



# BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 660

SICUT CANIS CUM OSSIS

JULY 2024

COME & JOIN US FOR THE  
**BALSHAM**  
**FEAST**

**SATURDAY 6TH JULY** **BALSHAM RECREATION GROUND**  
**1PM TO 5PM**

**FREE ENTRY**

Photos or articles to: [editor@balshamreview.com](mailto:editor@balshamreview.com)  
Website: [www.balshamreview.com](http://www.balshamreview.com)

All Photos: Richard Pargeter



Blue Tit



Greenfinch



Moorhen family



24-spot Ladybird



The dreaded slug...

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

*Send stories, events  
and images to:  
[clive@ben8and.co.uk](mailto:clive@ben8and.co.uk)*

### **DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:**

**FRIDAY, July 19<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

*Copy should be submitted  
where possible to*

**[editor@balshamreview.com](mailto:editor@balshamreview.com)**

*or delivered to the 'Balsham Review  
Postbox' held in the Post Office*

### **Balsham Review Team**

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*Lesley Bennett, Richard Pargeter, Jane Goode, Kathy Day & Seppe Cassettari.*



### **Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme**

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

# Editorial

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**Feast Day is here**, or at least it is if you are reading this on **Saturday 6th July**. Many apologies to those of you who saw 16th on the cover of June's Review and are preparing for it then - however that would be a Tuesday, and we know that by then you will have realised the 'deliberate' mistake, there to test your realisation abilities (and my proof-reading abilities, sadly lacking that day.) A great afternoon should be guaranteed, and the forecast as I am writing is for a warm, grey day, with just a chance of showers - so let's hope those are for later in the evening. Do please make sure you join us all in the Recreation Ground - for those of you new to the village and who haven't been exploring yet, take the little turning behind the 'bandstand' in the centre of the village and follow it round to the car park. In the far corner to the left of the pavilion you will find two large grassy fields. These will be covered with stalls and activities to keep you and your children entertained all afternoon. And in

the evening both pubs will be having live music, and food and drink to go with it, so make sure July 6th is free in your diary to stay in the village and **ENJOY!**

One stall/stand at the Feast will be from the church. We have decided that it is time to have a '**Friends of Holy Trinity, Balsham**'. This will be a group to help with the maintenance and upkeep of the church building. It is a place that has been in the centre of the village since Saxon times, although today's building seems to have been started only eight hundred years ago, and it is still going strong. Inevitably there is plenty of wear and tear after such a long time and we know many villagers have a soft spot for the church. This will be a way to help without making a religious commitment. You will be able to find out more on page 11 or stop at the stand at the Feast.

Later in the month, on **Sunday 14th July**, there is to be a concert in the church, by **Serenata**, a choir of female voices, all from around East Anglia. They came to Balsham a few years ago and were very well received, so take this opportunity to enjoy music this time inspired by the sky.

I am sure all our villagers are aware of the wonderful community feeling there is in Balsham. This can be seen

partly by the number of people and families who have stayed within the village when they have found a need to change homes, perhaps when children have arrived and a larger house is needed, or they have grown older and now need something smaller. We often have letters sent in to tell of occasions where the interests of the community have been shown, and many tell of messages of care. It is really good to hear of acts of help, and our pubs, coffee shop and Post Office are often where the assistance has come from. Our village **Good Neighbour Scheme** is available to everyone who can benefit from their help and the new initiative for those who have difficulty with transport

to be taken to the Haverhill shops is advertised on page 19. A big thank you to everyone who helps others, seen or unseen.

It seems to be sports everywhere this month: football, tennis and preparation for the Olympics on the box, and otherwise it is politics. As I write I wonder what the future will bring for our nation. Do come to the Church Institute in Church Lane on **Thursday 4th July**, between 7am and 10pm to **use your vote**. Don't forget to bring photo ID. (*Plenty of parking, but mind the potholes!*)

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**Gill Parry Brown**

EDITOR, BALSHAM REVIEW

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## Balsham July Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
4th Thursday	<b>General Election</b> <i>Polling Station open 7am-10pm</i>	Church Institute
5th Friday	BGNS Coffee morning, 10-12	Mays Ave room
July 6th Saturday	<b>BALSHAM FEAST 1-5PM</b>	Recreation Ground
6th Saturday	Picture House ' <b>La La Land</b> ' 7.30pm	Church Institute
9th Tuesday	WI 7.30pm	Pavilion
14th Sunday	Serenata Concert, 7.30pm	Church
15th Monday	Parish Council, 7.30pm	Pavilion
16th Tuesday	Coffee Morning, 10-12	Church Institute

# 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

### OUR WONDERFUL POST OFFICE

After visiting the Post Office this morning, it made me think how fortunate we are in Balsham to live in such a caring community.

