



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 664

SICUT CANIS CUM OSSIS

NOVEMBER 2024



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Website: www.balshamreview.com



Photo: Gill Watters

A late shift.



Photo: Gill Watters

The Hunter's Moon - and a supermoon too.

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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
NB Get your copy in EARLY as the next issue is a double issue (i.e. December/January) so space will be limited.

Copy should be submitted where possible to

editor@balshamreview.com

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

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Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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

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

THANK YOU

David Grigg-Pettit: I would like to thank everyone who sent cards and messages of sympathy following the sad death of my brother, living in Spain.

Many thanks

Sylvia Merry

HARVEST SUPPER

After an absence of five years a Harvest Supper was held in the institute on Friday 27th September. The event was a sell-out. A ploughman's supper and delicious desserts were served. A lovely atmosphere prevailed and we have had many comments that it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

A huge thank you to 'the Team'. - Jo Stinton, Jenny Kerry and Alison Clarke who worked so hard to make the evening a success and also the 'boys' - Stan, Adrian, Andrew and Brian who helped set up, clear away and who did most of the washing up!

Thanks also must go to Nigel Clark for his advertising 'door on the green', Dick Paden for his slide show of

Balsham past and present, Karis Reyes and Sue Arnold for desserts and some cooking and Helen and the Post Office for ticket sales.

Thanks also to those who provided raffle prizes. It's events like these that make you realise what a lovely village we live in when everyone pulls together.

We made **£1036** for church funds to help maintain our beautiful church.

Pam Down

SAVE THE DATE

Balsham Singers Christmas Concert

Saturday 14th December 2024 at 4pm

Tickets are available online at:

**[www.ticketsource.co.uk/
balshamsingers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers)**

Also locally in Balsham and Abington post offices from November 1st. Last year the concert sold out, be sure to secure your seat.

BALSHAM PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

The Trustees will be holding a further meeting later in the year to consider applications for funds,

particularly from the elderly and groups involved with children and young persons within the village of Balsham. Any person or organisation who feels they may be entitled to a

donation, please drop a line to the clerk.

Ian Creek

Clerk to Balsham Parochial Charities

Editorial

Firework night is just around the corner. It is always a worry for those who care for and about animals. There is the need to keep pets indoors. Cats and dogs, as well as rabbits, guinea pigs etc can all be frightened by big bangs and strange, to them, lights, and keeping them indoors with music, TV or radios on can help. There are several fields with horses around the village, as well as sheep and cows, so please be aware of them too. A big concern, and not just for November 5th, is wild animals in bonfires. If you are having a bonfire, and not only on Bonfire Night, firstly do check the wind. If the smoke might blow towards a house, or a neighbour might have washing out, then choose another time. Move the wood and leaves to a new base and stoke up as it burns, so you will see a hedgehog if it is there, and it will give the mice a chance to run too. Best of all would be to go to an organised display. There are some planned but they tend to be in big centres: Cambridge, Ely, Huntingdon, Soham, Cambourne. Find them on line. Or go to the Bell the next evening!

Christmas is approaching fast and so is the **Christmas Tree Festival** in the church. We welcome trees decorated by as many groups as you can get together: families, groups of neighbours, sports teams, Lanes and Closes, hobby groups, and many more. As the trees have to be ordered in advance please make sure you fill in the leaflet and hand it in time. Then you will have a few weeks to get your decorations together ready to delight the children - young and old!

Wow, what pictures we have been sent of the aurora seen earlier in October! We have been able to have several in this magazine, partly because Clive put a request on Facebook to send them in to us. Please send the great photos you have so we have a choice of pictures of local events, strange happenings, or just beautiful sights around our village.

Gill Parry Brown

EDITOR, BALSHAM REVIEW



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



I have been very fortunate this summer to have visited Scotland with its lochs and glens, which was in contrast to the green rolling hills of Gloucestershire where I grew up. My last trip, however, pulled me up short when climate change became a reality. Excess rainfall had caused flooding and affected roads which had to be shut.

As I travelled, changes had to be made to the route, I needed patience to navigate unknown roads, and trust and hope that eventually I would end up at my destination!

It is a bit like our changing season from summer to autumn as the clocks went back at the end of last month. Shorter days and more darkness; yet there are signs of hope in the traditional services we attend every year.

On **All Saints Day** on the **1st of November**, we remember those who have given their lives to God and followed him by living a holy life.

We all know people who have lived their lives in this way but would not necessarily recognise themselves as saints.

All Souls' Day on the **2nd November**, calls to mind those we have loved and lost over the years. Our services of light and hope take place at **Little Abington (4.00pm) & Balsham (6.00pm)**. If you would like to light a candle to remember a special person do come and share with others who offer thanks for that person's life.

