



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 658

SICUT CANIS CUM OSSIS

MAY 2024



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Rush hour in Balsham!

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



Photo: Henryk Pisarski



Photo: Angela Read



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Janette Seeley



Photo: Henryk Pisarski

Spot the imposter!

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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.

KEEP UP TO DATE!

All the latest news and events at:
www.balsham.net

DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

FRIDAY, MAY 17TH 2024

*Copy should be submitted
where possible to
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or delivered to the
'Balsham Review Postbox'
held in the Post Office*

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Photographs supplied by:

*Richard Pargeter, Lesley Bennett,
Angela Read, Janette Seeley and
Henryk Pisarski.*



Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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

Editorial

Global Warming? What do they mean? No chance yet of the heat wave we were hoping for to beat the cold. The great advantage is that the spring flowers that have come so early are still blooming later than expected.

We are very grateful to Peter Neale who provides us with the weather information each month. You will see that Jan Ellam has sent a piece about a horse from Oxcroft Farm, on West Wrattling Road, and she has often sent us interesting information about the village and its past inhabitants. There must be many of you who have an interest that you could write about, not necessarily about the village, but that would entertain our readers. In the past we have met with people who have told their stories for us to put into words for the magazine, and that is possible now. Just let us know.

Photographs are also welcome too. Please don't wait to be asked personally. We have seen several beautiful photos on Facebook that many won't have seen unless they are printed here.

We are often sent letters complaining about dog mess around the village. On page 18 there is a list of all the 'poo bins', all emptied regularly, that are there for dog walkers to use to dispose of the bags. They are spread around the village in places easy for the council to reach to empty every week, and there should be no need

for anyone to leave poo or bags anywhere else.

May is also the time for the **Balsham Singers Spring Concert on Saturday 18th at 7.30pm**. It is always a time to hear good singing, with friends and neighbours, listening or taking part, with a mixture of classic and light music. Do make sure you are there!

The singers' concert takes place in the church and it is great to be able to use it as a community centre for events like this. As many of you know there is a children's corner with books and toys to play with. Several children come in on their way home from school, (and also make use of the loos) maybe before heading to the playpark. If you bring children in, and they are very welcome, please can you help them tidy up afterwards. With many toys left spread on the floor it can be unsafe for the next ones who come in.

Don't forget one of the village's regular events: the **Big Balsham Sale on Sunday May 19th**. It is a great opportunity to get rid of some of the clutter around the house, and brings many visitors from elsewhere to enjoy our community and to buy what we don't need.

Monday 20th May is the date of the **Annual Parish Meeting**—the opportunity for you to hear what the Parish Council have been doing during the year, and for you to put your point of view to them about

events and plans for the future of the village and its environment. Please try to be there. One item that may be mentioned is plans for a 20mph limit through the centre of the village. Speedy and careless driving is often mentioned in the village, especially when near horses. This could be particularly vital if the proposed Bio-Digester planned for Streetly End comes about, as it will bring much heavy traffic through the village from the A11. Usually by now, as the year goes by, I am telling of the ducklings I have on the pond. This year I have only seen two small groups of five, one without a mother, and I've only seen

each group once, a week apart. I have found two ducks dead by their disturbed nests, no eggs left, but neither appeared to have injuries. The drakes are still waiting for the return of their mates, but it doesn't look good for the duck future this year. It may be foxes, but the eggshells around appear to have been attacked by birds. A sad puzzle. As the drakes seem healthy I don't think it can be bird 'flu. I'm looking forward to a warm May, and a sprinkle of rain, so we don't have a summer of drought.

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

POST OFFICE

It has recently come to my notice that our general store and Post Office may have to close as income no longer covers outgoing expenses. This would be devastating for many people who rely on the store and Post Office - mostly pensioners. Since the wholesalers in Cambridge only serve the catering industry now, they have to get supplies from North Weald or Ipswich. More expensive than a trip to Cambridge.

Considering that there are now circa 3,500 residents in the village (more than ever before) you might expect the shop to be busier but the opposite is true. The shop has had to close at the quietest part of the day so as to save on wages and electricity costs.

As ever we either use it or lose it. I really hope we can all start using it a little more.

Concerned Villager

(Name and address supplied)

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/Linton_cornerstone

METHODIST: Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

From the Church

It has been a privilege to serve you as a curate for the 18 months I have been here. There have been moments of joy which I have been able to share with people and when life has felt that little bit cruel, to be there with people as they shed tears. Ministry is a privilege, and it has been all mine for the taking which I give thanks to God for.

Throughout the fullness of time, I have come to understand that these villages are more than just villages, they are communities. In the difficult times especially, they come together, pull together to help people out; what an amazing thing.

In the bible, in Paul's letter to the Philippians, he tells the congregation in chapter 19 that he's going to send Timothy to them to give them encouragement and support.

Timothy played his part on sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Paul said that Timothy "proved himself", in other words he was authentic.

