



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 670

JUNE 2025

Summer is here!



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Charlie Pryor



Photo: Charlie Pryor



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Contents	Page
Editorial	4-5
Letters	5
Community Café	5
Church Services	6
From the Church	7
Church Services Diary	8
Meadow School	9
Kingsway Solar Community Action Group	10-11
Linton Library	11
Linton Historical Society	12
Linton Flower Festival	12
VJ Day	13-14
Big Balsham Lunch	15
Event Ads	18
Linton Village College	19
The Bell	20
Bin Collections	20
Phones Going Digital	21
Balsham Parish Council	22-24
District & County Councillors	24-26
The Black Bull	27
Sawston u3a	28
TAC Cricket Club	28
Balsham Football Club	28
Balsham WI	29
June/July Events Diary	29
West Wickham Gardening Club	30
Weather	31
Balsham Picture House	32

The opinions expressed in the letters and articles in this magazine are those of the writers who are responsible for the accuracy of the information contained within them.

KEEP UP TO DATE!

All the latest news and events at:
www.balsham.net
 Send content to: clive@ben8and.co.uk

DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

WEDNESDAY JUNE 18TH 2025

*Copy should be submitted
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Charlie Pryor, Margaret Creek, Lesley Bennett, Larry Davies and Richard Pargeter



Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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Editorial

It has to be summer, it's June, and while writing this in late May, the two-week forecast has possible/probable rain every day! But we need it. All the watering that needs doing for the vegetables, pots and new plants costs money through the meter, so if it comes for free from the sky, that helps. However, some days what we get here may be just cloud, so the hose and cans will still be needed to supplement the saved water in the butts. There's not much of that left after such a dry spring... Swings and roundabouts: a thatched roof is no good for collecting water in butts, but there is a reduction in water rates as what lands on the roof drips onto the soil, not into gutters and drains.

The school year seems to dictate what happens in our communities. At this time of year June and early July are very busy, but late July and August are holiday time and many groups take time off. Part of the busyness you may be able to make use of—if you get this in time—is a **Book Sale** in the church on **Saturday, May 31st**. Loads of books and all must go, so they will be cheap. But what is biggest in our plans is **The Big Balsham Lunch** on **Saturday, July 5th**. This will be in the middle of the day and is for all the community. We are not trying to raise money, just to have an event that encourages people to get together, from all parts of the village. We have such a

long village, which Google tells me is 1.1 miles long, that some people never see or meet some of the other villagers. This will be your opportunity. Bring a picnic, or bring-and-share food. There will be drinks: a bar, teas and coffees, soft drinks, ices (for the first 2 hours) and some stands with other edibles too. In the Institute there will be an exhibition remembering the war as it affected Balsham, (see *page 15*) and activities for children too. On the Rec and in the Church there will be other stands with entertainments, too. We hope people who have hobbies or crafts will bring along displays, such as vehicles, trains, or bee-keeping, and those who bake, make jewellery, or sell cosmetics etc will have stands to sell items.

If it is wet, and it is summer after all, then we have the buildings to use and shelter in—why not a picnic in church? All the buildings have loos.

Up date on the ducks: a family arrived in my garden from a nest in the Old School garden with 11 ducklings that I saw, but I believe they then moved to the pond next door. The next day 'my' duck hatched all her eggs in the raised herb bed. She was below calling them but they couldn't climb over the edge, so I scooped them down to her, 9 little balls of fluff. She took them off to next door, I believe. Then two weeks ago another clutch of day-olds was brought into the

garden, 11 to start with, then down to 9 and now 7 for several days. They are very confident and come running to the back door when they see me, and the duck and drake shoo off any other adult ducks. They are not concerned about the moorhens who now have their own nest, so chicks soon I hope. Poor Lizzie, my dog, is frightened of the ducks, so

when she walks down the garden with me she looks away, as if if she can't see them, they can't see her!!

I hope to see you all at the events through the summer, and perhaps the weather gods will bring rain in the nights and sun during the days..

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

BALSHAM SINGERS

When you read this **Balsham Singers Spring Concert** will have taken place on 17th May -a resumé next month. However the choir are holding **Singing for Fun** sessions starting **22nd May** in the Sports Pavilion, Balsham: 7.30pm start. These are open to anyone who would like to come along, choir members or anyone curious about singing in a large group and would like to give us a go.

£5 a session, pay as you go, no

commitment, just turn up.

Dates are **May 22nd, 29th, June 5th, 19th & 26th**; if you attend all 5 then last one is free. We look forward to seeing you there. Music will be taken from musical theatre.

Unfortunately our Come and Sing event scheduled for 28th June has been cancelled and those who registered their interest have been notified.

Jo Stinton

Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

Each month there is a **Coffee Morning**, usually on the second Tuesday of the month, held in the

Church Institute. Dates for the next Coffee Mornings are: **Tuesdays, June 10th, July 15th.**

Church Services



Services will be shown on the benefice website and the Church Notice Board.

Information about services in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham can be found on the Church Notice Board and on the website www.grantavale.org.uk under the calendar section, or by signing up to our weekly newsletter, details of which can also be found on the website.

CHURCH CONTACTS

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

SERVICES at other CHURCHES when possible

ROMAN CATHOLIC Masses at:

Cherry Hinton: St Philip Howard Church

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

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

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

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

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

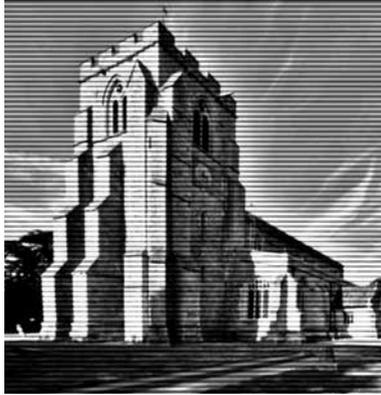
METHODIST: Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

From the Church

“Whatever next?!”

