BALSHAM Review

ISSUE No. 684 SICUT CANIS CUM OSSIS **SEPTEMBER 2026**

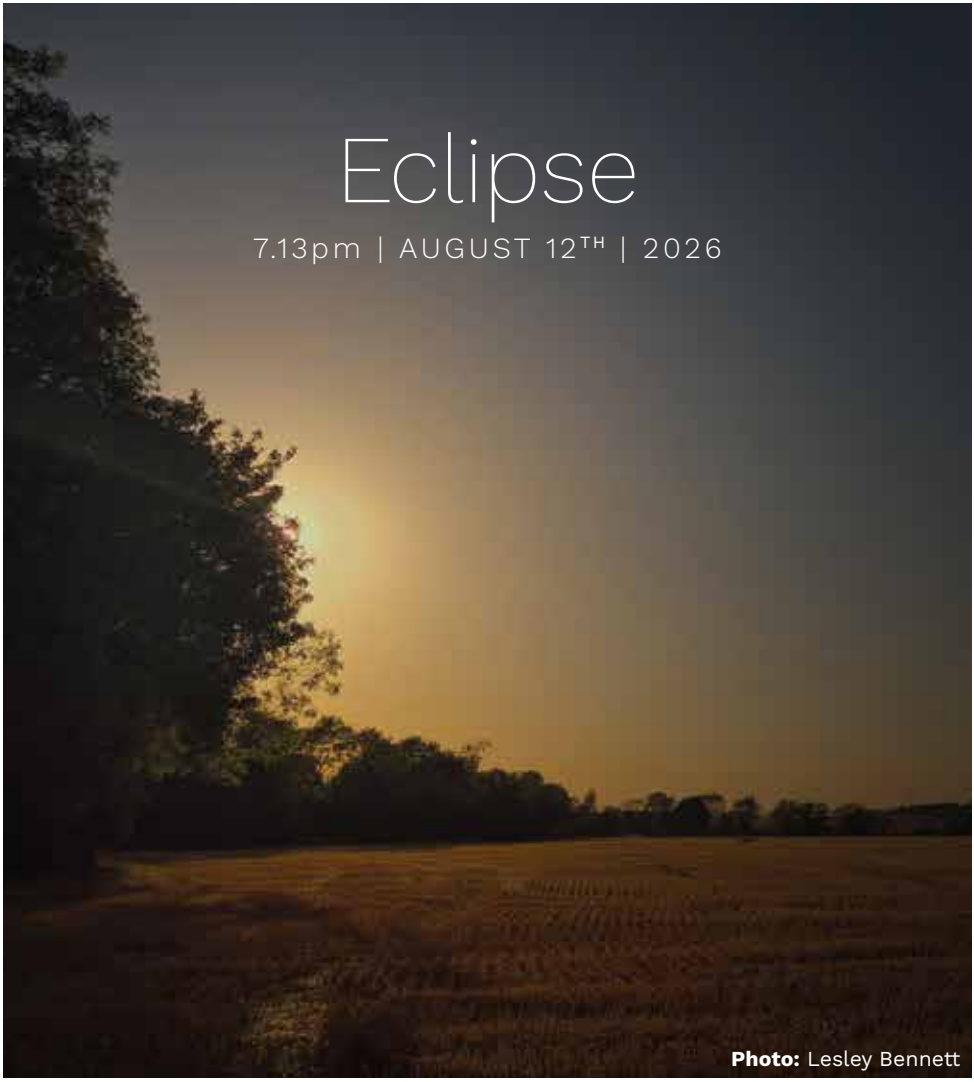


Photo: Lesley Bennett

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Humming Bird Hawk Moth



Greater Spotted Woodpecker







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KEEP UP TO DATE!

All the latest news and events at:
www.balsham.net
Send content to: **clive@ben8and.co.uk**

DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

FRIDAY SEPT 18TH

Copy should be submitted where possible to ***editor@balshamreview.com*** *or delivered to the 'Balsham Review Postbox' held in the Post Office*

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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

Where does your year begin and end? For many, perhaps most, it is when the New Year is celebrated: December 31st/January 1st. But there are so many other times that we even say 'this is the start of the year'. For school children, and their teachers, the year starts in September when children move to new classes, start new programmes of study, even change schools. For farmers it is perhaps when the harvest is in, and then sowing next year's crop starts the new year. The church's year starts at the end of November/ beginning of December with Advent, and I met someone who starts their year when they get back from holiday and begin planning where they will go the next year, usually in June, while for others their birthday starts a new year, especially if it is a 'big' one. From the Village Diary on page xx it seems many of our groups will be beginning a new year this month. After August with one line in the diary, this month there are twelve, after rests in August.

One of this month's articles has come from the Health centre in Linton to remind those eligible to have their **'flu jabs** again this year. Nothing yet about Covid, but I am sure we will hear about that soon.

There is an article on page xx about the **Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme** section that arranges transport to appointments for villagers. There is an increase in the cost of these lifts. From how I read it, the government appreciates that costs have increased over the years, but is not giving more grant towards that. However it has allowed that the charge can be raised so drivers are not out of pocket. The insurance of drivers would be nullified if they made money out of the trips.

Please can you find your Review Advertisers' Directories to make sure any entry about your club, group, hobby, etc has the correct entry, or indeed any entry at all. The last issue had some out-of-date information, and some missing too. We are not aware when committees change representatives unless this is sent in to us, and often telephone numbers change too, so please check. We used to have a list of village clubs in the monthly Review. That moved to the Directory for a while, but especially the tinies' groups changed so quickly we decided it would be out of date too often. Please let us, Gill PB or Gill Clarke, know if it would be useful to have it back, or whether there is another way to inform others that would be better.

I have had so much trouble in the garden this year, not with the lack of rain, but with everything happening so late, from delivery of plant orders to seed taking ages to come up. My courgette plants decided to 'go slow' and it was at the end of July that they began to think it worth growing for me. After that it took three weeks for one plant to produce a minute courgette the size of my thumb. I was so pleased

to think that in another couple of days I would be able to harvest it and have a celebration meal. Next day I went down the garden to admire it only to find a muntjac had leapt over the fence and eaten it. They are not my favourite creatures. As they also took many leaves, the four plants are withering with no produce at all.

