



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 662

SICUT CANIS CUM OSSIS

SEPTEMBER 2024



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Originated by BEN&CO 01223 890839 & printed by E&E Plumridge 01223 891407

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



Photo: Larry Davies

Large White Butterfly caterpillar



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Southern Hawker



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Comma Butterfly



Photo: Dick Paden



Photo: Dick Paden

A floral carpet at the Recreation Ground

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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

DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

THURSDAY September 19TH

Copy should be submitted

where possible to

editor@balshamreview.com

or delivered to the 'Balsham Review

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Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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

Editorial



September has nearly arrived as I write, hurricane Lilian having passed through with little rain, but high winds, and now Bank Holiday Saturday has had rain most of the day. The weather seems very unpredictable and forecasts change and have become quite unreliable.

When I was young Harvest Celebrations were always in October as that was when the harvest was 'in'. I have a memory of camping in late September on a farm that stood sheaves in stooks and used a traction engine to thrash the corn after it was cut, bringing in the harvest. Very noisy! One night we heard a nightjar churring next to the tent and wondered what it could be. This year all the fields I have seen are cut already and harvest seems earlier every year. I hope the harvest has been good for our farmers after the trials and tribulations they have had with the weather this year. In Balsham we are having a **Harvest Supper** on **Friday September 27th**, and **Harvest Festival** on **Sunday September 29th**. Everyone is

welcome. See pages **5** and **9**.

After chatting with some villagers, I would like to emphasise that the group of people who we would particularly like to encourage to be 'Friends of the Church' are not those who come to services and attend regularly, but are those who value the historical merit of the building, or who have had family connections with the building in the past, or just those who appreciate the village and church, and its place in the country and countryside. Some people have apologised for not being church-goers. Much as we would like to see them at services, that is for them to decide. But we would like villagers to feel comfortable coming into the building any day and we will have some occasions arranged for the Friends. There are some forms about joining the Friends in the church for anyone to pick up. While looking on the South Cambs website I came across one I hadn't seen before: **What goes in which bin?** It was very interesting and I found several things that just hadn't occurred to me. We are lucky to have such a good recycling system, based in Waterbeach, but we do need to get things in the right bin.

Back to the influence of the weather. In conversation one day the subject

of a Village Open Gardens Day came up, something that did happen some years ago. This year mine has been beautiful for odd weeks, but very disappointing at other times when it was either under water or far too dry. Why is it that we are never happy? There are some other gardens in the

village that are beautiful, so maybe next year we could perhaps have some gardens open for others to enjoy, but that depends of course on whether the weather co-operates.

Gill Parry Brown

EDITOR, BALSHAM REVIEW



HARVEST SUPPER

A **Harvest Supper** will be held on **Friday 27th September**, in the **Church Institute, 6.30pm for 7pm**. For catering purposes **TICKETS** are essential and are available from Balsham Post Office, Alison Clarke and Jo Stinton. You can reserve a ticket by contacting Alison or Jo by email please:
alisonclarke15@hotmail.com or **jonotnits@gmail.com**

It will be a two course supper and hot and cold soft drinks will be included. However if you would like to bring your favourite tittle to enjoy with your meal you are welcome to do so. Glasses can be provided.

Cost: over 12's £15 a person; under 12's are £7

If you have food allergies we will try and accommodate them but we need to know in advance at latest **19th September**. As tickets are limited please get your ticket in good time.

There will be a table quiz with prizes and a raffle.
All profits are for church funds.

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

DOREEN MEEKINGS

A very big thank you for all the support and kindness shown through this difficult time. Thank you for all the cards and donations we have received in memory of Doreen.

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

The Meekings Family

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Friday 13th September 2024

10 30am - 1pm

Balsham Sports Pavilion.

In the last few years I seem to have been surrounded by family and friends who have been diagnosed with cancer.

My cousin who was only 58 years old died recently from undiagnosed prostate cancer within a day of finding out. This shocked me so much I feel I have to contribute to the fundraising, so with Jo Stinton I am organising this MacMillan Coffee Morning.

I am sure no one in the village has been unaffected by this terrible disease.

