

Isleham Informer

No.6 February 2004

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

Newts & Frogs

We asked Isleham's Tony Weston to provide us with an article about his work with ponds. Tony describes himself as the fellow who lives on Hall Barn Road that can be seen towing very tall pond plants through the village. The pond side of things is his loss making interest. He is a water biologist and grows about 120 sorts of plants. Tony also rears frogs, newts and fish that end up starting colonies and shoals in lakes, ponds and puddles! At this time of the year it is important to give a pre frog spring clean to ponds to get them ready for spring. Read on.....



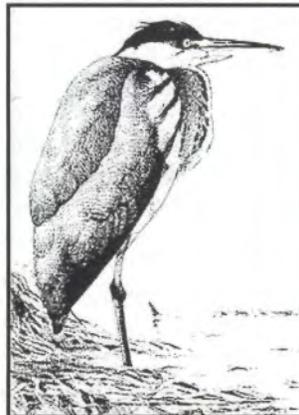
Photo by Kate Coe

Tony Weston – Isleham's frog man!

Isleham is a haven for wildlife thanks to the efforts of the many gardeners who have established ponds in their gardens. Unfortunately the time is here to do the winter clean out. All the leaves, mulch and debris will be lurking in the bottom to provide an instant and deadly soup that is waiting to kill off everything as temperatures rise. It is crucial to do the clean out as soon as possible before the frogs (followed by toads and then newts) arrive.

Depending on the type of pond the work differs a little. The first job is to remove all water plants and I suggest cutting plants back to pot size and cutting off all dead vegetation. A good idea is to divide the plant in two and only re-pot half of the plant. Use garden soil for this as the loam is quite heavy and will weight plants down. Wind can easily tip the taller plants over. Put a layer of gravel (or stones for Koi) on the top of the pots. Filofil pots will benefit from a sacking liner but adequate results can be achieved in ordinary pots with a grass turf upended over the bottom holes. Give lilies a dessertspoon of bone meal in a covered hole.

If your pond has fish, carefully net them and put them in with clean old pond water and do a visual health check. If you need some large containers I can drop them round for you. You will also need to add tap water conditioner as you fill the pond up. Use a net to remove all debris from the bottom. If you totally drain the pond make sure you put aside several containers of pond water. A dustbin is good for this. Clean the sides with a scrubbing brush and check the pond for damage. Silicone sealer can provide a temporary patch. Remember it can take a while to set hard. Sometimes a shortsighted heron will spear liners. Change half of the water minimum. Refill very slowly with the hose on the finest of sprays.



The illustration shows a grey heron. They are a very common sight in Isleham, particularly on the canals and the River Lark. Beautiful birds they may be but deadly for fish in your pond.

Make sure you have surface cover for the fish and wildlife to hide under and that the tallest plants are at the back of the pond.

Check out the appropriate planting levels for plants and use bricks to get the required water depth. Put oxygenation weed in pots.

As a result of the Isleham carol concert programme where I put an advertisement, I ended up cleaning a local pond. I get a buzz out of that side of helping!

If you need any help or advice, contact Tony

If you need free help or advice.....

Call Tony Weston on 01638 780692

Or mobile 07980 242208

E-mail: pondy@globalnet.co.uk

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Contact Information

You may contact the Informer and send letters, articles, information, complaints, etc. through our email address 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.

New on the Team



Ekaterina (Kate) Coe – pictured – has joined us to help make our publication more professional. Kate was born in Leningrad, Russia. Like all Russians, Kate is pretty sensitive to the cold and the warm hat and coat are essential for our Isleham weather. She has been in the UK and Isleham for 3 years and lives at the Marina. In St Petersburg Kate ran her

own art studio offering a wide range of services in publishing and advertising. Over here she is a freelance photographer and graphic designer with projects varying from private portraits to magazine covers. Some details of Kate's work can be seen at her website www.artproject.co.uk.

It will take a few issues for our format to evolve and make your informer as interesting as possible. In an effort to cut costs we may go to a smaller size with more pages.