Days are shortening, nights lengthening, darkness coming noticeably earlier each evening, so time to think about new ideas, new activities, after all that heat.

Gill Parry Brown

EDITOR, BALSHAM REVIEW

September Services	9:30am	11:00am	PM Services
6th		**United Service with Holy Communion** Balsham *Revd Hannah Threlfall/ Revd Iain McColl*	
13th	**Holy Communion** West Wickham *Revd Iain McColl* **Morning Worship** West Wratting *Steven Wheeler*	**Holy Communion** Balsham *Revd Jane Butler* **Morning Worship** Great Abington *Steven Wheeler* **Café Church** Hildersham *Revd Iain McColl*	**6.00pm** **Taizé service** Weston Colville *Revd Iain McColl*
20th	**Holy Communion** West Wickham *Alistair Collen* **Harvest Communion** West Wratting *Revd Iain McColl/ Alastair France*	**Holy Communion** Balsham *Revd Iain McColl/ Alastair France* **Harvest Communion** Little Abington *Revd Hannah Threlfall*	**6.00pm** **Taizé service** Hildersham *Revd Hannah Threlfall*
27th	**Harvest Communion** Hildersham *Revd Iain McColl* **Harvest Creative Church** Abington Institute *Revd Hannah Threlfall*	**Harvest Communion** Balsham *Revd Hannah Threlfall* **Harvest Morning Worship** Weston Colville *Revd Iain McColl*	**6.00pm** **Evening Prayer** Great Abington *Alistair Collen*

Regular Midweek Services

Every Tuesday at **Hildersham church** – **7.00pm** Silent Space followed by Compline
Every Thursday at **Balsham church** – **9.30am** Holy Communion (said service)
Every Friday at **Weston Colville church** – **8.45am** Morning Prayer

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

GRAHAM CLARKSON

Pauline, Charlotte and Toby would like to thank everyone for the many cards, phone calls, visits and condolences we received after the sad passing of Graham. We would also like to thank everyone who came to the funeral which we hope you all agree was a real celebration of the wonderful man he was.

Our thanks also go to Hannah for the fantastic job she did of carrying out the service and all the support she gave us. Also, a big thank you to the ladies who did the beautiful floral tributes with their connections to Graham, and Mary Taylor who catered for the wake. Last, but not least, thank you all for your very generous donations to The Arthur Rank Hospice in memory of Graham the total raised was **£1406.71** for which they were very grateful.

Pauline, Charlotte, Toby, Lucy and the boys

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

We are holding a coffee morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support

On: **25th September**
At: **The Sports Pavilion, Balsham**
Time: **10.30 to 12.30**

Everybody welcome - assistance dogs only please.

Come and enjoy a chat, a cake and a cuppa whilst raising funds in support of this vital charity

Jo Stinton

BALSHAM SINGERS

We meet every Thursday and our new season starts on **10th September** in the **Sports Pavilion, Balsham** at **7.30pm** until **9.30**.

We will be beginning rehearsals for our **Christmas Concert** which will be on **December 12th** at **4pm** in **Holy Trinity Church**, **Balsham**.

We welcome new members, we will not ask you to audition. If you want further information please contact our MD john.clenaghan@sky.com

Jo Stinton

THANK YOU

From Rotary for support for Ukraine

Saffron Walden Rotary would like to thank all those who so kindly and generously made donations at the collection for Ukraine held in late July. In addition to filling a van with tinned and dried food, toiletries, sanitary products, shoes and bedding, mobility aids, toys, and educational

items, over **£1,500** was donated for the purchase of generators and pallets of food.,

All donations go to **UK-Aid**, the local charity based at Felsted, who check each item for suitability, cleanliness, and quality before packing and weighing for the customs manifest required by authorities along the delivery route.

Tony Collett

COME AND SING

John Clenaghan and I are organising a 'come and sing' day in **Balsham Church** on November 7th. This is to raise funds for the **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** which raises money to support our Veterans and their families. The theme of the event is Remembrance, Peace and Forgiveness.

The beautiful music John has chosen reflects this. The main piece is the glorious *Faure Requiem* but we will also sing music by *Barber, Stainer, Ireland* and *Rutter*.

If you've always wanted to sing in a choir this is your chance to give it a try, you might get hooked! We hope to have around 80 singers, a good opportunity to sing out and enjoy!

If you want to join us and need further details contact:
Jo Stinton
Email: jonotnits@gmail.com or
John Clenaghan
Email: john.clenaghan@sky.com
for a booking form

Booking in advance is essential

Ticket price is £20 and includes all music.

Jo Stinton

Harvest Supper

This year's **Harvest Supper** is to be held on **Friday 2nd October** at **7.00pm** in the Church Institute.

We will be serving a traditional ploughman's supper with cold meats and cheeses etc. and lots of delicious desserts. Soft drinks will be available but you are welcome to bring along your own favourite tipple. Glasses will be provided.

There will be the usual popular table quiz *(prizes for the winning team)* plus raffle to include a hamper and other wonderful prizes.

We are raising funds to support the fabric of our beautiful church.

Tickets are now on sale at the Post Office - **£17.50** (under 12's £8)

Don't miss out on this fun evening.

Please let us know of any food allergies in advance.

We look forward to seeing you on the 2nd October.
Pam Down & the Team.

Pam Down
E: pam.a.down@gmail.com

From the Church



DON'T PANIC!

Writing this column at the beginning of August, still within a succession of quite unsettling heatwaves, and drought, I'm really hoping that by the time it's published there will have been significant rain, and the weather is back to as it should be. But I'm not holding my breath.

