



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 671

JULY 2025



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Photo: Charlie Pryor



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Andy Bush

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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 JULY 18TH 2025

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Charlie Pryor, Lesley Bennett, Jane Goode, Andy Bush and Richard Pargeter



Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

Email balshamngns@gmail.com
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Editorial

Wow, we're nearly there. Much of my time seems to have been taken up lately with preparation for the **BIG BALSHAM LUNCH** on **July 5TH, 12 'til 4pm**, apart from when I have been keeping the Review going, entertaining a delightful young puppy for the weekend, doing a few bits for the church, and trying to keep up with the family: sister-in-law's eightieth, niece trampled by a cow and brother falling and breaking his collar bone, again. Just an ordinary month, then.

Meantime the seven ducklings are fast turning into ducks. Their mother abandoned them after four weeks, so they have come to me for food three times a day. I think she knew they would be fine, she brought them every day from day one, and they knew their way here very early on. They often sit by the bench in the front garden, so many of you have probably seen them. Luckily I had some food left from when I had the chickens, before the fox deprived me of fresh eggs. She, the vixen, saved me much time and worry, as I have finally, after about ten years, given up replacing them each spring after she fed her latest cubs. Now the netting that surrounded the chicken run is in use keeping the muntjacs away from the vegetables, and today I picked my first broad beans. Later than many growers but my first since I could garden with better knees. And triumph, I got

them, not the deer. And the bonus of the previous chicken run has been that the vegetables have grown wonderfully with the extra presents left by the chickens!

August is going to be a sad time for the village, with **Phil & Mary** leaving the Bell Inn and us. I am so pleased that CAMRA recognised all they have done for the community (*page 26*). They will be very much missed for so many of the activities they put on for the village, and also for their kindness, helpfulness and, of course, food and drinks. We wish them very well in their new lives; they will be a very hard act to follow.

All the best to **Paul**, our wonderful postman, who is about to have a knee op, not the same as mine; he will be off for two months. We will miss him, and hope his replacement posties will be as efficient as he is. Good health to you, Paul, you need to be able to walk well for our Balsham deliveries.

Now back to the **BIG BALSHAM LUNCH**. There are dry and wet weather plans. Last week the 30 day forecast was for hot sun, but today it is now for mixed rain and sun. Obviously it gives no idea of what times of day but if it is wet, or very hot, the church is a large space that will be ideal for you and family and friends to picnic in. Many of the 'attractions' will have gazebos etc outside and you are welcome to bring your own if you have one.

Of course, if the weather is fine, as we hope, the rec will be available for everyone to find a spot for your meal. Please avoid the cricket square, and definitely make sure you look after all your rubbish.

On the day there will be an Exhibition of photos and memories, especially connected with the years 1939 to 1945, and with children’s activities, in the Church Institute; classic vehicles, a giant inflatable slide, beer tent, ice creams (“til 2pm) and other attractions, all on the Rec; steam trains, teas, coffees, cold drinks and cakes in the Pavilion and the opportunity to explore in the church, the oldest building in our village. I hope that there will be some much loved and/or cared for vehicles on show, maybe an electric car or two to give advice to those considering a change, or perhaps some children will bring their bicycles or scooters, maybe a pram or two,

and my thought is that some work vans could well be adverts for your business, so we can learn about our local workers - a useful advertisement? For the convenience of you and your families there are loos in the Pavilion, Institute, and the Church, and the latter two have accessible facilities and nappy-changing places.

Let’s hope we will have good weather, and the joint aims of remembering the men and women who took part in the wars of 1939 to 1945 and their families at home, as well as the opportunity for our long (more than a mile), and getting larger, village community to meet each other, will be celebrated joyfully by us all.

See you there, Saturday July 5th, 12-4pm.

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

CHRISTIAN AID

Thank you very much for your generous donations to Christian Aid during the awareness week in May. It was great to have support through people visiting the stall at the Big Balsham Sale and lots of donations

in returned envelopes that had been dropped through letter boxes. Altogether we raised **£465.92.**

Thank you.
Anna McColl

Church Services



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

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

CHURCH CONTACTS

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

SERVICES at other CHURCHES when possible

ROMAN CATHOLIC Masses at:

Cherry Hinton: St Philip Howard Church

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

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

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

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

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, meeting as a house group, for further information please contact. www.facebook.com/Lintoncornerstone

METHODIST: Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

From the Church

At the time of writing, we are really looking forward to our curate **Hannah Threlfall's ordination** as a priest on **28th June** at Ely Cathedral! As with her ordination to be a deacon last summer, this will be a beautiful service of worship, solemn promises and joy. Bishop Dagmar will ordain Hannah, along with other curates around the diocese, as a priest who will, as it says in this special order of service: *'lead God's people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel'*, including presiding at Holy Communion services, baptisms and marriages.



I'm so grateful we have this opportunity to come together at the Cathedral to witness Hannah's ordination and to give thanks for the ministry of curates from around the Ely diocese as they serve in Christ's name in their parishes and the wider world. Hannah has already been involved in our parishes in so many ways: leading morning worship, Taizé services and creative church, taking school assemblies, making pastoral visits, to name but a few, and I'm so glad her ministry amongst us will continue to grow. Word has it that, as well as taking upcoming weddings and baptisms, she also has a pet service in Balsham

church planned, so there is much to look forward to!