I hope that as many people as

possible will come to the coffee morning, buy a raffle ticket, a cuppa and a cake or two! Please bring as many of your friends as you can.

This link can be used to make your donations direct to our fundraiser if you are unable to make it:

<https://cm24.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/CM24041009>

Let's make Friday the 13th a lucky day for fundraising.

Thank you

Judy Richards

MAYS AVENUE COFFEE CLUB: Macmillan & Arthur Rank Hospice Fundraiser

On **Monday 23rd September** at the Mays Avenue unit room there will be a coffee morning where all proceeds will go to these much-deserved charities.

Coffee and cake will be £3.00

There will be a raffle and tombola plus guess the weight of a cake.

Time will be **10.30 am -12.00 pm**

Please come and support this event!

See you there.

Diane Denny (*Secretary*)

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

Autumn may have a special place in our affections, as expressed by the romantic poet John Keats when he wrote in his ode 'To Autumn' of the: '*season of mist and mellow fruitfulness*'. Written in September 1819, the poem celebrates Autumn's abundance and harvest. This is a poem which I, like many, studied in school but enjoy returning to, especially at this time of year.

A celebration of abundance is also brought to the fore in our Harvest festivals at the end of September. We will have a Harvest service in each of our churches, as well as a Harvest themed **Creative Church** on **22nd September** in the Abington Institute. All of these will provide, in a variety of different ways, an opportunity to give thanks for both the Harvest and also for the spiritual gifts we receive. Thanksgiving is such a vital part of the Christian faith, and indeed may help us experience life more richly and deeply.

Just as importantly, Harvest services also focus on how we may use our resources and gifts in service of

others. As in recent years, we will be supporting the charity Reach, and asking for donations of non-perishable food towards the foodbank run by Reach in Haverhill. We seek to keep in mind the kind of generosity the Apostle Paul commended in his second letter to the church in Corinth, where he encouraged cheerful generosity and linked this to praise and thanksgiving.

Later in the Autumn we hope to welcome Henry Wilson, the CEO of Reach, to speak at our united service on the first Sunday in November, which all are welcome to attend. Henry is an engaging speaker and will be able to reflect both on the story of Reach and also why generous giving can change us on a personal level as well as supporting others. As we experience the connection between thanksgiving, generosity and praise, we may know this is not just about Harvest time, but a way of living with gratitude in all the times and seasons of our lives.

Revd Iain McColl



A Date for your Diary

There will be a **Second-Hand Book Sale** in the **Church Institute** during the weekend **October 12th & 13th**. Any books in good condition will be welcomed, so start turning out your bookshelves now! More details will be in next month's Review.

Sept. Services	9:30am	11:00am	6:00pm
1st		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	
8th	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i> Morning Worship Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Morning Worship Hildersham <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Taize service Weston Colville <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
15th	Holy Communion West Wrattling <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion Hildersham <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i>	
22nd	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Harvest Creative Church Abington Hub <i>Rosemary Mead/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Harvest Café Church Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Evening Prayer Great Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
29th	Harvest Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Harvest Songs of Praise Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Harvest Songs of Praise Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Harvest Songs of Praise Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Harvest Communion West Wrattling <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	

Linton & District Historical Society



Tuesday 17th September 2024

Eglantyne Jebb – The woman who saved the children

Presented by *Margaret Woodley*

Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane - 7.30 p.m.

Refreshments and Raffle

Visitors and new members always welcome

Programme		
September 17th	The woman who saved the children	<i>Margaret Woodley</i>
October 15th	Policing and financial crime in regency London and Cambridge	<i>Susan Grossey</i>
November 19th	A peak inside some hundred parish churches	<i>Ken McDonald</i>
December 17th	Music Hall Memories	<i>Bryan Thurlow</i>

2025

January 21st	Mercury, the mysterious mobile metal	<i>Neil Dickinson</i>
February 18th	Crime scene search	<i>Alex Mair</i>
March 18th	The Curiohaus trials	<i>Russell Kent</i>
April 15th	A poor start in life	<i>Charmain Thompson</i>
May 20th	The history of Ashdon windmill	<i>Bill Wilsden</i>

Granta Medical Practice

Flu Vaccinations 2024

This year NHS England have informed us that the routine annual Flu programme for adults aged 18 years old upwards will start on the 3rd October.

