



BALSHAM *Review*

ISSUE No. 683

SICUT CANIS CUM OSSIS

AUGUST 2026



Photo: Les Redhead

Photo: Richard Pargeter



Humming Bird Hawk Moth

Photo: Richard Pargeter



Cinnamon Bug

Photo: Larry Davies



Photo: Richard Pargeter



Photo: Jane Goode



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All the latest news and events at:
www.balsham.net

Send content to: clive@ben8and.co.uk

DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

TUESDAY AUGUST 18TH

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

Editorial



August is here, the month that was always the hottest when I was young, so are we now due for yet another set of heatwaves this month? I had a great week in July in Northumberland, near the coast, where the temperature was ten degrees lower than at Balsham. Bliss.

August is due to be a very quiet month for groups in the village. The Parish Council, WI, Good Neighbour Coffee Morning, and Balsham Singers are all missing an August meeting and are reconvening in September, so look out for the calendar in September's Review.

I have included a message (*page 22*) I had by email today from the NHS about the RVS (*respiratory syncytial virus*). I had never heard of this, and I suspect there are several other older people in Balsham who don't know about it either. Without asking the Granta Medical Practice if they can cope with several Balsham people asking for this, I have spread the word! It would seem a useful

jab if it helps with breathing.

Harvest is a very variable time of year now. The church Harvest Festivities in September and October seem out of sync as around here it seems all the fields have been cut. I remember a camping weekend on a farm in late September when we children were amazed by a traction engine thrashing the corn as soon as it was cut. The noise was not very different from the enormous combines in use now, but it was very exciting for us townies, as we were then.

West Wickham Church are planning a special **Harvest Day** with activities and displays on the Saturday before their Service in church (*page 10*). If you have harvest memories the organisers would be pleased to hear about them. On *page 16* there are more details of the **Harvest Supper** in **Balsham**.

As the thatch on my roof is straw which needs to be longer than the varieties generally grown now, my thatcher needs to grow his own for local houses - and the listing people are very careful to check the right straw is used!

I feel I should be off to do a rain dance now. Carrying cans of water to the pots and vegetables takes time and effort.

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

JOHN SARGEANT

Jenny, David and Lisa would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended John's funeral service and the wake afterwards. It gave us great comfort to see so many of his friends there. Thank you also for the donations to Arthur Rank in his memory and all the sympathy cards sent.

We would also like to thank the bell ringers, Hannah Threlfall, Keith Day and Adrian Kerry for making the service so special and Jo Stinton, Jenny Kerry, Alison Clarke & Lynda Henderson for the wonderful flower arrangements.

We are so lucky to live in a village with so many caring, kind people.

The Sargeant Family

THANK YOU

I would like to say a Big "Thank You" to Glynis Hanlon, for such a fun afternoon at the Black Bull, on Thursday 18th June, and in aid of such a good cause. Thank you for organizing it, it must have taken a lot of hard work behind the scenes! I think everyone had such a good time, good food and drink, plus a flutter on the races! Everyone was in good spirits with a chance to win a raffle prize as part of the fun.

Thank you to Alex and his team for allowing the event to go ahead at the Black Bull, and also to Glynis's husband for his help and expertise. I do hope a good amount was raised for Breast Cancer Awareness? Thank you again Glynis, I think the whole thing was such a triumph.

Pauline Limmer

CHRISTIAN AID

Today I paid in the donations from the village for Christian Aid; thank you for all your generous donations. Together we raised **£604.82** to support projects to help people out of poverty. This year the fundraising week in May focused on projects to produce food through urban farms in Nairobi. Thank you.

Anna McColl

MACMILLAN COFFEE

There will be a **Macmillan Coffee Morning** in **Balsham Sport Pavilion** on **Friday 25th September 10.30am**.

Please come along to support this amazing charity. It supports people and families at the lowest most difficult time of their lives with practical and emotional support. Please tell your friends and come along.

Jo Stinton

Church Services



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

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

CHURCH CONTACTS

Rev. Iain McColl	01223 890693	mccoll.iain@gmail.com
Rev. Hannah Threlfall	01223 481090	revthrelfall24@outlook.com
Church Warden: Nigel Clark,	01223 893043	n.clark5@btinternet.com
Administrator: Tracey Zambrana Roberts 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

METHODIST: Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road

From the Church



For some of us, the idea of stepping into a church building can seem like a journey too far. Past experiences, memories of how church used to be long ago, can set up a barrier, beyond which we may never tread. I should say, though, that our services today are places where all are welcome and our parish churches are also open for us during the day as spaces for quiet reflection.

It's not unusual to have faith in God. As we journey in our own personal ways, our faith may be inspired by many different places, including our churches, but not limited to them.

I am reminded of the Welsh poet and priest R. S. Thomas who touches on the overlapping boundaries of faith with our natural environment. In his poem *The Moor*, R. S. Thomas explores the reality of God as he meets us beyond the church, in a

place which *"was like a church to me"* and where *"There were no prayers said. But stillness / Of the heart's passion – that was praise / Enough;"*.

While church remains a central focus of worship and teaching, R. S. Thomas suggests that our natural environment can also be experienced like a holy place. Even as we glance out of the window, we may connect with a sense of creation beyond, but perhaps connected to our spiritual selves. As we step out across our fields and through open woodland we may notice a profound humbling release of the ego; a letting go of self.

