

Isleham Informer

No.1 June 2003

www.isleham-informer.org.uk

e-mail: mail@isleham-informer.org.uk (from the end of June!)
Published by the Isleham Parish Council

Editorial Comment

The Isleham Informer is back in business! For how long will be partly dependent on you. Without your support there will be no point in carrying on. We will need revenue in addition to that provided by the Parish Council and so we need advertising. Our rates will naturally be modest but we will need commercial and private advertisements to help pay for the publication. So, if you want to sell that old lawnmower, this will be the place to do it! The whole venture is voluntary and we are currently trying to build a dedicated team that will include those among you who will provide regular articles, the idiots who will type, edit and deal with advertising and the printer plus those dedicated souls who will deliver the Informer through your letterbox regardless of the weather.

Our intention is to provide you with a very readable newspaper that will appear every month. It will probably take us a few months to get it right and we will be relying on you to let us know if we are providing the right mix. We are going to use the format of the now defunct Social Focus as this appears to be preferred to the old Informer format but we hope to have enough information to increase the size to 8 pages. It may also be appropriate to increase the size of the print but we need your views. However, please remember that larger print means less information.

Providing we receive the relevant copy, it is our intention to devote space to the following topics:

Parish & East Cambs. Council news
Useful numbers, information and who to contact
Future events and functions
Twinning & Gala Committee news
Cricket, Football & Bowls fixtures and results
Jokes, Competitions & Amusing Comments
Regular Gardening Column
Charity news in the village
News from the village churches
Your Letters, Comments & Poems
Re-enactment News

Yes, there are also a number of people in the village that are involved in historic re-enactment and we will be providing dates for their activities, re-enactments and markets. The markets can be quite fascinating and of general interest. As we receive information we will let you have full details.

Anything for inclusion in the next Informer should be taken or sent to either:

Paul Chaplin, Jay-Jay Lodge (just before the Marina)
Tony Ferrige, 9 Church Street (opposite the church)

Smile ☺

The jokes published in the old Social Focus seemed to go down well and there was only one complaint in 29 issues. It is never our intention to offend but it will occasionally happen. We therefore apologise in advance. Here is a short one that we hope will bring a smile. It is from a contact, Nelly, in the USA who used to read the Social Focus. She calls it The Cowboy.

The Cowboy

An old cowboy who felt that at the age of 82 had had a good and long life decided that it was about time that he passed on the secret to a long life to his one and only grandson.

He said, "My boy, you've got to sprinkle a little gunpowder on your oatmeal in the mornin' and a little more on your dinner in the evenin', see?" and he showed the kid exactly how much to sprinkle on.

He added, "If you do it like this, you'll live to a nice, ripe old age."

Well, the Cowboy had done this religiously every day for all his life and, sure enough, he did indeed live to the ripe old age of 96. When he died he left behind 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and a 16 foot hole in the wall of the crematorium!

We are always looking for amusing jokes and stories. We do have a few in reserve but do please send us any that you hear or know that are suitable for publication. Don't forget those funny quotes, comments and signs.

Obituary

Sadly, we report the death of Les Gaskin at the tender young age of only 65. Les was well known at the Isleham Comrades Club where he was responsible for the club's quizzes and for extending the range of real ales and malt whiskies. In addition, he and his wife, Phyllis, were the main fundraisers for last year's "Whisky for Sick Kids" charity venture that the Club supported.

Les had a wicked sense of humour that was not always appreciated by everyone but his heart was always in the right place and he would do anything for anyone. One of his hobbies was his bright orange, 1975 VW Beetle. It was his pride and joy. He bought it from new, sold it 3 years later and then bought it back and restored it to showroom condition. Les will be very sadly missed. Our sympathy and condolences to his wife, Phyllis, and their children Linda and Shirley.

ECDC News

As this is the first Informer for some time, there is quite a lot of catching up to do on various bits and pieces of news from ECDC. We will keep you fully informed of anything that seems relevant to our village. We are also happy to print your comments on any issue.

Dates for your diary

The East Cambs. Community Safety Partnership Board meetings are open to the public. Issues discussed range from current crime figures and funding allocations to what community safety projects are happening within the District. The meetings are held between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Council Chambers at East Cambs. District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambs. Dates for the remainder of the year are:

Wednesday 13 August 2003

Wednesday 12 November 2003

It would be great to see you there! For further information or an agenda for the meetings, please contact Julie Buck on 01353 616394 or Melanie Rose on 01353 616256.

Be a rubbish revolutionary...

Are you worried about the environment? Think we should be doing more... but one person can't make a difference, right? WRONG!

If you want to do more to help your local environment then the Cambs. County Council's Master Recycler scheme could be just the thing for you. We are looking for 150 volunteers from around Cambridgeshire to sign up to the new Master Recycler scheme. Training to become a Master Recycler takes just one day; a morning learning about the benefits of recycling and how your kerbside collection works followed by an afternoon visit to a Materials Recycling Facility so you can see what happens to your rubbish. Lunch will be provided.

Once trained as a Master Recycler your role will be to make sure you know what your kerbside scheme takes and that your box is put out of the correct day – it's that simple. Your District Council will keep you informed of any changes to your scheme and you can then let people know about the change in whatever way you choose. Additional activities such as survey work are welcomed but not compulsory.

If you would like to sign up for the Master Recycler scheme, please contact Emma McCrea, Waste Campaigns Officer for Cambs. County Council on 01223 717572 or email emma.mccrea@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Needles and Syringes What if you find them?

East Cambridgeshire does not have a large drug problem. However, a small amount of drug users sometimes discard needles and syringes thoughtlessly. It is possible that at some time you or someone you know may find a needle or syringe in a public area. If this happens, you need to know how to arrange for this to be disposed of quickly and safely, so that we can safeguard our community from any potential risk. If you do find a needle or syringe:

- Do **not** touch it
- Do **not** hide it
- Do **not** kick it down a drain or out of sight
- Do **not** put it in a dustbin, litter bin or down a toilet

Do telephone the District Council or the Police on the numbers below to arrange for it to be removed. The needle will be collected as soon as possible, but it may not be collected immediately. If you want to do something yourself to protect others, cover it with a strong box or tin until someone can collect it.