Speaking of our wonderful ministry team, I'm delighted to confirm that Alastair France, who has been on placement with us since last Autumn, has been

accepted onto an ordination training pathway for experienced lay leaders in the Church of England. After initial interviews, candidates like Alastair embark on a journey that may potentially take them to ordination in two years. We hope and pray we can support Alastair in this journey and, if you see him around, please feel free to ask how he is getting on and offer him your encouragement.

Finally, as some may know, I have been granted study leave from the beginning of August until the start of November, which will involve some traveling around including interviewing Anglican ministers in different parts of the country. Whilst I am on study leave, Revd Hannah, Revd Kathy and the rest of our ministry team will continue to lead a rich variety of worship, offer pastoral support and look after our parishes, and please feel free to contact them on any matter.

Revd Iain McColl

June Services	9:30am	11:00am	6:00pm
6th		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Revd Iain McColl</i>	
13th	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/ Alastair France</i> Morning Worship West Wrating <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Morning Worship and Baptism Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion (BCP) Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/ Alastair France</i>	Taize service Weston Colville <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
20th	Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> 10.00am Creative Church Abington Hub <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</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>
27th	Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Holy Communion West Wrating <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion Little Abington <i>Revd Jane Butler</i> Café Church Hildersham <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Evensong Weston Colville <i>Alistair Collen</i>

Kingsway Solar Community Action

KSCA community walk highlights Kingsway Solar farm concerns

A huge thank you to everyone who joined our community walk on Sunday 8th June. Over 130 residents and volunteers came together to explore the West Wrattling countryside as part of a national campaign drawing attention to the spread of industrial-scale solar farms, pylons, and battery storage developments in rural areas.

Afterwards, we gathered at West Wrattling Village Hall for wildlife displays, refreshments, and a talk outlining the plans for Kingsway—what’s proposed, why KSCA is opposing it, and how local people can get involved.

You can watch the video of the talk, listen to the audio of the Q&A and download the slides by visiting the news page on the KSCA website (kingswayaction.org).

Watch out for future community events in Balsham, Weston Colville and West Wickham

Take our survey



We want to hear your views. Tell us how you think the proposed solar farm could affect your wellbeing, lifestyle, and connection to the local area. Your feedback will help shape our community response to the next stage of consultation.

MP action

Local MP Pippa Heylings recently

met with the Project Manager, David Vernon, from Kingsway/Downing Renewables to raise concerns about poor community engagement, lack of transparency, battery fire risks and the need for proper consultation over potential community benefits. She has promised to share a full update soon, including with parish councils.

Step into nature –

July’s focus: Insects!

As part of our **Step into Nature** campaign, we’re asking residents to look out for insects this month. Insects play a vital role in ecosystems – pollinating plants, breaking down waste and providing food for birds and other wildlife.

Please record anything you spot, especially rare or protected species. You can log sightings online at iRecord. Visit the Buglife website to help with insect identification (<https://www.buglife.org.uk/bugs/identify-a-bug/>).

Support KSCA

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

What you can do

- Complete our community survey on the solar farm’s impact on you.
- Sign the national petition to ban large-scale solar on farmland (<https://petition.parliament.uk/>)

[petitions/703284](https://www.cpre.org.uk/rooftop-solar/)).

- Pledge your support for CPRE's rooftop solar campaign (<https://www.cpre.org.uk/rooftop-solar/>).
- Become a KSCA member to stay involved <https://kingswaysolarcommunityaction.co.uk/how-to-join-us/>
- Follow KSCA on Facebook for

real-time updates.

- Donate via GoFundMe to support our work (<https://gofund.me/479e0bd8>).

Together, we can protect our countryside and make sure local voices are heard.

Kathy Day

Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

We need drivers!!

One of the things the BGNS does is to provide transport for residents, often to attend appointments at places such as Addenbrookes, Linton Health Centre or the dentist. There has been an increase in demand for transport of about 50% since this time last year. A year ago there were typically 8 requests a week, this year we are receiving 12 requests a week. We are pleased that the service we provide is being increasingly used by residents, but clearly we need more drivers to help.

If you think you could help, even if it is just once a month, please get in touch. We link with Cambridgeshire Car Schemes who organise the DBS check for you. You are paid 30p a mile directly by the resident, so for example a return trip to Addenbrookes will cost the resident £6; Linton is £2.50. Twice a year we also claim an additional 15p per mile back from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Authority.

If you could help (or if you yourself need help), contact:

balshamgns@gmail.com
or phone **07508 430057**
and leave a message.

Coffee Mornings



The **July Community Coffee Morning**, run by volunteers from the Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme will be on **Tuesday July 15th**. There will be a break during August, so the following planned date will be **Tuesday September 16th**.

Thank you!

Steve Jordan

COORDINATOR,
BALSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

Buttercups Pre-School

Buttercups as always, have greatly appreciated the support we have received across the board from parents, the committee and of course the local community. It goes without saying that we couldn't have achieved so much without you all.

Buttercups recently welcomed Robyn back after her maternity leave – an extra pair of hands has been greatly appreciated. Buttercups are now back to full staff.

