



# BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 676

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2025-26

## Merry Christmas!

The lighting of the Christmas tree will take place on **Sunday Dec 7th** starting at **4.30pm** at the **Prince's Memorial Shelter**

*(the bandstand)*

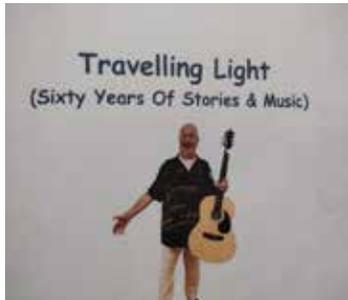
★ **CAROLS • BBQ • MULLED WINE** ★

Photo: Melissa Tabecki

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**LINTON & DISTRICT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025



We welcome a return visit by David Caulfield who will give a talk on his experiences of sixty years of popular music. He will also play and sing songs from that exciting period of musical history.

LINTON VILLAGE HALL

COLES LANE – 7.30 p.m.

Refreshments and Raffle

*Visitors and new members always welcome*

**LINTON & DISTRICT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026



We welcome back Bryan Thurlow who will give us an insight into the history of Borley Rectory named as ‘The most haunted house in England’

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**LINTON VILLAGE HALL**  
**COLES LANE - 7.30 p.m.**

Refreshments and Raffle

*Visitors and new members always welcome*



Photos: Joanna Sanders



Remembrance Sunday

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## **KEEP UP TO DATE!**

All the latest news and events at:  
[www.balsham.net](http://www.balsham.net)

Send content to: [clive@ben8and.co.uk](mailto:clive@ben8and.co.uk)

### **DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE (FEBRUARY):**

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>

Copy should be submitted  
where possible to

**[editor@balshamreview.com](mailto:editor@balshamreview.com)**

or delivered to the 'Balsham Review  
Postbox' held in the Post Office

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#### **Photographs supplied by:**

*Melissa Tabecki, Joanna Sanders, Lesley Bennett, Pam Down, Linda Upton and Kathy Day*

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

# Editorial

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Best Wishes to all our readers from everyone  
in the Balsham Review team.



The team is not just the group who are on the committee, we need the help of many others, so special thanks to everyone who is involved with the magazine every month. We have a group of dedicated helpers who deliver the Review to your houses, come rain, come shine, and I would really like to give a special thank you to Joanna Sanders who has been delivering to those who do shorter runs and to houses as well for years. She has finally decided that it is time to stop the outdoor runs, although she still helps with counting out sets to deliver to further deliverers, and thanks to all of them too. Everyone who sends in photographs and/or articles really helps with all that goes into our production. The intention each month is to inform our readers of all that is happening in the village, and to entertain as well. Balsham

has a great community feel with so many people helping each other. It often seems to me that the same names come up as helpers, but then I see new names on the village Facebook page, people I know by name, but not by face. Many people meet me around the village and say 'Hello Gill' and ask about the ducks, pond, Lizzie or the garden, which I presume they have read about here. Do please tell me who you are. I may not remember all your names but at least I may be able to put some faces to names I see elsewhere. But continuing with thanks for our production aiders, a thank you to Oliver Plumridge who prints our magazine each month. Yes, we pay for it, but he checks all is right, and often stays late or works at the weekend to get it back to us before the end of the month, something most printers wouldn't be bothered with. I have a very special thank you to Clive Bennett who deals with all to do with the layout and getting the Review ready for printing. I used to try to do that and without him I would have given up as Editor long ago, and the Review may well have disappeared as new editors are very few on the ground.

So, a very big thank you and happiness this Christmas and New Year to everyone in the village, and to our readers all over the world, and yes there are several of them too!

Are you a singer of Carols, or do you enjoy listening to them? The first village event involving singing carols is the Ploughmen's **'Lighting of the village Christmas Tree'** on **Sunday December 7th at 4.30pm.**

Then, have you bought your ticket for the **Balsham Singers' concert** yet? There are carols to sing as well as the chance to listen to other seasonal music on **Saturday December 14th at 4pm.** In church the **Carol Service** on **Sunday December 21st at 4pm** will have still more carols for you to join in. There may also be groups round the village carol singing in your Lanes and Closes, please support them.

To leave Christmas and to look to our future, the **Kingsway Solar Community Action** are working hard to protect our environment. They have approached Pippa Heylings, our MP, about how this is developing. As she is a member of Lib Dems Pippa is very keen to have green credentials and to stop the use of carbon based fuel. However we need to ensure that she is very aware of the danger to our countryside if the Kingsway development goes ahead, and not just for our village but for the other villages nearby, also in her constituency. Many people are

extremely concerned about the threat of compulsory purchase, the decrease of house values and the destruction of our natural area. Pippa receives our magazine. I hope she reads this editorial.

For yet another month we had a lower than average rainfall in October. In 2025 only January had more than average, but you wouldn't realise that to see my 'water-table' pond. It hasn't dried up at all this year, unusually, and now each rainy day it gets deeper. It is nearly up to the gate already and the forecast for the next couple of weeks doesn't bode well. The clay cap on the top of our hill is certainly holding the wet, dog walks are particularly muddy already this year and winter doesn't begin until December 1st.

The next Review will be in February, so if you are at home trying to keep warm and dry, why not think of writing something for the Review, memories, hobbies, plans, all will be welcome, and if you are out, take your phone or camera and take photos for us.

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**Gill Parry Brown**

EDITOR, BALSHAM REVIEW

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**PS** I have heard at the last minute that HOPE (Hope Against Poverty) are coming to Balsham with some free, and some affordable basics from **12-1pm alternate Mondays, 8th December onwards**, parked by the green, or in the Recreation Ground car park.

# Letters



Letters to the Editor for publication **MUST** be signed and include your telephone number. Names can be withheld, if requested. The opinions expressed in the letters and articles in this magazine are those of the writers, who are responsible for the accuracy of the information contained within them.

