



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 665

DEC/JANUARY 2024/5

Merry Christmas!



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Photo: Kathy Day



Photo: Kathy Day



Photo: Dave Arnold



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Kathy Day

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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:

FRIDAY January 17TH 2025

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**

Editorial

***The Balsham Review Team
wish all our readers,
deliverers and advertisers a
very Happy Christmas and a
Good New Year!***

This is a busy time for Balsham. Whether villagers are in favour of green ways of making electricity, such as wind or solar, or not, the prospect of having a large solar farm in both our village, and those neighbouring us, means we need to consider whether we are pro or anti. The Kingsway Solar Community Action Group want you to share your views with them and the rest of the village (see *page 14 and the inserted survey*). It is important that all considerations are covered, so that a balanced judgement can be made, and the best outcome for the village results. The Parish Council also would like to hear your views, so there are two surveys to fill in as soon as possible.

Weather! We have had photos sent in this month with the extremes. How can we tell what is happening next, and what to wear. Snow in November, then 20 degrees warmer within 24 hours, and finally incredibly strong winds after more of the heavy rain we had again and again earlier in the year. What a three days! By the way 'what three words' really does work when finding an

address. And now the emergency services are using it too to get to places quickly. Make sure you know your 'three words' address.

The County and District Councillors' newsletter this month (*page 26*) has two items of particular interest to some of us living in the village: firstly, news of a consultation about a residents' parking scheme. This could perhaps aid those who live in roads where parking obstructs their homes and driveways at certain times, and secondly, quite timely, the gritting season has arrived and the County Council is asking for volunteers to scatter grit where necessary. If you feel you could help please contact them. There are some places in the village where the footways are quite treacherous, and I believe the council will provide the grit if there are willing helpers to spread it.

Christmas is coming, very fast. Today was the **Buttercups Christmas Fayre**, and shortly the **Christmas Tree Festival** will be here, I've heard about some exciting decorative ideas, and also the Ploughmen will be hosting the **lighting of the village Christmas tree**; then comes the **Balsham Singers Christmas Concert**, and both schools have concerts and plays to celebrate the season. We will all be ready for a rest when Christmas Day arrives, but that is merely the start of the twelve days

before the **Plough Sunday** blessing of the plough and **Plough Monday** pulling the plough around the village. Do make sure you have all the tickets necessary for events needing them, and especially the Ploughmen's raffle where the ticket comes to your door, but has to be handed in. The Post Office, as usual,

are exceptionally helpful with selling or collecting tickets for most events, and the pubs and café join in too.

Best wishes to you all

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

THANK YOU

Kathryn, Clare and I would like to thank everyone for their kindness, help, support, messages and cards following Mike's death in October. Thank you

Margaret Starr

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 feel they may be entitled to a donation, please drop a line to the clerk.

Ian Creek

CLERK TO BALSHAM PAROCHIAL CHARITIES
6 TRINITY CLOSE, BALSHAM. CB21 4DW

SAVE THE DATE

Balsham Singers

Christmas Concert

takes place in

Holy Trinity Church Balsham at

4pm on Sat 14th December.

Tickets have been selling fast. Online ticket sales have been very brisk at <http://ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers> They are also available Balsham and Abington Post offices. It looks like tickets may not be available on the door so we advise you to buy your ticket now.

Wishing a Happy Christmas to all our loyal supporters and advertisers.

Jo Stinton

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

Here we are, in the festive season, looking ahead to Christmas but also with the invitation to savour Advent. I love Advent time. I know it



may seem anachronistic in our modern world, where Christmas trees go up at the beginning of December and shops get in the Christmas swing of things long before that. But I think it still has much to offer. Both to those who follow the ‘church year’ and for those who may feel they are on edge of the Christian faith, looking in to see what they can see.

Advent indeed may offer us a pause, an opportunity to step back from the hustle and bustle of the lead up to Christmas. To recover some of the mystery and deeper excitement which Christmas ought to have, and to ponder the life-changing message conveyed by these simple words: that Jesus is “Emmanuel, which means, ‘God is with us’”. Who is greeted at his birth, as Luke’s gospel says, as “Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord”.

We may enjoy different ways of marking the special time of Advent; perhaps through the doors on an Advent calendar or through lighting an Advent candle. I like to do this on each day of Advent and enjoy some time just quietly looking at

the flickering flame. The symbolism of lighting a candle may also be seen through our Advent wreaths. Traditionally, each Sunday in December a candle on

the wreath is lit as important Biblical figures are commemorated, because they helped to prepare the world and us for the birth of the Christ child.

These kinds of Advent customs take for granted that we should walk slowly and intentionally towards Christmas, really noticing our surroundings, and not just rush into it headlong. They also remind us of the art of waiting. A waiting that rests not in frustration or frenzied anticipation but in stillness; we may savour the future whilst still embracing the present.

So, as we hopefully enjoy the build up to Christmas, Advent may offer meaning in the waiting as we prepare to hear anew the good news about Jesus being proclaimed in the stillness and joy of our Advent and Christmas celebrations. Good news which may speak to each one of us, whatever our circumstances. Good news worth responding to, celebrating and sharing at this time of year and in all the times and seasons of our lives.

