

# Isleham Informer

No.10 October 2004

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

## Saint Andrew's - ISLEHAM

### Restoration of the Church Roof - Part 2

*As promised, here is the second and final part of the record made by Ian Powys of the restoration of the church roof. Ian writes...*

Over the years in a building such as a church, which is heated only on a couple of days a week, there will inevitably be condensation, damp and resultant rotting of timbers. These are conditions ideal for the Death Watch Beetle and there has been very wide infestation. However an inspection by a conservator at the end of March declared that there appears to be little or no evidence of active colonies. Let's hope the expert was right, for the beetle can have a life cycle of one year – when conditions are ideal (for the beetles) – or the larvae may lie dormant for as long as ten years until hatching.

By the end of March the masonry work had been almost completed. Both parapets needed considerable work. Much of the stonework was in danger of falling on parishioners and we can ill afford casualties! The Cambridge Evening News were around to report on the work at the end of March, followed by the Newmarket Journal – much the same story in each.

At the beginning of April the roofing specialists returned from Chelmsford. They began replacing all the lead work



*Making lead runnels*

in the guttering and forming and welding into place new rain chutes to carry water clear of the walls. Rolls of lead weighing 98 kilos apiece were hauled up onto the narrow scaffolding platforms alongside the nave parapets and there cut to shape and hammered into place in the stone work.

By 7<sup>th</sup> April, a month after the first slates started to come off, work began on replacing those on the north side of the nave roof.. Then came Easter and a great effort was planned to clean and decorate the nave and chancel ready for the Easter services. The roofing company from Chelmsford, who retained the key each evening so that they could start work as soon as they arrived in a morning, went home the Thursday night before Good Friday – with the key in their pocket! The only duplicate broke in the lock on Good Friday morning!

Panic! One team got into the chancel using the vicar's key and began to dismantle the old 1670s lock. No one had the



*New slates are rounded at the top to reduce weight*

phone number of the roofing company, but a diligent search of the Chelmsford commercial directories and phone calls to any likely candidates asking "Do you by any chance know a guy called Paul who is working on a church roof in Cambridgeshire?" finally tracked him down and we drove down to collect the key – which has remained firmly in the village every weekend since! Thank Heaven it was the Chelmsford lot who took the key, not the fellows from Exeter!

On 16<sup>th</sup> April, relatives of both bride and groom - and Tracy Audus, the bride herself - spent the day sweeping and dusting and decorating the internal scaffolding, mopping the nave floor and making ready for the Saturday wedding. On the Saturday, Brian Peyton, a descendant of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Peytons, together with his mother and his wife came to see what was being done. The Peyton Trust is giving a donation of £5,000 towards the work.

All this time work continued on the replacing of the slates on the roof – with resultant inevitable showers of dust and grit onto, firstly the beams and carvings immediately below the roof then onto the plastic sheeted pews and organ below. By the beginning of May the wood restorers were able to return to work.

The company which took the mould for the 'Isleham Angel' came to take another two moulds from the 'Green Man' and another figure, from which

we intend to make copies for sale as souvenirs of the wonderful craftsmanship of those wood carvers of five hundred years ago. The original 1495 carving of the 'angel' has been restored to its rightful place, surmounting



*The Green Man: design based on a foreman, perhaps*

the coat of arms of the Peyton, Bernard and Lilling families way up in the south western corner of the roof. Because the woodwork of the figure holding the coat of arms was so rotten it has had to be strengthened with epoxy resin and secured with 3mm stainless steel threaded rod to the main beam. A small brass plate has been fixed alongside, reading:

ISLEHAM ANGEL – FELL 1998  
COPIES SOLD IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS  
RSTORED TO ORIGINAL PLACE – MAY 2004

With binoculars you will be able to make out the ‘angel’ and maybe even the plaque, when all the scaffolding is down.

By 11<sup>th</sup> May the wood conservers were onto their last task – the vacuum cleaning of the beams and carvings as well as the scaffolding floor to ensure that as little as possible of the dust and dirt fell to the nave floor when the internal scaffolding is finally taken down. They then left for Exeter on 13<sup>th</sup> May as G & H Scaffolding began dismantling the outer scaffolding.

In lieu of a sandwich packet and a 1955 newspaper, we have left a ‘Time Capsule’ up in the roof, for the next team of restorers to find. In the capsule is a complete day-by-day diary of events, lists of the contractors, details of grants and donations and prints of many of the pictures of



*Scaffolding inside the church*

Peyton Chapel. Hopefully someone in years to come will still be able to read PowerPoint.

When we have all the ‘raw material’ and all the photographs which were taken by the restorers we intend to make a much more complete version of the work, probably on DVD, for sale to all the many Peytons and to others interested.

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## Disclaimer

Whilst every effort is made by Isleham Parish Council and the Informer Editorial Team to ensure that the interpretation and content of the information contained in this publication is correct, the Isleham Parish Council and the Informer Editorial Team cannot be held liable for any consequential action based on this information.

## COPY DEADLINES

The deadlines for copy for the *December* 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: 14<sup>th</sup> November  
Prearranged articles/features: 19<sup>th</sup> November

### Advertisers

Changes to regular adverts: 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Your Informer will normally be sent to the printer on the working day nearest to 24<sup>th</sup> of the month. This will give 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

Ian Humphreys is currently contacting all our advertisers. You may contact him on 01638 781796 to discuss future advertising and rates.

Please remember that for non-business advertising **Lineage Advertisements are FREE!** Please contact Ian Humphreys on 01638 781796 to place your ad.