An elderly lady in front of me said she was not too well this morning, resulting in her not being able to see very well. Having poor eyesight myself I was concerned for her. However, on going outside I was delighted to see Lynn walking home with this lady, helping her cross the road and making sure she didn't trip on the uneven pavements. What more could anyone ask for?

Similarly when one of our near neighbours had a fall recently and I collected goods for her at the Post Office, Helen immediately said 'We can always deliver goods to your neighbour', just as they did for many in the village during lockdown.

Where else would we get this sort of help and support?

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL POST OFFICE!**

**Judy Neale**

### SCHOOL NEIGHBOURS

So that is what all the noise was

about when 'Skipping into Action' entertained the children at the Meadow School recently. Glad to hear the children had a good day!

Unfortunately, those living in close proximity to the school had to 'share' a full day of loud music and equally loud instructions on how to skip and have fun. This seriously prevented anyone wanting to spend time in their garden, work indoors from home, or indeed, try to get some sleep for those who do shift work. Sorry to say it was highly intrusive.

There was a time when any events being held at the school (or other venues) which might cause disturbance to those living nearby were informed in advance so they could make arrangements to go out for the day/evening/weekend.

This warning could also apply to anyone lighting up a BBQ or bonfire (should the weather allow??). Please check which way the wind is blowing; not everyone enjoys the smell of outdoor cooking and smoke. I'm not condemning anyone for having a good time, but please spare a thought for those living

nearby.

### **Name given**

#### **PLEASE USE POO BINS!**

Please could dog walkers not put dog poo bags in the litter bin outside the shop. It is very unhygienic and smelly for those using the Post Office. There are plenty of dog poo bins around the village to use, the nearest being on the corner of Mays Avenue/High Street, Woodhall Lane, between the two entrances to the allotments, and in Church Lane near the grit and litter bins.

Thank you.

### **Helen**

#### **SPEEDING VEHICLES**

Firstly, I would like to thank **Keith Rayner** who gave up his Sunday morning to come down and trim the corner of Dungate Lane, Balsham. I highlighted the danger of the speed of the vehicles coming past Dungate Lane in February.

Unfortunately after various excuses from the Council and Highways any

solution seems to have been kicked into the long grass. We then had the added problem of the overgrown verges that seem to have been left for 'No Mow May', compounding the problem of having proper visibility getting out of our properties. The picture highlights the same problem at the junction of A1307 and Horseheath Road, an accident black spot.



### **Nicki Arnold**

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## **Sawston Open Gardens 2024**

Five of Sawston's finest gardens open their gates to the public on **Sunday 7th July**, to help raise funds for the National Garden Scheme (ngs) and the important nursing and caring charities they support. There are four very different private gardens plus the well-known Mary Challis Garden. The gardens are open from 1-5 pm. Collect a map at

the first garden you visit. Entrance £6 covers all gardens; children free. Enjoy homemade tea and cakes at the Mary Challis Garden 1.30-4.30 pm, plus plants for sale.

The Co-op car park in the centre of the village is conveniently located but restricted to 3 hours. Enquiries: Mike Redshaw **01223 834511** or [mjredshaw@hotmailco.uk](mailto:mjredshaw@hotmailco.uk).

# Church Services

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

Information about services in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham can be found on the Church Notice Board and on the website [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk) under the calendar section, or by signing up to our weekly newsletter, details of which can also be found on the website.

### CHURCH CONTACTS

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

### SERVICES at other CHURCHES when possible

**ROMAN CATHOLIC** Masses at:

**Cherry Hinton:** St Philip Howard Church

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

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

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

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

**CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH**, meeting as a house group, for further information please contact. [www.facebook.com/Lintoncornerstone](http://www.facebook.com/Lintoncornerstone)

**METHODIST:** Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

# From the Church

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Summer is upon us and so too is a General Election. Over the last few weeks, it appears that we have been bombarded by a surfeit of conflicting pieces of information and our poor brains need a rest. The future of our country is extremely important but I wonder if you feel like I do, a need to re-set my inner compass and quieten an overactive and buzzing mind. If we only take our meaning in life from power, we will only find despair. But if our inner focus and purpose are centred on small acts of kindness and goodness, from connecting with creation and love, we will find hope.

It is usually when surrounded by nature that I feel closest to God. I am filled with wonder at the beauty and intricacy of our natural world. The words from Psalm 46 come to mind, *'Be still and know that I am God'*. One morning, watching the swifts circling above, I decided that I would start a gratitude diary: just noting 3 things for which I am grateful each day. It could be as simple as the fragrance of a new

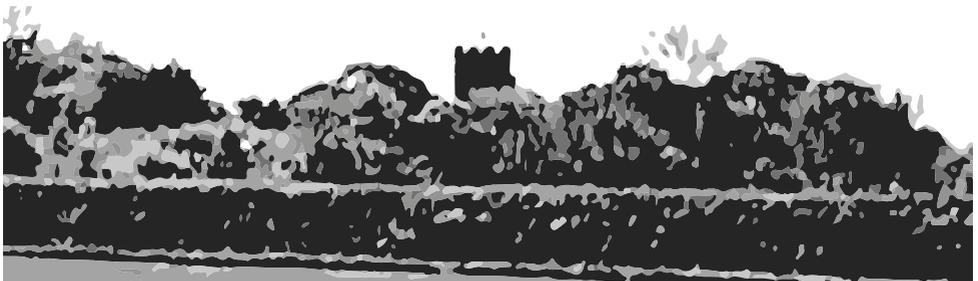
rose in the garden or an unexpected and welcome phone call. It certainly has a positive effect on how I view life. You may like to give it a try.

