



Isleham Informer

No.5 December 2003

www.isleham-informer.org.uk e-mail: mail@isleham-informer.org.uk
Published by the Isleham Parish Council



Back on Track

As you can see, the Informer is back! The last issue raised emotions and, in some cases, to pretty extreme levels that prompted both serious complaints and praise. However, now is not the time for recriminations and the laying of blame. Too many people that are involved with the Isleham Parish Council [IPC] and the Informer have too much to do and not enough time to do it. Anyone that does "their bit" for the Village does so voluntarily but they lay themselves open to criticism and no thanks for what they are trying to do. The recent unfortunate difficulties between the IPC and the Informer are no exception and were probably predictable considering that the Informer was only resurrected a few months ago.

The good news is that there have now been positive and very fruitful discussions on how to take the Informer forward. It has certainly become clear that the major problems have been due to a lack of communication and all concerned have agreed upon a solution to this. The IPC has made the Informer aware of the problems of budgeting and these are understood and accepted. Similarly, the IPC are aware of the need for professionalism and job satisfaction on the part of those who put the Informer together and get it produced. The IPC will therefore look into ways and means of funding the Informer beyond the size of this issue and of guaranteeing its future.

There have been written complaints about some jokes, cartoons and the occasional article. In particular, there has been some unjustified criticism of the IPC Councillors over the issue of vandalism and the Informer regrets any embarrassment caused. Some of the village churches have also had cause to complain. Although we all recognise that someone will always complain about something that is included, it is important that even accidental offence is reduced to a minimum. As a consequence, the IPC and the Informer will work closely together to ensure that a light-hearted, family production is distributed throughout the village.

For the immediate future, the Informer will continue with the emphasis on village news. Brevity will be important but it will all be there, including a joke and a cartoon!

Isleham Parish Council & Isleham Informer

Late

Although we are late with this issue, some groups within the village have not managed to send us their news in time. Do please try and meet our deadlines if you want publicity for your activities and functions.

Smile ☺

It just would not be the Informer without a joke. Let's see if this one from Sam Clifton raises a smile.

Smart Lady

There was a man who had worked all of his life and had saved all of his money. He was a real miser when it came to his money.

He loved money more than just about anything and, just before he died, he said to his wife, "Now listen, when I die, I want you to take all my money and place it in the casket with me. I want to take my money to the afterlife." So he got his wife to promise him with all her heart that when he died, she would put all the money in the casket with him.

Well, one day he died. He was stretched out in the casket and the wife was sitting there in black next to her closest friend.

When they finished the ceremony, just before the undertakers got ready to close the casket, the wife said, "Wait just a minute!" She had a shoebox with her and she came over with the box and placed it in the casket. Then the undertakers locked the casket down and rolled it away.

Her friend said, "I hope you weren't crazy enough to put all that money in the casket."

She said, "Yes, I promised. I'm a good Christian and I can't lie. I promised him that I was going to put that money in that casket with him."

"You mean to tell me you put every penny of his money in the casket with him?"

"I sure did", said the wife. "I got it all together, put it into my account and I wrote him a cheque."

We always need jokes. Our thanks to two people who sent us some. Yes, very funny but certainly not publishable!

Isleham Post Office Stores

Sun Street, Isleham; 01638 780256

Open until 8 p.m. Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri & Sat

DVD's now available to rent

Top titles: £2.75 Chart titles: £2.00 Kids: £1.50

All Video Rentals are **Rent One, Get One Free** during December

Also a wide range of **Xmas Gifts, Toys & Greeting Cards** available

Contact Information

You may contact the Informer and send letters, articles, information, complaints, etc. through our website at:

mail@isleham-informer.org.uk

Complaints may also be sent to the IPC via Yvonne Bishop at the Post Office. Advertising enquiries should be made to Paul Chaplin, Jay-Jay Lodge (just before the Marina) or call him on 01638 781745. Articles should be taken to or sent to Tony Ferrige, 9 Church Street (opposite the church). Tony may be contacted on 01638 780973. You may also fax us on 01638 780962 but please try and send material by e-mail to reduce our burden of typing.

Useful Phone Numbers

Emergency for Police, Fire, Ambulance	999
Police (Cams.)	01223 358966
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
Minor Treatment Centre, Ely	01353 652162
NHS Direct (for advice)	0845 4647
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	
(Ian & Yvonne Bishop)	01638 780256
Mobile Library	01223 712000
Parish Council (Yvonne Bishop: Clerk)	01638 780256
Member of Parliament (Jim Paice)	01954 211450
Isleham Informer (Paul Chaplin)	01638 781745
(Sam Clifton)	01638 781531
(Tony Ferrige)	01638 780973

Sparks!

No, this has nothing to do with fireworks. Several readers have asked us if we know of a good electrician. Well, someone in the village has been getting some business through the Informer! What we need now is an electrician to advertise in the Informer.

So, Readers, please get one to advertise with us and help us keep the Informer going. Every paid advertisement is worth its weight in gold.

COPY DEADLINES

The deadlines for copy for the *February* issue 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 February
Prearranged articles/features: 18th February

Advertisers

Changes to regular adverts: 23rd February

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 to advertisements even later but please try to conform to our deadlines.

Regular Advertisers

Paul Chaplin will contact all our regular advertisers to discuss future advertising and rates.

Please remember that for non-business advertising **Lineage Advertisements are FREE!** Please contact Paul Chaplin on 01638 781745 to place your ad.

Charity News

Air Ambulances

Linda and Ken at **The Griffin** have supported and raised money for the Air Ambulances for some time. They are holding an **auction on Boxing Day at The Griffin at 3 p.m.** Come along and join the fun. Last year £1400 was raised so let's try and make it more this year.

