



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 661

SICUT CANIS CUM OSSIS

AUGUST 2024



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Website: www.balshamreview.com

Photo: Frank Breslin



A female deer with her offspring



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Azure Damselfly



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Common Blue on Yorkshire Fog Grass



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Large-headed Resin Bee on Herb Robert



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Ringlet

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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

Send content to:

clive@ben8and.co.uk

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Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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

Editorial



At last we do seem to be having a few days of warmer, drier weather, maybe summer will arrive in August. I feel for our farmers this year, with a very wet autumn and winter, making sowing seed difficult, and not much drier in spring and now still wet in summer for harvest. I am aware that some people would have different feelings, but living in the country as we do, surrounded by fields providing food for our nation, we need to support those who work here. What will happen if our fields are covered with solar panels is certainly up for debate. Throughout the centuries, since Domesday times, there are records of sheep, often thousands, around the village, mainly towards the western end—perhaps sheep grazing under the solar panels would take Balsham back to days of old...

On page 20 there is an interesting article from Debbie Paton about the village Speedwatch. Debbie also gave figures about how many vehicles went past the Rookery between 11th June and 12th July, and their speeds: 53,470 entering and 46,627 leaving.

Although most vehicles kept to the speed limit many more seemed to slow down approaching and speed up leaving, and surprise, surprise, it is just as they approached or left the cars parked outside the bungalows. I have frequently been annoyed by those parked cars, but if they weren't there we would have a much worse speed problem in the village. As long as cars are parked legally, safely and considerately, they are helping slow traffic travelling through our village.

The report from the county and district councillors gives a link to the results of the 'four-day week trial' in the area (page 23). It doesn't seem to have affected me, maybe you have found some differences, but bin days do seem to be more regular, and it seems those who work for the council are more content, and stay longer in their posts. Will the idea spread further?

The fate of the cricket club is a matter of concern. Unusually for local teams, it isn't the lack of people wanting to play a sport, but the need to find people to look after the grounds, and especially the central pitches that is causing the problem. You don't need to play cricket to look after the pitch, and a pair or three friends could do the job well. Think about it!

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

'DOG DEPOSITS'

I've lived in Sleaford Close for 56 years and have never known the amount of 'dog deposits' on my front lawn, often daily.

Please will the owners make sure that the deposits are collected and disposed of, sensibly, so that I don't have to do it. You may step on the grass if necessary.

Del Kunish

13 Sleaford Close

BUTTERFLIES

Be grateful for all the butterflies. The picture is not good nationally. The Big Butterfly count is ongoing, and people can still take part if they're quick - ends on 4th August. See: <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

Richard Pargeter

BALSHAM FEAST

The Feast was held on 6th July and if you can all remember back to that day it was a typical British summer day (slightly damp!). However, despite that we had a very good turnout of visitors.

Disappointingly, some of the activities were unable to attend but from

general comments a good time was had by all.

A very big thank you to everyone - your support was much appreciated, also to the Bell Inn for the evening entertainment.

And here's a date for your diary: the next **Balsham Feast** will be on **Saturday 4th July 2026** and it is looking for a new committee. Anyone interested please give Glynis a call on **01223 890219**.

From the retiring Balsham Feast Committee,

Glynis, Debbie and Johnny

SAVE THE DATE

Raising funds for our beautiful Church

There will be a **Harvest Supper** in the **Church Institute** on **Friday 27th September** starting at **7pm**.

Admission by advance ticket: £15.

There will be a Raffle and table quiz so get your thinking caps out. Further information will be in the next edition or enquiries to one of the team.

**Pam Down, Jo Stinton,
Alison Clarke & Jenny Kerry**

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
Rev. Hannah Threlfall	01223 481090	RevThrelfall24@outlook.com
Church Warden: Nigel Clark,	01223 893043	n.clark5@btinternet.com
Administrator: Cazzy Walsh		7churches.seven@gmail.com

SERVICES at other CHURCHES when possible

ROMAN CATHOLIC Masses at:

Cherry Hinton: St Philip Howard Church

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

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

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

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

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

METHODIST: Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

From the Church

“More people turning away from News”, report says

So ran the title of a BBC News article. It piqued my interest, not least because I felt that I must number myself among those “more people” globally, who described the news as increasingly depressing, relentless and boring, and something to actively avoid.

I guess it’s understandable when the news agenda has become increasingly difficult in recent years: the pandemic, wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, the threats of climate change and AI. And closer to home: increases in knife crime, more sewage in rivers; and the ever-tedious political debate. No wonder we feel overwhelmed and confused and powerless, and fatigued by the amount of news. And to help protect our mental health or simply wanting to get on with the rest of our lives, more people are turning away from news.