Also joining our Informer team are **Karl Bates** and **Ian Humphreys**. Karl will keep us up to date with what is happening on sport in our village and how our teams progress throughout the season. Please contact Karl on 01638 780392 or 07711 306147 (mobile) to make sure that your team is represented. Ian will be contacting various groups to make sure that their contributions arrive on time!

Informer Comment

We have received several complaints (mostly anonymous for obvious reasons) about dog fouling over the last couple of months. It is literally a messy business that we can all do without. More to the point, **it is positively dangerous**. A young child that knows no better can easily fall or slip and end up with dog mess on their hands. One wipe of the hand across an eye is enough for contaminated faeces to **cause a severe eye infection**. If untreated, **loss of sight is possible!**

The dangers are well known and yet irresponsible owners still either allow their dogs to roam and foul our streets or, if walking them, they do nothing to clear up any mess.

From the complaints we have received, it would seem that the most seriously affected roads in our village are West Street, Mill Street and Church Street. We have also received a letter about litter – see Your Letters.

The following two letters are representative of the comments we have received on dog fouling.

This letter is from Jeanette Malkin, a dog owner herself. She writes.....

The pavements and footpaths in the village are in an appalling condition because of dog fouling. On a recent walk to the shops with my little granddaughter we were forced to walk in the road because the pavements were littered with dog faeces.

This is a completely unacceptable situation and it is the fault of a few irresponsible dog owners who do not clear up after their pets. It takes just a few seconds to pick up the excreta in a plastic bag. Please, please, dog owners, clean up your dog's mess.

And from Joyce Hazelwood who writes with passion on the same subject.....

Having just returned from walking my dog along West Street, I felt that I had to immediately put pen to paper to comment on the appalling amount of dog fouling on the pavements and verges. I was thoroughly disgusted at the way some dog owners behave and allow their dogs to foul public areas in this manner, leaving it for others to tread in or mothers to push their prams through.

It is apparent that the dog owners seem to walk their animals around the village for the prime purpose of using the pavements as a toilet. This particular attitude is extremely unsociable and it reflects badly on other responsible dog owners who keep this condition under control.

These persons are totally irresponsible and I feel sure that if they were to have this dog mess outside their own property and unknowingly carry it into the house on their shoes, they might well wake up and act a little differently.

PLEASE, dog owners, carry a small plastic bag with you and USE IT to pick up when exercising your pet.

On behalf of our readers, the Informer has asked IPC what, if anything, can be done about dog fouling in our village. We hope to be able to publish their reply in the April issue.

Smile ☺

Fortunately we keep getting the occasional publishable joke. See what you think of this one from our French friend, Nelly.

Oxygen

Jack is going to the Hospital to visit his friend, who has had a serious accident.

Indeed, when Jack enters his friend's room, he sees his friend all hooked up with tubes and machines. But his friend does not look that bad, at least not as bad as one could imagine based on all the equipment around him. Jack says hello and his friend replies by waving his hand, the one that does not have something connected to it. Jack gets closer to his friend's bed and starts telling him news about their buddies and the weather and so on.

Suddenly, Jack stops and notices that his friend that before had a nice pinky face is getting pale. And he is actually trying to say something. Jack leans closer trying to hear anything but can't, because of all the bits and pieces and tubing. His friend is now more than pale, he is getting bluish... actually he is blue. And he frantically waves at him, making a writing sign with his hand. In the urgency, Jack grabs the bed chart and a pencil. The friend writes something and passes away. Jack is devastated. Alerted by the beeping machines that went crazy upon the patient's death, a nurse rushes into the room and tries to figure what happened.

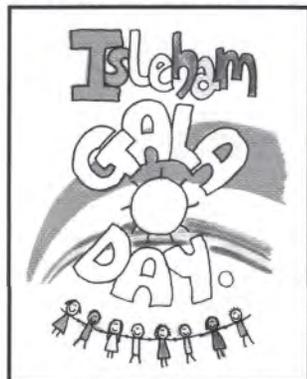
Jack tells her that he was talking to his friend, that the friend turned blue, that he requested to write something and died. The nurse turned to Jack and says: "So what did he write?"

Jack suddenly realizes he is still holding the chart and read the writing. "Get off oxygen tube. Can't breathe!"

As always, we need jokes. If you know any that we can use, please send them to us.