R. S. Thomas also uses the phrase *"the mind's cession / Of its kingdom"*. This implies a moment of deep surrender; a prayer-like journey towards stillness. This may occur on a dog walk or a wander in your garden, but it can be like a church to us. Above all, we may notice that beyond our troubles and concerns, there is loving God who soothes the brow and says *'all shall be well'*. Church and our natural environment may both become like a holy space before God – a place where we are held by the assurance of love, joy and peace.

Steven Wheeler, LLM

August Services	9:30am	11:00am	PM Services
2nd		United Service with Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	
9th	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion West Wratting <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/ Steven Wheeler</i>	Morning Worship Balsham <i>Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion Great Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Alastair France</i> Café Church Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	6.00pm Taizé service Weston Colville <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
16th	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion West Wratting <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion Little Abington <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	6.00pm Taizé service Hildersham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
23rd	Holy Communion West Wickham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion Weston Colville <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion (BCP) Hildersham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	6.00pm Evening Prayer Great Abington <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
30th		Holy Communion Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	6.00pm Taizé service Little Abington <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</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

KSCA Campaign Update

August 2026

Kingsway expected back soon

While the application was withdrawn in July, Kingsway Solar has indicated that it intends to revise and resubmit its planning application as soon as possible. So, although we've had a brief pause, the campaign is far from over. We expect a new application sooner rather than later, making it more important than ever that everyone stays informed and is ready for the next stage.

Why was the application withdrawn?

The Planning Inspectorate published a detailed letter explaining why the application wasn't ready to proceed. Its concerns included:

- Missing wildlife & environmental surveys
- Outstanding issues relating to archaeology and heritage
- Missing information and inconsistencies within the application documents
- Concerns that local people had not been given enough information to properly understand the proposals and comment on them
- Doubts that the application contained enough information for the examination to be completed within the statutory timetable

As Kingsway prepares a revised application, we believe these issues must be fully addressed. If a

developer cuts corners when preparing an application, it does not inspire confidence that a project of this scale will be planned, built and managed to the high standards needed to protect wildlife, the environment and our villages.

Stay connected by email

If you're not on Facebook, Instagram or WhatsApp, you can still stay up to date by joining the KSCA email mailing list. We'll send you the latest campaign news, planning updates and details of future meetings and consultation events.



To join, complete our **Google form** or email **hello@kingswayaction.org**

Supporting other campaigns

KSCA stands alongside the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) in making the case that our countryside must not pay the price for clean energy.

CPRE is calling for a strategic plan for energy infrastructure to ensure renewable energy is delivered in the right places while protecting the countryside we all value, saying ***“The decisions being made today will shape our landscapes for generations to come”***.

To support the campaign, visit:
<https://cpre.powerappsportals.com/AD1/>

Did you know?

It can be difficult to visualise the scale of a 500MW solar farm from the numbers alone. That's why our **'Did You Know?'** campaign is sharing comparisons that help bring the proposal to life.

Kingsway Solar Farm would be around 20 times larger than the existing Wilbraham Solar Farm.

The proposed solar panels would stand up to **4.2 metres high**—about the height of a **Cambridge Park &**



Ride bus.

Look out for more facts and comparisons as we continue to explain what a development of this scale could mean for our local area.

Kathy Day

Harvest Festival Weekend

at St. Mary's Church, West Wickham

Traditionally, harvest has been celebrated through thanksgiving services, usually held when the Harvest Moon was at its fullest. This year this falls on **Saturday 26th** and **Sunday 27th September** and in West Wickham we would like to put together an exhibition of harvest in past times to recognise the historic significance of a good harvest for communities like West Wickham, alongside the opportunity to reflect on the continuing importance of producing food here in the 'breadbasket' of England.

We would like as many people as possible, of all ages, to be involved. If you have memories or can remember talking about harvest customs or events with grandparents, friends or relatives, please create a record. Or, write an imaginative

story or poem. Do you have an old photograph that holds a story? Have a go and we will share them. Here is a limerick by Vivienne Henderson for amusement and inspiration.

**What happens to those fields of wheat?
It's very good for us to eat.
So, thanks to clever human tricks,
It's made into the crunchy mix
That we all know asWeetabix!**

Come along on **Saturday, 26th September**, and see old photographs, tools and artefacts and take part in some creative activities. Join us on **Sunday, 27th September**, to give thanks for what has been created and for the gifts we receive and share.

Julie Copas

Church Flower Group

I would like to thank the **Balsham Ploughmen** on behalf of the flower arrangers of Holy Trinity Church, Balsham, for the very kind and generous donation towards the cost of flowers when decorating the church. There are always flowers in the church which are arranged on a fortnightly rota, except during Lent and Advent, and a special effort is made during Harvest, Christmas and Easter. All the volunteers have always been generous giving up their time and buying the flowers which have become increasingly more expensive. Some of us are lucky enough to use flowers from our gardens when possible. For funerals and weddings additional flowers are paid for by the families concerned. The money from the Ploughmen will be used to reimburse the arrangers and replace some of the very old equipment which we use. We now use a new kind of 'Oasis' which is environmentally

friendly and recommended by the Church of England, but it is much more expensive than the Oasis used previously. We very much appreciate this kind gesture by the Ploughmen.

If anyone would like to join our flower arranging group you would be very welcome. Please don't think you need to be a talented flower arranger to help. Pot plants or a vase of flowers are often used. It all goes towards making the church attractive and welcoming. It isn't a big commitment. It is hoped that arrangers offer to do flowers twice a year on a fortnightly slot and if possible, help with Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

If you are interested, please contact either of us:

Alison Clarke

E: alisonclarke15@hotmail.com

Liz De'Ath

E: maisonportman16@gmail.com

Balsham Monthly Charity Quiz

If you enjoy a quiz why not join us once a month.