Revd Iain McColl

December Services	9:30am	11:00am	PM Services
1st <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Henry Wilson (REACH)</i>	
8th <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Morning Worship Great Abington <i>Alistair Collen</i> Morning Worship Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Café Church Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	4.00pm Christingle Songs of Praise West Wrattling <i>John & Scilla Harvey</i> 6.00pm Taizé service Weston Colville <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
15th <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion Little Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl / Alastair France</i> Carol Service West Wrattling <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	4.00pm Christingle Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> 6.00pm Evening Prayer Hildersham <i>Alistair Collen</i>
22nd <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> 10.00am Christingle Creative Church Abington Hub <i>Rosemary Mead/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>		3.00pm Carol Service Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> 4.00pm Carol Service Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> 6.30pm Carol Service Great Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
24th <i>Christmas Eve (Tuesday)</i>		10.30am Christmas Eve Crib Service Little Abington <i>Rosemary Mead/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Carol Services with Blessing of the Crib 4.00pm West Wrattling <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> 6.00pm West Wickham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>

December Services	9:30am	11:00am	PM Services
24th <i>Christmas Eve (continued)</i>			Carols and Christingle Service 4.00pm Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Midnight Mass 11.30pm Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Little Abington <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>
25th <i>Christmas Day</i>	Christmas Day Communion West Wrattling <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Christmas Day Morning Worship Great Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Christmas Day Communion Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Christmas Day Morning Worship Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	
29th <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i>		United Service of Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl / Steven Wheeler</i>	

January Services		Balsham 11.00am	
5th United Service with Holy Communion <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	12th Plough Sunday Service <i>Bishop Dagmar/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	19th Morning Worship <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	26th Holy Communion <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>



Balsham December/January Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
December		
4th Wednesday	Gardening Club Christmas Party 7.30pm	Pavilion
7th Saturday	Christmas Tree Festival 11.30—5.00pm	Church
7th Saturday	Lighting Christmas Tree 5.45pm	Green
7th Saturday	Picture House, Home Alone 7pm	Church institute
8th Sunday	Christmas Tree Festival 12.30—5.00pm	Church
10th Tuesday	WI 7.30pm	Pavilion
12th Thursday	Last day Kingsway forms in	
14th Saturday	Balsham Singers, Christmas Concert 4pm	Church
15th Sunday	Christingle 4pm	Church
17th Tuesday	Community Café 10--12	Church Institute
17th Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Society 7.30pm	Linton Village Hall
22nd Sunday	Carol Service 4pm	Church
24th Tuesday	Midnight Mass 11.30pm	Church
January		
4th Saturday	Picture House, The Greatest Showman 7pm	Church institute
12th Sunday	Blessing the Plough, 11am	Church
13th Monday	Plough Monday start 4.30pm Samworth Close	Village
14th Tuesday	Community Café 10--12	Church Institute
20th Monday	Parish Council 7.30pm	Pavilion
21st Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Society 7.30pm	Linton Village Hall

Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

The Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme held its Annual Meeting on the 12th November. We have now been operating for 5 years. Some figures from the last 12 months:

- **Number of transport trips:** 246
- **Drivers:** 14
- **Miles driven:** 6058
- **Residents helped:** More than 40
- **Prescription Run** each day Monday to Friday
- **Community Café** once a month for up to 25 residents.

Other help given to residents includes some financial support, one-to-one support and shopping. We have helped people with paperwork including Attendance Allowance, Lasting Power of Attorney and applications for housing.

Developments this year

- **Community Lunch** once a month in the Church Institute continues successfully. Members of the village church continue to do the catering. Up to 50 people have been attending. If you would like

to come, please contact us.

- A **minibus** now runs to Haverhill shops on Wednesday mornings. This is principally for residents who would struggle on a public service bus. Thanks to Helen Edwards for driving the minibus which will drop residents and their shopping at their home. It does not as yet cover the cost of hiring but numbers are increasing.

Future Community Café dates:

Tuesdays 10:00 to 12:00 in the Balsham Church Institute:

December 17th 2024

January 14th 2025

February 11th 2025

March 11th 2025

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have helped this year. If you need help, or would like to offer help to others, contact us on:

balshamgns@gmail.com

07508 430057

Steve Jordan

COORDINATOR, BGNS



The Meadow Primary School

As the weather cools and the year begins to wind down, November has been a time for our school to focus on important causes.

School Community Raises Funds

This **Remembrance Day**, children and staff at The Meadow gathered around a giant poppy, holding their pennies as a symbol of respect for those who sacrificed their lives in service. After the two-minute silence, each child placed their donation on the poppy, understanding that these coins were a powerful gesture of remembrance and honour.



In addition to this act of remembrance, the school also took the opportunity to raise money for Children in Need. Pupils were invited to come to school dressed in patterns - spots, stripes, leopard print, and more - and bring a donation. We were delighted to raise over **£170** for this important cause.