We also join together for our **Remembrance Day** services to remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives for us so that we have the freedom which we do today.

In this time of change to the season we are reminded in St. John's Gospel that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. I remember watching the film *The Box of Delights*; when the film reaches the close, the choir of the cathedral enter in darkness, except for a few candles. The choir sing 'O come all ye faithful' as the electric light comes on, which I find incredibly moving. May you experience your own moving moment in the dark days ahead. Go with hope and you shall see the light.

Revd Kathy Bishop

November Services	9:30am	11:00am	PM Services
3rd		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	
10th	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i>	Remembrance Day Services - 10.45am Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i> Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> West Wrating <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	6.00pm Taizé service Weston Colville <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
17th	Holy Communion West Wrating <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>Alistair Collen</i>	6.00pm Evening Prayer Hildersham <i>Alistair Collen</i>
24th	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> 10.00am Creative Church Abington Hub <i>Rosemary Mead/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	4.00pm Evening Prayer Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>

All Souls Services, Saturday 2nd November

Little Abington (4.00pm) Hannah Threlfall

Balsham (6.00pm) Alistair Collen



Remembrancetide – Poppy Appeal 2024

Please give generously in exchange for a poppy once again this year. Your donations are so needed by the Royal British Legion during their annual fundraising around Remembrance Day, in order to continue to provide much needed support for our Forces community of veterans past and present. A fine example of that support is the courses at the Battle Back Centre, a lifeline when ex-servicemen and women are overwhelmed confronting physical and mental challenges, and issues such as homelessness and unemployment.

Owing to the vulnerability of collectors in our spread out villages on evenings that are getting progressively darker earlier, also wetter and windier at this time of year, as well as people not using cash so much, we will not be returning to house-to-house collections. Instead, Poppies and a few sundries, such as wooden crosses and reflective poppies, are available at the three village pubs, The Bell and The Black Bull in Balsham and The Chestnut Tree in

West Wrattling. They are also at Balsham's Post Office and Coffee Shop and at church services. Once again the QR code, to be seen on the collecting tins, can be used for convenience to just 'click and donate'. Gift aid can also be added if wished, even on small donations. The QR code way of donating wasn't that popular in our villages last year, but was an overall success across the country and has been proven to work well for any amount.

The collecting time goes on for two weeks as the Poppy Appeal is one of very few charities officially allowed more than the statutory week. We are asked to stick to those two weeks in fairness to other charity collecting weeks.

Thank you once again for your generosity in supporting our ex-service men and women and their families and also remembering those who died in the two world wars protecting our freedom.

Margaret Johnson

VOLUNTARY POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER

R.A.F. Wrattling Common

Remembrance Sunday, 10th November

There will be a short Service at the Memorial on **Sunday, 10th November 2024 at 12 noon.**

The Memorial is situated at **Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21**

5NR. We hope to be joined by some of the Veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Also, Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of

the Air Training Corps will be on parade. Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. Attendees are invited to lay wreaths or crosses for those they wish to remember, and anyone is welcome to attend.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Dan Heath

for Friends of Wrattling Common

Email:

rafwrattlingcommon@gmail.com

Tel: Mobile: **07736 737 174**

Home: **01440 730 192**

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

Balsham November Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
2nd Saturday	All Souls Service, 6pm	Church
2nd Saturday	Picture House ' A Haunting in Venice ' 7pm	Church Institute
5th Tuesday	Firework Night KEEP PETS INDOORS	
6th Wednesday	Gardening Club, 7.30pm	Pavilion
10th Sunday	Remembrance Service, 10.45am	Church
10th Sunday	Remembrance Service, 12pm	Weston Woods
12th Tuesday	Community Café, 10.00am - 12pm	Church Institute
12th Tuesday	WI, 7.30pm	Pavilion
18th Monday	Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm	Pavilion
19th Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Society, 7.30pm	Linton V Hall
December		
7th Saturday	Christmas Tree light up, 6pm	Green
14th Saturday	Balsham Singers' Concert, 4pm	Church
January		
13th Monday	Plough Monday	Village

Coffee Mornings

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

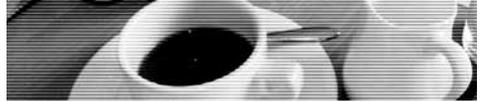
■ **November 12th**

Note: second Tuesday this month:

■ **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 Garden Club

Balsham Gardening Club was given some great ideas for **'The Garden in Winter'** by **Peter Jackson** at its 2nd October meeting. Peter gave us the benefit of his knowledge and expertise built up while at Scotsdales, as a director and plant expert, to cover all types of winter gardening, from bulbs to trees.

