



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 673

SEPTEMBER 2025



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Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Angela Read

How to get a shed into your back garden!



Photo: Jane Goode

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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 SEPTEMBER 19TH 2025

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Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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

Editorial

August and holiday time! I was startled when I received the message from Jane Furlow reminding us all that it is time to start preparing the contents of shoe boxes for children at CHRISTMAS! Surely it can't be so near, where has this year gone?

Some of us living in the village were alive on August 15th 1945, and although we may not remember the day itself, we were very aware that war was over, hopefully for ever. I remember going to a Victory Firework Display that October, and also the rationing, especially the meat ration. I was with my mother in the queue at the butchers', and when I asked 'Mummy, what's offal?'; I was shushed from all directions. There was a commemorative service for the end of the War against Japan in the church on August 15th and you may have heard the Bell-Ringers that evening too. We remember with gratitude all those men and women who served and lived through that time, many giving their lives.

Some of you know that I have been asking some villagers whether they are interested in supporting our parish church as we need to seek attention to the carved wooden cover to the font. The cover has wires internally that support the World War I shell that counter-balances the lower section when it is lifted. These wires need replacing. In order to do this the whole cover must be taken down, an expensive activity.

A grant has been applied for, and now we need to show that the community do care about this spectacular and important item in the oldest and largest building in Balsham. Several of our villagers & their children and grand-children were baptised in the font, and many villagers bring their visitors to the church. If you get the chance to sign the paper in the church showing your care and interest, we would be very grateful.

Continuing the theme of the church and money, many of you may remember that 'before Covid' we used to stand outside the Post Office on Church Gift Day (the first Saturday in September) to be given back the envelopes that had been delivered with your Reviews. On **Saturday September 6th, 8.30-10.30am**, Reverend Hannah will be there with Nigel Clark, our Church Warden, and me, and we will be very grateful to receive any envelopes that you return, with gifts of money inside, if you are able to be there. Envelopes can also be put in the black box in the church, near the door, or left in the Post Office, thank you Helen, during the following week. I have been told by several people that although they don't go to services in the church, except perhaps for the occasional funeral, they do appreciate the church building, which they feel is an old, quiet and peaceful place to drop in

to from time to time. In order to keep the church going we do need funds!

Do please keep in touch with the **Kingsway Solar community Action Group** and their news. They are not against Solar Farms, but these need to be in the right place, and that is not our good quality agricultural land, covering every square meter in the area with enormous frames that spoil the countryside and the views. See the village Facebook and their website for more information. Have you found signs of an otter in or near your property? **Martin Bobrow** had a photo taken by his garden wildlife camera of a healthy-looking otter. One of his fish disappeared and another was killed by one bite. Having googled 'otters' I find they are happy travelling miles overnight and will

Photo: Martin Bobrow



predate many birds and animals as well as fish. This year I have had no moorhen chicks, and the duckling families have all disappeared within a few days. I wonder whether the otter has been visiting my pond all summer. Beautiful animal, but causing havoc.

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

KNITTING WOOL WANTED

There are four knitters in Balsham knitting items for the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Ely.

However, at the moment, we are rather short of wool so if any of you have a ball or more of wool you longer need please contact:

Joanna Sanders 01223 893063

sanderschimneys@uwclub.net

Joanna Sanders

PETER DAY

Peter Day of Hay Close passed away on 12/08/2025.

His funeral is on the **9th Sept** at **Cam Valley Crematorium 11.00am.**

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

Rural Dean: Revd Michael Wilcockson associate.priest@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Revd Hannah Threlfall 01223 481090 revthrelfall24@outlook.com

Church Warden: Nigel Clark, 01223 893043 n.clark5@btinternet.com

Administrator: Cazzy Walsh 7churches.seven@gmail.com

SERVICES at other CHURCHES when possible

ROMAN CATHOLIC Masses at:

Cherry Hinton: St Philip Howard Church

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

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

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

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

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

METHODIST: Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

From the Church

The Generous Heart

Many of us are facing difficult times at the moment, with the rising cost of living, and our general concern for the well-being of family and those close to us within our community. We all know what it is like to face challenging times, and we know how important it is to keep 'mind, body and spirit' together. When times are tough, we can find it helpful to exercise the body by getting out for brisk walk, some fresh air, a jog perhaps. Well maybe not a jog, but any amount of movement can certainly help us manage our daily stresses, concerns and worries. Looking after the body can also mean enjoying good healthy food – and the odd bit of chocolate. With mental health concerns on the rise, I'm the first to admit that I spend far too much time distracted by social media; Better to feed the mind with good things.

Mindfulness has become a term to describe our awareness of the present moment while calmly accepting our feelings, thoughts and what may be going on around us. This is all very well, but in our secular world the workings of the mind have tended to take centre stage - as if all of



our troubles can be solved in the room upstairs.