Timothy was genuine, he was a tried and tested Christian; he was the

real thing. I hope and pray that during my time here, I have been the 'real thing', authentic in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

The time has come for me to move on and be a Vicar of a church in Hertfordshire which I look forward too. All that I have learnt here in my ministry will come with me and be built upon in the years to come. Some may say that rural ministry is far from the 'high life' but I disagree and I am thankful that this has been my life; and with a note of hope and a strong amen I thank God that I am able to begin again in the next step of my ministry.

This isn't about closing a book on my time here as curate but to end a chapter; not to say a final goodbye but rather farewell just for now. So, on that note, I say a heartfelt thank you, and with all my heart, God bless you. *"For all that has been, thank you, for all that will be, yes!"*

Reverend Ben Brady



May Services	9:30am	11:00am	6:00pm
5th		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Rev Ben Brady</i>	
12th	Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship Balsham <i>Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Evening Prayer West Wrattling <i>Hannah Threlfall</i>
19th	Morning Worship Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Holy Communion West Wrattling <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Natalie Davies</i> Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Church warden led</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Natalie Davies</i>	Evening Prayer Hildersham <i>Hannah Threlfall</i>
26th	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Morning Worship Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Café Church Hildersham <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i> Holy Communion Little Abington <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Evening Prayer Little Abington <i>Rhona McEune</i>

Deanery Ascension Day

The Deanery Ascension Day service will this year be held at

Holy Trinity, Balsham on Thursday 9th May, 7.00pm.

All are warmly welcome to attend and there will be refreshments after the service.

Balsham Village Website

I recently took on the task of refreshing and managing the village website: www.balsham.net.

The number of visitors to the site had become quite low as the site was generally viewed as being outdated. My task therefore was to update the site and make the content more current and relevant.

I have now created new pages and a structure that will offer much more up-to-date information on events and provide links to most of the community groups and services that you could possibly need!

Although the site has been rejuvenated, it is still desperately in need of improved content – both text and

images. We are then inviting anyone who has any content that could be of interest to villagers to send it in and we'll strive to find a place for it.

Photos will be especially welcome – we need as many high-quality images as possible for page banners and for insertion in the gallery to reflect the breadth of activities that take place in the village.

If you have any content - stories, events, images, etc., - please email them to me. Additionally, if you have any opinions on how the site can be improved further, please contact me.

Clive Bennett

Email: clive@ben8and.co.uk

BALSHAM SINGERS

PRESENT A

Spring Concert

Directed by John Clenaghan and
accompanied by Ralph Woodward

At Holy Trinity Church Balsham on
Saturday 18th May 2024 at 7.30pm.

*To include music by Faure, Bruckner, Stanford and medleys from
West Side Story & Little Shop of Horrors.*

ADULTS £12, UNDER 16s £1 | REFRESHMENTS | CHARITY RAFFLE

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

R.A.F. Wratting Common

May Memorial Service Sunday 26 May 2024

A short open-air service will be held at **12 noon** on **Sunday 26 May 2024** at the **R.A.F. Wratting Common Memorial**, to commemorate the anniversary of the commissioning of the airfield. The last Sunday in May was chosen for this annual service as it was the same day in 1943 that the airfield was commissioned. The Memorial is dedicated to those who served at the airfield, especially the 260 who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. We look forward to seeing some relatives of the Veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. The Memorial is situated at **Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR** and all are very welcome to

attend the service.

For further information please email:
rafwrattingcommon@gmail.com



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

**christian
aid**

Christian Aid Week is Here!

Christian Aid is an organisation that pushes back against the inhumanity of poverty, working in many different countries responding to crises and longer term development, as well as awareness and campaigning.

From **12th -18th May** you may receive a donation envelope through your door delivered by volunteers in the village. Please do give as you are able.

Donations can be dropped off at the **Balsham Stores**, the **Community Coffee Morning (14th)** or at our cake and hot drink stall at the **Big Balsham Sale (19th)**.

Anna McColl | annamccoll3@gmail.com

Balsham Parish Council

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

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on **20th May, 2024 at 7.30 pm** followed by the **Annual Parish Council Meeting at 8pm in Balsham Pavilion.**
ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

Kingsway Solar Farm:

The solar farm website is up and running at kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk. Please send all enquires to: enquiries@kingswaysolar.co.uk

Planning for Discussion:

Site address: 4 West Wickham Rd, Balsham.

Proposal: Alterations to existing ground floor utility room and separate WC to create a shower room with WC and a smaller utility area including the demolition of an internal non-load bearing wall and the construction of a new stud wall at right angles to the existing wall and the insertion of a doorway into the existing rear wall of the conservatory to access the new shower room.

PC Decision: Approve.

Site address: School Cottage 4A High Street, Balsham.

Proposal: One and half storey rear extension.

Reference: 24/01125/HFUL

PC Decision: No recommendation.

Site address: 37 Plumian Way,

Balsham.

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for a loft extension with rear box dormer and rooflight to front elevation.

Reference: 24/01249/CL2PD

PC Decision: No recommendation.

Improvements to the Prince Memorial:

The floor on the Prince Memorial will be re-laid and the seating extended to the entranceway on each side. The path around the edge of the Prince Memorial will be extended around the base. The work will hopefully be started in June.

Highways:

The PC are in regular contact with CCC Highways for investigations in West Wrattling and West Wickham Rd.