WARNING: Do not remove a needle yourself - safe disposal is essential and there is a risk of injury.

Needle Collection and Disposal

ECDC: Office Hours **01353 616335**

Police: Outside office hours (**not 999**) **01480 456111**

If you are worried about problems of drug misuse in your community contact Lucas Oliver on 07986 707193.

Funding for Crime and Disorder Projects

The East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership has produced a three-year strategy for how crime and disorder in the district will be tackled. The main priorities included in the Strategy are:

- Anti-social Behaviour
- Substance Misuse
- Property Crime - vehicle crime and burglary
- Violent Crime
- Protecting vulnerable groups (such as older people and ethnic minorities)
- Reducing the fear of crime
- Increasing levels of reporting
- Developing data sources for future research and to inform project work
- Adopting a problem solving approach to reducing crime and disorder in Ely, Soham, Littleport and Burwell
- Reducing the Risk Factors of crime

Some funding is available to community groups who are experiencing any of the problems listed above and can provide details of how their project would reduce crime and disorder.

To request an application form and a summary of the Community Safety Strategy, contact Julie Buck on 01353 616394 or Melanie Rose on 01353 616256.

Energy Efficiency

"The scientific evidence is growing that man-made greenhouse gas emissions are having a noticeable effect on the earth's climate. Globally, 7 of the 10 warmest years on record were in the 1990's. In the future, the Earth's climate could warm by as much as 3°C over the next 100 years. The social, environmental and economic costs associated with this could be huge." (Source: *Dept for environment, food and rural affairs. Climate Change*).

Scary stuff made all the more real by the recent floods at home and in Europe.

You may ask yourself what we can do on a local level to alleviate this very real problem.

One area where we can all make a difference is by reducing the amount of energy we use to heat and power our own homes. Did you know that domestic dwellings produce approximately **25%** of UK CO2 emissions and that the average home produces more CO2 per year than the average car? That's enough to fill 6 hot air balloons 10 metres in diameter! It has also been calculated that we waste around **£200** per household per year by heating and powering our homes inefficiently and that a regular house loses over **40%** of its heat through loft spaces and walls!

"Is your home behaving badly?" is a magazine produced by EST, copies of which can be obtained by telephoning the Energy Advice Centre on 0800 512012. It details that the energy efficiency grants that are currently available and also contains some handy tips on how we can all save energy, money and protect our environment.

Are you doing your bit?

Useful Phone Numbers

Emergency for Police, Fire, Ambulance	999
Police (Cams.)	01223 358966
Beat Officers (duty times only)	0774 0734971
Neighbourhood Watch (Ian Powys)	01638 780519
Accident & Casualty (Addenbrooke's)	01223 217118
Addenbrooke's Hospital (Cambridge)	01223 245151
Newmarket Hospital	01638 665111
West Suffolk (Bury St Edmunds)	01284 713000
Staploe Medical Centre (Soham)	
Appointments	01353 624121
Prescriptions & Dispensary	01353 624122
Enquiries, Home Visits, Emergencies	01353 624123
Electricity Emergencies	0800 7838838
Gas Emergencies	0800 371787
Water & Sewage Emergencies	0345 145145
Social Services - office hours	01733 561370
- out of hours emergency	01733 561370
Refuse Collection	01353 863864
RSPCA	01223 364455
Citizens Advice Bureau - Ely	01353 661416
- Mildenhall	01638 712094
- Newmarket	01638 665999
Isleham Village Hall (Jo Almer)	01638 780934
Mobile Library	01223 712000
Parish Council (Yvonne Bishop: Clerk)	01638 780256
Member of Parliament (Jim Paice)	01954 211450
Isleham Informer (Paul Chaplin)	01638 781745
(Tony Ferrige)	01638 780973

Pensions & Benefits

We have received a letter from the Government Pension Service asking details of any village newsletter. They have been informed that the Informer is back in business and that we will include any relevant information concerning pensions and benefits. We will keep you updated with any information that we receive.

In the meantime, contact the GPS on 01223 545200.



Priory Garage
Your Local Used Car Dealer

Church Street, Isleham
Tel: 01638 780625

*Service & Repairs for All Makes & Models,
MoTs*

Opening times: 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday - Friday
7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday

Used Cars in Stock NOW

2002 52 Renault Laguna 1.9 DCI Dynamique 5DR hatch. 6 speed in Xerus Grey Metallic. Alloy wheels, Half leather, Air con., Front fog lamps, ABS, Air bags, Electric windows, Radio/CD player. 12000 miles. One owner. **£12995**

2002 02 Renault Laguna 1.8 Dynamique Sport Tourer in Iceberge Silver metallic paint. Alloy wheels, Air con., Roof rails, Electric windows, PAS, ABS, Front fog lamps, Half leather. 11000 miles. One owner. **£12500**

2001 51 Renault Laguna 3.0 V6 Initiale Auto Sport Tourer in Iceberge Silver metallic. Full leather with heated seats, Satellite navigation, Radio/CD multi player, Cruise control with Traction control, Roof rails, Sunroof, Parking sensors, Xenon double optic headlamps. Alloy wheels with tyre pressures monitor. 12000 miles. One owner. **£14995**

2000 X Renault Clio RN Grande 1.2 3DR hatch in Capsium Red. Central locking, Sunroof, PAS, Twin air bags, Radio cassette, Electric windows. 22000 miles. **£4995**

2000 W Peugeot 206 1.4 LX 5DR in Silver metallic. Full service history. Air con., Electric windows, Radio cassette, Central locking, Air bag. Low mileage 12500. **£7100**