Alongside suggestions for particular species and varieties, illustrated with lovely slides, Peter's ideas for gardens of all sizes were to use containers, to remember stem colour and plant shape for winter tracery, and to grow scented plants. The huge range of varieties of daffodils and snowdrops now available will give colour over a longer period, especially with a greenhouse to bring them on in pots. He suggested grasses for unusual winter interest, including evergreen variegated types like carex, and clump-forming

bamboos. He gave us many ideas for shrubs and trees, for colour, scent and shape, including pyracantha, callicarpa, holly, cotoneaster, daphne, winter honeysuckle, hebe and more.

A tip for our limey soil in Balsham is to watch for yellowing caused by magnesium deficiency and lime induced chlorosis, which is iron deficiency. Both can be avoided by special feeds, before symptoms are seen.

The Club's next meeting is its **AGM** on **Wednesday 6th October**, at **7:30** in the Pavilion. **Nancy Stephenson** will cover a wide range of farming issues including compassionate farming and intensive agriculture.

All are welcome, although with falling interest, the Club will be deciding whether it can continue.

Andy Mitchell

The Meadow Primary School

We have had an incredibly exciting and eventful month here at The Meadow Primary School, and we are thrilled to share some fantastic highlights with you. From legendary visits to exciting fundraising activities and the launch of our new website, it's been a busy time!

A Visit from Legendary Drummer Jeff Rich

We were beyond excited to welcome Jeff Rich, the legendary drummer from Status Quo, to The Meadow Primary School! Jeff spent the afternoon with our pupils, sharing his passion for music and giving them a hands-on experience with percussion instruments. Jeff commented, *"I have thoroughly enjoyed my visit to The Meadow Primary School this afternoon. The pupils' high energy and brilliant participation are what make these visits special. If one child is now inspired to learn an instrument, then my work here is done!"*



During this unique session, over 200 percussion instruments were provided for our pupils, allowing

every child to play alongside Jeff as he performed on the drums. It was a truly unforgettable experience that has inspired many of our students to explore music further. We're incredibly grateful to Jeff for sharing his talent and enthusiasm with us!

The Meadow Primary School Website Has Launched!

We are excited to announce the launch of our brand-new website! Designed with our school community in mind, the new site provides dedicated pages for newsletters and news updates, ensuring you stay informed of everything happening at The Meadow.

<https://meadowprimary.org/>

You can now easily access important documents and policies, contact details, and an overview of our curriculum. Additionally, our interactive calendar will keep you updated on upcoming events, so you'll never miss a thing! We invite everyone to explore the website and make the most of these new features.

Meadow Mile Fundraiser – a Huge Success!

On Friday, 11th October, our pupils took part in the Meadow Mile to raise money for our school, and we are thrilled to announce that we have raised over **£1,261.50** so far! The children had a fantastic time dressing up in costumes inspired by the letter "M" – from magicians



to minions, there was no shortage of creativity and fun!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported this fundraiser, from family members to the wider community. Your generosity makes a big difference, and we are incredibly proud of the effort our students put into both their costumes and their commitment to completing the Meadow Mile.

Faye Facer

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

Big Book Sale

A very big thank you to everyone who brought books to the church for the **Big Book Sale** in the Institute. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone, there were many, many more books than I expected. It took several days to sort them all into paper - and hard-backs, and then into authors or subjects, and then to transport them all into the Institute for sale. Many thanks to the people who helped with that. Unfortunately the weather was poor over the weekend, and it seemed to keep people indoors. There were not many who came to buy, and as the prices were so cheap, nothing more than £1, and even some books free, not much money was made, only **£219.48**, but every little helps towards care for our church building. Now the problem is disposal of the remaining books, but that should be

solved before long. I was pleased that some of those who did come said they were pleased to have books for sale in the village. There is swapping too, and there are books in the phone box by the end of Nine Chimney Lane but it would be good to have somewhere larger as well. If you know of a good place please write in to the Review. We could possibly have a shelf in the church, of books to pick up, swap etc. Keep an eye open for news.



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Darren Gunn



Photo: Jools Scotland



Photo: Karen Atkinson



Photo: Jools Scotland



Photo: Gillian Barrett



Photo: Liam Brennan



Photo: Tracy James



Photo: Tony Day



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Alex Gunn



Photo: Alex Gunn



Photo: Kath Starr



Photo: Karen Atkinson



Photo: Darren Gunn



Photo: Lesley Bennett

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH | BALSHAM

Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 7th - Sunday 8th December

Saturday: 11.30am - 5.00pm

Sunday: 12.30pm - 5.00pm

(Church service on Sunday 8th, 11.00am - 12.00 noon)

Entrance: Adults £2.00 Children under 18 FREE!