'*When the chips are down*', Christians put great store by the virtue of Hope: one of the three great theological virtues alongside Faith and Love. Nevertheless, in the face of undoubted climate change, I'm reminded of the words thundered by the environmental activist Greta Thunburg, *"I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic... and act as if the house is on fire. Because it is!"*

While Christians have no intention of ditching the word, 'Hope', clearly it isn't as straightforward as we might like it to be. For we often use 'hope' to want things to be as we think they should be: e.g. that the climate changes back to the way it has been all along. But Christian Hope can't be merely wishful thinking, because despite any amount of such 'hoping', change is inevitable.

Similarly, some details of Christian Faith will inevitably change too. In the past half-century the Church has been catching up fast to reinterpret Genesis Chapter 1 verses 26-30, in which God tells mankind to *"be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth and subdue it and have dominion over" - [well most everything!]* For God can't be egging us on to continue, recklessly burning fossil fuels to complete our plunder of the world's finite resources: destroying our beautiful planet, and taking us with it.

Christian Hope is more like trusting that whatever the mess we've made of our lives, and of this world, if we can but see and respond to his promptings, God has gone ahead to prepare better futures for us.

Futures which are not about rolling time back. Rather, futures that accept changed realities - however daunting or frightening they may be - and action new opportunities for more constructively loving our neighbours as ourselves.

And with all this in mind, you might be interested to explore the Churches' response to "The People's Emergency Briefing". *(So, put this into your search engine, and then decide whether or not to panic!)*

Alistair Collen LLM

Church Services



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

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

CHURCH CONTACTS

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

Harvest Festival Weekend: West Wickham

- **Saturday 26th September 2.30pm to 4.30pm**
- **Sunday 27th September 12.30pm to 2.30pm**
- **Family Service 11.00am**

For centuries harvest festivals around the world have taken place as opportunities to gather together to be thankful and to share what we have.

Come and join us and enjoy exploring what happened to bring in the harvest. There will be displays, activities and refreshments and if you would like to, please bring a donation with you.

We are collecting for two organisations providing local help. Tinned and packaged food items will be donated to REACH and they have a Harvest Shopping List on their website: **www.reachhaverhill.org.uk/harvest** Help us to build a Castle of Cans! We will also welcome fresh fruit and vegetables, to add to our decorations and to be donated to the South Cambs Mobile Food Hub which is run by Hope Against Poverty.

We would like to put together a booklet of reflections, including memories of harvesting in the past, poems and creative story telling. Can you remember talking about harvest customs or events with friends or relatives? Can you write an imaginative story or poem? Do you have an old photograph that holds a story? Could you draw a picture of a harvest mouse - a little field hero. Bring your harvest creations with you or let me know if you would like any help.

H arvest is a time when we are thankful

A chance to share the good food we have

R ed plums and green apples swing in the trees

V ulnerable people with little, perhaps even no home

E veryone can give something for those with nothing

S hare time, thoughts and actions to care for them

T ractors are back at work sowing, there will be a new harvest for us all.

Very early community celebrations included harvest breads, puddings and cakes. We will be serving drinks and cakes made with seasonal produce. There will be no charge, but we will be very grateful if you would like to try out an old harvest recipe and bring your own baking contributions.

Look out for two friendly scarecrows who will welcome you at the gate to St. Mary's. If you would like to have a go and make your own scarecrow,

bring it with you and we might be able to create a scarecrow family.

In our **Harvest Service** at **11.00am** on **Sunday, 27th September**, we will give thanks for what has been created and celebrated and for the gifts we have received and shared.

Julie Copas
ST. MARY'S PCC | WEST WICKHAM
Email: juliecopas@icloud.com

Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme

Many thanks to Balsham residents for requesting fewer trips through the BGNS over the summer. Drivers are still away on holiday and caring for younger children, so the situation will remain the same for the next few weeks. To help us further with this, we could do with more drivers. If you might be interested in joining our team, do get in touch through:

07508 430057

balshamgns@gmail.com

The UK government has recently changed the rules about how much volunteer groups can ask residents to pay for trips in volunteers' cars. Up until now, we have asked residents to pay 30p per mile, which is topped up by the local authority at 15p per mile, making a total of 45p per mile. This is meant to pay for drivers' fuel and wear and tear on the vehicle. The government has raised this to 55p per mile and we have now heard from the local authority that they are going to keep the top up at 15p per mile. This means, for instance, that a return trip to Addenbrookes, for which residents have paid £6, will in the future cost £8 for the return trip. We will start the new charging system from **1st September**.

Our next **Community Café** will be on **Tuesday September 15th** in the **Balsham Church Institute** from **10am** to **12 noon**. All are welcome.

Steve Jordan
BALSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

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 **September 29th** (it's held on the last Tuesday of the month).

All welcome!
Hope to see a few new teams!

KSCA Campaign Update

Kingsway expected to resubmit soon

We expect Kingsway Solar to resubmit its application soon. The Planning Inspectorate will first assess whether the new application meets the necessary requirements before deciding whether to accept it for examination.

If it is accepted, we will need to look carefully at what has changed. Have all the missing surveys and assessments been completed? Have the concerns raised by the Planning Inspectorate been properly addressed? And has the design and layout of the solar panels changed significantly? These will be some of the key questions.

Fire safety

Recent fires at the existing Great Wilbraham Solar Farm have highlighted the importance of fire safety. Kingsway would be on a much larger scale, so we will be looking carefully at the plans for preventing fires, dealing with any incidents and protecting neighbouring land and communities.

An Open Letter to Andy Burnham

We have written an Open Letter to **Prime Minister Andy Burnham**, copied to the new Energy Secretary. We hope they will listen to our plea that renewable energy projects should be developed with people, rather than done to them. Local communities need a meaningful say in projects that could have such a major and lasting impact on their lives and countryside.

Did you know?

As the football season gets underway again, it's a good time to put the scale of Kingsway into perspective.

The proposed Kingsway Solar Farm would cover around **1,750 football pitches** — compared with around **90** football pitches at the existing **Great Wilbraham Solar Farm**. That makes Kingsway around **20 times larger**.