2000 W Renault Scenic Sport Alize 1.6 16v in Cherry Red metallic. Air con., Alloy wheels, Front fog lamps, Radio/CD player, Twin sunroofs, Electric windows, Front and Side air bags. Low mileage with full service history at 16000 miles. **£8995**

2000 W Honda Accord VTEC SE 2.0 Saloon. Manual in Titan Silver metallic. ABS, Sunroof, Air con., Electric windows, Central locking, Air bag, PAS. Full service history. 30000 miles. **£7995**

1999 T Renault Megane Alize 1.6 hatch in Goodwood Green metallic. Air con., Sunroof, Electric windows, Central locking, Radio cassette, PAS, Air bags. Full service history. 33000 miles. **£5595**

1999 R Renault Scenic 1.6 RT in Naples Red metallic paint. Twin electric sunroofs, Electric windows and mirrors, Central locking, PAS, Driver's air bag. Service history. 54000 miles. **£5450**

1998 S Renault Clio RXE 1.6 5DR in Lazuli Blue metallic. PAS, Air con., Central locking, Air bags, Radio/CD player, Sunroof, Electric windows, ABS. Low mileage with full service history at 20000 miles. **£4800**

Isleham Gala 2003

In the Village, For the Village, Children First

That sounds like a great slogan for our annual Gala Day that will be held on Saturday 5th July. Our Gala Queen, Princess and Prince have already been selected and they are respectively Carla Ogilvie, Maisie Vince, and Samuel Clarke. Our congratulations to them. There are a number of new attractions this year including *Thomas the Tank Engine Rides* and an *Arts and Crafts competition*.

See below for competition details.

Arts and Crafts

A piece of work not bigger than 10" x 8" on the theme of "Summer".

Cross stitch, painting, patchwork, embroidery, paper craft etc.

Art Competition

Entry forms will be distributed through the School, Brownies, Cubs, Playgroup, Mother and Toddlers and will be available in the Paper Shop and the Post Office. For further information please ring Pauline Wynne (780802) or Barbara Murfitt (780373).

1. Under 4 years of age as on 31/8/03
2. 4-7 years of age as on 31/8/03
3. 8-12 years of age as on 31/8/03
4. 12-16 years of age as on 31/8/03

The following competitions are open to everyone:

Flower Arranging

Rules: Staging is 2'6". Accessories may be used but fresh flowers and foliage must predominate. No silk, artificial or dried flowers. Drapes, stands, etc. to be provided by the exhibitor.

1. An "English Country Garden" arrangement
2. A hand held posy
3. An arrangement entitled "Sugar & Spice"
4. Vase of mixed Herbs
5. Three pansies
6. 6 stems of Sweet peas
7. Single rose stem

Home Baking

1. Savoury Bread of your Choice
2. 1 lb Loaf of Bread (Bread makers permitted)
3. 6 small meringues
4. Short bread (Recipe provided)
5. 1 lb jar of Strawberry Jam

Fruit and Vegetable Show

For the gardeners the competitions are:

1. 4 Potatoes
2. 4 Broad Beans
3. 4 Pods of Peas
4. Plate of Raspberries
5. A basket of vegetables from your allotment or garden

Dog Show

Judging is at 2 p.m. by Alison Burgess. £1 per class and pay in the ring. All dogs must be kept on leads.

Puppy, 12 months & under	Best Lurcher
Best Veteran (7 years+)	Fancy Dress
Best Crossbreed	Junior Handling up to 16 yrs
Best Pedigree	Adult Handling
Best Short Coat	Pretty Bitch
Best Long/Rough Coat	Handsome Dog
Best Greyhound	Best Movement
Best Waggy Tail	Best Rescue

All Winners (Best in Show)

Children's Competitions

UNDER 12 years of age as on 31/8/03

1. Chocolate chip Cookies (Recipe provided)
2. Biscuits decorated as Butterflies
3. A person made of sweets!
4. Runner beans grown in a jam jar
5. A garden on a plate
6. A flower arrangement in a jam jar

The main attractions to date are:

Grand Parade and Floats	Classic cars and vehicles
Circus entertainments	Craft Marquee
Children's Games & Races	Fancy Dress
Thomas the Tank Engine	Baby Show
Bouncy Castle	Line Dancing
Remote control car racing	Artillery Races
Beer Tent	Cycle races
Tai Chi Display	Fancy Dress
Mini Mr and Miss Isleham	Reptile Tent
Fun Run	Wheelbarrow Races
BBQ	Egg Throwing
Dog Show	Children's Fun Fair
Raffle	Teas
Pipe Band	Plenty of Stalls

And much, much more!

As you all know, the Gala does not make a profit or indeed any money at all! The Gala Committee is grateful to all those who help organise the event and give their time on the day. Sponsorship is always needed so that our village Gala Day will be a great day out for everyone. If you can help with sponsorship or raffle prizes either this year or next, please contact Chris or Helen Ginn at Priory Garage (01638 780352).

Floats will leave the far end of the causeway at 1 p.m. Please contact Emily Radcliffe on 01638 780831 if your group is entering in the procession. Market stalls are available to local societies and clubs at a cost of £7.50. Private pitches are also available. Again, please contact Emily for full details.

Top to Toe

In the comfort of your own home

**For all your waxing requirements,
facials, manicures or pedicures + more.**

Phone Annaliese to find out more or to book

Ring: 01638 780903 or 0776 1655434

In the Garden

We are looking for a knowledgeable gardener to provide us with a regular column on what we should all be doing throughout the year. For this issue we have the following contribution from someone who wants to go under the name of I. Diggam!

Not Too Late!

Most people go too much by the book and don't seem to realise that most crops can be grown much later than would normally be expected. By the time you read this summer will be here and that is normally a time for tending and looking after what has already been planted. However, there are a lot of things that can still be propagated or bought and planted out.