John Dyer will be the auctioneer selling various donated items including a **barrel of beer**, a **helicopter ride for 4** and a **signed photograph of the Arsenal football team**. A full list of auction items will be available in The Griffin and in the Cambridge Evening News during December. If you can't make the auction on the day, you can leave a bid or call 01638 780447.

Whisky Galore for Sick Kids

The auction of the whisky collection has taken place at last. It sold for £6200 and will be put towards the purchase of a Karyotype Workstation. This is a vital piece of equipment used in the diagnosis of certain types of leukaemias. The workstation will allow an extra 380 children to be diagnosed and treated this year, next year and every year. Great Ormond Street and The Royal Edinburgh children's hospitals have asked us to pass on their thanks to all those people that supported the venture and made it possible to obtain a collection of more than 200 bottles of whisky, many of them from closed distilleries.

Editors note: Anyone that would like us to publicise a charitable event, please write to us.

Isleham Parish Council

Notice to all parishioners

In the public interest and due to current legislation of Health and Safety, Isleham Parish Council hereby reserves the right to notify all owners of burial plots within the cemetery where practicable, to the following conditions.

Any gravestone that is considered in the public interest to be unsafe so as to cause a minor or major mishap, will be laid down at the place of burial.

Isleham Parish Council are aware that some graves in the old and new cemetery are in need of attention, and could be a potential safety hazard. It would be appreciated if owners of the grave space and memorials listed below, or their heirs, please contact the parish clerk on 01638 780256 for further details as to action to be taken.

New Cemetery

Elias & Nellie Fuller (1958 & 1986)
Dorothy Neal (1967)
Martha & James Human (1963 & 1965)
Maud & Mary Human (1969 & 1996 (Harry))

Old Cemetery

Eunice & Ethel Petch (1918 & 1949)
Henry & Esther Clarke (1915 & 1921)
Frederick Cornwall (1904)
James & Susan Starling (1887 & 1891)
Leonard & Thomas Owers (1892 & 1913)
Sarah Gunston (1887)
Mary & Joseph Pamment (1887 & 1900)
Thomas & Susan Bowd (1892)
William Brown (1905)
Edward & Thomas Cornell (1880)
Rebecca Sheldrick (1890)
Tom & Mary Bridges (1896 & 1899)

For further information, advice or grievances on this matter, please contact the parish clerk on (01638 780256).

Ely-Soham Dial-a-Ride

We have been asked to inform you of the Dial-a-Ride transport service that is coming to East Cambridgeshire. That means Isleham is included.

Ely-Soham Dial-a-Ride is a 'Not for Profit' organisation funded by the Lottery, Countryside Agency and local partners for 3 years. It will provide an affordable door-to-door service for members of any age who have difficulty using public transport due to availability or physical disability.

Starting with one 12 seat fully accessible air-conditioned minibus, the service will be expanded next year with the purchase of another two minibuses. All drivers will be specially trained and hold a ROSPA MiDAS certificate.

The service starts on Tuesday 9th December. Now is the time for individuals and groups to get in touch so that they can become members and use the service from day one. The service may be contacted by telephoning 01353 661161 or by e-mail at esdar@btopenworld.com.



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

2003 53 Renault Megane 1.6 Dynamique 5dr hatch in Ottoman Blue metallic. Alloy wheels, PAS, Electric windows, Alarm, Front fog lamps, Air bags, Radio/CD player, Delivery mileage only. Cost new on the road £12650. **Our price £11595**

2003 52 Renault Laguna 1.8 16V Privilege 5dr hatch in Odyssey Blue metallic. Sunroof, Front fog lamps, Radio/CD player, PAS, Twin air bags. Alloy wheels, half leather, ABS. 13000 miles. **£11295**

2002 52 Renault Megane 1.4 Dynamique 16V 5dr in Ink Blue metallic. Alloy wheels, PAS, ABS, Air con, Radio/CD player, Central locking. Low mileage at 7500 miles. **£9795**

2002 52 Renault Laguna 2.0 16V Dynamique 5dr in Odyssey Blue metallic. Central locking, ABS, PAS, Sunroof, Electric windows, Radio/CD player, Air con, Alloy wheels, Half leather. 24000 miles. **£10695**

2001 Y Renault Laguna 3.0 V6 Sport Tourer Auto in Cosmic Grey metallic. Alloy wheels, ABS, Air bags, PAS, Electric windows, Sunroof, Air con, Front fog lamps, Radio/CD player, Half leather, Cruise control. Low mileage at 5000 miles. **£12595**

2000 X Renault Laguna Alize 2.0 Auto 5dr hatch in Goodwood Green metallic. Air con, PAS, ABS, Air bags, Sunroof, Radio/CD player, Cruise control, Front fog lamps. Full service history. Low mileage at 25000 miles. **£6850**

2000 W Renault Laguna Monaco 3.0 V6 5dr Manual Hatch in Platinum Silver. Alloy wheels, Full leather with Electric seats. Sat nav, CD multi-player, Alarm, Alloys, Cruise control, PAS, ABS, Air bags, Sunroof. Full service history. 44000 miles. **£6995**

1998 R Renault Laguna 3.0 V6 Auto Executive 5dr Hatch in Metallic Black. Alloy wheels, Climate control, ABS, PAS, Full leather, Sunroof, Radio/CD player, Front fog lamps, Alarm, Cruise control. Full service history. 79000 miles. **£4295**

1997 R Renault Scenic RT 1.6 in White. Twin electric sunroofs, Front fog lamps, PAS, Air con, Radio cassette, ABS. Full service history. 77000 miles. **£5695**

1996 N Renault Megane RT 1.6 5dr hatch in Capsium Red. Air bag, PAS, Radio cassette, Sunroof, Electric windows, Central locking. Service history. 92000 miles. **£1795**

Joyces's Corner

We now have room for another of Joyce Drayton's poems. She calls this one Happy Memories.