One entry in my diary was last month's Creative Church which takes place once a month in the Abington Institute on a Sunday morning. It is a time where young and old meet for a late breakfast or coffee and enjoy the opportunity to connect with one another through conversation and creative activities around a given theme. New friendships are formed, laughter abounds. The service is quite informal but there is a simple structure which culminates in some optional creative activities and finishes with an interactive prayer based on quiet stillness. Awe and wonder creep into the room and are etched on people's faces. Why not come along at **10am on Sunday July 28th** or **August 25th** and give it a try. I can guarantee you will receive a warm welcome.

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**Rosemary Mead**

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<b>July Services</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>7th</b>		<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	
<b>14th</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> Great Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> Hildersham <i>Alistair Collen</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> West Wrating <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
<b>21st</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> West Wrating <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	<b>Taize Service</b> Weston Colville <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
<b>28th</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b> West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Creative Church</b> Abington Institute <i>Rosemary Mead/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	<b>Café Church</b> Hildersham <i>Steven Wheeler</i> <b>11:15am</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> Balsham <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> Great Abington <i>Alistair Collen</i>

## Christian Aid

Thank you to everyone who supported the fundraising for Christian Aid during the Christian Aid week back in May. We raised **£359.61**.

A big thank you for all your donations. These will help to push back against poverty and its causes in

many areas of the world. To find out more see their website **christianaid.org.uk**.

Many thanks,

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**Anna McColl**

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# Friends of Holy Trinity Church, Balsham

Balsham has had a church at its heart since before the Norman Invasion in 1066. The present building of Holy Trinity has a tower from about 1250, with much of the rest of the building completed before about 1400, although the vestries were added in Victorian times and alterations including the toilets have been done in the past few years.

With the church as the oldest building, situated at the centre of the village, it has seen the history of all, from small families to national events. Still standing solidly in place, it should be here for centuries more. Over the centuries changes have been made, repairs done and care has been taken to ensure that the building is safe, water-tight and available to all the community.

We have decided that we would like the whole community to feel they can be part of this wonderful building, whether they choose to worship in it, attend concerts and exhibitions, or whether it is somewhere they pass from time to time. It is and has been throughout its existence, the heart of our village, after all.

The way we have decided to do this is to create a 'Friends of Holy Trinity Church, Balsham'. We invite all villagers and maybe their friends and families to join us in this venture.

One main purpose of this group will



be to raise money to keep the church in good condition. We know the roof of the nave, the central part of the church, needs retiling, and the highest windows in the nave also need repair. We are asking people who would like to become Friends to make donations, preferably regularly, so we can make the repairs necessary, before for instance, the whole roof needs replacing, or we have to have a series of buckets round the church! But we won't just be asking for funds from you. There will be events for Friends, and regular reports of how the funds are being used.

There will be a stand at the Feast on Saturday July 6th, with more information and with forms for those who would like to be Friends of Holy Trinity, Balsham, to take away to fill in.

# Linton Village College

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We were exceptionally proud this month to have been rated 'Good' in all areas in our latest Ofsted inspection. The inspection report captures our caring and inclusive ethos and our commitment to a holistic, enriching educational experience.

During my time as a leader at LVC, I have been unequivocal about the importance of developing well rounded young people that are able to play an active role in their learning, their lives and their communities. The impact that Covid had on the education and socialisation of our young people, makes it even more important that they are supported to foster the skills of compassion and empathy, as well as the confidence to achieve success as independent learners.



Hosting Michael Rosen at LVC in June was an amazing opportunity to launch our Creativity Week focus on the theme of 'footsteps' ahead of National Refugee Week. Michael

Rosen led a two-hour session with our Year 7 students, sharing poetry about migration and listening to students' own poetry. He also watched students perform dance and music inspired by his poetry which will be included in an event at the Cambridge Corn Exchange at the end of the month.

Our heritage as a Village College reminds us of the commitment to life-long learning. It is great to see students each year benefit from the Henry Morris memorial fund which was established to support young people aged 13-19 in Cambridgeshire for 'projects with purpose'.