Runner beans are still available and it is now time to plant them out. If you can't find any, plant some seed because you will still get a good crop even if it is a little late. The same applies to French beans, tomatoes and cucumbers but, if planting seed, bring them on in a pot in a warm, sunny place with a clear plastic bag over it. The bag will retain the heat and keep the atmosphere moist – just the right conditions for hurrying them up but give them fresh air regularly!

Don't forget to take out the side shoots from tomatoes unless you want a bush of small tomatoes.

Keep sowing radish but not too many unless you live on them. They grow fast and can be planted at least until

August. It is not too late to sow the main root crops like beetroot, turnip and carrots for a late harvest.

Sow spring and Chinese cabbage and plant any fast-growing varieties. It's not even too late for Brussels sprouts! Marrow plants are still available and should be planted out in rich soil.

Don't forget to protect strawberries and raspberries from birds and don't let rhubarb go to seed.

Lettuce can be sown for the next month or so but always choose a variety with taste. You can sow lettuce very thickly in a bed. They will support one another and you simply cut the leaves off as and when required. New ones will grow and it is a virtually perpetual supply for salads until late in the year.

Many early crops are now ready for harvesting. Don't leave them longer than necessary. If onions and shallots have been planted early make sure they don't go to seed.

In the flower garden it is time to stake gladioli and large chrysanthemums. Also, take cuttings from carnations and pinks. Use rooting compound to speed up rooting. It is also time to feed hanging baskets to keep the blooms going and don't forget to dead-head them. Do the same to roses as this will extend their flowering season.

Make sure that hops and other climbers are tied in place. They grow very fast, particularly following rain, and you need to keep your eye on them.

Above all, gardening should not be a chore. Do the minimum to keep it in good order so that you can enjoy it!

ISLEHAM POST OFFICE STORES

Sun Street, Isleham; 01638 780256

BAKE 'N' BITE

***Coming in June an all new exciting range of Fresh Bread, Cakes and Savouries.
All baked fresh daily on the Premises. Thornhills will still be available.***

VIDEO RENTAL

For two weeks from 7th July 2003 all rentals "Rent one, rent one free". Top ten rentals and New Releases available at £2.50 per night. Chart Titles £1.50, Children's £1.00

BITS, BOBS & FOOD

Wide range of Gifts, Toys, Stationery, Greeting Cards, Sweets & Groceries available.

POST OFFICE

***On-line banking with Alliance & Leicester and Barclays. All you need is your card & PIN number. Personal banking with Lloyds TSB, Barclays, Co-op, Smile & Cahoot.
0% commission on all foreign currency & foreign travelers cheques.
Travel Insurance and all major Mobile Phone Cards available.***

OPENING HOURS

Open until 8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday

Church News

Services & Youth Groups

St Andrew's Parish Church

1st Sunday of each month:

8.00 a.m. Prayer book communion

10.00 a.m. Family service

All other Sundays:

10.00 a.m. Common worship communion

Phone: 01638 780284

Pound Lane Free Church

Every Sunday:

Sunday Worship: 11.00 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.

Church Night: Weds 7.30-9.00 p.m.

Tuesdays: 7.30 p.m. Fellowship

Children and Young People's groups

Kingdom Kids (3-7 yr old) Sunday 10.00-11.15 a.m.

All Stars (8-11 yr old) Sunday 10.00-11.15 a.m.
and Monday Evening Club 7.00-8.00 p.m.

Covies (12-18yr olds) Sunday 9.45-10.45 a.m.
and Thursday Evening Club

There is a hearing loop installed and signing for the deaf is available. We have a comprehensive child protection policy and a CRB check has been made on all children's and young people's workers. Further information on any of the above can be obtained from:

Phone: 01638 781343 (church office)

01638 780002 (anytime)

email: secretary@plfc.co.uk website: plfc.co.uk

Isleham Baptist Church

Every Sunday:

10.30 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church (3-11 yrs)
6.30 p.m. Evening Service

Tuesdays: 3.00 p.m. Over 50's "Rendezvous".

Wednesdays: 7.15 p.m. Midweek meeting

Thursdays: 7.45 p.m. Midweek meeting

Fridays: 9.15 a.m. Mother & Toddler Group
7.00 p.m. Prayer Walk & Youth Groups

Phone: 01638 780985 (church office)

News

St Andrew's Parish Church Appeal

For those of you that have not heard the story, 141 years ago (back in 1862) the church tower collapsed. We are informed that it was probably shoddy workmanship and not the quality of the Isleham clunch that was used as the foundation to support that massive weight!

The tower was rebuilt and is fine but our Parish Church is in a sad state of repair and buckets are used to collect rain that comes through the roof. The plaster is coming off the walls and there is no heating. It is in desperate need of repair. Therefore, whatever your religion or even non-religion, your help is required if this wonderful old building is to be saved and preserved.



Restored 1862 photograph after the collapse

Christopher Goodwins, our parish vicar, has sent us the following information about the appeal.

You will know by now that an appeal has been launched to restore the parish church. English Heritage generously awarded a grant of £70,000, followed by ECDC's £10,000. With the £15,000 we have raised ourselves, this makes £95,000 towards the £150,000 needed. We aim to repair the roof, install heating, rewire the building electrically, restore the plasterwork, cater for the hard of hearing and improve access for disabled people. The result of all this will be to leave the building in good repair for future generations to enjoy. The difference about the parish church is that it "belongs" to every resident of Isleham, of whatever denomination of faith or none, whether they worship here or not. Our parish church is as much a symbol of faith as a mosque is to Moslems, a synagogue to Jews, or a temple to Buddhists. On behalf of all of us at St. Andrew's, I would therefore like to thank the community for their generous support, and tireless encouragement.

Christopher Goodwins

If you need to contact the (Church of England) Priest at Isleham, contact Christopher on 01638-780284. You may also call at 102 The Causeway, Isleham. CB7 5ST.