We are very excited to tell you about our opportunity to fundraise through **Tesco tokens**. These are in Fulbourn Tesco and several branches in Cambridge so please do look for them. The project with



**BUTTERCUPS
PRE-SCHOOL**

the highest number of votes across our region will receive **£1,500** (or the amount that was requested up to this value), the second placed project £1,000 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), and the third placed project £500. Please support us if you can.

As our year draws to an end, we see our little ones grow and blossom into happy, confident preschoolers. It was special to see them as they posed for their graduation photographs. Where has the time gone?

We hope you all have a lovely summer.

The Buttercups Team

1st Brinkley Guides

Fun | Friendship | Adventure | Challenge | Life Skills

Some of the things we have enjoyed:

- Water activities
- Narrow Boat Weekend
- Pyjama Party
- Murder Mystery Weekend
- Summer Activity Camp
- Climbing
- Abseiling
- Caving
- High Ropes

- Archery
 - Bushcraft Skills
 - International opportunities
- Open Aged 10-14.
Meeting in Brinkley on Tuesday evenings.
For information or to arrange a taster visit contact:-

Grace Bristow

Tel: 01638 713967

Email: grace.bristow@talktalk.net

The Meadow Primary School

With sunshine warming our playgrounds and the buzz of outdoor fun in the air, it's been a wonderful time for exploration and collaboration — both in nature and within our school community.

Embracing the Outdoors with OPAL

One of the most exciting initiatives at our school has just begun: the launch of our OPAL journey — Outdoor Play and Learning. This is something we're truly passionate about. We want to give every child the freedom to be their authentic selves during playtime — choosing who to play with, what to play, and how to express their creativity and curiosity. We believe that these opportunities for free, unstructured outdoor play foster strong friendships, improve behaviour in the classroom, and ultimately help each child become the best version of themselves. In a world dominated by screens and technology, encouraging imaginative outdoor play is a positive and refreshing step for our young people. To support this vision, we are developing our outdoor play areas with new resources and activities. Thanks to a generous grant from Wadlow Wind Farm through our PTA — special thanks to Kara Rann — every child will soon have access to a fantastic new sandpit! Alongside this, we are creating exciting spaces such as

digging pits, mud kitchens, dress-up areas, and plenty of room for children to explore and play with toys.

We're opening up the possibilities and hoping nothing will be off-limits — except the limits of their own imaginations! To help us make this vision a reality, we're kindly asking for donations of items of all sorts! Anything such as pots and pans, small world toys (babies, prams, cars, dinosaurs), sandpit toys, building blocks, and more. If you can help, please drop off donations at the school office or get in touch at

office@meadowprimary.org.

Sports Day Triumphs

Earlier this month, our sports day was a fantastic success. The children showed incredible determination, resilience, and team spirit as they competed in a range of activities — from individual sprints to thrilling relay races, and fun group challenges like egg-and-spoon races, sack races, and the long jump. It was wonderful to see everyone giving their best and cheering each other on.

Year 6 Residential Adventure

Our Year 6 pupils recently returned from an unforgettable residential trip to Norfolk Lakes, where they joined forces with children from Wimbish Primary School. The

adventure-packed days were filled with exciting activities including kayaking, high ropes, archery, and crate stacking! This unique experience offered the children a chance to challenge themselves,

build confidence, and create lasting memories — ones we're sure they will treasure forever.

Faye Facer

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER



**BUTTERCUPS
SUMMER
FAIR**

Sunday 13th July
11am to 2pm

MEADOW PRIMARY – BALSHAM
SCHOOL LANE ENTRANCE

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN:

- Bouncy castle -
- Face painting -
- BBQ -
- Ice cream van -
- Cake sale -
- Popcorn & sweets -
- Temporary tattoos -
- and much more!

£5 PER CHILD- INCLUDES BOUNCY CASTLE

RAFFLE

THE MEADOW SCHOOL PTA

PRIZES

- 2 COURSE MEAL FOR 2 AT THE CHESTNUT TREE
- 2 NIGHT GLAMPING STAY FOR A FAMILY OF 4
- FAMILY VOUCHER SOUTH ANGLE FARM
- FAMILY VOUCHER SHEPRETH WILDLIFE PARK
- CHAMPAGNE AFTERNOON TEA FOR 4 AT QUY MILL
- FAMILY VOUCHER CAMBRIDGE ICE ARENA
- VOUCHER FOR RIVERSIDE SPA
- X2 SAUNA PASSES AT PAUS CAMBRIDGE

PLUS:

- THE OLD BUTCHERS | CLAYTON HOTEL AFTERNOON TEA
- PEAR & OLIVE | XTREME 360 | SNOW CENTRE | SCUDAMORES
- PUNTING | SCOTSDALES | R3FORM PILATES | HORSE RIDING
- LESSON | SHOOT LESSON | PHOENIX BIKE PARK | AND MORE...

£1 PER TICKET | CASH ONLY

TICKETS FOR SALE IN POST OFFICE
AND OLD BUTCHERS

PRIZES DRAWN FRIDAY 4th JULY

THE **BIG** BALSHAM LUNCH

JULY
05
2025

CHERISHED VEHICLES

Whatever your cherished vehicle is - classic car, works van, tractor, bicycle, motorbike, scooter, pram - bring it along!!

HELP NEEDED

If you can spare a small amount of time to help on the day it would be very valuable!