Building our faith

As part of our ongoing commitment

to celebrating the diverse cultures and faiths within our school community, we would like to invite parents, guardians, and members of the Balsham village community to join us. If you come from a different religious or cultural background, we'd love for you to share a child-friendly story or talk about a special celebration that's meaningful to you. Whether it's a beloved tale passed down through generations or a special festival that holds deep meaning for your family, we believe that sharing these stories and experiences can greatly enrich our children's understanding of the world around them. Not only do we aim to honour our diverse community, but we also want to foster a spirit of inclusivity and respect for each other's beliefs.

If you would like to be included, please get in touch by contacting Mrs Anderson, RE subject lead, at **kestrel@meadowprimary.org**

Additionally, if you have any skills or knowledge, you think would be valuable to share with the children at our school, we'd love to hear from you! We're always looking to grow our network of enthusiastic and supportive volunteers to enrich the learning experiences of our students.

Faye Facer

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

Balsham Garden Club

Balsham Gardening Club enjoyed a stimulating talk on 7th November by Clive Boase of local charity **Climate Change Gardening**. The expected changes will be challenging for gardeners, especially hot droughty summers, unpredictable late frosts or early snow and intense rain.

Clive gave us ideas for adapting to and softening the changes, for example planting dry gardens and shade trees, storing more rainwater, growing perennials instead of annuals, less mowing of lawns, and ponds for wildlife. We can reduce carbon emissions by using electric tools and peat free compost, and we can capture carbon in the soil by less digging and more mulching.

Clive explained that individual actions do matter, with domestic gardens the third largest UK land use and 25 million of us enjoying gardening. He finished with a check list of achievable actions and pointing

us towards the **climatechangegardening.org** website for more ideas.

At the AGM, the Club reluctantly decided to close at the end of December. Our membership has fallen to a low level and it is difficult to find committee members. We decided to donate the remaining club funds to local charities. For the Club's cups, we agreed as a starting point, to ask if the original donors' families would like them. The committee hold the trophies at present and have been able to establish the origin of them.

Our **4th December** and final meeting will be for Christmas food and drink, preceded by a talk from **John Gibson** on *'The history of medicinal plants at the Papworth TB hospital'*.

Andy Mitchell



Kingsway Solar Community Action Group



Have Your Say on the Kingsway Solar Farm Proposal!

With the Kingsway public consultation events now complete, it's time for you to share your views. This feedback is your best opportunity to influence the solar farm's design, ensuring that if it moves forward, its impact on our community is minimised.

About the Kingsway Solar Farm

Kingsway Solar is set to be one of Europe's largest solar farms and battery storage systems (BESS), spanning 3,700 acres—an area larger than Heathrow Airport. While recognizing that solar energy is important in meeting climate targets, it's essential that a project of this scale is carefully designed to reduce its impact on the local community, land use, jobs, biodiversity, and overall quality of life.

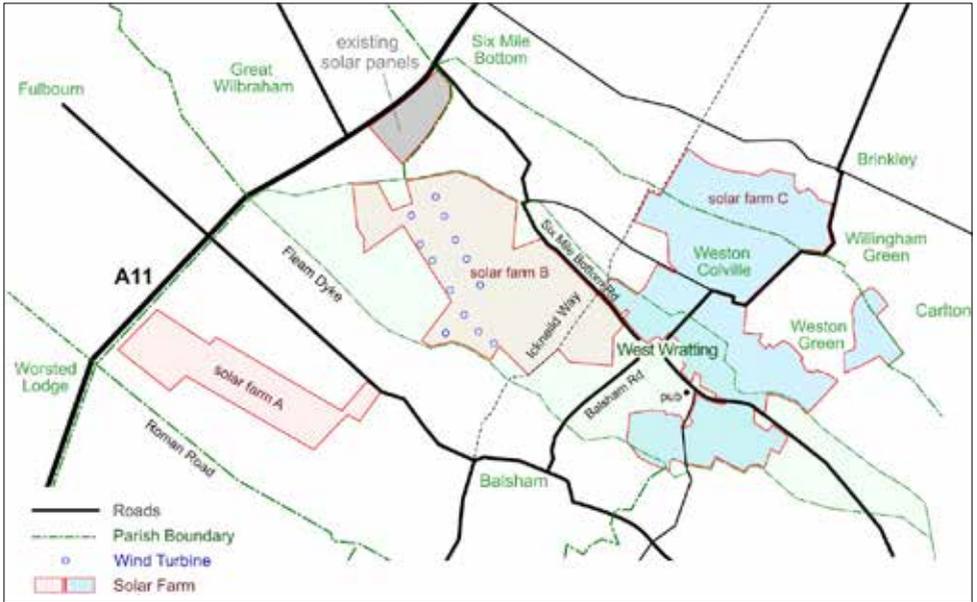
Kingsway Solar affects Balsham, West Wrating, Weston Colville, Willingham Green, Carlton and surrounding villages. In addition, the proposal includes an option to run overhead wires on pylons through parts of Great Wilbraham parish.