It's a simple comparison, but it helps bring home just how enormous the proposed Kingsway development would be.

Stay informed

With Kingsway expected back soon, now is a good time to make sure you are receiving our campaign emails. Sign up to stay up to date with what is happening and to hear about opportunities to have your say.

Please also encourage friends and neighbours to sign up.

The more people who know what is happening, the stronger our community voice will be.

Kathy Day

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.

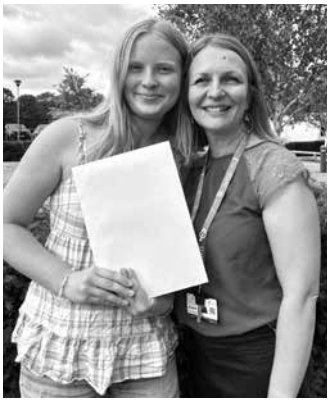
Please contact us via email **ldhscambs@gmail.com** if you are able to help. Many thanks.

Margaret & Ian Creek

A list of future meetings of **Linton & District Historical Society:**

DATE	SPEAKER	TITLE OF TALK
September 15th	**Bill Franklin**	*A brief history of the enclosure of Linton*
October 20th	**Charles Parker**	*The Origins of Mathematics*
November 17th	**Steve Ruthen**	*The Greene Family*
December 15th	**Mark Kleinman**	*Inventor of Ingenious Machines*
January 19th	**Peter Tatam**	*The Fens and the Fenmen*
February 16th	**TBC**	
March 16th	**Phil Stott**	*Le Spectre de la Rose (The History of Ballet)*
April 20th	**Anne Stott**	*Marie-Therese, the life of Marie Antoinette's daughter*
May 18th	**Margaret Woodley**	*Britain's 1st female doctors*

Linton Village College: GCSE Results



Phoebe Marsh and her mum, Mrs Marsh (Principal)



Left to right: Lucy Smith, Ruvi Razemba, Charlotte Miranda, Isabel Evans, Kayla French and Bea Anderson

GCSE results

There were smiles, celebrations and a great sense of pride at Linton Village College this morning as Year 11 students collected their GCSE results and reflected on their achievements.

Students gathered with friends, families and staff to celebrate the culmination of years of hard work and dedication, with many now looking forward to exciting next steps in education, training and employment.

This year's results day was especially meaningful for Mrs Marsh, LVC's Principal, whose daughter, Phoebe, was among the cohort receiving her GCSE results. Celebrating her own excellent academic achievements alongside her peers, she was part of a year group whose hard work, resilience and ambition have been evident throughout their time at Linton Village College.

"I'm incredibly proud of the many success stories from the Class of 2026. The young people have demonstrated our Linton Learner qualities and have secured impressive results across the arts, sciences, humanities & languages. I wish them all the best for the next stages of their educational journeys"

Helena Marsh

PRINCIPAL OF LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

World Challenge Expedition

This August, fifteen of this year's Year 11 leavers embarked on an unforgettable 10-day **World Challenge Expedition** in Evje, Norway, where they embraced adventure, developed new skills and created memories that will last a lifetime. Our sincere thanks go to Mrs Scally and Mr Barton for making this incredible opportunity possible and for giving up time during their summer holidays.





The expedition saw students take responsibility for every aspect of camp life, from planning meals and shopping for supplies to leadership, navigation and campsite management. Their teamwork was evident from the outset, with students rotating roles throughout the trip and successfully providing food for the entire group, even donating surplus supplies to site staff at the end of the expedition.

Activities included white-water rafting, wild camping, mountain trekking and a two-day canoe journey covering 25km. Although a nationwide fire ban meant some trekking plans had to be adapted, students still completed challenging wilderness hikes to remote lakes and mountain summits, enjoying spectacular views across the Setesdal Valley.

Navigation proved particularly demanding, with Norwegian maps offering fewer details than those students were used to in the UK. However, they rose to the challenge, demonstrating resilience and determination throughout.

By the final days, students had become highly skilled at setting up camp, working together and supporting one another. Staff praised the group for their positivity, teamwork and willingness to step outside their comfort zones and said it was a privilege to watch them embrace new experiences, support each other and return home with lasting memories they will never forget.

Laura Heard
PR & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Email: lheard@lintonvc.org

Graham Clarkson



Graham was born at Grange Farm on February 14th 1946-sadly 200 yards over the border into West Wratting. The family moved to Princes Close in 1947, and he lived there until he married Pauline in July 1986 and they settled in Trinity Close.

Graham's great loves in his life were family and fun. He delighted in letting his dad's chickens out to roam freely in the garden, and traumatised Lorna by offering her a box of matches containing a large spider followed by his trademark chuckle when she opened it.

From school Graham got a job as a carpenter (not his forte) and shortly after he moved on to become a storeman at KNS in Balsham.

At 16, Brian Brown offered him a job at the butcher's shop in Balsham, an offer which was to make a huge difference to Graham's future life. He worked there for the next 52 years, becoming a highly skilled butcher. The business thrived in no small way due to Graham's natural charm, sense of humour and his butchering skills. He never had much time for technology, and he would add up bills in his head at lightning speed, rarely making mistakes.

His skills were once on show at the Bell when someone brought a brace of pheasants for Graham to pluck. Of course, Graham turned it into a pheasant plucking race with David his colleague; Graham won, but the pub was subsequently full of feathers.



He loved sport, particularly cricket. However typically he didn't just turn up and play, he became the Cricket Club. He was captain, secretary, selector, tea organiser and gave legendary speeches at the annual cricket dinners. He was also groundsman, usually accompanied by his beloved dog Hovis and grandson Kieran, in his little red boots.



He played darts in the Queens Head and the Bell - naturally becoming captain. He was probably the best player in the village, winning numerous trophies. He was headhunted by a Haverhill darts team too.

He also played football for Balsham. A steady half back and a brave but eccentric goalkeeper - he could only dive in one direction so that when a penalty was taken, he would stand on one side so that the kicker would put the ball to his preferred side!! He played bowls in the annual Black Bull pairs with his brother-in-law John, once winning the cup.