## “Next Generation” Broadband Is Coming

East Cambridgeshire District Council has awarded a contract to Trilogi Telecom to bring “Next Generation” Broadband services to Isleham. The process to make this a reality has already been started and a tentative ‘live service’ date of mid October 2004 has been set. Achieving this date is subject to BT completing many tasks on schedule, something they have failed to do in previous areas.

Trilogi will be supplying basic ADSL, with capped usage, at the same prices as BT. Trilogi will also be offering “next generation” ADSL2 services which will be capable of increased speeds as peoples needs grow over the next few years.

A FREE Modem and FREE Set-up are offered on all Home services and prices start from just £15.99 per month (the lowest in the UK) for the starter 150kbps service. The most popular service, 512/256 kbps is priced at £26.99 per month, with unlimited usage, i.e. no further charges to pay for 24 hour, always on access to the Internet. Special deals are available for people transferring from NTL or BT (where available).

All of this should mean that our village leapfrogs to the front of the Broadband revolution rather than lagging behind as we have been so far.

You can find more information and sign up for these services via Trilogi’s website at [www.trilogitelecom.co.uk](http://www.trilogitelecom.co.uk) under Broadband Access or by calling **0870 1999 030**.

## Compost for Cambridgeshire!

The Cambridgeshire Master Composter Programme is looking for new recruits!

The Programme is run by HDRA Consultants in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council and all the District Councils. Now in its fourth year, the Programme aims to promote home and community composting by training volunteers to work as Master Composters, who provide local, friendly advice and support to people whom already compost and those who want to start. We currently have 150 volunteers who have contributed over 3000 hours in promoting composting across the county, and are looking for more.

If you have an interest in environmental issues, enjoy encouraging other people and have a little time to spare, why not join our friendly network of volunteers in promoting home composting?

Becoming a Master Composter is a great way to meet new people, learn valuable skills and benefit from being part of a team that makes a difference. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a Master Composter; you **don't** need to be an expert composter (or be composting at all) or have any volunteer or community group experience.

As a volunteer you will receive training in home composting and related environmental issues (provided by HDRA – the organic organisation), a Master Composter resource pack and several training trips; including visits to a composting site and one of HDRA's organic gardens. All training expenses will be paid for; you only need to provide your time.

Once the training has been completed, you will be expected to spend 30 hours over the following year promoting home composting. These activities will be tailored to your individual skills and could be anything from giving a demonstration to your next-door neighbours to giving a presentation to a class of school children or helping promote further compost bin sales. Upon completion of the training and 30 volunteer hours you will be awarded the title Master Composter and be invited to receive your certificate at an award ceremony.

If you are interested in becoming a Master Composter please contact **Alice Rundle** on **024 7630 8202** or email her at **arundle@hdra.org.uk**.

## Skate park

The Parish Council has had several enquiries with regards to the construction of a skate park, to benefit the youth population in the village. An investigation into the matter has been carried out, but due to the large costs involved in this project, we are unable to proceed at the present time. Further investigation is needed, along with long term planning if the project is to go ahead. The project, if approved, could take a considerable amount of time and money, and would have an impact on our council tax.

Please direct and further enquiries or comments on this matter to the Clerk of the Parish Council, Mrs Y. Bishop at 17 Sun Street, Isleham. Tel: 01638 780256. Please do not address enquiries through the Informer publication.



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**2003 03 Renault Laguna Dynamique 1.9 DCi Sport Tourer** 6 speed manual in Flame Red metallic. Air con, Radio/CD player, Air bags, PAS, Alloy wheels, Electric windows, Front fog lamps, Half leather interior. 13000 miles. **£12450**

**2003 03 Renault Laguna Dynamique 1.9 DCi 5 dr hatch** in Flame Red. Alloy wheels, Air con, Half leather, PAS, ABS. Twin air bags, Radio/CD. 6 speed. Central locking, Electric windows, Front fog lamps. Only 13000 miles. **£11600**

**2003 53 Fiat Punto Active Sport 8v 3dr** in Red metallic. Radio/CD player, Electric windows, Alloy wheels, Front fog lamps, Central locking. Low mileage at 9000 miles. **£5795**

**2003 52 Vauxhall Corsa Elegance 1.2 16v 3dr hatch** in Silver metallic. PAS, Electric windows, Central locking, Air con, Radio/CD player. Low mileage at 15000 miles. **£5495**

**2002 52 Citroen C3 Exclusive 5dr Hatch 1.6** in Blue metallic. Air con, Radio/CD player, Twin air bags, PAS, ABS, Electric windows, Alloy wheels. Cruise control. Reverse parking sensors. Low mileage at 8500 miles. **£7295**

**2002 02 Peugeot 206 XSi 3dr 1.6 16v** in Moonstone Blue metallic. Air con, PAS, Alloy wheels, Radio/CD player. Full service history with 45000 miles. **£5995**

**2002 02 Renault Megane Scenic Expression + Dci** in Gold metallic. Twin electric sunroofs, PAS, ABS, Front fogs, Radio cassette/6 CD changer, Electric windows, 29000 miles. **£9250**

**2002 51 Renault Scenic RX4 1.9 DCi Expression** in Green metallic. Air con, ABS, PAS, Radio cassette, Electric windows, Central locking. FSH. 1 owner. 23000 miles. **£10595**

**2001 51 Citroen Saxo VTR 1.6 3dr hatch** in Wicked Red metallic. PAS, Air bags, Front fogs, Alloys, Radio/CD player, Sun roof, Central locking, Electric windows. Only 24000 miles with full history. **£5795**

