

BALSHAM REVIEW

October 2010



BALSHAM FLOWER FESTIVAL 2010

SATURDAY 2nd OCTOBER &
SUNDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2010

OCTOBER 2010 BALSHAM REVIEW

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BALSHAM REVIEW

Closing date for the next issue is

Saturday, 16 OCTOBER, 2010

Please place material in the **Balsham Review Post box**
in the **POST OFFICE**

Articles & Letters: Email: balshamreview@hotmail.com

Advertisements: Email: jenigooch@yahoo.co.uk

2010 FLU JABS

for those over 60 or with qualifying health problems:

Saturday AM, October 2

Saturday AM, October 9

Thursday AM, November 6

Contact: 01223 892555

EDITORIAL

At last time and space are allowing some of the information we have had about the newer housing in the village to appear in the Review. It came as a shock to me to realise that some places that I had considered 'modern' were built before mains water, drainage and electricity arrived here. How lucky later generations have been!

Once again we are hearing about how caring Balsham residents are. However, I have heard recently that it is not always so. When our young people are waiting for their morning school bus, it seems they are so intent on kicking a football, chasing each other, or chatting in large groups, that other people using the pavements are forced into the road, or are even pushed there. We do not expect a neat and tidy queue! but consideration for others would help.

Blue bins will be collected for the first time on 11 October. Mine is already filling with the plastic that will be able to be recycled.

Help please! I am beginning to panic about trying to produce the Review on my own when Helen finishes at Christmas. If you have the computer skills and some time (not ever so much) free, please contact the Review.

Gill & Helen

COMINGS, GOINGS and other PARAPHERNALIA

CONGRATULATIONS to

- John and Sheelagh Savage who welcome their newest grand daughter, **Abigail Faith**, born 25th August to Malcolm and Rachel Savage. Naturally, we're tickled pink - for the fifth time!
- **Crispin Clark and Margaret (Marge) Brailsford** were married on 18th September in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Nottingham, a Roman Catholic wedding as Marge is a Roman Catholic. Crispin, needless to say, was brought up and remains Anglican (so a very ecumenical marriage). They met at the University at High Wycombe where Crispin (predictably) did Sport Psychology leading to his present job with Sport England and Marge did Criminal Psychology. They've been together ever since. The wedding was just a matter of time. Everyone said how much they'd enjoyed the service (even those who where not looking forward to being in church)
As for the day itself - Crispin's sister, Sophie sang "Ave Maria" by Gounod and the Irish Blessing while the register was being signed. No tears, except happy ones, lots of young children, good, SHORT speeches, lots of laughter and joy. And they are now on honeymoon in Barbados.
- **Sharon Clark** who will be licensed as a Lay Minister on 16 October 2010 in Ely Cathedral.

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, except August and December (see Diary for dates)

Parish Councillors

Sara Himsworth (Chairman)	01223 893975
Richard Barrett	01223 290882
Jan Cassidy	01223 893818
Jenifer Gooch	01223 290662
David Kiddy	01223 893010
James Kiddy	01223 893280
Frank Morgan	01223 894425
Kaye Morris	01223 893862
Ian Wallace	01223 894462

Parish Clerk:

Tracy Coston, 01223 894462 (e-mail Tracy@Coston.me.uk)

District Councillors

Richard Barrett, 01223 290882 and
Pauline Jarvis, 01799 584997

County Councillor: John Batchelor, 01223 892111

Member of Parliament for South East Cambridgeshire:

James Paice, 020 7219 5063, www.jimpaice.com

Member European Parliament for Eastern Area:

Vicky Ford, 01223 893025

MISSING TABLE – Still Missing!!

A few weeks ago one of the new tables went missing from the Church Institute. It is quite large - 1mtr. x 2mtr. - so it is not easy to overlook.

We would like it back. If it is skulking in a shed or a garage, or is found anywhere else, please help it return home. Alternatively, call Dick Barrett, 290882, or Jenifer Gooch, 290662, and one of us will collect it (no questions asked!).

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting took place on 20th September 2010 in the Church Institute and the following items were discussed:-

Redevelopment of Bedsits in May's Ave

The PC feels very strongly that the land at May's Ave should be developed as Affordable Housing and not sold off by SCDC for private development, with all the funds being retained by SCDC for their general housing repair budget.

The PC feels that it is very important to consult with the whole village about the redevelopment of the bedsits in May's Ave. Please read the flyer with your magazine and take a few moments to complete the tear off slip and return to the Post Office or email your response to Tracy@Coston.me.uk by 11th October please

- 1. Amenity areas in Plumian Way:** The legal department at SCDC still hasn't received a reply from Persimmon Homes. If they will not take the responsibility to maintain the land, SCDC will take instructions on whether to take court action.
- 2. Rosie Green Wood Picnic:** The PC was very pleased that the picnic was a great success and very well attended. The PC thanked Jim Potter for suggesting the idea for the picnic and organisation of the event with the help of the working party. The Rosie Green account has been closed and the remaining funds will be used to purchase a sign for Rosie Green (at the end of the lane) and one to be fixed to the gate at the wood.
- 3. Wind Farm meeting:** Members of the PC attended a meeting about the wind farm. It was agreed that the Community Fund will be managed by Cambridge Community Foundation and a working party of seven representatives from affected villages will be formed to approve grants from the Community Fund.
- 4. Village Website:** Ian Wallace is arranging a specification and quotes for a village website.
- 5. Traffic speeds in the High Street:** Following complaints about the speed of traffic in the High Street the PC will contact the local police to ask for speed checks to be made in the area.
- 6. Donation:** The PC approved a donation of £200.00 to the Cambridgeshire Police Shrievalty Trust (The Bobby Scheme) to support their work improving the security of the home of elderly and vulnerable people in the community.

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on
18th October 2010 at 7.30 p.m. at The Church Institute,
Balsham.**

**ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND,
Tracy Coston, Clerk to the Parish Council**

CHURCH NEWS

THE BALSHAM BENEFICE

Dr Julie Norris, half-time priest at the Abingtons and Hildersham, and half-time priest at the four Parishes in the Balsham Benefice.