Isleham Gala 2004

In the Village, For the Village, Children First



The Gala Committee would like to hear from anyone who would like to book a stall at this year's Gala.

We would like to hear from individuals, clubs, societies, associations, etc or. Last year many stall holders sold out really quickly and especially for the Clubs and Societies it is a good way to raise funds for your Group.

If you are interested, please contact Roseanna Allan on 01638 780994 for a booking form.



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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. **£9595**

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. **£9995**

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. **£11995**

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. **£6795**

1999 S Renault Scenic RXE 2.0 in metallic blue. Air con, Twin sunroofs, Air bags, A.B.S., Radio/CD player, Electric windows, Central locking, Alloy wheels. Full service history. 70000 miles. **£4995**

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. **£4995**

Useful Phone Numbers

Emergency for Police, Fire, Ambulance Police (Cams.)	999 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 510410
(Tony Ferrige)	01638 780973

Next CMs

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

Parish Council: *Monday, 1st March 2004.*
Monday, 5th April 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 March.*
8.00 p.m. on *Monday 12th April.*

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

Gala Committee: *No details!*

Boo boo!

Sorry about our boo boo in the last issue where we gave the deadlines for copy a month out. We tried contacting all our regular contributors not everyone was available. If your group is not covered in this issue, we apologise but remote Vulcan mind melding is not possible yet. Please note the deadlines for the April issue.

COPY DEADLINES

The deadlines for copy for the *April* 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 March
Prearranged articles/features: 19th March

Advertisers

Changes to regular adverts: 23rd March

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.

ISLEHAM SOCIETY

Ian Powys has sent us the following information.

The next meeting of the Society will be on **19th February**, when Mr Richard Rigby using his 'Magic Lantern' will give a talk illustrated with Victorian and Edwardian pictures.

On **18th March** Mr Roy Tricker will be speaking "In Praise of Old Churches".

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **29th April.**

All meetings are held in the Village Hall and start at 8 pm. Visitors are welcome, on payment of £2.00 a meeting.

Further details from the Secretary, Mrs Beryl Powys.

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

Charity News

Air Ambulances

As you know (because the Informer had informed you!) Linda and Ken at **The Griffin** have supported and raised money for the Air Ambulances for some time. Their most recent event was to hold an auction on Boxing Day at The Griffin. They had an ideal auctioneer in John Dyer (who else could persuade you to part with so much!). The auction was a great success and raised **£947.**

The Way It Was

Sue Marsden sent us an old illustration of the church before the tower collapsed. She writes....

The illustration comes from a book of old postcards called Fen and Marshland Villages from old photographs and postcards by Anthony Day, ISBN 1857700414 1993, SB Publications. All it says is that it is from an old engraving done not long before the tower fell. It may have been released as a postcard late 19th C. It forms part of the Cambridgeshire Collection; they may have more details as to when it was produced and who the engraver was.



Isleham church before the tower collapsed in 1862

I am a church bell ringer living in Chatteris but I have rung at Isleham quite a few times. A few months ago I was playing on the Internet and came across a Website devoted to Feltwell, not far away from you. Their round tower collapsed in 1898 while undergoing repairs but was never rebuilt. 3 bells broke in the collapse, one is now at Ely Cathedral and one was sold (with the remains of the others) to pay for repairs to the other church tower in Feltwell. I already knew of the Isleham collapse and of one near here at Colne. Each had a different outcome; Feltwell was not rebuilt; Colne was rebuilt but the bells were not hung for full circle ringing as they are now chimed only (the whole church was rebuilt a little way from the original) and Isleham had the happiest outcome from a bell ringing point of view as the tower was rebuilt and the bells re-hung. I thought the contrasting outcomes would make a good article for our weekly Ringing World magazine so started to do some further research.

Re-enactment News

It is still quiet on the re-enactment front but things seem to be stirring. The Vikings banquet at the Village Hall just before Christmas was a great success. The Comrades Club also did very well from their pre-banquet lubrication! All the food was authentic Viking nosh and it is a custom to share drinks from anything that will hold a liquid, including many drinking horns. By the end of the evening half those that attended were peacefully sleeping under tables. Of course, in true Viking tradition, there were no headaches or hangovers in the morning.