Happy Memories

*My friends won't mind me using their names
In fact we all laugh when we meet
Like our 'Little French Hen' who looks daft in a hat
And Jean who has really bad feet*

*I won't embarrass them too much
But we laughed at Ena's caper
She 'borrowed' someone else's specs
And couldn't read the paper*

*Pat loved to do the quick-step
She really was a goer
But when they played the 'Cha Cha Cha'
Her legs got rather slower*

*I used to work with Phyllis
Digging carrots on the land
But a frog hopped into her basket
And she nearly had me banned*

*Rosie was the custard queen
She 'watered' it now and then
Val's quiet and more sedate now
They can't hear her down the fen*

*Joy's a wizard making cakes
She paints and has things framed
Ann's learned to swim at 63
Which made me feel ashamed*

*Harry has such lovely legs
He airs them once a year
Mary once biked into a cow
But didn't show much fear*

*Peggy scorched her old man's shirt
And had a rate 'To do'
Our Joan got desperate on a trip
Ending up in the Gentlemen's loo*

*Please don't move anymore Lil
Each move you're as near as can be
If it worries you about getting too close
We'll move the cemetery*

*I've known some lovely people
In the years that I've lived here
Lots have gone or moved away
But this lot are all still near*

Joyce Drayton

IPC Notice

There is a **vacancy on the Parish Council** if anyone would like to volunteer. Please contact Yvonne on 01638 780256.

Any complaints to the Parish Council must be **made in writing**. Please send them to Yvonne at the Post Office.

Open Some Hours!

Our village shops are not open throughout the Christmas period. Their proposed opening times are shown below:

Co-op

Christmas Eve	Open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
New Year's Eve	Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
New Year's Day	Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Post Office

Christmas Eve	Open 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Closed
Sat. 27 th Dec.	Open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
New Year's Eve	Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ivy's Paper Shop

Christmas Eve	Open until 1 p.m.
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Open until 10 a.m.

Priory Garage

Christmas Eve	Open until 5 p.m. (ish!)
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Closed
New Year's Day	Closed

(Check on the door for any changes)

Patterson's

Christmas Eve	Open until 5 p.m.
Reopens on Monday, 29 th December	

SMALL ADS.

For sale

5 Tyres & Rims, 205x14. Hardly used. £100 the lot. Call 01638 781745 (answer phone. Leave your number).

Wooden Shed, 6'x4'. As new. Seen erected. £80. Buyer to dismantle. Phone 01638 781745.

Storage Heaters. As new. £30 each. Heavy brick type. Tel: 01638 780407.

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

Wanted

Looking to trace Barbara who was doing a lot of work for Kevin Starling of Essex, researching the Starling Family tree.

Please write to Mark Starling, 41 Morrish Rd, London SW2 4EE or e-mail to claudestarl@hotmai.com.

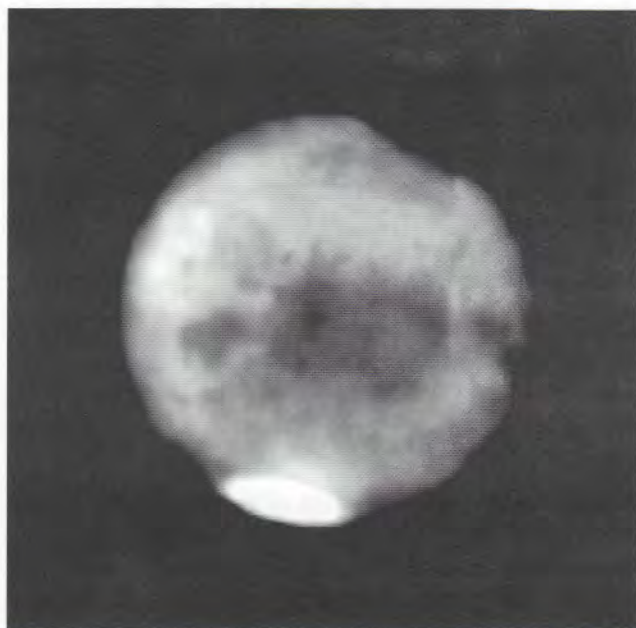
To place your lineage advertisement, please call Paul Chaplin on 01638 781745 or leave it with Tony at 9 Church Street. Remember that lineage adverts are FREE to non-commercial readers. However, ads of more than a few lines will not be accepted.

In the Sky

A number of our readers have looked at our rather messy website and seen the astronomical photographs taken from Isleham. They have requested that we include information on anything interesting up there and any new photographs.

Unfortunately there is little to see during December and January. The Geminids meteor shower will have its maximum from 9 p.m. on December 13th but, if it is clear, the Moon will be rising at that time. Only the brightest of the meteors will be visible. Gemini will be about 30 degrees above the horizon in the east and is recognised by its two brightest stars, Pollox and Castor. Saturn is also in Gemini and appears to be a bright, slightly yellowish star. Jupiter is a bright morning star and is high in the sky after midnight. There are no bright comets until April.

The Mars opposition was spectacular and the photograph below (computer enhanced) was taken at 3 a.m. on 22nd August. The original colour photograph will eventually be added to the website.



Next CMs

The various Committee meetings will be held on the following dates.

Parish Council: *Monday, 5th January 2004.*
Monday, 2nd February 2004.

Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Parishioners may raise any issue between **7.00-7.30 p.m.**

Comrades Club: 8.00 p.m. on *Monday, 8th December.*
8.00 p.m. on *Monday 12th January.*

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

Gala Committee: *Monday, 9th February 2004* at 8 pm at the Comrades Club. All welcome. There are vacancies on the Gala Committee. If you can help, then do please come along to the meeting.

