



# BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 672

AUGUST 2025



Photo: Lesley Bennett

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Photo: Henryk Pisarski



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Jane Goode



Photo: Martin Bobrow

Elephant Hawk Moth

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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](http://www.balsham.net)  
 Send content to: [clive@ben8and.co.uk](mailto:clive@ben8and.co.uk)

### **DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:**

**TUESDAY AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> 2025**

*Copy should be submitted  
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*Henryk Pisarski, Lesley Bennett, Jane Goode, Larry Davies, Martin Bobrow, Sylvia Cassettari and Richard Pargeter*



## **Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme**

Email [balshamngns@gmail.com](mailto:balshamngns@gmail.com)  
 or phone or text **07508 430057**

# Editorial

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First of all I would like to thank everyone who came to the **Big Balsham Lunch**. I know it was a day when much else was happening and several people apologised for being unable to come, but those who were able to make it seemed to have a very enjoyable time. We do need to keep our village community alive and working, and next year another event could help do that - of course:



The Feast. **Please make sure you fill in the survey** giving your views and ideas about the first Saturday, next July, 2026.

I get the feeling that our village, or at least some of it, is getting more active. The Keep Active group (for us slightly older people who need to avoid falls) has had to open a second class, and groups such as Adult Ballet, Yoga and Fitsteps all help others keep fit and able. Of course bowls, indoor or out, continues all year, and next month football will return. There are many other activities that go on in the village, in the Pavilion, Institute, Coffee Shop, Pubs, etc, not all physical, but all being great social and community builders. As next month will be the start of the new season of activities, after the summer holidays, I would like to include a list of all the groups and clubs that meet around the village, with the day, time and place, plus who to contact for information. Please send an email to the Review:

[editor@balshamreview.com](mailto:editor@balshamreview.com), or leave a note in the Post Office with details. This would be for all ages, 0-100! We used to include this every month in the Review, and there seems to be a need to include it, at least from time to time.

It was awful news to hear of a car being stolen in Balsham. I have always felt that this is a safe place, and I hope that it will prove to be a one off. BUT we should all be careful and lock car doors, as well as garages and sheds, and of course our houses. By keeping the doors shut we will also avoid animals getting trapped. So much of what I see on Facebook is worry about missing pets, coming home eventually very hungry and maybe were unable to escape.

Talk of pets leads me to the **Pet Service** that will be held in church on **Sunday 31st of August**. All pets are welcome. In the past we have had dogs, cats, snails, stick insects, guinea pigs, a duck, a rabbit and even a couple of fish in a bowl! We will be pleased to see everyone with their animals, insects, or whatever, but please, they must be kept under firm control. If you feel your pet would be safer in a travelling container, then please use one. Some creatures, especially dogs, usually very well behaved, can surprise you, so short leads please. We are used to some barking, but as the sound reverberates in the

great acoustics of the church, we will understand if pet carers move in and out. All that sounds a bit unwelcoming, but no, please do come. Animals I don't see as pets are the muntjac family, resident in the gardens around mine. Yesterday I found one had managed to get over the fence into the vegetable area, and had eaten the Swiss Chard and the leaves on the climbing beans. This morning it had been back and taken all the courgettes, several leaves and the growing points of

the plants, plus more bean leaves. At least it hasn't had the beans themselves. Many of you will know that roses are a great favourite and mine have been very pruned in the back garden.

That's enough grumbling. Today the children have broken up for the summer holidays, so let's hope the weather will be great for them, and that the parents will have at least some relaxing time!

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**Gill Parry Brown**

EDITOR, BALSHAM REVIEW

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## 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

#### **MARGARET LONG**

Karen, Steve and the family of the late Margaret Long would like to thank the many people who sent kind messages and cards on the passing of their beloved Mum. Thank you to so many family and friends who attended her funeral service, your presence was a great comfort. A huge thank you to Mary and Phil of the Bell for putting on a fantastic buffet and hosting the wake.

Everything was perfect and as Mum would have wanted.

Thank you all again.

**Karen & Steve Meekings**

#### **COMMUNITY VE/VJ DAYS PICNIC**

Well done to everyone involved in the excellent presentations held on 5th July. The displays catered for those who could remember the dark days of WW2 and the post war years which followed, right through to the younger generation whom, it is hoped will never have to experience such difficult times. Thank you also for the war time sweet rations!