Don't forget the re-enactors Market and Fayres on 20-22nd February at Warwick and 5-7th March at Coventry. Contact the Informer for details if you would like to go. Also have a look at the new Venta Group (1-4th century) website at www.ventaicenorom.co.uk.

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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

Global What?

We are told that global warming is responsible for our change of climate. It is apparently responsible for floods, heat waves and extreme cold weather. Isleham has certainly experienced the lot in the last year.

A year ago we had a cold snap that froze pipes in many houses in our village. That was followed by continuous rain and the River Lark bursting its banks to flood the Marina. It was the worst floods in many a year but, fortunately, not as bad as those in 1947 when a number of local people lost their lives and some houses were washed away. A reminder of that bleak period is shown below.



Jim King (left) sandbagging the River Lark in 1947

It took several months for the fields to dry out and our farmers did nothing but complain - but who could blame them? That was followed by a pretty serious drought and a couple of heat waves that lasted for several weeks. Now we were hearing about how the ground was too hard!

Well, that all passed and now we have icy weather and quite a bit of snow. The Marina has looked particularly picturesque as shown in the photographs below from Kate Coe.



Snow at Isleham Marina

Of course, it is not just us humans that suffer when the weather gets cold and still waters freeze over. What about the ducks? They have a problem too! They know exactly where they are going and expect to land with their customary splash. Unfortunately things change when the water is frozen and unsuspecting Donald finds himself sliding on his rear end!



Something is not right. I can walk on water!

Tim Willett, and no doubt many others, have been starting their boat engines and checking that everything is standing up to the weather. At least we have had a few sunny days as shown below in the view with Tim's boat on the left and looking towards the bare trees.



The icy weather is now drawing to an end. The snow has gone and we will be back to wind rain even though it is likely to get pretty cold. We must all wait to see what extremes and records 2004 will bring!

SMALL ADS.

For sale

Ladies Raleigh Cycle. 1958. Resprayed dark green. 4 speed. Dynamo lights, wicker front basket. Stainless steel wheels, 2 new tyres, new seat, new pedals. Looks new and just serviced. £90 o.n.o. Call 01638 780385.

Trailer. Metal construction. 4 ft x 3 ft x 1 ft deep with tailgate. Leaf springs plus stair wheel. Excellent condition. £150 o.n.o. Phone 01638 780385.

Girls Raleigh Cycle. Pink/Mauve. Suit 4 to 6 years. Back carrier with stabilisers. Excellent condition. £20. Tel: 01638 780385.

To place your lineage advertisement, please call Paul Chaplin on 01638 781745 or leave it with Tony at 9 Church Street. Lineage adverts are FREE to non-commercial readers. Space it at a premium and it will not be possible to include very long ads at no charge.

Parish Council News

The following is a very abbreviated and incomplete version of the IPC minutes for the 1st December meeting. The January minutes have yet to be approved and will be reported in the next Informer. Any parishioner may request a copy of the full minutes.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. M. Grout, Safer Routes to Schools Project Officer, from Cambridgeshire County Council. He came to inform Councillors of the proposals that had been discussed and put forward by the Working Group, the County Council, and the school. The proposals consisted of a rear access to the school through Jubilee Close. The County Council would discourage cars using Jubilee Close as the whole idea of the project was to try to cut out car journeys.

A parishioner was concerned that the proposal of the back entrance to the school via Jubilee Close could be considered a public safety issue. The extra volume of traffic parking in Beck Road would cause congestion, as it is a busy road with a large volume of traffic including buses and lorries. It could also be dangerous with the increased risk of accidents involving children. A suggestion was put forward that perhaps the land at the top of Beck Road could be turned into a car park for the school, and a lollipop lady employed to help children cross the road. Mr. Grout informed the Council that the County Council would provide no funding for a car park. It was of the general opinion that the main problem was heavy congestion in Malting Lane, which was caused by everyone trying to access the school through one entrance, which therefore would prove beneficial if a back access to the school was considered.