Cultures that value and practice the healing ways of prayer and meditation understand that prayerfulness is the journey from the head to the heart. We may think with the head, but it is from the heart that we respond, without thinking, through actions of love and concern for others. Prayerfulness, I suggest is more than asking or wishing for stuff; it can be our sitting still and being quietly thankful for what we have. Prayer can be in the work we do, the people we meet, and the ways we respond from the heart. When we speak of keeping mind, body and spirit together, we start to see how the active body, the thinking mind and spirit long to thrive as one from within.

I'm beginning to wonder if the actions needed to rescue, to manage and sustain us all may have a lot to do with prayerful engagement; our living as one, in mind, body and spirit. Perhaps we are only just beginning to realise that our personal wellbeing is secured through the generous actions of the heart.

Steven Wheeler

Sept. Services	9:30am	11:00am	6:00pm
7th <i>12th Sunday after Trinity</i>		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/ Alistair Collen</i>	
14th <i>13th Sunday after Trinity</i>	Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i> Harvest Communion West Wrattling <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Morning Worship Balsham <i>Alistair Collen</i> (Harvest) Café Church Hildersham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> 11.15am Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i>	Taize service Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
21st <i>14th Sunday after Trinity</i>	Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Alastair France</i> Holy Communion West Wrattling <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Jennifer Totney</i> Harvest Communion Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Taize service Hildersham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
28th <i>15th Sunday after Trinity</i>	Harvest Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Steven Wheeler</i> 10.00am Harvest Creative Church Great Abington <i>Rosemary Mead/ Alastair France</i>	Harvest Songs of Praise Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Harvest Communion Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Evening Prayer Great Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Steven Wheeler</i>

Regular Midweek services

Every Tuesday at Hildersham church – 7.00pm Silent Space followed by Compline
Every Friday at Weston Colville church – 8.45am Morning Prayer

Kingsway Solar Community Action

Taking part in the Statutory Consultation

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent events to learn more about the impact of the proposed Kingsway Solar Farm and to prepare for the Statutory Consultation expected this September. If you missed the events, you can find further information on our website or Facebook page, and the presentation is available to download.

Community action

We are stepping up efforts to protect our villages. Current activities include printing campaign signs, posters and banners for gardens, hedges, and other privately owned prominent locations, as well as building a life-size mock-up to show the true scale of the proposed solar panels. If you would like to display a sign or to support any of these initiatives, please complete the Sign Request Form or donate via our GoFundMe page (links below).

We also need to raise significant funds for the legal process, which could cost over £200,000. This will be ring-fenced from other campaign funds. If you can make a substantial contribution (£500+), please email hello@kingswayaction.org to arrange a private discussion.

Step Into Nature in September

As part of our **Step Into Nature**

campaign, we're focusing on deer recordings this September. Please log any sightings on iRecord to help build valuable local data, track the routes deer use and assess how solar farm fencing may affect their movement. And do keep recording other species too!



The public consultation for the draft **Local Nature Recovery Strategy** runs until **11 September 2025**. Help shape the future of nature in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by taking part in the survey at:

<https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lnrs/consultation/>

Useful links

- Become a KSCA member to stay involved
<https://kingswaysolarcommunityaction.co.uk/how-to-join-us/>
- Request a **No Way Kingsway** sign
<https://forms.gle/mZH5aGseUVm3yRuq9>
- Donate via GoFundMe to support our work
www.gofundme.com/f/no-to-kingsway-solar-farm
- Follow KSCA on Facebook for real-time updates.

Kathy Day

Christianity Explored

Christianity Explored is an informal and relaxed 8-week course for anyone who is thinking about the meaning of life. It's run by ordinary Christian people in conjunction with the village church and is completely free. You don't need to know anything about the Bible, and you won't be asked to pray or sing. You can ask any question you like, or you can just sit and listen. It will take place in the **Balsham**



Church Institute starting on **Sunday 7th September** from **6:30 to 8pm.**

Whoever you are, whatever you're thinking, Christianity Explored is a place for you to explore what life's all about. It might be the best news you've ever heard.

For more information contact Steve at **cexplored25@gmail.com** or phone or text on **07494 982 475**

Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

We are grateful to our volunteer drivers and to the new drivers who are helping Balsham residents. However, at the moment the number of drivers is considerably depleted with volunteers having other commitments during the summer. One week we will have only 4 of our usual 14 drivers available. This means that it is quite possible we shall not be able to help you with transport over the next month. If you could find alternative means of transport for the next few weeks,

that would be appreciated.