I seem to hear myself increasingly asking this question as I watch the news, read the newspaper or follow the multiple online sources of information which constantly bombard us. Certainly, so far this year we seem to have been subjected to a torrent of bad news, depressing forecasts, inhuman behaviour and horrific events that, were I to possess any, would make my hair stand on end! However, before concluding that the world is going to hell in a handcart and abandoning all hope, I have to encourage myself and thereby, I hope, you, to pause and, for just a moment take stock. I sometimes remind myself that when I was a boy the news was a ten-minute bulletin on the wireless and salacious stories were the province of a certain kind of newspaper, so is everything now much worse or, if we can shut out the noise and distraction for a moment, is there something else we need to hear?

In the life of the Church we go through something of a rollercoaster ride of events during the first part of the year starting with God



sending his only Son as a baby into this world to save us from ourselves. We then hear of his amazing life and ministry, plumb the depths of his suffering and death on the cross and are then given the sure promise of eternal life in his Easter resurrection, but, just when we think it is safe, on Ascension Day Jesus disappears back into heaven, perhaps leaving us wondering “whatever next”. Jesus however never leaves us without hope and on the first Pentecost Sunday the promised comforter in the form of the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and set their hearts and lives on fire, transforming them from an anxious band of believers into an ever-growing, confident church, ready to take the good news of Jesus to the farthest corners of the then known world. As we read in the Acts of the Apostles the task was not easy or without significant cost but in the love of God and power of the Holy Spirit all things are possible, and the results are beyond our wildest dreams, are we ready for that – whatever next?

Keith Day

June Services	9:30am	11:00am	6:00pm
1st <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alastair France</i>	
8th <i>Pentecost</i>	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship West Wrattling <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Morning Worship Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Café Church Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Taize service Weston Colville <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
15th <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	Holy Communion West Wrattling <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Morning Worship Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion Little Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Taize service Hildersham <i>Steven Wheeler/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
22nd <i>1st Sunday after Trinity</i>	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> 10.00am Creative Church Abington Hub <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Rosemary Mead</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i> Holy Communion (BCP) Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Evening Prayer Great Abington <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
29th <i>2nd Sunday after Trinity</i>	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship West Wrattling <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Evensong Weston Colville <i>Alistair Collen</i>

REGULAR MIDWEEK SERVICES:

Every Tuesday at Hildersham church – 7.00pm **Silent Space** followed by **Compline**
Every Friday at Weston Colville church – 8.45am **Morning Prayer**
Saturday 7th June, Pentecost Quiet Afternoon, Weston Colville, 3.00pm – 4.30pm

The Meadow Primary School

It has been a truly enriching and exciting time for the children at The Meadow Primary School, with a wide range of activities that have supported their learning, development, and enjoyment across the curriculum.

A Journey Through Faith

As part of Year 3 and 4's RE learning, pupils recently took part in a fantastic trip to both Cambridge Mosque and C3 Church. This experience gave them a unique opportunity to explore and compare two very different places of worship. From the breathtaking wooden latticework and serene atmosphere of Cambridge Mosque to the modern, welcoming design of C3 Church, the children were exposed to incredible examples of religious architecture.

Drawing on their previous knowledge of Holy Trinity Church in Balsham, the pupils were able to make thoughtful comparisons between all three buildings. Guided tours at each venue allowed the children to learn about the deep symbolism present in the spaces and how people of faith use these buildings in their worship. We are extremely grateful to both venues for being so welcoming and generous with their time – their hospitality made the visits truly memorable.

Remembering the Past

In school, we also came together to mark a significant historical event – the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

Mrs Butcher launched our celebrations with a special assembly that reminded the children why this day is so important. It was a heartwarming sight to see the hall filled with a sea of red, white, and blue as the children gathered together. One of the highlights was hearing the beautiful VE Day songs they had learned – their voices filled the room with pride and joy.

Jumping into Skipping Week

Adding to the spirit of fun and energy this term, we also celebrated **Skipping Week**. Children were encouraged to practise skipping as much as possible, using both individual ropes and the big rope. It has been a delight to see so many pupils learning new skills, developing rhythm and coordination, and trying out creative skipping patterns. Their enthusiasm and progress have been truly inspiring.

At The Meadow Primary, we are proud to offer our pupils such a rich and diverse set of experiences that support their academic learning, personal growth, and physical wellbeing. We warmly welcome anyone who may be able to offer something similar to further enrich the children's experiences—please don't hesitate to contact the school office at: **office@meadowprimary.org**.

Faye Facer

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

Kingsway Solar Community Action

Following our AGM in April 2025, we're pleased to report a rise in membership - reflecting the growing concern within our community.

To keep everyone informed and connected, we've launched a members' WhatsApp Announcements Channel to complement our regular updates on Facebook and allows us to share important information quickly and directly.

Recent developments in Weston Colville

Several residents in Weston Colville have contacted us after receiving letters from agents acting on behalf of the Kingsway Solar project. Where appropriate, we have encouraged landowners to consider granting access, especially when it supports informed decision-making for ecological surveys.

However, we are also aware that certain residents have been issued with a Notice under Section 172, compelling access to their land. This has understandably caused concern. These issues have been raised with local planning and with Pippa Heylings, and we are awaiting further clarification and guidance.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide updates as more information becomes available. If you've received similar correspondence or have concerns, please get in touch - we're currently gathering all related information.