So what might be a Christian’s response to this?

In our Western culture today, probably more people would say that they had a sense of the ‘spiritual’ rather than that they were ‘religious’. Each to his own? Yet ‘spirituality’ alone risks leading us into a purely private world of experience-seeking for my personal wellbeing and

comfort. Religion, for all its obvious distortions and tendency to alienate the sceptic, does constantly remind us of a broader world beyond the cramped horizon of my personal space and self-regard: a broader context of a moral order, and a network of obligations to other humans, to the Earth and to the other that lies beyond.

For example, when Jesus teaches that *“Blessed are those that hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled”*, he’s not simply giving a divine pat-on-the-back to those who work to fight injustice. Even more deeply than this, he’s saying that to be most authentically ourselves, most deeply human, we need the nourishment that comes from ensuring the well-being and flourishing of others as well as merely feeding ourselves.

So to switch-off from the complexity and injustice and suffering within our world is to risk starving our own humanity, and diminishing ourselves. And to be clear eyed and alert and open to whatever we might selflessly do for righteousness sake, means that probably we **do** need to regularly keep abreast of the news.

Alistair Collen

August Services	9:30am	11:00am	6:00pm
4th		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/ Alistair Collen</i>	
11th	Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Evening Prayer West Wrating <i>Alistair Collen</i>
18th	Holy Communion West Wrating <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Steven Wheeler</i> Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Steven Wheeler</i> Morning Worship Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Evening Prayer Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>
25th	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i> 10:00am Creative Church Abington Hub <i>Rosemary Mead/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Café Church Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship Balsham <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Evening Prayer Great Abington <i>Alistair Collen</i>



Buttercups Community Pre-School

We just wanted to say a huge **THANK YOU** to the local community for all of your support this year, it really does mean so much to us, without it, we wouldn't be the pre-school we are, so thank you!

We would like to wish all the children leaving us the very best of

luck at big school, it has been a pleasure watching you all grow and develop over the last year or more and we hope you have lots of fun at school.

The Buttercups Team



Photo: Larry Davies

Moon rising over the school

Balsham August Diary

The diary is a bit brief this month as there are no meetings in August for: Balsham WI, Balsham Singers, Parish Council, BGNS Coffee Mornings, or Linton & District Historical Society

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
3rd Saturday	Arthur Spackman Bowls Trophy, 10.30am	Bowls Club
3rd Saturday	Balsham Picture House, 'Wicked Little Letters' 7pm	Church Institute
24th Saturday	Ukraine Collection, 9am—12.30pm	Abington School

Granta Medical Practice

New telephone system – call back option

Some patients have reported the call back option not working for them. To use this service, when you are prompted please press option 1, ***but then you also need to listen to the next message and press option 1 again.*** There is also an option to receive a call back to a different telephone number.

Long Term Conditions (LTC)

If you have a long term health condition such as asthma, COPD or diabetes, we aim to review you and your medication in or around your birth month. When it is time you will receive a letter or text message asking you to book an LTC

appointment.

Accurx Patient Triage

We have an online consultation service that patients can use for routine medical questions and queries. The link to this can be found on our website **www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk** Routine queries are usually responded to within 72 hours. The direct link is: **<https://florey accurx.com/p/D81043>**

Sandra East

GRANTA PATIENT SERVICES
cpicb.grantapatientervices@nhs.net

Correspondence address:

Granta Medical Practices,
London Road, Sawston, CB22 3HU

Balsham WI

Our meeting on 9th July was a social event based on Pimms and Puddings, as well as ‘basic, better, best’ taste testings on sausage rolls, chocolate and crisps. We also had a food quiz and members had a chance to buy items that had not been sold at the Balsham Feast. We had hoped for some summer weather, but the rain was pouring down! That did not deter members from enjoying the many puddings on offer though!

We do not have a meeting scheduled in August, but we return on **Tuesday 10th September** when our

speaker will be from **Morgan’s Butchery.**

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.**

Debbie Mower

Introducing: ‘How Are You South Cambs’

Connecting with others, getting active, learning a new skill, being creative, seeking professional support, exploring the outdoors, volunteering – all these things (and more) can improve wellbeing... but it isn't always easy to know what is on your doorstep or to feel comfortable trying something new.