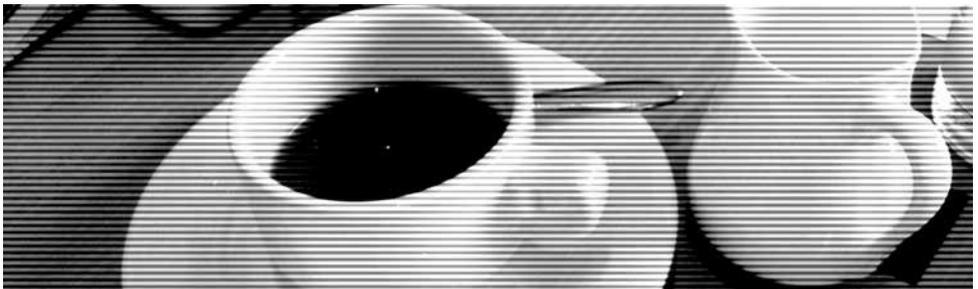
We hope to restart our **Community Café** on **Tuesday 16th September** and there is a **Community Lunch** planned for **September**. Please contact us if you would like to attend the lunch.

We are still in need of additional volunteers and if you are interested, please contact:

balshamgns@gmail.com or phone or text **07508 430057**

Steve Jordan

BALSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME



Linton Village College

Sport at LVC is central to our curriculum and extra-curricular offer. Physical education plays a vital role in students experiencing a well-rounded experience of school and is integral to their adoption of a healthy lifestyle and competition. Throughout the school year, we participate in a wide range of local sports fixtures and activities. This summer, over fifty of our talented athletes represented LVC at the annual district sports competition, competing in both track and field events against schools across Cambridgeshire. Many students achieved personal bests, and several won their respective events. We are incredibly proud to have placed first overall, earning the prestigious 'Olympic Cup' a remarkable achievement for our school.

The LVC Sports Department offers programmes that foster leadership, confidence, and community engagement. Our 'Sports Leaders' initiative gives Year 9 and 10 students

the opportunity to organise and lead events, such as the primary school sports festival in the summer term. Over 100 Year 3 and 4 pupils from our cluster schools including Linton Heights, Castle Camps, Burrough Green, and Great Abington attended. Feedback praised our students for their outstanding communication and empathy.

This autumn, we're also excited to be appointing Sports Prefects - a new leadership opportunity for younger students. These prefects will support clubs, fixtures, and events, gaining valuable experience in organisation and teamwork.

At LVC, sport is more than just physical activity, it's a platform for achievement, leadership, and community spirit. Our school values of ambition, inclusion and enrichment are at the heart of our PE provision.

Laura Heard

PR & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Email: lheard@lintonvc.org

Balsham Singers

The **new season** commences on **Thursday 11th September**.

Rehearsals are held in **The Sports Pavilion, Church Lane ,Balsham** and start promptly at **7.30** until **9.30pm**.

The date of our **Concert** is **13th December** at **4.00pm** in **Holy Trinity Church, Balsham**.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.

If you are interested in joining our choir we always welcome new members.

If you have any questions please contact our MD John Clenaghan john.clenaghan@sky.com

Jo Stinton

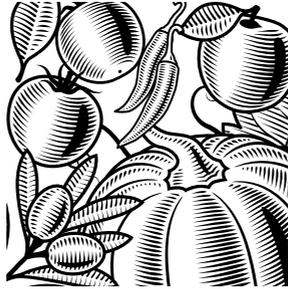
Balsham Allotment News

The allotments were all inspected in April and a second inspection was completed in August. The Allotment Cup will be awarded for the most improved allotment, in the judgement of the Allotment Working Group.

The cup will be awarded at a **'bring and share' picnic** at the **Woodhall Lane allotments** on **Sunday 14th September**, between **12:00** and **2:00pm**. Everyone is welcome. Bring your

family and friends, chairs and picnic, together with any surplus produce to share. The Scout Hut will be booked to allow hot drinks/toilet facilities and a bad weather location, in case it is needed.

There are a limited number of allotments available. The allotment year commences at the end of September so now is a good time to



get a plot in shape for planting in the spring. A lot of time and effort is required to grow your own food successfully and there are inevitable disappointments – last year the slugs mostly won. However, it can be

very rewarding, great exercise, you can grow what you will enjoy eating (and might be very expensive in the supermarket) and it will reduce some of your food miles to virtually

zero. If you feel that a full-size allotment would be too much you could try a half plot. If you are interested in taking on a plot, or a half plot, please email **balshmallotments@balsham.net** giving your name, address, and phone number.

Jennie Tipler

Balsham Allotment Rents Due!

Allotment holders are reminded that rents are due in September. For Balsham residents a half plot is £10.00, a full plot is £20.00. For allotment holders who live outside Balsham, the charge is £15.00 for a half plot and £30.00 for a full plot. The charge for water is £10.

Payment options are bank transfer (preferred), cash, or cheque.