❄️ Christmas Craft Stall

❄️ Christmas Raffle

❄️ Bring & Buy 'Recycled' Christmas Decorations

❄️ Tombola (Saturday only)

❄️ Mulled Wine & Minced Pies

❄️ Children's Activity -

'making a Christingle craft'

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2024 ENTRY FORM

I/We would like to support the Balsham Christmas Tree Festival. Please indicate how you would like to support us.

I/We would like to buy a tree (*supplied with stand and lights*) - **£25.00**

I/We would like to Sponsor/Donate **£** (*Fill in amount*)

Please pay by Cash, Cheques or BACS. Cheques should be made payable to **Balsham PCC**

BACS payments: Sort Code 30-91-56 | Account number 00040354

(Please use the ref CTF and your surname if paying this way)

Title of Tree for the Programme:

Entered by (Organisation/Individual):

Address

Tel:

Email:

Trees will be ready for decoration from 9.00am on Friday 6th December until 7.00pm that day. They will be supplied with a stand and lights which we will need to keep after the Festival, but you are welcome to take your tree.

Please return your completed form to: Liz De'ath, 12 The Rookery, Balsham
or email: maisonportman16@gmail.com before **Saturday 16th November**.



Photo: Gill Watters

An autumnal shed at the allotments.



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Heron



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Dunnock



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Jay

Events

BUTTERCUPS PRE-SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

SAT. 23rd NOVEMBER, 11am - 3pm

AT THE BALSHAM CHURCH INSTITUTE & CRICKET PAVILION



ENTRANCE:
ADULTS: £10
CHILDREN: 50p

CRAFT STALLS & LOCAL BUSINESSES INCLUDING:
Handmade Jewellery | Pottery | Resin Christmas Decorations | Wood Turning (Pens, Decorations & Others) | Engraved Items & MORE!

PLUS: Cakes | Preloved Toys | Chocolate Tombola | Bottle Tombola | Guess The Name Of The Elf | RAFFLE With Prizes Including:
2x Panto Tickets, Audley End Miniature Railway Voucher, The Old Butchers Voucher, Dog & Duck Voucher, 5 Class Yoga Pass at The Balanced Space, You Beauty Voucher & MORE!

LINTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TUESDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2024



Some Hundred Parish Churches
Presented by Ken McDonald

LINTON VILLAGE HALL
COLES LANE - 7.30 p.m.

Refreshments and Raffle

Visitors and new members always welcome

This is My Theatre presents

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

This Christmas audiences are invited to celebrate the festive season as critically acclaimed theatre company **This is My Theatre** brings Charles Dickens' classic tale **A Christmas Carol** to life in a stunning one-act adaption.

Packed with charm, cheer and, of course, plenty of carols, our production is sure to spread joy and warm hearts this Christmas!



Thursday
12th December
7.00 pm
at
St Mary's,
Weston Colville

THIS MY THEATRE

More information:
www.thisismytheatre.com
info@thisismytheatre.com
07732 253311



A BAROQUE CELEBRATION

with the
Azur Ensemble

Holy Trinity Church Hildersham
Monday 9th December at 7.30pm

Azur Ensemble are graduates from the Royal College of Music, Historic Performance Faculty under the guidance of Professor Ashley Solomon.

Their program will include music by JS Bach, Telemann, Vivaldi, Scarlatti and Handel and will have harpsichord accompaniment.

Tickets at £15 are available from

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-baroque-celebration-tickets-1045008517607?aff=oddtcreator>

or at the door.

For more details contact Athene Hunt: huntcam2015@gmail.com

Cambs - East India 2024



Thank you to everyone who supported me for my trip to India this year with Girl Guiding, your contributions meant that I could go on a trip of a lifetime to Sangam, the World Centre for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and have the opportunity to explore Indian culture. Whilst I was there I met other groups from the UK and local girl guides from India who taught us Indian dancing, henna art, songs and games. They also taught us words in their local language (Hindi and Marathi).

We flew via Dubai to Mumbai, where we visited an open-air laundromat, and the Churchgate Railway Station where we witnessed a traditional yet unique lunchbox delivery system of Dabbawala, exclusive to Mumbai city. We then visited the Gateway of India, on the waterfront of Mumbai Harbour, and the UNESCO world heritage site Victoria Terminus Train Station, famed location for the film

'Slumdog Millionaire'. We then travelled to Pune by bus.

Sangam was a lovely place to spend a week experiencing Indian culture, and meeting new people was a really good opportunity. We took a rickshaw ride, which was really good fun, to a sari shop. We each chose some fabric that we liked for the price we wanted to pay. Then in the afternoon we got them tailored for them to be brought back in a few days and so we could wear them for Indian culture day.

