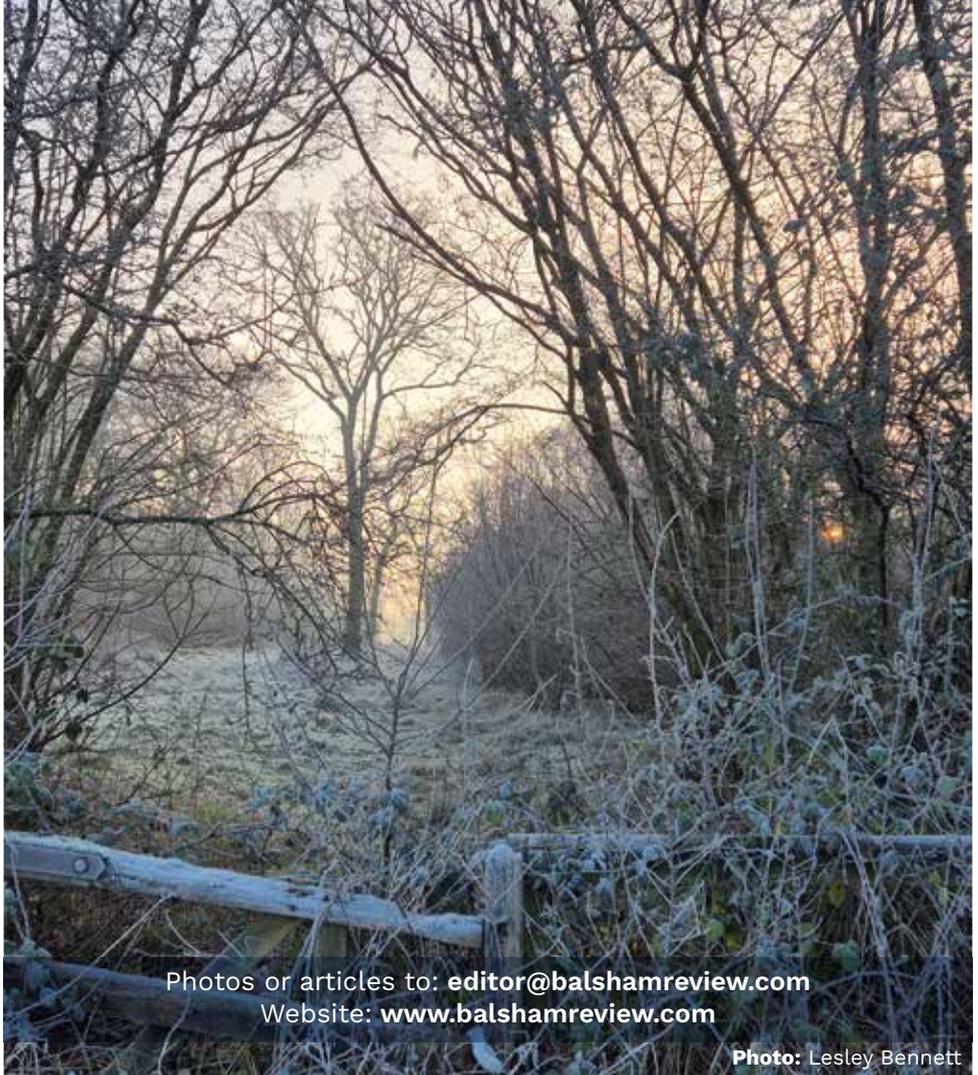




BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 666

FEBRUARY 2025



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

Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Dick Paden



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Lesley Bennett

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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 February 14TH 2025

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Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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

Editorial

A Happy (New) Year to you all!

It seems ages since we were celebrating New Year's Eve, but it's only just over three weeks ago. The time has passed so quickly and yet been filled by the wonderful village event of Plough Monday. We are so lucky to have this tradition, which takes so much organising for some, giving the village a great community feeling. It is good to see that there are new people stepping in to the spaces left by those who rebuilt the tradition many years ago. For many of us villagers all we need do is turn up at an event and admire the dancing while eating sausages and drinking mulled wine or beer. However a few organisers have to work very hard to get it all prepared, and this takes place through the year. Thank you to those who got the whole event together this year and in the past, and to those who have hosted through the village. A special thank you to those who arrange the source of prizes and the collection of monies to help meet many needs around the village.

We have many photos this month, mainly of Plough Monday and village views with the weather playing a large part. We see several photos on the Village Facebook site and would be pleased if you could send some to us too:

editor@balshamreview.com

We do acknowledge the photographers where we can, please do send them in to us.

While I am writing this there is a weather warning about rain and strong winds. I have had more than enough rain. The grass at the back of the house squelches as I walk on it, it is only just above the level of the pond at present. I have been concerned that quite an area of grass has gone yellow, but I find that is because it is all waterlogged. The water table is so high on the clay subsoil here and there is no chance of draining it away, so I will have to put up with it. I hope there will be more sun and dry weather this year...

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

JIGSAWS

Plenty of jigsaws of 1000 and 500 pieces in the garage of Nine Chimney House – no charge – please come and take some! They are there for anyone to use and are ideal for cold dark days

Joanna Sanders

BALSHAM SINGERS

The Balsham Singers would like to say a big Thank You to everyone who helped make their Christmas Concert such a great event: our loyal advertisers, our front of house crew, the PCC, especially Nigel, we are grateful for the use of Church, Church Institute, and to PC for the use of the Sports Pavilion for our rehearsals. Most of all we thank our fantastic audience; the church was full but hopefully everyone was comfortably seated.