This year, Angelos in Year 9 was successful in being awarded money to embark on a six-month project to build a radio-controlled car, a task requiring skills in two fields: electronics and mechanical design, both invaluable for aspiring engineers. The electronics component ensures the car functions, while the design and manufacturing involve creating the car's mechanics, such as steering, gear ratios, and structure. The Henry Morris Award is now partially funding the purchase of a 3D printer to design and print the car's mechanical parts.

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**Helena Marsh**

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL

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**Photo:** Lesley Bennett

Hildersham Road, 11.00pm on Saturday June 22nd 2024



**Photo:** Jane Goode

A female Muntjac deer with her offspring



**Photo:** Jane Goode

Red-headed Cardinal Beetle



Sunday morning at the allotments



# Skylight

## JOURNEY TO THE STARS

With a programme of uplifting choral music including  
Sure on this Shining Night - Morten Lauridsen,  
Measure me Sky - Elaine Hagenburg  
Nuit D'Étoiles - Claude Debussy,  
Ad Astra - Jacob Narverud,  
Here Comes the Sun, Fly me to the Moon, Another Day of Sun

**SUNDAY 14TH JULY 7.30PM**

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**

**BALSHAM**

**CB21 4DS**

### TICKETS

£15 Adult £5 Child £32 Family

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/serenata](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/serenata)  
Balsham Post Office & also on the door

### SERENATA

FEMALE VOICES CHOIR

DIRECTOR Andrew Foxley  
ACCOMPANIST Bethany Kirby



[WWW.SERENATAFEMALEVOICES.CO.UK](http://WWW.SERENATAFEMALEVOICES.CO.UK)



# Skylight

## Journey to the Stars with Serenata

**Let Serenata take you on a musical journey to the stars and back, with their concert on Sunday July 14th at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham.**

Skylight explores aspects of celestial light from the sun, moon and stars through glorious songs, written exclusively for upper voices. The programme includes pieces by American, Canadian, Norwegian, Singaporean, British, and French composers, sharing a common sky and who find inspiration in the vast expanse set above us all.

*Light, my light, the world-filling light,  
the eye kissing light, heart-sweetening light!*

.....

*The light is shattered into gold on every cloud,  
my darling,  
And it scatters gems in profusion.*

An extract from 'Light' by the poet Rabindranath Tagore, set to music by Marie-Claire Saindon

A cosmic canopy of energising and uplifting music awaits you and includes short works by Morten Lauridsen, Sarah Quartel, Elaine Hagenburg, Jacob Narverud, Ēriks Ešēvalds, Marie-Claire Saindon, Benjamin Britten and Claude Debussy. You will also be treated to familiar favourites *Fly Me to the Moon*, *Here Comes the Sun* and *Another Day of Sun* (from *La La Land*).

Serenata is a vibrant choir of 25 experienced female singers from the East of England, who perform music

arranged for three or more female voice parts. Serenata is dedicated to presenting the rich heritage of women's vocal music in an uncompromising yet approachable fashion. Directed by their talented conductor Andrew Foxley, with sensitive accompaniment from Bethany Kirby, the singers have a passion for singing and for bringing to their audiences a rich mix of styles and eras of music.

Tickets can be purchased from Balsham Post Office or **[www.Ticketsource/Serenata](http://www.Ticketsource/Serenata)** in advance and will also be available on the door. For enquiries please contact **01223 892001**

## JAZZ ON A SUMMER EVENING 2024

a concert of fabulous jazz from an all star trio



**TIM BONIFACE**

sax | piano

**COLIN OXLEY**

guitar

**MALCOLM CREESE**

bass

Back by popular demand, an opportunity to join three superb jazz players, each highly respected on the UK scene, for an evening of jazz favourites from the Great American Songbook and the bebop era, plus original material.

**SATURDAY 6th JULY 2024 | 7:30PM**

**SOUL SPACE @ ST MARY'S,  
WESTON COLVILLE CB21 5PE**

**TICKETS £15 (under 18 £7.50) | BAR & SNACKS**

BOOK: [janepryor6@gmail.com](mailto:janepryor6@gmail.com) or <https://stmarysjazz24.eventbrite.com>



Photo: Seppe Cassettari



Photo: Kathy Day

Bee Orchids



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Cherries, Woodhall Lane



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Gill's roses following a summer shower

# The Meadow Primary School

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At The Meadow, we are delighted to share the latest updates in our school community through our local newsletter. This edition is filled with exciting news, upcoming events, and our ongoing efforts to enhance the school experience for our students.

## **Fundraising for the Whole School Beach Trip:**

A big thank you to the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) for their tremendous effort and dedication towards fundraising for the upcoming whole school beach trip. The recent Big Balsham Sale stall organised by the PTA was a resounding success, with over **£550** raised through the sale of delicious bacon butties and refreshing drinks. This contribution brings us closer to our fundraising target and ensures that all children have the opportunity to enjoy a memorable day at the beach.

## **Annual Summer Fete:**

Sadly, due to the weather, we had to cancel our highly anticipated annual summer fete this month. However, we are pleased to announce that it has been rescheduled for September. We thank all who contributed to preparing for this event and look forward to its success in September.

