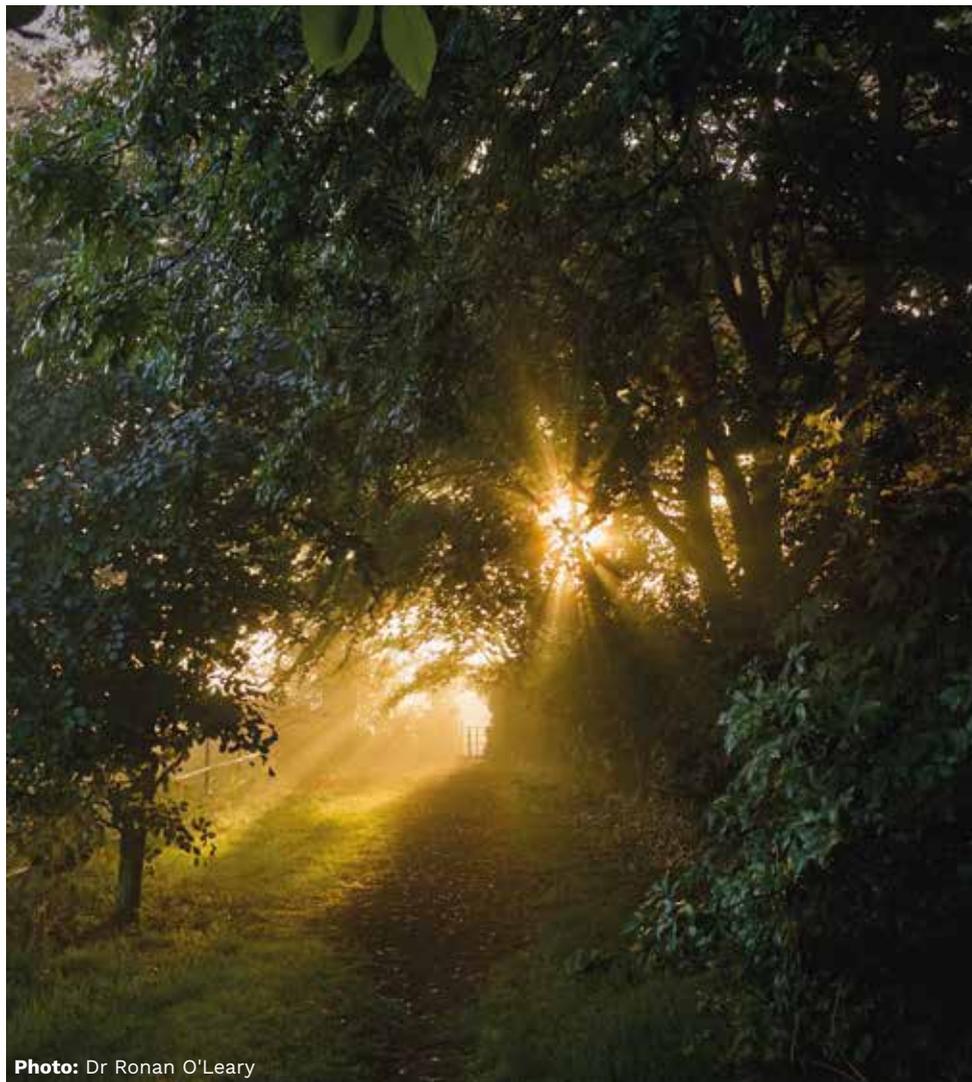




BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 675

NOVEMBER 2025



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Photo: Dr Ronan O'Leary



Photo: Larry Davies



Photo: Larry Davies

Agricultural and commercial vehicles negotiating the inconsiderate parking



Photo: Larry Davies

Bountiful allotments

Contents	Page
Editorial	4-5
Christianity Explored	5
Letters	6
Church Services	7
From the Church	8
Church Services Diary	9
Kingsway Solar Community Action Group	10-11
Pippa Heylings MP	11-12
Balsham Feast Survey Results	12-13
Balsham WI	13
Linton Village College	14
In Memory of Niall	15
Meadow School	16-17
Collection for Ukraine	17
Help needed with the Scouts	19
November Events Diary	19
Harvest Supper	20
Ellesmere Devils Pantomime	20
Linton Library	21
Balsham Singers	21
Balsham Parish Council	22-23
District & County Councillors	23-24
Buttercups Pre-school	24
Cambridge Past, Present & Future events	24
Balsham Football Club	25
Balsham Plough Monday Club	26-27
RAF Wratting Common	27
The Black Bull	28
Friends of Hildersham Church	29
Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme	29
Bin Collections	29
West Wickham & District Gardening Club	30
Weather	31
Balsham Picture House	32

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 (DECEMBER/JANUARY):

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19TH

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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.



Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

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

Editorial



Summer has gone, even the St Luke's Summer. When I looked that up this is what AI had: "St. Luke's Summer" is a term for a period of unseasonably warm and pleasant weather that often occurs around October 18, the feast day of Saint Luke the Evangelist. This is a form of Indian summer, characterized by mild temperatures, colourful autumn leaves, and calm weather before winter sets in. (AI is American - I had to add a u in colourful!) We seem to be well into autumn, and winter is just a month away according to the Met Office. It has been a superb year for fruit on my trees and there have been many more apples and pears than I could cope with. Lizzie, my Black Lab, has discovered pears, and now every time she goes into the garden she returns with a pear from the windfalls.

November brings many dates which to me define the coming of the end of the year. All Saints' and All Souls'

Days, when we remember all those who have lived and died before us, come first, on 1st and 2nd. If you have someone you would like remembered in church please call in and add their name to the list on the table behind the pews. You will also be welcome to come to the short service at 6pm on Monday 3rd November. Then comes Firework Night on 5th, a Wednesday this year. I expect there will be fireworks on several nights around then. Please be careful with pets, yours and your neighbours', and ensure they are kept safe indoors. Don't forget hibernating hedgehogs too, they love heaps of sticks and leaves to sleep in, so maybe avoid having a bonfire—and also think of clean air! By the next weekend comes Remembrance Sunday with services in our churches and at Wrattling Common, and then Remembrance Day on Tuesday, 11th. November really does set us on the way towards the chill of winter. Let's hope Thomas Hood's poem won't be fulfilled this year:

*No sun - no moon!
No morn - no noon!
No dawn - no dusk -
no proper time of day -
No sky - no earthly view -
no distance looking blue...
No shade, no shine,*

*no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers,
no leaves, no birds -
November!*

The end of the month brings St Andrew's Day, this year on Advent Sunday, the start of the Church's year, and of course a highlight for Scots everywhere. And then Advent Calendars start on December 1st. Christmas can't be far away.