For 2 days we all went to local schools and community action projects, I got to go to Deep Griha Society, an independent charitable organisation, where we spent time with children age 7-8 and 12-13. We taught them how to make paper aeroplanes and a few English games including the hokey-cokey which both age groups enjoyed very much. We found out that the girls don't have to pay as much for their education as the boys to encourage parents to send their daughters to school, so they have a chance using skills they've learnt at a career in the future.

<https://deepgriha.org>

Whilst we were at Sangam we also spent time with the local guides. They performed Indian dances and we did some songs and games with them and on the last day was Independence Day for India so they did a march. Experiencing the welcome ceremony was really cool

being involved in lighting candles. We were then each individually given a blessing and some flowers to wear and some sugar and coconut to eat, while also given a bindi (powder version of the red and orange dot on your forehead). Having had a really busy week at

Sangam we then had to say our goodbyes, before taking rickshaw rides with all our luggage to Pune airport where we flew Delhi. We then toured around Delhi, Agra & Jaipur.

More next month!!

Ella Tabecki

The Black Bull



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

Thank you to all who joined us for our **Folk Music Night** and **Tasting Menu "Lite"** last month – your support is really appreciated.

More Events coming up:

Pint of Music – our cycle touring busker, **Tony Black**, returns:

Steak & Seafood on the Specials Board, **Friday 8th November**

Tony toured Britain over the summer, busking his way south from top to bottom, and we snapped him up for a Pint of Music on his way through. He went down a storm and has kindly agreed to revisit this month. Rob will be loading up the steaks, scallops, swordfish ... so come and join the throng.

Pint of Music –
Folk Night, Pie Board on Specials

Wednesday 20th November

Our Irish/Folk friends are back again – now a regular monthly event. The Folk team are really settling in and are absolutely the real thing – *“hard to find even in Ireland”* as was overheard at the bar from someone who had travelled ¾ hour for the event.

Those organising **Christmas gatherings** might also want to get their crackers down early to snap up the key dates and times. Christmas Day is now officially full, subject to any cancellations, but do get in touch for the waiting list if of interest as we often lose one early booked table.

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

Saturday 9th/Sunday 10th Nov.

Saturday 30th Nov./Sunday 1st Dec.

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

During winter services such as GP surgeries and hospitals experience increased patient demand, mainly due to cold weather and peaks of common infections and ailments.

Between us all, we can help alleviate some of the demand by using alternative health services for those more minor conditions.

A number of pharmacies offer an extended service called Community Pharmacy Consultation Service (CPCS), where they can review and treat a number of minor illnesses and ailments. You can contact your local pharmacy directly or our reception teams can arrange a referral for you. If you are calling us with a minor illness or ailment, our reception teams may also signpost you to CPCS in the first instance.

There are many conditions covered by CPCS, including (but not limited to) generalised pain and swelling, sore throats, bites and stings, headaches, constipation and diarrhoea, colds and flu, mouth ulcers, tiredness, and vomiting.

Additionally, Pharmacists are able to offer treatment and prescribe medication for some conditions without you needing to see your GP. This is called **Pharmacy First**.

Conditions that can be treated and prescribed for include:

- Earache (*aged 1 to 17 years*)

- Impetigo (*aged 1 year and over*)
- Infected insect bites (*aged 1 year and over*)
- Shingles (*aged 18 and over*)
- Sinusitis (*aged 12 years and over*)
- Sore throat (*aged 5 years and over*)
- Urinary tract infections or UTI's (*women aged 16 to 64 years*)

If you contact us with an eye problem, our reception teams may signpost you to the **Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS)**. MECS is made up of a team of eye specialists who treat non-emergency eye conditions that do not need hospital attention. Conditions covered include acute red eyes, acute irritated or inflamed eyes, sticky discharge or acute watery eyes, in-growing eyelashes, foreign bodies in the eye and recently occurring flashes or floaters.

If you require any further information about any of the above services please do not hesitate to speak to your local pharmacy, our reception teams or email us on cpicb.

grantapatientservices@nhs.net

We wish you all a healthy and safe November.

Sandra East

GRANTA PATIENT SERVICES

cpicb.grantapatientservices@nhs.net

Balsham Plough Monday Club

SAVE THE DATES

Balsham Christmas Tree

The Balsham Ploughmen will once again be providing the Balsham Village Christmas Tree this year. The lighting up event will take place on Saturday 7th December starting at 6pm at the newly refurbished Prince's Memorial shelter (band stand!). Plans are still being formulated but there certainly will be carol singing and food as well as the ubiquitous mulled wine and mince pies. Please look for further information that will be posted around the village over the coming weeks.