Step into Nature: June's Call to Action – Butterflies!

Thank you to everyone who's taken part in our **Step into Nature** campaign so far. For June, we're asking you to look out for butterflies, which are important indicators of a healthy environment.

Please keep recording your sightings - especially anything unusual, rare, or protected. You can log them via iRecord to help us gather vital data within a 2km radius of the proposed Kingsway Solar site. Let's keep showing how much our local wildlife matters!

JOIN THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY WALK – Say No to Kingsway Solar Sunday 8 June, 10am

Meet at **West Wrattling Rec Ground** Car Park, Bull Lane, West Wrattling CB21 5NP

KSCA is joining a nationwide walk to raise awareness of the impact of large-scale solar farms like Kingsway Solar. Our local walk in West Wrattling features a 2.25-mile route (or 1-mile option), passing through areas directly threatened by the proposed development.

- After the walk, enjoy tea, cake, and a short talk about the solar farm at the Village Hall.
- **Why it matters:** Over 1,500 hectares of farmland and countryside could be lost.
- **BBC coverage expected** – let's make our voices heard!

■ **Volunteers needed for marshalling and refreshments – please contact us if you can help.**

Stay connected with KSCA

If you've signed up as a KSCA member – thank you! You can also keep up with the latest news and developments by visiting our website: kingswayaction.org And don't forget to follow us on **Facebook** for real-time updates, event info,

and ways to get involved.

Support KSCA

Donations are gratefully received via GoFundMe (<https://gofund.me/479e0bd8>) to support our ongoing work in opposing the Kingsway Solar development.

Kathy Day

Linton Library News

In June we'll be joining other Linton groups to celebrate **Great Big Green Week**, which is a national celebration of actions to live more sustainably and protect the environment. Pop into the library to make a green heart and pledge your support to our future.

We are excited to announce that our **Summer Reading Challenge** kicks off on **Saturday 5th July**. The theme this year is **"Story Garden"**, and we are thrilled that Scotsdales have arranged for every child who signs up to receive a special gift (which will get everyone planting!). All children 0-11 years can sign up to take part.

Rhyme then Duplo: Tuesday mornings 10-11am for 0-4 years. We would love to see you and your little ones there!

Do you like reading stories aloud? We have a volunteer vacancy for story and rhyme time. Pop in if you're interested.

Lego/Duplo: Friday 10-11am, weekly (every 1st, 2nd & 4th Friday). Come

along and entertain your 0-4 year old.

Games Afternoon: weekly, Thursday 2-4pm. Come and meet new people, board/card games provided or bring your favourite to share.

IT Drop In: every Wednesday 5-7pm, knowledgeable volunteers are here to offer help with Information Technology, including how to use the Addenbrookes MyChart patient management software.

Knit and Natter: every Tuesday, 2pm – 4pm. Bring along any craft project you're working on.

Daylight Readers: our Book Groups meet at 10.30am and 2.30pm on Friday 20th.

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

Linton & District Historical Society

May meeting 2025

Owing to a last-minute cancellation for our final session this season, we are grateful to **Dr Richard Paden**, a committee member, who stepped in and gave a fascinating lecture on the **History of Canals**, starting with the construction of the Bridgewater Canal commissioned by the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater in 1760 right up to the present day. A well presented talk, illustrated with photographs

and information, not only of the canals but also the structures and social history alongside them.

The 2025/26 season will resume on Tuesday 16th September 2025.

For further details of the LDHS please email:

ldhscambs@gmail.com

or 'phone **01223 893915** or

01223 678835

Margaret Creek

Linton Gears Up for Colourful Flower Festival

St Mary's Church in Linton will burst into bloom from **6th to 8th June** as it hosts its **Flower Festival**, celebrating local life with the theme "Our Linton."

Festivities begin Friday, 11am to 6pm, when visitors can admire stunning flower arrangements, browse a display of the renowned Linton Quilt, and enjoy historical photographs of the village. Refreshments and a bar will be available throughout the day.

Saturday offers an even fuller programme, with the church open from 10am to 6pm. Alongside the floral displays, guests can enjoy live music, various stalls, and more opportunities to relax with food and drink in a picturesque setting.

Sunday starts with Holy Communion at 8am and Parish

Communion at 10am. From 11.30am to 6pm, the church welcomes all to view the arrangements. Highlights include a performance by **Linton Jazz** at **3pm**, the ever-popular **Duck Race** at 5pm, and the **Grand Raffle Draw** at **6pm**.

This much-loved event promises a vibrant weekend for all ages, combining community spirit, creative flair, and local tradition.

Charlotte Dodd

CHAIR OF EVENTS COMMITTEE

events@stmaryslinton.org.uk



VJ Day – Victory over Japan Day



1ST BATTALION, CAMBRIDGESHIRE REGIMENT.
LINTON HEADQUARTERS, MARKET LANE, LINTON. 1940

Back Row, from Left – 5th Percy Beeton; 7th Ken Brown.
Middle Row – 6th David Grigg; 7th John Jolley.

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan or as it's commonly known **VJ Day**. Victory in Europe (VE Day) had been declared three months earlier in May 1945 but for those who fought in the Asia regions and their families it was to be another three brutal months before peace was declared. Hence this has often been referred to as the 'forgotten war'.

The response to VE day within the village was very muted and I'm told that no bunting was hung or street parties held probably due to many of our soldiers who at this time were located around world and still in conflict with the Japanese.