Karma Farm

8 Fen Bank, Isleham

Home Grown Natural Beef & Pork

Please call **01638 780701**

or e-mail taylorfamily@freezone.co.uk

See our website: www.karmafarmisleham.co.uk

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Boring old Dripping Taps to
Central Heating Installations**

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CORGI registered

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01842 860788 (answer service)
or **07768 076348** (mobile)

FARM FRESH EGGS

1 Fen Bank, Isleham

*Farm on the left opposite the
road leading to Isleham Marina*

Visit our stall

£1.80 per dozen/**90p** a half dozen

Top to Toe

In the comfort of your own home

**For all your waxing requirements,
facials, manicures or pedicures
+ more, including ear piercing**

Phone Annaliese to find out more or to book
Ring: 01638 780903 or 0776 1655434

Private Hire & Taxi Service

Nial Murphy from Freckenham is pleased to offer a quality private hire service at reasonable cost. All work undertaken. No surcharges for local work. Non-smoking.

A pre-booked service only; 9 am to 6 pm

To get in touch, please ring **01638 720047**

Place your advertisement

To place an advertisement in the Informer and reach the whole of Isleham, please call Paul Chaplin on

01638 781745

Isleham's Churches

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

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.

Pound Lane Free Church

Every Sunday:

Sunday Worship: 11.00 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.
Church Night: Weds 7.30-9.00p.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

High Street Church

Every Sunday:

10.30am. Morning Worship. Creches are available for 0-3 year olds. Junior Church for 3-7 year olds from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Junior Church for 7-11 year olds from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

6.30pm. Evening Service

Tuesdays: "Rendezvous" for the over 50's is back at 3.00pm. Contact the office for details.

Fridays: 9.15am. "Little Lambs" for babies to pre-schoolers and their carers.
7.00pm. Prayer Walk & Youth Groups 11-14 and 14-21's.

If you would like to attend any of the above, you would be most welcome, and if you need any more information, or help at any time, please contact the leadership team on

01638 780985 (church office)
islehambap@aol.com (e-mail)
01638 721291 / 07713 465787 (anytime)

News

St Andrew's Events

Christmas Services

Sunday, 14th, 21st, 28th Dec - Holy Communion 10am

Tuesday, 16th December - Christmas carols & Readings

Christmas Eve - Christingle Service 4pm
- Midnight Mass 11.45pm

The first Communion of Christmas.

Christmas Day - Holy Communion 8am & 10am

Sunday, 4th Jan - Holy Communion 8am
- Children's Epiphany Toy Service 10am

Show a Christmas present and bring a gift for Romanian orphanage children.

For full details contact **Janice Pope on 01638 780380.**

Pound Lane Free Church

Dave Hall has sent us the following:

Many thanks to all who gave or helped with this year's Operation Christmas Child appeal - we have processed 2158 boxes to date, all of which will bring great joy to a needy child in Eastern Europe this Christmas. We will be showing the 2003 OCC video during our **Candlelit Carol Service on December 21st at 6.15 p.m.** We warmly invite you to join us as we sing a number of traditional carols and enjoy items presented by the children's and young people's groups.

On **25th December** we have a **Family Service at 10.30 a.m.** What better way to start Christmas Day than joining with others to celebrate the first and greatest Christmas gift - the Lord Jesus Christ!

Finally, New Year is supposed to be the perfect time for making resolutions. Why not use this New Year to discover who Jesus Christ *really* is and what He can do for you? We'd love to see you whenever you are able to visit us.

You may contact Dave on 01638 780636 or by e-mail at CE@plfc.co.uk.

High Street Church

Christmas Service's

On Sunday 21st December we have a Family Service at 10:30, which is geared to all ages, and our Carol Service is at 6:30 p.m. On Christmas Day the service is very much a time for families and individuals to celebrate and runs from 11-12 prompt so the cooks can join in too!

Rendezvous round off the year with their Party and Tea on 16th and then break until January. Luncheon Club will have their Christmas Dinner on Dec 10th. For details about either of these please phone Kathryn on 780652

Little Lambs Christmas Party is 10-12 on Monday 15th December and if you have, or care for, babies or preschoolers you'll be made very welcome. If you've never been, do still come and join us - a very special visitor will be there!! Then for the parents/carers there will be a dinner

at the chapel on Tues 16th at 7:30 for 8:00pm. Come and have a break and get to know people better without your toddler hanging on your leg! For more info contact Kate on 781068 or Vanessa on 781708.

The 3-7 year olds will be having their own Nativity on Monday 22nd. Feel free to bring your little one along to join in, or to come and watch.

Christmas isn't an easy time for some. If you need someone to talk to please call one of our contact numbers. And don't be alone for Christmas Day. We have families who would love to have you! We would extend our warmest wishes for a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas to each and everyone.

Looking ahead to the New Year, a new Alpha course is planned. This is a 'jargon-free' introduction to what Christianity is all about, with informative videos but without any pressure. To find out more, please contact the Office.

Good Night

We have received the following from the "Good Night" service and been asked to include it for the benefit of parents in the Village.

Do you enjoy working with children? Interested in doing some voluntary work?

'Good Night' is a voluntary organisation offering a sitting service for children with a disability

Parents in most families enjoy an occasional evening out on their own and obtaining a sitter to enable them to do so poses no great problem. However, when a child has special needs, making arrangements is not always quite so straightforward. Parents of a disabled child might be worried about asking someone to take responsibility and feel that sitters might not be able to cope with their child's particular requirements.

It is our wish to make this service available to any parents of a child with a learning and/or physical disability ages 0 to 19 years in the city and the rural areas around Cambridge and Ely – parents who would like a night out and be able to relax in the knowledge that their child is being well cared for at home.