About KSCA

Kingsway Solar Community Action (KSCA) is a local group of people, whose aim is to provide clear and objective information to help you have your say. We are encouraging Kingsway to prioritise your feedback and address our concerns.

How to give feedback

You can submit your feedback online or using one of the methods detailed in Kingsway's leaflet or write directly to **FREEPOST DOWNING KINGSWAY**. Share your overall thoughts on the solar farm, but make sure to include specific



The latest map of the proposed solar farm.

suggestions for the designs, e.g. mention a road, footpath or specific problem to be addressed.

Download the **Consultation Feedback Form** at:

<https://kingswaysolar.participatr.io/>, or pick up a printed copy at the post office in Balsham.

Submit your feedback by **12th December** to make your voice count.

To find out more about the proposal, visit:

kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/proposals/

To find out more about KSCA, get support with your response, or join us, visit: kingswayaction.org.

Alternatively find us on Facebook

Kathy Day

KINGSWAY SOLAR COMMUNITY ACTION



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Henryk Pisarski



Photo: James Sanders

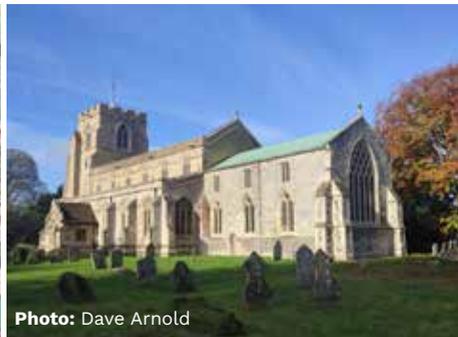


Photo: Dave Arnold

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'

Photo: Henryk Pisarski



Photo: Henryk Pisarski



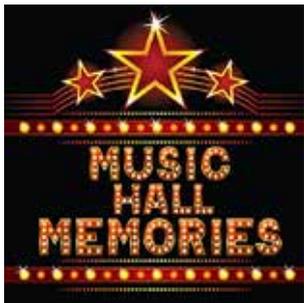
Photo: Henryk Pisarski



Medieval stain glass in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham

Events

LINTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER 2024



Presented by
BRYAN THURLOW

LINTON VILLAGE HALL
COLES LANE - 7.30 p.m.

Refreshments and Raffle

Visitors and new members always welcome

LINTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY TUESDAY 21st JANUARY 2025



Mercury, the mobile metal

An illustrated talk by Neil Dickinson

(We have previously had an excellent talk by Neil,
entitled 'Arsenic's Toxic Legacy')

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

Linton Village College

Community Connections

At Linton Village College, we pride ourselves on being part of our local community. Our annual **Sponsored Walk** took place in October and is always a highlight in the LVC calendar. The event is run by the **Friends of LVC**, an incredible group of volunteer parents and carers and involves the



whole school dressing up and embarking upon a 7-mile walk around Linton and the surrounding villages. All funds raised contribute directly towards enriching student lives at LVC such as the Year 7 and Year 8 school discos, the Year 11 Leavers' Prom, new furniture in our common rooms and brand-new sound and lighting equipment for performances and for students to utilise for GCSE exams.

November saw the **'Platform 24' Art Exhibition** taking place at the Michaelhouse Café in central Cambridge. The exhibition involves all of the secondary schools and sixth forms within Anglian Learning Trust and gives students an opportunity to exhibit their work in a local exhibition space that is open to the public.

The **Primary Singing Festival** was also held this month, involving Year 2 students from some of our catchment primary schools, who came together at LVC to celebrate their love of singing. Each school performed their own song on the theme of 'Autumn' and then sang as a group alongside the Linton Heights Junior School Choir and the LVC Lower School vocal group.

Laura Heard

PR AND COMMS OFFICER

Balsham Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting took place on 18th November, 2024 in Balsham Pavilion

Allotments: The PC does have some allotments available to rent. Please email **balshmallotments@balsham.net** if interested. The first allotment committee meeting was held on 30th October, the terms of reference were agreed, and the allotment committee will meet twice a year and carry out allotment inspections and award the **Allotment Cup**.

Highways issues:

West Wickham Road: The PC has continued to ask CCC for the results of the drain/jetting survey that took place on 29th October and their plan of action. The PC have also complained to Highways that the potholes that were repaired didn't even last a day.

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

Solar Farm:

Some members of the PC met with an employee from Kingsway Solar and a rep from Carter Jonas at a pre-meeting before the consultation meeting. The PC asked lots of questions and were disappointed that the questions couldn't be answered.

The consultation event on **Friday 15th November** was very well attended in the Pavilion.

The PC unanimously voted against the Solar Farm proposals and will draft a response to be sent to

Kingsway Solar by 12th December.

The PC have organised a **Survey** for all residents to ask their opinion about the solar farm. The survey will be online, and a hardcopy will be delivered in every Balsham Review, which can be delivered to the Balsham, Post Office.

Please complete the survey ASAP.