## DEAR EDITOR

### BALSHAM PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

The Trustees will be holding a meeting in early February 2026 to consider applications for funds, particularly from the elderly and groups involved with children and young persons within the village of Balsham. Any person or organisation who feels they may be entitled to a donation, please drop a line to the clerk:

#### Ian Creek

CLERK TO BALSHAM PAROCHIAL CHARITIES  
6 TRINITY CLOSE, BALSHAM. CB21 4DW

### 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

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## 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](http://www.grantavale.org.uk) under the calendar section, or by signing up to our weekly newsletter, details of which can also be found on the website.

### CHURCH CONTACTS

Revd. Iain McColl	01223 890693	mccoll.iain@gmail.com
Revd Hannah Threlfall	01223 481090	revthrelfall24@outlook.com
<b>Church Warden:</b> Nigel Clark,	01223 893043	n.clark5@btinternet.com
<b>Administrator:</b> 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

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Over Advent and Christmas I often revisit well-loved writings. As a child I used to perform, with my brother and sister, the poem by Clement-Clarke Moore: *'Twas the Night Before Christmas'* for my parents on Christmas Eve. As an adult I have enjoyed re-reading *Approaching Christmas* by Jane Williams, a companion to the Christmas season rich in joy and wisdom, as well as a collection of poems and commentaries by Janet Morley entitled *'Haphazard by starlight: a poem a day from Advent to Epiphany'*.

The intriguing title: *'Haphazard by starlight'* actually comes from a poem, entitled *BC-AD*, by U. A. Fanthorpe. Ursula Fanthorpe was a poet and a Quaker, who used to write a new Christmas poem each year to include with her Christmas cards to friends. They were usually short and sought a fresh, unsentimental take on the familiar story. This approach could also provide a jolt of defamiliarization for the reader, reminding us of the extraordinary nature of the gospel truth.

As part of the Christmas carol service at Hildersham church some years ago, members of our children's church council gave a reading of *BC-AD*. It's a poem in the form of a Shakespearean sonnet, but with the lines divided into threes rather than fours, each one beginning with the phrase *'This was the moment ...'* Indeed, the poem begins with the dramatic announcement: *'This was*

*the moment when Before/Turned into After'*.

The poem then continues in a slightly meandering style and contains references to familiar characters from the birth narrative – the shepherds described as *'a few farm workers'* and the magi as *'three/ Members of an obscure Persian sect'*. The meandering style is interrupted, however, by the jolt of last two lines, which presents the moment those familiar characters, perhaps to their own astonishment, *'Walked haphazard by starlight straight/ Into the kingdom of heaven'*.

Amidst all that is comfortingly familiar about Christmas, I hope we can be alert to the astonishing good news of the gospels, even if it does sometimes seem we are walking towards this truth as if *'haphazard by starlight'*. For the account of Jesus' birth speaks of a moment when everything changed. A child, born in humble circumstances, is the Christ child who is greeted, as Luke's gospel says, as *"Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord"*. Good news conveyed by these simple words, which invite a lifetime's reflection: Jesus is *"Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'"*. Good news worth responding to, celebrating and sharing, and which can shape the way we live in all the times and seasons of our lives.

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**Revd Iain McColl**

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<b>December Services</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>PM Services</b>
<b>7th</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>		<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Revd Iain McColl</i>	
<b>14th</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> West Wrating <i>Alistair Collen</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> Great Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Alistair Collen</i> <b>Café Church</b> Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>4.00pm</b> <b>Christingle</b> Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> <b>6.00pm</b> <b>Taizé service</b> Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
<b>21st</b> <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b> West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Christmas Creative Church</b> <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Rosemary Mead</i>	<b>Carol Service</b> West Wrating <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Alistair Collen</i>	<b>3.00pm</b> <b>Carol Service</b> Hildersham <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i> <b>4.00pm</b> <b>Carol Service</b> Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>6.30pm</b> <b>Carol Service</b> Great Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
<b>24th</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i>		<b>10.30pm</b> <b>Christmas Eve Crib Service</b> Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	<b>4.00pm</b> <b>Carol services with blessing of the crib</b> West Wrating <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> West Wickham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> <b>4.00pm</b> <b>Carols and Christingle service</b> West Wrating <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>11.30pm</b> <b>Midnight Mass</b> Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>

*continued overleaf*

<b>December Services</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>PM Services</b>
<b>25th</b> <i>Christmas Day</i>	<b>Christmas Day Communion</b> West Wratting <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> West Wickham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Hildersham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	<b>Christmas Day Morning Worship</b> Great Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	
<b>28th</b> <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i>		<b>United Service of Holy Communion</b> Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alastair France</i>	

### **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

## **Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme**

Dates for the next **Community Cafés** have been booked. They are all on **Tuesdays** from **10 to 12 noon** and will be on:

- **December 9th**
- **January 20th**
- **February 10th**
- **March 17th**
- **April 14th**
- **May 12th**
- **June 9th**
- **July 14th**

I shall be taking a break from the BGNS over Christmas while I visit family, so if you contact us, you may be speaking to one of our

other volunteers who have kindly agreed to coordinate jobs over the period up to the middle of January. Contact details remain the same: Email [balshamgns@gmail.com](mailto:balshamgns@gmail.com) or phone **07508 430057**

If you need assistance, especially with transport to medical appointments, contact us using the links above. If you would like to volunteer with us, do get in touch.

***Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.***

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**Steve Jordan**

BALSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

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# Kingsway Solar Community Action

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It's been a busy month. We've published a report on land use and solar energy, drawing on new modelling by Tony Day showing that large-scale solar offers limited grid benefits. We've promoted the **#AskEd** campaign with Stop Oversized Solar, challenging the government's renewable-energy strategy.