Mr. S. Wills, representative of Isleham Colts Football Club, enquired as to when the Recreation Ground extension would be ready for use, as it was becoming increasingly difficult with over 100 children involved in football, to find adequate space for the football pitches. The former Recreation Ground was becoming too small for use. Mr Wills was informed by the Council that the grants applied for work to be done on the land would take a long time and no further progress could be made until the grants were settled. Mr. Wills also suggested that a football match be arranged with the Twinning Committee, between us and Nesles, either here or in France. Chairman T. Carter will look into this.

PC Humble said that there were 7 reported crimes for Isleham between the period 7-30th October 2003. Two of armed robbery, one attempted deception of trying to use a stolen cheque book, one taking motor vehicle without owners consent, one criminal damage at the school, and two assaults. There were 13 calls received relating to the Isleham area. Between 31st October 2003 and 1st December 2003 there were 5 reported crimes in the Isleham area. One of theft of a motor vehicle, one of harassment, one of criminal damage, and two of domestic violence. There were 29 calls received relating to the Isleham area.

PC Humble informed the meeting that there were concerns over the lack of initial response to the two armed robberies in the village. He explained that Ely Sector Police is now a sub division, and police officers attending reports of crime in the area may come from all over the area, for example the other side of Cambridge, which would therefore cause delays in attendance.

A letter was received from James Paice MP in reply to the concerns raised by the Council of a lack of police officers in attendance in the village. He entirely understood the concerns of the Parish Council of an insufficient number of police officers available, and would certainly ask for a response from the Police on the same points. He assured us that he would continue to press for all of us in the rural parts of Cambridgeshire to receive our fair share of the police officers in the County.

D.Cllr. D. Beckett informed the Council that he had spoken with Mr. Tickner with regards to the dumping of rubbish, particularly in Common Gate Drove, Temple Road area. They had arranged to meet in the village to discuss the problem further.

Riverside Island Marina

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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
- 10.00 a.m. Youth Church

All other Sundays:

- 10.00 a.m. Common worship communion
- 10.00 a.m. Youth Church in Social Centre.

Please note that there is a crèche every Sunday

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

Friday, 13th February – Quiz Night at the Comrades Club in aid of the Restoration Fund. £1 per head, teams of 4. Refreshments included.

Saturday, 24th February – Beetle Drive and Pancake Party: 7 p.m. at the Social Centre

Sunday, 25th February – Ask Wednesday Holy Communion at 7.30 p.m.

Sunday, 21st March – Mothering Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

Bell Ringing

Bell ringing practise every Friday at 7 p.m. New members welcome. Come along and clear the village!

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

Pound Lane Free Church

Have you wondered what is happening next to PLFC? We are building a new church extension to provide much needed facilities to develop the work that we are involved in and to meet disability requirements including, toilets, wheelchair access etc. We are trying very hard to keep the inconvenience to a minimum and thank everyone who uses Pound Lane for their patience and understanding.

Our weekly **Fellowship Meeting** resumes in February. Fellowship meets Tuesday evenings from 7.30-8.30pm and provides an opportunity for people to get together for fellowship and worship. A message is given each week (often by guest speakers from other churches) and the meeting always ends with refreshments. Special meetings (usually with a food focus!) and an outing take place during the year. Fellowship has proved to be particularly popular with older people who value the weekly opportunity to get together in this way and transport can be arranged for any who need it. If you would like to come – we'd love to see you there! Contact Sandra Rampley on 01638 721831 for further information.

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

High Street Church

Don't forget our planned new Alpha course. 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 on 01638 780985.

Prayer Request Service

On behalf of the three churches in Isleham we would like to thank those of you who have already responded to this initiative by sending in Prayer Request Cards. Be assured of our ongoing prayer support.

If you have not received information about this scheme or have mislaid your prayer cards and would value someone praying for you, just write details of your concern on a letter or postcard. You may include your name or more details if you wish. All information is treated in strict confidence. Put your letter or envelope marked "Personal Prayer Request" and deliver it to 17 Church Street or the letter boxes at High Street Church or Pound Lane.

Isleham WI

Brenda Downey has sent us this update.

Come along for a cup of tea and a slice of cake after our **AGM on Thursday 12th February** at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall (the competition is "Prettiest Hankie").

Our **Grand Jumble Sale** is to be held in the Village Hall from 2 pm – 4 pm on **Saturday, 21st February**.