We meet at the **Black Bull** pub, who kindly let us have a room.

Our quizzes are varied and set by different people.

Each player pays a £1 and all the money goes to charity, the winning

team decide which one.

The quiz starts at **8pm** so get there by 7.45 to get a seat (and a drink)!

The next quiz is on **August 25th** (it's held on the last Tuesday of the month).

All welcome!

Hope to see a few new teams!

Balsham WI

For our July meeting, our president **Bridget Durham** kindly welcomed us into her lovely garden and we enjoyed a relaxed evening of wonderful food, drink and plenty of chat amongst members. It was the perfect setting and weather and a chance for members to catch up and socialise before we pause for our summer break. We have no meeting in August but will be back in the **Pavilion** for our **next meeting** on **Tuesday 8th September**. For this we will be joined by **Lindsey Barrell** for a talk on **“Burlesque, WI and Me”**. We first met Lindsey on Zoom back in lockdown and she was very entertaining, so it will be wonderful to have her join us in person with what promises to be a fun and

fascinating talk.

Save the Date

Balsham WI Autumn Fair, Saturday 3 October, 2026. 10am – 2pm at **Balsham Church Institute**. If you are interested in a stall at this event, please contact **Juliet Bevan** on **g7rvs@hotmail.co.uk**

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**

Sarah Evans

Bin Collections August/September

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday August 5 TH			
Wednesday August 12 TH			
Wednesday August 19 TH			
Wednesday August 26 TH			
Wednesday September 2 ND			
Wednesday September 9 TH			

Balsham Singers

Balsham Singers take a break during August!

At our very successful **Singing for Fun** sessions during June we were pleased to welcome some new faces (and voices) and we hope that all who came enjoyed the experience. Maybe you would like to join us when our regular rehearsals begin on **Thursday 10th September** at **7.30pm** when we start rehearsals for our **Christmas Concert** which this year will be on **Saturday 12th**

December. We meet **every Thursday, 7.30pm to 9.30pm**, in **Balsham Sports Pavilion** at the end of the car park adjacent to the church.

All you need is a love of singing, be keen to learn, and enjoy singing with like-minded people.

Any questions please contact
John Clenaghan:
johns.clenaghan@sky.com

Jo Stinton

Linton & District Historical Society

Forthcoming Meeting:
Tuesday 15th September 2026
at 7.30pm

Linton Village Hall Coles Lane,
Linton CB21 4JS

A Brief History of the Enclosure of Linton. An Illustrated talk by **Bill Franklin**

As some long term officers are stepping down from the day to day running of the society we would welcome your support with essential tasks in order to keep the society running. Membership has steadily increased after the COVID crisis. We have welcomed some excellent speakers on a wide range of topics,

which undoubtedly led to this rise in membership and visitors.

So if you can help out with various tasks such as meeting & greeting speakers, creating posters advertising our meetings in local village magazines, and writing up reports and, most importantly, refreshments. Quite a big ask, but sharing responsibilities will guarantee the smooth running of the society.

Please contact us via email
ldhscamb@gmail.com if you are able to help. Many thanks.

Margaret & Ian Creek

Balsham August Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
Saturday 1st	Picture House, Shirley Valentine (15), 7.30pm	Institute

Linton Village College

Students from LVC have showcased outstanding artistic talent both at home and abroad this July, celebrating a remarkable summer of achievement through music and dance.

Thirty musicians and singers from Years 7–11 recently embarked on a concert tour of Belgium as members of the **Linton Symphonic Wind Orchestra** and **Linton Voices Choir**.

Following more than 30 hours of rehearsal, students performed in De Panne and Ostend. The programme featured classical, popular and film music alongside an original choral composition by Mia in Year 11.

Closer to home, LVC students took part in **Voices of Hope & Compassion** at the Cambridge Corn Exchange, a concert celebrating the 80th birthday of acclaimed poet and author **Michael Rosen** while highlighting the experiences of refugees. Lower and Upper School Dance Companies created and performed a moving

piece inspired by one of Rosen's poems, reflecting on the tragic story of two of his relatives during the Second World War. The performance was enhanced by an original composition written and performed by Year 11 student Mia, which received considerable praise from Michael Rosen.

Dance students have also been sharing their skills with younger pupils. During the Year 6 induction day, Year 7 performed a dance showcase for incoming students, while five Year 8 dancers led a workshop for Year 5 pupils at Linton Heights as part of **Creativity Week**.

The school would like to thank Mrs Juckes, Head of Music, and Mrs Frost, Head of Dance, for their hard work and commitment in making these experiences possible.

Laura Heard

PR & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Email: lheard@lintonvc.org

The Meadow Primary School

As another academic year comes to a close, it's safe to say we've had a busy end to the summer term at The Meadow Primary School!

Stepping into the Spotlight

One of the highlights was undoubtedly our Year 5 and 6 production of **The Greatest Show**. The children put on an incredible

performance, showcasing not only their acting talents but also some fantastic singing. This year saw lots of solo performances, which was wonderful to see and hear, with so many children stepping confidently into the spotlight. Performing in such warm conditions made their achievement even more impressive!



Across the school, children have been busy completing their final topics and celebrating all they've learned throughout the year. Classrooms have been full of exciting DT projects, creative end-of-unit activities and all the special traditions that make the final weeks of term so memorable.

