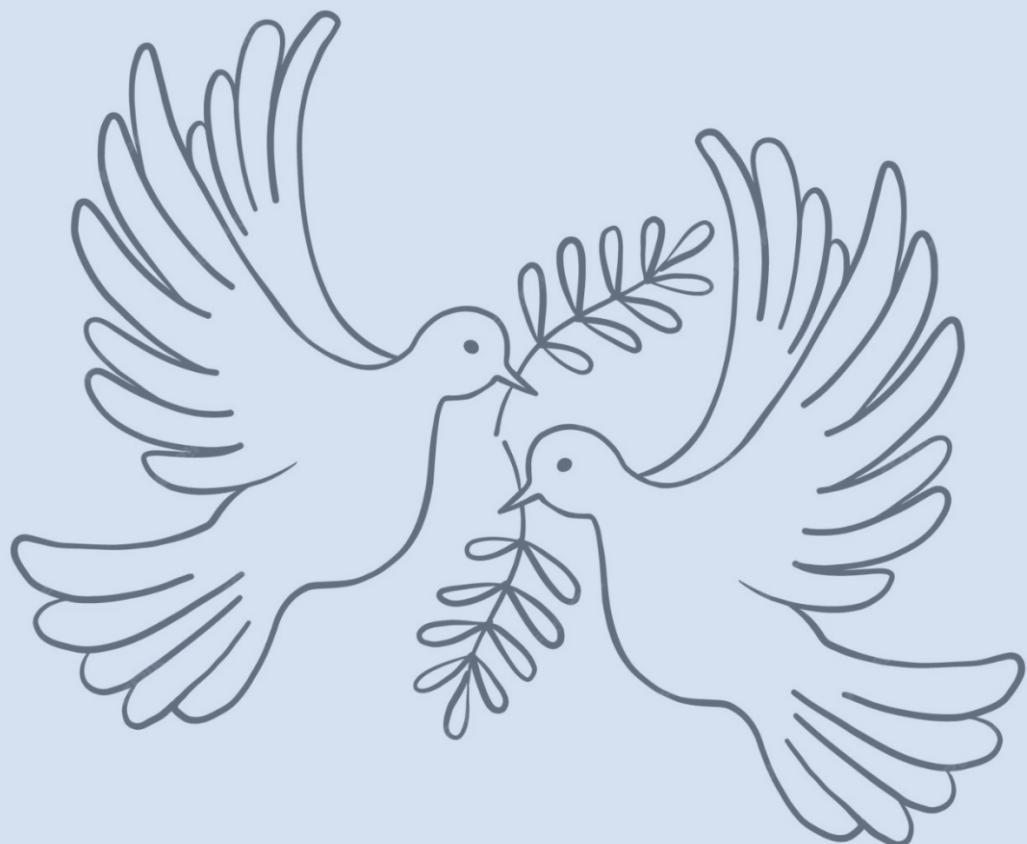


Balcombe Village Magazine



WORLD PEACE

January 2026 75p

PARISH OF BALCOMBE, WEST SUSSEX

www.stmarys-balcombe.org

(Diocese of Chichester)

ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Rector: Revd. Canon David King, The Rectory, Balcombe 01444 811249

Churchwardens: Mr Mostyn Field, Freshfield, Stockcroft Rd, RH17 6LN 01444 811498
Jacqueline Wiginton, 13 Troymede, Balcombe RH17 6LU 01444 811312
07967 984719

Deputy Churchwarden: Mrs Denise Vickerstaff, Rowhill Hse, Rowhill Lane, RH17 6JL 07500 467735

Hon. Treasurer: Vacant

Church Safe-guarding Officer: Mrs Rachel Field 07866 764975

Parochial Church Council

Hon. Secretary: Susie Hewitt, Brewers Yard, Bramble Hill, susiehewitt@mail.com
Balcombe, RH17 6HR
Mrs K Deck, Mrs R Dineen, Mrs R Field, Andrew Hewitt*,
Mr P Mitchell, Mrs R Telford, Mr J Thompson, Mrs D Vickerstaff*,
(*Deanery Synod Representatives)
(additional Deanery Synod Representative Mrs J Wilson non PCC)

Bellringers **Captain:** Mr John Moore 01444 410507
Sunday Ringing: 9.30 - 10am
Practices: Tuesdays 7.45 - 9pm

Choir Mr Ethan Merrick ethanmerrick@msn.com
Practices: Fridays 6.30pm - 8pm in Church

CATHOLIC CHURCH (Worth Abbey Parish)

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fleetwood parish@worth.org.uk 01342 710313

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If you would like to have the Village Magazine delivered to your house each month (by a volunteer) as soon as it's published please phone Anne or Linda. Also, the Magazine is available to buy in Balcombe Stores, the Balcombe Club and St Mary's Church.



ST MARY'S SERVICES ~ JANUARY 2026

For any updates or further information about St Mary's please check our website at www.stmarys-balcombe.org or by using our QR code below, or visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbalcombe>

Sunday 4th January

8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30 am	FAMILY SERVICE – Today we see the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem. Please come dressed as (or with someone dressed as) a king, queen or wise person

Sunday 11th January

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30 am	Parish Eucharist

Sunday 18th January

8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30 am	Parish Eucharist

Sunday 24th January

8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30 am	Parish Eucharist

Sunday 1st February

8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30 am	FAMILY SERVICE

St Mary's Book of Remembrance

If you would like the name of your loved one to appear in our Book of Remembrance, please contact Jane Lindsay-Stewart at balcombe.stmarys@gmail.com. (Fee: £10 per entry).

Banns of Marriage, Weddings and Baptisms

Enquiries about arrangements for Banns of Marriage, Weddings and Baptisms should be made to the Rector, Fr David King.



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Maximus Williams, Serena Carrington and Edward Sheridan
We welcome you into the Lord's family!

FUNERALS

Marlene Lewis and Bridget Gosney
May they rest in peace



Epiphany Family Service, Sunday 4th January at 9.30am

At Epiphany, we celebrate the arrival of the wise men or “Magi” who brought gifts to the baby Jesus. You are invited to come dressed as a wise man as we will be adding figures to our nativity scene during the service.