**2001 51 Toyota Corolla VVTi 1.4 GS 5dr Hatch** in Silver metallic. Air con. Radio cassette, Electric windows, Central locking, PAS, Air bags. FSH. 42000 miles. **£5495**

**2001 Y Renault Scenic 1.9DTi Expression +** in Silver metallic. ABS, PAS. Air con. Radio cassette with multi play CD player. Twin sunroofs, Electric windows, 45000 miles. **£7995**

**2001 Y Renault Laguna 1.8 Dynamique Sport Tourer** in Cosmic Grey metallic, Half leather, PAS, Air con. Radio/CD, Sun roof, Electric windows, Alloys, Front fogs. 48000 miles. **£8595**

**2001 Y Peugeot 306 LX 5dr Auto 1.6** in Red. Air con, Air bags, PAS, Electric windows, Radio cassette, Central locking. 26000 miles. **£5495**

**2001 Y Renault Megane Expression 1.6 5dr** in Cherry Red metallic. Air con, PAS, Electric windows, Central locking. Full service history with 35000 miles. **£4995**

**2000 V Renault Megane Alize 1.6 16v 5dr** in Vertigo Green metallic. Air con, Central locking, Electric windows, Sunroof, PAS. Full service history only 46000 miles. **£3995**

**1999 T Renault Clio RTD 1.9 5dr** in Twilight Grey metallic. Sunroof, Electric windows, Electric mirrors, Central locking, PAS, ABS. Low mileage at 30000 miles. **£4995**

**2003 53 Italjet Millenium 100cc super scooter** in Gold metallic. Ex display. Delivery mileage. Cost new £2495. **£1600**

# Smile

Thanks to Jane Crow of Sidney, Australia (how do these people find out about the Informer!) who thought we might like a couple of animal jokes.

## Feeding Pigs

There was this man from a city who was taking a relaxing holiday in the country away from the hustle and bustle of his normal life. One day he went to visit a small farm that opened its gate to the public. During his visit he saw a farmer feeding pigs in a most extraordinary manner. The farmer would lift a pig up to a nearby apple tree and the pig would eat the apples directly off the branch. The farmer would move the pig from one apple to another until the pig was satisfied. He would then start again with another pig.

The city man watched this activity for some time with great astonishment. Finally, he could not resist saying to the farmer, "This is the most inefficient method of feeding pigs that I can imagine. Just think of the time that would be saved if you simply shook the apples off the tree and let the pigs eat them from the ground!"

The farmer looked puzzled and replied, "What's time to a pig?"

## Missing Hamster

A carpet layer had just finished laying a new wall-to-wall carpet for a lady in her large dining room. He stepped through the doors onto the patio for a smoke but realised he had lost his cigarettes. He went back to the dining room and there, right in the middle, under the carpet, was a bump.

"No sense pulling up the entire floor for one pack of smokes," he said to himself. He went to his tools and found a large mallet and proceeded to flatten the bump.

As he was cleaning up, the lady came in. "Here," she said, handling him his pack of cigarettes. "I found them in the hallway."

"Now," she said, "if only I could find my hamster."

Do please remember that we are always looking for good, inoffensive jokes to publish. That's an impossibility but we try! If you have any that you would like to share, please either drop them off at 9 Church Street or email them to us at [mail@isleham-informer.org.uk](mailto:mail@isleham-informer.org.uk).

## Wrong Number

Our "Useful Phone Numbers" was originally compiled from lists in the old Informer. Although all the numbers were checked at the time, we are aware that numbers do change from time to time.

Therefore, if you know of any numbers that need updating or know of numbers that we should include, do please contact us.

## 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	0870 5555999
Citizens Advice Bureau - Ely	01353 661416
- Mildenhall	01638 712094
- Newmarket	01638 665999
Isleham Village Hall (Paul Chaplin)	01638 781745
Mobile Library	08450 455225
Parish Council (Yvonne Bishop: Clerk)	01638 780256
Member of Parliament (Jim Paice)	01954 211450
Isleham Informer (Karl Bates)	07711 306147
(Paul Chaplin)	01638 781745
(Kate Coe)	01638 780115
(Tony Ferrige)	01638 780973
(Ian Humphreys)	01638 781796
(Michelle Kilgore)	01638 780936
(Ed Mayall)	01638 780839
(Glenda Preece)	01638 780734
(Richard Turner)	01638 780965

## Next CMs

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

**Parish Council:** *Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2004.*  
*Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2004.*

Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Parishioners may raise any issue between **7.00-7.30 p.m.** All meetings take place in the room at the back of the Village Hall.

**Comrades Club:** 8.00 p.m. on *Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> October.*  
8.00 p.m. on *Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November.*

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

**Gala Committee AGM:**  
8.00 p.m. on *Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> October.*

All Gala Committee meetings are held at the Comrades Club. Anyone is welcome. Do please come along to the AGM and help us with next year's Gala Day.

# Competitions

## Spot the Difference

We have successfully lost Charlotte McGreavy's address. Charlotte, please contact us so that we can give you your £5 prize! Our winner last time was Jessica and Kea Haw of Beech Close. There are again **12 differences** between the cartoons below. Look at the cartoons and mark the differences on one of them. Send your entry to us by 20<sup>th</sup> November. The competition is open to anyone up to the age of 14. The winner will receive £5.



The differences last time were: 1. Boy's hair different; 2. Top of rucksack; 3. Rucksack pocket; 4. Trouser pocket; 5. Shoe toecap; 6. Mountain top shading; 7. Walking stick top; 8. Part of bushes moved; 9. Tree hole shading; 10. Squirrels nut; 11. Tree stump knot; 12. Flowers moved.

