



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 663

SICUT CANIS CUM OSSIS

OCTOBER 2024



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



Photo: Jane Goode

Nut Weevil (*Curculio nucum*)



Photo: Jane Goode

A young robin



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Willow Emerald (*Chalcolestes viridis*)

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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:

WEDNESDAY November 20TH

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Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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

Editorial

What a month of hot sun, torrential rain and hailstones, a calm fog and then strong winds much of the rest of the time. The Balsham weather this month has certainly not been boring.

This month is the time that MacMillan have their coffee mornings, and there have been two in the village this September. Both have been very well attended by those who have been very generous towards the charity. Special thanks are due to those who worked so hard to make them successes, achieving very enjoyable meetings. Well done.

With the end of the summer break many groups are now back meeting again. Many have their reports in the magazine each month. Even if they don't mention that they welcome visitors to try out the group to see if it is what you would enjoy, they would be pleased to see you. Why not drop in to the Gardening Club, for instance, in the Pavilion on the first Wednesday of the month, or the Linton and District Historical Society in Linton Village Hall advertised on page **28**.

There will be a **Book Sale** in the Institute on the weekend of **October 12th & 13th** and it will only be a success if there are plenty of books to sell. Please sort through the books you have and bring the

ones you can spare to the church, from October 2nd to 11th, during the day, between 9 and 5, when the church is open. Obviously there might be a service at some time, so please avoid that. There will be some tables and boxes at the back of the church ready for your contributions. Then of course we will need you to come to buy some replacements to fill the gaps on your bookshelves. If there are book lovers amongst you who would like to help with the preparation of the sale, or with the sale itself do please call at Long Thatch, or ring **893012**.

I have heard that the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service have a new venture where they are advising 'Older Drivers' about how to assess themselves about their abilities. I understand the aim is not to get older drivers off the road, but to make sure they are as up-to-date as possible and don't have poor habits. It is not a practical session, and the latest one was held in Sawston so the next is likely to be in the north of the county. If you, or one of your family, is an older driver keep an eye open for further information.

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

IT RECYCLING

The next collection will be late October. Please leave IT equipment for recycling by **Friday 25th October**, in the "Deliveries" box in our sideway, 67 High Street Balsham.

Many thanks

Neil Dunlop

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

As promised that we would let you know our results, this is to confirm, as you have probably heard already, I paid in the terrific sum of **£980** yesterday, and we had **£40** online donations so the result was **£1020**.

Judy and I were absolutely delighted. Thank you all for coming to support us.

Jo Stinton

A BIG THANK YOU

Back in 2019 I was lucky enough to be selected after a long process to go to one of Girlguiding's five world centres: Our Chalet in Switzerland.

Unfortunately this trip had to be abandoned due to Covid. Then in May 2024 I was selected again to go in August 2024! Due to the short notice I had a lot of fundraising to do in a very short space of time. I did this in various ways including bake sales and extra work, and the Balsham Parochial Society made a very generous contribution which I am extremely grateful for.

On the trip I had the most amazing time. I did extraordinary activities such as walk across one of Europe's longest pedestrian suspension bridges, zip wiring through mountains, and hiking to Switzerland's second highest waterfall in the Alps, all whilst learning more about Girlguiding and meeting other members from all over the world! I would like to thank everyone who supported me and Girlguiding for giving me this opportunity.

Megan Hicks



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/Linton_cornerstone

METHODIST: Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

From the Church



In their articles last month both Iain and Hannah reminded us to be thankful for the many blessings we receive in this life. This month I would like to continue that theme with, perhaps unsurprisingly for me, an emphasis on health.

October 18th is the festival of Luke the Evangelist, author of not only the Gospel that bears his name but also of the Acts of the Apostles. Luke was a doctor (Luke, the beloved Physician) and his gospel reflects both his interest in the medical aspects of Christ's ministry but also in the compassion our Lord showed to the suffering. Luke gives us a fascinating insight into the availability of healthcare in his account of the healing of the woman suffering from haemorrhages when we hear that, before touching the hem of Jesus' garment she had been 12 years without cure and, as we hear elsewhere, had spent all her money on doctors.

October also sees the

commemorations of both Elizabeth Fry and Edith Cavell. Elizabeth Fry is best known as a prison reformer, her work for the sick, particularly in the training of nurses being overlooked. Fry established a School of Nursing at Guy's Hospital in 1840, in advance of Florence Nightingale at St. Thomas's, and it was a group of "Fry Nurses" that Florence took to the Crimea. Perhaps better known is Cavell who selflessly cared for German and British Troops in World War I and in 1915 died in that cause.

These three people, in their different ways, demonstrated the love and care our Lord had for the sick and suffering in times when care was scarce or simply not available.