St Mary's Choir

After all their hard work in the weeks leading up to and during the Christmas season, there will be a well-earned break from choir practices on Friday evenings throughout January, although you will still see members of the choir at our regular services. If you would like to find out more about singing with the choir for regular services and/or festival services, please contact Ethan Merrick (details on page 1) or speak to any of our choir members. You would be very welcome.

Locus Group begins again on Friday 9th January with a New Year's Epiphany Party, and meets on the first Friday of every month, meeting in the Parish Rooms at 6.30pm.

All 11 to 14 year-olds welcome!

PARISH PRAYER MEETING

On the first Tuesday of every month, we hold a **Parish Prayer Meeting at 7.45pm in the Parish Rooms**. The next one will be on **Tuesday 6th January**. All welcome

VACANCY on the PCC for a new Treasurer

St Mary's PCC is still looking for someone who could fill this vital volunteer role, joining our Parochial Church Council (PCC) as Treasurer. The need to fill this role is now **VERY urgent**. A gradual and supported handover would be provided during the lead up to, and following, the formal appointment next April.

For more details, please speak to Fr. David or Rosy Telford (treasurer@stmarys-balcombe.org)



From the Rector

As the last of the Christmas lights fade and the decorations are packed away for another year, January can sometimes feel a little grey. The festivities are over, the days are still short, and many of us find ourselves longing for spring. Yet this quieter time of year has its own gifts — a chance to pause, to take stock, and to begin again.

The Christmas story, after all, doesn't really end on Christmas Day. The shepherds return to their flocks, the wise men continue their long journey, and Mary and Joseph begin the humble task of raising the child entrusted to them. Life goes on — but everything has changed. God has entered the story, and nothing will ever be the same again.

That's a message for us as we begin a new year. We may not know what the months ahead will bring — joys or challenges, surprises or sorrows — but we do know that God goes with us. The same light that shone over Bethlehem still shines in our world, and in our lives, if only we look for it. However uncertain the road ahead, we walk it in the company of Christ.

For the Church, January also brings the feast of the Epiphany, when the wise men follow a star and offer their gifts to the Christ Child. We keep this Feast on Sunday 4th January with our usual 8am Prayer Book Communion Service and then at 9.30 our Family Service where young and old are invited to dress up as Kings, as we place the Wise Men in the Manger Scene. It is a beautiful reminder that faith is a journey of seeking — of following the light wherever it leads. The gifts they bring — gold, frankincense, and myrrh — speak of worship, sacrifice, and love. Perhaps this January we might think about what gifts we offer to God in our own lives: our time, our compassion, our willingness to serve others, our desire to live with kindness and hope.

In village life, January often feels like a moment to breathe after the busyness of December. It's a time for putting the kettle on, for reconnecting with neighbours, for noticing those who might be struggling, and for simple acts of care that make community life so rich. The warmth and generosity that shine so brightly at Christmas need not fade with the tinsel — they can become the steady light that carries us through the year ahead.

Here in Balcombe, as we step into 2026 together, my prayer is that this will be a year of peace and renewal for us all — a year when we grow in faith, friendship, and hope. There will, no doubt, be challenges ahead for our world and for each of us personally. Yet as a community, we can face them with courage and compassion, knowing that the God who came among us in Christ continues to walk beside us.

So as the New Year begins, may you find strength in the small things, joy in unexpected places, and light even on the greyest days. And may the blessing of God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — be with you and those you love, now and always.

With every good wish for the New Year,

Fr David



Balcombe is in the Catholic Parish of Worth Abbey. Regular Mass times are:

- **Saturday Parish Vigil Mass: 5.00 pm / Sunday Parish Mass: 9.30 am**
- **Weekday Monastic Mass: 5.30 pm / Saturday Monastic Mass: 9.00 am**

The Abbey is also open for all the Monastic Offices. All the liturgies are live-streamed at worthabbey.net/monastic-life/spiritual-resources/liturgy-live-streaming/ Mass (followed by refreshments in the Narthex)

St Mary's Church 100 Club winners for November 2025

£100 - Mrs K Deck

£50 - Mrs J Mitchell

£25 - Mrs J Gillen

£25 - Mr A Secretan

SATURDAY MORNING 'POP-UP CAFÉ'

is coming again soon in the Parish Room

COFFEE and CAKE etc

SATURDAY 17th JANUARY

10.30 - 11.45am

Meet up with friends and neighbours and enjoy
a range of delicious hot and cold drinks and home-made cakes
(All refreshments are Free, donations optional)

Happy New Year!

2026 subscriptions are now due for the Balcombe Magazine.

There has been a small increase in price, from 60p to 75p, to cover increased costs, the first price rise since 2020. This is still amazing value, with all the up-to-date news on village events, clubs and societies, and you can continue to opt to have it delivered to you for no extra charge. Please pay the annual subscription of £9 to the person who delivers your magazine,

Working with the village website www.balcombe.community
& 'Balcombe West Sussex News & Events' on Facebook

This month's magazine was edited by *Rosemary Robertson* and typeset by *Malcolm Kenward*

BALCOMBE GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION (BGA)

Happy New Year!



As we look back at 2025, I cannot believe that throughout the summer all I was thinking about were drought resistant plants, and as I write this now, the rain has kept on coming! Lawns are waterlogged and there has been a need to move potted plants out of their saucers so they do not rot. Such are the joys of gardening, which makes our next event, our AGM on Friday 6 March, all the more welcome. We are looking forward to seeing you then, when we can all unite in swapping top tips to get on top of these problems and enjoy a moan over a glass or two of something. Details to follow.

Top garden Jobs for January:

1. Prune apple and pear trees
2. Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring
3. Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already
4. Disperse worm casts in lawns
5. Inspect stored tubers of dahlia, begonia and canna for rots or drying out
6. Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch
7. Start forcing rhubarb
8. Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season
9. Protect outdoor peaches and nectarines against peach leaf curl with polythene
10. Don't forget to keep putting out food for the birds



11. November Rainfall was 84mm

James Rothman

Advertise with us and let Balcombe know about your business!

We are renewing the advertising section of the magazine in the New Year.