A sum of £ 500 was sent to Ocular Melanoma UK as a result of our raffle and a donation from the choir. The next day we sang carols around the village Christmas Tree and on the 20th December we were invited to sing for the Royal Papworth

Hospital Charity, and were pleased to make a donation to their fund raising day. An unprecedented 3 gigs in a week!

Thank you all for your support in 2024. Next year Balsham Singers will be 30 and we will have some celebrating to do, more next month, for now we wish all of you a Very Happy New Year.

Thank you

Jo Stinton

MYSTERIOUS ICE



Would anyone in the village explain to me please, how overnight, this ice formation grew almost vertically, from a container of water?

Regards

Stephen Horsley

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

Revd. Iain McColl	01223 890693	mccoll.iain@gmail.com
Revd Hannah Threlfall	01223 481090	RevThrelfall24@outlook.com
Church Warden: Nigel Clark,	01223 893043	n.clark5@btinternet.com
Administrator: Cazzy Walsh		7churches.seven@gmail.com

SERVICES at other CHURCHES when possible

ROMAN CATHOLIC Masses at:

Cherry Hinton: St Philip Howard Church

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

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

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

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

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, meeting as a house group, for further information please contact. [www.facebook.com/Linton cornerstone](http://www.facebook.com/Linton%20cornerstone)

METHODIST: Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

From the Church

The seasons within our liturgy emphasise waiting for God's revelation. We began with Advent, a season of waiting, and now we are at



the finishing line with Candlemas, the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple - the moment when the waiting is over, and Christ has come!

I have a deep interest in the education and support of children. I believe they are our future, and we have a responsibility to guide and encourage them to explore the love and wonder of God.

Bringing a child into God's house may not be to everyone's taste; it can be daunting. But it is a vital part of our faith and community. It is an action that resounds in heaven, significant both for the child and for those waiting to receive them. In Luke 2:22-40, we see Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus into God's house for the first time. Like any parents, they are hoping for welcome, blessing, and comfort. Waiting to receive them are Simeon and Anna, whose joy in this tiny baby is palpable.



I think there's an echo of Candlemas whenever a child is brought to church, especially for the first time. It's always a holy and fragile moment. I

believe the best way to welcome children isn't necessarily with something flashy, but simply by being there, ready to receive them in a space made for them. I've witnessed children's lives enriched by church relationships, where

some of their favourite people are not other children, but adults who take time to chat, show interest in their latest fascinations, and share biscuits.

Think of what can be received from these moments: the congregation receiving the fulfilment of their hopes and prayers, and the child and family receiving a joyful welcome. May we, as parents, have the faith of Mary and Joseph to bring our children into God's house; and may we, as the church, welcome them with Simeon and Anna's joy when that small, thumb-sucking, fidgety, rosy-toed baby is brought into the temple!

Revd Hannah Threlfall

February Services	9:30am	11:00am	PM Services
2nd <i>Candlemas</i>		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	6.00pm Candlemas service Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
9th <i>4th Sunday before Lent</i>	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship West Wrattling <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Morning Worship Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Morning Worship Great Abington <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Café Church Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	6.00pm Taizé service Weston Colville <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
16th <i>3rd Sunday before Lent</i>	Holy Communion West Wrattling <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Morning Worship Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion Little Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	6.00pm Evening Prayer Hildersham <i>Alistair Collen</i>
23rd <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> 10.00am Creative Church Abington Hub <i>Rosemary Mead/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	11.15pm Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i> Holy Communion (BCP) Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	4.00pm Evening Prayer Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>

Hildersham Church

On **Saturday 22nd March at 7.30pm** is our third concert in support of the Friends of Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham. This will be the professional vocal ensemble **Sonare Choir**, with one voice to a part, Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Tenor and Bass, singing un-accompanied.

The title of their programme is **'Elements'** and includes works by Mozart and Britten as well as more popular and folk songs such as *Linden Lea*.

For more information contact

Athene Hunt:

huntcam2015@gmail.com

The Meadow Primary School

December News

What a term it has been at The Meadow. We have had a busy lead up to Christmas, with a range of educational and exciting opportunities for the children to take part in and be a part of.

Hey Ewe:

A Baa-rriliant Nativity Adventure!



We are very proud of our Foundation Stage and KS1 pupils for their fantastic performance in this year's nativity production, **Hey Ewe**. The children put in a lot of effort, and it was clear in their singing, dancing, and their ability to remember their lines. A big thank you to our teachers for their hard work and support in making the show a success. It was a wonderful performance that brought lots of smiles to the audience. Well done to everyone involved – you did a great job!

Hands-on History

To mark the end of their Upper KS2 learning on World War II, Kingfisher and Kestrel classes had an engaging day with Gareth from Historic Workshops. The children explored



history through a carousel of hands-on activities, starting with Gareth, who introduced them to genuine WW2 artefacts, including gas masks, personal diaries, and air-raid warden helmets. Next, with Miss Walsh, they practiced first aid skills and role-played using real WW2 stretchers. Finally, braving the cold, they joined Mr. Steadman outdoors to learn bomb-diffusing and fire-extinguishing techniques, using authentic WW2 stirrup pumps to put out imaginary fires. It was a memorable and educational day for all!

Thank you, PTA,

A huge thank you to our amazing PTA for their continued support this term. Thanks to their hard work, our children have had some fantastic opportunities, including attending a free disco, enjoying refreshments at the carol concert, and even going on a free trip to the panto! The whole school was able to visit the South Mills Arts Theatre in Bishop's Stortford to watch Robin Hood, an incredible experience for many of our children. We are incredibly grateful for the time and

effort the PTA puts into organising and fundraising for these events. Additionally, they've secured a generous grant from The Wadlow Wind Farm, through the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, to help fund new ICT equipment, supporting all our learners. Thank you, PTA, for everything you do!