Today we here are privileged to have access, largely free of charge, to healthcare provided by dedicated and highly skilled front-line professionals, working tirelessly day and night, in sometimes impossible circumstances. Our NHS most certainly does need fixing and I hope and pray that our politicians and leaders have the courage and resolve to do what is needed but, in the meantime, let us be thankful for all those who day by day are following the example set by St. Luke, Elizabeth Fry and Edith Cavell.

Keith Day

October Services	9:30am	11:00am	PM Services
6th		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	
13th	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Café Church Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship Great Abington <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Morning Worship Basham <i>Alistair Collen</i>	4.00pm Harvest Songs of Praise West Wrattling <i>John & Scilla Harvey</i> 6.00pm Taize service Weston Colville <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
20th	Holy Communion West Wrattling <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion Little Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	6.00pm Evening Prayer Hildersham <i>Alistair Collen</i>
27th	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> 10.00am Creative Church Abington Institute <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	11.15am Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i> Holy Communion Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	4.00pm Evening Prayer Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>



Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

Pension Credit and Winter Fuel Payments

Much media coverage has been given to the Government's decision to limit winter fuel payments for pensioners to those claiming benefits, including Pension Credit. Current estimates suggest that around 800,000 pensioners nationally are eligible to claim this but have yet to do so and are missing out on the winter fuel allowance and other benefits that are associated with it.

In order to qualify for Pension Credit 'top up' you need to have an income, including pension, of less than £218.15 per week if you are single and £332.95 if you are a couple. Both of you will need to be over retirement age if applying as a couple. You may have savings of up to £10,000 without this affecting the Pension Credit allowance you can receive.

Even if you just qualify for £1 per week benefit it opens a gateway to other benefits for you, such as free TV licences for the over 75s, reduced tariffs on electricity, mobile and broadband bills, Council Tax reductions, help with rent or mortgage, cold weather payments and so on.

One head of a charity has suggested that many people do not apply either due to misconceptions that if you are a home owner or have savings you cannot apply. This is not

the case. Also, some pensioners find it difficult to ask for help and think there may be stigma around applying for benefits. This is not true.

How to apply

You will need your National Insurance number and details of your income, savings and investments. You can phone the Department of Work and Pensions on 0800 99 1234 for an assessment or apply on line at: **apply-for-pension-credit.service.gov.uk/start**.

The eligible week of income for claiming Pension Credit is your earnings for the week 16th to 22nd September 2024. Claims can be made up to 21st December 2024.

If you are unsure of using this application route Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme has liaised with REACH Community Projects of Haverhill whose specialist advisers can help you assess your eligibility and help you apply online. This is a confidential service. Even if you are not eligible REACH advisers may be able to find other sources of support for you.

REACH can be contacted on 0800 009 6710 Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm or info@reachhaverhill.org.uk

The Balsham Plough Monday Club

At this time of year every year you may notice increased activity from the members of the Balsham Plough Monday Club (BPMC). Between now and Plough Monday 2025 you will spot BPMC members having meetings at The Black Bull to organise the various activities outlined below and you certainly will see more articles in the Balsham Review informing the Village of key dates. In The Review next month you'll even be treated to a short history of the club. But, for now, please be aware that the BPMC will be again organising the following:

The Balsham Christmas Tree

We will once again be erecting and lighting up the Balsham Christmas Tree. We'll be lighting up the Tree on a date in early December at the magnificently refurbished Prince's Memorial shelter (band stand!). There will likely be the usual carol singing, food will be available as well as the ubiquitous mulled wine and mince pies. This is a great family occasion and has been very well received in the Village in recent years despite some quite inclement weather.

The Balsham Plough Monday Club and Plough Monday

The Balsham Plough Monday Club consists of a group of men who live in or are associated with the village of Balsham and who, once a year, raise money for good causes on

Plough Monday. Plough Monday is the first Monday after Epiphany (January 6th or Twelfth Night) each year and historically was a night of celebration as it represented the beginning of the winter ploughing season. This day was particularly important in rural communities as agricultural labourers returned to work after the short but unpaid Christmas holiday. Balsham is unique in the way we celebrate Plough Monday and it's something to very proud of.

Plough Monday 2025 will take place on the **13th January 2025**. If you hear a great commotion in the village, notice a load of grown men with flaming torches dragging an old plough around and shouting "pity the poor ploughboy", no need to be alarmed, it's just the Balsham Ploughmen raising funds for good causes and having great time doing it. Please put the date in your diary, come out and say hello, watch a Morris Dance or two, grab a mulled wine and donate what you can. You may even win a raffle prize.

You're also welcome to join us for a pint or three at one of our amazing pubs, the Bell or the Black Bull, festivities tend to go on until the small hours, this is why we call the following day Harrowing Tuesday!

Organisational details for Plough Monday 2025, like the route and

stops around the village, will be publicised over the next couple of months during the run-up to this traditional village occasion. If you would like to host the Ploughmen in 2025 or know of a local good

cause that needs funding then please get in contact with me or any Balsham Ploughman.