Ads run for a full year from March to February. The rates are

- Full Page £140
- Half Page £85
- Quarter £55
- Eighth £35

New advertisers please contact Julie Rezac at balcombemagdesign@gmail.com

Existing advertisers will be contacted for renewal during the next few weeks,
(deadline 1 February 2026)

The income from the advertisements goes towards maintaining St. Mary's Church

BALCOMBE 1961 CLUB

Where did that year go? Our Christmas meal was held in the Haywards Heath Harvester again and was delicious. The meal was partly subsidised with the generous help of the Balcombe Fete Committee and the Gardeners' Association. We would also like to thank 'Fellows, at Balcombe, Artisan Bakery and Cakery' for donating the delicious mince pies for our meeting in December, when we were, once again, entertained by the U3A Handbell Ringers. Some of our members also joined in the ringing and they did a brilliant job. It was lovely to have Phyllis Stevens with us at the lunch and to watch the Handbell Ringers, thanks to Christine and Phil who very kindly collected her and delivered her safely home.

This month starts on Wednesday the 14th, with our usual Social and Bingo afternoon at the Parish Room at 2pm (2nd and 4th Wednesdays.) Everyone is welcome to come and join us, just come along and join in, you will be most welcome. On 28th we have arranged a Talk by our own Adele Margerison about her life in Zimbabwe.

Our subscription charge is £10, with a £1 collection at the door, to include refreshments and a ticket for the raffle. We would be grateful if you would bring a raffle prize (£1 +) for our 'everybody wins' raffle called at the end of the afternoon.

Wishing a Very Happy New Year to you ALL

Julie Budgen
01444 811641
julie.budgen55@outlook.com

BALCOMBE BABY & TODDLER GROUP

This friendly group runs every Thursday during term time between 9.30 and 11.30am in the Parish Room.

This is a wonderful opportunity for children to play with their peers in both indoor and outdoor environments. Have a drink, a well-earned biscuit and a chat, all for just £4.



BALCOMBE PARISH ROOMS

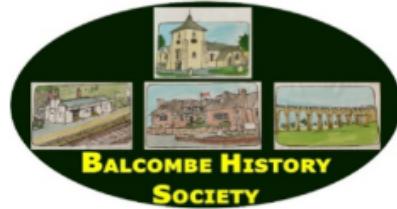
Don't forget I'm taking bookings for 2026. So, if you're thinking of hosting a children's party or meeting, or if you've not yet seen our newly decorated room and patio doors, give me a ring and I'll show you around.

Alternatively, why not come along to our **AGM on Tuesday 20th January at 7.30pm** to see the alterations we've made? All welcome.

Happy Christmas to all our hirers.

Sue Etheridge 01444 811264

BALCOMBE HISTORY SOCIETY



2026 PROGRAMME OF ILLUSTRATED TALKS

18th MARCH. - THE SWING RIOTS

Steve Duke is a gardener with a passion for local history. He tells a dramatic story of rural revolt in the face of mechanisation in the autumn of 1830.

15th APRIL. - GALE WARNING AND HOT COFFEE

Roy Clare CBE DL. is an experienced speaker and retired Rear Admiral. He will tell us of the naval adventures of Fitzroy, Darwin, and the Beagle.

13th MAY. - AN ILLUSTRATED TALK ON THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

Join us for an illustrated talk on the Women's Land Army by Dr John Godfrey, Sussex historian and academic. The talk will be held at Balcombe Place, the headquarters for this organisation during World War Two. This will be a ticket only event: £5.00 members, £10.00 non-members.

17th JUNE. - THE LIFE AND CRIMES OF JOHN GEORGE HAIGH

Dr Jonathan Oates will give us a portrait of the notorious serial killer, known as the 'Acid Bath Murderer,' Haigh had connections to Crawley, Horsham and Lewes.

23rd SEPTEMBER. - A VERY VICTORIAN SCANDAL

Local teacher Andy Revell invites us into the unlikely story of a vicar's wife, a Brighton fortune teller and a vast fortune, much of which took place in Cuckfield.

21st OCTOBER. - THE WORK OF THE WEALD AND DOWNLAND MUSEUM

Julian Bell is a curator at the museum and will focus on the rescue of the Eastwick dairy at Great Bookham, a recent project.

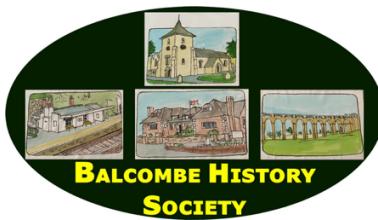
11th NOVEMBER. - THE MAGIC OF PANTOMIME

A welcome return for Ian Gledhill, who will put us in a festive mood with his inside knowledge of the art of pantomime.

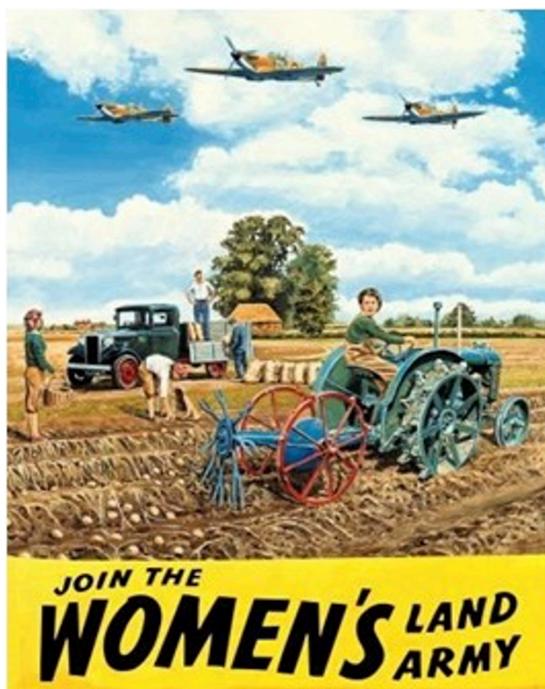
**The SIX TALKS WILL BE HELD IN THE VICTORY HALL AT 7.00pm with
COMPLEMENTARY TEA AND COFFEE**

**The TALK ON 13th MAY WILL BE HELD AT BALCOMBE PLACE AT 7.00pm,
DOORS OPEN 6.00pm. A LICENSED BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE, AND
COMPLEMENTARY TEA AND COFFEE.**

**Please visit our new website
www.balcombehistorysociety.co.uk**



Join us for an illustrated talk on
THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY
by Dr John Godfrey
Sussex historian and academic



The talk will be held at Balcombe Place,
headquarters for this organisation during World War Two.