January News

A Fresh Start for the New Year

As we welcome the start of a new year and term, January is a time to refocus and look ahead. At The Meadow, we're eager to build on the hard work and progress made last year and continue supporting our children as they grow and learn. With fresh opportunities and challenges ahead, we're ready for another successful and rewarding chapter in 2025.

Transforming Our School Grounds

This term, we are especially delighted to welcome the new grounds team from East Cambridgeshire District Council. Their passion and dedication to improving our outdoor spaces are clear, and we're excited to see the positive changes they will bring. From creating spaces for learning and play to ensuring our surroundings are safe and well-maintained, we're looking forward to the transformation of our school grounds into a purposeful and inspiring environment for all.

Making a Splash This Summer

Looking ahead, we're also excited to restart swimming lessons in the summer term. Swimming is a vital

life skill, and we are committed to ensuring every child has the opportunity to develop water confidence and safety awareness. However, providing this essential experience comes with significant costs for the upkeep of facilities and the delivery of high-quality teaching.

Can You Help Keep Swimming Afloat?

To make swimming sustainable for the future, we are reaching out to our local community. If you know of any businesses or organisations that might be willing to support this initiative, whether through sponsorship or donations, we would be incredibly grateful. Please contact Ellen Campbell in the office on **01223 894400** or via email: **office@meadowprimary.org** if you know of anyone who may be interested in helping. Together, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive, both in and out of the classroom.

We'd also like to take a moment to thank the wonderful members of our local community who already support us in so many ways - whether by coming in to hear readers, assisting with school activities, or offering your time and skills. Your generosity and involvement make a real difference, and we truly appreciate everything you do for our children.

Faye Facer

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

Buttercups Pre-School Appeal

Buttercups Pre School is desperately in need of new committee members and trustees!

We need a full committee and a minimum number of trustees in order to continue to be able to offer childcare services in our community and to run fundraising events to keep the setting open.

Can you spare an hour every half term for a committee meeting and some additional time each term to help with fundraising activities?

Although we welcome parents,

carers and relatives of children at Buttercups, you do not need to have a direct connection with the setting. You may simply be looking to give something back to your community or have some free time to commit to a charitable organisation.

If you are interested in becoming a committee member or trustee then we would love to hear from you.

Please email:

buttercupsccommittee@yahoo.com

NB Committee members and trustees will be subject to DBS checks

Balsham Gardening Club

Balsham Gardening Club held its very last meeting on 4th December, after 47 years of shows, visits and talks. Although a poignant occasion, we enjoyed a talk by **John Gibson**, who told us the story of the **Royal Papworth Hospital** from its origin as the Cambridgeshire Tuberculosis Colony in 1918 with just 17 patients and 4 staff, through to the renowned heart and lung hospital. He gave us a vivid picture of Dr Pendrill Varrier-Jones' pioneering approach to the treatment of TB, based on fresh air, good food and light work. Recovering patients lived in small wooden huts with cloth windows and no heating in the grounds of Papworth Hall, regardless of the weather.

The TB Colony grew to treat, house and employ patients and their families, becoming the Papworth Village Settlement in 1929, with its

own school and church. The light work started as helping with each other's care and developed into keeping animals & growing vegetables, and then to workshops making travel luggage, furniture and many other things.

John told us how antibiotic treatments for TB were developed, made difficult because of the TB bacterium's protective lipid coat and slow growth. As antibiotics became effective, the hospital used its expertise in chest surgery to specialise in ground-breaking heart surgery, eventually moving to its new building in Cambridge.

After the talk we enjoyed Christmas food and drinks and a gardening quiz, led by Jennie Tipler. The outgoing committee were given garden vouchers in thanks for their work over the years.

Linton Village College

Christmas at LVC

The lead up to the Christmas holidays provided us with opportunities to celebrate together as a community.

We were excited to revive our **Carol Concert** at the Holy Trinity Church in Balsham. Thanks to Reverend McColl's support, students had the privilege of performing in beautiful surroundings befitting the heartwarming programmes of classical and contemporary music. Over 100 LVC students took part in the event.

The concert started with traditional carols accompanied by the Symphonic Wind Orchestra and an ethereal solo performance of *'Once In Royal David's City'* by Katie in Year 9. The Concert went on to showcase our choir, The Linton Voices, The Tuesday Lunchtime Jam Club and a range of musical ensemble groups led by our team of peripatetic teachers. The evening ended with a blessing and the Year 7 Massed Choir whose beautiful sea of voices sang *'The Greatest Gift'*. It was a poignant festive moment.

During the month of December, LVC students also showed their community spirit by engaging in events to raise money and share donations for charity. **'Reverse Advent'** has become a long-standing LVC initiative where tutor groups collect toiletries and groceries to present as Christmas hampers for Jimmy's in Cambridge.

Jimmy's is a community-based charity providing both support and housing to people who are rough sleeping. Another Charity the school supports on our **Christmas Jumper Day**, is Tom's Trust. Tom's Trust is the UK's only charity dedicated to providing mental health support to children with brain tumours and their families.

The New Year

We were very honoured to welcome author and poet **Michael Rosen** in January. Michael is a British children's author, poet, presenter and academic and is now a professor of children's literature in the Department of Educational Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London. He has also served as Children's Laureate.