## **Balsham Feast Fundraising:**

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for the Balsham Feast where the

School Council and PTA will unite forces for a final fundraising push in support of the beach trip. Your continued support and contributions towards these initiatives are truly appreciated and make a significant difference in enhancing the educational experiences of our students. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **Looking Ahead and Upcoming Events:**

The next half-term promises to be filled with exciting events, including move-up days, Sports Day, the Key Stage 2 production, and, of course, the highly anticipated beach trip. These events play a crucial role in enriching the educational experience of our students and fostering a sense of community within our school.

As we reflect on the past year and eagerly anticipate the events ahead, we remain committed to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment for our students to learn and grow. Your continued support and active participation in school events are vital to our collective success and for that, we thank you all so much.

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## **Faye Facer**

ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHER & EYFS LEAD

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# Balsham Parish Council

*The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting followed by the Parish Council Meeting for May took place on 17th June, 2024 in Balsham Pavilion*

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## **Improvements to the Prince Memorial:**

The improvements will hopefully be completed by the of June.

## **Defibrillator at Mays Avenue:**

The PC have purchased the defibrillator and cabinet and SCDC are arranging installation on the outside of the community room at Mays Avenue.

## **Solar Farm update:**

No further updates have been received from Kingsway Solar and it is not expected to hear anything until after the General Election.

## **Planning For Discussion:**

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

**Proposal:** Removal of existing catslide dormer. One and half storey rear extension with dormer window. Relocation of air source heat pump and rooflight. (*Scheme amended following refusal of similar application: 24/01125/HFUL*)  
**Reference:** 24/02165/HFUL  
**PC Decision:** No recommendation.

## **Decisions:**

**Site address:** 1 Dotterell Hall Barns, Cambridge Road, Balsham.

**SCDC granted permission for:** a single storey extension to courtyard elevation.

**Reference:** 24/01514/HFUL

**Site address:** 17 Queens Close, Balsham.

## **SCDC granted permission for:** T1:

Ash - Pollard by approximately 3-4m and remove large dead branch. This is regular maintenance of the tree to allow more light into the garden/property. This tree has been worked on before when the Ash next to it was pollarded in 2019.

**Reference:** 24/0438/TTPO

**Site address:** 43 Plumian Way, Balsham.

**SCDC granted permission for:** G1 4x Field maples with a combined canopy. Crown reduce in height and width by up to 3m to previous pruning points.

**Reference:** 4/0419/TTCA

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

## **SCDC refused permission for:**

Removal of existing catslide dormer. One and half storey rear extension with dormer window. Relocation of air source heat pump and rooflight.

**Reference:** 24/02165/HFUL

**Site address:** 4 West Wickham Road, Balsham.

## **SCDC granted permission for:**

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.

*Reference:* 24/01128/LBC

**Site address:** 36 High Street, Balsham.

**SCDC granted permission for:** T1 Laburnum - Fell.

### **West Wickham Road water issues:**

The PC have contacted CCC Highways numerous times about the water issues and condition of the road and they are well aware of the issues.

### **Trinity Close footpaths:**

The paths have been assessed and they have been added to CCC's slurry seal list for assessment.

### **Website:**

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

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### **Tracy Coston** PARISH CLERK

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**Tel:** 01223 894462 / 07929930385

**Email:** clerk@balsham.net

**Website:** www.balsham.net

The next **Parish Council Meeting** will be held on **15th July, 2024** at **7.30 pm** in **Balsham Pavilion.**  
**ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND**

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## **Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme Minibus**

We are now running an 8-seater minibus on Wednesdays, to Haverhill: Sainsburys, Tesco and Aldi. This is for Balsham residents who do not have their own transport and who would find it difficult to travel on a regular bus. The minibus leaves **Balsham Post Office** at **10:30** and returns at about **12:30** and can drop you at home if you have lots of shopping. Even if you don't need to go shopping, some people go just for the trip out. The cost is **£5**.

If you are interested, contact **07508 430057** or email **balshamgns@gmail.com**. You can also sign up in the Post Office.

The Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme has taken many residents on trips to the doctor, dentist and

Addenbrookes over the 6 months from October to March. Volunteer drivers have travelled over 3000 miles and I am very grateful to them for this. If you would like to join the team of volunteers, contact us using the details above.

### **Community Cafés**

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

**Tuesdays** at the  
Balsham Church Institute on:  
**16th July**

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

# District & County Councillors

Report June 2024

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A shorter report this month as the calling of the general election has meant the postponing of meetings and a restriction on what can be said in public.

Please remember that **personal identification will be required** when you go to vote. If you need help with this contact South Cambs District Council.

Whoever you support the most important thing is to **USE YOUR VOTE.**



## Solar Farm

Kingsway, the company promoting the gigantic solar farm in the A11 to West Wrating area gave a briefing about their plans recently. The intention is for them to submit a planning application at some point next year. Until we see that it is not clear what the full extent of the project will be. We will be keeping an eye on this one.