Bank transfer to:

Acc. Name: Balsham Parish Council

Sort Code: 09-01-54

Account No: 28404480

Ref: Your plot number

Cash or cheque

(payable to Balsham Parish Council)
can be dropped off at:

Jennie Tipler,

7 Linton Road, Balsham, CB21 4HA



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Cinnamon Bug



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Willow Emerald



Photos: Ann Greig

A Jersey Tiger Moth. Until just a few years ago it was designated as **Nationally Scarce**, being restricted to the south coast and south-west but in recent years its range has expanded dramatically - obviously up to Balsham now!

Balsham WI



2025 is the centenary year of Balsham Women's Institute, and to commemorate this important occasion we held a celebration afternoon tea. Past and present members were all invited, as were the Clerk and Chairman of Balsham Parish Council, Councillor Geoff Harvey of South Cambs District Council and Reverend Kathy Bishop and Reverend Hannah Threlfall from Holy Trinity Church. Helen Williams and Elaine Bailey from CFWI also attended.

Following welcome remarks from the current president, the attendees joined together in a rousing rendition of Jerusalem, which is a song adopted by the WI in 1924. We then made a toast to the continuing success of Balsham WI.

While enjoying their home cooked goodies and tea there was a slide show highlighting some of what Balsham WI had been doing in the past 100 years. We also had on display some memorabilia from a

member of 50 years standing, and also some other notable items including a list of all the founding members, a tablecloth made for the 60th anniversary in 1985 featuring embroidered names of all the members at the time, and of course, our 100 year certificate.

The meeting ended with a short speech from our vice president. All participants appeared to have enjoyed the afternoon and the memories it brought for some of them.

Our next meeting will take place on **9 September** in the **Pavillion** at **7.30pm** and will feature 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](https://www.facebook.com/BalshamWI)

Debbie Mower

The Runner Ducks of Balsham



Photo: Louisa Sargant

Meet Balsham's newest and quirkiest residents. If you've strolled through the paddock by the recreation ground lately, you might have noticed four distinctive shapes darting behind the hedge. These odd looking creatures are Juno, Roger, Kip, & Fig.

The Fantastic Four

Juno: Named after the Roman goddess who guarded women and reigned over the heavens, Juno has a quiet authority. She has brown and white feathers, and prefers to watch over events from a safe vantage point. She's graceful, observant and cautious, but with a bit of time and patience she may treat you to a gentle cuddle when no one else is watching.

Roger: Our resident bachelor! This fine young gentleman is lavender grey with handsome white plumage. True to his drake form, Roger's voice is raspy and subdued compared to his female counterparts, but his calm dignity speaks for itself. We like to think of Roger as a duck version of James Bond. Pure class!

"Pea-martini please, shaken not stirred"... a quick fact about ducks - forget the bread! They much prefer peas.

Kip: Her name was inspired by marathon legend, Eliud Kipchoge. Kip earned her name from her impressive speed and agility even as a duckling. She has dark grey feathers - nearly black in places, with flashes of emerald green. Her appearance is striking, but it's her voice you'll notice first. This fog horn has a lot to say! If you're walking along the footpath and hear quacking behind the hedge, it's probably Kip announcing herself... or more likely reminding you that she loves peas.

Fig: The wildcard. Originally intended to be a lavender-grey duck (like Roger), Fig emerged pure white and full of mischief. She has a knack for showing off and stealing the spotlight, positioning herself perfectly whenever the camera appears. With her swan-like appearance and flair for theatrics, she is a natural-

born poster girl – and she knows it!

What's So Great About Ducks?

I don't get it... aren't ducks everywhere in Balsham? Ahh yes, but these aren't just any ducks! Runners are unlike any other. They have a bowling pin physique, stand tall like penguins and while most ducks waddle, these four live up to their name – they really do run! They're expert pest controls, enjoying a tasty treat of slugs, snails, and other garden menaces. They make short work of clearing out the vegetable patch, but without leaving a trail of destruction behind them. Lacking teeth, they cannot eat anything bigger or tougher than a slug. They nibble rather than chomp, so our home-grown veggies are always safe.

They are the ideal gardening companion

– equal parts entertaining and useful, but they also earn bonus points for being egg-cellent layers. Each duck produces up to 320 eggs per year! Their eggs have a high protein and fat content compared to chicken eggs, so they are perfect for baking and who doesn't love cake?

Our runners love the attention so the next time you stroll past the paddock, take a moment to peek behind the hedge. There you might witness Juno's gentle wariness, Roger's suave magnetism, Kip's unapologetic opinions, or Fig's unabashed posing. A feathered quartet who endeavour to prove that the best neighbours have beaks, webbed feet, and a surprising talent for cross-country running.