He found time to become one of the ploughmen each Plough Monday, and although it was often a very late night he was always in work the next day. And finally he ran the quiz at the Bell on Sunday evenings, setting 80 questions each week.

Everyone has agreed, life with Graham was never dull, he made it fun, he was sometimes quite outrageous but always caring, always loyal, and generous to a fault. He was a real family man, always loving and caring.

For generations of people in Balsham, the butcher's shop wasn't simply somewhere to buy meat - it was somewhere to catch up with Graham, exchange a story, talk cricket, share a laugh and put the world to rights.

Words by Peter, Kieran & Luke



Jeanne Clements presenting a cheque for £2,035 to Arthur Rank Hospice. She raised the money with her sponsored daredevil exploits on a zip wire.

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

CORELLI AND COMPANY

Members of the Chaos String Quartet, ex-BBC New Generation Artists, with Sam Brown archlute, play music by Archangelo Corelli and other Italian composers that he influenced, including Tartini`s `The Devil`s Trill`

At Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham CB21 6BZ on Wednesday 30th September at 7.30pm







Tickets £20

Available from Eventbrite or at the door

Email: Athene Hunt - huntcam2015@gmail.com

In support of the Friends of Hildersham Church

The parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity, Hildersham, Registered Charity - 1153435

Balsham: A House Through Time

The Mill on the 'Waye'



So called because the mill and house are situated on the way to London via the old Newmarket to London Road *(now Linton Road)*. There were originally two mills, one standing in the corner of Ashley field, the other over the road some way across Cosset Dene field. John Day, miller and copyhold tenant in 1754 had been granted license by the Lords of the Manor of Balsham to take down the second mill *'which for the want of business is never used'* However, a map of 1852 showed both windmills and it's not totally clear when the unused one was removed.

William Day married Sally French at Balsham Holy Trinity in 1818. The 1841 census records them as living at the Mill House with six daughters and two sons, with William described as a farmer and John French Day, oldest son, miller. William and Sally later moved to Leyton, Essex, to live next door to their daughter Mary and son-in law Alfred. William's story ends at Camberwell workhouse, where in May 1864, he died from a softening of the brain.

In 1861 newspapers advertised for sale a *'dwelling house and bake office, next the street in Balsham with also a capital post windmill in substantial repair, driving two pairs of stones, with newly erected brick round house, flywheel, sails and apparatus complete and arable land. The Mill is in good working order, stands in one of the best positions and is in the centre of a large populous neighbourhood. With energy and perseverance, the trade attached to it may be much increased'.*

The 1861 census also shows us that Robert Jaques moved into the Mill House. It states he is 41 years old and was born in Hopton, Suffolk. Recorded as miller and farmer with 17 acres of land with 1 man and 1 boy in his employment. Married to Fanny, aged 36, from Balsham. Kellys Directory of 1895 listed *'Robert Jaques, farmer and miller (steam and wind)'* This was also the year of his death aged 77 years. It

would seem that he took the advertisement's comments to heart and with the recommended *'energy and perseverance'* probate tells us that he left the sum of £3795.3s.7d.

Around this time, Rebecca (Becky) Hall returned to Balsham after 22 years as companion/nurse to an invalid lady, Mrs Roe, who died leaving her the sum of £200 which was a good bit of money then. She got re-engaged to an old sweetheart, James Millington, and they took and furnished the Old Mill House. It was described as a very nice double fronted house with a long garden and they planned to hold the wedding breakfast there. Becky's niece, Rosa Biggs, aged 12, described the wedding as follows *'I was given leave to come home for the occasion. On February 17th 1898 it was a lovely sunny morning, a good company of us walked from the Mill House to the church, all in line. Aunt looked really very sweet and wore a dun coloured nuns veiling dress which had a cream silk front with revers and a bonnet with wide strings to match. Uncle Jim was a very handsome, tall man. Mother had stayed behind to cook a lovely spread for us'*. Rosa goes on to say she disgraced herself by standing up and singing a risqué music hall song of the time. Shortly after Mr and Mrs Millington moved to Nine Chimney Lane where they adopted two young boys from a Camberwell workhouse.

1900-1948

With the Mill up for sale again it was bought in 1900 by Henry Bragg, junior, for the sum of £350. Henry was oldest son of Henry and Alice Bragg, members of the Bragg milling dynasty. There had been several generations of the Bragg family living and working at the Black Bull Inn, behind which a wind and steam mill stood. They advertised as *'Millers, Brewers and Proprietors of the Black Bull, with good accommodation for cyclists, tourists etc, good beds and stabling'*. The Bragg family also owned Bay Tree house, attached shop and Post Office.

Henry married Armenia Roe from Norwich in 1901. They had four sons, Cyril Leslie, Arthur Aubrey, Harry Ronald and Wilfred Bernard. In October 1923 Henry died leaving probate effects of £757 to a Mrs Newington. In fact Mrs Newington was Armenia, his widow who married Frederic Newington on February 24th 1924.



An offer to buy the Mill was made in

1929, with the intention of demolition. Armenia Newington's response was *'that she would be giving up farming at Michaelmas and would sell if he had a good offer'*, however, she later refused to sell.

By 1931 the Mill could no longer be worked by wind and the sails were unable to turn, however, a grinding machine was in use to make meal for animal feed with Armenia now listed as miller and farmer. Unfortunately business petered out altogether in the late 1930's. The War Register of 1939 recorded Armenia's occupation as *'unpaid domestic work'* with Wilfred Bragg (son) and Arthur Plumb both working on the farm with *'tractor driving and heavy duties'*. Both Frederic and Armenia died within a few months of each other in 1948.

An inspection of the mill in 1959 stated *'vertical boarded smock mill, in a good position, but falling to pieces'*.

In the Balsham Land Tax register of 1910, Mrs Muriel Long was recorded as owning the mill's farmland alongside Yole Farm but the mill occupants continued to farm 11 acres of land until after WW2.