## Cambridge 2050

This is the government's vision for the expansion of Cambridge City by 150,000 houses by 2050. With the General Election upon us and the

likelihood of a different government in place we are keen to see if this 'vision' will survive. It seems certain that there will be substantial development, there are already plans in place for significant increases through our new town developments, but we would hope that the numbers will be more realistic

## Fens Reservoir

One of the key issues that has to be addressed before more development can take place is the shortage of water in our area. To address this, it is proposed to build a substantial reservoir in the Fens. There is a consultation underway.

For further information go to the website – [www.fensreservoir.co.uk](http://www.fensreservoir.co.uk)

## Anaerobic Digester

We have reported before on the proposal for an anaerobic digester plant near Streetly End. We are still awaiting a decision on this one but expect to hear the result of the planning application in mid-July.

## Contact Information

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### Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

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### Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

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# Balsham Cricket Club

## RESULTS - 2024 LEAGUE 3 SOUTH

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	RESULT
Sat 25th May	Royston II	A	WON by 21 Runs
Sat 1st June	Burrough Green	H	<i>DRAW (Waterlogged Pitch)</i>
Sat 8th June	Thriplow II	H	LOST by 2 Wickets

## FIXTURES - 2024 LEAGUE 3 SOUTH

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A
Saturday 29th June	Little Shelford II	HOME
Saturday 6th July	Whittlesford	Away
Saturday 13th July	No Game	-
Saturday 20th July	Saffron Walden IV	Away
Saturday 27th July	Fulbourn II	HOME

## MIDWEEK CRICKET RESULTS - 2024

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	RESULT
Wednesday 22nd May	Fulbourn	H	<i>DRAW (Unplayable pitch)</i>
Wednesday 5th June	Wrating Lions	A	LOST By 3 Runs
Wednesday 12th June	Saffron Walden	H	WON By 6 Wickets

## MIDWEEK CRICKET FIXTURES - 2024

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	COMPETITION
Wednesday 3rd July	Reach	H	League
Wednesday 10th July	Thurlow & Mill Green	H	League
Wednesday 17th July	Cam Kerala	A	League
Wednesday 24th July	No Game	-	-
Wednesday 31st July	Reach	A	League

## Bin Collections July/August

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday July 3 <sup>RD</sup>		✓	✓
Wednesday July 10 <sup>TH</sup>	✓		
Wednesday July 17 <sup>TH</sup>		✓	✓
Wednesday July 24 <sup>TH</sup>	✓		
Wednesday July 31 <sup>ST</sup>		✓	✓
Wednesday August 7 <sup>TH</sup>	✓		

# Granta Medical Practice

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## Patient Participation Group *Your PPG needs YOU!*



### *Did you know that ...*

- the Patient Participation Group ensures that Granta Medical Practices (GMP) has a channel through which it can hear its patients' thoughts, ideas and concerns?
- all patients registered with GMP are eligible to be members of our PPG?
- to be active within the PPG and/or just to be kept informed about PPG activities, you simply need to give your permission to be contacted, preferably by email?
- you can opt in to being a member of the PPG by contacting our GMP Patient Services Manager, Sandra East: [sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net)

### **So what does our PPG do?**

In recent months, in conjunction with GMP, our PPG has carried out, analysed and reported on a Patient Survey which has resulted in many recommendations for improvement in the provision of GMP services.

We are also working with GMP on the production of a Patient Information

Brochure to bring together information on all the services offered by GMP and the means of accessing these. This brochure will be available both in hard copy and online.

We hold a Patient Participation Group meeting about 5 times a year which is held at Sawston Health Centre both face to face and online via Microsoft Teams. Representatives from GMP attend these meetings to bring us up to date on key developments within the wider organisation.

We have a committee comprising representatives from each of the Surgeries and Health Centres to co-ordinate activities. This summer we need to undertake nominations for, and elections of, officers, namely Secretary, Vice Chair and Chair. These will be positions held for two years. I know that many organisations are struggling to attract members, but, if you are keen to make a positive contribution to your local health care provision by being active within the PPG, no matter what your age, then please do contact me.

Thank you.

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### **Dave Arnold**

CHAIR, GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES PPG  
[davidjsarnold@gmail.com](mailto:davidjsarnold@gmail.com)

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### **Granta Medical Practices Update**

We continue to work hard to improve patient access. We have recently

employed 7 new GPs, who are starting at various times over the next few months. Remember though, GPs aren't the only healthcare professional you can see, depending on your medical need.

