



Isleham Informer



No. 15 December 2005

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

Isleham youth search for Roman past

By P.Skye

With no fanfare a Young Roots project funded by a Lottery Heritage Grant took to a field near Temple Road on 8th and 9th October. The program was created so that "young people find out about areas where they live," said Linda Homan, Cambridge Youth Service Manager, a community education program based at Soham Village College.

For the two days an interested group combed the surface of the field in search of evidence of previous occupation. Archaeologist Maureen Taylor from Venta Centre Ice Norum in Burwell supervised the surface walk where many objects were collected. Roman roof tiles, parts from a heating system, bases of Roman goblets, four Roman coins, a medieval coin and a Roman ring were a few of the treasures found, Linda reported. It is speculated the area was the site of a Roman temple although resistivity readings conclude there are no walls standing in the soil beneath the field. Whether the name of the road came from the distant past is an intriguing question.

"We thought we might find two or three trays," Linda said. "Instead there were 63 trays. We were surprised at the number" It was thought the Isleham Society had explored the site in the 1960s although no information was available on those finds,

The programme was designed and funded for Soham Village College students but Isleham archaeology enthusiasts who heard of the project were welcomed creating a continuous work force of about 25. The 15 young people from the College, including three Isleham residents, searched and washed the finds.

Interesting bits and pieces will eventually find their way into a presentation box at the College. The youth were allowed to take home their favourite bits possibly inspiring a new generation of history enthusiasts. All of the major pieces are



That's another tray full. Go on - get your hands dirty!

now undergoing analysis and cataloguing under the care of Maureen Taylor. Because of the abundance of material found, Carrenga Lewis of Channel 4's Time Team was contacted to suggest the area be considered for a Time Team programme.



An example of a Roman ring found at the site

150 Club

The "150 Club" is a group of people who support the work of the Isleham Primary School Parent Teacher Association. Open to anyone, the club was formed in 1999, the year of the school's 150th anniversary. Our goal is to get 150 members. Can you help us reach this target?

Each year members pay £15.00; half of that money is put into the members' prize fund and the other half goes to the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). This year, with 30 members, £225 went directly to the PTA to support school activities.

Each month a draws for first, second and third is made and the money is distributed to the winners. January to November's prizes are the same with December being a bumper month when the prize money is doubled. This year the prizes were £9.00, £5.00 and £3.30 respectively for January to November and £18.00, £10.00 and £6.60 for December.

YOU can join the 150 Club:

- Become a member for just £15.00 per year
- Support your local school
- Have the chance of a monetary win each month

Please consider joining this club of supporters of the local school. For more information and an application form, please contact Andrea Barrett, school secretary, on 01638 780 336 or Kathy Carver, 150 Club administrator, on 01638 781 116.

Contents

1. Archaeology; 150 Club
2. Busy Bees
3. The Cottage Gardener
4. Useful Phone Numbers; Committee meetings
5. Composting; In the Sky
6. Healthcare Forum; Under 5s; Twinning
7. Cookies for Leprosy; Direction Plus
8. Yuletide IPC News
9. RSPB; The Griffin
10. Puzzles
11. PTA News
12. Brownies
14. Isleham Parish Council News
16. Gala Committee
17. Letters to the Editor
19. Joyce's Corner; Stepping Stones; Computer Courses; The Isleham Society
20. Isleham WI
21. Isleham Churches News
22. The Phoenix Players;
23. Bowls Club Report
24. Cricket Club Report

Informer

Welcome to the second annual Bumper Christmas issue of the Isleham Informer. Last year we managed to bump it up to 24 pages by adding lots of silly jokes, extra puzzles and the like. This time we have almost had to cut back just to get it to fit in the same number. So thanks go to everyone who has made the effort to let us know what has been – or will be – going on in Isleham over the last/next few months.

We would like to make special mention of Richard Turner, who with his excellent delivery team, ensures that every home in the village receives their Informer as soon as possible. A big "Thanks" to all of you! And a request from Richard for extra help in the Station Road and Marina areas. If you can assist with this for the next issue, please call him on 780965.

Despite frequent appearances to the contrary, the Isleham Informer does not have an "anti-Police" policy. We will print anything that is not clearly libellous or sent anonymously, but can not print positive statements about the Police if we do not receive any. If certain villagers (who coincidentally may be among the staff of the Informer) feel the Police are not doing a good job here they are entitled to air their views. Similarly if certain villagers feel that we misrepresent the Police, this is the place to air your views: not the lounge bar of the Rising Sun.

So if you have any strong views about the village (should we have CCTV cameras?), the greater world (Bush and Blair are doing a great job?) or about the Informer (has Ms Skye missed the point about the "True meaning of Christmas"?), don't just sit there stewing. Let the whole village know! But remember to sign your letter otherwise we cannot print it.

Contributions for the next issue should reach us by 9th February. Either drop items off with Glenda Preece at 94 The Causeway or email to Ed Mayall at emayall@onetel.com. The old Informer email is no longer in use. All new advertisers should contact Ian Humphreys on 01638 781 796.



Isleham Village Hall

Tuesday Mornings (term-time) 9:15-11:15am

Only £1 for one child

£1.50 for a family of two or more children

Busy Bees is a friendly group where parents, grandparents and carers with little ones from bumps to pre-school age can come along and meet friends, chat and have a cup of tea or coffee.

There is a large play area with big toys for active toddlers and areas for quiet play and small babies.

With activity tables, crafts, songs, refreshments, stories and more; your children can learn and play with others their own age.

For adults it is a great way to make new friends or catch up with old ones, share stories and advice in a relaxing environment.

Please come and join us – we look forward to seeing you. Come along on a Tuesday morning, or for more information please call:

Mel: 01638 780 902

Julie: 01638 780860

Monique: 01353 721352

Swimming Pool Association

The School Swimming Pool Association need an accountant to audit the books. Can any volunteers please phone the school on 01638 780336.



**A J Hirji MSSCh MBChA
Surgical Chiroprapist**

57 Magnolia Close Redlodge
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP288TP
Tel: 01638 751420



**Chiroprody in the comfort of your own home.
No travelling or looking for a parking spot.**

**Just ring Alan on 01638 751420
Mobile 07798 661835**



THE COTTAGE GARDENER

As we enter December most of the colour has gone, but we have had a wonderful autumn. Flowers continued to show well in to November, with trees and bushes giving a wonderful display.

I put tender plants such as fuschias and pelargoniums into pots, and left them in the borders until the first frost, when I brought them into the shed to over winter. After the first frost dahlias can be lifted and stored, or if you leave them in the ground as I do, cover them with mulch or foliage that has been cut back from the garden.

Chrysanthemums should be have been lifted and stored in dry compost, and make sure you have tidied up the rose beds by pruning them halfway back, so that winter winds do not loosen their roots.

Clearing and tidying has been the order of the day for several weeks now, and I shall continue to do so whilst the weather holds. I continue to rake up leaves from my lawns and beds – leaving them is a mistake, as anything underneath will rot. Put the leaves into a wire mesh enclosure or black bin bags with holes punched in the bottom. In time the mould can be dug in to the soil.

In the vegetable plot I have already sewn my Japanese onions, which should be ready in June next year, and my broad beans that will over-winter and will be two or three weeks ahead of those planted in the Spring. I have cut off the browning asparagus ferns and weeded over the beds, and roughly dug over vacant ground to let the winter frosts and rain break down the soil.

I have tidied over the strawberry beds, pulling up weeds and cutting off runners. At this time of the year you should check over your blackcurrant bushes for big bud mite. This will show with large globular buds instead of pointed healthy ones. They should be broken off and disposed of.

Tidy up rhubarb beds and get rid of the dead leaves, but not on the compost heap, as they are poisonous.

I think I must be getting older, as I have planted a lawn section in my vegetable garden, where I will be able to relax and appreciate my endeavours. I was given the tip of soaking the grass seed in whisky... It will come up 'half-cut'!

I hope you have had a successful year in the garden, and if, like most of us, you have had a few failures, you can always try again next year. Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year to you all.

The Happy Hoer

True Story!

A young girl who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster. A coast guard spokesman commented, "This sort of thing is all too common".

The Times

At the height of the gale, the harbourmaster radioed a coastguard and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff.

Aberdeen Evening Express



Priory Garage

*Your Local Used
Car Dealer*

Church Street, Isleham.