1939 had seen the 1st and 2nd battalions of the Cambridgeshire Regiment being sent to Scotland to train in modern and mechanised warfare in preparation for service in the Middle East. However upon Japan's attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941 they were hastily sent to Singapore, arriving in January 1942, where they immediately found themselves fighting in a defensive role. In February the 1st battalion were sent to improve the defences around the Seletar airfield, but it was a hopeless case. Holding on against vastly superior forces and with rations running short the battle came to an end on 15th February with the British Commander,

Lieutenant-General A E Percival surrendering the island and its garrison to the Japanese. It was noted "that when surrender came the 1st Battalion, Cambridgeshire Regiment had been surrounded for two days by the Japanese forces, yet their perimeter remained unbroken".

The fall of Singapore cast a heavy shadow over our village when the battalion was captured, among the captured were David Grigg, Ken Brown, Percy Beeton and John Jolley, all Balsham men.

What followed was three and a half years as Prisoners of War, firstly in the confines of the Island prison Changi. A move into Thailand followed and from there moving further into Burma as work on the railway progressed finally ending up in River Valley, Saigon where they were liberated in August 1945.

On the 4th June 1945, Elsie Jolley, wife of John Arthur Jolley, received formal notification that her husband had sadly died on '7th June 1943, whilst a prisoner of war in Japanese hands'. Aged 29 he had seen his new baby daughter just once before embarking for Singapore. He is buried in the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand.

Following liberation the transportation of the surviving PoW's back home began, with Ken Brown, Percy Beeton and David Grigg

returning safely to their loving homes and families, although unfortunately David Grigg continued to suffer ill health until his death in 1958.

Mention must be made here of the two men killed whilst fighting in the Far East. Sidney Simpson, 1st Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment and son of Robert and Maud Simpson of Balsham was killed in action on 1st March 1945, aged 24. Sidney served in the Burma Campaign and India throughout the war with the 32nd Infantry Brigade and 20th Indian Infantry Division.

Also of John Osbourne, a veteran of the first world war with the Royal Naval Division. Formerly of Balsham John was living in Canada at the outbreak of WW2 and joined the Winnipeg Grenadiers. It was at the defence of the Garrison at Hong Kong in December 1941 that he was killed by sacrificing his life to save others. For this outstandingly brave action he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

When you go home, tell them of us, and say

"for your tomorrow, we gave our today."

Jan Ellam

* *My grateful thanks to the families who shared their precious memories, information and photographs to enable the publication of this article.*

The Big Balsham Lunch

Saturday 5th July 2025

The **Big Balsham Lunch** will take place on **July 5th 2025** in the centre of the village—the Institute, Pavilion, Recreation Ground and the Church. We hope people will bring picnics for themselves and perhaps also to bring and share. There will also be some food available, teas, cakes, drinks, ices etc.

It is a community event to get people together to help bind our long village so those at both ends and all areas in between can meet each other and have a good time in summer! If it is wet we have the buildings to shelter in and to have indoor picnics!

The big lunch idea has been developed this year to celebrate 80 years after the Second World War

Victories in Europe and the Far East. As you will see from Jan Ellam's article our village didn't want to celebrate in 1945. In August the men were still far from home, and there

was rationing and difficulty for many of the families of most of East Anglia. Now we can recognise all the

men and women who served in that war, and celebrate their lives, and

those of their families

at home here. The village then was a close community and we can now do something

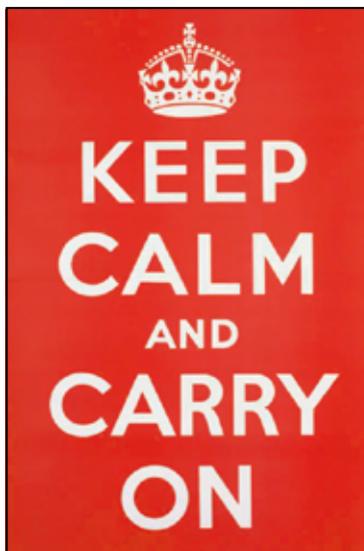
to make our community closer too.

Gill Parry Brown

gillbrown25@yahoo.co.uk

Dick Paden

dickpaden277@btinternet.com



Balsham during the Second World War

A glimpse into Balsham life during the war years

Find out how the Woman's Institute raised funds for the war effort and kept up morale

Learn about those who served in the forces

**Exhibition and Slideshow
The Church Institute
Saturday 5th July**

Free activities for children and adults!



Photo: Charlie Pryor



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Angela Read



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Business was brisk at the Big Balsham Sale



Photo: Margaret Creek

Vibrant field of purple Phacelia (*also shown in front cover photo*)



Photo: Joanna Sanders

A Union Jack on Nine Chimney House possibly the same one as used by Joanna Sanders' parents on 8th May 1945



Photo: Lesley Bennett

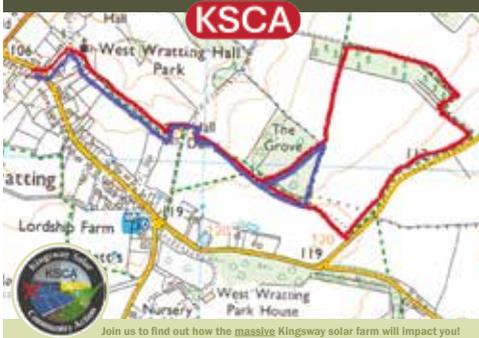


Photo: Richard Pargeter

Ely Cathedral from Icknield Way - a view in jeopardy?