Terry O'Neill

Balsham WI

Our meeting this week featured the inspirational Miles from Morgans Butchery as our speaker. Miles explained to us how having a stroke had impacted on him and his career and explained how he had had to adapt to his limitations. He was unable to continue in the job he had pre-stroke but was desperately keen to work. So, he went back to his first job as a butcher, but started his own business. After a rocky start, and with the help and support of his family this has been a success, and he greatly enjoys being able to do it.

He then proceeded to show us how to joint a chicken (making it look so easy), and how many different dishes you can make from a large chicken rather than just roasting it. Several

members vowed to make the trip to Baythorne Hall to visit his shop.

Our next meeting will take place on **8th October**. Our speaker will be **Dr Gwenda Kyd** with her talk entitled **'Incredible edible (and drinkable) plants'**.

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

Balsham Garden Club

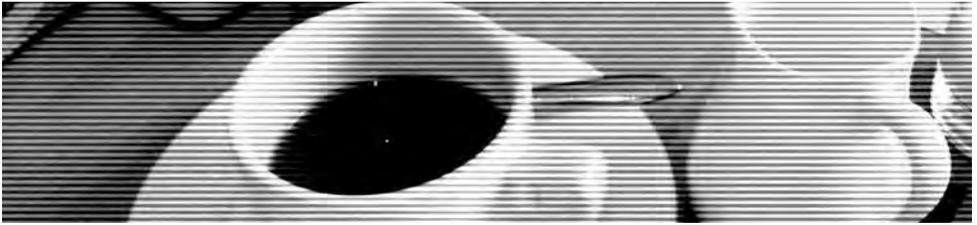
The first meeting of the new season will be held on **Wednesday 2nd October 2024** at **7.30pm** in the **Pavilion**.

Peter Jackson will be talking about **'Winter Plants'**. We have enjoyed Peter's talks before and welcome

him back. There will be the usual refreshments and raffle after the talk.

Everyone is welcome to join us for the evening. Come to meet the others and get a few gardening tips, for your own garden or allotment.

Coffee Mornings



Dates for the **Coffee Mornings** in the **Balsham Church Institute** from **10 to 12** will be:

- **October 15th**
- **November 11th**
- **December 17th**

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**

Balsham October Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
2nd Wednesday	Start bringing books to church, daytime	Church
2nd Wednesday	Gardening Club, 7.30pm	Pavilion
5th Saturday	Picture House, The Book Thief 7.30pm	Church Institute
8th Tuesday	Balsham WI <i>"Incredible edible (and drinkable) plants"</i> 7.30pm	Pavilion
12th Saturday/ 13th Sunday	Book Sale , Saturday 2-5pm; Sunday 10-4pm	Church Institute
15th Tuesday	BGNS Coffee Morning, 10-12	Church Institute
15th Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Society	Linton V Hall
21st Monday	Parish Council, 7.30pm	Pavilion
24th Thursday	Cricket Club AGM, 7.30pm	The Bell
25th Friday	IT - the last day this time for recycling	Park Cottage

The Meadow Primary School

Welcome Back to a New Term!

Welcome to the new term at The Meadow Primary School! It is a pleasure to see both new and old faces among our students, and the sight of so many happy, smiling faces fills us with excitement as we embark on another exciting chapter of their learning journeys. We're thrilled to welcome everyone back and look forward to a fantastic term ahead!

A Roaring Success: School Fete Highlights

We're delighted to share that our long-awaited school fete was a roaring success! After being postponed last year due to weather conditions, this year's event was well worth the wait. The children had an absolute blast, enjoying a range of activities and entertainment. A huge thank you to our dedicated PTA, whose hard work and organisation led to an impressive fundraising effort. The funds raised will go directly towards enriching activities and resources for our students, enhancing their educational experience even further.

Attention: Prospective Reception Parents!

If your child is set to start Reception next year, we would love to welcome you to The Meadow Primary School for a tour. We're hosting a series of tours to give you a chance to

explore our facilities, meet our staff, and get a feel for our vibrant school community. For more details and to schedule a visit, please contact our school office at **01223 894400**. We look forward to showing you around and answering any questions you might have.

Exciting Autumn Term Ahead

We're gearing up for a packed autumn term with many exciting events and activities planned. One of the highlights will be a special **Status Quo Workshop** for our Key Stage 2 pupils, featuring the talented **Jeff Rich**. This unique opportunity will allow our students to learn about music and rhythm from an industry professional, enriching their musical education and sparking their creativity.



Jeff Rich

Here's to a productive and joyful term ahead! Keep an eye out for more updates and events as the season progresses.

Faye Facer

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

Linton Village College



Last month saw us say our final goodbyes to our Year 11 Class of '24. Students came to collect their GCSE results during the holidays and there were many exceptional GCSE performances at Linton Village College.