We issued an Open Letter to Ed Miliband in response to the government's claim that 76% of the public "wouldn't mind" living next to a solar farm. We also contacted George Freeman MP following the APPGSTA report Feeding Britain Sustainably to 2050, which warns that current land-use policies risk undermining UK food security.

We are continuing to encourage our MP to engage more fully with the inadequacies of the consultation process, which has left many residents feeling poorly informed.

During the consultation phase we strengthened our links with communities along the grid-connection corridor, and we are now working with BEAT (Burwell Energy Awareness Team) to help maintain pressure on these issues.

Keep an eye on our News page for the latest updates, announcements and links to useful resources:

**[kingswayaction.org/news](https://kingswayaction.org/news)**

It has also been a busy month for

wildlife, with sightings of golden plover and lapwings near the Fleam Dyke as winter migration gets underway. Please continue to log any wildlife observations on iRecord, particularly along the grid connection corridor. Every record counts.

We are working closely with the Parish Council Alliance who are seeking legal representation, which will be critical in the next stage. Our Crowd Justice fundraiser supports this effort. This ensures that donations only go towards a fully-funded case, with automatic refunds if targets aren't met. Every pledge, large or small, helps.

Finally, a note on sign thefts. During the consultation it was wonderful to see so many signs, banners and stickers displayed. Unfortunately, after some early incidents, we've now had further reports of signs being taken. These are expensive to produce and funded entirely through your donations. If signs are removed from private land, please report it to the police and request an incident number. This helps us build a clearer picture of what's happening.

***Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas, and thank you for your support throughout 2025.***

## **Useful links**

- Join KSCA <https://kingswaysolarcommunityaction.org>

[co.uk/how-to-join-us/](https://www.kingswayaction.co.uk/how-to-join-us/)

- Request a sticker:  
[hello@kingswayaction.org](mailto:hello@kingswayaction.org)
- Support our campaign:  
[www.gofundme.com/f/no-to-kingsway-solar-farm](https://www.gofundme.com/f/no-to-kingsway-solar-farm)

- Contribute to legal funds:  
<https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/kingswaysolarcommunitylegalaction/>
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram: **#kingswaysolaraction**

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**Kathy Day**

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## An update from your MP: Pippa Heylings



One of the proudest moments in my time as an MP so far has been delivering our petition to save Arthur Rank Hospice's beds to Number 10 Downing Street in November. I was joined by my fellow Cambridgeshire Lib Dem MPs and the most amazing group of people who have felt Arthur Rank Hospice's care first-hand or whose family members have – and the petition we delivered was more than 15,500 strong!

We continue to fight to restore the funding to ensure all 23 beds at the hospice remain open because everyone deserves access to excellent care right up until the very end of their lives. Thank you so much to the group that travelled as well as all the passionate

constituents and colleagues across the county that made this happen.

A South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council joint campaign has led to more than 80 extra children in South Cambridgeshire now receiving free school meals, following a pioneering initiative between our two local councils. I'm particularly impressed by their use of smart technology and data-sharing to proactively identify families eligible for support but who are not currently claiming it. I wanted to share this with you as it demonstrates how things can be done better, when we all work together.

It was a privilege to attend moving and thought-provoking **Remembrance Services** across the constituency, including Bassingbourn Barrack's '**Propellor Ceremony**' to Sawston's jam-packed Remembrance Service and Linton's community-oriented church service, complete with choir and poetry. I know many other villages will have had their own ceremonies as well. It is such an important time of year for us to remember

the fallen and commit ourselves to upholding the values they died to protect.

I've also been out on the doorsteps listening to residents and holding my MP surgeries. This has been invaluable in helping me prioritise the work that matters most to you and to take that forward as your voice in Parliament. 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](http://www.pippaheydings.org.uk/newsletter).

It will not be long before the holidays are upon us again soon, and I want to wish you all the best for you and your families at this time. ***I hope you have a restful and joyous Christmas break and a very happy New Year in 2026.***

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**Pippa Heydings**

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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## **Linton & District Historical Society**

### **October 2025 Meeting Report: 'THE LAST BEST WEST':**

#### **Emigration to Canada**

This well researched and informative presentation by Ann Fletcher, whose own family emigrated to Canada at the turn of the century, led her to delve into the background of this prolific world-wide advertising campaign promoting 'Emigration to Canada'.

With accompanying documents and photographs taken at the time we witnessed the hard times these families endured. Indigenous people were forcibly removed from their homes to make way for the 'new settlers'. Nationalities from far flung countries were used to build roads and railway across this vast country; photographic images show the great hardship involved for those seeking a 'new life'. Sadly evidence reveals how all these people both young and old were badly mistreated.

It was a thought provoking evening,

with those attending contributing to questions and answers at the end of a fascinating talk.

### **November 2025 Meeting Report: RAF WRATTING COMMON**

History on our doorstep was the theme when local resident Richard Adams revealed the story of RAF Wrattling Common.

His vast collection of maps and photographs documented this large area, stretching from West Wickham to Carlton Green and Weston Green to Withersfield, showing runways, hangers, accommodation blocks and all buildings associated with WW2. 'Mod cons' featured running water and electricity, including an 'Amusement Site' for recreational purposes, a cinema and swimming pool. This was at a time when neighbouring West Wickham inhabitants still fetched water from stand pipes for everyday use and had no electricity; some even had landing lights in their back gardens

guiding the bombers back to base. Humanitarian flights ‘Operation Manna’ also took off from these runways bound to the starving people in the Netherlands: photographs showed the cargo being dropped to the grateful population.

Little remained of the site after the end of the war. However, small and large artefacts traced by Richard have been discovered, albeit covered in moss and ivy as he followed remaining concrete runways, now being utilised as farm tracks and roads.