How Are You South Cambs is a website that brings together everything local in the district (including Royston) that boosts mental wellbeing. Just like our physical health, we all have mental health and we all need to look after it – what that looks like for each of us is unique. The How Are You South Cambs website gives you the factual information you need to find a wellbeing boost, alongside videos, photos, quotes and a

description of what to expect when you go for the first time. If you are on Facebook, give the How Are You South Cambs Facebook page a follow too [@HowAreYouSouthCambs](#)

We're also keen to discover, share and support what is good for wellbeing in South Cambs and Royston – what it is you value for your health and wellbeing. If you know about something that we should know about, please contact **Charity Green** (*the How Are You South Cambs Coordinator*) on HowAreYou@cpft.nhs.uk – she'd love to hear from you.

H.A.Y. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is brought to you by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust.

Aid for Ukraine Collection: 24th August

A collection for the people of Ukraine will be held on Saturday **24th August at Abington Primary School** from **9.00am** until **12.30pm**. Supported by Abington School and the Granta Vale churches this will be the fourth collection organised by Rotarian Tony Collett and Saffron Walden Rotary.

As the war continues and winter approaches there are thousands of displaced people who have lost their homes and possessions. Warm clothing and footwear in good

condition is needed as well as such staple food and household items including pasta, rice, canned goods and gluten free items, toiletries and cleaning materials, cooking utensils, torches, batteries and crockery. In addition cash donations will be going towards the purchase of pallets of food and these can also be made at the Rotary collection point in cash or by credit card on the 24th August.

Please contact Tony re any queries: **01223 893447**

Linton Village College

LVC Creativity Week 2024 – ‘Footprints’

We were very honoured to welcome Michael Rosen into LVC to launch our Creativity Week. Creativity week is a week of events and lessons at LVC based around a theme. This year's theme was 'Footprints.' Michael Rosen is a British children's author, poet, presenter and academic and is now a professor of children's literature in the Department of Educational Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London. He has also served as Children's Laureate.

Michael arrived to the sound of Year 7 singing 'Nothing is Forever', a song written using lyrics from one of his poems about refugees. He gave a wonderfully engaging poetry workshop, performing some of his funnier poems and then some more serious poems on the theme of 'Footprints.' He wrote poetry alongside the year 7s and inspired all the students to get writing to talk about themes of home, hope and togetherness.

Following Michael Rosen's launch, subjects across the curriculum interpreted this year's theme. It was great to see the range of interpretations and learning across different subjects. A few examples of learning included Design and Technology teaching Year 7 how to design the footprint of a house and garden within a footprint shape. Geography created their own

innovative/sustainable farming strategies linking to footprints on the land and reducing carbon footprint.



In Religious Studies Year 9 considered the concept of the footprints – 'imprints' – that religion leaves on the lives of believers. In English, Year 7 collaborated with Michael Rosen to create a year group poem and individual poems with the overarching theme of refugees. Eco Club have created a mural out of plastic waste to highlight the importance of reducing waste and linking to plastic free July. Other subjects that interpreted the theme were Maths, Dance and Drama.

Students were able to reflect and make connections relating to the central theme of 'Footprints.' The impact for students' learning was both the transferable skills which they were developing, in addition to making connections across a variety of students based upon the same theme.



Photo: © HistoryWorks

LVC music, dance and poetry students who were invited to perform at the prestigious concert at the Corn Exchange, organised by Michael Rosen and HistoryWorks.

Creativity Week culminated in a celebration exhibition at the beginning of our Science and Arts evening. This work is important to us as school to demonstrate the collaborative nature of subjects, in

addition to illustrating how students can respond in different ways to a central theme.

Helen Frost

HEAD OF DANCE, LVC



The Meadow Primary School

Celebrating our Achievements:

As we approach the end of this academic year at The Meadow Primary School, we want to extend our appreciation to all our children and staff for their incredible efforts and achievements. This month has been particularly eventful and full of highlights that have showcased the talents, teamwork, and resilience of our children.

Sports Day was a resounding success, with our children demonstrating remarkable sporting talent and a true spirit of camaraderie. They participated in individual races like the classic egg and spoon race and the sack race, as well as a carousel of skill-based physical activities including axe throwing and hurdle jumping. The enthusiasm and determination shown by everyone was inspiring.



We were also treated to a fantastic performance by our Year 4, 5, and 6 pupils, who presented *"The School 'O' Vision Song Contest."* The show had everyone laughing, crying, and thoroughly entertained. The creativity and hard work that went into this

production was evident and much appreciated by all who attended.



To finish the year off in style, we embarked on a whole school trip to Hunstanton beach. The day was filled with fun and adventure, creating memories that will last a lifetime. We were fortunate that the weather cooperated, and we didn't get too wet! This would not have been possible without the support of the PTA who helped raise the funds to foot the cost of the coaches and ice creams! Thank you again to everyone who supported them and made this happen.