Honorary Assistant Curate:

Keith Johnson, 17 The Rookery, Balsham ☎ **01223 890835**

HOLY TRINITY, BALSHAM

Church Wardens: Brian Down, ☎ 893088 & Dilly Threlfall, ☎ 893191

Church Secretary Bookings: Joanna Sanders ☎ 893063

Sexton: Stan Morley **Organist:** Richard Skinner, 01638 731735

8.00am	Holy Communion	1 st Sunday of the month (BCP)
10.30am	Family Service	1 st Sunday- Refreshments after service
10.30am	Parish Eucharist	2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th Sundays please see Church door for 5 th Sunday

St. Mary's, Weston Colville – Service at 9.30am

Family Service held on 2nd Sunday

St. Andrew's West Wrattling - Service at 10.30am

Family Service held on 3rd Sunday

St. Mary's, West Wickham – Service at 9.30am

Family Service held on 4th Sunday

OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Roman Catholic Masses at:

St Philip Howard Church, Cherry Hinton	OLEM and Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston
Saturday: 17.30 (Vigil Mass) Sunday: 10.00 and 12 noon	Sunday: 8.45am and 11.15am

- **Linton Free Church**, Horn Lane, Linton. Sundays: 10.30am
- **Methodist** Morning Service, Chapel Lane, Weston Colville
Sundays: 10.30am
- **Cornerstone Community Church**,
Linton Library Sundays: 10.30am

➤ **MOTHERS UNION:**

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 19 October at 2.30pm at the home of Joanna Sanders. Topic: AFIA (Away from it all Holidays)

Speaker: Mrs Suzanne Watt.

Joanna Sanders ☎ 893063

From the Vicarage

A number of people meet together for Morning Prayers in the seven Churches (9am Monday at Balsham, 9.15am Wednesday at Hildersham, 8am Thursday at Balsham and 8.30 am Friday at Little Abington). In recent weeks we have been reading episodes in the life of the early Church from the Book of Acts in the New Testament. The Christians were criticised by the political authorities for 'turning the world upside down.' This marks a noticeable contrast to the modern view that faith is a matter of private conviction.

Sometimes when people are vociferous about their personal beliefs we can feel embarrassed because we do not agree and do not want people we respect to associate us with such beliefs. Yet, if we stay with our private convictions, it is these vociferous and possibly unreasonable voices that are the only ones that are heard in the public domain and there is no balanced public discussion. There is a need to engage in open conversations where we hear views that are different from our own, and try to discern what is reasonable, good and true.

The four ministers (2 clergy and 2 lay) in the seven Churches have decided that it is worth taking a risk by engaging in some open conversations about any topic concerning the Church or faith that people want to bring to a discussion. The aim is to allow an exploration and not to convince others of a particular view. The conversations will take place at The Chestnut Pub in West Wratting on 15th, 22nd and 29th October at 8pm, and anyone can come along.

On the other hand, if you feel that your life has become too frenetic, and you do not want to talk about issues, but to have space to think and listen and time to be silent, then you might like to join a group of us for a Quiet Day at Mill Green House 10am-4pm on Saturday, 9th October. We do need to have some ideas of numbers for this, so let me know if you want to come along.

For the early Church there were some norms in public discourse. For example, the focus of proclamation was not to promote the self, or boost personal ego, not to gain popularity or attain promotion, but to focus on the love (that is prepared to face suffering) of Jesus, and on the pursuit of truth, peace and justice, which, for the early church, were values of the Kingdom of God.

On a different note, over recent weeks it has been noticeable that neither Keith Johnson nor I can get between services on a Sunday in time. Even leaving the 9.30am early service without stopping to talk to people at the end, we arrive late at the 10.30am service at the next church. The Church Wardens were asked to address the problem and have come up with the proposal that the 9.30am service begins at

CHURCH NEWS

9.15am and the 10.30am will begin at 10.45am and that this change begins from November. This brings great relief to me because it means that Keith and I have time to listen to people in each community, and we do not have to face the winter weather with anxiety about a hurried drive between churches. I speak for us both when I say how grateful we are for this.

Julie Norris

FLOWER FESTIVAL CONCERT

Saturday, 2 October at 7.30pm: Classic Buskers

Tickets cost £10 adults, £5 under 16 to include a complimentary drink and nibbles served during the interval. Tickets are available from Balsham Post Office, 4 West Wickham Road, or at the door

Dave Arnold

BALSHAM SINGERS AUTUMN TERM

It's not too late to join the Balsham Singers. Come and join us in September or phone Marion Bryant on 290420 for more information.

Marion Bryant

THE BOYAN ENSEMBLE OF KIEV FRIDAY, 19 NOVEMBER

Boyan means "Travelling Minstrel". The audience from previous concerts speak of being "extremely privileged" to see and hear them perform. There is always a beautiful rendering of sacred orthodox chants and exciting folk songs sung in traditional costumes, and the singers come from all walks of life in the Ukraine.

The singers on tours of Britain have stayed free in haunted houses, in castles and in cottages with six dogs jumping on the bed! One singer even missed the choir coach because he was so grateful to his hosts that he gave a master class over the breakfast table.

If you could offer bed and breakfast in return for a free ticket contact Marion Bryant.

Tickets are available from Marion, The Post Office, or members of the Balsham Singers and on the door. £15.

Marion Bryant 290420, 2 The Brambles

CHILDREN & TEENS

- **AUTUMN TERM 2010: Thursday, 2 September to 17 December**
Half Term: 25 -29 October

- **TUNEFUL TOTS**

Meet in the Church Institute on Thursday 1.30 -2.45pm.

The Church Institute is once again ringing with the sound of the under fives singing, playing instruments and taking part in action songs. We have purchased some new instruments and equipment, including a bubble machine. We also have some new committee members to help run the group.

On Thursday, 28 October between 2-4pm we are holding a Halloween Party. Please come in fancy dress. There will be a disco, biscuit decorating and other Halloween activities. Please bring your own pumpkin for carving. The party is mainly for the under fives but young children with older siblings are welcome. Please contact: Donna Gilmour (☎291365) or Michelle Vinicombe (☎ 0753 568 4786)

- **BUTTERCUPS COMMUNITY PRE SCHOOL**

The new term has started and we would like to welcome 12 new children to Buttercups. This half term we are concentrating on colours and looking at a different colour each week. We will be reading stories about colours, mixing colours to make different colours and singing colour-related songs and stories.

We have also started to provide afternoon sessions for children aged over 3 on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and these are going well for parents/carers and the children involved. If you would like to know more about Buttercups Preschool please contact Kirsty Taylor on ☎894608 or Kaye Morris on ☎ 893862.

- **BALSHAM BABY & TODDLER GROUP**

Meet in the Church Institute on Wednesday mornings from 10.00 – 12.00 midday.

Contact: Ellen Campbell - ☎ 890 530

Email - balshamtoddlergroup@googlemail.com

- **DAISY CHAIN'S PRESCHOOL, West Wickham**

We will be holding a Christmas Fair on 27th November 2010. Please contact Lynsey Hubbard on 01223 290172 if you are interested in reserving a stall for this event or for further details.