We had a thoroughly interesting evening interspersed with stories from those familiar with the site today. No doubt it will encourage the well-attended audience to pay attention where the ‘concrete roads’ still exist and discover the tell-tale evidence of long-abandoned

features remaining around and beside them.

In December we welcome back local musician David Caulfield with stories of being part of a Sixties Band. This light-hearted talk is always interesting and popular, so why not come along.

We meet at on **16th December 2025** in **Linton Village Hall**, Coles Lane, starting **7.30pm**.

Refreshments & Raffle  
*(Easy parking in the Health Centre Public Car Park opposite)*

For further details of the LDHS please email

**ldhscamb@gmail.com**  
or ‘phone **01223 893915** or **01223 678835**

***Wishing you all Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year!***

## Bin Collections December/January

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday December 3 <sup>RD</sup>		✓	✓
Wednesday December 10 <sup>TH</sup>	✓		
Wednesday December 17 <sup>TH</sup>		✓	✓
Wednesday December 24 <sup>TH</sup>	✓		
Wednesday December 31 <sup>st</sup>		✓	
Wednesday January 7 <sup>th</sup>	✓		

# Linton Village College



Students visiting Bletchley Park

## Battlefields and Bletchley Park

School trips are an essential part of life at LVC, enriching our curriculum and offering experiences beyond the classroom. One of the most significant events in our calendar is the two-yearly Battlefields trip to Northern France and Belgium.

Led by the History Department, the trip takes 95 students from KS3 and KS4 on a journey through key sites of World War I. Starting in Ypres, students visit Essex Farm Cemetery and an Advanced Dressing Station, learning how medical care was delivered close to the front lines. At Mansel Copse and the Somme, they explore the realities of trench warfare and the immense human cost of conflict. The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing and the moving Last Post ceremony deepen their understanding of remembrance and

loss. Throughout the weekend, students develop historical knowledge of why men fought, empathy for those who endured unimaginable hardship, and insight into the impact of war on individuals and societies.



Students visiting the Thiepval Memorial

Last month we also had over 100 students visiting Bletchley Park, the historic home of World War II codebreakers. Here, they watched a

live demonstration of the Enigma Machine and took part in hands-on decoding activities, discovering how logic, mathematics, and teamwork were used to crack secret messages. The experience not only illuminated the vital role of codebreaking in the Allied victory but also highlighted its lasting influence on modern computing and cybersecurity.

Both trips offer students a unique opportunity to connect with history in a tangible way. These experiences remind us that the past is not just something we read about and that it shapes the world we live in today.

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**Laura Heard**

PR &amp; COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

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

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## The Meadow Primary School



Students getting involved with a hands-on Iron Age Experience at Wandlebury

As we move through a busy and inspiring term at The Meadow Primary School, we are delighted to share some of the special moments and achievements from across our community this month.

### **Honouring Remembrance Day**

Our whole school came together to

mark Remembrance Day with respect and reflection. The children gathered outside for a special assembly, where we observed a two-minute silence, beautifully signalled by the sound of the church bells. Many pupils brought in pennies to place on a large poppy,

creating a striking tribute to those who fought in the war. We also heard a thoughtful and moving poem read by our Year 6 captains, giving everyone a moment to pause and consider the meaning of remembrance. It was a touching and memorable event for all involved.

### **Children in Need – Pyjamas, Positivity and Community Spirit**



The school was filled with warmth (and lots of fluffy slippers!) as we celebrated Children in Need with a special Pyjama Day. Pupils donated money to the charity and embraced the fun of coming to school in their cosiest nightwear. Despite the wet and wild weather, our children showed fantastic resilience - staying indoors all day, continuing their learning, and still finding plenty of moments to play and enjoy themselves.

Our School Council also hosted a popular cake sale, raising additional funds which will go directly towards new resources to enrich our playtimes. We are incredibly proud

of their leadership and the brilliant support shown by our school community.

### **Iron Age Adventures at Wandlebury**

Our Year 3 and 4 pupils enjoyed an exciting trip to Wandlebury for a hands-on Iron Age Experience. The children stepped back in time as they took part in activities such as weaving willow, cooking bread on sticks over a fire (and quickly devouring it!), and even trying their hand at slingshots. They were fascinated to learn about the Iron Age hill fort that once stood on the site. We were incredibly lucky to enjoy sunshine for most of the day, making the experience even more memorable.

### **Reception 2025 – Come and Visit Us**

Do you have a child due to start Reception next September? There is still time to come and visit The Meadow! We love welcoming families into our school to experience the nurturing, vibrant environment we offer. If you are applying for a school place, please remember that the **deadline for submissions is January**.

Our doors are always open for tours, and we are delighted to share the wonderful things happening across our classrooms

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**Faye Facer**

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

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Photos: Pam Down

Harvest Supper



Photos: Kathy Day

# Granta Medical Practice

Please find below details of when our surgeries will be open over the Christmas and New Year break.

**Please remember to order your repeat prescriptions in plenty of time** so that you do not run out of your medication over the holidays. The table below shows you when you will be able to collect your prescriptions, depending on the date you place your order:

Date	Opening hours	Repeat prescription schedule
Sat 20.12.25	Opened for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston)	Place order today, pick up <b>24.12.2025</b>
Sun 21.12.25	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>24.12.2025</b>
Mon 22.12.25	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>29.12.2025</b>
Tues 23.12.25	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>30.12.2025</b>
Weds 24.12.2025 <i>(Christmas Eve)</i>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>31.12.2025</b>
Thurs 25.12.2025 <i>(Christmas Day)</i>	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>02.01.2026</b>
Fri 26.12.2025 <i>(Boxing Day)</i>	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>02.01.2026</b>
Sat 27.12.2025	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Royston)	Place order today, pick up <b>02.01.2026</b>
Sun 28.12.2025	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>02.01.2026</b>
Mon 29.01.2025	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>02.01.2026</b>
Tues 30.12.2025	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>05.01.2026</b>
Weds 31.12.2025 <i>(New Years' Eve)</i>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>06.01.2026</b>
Thurs 01.01.2026 <i>(New Years' Day)</i>	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>07.01.2026</b>
Fri 02.01.2026	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>07.01.2026</b>
Sat 03.01.2026	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston)	Place order today, pick up <b>08.01.2026</b>
Sun 04.01.2026	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>08.01.2026</b>

Don't forget, there are Prescription Collection Points at **Sawston, Linton and Shelford**. Sign up today via [cpicb.grantadispensing@nhs.net](mailto:cpicb.grantadispensing@nhs.net) to pick up your medication at your convenience 24/7, including Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years' Day.