CONTACT:
dickpaden277@btinternet.com

12.00 - 4.00pm

AT

VILLAGE INSTITUTE | PAVILION | RECREATION GROUND | CHURCH

Bring a picnic to the Recreation Ground and join in with the rest of the village for the **Big Balsham Lunch!**

Plenty of attractions | Variety of stalls | Bar
Exhibitions | Food trucks | Cherished vehicle display

FREE ADMISSION*

FURTHER INFORMATION

Gill Parry Brown
gillbrown25@yahoo.co.uk

Dick Paden
dickpaden277@btinternet.com

**Some activities require payment*



The Balsham Feast 2026 Survey



We'd like to get your feedback on the Balsham Feast (aka the Village Fete!) as we start preparations for the next event in Summer 2026. The Feast can trace its history back many centuries - the first record of it is in the 13th Century - so it has its place firmly established in Balsham folklore.

Times change however, so it's very important that we understand what the village wants from the Feast today and how you would all like to celebrate the event.

Please provide as much information and feedback as you can - we are very keen to hear what you have to say.

Please complete the following survey, detach the centre 4 page section from the Review and deposit the completed surveys in the boxes at the Post Office, the Old Butchers Café, The Bell or The Black Bull by the end of September. If you'd prefer to fill in the form online, you can find it using this QR Code:



Many thanks

The Feast Committee

www.balsham.net

*** Indicates required question**

1 Did you attend the Balsham Feast in 2022 or 2024?*

Check all that apply.

Yes

No

2 If you didn't attend, was there any particular reason for your decision?*

3 Which activities or stalls are you most interested in?

(please tick all that apply):

Food Stalls

Drinks Bar

Art and craft stalls

Have-a-go activities from the local sports clubs
(beat the goalie, cricket, target golf, Bowls etc)

Axe Throwing

Bumper Cars

Local Society Stalls (WI, Brownies, Gardening Club etc)

Inflatable games/bouncy castle

Face painting

Vintage car displays

Wild life displays

Dance displays

Live Music (Brass Bands, Balsham Singers, Live Bands, etc)

Meadow School/Buttercups

Pony/Donkey rides

4 What other stalls/activities would you like to see at the Feast?

(some suggestions are listed below but please add any other ideas you have in the "Other" box)

Check all that apply.

More food choices

- Beer festival
- Fancy Dress contest
- Talent contest
- Other

5 Should the Feast have more activities for children and the younger people in the village?*

Check all that apply.

- For children up to 8 years
- For children from 8 – 14 years
- For teenagers 14 years +
- Not relevant to me

6 Please let us have your ideas on additional activities for children/ younger people you think would be welcomed

7 Events and activities on the recreation ground finish around 5 pm and the local pubs' entertainment starts at 7pm (approx.).

Would you be interested in a musical or other event on the Recreation Ground to bridge this gap?

(Please use the "Other" option to suggest alternatives.)

Check all that apply.

- Ceilidh/Barn Dance
- Local singers/entertainers
- Childrens Disco
- Adults Disco
- Other

8 *Please feel free to add any overall feedback on the Feast:*

9 *Finally, if you'd like to help out with the Feast in any capacity, please let us have your name and email and we'll be in touch.*

Name:

Email:

Many thanks for completing the survey!

Linton Village College

Enrichment is a core value at Linton Village College. Every June we collapse the timetable for our **Enrichment Week**. This has been a long-standing fixture in Linton Village College's calendar to enable students to learn outside of the classroom.

Our ambition is for all students to experience a weeklong residential in Year 9, a week's work experience in Year 10 and a range of day trips and events in Years 7 and 8. These opportunities enable students to learn in a hands-on way, push themselves out of their comfort zones and build relationships and confidence.

This summer our residential trips included Iceland, Paris, Scotland and the Peak District. Our first trip to Iceland was dubbed 'Fire and Ice'. It lived up to its name with trips to



volcanoes, hot springs and glaciers on the itinerary. Paris provided both a variety of cultural sightseeing and a day at Euro Disney. The Scotland and Peak District trips afforded our Year 9s with a more physical set of activities such as bouldering, ridge scrambling, water sports, bushcraft and abseiling to name but a few.

Years 7 and 8 enjoyed trips to Chessington, Colchester Zoo, Audley End and Milton Country Park for water sports. Our in-house provision included a 'Cuban Day', a 'CSI Day', archery, axe throwing and rock climbing.

We also hosted a virtual work experience. This included a day of physical activities led by the Army, online learning and the chance to develop a range of life skills.

After an action-packed week, the planning for Enrichment Week 2026 commences!

Laura Heard

PR & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Email: lheard@lintonvc.org





Photo: Jane Goode

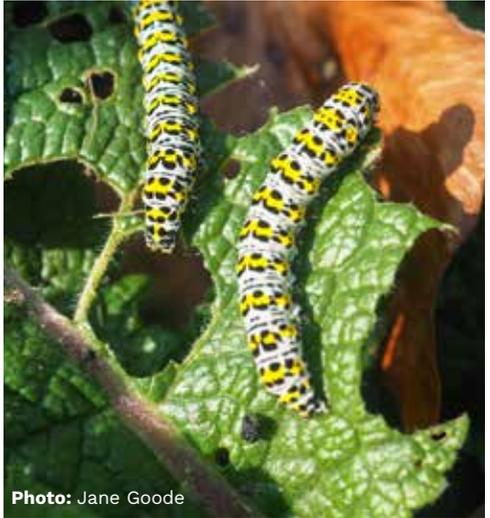


Photo: Jane Goode



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Azure Damselfly



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Hoverfly (Sun Fly)

Linton Library News

Summer is here – let the **Summer Reading Challenge** begin!