A Day at the Seaside



One of our absolute favourites has to be our **Whole School Beach Trip**. Thanks to the incredible support of our PTA and the fantastic fundraising efforts from our **Summer Fête**, we

were able to take every child in the school to Hunstanton Beach. Although the weather was certainly on the windy side, it didn't dampen anyone's spirits! The children loved building sandcastles, paddling in the sea and enjoying time with their friends. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils even had the chance to experience the fairground rides, making for an unforgettable day. It was certainly tiring, but full of smiles, laughter and lasting memories.

Thank You to Our Community

As we reflect on another successful year, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our parents, carers and the wider local community for their continued support. It has been a year of change and challenge - from frozen pipes in the winter to soaring temperatures in the summer - but, as always, we've faced everything together.

Throughout it all, our school values have remained at the heart of everything we do: **We Respect, We Care and We Learn**. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and everything they have achieved this year.

We wish everyone in our community a wonderful, restful summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for another exciting year at The Meadow Primary School.

Faye Facer

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

Harvest is Coming!



Photo: Lesley Bennett

There is to be a **Harvest Supper** again this year on **Friday 2nd October** at **7pm** in the **Church Institute**. A traditional cold ploughman's supper will be served with lots of delicious desserts to follow. Soft drinks will be available but you are more than welcome to bring along your own favourite tippie and of course glasses will be provided. There will be the popular table quiz and a raffle. We are raising funds to

support the fabric of our beautiful Parish Church.

Tickets available from **1st September** at **Balsham Post Office £17.50 (under 12's £8)** we will try to accommodate any food allergies if given sufficient notice.

Questions? Contact **Pam Down**
pam.a.down@gmail.com

Pam Down



Photo: Lesley Bennett



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Ladies Day Charity Afternoon Tea



An **Ascot Style Ladies Day Charity Afternoon Tea** was held in the **Black Bull** on **Thursday 18th June**. I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big *Thank You* to all the ladies who came and wearing some amazing hats. From the comments I have received all who attended had a most enjoyable afternoon. I would also like to extend a very

big thank you to everyone who donated a raffle prize, to Alex and staff at the Black Bull who provided a scrumptious afternoon tea, and all who helped on the day.

In all we raised **£1,000** for **Breast Cancer Awareness**.

Glynis Hanlon



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Notices

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning

and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

Balsham Pavilion
25th September
10.30am

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



Friends of Holy Trinity Church Balsham
Raising funds for our beautiful Parish Church

HARVEST SUPPER



Friday 2nd October at 7pm

Tickets are £17.50 (under 12's £8)

Enjoy a traditional ploughman's supper followed by delicious
desserts to include hot & cold soft drinks. You are welcome to
bring your own favorite drink, we will have glasses available.

This is a ticket only event

Tickets on sale at Balsham Post office from September 1st

During the evening there will be a raffle and table quiz with a
prize for the winning table

For any enquiries and further information please contact Pam Down.
Please also inform us of any allergies/ dietary requirements pam.a.down@gmail.com



Photo: Lesley Bennett

Balsham: A House Through Time

Plumian Farm (Old House Farm)



Photo: circa 1890's from the Cambridgeshire Collection

Plumian Farm, situated at the end of Old House Road, is considered one of the oldest farms known in the village and can be traced back to pre-enclosure. Originally owned by London Charterhouse it was leased to members of the Purkis family between 1755 and 1912.

The Plumian Professorship

One of the major Professorships at the University of Cambridge was founded in 1704 by Thomas Plume, the purpose of which was *'to erect an observatory and maintain a studios and learned Professor of Astronomy and to buy utensils, quadrants, telescopes, etc'*. To achieve this Thomas Plume left a bequest of just under £2000 to fund the endowment of this chair.

During the Professorship of Robert Smith (1716-1760), and with no suitable site being found for the observatory in the town, they looked

further afield and purchased the Old House Farm and two enclosures of arable land. The income from the farm would not only help to fund the Chair but would give them a 'modern' observatory on a good site away from smoke and distractions of town. It may well have helped that the farm is considered to be situated at one of the highest points in East Anglia. Also it is thought to have been around this time that the name was changed to Plumian Farm.

In 1859, during William Purkis's tenure the University was asked to sanction the building of a new farmhouse to replace the original. This was approved on the condition that the cost should not exceed £830. However, Mr Purkis, the tenant, was not satisfied as he considered *'the house built at the proposed cost would not be proportionate to the extent and demands of the Farm'* It was agreed to extend the size of the house with Mr Purkis paying the excess £230 for the additional build, including carting materials, fixtures and decorations. Therefore, a similar, slightly wider house was built at the front, joining the two exterior walls and extending the overall size. You can still see the join where two doors once stood side by side. One led to the kitchens

and servant's quarters the other to the spacious family living quarters. Mr Purkis also agreed to an increase in a fixed rent, replacing the former arrangement of a variable payment in money and corn.

In September 1868, a fire broke out (a common theme with so many thatched buildings). It was thought to have been started by embers from a steam engine used earlier that day, which destroyed the farmyard buildings with horses, pigs, poultry and one labourer falling victim to the flames. The cost of new buildings was met partly by insurance and partly by the University's building syndicate. The remaining acres of copyhold land was enfranchised in 1872 to Cambridge University as freehold.