Anyone over sixteen can apply to become a sitter. Their suitability will be assessed and references taken up. After appropriate preparation, they are carefully matched with a family in their own vicinity. Ongoing support and training is available to volunteers and expenses are reimbursed.

If you feel that you can offer at least one evening a month and commit to building up a trusting relationship, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please telephone the office on 01223 519220 or email office@goodnight.org.uk.

Registered Charity No. 1056263

Art Group?

Goodness, we never knew it existed! Here are the details

Since the spring of this year, a number of like-minded souls have been meeting at the Rising Sun on Monday evenings from 7.15-9.30 p.m. to draw and paint. Just bring your own materials. It is not a class and novices to the expert are very welcome. They start again towards the end of January. For details please contact Edna Pammenter on 01638 780471 or Liz Howe on 01638 781225.

Books Wanted

Unclutter your home of books

We will collect them from you for a small fee of £1 for petrol. Any amount considered.

Contact: Frances or Mark on **01638 780235**
or email brewgirl@grant22.fsnet.co.uk

Do you have hardbacks with covers intact, or paperbacks in good order? We can act as your agent. Fee negotiable to cover handling, postage, etc. Any monies realised will be sent on to you as soon as the sale has been completed. Contact details as above.

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

Christmas at The Griffin

Tuesday, 23rd December

Live music with Bigsy

Wednesday, 24th December

Buffet at 8 p.m. followed by Christmas Draw

Christmas Day (open lunchtime only)

Join us for **mulled wine & mince pies**
around the **open fire**

Boxing Day

Griffin Girls vs Boys Football Game at the Rec.
Turkey, Ham & Roasties at 12.30 p.m.

Charity Auction at 3 p.m.
(In aid of the Air Ambulances)

New Year's Eve

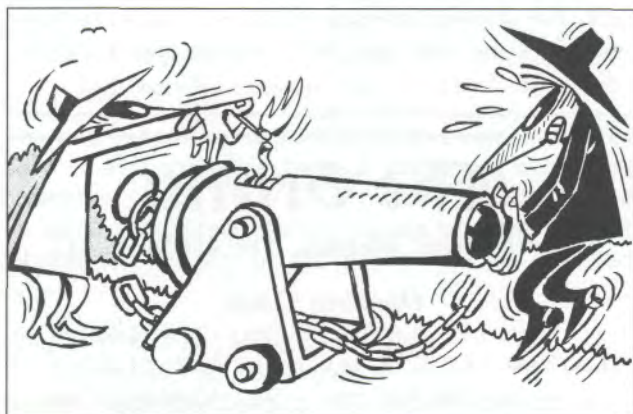
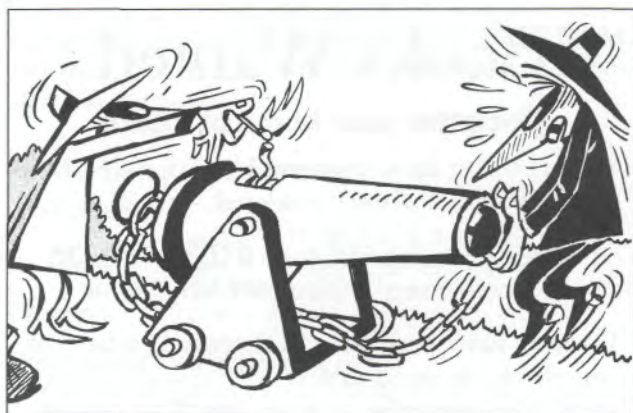
Captain Glamtastic
Glam Rock Entertainer

Midnight Celebrations

Competitions

Spot the Difference

Hopefully everyone received their prizes last time. If you did not, please contact Paul Chaplin on 01638 781745 and he will rush it to you. Here's another competition for you. This time we have made it a little more difficult and there are **12 differences** between the cartoons below. Mark them on one of the cartoons and send your entry to us by 20th February. The competition is open to anyone up to the age of 14. The winner will and will receive £5.



Anagrams

There is not much soft fruit around this time of year, apart from what is available from food stores. So, how many words of 4 letters or more can you make from the word "Vegetable". This one is not quite so easy and you will be doing pretty well to find 30.

Serious Question

What is the difference between a *Horse*, a *Donkey* and a *Mule*? Answer in the next issue.

Your Letters

We have received letters, telephone calls and comments supporting both the Informer and the IPC. In the light of the new spirit of cooperation and goodwill between your editorial team and the IPC, there is no useful purpose to be gained in publishing any of these. Do please write to us about this issue and remember that we will print anything that does not get us into trouble. If you wish to make a point, ask a question or share an opinion, please write to us. The only rule is we will not publish anonymous letters.

The following represents the gist of conversations and telephone calls from at least a dozen readers.

A surprising number of people have stopped us in the streets or telephoned to say how much they enjoy the Informer. They have added that they would be prepared to pay for the Informer provided it keeps its current format and continues to provide information about all the groups in the village.

It is a nice idea and we are grateful that our readers feel that way. However, if there were a charge it would mean the end of the village-wide distribution – it would not be possible for all our helpers to consult lists as to who pays! Also, many people value having the Informer delivered and arranging its purchase at pick-up points would not be as straightforward as the present system. Ed.

And this one from Mr A.Clifton from Littleport.

Dear Isleham Informer

Although I don't live in Isleham, I thoroughly enjoy reading the Isleham Informer whenever it is posted through my daughter's letterbox and always ask her to bring me her issue in Littleport.

I would like to thank the Informer for printing the article about trading in your old fridge for a new one from npower through East Cambridgeshire District Council. I have had a tatty old fridge for years and was absolutely delighted when a shiny new fridge was delivered to me two days after making my application.

Once again, many thanks and keep up the good work.