Community Walk

Sunday 8th June 10am - 12pm, West Wrattling village hall



Join us to find out how the massive Kingsway solar farm will impact you!

Parking at the recreation ground
Free refreshments in the village hall for all,
walking or not!

For more information contact us Kingswayaction.org

Think BIG!
BIG area * BIG panels * BIG impact
Yes to solar, No to Kingsway!



SATURDAY | JULY 5TH | 12.00-4.00PM

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STALLS

Do you have a hobby, craft or interest or a small business, or trade that you would like to bring to the lunch to inform or sell?

We are able to have stalls and exhibits in the Recreation Ground or the Church.

Bring your own gazebo, table, chair or what you need.

No rent - keep anything you raise!

CONTACT:

gillbrown25@yahoo.co.uk
or dickpaden277@btinternet.com

IN THE NAME OF BACH

JS Bach and his Sons

Ashley Solomon - Baroque Flute

Steven Devine - Harpsichord



A Baroque Concert in

Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham CB21 6BZ

Thursday 19th June at 7.30pm

Ashley is Head of Historical Performance at London's Royal College of Music and director of Florilegium.

Steven regularly directs the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

Tickets at £20 available from

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1322767305619?aff=oddtcreator>
or at the door

Contact Athene Hunt: huntcam2015@gmail.com

In Support of the Friends of Holy Trinity Hildersham



Ashdon Open Gardens

SUN | 15 | JUNE

11.00am to 5.00pm.

After a year's break Ashdon Open Gardens are back and ready to go!

Do join us for what is always an enjoyable day out.

Tickets: £10 per adult CHILDREN FREE

Available from 'The Cart' in the centre of the village on the bridge (CB10 2ET) & All Saints Church Rooms in Church Lane (CB10 2HG)

Refreshments and lunches available

Proceeds to All Saints Church, Ashdon
(All Payments Cash or Cheques only)

Linton Village College



Successful students from the Henry Morris Award

In celebration of **World Book Day**, on 6th March this year, Heads of English from Anglian Learning Trust schools launched a competition designed to promote reading for pleasure. As part of the Trust, Linton Village College students were invited to submit a creative entry based on a piece of literature that they had read and enjoyed.

LVC's English department was inundated with beautiful paintings, creative collages, extended writing and animations. We were delighted by the quality and originality of the

submissions received and it was difficult to whittle the entries down to a final six. After some deliberation, we selected winners from years 7, 8 and 9 and awarded highly commended entries in celebration assemblies with Easter chocolate!

We were delighted to receive news that Linton pupil Tony in Year 9 had been selected as overall winner of the Trust competition. Judges praised Tony's 'vivid storytelling that is perfectly evocative of the rich, complex, international & intellectual world of Holmes and Watson.'

We also say congratulations to seven of our students who have successfully been awarded funding from the **Henry Morris Award**. The award enables students to apply for funding to support independent learning projects. Our students have been successful in gaining funding for a wide variety of projects including a Latin course, filming in Vietnam, research into Polish politics, photography projects and seeing a London show.

Enrichment is a core value at LVC. It is great to celebrate and recognise independent learning achievements that demonstrate students' holistic education beyond the classroom.

Laura Heard

PR & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Email: lheard@lintonvc.org

The Bell

Hi Everybody,

The Bell Inn beer garden is a great place to meet family and friends for a drink or meal, we also have our summer houses which can be booked for dining for up to six people.

On Wednesday evenings, Have a drink with us. Buy any adult main course meal and get a **FREE drink**. Please book in advance if possible.

As mentioned in the May edition of the Review, we are holding our **Annual Charity Football Match** on **Saturday 14th June**, Landlord's X1 v AFC Balsham, kick off **3pm** at the recreation ground. Please come along to watch the game, and join us back at the pub for disco/karaoke and barbecue. We will be raising money for Dementia UK. Please bring cash for the raffle.



Sunday 15th: Father's day, please book early, as this is usually one of our busiest days.

Tuesday 24th: Charity quiz night 8pm. New quizzers are always welcome.

Wednesday 25th: Lunch Club. Bookings and pre orders only.

Advanced Notice:

Our lease is sadly coming to an end early in August. We will be celebrating our six years at The Bell on **Friday 18th** and **Saturday 19th July**, more details in July Review.

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.

June Diary:

Saturday 14th: Charity football match.

Phil & Mary

Bin Collections June/July

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday June 4 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday June 11 TH	✓		
Wednesday June 18 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday June 25 TH	✓		
Wednesday July 2 ND		✓	✓

Get Ready, Go Digital, Stay Connected

Is your landline ready?

Landlines are changing. By **January 2027***, traditional landlines will be upgraded with digital technology.

This national upgrade is known as the **Digital Switchover** and will mean that landline calls will be made over the internet instead of the old telephone network. Telephone providers are responsible for switching customers to the upgraded service, but everyone is encouraged to check if and how the change will affect them, especially those who rely on their landline or use a telecare device.

For many, the change will be simple. All you will have to do is plug your landline phone into a broadband router instead of a traditional phone socket. But for others, especially those who rely on their landline for care alarms, medical devices, or staying in touch, it's important to understand what the change means and what action they need to take in order to stay connected.

Connecting Cambridgeshire is running the **Get Ready, Go Digital, Stay Connected** campaign to help local residents prepare for and feel confident about the change.

The switchover will mainly affect

- People without an internet connection at home
- Those who rely on a traditional land line not already upgraded a digital phone service

- Users of telecare and personal alarm systems, eg fall monitors or lifelines.