Defibrillator at Mays Avenue:

The PC are concerned that there isn't a defibrillator at Mays Ave. Clerk to look into permission to install one.

Website:

If anyone has any events/ information to be added to www.balsham.net please send to clerk@balsham.net

Tracy Coston PARISH CLERK

Tel: 01223 894462 / 07929930385

Email: clerk@balsham.net

Website: www.balsham.net

District & County Councillor's Report

APRIL 2024

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

The popular Zero Carbon Communities grant from South Cambs District Council is now open again - <https://southcambsweb.azurewebsites.net/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant> - community groups, as well as parish councils, can apply for funding for green and sustainable energy projects. The deadline for applications is **June 2nd**, so don't hang around.

Local Elections

You'll be pleased to hear there is only 1 local election this year, for the Police and Crime Commissioner of Cambridgeshire. This doesn't get a huge amount of media coverage but is nevertheless an important role, so please do take the time to research the candidates and, if you can, vote.

At some point this year there will also be a general election, with much more media coverage!

Rural Prosperity Fund

There is a new fund from central government, facilitated by the District Council, that is aimed at supporting rural communities with the aim to help support local businesses and communities. Worth taking a look at if you are a looking

for funding for a project or you're a local business looking to expand and progress - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/rural-england-prosperity-fund/> - applications open on Monday April 8th and when the money is gone, it's gone!

Solar Farm Proposal

Kingsway Solar, the company proposing the new solar farm between the A11 and West Wrattling/Balsham, have now given an informal presentation to local residents. The plans were lacking in some of the detail that people would have wanted to see at this stage but, as the applicants said at the meeting, the plans may change before a formal planning application is submitted. Other than the information that was presented at the meeting in March, there is still nothing tangible to link you to, other than West Wrattling Parish Council own write up of the event - <https://westwrattling.org.uk/parish-council-planning-applications/solar-farm/>

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

Contact Information

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Granta Medical Practices

If you are waiting for surgery, treatment, or a clinical opinion from your local hospital there is a useful website called “**My Planned Care**”.

My Planned Care gives you advice and support while you wait and helps you to prepare for your hospital consultation, treatment or surgery. This includes giving you information about waiting times at your hospital and other supporting and local services while you wait.

<https://www.myplannedcare.nhs.uk/>

This website is updated weekly and can be viewed by anyone, which means you, your family or carer as well as your NHS team can all see the latest information.

Your hospital team will be in touch with you as soon as soon as they can. If you are looking for an update in the meantime though, please check My Planned Care before contacting your hospital or GP.

Sandra East

GRANTA PATIENT SERVICES
cpicb.grantapatientervices@nhs.net

Bin Collections May/June

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday May 1 ST	✓		
Wednesday May 8 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday May 15 TH	✓		
Wednesday May 22 ND		✓	✓
Wednesday May 29 TH	✓		
Wednesday June 5 TH		✓	✓

Balsham Football Club

RESULTS

DATE	HOME	AWAY	SCORE	RESULT	COMP
30 March	Cambourne Town	Balsham	4-1	L	League
6 April	Balsham	Ashdon Utd	1 – 3	L	League
9 April	Balsham	Steeple Morden	<i>Home walkover</i>	W	League
13 April	Girton Utd	Balsham	0-3	W	League
16 April	Balsham	Girton Utd	4-1	W	League
20 April	Balsham	Linton Granta	2-2	D	League

Balsham May Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
3rd, Friday	BGNS Community Café, 10.00am—12pm	Mays Ave Room
4th Saturday	Picture House, The Holdovers , 7.30pm	Church institute
12th-18th	Christian Aid Week	
14th Tuesday	BGNS Community Café, 10.00am—12pm	Church institute
14th Tuesday	WI 7.30pm	Pavilion
18th Saturday	Photo Shoot of Dogs 10.30am	Recreation Ground
18th Saturday	Balsham Singers' Concert 7.30pm	Church
19th Sunday	Big Balsham Sale 10am—2pm	Around the Village
20th Monday	Annual Parish & Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion 7.30pm
21st Tuesday	Gardening Club trip to Hyde Hall	
21st Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Soc. 7.30pm	Linton Village Hall

Linton Village College

In March, audiences were treated to an evening of exceptional talent at our annual dance show. With the theme of 'Iconic Singers', over one hundred pupils from years 7 to 11 performed in an array of genres to the tunes of Frank Sinatra, Amy Winehouse and Elvis Presley. The audience feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

"I really felt the emotion and enjoyed the purity the show gifted. A very special evening with a genuinely positive vibe"

"That dance show last night was something else. I thought last year was good but..."



The show also demonstrated the wonderful skills of our student technical and backstage team who artistically delivered the lighting and sound for the show with the support of professional lighting/sound company 'Blushed'.

Our Dance department is also continuing our partnership with DanceEast, who are currently delivering a series of workshops to our Lower School Dance Company,



developing students' performance skills and industry knowledge.

DanceEast have invited us to contribute to a highly prestigious sixth form project this summer involving performance and choreography expertise from professional dancers from the internationally acclaimed Hofesh Shechter Dance Company.