It has been a busy start to the new school term and this coming week students will be invited to attend our LVC Enrichment Fayre. At LVC we pride ourselves on the wealth of enrichment opportunities we can offer our students to support with their personal development. This year every department in the school is offering a club or group for students to attend. It is our hope that every student in Year 7 will attend at least one club, meaning that they can access fully the all-round education. We are also very proud of the

achievements of LVC students outside of school. Josh Smith in Year 10 is amongst a number of students that compete at a high level in their sport outside of school. Josh recently managed to get to the final round of the British Kart Championships after numerous qualifying rounds. Karting is where the likes of Lewis Hamilton started their racing careers, which is an ambition of Josh's in the future. Josh competes around the UK and trains in races once a month at the Kimbolton track near Huntingdon. Josh has his own kart and says the skills needed to compete are stamina, strategy and quick thinking as he frequently reaches speeds of 70-80 miles per hour.

Helena Marsh
PRINCIPAL, LVC



A wealth of enrichment opportunities were on offer for students



Josh Smith at the British Kart Championships



BIG BOOK SALE

October 12th & 13th

Saturday 2-5pm ~ Sunday 10-4pm

Balsham Church Institute

Sort out your book shelves and bring your spare good condition books to the church during the day from Wednesday October 2nd.

Fiction, non-Fiction and Children's books all welcome.

Then come to the sale to refill your shelves with the books you may have missed or have always wanted!

MONEY RAISED IS IN AID OF THE CHURCH.



Photos: Richard Pargeter

Garden Spider, Leaf Cutter Bee and Sharp-tailed Bee



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Inquisitive cows near Yole farm.

CHAOS STRING QUARTET

BBC New Generation Artists



Beethoven opus 131 - Mozart KV159 - Haydn Op 33/3 The Bird

Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham CB2 6BZ
Monday 21st October at 7.30pm

Tickets at £15 available from
www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom-cambridge/chaos-string-quartet/
or at the door

Telephone: 07850 714544

E-mail: huntcam2015@gmail.com



Balsham Garden Club

Peter Jackson

on

'Winter plants'



Wednesday 2nd October 2024
7:30pm

at

Balsham Pavilion

Refreshments & Raffle

All welcome



Photo: Andrew Clarke



Photo: Margaret Creek



Photo: Andrew Clarke



Bull Nose Morris Club rally at The Black Bull

Photo: Andrew Clarke



Photo: Margaret Creek

Balsham Cricket Club

RESULTS - 2024 LEAGUE 3 SOUTH

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	RESULT
Sat 24th August	Whittlesford	H	<i>DRAW (Rained Off)</i>
Sat 7th Sept	Royston II	A	<i>LOST by 6 Wickets</i>

The club finished in 5th place in League 3 South, winning 7 and losing 5, with 4 cancelled games.

The Royston game was probably the last game that Balsham Cricket Club will play.

This is because we need the following:

- 1 A Groundsperson(s)
- 2 A new Club Captain
- 3 Extra players.

The final decision on the club will

be made at our AGM. That **AGM** will be held in **The Bell** on **Thursday 24th October** at **7.30pm**. All are welcome to attend.

In the meantime if anyone is **interested in the vacancies** **please** contact either **Colin Eade** (*Chairman*) **07773 892876** or **Paul Ellam** (*Treasurer*) **01223 290097**

Paul Ellam

Balsham Bowls Club

As I write, the bowls season is nearly over for another year with only the Pairs Open Competition left to play on Sunday 22nd Sept. Phil Elliott and Wally Potter are hoping to defend their title.

The season has been one of mixed fortune with the weather not always being kind until the last few weeks. All teams have managed to stay in their current leagues with the team in the Cambridge and District League coming 6th out of 11 teams and the two teams in the Steeple Bumpstead Leagues finished mid-table.

Some members of the club have recently returned from the annual bowls tour. This year it was to

Weymouth, where we had three games. On the Friday afternoon Balsham Club members play against each other for the Chairman's Cup. This was won by Trish Newman, David Appleby, Simon Till and Dave Allen. On the Saturday our game was played in awful weather against Portland Victoria Bowls Club which we lost by 18 shots. On the Sunday we played at Greenhill Bowls Club, overlooking the sea but unfortunately lost again, this time only by 7 shots but at least the weather was much better. The hospitality all weekend was amazing.

Phil Elliott

Operation Christmas Child

This Christian organisation sends filled shoeboxes to many parts of the world to give to needy disadvantaged children. The idea is to pack a box with lots of fun things but also some practical items.

These boxes are then distributed to children who may never have had a gift before, or had new things for themselves. Operation Christmas Child sent 252,000 boxes from the UK in 2023. It would be great if this number grew even more. They tend to go to Eastern European countries, Central Asia and Africa

It is never too early to knit items, (hats, gloves, soft toys) buy items or make items. Look on the web site for ideas and keep a look out for items such as stationery, soap, toothbrushes, small toys, balls, and games in the shops or on line (only new or in very good condition).

There are 3 age groups, 2-4, 5-9, 10-14 either boy or girl.