WEDNESDAY 13th MAY 2026, 7.00pm

Doors open from 6.00pm

This will be a ticket only event

£5.00 for BHS members, £10.00 for Non-Members.

Tickets are available at the following outlets:

Roy 01444 811571 or Kate 01444 811388

Julie 07808 727860 or Julie 01444 811323

A licensed bar will be available, and complementary tea and coffee.

BALCOMBE WI

The WI Christmas Party is always good fun with members and invited guests enjoying games and quizzes, this year was no exception in spite of the rather chilly temperature in the hall - one kind guest assured me that the warmth of the reception compensated for the lack of heating.



Proof of its success can be seen in the photos on the Balcombe WI website so thank you to everyone who contributed from setting up the tables to providing the entertainment, the generous buffet, the drinks, and the lovely table decorations.

January 8th is our 'Resolutions Meeting' when we discuss a number of social issues put forward by the Federation and vote for the one we would like to be shortlisted to become a campaign in 2026.

Jennifer Perrin

BALCOMBE SCOUTS

Following last month's announcement that 1st Balcombe Beavers would be closed in January unless a new Leader came forward, we are delighted to share that James Aird will be taking on the role from January, supported by three section assistants. We are very grateful to James for taking on this Leader role.

There are spaces available for new members aged 6½ to 8 to join Beavers this term. If you would like your child to join, or to put younger children on the waiting list, please email secretary@1stbalcombe.cdscouts.org.uk

Dominic 'Hathi' Smith will continue as our acting Cubs Leader until Easter, but we do need a new leader to take his place after that. If you are interested in the please contact the Secretary at secretary@1stbalcombe.cdscouts.org.uk Full training and a handover would be provided. Cubs is the section for our members aged 8 to 10½. Please do consider whether you or anyone you know could help keep this group open.

Liz Jessop

BALCOMBE FOODBANK

Thank you for the continued donations supporting the food bank collection points at Balcombe Stores and Wealden Ridge, Stockcroft Road.

January can be one of the hardest months for families in our community. After the added costs of the holidays and the colder weather, many households are facing empty cupboards and tough choices.

Foodbanks across the UK continue to see increased demand, with the end of year Trussel Trust stats showing a 51% increase in the 5 past years.

We urgently need your help. Your generosity this January can make a real difference – Please consider adding a few extra cans of pulses, vegetables or meats to your weekly shop to donate to us or at your supermarket collection point.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Charlotte & Adam Donovan, Nicholas Demetriadi, Mel & Paul Stoner

BALCOMBE SCHOOL

As we start the Spring Term, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for the incredibly warm welcome I have received. It has been a genuine pleasure to get to know the children and I feel privileged to be part of such a vibrant and supportive community.

We had a very busy Autumn Term and our classrooms were buzzing with energy, curiosity, and creativity. Our visits to St Mary's Church for both Harvest and Christmas services were wonderful with our Year 6 children reading clearly and confidently during both services, they were great ambassadors. The generous donations for Harvest were very well received by local charities, thank you!

In November, we marked Remembrance with a special Collective Worship led by Father David. This helped the children to reflect on the importance of this occasion.

Lake and Coombe performed their annual Nativity to the school, parents, grandparents, our governors and volunteer helpers – wow, what a show they put on! Thank you to our parents for their help with costumes and learning lines and songs.

Christmas lunch was a triumph with delicious turkey and all the trimmings. The children wore their Christmas jumpers, and we were treated to a splendid variety of sparkles and Christmassy scenes.

On behalf of Balcombe School, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! We are looking forward to another jam-packed term.

Ben Turney

BALCOMBE BULL RUN

Sunday 22nd March 10.30am

Please join us for the 13th annual Balcombe Bull Run on Sunday 22nd March. It is a challenging and scenic 7.1 km x-country run over the fields, footpaths and lanes of Balcombe. A great new year's resolution to aim for!



Since 2014 we have raised over £20,000 for Balcombe Primary School, St Catherine's Hospice and other charities. Entries will be open in January through our Facebook page (@BalcombeBullRun) or just come along on the day to "ring the bells" and visit the infamous Bull Run café for cake, bacon sandwiches, coffee and more.

Please get in touch with Mat and Michelle Record if you'd like to volunteer in any way (mobile 07795 451 156). It's great fun to volunteer!

SATURDAY 11 JULY 2026

The Balcombe Fete Committee organises the event to provide entertainment for the village and to help local clubs and societies raise funds through stalls and activities. Our goal is to cover event costs, with any surplus being donated to charitable causes, societies and individuals in need.

If you'd like to apply for funding, please tell us what you would use the donation for and send it to:

Mark Fairweather, Email: markfairweather@sky.com,
or drop to Honeywood, Deanland Road, Balcombe, by the end of January 2026.



BALCOMBE BINGO

Thursday 15th January - 7pm start

In the Forest Room at the Balcombe Club
£7 for three cards, 7 games. Cash Prizes for lines
and full house. Please bring a small raffle prize,
everyone's a winner!

15-minute break half-way for drinks to be replenished and raffle to be drawn.

Everyone welcome. (*£2 visitors' charge for non-members*)



Jackie – 07951 386728
or Sarah – 07786 702239

THE VICTORY PLAYERS

BALCOMBE'S COMMUNITY THEATRE GROUP

New Year - New Show!

We're working hard on our next production, *Audience* by Michael Frayn, which takes place on 28 February and 1 March. Set in a theatre, the play turns the tables on theatregoers, with the audience becoming the focus of the action!

Please save the date and look out for ticket details soon.

The Victory Players love to bring people together through theatre. Whether you'd like to try performing or working behind the scenes, or just getting to know some new people, we'd love to hear from you. No experience required.

Take a look back at some past productions:

www.facebook.com/thevictoryplayers

Contact us: Helen Savage: helsavage@hotmail.com



MAKE A CHANGE – BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Could you spare a few hours a month to help your community? We're seeking three new Parish Councillors to join our team. Training and support are provided, and you'll play a key role in representing local residents and making positive changes.



WHAT DO COUNCILLORS DO?

As a Parish Councillor you can champion local issues, support community groups, and help build a brighter future for everyone.

CAN I STAND?