We look forward to seeing the amazing outcomes of our students' work, which will culminate with the opportunity to perform their piece at DanceEast in the Autumn.

We are also excited about our involvement in 'Stage 24', Anglian Learning's first ever dance festival which will be hosted at Bottisham Village College in July and will enable primary and schools to showcase dance skills across the Trust.

Helen Frost

HEAD OF DANCE | LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE



Dancers from Linton Village College

ART in the CHURCH

at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham

Art Exhibition and sale of work to
help support the restoration
of our wonderful font

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th October 2024

Preview evening

Friday 4th October from 7pm to 9pm

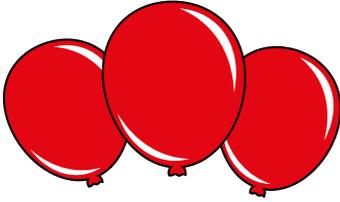
A call for artists who would
like the opportunity to
exhibit their work in this
interesting and historic venue

For further information please
contact Jan Cassidy
email: jc@jancassidy.co.uk



Big Balsham Sale

Sunday 19th May 2024, 10am – 2pm



Do you want to have a good clear out and sell all those unwanted items?

Then sign up to the **Big Balsham Sale** which is our annual community sale where householders can sell from their own garages /driveways etc.

It only costs **£5** which includes advertising (poster, banner and Facebook) and a village map showing the location of all participants so visitors and traders will know where to spend!!! You will also receive red

balloons to fly so pinpointing your pitch to the buyers.

In order to guarantee your position is displayed on the published map please complete the tear-off slip below and drop it in at **11 High Street, Balsham** with the **£5** fee by **Wednesday 15th May**.

Your seller's pack (balloons & map) will be available for collection from **11 High Street** on **Saturday 18th after 4pm**.

For more information please contact:

Glynis Hanlon

Tel: 01223 890 219

Email: bigbalshamsale@gmail.com

Facebook: bigbalshamsale

I apply for an entry to the Big Balsham Sale 19th May 2023 and enclose the £5 fee.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

SIGNED:

TELEPHONE:

EMAIL:

If we need to get in touch with you please provide the following contact details:

The Meadow Primary School

Welcome back to a vibrant new term at The Meadow. As we embrace the warmth of the summer season, we're excited to share the stimulating topics awaiting our students across different year groups. Our younger children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 will be diving into the world of agriculture with their theme, **'Down on the Farm: exploring the wonders of rural life and the importance of farming'**. Meanwhile, Year 3 and 4 students will embark on a fascinating journey back in time to uncover the mysteries of the Egyptians and other Ancient Civilizations. And for our older students in Years 4, 5, and 6, get ready to venture into the heart of the rainforest as we explore the captivating world of Mayan civilizations, unravelling the secrets of this ancient society's remarkable achievements. With such diverse and engaging topics ahead, we're eager to continue to ignite curiosity, foster creativity,

and inspire a love of learning throughout this term!

Exploring Nature's Classroom: Year 5's Unforgettable Adventure at How Hill

In a whirlwind of discovery and delight, our Year 5 students recently embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to **How Hill**. From the moment they arrived, excitement filled the air as they prepared to immerse themselves in a world of exploration and learning. One of the highlights of their adventure was the interesting boat trip along the Barton Broad. Drifting serenely through these lush wetlands, our young explorers encountered an array of wildlife among the reeds while learning about pollution and peat. Armed with nets and buckets, the students also embraced the exhilarating experience of dyke dipping. They delved into the cool waters, discovering an astonishing diversity of aquatic creatures, from



Year 5's unforgettable adventure at How Hill.

water scorpions, water snails to water boatmen. But it wasn't just the watery wonders that captivated our students; they also had the opportunity to delve into traditional crafts like thatching. Under the guidance of skilled instructors, they learned the age-old techniques of weaving together Norfolk reeds to create waterproof, sturdy roofs. With each straw carefully placed, they not only honed their practical skills but also gained a newfound appreciation for the craftsmanship of generations past. As the sun set on their time at How Hill, our Year 5 students returned home with not only deepened understanding of the natural world but also having fostered bonds of friendship and camaraderie that will endure for years to come.

Spot Mini G on the Cambridge Giraffe Trail!

We are thrilled to announce that our very own Mini G is now proudly on display as part of the Giraffe Trail around Cambridge! You can find Mini G upstairs in the Grand Arcade, standing tall and ready to greet visitors. We encourage all our students, parents, staff and local community to pop by to say hello to Mini G. The Giraffe Trail is a fantastic opportunity to explore our beautiful city and discover the vibrant community spirit that Cambridge has to offer. From now



Mini G

until the **2nd of June**, you can join in the fun and see how many giraffes you can spot dotted around Cambridge's streets and landmarks. We can't wait to welcome Mini G back to school after the trail ends. Mini G will return to take up residency in our school, bringing with it memories of the exciting journey it embarked on around our city.

Faye Facer

ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHER & EYFS LEAD

Linton & District Historical Society

Arsenic's Toxic Legacy was a most entertaining evening, thoroughly researched and well presented; **Neil Dickinson** guided us through the early beginnings of this highly poisonous compound up to the present day and what was going on in between!!!