On Mrs Long's death in 1955 when the Samworth Brothers bought Yole Farm, the mill buildings and yard were acquired by Leslie Beeton and his brother which they used as a piggery until 1967 when Leslie retired. It was then bought by the Samworth Brothers and added to Yole Farm.

All Fall Down

It was during Rosa and William Basham's occupancy of the house from 1960 to1966 that the mill was demolished. Rumour has it that the Mill itself was due to be 'listed' but the night before, as though by magic, the mill fell down so when the listing party arrived there was nothing to do but go away again. I don't know how true that is but do know that one morning on my daily bus trip to Linton, the mill was there and a day or so later it wasn't . (The Mills Archive Trust lists the date of 1963 for the 'demolition').



Professor Charles Douglas, his wife Angela and four children came to live at the Mill house in 1976. A Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology he moved to Cambridge at the time of the opening of the new Clinical School setting up teaching programmes and tutorials. As an accomplished surgeon he also instigated the regional colposcopy service. It is said that he was very supportive of his trainees and took his fair share of on-call duties, even



battling his way through heavy snow on one occasion to help out with an emergency delivery. Charles and Angela were keen horseracing fans and would start the day reading the Racing Post before ringing the bookie. They were known as lavish hosts and held many popular parties and dinners. Initially they retired to Newmarket shortly followed by a move to Bathurst, New South Wales (again near a Racecourse). Two of their children followed him into medicine and also reside in Australia.

Today

Mr and Mrs Squier, the current owners state *'We have lived in the Old Mill House since 1996, when Professor and Angela Douglas moved to Australia. Over the years we have made some improvements to the property, finding old cellars and a well (said to be 300 ft deep), now thankfully made safe. It's sad that the Mill was demolished but the mound remains, so we still get to enjoy the view from it's top over to the fens to the North and Royston to the West'.*

Jan Ellam



Allotment & Community Orchard News

The annual **Allotment Holder Picnic** will take place on **Sunday 6th September** starting at **12:00**. It was hoped that the picnic area on Wally's Triangle would be ready in time but the dry weather has prevented progress. The picnic will be held on the grass area adjacent to Wally's Triangle. Bring your own lunch and chair or blanket and any surplus produce to share. There is limited parking on the Hawthorn's allotments site. If it is raining, the picnic will be held in the Pavilion.

Allotment holders are reminded that ***rents are due at the end of September***. Payment options are bank transfer (preferred), cash, or cheque.

Bank transfer to:

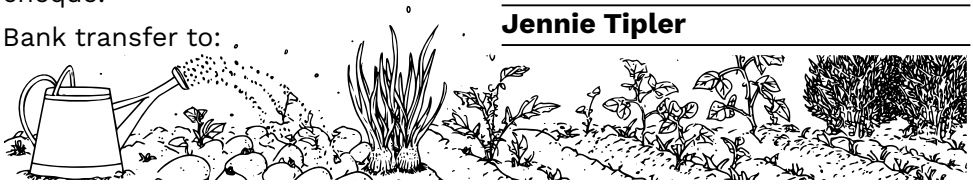
Balsham Parish Council
Sort Code: **09-01-54**
Account Number: **28404480**
Ref: **Your name & plot number**

Cash or cheque *(payable to **Balsham Parish Council**)* can be delivered to:
Jennie Tipler,
7 Linton Road, Balsham, CB21 4HA

Some of the trees in the Community Orchard have produced fruit this year. It would be a shame to let it rot. Please pick fruit with consideration for others.

We still have some vacant plots so if you are interested please email **balshamallotments@balsham.net** to arrange a viewing.

Jennie Tipler



Hildersham Music Series

Starts its third year!

Corelli and Company, with members of the **Chaos String Quartet** ***(ex BBC New Generation Artists)*** and Archlute player **Sam Brown**.

Wednesday 30th September at **7.30pm** at **Holy Trinity**, **Hildersham.**

Tickets **£20** including refreshments from Eventbrite:
http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/corelli-and-company-tickets-19975582083742

or at the door

Music by Corelli, Vivaldi, Albinoni, Scarlatti, and Tartini's *The Devils Trill*

Archangelo Corelli 1653-1713 shaped Italian baroque music, inspiring the next generation of violinists and composers whom he taught both in Italy and across Europe.

Athene Hunt
E: huntcam2015@gmail.com

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

Congratulations to all those who have completed the **Summer Reading Challenge**. Our **Presentation Ceremony** is on **Saturday 26th September** at **11am**. If you cannot attend, please call in afterwards to collect your certificate and medal.

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 on Friday 18th, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm. The morning group would love to welcome new members. Come and check it out!

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 Information Technology.

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 olds.

Vicky Anandraj & Ann King
COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

Bin Collections September/October

DATE	BLACK	BLUE	GREEN
Wednesday September 2ND			
Wednesday September 9TH			
Wednesday September 16TH			
Wednesday September 23RD			
Wednesday September 30TH			
Wednesday October 7TH			

Granta Medical Practices

2026 Flu Clinics

Our 2026 'flu clinic dates are as follows

Flu Clinic Dates		
Sat 26th September	**Sawston Medical Centre**	Under 16yrs & pregnant ladies only
Sun 27th September	**Royston Health Centre**	Under 16yrs & pregnant ladies only
Sat 3rd October	**Sawston Medical Centre** **Shelford Health Centre**	18-64yrs* Over 65yrs
Sun 4th October	**Linton Health Centre** **Royston Health Centre**	18-64yrs* Over 65yrs
Sat 10th October	**Sawston Medical Centre** **Shelford Health Centre** **Barley Surgery**	18-64yrs* Over 65yrs
Sat 17th October	**Linton Health Centre**	18-64yrs* Over 65yrs
Sun 18th October	**Royston Health Centre**	18-64yrs* Over 65yrs
Sat 24th October	**Barley Surgery** **Sawston Medical Centre**	18-64yrs* Over 65yrs
Sat 31st October	**Royston Health Centre**	18-64yrs* Over 65yrs
All flu clinics run from 08:30 to 17:00		
****18-64yrs** please note this group is for those in clinical risk groups only and you will be notified if you fit the criteria. If you believe you are eligible but do not receive an SMS message please contact us.*		

If you are a patient registered with Granta Medical Practices an SMS message with a link to book your flu appointment will be sent out shortly. If you do not receive SMS messages or are concerned that you have not received one then please contact our Reception team on **0300 234 5555**.