3 things to do today

- 1** Contact your phone provider to find out if the change affects you.
- 2** Need support? Ask a trusted friend or family member to help.
- 3** Use a personal or fall alarm? Contact your provider to ensure it will still work with the new system.

Look out for scams

The switchover doesn't require upfront payments. If you get a suspicious call, hang up and contact your phone provider using the official number from a recent bill.

Support each other

Know someone who might need help? A quick conversation or offer to help them call their phone provider could make a big difference.

No one should be left behind. Whether it's you, a neighbour or a relative, now is the time to ask the question: Is your landline ready?



For more information, visit:
www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/digitalswitchover
or scan the QR code.

** Deadline confirmed by Openreach at time of publication.*

Balsham Parish Council

The **Annual Parish Council Meeting** took place on 19th May 2025 at 7.30pm in Balsham Pavilion followed by the **Parish Council Meeting** at 8pm.

Presentation outlining the work of the KSCA (Kingsway Solar Community Action) by Tony Day (Co-Chair of the group):

Tony Day presented a talk-with-screen about large scale solar farms and how that they can be challenged. A copy of the presentation will be available on the PC website.

The PC thanked Tony, Kathy and everyone involved in Kingsway Solar Action Group for all their hard work setting up the committee.

Annual Meeting

The Chair, Gordon Fiddy, presented his report on the past year, this follows after the details of the evenings business.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair:

Gordon Fiddy stepped down as PC Chair. The PC thanked Gordon for all his hard work as Chairman and are pleased that Gordon is remaining on the PC. Kim Pearson was duly elected as Chair and James Kiddy was elected as Vice-Chair.

Big Community Lunch VE/VJ Day Celebration July 5th

The celebrations are being organised at the Church Institute, the Church and the Pavilion. There will be an exhibition in the Church Institute, tea and cake in the Pavilion. Everyone is invited to bring a picnic and there will be other entertainments and interests

including a large inflatable slide for the children.

West Wickham Road:

The PC are very frustrated that the works did not take place at the beginning of May. The PC have had correspondence with CCC Highways and the DART (Drainage & Remedial Team) to push them to organise the works as soon as possible.

Planning:

Site address: 108 High Street, Balsham

Reference: 25/01489/HFUL

Proposal: New vehicular and pedestrian access from the property to the highway. Construct 2no. brick piers and hang inward opening gates. Close off existing access and construct/extend brick wall.

PC Decision: Approve

Site address: 5 - 7 Mays Avenue, Balsham

Reference: 25/01570/FUL

Proposal: Replacement of existing white UPVC windows and double glazing with an enhanced U Value of 1.4.

PC Decision: Approve

Site address: Worsted Lodge, London Road, Old A11, Babraham

Reference: 25/00616/LBC
25/00615/FUL

Proposal: Conversion of 1 No. Barn to residential use (Class C3) and new roof.

PC Decision: Approve

craftsmen Stan Stinton, Rob Ellam and Martin Chamberlain. The finished project is a tribute to their skills.

Presentations were made by Kingsway/Downing outlining their proposals for a solar farm. We were left with the knowledge that the size of the proposed site will be very large and have a significant affect on Balsham and the surrounding area.

In December Kingsway Solar released their “Environmental Impact Assessment” (EIA) document. The Parish Council responded to this document along with Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambs District Council and other interested parties. We are now expecting Kingsway to release their

detailed plans during the summer. Thank you to Jules Scotland for setting up the Solar Farm Action group and to Kathy and Tony Day for all of their help with the Kingsway Solar Farm submission.

We reluctantly agreed to increase the Balsham element of the Community charge. We will use this fund to have a solar system with battery storage for the pavilion, reducing the electricity costs for the building. In addition we will have funds available if required for professional help with the Solar Farm application.

Gordon Fiddy

CHAIR, BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

District & County Councillors' Report

May 2025

Kingsway Solar Farm

This year our area has been approached by a solar developer with plans for a very large solar farm in the fields between Balsham, West Wrating and Weston Colville. If the plans are granted planning permission it would be the largest solar farm in the country – some 1500 hectares – and would be larger than Heathrow Airport, Newmarket or the built up parts of Cambridge. The process is that the applicant has engaged in an ‘informal consultation’ at the back end of 2024 and is due to launch a ‘formal consultation’ in the summer of 2025.

We would encourage everyone to engage with this, regardless of proximity to the site, as it will be one of the largest developments in our area and will affect us all in some way. Due to the scale of the proposal, the final decision will be made by a government planning inspector rather than by any of the local councils.

Full plans can be seen on the Kingsway Solar website - <https://kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/>

Civil Parking Enforcement

The introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement (traffic wardens) in South Cambridgeshire was over a

year ago. There are stats to show that there have been a number of tickets issued in that time, however, the problem of bad/illegal parking persists. The scheme is funded until 2029, after which it needs to be self-funding else it could cease. There is a link on the County Council's website where regular poor parking can be reported and considered for patrol by the traffic wardens - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/parking-services/south-cambridgeshire-civil-parking-enforcement>

Anaerobic Digesters

Over the past few years, we have had planning applications submitted for two separate anaerobic biodigester plants in our area. One was in Streetly End and the other just over the Suffolk border outside Haverhill.

Mid-way through 2024 planning permission was granted for the plant in Streetly End, so construction of this can now commence, if the applicant still wants to proceed with it. At time of writing the plant in Suffolk hasn't had a decision made on it but one is due in June 2025. There are currently official objections from the Highways department and the Environment Agency, so we would be surprised if this one is granted planning approval.