Tel: 01638 780625

Service & Repairs for All Makes & Models, MoTs

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

7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday

Used Cars in Stock NOW

2004 54 Renault Modus 1.4 16v Dynamique

in Metallic Silver, A/W, A.B.S, P.A.S, Panoramic Sun Roof Boot Shoot,A/C, Radio-C/D, E/W, 14000 miles £8795.00

2004 53 Renault Laguna 1.9 DCi Extreme 120bhp

Sport Tourer in Metallic Silver. A/C, A/W, E/W,Radio C/D, C/L, only 25000 miles £9900.00

2003 53 Renault Laguna Privilege 2.0, 6spd Turbo

in Storm Blue Metallic. S/R, A/W, Radio C/D multi player, Half Leather, F/S/H only 38000 miles. £7995.00

2003 03 Renault Clio Expression 1.2 16V 3dr

in Saffron A.B.S, P.A.S, E/W, C/L, Radio C/D, S/R 29000 miles. £5195.00

2001 X Renault Megane Scenic DCi TD 1.9 Alize

5dr in Silver ABS, E/W, E/L, S/R, Radio Cassette, F/S/H 68,000. £4995.00

2001 Y Landrover Discovery TD5 GS 7 Manual

in Metallic Blue, A/W, Twin S/R, Climate Control R/Cassette, C/L, E/W, A.B.S £12495.00

2001 Y Renault Clio Initiale 1.6 16v 5dr

in Metallic Green A/W, A/C, Radio C/D, Full leather, Alarm, S/R C/L. E/W Full service history 62k £4695.00

2000 X Vauxhall Astra 1.6 LS hatch 5dr

in Midnight Blue. Radio C/D, A/C, A/Bag's, P.A.S, E/W, S/H 58000 miles £3800.00

2000 W VW Bora V5 2.3 4dr saloon

in metallic red A/W, E/W, A/C, C/L, Radio/cassette, service history, 85000 miles £4695.00

2000 V Renault Megane Monaco Cabriolet 2.0IDE

in metallic Silver, A/W, Radio cassette C/D, P.A.S A.B.S, E/W, A/C, Full Leather Trim 71000 miles £6495.00

2000 V Peugeot 306 Meridian 1.4 5dr

in metallic Red, Fr/fog/lamps, E/L, C/L, P.A.S, A/B, Radio cassette A/C, 56000 miles £2695.00

1999 T Renault Megane Coupe 1.6 Sport

in Metallic Red E/W, P.A.S, A/W, Radio C/D, C/L, F/S/H 1 owner 80k £3250.00

1998 S Ford Fiesta LX Zetec 1.2 5dr

in metallic Silver E/L, P.A.S, A.B.S, S/R, radio cassette, S/H, 71000 miles £1995.00

W.R. PARR

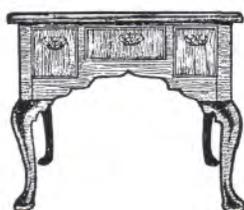
Established in Cambridge 1928

**New workshop services
Now available in Isleham**

Tel: 01638 780080

**All aspects of antique furniture
restoration and repair work**

Including



- Marquetry
- Turning
- Veneering
- French polishing
- Carving

Pooley
&
Bendall
Watson

SOLICITORS

All Legal Work Undertaken

4b Church Street, Isleham
Cambs. CB7 5RX

Tel: (01638) 780170 Fax: (01638) 780190

2 Three Cups Walk, Forehill, Ely
Cambs. CB7 4AN

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

E-mail: pooleybendallwatson@btinternet.com

Useful Phone Numbers

Emergency for Police, Fire, Ambulance	999
Police (Cambs.)	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
District Councillor (Derrick Beckett)	01638 780476
Isleham Village Hall (Jeanette Malkin)	01638 780283
Mobile Library	08450 455225
Parish Council (Diane Bayliss: Temp Clerk)	01638 781093
Member of Parliament (Jim Paice)	01954 211450
Isleham Informer (Ian Humphreys)	01638 781796
(Ed Mayall)	01638 780839
(Glenda Preece)	01638 780734
(Ian Powys)	01638 780519
(P. Skye)	01638 780990
(Richard Turner)	01638 780965

Next CMs

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

Parish Council: *Monday, 9th January.*
Monday, 6th February.

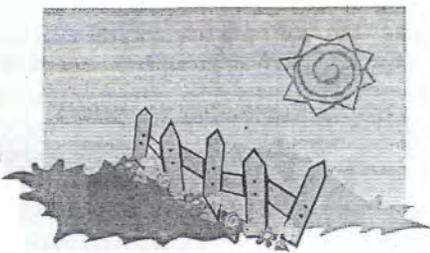
Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Parishioners may raise any issue between **7.00-7.30 p.m.** All meetings take place in the room at the back of the Village Hall.

Comrades Club: 8.00 p.m. on *Monday 9th January.*
8.00 p.m. on *Monday 13th February.*

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, 16th January.*

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



CAMBRIDGESHIRE MASTER COMPOSTERS

The Cambridgeshire Master Composter Programme is recruiting more volunteers this year!

You may now be familiar with the Master Composter Programme, which has been appearing in some Cambridgeshire Parish Magazines since 2001. The Programme is being run by the County Council, working together with all the District Councils and Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA) Consultants, to promote home and community composting. We're seeking volunteers to provide a network of local, friendly advice and support to people who already compost and those who want to start.

Master Composter programmes were established over 10 years ago in the USA and Canada. These programmes have proved to be extremely popular and successful in promoting the benefits of home composting.

The Cambridgeshire Master Composter Programme is the largest of its kind, with over 170 volunteers. Almost 4000 hours of voluntary work have been completed so far.

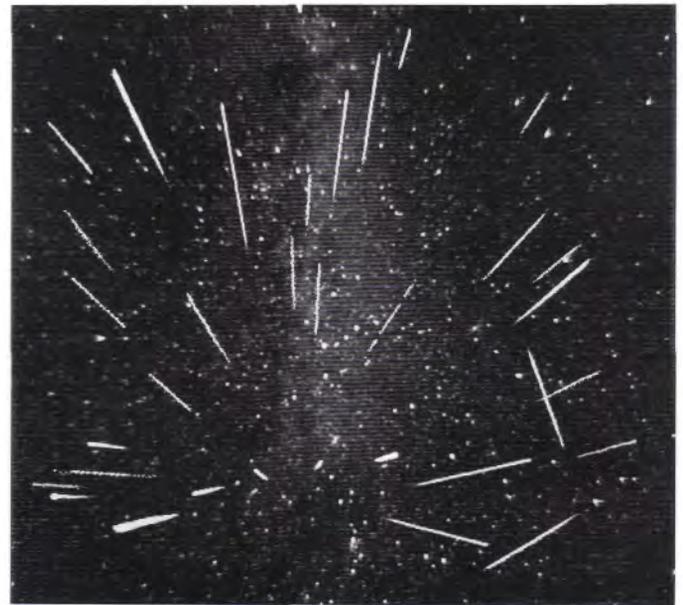
Becoming a Master Composter is a great way to meet new people, learn valuable skills, provide leadership and benefit from being part of a team that makes a difference. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a Master Composter; you do not need to be an expert composter (or be composting at all) or have 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 educational visits; including tours of 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 Jane Griffiths, HDRA Consultants, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry, CV8 3LG, email: jgriffiths@hdra.org.uk or telephone 024 7630 8202.

In the Sky

The 2005 Perseids meteor shower back in August was a washout on the night of the maximum because of thick cloud. However, the night after was clear and there were still plenty to see. The image below is a composite of photographs taken over less than 1 hour and Cassiopeia (the wonky W on its side) is in the centre. It was a pretty impressive display of standard meteors, Earth-grazers, fireballs and a couple of sporadic meteors unrelated to the Perseids shower.



Unfortunately the Moon is close to full for both the Leonids in November and the Geminids in December. You might just be lucky with the Quadrantids in January. They are an above average shower, with up to 40 meteors per hour at their peak. It should peak on 3rd January but some meteors will be visible for a couple of days either side. The best time to observe will be after midnight on the morning of the 4th. Look to the northeast. The crescent moon will set early and will not interfere.

Mars is very bright in the east and is reasonably close to the Earth at present. However, it does require a telescope to see any surface detail. The Great Galaxy in Andromeda will be a good object for binoculars throughout November and Orion will dominate the night sky up until the end of January.



Christmas Fayre

for
Isleham Pre-School

on
10th December
12.00 - 3.00pm

in

Isleham Village Hall
Lots of Interesting stalls and
Games

Santa will be there with gifts for Boys and Girls.



Healthcare Forum

Do you care about healthcare in East Cambs & Fenland? Then don't let your opinions go unheard. Contact the Patient and Public Involvement in Health Forum for the East Cambs & Fenland Primary Care Trust.

PPI Forums were created by the Government to act as the voice of the public on health related issues. The Forum for East Cambs & Fenland is made up of local volunteers who are enthusiastic about the health of our community. They are unpaid, unbiased and have statutory powers.

The Forum is involved with consultations such as the South Fenland Services Review, including the future of Doddington Hospital, and they investigate trends such as the over-use of out-of-hours surgeries, and make reports and recommendations on their findings.

Members of the public are encouraged to write to the Forum with any comments or concerns they may have about Primary Care Trust services such as GPs, dentists, pharmacies and clinics. These comments determine the work of the Forum, so we need to hear your views!

We would also like to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Forum; the more members we have, the more we can do to make a difference. You do not have to have experience in the NHS, merely an interest in raising the standards of its services. Members have the opportunity to attend a variety of training courses and networking days, will have all travel costs reimbursed, and will be guided by a team of friendly support staff. All we ask is that you can spare 4-5 hours per week, and can take on assignments of your own as well as working well in a team. It's a unique project; one that you will find interesting, challenging and rewarding.

Administrative support for the Forum is provided Cambridgeshire ACRE. They also facilitate the PPI Forum for local hospitals and other Forums in the area such as the Cambs & Peterborough Mental Health Partnership, and Hinchingsbrooke, Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals Forums. For more information or details on how to become a member, please contact Kim Armit on 01353 865351

Isleham Under 5's Association

We are now well into the Autumn Term at I.U.F.A.

The AGM was held on 14th September, and the new Committee was elected

Co-Chair:	Hannah & Russell White
Vice-Chair:	Annette May
Secretary:	Leanne Dunsmuir
Treasurer:	Dawn Canham
Admin:	Karen Allitt
Fund Raising Co-ordinator:	Jackie Riley
New Buildings Co-ordinator:	Kathy Carver
Wages:	Hannah White

Plans have been re-submitted to the architect for alterations. When they have been agreed, they will be sent for Planning Permission. Once this has all taken place we will start to apply for grants from various organisations to proceed with the building. Bob Riley has volunteered to help with the New Buildings project, and will be working with Kathy and Jenny throughout the year.

Thank you to all those who have supported and helped at our fund raising events in 2004/5. We raised just under £4000. These funds are needed to ensure that the unit remains open.