As a Granta patient you have the flexibility of choosing which site you would like to go for your vaccination. If you ring in to book your appointment, please state your age so that you can be booked into the appropriate clinic.

Did you know?

Having your flu jab at your doctors' surgery is the quickest and most convenient way as there are no forms to fill out – the doctors and nurses have your medical history at their finger-tips.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact one of our surgeries on **0300 234 5555**.

Grange Farm

A new town of around 4,500 homes, alongside warehousing, employment space and new infrastructure, is proposed at Four Wentways, Abington. The development would have a major impact on our countryside, villages, roads and environment, including the rare and irreplaceable chalk stream system fed by the underlying chalk aquifer.

The **final public consultation** (Regulation 19) is now open until **5pm** on **25 September 2026**. It is the final opportunity for you to formally object. Even if you commented in January, you need to comment again before it goes to government. For guidance on what to say and how to submit your response, visit **www.s-a-v-e.co.uk/updates/how-to-submit-regulation-19**

SAVE is also fundraising for the legal and expert evidence needed to challenge the proposal — please support the campaign at: **www.s-a-v-e.co.uk/donate**

Geoff King
CHAIRMAN (**S.A.V.E.**)

Balsham French Group Go Travelling



Trop de vin ?

Every Wednesday, from **10.00-11.00**, come rain or shine, there is a gathering at **Balsham Café**. We meet in the 'back room' and have lively, educating and very entertaining chats in French.

We have wide and varying levels of fluency and certainly some of us move to Franglais at times. However, the fluent ones among us act as inspiration.

All are welcome, it's great to see familiar and new faces. There are also occasional trips, and in August some of us ventured to the **White Hart** in **Great Yeldham** for a really enjoyable trip and a delicious lunch. Come and join us !

Maggie Shanks

East Anglian Air Ambulance



Cambridge Air Base

East Anglian Air Ambulance has raised **£3.8 million** towards its **£8.2 million Cambridge Air Base Appeal**, thanks to the generosity of supporters across the region – but still has a long way to go with £4.4 million left to raise to reach its fundraising target.

The charity is urgently trying to fund the relocation and build of a new air base near Fulbourn, Cambs to replace its current home at Cambridge Airport, which is due to close before the end of the decade.

The new facility is essential to ensure East Anglian Air Ambulance can continue delivering its 24/7 lifesaving critical care service across Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk for decades to come.

The charity's distinctive yellow helicopters are a familiar sight across the region. Whether responding to serious road collisions, cardiac arrests, or medical emergencies at home or in the workplace, the specialist doctors and critical care paramedics from East Anglian Air Ambulance bring hospital-level treatment directly to patients when every second matters.

Dr Nicola Ebbs, Deputy Medical Director at East Anglian Air Ambulance, said: *"We'd like to thank everyone who has donated to the Cambridge Air Base Appeal so far. Together, we've made an incredibly strong start and have been humbled by people's generosity. But this is only the beginning. There's still a significant amount of money to raise. Every donation will help ensure our crews can continue reaching critically ill and injured patients as quickly as possible, when every second counts."*

East Anglian Air Ambulance relies entirely on charitable donations to deliver its lifesaving service and aftercare support for patients and their families. To support the Cambridge Air Base Appeal, visit: **https://www.eaaa.org.uk/cambridge-air-base-appeal**

The Bell

As I'm writing this we've just had **The Guv'nors** here performing in the garden and I'd like to thank everyone that showed up to show their support to the pub and the duo. We look forward to getting them back in the near future so watch this space! If the support shown is similar, I'm sure we would have just had a very successful **Beer Festival** by the time you have read this, so I would like to thank, in advance, the people that turned up for that.

We will continue to offer our **Over 65s Discount Thursday** and **Friday** lunch times **12pm-3pm**, and **Fish Friday** every week from **4pm-9pm**.

To book a table you can give us a call on **01223 669567** or through the link on our Google page or on our website **thebellbalsham.uk**.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Rich and the Team

Music For All

If you would like to learn to play an instrument, play alongside others, or sing in a choir, you're in luck: **Duxford Saturday Workshop** is here for you!

Workshop holds group tuition sessions, where adults and children from **Year Five** onwards can learn to play an instrument.

There is also a **Junior Music Group** for children from Year 1 upwards, classes for adult beginners and groups both for improvers and for competent players.

Our members include adults who have always wanted to learn an instrument but haven't had the opportunity, alongside those – so many of us - who haven't played for donkeys' years but would like to get back to playing music again.

Workshop also has ensembles ranging from recorders, strings, jazz and wind bands, to folk fiddlers, ukulele players, guitarists, a community choir and a full orchestra - loads of opportunities for you to join in!

Workshop is all about having fun by learning and performing together in an enjoyable and supportive environment. **Registration** for the **2026-27 Workshop** year is on **Saturday, September 5th**, at **Duxford School, St. John's Street, Duxford 10.00 – 11.30am** and term begins two weeks later, on **Saturday, September 19th**. So, if you love music, do come along to see what the Workshop can offer you.

Also, if you're keen to learn but don't have an instrument of your own, we have instruments for rental on very reasonable terms so we'll help you out if we can.