**A Villager**

#### **LOCAL WILD FLOWERS**

On Friday 4 July, I wandered a few hundred yards from The Brambles down West Wickham Road and back,

to check some Meadowsweet I had seen from the car, Meadowsweet being not such a common plant where I live in suburban Kent. I did not expect to see many flowers, as they do not seem to be as profuse as usual, owing to the dry weather this year. Quite surprising to me, though, was the variety. Along this short length of roadside, I saw 30 varieties of wild flower, besides the many others to be seen around the village.

Those I spotted were:

*Meadowsweet, Field Bindweed, Hedge Bindweed, Agrimony, Common Knapweed, Blackberry, Great Willowherb, Mare's Tails, Hogweed, Creeping Thistle, White Stonecrop, Knotgrass, Smooth Sow Thistle, Bristly Oxtongue, Bittersweet (Woody Nightshade), Common Ragwort, Broad Leaved Dock, Silverweed, Creeping Buttercup, Ribwort Plantain, Dog Violet (2nd flowering?), Yellow Saxifrage, Great Mullein, Creeping Cinquefoil, Common Mallow, Selfheal, White Clover, Lady's Bedstraw, Herb Robert &*

*Small-flowered Cranesbill.*

With best wishes,

**A Visitor**

### **MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**

Following a most successful event last year Judy Richards and I will be holding another Coffee Morning in aid of **MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT** on **Friday 26th September** in **Balsham Sports Pavilion**.

Please get this date in your diary and come along and join us, eat cake, drink coffee (or whatever you prefer) take your chance with the raffle and socialise! What's not to like?

Hope to see you there,

**Jo Stinton**

### **USED-IT FOR RECYCLING**

The next collection of unwanted IT for recycling will be mid-August.

When the details are settled, I will post on the village Facebook and the website. Please keep a watchful eye on both

**Neil Dunlop**

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## **Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme**

Following recent requests for additional helpers, 7 residents have come forward to join the Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme. If there is anyone still thinking about joining, there can never be enough helpers, so contact us at:

**balshamgns@gmail.com** or call or

text **07508 430057**.

There will be **NO Community Café or Lunch in August** and the next cafe will be on **September 16th**.

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**Steve Jordan**

COORDINATOR,  
BALSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

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# From the Church

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Hello! My name is Alastair France and I've been delighted to be part of the Ministry Team for the Granta Vale villages for the last few months. I've recently retired from full-time employment and have been exploring my ministry within the Church of England for some years – and now rather feels like the time. I live in Stetchworth, a bit North of our villages and close to Newmarket, where I've been a Churchwarden and led services locally in the Raddesley group for many years.

There is a “discernment” process where both the Church and the candidate decide whether going forward towards ordination is the right thing for both the Church and the candidate. For those candidates of a “certain age” who have experience within Church that process can be modified a little so that training can start earlier (although the discernment process is still as rigorous; just some of the process happens at the same time as study). This is called the Elizabeth Pathway and I'm delighted that I've been accepted for this and will commence my formal training with a summer school at the end of August.

I'm also very pleased that I will continue to work with the team here in these villages; the Granta Vale group led by Iain will act as my “training benefice” – although I will

continue to lead some services “up North”. During my study I will also continue (provided I can manage the workload) to be part of the Chaplaincy teams supporting river users in the Cambridge area and separately to staff, visitors and passengers at Stansted Airport (neatly covering two of my other interests).

I've lived in Stetchworth with my wife, Rebecca for 36 years; my previous career in technology gave me many opportunities to travel and work in interesting places – and I do enjoy drawing on that variety of experiences when leading worship.

I look forward to meeting many more of you over the next couple of years!

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**Alastair France**

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## **CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED**

In the autumn there will be an 8 week course exploring the fundamentals of the Christian faith. There will be plenty of opportunity for you to ask questions that you may have about faith and spiritual matters.

More information in next month's Review.

<b>August Services</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>3rd</b> <i>7th Sunday after Trinity</i>		<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Alastair France</i>	
<b>10th</b> <i>8th Sunday after Trinity</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> West Wickham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> West Wrattling <i>Alistair Collen</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b> Balsham <i>Alistair Collen</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> Great Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> <b>Café Church</b> Hildersham <i>Amanda Palmer</i>	<b>Taize service</b> Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
<b>17th</b> <i>9th Sunday after Trinity</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b> West Wrattling <i>Steven Wheeler</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> West Wickham <i>Alastair France</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> Little Abington <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>Taize service</b> Hildersham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
<b>24th</b> <i>10th Sunday after Trinity</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> West Wickham <i>Revd Jane Butler</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> Weston Colville <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> Balsham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> Great Abington <i>Keith Day</i>
<b>31st</b> <i>11th Sunday after Trinity</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b> West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> West Wrattling <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	<b>Pet Service</b> Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> <b>11.15am</b> <b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b> Hildersham <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i>	