To ensure you have maximum protection for the flu season you should be vaccinated in October preferably, but certainly by the end of November. Flu numbers start to rise in November and peak in December and January.

However there are 3 groups of people who should be vaccinated

early and we encourage you to be vaccinated in one of our September clinics.

Those who are pregnant (especially if near due date), because:

- pregnant women are at higher risk of complications from flu
- it protects the baby during pregnancy (*for example flu infection increases the risks of the baby being premature or stillborn*)
- it protects the baby in the first few months of life (*babies aged under 6 months are at high risk of complications from flu*)

Children, because:

- the protection from the flu vaccine lasts longer in children
- children tend to be “super spreaders”
- getting your child vaccinated not only protects your child but also their grandparents, vulnerable parents and will reduce the spread of flu to the wider population

People due to have treatment such as chemotherapy, because:

- if you are due to have treatment that will weaken your immune system, such as chemotherapy, the vaccine given before treatment starts will work better as your immune system is stronger.

FLU CLINIC DATES

DATE	LOCATION
Saturday 28th September	Granta Sawston (see September eligibility above)
Sunday 29th September	Granta Royston Health Centre (see September eligibility above)
Saturday 5th October	Granta Sawston and Granta Linton
Sunday 6th October	Granta Royston Health Centre
Saturday 12th October	Granta Barley and Granta Shelford
Saturday 19th October	Granta Sawston and Granta Linton
Sunday 20th October	Granta Royston Health Centre
Saturday 26th October	Granta Shelford

To book your flu vaccination please call **0300 234 5555** and choose the Granta site of your choice or wait to receive your SMS link via your mobile phone to book your appointment.

For further information about the flu vaccination go to www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu-vaccine

Sandra East

GRANTA PATIENT SERVICES
cpicb.grantapatientservices@nhs.net

Balsham WI

After our break in August 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](https://www.facebook.com/BalshamWI)

Debbie Mower

Linton Village College

We enjoyed a warm sports day at the end of term with students competing in field and track events to secure House points. Discovery House was the victorious team this year. Students demonstrated great camaraderie, cheering each other along during the races.

Like many LVC and Abington families, I enjoyed tracking the progress of ex-LVC student Angharad Evans competing in the summer Olympics in Paris. We are very proud of Harri's amazing performances in the 100m women's breaststroke final and 4 x 100m medley relay heats. Her achievements demonstrate the results of great commitment and discipline.

Meanwhile, at the end of July, thirteen Year 11 students and two teachers embarked on a World Challenge expedition to Morocco. During their two weeks away, the group visited Marrakech and trekked

the Atlas Mountains. They camped at base camp and climbed the Toukbal summit – 4167 metres high! They were also involved in a community project, helping to complete construction work and carpet weaving within a cooperative initiative in Tizi N'Oucheg. The maturity and teamwork displayed by the group was impressive. The trip was an incredible life experience for all involved. I'm grateful to Miss Mayzes and Ms Price for making this possible by supervising the group during their summer break.

Having celebrated GCSE results day with the class of 2024, we welcome a new cohort in September. I have enjoyed reading and responding to Year 7 letters during the summer holiday and wish our youngest students a great start to their time at LVC

Helena Marsh

PRINCIPAL, LVC



Students helping in construction work



The LVC students in Morocco



At the summit



Weaving

have completed the formation of the wildlife ponds and look forward to seeing and sharing what wildlife they will attract over the coming years. In order to avoid disturbance to the developing habitats please **keep dogs away from ponds** at all times.

The next stage is the transition of grassland into woodland and scrub areas. This also involves, with the support of local contractors, preparing the areas for tree and shrub planting, with planting set to begin in November in line with the UK planting season. If conditions are right, we aim to complete this phase of planting early in the new year.

Other works you may well see is the protective fencing going up around the planting areas, ground preparation for planting areas and ongoing grass management. All of these works enable planting to establish, flourish, and put the habitats in the ideal condition to bring nature home to your area of Cambridgeshire.