What a shame our football team has bitten the dust. So many local men have played for it over the years, and some have played for teams in higher leagues too, such as Cambridge United and City, before OR after their stints here. It would be good to have some memories from players, or their relatives, that we can print here. It is good, now, that we have so many young people starting their footballing life in Balsham. Hopefully in time our full-size pitch will be in use again.

Claire Kavanagh, a villager who came here five years ago has written a piece about her trek to Machu Picchu in memory of her son Niall who played football for Balsham. It is still possible to add to her just

giving page. We are always interested in villagers who are raising money for a good cause, and may be able to give more publicity to you.

Potholes! Church Lane is one of the worst areas in Balsham for potholes, but we did have some work done recently. There was a large hole outside my front gate. I went on the Cambridgeshire County Council website/highways page and then put in where it was on the map. I was asked about the size - dinnerplate, tyre etc and depth: golf ball, tennis ball, deeper. Within 10 days the hole, and several others had yellow paint round them and six days later they were all filled in! More will be sure to develop in the winter, but for now Church Lane is better and safer. If you have potholes near you, try it yourself!

A reminder that the next Review will be for December and January together, so please send in your articles etc for dates all the way into early February.

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

THANK YOU

Through the Review I would like to thank Nigel De'Ath for 30 years as the Balsham Football treasurer. I personally thank him on behalf of all the teams and players of which his sons Ben and Dan were players in Balsham Colts teams. He served with immense respect and integrity and will be sorely missed.

Pete Askham and his wife will take over the role and we wish them well. Enjoy the retirement, Nigel. Deserved.

Rob Walker

WIND FARM MONEY

The Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund, supports local community projects in villages near the wind farm. Grants of up to **£10,000** can be given for projects or events benefitting residents within 5 miles of

Wadlow Wind Farm in South Cambs. The fund offers grants to non-profit groups, and recent recipients include: Great Wilbraham Over 60s – £4,500 for excursions and a Christmas celebration; West Wrattling Village Hall – £4,574.40 for acoustic improvements; Meadow Primary School PTA – £9,426 to replace unsafe playground equipment.

The group has to be properly constituted, but this is not too difficult to do. If this includes your group then do put in an application, before the next closing date of **February 1st 2026***. You can get very good advice from the organisers.

They say *'We'd love to spread the word so more groups can benefit.'*

Jo Cormie & Erin Clarkson

**For full details please see the Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund website.*



Church Services



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

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

CHURCH CONTACTS

Revd. Iain McColl	01223 890693	mccoll.iain@gmail.com
Revd Hannah Threlfall	01223 481090	revthrelfall24@outlook.com
Church Warden: Nigel Clark,	01223 893043	n.clark5@btinternet.com
Administrator: Cazzy Walsh		7churches.seven@gmail.com

SERVICES at other CHURCHES when possible

ROMAN CATHOLIC Masses at:

Cherry Hinton: St Philip Howard Church

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

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

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

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

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

METHODIST: Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

From the Church

Mostly the words ‘Safeguarding Training’ elicit either blank incomprehension, or a heavy sigh. Those whose work puts them in contact with children or vulnerable adults, will certainly know about these training sessions, which they must attend, often yearly. They need these safeguarding skills to help protect children and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse and neglect; skills to recognise risks and to respond appropriately when abuse is suspected.

But many, rarely coming across such abuse in their work, may sigh and wonder if this isn’t simply another ‘tickbox’ exercise.

Nevertheless, as we learn daily from the News, the effect on victims of abuse can be profoundly damaging; and the fallout for those suspected of being abusers, and for their wider circle of family and friends, can be disastrous. These aren’t risks we can take lightly.

As a member of the Ministry Team serving our local churches, I’m also obliged to attend regular Diocesan Safeguarding Training. And to be honest, in the past I’ve also sighed deeply. For each year they seem to make it more and more demanding.

I guess though, given the shocking record of how churches have handled (or hidden) abuse in the past, that’s understandable.

Yes, the Church is rather like any other social institution. And yes, as such, reputations matter. Moreover, if we can’t prove that the ‘staff’ are up to date with their Safeguarding Training, and all the risk assessments have been completed then, God forbid, our insurers might not pay out if there is a disaster.

Yet, much more importantly, I must not forget that our ‘welcome’ into these buildings and congregations is God’s welcome into the Church he founded and sustains. That God has welcomed us into the safety of his love and life means that ‘safeguarding’ this space is no tedious, nor defensive obligation, but an essential witness to God’s continuing presence among us.

And this year, as our annual reminder that we must all take our part in ensuring our welcome is indeed into a ‘safe space’, **Safeguarding Sunday** will be held on **16th November**.

Alistair Collen

Regular Midweek services

Every Tuesday at Hildersham church – 7.00pm Silent Space followed by Compline

Every Thursday at Balsham church – 9.30am Holy Communion (said service)

Every Friday at Weston Colville church – 8.45am Morning Prayer

November Services	9:30am	11:00am	PM Services
2nd <i>All Saints Day</i>		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alastair France</i>	
9th <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Steven Wheeler</i>	Remembrance Sunday Services Great Abington <i>Alistair Collen</i> Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Steven Wheeler</i>	
16th <i>2nd Sunday before Advent/ Safeguarding Sunday</i>	Morning Worship West Wickham <i>Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion West Wrating <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Alistair Collen</i>	6.00pm Taizé service Hildersham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
23rd <i>Christ the King</i>	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> 10.00am Creative Church Abington Hub <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Alastair France</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion (BCP) Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	4.00pm Evening Prayer Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
30th <i>1st Advent</i>	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion West Wrating <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	6.00pm Taizé service Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i>

All Souls services: Monday 3rd November 6.00pm
Balsham *Alistair Collen*
Little Abington *Revd Kathy Bishop*

Kingsway Solar Community Action

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our objection workshops and also to those who attended the Kingsway Solar presentations to raise your concerns. We're also grateful to everyone who submitted a response to the Stage Two statutory consultation. Our aim was to encourage as many personal and well-informed submissions as possible, and together we achieved just that! Thank you also for your donations to our GoFundMe campaign, which supported our community activities and helped make our "No Way Kingsway" signs so visible across the villages during the consultation. Your generosity has kept the campaign active and seen.