There are only a few rules: You must be:

- At least 18 years old
- A British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union
- Living or working in Balcombe

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Contact the Parish Council and submit an 'application of interest', or come along to the next meeting on Wednesday 3rd December at 8pm in Bramble Hall

parish.clerk@balcombeparishcouncil.com or telephone 01444 811 833

VICTORY HALL FILMS

The Choral (12A)

Friday 23 January 7.30pm

In this film, a choral society's male members enlist in World War I, leaving the demanding Dr. Guthrie to recruit teenagers. Together, they experience the joy of singing while the young boys grapple with their impending conscription into the army.

The film stars Taylor Uttley, Ralph Fiennes, and Emily Fairn

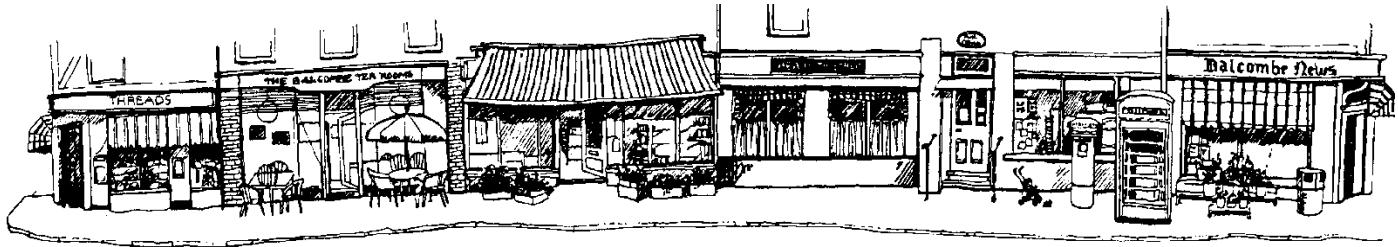
Refreshment interval

Café style layout with tables allowing for drinks, available from Balcombe Club.

Please arrive early. As usual, you can eat at The Club beforehand, or order platters from The Club, or bring your own food.

Tickets £8 can be obtained by texting **07795 410053** noting **name / number of tickets** required. Tickets can be collected and paid for on the night. **Cash only please.**

Date for your Diary! Next film on Friday 20 February 2025



Balcombe's Best - put Balcombe first!!

A selection of notable days in January

1st January
New Year's Day

5th January
Twelfth Night / Epiphany

7th January
Orthodox Christmas

23rd January
National Pie Day

Sunday 25th January
Burns Night

27th January
Chocolate Cake Day

Schastlivogo Noveho Roku - A Very Happy & Peaceful 2026 to all

Shop local & help keep all our marvellous facilities financially healthy & contribute to environmentally friendly & clean village life.

Reduce your Carbon & CO² Footprint and eat, drink and shop in Balcombe

St Mary's 100 Club - Monthly Draw

St Mary's definitely qualifies for inclusion in the "Balcombe's Best" section. An undeniable village treasure, which you can now support. The draw has been running for many years and has 4 monthly prizes. 1 x £100, 1 x £50 & 2 x £25, but you do need to act fast as there are only **2** remaining numbers presently available. When they're gone, they are gone!



They are: 72 & 98

For the cost of a couple of cups of coffee, or one of your favourite tipples, i.e. £5 per month or £60 per year, you could participate. So, if you would love to support our local treasure, then, without delay, **email Paula** and reserve one, or both, of the above numbers ASAP.

There is a limit of 100 numbers; the odds of winning are, of course, very good. So if you are feeling charitable, festive and lucky, then do get in fast to participate.

Available numbers are only released ONCE per year, so you need to get in quick!

Contact Paula Bennett. Email: andrewandpaula@gmail.com

Balcombe Post Office Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am - 1 pm.



Located within Balcombe Stores. You can pay in cheques and get cash-back up to your card limit.

Note that Amazon  returns can also be processed through the Post Office

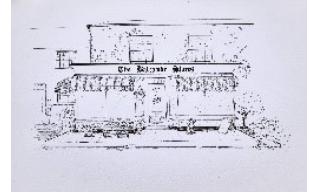
***Due to Post Office restrictions on Village Post Offices,
only small packages under 2 kg can now be accepted (no large boxes) – thank you.***

Balcombe Stores & Deli

Gemma Lewis

Tel: (01444)-811239

balcombestores@hotmail.co.uk



A Very Happy New Year from all at Balcombe Stores.

Please make one of your New Year's resolutions to continue to support the store and all other village services as much as possible.

There are oodles of competitive, Supermarket-matched products in stock, with many at lower costs than even Sainsbury's or Tesco's, so it's pointless trekking into town when all your requirements and **local Balcombe products** are available here.

Need to kick-start the New Year with some healthy eating after a few weeks of excess? Balcombe Stores have plenty of flavoursome fresh fruit and vegetables along with delicious new crispbreads and healthy drinks to get your New Year off to a good start (+ Vino!).

Firelighters and kindling are always available to keep those home fires burning bright

Remember to drop off all your used batteries for recycling. Make it a green 2026.

For those who are physically unable to visit the shop, give Gemma a call, and she will be delighted to organise a free, local delivery within the Balcombe area - a fantastic service.

January Opening Hours.

New Year's Day - CLOSED	<i>Wishing the World a Peaceful New Year.</i>
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| Friday 2nd January Back to normal opening times, 8.30 am – 6.00 pm | *Do, please, continue to support your village store. Your custom is, sincerely, very much appreciated.* |

Remember as an Amazon  collection point, you can have your packages safely delivered to Balcombe Stores and you **can** then **collect them at your convenience**.

Much safer than being left exposed on your doorstep!

Please keep safe 😊 & a Happy New Year from Gemma and her Team xx.

Corner Pottery Workshop

Julie Rezac - rezacworkshop@gmail.com



The window of the Corner Pottery Workshop is filled with new fun and colourful pottery. Have a look when you walk by and ring the bell or phone, if interested **Tel:** 07443 427162



A very Happy & Peaceful 2026 to all ❤

THE BALCOMBE CLUB

Manager: Roland Tel: (01444) 811226
www.balcombeclub.co.uk



Happy New Year from all of us at the Club

January is not always seen as the most upbeat of months, but for those who don't drink, we have a fine selection of alcohol-free drinks, and we have an even finer selection of events for you!