## Anagrams

See how many words of 4 letters or more you can make from the word "Arkwright", alias Bill Patterson. There are not many words and you will do well to get many more than 15. No plurals or proper nouns.

Last time we asked you to make words from "Riverside". Here are 50 of the most common words. Deer, derisive, derive, derv, desire, devise, deviser, dies, dire, dive, diver, diverse, dives, drere, drier, dries, drive, drives, eider, ever, iris, reed, reside, resider, revied, revise, revised, reviser, ride, rider, rides, rise, riser, river, seed, seer, serve, served, server, sever, side, sieve, sieved, sire, sired, veer, veers, verse, versed, vied.

## Serious Question

Last time we asked you why the cages of pet gerbils and hamsters don't get smelly like those of rabbits. It is because gerbil and hamster urine is so concentrated that it dries very quickly and therefore does not smell. Rabbits do a lot of peeing and so they stink unless cleaned out very regularly.

Now to our serious question this time. What is the difference between an artery and a vein?

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A 900 year old piece of Isleham history has recently come to light. The item is a large circular seal matrix, 37mm in diameter, lead, double sided with a suspension loop (now bent). Side 1: Central design unclear, probably plant-inspired tendrils. + SIGILL WILLI FILLI AILRICI DE ISL. Side 2: Central design also unclear (hybrid between a cross and a lobed flower/leaf) +SIGILL WILLI FILLI AILRICI DE ISLAM. In both cases the inscription reads 'the seal of William the son of Ailric of Isleham.' This seal matrix is 12<sup>th</sup> century in date. Can anyone shed more light on the use of a seal matrix or help identify William son of Ailric? Any further information will be published in a later informer.

### Thursday Night is Games Night

Every Thursday evening we hold a games night in Isleham. We generally play a role-playing game such as Dungeons & Dragons, but often play board games or card games, drink coffee (or beer) and have a chat. It's an informal meeting with no obligation to join in. If you're interested give Richard a call on 07952 933 034 and join us for a fun night out.

## VILLAGE HALL

The new Village Hall Committee would like to welcome back all existing clubs and clubs who regularly use the hall, and are pleased to invite any new organisations to consider using our facilities. Below are contact numbers, fees and a timetable of regular users.

Donna Madgwick (Secretary) 01638 781186  
 John Aves (Treasurer) 01638 780273  
 Yvonne & Ian Bishop (Caretakers) 01638 780256

**Fees:** £10/hour for the main hall (2 hour minimum)  
 £5/hour for the small room (2 hour minimum)

#### Regular Bookings:

**Monday:** Tai chi (main hall morning)  
 Old time dancing (main hall evening)  
 Parish Council (First Monday evening in the month – small room)

**Tuesday:** Toddlers (main hall morning)  
 Tapestry (small room afternoon)  
 Ballet (both halls evening)  
 Cubs (main hall evening)

**Wednesday:** Ballet (small room evening)

**Thursday:** Brownies (main hall evening)  
 Youth club (main hall evening)  
 Isleham Society (main hall evening)  
 WI (main hall evening)

**Friday:** Nothing regular

**Saturday:** Ballet (both halls morning)

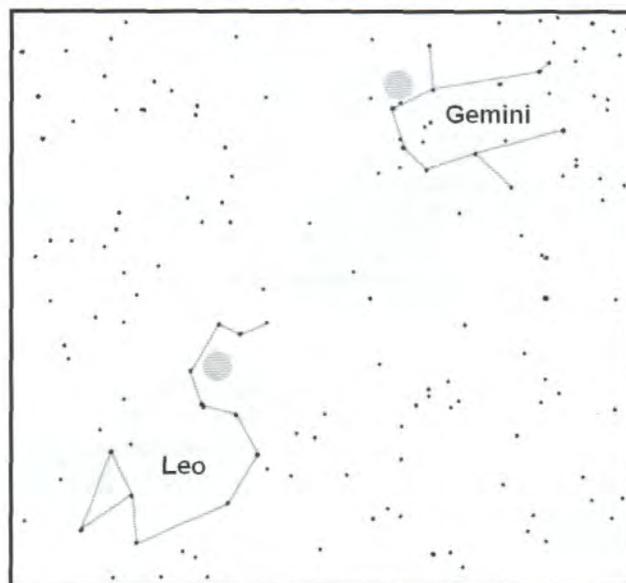
**Sunday:** High Street Church Sunday School (main hall morning)

Anyone wishing to join any of these local groups, please contact the village hall Secretary or Caretakers.

## In the Sky

What a washout the Perseids meteor shower was. Cloud and/or rain would seem to be typical whenever there is an astronomical event worth watching. It will be another few months before the major planets are high in the winter sky and there are no bright comets. However, given clear nights, there are a few events worth staying up for. The first is a total lunar eclipse on the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> October. It will last for over an hour and it begins at 02:23 a.m. and ends at 03:44 a.m. The eclipse should be a spectacular sight; the Moon will be well within the Earth's shadow and should be deeply coloured by the Earth's atmosphere. Don't miss it!

The Moon will not interfere with this year's Leonids and Geminids meteor showers. The maximum for the Leonids is predicted to be on the morning of November 17<sup>th</sup>. Given a clear sky, the rate is expected to be around 50 meteors an hour. Leo rises after midnight and so there is little point in observing until 2 a.m. December 13<sup>th</sup> is the Geminids. It is normally a rich display with a rate of around 50 per hour. The maximum is on the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> but there should be plenty of meteors to see on both the nights of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Have a look from 10 p.m. onwards.