St Andrew's Events

Sat, 21st June 6.30pm. **Beetle Drive** in the Village Hall

Sun, 22nd June 2.30pm onwards. **Cream Teas.**

Sat, 5th July **Black & White Stall** at Gala Day

August Bank Holiday - 23-25th Aug. **Wedding Dress Exhibition** at **St Andrew's**. If you have a wedding dress to exhibit or know of someone who has one, please contact **Janice Pope on 01638 780380.**

Pound Lane Free Church warmly invite you to come along to any of the events detailed below to hear Roger Carswell share how you can experience God's love and peace at the very centre of your life. Whether you're in your teens, middle age, or enjoying your retirement, these meetings are for you.

Mon June 2nd - Fri June 6th Village Hall 7.30-9.00 p.m. Each evening we will be looking at one of the common questions raised concerning the Christian faith with live interviews, video footage, musical items and Roger explaining what the Bible really says.

Sat June 7th Roger will speak at each of the following. 11.00-12.00a.m. School playing field; **Football training** for 5-12 yr olds - supporters also welcome. Also at 3.00-5.00 p.m. on the school playing field for **Family It's a**

Knockout! Teams of six and be prepared to get wet or come and watch the fun! 7.00-9.00 p.m. at the Priory for our **BBQ for all**.

Roger regularly conducts missions on three continents, has written a number of books and broadcasts on radio. Why not come along and hear the good news for yourself! Further details on all of the above from our contact numbers or email: mission@plfc.co.uk.

Dave Hall

Your Letters

Our policy is that we will print anything that does not get us into trouble. Therefore, if you wish to make a point, ask a question or just share an opinion, do please write to us. There is only one rule: we will not publish anonymous letters, so make sure that you print your name – a letter from “indecipherable squiggle” will not be published.

Nothing is secret in Isleham and long before this issue was put together we had received numerous phone calls and comments from villagers to say that they were delighted that the Informer would be back. We hope you will not be disappointed – Sam, Paul & Tony.

The following very pleasing story has been received from Christopher Goodwins, our parish vicar.

LENT TASK

People are asking, "Where is that chap who used to go round the village clearing up the streets a few weeks ago?" And the answer is that I did it as a personal task during Lent, as my contribution to the community here in Isleham. In those seven weeks, I cleared 125 streets, and collected over 40 plastic sacks full of rubbish! And so I would like to thank those of you whom I met on your own home ground, who were so encouraging. Rarely these days is a Vicar cheered and waved at by passing motorists! A teenage lad came up to me and asked, "Excuse me, Sir, but do you mind if I put this crisp wrapper in your bin?" I immediately congratulated him, not only for his courtesy, but also for his public-spirited attitude. I think he nearly died of surprise at the compliment, as teenagers usually get nothing but blame for being litterlouts!

My hope was that somebody in each street would follow the example, and help keep Isleham clean and tidy. Maybe this is something that you yourself could do?

Informer Web Site

Before the end of June we will have an Informer web site up and running. The site will publish the Informer and there will be separate pages for a whole range of topics. You will be able to write to us and send in articles and comments. We hope that Arthur Houghton, our village archivist, will provide us with articles on the history of our village. If anyone else has any information, do please send it to us. Historical articles will be incorporated into the web site in chronological order and it is hoped to build an important historical document.

If you have any old photographs, please loan them to us.

SMALL ADS.

For sale

Sunbeam gas BBQ on trolley with gas bottle. £12. Tel: 780407.

Tumble dryer and washing machine. Both good working order. £15 & £35. Tel: 780407.

Professional microscope, 4 lens head, 100+ clear slides. Box slightly damaged. £45. Tel: 781745.

Longshaft Seagull outboard motor. Serviced regularly by Seagull. Good condition. £100. Tel: 780407.

Boys clothes: Jeans, shirts, T-shirts, tops, etc. Age 7-9 yrs. All in vgc. Prices: £1.00-£1.50 per piece. Tel: 780903.

Oak drop leaf table, barley twist legs and small **oak writing desk/cabinet**. £60 each. Tel: 780407.

Bicycle. Man's 3 speed with dynamo. £12. Tel: 780407.

Queen size bed and mattress. £5. Tel: 780407.

Cycle tyres and tubes. Two of each, 20" x 1.75". New mountain tread. £8. Tel: 0779 9805766.

TV wall mounting bracket with double joint. As new. £15 ono. Tel: 780973.

Narrow boat. All steel, 45 ft long. Sleeps 2-4. 3 years BSC ticket. Diesel engine, mahogany/cedar interior, fitted carpets, gas cooker, shower, bath, electric flushing w/c, TV/video, double glazed windows, fridge. Live aboard? No problem. £23,000 ovno. Tel: 781745.

Wanted

Old stamp collections. Anything considered. Tel: 781745.

Clean hardcore. Footings excavation. Soil. Tel: 781745.

Councillor Wanted

At the Parish Council meeting on Monday, 11th May a number of council members retired while others were sworn in. The council is currently short of its target number of members. The Parish Council do a great deal for our village but the burden needs to be shared out. If there is anyone who would like to serve the village and join the Parish Council, please contact Yvonne Bishop on 01638 780256 and put yourself forward for consideration.

The Griffin

Church Street, Isleham. Tel: 01638 780447

Opening Times

Mon: 7.00-11.00 pm	Fri: 3.00-11.00 pm
Tue-Thurs: 12.00-2.00 pm	Sat: 12.00-11.00 pm
& 4.30-11.00 pm	Sun: 12.00-10.30 pm

Bar Snacks & Meals

Forthcoming Entertainment

Saturday, 14th June

Live Reggae with **Ziggy** (Bob Marley style)

Saturday, 5th July

Gala Day Bunjee Run 4pm
Evening Entertainment to 10pm

Quote

The following is from an unnamed politician.

"We could all take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism."

Very profound. It's amazing that one of them has a brain!