CHILDREN & TEENS

➤ **BALSHAM RAINBOWS, BROWNIES & GUIDES**

Contact: Rainbows – Emma Penfold, ☎ 290186
Brownies - Kelly Harries/Emma King ☎ 893080
Edith Osborn, ☎ 291375
Guides – Regan Neaves, ☎ 290956

Balsham Rainbows is currently updating their waiting list. If you feel that your daughter would enjoy the opportunities that Rainbows can offer please consider putting her name on the waiting list by contacting Emma Penfold 01223 290186. Rainbows is open to girls aged 5-7years.

Balsham Brownies: After many years of running Balsham Brownies, both Emma and Kelly have decided that due to increased work and travel commitments, they are no longer able to give the Unit the time and effort it deserves.

We are therefore looking for willing volunteers to continue the good work within Girlguiding and keep the Balsham Brownies going! If you would be willing to help then please contact Edith Osbourne on 01223 291375 for information.

Please consider helping to continue giving the opportunities to the girls that Girlguiding can offer.

➤ **BALSHAM CUBS & SCOUTS – Contacts**

CUBS: Debbie Mower (894498) or Sylvia Cassettari (892390)
SCOUTS: Paul Carter (01223 892109) or Seppe Cassettari,
email seppe@cassettari.org

➤ **BALSHAM YOUTH CLUB**

Contact: Youth Leader: Malcolm Coxall, **Mob** 077101 71409 or
Nicky Addley, ☎ 291313.

Meetings take place on Wednesday evenings, during Term Time only, in the Pavilion from 7-9pm. All welcome from Years 8 – 11.

Events in October:

- 6th British Food Fortnight – cooking demonstration by Black Bull tbc
- 13th National Poetry Day – Poem competition
- 20th World Food Day – quiz and taster
- 27th HALF TERM – no meeting

CHILDREN & TEENS

➤ **News from the Meadow School**

Another year has started, here at The Meadow School. The summer holidays passed in a flash as usual – and rainy, as usual! As of writing this, we are now 2 weeks into the term and everybody seems to have settled in well – even the little Reception children – with 284 children on roll.

Topics for this term are: Life on the Ocean Way for the younger children; Earthquakes and Volcanoes for Years 3 and 4; and Ancient Greeks for Years 6 and 6. All classes have held activity days based on their topics and the school has seen pirates, Greeks and children with sleeping bags and torches holding a 'disaster day'. These all proved good starting points for the projects and the children seemed to enjoy themselves and learn at the same time – I'm sure school is a lot more fun than it used to be in my time.

Over the summer holidays, the library area has been revamped and is now very near to completion. The library has been extended and closed in, the kitchen has been extended with new cupboards and work areas and a new art area has been included. It's looking really good and the children will benefit greatly from it.

Help required – do you have any craft or art that you could teach children? One afternoon a week, all children take part in an enrichment afternoon where they take part in activities away from the curriculum, eg dance, gardening, cooking. If you would be interested in volunteering some time, please contact the school office for more information. All volunteers will have to undergo a CRB/List 99 police check.

Linda Wain

Forthcoming events:

16th/17th October: **Craft Fair weekend**
15th/16th November: **Staff Professional Days**

HEAD LICE

The Medical Entomology Centre is researching a product for the treatment of head lice.

- If someone in your family has head lice you might be interested in this study.
- They must be 6 months or older to join and have an active case of head lice.

If you would like to know more about participating in the study please telephone the study team on 01223 813696 or 0845 4300 300

➤ **News from Linton Village College**

It's typical isn't it! It rained throughout the summer holiday and as soon as there was the prospect of a new school term beginning again the clouds parted and the sun came out. I do feel very sorry for the young people. Many returned from their vacation with tales of being stuck indoors for much of the time and then, when they did get away for a spell at the seaside, their tents practically blew away with the rain and wind. Many looked quite pleased to be back when school started again this morning.

They returned to school to be greeted with our good news: the College got the best exam results in its history with 99% of our students gaining 5 passes and 90% gaining 5 or more A* - C grades. A number of students also gained good grades in the A/S levels they had taken a year early. It is with great pleasure that I reflect back on how these results have continued to improve. At the end of my first year at the school the A*- C stood at a worthy 76% and, at the time, we considered it a steep challenge to break the 80% ceiling. Four years on and we've added a 14% improvement to those results. The improvement has not come about because the students are any brighter year on year, but I do think we now offer a really good range of courses, and our staff work exceptionally hard to make sure that individuals do achieve. This involves endless mentoring, chasing, encouraging and, actually, toughness. We just don't give up.

By the time you receive this we will just have said goodbye to some important visitors. Sarah Seroka, the Principal of our link school in Soshanguve Township, South Africa, is visiting us with her daughter Phetile and fellow educator Dorothy Mkhabele. This visit precedes a trip back to South Africa for our Year 11 students in July. This time we are taking 15 young sports leaders to the Township to coach their young South African counterparts and to introduce the sports leadership programme to their school. When I last visited our link school I was conscious of how keen the students were to learn new sporting skills and how frustrated the students were that their PE teacher had been on maternity leave for a year. No maternity leave cover had been provided for the duration, so PE teaching had disappeared from the curriculum.

If we can develop young sports leaders at Boepathutse, then the students can coach and teach each other if such a situation arises again. The Linton Village College students can't wait to take up that challenge.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

BALSHAM ALLOTMENTS

Fees for the 2009/10-year were due for payment by 29 September 2010. Please contact Andrew Clarke if you have not paid, as those people on the waiting list will be signed up for their plot in October, when existing allotments become vacant.

Please make cheques payable to **Balsham Parish Council** and deliver to Andrew Clarke, Walnut Tree House, 15 Woodhall Lane, Balsham. A receipt can be provided if requested. Please pay promptly.

Andrew Clarke

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY REPORT

We are about to start our new season for 2010/11 on Tuesday, October 5th 7.45pm at the Meadow School. We meet every first Tuesday of the month through autumn, winter and spring gathering at about 7.30 for a 7.45pm start. We always have a raffle and refreshments are served after the talk. We would welcome any new members but if you would like to try one meeting do come along.

Our Programme for the autumn is:

October 5 th	Hilary Thomas who will speak on 'Colour All Year Round'
November 2 nd	AGM followed by Sandra Barker on the "Wonder World of Willow"
December 7 th	A meeting with a Christmas flavour

Do come and join us on 5 October 2010.

Margaret Creek

30th HILDERSHAM and BALSHAM CHURCHES CROSS-COUNTRY RIDE Sunday, 12 September 2010



On the day there were around 193 riders and approximately £4100 was raised. It was a beautiful day and the ground was in perfect condition for riding. Well done to everyone who contributed and helped to make the day perfect.