As we close this chapter, we wish all our children, staff, parents, and the entire community a wonderful summer break. Thank you for your hard work, support, and dedication throughout the year. We look forward to starting afresh in September, ready for another year of learning and growth. Enjoy your summer!.

Faye Facer

ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHER & EYFS LEAD

Balsham Feast

Despite 'variable' weather there was an impressive turnout this year!



Balsham Singers performing to an appreciative crowd.



Ice creams are for any weather...



Braving the summer shower



All photos: Henryk Pisarski

Classic cars



Enjoying the sunshine

Balsham Singers

Balsham Feast

The Balsham Singers were delighted to be part of the entertainment and even happier to have a roof over their heads, however in actual fact as the song said *'the sun will shine'* and it did for a little while and our audience could sit and watch without umbrellas.

You may have seen our poster there?

We are looking for new/returning Tenors and Basses,

If you are interested please ask for further information from me, our MD, John Clenaghan or just come along on **12th September at 7.30** in the Sports Pavilion. We'll be thrilled to see you.

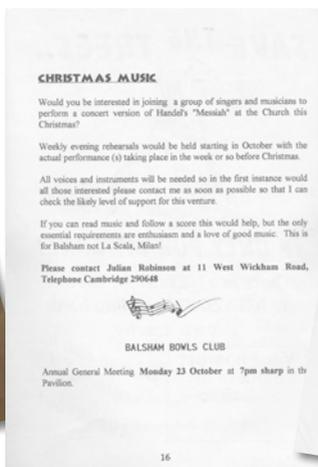
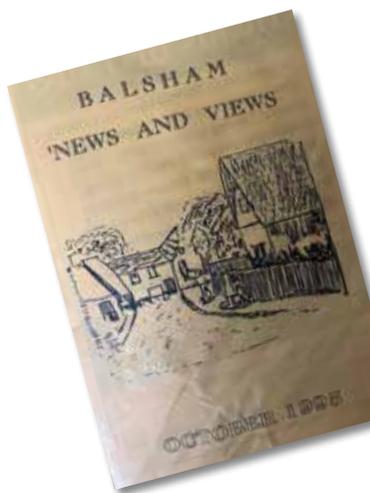
John Clenaghan

john.clenaghan@sky.com

Jo Stinton

jonotnits@gmail.com

Balsham Singers - 1995 and still going strong!



In Autumn 1995 a friend and neighbour who lived alone and was looking to brighten his life, had an idea! He asked me if I thought we could put on a concert in the village church- we both enjoyed singing and had sung in choirs before.

I had been a member of The Meadow Singers, a group of parents of

children at the Meadow School initially invited by the Head teacher Jim Golightly to support the children's choir. Subsequently, and long after our children moved up to 'big' school, we put on the musical event to raise funds for the school, involving many other like minded folk from the community. The choir disbanded

when Jim retired.

Julian, my friend, was a rumbustious character, he loved to sing and had been a chorister at St. Andrews in London and had sung at St. Pauls Cathedral. Locally he was better known for his rendition of Flanders and Swan's *The Hippopotamus Song*. He had a wicked sense of humour and a beautiful deep bass voice.

His plan was to get together a choir to sing Handel's Messiah (no less) at Christmas (it was September remember) an advertisement was placed in The Balsham review of October 1995 and unbelievably about

30 people showed interest.

With the wonderful support of our Rector Bill Girard and his organist from another of his parishes the Balsham Singers were born. The organist Jonathan Cook, then living in West Wickham became the first musical director of Balsham singers and stayed with us for 8 years. We performed The Messiah in two parts Christmas and Easter 1996.

We were - and still are - grateful for the loyal support of our audiences....

To be continued....

Jo Stinton

jonotnits@gmail.com

Linton & District Historical Society

Our committee has held a meeting to finalise plans for an exciting new season of meetings starting on **17th September 2024**.

These cover a wide range of interesting historical topics - the first meeting will be the **History of Save the Children** with subsequent meetings covering subjects as diverse as **Police & Crime in Old Cambridge**, **Mercury (as a sinister element)**, **Music Hall Memories**, **The Nuremberg Trials** and lots, lots more.

Meeting on the third Tuesday of each month in Linton Village Hall on Coles Lane, CB21 4JS, starting at 7.30pm, our membership for an annual fee is just £15 (that is <£2 a lecture!) and is a steal! Guests are very welcome at £5 /evening with a free raffle ticket thrown in!

Free car parking in Coles Lane or in

the village car park opposite.

LHDS like many other societies is challenged with rising costs and lower attendances and losses are being met from capital funds. Although audiences have slightly increased this year our meetings can only continue with your support.