For more information, please see the Workshop website at: **www.duxfordsaturdayworkshop.org.uk**

Balsham September/October Diary

DATE	EVENT & TIME	VENUE
September		
Saturday 5th	Duxford Workshop Registration 10-11.30am	Duxford School
Saturday 5th	Picture House, **Chocolat** (12), 7.30pm	Church Institute
Sunday 6th	Allotment Holders' picnic, 12pm	Wally's Triangle
Tuesday 8th	Balsham WI, 7.30pm	Pavilion
Thursday 10th	Balsham Singers' opening meeting,7.30pm	Pavilion
Saturday 12th	W Wickham Gardening Fair, 10.30-1.00pm	W Wickham V Hall
Tuesday 15th	Community Café, 10-12pm	Church Institute
Tuesday 15th	Linton & District Historical Society, 7.30pm	Linton Village Hall
Monday 21st	Parish Council, 7.30pm	Pavilion
Friday 25th	Macmillan Coffee Morning, 10.30-12.30pm	Pavilion
Saturday 26th	Weston Colville Wood, working party	W Colville wood
Sunday 27th	Harvest Festival Service, 11.00am	Church
October		
Friday 2nd	Harvest Supper, 7.00pm	Church Institute
Saturday 3rd	Balsham WI Fair, 10-2.00pm	Church Institute
Sunday 4th	Flu clinics start, 8.00-5.00pm	Linton Health Centre

Weston Colville Lower Wood

Please support our local Wildlife Trust Reserve.

The **Lower Wood** ***(Weston Colville)*** working parties begin again on **Saturday 26th September**. It's a chance to volunteer and help maintain the ancient woodland, learn about local wildlife, get some exercise and meet likeminded people. Come along on the **last Saturday of the month** at **10am** between **September** and February *(Christmas/New Year date may vary)*.

You'll find us along the main path in the middle of the wood (**what3words** location: **saved.shape.guess**). We'll be coppicing the hazel to improve biodiversity and the health of the woodland. All ages welcome, although children should be accompanied by an adult. Wear

clothing and boots appropriate for the weather and remember you'll warm up as you work. You just need to bring a pair of gardening/ DIY gloves. Tools and light refreshments are provided.

Most stay until around 1pm but you are welcome to work on after a BYO lunch. Looking forward to seeing you there!

For more information please contact: **lower.wood@wildlifebcn.org**.

Lower Wood Working Parties	
Date	**Time**
September 29th	10.00am
October 31st	10.00am
November 28th	10.00am

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Celebrating the Summer!
Our annual **Gardening Fair** on **Saturday 12th September** is open to everyone and we'd love to welcome you at **10:30–1pm** in **West Wickham Village Hall**.

If you do have any surplus plants, fruit, vegetables or preserves or, alternatively, are able to provide a homemade bake, your donations would be extremely welcome.

We will be at the Hall from 9:30am, if you have anything to drop off, or email us below for where to deliver beforehand.

We are excited to be hosting...
- A landscape & garden designer
- Malcolm Cameron's live bee hive
- A pond specialist
- Climate change gardening
- Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Plants, produce, cakes and bakes will be for sale, a raffle, quizzes and the photo competition entries on display. If you would like to renew your membership or join us for the first time, we will can tell you all about our very exciting year ahead.

Don't miss this month's fascinating talk on **Monday 21st September** at **7:30** in **West Wickham Village Hall** by **David Hinkley** ***"Soil Science: the hidden world beneath our feet"***.

Photo Competition closing date is **4th September**. Titles: ***Lovely Leaves, Sky's the Limit, Along the Path***. Please contact Alice and Andy Mitchell (below) for details.

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 the photo competition.



Balsham Weather July 2026

Photo: Lesley Bennett

Temperatures *(maximum & minimum)* & **Rainfall**

MAX °C
34.8° on 9th July

MIN °C
21.6° on 18th July

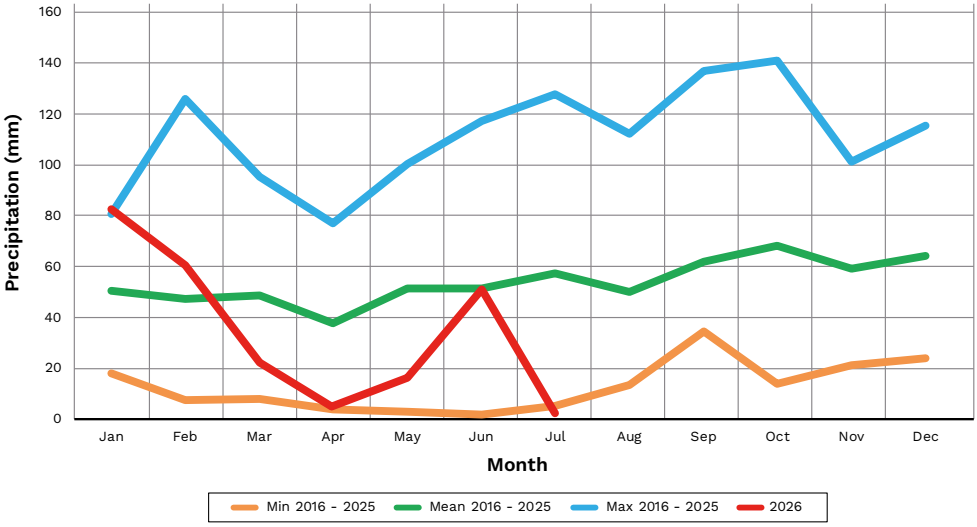
MAX °C
18.6° on 10th July

MIN °C
8.0° on 20th July

Total rainfall: 2.3mm (0.09")

Rain fell on: 2 days

Monthly average temperature: 21.1°



Saturday September 5th

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

Chocolat (12)



Our September film is **CHOCOLAT** (12) starring *Juliette Binoche* and with *Johnny Depp* and *Judy Dench* amongst the cast

Based on the Joanne Harris novel, single mother and chocolatier Vianne Rocher *(Juliette Binoche)* and young daughter arrive in a rural French town in the winter of 1959 and open an unusual chocolate shop in LENT that disrupts the moral fibre of the strictly Catholic townsfolk and the mayor Reynaud. Her chocolate confections however win over the villagers and her own life is then transformed by the arrival of handsome Roux *(Johnny Depp)*.

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**