Events planned for this term are:

- 10th December Christmas Fair at the Village Hall
- Chocoholics catalogue
- Yellow Moon Catalogue
- (both are on the table outside the unit)
- Christmas Crackers

The Pre-School Christmas Party will be held at the Village Hall on December 15th. There will be no Pre-School on this day.

The Autumn Term closes on Friday 16th December.

ISLEHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

On the first weekend in October twenty-nine of our friends from Nesles came to stay for the weekend. In a slightly different format from previous weekends, when the coach arrived at the Village Hall around midday each host took their guests home for lunch and spent the rest of Saturday with them. The afternoon was spent either shopping or visiting local places of interest. Some went out to a local restaurant for a meal in the evening.

On Sunday a meal had been planned at the Bowls Club. For those who wished a game of boules was set up in the Bowls Club car park during the morning. Everyone met again at the Club at 12.30 pm ready for the lunch at 1.00 pm. The meal was well under way when there was electricity cut so it was quickly arranged for some people to take vegetables home with them to cook and bring back hot to the Club. Even though the food was a bit delayed it was still an excellent meal prepared and served by volunteer members of the Bowls Club. During the afternoon a guitarist played gently through the meal and more brightly once the electricity came back on. More entertainment was provided by a belly dancer, from the Phoenix Players, Isleham's new dramatic group.

Next year is the tenth anniversary of our Twinning and we shall be celebrating over the Gala Day weekend 30th June to 2nd July. If there are any Isleham Informer readers who would like more information about the Twinning Association please contact one of the committee listed below.

Don't forget to get tickets for this year's Carol Concert run jointly by the Isleham Twinning Association and St. Andrew's church. Tickets at £5 each are available from Bryan Wynne and Diana Jones or the Post Office. Parents of children taking part in the concert should get their tickets through the school at a concessionary rate.

A Cheese and Wine evening will be held by Gill and David Styman to help fundraise for the Isleham Twinning Association.

Please come along any time after 7 pm on Friday 9th December 2005 to 1 Mill Street where you will be able to have a glass of wine, cheese and nibbles for £3.50.

Diana Jones: 780634

Bryan Wynne: 780802

André Ciantar: 515150

COOKIES FOR A CURE

LEPRA World Leprosy Week 22nd - 29th January 2006

Can you cook up a cure? Join in the Greatest Cookie Party Ever and help cure people of leprosy

Can you help LEPRA by holding a "Cookies for a Cure" Party during World Leprosy Week - 22nd January to 29th January 2006?

All the money raised will go towards supporting LEPRA's vital medical development programmes in Asia, South America and Africa.

Simply bake (or even buy!) some cookies, and invite your friends, neighbours and colleagues to join in the fun at coffee break, lunchtime, afternoon or evening. We'll send you, free of charge, all you need to make your Cookie Party a success!

By collecting 'cookie contributions' at your party you will soon raise the £21 needed to help cure one person of leprosy, restoring their health, hope and dignity. If you wanted to be really ambitious you could make it a real community Cookie Party by inviting everyone in your neighbourhood!

Last year our party holders raised over £4000 - that meant we were able to help a further 190 people! Please help us to beat this figure in 2006.

Leprosy is one of the oldest recorded diseases in the world, with references to it in the New Testament. Yet around 800,000 cases are still diagnosed annually, many of who are children and an estimated 4 million people have disabilities as a result of this dreadful disease.

Yet leprosy is easily curable and the complete eradication of the disease is the stated aim of LEPRA and the reason that the charity exists.

So do something wonderful - change lives by helping to cure leprosy!

To receive your party pack, which includes, poster, balloons, invitations, collecting box and special cookie recipe, please contact Anastasia Evangelides, 36 Braithwaite Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 2QH Tel:02084202765 Email: cookies@lepra.org.uk



Direction Plus, the Disability Information and Advice Service for Cambridgeshire, has moved.

Direction plus staff and volunteers would like to apologise to anyone who has had difficulty getting through to us by phone or email from December to March. We have moved to accessible premises and had enormous problems with our new telephone system. It is all working now and we have Broadband as well, so we can offer a more up-to-date information service.

Do you know anybody who needs information or advice on local or national services for older / disabled people or carers?

If you do, you may also know how helpful it can be to speak to friendly supportive people who take the time to listen and have the experience to find the information they need

Direction Plus is a local charity that enable and supports disabled and older people and carers. The advice line, open every weekday from 10 am to 12.30 and 1.30 to 4 pm with an answer phone outside these times, provides free, confidential and impartial information on all issues relating to disability and access. Ring 01223 569 603, 01353 669 431 (East Cambs) or 01354 659 179 (Fenland). Fax 01223 506 470. email info@directions-plus.org.uk or write to Direction Plus, 1 Orwell Furlong, Cowley Road, Cambridge CB4 0WY.

Our experienced staff have access to extensive national and local databases and can also help local organisations and businesses with Disability Discrimination Act and access problems.

780171 creativeballoons.net

creative Balloons

Balloon in a Box
Delivered nationwide from **£12.95**
Premium **£22.95** as pictured

As the recipient unwraps their premium balloon in a box, they find layers of coordinated tissue paper, ribbons, feathers and baby balloons as a foil balloon rises out of the box, with a personal message on a scroll.

Gifts such as teddies or chocolates can be added and next day delivery is also available.

Hand Delivered Bouquets from £12.95

If you're celebrating a birthday or a new baby, or if you want to wish someone good luck or goodbye, there's a balloon bouquet for you.

Balloon bouquets can be upgraded to come attached to a teddy, mug, chocolates, or a gift or bottle provided by you.

Delivery in the immediate area is free for **Informers** readers and we also hand deliver bouquets in Cambridgeshire & parts of Norfolk & Suffolk. Evening and weekend deliveries are our speciality, some daytime deliveries also available.

Christmas, Valentine's Day & Mother's day bookings now being taken with slots beginning to fill up.

£5.00 Cash Back on all Party Decor over £50 with this voucher!

One voucher per customer, valid until 1st February 2006

Pagan life infiltrates modern customs

With all the fa-la-la-ing piped into shops we may rue the loss of the true meaning of Christmas. If the "bah humbug" is overcoming "O Come All ye Faithful" maybe you're just a pagan at heart. Christian traditions often encompass the pagan ceremonies that came before them.



We've had history mucked about from the beginning of Christian celebrations since the 25th of December had long been a convenient date to have a big blow-out party long before Christ was born. Knowledgeable scholars have debated exactly when Christ's birth occurred for centuries, but the birth celebration seems to have been hung onto the old winter festival. Or is it possible Jesus showed up at the pagan party uninvited?

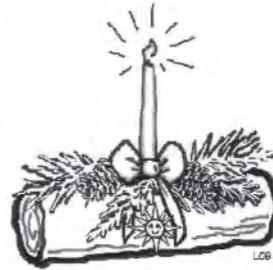
Turns out the winter solstice on the current calendar is the 21st. Ancient rites then decreed the 25th to be the day to celebrate the wholehearted welcome of the return of the sun. The sun darkens to the shortest daylight hours of the year on the 21st; by the 25th it's apparent (if you don't have much to do – sitting around the hearth there's time to notice these things) the sun has started to return to the strength that will be necessary to grow the next year's crops. If you were hanging out around the ol' hearth, the idea the sun wasn't about to go into permanent retirement would certainly be cause for major celebration. Sitting watching flames year after year was nothing near our BBC experience, although there was probably one elder who could only talk of the good old days when flames were smaller and he'd been colder. I think he had to walk very long distances too.

Back to Christmas, the babe in the manger, the bright star, wise men and spices. A synthesis of traditions from ancient lore and local festivals were gathered together by St. Francis of Assisi in 1224 AD. He has been sited as the guy who tossed the crib into the traditional nativity celebration.

Linguistic archaeological types seem to think they can trace each of these concepts to a time before the Judeo/Christian concepts. But if you've ever had one of these scholars over for dinner you'll understand their conversation does not make for a scintillating evening so I have to take their viewpoint on faith which seems to be a main ingredient in the Judeo/Christian beginnings.

The red-suited character, ye merry old guy with all the gifts, makes his appearance frequently in tales from Germany. Blame the old guy for a lot of the modern hype as he keeps popping up in new forms the most recent and damaging being "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer" in 1939 which opened the door for all kinds of atrocities. Pagan Father Christmas – a fair distance from Rudolph – was connected with the god Saturn celebrating fertility rites with a sinister demeanour. I couldn't figure who was higher in the hierarchy than this guy so rape and pillage more than likely went unchecked for a few thousand years. The Lapps had the "Yule Swain" who was a huge giant riding around on a goat for several days before Christmas. This just wouldn't work today, as there would be definite nasty comments from the Animal Rescue folk. Someone would feel compelled to make signs and demonstrate. Possibly having no written language could be a plus. Saint Nicholas of the Christian variety apparently was bad tempered but kind hearted.

Holly, mistletoe, yule logs and wassail bowls can all be traced back to ancient pagan rites. There's not much question about the wassail bowl. You put wassail in a bowl in 8 BC you've pretty much got the same thing going on today as then. They favoured local spirits and a wooden bowl covers this tradition through the centuries so if you're hunting for authenticity in your holiday the wooden bowl should be enough to be legitimate. Leave it to alcohol to be the great leveller of humanity ancient or present.



The yule log is obvious, too. If you're having any kind of festivities in the middle of the winter, particularly in those northern climes, you want a big fire for the simple reasons of heat and light. It's going to cut into someone's party time if they have to head out to the

forest for new fuel for the fire. Those long, dark, quiet moments with the wassail bowl nearly empty could easily lapse into sleep resembling a coma state that would definitely put a damper on the party crowd. The word yule is of Norse origin and refers to the long ago midwinter festival. Over the centuries yule also became known as an alternative to Christian Christmas terms in the English language.