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to keep reading through the holidays. This year's theme is Story Garden – adventures in nature and the great outdoors.

Developed by The Reading Agency, the annual challenge is for pre-school and primary school aged children of all reading abilities. It's free to take part. Children should:

- sign up at the library to receive a collector's folder and bookmark
- read six library books of their choice during the holidays
- collect a sticker for each book read

On finishing they'll receive a certificate and medal (under-3s receive a special sticker medal).

Sign up from **Saturday 5 July, 10am—1pm.**

For all children who sign up at the Linton Library on Saturday 5th July, Scotsdales Garden Centre will be generously providing a **FREE GIFT** to get the gardening for the Story Garden started!

Once the holidays start, collect stickers any time the library is open.

Each Saturday in the holidays we will be running a **Free Craft Activity**, 11-12.30pm. Parents and Carers to stay with their children.

Adults, we hope you'll keep reading all summer too! Choose from our

shelves, or travel light on holiday by downloading free eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers onto your device. For more details, visit our website or ask library staff.

We are pleased to announce that local author, **Mel Symonds**, will be launching her new book for children on **Saturday 19th July, 11-12.30pm.** Come and meet her and try the themed activity!

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

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 18th.

Vicky Anandraj & Ann King

COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

Balsham Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting took place on 16th June, 2025 in Balsham Pavilion

Big Community Lunch VE/VJ Day Celebration Saturday, July 5th 12-4pm:

The celebrations are being organised at the Church, Church Institute, Recreation Ground and the Pavilion. There will be an exhibition in the Church Institute, tea and cake in the pavilion and everyone is invited to bring a picnic and there will be a large inflatable slide for the children, as well as other stalls and stands. Everyone is welcome to support this community event.

West Wickham Road:

The work is hopefully taking place this month.

Planning:

Site address: 1,2,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12 Orchard Close, Balsham

Reference: 25/01982/FUL

Proposal: Replacement of the existing wooden double-glazed windows with UPVC double-glazed windows.ess and construct/extend brick wall.

PC Decision: No objections.

Decisions:

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.

Decision: Granted permission by SCDC

Allotments:

There are 2 full plots and 2 half plots vacant. Please contact the PC for more details.

The paths will be cut regularly at the allotment and community orchard. The PC will apply for a grant from SCDC to put on water at Princes Close. The allotment committee have inspected the allotments and letters have been sent to the allotment tenants that have not kept their allotment up to the agreed standard of care.

Acorn Biodigester:

The plans are being discussed on Thursday and it is recommended for refusal by Officers. Henry Batchelor is going to speak at the Committee meeting.

Solar Panel Grant for the Pavilion:

The grant has been submitted to SCDC for solar panels on the pavilion. The PC has financed the cavity wall insulation and loft insulation.

TAC Cricket Club:

The matches have started and TAC would like to welcome spectators to their matches and if anyone would like to join the Cricket Club please email:

taccricketclub@gmail.com.

The next **Parish Meeting** will be held on **21st July, 2025** at **7.30 pm** in **Balsham Pavilion**
ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

Solar Farm:

Two members of the PC attended the Solar Farm Walk organised by Kingsway Solar Community Action. The walk was well attended by members of the local community. The PC will discuss funding the printing of the leaflets and

insurance at the next PC meeting.

Tracy Coston

PARISH CLERK

Tel: 01223 894462 / 07929930385

Email: clerk@balsham.net

Website: www.balsham.net

Where Can I Recycle Old Walking Aids Etc?

You can return any NRS issued walking aids (and other small items of equipment) to any of the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Household Recycling Centres when you no longer need them.

There are specific NRS labelled bins for the walking aids to be placed in, NRS collect them and refurbish them for re-issue, or, if they are past refurbishment, ensure they go into the correct metal recycling streams. Walking aids issued by Cambridge University Hospitals (Addenbrookes) are labelled with a yellow sticker

with CUH or Addenbrookes on it. These can be returned to the Trumpington Park and Ride, there is a collection point in the visitors' centre. CUH staff collect these for re-use by CUH.

By recycling walking aids, NHS England calculate that up to 98% of the CO2 emissions of making new ones are saved. Aluminium manufacture is very high in generating green-house gases, so as well as saving the equipment budget, we can do a tiny part to contribute to saving the planet.

Balsham July/August Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
Friday 4th	Meadow School Raffle Draw	Old Butchers
Saturday 5th	Sign up to Summer Reading Challenge, 10am	Linton Library
Saturday 5th	BIG BALSHAM LUNCH. 12—4pm	Centre Village
Saturday 5th	Picture House: Bridge Over the River Kwai , 7.30pm	Institute
Tuesday 10th	Balsham WI 7.30pm	Pavilion
Sunday 13th	Buttercups Summer Fair	Meadow School
Tuesday 15th	Community Coffee Morning, 10am-12pm	Institute
Monday 21st	Parish Council, 7.30pm	Pavilion
August Sat 16th	WI Centenary Afternoon Tea	Institute

District & County Councillors' Report

June 2025

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

SCDC's popular Zero Carbon Communities Grant is open for applications, closing **Tuesday 1 July 2025**.