Ill-fated relationships could be finalised using arsenic. Green coloured dresses, ladies accessories and even green coloured wall paper proved hazardous. Surprisingly, a shade of green named 'Arsenic' was produced by one well known paint manufacturer not so long ago. Little wonder green is treated with suspicion.

Peppermints proved fatal in Bradford in the mid 1800's when this poisonous white powder was mistakenly sold to a confectioner instead of Plaster of Paris!!

In America it was commonly used as a pesticide. 'Apple Pickers', a 1940's portrait, shows girls cheerfully gathering their crops which had previously been sprayed, likewise the 'Cotton Pickers', all totally unaware of the consequences. Cartoonists sadly depicted these terrible situations. Oh yes, and we must not forget the sheep dip and how to get a healthier bigger and better chicken ... the list goes on!!

Thankfully, modern day

professionalism in the use of this powerful compound is being used much more effectively. Questions and Answers followed the talk and we all left far more knowledgeable.

In **May** we welcome back **Mike Wabe** who will present:

Foul Murders in East Anglia
Tuesday 21st May 2024

Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane
starting **7.30pm**

Refreshments & Raffle

*(Easy parking in the Health Centre
Public Car Park opposite)*

*Recommendations for interesting
speakers and subjects are welcomed
when planning our programmes*

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

WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT
GARDENING CLUB

PLANT SALE

*Something for everyone
Friendly people & expert advice*

SATURDAY 18 MAY

10.30 - 12.00

at

**WEST WICKHAM
VILLAGE HALL**

Payment by cash or cheque preferred

FLOWERS shrubs VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs
VEGETABLES herbs FLOWERS shrubs VEGETABLES herbs

Balsham Gardening Club

The Balsham Gardening Club was treated to a fascinating talk by master thatcher **Chris Dodson** at its meeting on **3rd April**. He explained how modern thatching has evolved from a traditional trade using local material to a highly skilled and organised business helping maintain traditional houses. Chris brought thatching to life with some great anecdotes as a fourth-generation thatcher and with his oldest son now learning alongside.

As well as photos, Chris brought bundles of reed and straw, and the specialist tools, to show the different types of thatching. Our area was too far from the nearest sources of reed in Norfolk, so has a tradition of long straw thatch, with a 'shaggier, softer, poured on look' and distinctive decorative hazel ligers

to secure it. Even though reed is longer lasting and now more readily available, our local planning authorities require long straw thatch to maintain this look.

After the talk, **Harold Gawthorp** gave us some gardening tips. Bulbs need to be fed to make sure they flower next year and forsythia and winter jasmine should be pruned after flowering. Although the soil is warming up now, there's no rush and still a risk of frost.

We'll be visiting **RHS Hyde Hall** on **21st May** and having a **Plant Stall** at the **Balsham Feast** on **6th July**. Get growing now!

This was the last of the Club's winter meetings. We'll start up again in October, with Peter Jackson of Scotsdales lined up for the talk.

Fitness Classes at the Abington Institute



Aerobics Friday 9:30am *for ladies in their prime.*

Aerobics, toning, floor work & stretch. Exercises to raise your heart & tone your body. Small friendly group.

Pilates Friday 10:30am & 11:45am.

Pilates exercises will help alleviate back pain and improve core strength, mobility & flexibility. All exercises are based on a mat.

Please contact me for more information. (*Other classes too!*)

Disa Bennett Tel: 07798 754029

Email: disa_bennett@hotmail.com **Web:** www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.com

Linton Library News

Come and visit Linton library this May for...

Our Monthly talk on Wednesday 8th, 2 – 3.30pm is entitled “**We need to talk about Climate Change**”, come along and find out what we can all do to help. It’s free but please book your place by contacting the library or email: **cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

May is **Local and Community History Month**. Are you curious about the history of your community – people, places and events? The library service has extensive local history collections for you to explore. Drop in to find out what we have on the shelves, or search online for Local Studies - Cambridgeshire County Council, for information about our major collections in bigger library branches.

During **Half Term** we’ll have **Lego Club** on **Tuesday 28th 10-12** and some craft activities available.

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

Knit and Natter, is now on **EVERY Tuesday, 2pm – 3pm**. Bring along any craft project you’re working on – it doesn’t have to be knitting and table space is available.

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

Books – Come in and find a new book to read. If you can’t see the one you want here, you can reserve books from other libraries in Cambridgeshire and pick them up from Linton library. Ask us for more details.

Ann King & Melanie Symonds

COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

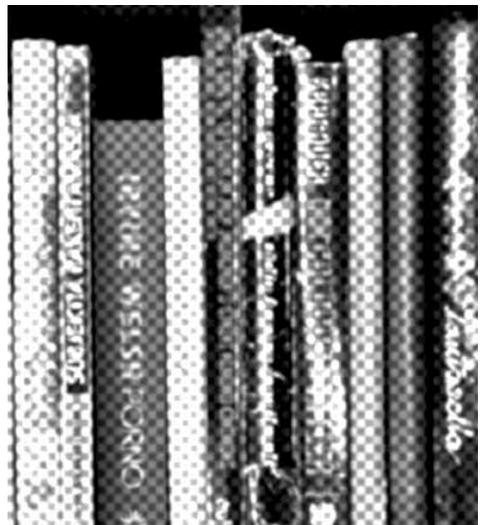
Opening hours

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

Customer Services

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

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library



It's the Cricket Season Again!