Mistletoe, with its attractive white berries, is also loaded with pagan tradition. Held in superstitious awe far back in Gaelic and Celtic history, Christians thoroughly hated its use as decoration in churches or the good Christian home. Associated with fertility rites this might have been the problem for puritanical Christians. There was all that begetting in the Old Testament yet we never have a clear clue as to whether or not mistletoe was involved. Certainly the chaste public kisses under the mistletoe these days are a long way from a fertility rite but this could be improved on by willing members of the younger generation. Possibly the older generation could lead the way, but one has to consider the youngsters going, "Oh yuck, Granny's getting boinked under the mistletoe."

Holly, ivy and evergreens have been brought into dwellings for as long as history has been recorded in the northern climes, the Grecian isles as well as those desert portions of the continent referred to currently as the Middle East. Christianity embraced the lesser greens having discerned the problems with mistletoe from the start. Holly berries and prickles worked into lovely symbols of Christ's passion.

One can also imagine the colour brought enrichment in the daily lives of the ancient peoples as they decorated with evergreens and hollies throughout the centuries. Those wattle and daub huts and hides tended toward the beige spectrum and would have definitely benefited with the addition of green in the decorating mélange. Most homes probably needed a bit of perking up by the time of the winter solstice anyway. There were also the aromatic delights a few evergreens would have added tossed about the full-time winter shelters of hunters and gatherers.

If you find yourself feeling nostalgic for days of yore go ahead and head down to the local for a pint or two, where we can so easily obtain the most lasting of the ancient traditions with just a little wassail and a cheery fire. I have instructions for making a clever weapon that shoots small marshmallows with great force that should take care of the irksome noise from the television.

P. Skye

RSPB Volunteer & Farmer Alliance

In 2005, the RSPB was delighted to undertake a bird survey, through the Volunteer and Farmer Alliance, on behalf of JM & MA Thompson & Sons, Isleham. In total, 57 species were recorded on three visits during the breeding season, clearly showing the value of their land for a wide range of birds.

Farmland birds are the most rapidly declining group of British birds. Grey partridge, skylark and yellowhammer are red listed as Birds of Conservation Concern as they have all declined in number by over 50% in the last 25 years. The presence of these species demonstrates that this part of the Fens is still an important area, providing vital nesting and feeding habitats for these vulnerable species.

Wetland bird species were also present in abundance. Breeding waders, such as lapwing and redshank, and wildfowl have suffered due to the historic draining of their wetland homes. The snipe, which was also recorded during the survey, has declined by 61% in the East of England between 1982 and 2002, according to the Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows Survey.

The RSPB is proud to work in partnership with farmers such as JM & MA Thompson and Sons, who are working to ensure a healthy future for our natural heritage.

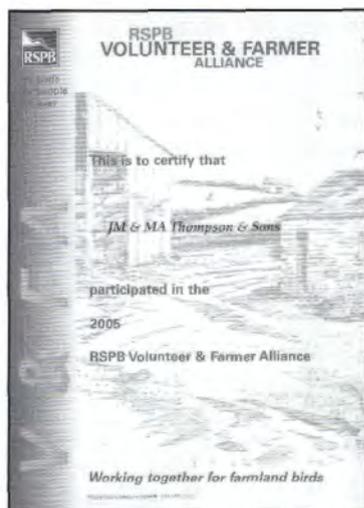
Andy Cotton

RSPB Farmland Adviser, Eastern England

The Griffin

The Griffin Pub has changed again! Tom Long took over as Manager in October and has already seen some familiar faces to wish him well in his new venture! Since becoming Manager, Thom has kept the Griffin busy with various things such as the Firework Display on Bonfire Night and a Halloween Party for the children (which went down ghoulishly well!), with prizes given to the best-dressed children on the evening.

Why not keep an eye out for future events – you never know what's happening – Christmas holidays are only round the corner! We have a Children's Xmas Party on 21st Dec; Christmas Draw and lots more. Please note the new opening times: Mon 7 – 11pm; Tues, Wed, Thurs 4.30 – 11pm; Fri 3 – 11pm; Sat 12 – 11pm; Sun 12 – 10.30pm. And yes, we will be open on Christmas Day from 12-3pm and again from 7pm. So see you there...



FED UP REPAIRING YOUR FLAT ROOF?



NOW YOU CAN REPLACE IT ONCE AND FOR ALL

- Flat roof problems solved permanently with Rubberbond EPDM roofing systems
- 20 year guarantee
- A value for money roofing system with a 40+ year proven life expectancy
- Total protection for all flat roofs

FOR A FREE SURVEY, FRIENDLY ADVICE AND NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION CALL

www.whitehallplastics.co.uk Tel: 01353 723799



Mallow Fencing

All types of Fence erecting & refurbishment undertaken

- Verandas & Decking
- Garden Features
- Ponds, Patios, Pagodas
- Loose stone & block drives
- Custom built timber barns & sheds
- Decorative steel work

Walnut Tree Farm
Prickwillow Road,
Isleham

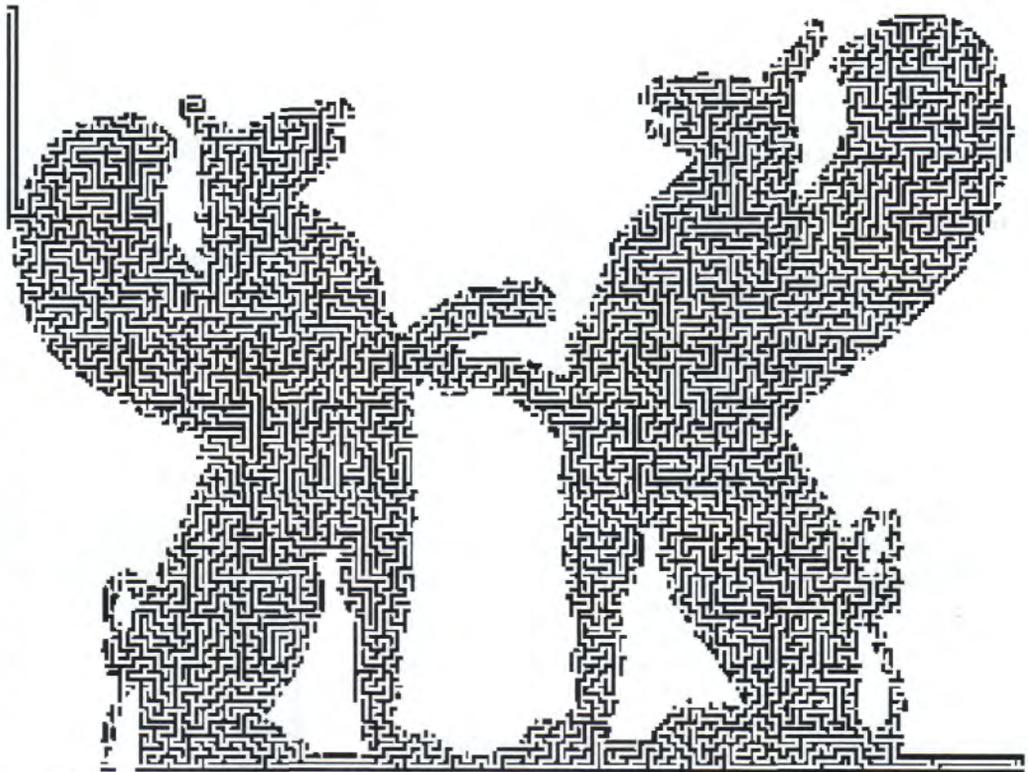
Tel 01638 781794

All major credit & debit cards taken

Puzzles

Maze

Here's a horribly fiendish maze with a local image for you to work at on the long winter evenings. Start at the top left and leave bottom right. Good luck!



Anagrams

Last time we asked you make words from "Priory Garage". Here are 80 of the most common words: agape, agar, age, ago, agog, airy, ape, apiary, area, aria, arpeggio, array, arrear, egg, error, gage, gape, gear, gig, giro, goer, gore, gorge, gorier, gory, grapery, grey, griper, grog, proper, gyro, ogre, opera, orgy, page, pager, pair, parry, payer, pea, pear, peg, pier, piggery, pore, porgy, prayer, prey, prier, prig, prior, priory, pro, pry, pyre, raga, rage, rapier, rarer, ray, reap, rear, repair, repay, rig, rigger, rigor, ripe, ripper, roar, roper, ropey, rye, yap, yarer, year, yip, yoga, yogi, yore.

Bible Puzzle

I once made a remark about hidden books in the Bible. Merely by a fluke it kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam especially since the names of the books were not capitalised but the truth finally struck home to numbers of people. To others it was a real job. Yes, there will be some really difficult ones to spot. You may judge some to be easy. I admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them. There will be loud lamentations when it is found. One lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now but for all those at sea, there really are seventeen books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. One preacher found sixteen in twenty minutes but it took him three weeks to find the other one.

(The staff of the Informer remain convinced that there are only 16 books of the Bible in the above paragraph. If anyone can find all 17, please let us know and we'll buy you a drink. It's driving us crazy!)

Spot the Difference

The winner of the last issue's £5 prize was Kea Haw of Beech Close. Well done Kea: we will try to get the prize to you before the next issue comes out!

The 12 differences were: 1. Top tree leaf removed; 2. Nose line on left giraffe removed; 3. Shadow on lower coconut removed; 4. Leaf vein below gecko removed; 5. Ear line on left giraffe removed; 6. Bottom spot on right giraffe coloured in; 7. Small leaf at right of tree coloured in. 8. Horn on right giraffe moved; 9. Spot on left giraffe moved; 10. Branch on left side shorter; 11. Gecko tail longer; 12. Gecko eye missing. Charlotte McGreavy also noticed a change in the gecko's back leg, but we're not convinced by that. Sorry Charlotte!

