

## **The Balsham Map Project are on the road to local history success.**

Imagine uncovering a map dated 400 years ago. The crackle of the delicate vellum and realising that there was so much more than to the village where you'd live. This is the story behind a new local history publication, *Balsham, a village story 1617 - 2017*.

**The book will be launched on Thursday 16th November at the Black Bull, Balsham with a soft launch from 10.30am to 12noon, with a full launch from 6pm until 9pm with a talk about the book and giveaways. All are welcome.**

The founder of the Balsham Map Project, Margaret Creek, was enthralled by the oldest known map of Balsham, dated 1617. She discovered its existence at a talk in February 2013, given by Susan Oosthuizen, University Senior Lecturer in Historic Environment, University of Cambridge.

The book comprises 176 colour pages of original research covering farming, hedgerows, pubs, trades, notable families, conflict, streets, houses, education and religion. The book features first person recollections and family photos from private collections alongside archive maps and modern mapping showing Balsham as it's never been seen before. Endorsed by London Charterhouse, who still have an interest in the village as commissioners of the 1617 map, the team are delighted to offer a free copy of the book to every Balsham household.

**Margaret Creek, founder of the Balsham Map Project, said:**

"By giving each household a copy, we are sharing our knowledge of Balsham to all our neighbours and encouraging the next generation to take on new research and record their memories."

**Berenice Smith MA, who designed and managed the publication, said:**

"It's also a true family affair. My parents are Ian and Margaret Creek. I was delighted in my professional capacity as a designer and experienced publishing manager to help them and their fellow authors to create a book. The team have come from knowing very little about publishing to understanding a lot."

**For further information or to arrange interviews, please contact Berenice Smith  
[berenice@hellolovely.org.uk](mailto:berenice@hellolovely.org.uk)**

### **Note to editors**

The book has been funded by a series of events including a boundary walk, donated skills, community funding from private individuals, the Balsham Ploughmen and the Parish Council.

Margaret was supported by fellow residents who are all new to book publishing but all with experience in historical research and archives; Gene Bridgeman, Seppe Cassettari, Ian Creek, Janice Ellam, Pat Faircloth, Sara Himsworth, Peter Neale and Dick Paden.

The book is dedicated to the late Ray Symonds and features a foreword from Susan Oosthuizen and an article on Thomas Sutton and Charterhouse by Dr. Stephen Porter, author and retired archivist for the Charterhouse.

The book is printed by The Langham Press, the team were keen to source local suppliers.

The designer is Berenice Smith, Hello Lovely [www.hellolovely.org.uk](http://www.hellolovely.org.uk) Berenice is an award-winning graphic designer with a postgraduate degree in graphic design and typography. Berenice has over twenty years experience in senior design. She is a published author, teacher and social design creator working in the field of infertility.

The maps are created by Dr. Seppe Cassettari who established the UK's first undergraduate and technical GIS programmes. He is widely published, having written the much used textbook 'Introduction to Integrated Geo-information Management' (Chapman & Hall, 1993), and been technical editor of GIS Europe magazine from 1989 to 1994. He regularly contributes articles to the Cartographic Journal and the GIS trade magazines and is a regular conference speaker.

The book will cost £15 to non residents with one copy delivered to each household in Balsham.

A PDF copy will be available to download for £5 from the website.

Any profits raised by the project will fund future history publications.

The map project can be found at [www.balshammap.net](http://www.balshammap.net) and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Balshamvillagestory/>

### **Attached**

Sample pages

Invite to launch

Cover image.