Whilst we are closed, if you need urgent medical assistance please

use **NHS 111 service**. If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring **999**.

Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. Your local pharmacist can offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. Pharmacists can now also prescribe some medications under

the “Pharmacy First” service.  
Please go to <https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacy/pharmacy-services/> for further information and eligibility criteria.

*We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season.*

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**Sandra East**

GRANTA PATIENT SERVICES

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

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## Balsham Singers

Our **30th Anniversary Christmas Concert** takes place on **Saturday 13th December at 4pm** in **Holy Trinity Church Balsham**.

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

Tickets are available from Balsham and Gt Abington post offices and online at Ticket Source:

**[ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers](http://ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers)** and are selling fast! Last Christmas we had a full house so we'd advise buying a ticket in advance to be

sure of a seat.

We will be holding a raffle so please bring some cash along with you. All proceeds of the Raffle will be sent to Royal Papworth Charity which also celebrates 30 years in 2025.

We are always grateful for the loyal support of our audience and hope that everyone who comes along will enjoy our concert.

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**Jo Stinton**

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## Linton Library News

**We wish you all a Very Happy Christmas!**

Come in for festive 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.

On each Saturday we'll have a drop in **Christmas Craft** activity, as well as a **Christmas Trail** all December.

We will close for the **Holidays** at **5pm** on **Tuesday 23rd**, and reopen at **10am** on **Friday 2nd January**.

**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 feet) for walking

aids to keep them in safe condition. Just ask library staff.

**Daylight Readers:** Our Book Groups meet on **Friday 19th**, 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), followed by Duplo. 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 IT.

**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

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

# Balsham December/January Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
6th Saturday	Balsham Picture House: <b>Pirates of the Caribbean 3</b> 7.00pm	Institute
7th Sunday	Lighting of the Christmas tree 4.30pm	Village Green
8th Monday	Hope against Poverty, 12-1.00pm	Green or car park
9th Tuesday	Community Café, 10-12pm	Institute
9th Tuesday	Balsham WI, 7.30pm	Pavilion
13th Saturday	Balsham Singers Concert, 4.00pm	Church
15th Monday	<b>No Parish Council</b>	-
16th Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Society, 7.30	Linton Village Hall
21st Sunday	Carol Service, 4pm	Church
<b>JANUARY</b>		
10th Saturday	Balsham Picture House: <b>The Penguin Lessons</b> 7pm	Institute
11th Sunday	Plough Sunday Service, 10.30 for 11.00	Church
12th Monday	Plough Monday celebration from 4.30pm	Round the Village
13th Tuesday	Balsham WI, 7.30pm	Pavilion
19th Monday	Parish Council, 7.30pm	Pavilion
20th Tuesday	Community Café, 10-12pm	Institute
20th Tuesday	Linton & District Historical Society, 7.30	Linton Village Hall



AN EVENING OF

# GHOST STORIES

BY CANDLELIGHT

at Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham

on Saturday 24th January at 7.30pm

Read by David Hart and Steve Murray from the Outspoken Theatre Company.  
Tickets £10 available at the door or from

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ghost-stories-by-candlelight-tickets-1966127522346>

In Support of The Friends of Hildersham Church



# Balsham Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting took place on 17th November, 2025 in Balsham Pavilion

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The next **Parish Council Meeting** will be held on **19th January, 2026** at **7.30 pm** in **Balsham Pavilion**  
**ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND**

## **Planning:**

**Site address:** 1 Church Lane, Balsham

**Reference:** 25/1173/TTPO

**Proposal:** Sycamore - reduce height and spread by 3 -3.5m back to previous pruning points and crown raise by up to 2m to 4m high.

**Reason:** Management of excessive regrowth from previous reduction works

**PC Decision:** No objections

**Site address:** 19 West Wrattling Road, Balsham

**Reference:** 25/1134/TTPO & 25/1178/TTCA

**Proposal:** Pruning and felling various trees.

**PC Decision:** No objections

**Site address:** 58A High St, Balsham

**Reference:** 25/1188/TTCA

**Proposal:** T1. Ceanothus. Oversized for location. Fell and remove

T2. Conifer. Oversized for location. Fell and remove

T3. Conifer. Fell and remove. As a part of garden/fencing renewal plans the above trees plan to be removed with subsequent replanting. Although over 75mm DBH the trees are no

more than 10ft high

**PC Decision:** No objections

**Site address:** Land to the north of High Street Balsham

**Reference:** 25/1254/TTPO

**Proposal:** **Access A** - Fox Road

Remove T4 decaying Ash with Ivy dominating the entire trunk, the tree is in a poor condition and leaning over. Remove a group of mixed common native broadleaf trees consisting of Ash, Prunus and dead Elm. Within this area there are a number of storm damaged, dead, dying and dangerous trees also to be removed.

**Access B** - High Street, Remove blanket cover of Elder and Brambles, suckers of small mixed common trees. Remove cluster of Prunus Trees.