This issue we have a seasonal puzzle with 12 differences. See if you can manage to find all of them. The competition is open to anyone up to the age of 14 and the winner will earn themselves £5.



PTA NEWS

Welcome to another school year from your new PTA Committee. We held our AGM on 28th September and welcomed several new members. We have sadly had to bid farewell to some of our long-standing members this year as their children have moved to different schools and our thanks go to them for all the hard work they have put in for Isleham School over the years. Already this term we have held a cake stall, which despite the usual Friday afternoon downpour managed to raise £37.92. Our Ladies' Pamper Evening in October was another enjoyable event and raised approximately £310. Thank you to everybody who supported these events.

It seems unlikely that this issue of the Informer will be printed before our Christmas Fayre on Friday 2nd December, so we would like to thank everyone for their help and contributions for that.

We have recently purchased the scripts for Sleeping Beauty, next year's Panto, which will be held in March. The people taking part always have a great time and if you are interested in joining them, either in the cast or back-stage, they would be very pleased to see you. Everybody is welcome! Please contact the school office for more details.

The 150 Club is due to start again in January and is a very good way of raising funds for our school. If you are unsure what the Club is and how it works, see Kathy Carver's separate article on page 1.

We continue to collect Nestle Box Tops and Tesco Sports Vouchers, which can be handed in at the school office. The Tesco Sports Vouchers are now due in, so please check whether you have any more for us!

The school will be holding its usual Christmas Craft Day in December and desperately need the insides of kitchen rolls for several of our crafts. If you could save these for us it would be greatly appreciated. No toilet rolls please.

Don't forget to look out for our General Knowledge Quiz to be held in February 2006! More details after Christmas.

Taxi Service

Personal service by fully qualified drivers

Home – to – Airport
Airport – to – Home

Stansted	£40
Gatwick	£90
Heathrow	£90
Luton	£60
etc, etc	

Long distance journeys at special rates

To book, phone 0795 2277236 (mobile)
or 01638 781400 (answer phone)

Please book 24 hrs in advance for long distance

Isleham Comrades Club

Church Street, Isleham (opposite the Priory)
Club (when open) 01638 780884
Secretary 01638 780893 Chairperson 01638 780111

Bar Opening Hours

Monday Closed	Tuesday 8.00-11.00pm
Wednesday 7.30-11.00pm	Thursday Closed
Friday 8.00-11.00pm	Saturday 8.00-11.00pm
Sunday 12.00-3.00pm and	8.00-10.30pm

Regular Functions

Tuesdays: **Line Dancing** Now back!
Wednesdays: **Bingo** 8.00-9.30pm
1st Friday of each month: **Quiz** 8.30-9.30pm
Last Sunday of each month: **Jazz** 12.00-3.30pm

Christmas Country & Western Evening

Saturday, 17th December at 8.00pm

Always an Excellent Selection of Malts, Lager & Real Ales

Family New Year's Eve with Disco & Food

Adults & Children over 12 £8 – Under 12s – FREE!
Tickets available now from the Club

Support your village club. Why not have a Party at the Club? – a lot of people do!
New members always welcome.

FARR

PAINTING AND DECORATING

Andrew Farr

14 East Fen Road, Isleham,
Ely, Cambs CB7 5SW

Tel: (01638) 780375

Mobile: 07768 328387



Interior and exterior painting and decorating.
Paper hanging.
Commercial and domestic.

20 years experience.

Free estimates.

1st Isleham Brownies

Isleham has an active Brownie pack open to all girls aged from 7 to 10 years old. We asked the Brownies themselves to tell you all about it! If you would like to know more contact Kate on 781068.



Sixers look after the young ones and the seconders look after the young ones when the sixer is away. We also have lovely leaders – all of the names we call them begin with owls.

Kayla

Brownies is very fun. The games are Ladders, Chinese Whispers, Wink Murder and Irish Stew.

Rosie

You can do lots of badges!
Kea

We have badges. They are Science investigation, Craft, Cyclist, Promise, Fire Safety, Road Safety, Cook and Toymaker.

Yazmin

Brownie trips – Bowling, fire station, Inspire Centre, toffee apple hunting.

Sophie

We sing fun songs like 'Pow Wow' and the special Brownie song. We've got more songs like 'My name's Joe' and 'I'm singing in the rain' and the last one is 'I like the flowers'.

The table I sit on has all friendly people.

Molly (a new Brownie)

Brownies is fabulous, it has great games and leaders.

Charlotte

We share.

Anna

Brownies do the best activities all the time.

We work together. We stick together.
Ellie

Annabel said this about the other Brownies in her six...

'T' is funny, great to be with and a nice person to talk to.

'L' is great to laugh with and I'm glad she's in my group.

'M' is good to laugh and play with. I'm glad that she's my seconder.

'M' (a brand new Brownie) is a kind and caring girl and I'm sure she'll make mates easily.

Our Brown Owl is Kate, our Tawny Owl is Georgina, Snowy Owl is Jo, Fluffy Owl is Louise. Our helpers are Denise and Becky.

Tarryn

When I went to the hands on museum in Norwich I had such a fun time that when I went home I didn't have any energy at all.

All of the girls who go to Brownies are very friendly.
Megan



We go on trips we've never been on before. We meet at 6pm on Thursdays at the Village Hall. You have to be 7 or over to come to Brownies.

Holly and Nina

Brownies is cool,
Brownies is great.
At Brownies we like to create
And I like to go with my mate.
We go from the age of 7 to 10
Week in, week out, again and
again!

A poem by Kirsty

We work as a team. Holly

Isleham Brownies were allowed to
go with Soham Brownies to a pack
holiday for the weekend.

Emily

Brownies



We get Brownie teddies and sing songs. We do
recipes.

Aimee

I like Brownies because we go on adventures. I
enjoy singing. I make new friends.

Erin

We sing a song at the
beginning of Brownies and we
sing a song at the end.

Maisie

It is fun, you learn things, you go on holidays, see
different things, we share, are friends and I like the
yellow clothes.

Holly

We meet at 6pm at the Village Hall. We have lovely leaders, great trips out and do
exciting things.

Georgia and Kirsty

ISLEHAM PRE-SCHOOL LUNCH CLUB

Isleham Pre-school are pleased to announce a 16 place lunch-time club

When	Monday to Friday (in term time)
Where	Isleham Pre-school unit
What Time	11:15 to 12:45
Cost	£2.00 per child, payable with booking

**Packed lunch to be provided by the parent.
All children attending pre-school are welcome.**

**Isleham Pre-school unit adjacent to Primary School
Malting Lane, Isleham
Tel: 01638 720760 / 780060**

Isleham Under 5's Association. Registered Charity No: 294978

Parish Council News

The following are very abbreviated versions of the IPC minutes for the last three meetings. Remember that any parishioner may request a copy of the full minutes from the IPC.

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th August

Present: Cllrs T. Carter, Neal, Puckey, Mrs Malkin, Mrs Gannon and four parishioners

Question Time: Isleham United Youth Football Club have requested use of the Cemetery land on Beck Row for the next year awaiting completion of the work on the Recreation Ground. They would like to erect a Portacabin on the land to provide changing facilities. The Parish Council would need to apply for planning permission. Questions were raised with regard to parking and some reservations were expressed. The Council will wait to see the outcome of the planning application. A gate will be placed across the entrance to prevent non-authorized vehicles driving onto the land.

Matters arising: The cleaning of the playsafe area was carried out by Sweepfast at the same time as they did the all-weather surface.

Police report: A written report was received for July, and showed three crimes in Isleham.

County Councillor's report: County Cllr Mrs Broadway reported that the ragwort should now have been sprayed, and Cllr Carter noted that the field he had questioned at the last meeting had been cut.

Rev. C. Goodwins has made a complaint that the disabled access to the Arts theatre in Cambridge is constantly blocked.

The Parish Council should have received correspondence from Community Safety Partnership regarding Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). The Chairman informed Mrs Broadway that the Parish Council is not receiving direct communication from the Police, and are at the moment awaiting a reply to a letter sent by the Clerk in July. As a County Councillor Mrs Broadway is a member of the Police Authority, and has asked to be kept up to date with any correspondence that the Council receive.

Recreation Ground and all-weather surface:

Grant application: The necessary technical specification and tender document have been received from Trufax, and have been sent out to five companies who have returned their tenders. The best quote, from Bleck Construction, has been sent to the Football Association.

The all weather surface has been cleaned and sand replaced. A cleaning tool has been purchased so that regular cleaning can take place.

Playsafe area: The rubber matting has been cleaned and the corking round each tile needs replacing.

Cricket fencing: Three quotes have been obtained, and the Cricket Club are applying for a grant from ECDC

Recreation ground (Health & Safety Report): The 5-aside goals need fixing to wooden back panels and it was proposed that Mr Cox go ahead and carry out this work. It was suggested that barbed wire be put around the top of the fence – as long as it is more than 3metres high, and agreed by the Police. Would it be possible for a net to be put over the top, which would prevent balls coming out, and children getting in?

Cemetery & Churchyard: It was agreed that burial fees be increased by 5% from 1st September.

Planning Approval:

Single story rear extension at 23A Beck Road, for Mr & Mrs Barber

AOB: Cllr Neal asked whether planning application had been received for a new chapel. The Chairman said that no application had been received. Cllr Mrs Malkin said that High Street Church was looking at a new building project.

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September

Present: Cllrs T. Carter, Neal, Puckey, Beckett, Mrs Malkin, Mrs Gannon, Garbett, Bishop, Chaplin and 7 parishioners. County Cllr Powley, Mr Hedger, Mr Claringbold

Question Time: Mr Sheldrick asked whether anything could be done about 2 Church Lane, which had again been vandalised. It was agreed that the Clerk will send a letter to ECDC, and telephone them tomorrow

The meeting was informed that all necessary paperwork about the new recreation ground had been sent in. Following a phone call last Thursday Cllr Garbett believes the Council will consider the matter towards the end of September.