Roasts are served every Sunday, and on Fridays, we have Fish & Chips, Burgers, and other homemade delights for you. Graham, our Chef, has settled in very nicely and is producing fantastic meals.

Reminder, **MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE** by the end of January.

January 2026 Events

Sunday 4th January	Quiz night with Pam and Barry. Book or you may miss out!
Thursday 15th January	Bingo in the Forest Room @ 7 pm
Sunday 18th January	Quiz night with Pam and Barry. Book in to save disappointment
Date TBC Burns Night	Check in the Club and social media for more details
Friday 23rd January	Film Night in the Victory Hall - Choral
Sunday 1st February	Quiz Night with Pam and Barry. Get your brain cells buzzing!

Remember, food is served on Fridays and Sundays and with **Cornerstone 1901 premium lager at £4.40 a pint**, it's a no-brainer! See you soon!

Check out our Facebook page for information on upcoming events.

<https://www.facebook.com/BalcombeSocial>

An extremely Happy New Year from Roland and the Team.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING



Once again Balcombe Estates are kindly providing this service which will take place on Sunday 11 January in the Victory Hall car park, between 10.00 am - 2.00 pm



FREE CIRCUIT TRAINING ON THE REC
Every Tuesday

7 to 8 pm all year round
Location - Balcombe Recreation Ground
Open to all adults
All abilities welcome

Cost - Free

Simply turn up and join in, or contact Gavin with any questions
gavinajones@gmail.com
07976 957 044

Sew Sammy

Sammy Mackrill Tel: 07394-131339 www.sewsewsammy@gmail.com



Sew Sammy is an appointment-based clothing alterations business here in Balcombe with a fitting room and easy parking.

I love clothing and fabrics! Some of the work I do includes repairing and altering Coats, Shirts, Jackets, Dresses, Jeans, Trousers, Skirts, and Suits, among others.

Repairing and replacing linings and seams. Pocket repairs, adding pockets, making pockets bigger, zip replacements, shortening, lengthening (where possible), Adjusting curtains, making cushion covers (sometimes from curtains) and much more. All items considered.

I offer an appointment-based service with a fitting room available and easy parking.

Thank you to all my lovely customers for their support. It's a pleasure to sew for you, and I look forward to continuing to do so.

Wishing you all a joyful and abundant 2026 filled with laughter, good health and happiness.

Fable & Bloom

Rose & James Carr - Tel: 07790 704949 - rose@fableandbloom.uk



Wishing you all a Happy New Year from Fable & Bloom! We look forward to embracing 2026 and continuing to bring our gifts, plants and flowers to our little corner of the village.

Flower Subscription?

Do you want fresh flowers regularly, at discounted prices? Our **Meadow, Bloom and Fable Flower subscriptions** are now live on our website (www.fableandbloom.uk) or come in store to find out more. Every subscription also helps to support our small business.

We're hiring!

We are looking to hire an enthusiastic **Sales Associate** to work in the shop on Saturday daytime and possibly some additional ad-hoc hours too. Floristry experience isn't essential, but a willingness to learn and be creative is key to this customer-facing role. Please call Rose, via my contact details above, or pop into the shop for a chat, and I will then share the job description and application form.

Fable & Bloom

Wishing you all a Happy New Year from Rose & James

Eclipse Salon: Rebecca Tyson - Tel: (01444) 523344 eclipsesalon.info@gmail.com



Welcome to Eclipse Salon – Hair, Beauty & Relaxation.

At Eclipse Salon, we offer a friendly and professional environment where you can relax while enjoying expert services for women's hair, men's hair, beauty, and wellbeing.

Our talented hairdresser **Rebecca** specialises in creating beautiful, confidence-boosting styles, from precision cuts to colour refreshes and complete transformations.

For ultimate relaxation, **Melody** offers **professional massage treatments**, designed to relieve tension, reduce stress, and leave you feeling refreshed and restored. To book you can use either Vagaro or contact Melody directly on 07791 405868

Complete your look with professional **make-up by Emilie**, perfect for special occasions, events, or a well-deserved treat. To book, you can contact her on 07305 317317.

We're also delighted to welcome **Natasha** to the Eclipse Salon team. Natasha will be offering **skincare treatments from January**, providing tailored, results-driven care for all skin types. From **February**, she will also be offering **hairdressing services**, giving our clients even more choice and flexibility. Services will soon be added to the booking system.

Booking is quick and easy with our **Vagaro online booking system**, available 24/7. You can also contact us directly on **01444 523344** to speak with a member of the team.

STOP PRESS: We also have **Boo** joining the team in February also offering Manicures & Gel manicures, she will be added to the booking system soon and contact details to follow.

We hope everyone had a **wonderful Christmas** and wish all our clients a **very Happy New Year**. Thank you for your continued support – we look forward to welcoming you to **Eclipse Salon** soon. **Eclipse Salon – Your hair, beauty & wellbeing in one place.**

Balcombe Village “Limerist”

David Richards davidrichards55@gmail.com

*I bumped into Geoff whilst going for a stroll
He said, “I really don’t like this weather at all
It’s Barbados for me
Sun, rum and sea
All packed and waiting for the taxi to call”*

Find him on Amazon; his book will also soon be available from village stores

If you would like to mention your Balcombe business on these pages, please contact:
Geoff Lester via email: geoff.lester@gmail.com

DIGGING LIFE

TALES FROM A BALCOMBE ALLOTMENT

'ORANGE ABOVE ALL'

"It's the most wonderful time of the year," the radio announced as I began writing this article. And it's right, although not just because of Christmas. Of course, I have nothing against that - and consider singing under the Christmas tree at The Half Moon one of the highlights of the year. But singing Christmas carols doesn't compare to the pleasure I get from leafing through the seed suppliers' catalogues. They're dropped off at the end of November - and browsing online just isn't the same.

Although I usually prove the opposite, month after month in my allotment, I do have some discipline. I can easily leave the catalogues untouched until mid-December. But then I do start to get an itch. All at once, I know the time for frantic leafing has come. It may have to do with the fact that the deadline for writing this piece is approaching.

Oh, it was a party all over again. My seed selection process leaves a lot to be desired. I can't remember what was successful or failed dramatically last year. Although, I do know that this year everything grew and blossomed with such joy. No, I browse through the catalogue, searching for names of vegetables and flowers that fascinate me.