If you want to find out more there will be a presentation on **23 Sept** at **18:45** by **Chris Bawtree**, followed by a **Q&A session** in the **West Wickham Village Hall**.

Chris Bawtree

NATURE RECOVERY DIRECTOR,
GROUND CONTROL EVERGREEN INVESTMENTS



All Photos: Lesley Howkins



Whilst most gardeners are battling with nature, one Balsham garden seems to be thriving!



Photo: Larry Davies



Photo: Angela Read

Mint Moth (with teaspoon for scale)



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Mint Moth on Fuchsia



Photo: John Hodge

Jersey Tiger Moth



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Oak Bush Cricket

Balsham Cricket Club

RESULTS - 2024 LEAGUE 3 SOUTH

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	RESULT
Sat 27th July	FULBOURN II	H	WON by 1 Wicket
Sat 10th August	Burrough Green	A	LOST by 4 Wickets
Sat 17th August	Thriplow II	A	LOST (Conceded - couldn't raise a team)

FIXTURES - 2024 LEAGUE 3 SOUTH

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A
Sat 7th September	Royston II	Looks like being our last ever game!

MIDWEEK CRICKET RESULTS - 2024

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	RESULT
Weds 31st July	Reach	A	LOST by 5 Wickets
Weds 7th August	Saffron Walden	A	LOST by 8 Wickets
Weds 14th August	Wrattling Lions	H	LOST (Conceded - couldn't raise a team)

Unfortunately it's looking very likely that the 7th September match will

be the club's **last ever game.**

Paul Ellam

Balsham September Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
7th Saturday	Cricket Match - maybe the last!!!	Rec.
10th Tuesday	WI, 7.30pm	Pavilion
12th Thursday	Balsham Singers, New Term, 7.30pm	Pavilion
13th Friday	MacMillan Coffee Morning, 10.30—1.00pm	Pavilion
16th Monday	Parish Council 7.30pm	Pavilion
17th Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Soc. 7.30pm	Linton Village Hall
23rd Monday	MacMillan Coffee Morning, 10.30-12.00pm	Mays Ave Hall
23rd Monday	Re-wilding Presentation West Wickham 6.45	W Wickham V Hall
24th Tuesday	BGNS Coffee morning, 10-12.00pm	Church Institute
24th Tuesday	L.A.L.A. London in Literature 10.00-11.45am	Linton Village Hall
27th Friday	Harvest Supper, 6.30 for 7.00pm	Church Institute
29th Sunday	Harvest Festival, Songs of Praise, 11.00 am	Church

Age UK

Community warden for the Small Villages, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough,

My name is Lucy Cameron, and I am the community warden for Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The

villages I support are Balsham, Horseheath, West Wrattling, Shudy Camps, Castle Camps. Western Colville and West Wickham.

You may see me dashing from village to village supporting my service users each day, Monday to Friday. My working hours are 9.00am till 1.00pm and the support available is flexible to meet the needs of each person.

I start the day by making phone calls to all the people using my service. This lets me know they are all ok and allows me to plan what is needed for the day - no 2 days are ever the same. I then start my visits: this could include picking up a small amount of shopping needed



by a service user or collecting a prescription to deliver to someone.

I can support people with lots of other tasks. It might be making a doctor's appointment or booking hospital transport. There might be a letter

they need supporting with, or a telephone call that needs making. Sometimes it's just nice to spend time with an older person and listen to the wonderful tales of years gone by. This can reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness.

We are currently able to offer 4 weeks free trial of the warden service, so if you are interested or know an older person that might like to join the service please do call me on **07436 102865** or email me: **lucy.cameron@ageukcap.org.uk**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Lucy Cameron

Can You Help Our Village Community?

Our village has a very good reputation for being a friendly caring community with events for all. However some of our regular events (e.g. Balsham Feast, Big Balsham Sale, etc.) need new people to help organise them in future. Do you have a little time to join some others in a discussion

about what is needed? If you (or someone you know) has, please contact Gill PB or Clive Bennett, if you see us, or email **editor@balshamreview.com** and we will arrange a get-together.