Mr Hedger addressed the meeting about the possibility of a new church building in Isleham for High Street Church. A full report is attached to the minutes.

Police Report: PC Humble reported the following:

10th May – 3rd June 12 crimes reported and 26 calls to Police related to the Isleham area.

4th June – 4th July 8 reported crimes, and 36 calls

8th July – 31st July 1 reported crime and 18 calls

1st August – 3rd September 8 crimes and 39 calls

PC Humble agreed that an increased Police presence in the village would act as a deterrent to trouble makers, and confirmed that he is trying to be in the village as often as possible, as is the PCSO.

Response from Sgt Nigel Leadbetter, Community Beat Officer at Ely. He rang the Clerk in response to the letter sent regarding the anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the village. He asked that the Parish Council report any incidents that occur so that the Police can build up a profile of what is happening in the village – he could find no record of any reported incidents in Isleham before 1st June. He will ask the PCSO, Gaynor Foster, to regularly patrol the village and to contact the Clerk, so that they can talk through what is going on.

Village Hall: A baby changing unit, a microwave and a microphone are needed for the Village Hall. Costings will be sent to the Finance Committee for approval.

The Parish Forum will be held on 7th December and will be attended by the Chairman.

Planning approvals

Conservatory at 43 Waterside for Mr & Mrs Houghton

Conservatory at 8 Little London for Mr & Mrs Eaves

Demolish existing cottage, erect 2 linked dwellings at 7 Bowers Lane for Beauville Properties

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October

Present: Cllrs Carter, Neal, Chaplin, Cave, Puckey, Borok, Beckett, Garbett and 3 parishioners; County Cllr Mrs Broadway

A member of the Village Hall Committee said how disheartened he is about the way young people are misusing the area around the outside of the Hall. The area by the back door in particular is being used as a toilet. The swings are being thrown over the top of the frames at night after the park

has been locked. Once again the question was raised about barbed wire around the top of the fence and around the hall roof. The Clerk will contact the Police and ECDC. She will also look into seeing if the gates can be locked earlier when there is nothing going on in the Hall in order to prevent cars parking there late in to the evening. Every incident brought to the attention of the Parish Council and the Caretaker will be reported to the Police.

It was reported that the recreation ground is being overplayed, and there is concern about the condition of the pitches. It was agreed that the ground does need spraying for weeds, and Cllr Beckett will see to this.

Matters arising: 2 Church Lane has now been boarded up by the owner according to ECDC instructions. Reports are being prepared that could require the owner to make the property habitable within six months or face a compulsory purchase order. A preliminary decision will be made on 8th November.

County Councillor's report: C. Cllr Mrs Broadway was informed about the flooding caused by the ramp outside the Village Hall

Cllr Beckett reported that work on the new footpath in East Fen Road should begin in the next two weeks.

Highway flooding: Following the storm on 9th September several problems have been highlighted in the village. Chris Ginn had water in his house, the ditch in the Priory field has been buried, at 45 Pound lane there was water halfway up the wheels of a van, and there was no sign of the drains. Water flowed into the cellar of The Red House and there was sewage in the road. Clearly the drains are insufficient, and the ramp outside the Village Hall is adding to the problem. Cllr Beckett is meeting with Ed Thornton on Tuesday morning and hopes to address these matters, as well as the verge in Church lane where the drain is overgrown, the drain at the Causeway/Beck Road which is completely full of leaves, and the hole in the pavement near Aves Close. It was agreed the ECDC be asked to clear out the gully in the Village Hall car park.

It was reported that the pond in East Fen Road needs clearing.

It was agreed that Chris Elmer be asked to lay a concrete base for the salt/grit bin for Waterside.

It was agreed that a second bin be purchased for the top of Robin's Meadow.

The Parish Council are to purchase a laptop for use by the Finance Committee. Cllr Puckey will investigate the cost of this.

Planning Approvals:

First floor front extension to 8 Church Street for Mr Ginn.

**State Registered
Chiropodist**

Mark Palmer BSc Hons Pod MChS

**Available for home visits
evenings and Saturdays**

All aspects of foot health and care

Please call 01638 780497

CREATIVE BALLOONS WIN GOLD AT NATIONAL SHOW

Creative Balloons, the balloon decorating company set up last summer by school caretaker Samuel Stamp-Dod, won three awards at the National Balloon Decorators Show in Warwick this November.

The competition was open to all balloon artists across the UK and had three categories. Their first entry was a table centre entitled "Putting On The Ritz" designed for a New Year's Eve party. Unusually, the balloons coming from an up-turned top hat rotate, giving party guests the chance to see all sides without leaving their seats. For this original idea, Creative Balloons was given a Gold award.

The "Gold At The Bottom Of The Rainbow" design lived up to its name and also scooped Gold in the Balloon Deliveries category.

Entering the "Quick Christmas Tree" in the Sculpture category meant that Creative Balloons walked away with "Best In Show" for newcomers to the industry with a cash prize of £500.

"We have already spent the money!" explained Samuel; "We've got ourselves a machine to explode giant balloons over dance floors".

For photos of Samuel's creations and video clips from the balloon fair take a look at www.creativeballoons.net.



"Quick Christmas Tree"

S.O.S. WINDOW CLEANING SERVICES

- Are you fed up with looking at dirty windows?
- Do you not have the time to do them yourself?
- Or do you just not want to do them yourself?



Call STEVE on
07749 143 051 or
07763 611 715

Isleham Sports & Gala Association

In the Village, for the Village, Children first



2006 Committee Members and Helpers

Russell Milne	Chairperson
Fred Preece	Vice Chairperson
Margaret Thompson	Treasurer
Nicola Farr & Hayley Fitchett	Co Secretary
Barbara Murfitt	Bookings including entertainment & facilities
Elaine Bailey, Nicola Farr & Jill Aspland	Raffle & Sponsorship
Jackie Riley	Dog Show
Celia Vince	Trophies
Angela Osborn-Brown	Fun Run
Emily Radcliffe	General Competitions
Roseanna Allan	Gala Queen
Roseanna Allan	Posters, Programmes & Publicity
Pauline Wynne & Barbara Murfitt	Art Competition
Chris Elmer, Bob Wade & David Human	Organising Set up & Clearing Away
Barbara Murfitt	Small Ring Competitions

The Gala Committee would like to hear from the Residents of Isleham with any comments, suggestions or ideas for the 2006 Gala.

Please contact Roseanna Allan on 01638 780994 or email your ideas to roseanna@thompson-allan.fsnet.co.uk.

The next Gala Committee meeting will be held on 16 January, 8.00pm, Isleham Comrades Club.

True Story!

Irish police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van, because they cannot issue a description. It's a Special Branch vehicle and they don't want the public to know what it looks like.

The Guardian

FARM FRESH EGGS

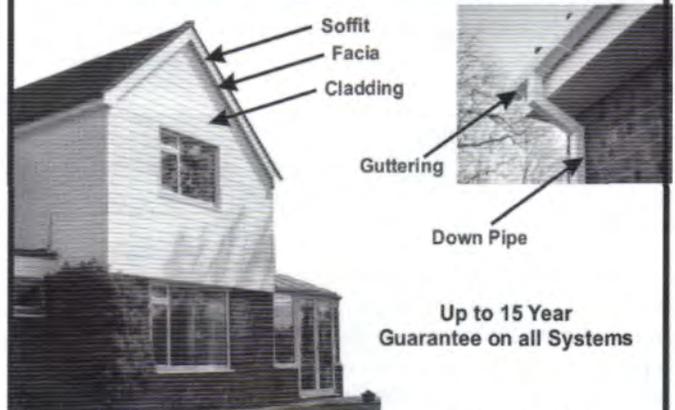
1 Fen Bank, Isleham

Farm on the left opposite the road leading to Isleham Marina

Visit our stall

£1.80 per dozen/**90p** a half dozen

FED UP PAINTING YOUR ROOFLINE?



Up to 15 Year Guarantee on all Systems

NOW YOU CAN REPLACE IT ONCE AND FOR ALL

- We offer a professional local service with 15 years experience
- All material are guaranteed plastic products
- Available in the following colours... black, white, mahogany, rosewood and light oak

CALL NOW FOR OUR UNBEATABLE PRICES!
www.whitehallplastics.co.uk TEL: 01353 723799



Official Sponsor

TVS DIRECT

Aerial & TV System Installations

- Digital TV through your aerial - Freeview
- High performance aerials
- TV, SAT, FM & DAB options
- Tuning service
- All signals meter tested for strength & quality
- Free estimates

TEL: 01353 669471 or
 07766 740686
sales@tvsdirect.co.uk

Engineer based in
 Isleham

Letters to the Editor

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.

NO 2 CHURCH LANE

Although I knew how long the 'saga' of this village eyesore has been running and how many attempts have been made over the years to get some solution, I thought I would stir things up a bit this summer and see what happened!

On 2nd June I wrote to East Cambs District council, with a copy to English Heritage with several photographs, basically asking why such a wreck of a building was still listed and had either the Council or English Heritage ever inspected the place since it was first listed? I had rapid and helpful replies from both but was surprised to receive the following e-mail from Vicky Blair at English Heritage:

Whilst I appreciate your concern at its poor condition, unfortunately, English Heritage has no authority to inspect a grade II listed building. We would only be consulted by, and give our advice to, the local district authority if there was an application in to demolish such a building. Our only other statutory involvement would be if we had a formal request in to de-list a building that no longer retains any of the historical or architecturally important features that made it of listable quality in the first place. Having spoken to Rosie Burton at East Cambs DC, I understand that the property still retains some of these important features and therefore she would not recommend that it be taken off the list.