Come along and be stimulated by the breadth and scope of our lecture programme. You will find a warm welcome with free coffee, tea and biscuits, as well as the chance to win a raffle prize to complete the evening.

For further details contact:

ldhscamb@gmail.com or phone **01223 893915** or **01223 678835** or visit our new Facebook site: **Linton & District Historical Society** (*but don't get confused as there are several other Lintons out there!*)

Balsham Cricket Club

RESULTS - 2024 LEAGUE 3 SOUTH

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	RESULT
Sat 22nd June	Audley End & Littlebury II	A	WON by 6 Wickets
Sat 29th June	Little Shelford II	H	WON by 6 Wickets
Sat 6th July	Whittlesford	A	<i>DRAW (Rained Off)</i>
Sat 20th July	Saffron Walden IV	A	WON by 5 Wickets

FIXTURES - 2024 LEAGUE 3 SOUTH

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A
Saturday 10th August	Burrough Green	Away
Saturday 17th August	Thriplow II	Away
Saturday 24th August	Whittlesford	HOME
Saturday 7th September	Royston II	HOME

MIDWEEK CRICKET RESULTS - 2024

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	RESULT
Wednesday 26th June	Fulbourn	A	LOST by 28 Runs
Wednesday 3rd July	Reach	H	<i>CANCELLED (Rain)</i>
Wednesday 10th July	Thurlow & Mill Green	H	<i>CANCELLED (Rain)</i>
Wednesday 17th July	Cam Kerala	A	LOST By 2 Wickets

MIDWEEK CRICKET FIXTURES - 2024

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	COMPETITION
Wednesday 31st July	Reach	A	League
Wednesday 7th August	Saffron Walden	A	League
Wednesday 14th August	Wrattling Lions	H	League

Balsham Cricket Club - The Last Rites?

Groundsperson(s) required for club to continue!

Despite currently being 2nd in our League and possibly heading for promotion again, the future of Balsham Cricket Club is seriously in doubt - can you help?

After many years of maintaining our

cricket pitches, Phil Smith & Mick Housden are stepping down. Thank you, guys, for many, many hours of hard work.

We have tried to find replacements for them to no avail, so this piece is a final call for anyone willing to volunteer to be our groundsperson(s).

Also, after stepping in a few years ago (effectively keeping the club going), our Captain Adrian Reedman is also stepping down. Many thanks for his hard work too.

We will need to try to find a replacement for him within the club or maybe with new players? Currently, we have been able to field a team of 11 players each week, but it is sometimes a struggle, we only have 3 or 4 players currently from the village.

With a population of 2000+ that isn't many. With many new houses in the village, is there anyone who's

arrived, who hasn't been aware of the cricket team and would like to play? We welcome experienced players and youngsters alike - anyone from school Year 8 upwards can play.

It would be a shame if the Cricket Club, which is currently doing well and has finances, disappears after so many decades in existence.

Paul Ellam

TREASURER

Tel: 01223 290097

Colin Eade

CHAIRMAN

Tel: 07773 892876

Balsham Bowls Club

Well, here we are in July and the cold wet weather we've been experiencing is the worst it's been for bowling for several years.

The Bowls Club is very sorry that the Target Bowls had to be cancelled on the day of The Feast, but with the heavy rain in the morning, the groundsman decided the green was too wet and unsafe to play on, but well done to the Feast Committee for going ahead with the day.

The teams in all divisions (as I write) are mid table in their leagues with our fair share of wins and losses. Congratulations to the A Team in the Steeple Bumpstead League who have qualified to play for the **Arthur Spackman Trophy**, which Balsham are hosting on **Saturday**

3rd August. Start time: **10.30am.**

It is great seeing our new members playing regularly in our teams and gaining experience. If anyone would like to have a go at learning to play bowls, we have a club night on a Monday evening from 5.45pm to 7pm, weather permitting. Do come and have a go. You may decide you like it! You can contact me (**Phil Elliott**) on **07709 660902**

Weymouth is the destination for this year's end of season tour. We are looking forward to four days of bowling and socialising. Thanks to Christine Till for organising this.

Phil ElliottCHAIRMAN

Speedwatch Update

You may have seen a small group of us in the High Street, wearing orange hi-vis jackets. We are the community Speedwatch team, and we undertake high visibility roadside operations to educate speeding drivers in the hope that they will observe safer driving through our village. We are a small group of volunteers who have been trained to safely monitor the speed of the traffic travelling through our village at different times of the day. The operation of Speedwatch has been designed for teams to function as passive recorders of speeding vehicles. We only operate in 20, 30 and 40 mile per hour areas during the hours of daylight.