Map for locating Leonids and Geminids radiants, shown as grey circles

## ISLEHAM UNDER 5'S NEW BUILDING PROJECT

On the 17<sup>th</sup> July we held a Duck race at Isleham Marina. This was an extremely successful event. Despite our worst fears, and the threat of thunderstorms all morning, the afternoon was warm and sunny and lots of people turned up to see the ducks race. The winning duck belonged to Abigail Bailey, who won the first prize of £50. We had a bouncy castle, slide, games and a barbeque, all of which helped us to raise a grand total of £530. As this event happened just days after the deadline for the August edition of the Informer, we haven't yet had chance to thank Henry for allowing us to use the Marina, and Sue and her helpers who ran the barbeque, for helping to make this such a successful and enjoyable occasion. We really appreciate the hard work you all put in. This has been one of our best fundraising events so far, and it would be wonderful if we could make it an annual event.

The next fundraiser is a joint one with the PTA. We will be holding a Pamper Evening at the School on 15<sup>th</sup> October. We hope this will be as well supported as the Duck Race. Look out for tickets on sale from the beginning of term.

The date of our first meeting for this new school year is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September at the Pre-School building at 8pm. If you would like to join us, or if you would just like to know what is happening with this project, please feel free to attend, or phone: Julie Porter on 781390 or Kathy Carver on 781116.

### FARM FRESH EGGS

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# ISLEHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

By the time the October Informer is circulated the Twinning Association will have made their annual visit to Nesles and a report will be included in the next issue. If anyone in the village would like to become part of the twinning or would like more information on our visits please contact one of the Committee.

*Andre Ciantar: 515150, Diana Jones: 780634,  
David Styman 780533, Bryan Wynne: 780802*

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## TWINS TO TRIPLETS?

*From Peggy Skye, our local reporter*

On 29 August Ian Powys took to the skies to meet in Magdala, Germany the twinning officials of Nesles, Isleham's French twin. The Nesles officials were in Magdala to celebrate the first signature of the official twinning agreement between Nesles and Magdala. The second signing ceremony for the German and French towns will be in Nesles next May. After his visit Powys suggested Isleham might want to look into a twinning with the German town, also.

Powys noted that both villages receive EU funds to help pay for twinning events while Isleham has no funding from EU. It was also apparent Isleham does not have facilities for twinning "windings" as do both other villages

"We do have a place which could be just such an asset to Isleham, -- the PRIORY," Powys said. He recalled discussing with English Heritage the possibility of a Millennium Maze outside the Priory. He stressed the usefulness of the building to the village if it was equipped with a floor, electricity and water. He said the initial reaction was favorable. Then, a new person was posted to the position who appeared "blinkered" in his approach and Powys has made no subsequent contact. He wondered if it might be time for the Parish Council to make a new approach.

The event in Magdala was conducted with speeches in both French and German with appropriate translations. In attendance was an Euro MEP, who talked about European expansion and the theoretical benefits of the proposed Constitution.

"A point raised by both the French and German twinning committees was the absolute necessity for youngsters of school age to be involved, if the twinning is to flourish," said Powys. It seems, however, that few of the folk interested in the twinning have children of school age who would or could benefit from inter-village correspondence and/or visits. Most of the participant's children are twenty to thirty years old or toddler grand children.

Powys has been packing up copies of all the Informers to send to both Nesles and Magdala neither of which has been receiving them. He suggested a column for the Informer with information and letters from school children as a way of becoming closer with both villages. Language didn't seem to inhibit development of relationships at Magdala with Nesles and Magdala children in attendance.

Regarding visits to Nesles -- and eventually to Magdala -- a

coach seat to Nesles costs £40 and the trip is of reasonably short duration. The unfortunates from Nesles at the Magdala event (and the Cants from Isleham who were among them) spent sixteen hours on their coach trip due to accidents and diversions from autobahn and just general traffic jams on a Friday night with ex-Eastern Germans returning home from work in the west. Powys flew from Stansted by Ryan Air, to Erfurt, Germany. The trip from Erfurt was of equal distance as Stansted is to Isleham. Hosts always pick up twinning participants at the airport. The cost was £75.00 return for an hour and forty minutes flight.

Magdala is a most welcoming village with lovely countryside, with about the same population as Isleham, Powys said. Richard Wagner, when a rebellious Kapellmeister in Dresden, spent a few days in Magdala on the run from the police. Powys enjoyed a play written about the incident which is a noted event in Magdala's history. The village celebrates this event with a festival at the end of August each year that includes 'Kaffee und Kuchen' mornings and 'Bratwurst und Bier' afternoons whenever you are not eating 'Kaffee und Kuchen.'

Nearby is Buchenwald, chilling, but also the opportunity for interesting discussions with locals of all ages. Unknown to most is that Buchenwald, built in 1933, continued as a prison camp under the Soviets until 1956. Few political prisoners interred there, including Germans, were ever released.

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## ISLEHAM INFORMER

Has anyone got back copies of Numbers: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8?

Copies wanted to send to our twin village of Nesles, in France, and to their twin village of **Magdala** in Germany.

Ian Powys -- 5 Church Lane -- Tel: 01638 780519. (Drop them through letterbox -- or I will collect)

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## The Way It Was

As promised last time, here is an old photograph (1909) of baptisms at the River Lark at the site of the old ferry drawbridge.