This was our second visit from Michael. This time he conducted a series of workshops to a range of different year groups. Michael gave a **Poetry Workshop** to the whole of Year 7 where he told stories of his family's experiences during the Second World War and the students worked together to create some very moving poetry on themes of family, home, flight, empathy for others and compassion. After lots of book signing and interactions with students and staff, he worked with LVC dance company to plan a collaboration for a concert in June and he finished the day writing

protest song lyrics with GCSE musicians. At the end of the day, very unexpectedly, we had a visit from ITV who filmed an interview with Michael Rosen performing his poems in our library with the homework club looking on silently.



This was broadcast on ITV Evening News on the same day.

As well as our visit from Michael, the cast of **'We Will Rock You'** (our latest school production) were lucky enough to be given an all-day workshop from **Richard 'Woody' Woodford**, alumnus of LVC and West End singer/actor/dancer at the start of term. As well as directing and giving feedback to the cast, he spoke about his career and in particular, the path he has taken since leaving LVC. Thanks to the Friends of LVC for funding this opportunity. **'We Will Rock You'** runs at LVC from **6-8 February** - tickets are now on sale.

Laura Heard

PR & COMMS OFFICER, LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE



LVC performers at the Carol Concert in Balsham Church in December

Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme



A **Christmas Community Lunch** was held in the Institute Building on 15th December, the final lunch of 2024. The lunches, which are organised by the Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme, are not just about food, they also provide a venue for local people to chat and have a laugh.

The lunch was attended by 41 villagers who enjoyed delicious food expertly prepared by Karis Reyes and her team of chefs including Anna McColl, Cazzy Walsh, Joanna Sanders, Pam Down & Alison Clarke.

Andrew Clarke

Future Community Café dates:

Tuesdays 10:00 to 12:00 in the Balsham Church Institute:
February 11th 2025 | March 11th 2025



Photos: Kathy Day

Balsham Ploughmen



Photo: Melissa Tabecki

Brilliant Balsham!

This is a quick note to say a big **THANK YOU** to the wonderful people of Balsham for supporting the **Balsham Plough Monday Club** over the festive period and on through **Plough Monday 2025**.

Balsham Christmas Tree

The Balsham Ploughmen supplied, erected and lit the village Christmas Tree again in 2024. Most people agree that the tree adds to the festive spirit in Balsham from early December until after Plough Monday. I would like to thank everyone who helped organise the lighting up event, the Balsham Singers, Barry Holman and team for superlative barbecue skills and especially Jo and Stan Stinton and family for supplying the tree. Thanks to the people of Balsham for coming out on a cold early December day, we did need to re-organise the date due to a storm so it shows our

collective resilience that so many people turned up to the re-organised event a week later.

Blessing of the Plough

The Balsham Ploughmen attended the church service on **Plough Sunday** again this year. During the service the Plough was blessed and the Ploughmen, dressed in their usual slightly distressed country fashion did their best to sing along. It was a special service this year because the Bishop of Ely attended and took the service. Thanks to the Bishop, to everyone at the church for your kind welcome, to Richard Pargeter for showing me how to ring a bell (harder than it looks) and especially to Hannah Threlfall for organising and supporting Plough Sunday.

Balsham Plough Monday 2025

Since 1972 the Balsham Ploughmen have raised over **£80,000** for local causes, the (very) early 2025 count



Photo: Melissa Tabecki

is progressing nicely and currently sits north of **£4,000**, thanks for everyone in Balsham for your support this year, you're amazing! Thanks also to our hosts this year, everyone had a great time. The food and drink were plentiful, expertly produced and included slightly enigmatic chicken soup, bottom burning chilli and pork & stuffing rolls.

The **Cambridge Morris Men** attended again this year, they really add to the atmosphere on the night. Thanks to them for their, really quite strenuous, support. I have to admit I was a bit worried for the décor when they did a dance in Vicki's vestibule.

Thanks are also due to our two village pubs, we are so privileged to have two great establishments.

Thanks to **Phil & Mary** at the **Bell** and to **Alex & Rob** at the **Black Bull**. Rob produced his usual really high standard bangers and mash for our Harrowing Tuesday lunch.

Finally, all of these activities are local Balsham traditions, they are unique and should be celebrated accordingly. Please have a chat with any of the Ploughmen if you would like to be a host a stop on Plough Monday 2026 or if you know of any local good causes that would benefit from a donation. You can also contact the Balsham Ploughmen through our Facebook Page (**Balsham Ploughmen/ Facebook**) or via the website: **balshamploughmen.weebly.com**

Terry O'Neill



Photo: Melissa Tabecki



Photo: Melissa Tabecki



Photo: Gill Parry-Brown

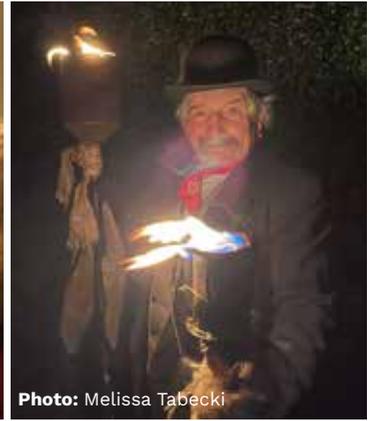


Photo: Melissa Tabecki



Photo: Melissa Tabecki



Photo: Melissa Tabecki



Photo: Melissa Tabecki



Photo: Melissa Tabecki



Photo: Melissa Tabecki



Photo: Paul Elliot



Photo: Melissa Tabecki



Photos: Kathy Day

VOLUNTEER!