**PC Decision:** No objections

**Proposal:** **Access B** - High Street

**Reference:** 25/1255/TTCA

Remove T1-2. The Two Conifer trees have recently been trimmed back as they were touching the electricity cables. The local Parish council have also welcomed the removal of these trees. T-3 Ash, Uplift to 6m to allow access for machinery.

**PC Decision:** No objections

**Site address:** 11 Linton Rd, Balsham

**Reference:** 25/1263/TTPO

**Proposal:** 4 large and mature horse chestnut trees to be reduced in height by at least 5m and in spread by about 3m on each side.

**PC Decision:** No objections

**Site address:** 17 High St, Balsham

**Reference:** 25/04352/HFUL

**Proposal:** Single storey side and rear extension.

**PC Decision:** No objections

### **Planning Decisions:**

**Site address:** 95 High St, Balsham

**Reference:** 25/0868/TTCA

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

### **Granted permission by SCDC:**

**Site address:** Worsted Lodge Farm, London Rd, Old A11, Babraham

**Reference:** 25/03417/LBC / 25/031416/FUL

**Proposal:** Conversion of existing granary, cart-lodges, and shelter sheds into a two-storey self-build dwelling.

### **Allotments:**

There are 4 full sized plots and 3 half plots available. Please contact the PC for more details.

### **Solar Panels at Pavilion:**

The solar panels and battery have been installed at the pavilion by

Solarbarn. The PC were very pleased to receive a grant of **£9,769.00** towards the project from SCDC Zero Carbon Grant.

### **Mobile Food Hub**

#### **(Hope against Poverty CIC):**

The mobile food hub is visiting Balsham Recreation Ground car park **every other Monday 12-1pm** starting on **24th November**. There will be a mixture of fresh produce and essential affordable items available. Everyone is welcome

#### **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.

*Merry Christmas  
and Best Wishes  
for 2026!*

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### **Tracy Coston**

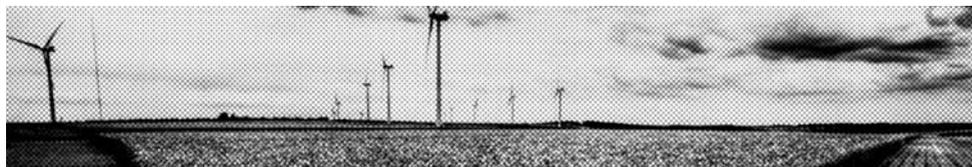
PARISH CLERK

**Tel:** 01223 894462 / 07929930385

**Email:** clerk@balsham.net

**Website:** www.balsham.net

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# District & County Councillor's Report

November 2025

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## Local Government Reorganisation

The process, as requested by central Government, to merge District and County Councils into Unitary Authorities in England, is proceeding. The latest is that all local authorities in Cambridgeshire will have to submit their suggestions for how best they see a new local government structure working in the county by the end of November. There are a number of 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.

### Option D:

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

### Option E:

- Huntingdonshire

- Fenland, Peterborough, South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City and East Cambridgeshire.

The local views are that the County Council have agreed to submit **Option A** to government and South Cambs and Cambridge City have agreed to submit **Option B**. Other local authorities may submit one of the other options but, at time of writing, this isn't clear.

Once submitted, the government minister (or more likely a civil servant) will decide which configuration will work the best for the whole of the county.

## Local Plan

The District Council has recently released its draft Local Plan – which is the development plan for the next 30 years and indicates the parcels of land in South Cambs that they feel can accommodate housing and commercial development to feed the population and economic growth during this time.

As previously reported, the major development in our area is a site north of Abington called Grange Farm, which can accommodate up to 6,000 new houses. This would be a significant development in our area, as it would represent a new town, twice the size of Linton.

The reason this is proposed here is that the location is deemed to be 'sustainable', as it's close to

employment sites like Granta Park and Babraham Research Park and is also located on major roads – the A1307 and the A11.

There will be a public consultation on this proposal, plus all of the others in South Cambridgeshire, over December and January – more detail to follow on this.

### **New ‘Forest City’**

Some people have picked up on a locally-promoted ‘suggestion’ for a new ‘Forest City’ which is claimed to be able to house over 1 million new people. This is proposed on land between Newmarket and Haverhill.

<https://www.forestcity.uk/>

It’s worth pointing out that this proposal has absolutely no legs. It’s an unsolicited proposal by two unqualified individuals and carries no weight in planning terms. It’s likely that they are attempting to capitalise on the government’s plans to expand Cambridge but developments associated with this expansion will be properly drawn up and consulted on by an official development corporation – not this ‘Dragon’s Den’ style pitch.

So, in our opinion, this is going nowhere.

### **Linton Greenway**

The Linton Greenway is progressing, albeit slowly. The next section that will move forward is the section between LVC and the recreation ground in Linton. Several options were looked at including Stantons Lane, Joiners Road and the driveway

of LVC itself. After some engineering appraisals the only viable option was Joiners Road, as Stantons Lane was too narrow and LVC had too much red tape – being a secondary school. The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) are looking to present a proposal for what this route would look like, although we understand that the only physical changes to the highway will be the widening of the footpath between LVC and Joiners Road and the stretch from the bottom of Joiners Road and the recreation ground itself, nothing else will be altered.

The next section of the Greenway to complete is the section through/ around Abington to link up with the A11 crossing and onwards. The route of this hasn’t been agreed but is moving forward, slowly, so watch this space.

### **Cambridge South Station**

The new train station being built at the Addenbrooke’s site, that will be called Cambridge South, has had some construction delays and now won’t be open until June 2026.

### **Contact Information:**

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#### **Geoff Harvey**

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR  
[geoff.harvey@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.harvey@gmail.com)

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#### **Henry Batchelor**

COUNTY COUNCILLOR  
[henrybatchelor89@gmail.com](mailto:henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)

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# Balsham Christmas Lights

The Balsham Ploughmen will once again lighting up Balsham this December. The big switch-on 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 and maybe a drop or two of fortified wine to keep out the cold. 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 be attending a church service on **Plough Sunday (Sunday 11th January 2026, from 10.30am)**. 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 us if you can.