How it works

There are 8 of us including myself on the team and work off a rota so there are 3 of us on duty for an hour, once a month. Each of us has a task – we make a note of the vehicle details such as registration number, make, model and colour of car along with the speed, one of us records these details onto a spreadsheet and one counts the traffic passing us.

Before we start, a Speedwatch reflective sign is placed ahead of the speed detection device, the MVAS (mobile vehicle activation sign) so it is clearly visible alerting drivers that they are being observed.

Any vehicles exceeding the speed

limit are logged with the details above and submitted to Cambridgeshire Constabulary. The next stage of the operation is with the Police. An advisory letter is sent to the registered keeper of those vehicles exceeding the speed limit.

Should the vehicle come to notice again with the same registered keeper, a second letter with a more direct message will be sent. If the same vehicle and registered keeper continues to be reported, or where a driver/passenger is abusive, or drives at excessive speed, a personal visit from the Police may be arranged.

The Police use the data we report to target their own speed enforcement activity.

Please note: Volunteers are not involved in recording or processing personal information of speeding drivers. This activity is solely with the Constabulary personnel within the Speedwatch scheme.

How effective are we?

We notice when we are out monitoring the speed of vehicles, mainly in the High Street, drivers are more mindful of their speeds. Usually, most drivers keep between 25mph and 30mph. Surprisingly, we very rarely record many speeding vehicles along the High Street, or West Wickham Road due to being visible. Our busiest location is

Cambridge Road with traffic coming into the village at speeds between 35 up to 45 miles per hour and sometimes higher.

What does the MVAS do when not used by the Speedwatch Team?

The MVAS is there to remind drivers of their speed. It also records data such as date, time, number of

vehicles, average and maximum speeds. This data is downloaded from the MVAS and forwarded to Cambridgeshire Constabulary, again to facilitate the appropriate Police Speed Enforcement activity.

Debbie Paton

SPEEDWATCH COORDINATOR

Balsham Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting followed by the Parish Council Meeting for May took place on 15th July, 2024 in Balsham Pavilion

Improvements to the Prince Memorial:

Rob Ellam has completed the new flooring and a new row of paving around the base of the Prince Memorial. Martin Chamberlain has made the new metal work for the seats and Stan Stinton is putting the wood on top of the benches. The PC would like to thank everyone for their excellent work.

Resignation of Paul Anderson from the PC:

The PC thanked Paul for all his work and commitment to the PC. The PC vacancy will be advertised and if anyone would like to apply for co-option please email clerk@balsham.net

Balsham Feast:

The PC would like to thank Debbie Paton & Glynis Hanlon for organising a very successful Balsham Feast.

Highways issues:

Both the Parish Council and CC Councillor Henry Batchelor are

continually putting pressure on the Highways department. Unfortunately, the answers that we are receiving back from the Highways Dept are totally unacceptable. We are often told that resurfacing work on paths and roads is placed on a list and at the current rate of progress will be carried in three years' time. We will continue to press the CCC Highways Dept to carry out work to West Wickham Rd, School Lane, pavements in Trinity Close, potholes, etc,.

Planning For Discussion:

Site address: 85 High Street, Balsham.

Proposal: Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Fell. Due to a severe infestation of bamboo that is causing damage to the property and adjoining properties, we need to remove the bamboo rhizomes.

Reference: 24/0662/TTPO

PC Decision: Approved.

Site address: 19 Linton Road, Balsham.

Planning For Discussion:

Proposal: Demolition and replacement of existing annexe and installation of air source heat pump.

Reference: 24/02304/HFUL

PC Decision: No objections.

Site address: 1 Linton Road, Balsham .

Proposal: T1 Dead Elm. Posing risk to the highway. Fell and remove T2 Ash. Lapsed coppice (multi stemmed tree). Significant Ash dieback (Cat 3/4 as per the Tree Council Guide). Main stem is dead and poses risk to highway. Fell and remove.

Reference: 24/0652/TTPO

PC Decision: Approve.

Green Room, Balsham Pavilion:

The PC approved a quote to install acoustic boards in the Green Room to improve the acoustics in the room for all users.

Church Institute:

The Church Institute Committee have applied for a Zero Carbon Grant from SCDC for £ 15,000 towards the cost of a £20,230 project to install solar panels and batteries on the building. The PC agreed in principle to donate £2,500 from S106 funding if the grant were approved.

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

The next **Parish Council Meeting** will be held on
16th September, 2024 at 7.30 pm
in **Balsham Pavilion.**
ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

District & County Councillor's Report

July 2024

Following the General Election at the beginning of July, we now have a new MP for South Cambridgeshire, **Pippa Heylings**.