BUTTERCUPS PRE-SCHOOL
COMMITTEE NEEDS
YOU



**BUTTERCUPS IS
DESPERATELY IN NEED OF
NEW COMMITTEE
MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES!**

We need a full committee and a minimum number of trustees in order to continue to be able to offer childcare services in our community and to run fundraising events to keep the setting open.

Can you spare an hour every half term for a committee meeting and some additional time each term to help with fundraising activities?

You do not need to have a direct connection with the setting, you may simply be looking to give something back to your community or have some free time to commit to a charitable organisation.

If you are interested in becoming a committee member or trustee then we would love to hear from you. Please email buttercupscomitee@yahoo.com

Note that committee members and trustees will be subject to DBS checks.

**LINTON & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
TUESDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2025



Crime scene search
a talk by Alex Mair
UK Police Search Adviser

LINTON VILLAGE HALL
COLES LANE - 7.30 p.m.
Refreshments and Raffle
Visitors and new members always welcome



Victoria Stilwell - Soprano
Stella Braecgirdle - Mezzo Soprano
Dom Wallis - Tenor
George Salmon - Bass

SONARE CHOIR
The vocal quartet

ELEMENTS:
Mozart, JS Bach, Vaughan Williams, Poulenc, Britten, Byrd, Carmichael/Charles, Debussy and others



Saturday 22nd March, 7:30pm
Holy Trinity Church, High Street
Hildersham, Cambridge CB21 6BZ

Advance Tickets: www.sonarechoir.com

Balsham Church Institute Goes Green!

Many of you will have noticed the new additions to the roof of the Church Institute in the Autumn of 2024. A successful application to the Zero Carbon Communities Fund managed by South Cambs District Council as part of their drive to reduce energy consumption in community focused premises allowed us to proceed with the installation of a solar PV array on our roof plus a storage battery to help balance our energy demands.

In technical terms 12 PV panels (maximum output power of 5kW) and a 10kWh storage battery have been fitted together with the associated inverter and control units and allowing a Feed In Benefit in the summer when our building requires very little power.



The primary grant from ZCCF was £12,500 with additional grants of £2,500 provided by Balsham Parish



Council from S106 funds & Wadlow Wind from its Community Fund. The Church Institute Management Committee and the PCC thank all for these generous contributions to reducing our energy bills and aiding the national drive towards net zero.



Since the installation was completed in October even with the recent grey cloudy weather the system has produced more than 40% (>225kWh) of power consumed and already reflected in reduced electricity charges. With a lifetime expectancy of more than 10 years the system should more than fulfil its goal and potentially allow the later upgrade of the main heating system from oil to heat pump.

Dr Dick Paden

CHAIR CIMC

Kingsway Solar Community Action

Our work continues...

The KSCA group has been busy since the first round of public feedback closed on 12 December. A big thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts on the Kingsway proposals. Your feedback will now be reviewed by Kingsway and should help shape the project. Your opinions matter!

But there's still more work to do. In December, we met with MP Pippa Heylings, who understands the concerns this project is raising in our area. She's pushing for the government to speed up the release of the Land Use Framework to make sure decisions are made in a joined-up way.

We also met with David Vernon from Kingsway to talk about our concerns and objections to the solar farm - more updates on the process timelines coming soon and how you can have your say. As we move forward, we'll bring in experts like

ecologists and lawyers to strengthen our case and make sure our community is well-represented.

On 17 December, Kingsway released its Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (*a total of 328 pages plus 4 appendices*). Local councils, including parish councils, had until 14 January to give their feedback. KSCA helped the parish councils prepare their responses, which you can now read and download from the KSCA website.

To keep up to date with the work of the KSCA or to get involved, please visit our website:

www.kingswayaction.org, or find us on Facebook or Instagram. Together we can be stronger!

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us through our GoFundMe campaign! Your help is greatly appreciated and has been vital in raising awareness.

Balsham February Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
1st Saturday	Picture House ' Captain Phillips ' 7.30pm	Institute
11th Tuesday	Community Café, 10.00am - 12.00pm	Institute
11th Tuesday	Balsham WI, 7.30pm	Pavilion
17th Monday	Parish Council, 7.30pm	Pavilion
17th Monday	West Wickham Gardening Club, 7.30pm	WW Village Hall
18th Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Society, 7.30pm	Linton Village Hall

Balsham Parish Council

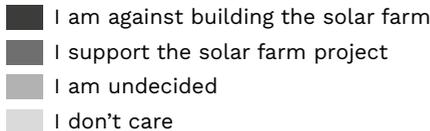
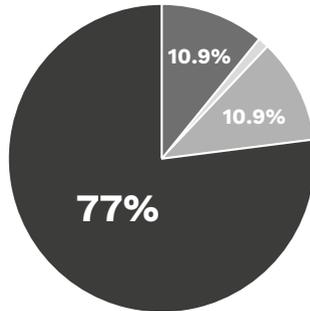
The Parish Council Meeting took place on 20th January, 2025 in Balsham Pavilion

Solar Farm Survey Results:

Thank you so much to the 257 responses.

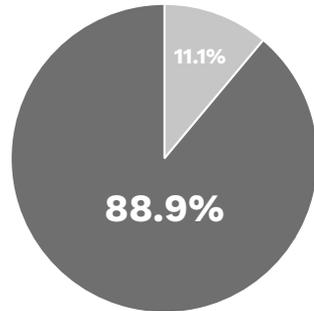
Overall, are you for or against the proposed solar farm project?

257 responses



Do you live in Balsham?

253 responses



Full results and comments will be available at

www.balsham.net/solar_farm/

Solar Farm update: The PC have sent their reply to the Scoping Report to the Inspectorate.