The 1881 census shows Thomas Purkis, head of house, single aged 26, living with two Aunts and a servant. Occupation: Farmer with 252 acres of land employing 16 men and 5 boys

After 157 years and several generations of farmers the Purkis family gave up the tenancy in 1912. They were followed by Thomas Mann who continued as tenant until 1922 after which the University of Cambridge put the farm up for sale through Messrs Bidwell and Sons. It was bought by Mr Percy Harvey and is still in the possession of the Harvey family today.

Memories

William, grandson of Percy and third generation farmer remembers. *'My grandfather bought Plumian Farm and for a while he ran a steam contracting business before concentrating on just the actual farming. My father, George, was born September 1923 and could remember his young years working with horses and harvesting before the advent of combines. He also remembered the men hedging and ditching manually, a skilled job and usually done in the winter. Farming today at Plumian has changed considerably. It is far quieter and no longer the coming and going of a daily work force can be heard. Due to economics there are now no livestock to take care of. Just now and again a flurry of machine activity can be heard'.*

Today

Looking at Plumian Farm now you might just think you had stepped back in time and that's just the way the family likes it. In fact, the old Victorian working kitchen, with its beer brewer, underfired laundry copper and bread oven have been painstakingly restored using as much of the original materials as possible. It's a real tribute to all those hardworking families who lived and worked there over the years.

Jan Ellam

Bellringing

On Sunday afternoon, **12th July** at **Holy Trinity Church**, bellringers rang a joyous quarter peal, a rather special piece of planned continuous ringing for 45 minutes. This was the annual ringing that has taken place since 1993 organised by the Johnson family and rung in celebration of the lives of Balsham children who have died, including **Tristan Johnson** who would have been 46 on 4th July. The ringers were **Rhyan, Oliver** and **Katherine Probert** ringing bells 1, 2 and 3, **Tomas Arana Tagle** on the fourth bell, **Tom Ridgman** who conducted from the fifth and **Richard Pargeter** ringing the tenor bell, in fact the same band who rang in July 2024. **Hannah Probert** joined in general ringing afterwards.

Information for bellringers:

1260 changes of 5 mixed doubles methods were rung, 2 extents each of St Osmund, Eynesbury, St Martin's, St Simon's and 300 Plain Bob.

My family hopes that villagers enjoyed the ringing whilst remembering so many of our children. Thank you to our bellringer friends.

Margaret Johnson

Balsham's church bellringers, for whom Richard is tower captain, welcome anyone from around the age of 10, who would like to see if they may like to learn to ring our beautiful bells, at a **Tuesday practice night** between **7 and 9pm**.

For further information contact:
pargeter2@googlemail.com

Buttercups Pre-school

Thank you from Buttercups Community Pre-school!

The children, staff, parent committee and families of Buttercups would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone in our village and neighbouring villages who have supported us over the past year.

Whether attending our events, volunteering your time, donating resources, or simply offering words of encouragement, your kindness and generosity make a real difference. Your support helps us provide a

happy, nurturing and enriching environment where our children can learn, play and grow.

We are especially grateful to the local businesses, organisations, and residents who continue to champion our pre-school and help us remain an important part of the village community.

We have a few spaces still available for September please contact us at: **buttercupadmissions@yahoo.com** for more information.

Have a lovely summer!

A Message From NHS

Please ask your GP surgery for your **FREE NHS RSV (*respiratory syncytial virus*) vaccination**. The vaccine is now recommended for everyone aged 75 and over. Think you may have had the RSV vaccine? You can get more information in your NHS App, where you can see your RSV vaccination details.

Why the NHS is offering you the RSV vaccine: RSV is a virus that affects the airways and lungs. It can cause shortness of breath and lead to pneumonia and other life-threatening conditions. Every year, thousands of older adults need hospital care

for RSV, and some of them die. Infections occur all year round. The risk of severe symptoms increases as you get older. The RSV vaccine reduces this risk. Just 1 dose gives most people good protection for a few years.

More information

Read more in your NHS App or at **www.nhs.uk/rsv-vaccine**.

For a guide to the RSV vaccine for older adults, go to **www.gov.uk/rsv-vaccine**.

NHS England Vaccination Team

Linton Library News

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

For the 2026 **Summer Reading Challenge**, ***'Read to the Beat'***, is here!

To complete the Challenge, children simply need to read six library books over the summer holidays and collect a sticker for each one. Families can sign up in the Library for **FREE**.

Drop In Summer Craft Club:

Saturday the 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd.

With the holiday season upon us, make sure you stock up on some reading matter to take with you. Travel guides, sci-fi, romance, audio books or large print – we have something for everyone (*and if we don't, we can reserve an item for you for only 50p*).

Blood Pressure Monitors:

Cambridgeshire Libraries are offering blood pressure monitors to borrow from all our libraries and mobile libraries. Any library member aged 18 or over can borrow a monitor for 3 weeks and for **FREE**. Ask at the library for information.

Daylight Readers: Our Book Groups

meet meet once a month on a **Friday**, one at **10.30am** and the other at **2.30pm**

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.

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

Vicky Anandraj & Ann King

COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

Arthur Rank Hospice

Summer Super Draw for Hospice Care

Make this summer even brighter by taking part in the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's **Summer Super Draw**. With fantastic cash prizes up for grabs, it's a fun and easy way to support the compassionate care they provide every day at the Charity. Each ticket costs just £2 and every one you buy helps them support patients and their families with comfort, dignity and specialist care when it matters most. Join in (*before Friday 28 August*). You can play online by visiting arhc.org.uk/raffle or call **01223 675888** for paper tickets.