You'll be pleased to hear that was the last planned election of 2024, so no more leaflets for the foreseeable!

One side-effect of the General Election is that in the 6 weeks prior, both local councils (District and County) were in what's called 'pre-election period' so couldn't

make any major decisions that could be seen as political, so there isn't a huge amount to report this month

Four Day Week

The District Council are nearing the end of their trial of a four-day working week, which has been in effect since January 2023. There is an independent report of the results of the trial, by Cambridge and Salford Universities, which can now be read. The internal press release

from the Council has links to the report in full - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/independent-report-analyses-council-s-four-day-week-trial/> - the next important date for this to be discussed is July 18th at the next full council meeting. A decision will need to be made on whether to make the trial permanent, or not, shortly after this.

Anaerobic Digestion Plant Proposal – Streetly End

The planning application for a new anaerobic digestion facility at Streetly End, West Wickham is coming to the County Council's planning committee on July 17th for a decision.

helen.wass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Taken from the village Facebook:

I see the Biogas plant has got planning permission to be built at Streetly Hall Farm near West Wickham. It is going to make a big difference to the number of heavy lorries coming through Balsham.

Jennifer Sargeant

If the proposed/now approved biogas plant is to be built there surely the easiest way for heavy traffic to access it is off the A1307 along Dean Road? Not going through Balsham at all.

Robyn Lynn Gard

You may well be right. They are building an access road from the A1307 a bit further along towards Haverhill than Dean Road. My thinking is traffic coming from the A11 Newmarket direction is going

to cut through as it is going to add extra miles to go along the A11 to the roundabout and then along the A1307. Perhaps there won't be much coming from that direction or they will indeed find it easier to go all the way round.

Jennifer Sargeant

Editor:

At a recent Parish Council meeting a member of the group building the Biogas plant said that much of his traffic would be going from Grange Farm to Streetly End, so using West Wratting Road and West Wickham Road. The rest will be from farms all around the area.

Physical Activity Grant:

The District Council has launched a new grant for members of the voluntary sector, specialist group or leisure centre. It is to help with classes aimed at people with long-term health conditions. There is up to £2,000 per applicant available and full details, plus an application form, is available on the website: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/grants/physical-activity-grant-for-long-term-health-condition-management>

Contact Information:

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

We are taking a break over the summer with the **Community Café** and will start again in **September**.

Dates for the Balsham Church Institute from 10 to 12 will be:

- September 24th
- October 15th
- November 11th
- December 17th

We have decided to stop the Mays Avenue café on the first Friday of the month as not many people attend this. Should there be demand

in the future, we will look into starting it up again.

We continue to offer transport for those who need it, including the minibus to Haverhill on Wednesdays, leaving Balsham at 10:30 and returning at about 12:30. If you would like to use this service, please put your name on the list in the Post Office. If you need help with transport, or in any other way, contact us on **07508 430057** or by email at **balshamgns@gmail.com**

The Black Bull



Thank you to all who joined us for the Balsham Feast After Party for music, burgers and tacos.

More events coming up:

Pint of Music – Thursday 1st August

Folk Night, Burgers, Tacos & Bar Snacks
Our Irish/Folk friends are back – maybe outside this time?

Pint of Music – Friday 16th August

Tony Black – busker on tour of the UK - Burgers, Tacos & Bar Snacks
This was a random find – Tony is cycling and busking his way around

the UK picking up gigs as he goes.

Rob's Caribbean Summer Barbecue: Saturday 24th August

Rob is getting his beach gear back on for a repeat BBQ. Paired perfectly with our new Nine Isles Caribbean gins that Rob has discovered (Sorrel & Mulberry? Peach & Lychee?) – delicious notes of holiday

Black Bull Brunch Weekends:

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

Saturday 10th/Sunday 11th August

Saturday 24th/Sunday 25th August

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

The Bell

Hi Everyone!

Our kitchen is back to normal hours, following our recent holiday. We hope the closure didn't cause too much inconvenience.



Friday 23rd - Beer Festival begins, evening Disco/Karaoke.

Saturday 24th - Live music/ BBQ.

Sunday 25th - Family Fun Day - Bouncy castle, face painting etc.

Food served:

Tuesday - Saturday
12.00 2.00pm & 5.30 8.30pm.
Sun - 12.00 - 3.30pm.

Our annual **Beer Festival** will take place over the Bank Holiday weekend, **Friday 23rd - Monday 26th.**

Diary for August:

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

Every Monday evening - **Happy Kebab** van in Bell car park
5pm - 8pm.