**There will be a short service for VJ Day in the church at 10.00 am on Friday August 15th**

# Church Services



**Services will be shown on the benefice website & 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](http://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

**Rural Dean:** Revd Michael Wilcockson [associate.priest@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:associate.priest@stmaryslinton.org.uk)

Revd Hannah Threlfall 01223 481090 [revthrelfall24@outlook.com](mailto:revthrelfall24@outlook.com)

**Church Warden:** Nigel Clark, 01223 893043 [n.clark5@btinternet.com](mailto:n.clark5@btinternet.com)

**Administrator:** Cazy Walsh [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto: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_cornerstone)

**METHODIST:** Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

## Kingsway Solar Community Action

**Find out what Kingsway Solar Farm could mean for our villages**

This August, we're holding a series of public talks about the proposed large-scale solar development and how local residents can get involved to challenge it. Everyone is welcome.

**Come along to one of these events:**

**6th August:** The Reading Room, Weston Colville, 7:30pm

**11th August:** Memorial Hall, Brinkley, 7:30pm

**14th August:** Sports Pavilion,  
Balsham, 7:30pm

**18th August:** West Wickham Village  
Hall, 7:30pm

The Statutory Consultation for the Kingsway Solar Farm is likely to begin in September and will be open for public comment for six weeks. This is our one and only opportunity to respond to Kingsway's plans, raise concerns and give feedback.

**Your voice matters:** join us to see how you can take a stand and help stop this development.

### **Have Your Say – Updated Survey Link**



Apologies if the QR code didn't work for you last month. This has now been fixed.

We're extending the survey to make sure everyone has the chance to share their views (*note this is different from the earlier survey circulated by the Parish Council*).

Tell us how the proposed Kingsway Solar Farm could affect your wellbeing, lifestyle and connection to the area. Your feedback will help shape our community's response. (<http://bit.ly/3IFWA4o>)

### **New NSIP solar initiative**

KSCA is set to join a new initiative, **Stop Oversized Solar (SOS)**, alongside other groups campaigning against large-scale solar projects that fall under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) planning rules. The initiative aims to meet with parliamentarians

in July to highlight concerns about industrial-scale solar developments. We've contacted Pippa Heylings to urge her to take part.

### **Step into Nature: Bats and owls matter**

As part of our **Step into Nature** campaign, we're shifting focus from July's Bug Hunt to bats and owls this August. Our local area is home to a rich bat population, including the rare and protected Western Barbastelle. We also have a healthy population of tawny owls and barn owls in the area. Interestingly, Kingsway's surveys haven't recorded any owl activity so far, making your observations even more important.

Please log any sightings on iRecord to build a clearer picture. Even if you're unsure of the species of bat, all records are useful. There's a special page on the website giving further details if you'd like to upload audio recordings ([kingswayaction.org](http://kingswayaction.org): see the news section).

### **Together we are stronger**

- 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>).

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**Kathy Day**

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# Balsham WI

The July WI meeting took us back to the 1980s. The presenters reminded us of world events such as the AIDS epidemic, Chernobyl disaster, fall of the Berlin Wall and the Falklands War. Closer to home we also had the Royal weddings, the Miners' Strike and Live Aid.

During this period the WI had many resolutions concerning health and were one of the first organisations to support AIDS research. Locally Balsham WI were very engaged with their competition entries to the East of England Show, local produce shows, and entering floats into the village carnival. There was a thriving rounders team and some very crafty members, as well as a committee of 15! One of these left the Christmas party early one year with labour pains and had a baby within the hour – her husband returned before the end of the meeting with the birth announcement!

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 8 September, 7.30pm**, at the **Pavilion** in Balsham. The theme for this meeting will be the **1990s**. 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**

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## Debbie Mower

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Are you an ex-member of Balsham WI? If you are and would like to join in our **Centenary Celebration Afternoon Tea** from **2.30pm-4pm** on **Saturday 16th August** in Balsham Church Institute, then please email us on **balshamwi@gmail.com** to let us know that you will be there (and let us know of any dietary requirements). We hope to have as many past and present members as possible at this event.



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

# The Meadow Primary School

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## **Year 5 and 6 Shine in Time Lord Production**

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils recently put on a spectacular production of *Time Lord*. The children worked incredibly hard and showcased their talents with confidence and enthusiasm. Their performances were truly memorable, and we couldn't be prouder of everything they achieved. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents, carers, and staff who generously gave up their time to support the children both

## **A Successful Summer Fete**

We'd also like to give a huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising a hugely successful Summer Fete. Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers and a generous donation from Nexteq, we have raised a substantial amount of money. This will go directly towards funding amazing opportunities and enriching experiences that will benefit all of our children in the coming school year.