Delighted to have been of service. Ed.

Isleham WI

Brenda Downey has sent us this update. Look out for those hats!

December 11th will see the best Christmas hats walking the village streets towards our **Christmas Party**. There will be crackers, games, food, carol singing and Father Christmas. It's a 7.45 p.m. start and the competition is a "Winter Scene" photograph.

The New Year brings **Ian Powys** talking about Louis Comfort Tiffany (Painter, silversmith and jeweller) on **Wednesday, 14th January 2004** at 7.45 p.m. in the Village Hall.

February 11th brings our **AGM** once again – 7.45 p.m. at the Village Hall. There will be refreshments, social time and a competition.

Don't forget about our **Grand Jumble Sale on Saturday, 21st February**. It will be held in the Village Hall. More details in the next Informer.

Everyone is welcome to join us at any time. Just come along on the night. For more information, please phone the WI Secretary, **Brenda Downey**, on **01638 780338**.

Village Hall

Secretary Wanted for Isleham Village Hall Committee. If you can help, please contact Janet Houghton on 01638 780385. The committee meet every two months at the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. for a little over an hour. All that is required is a commitment of 1 hour each week.

Current hire charges for the Village Hall are as follows:

Main Hall: £10 per hour (minimum 2 hours)

Back Hall: £5 per hour (minimum 2 hours)

New Book Group

Calling all book lovers. There must be a lot of people in the village that enjoy a good read. Anna Chataway would like to try and get you all together on an informal but regular basis.

The idea is to make it a social event where people get together on roughly a monthly basis to talk about books and what you have been reading over a few glasses of wine and nibbles.

We understand that this is meant to be an enjoyable affair and so we are not talking about reading great big, fat books that are heavy in both senses of the word! If you are interested in helping form such a group, please contact **Anna Chataway** on **01638 781486**.

ISLEHAM SOCIETY

Ian Powys has sent us the following information.

The Society continues to flourish, but, like many village institutions, it will not do so for long if more of the younger generation don't become active members.

In October & November, we had two very interesting talks – which appealed to young and old alike. The first was on the Duxford Museum – and it may be that we organise one of our visits to Duxford this coming summer. The second was a fascinating talk on the code breaking efforts at Bletchley Park during the war – and the breaking of the German military codes and the “Enigma” machine. The speaker had herself been a member of that team and kept her audience enthralled for over an hour.

We do not meet in December, but on January 15th in the Village Hall, starting at 8.00 p.m. there will be a meeting when Vernon Place will give another of his inimitable talks on village life over the past fifty or sixty years. He will again be using many slides from the “Arthur Houghton Collection” which Arthur has given to the Society, in trust for all the village.

Everybody is welcome. Membership details available from the Secretary on 780519. Non-members who wish to listen to a talk are usually asked to pay £2.00 towards the cost of the speaker.

CHAIRMAN

Mr Roynon HOWES

☎: 01638 780530

Fax: 01638 780530

e-mail: roynonhowes@tesco.net

SECRETARY

Mrs B.M. POWYS

☎: 01638 780519

Fax: 01638 780519

e-mail: powys169@enterprise.net

Re-enactment News

It is the quiet time of year for the Re-enactors. However, the Vikings have recently had a weekend at Isleham. They arrived throughout Friday evening and spent time drinking from their horns at the Comrades. Saturday they were out fighting before returning to the Club in full dress and then moving on to the Village Hall for a Viking-style banquet.

There are Re-enactors Market and Fayres coming up. The first is on 20th-22nd February at Warwick and the next one is on 5th-7th March at Coventry. Contact the Informer for details if you would like to go.

The Venta Group have updated their website. It is well worth a look and you may recognise a few faces. The new site is at www.ventaicenorum.co.uk.

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FARM FRESH EGGS

We could not resist including this Christmas greeting!

Dear Customers

Unfortunately, due to the rise in feed prices we have had to put up our egg prices to: £1.80 per dozen and £.90p a half dozen

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

From 1 Fen Bank, Isleham

P.T.A.

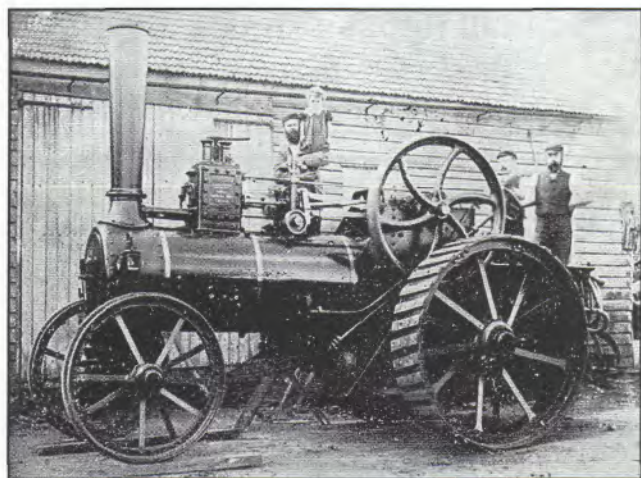
PTA committee members stood outside the school gates on a Friday in November and collected money for Children in Need. The PTA would like to thank parents for raising £42.50.

The PTA would also like to thank everyone who came to the 70/80s Disco which was held on Friday 28 November at the Comrades Club. We all had a great evening and look forward to the next one planned for November 2004. From ticket sales and the raffle we raised £286.40.

In February the PTA will be holding their annual Quiz Night in the School Hall. Look out for posters in shop windows and around the village.

Did You Know?

Did you know that 100 years ago that Soham made steamrollers? Here's one of them outside the factory. Unfortunately, we don't know exactly where the factory was located. If any of our readers know, then please contact us.



School Term

Please note that the Primary School end of term is Friday, 19th December. The new term begins on Tuesday, 6th Jan.