Charity Walk around Cambridge colleges

Join Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and Romsey Mill on **Sunday 13 September** for the '**Bridge the Gap**' Walk around Cambridge colleges. With a brand new route for 2026, starting from Parkers Piece in Cambridge you can visit colleges -

Jesus, St Johns, Trinity, Gonville and Caius, Queens and Downing.

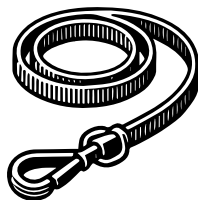
The Society of Cambridge Tourist Guides will also be on route ready to answer your questions and entertain you with fascinating facts and stories along the way. Book now at arhc.org.uk/btg or telephone **01223 676888**. Up to three under 16's are free with every paying adult.

Lead On with your pet in September!

See how far you and your pet can walk from **1 - 30**

September to

support patients with Arthur Rank Hospice Charity. They suggest 3k a day but it is whatever distance your pet can manage. Registration is free and if you raise over £30 your pet will receive an Arthur Rank Hospice Charity bandana! Register at arhc.org.uk/leadon or telephone **01223 675888**.



Balsham Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting took place on 13th July, 2026 at 7.30pm in Balsham Pavilion.

The next **Parish Council Meeting** will be held on **21st September, 2026 at 7.30 pm** in **Balsham Pavilion**

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

Parish Councillor Vacancies for co-option

There are two vacancies on the Parish Council and if anyone would like to apply to be co-opted please contact me for more information. (clerk@balsham.net)

Allotments

There are one full-sized plot and three half plots available. Please contact the Parish Council for further details.

The Parish Council thanked the volunteers for their work on the vacant allotments.

The additional taps at Princes Close allotments and the Community Orchard have been installed. Please use them responsibly, and please note that no hosepipes are permitted.

Planning Applications:

Site address: 19 Linton Rd, Balsham

Reference: 26/02384/S73 / 25/00785/LBC

Proposal: S73 to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 25/00784/HFUL (demolition and replacement of existing annexe) for the addition of one window.

PC Decision: No objections

Site address: Albany, Bartons Close, Balsham

Reference: 26/0675/TTPO

Proposal: Old Acer/Maple – fell

Reason: It has been heavily pollarded over the years and is showing signs of decay; felling is recommended.

PC Decision: No objections

Appeal lodged:

Site address: 100 High St, Balsham

Reference: 26/01062/FUL

Proposal: Change of use from offices (Class E) to two four-bedroom dwellinghouses (Class C3), together with the installation of two air source heat pumps, alterations to fenestration, and associated alterations.

Appellant: Mr J Pitt

Inspectorate Ref: 6011881/6011880
(listed appeal)

Pump Track Project

The Parish Council has received 155 responses to the Pump Track Survey. The results will be shared in September.

Kingsway Solar Farm

The application has been withdrawn by Kingsway. The application may be resubmitted when more surveys have been completed and corrections have been made to the application.

Pavilion

Quotes are being arranged for the

refitting of the disabled and ladies' toilets.

Save Abington Village Environment (SAVE)

A meeting is being held in July to discuss the plans for Grange Farm in Abington. Two parish councillors

are attending the meeting.

Tracy Coston

PARISH CLERK

Tel: 01223 894462 / 07929930385

Email: clerk@balsham.net

Website: www.balsham.net

District & County Councillor's

July Report

Kingsway Solar Farm

Last month we reported that the Kingsway Solar application had been submitted to the government's planning inspectorate (PINS) for assessment. PINS replied to Kingsway with a list of changes that they'd need to make before it was in an acceptable state for examination – the letter stretched to some 11 pages! As a result of this, Kingsway withdrew the application with a view to making the required improvements and then resubmitting. It looks like this hasn't gone away totally, but it does give those of us that are interested part of the 'summer off' reading and commenting on hundreds of technical documents. The positive thing from this process is that it demonstrates that the government are committed to scrutinising this proposal seriously, rather than waving it through.

Forest City

More good news (in our opinion) – you may have seen that Matthew Pennycook, the minister for Housing and Planning, recently announced in Parliament that the Forest City idea wasn't in the government's

New Towns plan, meaning it currently doesn't have any mechanism for gaining approval. Given the size of the proposal, this wouldn't be able to go via the local councils, it would have to be a government led scheme. Now they have ruled this out for the time being, I know a lot of us are breathing a sigh of relief. Although, with anything relating to planning and development, nothing is impossible, this may not be the last we've heard of it but it certainly is for the moment. The local authorities in our area had also jointly written to the government outlining why they think the plan is unsuitable and that they don't support it. This was pivotal as these are the local planning authorities in our area, so a joint letter from them all condemning the proposal was helpful. For clarity the authorities that penned the letter were – **South Cambs District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, East Cambs District Council and West Suffolk District Council.** Suffolk County Council opted **NOT** to sign, the reasons for which we are unsure.

Local Plan

The District and City council's Local Plan is moving forward. The current status is that the Council are due to start another round of consultation on the final draft of the Plan. This is very important as it's the last opportunity for us to comment on the proposals before they're submitted to a government inspector for examination. The comments made at this stage will be seen by the inspector.

The big-ticket item in our area is the **Grange Farm** new town proposal. Initially it was proposed to build a new 6000 house development to the north of Abington. There were over 1000 representations received on this proposal alone, so thank you to all those who engaged with

the process. We will wait to see what changes, if any, the Council has made based on the feedback they received, although our view is that it's unlikely that they will have removed the site from the Plan, they may have altered the layout/density etc. Whatever the final proposal is, please do use the opportunity to comment on it – positively or negatively – as it will be the largest settlement in our area, larger than Linton.