Plough Monday 2025

Plough Monday 2025 will take place on Monday 13th January 2025. You'll be able to read a potted history of Plough Monday in the next Balsham Review but, for now and in brief, Plough Monday occurs every year in early January. Members of the Balsham Plough Monday Club

(BPMC) will be raising money for local good causes by dragging an ancient plough around the village. Since 1972, the BPMC have raised well over £75,000 for local causes. During 2024 the BPMC provided funding for the wide range of great causes listed below:

- Cambridge Cancer Help Centre
- Buttercups
- OAP lunches at The Bell
- Good Neighbours Scheme
- Balsham Feast
- Balsham Review
- A contribution towards the refurbishment of the Prince's Memorial

The full Plough Monday itinerary will be published soon so please save the date in your diaries and perhaps come and join us for a drink on January 13th 2025.

Terry O'Neill

Bin Collections November/December

NB The **green bin collection** on **4th December** is the last collection before **January** (*collections of green bins will switch from their usual fortnightly collection pattern to monthly collections between 19 December until 5 March*).

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday November 6 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday November 13 TH	✓		
Wednesday November 20 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday November 27 TH	✓		
Wednesday December 4 TH		✓	✓

Balsham Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting took place on 21st October, 2024 in Balsham Pavilion

Allotments: The PC does have some allotments available to rent. Please email **balshamallotments@balsham.net** if interested. The first allotment committee meeting will take place on 30th October, if you are interested in joining the allotment committee please email the above email address.

Highways issues:

West Wickham Road: CCC have informed the PC that jetting work will take place on **29th October**. The PC have asked Highways to fill the dreadful potholes in the road when it is closed.

Drains: The blocked drains in the High Street will be reported to Highways.

School Lane: The PC have chased up Highways to maintain School Lane for pedestrian use.

Planning for Discussion:

Site address: 39 High St, Balsham
Proposal: T001 Cherry Plum – remove.

Reference: 24/1134/TTCA

PC Decision: No objections. The PC will include the comments that the hedge needs facing back in Woodhall Lane and the horse chestnut tree needs to be cut back.

Site address: 3 Field End, Balsham

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for loft conversion

Reference: 24/03571/CL2PD

PC Decision: No objections.

Decisions:

Site address: 19 Linton Rd, Balsham

Proposal: Repairs to existing render and timber framing.

Reference: 24/02959/LBC

SCDC Decision: Granted

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

Decision: Granted

Site address: 67 High St, Balsham

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

SCDC Decision: Granted

Shared Ownership House for Sale in Hay Close:

A two-bedroom home is for sale in Hay Close. £ 180,950 leasehold for a 77% share plus rent of £ 112.60 pcm.

Please contact Cheffins, 27a High Street, Haverhill. Tel: **01440 707076**.

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

18th November, 2024 at 7.30 pm
in **Balsham Pavilion**.

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

Balsham Mothers' Union

Balsham Mothers' Union, which was founded in 1897, still meets regularly although there are now only 10 members - the youngest of whom is 80 and the oldest 92! However I think we are a good 'praying' group. We have had some interesting speakers this year and in October the Secretary of the Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union talked about crosses of the world and she has a wonderful collection of which she brought many to show us.

The Neales always have us to a meeting in their garden (weather permitting) and this year Peter had written a quiz for us - all the questions relating to Balsham.

The Ely MU is linked with five overseas dioceses four in Africa

and one in India and of course the Ely Diocese. All these Dioceses are prayed for every year from 10 - 12 December throughout the world. Balsham has an informal meeting when news is shared about the linked Dioceses. There are four branches in the Granta Deanery (Balsham, Linton, Sawston and Stapleford) and we meet up for an annual Advent Carol service - this year in Linton followed by a Bring and Share Lunch.

There are four million members of the Mothers' Union in over 80 countries.

Joanna Sanders

BRANCH LEADER & SECRETARY

Balsham Football Club

RESULTS

DATE	HOME	AWAY	SCORE	RES	Comp
14 Sept	Fulbourn Institute	Balsham	8-0	L	L
21 Sept	Linton Granta Res	Balsham	0-1	W	L
28 Sept	Girton Utd	Balsham	1-1	D	L
5 Oct	Balsham	Clare Town	4-6	L	L
12 Oct	Sawston Utd Res	Balsham	5-0	L	Cup

FIXTURES

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	COMP
2 Nov 3pm	Thaxted Rangers Res	Balsham	Saffron Walden	League
9 Nov 2pm	Balsham	Cambourne Town	Balsham Rec.	League
16 Nov 2pm	Balsham	Comberton Utd A	Balsham Rec.	League
23 Nov 2pm	Sawston Utd Res	Balsham	Spicers	League
30 Nov 2pm	Balsham	Whittlesford Utd	Balsham Rec.	League
7 Dec 2pm	Guilden Morden	Balsham	Guilden Morden Rec.	League
14 Dec 2pm	Balsham	Sawston Utd Res	Balsham Rec.	League

District & County Councillor's Report

October 2024

Police

Community Engagement Panel

Cambridgeshire Police hold quarterly public forums where they give updates on the service in South Cambs as well as take questions from the public. The next one is to be held online on **November 27th at 7pm**. To register for the event, follow this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-cambridgeshire-community-engagement-meeting-november-2024-tickets-772923213137?aff=oddtcreator>

Cost of Living Support

The District Council has a raft of Cost-of-Living support packages available for those that need them. These range from free electric blankets to mobile food hubs to advice on what support can be claimed. Around 25% of benefits go unclaimed, so please do check, or ask those in need to check, if they are owed anything that they haven't been claiming.