Community survey results

Our analysis of the community survey (*completed by more than 200 residents*) formed a key part of KSCA's consultation response. Over 90% of respondents oppose the proposed Kingsway Solar project, with 86% strongly opposed. The top concerns were visual impact on the landscape, loss of productive farmland, and harm to wildlife and nature. Despite this, residents overwhelmingly support renewable energy when delivered in fairer, more sustainable ways, such as rooftop solar, brownfield developments, and community-owned projects rather than large industrial schemes on farmland.

Support the legal fund

Our Crowd Justice campaign is

raising funds for the legal challenge. The platform ensures donations only go towards a properly funded case; if a target isn't met, pledges are automatically refunded. This gives every supporter confidence that their contribution will make an impact. Crowd Justice also provides a transparent way to collect small donations securely and track progress publicly. Every pledge, large or small, helps.

Step into Nature

As the seasons change, please keep logging wildlife sightings on iRecord. Your observations of birds, bats, flowers, and hedgerow species are vital evidence of the biodiversity that could be affected by the Kingsway Solar development. Every record counts.

What happens next

Our work continues. KSCA will register as an Interested Party when the Planning Inspectorate opens the next stage. This allows us to contribute formally to the Examination and provide feedback as the proposal is reviewed.

The fight to oppose this industrial solar development is not over, and your continued involvement remains essential.

Useful links

- Become a KSCA member to stay involved
<https://kingswaysolarcommunityaction.co.uk/how-to-join-us/>

- Request a **No Way Kingsway** sign hello@kingswayaction.org
- Donate to KSCA campaign via GoFundMe to support our work www.gofundme.com/f/no-to-kingsway-solar-farm
- Donate to legal funds:

<https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/kingswaysolarcommunitylegalaction/>

- Follow KSCA on Facebook and Instagram **#kingswaysolaraction** for real-time updates.

Kathy Day

An update from your MP: Pippa Heylings



Over parliamentary recess I took the opportunity to meet and hear from residents and organisations in South Cambridgeshire. One issue has dominated - the serious funding cut facing the Arthur Rank Hospice. This wonderful organisation, which provides vital end of life care for the terminally ill, is being forced to plan for the closure of nine of its 23 beds - a reduction of 40% of its inpatient capacity. At the time of writing, the hospice is facing a **funding deficit of £829,000**.

I have visited the hospice on several occasions and heard from their CEO Sharon Allen, their amazing staff and the patients and families who treasure this resource. Together with Cambridgeshire's Liberal

Democrat MPs Charlotte Cane and Ian Sollom, I have set up a petition to call on the government to save these vital palliative care beds.

Over 14,000 people have signed our petition calling for a rethink, with 4,500 signatures in just the first 24 hours! I have been so heartened by the extraordinary response of residents as news of this became public. This is a resounding call to action that has been well reported in the media.

Given the level of response and the concern shown, our petition is now addressed directly to the Prime Minister as well as to the Secretary of State for Health. If we can get more signatures, we plan to hand in the petition to Number 10 Downing Street - so please do sign it here www.pippaheytings.org.uk/campaigns/save-arh-beds and share as widely as you can to save these precious Arthur Rank Hospice beds and the skilled staff that provide the care for them.

If you would like to help the hospice further, you can find details to donate to their Protect our Care campaign at:

www.arhc.org.uk/donate.

Alongside campaigning to save the hospice, I've also been out on the doorsteps listening to residents, holding surgeries and meeting constituents at my 'meet your MP' events. These are just a few of the things I've been working on over

the last few months that I wanted to share with you. If you would like to keep up to date with my work, you can register for my e-newsletter, available at www.pippaheydings.org.uk/newsletter.

Pippa Heydings

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Balsham Feast Survey Results

The Balsham Feast has always been an important part of village life and in order to make sure it was still relevant and interesting to everyone, we ran a survey over the summer to get feedback on what villagers wanted to get from future Feasts. In total, there were 43* responses, which represents just over 1% of the population of the village – a bit of a telling statistic in its own right unfortunately.

In terms of responses, here's a short summary:

- Live music was the most popular attraction, closely followed by the Food Stalls. Arts and Crafts stalls and Have-a-go activities were also of interest.
- Most people wanted more food choices at the Feast and the idea of a Beer Festival was also popular. A Fancy Dress and Talent Contest were also interesting to a number of respondents
- In terms of activities for children and teenagers, it was mainly felt there needed to be more activities for children up to 8 years old.

- For the 5pm – 7pm “lull” period, there was a lot of interest in having both local entertainers & singers as well as a Ceilidh/Barn Dance.

Overall, there were a lot of good comments received, covering a broad range of interests. Some people thought there was too much emphasis on children's activities and not enough for the older folk of the village while others had the totally opposite view! Some people wanted to charge non villagers to attend and a lot wanted to ensure there was a community feel to it, involving as many local clubs and societies as possible. The weather was also raised as a key factor which affects attendance. In 2022, with good weather, over 1200 people attended. Last year, after a number of stalls/activities pulled out due to the rain and forecast high winds, less than 400 people came along. There was also little interest in extending the Feast into the evening on the Recreation Ground.

Overall, the feedback from what is a very small sample of villagers seems

to indicate that a “festival” like event is preferred with live entertainment the main draw (with a stage and an area in front where people can bring folding chairs and rugs for picnicking), with multiple food stalls/trucks available and a separate area of activities for people and children – a mini Glastonbury or Cambridge Folk Festival for those of you who’ve been to these events.

It’s too late to make arrangements now for 2026, so we plan to delay the next Feast to 2027. We’ll call an open meeting in early 2026 to get feedback and to gather together volunteers for the Committee – it takes a lot of work to plan, arrange and run the Feast so we need lots

of help (and many thanks to those people who volunteered in the survey responses – we’ll be in touch in 2026!).