The photograph is from the Arthur Houghton Collection and restored by Tony Ferrige.



*Baptisms at the River Lark in 1909*

If you have any old, interesting photographs, do please let us borrow them so that we can add them to our collection.



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## More Ponderings

We have not yet received a reply from the Cambridgeshire Police regarding the various comments in the August edition of the *Isleham Informer*, apart from second-hand gleanings from a local newspaper report.

An acting sergeant is reported as saying that "*Police Officers are allocated according to the needs of the Community as determined by the incidence of crime. In that sense, the concept of an absence of a Police presence simply reflects that there are relatively few reported crimes. However, there is an appropriate police presence. There are two community beat officers who patrol Isleham and the surrounding villages. Much of their work is done at times of the day and night when you might not see them but when criminals are likely to be active*".

So that's OK then, is it? We can all rest easily in our beds at night, secure in the knowledge that if we are going to be burgled, there will be two phantom policemen ready to pounce! What a pity they only come at night – imagine if they had come in daylight they might have been able to stop the recent hold-up at the Post Office (the third time in just over a year). They might have prevented the proceeds of the flower show, held at the Church, from being snaffled around about lunchtime at the end of August and apprehended the thieves when they tried to break into the Church later on. Fortunately this attempt failed.

To be fair, the *Informer* has received two phone calls from Ely Police station. The first time they were asked to put a response in writing. The second time it was to inform us that IPC would respond on their behalf.

As the Police sergeant says, "*We are committed to a Police presence but our resources are finite and determined ultimately by the taxes and charges levied on taxpayers by central government and the district council*". As taxpayers I think we already know that! Our gripe is the colossal amount of money the Police receive and the inadequate service we receive for our payments. Sooner or later there will be a very serious crime committed locally and the victims surely will not accept the pathetic excuses we appear to be getting at the moment!

Ian Humphreys

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## More from Arthur Houghton...

Today I am writing about the last of the four Manors of Isleham. Hundreds of years ago, there was a Manor called Beck Manor. It was situated near the boundary of Freckenham and Isleham. In those far off days it was named after the small river that flows near-by, which was called a 'beck', hence the name 'Beck Road'.

Many years ago, a friend of mine gave me some original documents of Beck Manor. In 1330, the Manor of Beck belonged to Sir Robert Walpole. In 1790 Richard Brown lived there and was still there several years later. At some stage, half of the Manor was sold to John Woodhouse, a Norfolk family at that time, and the Peyton Family were also known to have been owners for several years.

I hope you have found it interesting reading about the Manors of Isleham of Centuries ago. All of these documents are in a safe in the village hall, together with the rest of my material I have left to the village for future

generations to see. These were all collected during my long lifetime of 93 years. Did you know the house opposite Mr Patterson's shop, now called Oakwood House, in the 18 and early 1900's used to be a Pub called 'The Cock'? It was thatched but got pulled down in 1910-11. There was the 'Crown' Pub next to the 'Cock' and the 'Bell Inn' was where the Co-op is today. Three Pubs within 100 yards!

The 'Bell' Inn, when it was kept by John Hills, had a weighbridge and that was still there when I was a boy. It was used for weighing loads of coal or hay. The horse and cart would go back when empty, get weighed and the difference was charged to the Carter. There is a large collection of John Hill's bills in the safe. One bill I remember, dated in the 1800's was for a ton and a half of coal, total £1.7/6d (That's £1.375p in today's steam money!) John Hills also bought his beer from a brewery in Soham but I don't remember what that brewery was. So much for the Manors of Isleham, I hope to be writing about another subject of interest in the next edition.

Arthur Houghton

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## Your Letters

*Our policy is 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, so make sure that you print your name.*

*We were a little embarrassed to receive the following...*

Just to let you know that we found your contact numbers in the *Informer* very useful. We called up the RSPCA, as you would, to report a snake in our garden and got the Samaritans!

A rather red faced Ian came out to me and said that the lady on the other end of the phone had asked him if he was sure he didn't need her services! It was very funny. We did finally get through to the RSPCA (good old yellow pages).

Yvonne Bishop

*Young people these days... They're not ALL bad!*

So much publicity is given to the vandals of the village. I would like to praise the youngsters who have spent the school holiday fishing on the river lark. They have struggled on their bikes with all their fishing gear and have been no trouble to anyone. Well done to you all. Keep it up and you will be a great asset to the village. Good luck in your new school year.

Margaret Thompson

As you may know, this year's Red Cross Collection was organised directly by the Cambridge branch office and they wrote to me some while ago to tell me that the collection in the village raised £264.38. They have asked me to inform our local newsletter to this effect. They wrote to me because I have been the organiser in previous years. I must apologise for being late with this information.

Susan Waugh

*And a note on our new "sleeping policeman"*

Recently in our village a speed ramp has been placed outside the rec. People's points on this are that it has wasted a lot of money from the council. It encourages people to go faster on the roads making it much worse. It was supposed to make cars slow down. To make this work it needs to be made higher.

Courtney Bedford (age 11)

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# Parish Council News

*The following is an abbreviated and incomplete version of the IPC minutes for the 5<sup>th</sup> July meeting. Please remember that any parishioner may request a copy of the full minutes from the IPC.*

## Parishioners' Question Time:

Chairman T Carter agreed to contact IPCC with regards to the church clock, which has not worked since the church Roof was completed.

Mr. Sheldrick mentioned Coates Drove footpath that is in a bad state of repair. The Chairman informed him that this had been reported on numerous occasions to Cambridge C.C. The Clerk will again report the matter to highways.