The funds are to be split between the two churches of Hildersham and Balsham and the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

LETTERS

(Letters to the Editor for publication MUST be signed and include your telephone number. Names can be withheld, if requested.)

Dear Editor,

Ann McCall and I would like to thank everyone who came to our coffee morning on Sunday, 29th August and all those who gave donations. Mike McCall did a grand job gathering together, from very generous sponsors, a great selection of raffle prizes. We were supported too by friends and relatives making cakes. I'd like to thank Janet, Stan and Emma who did a wonderful job washing up at no 8!

The sum of £466 has been sent to Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, a truly marvellous result. Thank you.

Jo Stinton

As a presenter for 'Samaritans Purse' and 'Operations Christmas Child', I would welcome the opportunity to give a talk at any church, school, group or organisation about the work these charities are involved in, especially in the making up of shoe boxes filled with gifts for children in poorer countries who have never before received a gift at Christmas.

I am CRB checked and look forward to hearing from you.

**Penny Cook, ☎ 892203 or 07754 723355
kandpcook@talktalk.net**

YEN FARM: I saw in the September review that you were asking about Yen Farm. There is a Yen Hall Farm showing on the ordnance survey map about 1/2 mile south of West Wratting Park. There does seem to be evidence of a linking track (no longer existing). Is this perhaps the same place we were thinking of?

Ian

Ed. We are grateful to Ian for this information.

➤ **DISABILITY CAMBRIDGESHIRE (formerly Directions Plus)**

Will hold its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 28th October 11am- 1pm at The Meadows Community Centre, St Catharines Rd, Cambridge CB4 3XJ. The guest speaker is Steve McIntosh, Policy and Public Affairs Officer, Carers UK.

For further information please phone Disability Cambridgeshire 01480 839192 or email info@disability-cambridgeshire.org.uk

BALSHAM WEEKLY DIARY

Day	Event	Time	Venue
MON	Aerobics Mays Avenue Coffee Bowls – Club Night Bridge Parish Council Mtg. Scouts	9.15 – 10.15am 10.30 – 11.45am 7.15 – 10.15pm 7.30 -10.30pm 3 rd Mon 7.30pm 7.30 – 9.00pm	Institute Mays Avenue Bowling Green Institute Institute Scouts Hut
TUES	Indoor Carpet Bowls Mothers’ Union Keep Fit Aerobics Bell Ringers Horticultural Society Women’s Institute Linton & District Historical Society	2.00 – 4.30pm 3 rd Tues 2.30pm 7.15 – 8.15pm 8.15 – 9.15pm 7.00 – 9.00pm 1 st Tuesday 7.45 – 10.00pm 2 nd Tuesday 7.45 – 10.00pm 3 rd Tuesday 7.30 – 10.00pm	Pavilion Varies Institute Institute Church Meadow School Meadow School Linton Village Hall
WED	Balsham Baby & Toddler Group Balsham Sewing Group Cubs Youth Club	10.00 – 12.00 1 st & 3 rd Week 10.30 – 12.00 6.30 -8.00 7.00 – 9.00pm	Institute Varies Scouts Hut Term-Time only, in the Pavilion
THURS	Tuneful Tots Indoor Carpet Bowls Bowls – Matches Night Whist Drive Balsham Singers	1.30-2.45pm 2.00 – 4.30pm 6.30 – dark 7.30 – 10.00pm 7.30 – 9.30	Institute Pavilion Bowling Green Institute Meadow School
FRI	Keep Fit Balsham Walking Group	10.00 – 11.00 2.00pm	Hildersham Village Hall Meet at the Bandstand
SAT	Linton Farmers Market	8.30 -12.00 1 st Saturday of the month	Linton Village College

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS – WHAT’S ON LISTINGS

Month	Date	Event	Time	Venue
OCTOBER	2-3	Church Flower Festival	10-4pm	Church
	2	Classic Buskers	7.30pm	Church
	16-17	Craft Fair		Meadow School
NOVEMBER	6	Linton Christmas Gift Fair	10-4pm	Linton VC
	16	Guides Christmas Shopping	5.30-8pm	Meadow School
	19	Boyan Ensemble of Kiev	7.30pm	Church
	29	Christmas Market	10-4pm	Bottisham VC
DECEMBER				

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIN COLLECTIONS

Contact No. **0345 450 063** Mon-Fri 8am-8pm

Webpage: www.scamb.gov.uk

Month	BLACK Bin	GREEN bin (Garden rubbish) BLUE bin (paper, plastics, bottles, tins & glass)
October	Monday 4 & 18	Monday, 11 & 25

MOBILE LIBRARY

The service is FREE to join, use and is open to everyone. They carry stocks of books, videos, DVDs and Audio books for children & adult.

THE MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS TO BALSHAM HAVE CHANGED. Instead of alternate Wednesdays the van will now call at Balsham on the **1st and 3rd TUESDAY.**

- The next visit on **Tuesday, 5th October** is at the Bandstand only from 3.40 – 4.45pm
- The following visit on Tuesday, **19th October** will be:
 - Mays Avenue: 2.15 to 2.45pm
 - Horseshoe Close: 2.50 to 3.30pm
 - Bandstand: 3.40 – 4.45pm

BALSHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Janet Jeacock came to Balsham W.I. on Tuesday 14th September to talk about folk memories/superstitions and remedies, most of which have been passed down for generations. Most people seemed to know about not walking under ladders, keeping your fingers crossed and that we touch wood - but not the reason why. For example, crossing your fingers is supposed to keep witches away! Quite a few people confessed to being left-handed and stirring their tea anti-clockwise - but in the past you would have been condemned as a witch.

Many were the remedies which involved skinning and roasting a mouse or a hedgehog - we had cures for toothache, having your ears pierced was purported to improve your eyesight - and a palatable cure for arthritis was to soak sultanas in gin and eat them. Carrying a potato in your pocket is also said to ward off arthritis - and how do you cure baldness - or was it dandruff? Why, wash the head 5 or 6 times in beetroot juice, spread with crushed garlic and wash off with vinegar. Wine corks in your bed will cure cramp in the night, and silverweed in your shoes will stop blisters, but how about binding your legs with cobwebs to stem the flow of blood if you burst a varicose vein?

If all else failed in the Fens, the other cure for all ailments was opium which was grown in abundance and readily available in every village shop.

The next meeting will be at the Meadow Primary School Hall on Tuesday, 12 October from 7.30pm. Our speaker, Phillippa Moore, will start at 8.00pm and will be talking about Garden Birds - how to recognise them and their song, and how to attract them to your garden.