The response can be viewed at https://www.balsham.net/solar_farm/

The PC discussed the solar farm and forming a Parish Council Alliance and agreed to earmark £7,500 from the PC budget to use for professional representation when/if required.

Precept:

The PC agreed to increase the precept

to **£78,000** (an increase of **£27,123**). The increase has been made to cover the cost of the installation of solar panels on the pavilion (£20,000) and £7,500 in the budget to cover professional fees for action against the Solar Farm.

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 made more complaints about the pothole

reopening, especially between Christmas and New Year when a lot of vehicles were damaged. Highways are trying to seek a resolution to the issues and are checking the road each week and will continue to repair the pothole until a solution is found.

Planning for Discussion:

Site address: 4 West Wickham Rd, Balsham

Proposal: : S19 to vary condition 2 (Approved plans) of listed building consent 24/01128/LBC (*Alterations to existing ground floor utility room and separate WC to create a shower room with WC and a smaller utility area*).

Reference: 25/00122/S19LB

PC Decision: Approve.

Site address: 17 Queens Close, Balsham

Proposal: : Single storey side/rear extension and replace and enlarge the existing opening for bi-fold doors.

Reference: 24/04638/HFUL

PC Decision: Approve.

Decisions:

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

SCDC Decision: Approved.

Site address: Balsham Footpath 7

Proposal: T1: Ash - Crown reduce over extended lateral limb which is above footpath by up to 4m.

Reference: 24/03571/CL2PD

SCDC Decision: Approved

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
17th February, 2025 at 7.30 pm
in **Balsham Pavilion.**

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

District & County Councillor's Report

January 2025

Kingsway Solar Farm

The proposal by Downing Renewables/ Kingsway Solar for a very large new solar farm on parcels of land between Balsham, West Wratting and West Colville, has completed the 'informal consultation' stage at the back end of 2024 and thank you to everyone that has engaged with this process.

Shortly before the Christmas break, Kingsway Solar released their

'Environmental Impact Assessment' (EIA) document, which outlines what the applicants' environmental consultants see the environmental challenges and concerns to be. You can see this, plus all the other documents currently in the public domain, on their website -

<https://kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/>

The next stage of the process, once Kingsway Solar have digested all of the initial feedback, will be that they

will hold a ‘formal consultation’ which will be asking for much of the same responses to the proposals, should they be more detailed, that they will present at this point. Again, we encourage everyone to engage with this process, as the scheme will impact everyone in this area, directly or indirectly.

It’s worth reiterating that, given the size and scale of this scheme, the ultimate 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.

4-Day Week Consultation

The District Council has been trialling a 4-day work week for their staff since January 2023. SCDC are now in a position to come to a decision on this. This will likely include a formal consultation where people can give their views on the scheme since its inception.

Local Government Reorganisation

Before the Christmas break there was an announcement by central government that there would be a reorganisation of local government in the coming years with the thrust on there being much larger councils, run by elected Mayors, and doing away with smaller councils, such as District and possibly County councils.

It’s unlikely that there will be anything happening in

Cambridgeshire for some years, if at all, as we already have a directly elected Mayor in our county and have been designated as a ‘non-priority’ area for reorganisation.

Greenway progress

The ‘greenway’ that runs between Linton and Abington has made some progress over the past few months. The foot/cycle/horse path between Granta Park that runs down the side of Newmarket Rd in Little Abington has been completed. This is the latest stage of upgrades to the stretch of the road. Future phases include a new Travel Hub at Babraham and an upgraded bridge crossing of the A11 to access this.

Average Speed Camera & Accident Data

We have recently been sent the traffic data for the stretch of the A1307 between Linton & Cardinals Green – this shows the accident data as well as the number of tickets issued for people exceeding the speed limit. We’re happy to provide these to people that are interested.

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

Granta Medical Practice

As I write this, the NHS is again in the throes of extreme winter pressures due to high levels of infectious diseases such as flu, Covid, RSV and norovirus. You can help stop the spread by following the **three C's**:-

CLEAN: Wash your hands often, using soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand rub

COVER: Cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze. Use a tissue or your upper sleeve, not your hands.

CONTAIN: If you get sick, stay home until you're well again. Try not to spread your germs to others.

Don't forget you can treat many

minor illnesses at home with a well-stocked medicine cabinet. Colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs can all be treated 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.

And finally... it isn't too late to get a flu jab – they are available until the end of March – just give us a ring to book your appointment!

Sandra East

GRANTA PATIENT SERVICES

cpicb.grantapatientervices@nhs.net

Balsham WI

Balsham WI will celebrate its 100th birthday this year, and to celebrate each meeting in 2025 will focus on a different decade. Our first meeting this year saw us travel back in time to 1925.

All members wore a hat to the meeting (*as was customary in those days*). A member was able to get the committee minutes from the 1920s from the County Archives and with the help of local newspaper stories, the census and a local historian among others, was able to put together an interesting presentation. We heard about the start of the WI, what Balsham was like at the time and details of early

members and their programme.

We also had a visit from Miss Lily from the Music Hall in town with a recitation as well as a few games appropriate to the period.

Our next meeting on **11th February (7.30pm at The Pavilion)** will have a 1930s theme. Prospective members always welcome.

SAVE THE DATE!!

We are planning an **Afternoon Tea** for members past and present on **Saturday 16 August** at the **Church Institute.**

More details nearer the time.

Balsham Bowls Club

General preparation for the Season has started to get us ready. Also we had a **Social Bingo** just before Xmas and hope to have a follow up night in April.

We would like to thank everyone for supporting our fundraising Bingo Socials and those Members who give up their time to help prepare for the season ahead. This really helps us to keep going throughout the year.