As damage continued I continued to send many photographs of the rapid deterioration of the place, particularly the "early 19th Century reeded door case with boss enrichments at the corners" - one of the features for which the building was listed. A large concrete post was used to smash the door in and on the floor inside were large chunks of ceiling plaster and cornices - both features figuring as part of the reason for listing the building - which vandals who had got into the building had ripped from the ceiling and chucked on the floor.

By now it was August and I had the opportunity to show Councillor Broadway the current state of the building. On 2nd September I e-mailed Rosie Burton at East Cambs District Council:

You will not yet have received the attached letter that I mailed this morning with two pictures of the door, taken in June & last weekend. Have a look at the picture of this same door that I took this afternoon. Any vagrants / squatters and the local vandals who have been systematically destroying the property over the past few years now have easy access to the property. Come the colder weather, someone is likely to use the place as a drinking / drugs 'haunt'. A fire will be lit in the grate - and untended, the place will probably go up in smoke. What are you going to do about this property which has now become an 'accident waiting to happen'?

On 5th September I received her reply:

Thank you for your email. I have spoken to Cllr Broadway last week and explained the situation to her. I have written to the owner and given him 7 days to contact me to discuss how to protect the building. If he has not responded the Council will serve a Section 54

Urgent Works Notice on the owner to make him protect the building. I have also written him a second letter also warning him that I will be taking a report to committee to seek permission to serve a Section 48 Full Repairs Notice, which if the owner does not comply with may lead to compulsory purchase.

The notices went up on the door on 12th September and on 19th the Council sent a contractor to board up the door and windows. Subsequently, the same contractor has been doing some much needed repair work to the upper dormer windows.

Jim Paice MP, who had copies of the correspondence, wrote in August:

It is encouraging that the District Council is at least thinking about doing something, though it is the ultimate action that matters. I am aware of another property in the constituency, also a major eyesore, which eventually the local District Council managed to require to be demolished. It is therefore really a matter of the Council's willpower to use the powers that they have to obtain a change.

"The Mills of God grind slowly..." and one might well ask whether the place today is even worth saving?

Ian Powys

An Autumn Ponder

Are we all being conned? I ask the question because decisions appear to be taken which affect our lives, but there is no pre-information, consultation or any attempt to do so, before the decisions are made. Regarding the lack of information read the Parish Council minutes in the previous edition and see that for the two meetings held, there was no Police report. Read a little further on and see that P.C. Humble has been instructed not to attend Parish Council meetings unless he is on duty. Does that mean that he has used his own free time to attend previous meetings, or was he given overtime for attending, this payment now having been withdrawn because of lack of funds? Isleham Council taxpayers provide around £140,000 each year to the Police Force and it seems we get scant service for this contribution. We have asked the County Constabulary for information; about 18 months ago I filled a form in which gave details of the 'Informer' and contact addresses. We undertook to print anything of interest the Police wanted to provide but never heard a word from them. They might at least have told us of the phone number change that Paul Rogerson was kind enough to provide in his letter in the September edition. At least it might save me a lot of phone calls, many people call and ask me for the number of the village Bobby - on being told to phone the official number, they say they have given up in disgust! Paul asks us to be fair in our representation of the Police force but we can only print the items we know, we get absolutely no information at all and we can't print that! It appears we are being ignored, maybe we will go away seems to be the thought! We were going to report on the sword wielding episode on the village green but the local paper did it better. It read like a comic opera written by Gilbert and Sullivan. Some measure of the seriousness was given by the Magistrates who felt that their maximum sentence of six months would not reflect the magnitude of the crime. When it was referred to the County Court they inflicted the penalty of eighty hours community service and 'be a good lad' for two years. Such is life!

Paul Rogerson made the point that the Police are not given the respect/acknowledgment they are due. The highest Police Authority in the land contrive to cover up the truth in the

Stockwell Station incident and we are expected to have confidence in their operations – I don't think so! You can now be arrested for heckling a politician, or wearing a tee shirt with an offensive slogan insulting the Prime Minister, using section 44 of the terrorism act! The Police and Judiciary should get real! I could go on but it gets boring.

I expect it will all come right when they amalgamate the various Police Forces – what's the betting there will be even fewer Policemen – a cost cutting economy measure, but you won't find your Council Tax reduced! I know I beef about the Police service, but honestly, it was not me who provided the article in the July edition!

Another moan I hear a lot of is the extra day, taken out of School time for teacher training. Whether the teachers think it is better to inconvenience a lot of parents at a vast expense (consider the cost of child-care for two or three kids for a day, the cost of losing a days pay or taking a day's holiday). It must be more convenient for the general public to bring the teachers in to work on a Saturday or Sunday, and pay them overtime – or is that too simple?

My third beef is the Post Office. It was not doing well, losing millions of pounds each year. Their immediate solution – eliminate the second delivery, sack a few thousand postmen, the public won't send fewer letters so the income remains the same. Brilliant! Overnight the Post Office makes money! We look forward to a reduction in postal rates? Er – not quite. Lets give every postman a thousand quid each, Lovely. What about the bosses – Oh, they can have a couple of million each, and so it happened. It is ironic that they have also asked for a very large increase in the price of a first class stamp – up to 38p I believe but fortunately it has been refused – for the time being, but rest assured, it will come.

To sum up, all of these services are paid for by the taxpayer, being profitable or efficient is not an issue. We seem to be the milk cow by which they flourish and we have no option but to pay, and also obey their rules. Perhaps they should be reminded that they are actually our public servants– not vice-versa!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Ian Humphreys

As a recently retired teacher I would like to respond to one of the comments above.

In 1989 when the five Training Days were introduced by the then Secretary for Education, Kenneth Baker, a week was taken out of teachers' holidays for the purpose. Children have not lost any time in school. It is true that these days must make difficulties for many parents, however I am sure that most schools do their very best to alleviate this by having the training on a Monday or a Friday before or after a holiday.

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to do so, as the person doing the training may be unavailable. Similarly, they are not usually willing to work on Saturdays.

A well-trained teaching staff is the biggest asset a school has, and I am sure most parents acknowledge this.

Glenda Preece

Place your advertisement

and reach the whole of Isleham. Call Ian Humphreys on

01638 781796



M & A Services

Specialists

in Plumbing & Heating

20 Years Professional Experience

Plumbing & Central Heating Installation & Services

Boiler repairs & Maintenance & Contract Servicing

Domestic & Commercial

All Work Guaranteed

Complete bathrooms & kitchens designed and fitted

Call for a free estimate

01638 780758

07973 413675

www.m-aservices.com

1 Kennedy Rd, Isleham, Cambs, CB7 5SU

Carpentry Services



Established 1970

For all General Carpentry and

Building Work

No Job Too Small

Tel: 01638 780 338

Mob: 07801 950 627

Grant, 54 Sun Street



Kitchens
Bathrooms
Doors/Windows
Interior/Exterior Maintenance

Joyce's Corner

*A few thoughts on the importance of your parents' mothers
from one who should know.*

Grandmothers

*Some grandmothers are glamorous
And some are very smart.*

*Some like playing carpet bowls
And some are good at art.*

*Some Grannies are well travelled
And others are well read.*

*Some of them can knit and sew,
And some make lovely bread.*

*Some Grannies run the marathon,
And some can play a harp.*

*Some of them can sing and dance,
And some have wit, quite sharp.*

*Some grannies like to dye their hair
In a pretty shade of blue.*

*Some Grannies like a game of gold,
And some play bingo too.*

*Some Grannies can still ride a bike,
And some can drive a car.*

*Some go walking in the dales,
But some don't travel far.*

*But this grannies have in common,
Here they can't be told apart.*

*They are very good at loving,
And their love comes from the heart.*

Joyce Drayton

FROM CHILD-CARE TO FOOTCARE!

A new amenity is being offered in Isleham by Glenda Flynn who has lived here for eight years. She is married to Paul and they have three children: Nadia, 13, Amber, 10 and Callum 8.

Many of you will know her from Isleham Pre-School where she has worked for the last four years. Although she loved working with children her real dream was to start her own business. So she left in July of this year to start up a mobile reflexology practice.

Before working at the Pre-School she had trained to be a Reflexologist. She attended The Mill Institute in Corton near Great Yarmouth. Some of you were privileged to be her guinea-pigs, as she had to achieve 60 hrs of practical training to complete her 10 month course. She became a fully qualified member of the Association of Reflexologists in 2001.

She really believes in the healing art of reflexology. It is a complementary therapy that works by massaging the feet, to help heal the whole person. This gentle therapy encourages the body to work naturally to restore it's own healthy balance. Reflexology is suitable for all ages and may bring relief from a wide range of acute and chronic conditions such as:

- **BACK PAIN**
- **MIGRAINE**
- **INFERTILITY**
- **ARTHRITIS**

Many doctors and other health care professionals recognise reflexology as a well established, respected and effective therapy. Reflexology does not claim to cure, diagnose or prescribe.

Glenda offers a mobile service, so why not put your feet up and relax in the comfort of your own home, whilst enjoying the benefits of reflexology.

Ladies: you might enjoy a girls' night in by inviting a few friends round for an informal taster session. Or you could give the perfect present to someone special with a "Stepping Stones Gift Voucher".

Treatment costs £25 per session. A special offer applies: if you book 6 sessions, you get one free. So why don't you treat yourself or a friend to some pampering. Go on, you know you're worth it!

**CALL GLENDA NOW ON 07786 308 229
FIND YOUR FEET, TO BETTER HEALTH!**

Free Computer Courses for Beginners

I am pleased to announce that Isleham Community Access Point now has a Library Learning Services tutor available (Until March 2006) to help people learn how to use a computer or improve their existing skills.