Thanks again to everyone who responded, we’ll work very hard to ensure the Feast continues and provides the great day out that everyone can appreciate. As ever, we’d be really pleased to get your feedback on these thoughts.

The Balsham Feast Committee

**Ed: Although 43 is just about 2% of the village population, that includes whole families, including babies. 43 is about 5% of the houses in the village, and still a small response.*

Balsham WI

The October meeting covered the Noughties. This was the decade of 9/11 and 7/7 and the global financial crisis in 2008. The iPhone and Kindle were launched, and Facebook, Twitter, Wikipedia, YouTube and Spotify entered our lives. The Euro currency started, and England won the Rugby World Cup. Nationally many projects took place to mark the millennium including The Millennium Dome, London Eye, Eden Project and Rosie Green Wood in Balsham. Balsham WI also celebrated its 75th Birthday, and the film ‘**The Calendar Girls**’ was released. As part of our Centenary celebrations, we have arranged a showing of this film on **7th November at 7pm** at

the **Church Institute**. Any former members of Balsham WI are welcome to attend.

Our next meeting will take place on **11th November** in the **Pavilion** at **7.30pm** and will feature a round-up of the WI over the last 100 years.

We are a friendly group, 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**

Debbie Mower

Linton Village College

At Linton Village College, our dedicated **Future Pathways and Careers** team, Mrs Scally and Mrs Neeves, are passionate about guiding students as they begin to explore the world of work. This journey starts early, with Year 7 students engaging in careers education from the moment they join us in September.



Mrs Scally and Mrs Neeves

Already this academic year, students across nearly every year group have taken part in career-focused events. Year 7 enjoyed **“What’s My Line?”**, a fun and interactive guessing game where students asked questions to identify the professions of visiting volunteers. Year 8 will soon take part in a **Skills Development day**, hosted by Form the Future, a valued Community Interest Company we’ve partnered with for several years.

Year 9 students recently attended an **Industry Day** at The Junction in

Cambridge, where they explored careers in the arts. Workshops covered sound engineering, lighting design, and pathways into the music industry. A highlight was the behind-the-scenes tour, including the lighting gallery, followed by a Q&A with professionals in the field.

For our Year 10 and 11, the **Post-16 Open Evening** offered valuable insights into future pathways, whether through apprenticeships or college. We were thrilled to see so many Year 10s actively engaging with their options, including preparations for their summer term work experience.

At LVC, we believe every student deserves the opportunity to dream big and by fostering strong partnerships between school and home, we aim to ensure that every student feels confident and supported as they navigate their next steps and build futures with purpose.

We’d also like to hear from former students of Linton Village College who are willing to share their career journeys since leaving us. Your achievements help inspire our current learners. If you’re able to help, please contact **Mrs Scally** at nscally@lintonvc.org.

Laura Heard

PR & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Email: lheard@lintonvc.org

In Memory of Niall



In September of this year I planned to do a charity trek to Machu Picchu to raise money for **The Brain Tumour Charity** in honour of my son Niall who sadly died aged 19 in 2021.

I moved to Balsham in March 2020 (*the weekend of the Covid lockdown*) with my 3 boys Niall, Ryan & Conal. My eldest son Niall moved in with his girlfriend in 2021 (Fordham) yet returned to train and play football for Balsham FC. In October 2021 he was diagnosed with a brain tumour after an emergency A&E admission to Addenbrookes. He underwent surgery but sadly died 3 weeks later. Those 3 weeks were so special when he recovered enough to be able to talk, eat and drink and was able to tell us he loved us and we him.

His loss has left us heartbroken. His brothers are an inspiration and live their lives for Niall. Both are jockeys and I couldn't be more proud of how they live despite what they have been through. Some of the villagers may know me through my dog walks with Prada who is a Pets as Therapy Dog. We visit

Addenbrookes weekly and hopefully bring some comfort and happiness to the patients, visitors and staff.



Niall

To raise awareness and funds for **The Brain Tumour Charity**, I chose to make a 10 day trek to Machu Picchu experiencing scorching sun, freezing nights, rain, thunder & lightning, starry skies, altitude sickness, tropical conditions and physical exhaustion. It was, however, so rewarding when I reached the sun gate and saw Machu Picchu for the first time. I was also delighted to reach my fundraising target of **£3000**.

Claire Kavanagh

If you would like to donate to the charity my **JustGiving** page can be found at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/claire-kavanagh-2>

Ed: *Congratulations Claire on achieving such an arduous trek. Many villagers will have seen Niall in the football team. We remember him and others we may have known with brain tumours, and I'm sure many will support the charity too.*

The Meadow Primary School



A colourful month At Meadow!

This month has been filled with colour, community, and connection. Our children took part in our annual fundraising walk, the **'Meadow Mile'** - a much-loved event that raises vital funds to support our pupils. The money raised will help us provide the extra resources and enriching experiences that our school budget wouldn't otherwise stretch to, including our exciting OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey. This year's theme was "Colour", and the children certainly rose to the challenge! Dressed in bright, cheerful outfits, they brought a splash of joy and energy to the walk, showing off their creativity while supporting a great cause. The event was filled with smiles, laughter, and plenty of community spirit.

Learning Comes to Life Through

Trips and Experiences

We've also had a fantastic start to the year for educational visits and hands-on learning. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils stepped back in time with an immersive Victorian experience at Burleigh House, dressing up in period clothing and taking part in traditional Victorian activities. Meanwhile, Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a fascinating Iron Age Experience Day at Wandlebury Country Park, where they explored the Iron Age hill fort and discovered what life was like for people living during that time. Both trips provided wonderful opportunities for the children to deepen their historical understanding through practical, memorable experiences.

Working Together with Parents and Carers

Alongside these adventures, we've

loved welcoming parents and carers into school to work alongside us in helping their children reach their full potential. From ‘**Meet the SENCO**’ coffee mornings to phonics workshops, these events have been a great way to share ideas, strengthen relationships, and celebrate our partnership with families. One particular highlight was our **Welcome Evening**, where children came to school dressed in their pyjamas for a cosy bedtime story (*complete with hot chocolate!*) while parents

heard important information about the year ahead.