Your feet are invited to our **March 14th** meeting (7.45 pm) where our speaker will be Maureen Penney. She will be talking on **Aloe Vera**. The competition is "A good remedy for feet problems" (it should be interesting).

8th April will see the sunglasses, suntan and suitcases out ready for our speaker, **Jean Oldman**, sharing her holidays with us. The competition is "A homemade Easter card (yes, Easter already).

Everyone is more than welcome to come along and join us at any time. Always a friendly welcome, a good cup of tea, slice of cake, chats and social time. We look forward to meeting you. For more information, please phone the WI Secretary, Brenda Downey, on 01638 780338.

Wanted

The Isleham Informer needs an advertising agent who will go out into the surrounding area and browbeat businesses to advertise in the Informer. We are certainly happy to consider paying a commission that might just cover expenses. If you are interested in a challenge, please contact Paul Chaplin on 01638 781745 or email us at mail@isleham-informer.org.uk.

Village Spring Clean

Come and help pick up litter on

Saturday, 24th April

Meet at High Street Church at 9.45 a.m. Please wear strong walking shoes or boots and bring thick gardening gloves. All other necessary equipment will be provided.

This may sound a dreary way of spending a Saturday morning but those who have helped on previous occasions have had fun and it benefits everyone!

You are welcome to stay for a light lunch afterwards at 12.30 p.m. Please contact the Church Office on 01638 780985 to help us with catering numbers. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

We probably all talk about the dirty state of our village from time to time and it does seem to be getting worse. The informer applauds this positive action. Also, see Your Letters. Ed.

Advance Notice

The Big Scrap Heap Challenge for dads and their children is on Saturday, 15th May at the High Street Church. More details in the next issue.

More Choice

Although our fish and chip shop is no more than a memory now that Roy and Elaine have moved away, all is not lost.

Their old premises are being refurbished and a new take away will be open around the middle of February. The new owners are opening a Chinese Take Away called the **Bamboo Garden**.

Therefore, we will all be able to enjoy a wide variety of food. The **Rising Sun** offers excellent traditional food at very reasonable prices, including fish and chips. The **Merry Monk** offers upmarket nosh for those special occasions and **The Griffin** offers Sunday Roasts, Curries and bar snacks. Now we can all enjoy Chinese food from the **Bamboo Garden**.

Don't....

We are bound to get some more bitterly cold weather and we will be cursing not replacing the car battery sooner. Whatever you do, don't do what this guy did in Croatia.

Zlatko Grden watched his 20 year old car catch fire and explode when he tried to warm up the engine in freezing weather by setting fire to newspapers beneath it. Zlatko said, "Maybe I used too much paper."

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@fgrant22.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

We are now doing.....

Sunday Roast at only £6.95!!

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In the Sky

Here we are, two months on from our first "In the Sky". Venus is the very bright "evening star" visible in the west at sunset. It will get higher and brighter until the middle of April. Saturn was at its closest to us at the beginning of January and is now getting further away. Even so, it is a splendid object for even a small telescope and will remain so for another few weeks. Jupiter is in Leo and it will be at its closest and high in the sky by midnight early in March. Its four largest moons are visible in small binoculars and their positions change dramatically night by night.



Jupiter and its moons on three different nights

Orion (also known as "Orion the Hunter") is still a splendid early evening sight. On a clear night the fuzzy patch around the centre star of the sword is seen as a bright glowing gas cloud in even small binoculars.

By the end of March, Hercules (the distorted "H") will be high well before midnight and its "Great Globular Cluster" is an easy and impressive sight for binoculars and small telescopes.



Nebula in Orion



Great Globular Cluster

The Lyrids meteor shower is in April. More information in the next issue.

Your Letters

Almost all your letters this time centred on the dog fouling problem and that has been dealt with under Informer Comment. We did receive the following brief note from G.Jones who writes.....

Our village is becoming as dirty as places like Mildenhall. Empty crisp packets and sweet wrappers are everywhere, making the village look messy and grubby. Empty bottles and cans decorate the streets outside the pubs and the Comrades Club. Is there nothing that can be done about to stop this?