The Chairman of Isleham Cricket Club, Mr. Goldsack, reported that he had received a letter from a resident in Robins Close about the danger of cricket balls that were coming in to his garden. This was the second person who had expressed such concerns. It was suggested that a meeting be arranged between the resident, the Cricket Club and the Recreation Ground and Sports Association to investigate the matter.

It was reported that the Pavilion door had been vandalised, and a claim should be made on the Parish Council Insurance.

Mr. R Sheldrick reported that the Recreation Ground extension was in need of weeding. Chairman T Carter will look into the matter.

Mrs. Howe reported that caravans had been sited in the Knaves Acre area. PC Humble explained that the Police were dealing with the matter.

## **Matters Arising from the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2004**

### **Litter**

Priory garage and Bamboo Garden Chinese takeaway are endeavouring to keep the litter down.

Environmental Services are in discussion with the Police, to try and organise Police patrols in the area, particularly at night.

Someone from Environmental Services is coming daily from Soham to clear up litter.

'On-the-spot' fines come in to being on 1st September, and hopefully this will have an effect.

### **Police Matters**

PC Humble reported that between 8<sup>th</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2004 there were six reported crimes in the Isleham area, one burglary of a shed, one theft of a pedal cycle, damage to a car and three assaults.

During the same period 26 calls were received relating to the Isleham area.

PC Humble said the Police were aware of the current problem of antisocial behaviour in the village, and he stressed that parishioners must report incidents to the Police for them to act upon.

The caravans in the Knaves Acre/Common Gate Drove would be dealt with in the proper manner.

### **Cemetery and Churchyard matters**

The Old Cemetery Shed has been broken in to again, and a strimmer and hedge cutter stolen. Repairs had been carried out and quotes obtained to install an internal steel cage inside the shed to increase security measures.

The quotes had been deferred until the next meeting, and a visit is to be made to Haddenham Parish Council, where

increased security measures had been adopted to protect their garden machinery.

It was agreed that a new strimmer and hedge cutter be purchased.

Mr. Cox informed the Council that he needed assistance in straightening the gravestones in the New Cemetery. He said he knew of someone who would be willing to help him. The Council instructed him to make enquiries and report details back to them.

### **Allotment rents & Lugger Bank**

It was agreed that rents from October 2004 remain at 50p per rod for the Allotments and £10 per 20.304 rod for the Lugger Bank.

### **Correspondence**

A letter received about the confusing signs for the marina. The Clerk is to look in to this.

Letter from the Flood Defence Operations Engineer to say that the length of bank between Jay Jay Lodge and the marina has been inspected. It is in a satisfactory condition, but will be monitored closely with regards to vehicle damage.

Letter received from Mr. Wilde of the Staploe Transport Ass. thanking the Council for the donation of £400.

A letter has been received expressing concern about the proposed rear entrance to the school via Jubilee Close.

### **Broadband project agreed for Rural East Cambs**

ECDC and Trilogy Telecom Ltd are to work together to make broadband services available in 40 areas in rural East Cambs. Over 97% of households and businesses in the area will be able to access high-speed Internet access. A total of 13,000 homes that are not currently able to receive broadband services from BT will directly benefit.

Members of the Council had visited Fordham Parish Council to assess whether their conduct of business would be of benefit to Isleham PC.

The Chairman and Cllr. Beckett feel that the right approach to reducing the time of meetings was to follow Fordham PC practice and tighten the time allowed for Parishioners' Question Time to 3 minutes each, with 5 minutes allowed for more important items if known beforehand. A notice to remind the public about speaking during meetings will be placed in the Committee Meeting room.

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## **ISLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

The Council would like to inform parishioners, that any complaints, grievances or other general matters must, at all times, be put in writing to the Council at the following address:

**Mrs. Y Bishop  
17 Sun Street, Isleham  
Cambs. CB7 5RT**

Any information provided to the Council verbally, or matters arising from publication in the Isleham Informer, for the Council's attention, must also be put in writing to the Council for us to act upon.

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## **Wild Life**

It has come to the attention of IPC that birds and squirrels are being shot in the cemetery with air rifles. If anyone has any information on this, please contact Ely Police Station on 01223 358966.

## Joyce's Corner

*Some observations in poetic form from Joyce Drayton.  
What we need is a bylaw to cut off the hands of guilty  
thieves! All those in favour...*

### A Few Observations

*The Village Hall looks smart and clean  
A job well done is rare  
Congrats to those who painted it  
Let's hope it's treated now with care*

*The "hump" outside the Village Hall  
Will never bring cars to a rest  
I think it should be given a name  
And called "Mount Everest"*

*The bright red painting on the road  
Urges drivers to cut their speed  
It cannot really do much good  
When most of them can't read*

*Keep racing down the roadways  
Park on double yellow lines  
There's no police about to stop you  
So you won't get any fines*

*The Flower Festival started well  
The church looked bright and sunny  
Until some slime ball came along  
And stole out hard-earned money*

*The arrangements were quite amazing  
Roses, lilies, sunflowers and carnations  
Some generous folk have helped a lot  
With anonymous donations*

*Those who broke into the church  
Did so in the dark and gloom  
I just wish old Rev. Peachey  
Could have risen from his tomb*

*Years ago when a thief was caught  
He would be "tarred and feathered"  
Through the streets he would be led  
Then to a post be tethered*

*Joyce Drayton*

## INFORMER

Due to staff illness, we regret that there will be no Sports Report in this issue of the Isleham Informer. The Editorial Team wish all the best to Karl, Tony and Skye and would like to assure readers that the next issue will be even better than usual. Well, it could happen...