Planning for Discussion:

Site address: 36 High St, Balsham

Proposal: Acacia Remove small low branch 2m in length which is growing into neighbouring tree.

Reference: 24/1253/TTCA

PC Decision: Approve.

Decisions:

Site address: 39 High St, Balsham

Proposal: T001 - Cherry Plum .

Reference: 24/1134/TTCA

SCDC Decision: Approve.

Site address: 3 Field End, Balsham

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for loft conversion.

Reference: 24/03571/CL2PD

SCDC Decision: SCDC agreed it is permitted development

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

20th January, 2025 at 7.30 pm
in **Balsham Pavilion.**

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

The Black Bull



December/January Greetings to all Balsham Villagers from all at The Black Bull.

Thank you to all who joined us for our recent **Tony Black** cycling troubadour/seafood & steak night (*he will definitely be back next year*), **Folk Music/Pie night** and our last **Tasting Menu “Lite”** for 2024 last month – your support is really appreciated.

More Events coming up:
Pint of Music – Folk Night
Thursday 5th December

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”.

Those organising **Christmas gatherings** please get in touch. Some dates have inevitably gone but I am sure we can still find you a time and date to come and celebrate.

(Christmas Day is still officially full but do get in touch for the waiting list if of interest as we might easily get an unfortunate cancellation).

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

Saturday 30th Nov./Sunday 1st Dec.
Saturday 14th/Sunday 15th Jan.

New Year’s Eve – special menus and music – see website for more details

Christmas Opening Times:

Christmas Day: open all day (drinks only now – full for food); closed evening

Boxing Day: open all day, lunch 12-3pm; closed evening

New Year’s Day: open all day, lunch 12-3pm; closed evening

Best wishes from all of us

Alex, Rob, Liz, Luke & the teams
info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk

Granta Medical Practice

Please find below details of when our surgeries will be open over the Christmas and New Year break.

Please remember to order your repeat prescriptions in plenty of time so that you do not run out of your medication over the holidays. The table below shows you when you will be able to collect your prescriptions, depending on the date you place your order:

Date	Opening hours	Repeat prescription schedule
Wed 18.12.2024 Last day to order for collection 24.12.2024		
Fri 20.12.2024	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 27.12.2024
Sat 21.12.2024	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston/ Royston HC)	Place order today, pick up 30.12.2024
Sun 22.12.2024	Closed	Place order today, pick up 30.12.2024
Mon 23.12.2024	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 30.12.2024
Tues 24.12.2024 <i>(Christmas Eve)</i>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 31.12.2024
Wed 25.12.2024 <i>(Christmas Day)</i>	Closed	Place order today, pick up 02.01.2025
Thurs 26.12.2024 <i>(Boxing Day)</i>	Closed	Place order today, pick up 02.01.2025
Fri 27.12.2024	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 02.01.2025
Sat 28.12.2024	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston/ Royston HC)	Place order today, pick up 03.01.2025
Sun 29.01.2024	Closed	Place order today, pick up 03.01.2025
Mon 30.12.2024	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 03.01.2025
Tues 31.12.2024 <i>(New Years' Eve)</i>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 06.01.2025
Wed 01.01.2025 <i>(New Years' Day)</i>	Closed	Place order today, pick up 07.01.2025
Thurs 02.01.2025	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 07.01.2025
Fri 03.01.2025	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 08.01.2025

Don't forget, there are **Prescription Collection Points** at Sawston, Linton and Shelford. Sign up today via cpicb.grantadispensing@nhs.net to pick up your medication at your convenience over the holidays, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – including

Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years' Day.

Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore

throats, and upset stomachs by having a supply of health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol / ibuprofen), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn/ indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time and help you feel better quicker, but will also help save the NHS much needed resources.

Your local pharmacist can offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. They are available on every high street and in supermarkets, with many open in the evening and at weekends.

Pharmacists can now also prescribe some medications under the “**Pharmacy First**” service.

Please go to <https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacy/pharmacy-services/pharmacy-first/> for further information and eligibility criteria.

Whilst we are closed, if you need urgent medical assistance please use the NHS 111 service. If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring 999.

For further information on available healthcare services, please go to www.nhs.uk or our website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk
We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season.

Sandra East

GRANTA PATIENT SERVICES
cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net

Bin Collections December/January

NB The **green bin collection** on **18th December** is the last collection before **January 15th** Collections of green bins will only be once a month from 19th December until 5th March).

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday December 4 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday December 11 TH	✓		
Wednesday December 18 TH		✓	✓
Monday December 23RD	✓		
Monday December 30TH		✓	
Wednesday January 8 TH	✓		
Wednesday January 15 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday January 22 ND	✓		
Wednesday January 29 TH		✓	
Wednesday February 5 TH	✓		

Balsham Plough Monday Club

Balsham Christmas Tree

The Balsham Ploughmen will once again be erecting and lighting up the Balsham Christmas Tree this year. The event will take place on **Saturday December 7th** starting at **5.45pm** at the **Prince's Memorial Shelter** (*commonly known as the bandstand!*). There will be carol singing and a barbecue as well as the ubiquitous mulled wine. This year the tree will be supplied by Jo and Stan Stinton, it was planted as a used Christmas tree decades ago when they had a young family - a nice village link I think you'll agree. The event is usually very well attended and is now looked upon as a regular village family occasion, so please attend if you can.