Gill Parry Brown

EDITOR, BALSHAM REVIEW

The Black Bull



Events coming up:

Pint of Music – Thursday 5th September 8-10pm

Folk Night, Burgers, Tacos & Bar Snacks
Back again - always a slightly different dynamic depending on sign up. Tony Day is bringing along a team of musicians for an informal evening of acoustic music and song. Local folk/Irish/acoustic roots - whistle, bodhran....

Book a table below to dine, drink or listen - or all three - let us know in the notes your preferences.

Introducing Nine Isles Caribbean Gin

Rob has landed the find of the summer - these beauties only use the finest botanicals from the region.

If Nine Isles don't whisk you away to your dream holiday destination

what will?!

The race is on for the house favourite: Peach & Lychee? Sorrel & Mulberry?.

Save the Date:

Next Tasting Menu – Friday 20th September

Book now!

Black Bull Brunch Weekends:

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

Saturday 7th/Sunday 8th Sept.

Saturday 21st/Sunday 22nd Sept.

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

What Is Arthur's Shed?

Arthur's Shed is a purpose-built studio set in the beautiful grounds of the **Arthur Rank Hospice**.

Sessions are open to the public, you do not need to have a connection with the Charity to attend. Sessions are free of charge,

although a suggested donation of £5 is welcomed to cover the cost of materials. Sessions can be booked by emailing **arthurs.shed@arhc.org.uk** or calling **01223 675777**. Sessions must be booked in advance.

FORTHCOMING SESSIONS

Card Making:

September 4th & 18th 10.30 - 12.00pm

Learn to create beautiful cards, follow a design or see where your imagination goes.

Astronomy:

September 6th, 13th & 20th 10 - 11.15am

Learn all about the sun, moon and stars and build your very own sun dial!

Laughing Yoga:

September 12th & 26th 2 - 3pm

Combine laughter exercises and deep breathing to lift your mood and energy (no acrobatics required)

Meditation:

September 17th & 24th 2 - 3pm

Relax and unwind with guided meditation

Flower Arranging:

September 11th 11 - 12.30pm

Learn to make beautiful arrangements by our skilled florist

Parking

If arriving by car, please park at the Babraham Park & Ride, CB22 3AB, next door. The footpath to the Hospice is signposted on the left as you drive into the park & ride. Parking is free of charge for up to 18 hours at the Park & Ride. Please note the hospice car park is for use by our patients and their visitors (*there are a limited number of disabled bays if you need one*).

Why not find us online at: <https://www.arhc.org.uk/open-to-all/arthurs-shed/>
Contact us at **arthurs.shed@arhc.org.uk** to join our mailing list

Balsham Singers:

Part 2

In 2002 Jonathan Cook had moved on to further his HR consultancy career and form his own company. He bought a restored windmill which has led him to milling and selling organic flour and associated products in Swaffham Prior, but this sadly leaves him little time for his music. The young man who took his place was Gregory McKenzie: he brought a very different mood to the choir. Born in Bangor he came to Cambridge to study music and graduated in 1998. He had been involved with Chesterton Choral society, Shelford Opera, and ran singing for pleasure sessions at a Cambridge 6th form college. He was another very talented young man. The composers and pieces he introduced to the choir broadened the repertoire and challenged our capabilities. He was enthusiastic and happily took part with some of us in village events organised in collaboration with the Meadow School for PTA fundraising events. Later he became ill and left

the choir in 2012, and sadly died aged just 40. He contributed to the development of our skills and introduced us to his own musical heroes.

Our present Musical Director John Clenaghan joined us in 2012 and started the third stage of our journey.

more next month.....

If you would like to be part of our musical journey we welcome new members. We particularly want to encourage more **Tenors and Basses** to join the group, so why not come as a couple, persuade your man to come too! Our first meeting after the summer break is in **Balsham Sports Pavilion on Thursday September 12th at 7.30pm**
Contact John at:
john.clenaghan@sky.com if you have any questions.

Jo Stinton



Balsham Parish Council



Balsham Parish Council are so pleased that the refurbishments to the Prince Memorial have been completed.