Get a shoebox, (not small child's or boot box please) cover it with nice paper and away you go. I have a limited source of preprinted boxes. I can also supply leaflets.

Collection week this year is **Nov 11th to 18th**. Boxes can be dropped off at my house

Coffee and Scone day Wednesday Oct 23rd 10-4pm when you can drop in for a cuppa, and/or browse items that can be bought for the boxes. It will be a good starting point: **20, West Field, Lt Abington**

On **Saturday 16th** Nov there will be a **SHOEBOX FILLING PARTY** at **Gt Shelford Free Church** along with a **CAKE SALE. 10-1pm**. Donations of cakes gratefully received but also come along with your children if you have them, to help pack the boxes. It is great fun!

Jane Furlow
Tel: 07745046921

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>

Bin Collections October/November

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday October 2 ND	✓		
Wednesday October 9 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday October 16 TH	✓		
Wednesday October 23 RD		✓	✓
Wednesday October 30 TH	✓		
Wednesday November 6 TH		✓	✓

The Black Bull



October Greetings to all Balsham Villagers from all at The Black Bull
Thank you to all who joined us for our Folk Music night and celebratory Tasting Menu – both styles of event working so well in their very different ways. We have had some lovely support and congratulatory messages for Rob and his team on winning their **Two AA Rosettes** for our food – thank you all – it really does mean a lot.

More Events coming up:
Pint of Music – Folk Night, Pie Board on Specials

Thursday 3rd October

Our Irish/Folk friends are back again – now a regular monthly event. It is normally on a Thursday at the beginning of each month – the pattern will become increasingly regular as they are building quite a following.

Next Tasting Menu: Wednesday 23rd October

Rob is gearing up for Halloween with his next Tasting Menu - **“Five Pumpkin Moments”** @ £45. Same trusted format - dinner party style (*but at your own tables*) – arrive 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start of a culinary treat. The menu will be posted on the website. Only available for pre-booked.

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

Saturday 5th/Sunday 6th October
Saturday 19th/Sunday 20th Oct.

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

Granta Medical Practice

VACCINATIONS UPDATE

As we approach the colder months, there are a number of vaccines that can help protect you against serious illness, including:

RSV Vaccine (new for 2024)

The RSV vaccine helps protect against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) that can make babies and older adults seriously ill. This is offered all year round and is recommended if:

- you are pregnant (*from 28 weeks onwards*) to help protect your baby after they are born
- you are aged 75 to 79 (*if you turn 80 on or after 1st September 2024 you're eligible for the RSV vaccine until 31 August 2025. You are not eligible for the RSV vaccine if you turned 80 before 1st September 2024*)

Flu Vaccine:

This vaccine helps protect against flu, which can be a serious or life-threatening illness. It's offered on the NHS every year in autumn or early winter to people at higher risk of getting seriously ill from flu. You can get the vaccine if you are:

- aged 65 or over
- have certain long-term health conditions
- are pregnant
- live in a care home
- are the main carer for an older or disabled person
- receive a carer's allowance
- live with someone who has a

weakened immune system

Shingles Vaccine

This vaccine helps protect against shingles and is offered all year round. Shingles is a common condition that causes a painful rash. It can sometimes lead to serious problems such as long-lasting pain, hearing loss or blindness. You're more likely to get shingles, and it is more likely to cause serious problems, as you get older or if you have a severely weakened immune system. The vaccine is recommended for:

- people who turn 65 on or after 1st September
- people aged 70 to 79
- people aged 50 and over with a severely weakened immune system

Pneumococcal (Pneumonia) Vaccine

This vaccine is offered all year round. It helps protect against serious illnesses like pneumonia and meningitis and is recommended for:

- babies
- people aged 65 and over
- children and adults at higher risk of getting seriously ill

Please speak to any member of our reception team to check if you are eligible for any of the above vaccines and to book into a vaccine clinic.

Sandra East

GRANTA PATIENT SERVICES

cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net

Balsham Singers:

continued...

In 2012 John Clenaghan took over the baton and has grown and guided the choir towards their 30th anniversary in 2025.

John is a very busy man, he teaches piano and singing, he runs several other choirs and singing groups and is very committed to our village choir. He has vast musical knowledge in many genres and shares with us his large musical library. He has done a lot of his own arrangements and we have been privileged to have been able to perform the premier of many. The choir is fortunate that John also has a lot of contacts in the local musical performing world and so when we need the support of an orchestra he is able to draw on these connections to put an orchestra together, similarly for our soloist voices.

We are also very fortunate that over the years we have been able to draw on the talent of Ralph Woodward who joins us on concert days to accompany the choir, he was first introduced to our choir through our first conductor Jon Cook and has stayed with us on this journey, his own commitments permitting.

Our repertoire is large and varied, when John selects our programme he tries to select pieces that will appeal to all tastes- something for

everyone.