## **Welcoming Our New Reception Children and Transition Days**

Our transition days have been a great success. We were thrilled to welcome our new Reception children, helping them settle in and

feel excited about starting their school journey. Meanwhile, all other pupils spent two days with their new teachers and in their new classrooms, getting familiar with the next step in their learning adventure. The energy and enthusiasm around school have been wonderful to see, and everyone is looking forward to the new academic year with great anticipation.



## **Creativity Across the Curriculum**

Behind the scenes, our dedicated teachers, acting as subject leaders, have been working diligently to integrate creativity across every subject. This approach is something we are truly passionate about, as it ensures that all children have the chance to develop important life skills — such as problem-solving, teamwork, and communication — alongside their academic knowledge.

## **Wishing Everyone**

### **a Wonderful Summer Break**

As the summer break approaches, we would like to wish all our families a restful and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for another exciting year of learning and growth.

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## **Faye Facer**

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

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# The Bell Inn Balsham



We would like to say a massive **THANK YOU** to all of our customers for all your support over the last six years. We are sad to be leaving, as we have made some great friends at The Bell. Thank you also to all of our staff for their hard work, and for helping us to make the pub a welcoming place to come.

Our leaving weekend on 18th/19th July was a great success, and we were blown away by the amount of people that turned out to wish us well, and by the cards, gifts and messages of goodwill.

Our **moving day** is **Thursday 7th August**, therefore our **last business day** will be **Wednesday 6th August**,



and **last food service day** is **Friday 1st August**.

We wish the new tenants the very best of luck, and hope they will be as happy as we have been during our tenure of The Bell Inn.

***See you all soon on the other side of the bar.***

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**Phil & Mary**

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# The Big Balsham Lunch

On an overcast but warm day, this was an opportunity for Balsham to remember the events of 80 years ago when the wars in Europe and the Far East ended. Many families in our village endured loss, pain and sorrow in those days but the Big Balsham Lunch was a happy occasion.

Teas, cakes, drinks, beer, ice creams & burgers from vendors complemented the picnic lunches enjoyed on the Rec. There was a collection of both pre- and post-war vehicles, a fascinating presentation of the work the WI did in the village in the 6 years of war, a display of historical

ephemera of 80 years ago collated by Jan Ellam, tasty honey to buy and a miniature steam train on a track in the Pavilion as well. The Church offered some peace and quiet along with engaging historical information.

The giant inflatable slide proved to be a winner with the children and the day was rounded off by the screening of **Bridge on the River Kwai**. Many thanks to all those who helped and to the Parish Council for providing the financial support for this event.

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**Dick Paden & Gill Parry Brown**

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Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Sylvia Cassettari



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Sylvia Cassettari

# Linton Village College

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On an extremely hot weekend in July, 42 of our Year 10 students completed a weekend expedition to the Peak District as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.



The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award is designed for young people aged 14 and above. Completing the Bronze Award typically takes a minimum of six months and requires dedication and commitment. At LVC, we run our own assessment of the Award, providing coaching, leadership and verification of the qualification.

The scheme has been run at LVC by Mr Barton for the past 15 years and hundreds of our students have benefited from taking part. We are proud that nearly a third of our Year 10 cohort are registered for the programme. It offers an important opportunity for personal development and community involvement through four components: volunteering, physical recreation, skills and an expedition.

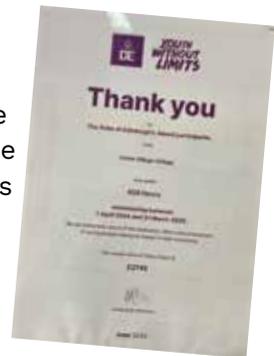
Volunteering involves participants engaging in community service

activities, fostering a sense of responsibility and empathy. This could range from helping at local charities to participating in local conservation projects.

Physical recreation aims to improve health and fitness and the skills element focuses on developing new talents or honing existing ones. This is about exploring interests and passions, whether it is learning a musical instrument, cooking or even coding.

Our trip to the Peak District for the expedition is perhaps the most exciting part of the Bronze Award. Participants plan, train for and undertake this journey in a group. This section is designed to build teamwork, resilience and a sense of adventure. Our students went on two day-long hikes and then spent the nights camping and cooking their own food.

We have recently been awarded a certificate from the scheme praising the 429 voluntary hours that our students have given to the local community this year.