Parish councils and voluntary/community organisations are invited to apply for grants of between £2,000 and £15,000 for projects that either:

- a) reduce carbon emissions e.g. from a community building, or
- b) Foster greater community engagement on climate issues and encourage sustainable behaviour change.

For full eligibility criteria and information, please consult the guidance documents on

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant>

or email zcc@scambs.gov.uk

Allotment Improvement Grant

A new grant from the District Council that can provide up to **£10,000** in funding to support projects that enhance the productivity, sustainability, and social value of allotment spaces.

Key priorities include:

- improving water access through reliable connections and rainwater harvesting
- implementing pest control

measures, such as fencing

- upgrading facilities such as waterless toilets
- delivering measurable social benefits, such as promoting mental well-being, outdoor activity and community engagement.

Other allotment improvements will also be considered, ensuring that allotments remain thriving, inclusive spaces for all.

For more information, visit

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-and-people/community-action/allotment-improvement-grant>

Anaerobic Digesters

Over

Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT)

South Cambridgeshire District Council has helped residents on lower incomes secure up to £3.6 million in benefits they're entitled to – but weren't claiming. The Council's innovative Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) software identifies households likely to be eligible for benefits but not claiming them. They are then sent a letter or text encouraging them to apply – with follow-up phone calls also made. For example, the Council has helped over 110 households who were eligible for Pension Credit but weren't claiming it. Pension Credit is a benefit for people over State Pension age (currently 66) with low

incomes. It provides extra money for living costs and can lead to other support. If they remain eligible for the rest of their lives, these households will receive up to £3.2 million in Pension Credit between them. Households that applied for Pension Credit before last Christmas were also eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment following a change in eligibility criteria last year. This is a payment of either £200 or £300, depending on a person's age. The projected extra income this Winter Fuel Payment will bring new claimants across South Cambridgeshire, as long as they remain eligible for it, is just over £229,000. In addition, the programme has been used to promote the availability of the Household Support Fund. This is a one-off hardship payment of £110 administered by Cambridgeshire County Council. Just under 250 South Cambridgeshire households went on to claim it during the past 12 months – with a total claim value of £26,400.

The Council also identified nearly 70 households that only just missed out on being eligible for Pension Credit – and therefore the Winter Fuel Payment. They were all contacted and offered a free electric blanket and financial advice through 'Income Maximisation' appointments with Council officers.

The next areas of focus for the Council's Data Team – using the LIFT software – will include encouraging more eligible residents to claim

grants to retrofit their home with energy efficiency measures. There will also be a campaign to raise awareness of Cambridge Water's 'Assure Tariff' – which offers discounts on water bills for those eligible.

Acorn Anaerobic Digester

The Acorn anaerobic biodigester planning application, which has been rolling through the system for a few years now, is finally coming to Suffolk County Council's planning committee this month for a decision. Henry has registered to speak at the committee to put across the views that have been made to him, so far. The date of the committee is June 19th, so if you'd like him to raise any points for you at the meeting, please do write to him before this date with your views. At time of writing the planning officer's recommendation to the planning committee is unknown, as the papers, with the recommendation in, aren't published until circa a week before

Contact Information:

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com



The Bell

Hi Everybody,

Thank you to everybody who supported our annual charity football match on Saturday 14th June. We unfortunately surrendered the shield to AFC Balsham, but it was a successful and fun day and night. The staff and customers of The Bell Inn, and players and management of AFC Balsham raised an impressive **£660.00** for Dementia UK. The majority was raised from our raffle, and all the players who made a donation for playing. The prizes were donated by several local businesses, including The Black Bull, and The Old Butchers in Balsham.

At the annual CAMRA awards in June, we were very proud to receive a **Lifetime Achievement Award** for services to community and real ale. We shared this on Facebook, and were amazed and touched by the numerous messages of support, thank you to all our customers for helping us achieve our second CAMRA award, during our tenure at The Bell Inn.

As most people are now aware, our time at The Bell Inn is coming to an end on **6th August**. We will be having a **Leaving Party/Celebration** of six years at the pub on **Friday 18th**, and **Saturday 19th July**.

July Diary:

Friday 18th: Leaving Party. Live music



from local band **Reckless**, and barbecue by Andy Prentice, served from 6pm.

Saturday 19th: Leaving Party. Disco Karaoke starts at 8pm.

Tuesday 29th: Charity quiz night 8pm. New quizzers are always

welcome.

Wednesday 30th: Lunch Club. Bookings and pre orders only.

Due to our move, **Friday 1st August** will be our last food service day.

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

SAVE THE DATE

*Raising funds
for our beautiful Church.*

There will be a **Harvest Supper** in the Church Institute on **Friday 3rd October** starting at **7pm**. Admission by advance ticket £15.

There will be a Raffle and table quiz so get your thinking caps out.

Further information will be in the next editions or enquiries to one

of the team: **Pam Down,**
**Karis Reyes, Alison Clarke &
Jenny Kerry**

Thank you. **Jo Stinton**

The Black Bull



Happy July!