## Balsham Plough Monday 2026

The **Balsham Plough Monday**

celebrations in 2026 will happen on **Monday 12th January**. The Ploughmen will start at **Prince's Close** at around **4.30pm** and drag the plough around the village stopping at **West Wratting Road, The Manor, The Rookery, The Black**

**Bull** and, finally, **The Bell**. Please look out for us, we'll certainly be in your street at some point during the night, pop out and say hello. In preparation for the big night, we'll be distributing donation envelopes over the festive period that will also act as your individual raffle ticket. Raffle prizes are many and

varied with the first and second prizes being **£200** and **£100** respectively, not to be sneezed at. If you would like to donate to the local good causes please either drop your donation envelope off at The Old Butchers, The Post Office, The Black Bull or The Bell or come out in person on Plough Monday, enjoy a drink and donate what you can. 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. These aren't our own words by the way, the Cambridge Morris Men came up with the statement a few years back and, believe me, they've been around a bit so they should know. We've had a lot of funding requests already this year but there's always room for more; if we can't fund your cause this year then we may be able to next year. 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**).



## BALSHAM PLOUGH MONDAY CLUB

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**Terry O'Neill**

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## Balsham WI

The November meeting featured a play performed by 11 members of the group and told the story of the last 100 years of Balsham and the WI nationally from its start in 1915. The cast were each dressed to represent a decade from the last century and many photographs from the archives accompanied the play.

Our next meeting will take place on **9 December** in the **Pavilion** at **7.30pm** and will take the form of our annual Christmas celebration, together with a review of the past year's meetings to finalise our celebration of the Centenary year.



Our **first meeting of 2026** will take place on **13 January** when we have a visitor from **Tropic Skincare** demonstrating their range. This range is not available in the shops, uses all fresh ingredients and no preservatives, and 10% of their profits go to Charities, including The Trussell Trust

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**

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**Debbie Mower**

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# The Black Bull

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## ***Festive Greetings to all Balsham Villagers from all at The Black Bull Happy December/January!***

Thank you to those who joined us last month – whether for a Folk Night, New Lunch Treats, Specials Boards, our November Offer Burger, a Thursday coffee morning, or just a quick half or two ...

## **New Lunchtime additional treats to continue**

Our new offerings to supplement our main menu at lunchtimes will be continued and possibly become staple: the likes of Eggs Benedict and Full English Breakfast. Also Rob's latest inspiration – Black Bull Pie Roll: think sausage roll but with Rob's stand out pie mix filling of the week. It is superb!

## **Events Ahead:**

Next **Pint of Music – Folk Night - the last of 2025**

**Thursday 4th December** (*Rob's 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...

**Winter Warmer Specials Board**  
**Thursday 4th, Friday 5th and**  
**Saturday 6th December**

Rob will be laying on an array of Winter Warmer specials to complement his new Winter menu.

## **Festive Bookings & Opening Hours**

Those organising Christmas gatherings please get in touch. Some dates have inevitably gone but I am sure we can still find you a time and date to come and celebrate. (*Christmas Day is still officially full but do get in touch for the waiting list if of interest as we might easily get an unfortunate cancellation*).

## **Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December**

We will be welcoming in the Christmas holiday with a **Festive "Happy Hour" - 15% off all drinks 5-7pm** and **Rob's Festive Bar Snack Specials Board** available from **5:30pm**

**New Year's Eve** – specials on the menu – see website for more details.

## **Christmas Opening Times:**

**Christmas Day** – open **10am-5pm** (*drinks only now – we are full for lunch*); closed evening

**Boxing Day** – open **10am-5pm**; food **12-3pm** (*a la carte menu, booking advised*); closed evening

**New Year's Day** - open **10am-5pm**; food **12-3pm** (*a la carte menu, booking advised*); closed evening

**All other days** – **normal hours** (*ie closed Sunday night and Mondays*)

## **Staff Holiday January**

We will be closing the pub for food

for staff holidays:

**Closed Monday 5th – Friday 16th January lunch – re-opening Friday 16th evening onwards.** We will be open for drinks on Friday, Saturday evening and Sunday lunchtime

during this period

*Festive wishes from all of us*

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

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## The Bell

**Hi All,**

The festive season is upon us which means a busy time for the hospitality sector and plenty of time for everyone to meet up, socialise and celebrate with friends and loved ones.

It does also mean adjustments to the usual opening times, our festive opening times are as follows:

**Christmas Eve:** 12.00–Midnight, with food served until 21.00

**Christmas Day:** 11.00–14.00 for drinks only

**Boxing Day:** 12.00–21.00 food served until 18.00

**New Year's Eve:** 12.00– 1.00am with food served until 21.00

**New Year's Day:** 12.00–21.00 with food served until 18.00



Outside these hours it will be normal opening hours (pictured).

From the **29th of November until Boxing Day** we are serving our **Festive menu**, this is available via pre-order and with a £10 deposit per head, and does require at least 4 days' notice

to ensure we have the stock available. To book in you can give us a call on **01223 699567** or follow the link on our Google page for our online booking system.

***We hope to welcome you all in this festive season and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year***

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**Rich and the Team**

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# West Wickham & District Garden Club

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## ***Celebrating our Winter Wonderland***

*With the leaves tumbling and early morning mists returning, we know we are heading into winter with all its botanical stars lighting up our garden. From the sweet scents of Sarcococca to the first stunning hellebores, there's plenty to enjoy. 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.*

So, it is fitting that we are celebrating the seasons at our **Christmas Social Evening** on **Monday 15th December at 7:30pm** in **West Wickham Village Hall**. Wine, soft drinks and refreshments will be provided by the Club to help the members get into the Christmas spirit. This year we are beginning with an informal group chat about our gardening experiences over the past year before circulating and enjoying each other's company.