Local Government Reform

This year, the government announced that it has plans to reduce the

number of local councils in the country and merge them into what are called unitary authorities – this would mean one local council to deliver all the services that the District & County Councils currently undertake.

The government has asked local councils to put forward proposals for what they see as sustainable geographic areas for these new unitary councils to operate in. Where we are in South Cambridgeshire the starting point for us is a joint council that covers the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire areas. This is because a lot of the services, such as waste collection, planning and legal, are currently shared already. There could be a case to extend the area to include either Huntingdonshire or East Cambridgeshire areas but the starting point for negotiations will be the Cambridge City/South Cambridgeshire combination.

We appreciate that the majority of people won't care what form their local council takes, as long as the services provided continue in as an efficient manner as possible. However, a change of this magnitude represents a significant upheaval, in local government terms, so watch this space.

Local Elections

On May 1st this year there were local elections for the County Council and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority

(the Mayor).

Henry was absolutely delighted to have been re-elected to represent the Linton division on the County Council – thank you to everyone from all 13 villages in the Division for putting your trust in him again. Regardless of who you voted for, he will continue to do his best for our part of the world.

The Liberal Democrats now have control of the County Council as they won just over half of seats. The overall composition of the County Council, by number of seats, now looks like this:

- Liberal Democrat – 31
- Conservative – 10
- Reform – 10
- Labour – 5
- Green – 3
- Independent – 2

The Conservative candidate, Paul Bristow, won the Mayoral election.

District Council Cambridge 2050

The current government is continuing to promote massive development in and around Cambridge City and South Cambs. The prospect of something like 150,000 new houses in the area over time will mean significant changes. But before any of this becomes reality there are many hurdles to overcome, not least the issues with water and electricity shortages as well as transport infrastructure issues.

These are problems the new Unitary

Authority will have to tackle when it comes into being.

Four Day Week

After more than two years of trials, extensive analysis of performance and delaying issues with the previous government we are, at last, about to decide on whether or not to make the four-day week permanent. The decision will be made at the July Full Council meeting considering the results of all the independently assessed performance data, including financial implications and the results of the public consultation. All indications are that the trial has been a success.

Food Waste Collection

It is planned to introduce a separate food waste collection next year. This is Government policy and we are obliged to introduce the new scheme. It will mean having a caddy for food only, it will no longer be possible to add food waste to the green bin. This is a major operation for the District Council requiring an additional 22 vehicles and around 75 new staff. Much of the initial costs are met by Government grants, but not all. There will be an extra cost that will need to be met out of the council's resources.

Contact Information:

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

The Black Bull



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

Happy June!

Thank you to those who joined us last month – whether for the Folk Night (a humdinger), Thursday coffee morning, Locals' Lunch Club, Tasting Menu Night or our first Nick Antoniou Jazz night (30th May in case this reaches you before then), which we will definitely be repeating so watch out for next dates.

Next Events coming up:

Next **Pint of Music – Folk Night** (+Specials Board) **Thursday 5th June** and **Thursday 26th June** (*there will be a break July and August then starting up again Thursday 4th September*)

Our Irish/Folk friends are well settled into the Black Bull bar. Last month was the best yet without a spare chair in the house. Great atmosphere, not to be missed. Tony Day brings along a varying

'melody' of musicians for an informal evening of acoustic music and song. Local folk/Irish/acoustic roots – whistle, bodhran

Fathers' Day Weekend

Friday 13th – Sunday 15th June

Steak, Red Wine & Beer Festival

Choice of Four Steak Specials, Four Robust Red Wines and/or Four Draft Ales – or a flight of both/ either?!

Locals' Lunch Club

(£12 main, £17 two courses)

Friday 20th June 12 noon for 12:15pm

Pre-booked only – Book your own table or join a communal table

Save The Date:

Rob's Annual Caribbean BBQ Night
Saturday 26th July

Best wishes from all of us

Alex, Rob, Liz, Luke & the teams

info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk

Sawston u3a

Would you like to learn new skills, meet new friends, entertain, and be entertained? The u3a could be for you.

Originally formed over 40 years ago by retired people who wanted to stay active both physically and mentally, Sawston Area u3a has a current membership of over 500 and is open to all who are not in full time employment.

There are a wide range of daytime

activities on offer, including educational classes, various sports, games, pastimes and craft activities, walks, theatre shows and outings. Transport to and from Sawston is provided (for outings).

Want to find out more? Come along to our **Summer Meeting** on **Tuesday 22nd July** at Ickleton Village Hall @ 2.00 pm or visit our group website.

<https://sawston-area.u3asite.uk>

The Telugu Association of Cambridge Cricket Club: TAC



Photo: Larry Davies

The third team of the **TAC Cricket Club** has come to Balsham to use

our pitch for their matches. The club is based in Reach where the first and second teams play, while the third needed to find a ground to play on. I understand they have an arrangement with the Parish Council and Balsham Cricket Club for the use of the ground and some equipment. I found them by looking on the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Premier League website, and this has their fixtures and results for all the teams. I hope we will be able to have all these in the Review in future.

Balsham Football Club

You may not want to know the result of the last football match of the season, but it was at Cambourne, the run-away league leaders, with a result of **17-1** to them. Balsham stay in the same division, and won't need to play Cambourne Town next season!

Balsham WI

This month's meeting took us all back to the 1960s, a decade where there was much change both internationally and in the country. Notable events included JFK's assassination, the Aberfan disaster, England winning the World Cup and Man landing on the Moon. The WI introduced their famous Keep Britain Tidy campaign and the WI in Balsham continued to do well with many new houses being built. There was a large committee in place and regular competitions at monthly meetings, two of which were repeated at our 1960s meeting – prettiest button on a card, and a limerick starting with 'There once was a woman from Balsham'. We received several entries for each category.