Blessing of the Plough

The Balsham Ploughmen will be attending a church service on **Plough Sunday (Sunday 12th January 2025 from 10.30am)**. During the service the Plough will be blessed by Bishop Dagmar of Huntingdon, (and Acting Bishop of Ely), and the Ploughmen, dressed in their usual slightly distressed country fashion, will recite various verses that should ensure a fruitful and fertile year ahead. Please come along and support if you can.

Balsham Plough Monday 2025

The ancient tradition of Plough Monday was revived in Balsham in 1972 when a group of Balsham locals were discussing ways to raise money for

the church tower fund over a few pints one dark evening. The outcome was that, on a bitterly cold night in January 1972, a newly refurbished ancient wooden plough was brought out from Lower Farm with 6 men acting as 'horses' and an assorted band of collectors dressed in smocks and string tied breeches. The group was completed by the whip wielding squire dressed in a top hat and a man dressed as a woman commonly known as 'Betsy'. They toured the village calling at as many houses as they could, collecting a grand total of £75 (£1,300 in 2024 money!). In 1974, the Ploughmen were joined by the Cambridge Morris Men who performed their own Plough Monday dances and provided music and song. This is still the basic model for Plough Monday today with the addition of some organised stops and more or less (usually less) punctual finish at one of our two wonderful village pubs, The Bell and The Black Bull. Since 1972, the Balsham Ploughmen have raised well **over £75,000** for local causes. The Balsham Plough Monday celebrations in 2025 will happen on **Monday 13th January**. The Ploughmen will start at Samworth Close at around 4.30pm and process around the village stopping at Balsham Place, The Manor, Old House Road, The Bell and, finally The Black Bull. Please look out for

us, we'll certainly be in your street at some point during the night, pop out and say hello. In preparation for the big night, we'll be distributing donation envelopes over the festive period that will also act as your individual raffle ticket. Raffle prizes are many and varied with the first and second prizes being £200 and £100 respectively, not to be sneezed at. If you would like to donate to the local good causes please either drop your donation envelope off at The Old Butchers, The Post Office, The Black Bull or The Bell or come out in person on Plough Monday, enjoy a drink and donate what you

can. Thanks to everyone who donated last year and for the continued support of the wonderful people of Balsham.

Finally, this is a unique local Balsham tradition, it doesn't happen in this format anywhere else in the world so it's well worth supporting. Should anyone know of local good causes that would benefit from a donation then please contact The Balsham Ploughmen through our Facebook Page (Balsham Ploughmen | Facebook) or via the website (balshamploughmen.weebly.com).

Terry O'Neill

Balsham Football Club

RESULTS

DATE	HOME	AWAY	SCORE	RES	Comp
26 Oct	Balsham	Hemingfords Utd	2-7	L	Cup
2 Nov	Thaxted Rangers Res	Balsham	6-2	L	L
9 Nov	Balsham	Cambourne Town	0-2	L	L
16 Nov	Balsham	Comberton	2-2	D	L
23 Nov	Sawston Utd Res	Balsham	4-1	L	L

FIXTURES

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	COMP
30 Nov	Balsham	Whittlesford	Balsham Rec	L
7 Dec	Guilden Morden	Balsham	Guilden Morden Rec	L
14 Dec	Balsham	Sawston	Balsham Rec	L
4 Jan	Balsham	Mott MacDonald	Balsham Rec	L
11 Jan	Balsham	Fulbourn Institute	Balsham Rec	L
18 Jan	Balsham	Linton Granta Res	Balsham Rec	L
25 Jan	Balsham	Girton United	Balsham Rec	L
1 Feb	Clare Town	Balsham	Clare Playing Fields	L

District & County Councillor's Report

November 2024

Residents' Parking Scheme Consultation

There is a consultation opening on October 31st and running until December 12th on proposed changes to the County Council's policy on Residents' Parking Schemes. This is to attempt to make the policy marry up with the new Civil Parking Enforcement officers (traffic wardens) that have been operational in South Cambridgeshire since February this year. Some people approach us about implementing residents' parking schemes in specific areas. If you, or anyone you know, feel strongly about this policy, please do comment - <https://consultcambshire.gov.uk/engagementhq.com/residents-parking-scheme-policy-review>.

Kingsway Solar Farm

It's worth reiterating that, given the size and scale of this scheme, the decision to approve, or not, will be made by a central government planning inspector, rather than any of the local planning authorities. This will be a major development covering a very large part of our

countryside, if it does go ahead, so please do engage if you have any views on this proposal.