We hope that your winter walks will also inspire you to enter this year's photo competition. It's open to everyone in West Wickham and the surrounding area.

The categories for 2025–26 are...

- Along the Path
- Lovely Leaves
- Sky's the Limit

Photos to be taken after 1st October 2025 and by the end of August 2026. Meanwhile keep the competition in mind when you're out and about through the year ahead. We had some great entries last year, with this one being the winner of **Light and Dark**.



*Giant  
Snowflake*  
by  
Linda Upton

Heading into the New Year, our first speaker of 2026 will be **Dr Neil Dickinson** talking on the subject of **Japanese Gardens: what, why, how?** on **Monday 19th January** in **WW Village Hall** at **7:30pm**. Every Japanese garden is packed full of meaning and references that we may not fully understand and Neil will help us unlock how to interpret them.

Email your entries and queries for the photo competition to Alice and Andy Mitchell:

**photo@westwickham.org**

For Club information or if you'd like to help at one of our events, please contact Sally Collins at

**wwdgc@westwickham.org**

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**Sally Collins**

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# Balsham Weather October 2025



Photo: Lesley Bennett

## Temperatures (maximum & minimum) & Rainfall



MAX°C 19° on 6th October



MIN°C 10° on 25th October



MAX°C 13° on 3rd October



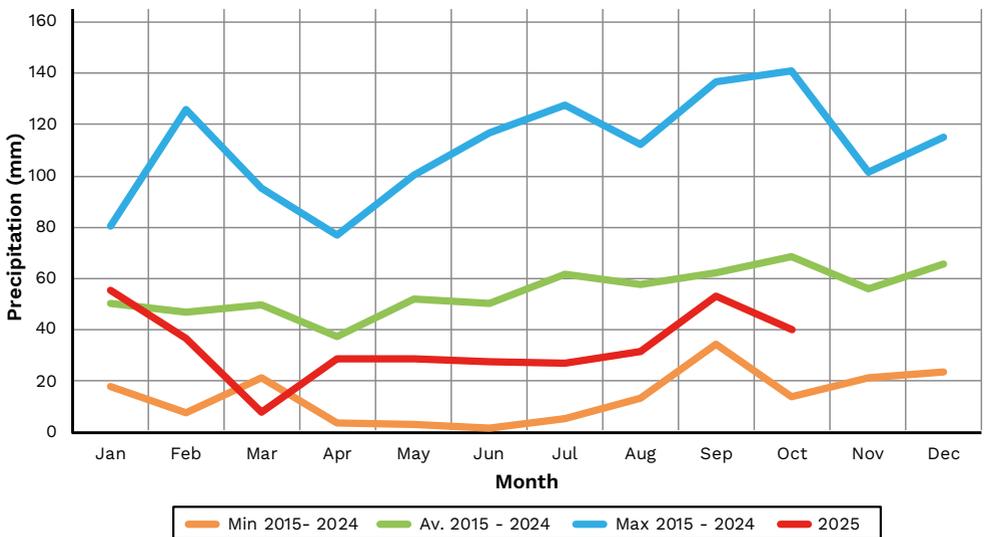
MIN°C 4° on 27th October



**Total rainfall:** 40mm (1.52")



Rain fell on 14 days

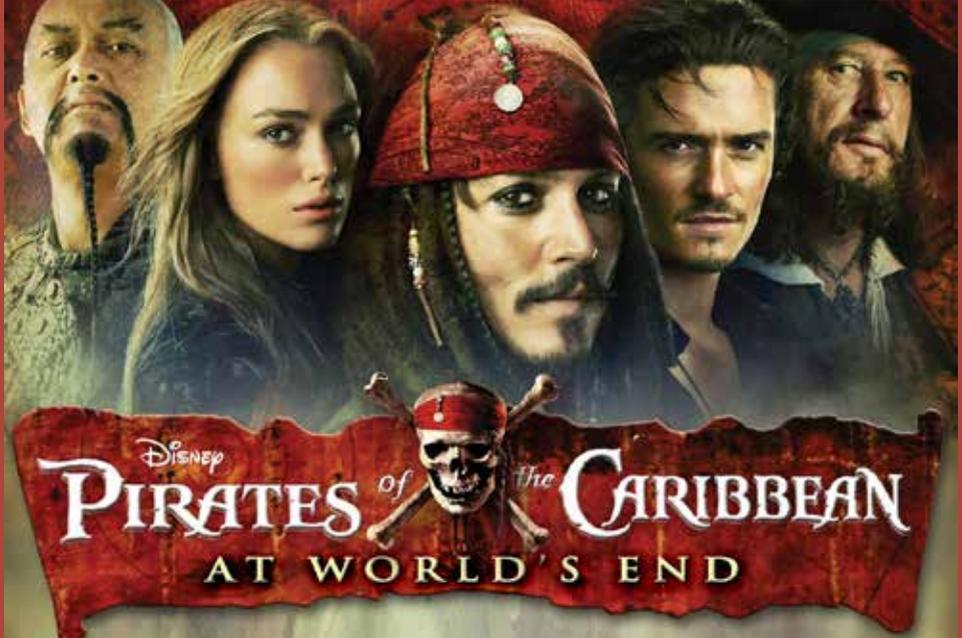




**Saturday December 6th**

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

**Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (12)**



The **Christmas film** 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!

As it's a fairly long film, we will be having a mid-film refreshment break!

***All drinks and festive nibbles are on the House!***

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



**NB** Our January film, on **January 10th**, will be the Steve Coogan comedy **The Penguin Lessons** (12) following an Englishman's personal and political awakening after he adopts a penguin in Argentina.

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