We’re always delighted to welcome new families into our community. If you’d like to learn more about Meadow, our ethos, or upcoming open events, please visit our website or contact the school office. We’d love to show you what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Faye Facer

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

Collection for Ukraine

A collection for the people of Ukraine will be held on **Saturday 8th November at Abington Primary School from 9.00am until 12.30pm**. So far these regular collections have resulted in 15 tons of food and 43 brand-new generators being supplied to UK-Aid who have arranged delivery since the inception of these collections.

According to the United Nations office in Ukraine there were 49,431 casualties in Ukraine by the end of July and 3.7 million are internally displaced within Ukraine’s borders. The Ukrainian people need warm clothing and footwear in good condition and sheets, blankets (*not pillows, nor duvets*); everyday canned and dried food, baby food, gluten free items; medical aid, toiletries; cleaning materials, cooking utensils, torches, batteries; toys, games and educational items. In addition, donations in cash or by

card can be made at the Rotary collection point on the **8th November**. All monies donated will be going towards the purchase of pallets of food and generators.

If anyone has any queries contact Tony Collett on **01223 893447**.

UKRAINE COLLECTION

SAT 8TH NOV 9AM-1PM
AT ABINGTON SCHOOL, HIGH STREET, CB21 6AE.

GOODS NEEDED INCLUDE:

EVERYDAY CANNED AND DRIED FOOD, BABY FOOD
MEDICAL AID, TOILETRIES
COOKING UTENSILS, TORCHES & BATTERIES
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR IN GOOD CONDITION

SHEETS, BLANKETS (NOT PILLOWS AND DUVETS)
CLEANING MATERIALS
TOYS, GAMES & EDUCATIONAL ITEMS

CASH DONATIONS WELCOME

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



We welcome Richard Adams who will give us an insight of the history and what remains of this important airfield

LINTON VILLAGE HALL

COLES LANE - 7.30 p.m.

Refreshments and Raffle

Visitors and new members always welcome

celebrating 25 Years!

THE ELLESMERE DEVILS' PANTOMIME SOCIETY
proudly presents

Sleeping Beauty

28th Jan 2026 6:30pm
29th & 30th Jan 2026 7:30pm
31st Jan 2026 2pm & 7:30pm

ADULTS £12* / CHILD £6*
*Prices are subject to booking fee

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

ONLINE: www.ticketsource.co.uk/edps
CALL: 0333 666 4466

IN PERSON: The Hub, The Ellesmere Centre (Wed & Fri)

NEW! Child Ticket Prices



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Richard Pargeter

Become a Scouting Volunteer!

Join the Adventure!

Do you believe in helping young people grow, explore and reach their full potential?

Are you ready for new challenges, friendships and fun?

We're looking for enthusiastic adult volunteers to join our Scouting team in Balsham.

Whether you can give an hour a week or a few days a month, you'll make a real difference supporting young people to:

- Build confidence and resilience
- Learn new skills and independence
- Enjoy outdoor adventures and teamwork

No previous experience?

No problem!

We provide full training, support and a welcoming community.

What you'll gain:

A sense of achievement and purpose

Leadership and teamwork experience

Lasting memories (and plenty of campfire stories)

Interested?

Please contact our Chair,

David Weir via email:

chair@balshamscouts.org.uk

or **Juliet Bevan**:

juliet.bevan@balshamscouts.org.uk

Balsham November Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
1st Saturday	Picture House: Lee 7.30pm	Institute
7th Friday	WI Film Night: The Calendar Girls 7.00pm	Institute
8th Saturday	Collection for Ukraine, 9.00 to 12.30pm	Abington Primary School
9th Sunday	Remembrance Service , 10.45am	Church
9th Sunday	RAF Wrattling Common Remembrance Service , 12.00pm	Wrattling Common
11th Tuesday	Community Coffee Morning, 10.00-12.00	Institute
11th Tuesday	WI, 7.30pm	Pavilion
17th Monday	Parish Council, 7.30pm	Pavilion
18th Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Society, 7.30	Linton Village Hall

Harvest Supper 2025

Our **Harvest Supper** this year was held on **Friday 3rd October** at the Church Institute. About 60 people sat down to a hot supper of Somerset Pork Casserole with jacket potatoes and peas followed by several delicious desserts.

It was a very enjoyable evening with a table quiz and raffle. Huge thanks must go to the team who worked so hard to make this a successful event - Jo Stinton, Alison Clarke, Karis Reyes and Jenny Kerry and not forgetting 'the boys' - Brian, Adrian, Stephen and Barry Holman with their invaluable help in setting up the room and with washing up and clearing away afterwards. Sadly Jo and Stan were unable to be there on the night due to illness, nor Alison and Andrew which was such a shame after all their hard work.

Thanks also to Nigel Clark for the 'door on the green' advertising and Dick Paden for his Balsham past and present slideshow and everyone else who helped in any small way. We couldn't do it without you.

We raised **£944** to go towards the restoration of the church font. The font dates back to the 13th century and the magnificent wooden cover was beautifully carved by the early 1930s by the then rector, Rev. Canon John Burrell. Sadly after over 90 years of use, it has now become unsafe to use and restoration is imperative to save this unique and historical piece of our beautiful church.

Pam Down

Ellesmere Devils Pantomime

We are preparing for our upcoming production of **Sleeping Beauty** **28-31 January 2026**.

Get ready for a hilarious twist on a classic tale with our sensational new and original production of **Sleeping Beauty!**

This year, we've packed all the magic and merriment of the traditional story into a shorter, funnier show that's perfect for the whole family.

Will the three good fairies help Prince Phillip defeat the evil Maleficent and her dastardly plan

to put Aurora to sleep forever?

Filled with non-stop slapstick and silly comedy, our fantastic cast brings all your favourite characters to life - along with a few extras including the one and only Dully Dally, the dame. Join us for a wonderfully witty theatrical experience that's sure to leave you smiling!

Tickets are on sale now at <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/edps>

Amy Metcalfe

Linton Library News

November at Linton Library

Come in for cosy reads on dark days. You'll always find a warm and friendly welcome here. Relax with a jigsaw puzzle, find a new author or use our free WiFi.

Do you know someone who uses a walking aid? As the paths become slippery, please spread the word that the library can supply **FREE FERRULES** (rubber tips) for walking aids to keep them in safe condition. Just ask library staff.

Daylight Readers: Our Book Groups meet on **Friday 21st**, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm. The morning group has space for new members.