Winter Gritting Scheme

The County Council is always looking for people to volunteer to help with community gritting in the winter months. If you're interested in this, please do register via the website or your local Parish Council <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/gritting-roads-cycleways-and-paths/help-with-gritting-and-clearing-snow>

Contact Information:

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Pippa Heylings

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



The Bell

We are looking forward to a busy, fun packed festive season. There are still dates remaining in December for Christmas party bookings, the menu is available in the pub, and on The Bell Inn Balsham Facebook page. Pre booking and menu choices are required. Private Grottos are available for reservations of 4 - 6 people. During December we are suspending our Burger or Curry and drink deal Wednesday evenings, this will resume in January.

There is a **Christmas Prize Draw** sheet in the pub, with the draw taking place on Christmas Eve, there will be no evening food on Christmas Eve, but we will lay on some free nibbles, lunch will be served 12.00 - 2.00pm, booking strongly advised.

Christmas Day opening is 12 - 2.30pm drinks only. On Boxing Day we are open all day, for drinks only, Premier league football will be shown on TV.

We have **Crimbo Bingo**, on **Wednesday 11th December**, with festive prizes, eyes down at 8pm. The **Christmas Lunch Club** is **Wednesday 18th December**, courtesy of The Balsham Ploughmen, (OAPs only), booking and pre-orders essential. The menu is available on The Bell Inn Facebook page or in the pub.

New Year's Eve will be a party night with free jukebox, nibbles and fireworks at midnight. On **New Year's**

Day our brunch menu will be served 12.00- 3.00pm, and we will be closing at 5.00pm. During January we will be running our annual in-house **Darts Knockout Tournament**, anybody is welcome to enter, please ask in the pub for details. The **January Charity Quiz** is **Tuesday 28th**, & **Lunch Club** is **Wednesday 29th**.

Diary December:

Wednesday 11th: Crimbo Bingo 8pm.

Tuesday 17th: Christmas Quiz 8pm.

Wednesday 18th: Christmas Lunch Club.

Saturday 21st: Children's Story Time with Mrs Claus **2pm**. Please book, as spaces are limited. All Children will receive a small gift.

Tuesday 24th:- Christmas Eve Party, and **Christmas Draw**.

Tuesday 31st: New Years Eve Party, and fireworks.

Diary January:

New Years Day: Brunch menu 12pm - 3pm, please book if possible.

Tuesday 28th: Charity Quiz.

Wednesday 29th: Lunch Club.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support, and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

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

Phil & Mary

Linton & District Historical Society

Seasons greetings from Linton & District Historical Society. Thank you for supporting us over the year and we look forward to seeing you again in 2025!

November Meeting

A peek in some 'Hundred' Parish Churches was a most interesting talk accompanied by excellent pictures presented by **Ken McDonald** from The Hundred Parishes Society. A collection of these centuries old buildings is scattered throughout Essex, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire and we were able to 'peek inside' just some of these little gems during the course of the evening.

Apart from the outside architecture, a wealth of magnificent craftsmanship can be found inside on the ceilings, windows, walls, pews and surprising finds in one particular crypt! It inspired us to look into the nooks & crannies of these historic buildings as we would in any National Trust or English Heritage property.

For further information you can visit www.hundredparishes.org.uk, email hundredparishes@btinternet.com or telephone **01279 813226**

The December meeting on **Tuesday 17th December** is *Music Hall Memories*, presented by **Bryan Thurlow**.

Our first meeting in 2025 is on **Tuesday 21st January**. Following on from his entertaining talk on 'Arsenic' last year we welcome back **Neil Dickinson** and this time we look forward to hearing about *'Mercury, The Mobile Metal'*

Meeting at 7.30pm at Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane.

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**

Margaret Creek

Linton Library News

Happy Christmas from Linton Library!

You'll always find a warm and friendly welcome in your library. Relax with a jigsaw puzzle, use our free WiFi or a library computer; curl up with a good book.

Duplo Clubs: weekly in term time, **Tuesday 10-11am** and **Friday 11 -**

12pm. Come along and entertain your 0-4 year old while chatting to others at this free session in the children's section of the library.

Knit and Natter: every **Tuesday, 2pm - 3pm.** Bring along any craft project you're working on. All welcome. Who's bringing the mince pies?!

Daylight Readers: our Book Groups meet on **Friday 20th**, one at **10.30am** and the other at **2.30pm**.

New members always welcome.

IT Club: every **Wednesday 5-7pm**, knowledgeable volunteers are here to help you with all things digital.

Over the holidays we will be **CLOSED** from **1pm** on **Tuesday 24th**

December and re-open on **Thursday 2nd January**. Happy Christmas!!

Do you like reading stories aloud?

We have a volunteer vacancy for story time for 0-4 years. Tuesday mornings, weekly in term time. Pop in if you're interested.

Do you know someone who uses a

walking aid? As the paths become slippery, please spread the word that the library can supply free ferrules (rubber feet) for walking aids to keep them in safe condition. Just ask library staff.