BALSHAM CRICKET FIXTURES - 2023 LEAGUE 3 SOUTH

DATE		
Saturday 4th May	Little Shelford II	AWAY
Saturday 11th May	Saffron Walden IV	HOME
Saturday 18th May	Audley End & Littlebury II	HOME
Saturday 25th May	Royston II	AWAY
Saturday 1st June	Burrough Green	HOME

BALSHAM MIDWEEK CRICKET FIXTURES - 2024

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	COMP
Wednesday 1st May	Cam Kerala	HOME	League
Wednesday 8th May	Thurlow & Mill Green	AWAY	League
Wednesday 15th May	Ickleton	HOME	Cup
Wednesday 22nd May	Fulbourn	HOME	League
Wednesday 29th May	TBA	TBA	Cup
Wednesday 5th June	Wrattling Lions	AWAY	League

*New players always welcome -
please contact our captain Adrian on 07887824133*

Tennis in West Wrattling: New Season 1st May

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

The **West Wrattling d'Abo Tennis Club** is open to existing, returning and new members from across the local area. Our full-size, all-weather macadam court is located in a peaceful corner of the village recreation ground.

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



A Horse Called Potatoes

Just now and again something catches the eye, sticks in the brain and there's an urge to find out more. Such was an article in an early edition of the *Sporting Times* regarding a horse called 'Potatoes' and the description of Oxcroft Farm Stud, Balsham as being *'the finest horse racing stud farm in England'*. Potatoes, as the colt was originally named, was bred by Willoughby Bertie, the fourth Earl of Abingdon. He was born in 1773 out of Sportsmistress by the legendary stallion Eclipse. The story goes that a stable lad, misunderstanding the horse's name, broke down the word potatoes into pot plus eight O's. So, the horse's feed bin read as Potooooooooos, which apparently amused the Earl of Abingdon greatly, and the horse actually raced under that name in his first two seasons, but over time this was reduced to Pot8os.

This little horse was claimed to be one of the most famous racehorses of the 18th century and in the world of horse racing is still respected to this day. He must have inherited his sire Eclipse's endurance and stamina as many of his claimed 34 victories were at distances of over four miles and the stallion raced on for seven years. In 1778, at the age of 5, Pot8os was entered in the 1200 Guineas Stakes at Newmarket's first spring meeting. During this race Willoughby Bertie sold the horse on to Richard, 1st Earl Grosvenor for 1500 guineas.

Pot8os won and subsequently he raced under Grosvenor's yellow and black silks from then on.

Lord Grosvenor, eldest son of the 6th baronet of Eaton Hall was, at this time, one of the richest men in England and totally preoccupied with the so-called 'sport of Kings'. It was noted that when he was elevated to the peerage, *'he didn't know whether he was a viscount or baron as when he should have been kissing hands he was gone to Newmarket to see a trial racehorse'*. Lord Grosvenor was considered to be the greatest breeder of racing stock of any gentleman in England and reputed to have spent more than 300,000 pounds on his stud-farms at Eaton Hall, Cheshire and Oxcroft Farm in Balsham. He acquired Oxcroft in 1771 and it was there in 1783 that Pot8os was retired to stud, successfully siring 172 winners. Pot8os is a son of Eclipse and approximately 80% of the Eclipse bloodline traces back to Pot8os. This means that about three-quarters of all modern thoroughbreds can be traced back to Oxcroft Farm. By 1796 Lord Grosvenor was in some financial trouble and he sold Oxcroft. Of the six stallions that were there four were walked to Eaton Hall, one retired (presumably sold) and Pot80s walked to nearby Hare Park stud, near Newmarket. It may well have been that at the age of 23 he was too old to walk to Eaton Hall, after

all horseboxes weren't around then, it was whilst at Hare Park he died at the age of 27.

But that isn't quite the end of Pot8os story. Hare Park has shifted borders and owners many times over the years and the whereabouts of Pot8os' grave got quite forgotten until Alison Schwabe, from the Cambridge University Veterinary School, did some research on the property and learnt that Pot8os had spent some time there. For three years she searched, without success, until she met with a previous gamekeeper who used to look after the trees when it was an active stud. He told her about a huge cedar tree which blew down in 1990 uprooting a skeleton of a horse. He also told her where to look, and sure enough, as the soil was cleared away, there,

tangled in the roots ('not unlike a potato hanging from a root') was a horse's skull.

The bones were carefully excavated and DNA tested against known samples from Pot80s female descendants which confirmed the horse's identity. The skeleton is now exhibited in the National Horseracing Museum, Newmarket. It stands against a painted background designed to look like a George Stubbs portrait since Lord Grosvenor was fond of having top horses painted by Stubbs. A true likeness of Pot8os has never been found but it's suspected by experts that it's out there, hiding in someone's attic, much like the great horse himself was hidden for so long.