Rhythm & Rhyme: Tuesday mornings 10.30-11am for 0-4 years (term time only). We would love to see you and your little ones there!

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

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.

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

Lego/Duplo: Friday 10-11am, weekly (every 1st, 2nd & 4th Friday). Come along and entertain your 0-4 year old.

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

Balsham Singers

Our **Christmas Concert** is approaching fast. It takes place on **Saturday, 13th December** at **4pm** in **Holy Trinity Church Balsham.**

Tickets are **£12** adult **under 16's £1.**

They are available from Balsham and Gt Abington post offices and online at Ticket source:

ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

Our inaugural concert nearly 30 years ago was on 22nd December

1995. A few of us who sang on that night are still singing with the choir today. We have seen it grow and mature in that time only ceasing during the 'Covid' period

We continue to be grateful to John our MD and our loyal audience, advertisers, and to our village Post Office that has acted as our 'box office' every year.

Balsham Parish Council

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

The next **Parish Council Meeting** will be held on **17th November, 2025** at **7.30 pm** in **Balsham Pavilion**
ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

Planning:

For Discussion:

Site address: 1 Trinity Close, Balsham

Reference: 25/1119/TTCA

Proposal: T1 Conifer - Fell T2 Apple – Fell.

PC Decision: No objections

Site address: 45 High St, Balsham

Reference: 25/03754/LBC

Proposal: Single storey rear extension infill between existing single storey projections.

PC Decision: No objections

Site address: 12 Princes Close, Balsham

Reference: 25/03791/CL2PD

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for the extension to dropped kerbs to the front of the property to provide a wider driveway.

PC Decision: No objections

Decisions:

Site address: 95 High St, Balsham

Reference: 25/0868/TTCA

Proposal: Red Horse Chestnut - C1 - Pollard to 5m from ground level, crown is dying and the tree is in decline.

SCDC Approved

Allotments:

There are 3 full sized plots and two half plots available. Please contact the PC for more details.

The PC has applied for an allotment improvement grant to provide water at the Princes Close allotments.

The outcome should be known by December.

Solar Farm:

The statutory consultation ends on 29th October. KSCA are continuing to promote signs and wheelie bin stickers. Please contact them for details. KSCA are raising funds to support their legal costs.

Trimming of Leylandii trees in High Street:

The landowner has made contact with the PC, and the landowner is organising the removal of the leylandii trees.

Leylandii hedge at Recreation Ground:

The PC approved for the leylandii hedge to be removed on the left through the gates. The PC has obtained two quotes to remove the leylandii hedge and are waiting on quotes for replanting and replacing the fencing.

Rookery Tree:

The tree outside of No 38 is to be removed due to damage created from poor maintenance. The PC

would like to remind all residents of the Rookery that the PC are responsible for a number of trees in the Rookery and no maintenance should be carried out by individuals. Please contact the Parish Clerk in

the first instance.

Tracy Coston

PARISH CLERK

Tel: 01223 894462 / 07929930385

Email: clerk@balsham.net

Website: www.balsham.net

District & County Councillors' Report

September 2025

Local Government Reorganisation

The process, as requested by central Government, to merge District and County Councils into Unitary Authorities in England, is proceeding. There were originally 3 proposals on the table, which are outlined below:

Option A:

- South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City & East Cambridgeshire.
- Fenland, Huntingdonshire & Peterborough.

Option B:

- South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City.
- East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Fenland & Peterborough.

Option C:

- South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City & Huntingdonshire.
- Fenland, Peterborough & East Cambridgeshire.

We then had a late submission, spearheaded by the MP's in Peterborough, for a fourth option:

Option D:

- An expanded Peterborough.
- Fenland, East Cambridgeshire,

Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City.

The local views are that the District Council's preference is Option B, which would leave us in an administrative partnership with Cambridge City only. This is largely what currently happens, with many services already shared between the two authorities.

Ultimately, central government will make the final decision so the business cases being drawn up will be highly important to influencing this decision.

The current timeline on this is:

November 2025 – Councils need to submit their preference and the corresponding business case to government

May 2026 – District Council elections take place, on the current local authority boundaries

May 2027 – Elections for the new 'shadow' unitary authority take place

May 2028 – The new unitary authorities come into power

Kingsway Solar Farm

The applicants of a new solar farm

in the vicinities of West Wratting, Weston Coville and Carlton are pressing ahead with their proposals. The current step is that the applicants, Kingsway Solar, have released some actual detail (not just lines drawn around fields on a map) into the public domain. This detail is currently being publicly consulted upon via a process called a 'Formal Consultation'. This is a very important stage of the process as the responses to this will form a part of the planning application which is submitted to a planning inspector.

Kingsway have indicated that they are due to begin some preliminary archaeological surveys (digging trial trenches) in some of the fields where solar panels are proposed. If

anyone sees or reports this kind of activity, it's very likely to be this.

Acorn Biodigester

Suffolk County Council refused the application in June this year for an anaerobic digestion plant just outside Haverhill. The applicants, Acorn, have now indicated that they are planning to appeal this decision and have instructed their planning agents to do this.

Contact Information:

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Buttercups Community Pre-School

We would like to give a big welcome to our new children and their families who have joined the Buttercups setting. This is the point where their new journeys begin!

Autumn brought us a glorious sunny day to walk around the village for our scavenger hunt. Thank you to everyone who came and took part, we raised **£100** which will go into our much needed fundraising pot.

Here comes the 'C' word you have been waiting for 'Ho! Ho! Ho!' Yes, it's our very popular annual Christmas Fayre. **SAVE THE DATE – Sunday 7th December.**

We have a wonderful collection of craft and trade stalls and delicious refreshments. More details to follow so watch out for notices and posters out and about.

Cambridge Past, Present & Future

Activities & Events

Healthy Walking at Wandlebury

November 6, 13, 20,27, 2025

A **FREE** walk every Thursday.

Volunteer Work Party

Tuesday 11 Nov, 10.30am – 1.30pm

Get outdoors and make a difference

Outdoor Mini Retreat

Fri 14 Nov, 10am – 12pm.

Finding time for calm is good!

Another One Bites the Dust...