Thank you to those who joined us last month – whether for the Folk Night (another humdinger), Thursday coffee morning, Locals' Lunch Club, Steak/Wine/Beer Fest or our first Nick Antoniou Jazz night, which we will definitely be repeating so watch out for next dates.

Next Events coming up:

Next **Pint of Music – Folk Night:**
Thursday 26th June was our last

before a summer break over July and August then starting up again:

Thursday 4th September

Rob's **Annual Caribbean BBQ Night:**
Saturday 12th July

We are delighted to have a local steel band joining us to add to the festivities, performing 6-8pm

Best wishes from all of us

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

Bin Collections July/August

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday July 2 ND		✓	✓
Wednesday July 9 TH	✓		
Wednesday July 16 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday July 23 RD	✓		
Wednesday July 30 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday August 6 TH	✓		

Balsham Singers

The concert on 17th May celebrating our 30th anniversary year, was well received by a capacity audience.

The choir was joined by a small chamber ensemble of talented local musicians which enhanced the performance. We sang pieces by Mozart, Haydn and Handel alongside contemporary composers, Goodall, Rutter and Groban to name a few. The programme included an arrangement of Gershwin's *Summertime* arranged for Balsham Singers in 1996 by our very first musical director Jonathan Cook.

In her address our present chairman Jean Mannion dedicated the concert

to the choir's founder Julian Robinson who had sadly passed away just a few weeks previously.

If you are interested in joining our choir we always welcome new members. We meet in **Balsham Sports Pavilion** on **Thursdays** at **7.30pm**. The first rehearsal of the new season, for our **Christmas Concert**, will be on 11th September. If you have any questions please contact our MD **John Clenaghan** john.clenaghan@sky.com

SAVE THE DATE: Concert on **December 13th 2025**

Jo Stinton

Cold Comfort Farm

Looking for something different and amusing this summer?

Perhaps this production by Bawds at the ADC in Cambridge will fill the bill.

In what is often described as one of the great English novels, Flora Poste, an orphaned relative and modern Town Girl, is thrust by necessity into the spectacularly chaotic setting of a dysfunctional Farm in the 1930s. Flora is lively, bossy and interfering and wades into the surreal squalor armed only with common sense and the absolute conviction that she will haul the extraordinary cast of characters she

finds there into the Twentieth Century. Added spice comes from the clash of cultures, the lure of the cinema, and a lunatic religious cult and the whole concoction results in a fast-moving comedy that resembles something that the "Fast Show" might devise if let loose on the "Archers".

Tuesday 8th to Sat 12th July 2025
at **7.45pm** plus a **matinee** on **Sat 12th** at **2.30pm**

Tickets and information at The ADC Theatre **01223 300085**

Rosemary Eason

Balsham WI

The June meeting took us back to the **1970s** – the age of disco, with flashing disco lights, mirror ball and music from 45rpm vinyl records played on a Bush record player to greet us. The meeting opened with greetings to three of our current members who started with Balsham WI in the 1970s – they were each awarded a Yorkie Bar which first appeared in the shops during this decade. The 1970s was the time of the Vietnam War, the Troubles in Ireland and much industrial unrest in the country with many strikes and walkouts. We had decimalisation, joining the EC and Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee. Balsham WI was very involved in community events at the time entering floats into the village carnival and purchasing a new village sign. The quiz on prices of household goods in the 1970s was very interesting and I don't think

many of us got any of them right.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 8th July, 7.30pm**, at the **Pavilion** in Balsham. The theme for this meeting will be the **1980s**

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.



2025 is the 100th Anniversary of the forming of Balsham WI.

To mark the occasion we are holding an

Afternoon Tea Party on Saturday 16th August in the Institute from 2.30-4pm.

All members both past and present are welcome to join us and help celebrate this very special year. This is a **FREE** event but in order to cater for this we will need to know the numbers of those wishing to attend. Please email us at balshamwi@gmail.com to let us know that you are coming.

We look forward to seeing you all on 16th August 2025

Arthur Rank Hospice

Would you like to volunteer?

With the introduction of the most recent Arthur Rank Hospice Charity shops in Ely and March (in addition to Burleigh St, Regent St, Mill Road, Cottenham, Great Shelford and Pampisford) they welcomed over 30 new volunteers to their team! Volunteering in a charity shop is not only a way to raise vital income but volunteers play an important part as they are often the first interaction the community has with

the Charity. In addition, they form part of a tight knit team, making friends and enjoying conversations with regular shoppers. Arthur Rank Hospice Charity are always looking for volunteers to join them and have a wide range of roles across many sites.

To find out more visit **arhc.org.uk/volunteer** email **volunteer@arhc.org.uk** or phone **01223 675872**

Range of Services

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity cares for over 3,800 people each year across all of its services. They support people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition and those who need end of life care. Many people are aware of their Inpatient Unit at their purpose-built Hospice in Shelford Bottom in Cambridge and their Hospice at Home services to patient's own homes, but people are often surprised to

hear that they can support people, some for many years, who live with a life limiting illness at their Living Well Service. During a recent Quality Assurance Visit, as part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board (CPICB), many positive practices were observed and collected from patients, volunteers and colleagues.

For more information about the range of services the Charity offers please visit **www.arhc.org.uk**

Have You Visited the Bistro at Arthur Rank Hospice?