Jan Ellam

Balsham WI

At our April meeting we had a social session which included discussing plans for future months and fundraising as well as a Beetle Drive, an old favourite which was enjoyed by all and involved a lot of chatting and laughter. And of course, tea and cake! We also started planning for our Centenary celebrations in 2025.

New members are always welcome – why not come and try us out? We are a friendly bunch and welcome anyone over 18 who identifies as female. 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**.

the **WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN

Our next meeting, on **Tuesday May 14** will be a talk on **Dementia** – What is it, how to avoid it and what to do if it happens! Our speaker will be

Maggie Woodhouse who works in the field at West Suffolk Hospital

Debbie Mower

The Black Bull



May Greetings to all Balsham Villagers from all at The Black Bull

Thank you to all who joined us for Rob's latest "Preserved" Taster Menu last month, in collaboration with Wild Preserver specialist from West Wrattling, Jackie Brearley. It was another cracker and educational to boot. The following for these events continues to build and we can't wait for the next one – see below.

Please check out Rob's new **Spring Menu** on our website – already being lauded as the best yet:

Crab Tart: *Great Abington asparagus, radish, crispy egg yolk, pea shoot salad.*

Crispy Cauliflower: *grilled Messiah Mushrooms, roast new potatoes, spring greens, coconut curried sauce.*

Chocolate Delice: *poached pears, pistachio crumble, pistachio ice-cream.*

Reminder of our next **Events Night:**

Music, Sushi & Tacos on Bank Holiday weekend **Friday 3rd May** with Simon Day.

Annual Fathers' Day weekend: Beer, Steak & Music Festival with our favourite **Norfolk Busker**, Alton on **Friday 14th June**

Rob's next **Taster Menu** night is set for **Thursday 27th June** – Save The Date – you know you won't be disappointed - more details to come.

We are continuing our **Black Bull Brunch Weekends** every few weeks – next ones:

Saturday 4th/Sunday 5th May

Saturday 18th/Sunday 19th May

Saturday 1st/Sunday 2nd June

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

Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

Equipment for Loan



From time to time people have an urgent need of equipment to help with mobility, showering, toileting and so on. We have a small stock of a variety of aids which are free to villagers to borrow. You can see some of the equipment in the photo but our stock includes wheelchairs, a rollator, walking sticks, Zimmer frame, toilet frames and aids, shower and perching stools, inflatable

pressure-sore mattress and more. People usually borrow items because of a short term need, while they're waiting for something to be supplied by NHS, or because they want to 'try before they buy'.

If you need something get in touch on **07508 430057** or **balshamgns@gmail.com** and we'll help you if we can.

Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme Community Cafés

Community Cafés are held from **10:00 to 12:00**.

Tuesdays at the Balsham Church Institute on:
14th May; 25th June; 16th July

Fridays at the Mays Avenue Community Hall on:
3rd May; 7th June; 5th July

If you would like to support the work of the Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme in any way, get in touch on:

07508 430057 or email **balshamgns@gmail.com**

Cambridge's First Country Park

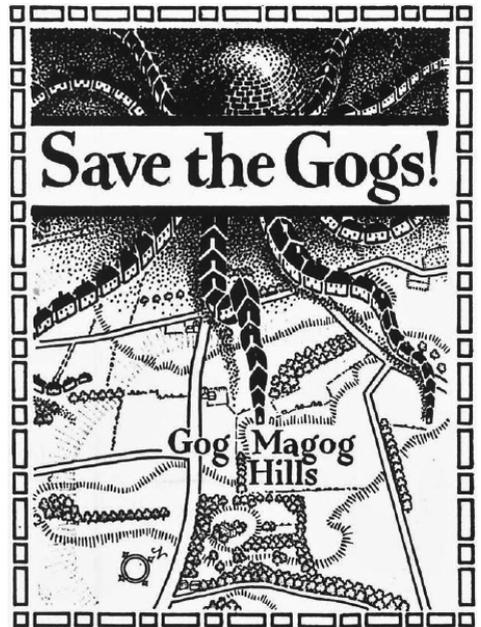
Celebrating 70 years at Wandlebury

Local charity **Cambridge Past, Present & Future** is celebrating 70 years of Wandlebury Country Park. On 26 April 1954 it announced that it was buying the Wandlebury Estate to make it a public open space. It became Cambridge's first Country Park and has provided generations of people with a beautiful greenspace to enjoy. With the help of the charity's supporters, they have also been able to protect the nationally important iron-age archaeology, maintain historic buildings and provide a home for nature.

Save the Gogs

The rolling chalk hills on the southern edge of Cambridge have held a special attraction to people for over 2300 years. On top of the Gog Magog Hills, or "the Gogs", lies the remains of a large and important circular Iron-Age fort, where the Iceni tribe lived. The Romans arrived and built a road over the Gogs that connected Cambridge to Colchester.