It is little more than 18 months since Balsham cricketers decided that they had bowled their last delivery and hit their last boundary. A sad demise for a club which had two thriving teams only a few years ago and a long history with young and experienced Balshamites often performing well above expectations. Now, we are reporting the depressing news that AFC Balsham's current men's football team has kicked its last ball. Manager Ali Collins hoped to recruit more players over the summer but after one game this year, which resulted in a heavy defeat, Ali has had to concede that there are just not enough adult footballers in Balsham to keep the team going. Twenty years ago, there were three teams, with the first team, like the cricketers, often punching above their weight.

This is all especially depressing for the undernamed, who have been involved with Balsham football, as players, managers or officials, for a combined total of over 100 years. We are especially sorry for, and grateful to, Ali Collins, who revived the club after its earlier version never recovered from Covid. That version also suffered a lack of numbers. But with two or three very laudable exceptions, Ali relied largely on players recruited outside the village to represent Balsham. He

showed amazing commitment in this temporary revival of the men's team and deserved better.

So what of the future of football in the village? The lack of interest in playing men's football is truly depressing, especially when considering the increase in population over the last 5-6 years. However, thankfully it's not all gloom and doom as we now have 3 youth teams, all with separate managers and safeguarding personnel. One of the teams is usually at home on a Saturday – so why not pay them a visit, or if you have boys or girls aged between 7 and 13, why not encourage them to play?

The youth and men's teams were run under one umbrella club, AFC Balsham, and so if there are any potential football managers, with contacts, in the village who we don't know about, who want to restart the men's team next season, you can contact any of us through the Review. Money and administrative experience remains available. But until or unless that happens, it's goodnight to men's football in the village.

Yours very sadly:

Rob Walker

PRESIDENT, AFC BALSHAM

Kevin Housden

SECRETARY

Nigel De'Ath

TREASURER

A Ploughmen Update

Balsham Christmas Tree

The Balsham Ploughmen will once again be erecting and lighting up the **Balsham Christmas Tree** this year. The event will take place on **Sunday December 7th** starting at **4.30pm** at the **Prince's Memorial Shelter** (*commonly known as the bandstand!*). There will be carol singing and a barbecue as well as the ubiquitous mulled wine. The event is usually very well attended and is now looked upon as a regular village family occasion, so please attend if you can.

Blessing of the Plough

The Balsham Ploughmen will again be attending a church service on **Plough Sunday (Sunday 11th January 2026 at 11am)**. During the service the Plough will be blessed and the Ploughmen, dressed in their usual slightly distressed country fashion, will recite various verses that should ensure a fruitful and fertile year ahead. Please come along and support if you can.

Balsham Plough Monday 2026

The ancient tradition of Plough Monday was revived in Balsham in 1972. 'Ernie' by Benny Hill was number 1 in the charts, Mariner 9 was mapping the Martian surface and the first pocket calculator was being launched. More importantly, in Balsham, a group of locals were discussing ways to raise money for the church tower fund over a few pints one dark evening. The outcome



Plough Monday 1952

was that, on a bitterly cold night in January 1972, a newly refurbished 'ancient' wooden plough was brought out from Lower Farm with 6 men acting as 'horses' and an assorted band of collectors dressed in smocks and string tied breeches. The group was completed by the whip wielding squire dressed in a top hat and a man dressed as a woman commonly known as 'Betsy'. The photographs that accompany this article show the Balsham Ploughmen in 1952 (an



Plough Monday 1979

earlier revival) and again in 1979. You'll see that not too much has changed over the years. The 1972 Ploughmen toured the village calling at as many houses as they could, collecting a grand total of £75 (£1,140 in 2025 money!). In 1974,

the Ploughmen were joined by the Cambridge Morris Men who performed their own Plough Monday dances and provided music and song. This is still the basic model for Plough Monday today with the addition of some organised stops and more or less (usually less) punctual finish at one of our two wonderful village pubs, The Bell and The Black Bull. Since 1972, the Balsham Ploughmen have raised well over **£80,000** for local causes.

The **Balsham Plough Monday 2026** celebrations will happen on **Monday 12th January**. More about the 2026 route next month but, if you would like to donate to the local good causes, we'll be distributing donation

envelopes after the Christmas/New Year celebrations. Thanks to everyone who donated last year and for the continued support of the wonderful people of Balsham.

Finally, this is a unique local Balsham tradition, it doesn't happen in this format anywhere else in the World, so it's well worth supporting. Should anyone know of local good causes that would benefit from a donation then please contact The Balsham Ploughmen through our Facebook Page (Balsham Ploughmen | Facebook) or via the website: **balshamploughmen.weebly.com**

Terry O'Neill

R.A.F. Wratting Common

Remembrance Sunday, 9th November

There will be a short Service at the Memorial on **Sunday, 10th November 2024** at **12 noon**.

The Memorial is situated at **Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR**. We hope to be joined by some of the Veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Also, Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who served here and

throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. Attendees are invited to lay wreaths or crosses for those they wish to remember, and anyone is welcome to attend. **WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**

Dan Heath

for Friends of Wratting Common

Email:

rafwrattingcommon@gmail.com

Tel: Mobile: **07736 737 174**

We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the Airfield Memorial. With just two services per year to arrange, as well as year-round general maintenance, this is not an onerous project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this important memorial to our community's war effort will survive for many generations.

The Black Bull

November Greetings to all Balsham Villagers from all at The Black Bull!

Happy November!

Thank you to those who joined us last month – whether for a Folk Night, Five Moments Taster, Pies Specials Night, a Thursday coffee morning, or just a quick half or two ...

New Lunchtime Offerings

We have added some new offerings to supplement our main menu at lunchtimes.

A number of “Brunch” style items like Eggs Benedict and Full English Breakfast which have been very popular.

Causing particular excitement is Rob’s latest inspiration – **Black Bull Pie Roll**. This is for those who fancy one of Rob’s amazing pies but don’t have the time to sleep it off all afternoon. Think sausage roll but with a pie mix filling instead of sausage meat. It is superb!

Events Ahead:

Next **Pint of Music – Folk Night Thursday 6th November** (*Seafood Specials Board, which will extend to Friday*)

Tony and his entourage return for their monthly shindig. Our Irish/Folk friends are well settled into the Black Bull bar. Great atmosphere, not to be missed. Tony Day brings along a varying melody of musicians for an informal evening

of acoustic music and song. Local folk/Irish/acoustic roots - whistle, bodhran...