***Well done to all of you!***

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**Laura Heard**

PR & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

**Email:** [lheard@lintonvc.org](mailto:lheard@lintonvc.org)

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Photo: Richard Pargeter

Humming Bird Hawk Moth



Photo: Larry Davies

A rare circumzenithal arc in Balsham



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Plume Moth



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Pyramidal Orchid



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Slug clearing at the allotment



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Greater Pennant Wasp

# Linton Library News

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It's not too late to sign your pre-school and primary school aged children up for the **Summer Reading Challenge!** With a theme of Story Garden, this year's challenge from The Reading Agency invites children to enjoy reading and the great outdoors – and collect stickers! Whilst we have stocks left, Scotsdales are generously providing a free gift to all children who sign up for the Challenge.

Each Saturday in the holidays we will be running a **Craft Activity, 11.00 - 12.30pm.** Come along to this free event to make Pecking Hens, a Flower Collage, Handprint Tree and Flower mobiles! 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.

Find out what is happening in libraries across Cambridgeshire this summer by picking up our What's On brochure, or check **www.library.live.**

**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.

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## Vicky Anandraj & Ann King

COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

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### Opening hours

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

### Customer Services

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

**www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library**



# Balsham Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting took place on 21st July, 2025 in Balsham Pavilion

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The next **Parish Meeting** will be held on **15th September, 2025** at **7.30 pm** in **Balsham Pavilion**  
**ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND**

## **Big Community Lunch VE/VJ Day Celebration Saturday, July 5th:**

The PC thanked Gill Parry-Brown and Dick Paden for organising the VE/VJ Celebrations for the village. The children enjoyed the inflatable slide. Jan Ellam was also thanked for her very interesting exhibition..

## **West Wickham Road:**

The work has taken place to replace the broken pipe to stop the water issues and the road will be resurfaced as soon as possible.

## **Planning:**

### **For Discussion:**

**Site address:** 19 Linton Rd, Balsham

**Reference:** 5/02540/HFUL  
/25/02541/LBC

**Proposal:** Installation of new air source heat pumps and construct/extend brick wall.

**PC Decision:** No objections

**Site address:** 18 West Wickham Rd, Balsham

**Reference:** 25/0651/TTPO

**Proposal:** Reduce lateral spread by approx 1-1.5m ensuring front side is cut back to hedge line and crown reduce to give a 0.25-0.5m clearance to BT cables - this is to maintain shape and to ensure crown is clear of BT wires.

**PC Decision:** No objections

## **Decisions:**

**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

**SCDC Granted permission**

## **Allotments:**

There is one full plot and 2 half plots vacant. Please contact the PC for more details.

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.

## **Solar Panel Grant for the Pavilion:**

The grant has been submitted to SCDC for solar panels on the pavilion.

## **Solar Farm:**

The statutory consultation is due September/October. KSCA has a new fundraiser on board. KSCA are organising an update and talk at Balsham Pavilion on 14th August in Balsham at the Pavilion, the talk will include a call for experts.

## **Financial contribution towards costs of Action Group:**

Balsham PC agreed to pay for the 3000 walking leaflets at a cost of £168.00 and insurance for the community event of £ 57.56, totalling £ 225.56.

## **Trimming of Leylandii trees in High Street:**

The Clerk will obtain another quote to remove the leylandii trees in the High Street and speak to the trees officer at SCDC about removing the trees as they are not on PC land. The trees were very badly cut back by the utility company last year and

are an eyesore when entering the village.

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### **Tracy Coston**

PARISH CLERK

**Tel:** 01223 894462 / 07929930385

**Email:** clerk@balsham.net

**Website:** www.balsham.net

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## **West Wickham & District Garden Club**

### **A Summer Celebration**

Thanks to everyone who came to see us at the **West Wickham Big Garden Party** in July. Good fun was had by all who entered the gardening and children's quizzes and both the goodie tree and cake box were well-visited by the successful entrants!

Our biggest event of the Summer/Autumn calendar is the Garden Club's own **Gardening Fair** on **Saturday 6th September** at **West Wickham Village Hall**.

Building on the success of last year's new format, this is a chance for Club members and visitors to get together and have a chat over tea and cake whilst enjoying some gardening-themed stalls and activities. There will be plants and produce for sale, a raffle, quizzes and the photography competition winners announced with all entries displayed. There might even be some garden-based competitions to enter on the day so keep your eyes open for information nearer the time.

And, following that, our talk on **Monday 15th September** at **7:30** in **West Wickham Village Hall** is entitled "***In the garden with William Morris***". Given by **Fiona Rose** – an accredited lecturer with The Arts Society – we are anticipating a large attendance so please turn up early to get a good spot.