'Winston Churchill,' for example. I have to have it. Ah, it's a sweet pea, which is a bonus. Next! 'Giulietta.' I've already added it to the cart. That's what I call my wife when she's even more beautiful than usual. A tomato, fine. Not exactly blight-resistant. That one will go in the greenhouse next year. Next!

I browse further and come across the Marigolds. Oh, how nice. They have the 'Orange Winner' there. It will look great in the garden when the Netherlands win the World Cup next summer. A packet has 260 seeds. I wonder if my garden will look orange enough with 260 plants, so I order two just packets, just to be sure.

I'm having the time of my life. After a while, I check my order-list to see whether I have ordered any sweetcorn. It turns out I haven't. Then comes the time for a targeted search. I go to the website for that, because there's more choice there. Oh, 'My Fair Lady,' that's a sure thing. And what a surprise, the packets are on sale. My Dutch heart, always hunting for a bargain, skips a beat. I immediately buy two.

The best part about this whole process is that everything I order is blooming magnificently in my mind. It's no effort at all. Winston Churchill is jostling for space with Erewhon, another sweet pea. I have no idea what the name means, but it certainly sounds mysterious, which adds to the variety at the allotment. Over there is Orelia, and further down, Fandango is flourishing. As if you're hearing angels sing.

And planted amongst the tomatoes, the marigolds will bloom, my orange winners. I wonder if they'll cheer when the Netherlands team scores this summer in the US. I expect they will.

Joost van Mierlo

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST: The “No” Year Resolution

Happy New Year! However you choose to celebrate, I hope your festive season was full of peace, joy, and mega loads of cheese. I always have a new year’s resolution and try to make them positive. Apologise less. Dance more. Wear the shoes. Before you stop reading for fear of me going full ‘live, laugh, love’ don’t worry, I’m heading somewhere.

2026 is going to be the year of boundaries. As well-meaning humans, and especially in the UK, we can be a little too agreeable, put up with stuff, get on with it. But as nature illustrates, it doesn’t have to be this way. There are not many better boundary-setting role models than those species who ward off others as standard. Camouflage antithesis, these creatures make themselves obvious to warn incomers that they’re not to be messed with. It’s called aposematism, a defence mechanism utilised by certain species across the board, invertebrates, plants, mammals, birds, fish and fungi. Told you I had a point.

There are a few different types of aposematism.

Aposematic colouration: deliberately bright colours to visually warn of a toxic taste to others (whether this is true or not). Think ladybirds, wasps and Cinnabar moth caterpillars, who are bright yellow to mirror the toxic traits taken on by their favourite food plant – Ragwort. Then there are Cuttlefish, whose colour-changing skills give them the option of disguise or bold vibrant attack.

Olfactory aposematism: repelling predators by producing a smell or foul-smelling substance. This dirty card is played by several species of shield bug, sometimes harshly but accurately known as stink bugs. Many plants are notable for this feature, including the strong-smelling Wild Garlic.

Auditory aposematism: sound as a deterrent. Many species make alarm calls to expose a nearby predator, like a Robin tick-ticking at the sight of a cat. But auditory aposematism is making a sound to directly warn of one’s own danger or distaste to others. A famous example is the Rattlesnake, which clatters its tail to give the heads up - “it’s not worth it mate”. Closer to home, the Garden Tiger moth rubs its wings together to make a rasping noise to the same effect.

Symbolic or tenuous, there’s no doubt these creatures have mastered the art of communicating their boundaries. In nature there’s no awkwardness, no deeper meaning, no overthink – imagine! So, in nature’s honour, this year I’ll be saying a lot more ‘no’. Hopefully with no need for any olfactory assistance.

Kerry Williams

Communications Officer – Conservation, Sussex Wildlife Trust

PEGGY NEWLAND 1932-2025

Our lovely friend Peggy was a remarkable woman.

She had practised and taught traditional yoga for over sixty years.

Always welcoming and kind.

Always cheerful.

She was an inspiration to us all, passing on her knowledge with skill and humour and often giving demonstrations of her amazing flexibility.

She remembered all of our individual aches and pains and would tailor lessons accordingly.

Always encouraging us, telling us that we too would achieve Lotus position,...eventually.

Not many people know that in all the time she ran her classes in Balcombe, she kept not one penny for herself.

After paying for hall hire she would donate the rest to St Catherine's Hospice.

In her lifetime they confirm that she had donated thousands of pounds to them.

Our Wednesday mornings will never be the same, but her legacy lives on in all of the students she has ever taught.

BALCOMBE COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH.



It's not very sexy, but it addresses an issue that many villagers complain about: speeding through the village. It matters in Balcombe because our through roads have mostly narrow or non-existent footways, making pedestrians vulnerable to passing vehicles.

The busier the roads are, generally the slower the traffic. It is when the roads are quiet that drivers have free reign to speed through the village.

The Balcombe Community Speedwatch group aims to challenge drivers and remind them of the speed limits in the village. In addition, drivers who are recorded speeding are reported to the Police and letters are sent to the registered keepers. The objective is to ultimately reduce death and injury on the road. Other benefits are to increase awareness of inappropriate speed.

Regular sessions roadside reminds drivers to get into the habit of slowing down through the village, which is why I would really like to recruit a couple more volunteers to help that cause. If you have an hour free every so often, you will make a difference.

Nicky.Gould@Balcombeparishcouncil.com Tel: 07725596317.



BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

www.balcombeparishcouncil.com

- **Email notifications:** Click "Follow" at the bottom of the website screen.
- **Facebook:** Balcombe Parish Council.

Next Meeting:

- **Date / Time:** Wed 7th January 8pm
- **Location:** Bramble Hall
- **Agenda:** On notice board and website
- **Registration:** if attending: Email parish.clerk@balcombeparishcouncil.com

The Pavilion & Bramble Hall:

- Bookings managed by the Parish Council.
- **Pavilion:** Suitable for sports clubs with changing rooms, kitchenette, disabled access.
- **Bramble Hall:** Multi-functional meeting space with free Wi-Fi, suitable for various events.

Recreation Ground:

- Managed by the clerk on behalf of Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC).
- Private events/fitness classes.

Locus Youth Group:

- Run by St Mary's for ages 11-14.
- Fortnightly on Friday evenings.
- Contact Denise Vickerstaff for info/volunteering on 07500 467735.