Our next meeting will be on

Tuesday 10 June, 7.30pm at the Pavilion in Balsham. The theme for this meeting will be the **1970s**.

We are a friendly bunch, and new members are always welcome. Our meetings are held on the **second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm** in the **Pavilion, Balsham**. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us – balshamwi@gmail.com or send a message on Facebook, [@Balsham WI](https://www.facebook.com/BalshamWI)

Debbie Mower

SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday 16 August

when we are holding an **Afternoon Tea** for past and present members at the Church Institute in celebration of our centenary this year.

Balsham June/July Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
5th, 19th & 26th Thursdays	Singing for Fun – Musicals, 7.30pm	Pavilion
6th–8th Friday-Sunday	Linton Flower Festival	Linton Church
7th Saturday	Picture House: Maria 7.30pm	Institute
8th Sunday	Community Walk: No to Kingsway Solar 10am -12 pm	Meet West Wrattling Recreation Ground
10th Tuesday	BGNS Coffee Morning, 10am-12pm	Institute
10th Tuesday	Balsham WI 7.30pm	Pavilion
15th Sunday	Ashdon Open Gardens 11am–5pm	Ashdon
16th Monday	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm	Pavilion
July 5th Saturday	BIG Balsham Lunch	Centre village

West Wickham & District Garden Club

First of all, we would like send a huge 'thank you' to everybody who contributed, purchased, chatted to us, drank tea and ate cake to make the May plant sale such a great success! We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did.

Now summer is here, we are heading outside for our summer garden visits. Open to members, these are relaxed affairs and a good opportunity to get together at the same time as gaining inspiration from the gardens we visit. Proceeds from both events go to the NGS garden scheme charities.

Bustler's Cottage, Duxford on 16th June at 18:30 (£10 including refreshments). <https://ngs.org.uk/gardens/bustlers-cottage-cb22/>

Contact Rio Glyn-Davies for further information:

rioglyndavies@gmail.com

Farm Lodge, Hildersham on 21st July at 18:30 (£7.50 including refreshments).

<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/47248/farm-lodge>

Contact Indi Liepa for further information: ifliepa@gmail.com

... and while you're there, why not see if you can capture a winning shot for this year's **Photography Competition**? Open to members and non-members, (a special prize for the best under 16's entry), novices and those who have had a bit more practice! Winners announced and all entries displayed at the **West Wickham Gardening Fair on Saturday 6th September**. Titles this year are... Frozen, Light and Dark, Terrific Trees. Contact us on photo@westwickham.org for more details.

Finally, visit us at the **West Wickham Big Garden Party on 5th July** for helpful advice, quizzes and cakes. We look forward to seeing you there!

For Club information please contact **Sally Collins** at: wwdgc@westwickham.org



Balsham Weather April 2025

Photo: Charlie Pryor

Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

APRIL:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 25° C on 30th April

Lowest: 13° C on 15th April

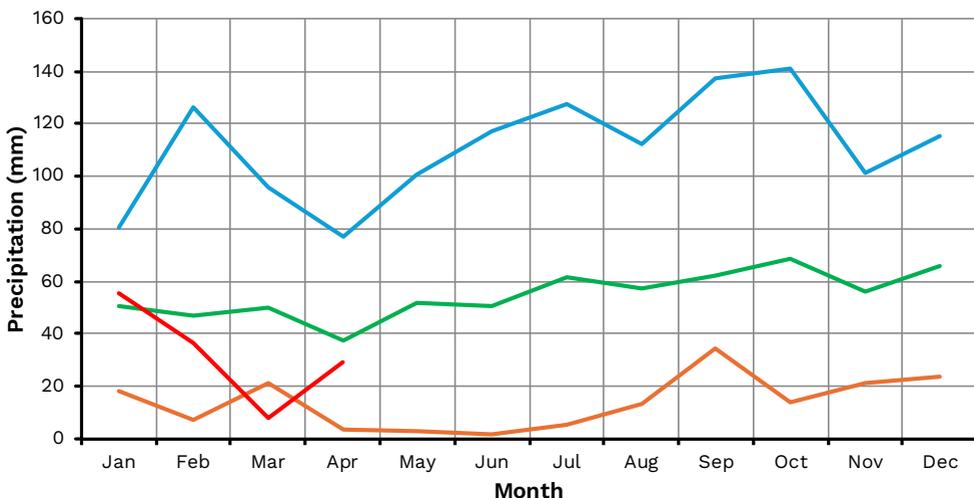
Night time temperatures

Highest: 11° C on 11th April

Lowest: 2° C on 9th April

April Rainfall at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total April 2025 rainfall: 29.00mm (1.14") which fell on 6 days.



Min 2015- 2024

Av. 2015 - 2024

Max 2015 - 2024

2025



Saturday June 7th

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

Maria (12)



Angelina Jolie stars as Maria Callas in this glamorous moving story of the iconic opera singer in Paris in 1977. Once the world's greatest soprano, Callas now hides in an apartment having lost her voice and retreated from the world. She dreams of returning to the stage but can her body and mind take the pressure?

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



Saturday July 5th

The Bridge on the River Kwai (PG)

During WW II, allied POWs in a Japanese internment camp are ordered to build a bridge to accommodate the Burma-Siam railway. Award winning film starring William Holden, Alec Guinness and Jack Hawkins

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