**"Pharmacy First"** is an NHS service available via High Street pharmacies where, if eligible, you can obtain prescription medicine without seeing a GP. The conditions that are covered by Pharmacy First are:-

- Earache (*1 to 17 years*)
- Impetigo (*1 year and over*)
- Infected insect bites (*1 year and over*)
- Shingles (*18 years and over*)
- Sinusitis (*12 years and over*)
- Sore throat (*5 years and over*)
- Uncomplicated urinary tract

infections (*women, 16-64 years old*)

If you go to a pharmacy with one of these conditions, a pharmacist will offer you advice, treatment or refer you to a GP or other healthcare professional if needed. They will then update your GP health record.

If you are not within the above age ranges, a pharmacist can still offer you advice on these and many other conditions, and if they cannot help you directly they may signpost you to an alternative healthcare professional for treatment.

For further information go to [www.nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst](http://www.nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst)

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### **Sandra East**

GRANTA PATIENT SERVICES

[cpicb.grantapatientservices@nhs.net](mailto:cpicb.grantapatientservices@nhs.net)

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## **Balsham Singers**

***See us on Saturday 6th July Balsham Feast!***

At our post concert committee meeting we were all delighted by the feedback that was received about the concert 18th May.

The choir has grown in numbers to around 55 members but our Tenor and Bass parts are being overwhelmed. We are hoping to recruit some new members to bolster the chaps who have to work really hard to balance the voices. If you love to sing but particularly if you are a Tenor or Bass singer, male or female, you

will be made particularly welcome to come and join us.

We meet on **Thursdays at 7.30** in the **Sports Pavilion**, Balsham and next term starts on **12th September**. There are no auditions, and sight reading music is handy but not a necessity.

Please contact me for any further information or come along to the feast and see what it's all about !

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### **Jo Stinton**

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

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# The Black Bull

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## **July Greetings to all Balsham Villagers from all at The Black Bull**

Thank you to all who joined us for our **Fathers' Day Beer, Steak & Scallop festival**. The weather was not the kindest but that did not stop some quenching and tucking in. Great to have Alton back in town with his extensive repertoire of firm favourites.

By the time this is published we will have had our next **Acoustic Irish/Folk evening** Wednesday 26th June. These are going down very well and will hopefully become a regular fixture, so stand by.

## **Events coming up:**

### **Balsham Feast Night: Saturday 6th July**

Pint of Music, Burgers, Tacos & Bar Snacks. 6pm-late

*Our Irish/Folk friends have pulled together even more players for this evening – hopefully we can be outside this time.*

### **Rob Caribbean Summer Barbecue: Saturday 26th August**

**Black Bull Brunch Weekends:**  
continue every few weeks (9-10:15am)  
– next ones:

**Saturday 13th /Sunday 14th July**

**Saturday 27th/Sunday 28th July**

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

*Best wishes from all of us*

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**Alex, Rob, Liz, Luke & the teams**

[info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk](mailto:info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk)

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## Balsham WI

At our recent meeting the speaker was **Richard MacPhail** who was a school friend, aide-de-camp and tour manager for **Genesis** in their early years. He had many photographs of all the band members in their young days and told us about early concerts and how the group was slow to achieve fame. Many small gigs in top rooms of pubs and student union bars took place. And then in the early

70s they became very popular in Italy, before achieving more widespread fame. Richard was with the band for their first five years, still remaining friends with all the band. He had his book '*My Book of Genesis*' available to buy at this meeting which many members took advantage of.

Our next meeting will be on **9 July** at **7.30pm** and will be a social event based on **Pimms & Puddings**

– let's hope we have some summer weather for it!

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**.

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**Debbie Mower**

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## The Bell

Hi Everyone!

Thank you to all who supported, and participated in our **Charity Football Match**. The game was decided by penalty shoot out, after an entertaining 2-2 draw. The Bell Inn Landlord's X1 won the shootout to win back the shield. The match, and fund raising evening at The Bell raised an impressive **£700** for The Cambridge Branch of the **National Autistic Society**. A special thank you to those that donated raffle prizes, (*listed on The Bell Inn Balsham Facebook page*).

We are currently enjoying what we think is a well deserved holiday, consequently the kitchen is closed, and reopens on Saturday 13th July. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this.

There will be no bingo in July, due to a clash with Euro 2024 semi finals.

### **Diary for July:**

**Every Sunday evening:** Street BBQ food van in Bell Inn car park.  
5pm - 8pm.

**Every Monday evening:** Happy Kebab van in Bell Inn car park

5pm - 8pm.

**Wednesday 3rd:** Noodles and Dumpling van in Bell car park

5pm - 8pm.

**Saturday 6th July: Balsham**

**Fest After Party.** Live music with **Luci Collins**, BBQ served by **Andy Prentice**.

**Tuesday 30th:** Charity Quiz 8pm, all welcome.

**Wednesday 31st:** Lunch Club, advance bookings and pre-orders only.

All **Euro 2024** matches continue to be screened live.

Wednesday evening **BOGOF**, is suspended for July and August, and will be reinstated in September.