So expect music from the great composers- my own favourites being Vivaldi, Handel and Mozart. Then we have the popular traditional songs, heart lifting songs. Music from musical theatre and films. Of course at Christmas there are traditional carols, and popular Christmas tunes.

None of us love them all, but we all get great pleasure from the act of singing together and performing to our best ability to our very loyal audiences.

We hope to entertain you again on **14th December at 4pm.**

Jo Stinton

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 October 12th at 7.30pm**

Contact John at:
john.clenaghan@sky.com if you have any questions.

Balsham Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting took place on 16th September, 2024 in Balsham Pavilion

Allotments: If anyone is interested in an allotment please contact:

balshamallotments@balsham.net

Co-option of Parish Councillor: The PC unanimously approved the co-option of Lynda Henderson who lives in Nine Chimneys Lane onto the PC.

Improvements to the Prince

Memorial: The Parish Council are very pleased with the improvements to the Prince Memorial.

MacMillan Coffee Morning: The PC thanked Jo Stinton and Judy Richards for organising the coffee morning and raising £ 1,020.00.

Highways issues: West Wickham Road: CCC have informed the PC that jetting work will take place on 29th October.

Planning for Discussion:

Site address: 67 High Street, Balsham, Cambs

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for the siting of a Shepherd's Hut on wheels for use as a Summer House.

Reference: 24/02941/CL2PD

PC Decision: No objections.

Site address: 19 Linton Road, Balsham, Cambs

Proposal: Repairs to existing render and timber framing.

Reference: 24/02959/LBC PC

PC Decision: No objections.

Decisions:

Site address: 85 High Street, Balsham
Proposal: T1: 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

Granted permission by SCDC

Site address: 39 High St, Balsham

Proposal: Internal and external alterations to convert existing outbuilding building to annex ancillary to main dwelling, including alterations to fenestration and installation of flue.

Reference: 24/02651/HFUL

Granted permission by SCDC

Site address: 1 Linton Rd, 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

Granted permission by SCDC

Site address: Mulberry Cottage, Fox Road, Balsham

Proposal: Lime - L1 - Re-pollard to previous pollarded points. They are at around 2.5m from ground level.

Reference: 24/0870/TTPO

Approved by SCDC

Site address: 19 Linton Rd, Balsham

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

Reference: 24/02304/HFUL

Application withdrawn

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

21st October, 2024 at 7.30 pm
in **Balsham Pavilion.**

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND



Allotment Fees are Due 30th September!

This is just a reminder that your annual rents are due on 30th Sept.

For Balsham residents, it is £20.00 for a full size plot and £10.00 for a small one. For all others, it is £30.00 for a full size plot and £15.00 for a small one. Please add £10.00 if you used water from the standpipes this summer.

Payment options are bank transfer (preferred), cash, or cheque.

Bank transfer should be to:

Balsham Parish Council:

Santander, Sort Code: 09-01-54

Account Number: 28404480

Ref: Your plot number

Cash or cheque (*payable to **Balsham Parish Council***) can be dropped to:

Jennie Tipler, 7 Linton Rd, Balsham
or

Heather Pierce, 5 Burrell Way,
Balsham

In walking around the allotments,

we have noticed that some plots seem not to have been worked on very much or at all over the past year. If you are struggling with your plot, please get in touch with us so we can look for a solution. If you no longer want the plot at the time being, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can give someone on the waiting list a chance to have a go. We will be going around the plots in early October for a brief inspection and will send emails individually about things that need attention.

We know it's been a rough year with all the slugs and snails, so hopefully the coming seasons will be a little more forgiving.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

**Jennie Tipler &
Tracy Coston**

District & County Councillor's Report

September 2024

Bus Franchising Consultation

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority launched a consultation on the concept of bus franchising in the county and how the authority can help reform bus travel. It's a very big step forward, as the idea of introducing a road charge in Cambridge to pay for more buses in Cambridgeshire has been binned. This is a more realistic alternative to improving public transport, but will involve more public funding to get it off the ground and possibly an increase in the Mayor's precept to help fund it, so please do contribute to the consultation if possible.

[https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/
bus-franchising-consultation/](https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-franchising-consultation/)

Household Support Fund

We were under the impression a few months ago that the much used household support fund, which is central government money distributed by the County Council, was due to cease. We were pleased to hear recently that it is now set to continue. This year Cambridgeshire was awarded £3.5 million to help with cost of living support.

There is free advice on the cost of living support available from the County Council for anyone who may be in need of it - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/>

communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living

Small Business Support Grant

The District Council have announced a new grant which is available to support small businesses in South Cambs. Small businesses can apply for up to £5,000 from a £100,000 pot and is a part of the wider Rural Prosperity Scheme, mentioned below, from the Combined Authority. SCDC still offers free advice to small businesses and startups. Full detail can be found here - <https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/small-business-grant/>

Waste Partnership

The District Councils in Cambridgeshire have recently entered into a contract with a new provider for the recycling of our blue bin waste. The contract with the current supplier, Thalia, who run the waste facility at Waterbeach, expired at the start of September and the new contract has been awarded to a company called Re-Gen.