Contact Information:

Geoff Harvey

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
geoff.harvey@gmail.com

Henry Batchelor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR
henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Get Set for the Gardening Fair!

Our biggest event of the summer calendar is just a few weeks away: the Garden Club's own **Gardening Fair** on **Saturday 12th September** from **10:30am – 1pm** at **West Wickham Village Hall**.

With the 'live hive' of Malcolm Cameron's Streetly End bees being the highlight of last year's fair it's going to be a tough act to follow but we are going to give it a go! There will be plants and produce for sale, a raffle, quiz and the photography competition winners plus a few surprises.

Of course, there will be tea and homemade cakes for you to enjoy

while chatting to other visitors so it proves to be an enjoyable social occasion. Everyone is welcome so do come and join us.

And, as if that wasn't enough, we also have a talk on **Monday 21st September** by **David Hinkley** on the subject of ***Soil Science: the hidden world beneath our feet***. We'll be using the Club's new state-of-the-art projector for the first time so we hope you won't miss what we hope will be a most enjoyable evening.

Contact

Sally Collins at wwdgc@westwickham.org for further information about the club.

Janet Morris at jmmorris@

jmmorris.plus.com for information about the Club's Plant Heritage and RHS membership benefits.

Alice and Andy Mitchell at **photo@westwickham.org** for

information about our summer photo competition and to send your entries.

Sally Collins

Homeward Bound

The journey home from holiday in Devon on Sunday 5th July was tiring and required an extensive "hydration break" in the garden afterwards. Time to read the July **Balsham Review**. The subtitle on the front page I had not noticed before so I tried to translate the Latin text. CANIS seemed to be Welsh for song, it's Llangollen week this week, and OSSIS French for bird, hence "*Singing like a bird*". Margaret said it was something about dogs, silly

Billy.

It was late but I Googled for a translation, it came up with '*Like a dog with a bone*', a state of stubbornness, relentless, highly focussed".

"*SICUS CANIS CUM OSSIS*" seemed rather appropriate for the England men's football team. Mind you, there was lots of singing at full time.

Larry Davies

Grange Farm

The The Grange Farm new town proposal is a very real threat to our South Cambridgeshire landscape and way of life. All villages in the area will be affected if it goes ahead. A1307 congestion, an even bigger rat-run through Balsham, water stress, landscape visual impact and light pollution, to name a few.

The SAVE campaign group is trying to raise funds for legal costs and expert professional assessors as quickly as possible to fight the plan to build 4500 homes at Grange Farm. To help us, please consider making a donation through GoFundMe. To make a donation please go to

our website www.S-A-V-E.co.uk, or visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/SAVE-Save-Abington-Village-Environment>, or click on the **QR code** shown below. For a limited time only, an anonymous contributor has offered to **double all donations**, so for example if you were to donate £100 our campaign fund would receive £200.



Geoff King

CHAIRMAN (S.A.V.E.)

The Bell

Hi all, it's me again!

It's been a few months since I've had anything posted in here, had a lot going in the background with staff recruitment etc. so look forward to seeing a few new faces around the place.

For the time being we are still running on reduced kitchen hours, we are currently serving food **Thursday - Saturday 12pm-9pm** but we will hopefully be returning to business as usual in the coming months so watch this space!

We are continuing to serve takeaway Fish and Chips **every Friday** from **4pm-9pm** as well as offering our **over 65s discount Thursday and Friday 12pm-3pm** so swing on by and take advantage of these amazing offers.

In other news we are hosting the **Pizzeria Gusto** pizza van in our car park on the **first Monday of the month** from **5pm** until **8pm**, so a tasty street for the village and surrounding area, made in their authentic woodfired oven.

Some dates for the diary:

From **Saturday 29th August** through to **Monday 31st August** we will be holding a **Beer Festival** here at the Bell with a variety of real ales and ciders as well as live music throughout the weekend, kicking off with a **DJ set** on **Friday 28th**.

To get all the up-to-date information on times, available beers, give our Facebook page a follow. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Rich and the Team

The Black Bull

Happy August to Balsham all from The Black Bull

Thank you to those who joined us last month – whether for our annual Caribbean BBQ, a World Cup Happy Hour, our regular Friendly Friday Happy Hour (second Friday of the month), a half-price Fish & Chips Wednesday, a Thursday coffee morning or just some other random visit.

Events Ahead:

Friday 14th August:

Friendly Friday Happy Hour 6-7pm

These are set for every second Friday of the month.

Meeting up at the pub is all the more fun when there is a good gaggle from the village turning up at the same time, but when are others going to be there? Well, they will be there at least one Friday a month because it will be Friendly Friday at the Black Bull with Happy Hour **15% off** headline drinks 6-7pm.

Half Price Fish & Chips Wednesdays



Every Wednesday we are offering half price fish & chips @ **£9.50** when booked in advance. Just ring us up or book a table through the website mentioning this local offer.

Do catch us on Facebook
(*blackbullbalsham*) or Instagram
(*blackbullbalsham*)

Liz has been capturing days in the life of the Black Bull – mouth watering. You will also always be up to date with latest events and offers.