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.*

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**Phil & Mary**

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# Cambridge Past Present and Future

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## **Meet the Cows**

**Saturday 29 June, 2-4pm.**

### **Wandlebury Country Park**

For the first time in 15 years we have some baby cows. On a gentle guided walk meet the Highland and Belted Galloway cows and learn how they improve our meadows for nature. Meet at car park noticeboard. **Free event**, please pay for parking.

## **Tree Identification at Wandlebury** **Tuesday 9 July, 10am-12pm.**

### **Wandlebury Country Park**

Gentle guided walk around the beautiful Country Park to learn about native trees. It will be led by a knowledgeable guide who will help you to identify tree species using features such as bark, leaves, flowers and fruits. Meet at car park noticeboard. **Free event**, please pay for parking.

## **Learn to Scythe with an Austrian Scythe**

**Sat 20 July, 10am-4pm.**

### **Wandlebury Country Park.**

#### **Spaces: 12**

The lightweight Austrian scythe is an excellent tool for managing areas such as wildflower meadows and around trees. You will learn how to select and set up a scythe to suit your stature and the basics of mowing and sharpening. There will be ample time to practise and you should be a confident mower by

the end of the day.

The course will be taught by Richard Brown a professional scythe tutor ([www.wildscythe.co.uk](http://www.wildscythe.co.uk)) assisted by other skilled scythers. The cost for the day is £75 per person including the hire of scythe equipment for the day.

## **Wandlebury Scything Festival** **Sun 21 July, 10am to 4pm.**

### **Wandlebury Country Park**

Have a go at scything and watch experts in action. Free event.

Back for a second year and expanded to include the revived Eastern Counties Scything Championships, the Wandlebury Scything Festival is becoming a premier scythe event. From 10am-1pm there will be scything demonstrations and have-a-go sessions, so you can try your hand at scything. Stay around for the afternoon to watch the scything championships and see how the experts do it. Last year's winner cut a plot 5m x 5m in under two and a half minutes! The competitions will start around 2pm. We also expect a return visit from the Grim Strimmer who will challenge a top scyther to a scything race. Scything activities will be signposted from the car park.

# Balsham Weather May 2024

Photo: Lesley Bennett

## Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

### MAY:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

**Highest:** 23° C on 9th May

**Lowest:** 12° C on 31st May

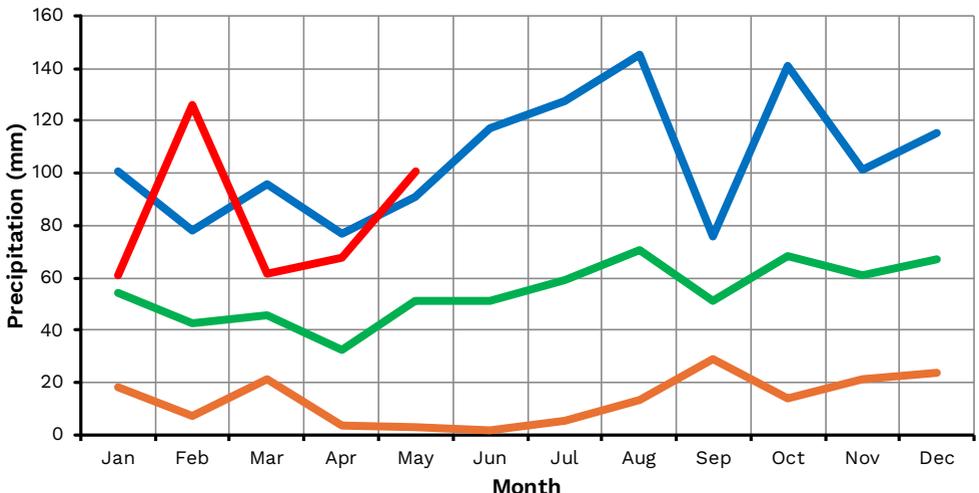
Night time temperatures

**Highest:** 14° C on 16th May

**Lowest:** 8° C on 24th May

## May Rainfall at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total May 2024 rainfall: 100.5mm / 3.95" occurring on 12 Days





**Saturday July 6th**

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

## **La La Land (12)**



**Saturday 6th July** is the day of **The Balsham Feast** which will run throughout the day and is centred on the Recreation Ground. The main events conclude at the end of the afternoon and for those who wish to stay in the village Balsham Picture House is showing, by popular request the 2016 Academy Award winning film **La La Land** (12) starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone as a jazz musician and actress pursuing their Hollywood dreams and finding each other!

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

On **Saturday 3rd August** we will be screening the acclaimed comedy film **Wicked Little Letters** (15) starring Olivia Coleman and Jesse Buckley. Set in 1920s Littlehampton, the plot concerns residents who receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities. Foul-mouthed Rose (Jesse Buckley) is charged with the crime but Police Officer Gladys Moss begins to investigate and suspects that something is amiss and Rose might not be the culprit after all!

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