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support>

Cambridge 2050

For those keeping an eye on the news, you may recall that the former housing minister, Michael Gove, had announced that they saw Cambridge

as an area of the country for growth and estimated that they'd like to build an additional 250,000 houses in the area, to encourage players in the science and tech industry to relocate here. Since the new government has come in our local authorities and MPs have been asking if they have similar ambitions for the area. We recently had a visit from the new minister, Matthew Pennycook, who said that the new government still saw Cambridge as an area for growth but have so far refused to put a number on this. We imagine it will likely be closer to the 100,000-150,000 mark, which is actually almost in line with the current plan for the area – so we're hoping we won't see large swathes of our countryside unexpectedly developed!

Contact Information

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Pippa Heylings

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
pippa.heylings.mp@parliament.uk

The Bell



The Bell Inn is welcoming and cosy, with open fires, home cooked food, and great beer, to brighten

up the winter months.

Diary for November:

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.

Friday 1st - Halloween Celebration, with live music from pub favourite **Luci Collins**. If you want to dress up, there will be a prize for best costume.

Wednesday 6th - Firework Night
Short but spectacular firework display at 8pm. Fire pit will be lit from 7pm. Please keep your pets safe indoors, to minimise any stress.

Wednesday 13th - Bingo - Eyes down at 8pm. Depending on

attendance, this may be the last bingo until spring, as numbers have been low in recent months.

Tuesday 26th - Charity Quiz
8pm. All welcome.

Wednesday 27th - Lunch Club
bookings and pre orders only.

We are continuing our **Wednesday Evening Deal - 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.

Bookings are now being taken for our **Christmas Party Menu**, which can found on our Facebook page, or paper copy available in the pub.

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

Photo: Larry Davies



Linton & District Historical Society

At our October meeting we enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining evening when Susan Grossey, who spent a 'life in crime' after graduating from Cambridge University, and worked 25 years advising financial institutions and others on how to spot criminal money; this led onto a highly successful new career as an author based on this fascinating subject.

After briefly telling us about the books, Susan asked for stories and experiences from the audience; this did not disappoint and led to an extremely enjoyable evening. Those unable to attend but who would

like to find out more can contact Susan on: www.susangrossey.com

Next meeting on **Tuesday 19th November 2024**

Ken McDonald

'The Hundred Parishes Society'

A peek in some 'Hundred' Parish Churches.

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**

Balsham WI

At our October meeting, **Dr Gwenda Kyd** delivered her talk on **'Incredible edible and drinkable plants'**. We learnt about some of the chemical compounds in various fruits and vegetables we eat, and how they are good for us. And often better in conjunction with others! We also heard how some of the popular old wife's tales about some common vegetables came into being, as well as some historical facts about them. The talk was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Visitors are always welcome – why not come and try us out? Hopefully we can convince you to join us. We

are a friendly bunch and welcome anyone over 18 who is 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)

Our next meeting will take place on **12th November**. Our speaker will be **Susan Widlake** of **Millhouse Millinery** who will be giving a talk and demonstration.

Debbie Mower

Linton Village College

Our Open Evening at the end of September was a huge success, despite the torrential rain. It was a great opportunity to showcase the school to prospective Year 6 families. I was impressed by how many LVC students volunteered to be helpers and tour guides on the evening and by the passion and personal insights shared by our student leaders during the presentations.



Our Head Student, Kuba, also demonstrated great independence and initiative through his successful application to the Henry Morris Memorial Trust Fund. Kuba was fortunate to receive funding to embark on a trip to the Isle of Man. Having always been interested in the Celtic history of the Isle, Kuba used the trip as an opportunity to find out more about the island's politics, history and geography. As part of this project, Kuba met with His Excellency the Lieutenant

Governor Sir John Lorimer at Government House and discussed with him various topics, including the role of the Lieutenant Governor, Crown Dependencies and Manx Culture. Kuba also met virtually with the Chief Minister and spoke with him about education on the island. Kuba, who has future aspirations in International Diplomacy, was awarded the "Lieutenant's Governor's Award for Outstanding Effort and Dedication to Duty" for his project and interview.