League Fixtures:

Bowls Club Members have been working hard to arrange fixtures for the New Season.

Cambs and District League is done and the Steeple Bumstead Triples and Pairs fixtures are well on their way and will make 5 Teams again for the Club. The SBBL leagues start a little early, in late April, and we might try for some afternoon matches when the daylight is better.

Other Fixtures and Events:

There will be an **Open Day** on **Saturday May 3rd** from **1-5 pm**. If you would like to have a go you would be very welcome to come along and play if you can provide flat soled shoes. You should find more information on our website: **balshambowlsclub.co.uk** a little nearer the day.

An Internal Pairs Competition for members will be organised, and each Monday, weather permitting, will be roll up practice from 6pm, and

usually an opportunity to join the Club etc. Equipment will be available, and often experienced players will help out with some coaching.

Balsham Bowls are well known for their annual tour with arranged bowls matches in the local area where they are staying. This year it is **Bournemouth** from **Sept 5th-8th**.

The final event of the year is the **Open Pairs Competition**, set up for most of a Sunday with a lunch break and refreshments available. This year it is **September 21st** starting about **10.0am**.

And finally:

We welcome new people keen on playing or just wanting a try at any time during the season. You don't have to join a team and be competitive, you can just play for the pleasure and time out with friends.

If any groups would like to come and have an evening trying Bowling as we have organised before, please contact **Christine Till** on the number below.

We must not forget **Carpet Bowls**, played at the Bowls Pavillion all year round on **Tuesday & Thursday afternoons** from **2 - 4.30pm**. Bowls is easy to play and we welcome all ages from 10 to 90+ and skills and tactics will develop the more you play!

Contact:

Email: **balshambowls@gmail.com**
Tel (Christine Till): **07530 649 573**

The Bell



Hi Everybody,

Hope you all had a great Christmas, and New Year celebration.

Our **Valentine's Menu**

is now available on Facebook, and in the pub. This will be for bookings and pre orders only, please book early, as places will be limited.

We will be running our annual **Pool Knockout Competition** during February, call in the bar to enter.

Wednesday nights will see the return of our **Burger or Curry & Free Drink** deal, please book if possible.

Six Nations Rugby will be shown on tv during February and March. We also continue to show live sport on Sky and TNT.

February Diary:

Friday 14th: Valentine's Dinner.

Bookings and pre orders.

Tuesday 25th: Charity Quiz Night

8pm. New quizzers are always welcome.

Wednesday 26th: Lunch Club.

Bookings and pre orders.

Advance notice - Please book early for **Mother's Day Lunch, Sunday 30th March.**

We would like to thank you all for your continued support.

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

Balsham Football Club

RESULTS

DATE	HOME	AWAY	SCORE	RES	Comp
23 Nov	Sawston Utd Res	Balsham	4-1	L	L
30 Nov	Balsham	Whittlesford Utd	6-4	W	L
7.Dec	Guilden Morden	Balsham	7-1	L	L
14 Dec	Balsham	Sawston Utd Res	3-3	D	L
18 Jan	Balsham	Linton Granta Res	3-1	W	L

FIXTURES

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	COMP
1 Feb	Clare Town	Balsham	Clare Playing Field	L
8 Feb	Comberton Utd	Balsham	Comberton VC	L
15 Feb	Balsham	Thaxted Rangers Res	Balsham Rec	L
22 Feb	Balsham	Guilden Morden	Balsham Rec	L
1 Mar 3pm	Whittlesford	Balsham	The Lawn	L

Linton Library News

Author Talk: we have **Jo Browning Wroe** coming to give a talk on **Wednesday 12th February, 2pm** at the Library. The event is **£5** so please book your place by contacting the library or email: **cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

Valentine Craft: drop in session on **Friday 14th, 2-4pm**. *This event is aimed at children (with their parent/carer).*

50 Things Story & Craft event: **Tuesday 18th, 10.30-12.30pm**. *This event is aimed at children under 5 (with their parent/carer).* The event is free but please book your place by contacting the library.

NEW Games Afternoon: weekly, Thursday 2-4pm. Come and meet new people, learn to play Five Crowns (for example), board/card games provided or bring your favourite to share.

IT Club: every Wednesday 5-7pm, knowledgeable volunteers are here to offer help, including how to use

the **Addenbrookes MyChart** patient management software.

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.

Daylight Readers: our Book Groups meet on **Friday 21st**, one at **10.30am** and the other at **2.30pm**. New members always welcome.

Vicky Anandraj & Ann King

COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

Opening hours

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

Customer Services

(regular office hours): **0345 045 5225**
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Bin Collections February/March

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday February 5 TH	✓		
Wednesday February 12 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday February 19 TH	✓		
Wednesday February 26 TH		✓	
Wednesday March 5 TH	✓		
Wednesday March 12 TH		✓	✓

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

More than just a Gardening Club...

West Wickham & District Gardening Club has been going through a sea change in the last 12 months and is continuing to evolve in 2025. With a greater variety of talks and local garden visits than ever before, stalls at village fairs and numerous social gatherings our aim is to be a club for all our communities.

Over the past 12 months we have been delighted to welcome members and many new visitors of all ages to our events including the spring plant sale and rejuvenated summer fair, both of which we will build on this year. The photography competition is running again* and the excellent homemade cakes baked by the members will, as always, be a central feature of these gatherings!

Whilst many members are keen gardeners, there are an increasing number who just want to find out a little more about nature, ecology and plants. Sharing knowledge after the monthly meetings is, of course, invaluable with tips from the more proficient members helping out those of us with much less knowledge.