Pool and Table Football Youth Club:

- Hosted by Balcombe Club on
- Tuesdays (6:00pm-8:30pm).
- Volunteers needed to get club started.

Footpaths and Rural:

- Report problems to Parish Clerk.
- Keep hedges cut for clear footways.
- For safety do not park on pavements, particularly London Road.

Bus Passes/Railcards

- Bus Passes: Contact West Sussex County Council directly 033022 26222
- Senior Railcard (Train): Contact Parish Clerk for promotion code.

Street Lights

- Report problems to Clerk with lamppost number and location.

Welcome Packs

- Issued by Julie Mitchell on behalf of Balcombe Neighbourhood Watch.
- Contact: oldgillets@hotmail.co.uk.

Parish Council Contact Details:

- Charlotte Jim, Clerk to the Council.
- Phone: 01444 811833.
- Email: parish.clerk@balcombeparishcouncil.com

BALCOMBE CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS ~ Contacts

Baby & Toddler Group	Denise Vickerstaff	07500 467735
Badminton -Davis	Solly Sait	452422
-Minton	Beryl Glover	400054
-Ladies Afternoon	Sally Dowsett	811898
Balcombe 1961 Club	Pam Scutt	819027
Balcombe Bowls Club	Graham Voller	819322
Balcombe Care Group	Jacqueline Wiginton	811312 / 07967 984719 or wigmat@btinternet.com
Balcombe Catholics Secretary	Priscilla Williamson	811519
Balcombe Club	Roland Burke	<i>manager@balcombeclub.co.uk</i> 811226
Balcombe Community Website	Rachel H & Malcolm K	<i>editors@balcombe.community</i>
Balcombe Fete	Mark Fairweather	07766 816106
Balcombe Dance School	Nikki Gower	454684
Balcombe Parish Council Clerk &		
Bramble Hall Bookings	Charlotte Jim <i>parish.clerk@btconnect.com</i>	811833
Balcombe School	Mr Ben Turney	811403
Balcombe School Friends (PTA)	Alecia Ridout-Garfield	07946 669420
Balcombe WI	Marian Kenward	07955 881389
Community Links	Karin/Tara	07770 800726
Craft, Gift and Produce Market	Rachel Smith	07534 254143
Cranbrook Nursery School		811202
Christmas Tree Society	Jamie Kirkman	jamie@balcombeestate.co.uk
Circuit Training @Rec FREE	Gavin Demurger-Jones	07976 957 044
Cricket Club Chairman	Henry le Fleming	07808 801384
Cricket Club Juniors	Henry le Fleming	07808 801384
District Councillor	Gary Marsh	811320
Dr. Hardingham	Ouse Valley Practice, Handcross	01444 405750
Football Club	Adrian Ruzicka	07985 537073
Frack Free Balcombe Residents' Assn	Sue Taylor	819329
Gardeners' Association	Rosemary Robertson	811800
Half Moon Inn	Balcombe Community Pub Ltd	811582
History Society	Julie Budgen	811641
Locus	Denise Vickerstaff	07500 467735
Middy Village News	Rosemary Robertson	811800
Neighbourhood Watch	Julie Mitchell	<i>oldgillets@hotmail.co.uk</i> 01444 819262
Parish Room Bookings	Sue Etheridge	811264
Pavilion & Recreation ground bookings	Charlotte Jim <i>parish.clerk@btconnect.com</i>	811833
Police (PCSO)	Nicola Lowe	101
REPOWERBalcombe	hello@repowerbalcombe.com	07508 397040
Rifle & Pistol Club	balcomberifleclub@gmail.com	
Royal British Legion	John Dunford	07881 249534
Samaritans	Emergency free line	116 123
Scouts – see below	Other information	0330 094 5717
Chair: Silas Landricombe		chair@1stbalcombe.cdscouts.org.uk
Scouts Leader: Toni Wood		scouts@1stbalcombe.cdscouts.org.uk
Cubs Leader: Dominic Smith (interim)		cubs@1stbalcombe.cdscouts.org.uk
Beavers Leader: James Aird		beavers@1stbalcombe.cdscouts.org.uk
Waiting List		secretary@1stbalcombe.cdscouts.org.uk
Tennis Club Secretary	Johnny Dunford	<i>Johnnydunford@googlemail.com</i> 07881 249534
Victory Hall & WI Room Booking	Roland Burke	<i>manager@balcombeclub.co.uk</i> 811226
Victory Players	Jane Horrell	07890 020151

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VILLAGE DIARY JANUARY 2026

Mon, Wed, Fri	9 am - 1 pm	Post Office open	Balcombe Stores
Wed, Thurs, Fri	2 - 3 pm	Prescription Collections	Jo.Co Café
Thursdays term time	9.30 - 11 am	Baby & Toddler Group	Parish Room
Sunday 4th	7 for 7.30 pm	Pan and. Barrie's Quiz	Balcombe Club
Tuesday 6 th	7.45 pm	Parish Prayer Meeting	Parish Room
Wednesday 7 th	8 pm	Balcombe Parish Council Meeting	Bramble Hall
Thursday 8th	2.00 pm	Balcombe WI.	Victory Hall
Friday 9 th	6.30 pm	Locus Group	Parish Room
Sunday 11 th	10 - 2 pm	Christmas Tree Recycling	Victory Hall Car Park
Wednesday 14 th	2.15 pm	1961 Club	Parish Room
Thursday 15th		COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE	
Thursday 15 th	7 pm	Balcombe Bingo	Forest Room, Bal Club
Saturday 17th	10.30 - 11.45	Saturday Morning Pop-Up Café	Parish Room
Sunday 18 th	7 for 7.30 pm	Pan and. Barrie's Quiz	Balcombe Club
Friday 23 rd	7.30 pm	Film Night - The Choral	Victory Hall
Wednesday 28 th	2.15 pm	1961 Club	Parish Room
Sunday 1 st Feb	7 for 7.30 pm	Pan and. Barrie's Quiz	Balcombe Club

February 2026 magazine: Please submit copy by **Thursday 15th January AT THE LATEST**

Please send to **balcombemageditors@outlook.com** in **Word Font Size 14** if possible.

Handwritten copy is also acceptable. Many thanks

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE IN JANUARY at a new cost of £9

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