Other successes include our MFL trips to Spain and France this month. These trips are a great opportunity for our GCSE language students to experience both speaking and the culture of the language they have chosen to study. The students in Spain were also lucky enough to experience some glorious Autumn sunshine.

Helena Marsh

PRINCIPAL, LVC

Community Stories: Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

November, December 2024 & January 2025

Letters from Santa

In December, Arthur Bear, from Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, is teaming up with the North Pole, to bring the magic of Christmas to Cambridgeshire. For a small donation, Santa will send a personalised letter, directly to the special little people in your life.

Not only will your little ones experience the magic of Christmas, but your generous contribution will directly support patients and their loved ones. Visit arhc.org.uk/santa to order your letter from Santa and remember to **register before 8th December 2024** to make sure your letter arrives on time.

Remembering loved ones: Light up a Life in Cambridge and Wisbech

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity welcomes you to join them for this year's **Light up a Life** event in **Cambridge** on **Sunday 1 December 2024**, or in **Wisbech** on **Sunday 8 December 2024**; at St Peter & St Paul's Church.

Light up a Life is a short service featuring carols, poetry, and music, offering you a moment to pause and reflect on the love and memories you have of those who have died but who still live on in your heart

and mind.

Both events are free to join, and everyone is welcome, whether you have or haven't received care from the Charity and is for people practising all faiths or no faith. For more information, visit:

arhc.org.uk/lual

Want your Christmas Tree collected in January?

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme is back and bigger than ever with new postcodes added for 2025!

In partnership with Just Helping, their teams of volunteers will be collecting used Christmas trees from CB1-CB5, CB21-CB24, CB25, SG8 and SG19 from 9-11 January 2025. To register your tree (and avoid needles in your car) visit arhc.org.uk/tree-recycling Registrations will open in mid-November and will close 5 January 2025.

Are you able to support the scheme this year?

If you have a van or are willing to hire a van and you can spare a few hours to drive and collect trees, the Charity would love to hear from you! Please email

christmastrees@arhc.org.uk or call **01223 675888**.

Balsham Weather September 2024



Photo: Tony Day

Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

SEPTEMBER:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 20° C on 6th September

Lowest: 12° C on 22nd September

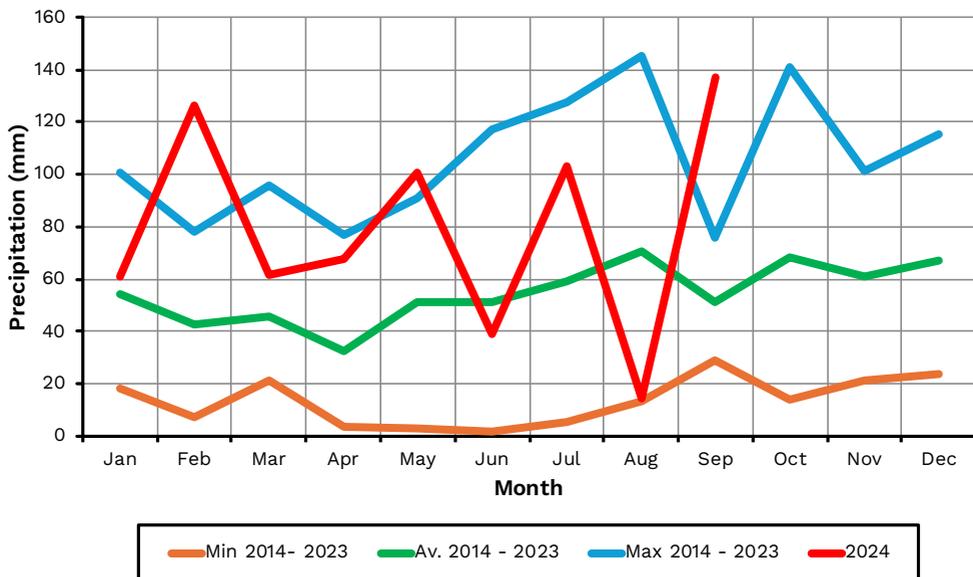
Night time temperatures

Highest: 12° C on 4th September

Lowest: 4° C on 23rd September

September Rainfall at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total September 2024 rainfall: 137mm / 5.39"





Saturday November 2nd

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

A Haunting in Venice (12)



Saturday 2nd November we will screen 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.

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

Advance Notice - December's Film



On **Saturday 7th of December** we will show the classic Christmas film **Home Alone (PG)**. The McCallisters are preparing for a vacation in Paris but the youngest in the family, Kevin gets into a scuffle with his older brother Buzz and is sent to his room on the third floor. Next morning the family rushes to make it to the airport on time and completely forget Kevin!

Join us for our Picture House Christmas Celebration with FREE drinks and nibbles for all before this classic film to kick off your Christmas.

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