Competitions

Here's a simple but saucy competition to get us started. Have a good look at the cartoons below. There are 10 differences between them. Mark the differences on one of the cartoons and send your entry back to us by 20th June – address at the bottom of page 1. The competition is open to anyone up to the age of 14. The winner will be "drawn from the hat of winners" and will receive £5.

All Dogs Must be on a Leash



Anagrams

And now one for the adults to test the old grey cells. How many words of 4 or more letters can you make from the name of our village – **ISLEHAM**.

There are no prizes for the winner but whoever sends in the longest list will get their list published in the next issue. No proper nouns but plurals are allowed. No computer printouts as we consider this cheating! You need to do better than 50 words to give yourself a well-deserved pat on the back.

Let us know what type of puzzles and competitions you would like to see in your New Informer and we will try to include them.

Is there any kind soul out there prepared to sponsor cash prizes for our competitions? £5 a month would be perfect.

Twinning News

ISLEHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Twinning Weekend

Nesles' visit to Isleham on 3-4th May 2003

The coach arrived just after noon with our French visitors who were then taken to the home of their host family for lunch and a free afternoon to visit some local places of interest. Some of the visitors had previously stayed with the same host family and have now become firm friends.

A communal meal for around seventy people was provided on Saturday evening at the village hall. Before everyone's arrival at 7.30 p.m. the hall had been decorated with the Union, French and European flags. Union flags and bunting were draped around the walls. The tables were beautifully laid with white linen tablecloths and decorated with blue and red serviettes and vases of flowers. A delicious four-course meal, including a hot main course, was laid on with plenty of wine flowing and a background of live music. At the end of the meal there was a welcome speech from our Chairman, and an exchange of gifts.

On Sunday morning our guests were taken either to the Bowls Club for a friendly game of carpet bowls or out and about to see some more of the local sights before returning to the host family for lunch and the return trip to Nesles. The warm, sunny weather helped ensure a weekend that was enjoyed by all.

Committee contacts:

Terry Carter (Chairman): 780800

Diana Jones: 780634

David Styman: 780533

Bryan Wynn: 780802

Website: www.geocities.com/islehamtwinning

AERIAL PHOTOS

Christopher Goodwins writes: I had the privilege of flying Vernon Place (local professional photographer) around Isleham on Wednesday afternoon, 7th May. He took some superb aerial photos of the parish and is willing to sell them in aid of our Church Restoration Appeal. Maybe we could stage an exhibition of them soon, as they are not only the most up to date aerial photos of the village, but are also works of art in their own right. Contact him for further details on 01638-780449.

We have spoken to Vernon and he hopes to have some of the photos at Gala Day. We will also put some on our web site and they may be ordered through that as well. Ed.

Notice

Although the USSR no longer exists, this one tickled us.

On the door of a Moscow hotel room:

If this is your
first visit to the
USSR, you are
welcome to it

Isleham WI

Congratulations to Isleham's Women's Institute, which celebrated its 80th anniversary back in February. They meet at **7.45 p.m.** at the **Village Hall** on the **2nd Thursday of each month** except in August when they have their annual outing.

If you want to know more about what they do, why go along for a couple of free visits with no obligation to join. Their next meeting is on Thursday, 16th June when Mr R. Petter will be talking about "The Joys of Teaching".

The WI has changed and it is not only for jam-making old ladies in their 90's. Our WI has more than 50 members of all ages, shapes and sizes and is a really healthy and thriving organisation. They also have a new **wheelchair for hire** to anyone that needs it on a temporary basis.

We will keep you updated with their activities. However, for further information about the WI, please contact either Jane Grant on 01638 780848 or Denise Peachy on 01638 780508.

It's Only a Name

Did you know that there is a Loose Women's Institute and an Ugley Women's Institute? Loose is in Kent, Ugley is in Essex. We are not sure if there is a Nasty WI in Hertfordshire. We bet our ladies are glad that they live in Isleham!

COPY DEADLINES

The deadlines for copy are as follows. Anything arriving later than the dates below will be held over to a later issue.

Non-advertisers

Articles, contributions and letters: 14th of the month
Prearranged articles/features: 18th of the month

Advertisers

Changes to regular adverts: 23rd of the month

Your Informer will normally be sent to the printer on the working day nearest to 24th of the month. This will give just sufficient time for it to be distributed within a day or two of the end of each month. By special arrangement changes can be made even later!

Next CMs

The various committee meetings will be next held on the following dates:

Parish Council: Monday, 2nd June & Monday 7th July.

Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Parishioners may raise any issue between **7.30-8.00 p.m.**

Comrades Club: 8.00 p.m. on Monday, 9th June.

Anyone including non-members is welcome to attend the meeting from **8.00-8.30 p.m.** to raise any issue.

Gala Committee: Mon 9th June & Mon 23rd June; 8pm at the Comrades Club. All welcome.

Medical Blunder

We do get some pretty strange things sent to us. How about this true story from Dr Susan Steinberg, a hospital consultant, who lives in Manitoba, Canada.

One day I had to be the bearer of bad news when I told a wife that her husband had died of a massive myocardial infarct. Not more than five minutes later, I heard her reporting to the rest of the family that he had died of a "massive internal fart."

Phil Latterly!

Are there any philatelists (stamp collectors) in the village that would like to start a stamp-collecting club? There are certainly a few but they don't get together. Perhaps now is the time. Anyone interested should contact Paul Chaplin on 01638 781745.

Dotty Ditty

We have received the following ditty from Billie Moore. Why not make one up and send it to us?