Ann King

COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Opening hours

Mon CLOSED	Thurs 2-5pm
Tues 10am-5pm	Fri 10am-5pm
Weds 4-7pm	Sat 10am-1pm

Customer Services

(regular office hours): **0345 045 5225**

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Balsham WI

At our meeting in November our speaker was **Susan Widlake** from **Millhouse Millinery**. She told us how she got into the world of millinery as a hobby in 2009. By 2019 she gave up the day job as a computer auditor to concentrate full time on hat making. Susan told us about some of the basics of hat making, demonstrated by the large display of her hats she had bought along with her. She also explained her inspiration for some of the hat designs which included the Sydney Opera House and Barcelona.

She then taught us how to make a lily from sinamay, before we all had great fun trying on all of her hats.

*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***

Debbie Mower

Our next meeting on **10 December** will be our **Christmas Celebration** and include **wine tasting** & a **quiz**.

Thermal Imaging for a Cosier Home



Cambridge Carbon Footprint are once again delighted to offer to residents, and organizations, across Cambridge and South Cambs the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera for free, to help create cozier and more efficient homes. Learn how to interpret thermal images, to identify draughts, gaps in insulation, heating problems, etc. Knowing where your home is losing heat is great for deciding on home improvements, and making fixes, both for homeowners and renters. In their last borrowing period between November '23 and April '24 they successfully trained over 600 individuals and made over 400 thermal camera loans to residents across our region.

They also encourage individuals or organizations to undertake training in order to survey multiple homes. In 2024 volunteers from communities

across Cambridgeshire undertook surveys of 113 neighbouring homes and community buildings.

Training Sessions:

Three **FREE** training sessions will take place online from **7:30 - 9:00pm** on: **Wed 11 Dec, Tue 14 Jan, Wed 12 Feb**

Camera Borrowing:

We only lend cameras to people who have attended the training.

Bookings for cameras will open on Wed 11th Dec, after the training session. **FREE** Loans of cameras will start on **Fri 8th November**, through to April: Each loan: Fri pm to Mon am, or Mon pm to Fri am, from 14 volunteer camera hosts around South Cambs and Cambridge City.

Cambridge Carbon Footprint

The Bike Depot,
140 Cowley Road,
Cambridge, CB4 0DL

01223 301842

www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org

Balsham Weather October 2024



Photo: Henryk Pisarski

Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

OCTOBER:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 20° C on 6th October

Lowest: 12° C on 22nd October

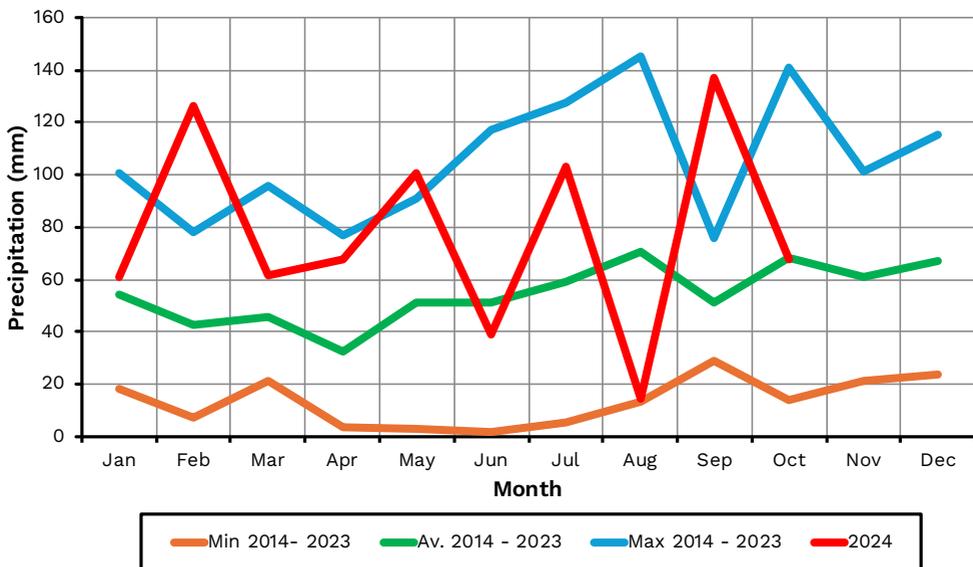
Night time temperatures

Highest: 12° C on 4th October

Lowest: 4° C on 23rd October

October Rainfall at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total October 2024 rainfall: 67.5mm/2.65" on 15 days





Saturday December 7th

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

Home Alone (PG)



Our December film will be 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! Being home alone was fun for Kevin, having a pizza, jumping on his parents' bed, and making a mess but he then discovers two burglars, Harry and Marv, about to rob his house on Christmas Eve. Kevin acts quickly by wiring his own house with makeshift booby traps to stop the burglars and to bring them to justice!

A feel good Christmas film for all!



Much deliberation has gone into film choice for January but we decided that we might all need our spirits uplifting after Christmas so we are going to show that perennial favourite for all the family **The Greatest Showman (PG)**. So on **Saturday 4th January** we will show this classic story of the visionary PT Barnum and the birth of show business with Hugh Jackman heading up an all star cast.

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

Dave's bar open as usual before the film for refreshments but all FREE for the December party!

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