Louisa Sargant

Harvest Supper

There will be a **Harvest Supper** in **Balsham Church Institute** on **Friday 3rd October**. Please arrive at **6.30pm** for **7pm**

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

Tickets are essential and are available from Balsham Post Office. You can reserve a ticket by contacting Alison or Jo by email please:

alisonclarke15@hotmail.com OR **jonotnits@gmail.com** or in person. We are providing a hot supper and lots of delicious desserts, hot and cold soft drinks are included. However if you would like to bring your favourite tippie to enjoy with your

meal you are welcome to do so. Glasses can be provided.

Cost: over 12's, **£15** a person
under 12's, **£7**

If you have food allergies we will try and accommodate them but we need to know in advance, at latest by 20th September.

As tickets are limited please get your ticket in good time. **Available from 1st September.**

There will be a table quiz with prizes and a raffle. All profits are for church funds.

Jo Stinton

Have Your Say on the Future of the Balsham Feast

The Balsham Feast committee are currently running a village wide survey to find out how you think the Feast in 2026 should be run. Your feedback is vital. Without it, there is a real risk that the Feast may not continue.

Sadly, fewer than 1% of residents have responded so far, which is disappointing for an event that has been such a big part of our community.

The Balsham Feast in its current form since 2000 is a biennial free celebration filled with activities for all ages, from family fun to a paying bar, café, and BBQ. We'd hate for 2024 to have been the very last one.

Please scan the QR code below and

complete the short questionnaire before the end of September. If you prefer, paper copies are available from the Post Office. We will also be outside the **Post Office** on **Saturday 6th September** to hear your views in person.

We are also looking for new committee members. If the Feast goes ahead, a full team will be essential especially for applying for community grants.

***Your voice matters:
let's keep the
Balsham Feast alive!***



Johnny, Glynis & Debbie

THE BALSHAM FEAST COMMITTEE

Cambridge Past, Present & Future

Forthcoming events at Wandlebury:

Holiday Bushcraft for 5-12 year olds
Monday 1 Sept – Wednesday 3 Sept,
8.30am – 4pm

Holiday Bushcraft at Wandlebury is designed for children aged 5-12 and will help children develop their knowledge and skills of surviving in the wild.

Autumn Wildflowers

Wednesday 3 Sept, 10am – 12pm
Gentle guided walk to learn about late summer wildflowers. Led by a knowledgeable guide, who will help you to identify wild flowers using features such as colour, form and habitat.

Outdoor Mini Retreat

Sunday 7 Sept, 10am – 12pm

Led by a trained Life Coach and Hypnotherapist, these mini outdoor retreats are designed to help you step away from life's pressures.

Broom Making Workshop

Sunday 14 Sept, 10am – 2pm

Immerse yourself in the timeless craft of broom making. This 4-hour hands-on workshop offers a unique opportunity to learn a traditional skill.

Calm under the Canopy:

Mindful Meditation

Friday Sept 26, 3pm – 4:30pm

Every month on a Friday afternoon, a friendly group meets up with our resident Mindful Green Coach, David Lynch.

Linton Area Learning Association (LALA)

Our next ten week course will start on **Tuesday September 23rd** in **Linton Village Hall**.

We are pleased to welcome **Chris Budd** back for two aspects of cinematic history, from **23rd September**. The sessions will be from **10.15 - 12.15**. The later start takes account of Chris travelling from Ely by train and bus. Chris provided the following information about his course:

Special Effects in the Movies

From the earliest simple trick shots to cutting-edge computer-generated images, the magic of the movies has always been part art, part science, and a whole lot of inventiveness. Expect miniature cities, giant apes, animated antics, spaceships, skeletons, and digitally de-aged actors as we enjoy an in-depth look at over a century of creativity in classic cinema – as well as some overlooked masterpieces.

Costume in Film

Clothes might make the man, but the role of the cinematic costume designer can be crucial in making or breaking a whole film. Costumes can evoke bygone eras, tell us hidden truths about characters, make outlandish otherworldly futures believable, and so much more. We will explore some great examples from more than a century of cinema history.

Those who attended the **Film Music** course two years ago will recall Chris's enthusiasm and detailed knowledge of films which gave us an entertaining and instructive time.

The fee is not yet finalised, but is likely to be in the region of £35 for the term

For further information please contact Sue Mudge:
mudges.linton@btinternet.com

Linton Library News

Congratulations to all those who completed the **Summer Reading Challenge**; our **Presentation Ceremony** will be at **11am** on **Saturday 20th**. If you're not around, don't worry, pop in sometime after to pick up your medal and certificate. The official end is on the 6th, so if you haven't quite finished: get reading!!

We will have a **Nearly New Adults**

Booksale running in the library, come and discover your new favourite author.

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.

Vicky Anandraj & Ann King

COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

Opening hours

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

Customer Services

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

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library



Linton & District Historical Society

Our 2025/2026 begins on **Tuesday 16 September 2025** when we welcome Alan Osbourne who will introduce us to **ADA LOVELACE**, 1815-1852, the English mathematician often referred to as 'the first computer programmer', daughter of Lord Byron and Annabella Milbanke. The meeting will start at **7.30pm** in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane. There is easy parking opposite in the public car park at the Health Centre. We have a full programme arranged which includes a mix of local and historical interests.