Lynne Threadgill

FRESH GRIMSBY FISH IS ON SALE IN BALSHAM

Mobile fishmonger Paul Emeny has, over the past three months, established a popular service by the Princes Memorial on Wednesdays from 8.45am - 11am.

Paul has been a fishmonger for more than 14 years and sells a large selection of top quality fresh fish direct from Grimsby. There, he uses a number of independent suppliers to ensure he sources the quality and variety of the freshest fish available.

Customers like the fact they do not have to bulk buy or buy by the box. They can choose the quantity they would like. He carries a good selection, from cod and haddock to the more exotic tuna and scallops. Paul also offers a door-to-door service - if anyone is interested in this service please contact Paul on (01472) 321326; 07956 594762 or email paul_emeny@hotmail.com

THE START OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION AND THE GROWTH OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES

For both the survivors of the Great War and the families of those who fell, the 'land fit for heroes' was a cruel illusion; instead many suffered terribly.

A number of ex-service organisations were formed in 1917/18, many with regional or political affiliations, some associated with particular regiments and all with different ideas of their responsibilities and methods of funding. It took nearly four years of negotiations and conferences inspired, surprisingly, by a private soldier and a field marshal, before the differing factions came together and the British Legion was born to lead the fight for justice and support on behalf of the ex-service community.

The British Legion took over the job of fighting for ex-servicemen and their families with its formation in 1921 with Earl Haig as its President and Mr Lister, the ex private soldier, as its Chairman. The remarkable success of the first Poppy Day in November 1921 provided the money for the relief which was so desperately needed while the symbol itself struck a chord with the public which has lasted ever since.

Since 1921 the British Legion has supported ex-servicemen, and now ex-servicewomen, and their dependants and has insisted on the preservation of the annual Act of Remembrance. Even after the Second World War, the Legion's work was far from over. The war-disabled and widows seemed to be forgotten by the new welfare state. Since 1945, innumerable conflicts such as Korea, Aden, the Falklands and the Gulf War, not to mention Iraq and Afghanistan, have resulted in fresh and continuous challenges for the Legion. The success of their response was recognised in 1971 with the grant of the Royal title.

The Royal British Legion now runs retirement and convalescent homes, helps to resettle young people leaving the services and comes to the aid of thousands of ex-service men and women and their dependants who find themselves in need of advice or financial assistance. The key to their success is the many thousands of members of branches throughout the country (and in many countries overseas) who become aware of those in need of assistance and deal with the problem at branch level, through their County organisation or nationally.

The recent and deserved success of "Help for Heroes" has once more made people aware of the needs of those who serve their country and who have been seriously injured in that cause. Their funding of services for wounded ex-servicemen and women has been regrettably necessary but very well done. There is no conflict between the Royal British Legion and H4H. Both serve the ex-service community in different ways, with the Legion taking on a much wider remit.

BALSHAM ROADS



BARTONS CLOSE

Bartons Close was named after James Howard Barton of Hove who owned land in West Wickham in 1915. The first houses were built in 1938. As we wrote in the profile of Buster Ellam, the Ellams were the first family to move into the new houses. They previously lived in a house belonging to Arthur

Gray, the baker, on the land where Jason Mills house now is. Not an easy place to make a home in, where the thatch was so thin and patchy Buster remembers being able to see the moon and the stars through it when they went to bed. There were four pairs of houses, with three or four bedrooms. There was actually a bathroom! The bath was beside the copper where the water was heated—the family bathed one after the other and the last one out needed another bath to be really clean! And the water didn't come from an indoor tap—there was one tap outside for all eight houses and it had to be brought in for all uses. The lavatory was a wooden seat with a bucket underneath that had to be emptied in the garden regularly. There was no electricity of course. One night, just when the table was laid for supper, Buster put a rocket on a stick into the tall glass on the oil lamp. It took off, whizzing into the ceiling corner, on the way setting fire to the sofa and leaving black smuts in the milk and sugar on the table. Buster doesn't say what happened next... Eventually, when the rest of the children arrived, the family moved into one of the bigger houses in the row.

THE ROOKERY

In 1963 Elizabeth Cooke needed somewhere to live and young people were beginning to think of taking out mortgages to buy homes for themselves. Mary Neale, Peter's aunt, was a friend of Elizabeth's family, and she suggested that maybe the new houses being built by Sindalls in a village called Balsham would suit her. A visit to the site, and then to January's to see the plans convinced her that this was for her. There was one plot just below the trees where the rookery was, where the back garden faced south, making a perfect home for Comfrey, the cat.

BALSHAM ROADS



Initial attempts to find a mortgage were difficult—Ladies buy hat shops that fail!—but the Cambridge Building Society was more accommodating and came up trumps. All was signed on the dotted line and nine months later, after a few alterations to the plans, the house was ready. Small things, such as not putting in the hatch to the kitchen, and choosing

where the electric plugs should go, gave Elizabeth the individual house that suited her.

Elizabeth spent almost all her time working, and any spare time was garden and cat time. She had little time for getting to know neighbours, but over the past year, failing health has shown her that Balsham is a community of caring people who look after those in need.

SLEFORD CLOSE

Sleford Close is named after John De Sleford, who was Master of the Wardrobe to Edward III and Chaplain to Queen Phillipa. He was Rector of Balsham in 1390 and built the Chancel & Choir Stalls.

The Close was built in 1967 on three plots, one of which was the site of a Steam Mill belonging to the Black Bull. Del and Bill Kunish heard at the Rugby Club that Michael Barnes of Cottenham had just bought the land and planned to build 27 homes, a mixture of 2 and 3 bedroom houses and bungalows, some detached, others semi-detached. Newly married, they were looking for a home in which to start a family. In 1970 there were nine pregnancies! It was obviously a development on fertile soil!



TRINITY CLOSE

In 1967/8 when the project to build in Trinity Close was proposed, the problem of an entry into the High Street had to be considered first. The alternatives were to knock down either the tiny old cottage, now Christopher Cottage and quite a bit extended, or the home and premises of Bert Smith, the village saddler. The saddlery was the chosen entrance, but the development could not happen until the Smiths had a new home. They moved into the first bungalow built in the Close area, with the Arrowsmiths moving in next door.

BALSHAM ROADS



Jim and Ruth Ringer were planning to marry in October 1968, and were looking around South Cambridgeshire for their first home. They looked in Sleaford Close but felt the garden they saw was smaller than they wanted, however the Trinity Close house and garden fulfilled their ideas perfectly—even the price was right, and the house would be completed just as they came back from their honeymoon. The builder, Impey, obviously approved of the site as he moved into one of the larger houses. In 1970 the new young couples produced six new babies!