We guess that IPC should respond to this. Ed.

Joyces's Corner

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

Happy Memories

*I looked in the mirror this morning
It was my turn to get up and make tea
I couldn't believe the reflection I saw
Was this lumpy old shape really me?*

*I seemed to have sagged rather quickly
In fact more or less overnight
My neck looked scrawny, my hair was a nest
My husband said, "Lor, what a sight!"*

*My eyes were bleary and puffy
My upper arms had wrinkly skin
I thought to myself, who the devil is this?
With crow's feet and a big double chin*

*On seeing this awful reflection
I decided to look further still
So I did a full body inspection
Then I really began to feel ill*

*My stomach was flabby and bulging
I had to look hard for my toes
I thought, is this really a female form?
My husband begged, "Put on your clothes"*

*I took it as some kind of warning
What I saw in the mirror today
If I'd looked out the window when I got up
The birds would have all flown away*

*My legs are OK at a distance
I'm expanding a bit at the "rear"
I must admit that my teeth are false
And it's getting harder to hear*

*Now I've never been vain or conceited
And ageing is hardly a crime
With a corset, an "uplift" and a drop of hair dye
I might stop the onset of time*

Joyce Drayton

More on Art Groups

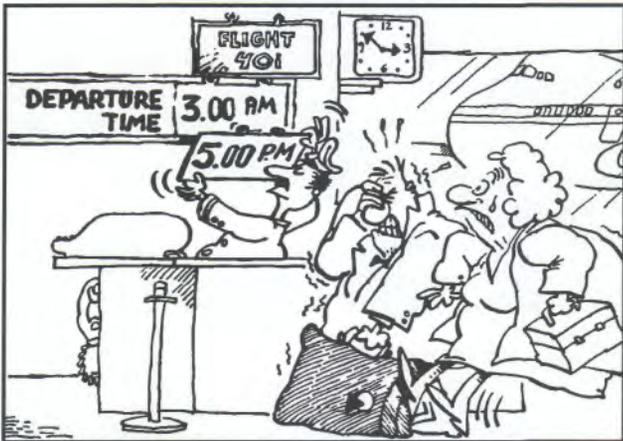
As reported last time, a number of like-minded people have been meeting at the Rising Sun on Monday evenings from 7.15-9.30 p.m. to draw and paint. Just take your own materials. It is not a class and novices to the expert are very welcome. They start again towards the end of January. For details please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

There is another group of amateur artists who enjoy painting in each other's company. They meet each Wednesday in St Andrews Church social centre from 10am to 2pm. Bring your own painting equipment and a snack lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided. The only charge is for the room shared among the members. Everyone of whatever skill is welcome. Please telephone **Deirdre Deller** on **01638 780544** or just turn up.

Competitions

Spot the Difference

We had quite a few correct answers last time. Our winner from the hat is Amie Eagling from Mill Street and Paul Chaplin will make sure she gets her £5. This time it is even more difficult. There are **13 differences** between the cartoons. Mark them on one of the cartoons and send your entry to us by 20th March. The competition is open to anyone up to the age of 14. The winner will receive £5.



The differences last time were: 1. A bird in the sky; 2. White spy has white cuff; 3. Bag missing; 4. Link of chain missing; 5. Wheel spindle missing; 6. Back of canon black; 7. Part of wheel black; 8. Canon frame white; 9. Less sweat, back spy; 10. Black spy hat all black; 11. Tooth missing; 12. Black heel on shoe.

Anagrams

This time see how many words of 4 letters or more you can make from the words **"Rising Sun"**. No plurals! This is pretty difficult and you will do well to get more than 20.

Last time we asked you to make words from "Vegetable. How about: these: abet, able, bagel, bale, bate, beagle, beat, beet, begat, beget, belt, beta, bleat, eagle, eaglet, elate, elevate, gable, gale, gate, gave, gavel, late, leave, levee, table, tale, teal, vale, valet, veal.

Serious Question

We asked if you knew the difference between a *Horse*, a *Donkey* and a *Mule*. The answer is that donkeys (a donkey is also called an ass) are closely related to horses and are more intelligent. A mule is obtained by breeding a mare (female horse) to a male donkey. Mules are almost always sterile but some female mules have been able to breed.