Here's a reminder of this year's Photography Competition categories... ***Frozen, Light and Dark, Terrific Trees***. All entries to be emailed by **Friday 29th August**.

Contact us on **photo@westwickham.org** for more details.

For Club information or if you'd like to help at one of our events, please contact Sally Collins at **wwdgc@westwickham.org**



# District & County Councillors' Report

July 2025

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## **Expiry of postal votes**

Following a change to the law as part of the Elections Act, postal votes no longer apply indefinitely. They now expire after a period of three years. Due to the timing of the reapplication legislation, around 15,000 South Cambridgeshire postal votes are due to expire at the end of January 2026. The South Cambs Elections Team has just started the process of contacting those residents whose postal vote will be expiring to explain to those voters that in order to keep their postal vote in place they will need to make a fresh application. SCDC may contact affected electors via email, post or text message (or via a combination of means) to raise awareness of the changes and to ensure they have sufficient time to make a new application if they want to before next year's elections. SCDC also plan to include an article in South Cambs Magazine in Autumn 2025. Unfortunately, the change in the law means that affected electors who do not make a fresh application will have their postal votes removed when they expire at the end of January 2026. Questions can be emailed the elections team [elections@scams.gov.uk](mailto:elections@scams.gov.uk)

## **Acorn Anaerobic Digester**

The Acorn anaerobic biodigester planning application, which has been rolling through the system for a few years now, finally came to Suffolk County Council's planning committee this month and was refused. Since the developers have said they will be appealing the decision, this may not be the last we hear of the plan.

## **Local Government Reorganisation – Public Consultation**

Council leaders have announced they have identified 3 preferred options for creating new unitary councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The announcement has been made in response to a national government requirement to replace the current district, county and city councils with simpler unitary councils, instead of two tiers of local government. From April 2028, rather than dealing with separate county, city, and district authorities, residents will access all services—from road maintenance and bin collections to education, planning, social housing, social care, and support with benefits—through a unitary council.

## **Kingsway Solar Application**

Local MP Pippa Heylings, along with Geoff as local councillor 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. Pippa also raised this issue of the timing of the Statutory Consultation and the timing of that in relation the publishing of the results of the Non-statutory Consultation and Mr Vernon agreed that the Statutory Consultation should happen after

the holiday period and that the results of the Non-statutory Consultation should be published in advance to avoid overloading parish councils and other interested parties.

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**Contact Information:**

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**Geoff Harvey**

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR  
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

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**Henry Batchelor**

COUNTY COUNCILLOR  
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

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## Granta Medical Practices

### Flu Vaccinations 2025

***It's that time of year again already! If you book your flu vaccine with us, we can also check that you are up to date with all of the other vaccines you may be eligible for.***

The flu vaccination programme starts in October for all eligible adults, except pregnant women and children, who will be offered the vaccination from late September. Pregnant women are vaccinated to protect both mum and baby in first few weeks of life. Children get flu vaccinations earlier than adults as they are “super spreaders”.

You should get vaccinated because:

- Getting vaccinated against flu can help protect you, your family and friends.
- Everyone is susceptible to flu,

even if you are in good health and eat well.

- You can be infected with the virus and have no symptoms but can still pass flu virus to others, including family and friends, patients or residents.
- The ‘flu vaccine has a good safety record and will help protect you. It cannot give you flu.
- The impact of flu on frail and vulnerable patients can be fatal and outbreaks can cause severe disruption in communities, care homes and hospitals.

You are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccination if you:

- are aged 65 and over
- have certain long term health conditions

- are pregnant
- live in a care home
- are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance
- live with someone who has a weakened immune system

Additionally, eligible children include:

- children aged 2 to 3 years
- school aged children (reception to year 11)
- children aged 6 months to 17 years with certain long term

health conditions

This year we are also giving the Covid-19 vaccination at the same time as the flu, if you are eligible. You are eligible if you are:

- a resident in a care home for older adults
- aged 75 years and over
- aged 6 months and over and are severely immunocompromised

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**Sandra East**

HEAD OF PATIENT SERVICES

**Email:** [cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net](mailto:cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net)

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### Flu Clinic Dates

Saturday 27th September	<b>Granta Sawston</b> <i>(children and pregnant women only)</i>
Sunday 28th September	<b>Granta Royston Health Centre</b> <i>(children and pregnant women only)</i>
Saturday 4th October	<b>Granta Sawston</b>
Sunday 5th October	<b>Granta Royston Health Centre</b>
Saturday 11th October	<b>Granta Linton</b>
Saturday 11th October	<b>Granta Barley</b>
Saturday 11th October	<b>Granta Shelford</b>
Saturday 18th October	<b>Granta Sawston</b>
Sunday 19th October	<b>Granta Royston Health Centre</b>
Saturday 25th October	<b>Granta Linton</b>
Saturday 25th October	<b>Granta Shelford</b>

**All flu clinics run from 08:30 to 16:45**

To book your flu vaccination please call **0300 234 5555** and choose the Granta site of your choice or wait to receive your SMS link via your mobile phone to book your appointment.