In 1968 Balsham School was still functioning at its old site, and the Meadow site was still the village cricket ground and bowling green. When the children went for games, they used the path across the top of the Close, and after the Infant section was built this path was in full time use by children, teachers and other adults.

LINTON ROAD

Linton Road is a small development of six houses which, since it has not been adopted by the council, is a private road. The houses were built by John Brown of Saffron Walden and were a bit bigger than those being built elsewhere in Balsham in the late 1960's. The site had been the yard of Rectory Farm, where the pigs and chickens were kept, the grain barns being further down Cambridge Road on the right (where the barns are now).



Frank and Annette Morgan were looking for a new house as Frank took on a new post at Homerton. They were house-hunting through the area, and this house was the right size and the right price in a good village. It was not then the commuter village that it later became for some people.

When they moved in the back garden was a building site. A young man offered to landscape it for them and reckoned it would take three weeks. Three months later it was nearly finished! A large heap of manure was delivered which Annette barrowed to the back of the house. The drinkers in the Queen's Head were unaware that Frank was in the back spreading and digging it all, and thought Frank was really making his wife do the lot! The Queen's Head was a good source of beer—Frank took a jug over when they entertained so they could drink at home.

STOP PRESS: BALSAM FLOWER FESTIVAL is here:

come along and enjoy floral interpretations of

“Harvests around the world”

In the Church on:

Saturday, 2nd October 10am-5pm; and

Sunday 3rd October noon-5pm

Classic Buskers evening entertainment

At 7.30pm on Saturday, 2nd October in the church.

Tickets at the post office or on the door

➤ **Can we tempt you to “A STROLL IN THE PARK”
on Sunday, 10 October**

The Cambridge Branch of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People is organising a sponsored stroll in Milton Country Park on Sunday, 10 October from 10.00 am until approximately 3.00 pm.

For further details, or to obtain entry and sponsorship forms please contact Jenny Parker. Email: jennifer.parker5@btopenworld.com or 01223 833562 (telephone evenings only please).

➤ **CHARITY EVENT – 23 October 2010**

In July 2011 we: Martin Millard, Tom Licence, Louise Young and Megan Addley are climbing Kilimanjaro to raise money for the **NSPCC and The Addenbrooke’s Charitable Trust.**

So on the 23rd October we are holding a **Charity Auction** at The Black Bull in Balsam from 7pm onwards. Tickets cost £10 and include music from Vic & The Vagues and Emma Rice, drinks on arrival, canapés and the charity auction.

For tickets please call **Martin on 07812171191** or The Black Bull **01223 893844**. Hope to see lots of you there enjoying yourselves for a worthy cause.

Megan Addley

MEADOW SCHOOL PTA CRAFT FAIR

On Saturday, 16 and Sunday, 17 October

From 10.30 – 4.00pm

Why not spend a relaxing visit to the Craft Fair browsing around the variety of stalls and solve some of your gift problems.

➤ **MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING on Friday, 22 October 2010 from 10.00 to 12 midday.**

Mays Avenue Sheltered Housing are organising a special coffee morning in aid of **Macmillan Nurses**. It will be held in the Community Centre, Mays Avenue. There will be a raffle, tombola. Do come along to support this worthy cause. Although we are later than the biggest coffee morning, Macmillan Nurses have said they will be grateful for any money we can raise.

Wendy Head, 894394

➤ **FREE EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS – 23 October 2010**

Saturday, 23 October 2010 at the Church Institute, **BALSHAM** from 2-6pm. Paintings and prints will be on sale. Flower paintings and other subjects, in watercolours and oil. Prices from £3. upwards.

Rowena Altham lives in Balsham and paints under the name Selby-Altham. She has held solo exhibitions as well as 'Open Studios' in Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Somerset.

BALSHAM CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING

(Raising funds for 1st Balsham Guides)

The 1st Balsham Guides are arranging a shopping evening at the **MEADOW SCHOOL**, on **Tuesday, 16 November 2010** from 5.30 – 8pm. If you would like to book a stall please contact Regan 01223 290956.

EVENTS AROUND AND ABOUT

➤ **THE LINTON CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR** on Saturday, 6th November

The special event at Linton Village College is going to be The Linton Christmas Gift Fair. With a lot of searching I have put together over 30 stalls. No duplication of jewellery or anything else so it will be a totally refreshing and unique fair for everyone.

The Friends at the college are joining in with a Father Christmas Grotto and Cakes and Refreshments. The event starts at 10am and finishes at 4pm.
Contact: Jan Lupton, 0778 645 6348

➤ **CHRISTMAS MARKET - Sunday, 29 November, 2010**

Friends of Bottisham Village College are holding a Christmas Market from, 10-4pm. There will be over 60 stalls attending where you can buy the Ultimate Plum Pudding (454g) for £5.50 and much more to get your mouths watering in the run up to Christmas.

WEA

LINTON WEA – Village Hall

Speaker: Mary Dicken, on the subject '**Restoration, Revolution & Resurgence**', in brief - A Merry monarch, a deposed monarchy, a joint monarchy, a fat monarch and life under them...

We start our ten-week term at Linton Village Hall on Tuesday 5th October 2010 at 10am. Each session lasts until 11.45 am, with a break for a cup of tea and a chance to catch up on the local news half way through. We are a very friendly group and you will be more than welcome to come and join our truly happy Tuesday mornings.

Contact the Branch Secretary on **01223 290420**

GREAT BRADLEY WEA – Village Hall

It is not too late to join the Great Bradley group on the topic of "**WORKSHOP OF THE WORLD**", a social history of England 1815 to 1914 with our speaker, Simon Doney.

The cost of the course remains at £45, WITH THE FIRST WEEK FREE AS A TASTER. Please come along: we will be pleased to see you.

Contact: **Peter Smith 01440 783278**

PLUMIAN OR OLD HOUSE FARM, BALSHAM

My Dad, Percy George Harvey is now 87 and probably the oldest born and bred resident in Balsham. His father, Percy Harvey, came to Balsham as Plumian or Old House farm had come up for sale by direction of the Cambridge Colleges in 1922.

When Grandad came to view the farm he asked people where Plumian Farm was and no one knew, when he mentioned Old House farm they knew straight away.

The History of the farm

It seems Thomas Plume 1630-1704 was the Archdeacon of Rochester and established a Cambridge chair giving £2000 to maintain a professor and erect an astronomical observatory. The observatory was eventually housed over King's or Great gate at Trinity College together with living quarters for the Plumian professor.

The university wanted a place to view the stars and universe from and chose Plumian or Old House Farm Balsham as a good site because at this point of time it had the highest point in Cambridgeshire in one of the fields and was a short ride by horse from Cambridge. It was easier to see the sky in Balsham as there were few lights to disrupt the viewings. (We have been advised that if a plane took off from this field and maintained the same height it would get to the Ural Mountains before it hit anything.)

