open as usual before the film for refreshments!

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