Contact Information

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

The Bell



Hi Everyone! the summer is sadly over, but please come and support us through the winter. The Bell is

welcoming and cosy, with open fires, home cooked food, and great beer.

Diary for October:

Every Monday evening - **Happy Kebab** van in Bell car park **5pm - 8pm**. You can enjoy your kebab in the pub, with a drink from the bar.

Wednesday 9th - Bingo night, eyes down at 8pm.

Tuesday 29th - Charity Quiz 8pm, all welcome.

Wednesday 30th - Lunch Club - bookings and pre orders only.

We have a **NEW** Wednesday evening deal for October - **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.

On **Friday 1st November**, we have live music with pub favourite **Luci Collins**, as a **Halloween** celebration. **Prize for best costume!**

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

Cambridgeshire ACRE



Cambridgeshire ACRE is hosting a special 'Staying Connected' session, delivered in collaboration with the Communities team at South Cambridgeshire District Council, to explore what we can collectively offer to help create vibrant communities, promote community action and support community growth in the district.

When and where?

The session is taking place on

Thursday 17 October 2024 at 5pm online via **Zoom**. We hope people or organisations interested in communities will join us. For more information and to book your **FREE** place go to:

<https://info.cambsacre.org.uk/landing-page-staying-connected-20241017>

If you have any questions about this event or need help making your booking, please get in touch.

Alison Brown

HEAD OF BUSINESS SERVICES
CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

Linton & District Historical Society

September meeting - Eglantyne Jebb 1876-1928

'The woman who saved children'

At our first meeting of the season we welcomed Margaret Woodley, who gave us a well documented talk, featuring the life of this amazing woman. Eglantyne was one of six children, who despite her father's belief that educating women was a waste of time, accomplished great success, studying and working hard throughout her life.

She travelled far and wide and rubbed shoulders with the 'good and the great' enabling her to raise money for starving children, who in most cases, were the innocent victims of war. This left a huge legacy which continues to be relevant today

and is known as 'Save the Children'.

Towards the end of the evening, a surprise bonus arose when a gentleman in the audience announced that his great uncle was the brother of Eglantyne; so began more discussion from a delighted speaker!

Please join us on **Tuesday 15th October** when Susan Grossey will enlighten us with '**Financial Crime in Regency London and Cambridge**'.

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

Refreshments & Raffle

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

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

Big Book Sale in the Institute

There will be a **Big Book Sale** in the **Church Institute** on the weekend of **Saturday and Sunday October 12th and 13th**. The books will all be second hand, and you are all welcome to contribute any books you have spare, so they can find a new home. Any books in good condition will be accepted, hard-back or paperback, and fiction, non-fiction or children's books are welcome. Please bring any books you have spare to the church, from **Wednesday, October 2nd**, until **Friday October 11th**, and any time during the day: **9am until 5pm**. There will be boxes on tables at

the back of the church ready for you to leave your contributions!

Then do come to the **Church Institute** on **Saturday, 12th**, between **2 and 5pm**, or on **Sunday, 13th, 10am until 4pm**, to find some good reading for the winter evenings, or that reference book you have always wanted. Restock books for your children as they grow older, bring some they have grown out of, and find the new stories they are ready for.

Any queries: Contact **Gill Parry Brown**, Long Thatch. Church Lane, Balsham; Tel: **01223 893012**

A Concert in Hildersham Church

CHAOS STRING QUARTET

BBC New Generation Artists

Beethoven Opus 131; Mozart KV 159; Haydn Opus 33\3 The Bird

Monday 21st October at 7 30pm

Tickets: £15 from

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--cambridge/chaos-string-quartet>

or at the door

The Chaos String Quartet have been playing together for around five years, and have had the good fortune to be selected for a place with the BBC New Generation Artists Scheme. This scheme aims to promote and support young musicians by launching them on their national and international careers, the placement lasting two and a half years. The idea of inviting the quartet to play in Hildersham came about through a friendship with the second

violinist, Eszter Kruchio and her Hungarian family.

This concert will be the first in a series of events at Hildersham Church to raise money for the church and coincides with the launch of the Friends of Hildersham Church. Next on the calendar, in December, will be a concert of baroque music performed by graduate students from the Royal College of Music, London. In the New Year we hope to invite the choral quartet **“Sonare”** who are professional singers based in Ely. There will also be a series of lectures starting with the gardener Barry Gayton, known to many for his regular appearances on the Radio Cambridge Gardening Program. And for the un-musical or the non-gardener, how about an evening of cheese tasting! For more details contact Athene Hunt: **huntcam2015@gmail.com**

Collection for Ukraine

On behalf of Saffron Walden Rotary I would like to convey our sincerest thanks to all your readers who gave so generously at our collection in late August for displaced Ukrainians. Their continuing support for essential food, household and personal hygiene items is highly praiseworthy especially as the collection was our fourth held at Abington School. The amount collected completely filled

one large van and over **£1,000** in monetary donations was received. That means with gift aid, over **£1,200** will go to help with buying food and transport costs. All the donations go to **UK-Aid**, a Felsted based charity which sorts the items and arranges a convoy of vehicles to go to Ukraine every three to four months.