# The Black Bull



## Happy August!

Thank you to those who joined us last month – whether for the Folk Night, Sushi Night, a Thursday coffee morning, Caribbean BBQ & Steel Band or just a pass through visit. The weather has been awesome for our patio dining.

## Next Events coming up:

**Rob Tasting Menu Night – Thursday 31st July:** This is where Rob lets his

imagination run free – always experimenting – never disappointed. This is one of our more informal “Five Moments” menus @ £55 with no set time of arrival – just book a table in the normal way but flag up Taster in the notes.

## Return of our Summer Sushi Night

**- Friday 8th August:** Last month’s Sushi Summer Specials was hugely popular – perfect for this warmer weather. Please book ahead and flag up Sushi in the notes.

**NB:** Delighted to announce that we are closed **Saturday 23 August** for Rob’s wedding! Congratulations to Rob and Daisy!

*Best wishes from all of us*

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**Alex, Rob, Liz, Luke & the teams**

[info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk](mailto:info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk)

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## Balsham August/September Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
Mid August	IT Recycling (see Village Facebook for date)	Park Cottage, High Street.
Saturday 2nd	Balsham Picture House <b>Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy</b> 7.30pm:	Institute
Thursday 14th	Kingsway Solar Community Action Group Talk, 7.30pm	Pavilion
Saturday 16th	<b>WI Centenary Celebration Tea.</b> 2.30-4pm	Institute
Sunday 31st	Pet Service 11am	Church

## An update from your MP: Pippa Heylings

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It really is shocking to think that a year has already gone by since voters in South Cambridgeshire put their faith in me to be their local champion in parliament and I'm so incredibly grateful to them. South Cambs is a wonderful place to live and work - with beautiful countryside, rivers and chalk streams and an economy driven by science and innovation that includes the largest biomedical research campus in Europe. It is a privilege to represent you and our area.

I hope you can see that I've hit the ground running. Right from the start, I've focused on what you told me matters most: fixing our local health services, tackling the cost-of-living crisis and protecting our environment. I'm proud that we've already had some important wins.

Alongside the hard work of many people, securing the green light from the government for the new Cambridge Cancer Hospital was a vitally important win for our area

- but we have got to keep pushing to get spades in the ground. More hospitals alone won't mend our healthcare system, so I will continue to press the government to do more to fix social care.

The new government's plans for growth for our area - which propose significant new housing development and further growth of our world-leading life science and technology sectors, make it even more important for local people to have a say. I have been working with local councils and regional and national bodies to hold the government to account to ensure that there is joined-up planning that ensures there are enough GPs, A&E, and public transport to cater for our existing and new communities. I am pushing for the government to hold a ministerial roundtable here locally to tackle the water supply and sewage crisis which is a dealbreaker for this government's growth plans for our water-stressed area. Decisions made in the next few years must benefit the people of South Cambs - while ensuring that our wonderful local environment and nature are protected.

Helping constituents is a vital part of my work as an MP - and one of the most rewarding. Each week, my small team and I receive hundreds of emails with requests for help with problems or a response to issues constituents are passionate

about. At the time of writing, we have now helped and closed over 7,000 cases from more than 5,000 constituents. I will be out and about in our communities throughout the summer recess listening to residents and attending local events. I hope to see many of you on my travels. If

you would like to sign up to my weekly newsletter to find out more about what I am doing in parliament, you can do so by going to [pipppaheytings.org.uk/newsletter](http://pipppaheytings.org.uk/newsletter).

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**Pippa Heylings**  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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## Would You or Someone You Know Benefit From Wellbeing Support?

Care Network Cambridgeshire's **Wellbeing Service** offers **free, short-term support for adults** (18+) in South Cambs who may be struggling with confidence, isolation, illness, or low mood. Our friendly team can provide **one-to-one support** and match individuals with trained volunteers who can offer companionship through phone calls or accompanying them to access

the community. Support is tailored over **6–8 sessions**, helping people regain independence and feel more connected.