*The dog and the cat sat happily together
They always did this whatever the weather
They shared their dinners, they shared their teas
They ever shared each other's fleas!*

Isleham Comrades Club

Church Street, Isleham

Tel: 01638 780884

Activities & Functions for June

Bar & Regular Functions	Special Functions
Mondays Bar: 12.00-3.00pm & 8.00-11.00pm	Friday 6th June Quiz Night
Tuesdays Line Dancing: 7.00-10.00 pm Bar: 7.00-11.00pm	Saturday 7th June Country & Western
Wednesdays Bingo: 8.00-9.30pm Bar: 7.30-11.00pm	Thursday 12th June Junior Disco
Thursdays Bar: 7.30-11.00pm	Saturday 14th June Country & Western
Fridays Bar: 7.30-11.00pm	Saturday 21st June Private Party
Saturdays Bar: 7.30-11.00pm	Friday 27th June Football Club Disco
Sundays Bar: 12.00-3.00pm & 7.00-10.30pm	Saturday 28th June Rock & Roll Night
	Sunday 29th June Jazz at Lunchtime
	Why not book your Party at the Club?
Always an Excellent Selection of Malt Whiskies and Real Ales	
Support your local village club. New members always welcome.	

Joyces's Corner

Joyce Drayton is well known for her poetry. She was a regular contributor to the old Informer and she has agreed to write on a regular basis for your new Informer. This one has no title but it is all about what foods are meant to be good for you and those that are apparently bad. We have simply called it "Food".

Food

*We're told every day that things we eat
Are bad for us, including red meat
The only sure way that we can tell
If we wake up each morning alive and well*

*Wholemeal bread's what we're told to eat
With plenty of turkey and white chicken meat
Eggs cause salmonella, Edwina said
So one lightly boiled can land you in bed*

*They've had radioactive sheep in Wales
That's why they run around wagging their tails
Our sheep have got scrape so it seems
We're doomed to live on toast and baked beans*

*Eating low fat and yoghurts we now must start
As butter and cream are bad for the heart
Oxtail and T-bone are banned again
And our trees are dying from acid rain*

*Coffee and tea will keep you awake
And you'll get "mad cow" from a piece of steak
Tomatoes and citrus fruit give you the wind
And custard is awful if its been tinned*

*Greens, fruit and potatoes are sprayed every year
But the whitefly keeps coming, he shows no fear
Black grapes from South Africa mix with the white
To see them together's a wonderful sight*

*They say mobile phones make you dizzy and deaf
And too much TV makes you blind as a ref
Red wine is good for you, so is stout
But too much port will give you the gout*

*Don't let the children have coloured sweets
They get hyperactive and jump on their seats
Fruit juice and sugar rots teeth and gums
And fizzy drinks often upsets their tums*

*Fish stocks are affected by nuclear waste
Even out tap water has a foul taste
But we can still eat pork and lovely ham
With bread and marge and plenty of jam*

*Don't despair folks, don't believe all you hear
If we took all that in we'd live in fear
Have a pint of strong ale to drown your sorrow
Cos we're all here today and gone tomorrow*

Joyce Drayton

Don't Forget

Don't forget that lineage ads are only 5p per word and the phone number is free. Please contact Paul Chaplin on 01638 781745 to place your ad.

Re-enactment News

Within the village a number of people are involved in two groups – The Dark Ages Society and Venta Icenorum. The first is all to do with Vikings and Saxons and most of you have probably seen them occasionally in full battle dress either at the Comrades Club or on their way to a banquet at the Village Hall. The second group is named after a Roman village 3 miles south of Norwich and is all about life in Britain in the 1st to 4th centuries under Roman occupation. Their role is mainly educational and they give demonstrations at schools, museums, fairs, etc. and organise functions at ancient village sites that have been rebuilt, one of which is on the A1101 between Mildenhall and Bury St Edmunds.

DAS have events throughout the UK, Europe, Scandinavia and Iceland. Their next local "living history" event will be at the **Littleport Show on Saturday, 19th July**. Venta had a pretty heavy May and were also re-enacting and demonstrating at Burwell museum over Easter. Their next main events are shown below. Do go along.

June:

- 15 Burwell Museum - Museums Fair
- 28/29 Iron Age peoples - Flag Fen Summer Festival
- 29 Romano-British people – Ramsey Museum Children's Activity Day

July:

- 19/20 Iron Age People - Flag Fen National Archaeology Day
- 20 Romano-British people - Wimpole Hall National Archaeology Day
- 27 Burwell Museum Fete

For confirmation of the above, Tel: 01638 605187



No prizes for guessing who this character is.

Parish Councillors

A number of Parish Councillors "retired" recently and others were elected. For your information, the current list of councillors and their contact details are as follows:

Derrick Beckett	01638 780476
Ian Bishop	01638 780256
Terence Carter	01638 780800
Henry Cave	01638 780663
Paul Chaplin	01638 781745
Geoffrey Garbett	01638 780863
Jeanette Malkin	01638 780283
Lionel Meal	01638 780066
Ronald Pammenter	01638 780471
Richard Sheldrick	01638 780607

Parish Minutes

Abbreviated minutes for the meeting on 12th May are:

1. Options for new ward boundaries were discussed. Any changes will be published.
2. District Councillor Beckett informed the meeting that people must report crime to the Police and obtain a crime number before the Police can act on their behalf.
3. Eddie Woodbridge was thanked for his efforts as District Councillor. Our new DC is Derrick Beckett. Other councillors that retired at the meeting were Mr P. Flatt, Mr D. Aves and Mrs E. Howe.
4. Notice was given that the Youth Club can continue to use the Village Hall for their activities indefinitely unless any problems arise in the future, which will be dealt with accordingly.
5. Wilburton Parish Council are to inform ours of the requirements and stipulations regarding a BMX bike track for youngsters, which they are considering. Youngsters could benefit immensely from projects like this for our village.
6. Enquiries have been made regarding the inclusion of a helicopter in the Isleham Gala. The Parish Council had no objections as long as safety implications and requirement are met.

BMX Bike Track

Following the Parish Council's purchase of land adjoining the playing field, it would seem that land can be made available for a BMX bike track. So, come on Guys & Gals, if you want a purpose-built track, write to us and we will pass all your requests to the Parish Council. Get the support of your parents and friends and get them to write in as well. The Informer can be your platform for making your views known to the Parish Council.