ISLEHAM UNDER FIVES

Fundraising and Social events: We have had a busy few months with lots of successful fundraising events. In October we held a Race Night at the Comrades Club. Despite a disappointing turnout, we still managed to raise £165 towards the New Building. On 21st November we held a Quiz Night at Isleham School also in aid of the New Building and raised £120, with the promise from Waitrose in Newmarket of a further £100 towards this project. The winner of the £10 prize in the latest in our series of Cryptic Quizzes was Janice Pope of Kennedy Road. The correct answers for anybody who is interested will be available at the Post Office, Co-op, Paper Shop and Pre-school. On Saturday 29th November we held a Nativity Concert and Craft Fayre at the School. It was the first time Pre-school have attempted something like this, and judging by the large numbers of people through the door, it was a great success. At this stage it is too early to say how much money was made for Pre-school but we expect it to be in the region of £200. We would like to say a big thank you to everybody who has supported these events, from parents donating cakes and Lucky Dip prizes to local businesses donating money and food towards refreshments and raffle prizes. A special thanks to the ladies in the Co-op for donating the items for the Christmas Hamper – which really did look lovely! The New Building Committee will be singing carols on Sunday 21st December around the Village. If you would like to take part, meet at the School Car Park at 4pm. If you play an instrument, please feel free to bring it along! Hot soup and a roll will be provided at the finish. For further details, please contact **Caroline** on **780171**. The Pre-school children are also planning to do Carol singing on the 20th, outside the Co-op. If anybody would like to join in with this, please contact **Helen Garbett**, Fundraising Co-ordinator on **781703**. We do still need more members for our Fundraising Committee to help Helen with future events. If you think you could help please contact her.

New Building Project: We have now had a meeting with the architect and had a first look at some sketch plans. If anyone would like more information on the facilities we hope to provide, or would like to join our committee, contact **Kathy Carver** on **781116** or **Julie Porter** on **781390**. Thank you to the local shops who sell our Cryptic Quizzes, we hope to have a new one out in the New Year.

Toddler Group: It has been decided to jazz up the image of Toddlers with a new name and a designer is on stand-by to design us a new logo. Any suggestions for a new, catchy name would be welcomed. The Christmas Party this year is on 16th December

Pre-School News: The Children have settled in well and had a really enjoyable term at Pre-school and are now looking forward to their Christmas Party. They had a trip to the Church on Friday 29th to see the Festival of Light and everyone had a lovely time. We look forward to welcoming our new children who are due to start Pre-school in the New Year. Anybody wishing information on Isleham Under Fives Association can ring **Janice Gee**, Chairperson, on **781449**.

Once again, many thanks to everybody in the village for their continued support and a big Merry Christmas from the children and their families!

Twinning News

ISLEHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Diana Jones has sent us the following update about our Twinning Association.

Twenty seven adults and six children took part in our annual visit to Nesles on the weekend of 4/5 October. As usual, our French friends were very good hosts and we had good food and an enjoyable time. We were also pleased to welcome several new members from Isleham on our visit and it was also commented on by the Chairman of the Nesles Committee that it was good to see new faces.

A new venture, which had been discussed for some time, was this year put into action. The Twinning Association joined with St. Andrew's Parish church to put on a carol concert on the Friday evening of the Festival of Light. Tickets were available through two members of the Twinning Committee and Isleham Post Office and Vernon Place, who has for years run the prestigious Newmarket concert, agreed to organise the music. As people arrived on Friday evening the church looked lovely, lit only by the Christmas trees provided by the various organisations in the village. Between the nine carols sung by everyone, music was played by children from Isleham School band; there were also other local artistes who played flutes, cornet, keyboard and saxophone. A Welcome was given by Rev. Christopher Goodwins at the beginning of the concert who also gave a simple Blessing at the end of the evening. Everyone who came to the concert enjoyed their evening and a total of £476.80 was raised. We would like to thank everyone who took part and made it such a successful and enjoyable evening. A special thanks to Vernon for his part.

In February 2004 there will another Quiz Night and our annual visit to Nesles will take place in May. Dates for both these events are still to be finalised but please look out for posters advertising them in the village nearer the time. If you would like more information on the Twinning please contact one of our Committee members listed below.

Terry Carter (Chairman): 780800

Diana Jones: 780634

David Styman: 780533

Bryan Wynn: 780802

Website: www.geocities.com/islehamtwinning

Sorry!

We are sorry that there has not been space in this issue to include anything on Sport or Gardening, despite the fact that we have lost more advertising than we have gained. We have put our available space to good use by including as much village news as possible. If you know anyone that might advertise, please try and persuade them to do so. A page of advertisements pays for another page of village news. Therefore, every advertisement counts. Please do your bit to keep the informer going.

If you have any useful comments or suggestion on advertising, then do please contact **Paul Chaplin** on 01638 781745.

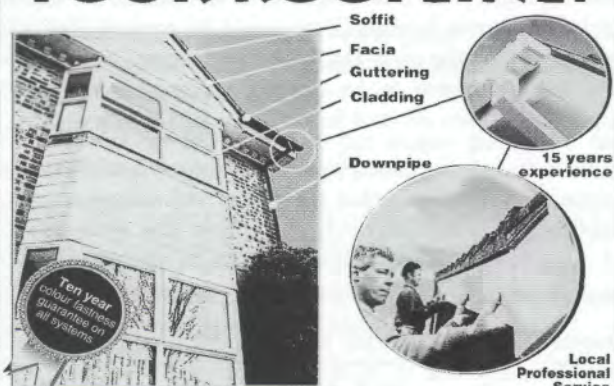
Newcomer

Ian Humphreys has sent the following.