Here is a taster to whet your appetite: **RAF West Wrattling Common; The**

Other Princess Charlotte; Adventures of Helicopters; Borley Rectory; The Darwin Family and Cambridge.

Last season we welcomed new members and visitors and membership is growing slightly. Thanks must be extended to those who keep the society running. However, if the society can continue to flourish, new people will be needed to make it feasible.

For further details of the LDHS please email ldhscams@gmail.com or 'phone **01223 893915** or **01223 678835**

District & County Councillors' Report

August 2025

4 Day Week

The District Council recently made the decision to make its 4-day working week trial, permanent. This decision came off the back of the lengthy trial period where KPI performance was studied closely. It also followed a consultation with the staff and the public.

Having said all of this, we are looking at local government reorganisation in a few years, and it's difficult to predict what format the staff contracts will form within a new local authority.

Local Developments

Grange Farm, Abington – The Grange Farm site, which is north of Cambridge Road, Abington, has been put forward several times over the years for housing development but is now being looked at more seriously by the District Council. This site can take around 5000 houses and SCDC are considering including this in their forthcoming Local Plan. Having said that, the site is highly dependent on other factors. These include the new Travel Hub (park &

ride site) on the Babraham side of the A11 being granted approval. It's also dependant on the relocation of the sewage works in northeast Cambridge being cancelled, as this relocation would have included large scale housing with it, which the Grange Farm site would replace. It's also dependant on having funding confirmed to create a bridge crossing of the A11 to access the new Travel Hub, should it go ahead. So, a lot of external factors will influence this going ahead. This site is deemed to be a more sustainable location than others given its proximity to large employment sites (Granta Park, Babraham Institute, Cambridge Biomedical Campus etc) and its positioning adjacent to major A roads.

Contact Information:

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com



Granta Medical Practices

Vaccines Update

As we approach the colder months, there are a number of vaccines that can help protect you against serious illness, including:

FLU

This vaccine helps protect against flu, which can be a serious or life-threatening illness. It's offered on the NHS every year in autumn or early winter to people at higher risk of getting seriously ill from flu.

COVID-19

The Covid-19 vaccine helps protect against Covid-19, which can be a serious or life-threatening illness for some people. It's usually offered on the NHS in early winter to people who need extra protection from Covid-19.

RSV

The RSV vaccine helps protect against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) that can make babies and older adults seriously ill. This is offered all year round.

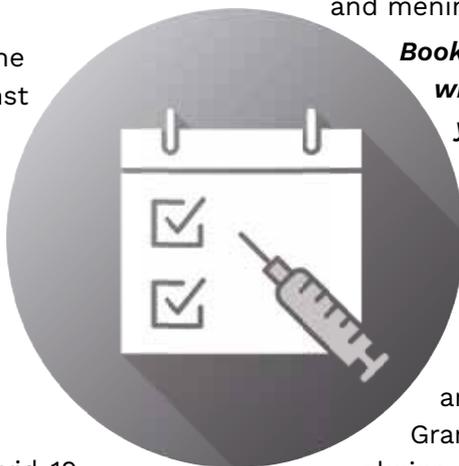
SHINGLES

This vaccine helps protect against shingles and is offered all year round. Shingles is a common condition

that causes a painful rash. It can sometimes lead to serious problems such as long-lasting pain, hearing loss or blindness. You're more likely to get shingles, and it is more likely to cause serious problems, as you get older or if you have a severely weakened immune system.

PNEUMOCOCCAL (*pneumonia*)

This vaccine is offered all year round. It helps protect against serious illnesses like pneumonia and meningitis.



Book your flu vaccine with us and when you come in we can check what other vaccines you are eligible for.

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.

For further information about all of the vaccines available please go to **www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/**

Sandra East

HEAD OF PATIENT SERVICES

Email: cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net

Balsham September/October Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
1st Monday	Allotment Rents due	
6th Saturday	Church Gift Day 8.30—10.30am	Outside PO
6th Saturday	Balsham Feast Survey 'give your views'	Outside PO
6th Saturday	Picture House, 'Mr Burton' (12A) 7.30pm	Institute
7th Sunday	Christianity Explored, 6.30-8pm	Institute
9th Tuesday	Balsham WI	Pavilion
11th Thursday	Balsham Singers NEW TERM 7.30	Pavilion
14th Sunday	Allotment Picnic, 12-2pm	Scout Hut
15th Monday	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm	Pavilion
16th Tuesday	Community Coffee Morning, 10am-12pm	Pavilion
16th Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Society, 7.30pm	Linton Village Hall
23rd Tuesday	LALA first meeting 10.15-12.15pm	Linton Village Hall
26th Friday	Macmillan Coffee morning, 10.30-1.00pm	Pavilion
28th Sunday	Harvest Songs of Praise. 11am	Church
October 3rd Friday	Harvest Supper, 6.30 for 7pm	Institute

Christmas: Children's Shoe Boxes

GET READY, OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOEBOXES) will be going ahead this year!