Soon after Thomas Plume's death the money was used to buy Plumian or Old House Farm, 235 acres in Balsham, partly copyhold but mostly freehold. In 1804 34 acres were sold to meet the expenses of enclosure and in 1832 a further 141/2 acres were bought. After the deaths of the original trustees the estate known as Plumian or Old House Farm were held by successive professors of astronomy, by title of their office, until 1869 when it was conveyed to the university

Few farms in Balsham can be traced back to pre-enclosure times. Plumian or Old House Farm however was leased to members of the Purkis family from 1755 until at least 1912, the other exception was 60 acres of copyhold land known as Nine Chimneys or Thomas's farm and associated with Nine Chimneys house.

Roger Coates 1682-1716 was the first Professor Plumian of Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy at the tender age of 23. He was a rector's son who had shown brilliance at Mathematics, eventually going to Trinity College. One of the people to nominate him for the job was Sir Isaac Newton 1643-1727. Other holders were George Darwin, the 2nd son of Charles Darwin 1883-1912, and Arthur Eddington who held the post from 1913 until 1944. During this time he was caught up in great controversy as he was a pacifist and refused to join up in the World War I.

PLUMIAN OR OLD HOUSE FARM BALSHAM

He was saved from jail by the Astronomer Royal and other leading figures. It was Arthur Eddington who started travelling around the world looking at, for example, the solar eclipse in 1919 in Africa and that probably brought about the end of the need of the farm

(There is still a Plumian Professor. At the moment it is Robert Kennicutt who took the post in 2005)

On May 27th 1922 at 4pm at the Lion Hotel in Cambridge Percy Harvey brought the farm. The house on the site now was built in 1850

Yen Hall is a farm on the West Wrattling to Bartlow Road and Rosie Green is nearer to Woodhall farm and no where near Plumian or Old House Farm.

I do hope that this clears up the understanding of Plumian or Old House Farm

Liz Harvey

SPORT

➤ BOWLS

The league bowling season has drawn to a close once more and boy has it been a struggle this year. We started back in late May with high hopes as we always do, but we seemed too slow, in fact very slow out of the blocks – it seemed we were going backwards or, as the salmon do, fighting the uphill tide.

The Cambs and District team were the strongest team holding up the rest on their broad shoulders all season, still finishing bottom of Div. 1.

Our Steeple Bumpstead team fared only slightly better, but alas to say they will be playing in a lower division next season, but I'm sure that it's true that some enjoyable evening bowls were had, playing and meeting some old friends.

The County team, however, did have some saving grace for the club, finishing third in their league - as there is only one league, no one can go down or up.

Our annual tour this year took us back to Eastbourne on the south coast. The departure morning dawned fine and dry as we headed south, arriving at the Albany Hotel around midday.

The first day's game was at the Seaford V.C where we were warmly welcomed, as at all games, winning overall and the top winning team was Stella and Mike Manning, Colin Norris and me. On Day two we were at Victoria Drive BC where we had another good win with Alan and Grace Cutts, Paul Lingham and me. The third day's game was against Hamden Park BC with yet another excellent win. The top team that day was Jean Clements, Tricia and Steve Newman and Colin Norris.

In President Gordon Cubitt's summing up speech of the weekend he thanked those who made it happen with special thanks to Mike Manning for his impeccable organisation.

➤ **BOWLS continued**

The visit ended with a presentation to Tricia and Steve Newman who were the overall points winners for the weekend.

The Black Bulls Pairs Competitions was held on Sunday, 19 September. The day dawned grey and damp and the games commenced with the usual Round Robins Leagues. The resulting semi-finalists were John Whittaker and Nick Clarkson versus Nick Harvey and Harry Elliott, and Paul Gedny and Steve Bottom versus Tricia and Steve Newman. The final was played out by John Whittaker and Nick Clarkson versus Paul Gedny and Steve Bottom. It was a very tight match with John and Nick winning by one shot.

President, Gordon Cubitt thanked everyone who had made the day run like clockwork.

Don't forget the Bowls AGM will take place on Monday, 25 October in the Pavilion.

John Robinson

➤ **CARPET BOWLS CLUB**

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the Pavilion from 2.00pm

Contact: Jean Clements 891933

➤ **CRICKET**

The first team played what turned out to be their final fixture at home to Kimbolton and given the soggy conditions underfoot did well to reach 170, the bulk of the scoring coming from the bats of John Barnes and Evan Gard which has been the case for most of the season. John and Jack Squire opened the bowling and by the time they'd completed 24 overs of metronomic accuracy our visitors were a sorry 44 for 6 (3 wickets each). They recovered slightly against our second string before Mark Ashworth was summoned to expunge the tail in his usual unfussy manner – leaving us victors by 71 runs.

There were still two games to play but the August rains claimed those, leaving us in fourth place as the season finished before it had barely begun – well that's what it felt like anyway.

There's a second team win to report and I didn't expect to be writing that again this season. Playing at Coton the scoreboard read a shabby 44 for 7 before Captain Matt Tozer and Hugo Ford (happily performing again after a spell in the sick bay) put together a rousing century partnership which hoisted us to an unlikely 150 and Hugo wasn't finished either as he terrorised the home batting in returning figures of 5 for 21. There were a few hairy moments late on as Coton came up on the rails, but we kept our heads, which together with a few tight overs from Ian Clarkson and Matt's expert field placings, was enough to procure victory by 10 runs.

They then concluded their campaign with away games at Fen Ditton and Fulbourn respectively. In the former we were 8 for 3 when I pitched up and, alas, this time there was to be no late order resistance. Opener Matt Fiddy just failed to carry his bat for 21, Pop Clarkson made a flowing 9, and Denver Lloyd thrashed a 6 to immediately establish himself as third top scorer, but our final total of 49 was obviously inadequate. We took 2 wickets though. Rory Jebb the first, via a fine one handed catch from Tim Florry, and Luke (son of skip) the second following an acrobatic catch in the gully by the ubiquitous Rory.

With the firsts having no match our team at Fulbourn was bolstered by the presence of Mick Housden and Jack Squire but they were unable to prevent our hosts posting a formidable 258 for 4, Matt claiming three scalps. Mick and Jack both made 20s as did Tim but the game meandered to its inevitable conclusion with us running out of overs on 130. That was it then, another sizable defeat, but they won a couple of games, as well as bringing on several promising youngsters (the two I've mentioned plus Elliot Jennings and Murray Barker), which proves Matt and his team are providing a valuable service to the club as a whole.

Unlike many teams we fulfilled all our fixtures and, although relegated, the continued presence of our second string reflects a club in good shape.