## Volvo For Sale

D-reg Volvo 340D in reasonable condition. Good runner. MOT and tax until April 2005. Offers in the region of £200 would be nice. Phone 780839.

### 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.**



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# Isleham's Churches

## Services & Youth Groups

### St Andrew's Parish Church

#### *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month:*

8.00 a.m. Prayer book communion  
10.00 a.m. Family service  
10.00 a.m. Junior Church

#### *All other Sundays:*

10.00 a.m. Common worship communion  
10.00 a.m. Junior Church in Social Centre.

*Please note that there is a crèche every Sunday*

**On and from 5<sup>th</sup> October:** Evening Prayer,  
Tuesdays 4.30 p.m. (15-30 minute duration).

#### *Festival of Light and Carol Service*

26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> November

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 2.00-6.00 p.m.

Carol Concert: 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 12 noon-8.00 p.m.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 2.00-6.00 p.m.

Candlelit Service: 6.30 p.m.

Refreshments – Draw – Tombola – Bric-a-brac

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Tickets for Carol Concert at £5 each

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David Styman: 1 Mill Street – 780533

Diana Jones: 51 Beck Road – 780634

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

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

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

### High Street Church

#### *Every Sunday:*

10.30am. Morning Worship. Crèches 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": If you are of retirement age, you are most welcome to join us every Tuesday at 3pm. Contact the office for details.

**Fridays:** "Little Lambs" for babies to pre-schoolers and their carers Friday at 9.15am - new members are always welcome.

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)

## THE ISLEHAM SOCIETY

We meet in the Village Hall on a Thursday evening. All are welcome. The annual subscription is £10 per member. Visitors to a talk are asked to contribute £2.00.

We all enjoyed a visit to Duxford Imperial War Museum on 29th July and another outing, to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge on 2nd September.

Our next meeting is on 23rd September and is entitled "Namaste Nepal" - "Welcome to Nepal". It will be a talk illustrated with slides, of the walk to the Base Camp site on Mount Everest.

Following that, on 21st October, we have a talk by Robin Page which he calls "Factory Farm or Countryside" It is likely to be a thought provoking and provocative evening!

Our November meeting, on 18th November, will be a talk by John King on the "Waterways of England". There is no meeting in December.

For any information about the Society contact the Secretary Beryl Powys on 01638 780519.

## Staploe Transport Association

This association of volunteers has been running for over 30 years. It arranges bus transport for patients registered in Soham's surrounding villages to bring them to the surgery on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays to see their doctor or nurse.

At a recent AGM, the Treasurer had to report the use of £3,000 of reserve monies to keep the service running. Members noted this alarming situation with apprehension, as this was the first time in the history of the association that a sum of this size had been required from its own funds. If this trend continued then all the association's reserves would be used up within the next five years and the service would have to close.

Approximately 2,000 people use the bus service each year at a cost of £4.50 per person per day. Although voluntary contributions are asked for from those who use the bus, the association is very dependant on wider support from local businesses, organisations and individuals.

Many organisations run fund-raising activities each year for the benefit of the Transport Association and such support is vital to protect this valuable service in our rural communities. If you would like details of how you can help and support, then please contact Eddie Woodbridge (Chairman) or Lynda Wick (Deputy Chairman) by telephoning the surgery on 01353 624123.



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Tel: (01353) 666075 Fax: (01353) 666162

E-mail: [pooleybendallwatson@btinternet.com](mailto:pooleybendallwatson@btinternet.com)

## Isleham Comrades Club

Church Street, Isleham (opposite the Priory)

Club (when open) 01638 780884

Secretary 01638 781777 Chairperson 01638 780111

### Opening hours

Monday 9.00-11.30pm	Tuesday 6.00-11.30pm
Wednesday 7.00-11.30pm	Thursday 9.00-11.30pm
Friday 7.30-11.30pm	Saturday 7.30-11.30pm
Sunday 12.00-3.00pm and 7.30-10.30pm	

### Regular Functions

Tuesdays: **Line Dancing** 6.30-10.00pm  
Wednesdays: **Bingo** 8.00-9.30pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month: **Quiz** 8.30-9.30pm  
Last Sunday of each month: **Jazz** 12.30-3.30pm

**Please note that the November Quiz  
will be held on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> November**

### Country & Western Evenings

8.00-11.30pm  
Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> October: **Cardy & Coke**  
Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> November: **Johnny Marks**  
Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> December: **Thrillbillies**

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# Discover our World



I would like to introduce you to Kwik Travel, one of the largest and most respected Independent holiday companies in the UK, and myself, **Brian Challis**.

Locally based and with 30 years travel experience, I wish to extend to you my services as Personal Travel Adviser for all of your European and Worldwide travel needs.

## **Kwik Travel and I can offer you a world of benefits...**

- Expert, impartial advice on holidays from all of the main operators and specialists.
- A wide variety of holidays, from city breaks to worldwide holidays of a lifetime.
- Tailor made holidays to suit your specific travel requirements.
- Book from home whenever's convenient to you, I am available most days until late.
- Using the latest holiday search technology I can find you the best deals on your chosen holiday or flights.
- All of your holiday extras at competitive rates, such as: insurance, car-hire, airport car parking, over-night hotel stays at all UK airports

**My aim is to provide you with the best service at the best price.**

To discuss your next travel arrangements call me now on:

**01638 780093**

or email: [brianc@kwiktravel.com](mailto:brianc@kwiktravel.com)

**Kwik**Travel