Now to our serious question this time. **What are the main differences between butterflies and moths?**

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Advertising Agent Wanted

Your Informer needs an advertising agent.
Contact Paul Chaplin on 01638 781745 for details

SPORTS REPORT

This is the section of the informer where you can catch up with all the teams who represent the village and see how their seasons are going. You will be able to follow all the highs and lows, key moments, match reports, forthcoming fixtures and stats galore. (I can tell you are excited already!) Seeing as this is a new column to the informer we only have the local mens pool and football team news but in further editions we will be including other sports and, in the summer, bowls and cricket. So let us begin with pool. Our thanks to Tom Long for the details.

Pool

The Mildenhall and District pool league has been going for about thirty years now (Tom long has probably played in all of them ☺), local pubs and clubs within a ten mile radius of Mildenhall enter each year. There are three teams from Isleham this season, two from the Griffin and one from the Rising Sun. The two Griffin sides head Division 2 table at the moment and the Rising Sun have a chance of promotion too if they can win all their games in hand.

The Knockout Cup is down to the Quarter Final Stages, with the Griffin 'A' and the Rising Sun still in the competition (Lets hope for an all Isleham Final).

The pairs competition is now down to the Quarter final stages with Richard Smalley and Lani Goff representing the Sun (must be strange Lani being involved in the quarter finals of the cup☺) and Colin Hood and Tom Long representing the Griffin A in the last 8. We wish them all the luck in the world.

The next round of the singles is coming up. We have 5 players from the Isleham teams competing for a place in the last 8 of the cup. The sun has 3 (Shane Smalley, Helen Carrington and Lani Goff) While Ben Sanderson Smith Sanderson represents Griffin 'B' and Tom Long is the sole survivor from the Griffin 'A' side.

With two thirds of the season gone the race is on for the player of the season trophy in division 2, where no less than 9, that's right 9 players from the three Isleham sides are in the top 16 of the Averages

We will try and squeeze in the league tables next time.



Isleham Utd FC

The first eleven who play in division 2B of the Cambs. league have put together a great run in the last two months, losing only once in eight games. This sequence did not get off to the best start as they lost by the only goal in a close fought game away at Fenstanton. Following on from this they bounced back with draws against Lode and Tuddenham, but in between these games was a fantastic win away to Brampton, a team who have high hopes of promotion. Another draw followed against unbeaten Eaton Socon and the team confidence soared. With further wins over Warboys (home and away) and a 6-1 demolition of Wicken, the future looks good for this young side.

The Reserves had a totally disastrous start to the season losing their first four matches. However this proved to be the kick in the backside that the team needed and they have gone from strength to strength since then. Now the reserves have improved immensely and are currently in the top half of division 4B. The leading scorer is Ben Ostler with 5 goals but there are a lot of players on his tail. The attitude of all the players has been fantastic and the team is looking to continue improving and rise to a higher league position.

Isleham Sunday F.C

Apply their trade in the Tucker gardener partnership league, they haven't played many games since the start of December. They lost a game they should of won at home to Oakington but then bounced back with wins over FC Saints and Chesterton to go second in the league. They now need to win their last four games to stand a chance of wining the title, so fingers crossed they can bring the championship to Isleham.

If you would like to join any of the Isleham football teams, please contact either Richard Sheldrick on 01638 780607 or Colin Sheldrick on 01638 780610.

Badminton

Don't forget that 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.**

"A CRY FOR HELP"

We as a club are seeking help from anybody in the village who could perhaps spare a few hours per week to help with the preparation of our cricket wicket throughout the summer. Full instruction would be given working with our head groundsman. We are quite willing to discuss rates.

Please contact Adrian Sheldrick, Chairman Isleham Cricket Club, on 01638 780780.

The Griffin

Church Street, Isleham. Tel: 01638 780447

Opening Times

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Tue-Thurs: 12.00-2.00 pm	Sat: 12.00-11.00 pm
& 4.30-11.00 pm	Sun: 12.00-10.30 pm

Friday night is.....

Curry Night

Our homemade curries are great

Only £5 including a pint!!

Call us to book your table and avoid disappointment