Wednesday 7th - Bingo night, eyes down at 8pm. *(1 week early due to staff holidays).*

Monday 26th - We need a big effort from everybody to finish the festival beers (*possible discounts!*).

Tuesday 27th - Charity Quiz 8pm, all welcome.

Wednesday 28th - Lunch Club, advance bookings and pre orders only.

For events etc please see The Bell Inn Balsham Facebook page, call **01223 892999**, or call in the pub to see us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Phil & Mary

Bin Collections August/September

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday August 7 TH	✓		
Wednesday August 14 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday August 21 ST	✓		
Wednesday August 28 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday September 4 TH	✓		

Linton Library

This month's talk is all about Bees! **Tony Yeats, Beekeeper**, will be here on **14th August at 2pm** to tell us all about Beekeeping and to answer questions. This event is aimed at adults and teenagers. It's free but please book your place by contacting the library or email: **cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

The **Summer Reading Challenge** is underway! If you are aged 3-11 years old, sign up to this free event. 0-2 years olds have a special mini challenge. Read and collect stickers. Head into the library to find out more.

Parents and carers need to stay with their children at each of these events:

Family Games, 2.30pm - 4pm, Thursday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th August. We have a selection of games for you to enjoy or bring your own.

Lego Club, 10am - 12pm, Tuesday 13th August and 27th August. Make and create with both Lego and Duplo. We have lots of bricks, so come along and enjoy being creative.

Comic Club, 10am - 12pm, Tuesday 20th August. Explore the world of comic and graphic novels! A great way to get children reading.

Storytime. Rhyme-time. Duplo-time, our friendly group for 0-4-year olds, will be back **10th September - 10am - 11am**, every Tuesday (in term time).

Knit and Natter, every **Tuesday, 2pm - 3pm**. Bring along any craft project you're working on.

Daylight Readers. Our Book Groups meet on **Friday 16th**, one at **10.30am** and the other at **2.30pm** and always welcome new members!

Ann King & Melanie Symonds

COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

Opening hours

Mon CLOSED	Thurs 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

Facebook:

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CambridgeshireLibraries



Balsham Weather June 2024



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

JUNE:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 29° C on 23rd June

Lowest: 14° C on 11th June

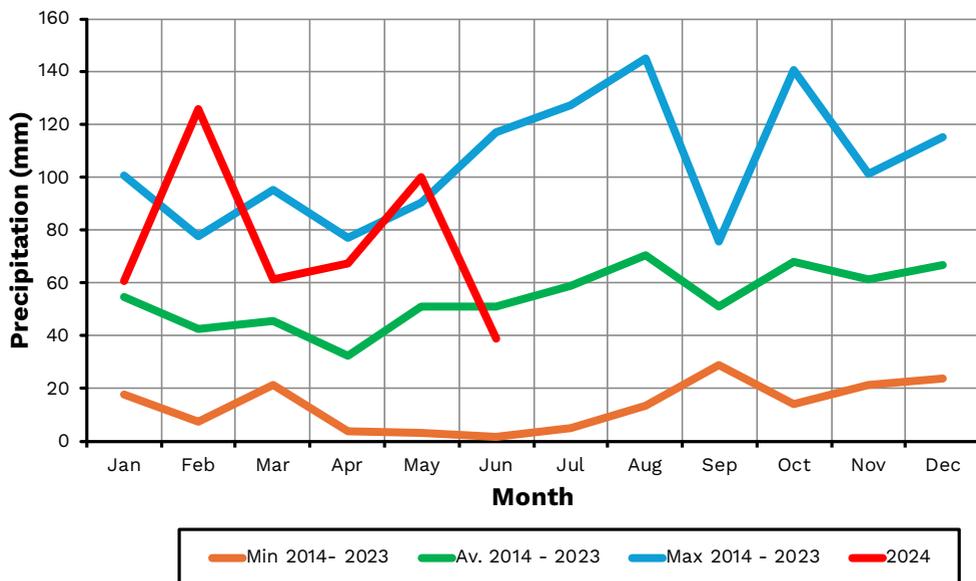
Night time temperatures

Highest: 18° C on 27th June

Lowest: 7° C on 11th June

June Rainfall at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total June 2024 rainfall: 39mm / 1.53" occurring on 11 Days





Saturday August 3rd

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

Wicked Little Letters (15)



WICKED LITTLE LETTERS

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!

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

Advance Notice - September's Film

Saturday 7th September we will show the acclaimed biopic of the Jamaican Reggae artist Bob Marley and the story of the Wailers entitled **Bob Marley: One Love** (12). Celebrate the life and music of an icon whose journey behind his revolutionary music changed the world.



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