The Parish Council would like to thank **Rob Ellam** and **Andy Willers** for replacing the tiles on the floor

and another row of paving around the outside of the memorial, **Martin Chamberlain** for the design and metal work on the seats and **Stan Stinton** for replacing the oak on the benches. Wonderful for all the work to be carried out by local craftsmen.

Thank you to **Balsham Ploughmen** for donating £1,000 towards the project.

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

August 2024

Four Day Week

The District Council are now at the end of their 15 months trial of a four-day working week. The results of this have been analysed by two independent universities – Cambridge and Salford. They found that out of the 24 key performance indicators measured, 22 showed that performance had increased or remained the same. The two that showed a decrease in performance were the amount of time to collect housing rent and the time taken to re-let council housing stock.

Staff turnover over the time period, especially in 'hard to fill' posts such as senior planners, has dropped by 40%. 11 bin lorry drivers left the council in 2022 whilst only 5 did in all of 2023 and 2024.

The next steps for the council will be to digest this, offer a consultation, and then make a decision whether to make the four-day week permanent or not.

Old Shire Hall

The old HQ of the County Council, Shire Hall in Cambridge, has been on the market to be sold since the authority moved from there a few years ago. After some years on the market, it now has a new buyer, who will be turning the historic building into a luxury hotel. As the building has many parts which are listed,

the new operator will need to be careful when renovating.

Anaerobic Digestion Plant Proposal – Streetly End

The planning application for a new anaerobic digestion facility at Streetly End, West Wickham was approved at the County Council's planning committee on July 17th. Thank you to all those that engaged with the process and submitted comments to the County Council during the consultation period. A special thanks to those that attended and spoke at the committee meeting, as they represented their communities and neighbours very ably.

The decision notice, with all of the conditions attached to the approval, can be found on the website:

<https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

War Memorials Grant Scheme

The War Memorials Trust is providing grants for the repair and conservation of free-standing war memorials in England intended to help those who are responsible for the upkeep of war memorials. The grants support the care and preservation of war memorials to a high standard, and to prevent the decay of this important part of our built heritage. Grants will normally be for between 25% and a maximum of 75% of eligible costs. The maximum grant

is £5,000 for non-freestanding war memorials while freestanding, non-beneficiary war memorials may be considered up to a maximum grant of £20,000. Applications close on October 31st 2024. <http://www.warmemorials.org/grants/>

Coffee Pod Recycling comes to Cambridgeshire Household Recycling Centres

CCC has introduced coffee pod recycling at all nine of its Household Recycling Centres. The new coffee pod bins offer residents an environmentally friendly way to separately dispose of both aluminium and plastic coffee pods. Over 1 billion coffee pods are sold each year in the UK alone. Waste from these 'single-use' pods will lead to a huge environmental impact if not recycled properly, in the UK and globally. CCC is partnering with

Podback to provide coffee pod recycling services. Podback was initially created by Nespresso, Nescafe, Dolce Gusto and Tassimo to help their customers recycle their coffee pods and is now supported by many more coffee brands. Podback recycles coffee pods in the UK, to reduce waste and saving on new materials. Collected pods are shredded and cleaned of coffee. The shredded pods can be made into new products, while the coffee grounds are used to help create renewable energy and soil improver.

Contact Information

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

After taking a break in August 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**](mailto:balshamgns@gmail.com)

The Bell

Hi Everyone!

Food served:

Tuesday - Saturday
12.00 2.00pm & 5.30
8.30pm.

Sun - 12.00 - 3.30pm.

Diary for September:

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

Wednesday 11th - Bingo night, eyes
down at 8pm.

Friday 13th - Autumn Golf Day -
spaces still available.

Monday 16th - Book Club - two
sessions - 3.30 and 7.30. New
members are always welcome.

**Saturday 21st - Bullet's 50th
Birthday Bash** - All Welcome.



**Tuesday 24th - Charity
Quiz** 8pm, all welcome.

**Wednesday 25th -
Lunch Club** - bookings
and pre orders only.

We have a **NEW**
Wednesday evening
deal for September -
Burger or Curry and

drink ONLY £13.95. (*Pint of draught
beer, medium glass of wine,
standard spirit and mixer or soft
drink*) Please book if possible.