Last year nearly 12 million boxes were filled and sent to many countries.

This is just a little bit of a nudge if you wanted to take part this year, to start collecting items such as stationery, soap, small

toys, knitted items, balls, games, small clothing items, knitted toys,

or to get knitting or sewing pencil cases, tote bags

No sweets or toothpaste.

More details next month.



Jane Furlow

Tel: 07745046921

The Black Bull



Happy September!

Thank you to those who joined us last month – whether for a Tasting Menu, a Sushi Specials weekend, Quiz Night, Norfolk Busker Alton, a Thursday coffee morning, the Annual Garden Party over on the dark side at The Red Lion, or just gate-crashed Rob's wedding (*congrats to Rob and Daisy*) or popped in for a pass-through visit. The weather has been awesome again for our patio dining.

Next Events coming up:

Norfolk Busker, Alton Wahlberg returns **Friday 29th August**

Alton is such a legend – guaranteed feel-good repertoire – so many of all our favourites. Sets 8-10pm.

Rob will be putting on one of his surprise **Special Boards** – always a treat.

Next Pint of Music – Folk Nights (+ Specials Board) **Thursday 4th September**

Delighted to welcome back Tony and his entourage after their summer recess.

Our Irish/Folk friends are well settled into the Black Bull bar. Great atmosphere, not to be missed. Tony brings along a varying melody of musicians for an informal evening of acoustic music and song. Local folk/Irish/acoustic roots - whistle, bodhran...

Cambridge Busker, Tony Day returns **Friday 12th September**

We have lucked out this month – managing to get Tony back as well. Another extraordinary range of repertoire – something for everyone. Sets 8-10pm.

Rob will be putting on another of his surprise **Special Boards** – happy day!

Best wishes from all of us

Alex, Rob, Liz, Luke & the teams

info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 26th September 2024,
10.30am- 1.00pm in Balsham Sports Pavilion

Judy Richards and I first collaborated on one of these coffee mornings last year when we were overwhelmed by the number of family, friends and acquaintances who had been struck by the blow of CANCER. We were thrilled by its success and we are repeating the event this September.

In the past year it is frightening how many cases have been diagnosed within our friendship group and to us it is imperative to do anything, however small, to support this charity that does so much to help patients and their families cope in times of crisis

We are sure no one in the village has been unaffected by this terrible

disease.

We hope that as many people as possible will come to the coffee morning, buy a raffle ticket, a cuppa and a cake or two! Please bring as many of your friends as you can.

If you would like to show your support by baking a cake or donating a raffle prize, please let us know.

The link below can be used to make your donations direct to our fundraiser if you are unable to make it.

[justgiving.com/CM25013326](https://www.justgiving.com/CM25013326)

Let's make Friday the 26th a lucky day for fundraising.

Thank you

Jo Stinton & Judy Richards

Bin Collections September/October

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday September 3 RD	✓		
Wednesday September 10 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday September 17 TH	✓		
Wednesday September 24 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday October 1 ST	✓		
Wednesday October 8 TH		✓	✓

West Wickham & District Garden Club

Sensational September

We are looking forward to welcoming everybody to our main event of the summer:

The West Wickham & District Gardening Fair on Saturday 6th September at 10:30 - 12:30 in West Wickham Village Hall.

There is still time to contribute if anyone is kind enough to have donations of surplus plants, garden fruit, vegetables, preserves or old tools and ceramic garden pots which you have to spare.

We will be at the Hall from 9:30am, if you have anything to drop off, or alternatively you can contact us on the email below for where to deliver prior to the day.

Stalls this year are:

- Plants, produce and preserves,
- Gardening and children's quizzes
- Raffle

- Guess the weight of the cake
- Old tools and pots
- Climate Change Gardening ...as well as the Photography Competition results and prize-giving for you to enjoy as you tuck into some homemade cakes. If you would like to renew your membership or join us for the first time, we will have plenty of information for you about the year ahead.

Our first talk of the autumn season is on **Monday 15th September** on the topic: **In the garden with William Morris** given by **Fiona Rose** – an accredited lecturer with The Arts Society and member of the Museum Collections committee for The William Morris Society. Members and non-members* all welcome.