Did you know the Bistro at Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, in Shelford Bottom in Cambridge is open to the general public? From morning coffee, cooked lunches, afternoon tea to Sunday Roasts they are open every day from 9.00am-4.00pm. They are ready to welcome you to

the bright and spacious indoor and outdoor areas. Conveniently situated next to the Babraham Road Park and Ride, make the Bistro your next stop.

For more information visit **www.arhc.org.uk/bistro**

Balsham Weather May 2025



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Air Temperatures: Maximum & Minimum

MAY:

Daytime temperatures (*in the shade*)

Highest: 26° C on 12th May

Lowest: 12° C on 4th May

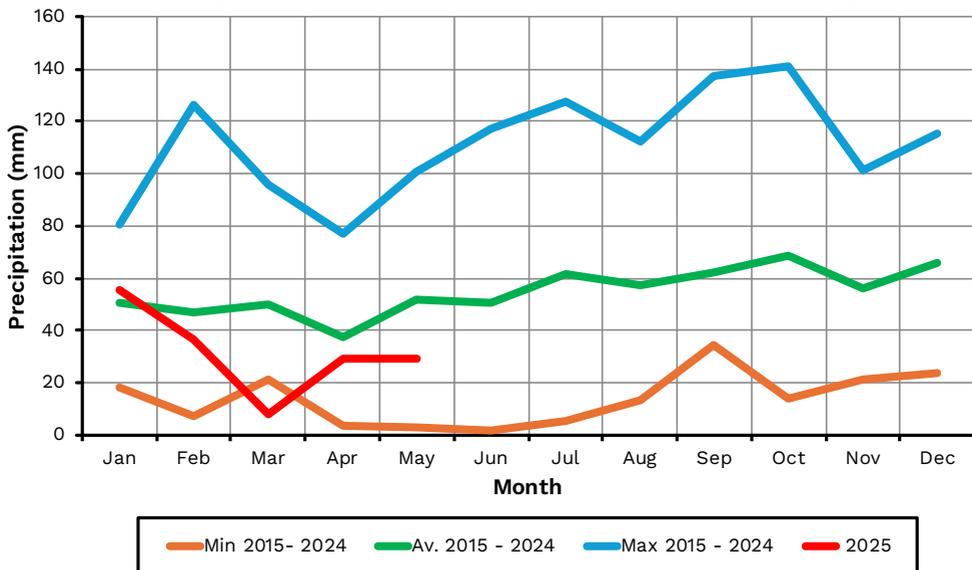
Night time temperatures

Highest: 15° C on 1st May

Lowest: 4° C on 23rd May

May Rainfall at 11 Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham

Total May 2025 rainfall: 29.00mm (1.14") which fell on 8 days.

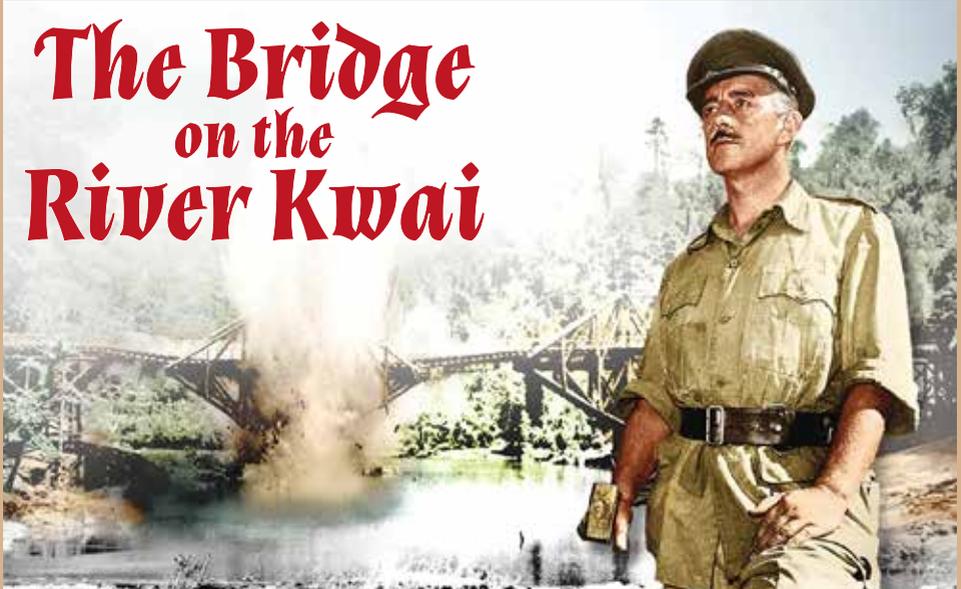




Saturday July 5th

Doors open 7.00pm & film at 7.30pm in Balsham Church Institute
The Bridge on the River Kwai (12)

The Bridge on the River Kwai



During WW II, allied POWs in a Japanese internment camp are ordered to build a bridge to accommodate the Burma-Siam railway. Their instinct is to sabotage the bridge, but under the leadership of Colonel Nicholson they're persuaded the bridge should be built to help morale, spirit.

At first, the prisoners admire Nicholson when he bravely endures torture rather than compromise his principles for the benefit of Japanese Commandant Colonel Saito, but soon they realise it's a monument to Nicholson, himself, as well as a form of collaboration with the enemy.

Award winning film starring William Holden, Alec Guinness and Jack Hawkins

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

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