➤ **DARTS**

The new darts season will soon be upon us and as ever captain Graham Clarkson is on the look out for new members to make up the Bell PH team.

New Landlord, Hans Pinkard, (sounds like a detective agency) has signed up but new blood is always welcome. Previous experience isn't necessary as full training will be given but it would be helpful if players new to the sport could at least hit the board rather than unsuspecting customers. That's not the sort of "new blood" we're after and besides I doubt many patrons attend the pub with the intention of receiving a nasty prick in a sensitive spot. On second thoughts though...

➤ **FOOTBALL**

After a flurry of friendlies where we had 16 players on duty each time (although a couple were guests attached to other clubs) our trip to Eaton Socon for the first league match of the new football season saw us arrive with only 12 and 2 of those were lame. Even so we made it to half time with the score sheet blank before fatigue crept in during the second period, our cause not helped after the referee – a member of

SPORT

the Simpson family, Homer I think – awarded the softest of penalties which was duly converted to break the deadlock. It was one way traffic thereafter and only the agility of Matt Norman in goal kept the scoreline within sensible proportions.

The Supremo (Kevin Housden) and Director Technique (brother Mick) assure me staffing levels will have improved by the time we play again in a fortnight, after the international break, and I hope they're right because we're playing the same opponents again. Perhaps the fixture computer blew a fuse.

Result: E Socon 3 Balsham 0

Greg Hall

➤ JUNIOR FOOTBALL - BALSHAM COLTS FC – HOME Fixture List

Under 8A – Sunday am/pm	Under 9E – Saturday am only
16/10/10 Thurlow Youth U8	09/10/10 Fulbourn Institute U9
	23/10/10 Aztecs Juniors U9
Under 10B– Saturday am only	Under 11C – Saturday am only
02/10/10 Newmarket Town U10A	30/10/10 Chesterton Villa U11
09/10/10 West Wratting Youth	
23/10/10 Spartak 78 U10	
Under 15 9-a-side League	Under 16 Boys
16/10/10 Haverhill Rover	03/10/10 Priory Parkside
30/10/10 Sawtry	17/10/10 Gt Paxton

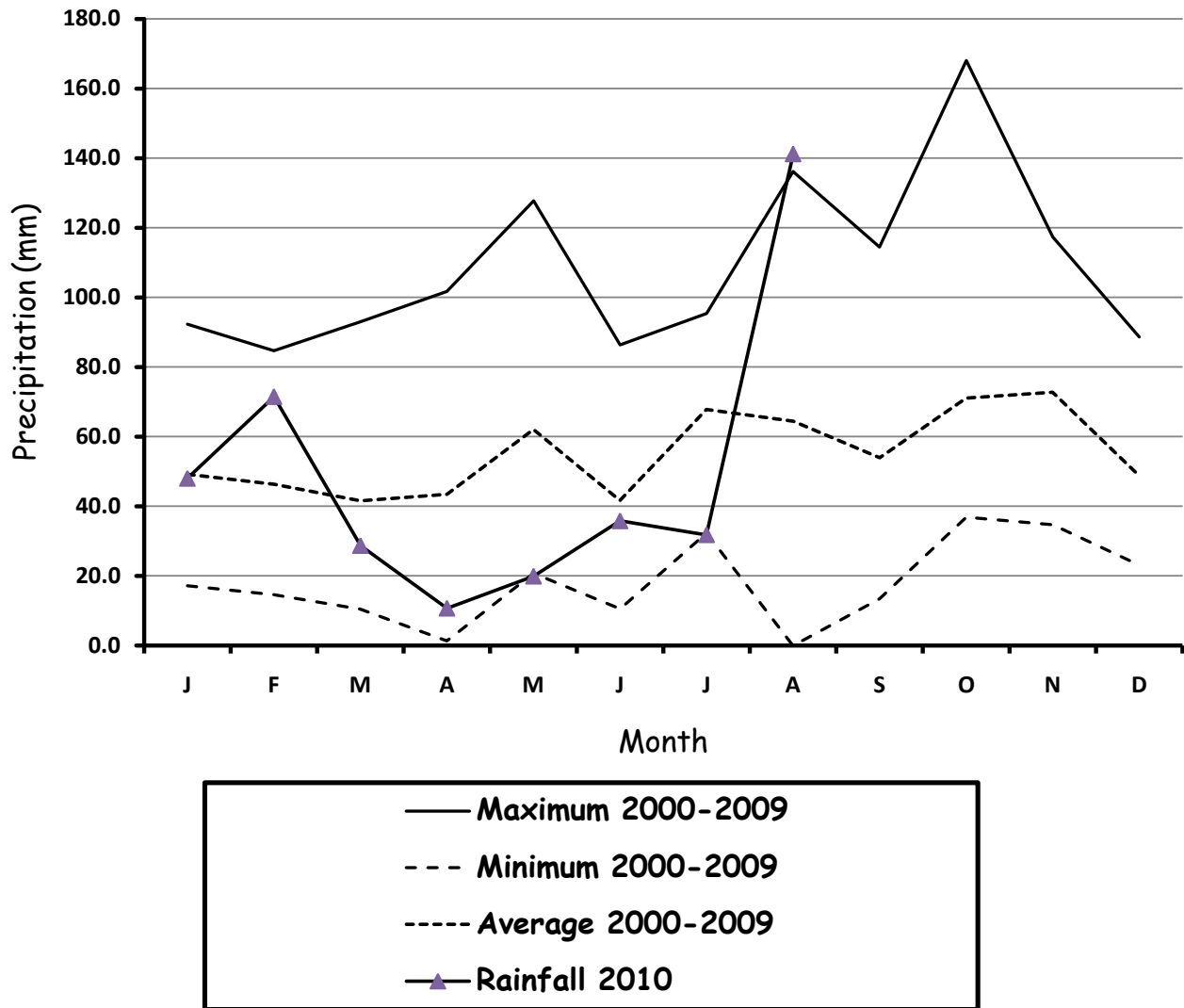
Balsham Colts FC: Rob Walker, 01223 291235

VIOLIN AND VOCAL LESSONS

I am a violin and vocal teacher and would like to offer lessons to potential students. **Please contact Charlotte Roberts: 01223 290372**

RAINFALL MEASUREMENT

Rainfall Measured at Lower Farm, Balsham



RAINFALL IN AUGUST: 141.2 mm (5.56)

It was reported that there was more rain in August than the previous five months put together - Mar 1st to July 31 there was 126.9mm (5")!! This is the highest August rainfall figure since my records began in 1984. In fact, it is the second highest figure of any month (Only June 1985 was wetter with 191.4mm!)



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