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 September/October

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday September 4 TH	✓		
Wednesday September 11 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday September 18 TH	✓		
Wednesday September 25 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday October 2 ND	✓		

London Through Literature 2

with LALA

Linton Area Learning Alliance (LALA) starts a new 10-week course called **London Through Literature 2**, on **Tuesday mornings from 24th September**. We meet in **Linton Village Hall**, Coles Lane from 10.00 to 11.45. The tutor, Ros Connelly, says: *'Following on from London through Literature 1, although it can be taken as a stand-alone course, London through Literature 2 will explore some exciting ways that London has been portrayed through literature. Topics will include catastrophic events, such as plague, fire, uprisings and riots, and the two world wars; immigration and*

minority ethnic communities, including Jews in 19th and 20th century London, the Windrush generation and those from the Indian subcontinent and China; and how London has been imagined as a futuristic city (both utopian and dystopian).'

Please contact me for more information or to register interest. Cost for the 10 weeks remains at £50 and includes a coffee break.

Sue Mudge

Tel: 01223 892737

Email: mudges.linton@btinternet.com

Operation Christmas Child



First of all, thank you to all those who took part last year in 2023, by either filling a box, sending an on-line box, giving items for the boxes or came and packed a box at the shoebox filling party.

This is a gentle reminder to those who would like to, that it is the time of year to think about filling a shoebox to send to disadvantaged children

Collection week is **Nov 11th to 18th**

It is never too early to knit items, buy items or make items.

More details next month.

For more information please visit:
<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>

Jane Furlow

Tel: 07745 046 921

Balsham Weather July 2024



Photo: Dick Paden

Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

JULY:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 29° C on 19th July

Lowest: 16° C on 12th July

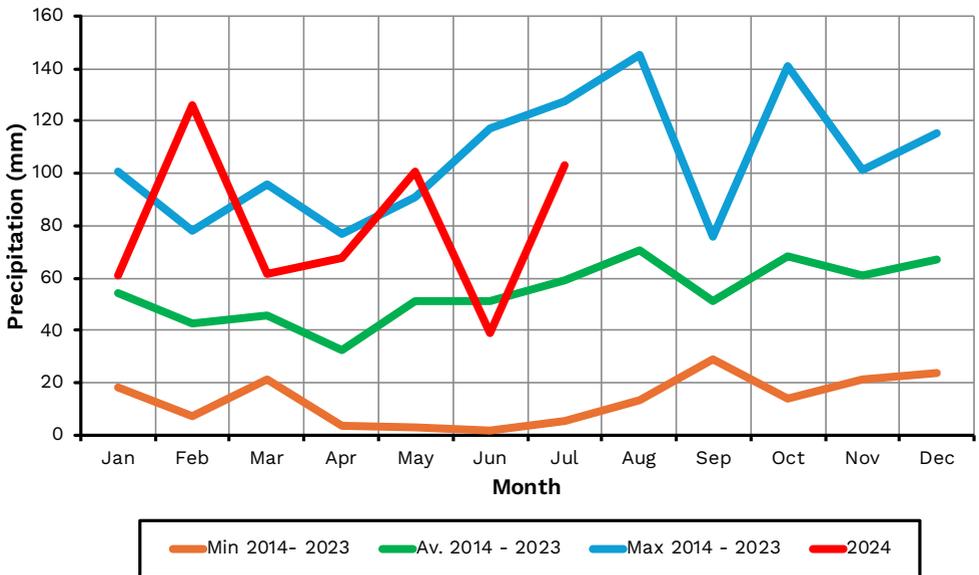
Night time temperatures

Highest: 18° C on 20th July

Lowest: 9° C on 7th July

July Rainfall at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total July 2024 rainfall: 103mm / 4.04" occurring on 14 Days





Saturday September 7th

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

Bob Marley: One Love (12)



On **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.

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

Advance Notice - October's Film



Saturday 5th October we will screen **The Book Thief(12)** - a film made in 2013 and starring Geoffrey Rush and based on the best selling book - a girl, Liesel, transforms the lives of those around her in WW2 in Germany. Adopted but illiterate she is taught to read and befriends Max, a Jew also adopted and eventually they escape from the horrors around them.

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