Thanks

Our grateful thanks to all those that have supported us by advertising in this issue. Advertising is crucial to our survival. This month we hope to contact other businesses that may advertise with us. You have not escaped!

More Notice

How about this wonderful sign for a Chinese with a western sense of humour!

A sign in a Chinese pet shop:

**Buy a dog and
get one flea**

Don't forget to send us any amusing signs that you have seen. Not the signs – just let us know!

Charity News

Many of you are aware that the Comrades Club has supported various charities through raffles and providing a point of focus for other charitable events. At the end of August 2002, the club supported a venture aimed at raising money for the Great Ormond Hospital Children's Charity and the Sick Kids Friends Foundation of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children. The aim was for two idiot club members and equally idiot support teams to visit every distillery in Scotland on classic British motorcycles to collect and purchase bottles of whisky that would later be auctioned to raise money for the charities.

The event took place and a second visit was made to collect more bottles. At least one bottle was obtained from each distillery apart from the old Parkmore distillery that has been used as a warehouse for decades. The collection stands at almost 200 bottles and every bottle is signed by distillery staff or suppliers and, in some cases, famous people including Tony Blair, Iain Duncan Smith, our MP Jim Paice, Margaret Thatcher and Mohamed Al Fayed. The charities have been trying to arrange a suitable auction but something always foils their attempts. It will now take place in August. Full details in the next Informer.

P.T.A.

The school Parent Teachers Association do a wonderful job supporting our school. Throughout the year they organise a range of fundraising events – this year's Panto raised more than **£1700** for the school! The PTA even contributed towards the new curtains for the Village Hall and are sponsoring the Handwriting Competition on Gala Day. We will keep you updated in future issues.

The Rising Sun

Sun Street, Isleham. Tel: 01638 780741

Home cooked food served Tuesday-Sunday

No smoking dining area

Bar Snacks & Daily Specials Available

Disabled Facilities

Try our Wednesday evening super value
menu in a nice friendly atmosphere

Regular live music

Sports News

It is certain that we are only covering a few of the sporting activities in this first issue. If we have missed anything out, please contact us so that we can include your news.

Badminton

Well, how many of you knew that we have a Badminton Club? The club meet at the **Primary School** in Maltings Lane every **Thursday evening from 7.30-9.30 p.m.** but only during term time. The club is not in any league and all matches are friendly. The club is small and new members looking for a bit of fun are always welcome. For further details please telephone Pat Houghton on 01638 780789.

Bowls

Everyone knows about our Bowls Club but almost no one knows about their fixtures and results. Each month we will update you. Fixtures for the next few weeks are as follows. All times are p.m. Confirm details with Pat Houghton on 01638 780789.

Date	Opponents	Venue	Time	Key
June				
Mon 2	Mildenhall	H	2.15	M
Thur 5	Haddenham	H	6.30	L
Sat 7	Memorial Singles	H	2.15	M
Mon 9	Newmarket 'B'	A	6.30	L
Thur 12	Soham 'A'	A	6.30	L
Fri 13	Rothchild Trophy	A	6.30	
Sat 14	Drive (cards?)		6.00	
Mon 16	Fordham 'A'	A	2.15	M
Thur 19	Ely City	H	6.30	L
Fri 20	Cottenham	A	2.15	M
Sun 22	Invitation Cup		2.15	
Mon 23	Milton	H	2.15	M
Wed 25	League KO Cup		6.30	
Thur 26	Fordham	A	6.30	L
Fri 27	Chippenham	H	2.15	M
Sun 29	Telpher Trophy		2.15	
Mon 30	Newmarket 'A'	H	2.15	M
July				
Tue 1	Ely Beet 'B'	H	6.30	L
Fri 4	Mixed KO Cup		2.15	
Fri 4	Lancashire Hon VPs	H	6.30	F
Sun 6	Invitation Cup		2.30	
Mon 7	Bottisham 'B'	H	2.15	M

L = Ely & District evening league;

M = Mixed afternoon league; F = Friendly

Cricket

The village has three cricket teams. There is a 1st and 2nd XI plus a Midweek XI. Fixtures for the next couple of months are shown below. Reports of cricket matches will be included as and when we receive them.

1st XI (all matches start at 2.00 p.m.)

Date	Opponents	Venue
7 June	Burwell II	Home
14 June	Soham I	Home
21 June	Somersham I	Away
12 July	Histon II	Away

2nd XI (all matches start at 2.00 p.m.)

Date	Opponents	Venue
7 June	Ely/Haddenham II	Away
14 June	Witcham	Away
21 June	Abbots Ripton	Home
28 June	Wilburton	Home
12 July	Needingworth	Home

Midweek XI (all matches start at 6.00 p.m.)

Date	Opponents	Venue
4 June	Culford	Home
	Corinthians	
11 June	Soham	Home
18 June	Tuddenham	Home
25 June	St Edmundsbury	Away
2 July	Burwell	Away
9 July	MCC Arabs	Away

Football

Not much happens at this time of year but we do have a number of football teams. We will keep you updated with their activities and progress when the new season starts.

We Hope That.....

There will be quite a few mistakes in this, our first issue of your new Informer. It will take us another couple of issues to iron out the teething problems. Even so, we hope that you have enjoyed your new Informer. If not, then we want to hear your comments and suggestions. If we have missed out something obvious, please let us know so that we can do something about it for the July issue.

Riverside Island Marina

Tel: 01638 780663 Mobile: 0797 9865157

Supplies & Services

Bottled gas and marine diesel sales

Holiday narrow boat hire

Sale & purchase of all types of boat

Lodge sales and holiday rentals

Moorings with electricity

New moorings available shortly

Transportation of boats by land or water

New Service

Boat valeting comprising of:

Lift out, Power spray-off,

Polish hull and top, Full

Interior Clean and Service

Small Repairs Undertaken

Oil changes, filters, etc., etc.

Prices on application

Coming soon

Day excursion trips to Ely by boat

Read your Informer to find out when