Best wishes from all of us

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

Sawston Area U3a:

Learn, Laugh, Live

Sawston Area u3a currently has around 500 members, drawn from Sawston and the surrounding villages. The only requirement for joining is that you are no longer in full-time employment, have free time on your hands and a zest for life! With over 50 groups, there are a multitude of activities to choose from, whether your interests be creative, educational, social or sport.

The annual subscription is payable from **1st August** and represents excellent value for money with most classes/activities included. Payment of a small additional fee entitles you to join the Theatre and

Outings group, often, to London theatres. Outings are also arranged throughout the year to local places of interest. Previous visits have included gardens, historic houses and a guided tour of Oxford.

Joining Sawston Area u3a is a great way to meet like-minded people, make new friends and have fun. So, if you are recently retired, have just moved into the area, or simply have time on your hands, why not give it a go?

For further information on our full range of opportunities, please visit our website at:

<https://sawston-area.u3asite.uk>

East Anglian Air Ambulance

Fundraising Update

East Anglian Air Ambulance has raised **£2.6 million** for its Cambridge Air Base Appeal thanks to the generosity of local people and businesses, who have got the campaign off to a positive start.

A former patient urged everyone across the region to continue supporting the **£8.2 million** fundraising appeal.

Will Young, 34, received lifesaving treatment from East Anglian Air Ambulance when its critical care team attended him in 2024 – after he suffered a serious cardiac emergency while rowing on the River Cam. Now, he is urging others to support the charity's biggest fundraising appeal to date and help ensure the continued future of the charity's lifesaving care across the region.

East Anglian Air Ambulance needs to urgently relocate and build a new air base in Cambridgeshire to work in parallel to its other base in Norfolk. The charity is set to lose its current home at Cambridge Airport, which is due to close in 2030. Please support the move to Balsham Road, Fulbourn.

What we do

Our specialist doctors and paramedics bring hospital-level

treatment straight to the scene. From blood transfusions and pain relief to anaesthesia and emergency surgery we give patients the best possible chance of survival and recovery. We also provide vital aftercare, train people in lifesaving skills, and carry out clinical research to keep improving care.

- 1** East Anglian Air Ambulance is more than a yellow helicopter. They take the emergency department directly to the patient 24 hours a day.
- 2** Patients can be transferred, rapidly, to the most appropriate hospital for their needs.
- 3** East Anglian Air Ambulance's operating areas cover Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk.
- 4** The charity works in partnership with the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST), Essex and Hertfordshire Air Ambulance Trust (EHAAT), Magpas Air Ambulance and Norfolk and Suffolk Accident Rescue Services (NARS/SARS), BHECCS and BEARS to provide a comprehensive critical care service across the East of England.

Balsham Weather June 2026



Strawberry Moon photo: Andrew Clarke

Temperatures (maximum & minimum) & Rainfall



MAX °C 36.7° on 26th June



MIN °C 15.5° on 11th June



MAX °C 21.6° on 26th June



MIN °C 7.3° on 9th June



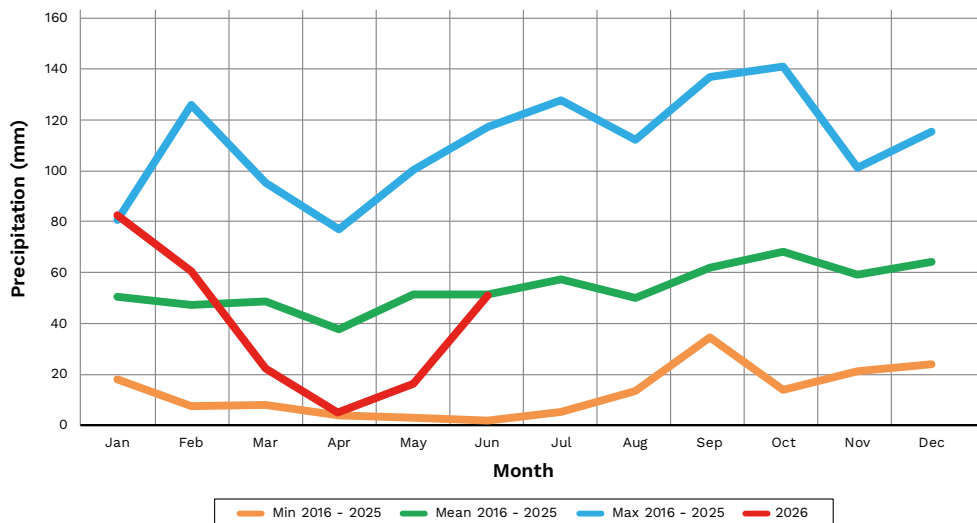
Total rainfall:
51mm (2.01")

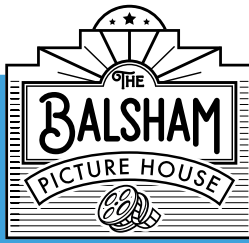


Rain fell on:
13 days



Monthly average temperature: 18.6°





Saturday August 1st

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

Shirley Valentine (15)



Nominated for 2 Oscars, **Shirley Valentine** is a romantic comedy-drama film directed by *Lewis Gilbert* starring *Pauline Collins* and a screenplay written by *Willy Russell*.

Shirley is a 42-year-old bored Liverpool housewife who takes a holiday to Greece and meets a local man who bolsters her self-confidence. She evolves and transforms to the point that her husband doesn't even recognize her.

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**

Balsham Picture House has built up a huge library of Blu-Rays which are available for any member to borrow to show again at home for a small donation. Please contact us at balshampicturehouse@gmail.com