From 1665 the race horses of King Charles II and King James II were trained there. In the 1730s a country estate and stables were built there by the Duke of Leeds, where the famous Godolphin Arabian sired a generation of thoroughbred race horses. Although Wandlebury was a private estate it was a popular place



when opportunity allowed: in 1933 18,000 people attended a fete at Wandlebury that was addressed by the Prime Minister.

As housing started to sprawl out of Cambridge in the 1920s the wonderful views from the Gogs made it an ideal place to build a house. By the early 1930s Cambridge Past, Present & Future became seriously concerned that without intervention the hills would be built over, destroying them forever. They launched a major '**Save the Gogs**' appeal with the aim of raising a large sum of money to pay land-owners to give up their development rights.

Although they raised the equivalent

of £1.1m in today's money, it was not enough. As fate would have it, World War 2 intervened and afterwards more effective planning legislation was introduced which, with their campaigning, protected the Gogs from development.

Following the deaths of Sir Harold and Lady Gray, in 1953 their son Terance began seeking a purchaser for the Wandlebury Estate, which was in a seriously neglected condition. Frantic negotiations and discussions took place to secure Wandlebury for public benefit and the charity

resolved to use the 'Save the Gogs' money for this purpose. Even with the offer of these funds, the County Council could not be persuaded to buy the estate and so it fell to Cambridge Past, Present & Future to step up. There is no doubt that without the generosity of Terance Gray this would not have been possible; he effectively gifted half of the estate.

Cambridge, Past, Present & Future is the local charity that protects the beauty of Cambridge and its environment.

The Bell

Hi Everyone, we are hoping for some better weather, so you can finally enjoy the beer garden.

Our three summer houses are also available for dining bookings for up to six people.

The Bell Inn will open at 12.00pm on Both Bank Holiday Mondays. (Normal Monday opening 3.30pm).

Diary for May:

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

Wednesday 8th: Bingo Night. Eyes down at 8pm.

Monday 13th: Book Club 3.30pm and 7.30pm.

Tuesday 28th: Charity Quiz 8pm , all welcome.



Wednesday 29th: Lunch Club, advance bookings and pre orders only.

Advanced notice - our **Annual Charity Football Match** will take place on **Saturday 15th June**. Bell Inn Landlord's X1 v AFC

Balsham at the **Recreation Ground**. We will be raising money for the Cambridge branch of The National Autistic Society. The match will be followed by a fundraising fun night at The Bell.

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 Weather March 2024



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

MARCH:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 16° C on 14th March

Lowest: 7° C on 8th March

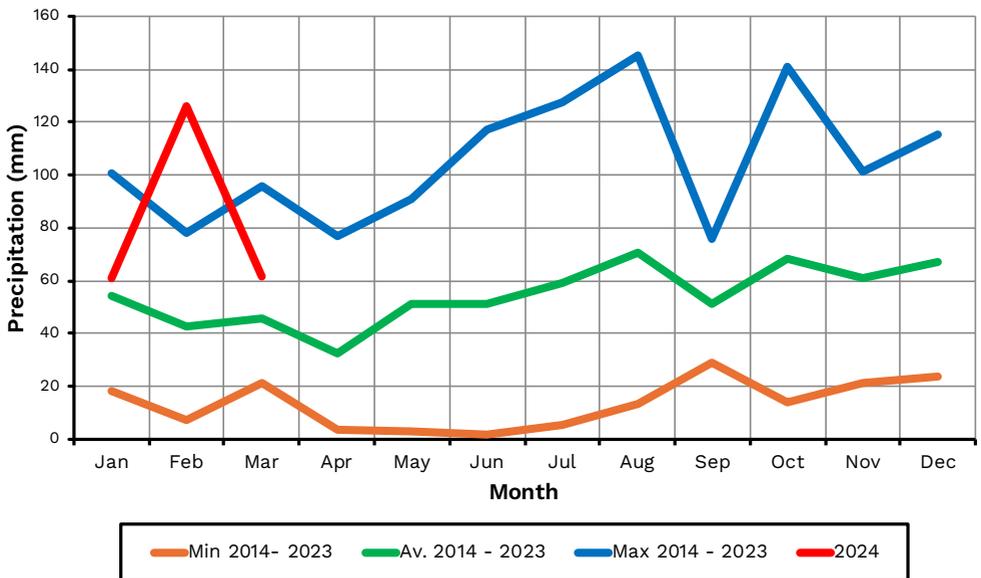
Night time temperatures

Highest: 10° C on 15th March

Lowest: 1° C on 4th March

March Rainfall at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total March 2024 rainfall: 61.5mm / 2.46" with 15 days of rain.





Saturday May 4th

Doors open 7.00pm and film at 7.30pm in Balsham Church Institute

The Holdovers (15)



The film for May is the Oscar-awarded film **The Holdovers** (15).
A good-natured comedic drama set in the 1970s and starring *Paul Giamatti*.

The Holdovers follows a curmudgeonly instructor (*Paul Giamatti*) at a New England school who is forced to remain on campus during Christmas break to babysit the handful of students with nowhere to go. Eventually he forms a bond with one of them and the school's head cook (*Da'Vine Joy Randolph*).

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

*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.*

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