Seafood Specials Board Thursday 6th and Friday 7th November

Rob will be laying on an array of seafood specials to complement his Autumn menu.

Nick Antoniou Jazz Quartet Friday 14th November

We are delighted that Nick has returned from his latest acting casting in Ireland and has been persuaded to play for us again. His last evening with us went down a storm with a wonderful atmosphere in our barn restaurant. He will be supported by double bass, drums and guitar. We are in for another treat! Rob I am sure will match the talent again from the kitchen with some special specials.

Quiz Night

Tuesday 25th November

These are very informal affairs – just turn up with a team of 1-6 to take part. All entrance fees go to the nominated charity. Just a bit of fun.

£1 per person entry into the charity pot.

Best wishes from all of us

Alex, Rob, Liz, Luke & the teams

info@blackbull-balsham.co.uk

Just a Minute!

Hildersham Church Council and the Friends of Hildersham need some assistance, could you help us?

We need someone, working as a self-employed contractor to help us produce agendas and documents, take minutes of meetings and maintain membership records for the Friends along with other administrative tasks.

Meetings are held in the evenings approx. one per month and last two hours

You need to be able to provide your own equipment and office and, other than when attending meetings, organise how you provide the agreed contracted service.

We will pay an agreed fee for the service provided based on an indicative rate of £14.50 per hour

Interested? Please contact **Keith Day** at keithdday@btinternet.com or **01223 891527** for further details

Keith Day

Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

The **Community Café** will take place in the **Church Institute** on **11th November** and **9th December**. The café always takes place on a **Tuesday** from **10 to 12 noon**. There are hot drinks and cake to enjoy, and it is a warm place to meet friends and new people.

Advice about many forms of help is available, either by meeting people who have an advisory role, or by reading leaflets which give contact addresses and numbers. Everyone

is welcome to call in, whether new to the village or long-term residents, and whether months or decades old. Don't just stay at home, come and see what is there. If you would like to attend but don't feel you can get there on your own, contact Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme, (**07508 430057**) and it will probably be possible to arrange a lift.

Steve Jordan

BALSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

Bin Collections November/December

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday November 5 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday November 12 TH	✓		
Wednesday November 19 TH		✓	✓
Wednesday November 26 TH	✓		
Wednesday December 3 RD		✓	✓

West Wickham & District Garden Club



Dahlias at Anglesey Abbey

Everything's coming up dahlias!

It was terrific to see so many members at our AGM last month and to celebrate the success of our growing Club together. The evening gave us an opportunity to share ideas for talks and activities to make the coming year even more special than the last. Thank you to everyone who attended.

With the dry weather, we have had the bonus of a fantastic display of drought-tolerant dahlias in our gardens – a perfect plant for our changing climate.

Consequently, we are delighted to be welcoming flower-grower and floral designer, **Kim O'Brian** to talk to us about **Growing Dahlias as Cut Flowers** on **Monday 17th November** at **7:30pm** in **West Wickham Village Hall**. With the new speaker system

now operational we are able to host much larger groups and anticipate this talk will be very well attended.

Kim won a gold medal for her debut show garden at the **BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair**. You might also have heard her on the BBC Radio Cambridgeshire gardening programme.

And finally, we are very pleased to announce that Alice and Andy Mitchell will be running this year's photo competition – open to all villagers and their families, so watch this space 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

** Entry free for members; £2 for non-members.*

Sally Collins

Balsham Weather September 2025



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Temperatures (maximum & minimum) & Rainfall



MAX°C 25° on 19th September



MIN°C 14° on 25th September



MAX°C 15° on 20th September



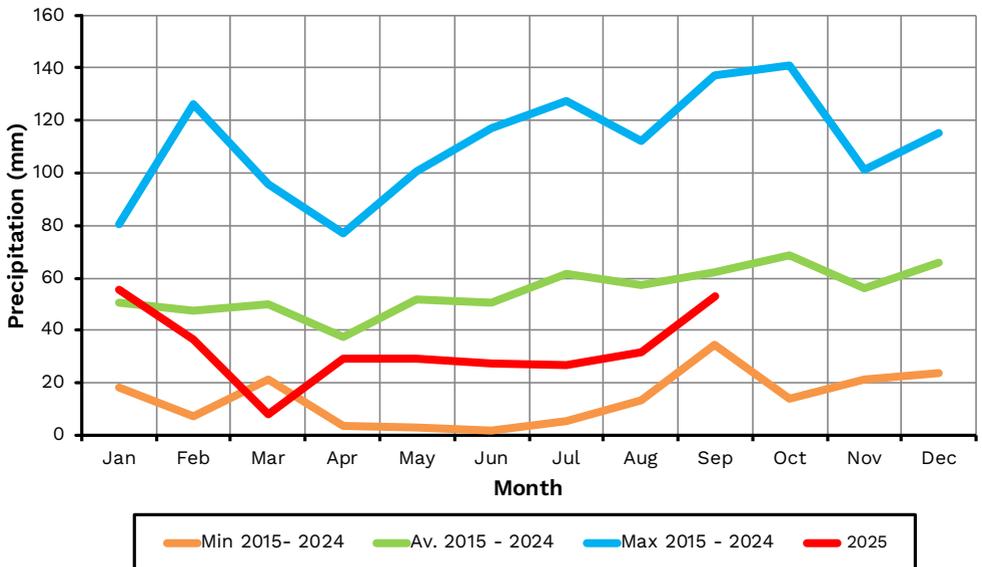
MIN°C 5° on 22nd September



Total rainfall: 53mm (2.02")



Rain fell on 11 days





Saturday November 1st

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

Lee (15)



The biographical drama **Lee** chronicles the life of renowned American photographer and model Lee Miller (*Kate Winslet*), focusing on her transformation into a war correspondent for British Vogue during World War II. The film depicts the emotional toll and immense bravery involved in documenting some of the war's most horrific atrocities.

The **Christmas film** on **Saturday Dec 6th** will be the last (and best!) of the **Pirates of the Caribbean** trilogy **At World's End** (12) starring *Johnny Depp*, *Orlando Bloom*, *Keira Knightley* and *Geoffrey Rush*. A swashbuckling fantasy adventure film that won lots of Oscars - so bring the kids along as well!

All drinks and festive nibbles are on the House!

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***