If you or someone you know could benefit, making a referral is easy — just visit: [care-network.org.uk/wellbeing](http://care-network.org.uk/wellbeing) or contact us at [wellbeing@care-network.org.uk](mailto:wellbeing@care-network.org.uk) or **0330 094 5750**.

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## Bin Collections August/September

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday August 6 <sup>TH</sup>	✓		
Wednesday August 13 <sup>TH</sup>		✓	✓
Wednesday August 20 <sup>TH</sup>	✓		
Wednesday August 27 <sup>TH</sup>		✓	✓
Wednesday September 3 <sup>RD</sup>	✓		
Wednesday September 10 <sup>TH</sup>		✓	✓

# Highlighting Heat Pumps in Balsham



Heat pumps will take centre stage this year for **Cambridge Carbon Footprint's Open Eco Homes: Winter Special**. From **26 October - 23 November**, people from across the region are invited to discover for themselves what it's like to get off gas and retrofit their homes to increase comfort, reduce carbon emissions and enjoy cost savings.

A fantastic opportunity to experience what it feels like to be in a Cambridgeshire eco home in winter: visit homes in Cambridge City and South Cambs equipped with heat source pumps and other low carbon technologies and hear directly from homeowners about their journey towards increased comfort, savings, and sustainability.

Gain practical advice from experts on working with professionals, cutting energy use, saving water, installing solar PV, and making

affordable DIY improvements.

Whether you're planning your next retrofit or just curious, these events will help you to take the next step towards a greener, more efficient home.

***Really useful real world experience.***

OPEN ECO HOMES TOUR ATTENDEE

***Went well beyond other information I've found on the internet.***

TALK ATTENDEE

Tours and talks are available in-person and online: all are **FREE** (*advance booking required*).

For full event details and booking go to **<https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-we-do/open-eco-homes/>**

# Balsham Weather June 2025



Photo: Larry Davies

## Temperatures (maximum & minimum) & Rainfall



32° on 21st June



14° on 9th June



18° on 22nd June



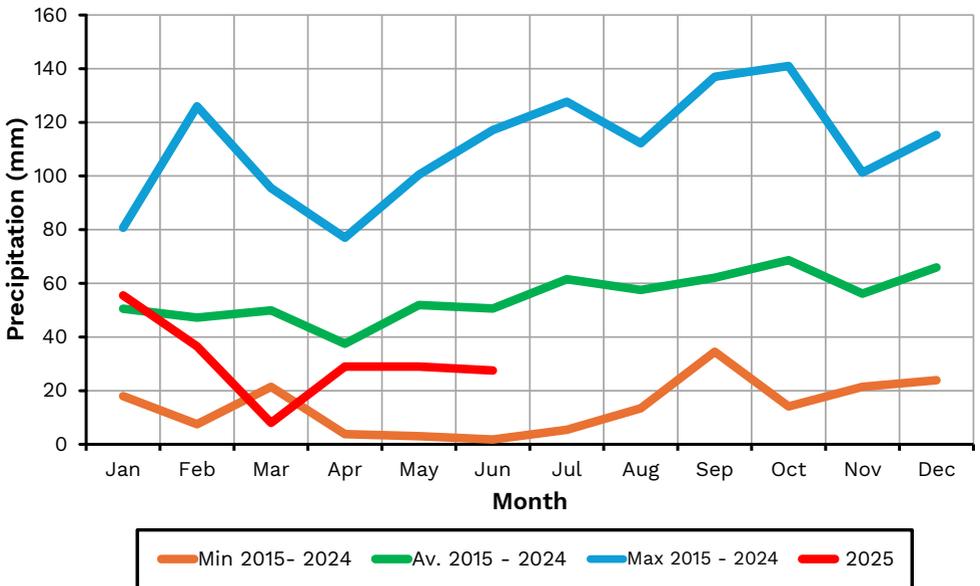
7° on 10th June



**Total rainfall:** 27.5mm (1.04")



Rain fell on 9 days





**Saturday August 2nd**

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

# **Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy (15)**



## **BRIDGET JONES MAD ABOUT THE BOY**

Starring Renee Zellweger as Bridget Jones and including Colin Firth and Hugh Grant.

Bridget is the romantic heroine for the ages and is now a single mother and having to juggle work, parenthood and romance!

With the help of her loyal friends Bridget navigates encounters with a younger man - and a series of awkward interactions with her son's science teacher as she strives to forge a new path toward life and love.

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

Our September film night will be **Saturday 6th September** at the normal times but no title decided at the moment from many films on hand !

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