Thank you again to everyone.

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

Help your local community – become an on-call firefighter!

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is looking to recruit more on-call firefighters to help local communities by responding to emergencies.

On-call firefighters are a vital part of your fire and rescue service. They respond to a wide range of incidents, from fighting fires and attending road traffic collisions to rescuing people and animals in need. They also respond to medical emergencies.

In addition to responding to emergency incidents, on-call firefighters support their communities by providing a range of safety advice helping people to keep safe in their homes.

Being an on-call firefighter has many benefits. As well as being paid an annual wage and for the time spent at incidents or training, there are also opportunities to develop first aid skills and heavy goods vehicle driving qualifications.

Find out more about becoming an on-call firefighter by visiting our website:

www.cambsfire.gov.uk/oncall

Take Charge and Be Safe!

Over the last year or so, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service has seen an increase in fires involving lithium-ion batteries. E-bikes, e-scooters, mobile phones, laptops, game console controllers,

cordless tools and garden machinery, all use lithium-ion batteries that can heat up and catch fire if not used correctly.

Keep safe by following our top tips for charging safety:

- Charge batteries when you are awake and alert
- Do not charge e-bikes and e-scooters in escape routes
- Only use the battery, charger and cables supplied by the manufacturer
- Before you go to bed, check anything still charging is switched off
- Do not overload sockets.

Lithium-ion batteries can't be disposed of in your regular household recycling.

Doing so can cause fires, either in the refuse vehicles or at the waste processing centres.

- Never put any kind of battery in with your household rubbish or recycling!
- Any kind of battery can cause a fire if not disposed of correctly and safely. This includes vapes or other e-cigarettes as well as standard batteries.
- Fires involving batteries cause damage to refuse vehicles and roads, as well as significant delays to bin collections and road closures.

Find out where you can dispose of batteries by visiting **<https://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/>**.

Balsham Weather August 2024



Photo: Gill Watters

Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

AUGUST:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 31° C on 12th August

Lowest: 20° C on 25th August

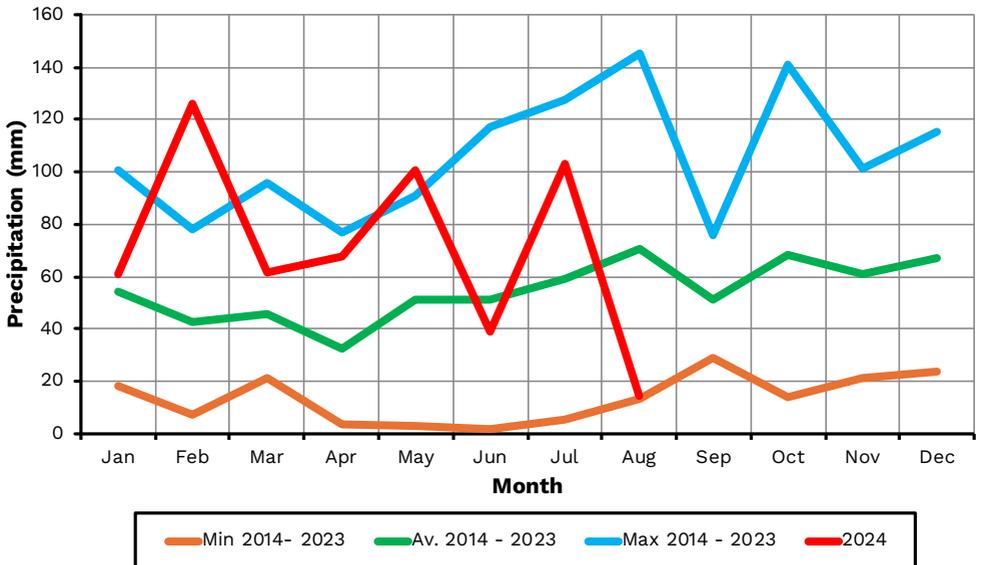
Night time temperatures

Highest: 18° C on 11th August

Lowest: 10° C on 25th August

August Rainfall at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total August 2024 rainfall: 14.5mm / 0.568" occurring on 4 Days





Saturday October 5th

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

The Book Thief (12)



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.

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



Advance Notice - November's Film

Our November film made in 2023 will be the terrifying mystery **A Haunting in Venice (12)**. Hercule Poirot (*Kenneth Branagh*) now retired and living in Venice reluctantly attends a seance where a murdered guest thrusts the detective into a sinister shadowy world.

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