I recently moved to Isleham from a large midlands city where I've lived for the past 40 years. It took some serious thought before moving but considering I have been a widower for the past 13 years and also getting a bit fed up with life in general, not being in the best of health, I decided to do it. It helped that one of my daughters, her husband and two of my grandchildren have lived here for 5 or 6 years. I have another daughter, son in law and two more grandchildren who live in Mildenhall so it seemed to make sense. Accordingly, I sold my house and moved!

I think it is probably the best thing I have ever done in my life. I am privileged to see my grandkids morning and afternoons as they attend the local school and it is no distance to drive to Mildenhall to visit the other part of the family I have also acquired an electric scooter to get me down to the Pub and shops (note the sequence!) as I have breathing difficulties when walking. At least that's my excuse. One thing I had not bargained for was the tremendous kindness and consideration shown to me by just about everyone I have met. It is probably the most noticeable difference between City and Country living and it has helped me feel very much at home. People actually speak - if it's only 'Good Morning'. In many other areas someone would fetch the Police! (Mind you, in the few months I have been here, I have never spotted a member of the constabulary - is it always as peaceful?). Living only a few yards from the village hall and sports field, I get the chance to see cricket in the summer and football in the winter. We only need Rugby and I will then have everything required for contented living. So there it is. I welcome this opportunity to thank everyone in the village for the kindness and help they have unstintingly given to a newcomer and keep waving at me on my buggy!

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Parish Council News

The follow is a very abbreviated and incomplete version of the IPC minutes for the October and November meetings. Any parishioner may request a copy of the full minutes.

October 6th Meeting

The Chairman welcomed Susan Candlish, Rural Housing Enabler of Cambs. Acre and three representatives from Hereward Housing who addressed the meeting over the results of the Isleham Housing Needs Survey. On the local housing register there are currently 31 households who have put Isleham down as their first choice for a home. The total stock of affordable housing in the parish is 108 but only 23 of these have become vacant and been relet in the past three years. Asked whether they would support a small housing development for local people in Isleham if there were a proven need, 239 out of the 280 respondents said yes. In terms of the size of development they would support, the greatest support was for 7-10 homes. As to suggestions of where any potential homes could be built, Fordham Road and Station Road were the most popular.

Mr. A. Sheldrick addressed the meeting over the windows of the Pavilion, which were still in need of repair after the June vandalism. The Clerk informed him that they would be reinstalled this week. Mr. A. Sheldrick also enquired as to the progress made of obtaining the grants for the new football pitches. Cllr. Beckett informed him that there was still no news but he would chase the matter up.

PC Humble reported that there were three reported crimes for Isleham between 29th August and 6th October. Two of theft, one from a motor vehicle and the other of a lap top computer left on the river bank. The third was a common assault. 23 calls were received relating to the Isleham area.

The Council mentioned that with regard to the 'Safer Routes To Schools' project, a raised crossing should be considered for children to cross Mill Street from the Village Hall and also another crossing put in place in Malting Lane. Cllr. Neal enquired as to whether the school back entrance in Jubilee Close could be opened, the only problem being the extra traffic this may cause to residents. The back entrance to be opened on condition that no access to cars are allowed in the Close for the school.

With regard to continued works to Knaves Acre Drove, a contract had been awarded for repairs and widening to the final length of the Drove. It was agreed that the purchase of salt/grit bins for Waterside and The Causeway, would be deferred until the Finance Working Party meeting.

Quotes were received for guttering for the Village Hall. Unfortunately, due to increased expenditure this year, the Council was unable to contribute towards the cost.

A letter from Truelink Ltd with regards to the trees around the Recreation Ground stated that, in their opinion, there is a lot of potentially unsafe material in these trees and they are all in close proximity to areas used by the general public. It was agreed that this matter be discussed under 'Cemetery Matters'.

Mr. Tickner was sorry to hear that the Council had further trouble with vandalism to the litterbins. With regards to installing metal bins, the costs are too great for this type of bin. ECDC have no obligation to supply litterbins to the

Village Hall or the School, and cannot therefore help in funding the reinstallation.

November 3rd Meeting

D. Cllr. D. Beckett informed the Council that the Safer Routes to Schools Project had been put forward for initiation to April 04, as the proposals put forward were to be looked at again.

Mr. G. Tickner, ECDC, would be coming out to inspect the problem of rubbish being dumped along Knaves Acre Drove. Mr. J. Selby, ECDC, also informed D. Cllr Beckett about the Bus Shelter in Church Street, Isleham, which needed repair. It was considered by the Council, that as we already take care of four Bus Shelters, one more would not make any difference.

D. Cllr. Beckett informed the Council that the works to repair pot holes in the village has been put out to tender.

At a meeting on 29th October various places were identified which would be suitable for in-filling with new hedging, particularly around Station Road and the New Cemetery. Native hedging would be provided which would be picked up from the nursery when it is ready.

The Clerk had made enquiries to Mr. Geddes, Solicitor, with regards to the fencing of the new Recreation Ground land. She had been informed by Mr. Geddes that under the stipulations put down in the Agreement, we have twelve months as of the 25th February 2003 to fence the land.

The Council agreed that no further progress could be made on the playing field extension until they hear back from the grant applications, so therefore it would be feasible to rent the land out.

A Burial Working Party meeting agreed that the Old Cemetery be left unconsecrated, except for the part which was consecrated already. The unconsecrated area could then be used for burials of other ethnic religions. It was agreed that the New Cemetery should all be consecrated.

A discussion arose with regard to the spate of robberies in the village. The Council was very disappointed at the response received from the Police. The Clerk was instructed to write a strong letter to Mr. I. Lloyd, Chief Constable, Cambs. on this matter and to ask that it be dealt with personally and to not hand it down through the channels for Ely Police to deal with, as he has done in the past.

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