For information on the Club, please contact Sally Collins at

wwdgc@westwickham.org

**entrance fee £2 for non-members.*



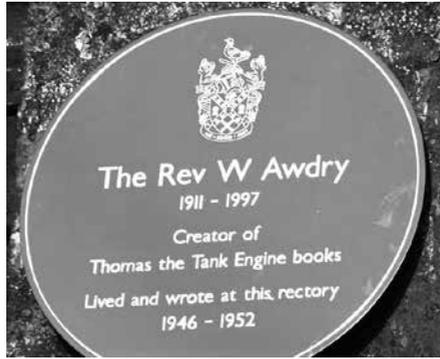
Help Choose the Next Blue Plaque for Cambridge

A local charity is asking for help to commemorate exceptional people in the Cambridge area. **Cambridge Past, Present & Future** is inviting nominations for the Cambridge & District Blue Plaque scheme, which celebrates people and events that made a lasting impact locally, nationally or globally.

So far, 43 blue plaques have been installed since 2001, including for Thomas the Tank Engine author Rev. W Audry, the suffragette campaigner Millicent Fawcett, the mathematician and code-breaker Alan Turing and the wartime food nutritionist Elsie Widdowson. The most recent plaque was installed in the village of Foxton in May for paleoanthropologist Louis Leakey.

The plaques are put on buildings that are relevant to the person or event and are visible to the public. Penny Heath is the Chair of the charity's Blue Plaque Committee, a group of volunteers that decides whether a nomination should be taken forward, she is keen to receive suggestions for new plaques, "as we

look around our city and villages, we can understand our past from historic buildings and archaeology but the people who made our history are no longer visible and are often forgotten to time. Blue plaques help make some of those people and their achievements visible again, so that they can be



known by current and future generations. People are often unaware that someone remarkable lived in their neighbourhood and it's wonderful to be able to share their

local history with them."

Nominations can be made by email to **enquiries@cambridgeppf.org** with details of the person/event, why they deserve a plaque and the building it would be put on. Nominees must have died at least 10 years ago. Nominations are especially welcome where supporters are able to help raise funds for the plaque.

A full list of existing plaques and more details about nominating can be found at **www.cambridgeppf.org/blue-plaques**

Balsham Weather July 2025



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Temperatures (maximum & minimum) & Rainfall



MAX °C
31° on 11th July



MIN °C
19° on 24th July



MAX °C
21° on 1st July



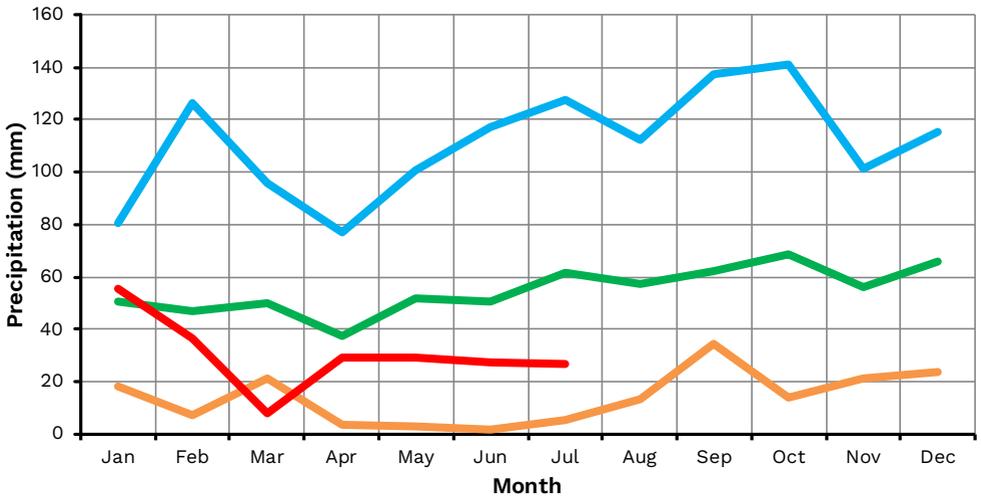
MIN °C
11° on 3rd July



Total rainfall: 27.0mm (1.03")



Rain fell on 11 days





Saturday September 6th

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

Mr Burton (12A)

BASED ON A TRUE STORY



BAFTA WINNER
TOBY JONES

HARRY LAWTEY

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE
LESLEY MANVILLE

MR. BURTON

Starring Toby Jones, Harry Lawtey and Lesley Manville, Mr Burton is the story of Richard Burton and his path to world wide acclaim as an actor. From the producer of *The Brutalist* and based on a true story.

Mr Burton charts the relationship between a Port Talbot school teacher, Philip Burton, and a wild young schoolboy called Richie Jenkins the son of a boozy miner. Richie dreamed of becoming an actor and Philip recognized his raw talent, tutored him and became his adoptive father. This film is the story of how Richie Jenkins was turned into Richard Burton the greatest star Wales has ever produced and who later said of Philip Burton that '*I owe him everything*'.

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*