With the trend for indoor gardening continuing to grow, **17th February** sees us welcoming **Dr Manos Kanellos** who will be talking on the subject of '**How to set up and maintain a terrarium**'. Dr Kanellos is a plant physiologist who has been growing orchids for many years and is a qualified judge for the RHS Orchid Committee.

So why not come and join us to find out how to create your own indoor glasshouse. Non-members are always welcome for a **£2** entry fee.

Annual membership is **£8** per person. Please call **Sue Boase** on **07716 401646** or email **wwdgc@westwickham.org**

All meetings are held at 7.30pm in West Wickham Village Hall

Photography titles this year are: **Frozen, Light and Dark, Terrific Trees. All categories are open to children with a special prize awarded for the best under 16's entry. Entries to be received by the **end of August**.*

Sally Collins

VICE CHAIR | WW&DGC



Balsham Weather November/December 2024



Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

NOVEMBER:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 17° C on 4th November

Lowest: 3° C on 21st November

Night time temperatures

Highest: 11° C on 4th November

Lowest: -2° C on 21st November

DECEMBER:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 15° C on 4th December

Lowest: 5° C on 26th December

Night time temperatures

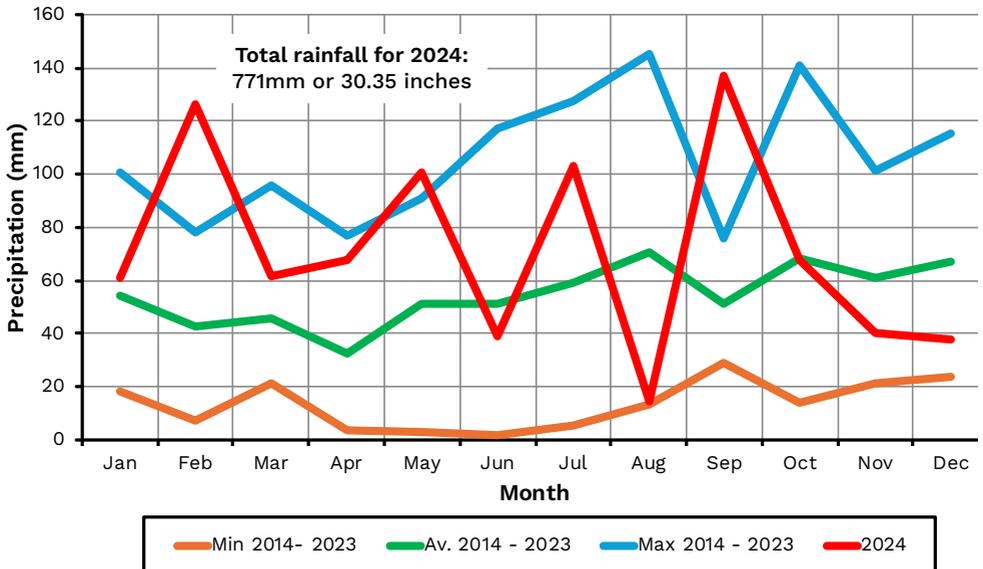
Highest: 9° C on 1st December

Lowest: 1° C on 20th December

November/December Rainfall at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total November 2024 rainfall: 40mm/1.6” on 13 days

Total December 2024 rainfall: 37.5mm/1.48”

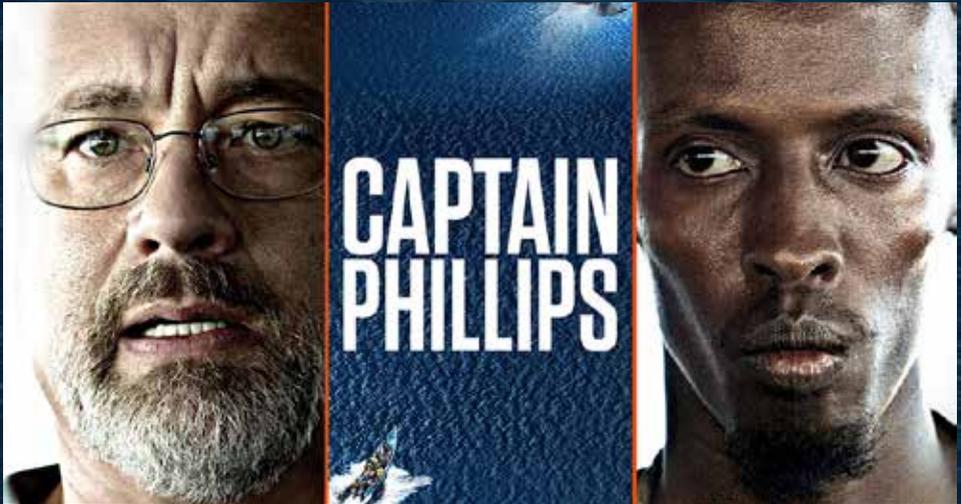




Saturday February 1st

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

Captain Phillips (12)



Balsham Picture House February film will be **Captain Phillips** (12) starring Tom Hanks as Captain Richard Phillips and it is based on the true story of the hijacking by Somali pirates in 2009 of the US flagged Maersk Alabama off the East coast of Africa. This was the first time in 200 years that a US vessel had been hijacked and the film is a gripping story of the event and the relationships developed between Phillips and Muse the Somali pirate captain.

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

Balsham Picture House is now starting its 9th Year of showing newly released films every month and has built up a huge library of Blu-Rays which are available for any member to borrow to show again at home for a small donation. Contact balshampicturehouse@gmail.com for details.

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