We are able to offer a FREE First Time Online taster course for beginners and FREE courses to help improve their number and word skills (Skills for Life/Basic Skills). These courses can lead to National Tests in Numeracy or Literacy, helping to improve their CV's and chances of getting better employment. Other Learndirect courses are available to help people improve their computer skills (price on application).

For more information or to book a session with your tutor, please call Denise on 07799582297 or Rachel on 01480 376140.

Rachel Carpenter
Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator
Library Learning Services
Tel: 01480 376140

The Isleham Society

After a summer during which we organised two enjoyable outings, one to the Greene King Brewery in Bury St Edmunds, and one to Bletchley Park, home of the code breakers who broke the German naval & military 'Enigma' codes, we resumed our monthly meetings in October.

The first talk was a nostalgic but fascinating talk by Michael Gates, with movie film that he had made in 1958, on the Cambridge to Mildenhall railway. In November we have a talk by Tony Brown on Fyson's Steam Engines. There is no meeting in December.

On January 19th 2006 we have a talk on local archaeology. Non members are always welcome to attend the Society meetings on payment of £2.00 towards the lecturer's fee.

Secretary: Mrs B.Powys - tel: 780519

Isleham WI

September saw many of our members enjoying a fish and chip supper to celebrate our harvest meeting. The evening was a great success, and was rounded off by Pauline who read a selection of Joyce's poems.

W.I. had a bus trip to London in October, and many members and friends had a lovely day out, some going to Harrods, shows and afternoon tea in high places, and others were seen taking different means of transport back to catch our coach. (The sights of London are seen much better from the back of a rickshaw!)

October was members' night, when the Committee stood down for the night, and the members took charge. Our speaker was Robert Myson, who gave us a close insight into the damage done by the tsunami in one part of Sri Lanka. He went over to help with rebuilding there, and has come back to start a charity, and to raise money to continue this work. Many eyes were wet after seeing some of the slides Robert had taken, and listening to the stories he had brought back. On a brighter side, Ian Powys showed us some slides of Sri Lanka before the tsunami when he was on holiday there. He said that tourism is essential to help the local population survive, and try to rebuild their lives. This meeting commemorated 90 years of the W.I. We enjoyed a wonderful fruit cake, and several other cakes all kindly made by members. Peggy Diver, our longest member, cut the fruit cake that had been decorated with our logo.

On 8th December it is our Christmas party. The competition is for a 'home-made cracker'.

The programme is now being printed for the New Year, so watch this space.

Everyone is welcome at our meetings, which are held at 7.45pm on the second Thursday of each month, at the Village Hall.

We all from the W.I. would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

For more information please contact:
Brenda Downey 01638 780338

Sterling 3 wheel electric buggy for sale (2004 buggy race runner-up) £200 ono. apply, 01638 781796

Karma Farm

8 Fen Bank, Isleham

**Naturally grass- and
forage-fed Beef**

20 Years selling direct from
the Farm

Please call 01638 780701

**The Original Farm Shop in
Isleham Fen**

Quality Home Produced British Beef and Pork

at

Thompson's Farm Meat
A Family run Livestock Farm

1 Fen Bank, Isleham, Ely,
Cambridgeshire CB7 5SL

Tel: 01638 780994

BEEF: Sirloin, Rump, Fillet & Braising
Steak, Shin of Beef, Mince and Diced
Beef, Rib, Silverside, Topside &
Brisket Joints, Quarterpounder Beef
Burgers & Beef Sausages

PORK: Sausages & Chipolatas, Pork
Steaks, Diced Pork, Loin Chops and
Tenderloin, Rib, Leg, Loin and
Shoulder Joints Quarterpounder Pork
& Apple Burgers

**ONLY CASH OR CHEQUES
ACCEPTED (with Cheque Guarantee
Card)**

Opening hours:

Tuesdays	11am-1pm & 4pm-7pm
Thursdays	4pm-7pm
Fridays	4pm-7pm
Saturdays	10am-4pm (NEW TIME)
Sundays	10am-12noon

Now selling our own Bacon, Gammon
Steaks and Bacon Joints



*We are now taking Christmas Orders.
Please call us if you would like to order
Pork, Beef or Bacon Joints, Sausages,
Sausage Meat or Chipolatas.
Don't forget your Bacon for that Christmas
Breakfast.*

Riverside Island

Marina

Tel: 01638 78066

Mobile: 0793 1106818

Supplies & Services

Bottled gas and marine diesel sales
Sale & purchase of all types of boat
Lodge sales and holiday rentals
Moorings with electricity
New moorings available shortly
Transportation of boats by land or water

Please note that we deliver
LPG bottled gas locally

ISLEHAM'S CHURCHES

Services and Youth Groups

St. Andrew's Parish Church

3rd Sunday of each month:

8.00a.m. Prayer Book Communion
10.00a.m. Family Service
10.00a.m. Junior Church

All other Sundays:

10.00a.m. Common Worship Communion
10.00a.m. Junior Church in Social Centre

Please note there is a crèche every Sunday.

If you need to contact us please call one of our Churchwardens:

Wenda Garbett	Anna Chataway
16 Croft Road	7 Docking Lane
Isleham CB7 5QR	Isleham CB7 5QW
01638 780863	01638 781486

Bell Ringers

Please contact Richard May 01638 780249

Christmas Services

24 th December	Christingle Service	4.00pm
24 th December	Midnight Mass	11.30pm
25 th December	Family Service	10.00am

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:

Fellowship 7.30-8.30 p.m.

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 website: www.plfc.co.uk

Many thanks to all who gave or helped with this year's Operation Christmas Child appeal the boxes are now on their way to needy children in Eastern Europe. We will be showing the 2005 OCC video during our **Candlelit Carol Service on December 18th at 6.15pm**. We warmly invite you to join us as we sing a number of traditional carols and enjoy items presented by the children's and young people's groups.

On **25th December** we have a **Family Service at 10.30am** to which children are invited to bring a present to "show". What better way to start Christmas Day than joining with others to celebrate the first and greatest Christmas gift of all - the Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastor Dave Hall

High Street Church

All are welcome to our Sunday services throughout the year:

10.30am morning worship during which we cater for children right across the age range from babies in the crèche to teenagers.

6.30pm evening fellowship - a less formal service. A crèche is available for babes and tots up to 3 years old: the crèche workers are very experienced and provide a safe, fun playtime for the little ones.

Junior Church for those who are aged 3 to 7 is a fun-filled session with singing, crafts, drama and stories.

At the Village Hall the older **Junior Church** meets - children who are 7 to 11 years old. (That's the noise you've heard from the hall on a Sunday morning!) Their morning starts from 10.00 with a craft followed by a wide range of activities encouraging the children to discover the Christian faith for themselves. We would love to see some new faces and visitors would be made very welcome!



Nikao is the name for the 11 to 14 year olds and on a Sunday morning they receive teaching that is relevant to pre-teens/teenagers. On a Friday night this group meet socially and have a lot of laughs!

Other Activities during the week:

Rendezvous is a group for the more mature and of course wiser members of the community (over 50s!) and meets every Tuesday afternoon from 3.00 till 4.15ish. They enjoy fun, fellowship and friendship together with a very varied programme throughout the year.



Luncheon club is for those of retirement age and happens once a month on the second Wednesday from 12 - 2pm. An excellent meal for just £1.20 not to mention the great company! Numbers are limited for this but please contact us if you are interested.

For anybody who would like to come along to either of these groups there is free transport available where necessary.

Little Lambs caters for the other end of the age range. This mums and toddlers group takes place on Friday mornings during school terms (9.15 - 11.15am). All are welcome and it's free!



Mums/carers come and chat over a coffee while the children play.

Alpha is well known throughout the country as an excellent course for those wishing to learn about the Christian faith. This term's Alpha course will soon be coming to an end but it will be available again in the New Year. This is the perfect opportunity to ask all the questions you've wanted to ask but have never dared - the evening sessions are relaxed and open with conversation over a good meal as well as discussion groups. Why not give it a try?

Over the past year we have arranged **litter-picking** mornings to keep our village looking beautiful! Lunch provided. Please join us next time - details to follow.

In the New Year we will be hosting a series of excellent **parenting** videos in the village playgroup building at their request. These will be evening sessions and should prove a great opportunity to share ideas and get to know people. Look out for the fliers in 2006.



**Priory Advent Service – by candlelight.
Saturday 3rd December 4.30 – 5.00pm**

Everybody is welcome to come and contemplate the real meaning of Christmas and enjoy the atmosphere. Hot punch and mince pies will be served at the end. Please bear in mind there is no heating or electric lighting in the Priory so wear warm clothing and bring a torch. Some seating will be available for those who need it during the Service. We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you.



Christmas is nearly upon us and we look forward to welcoming you to celebrate the birth of Christ the King with us.

Sunday 18th December

10.30am Christmas Family Service. A service for all from the very young to the very old!

6.30pm Christmas Carol Service. An opportunity to sing the traditional (and some not so traditional) carols.

Christmas Day

11am – 12pm Family Christmas Celebration Come and celebrate the real meaning of Christmas before that Christmas dinner! We will finish promptly to avoid any tough turkeys or soggy sprouts!



6.30pm - Christmas Fellowship evening service



We would like to wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

After Christmas... Tuesday 3rd January 4.00pm

When the excitement has died down why not bring your children to watch 'Jonah the Movie' – a Veggie Tales Production aimed at children aged up to 11 but loved by many adults (especially me!).

For more information about any of the events at High Street Church or general advice call Steve in the church office on 01638 780985 or Paul Hedger (Church leader) on 01638 721291.

THE PHOENIX PLAYERS PLAY AROUND

A review of the review

The inaugural performance of the village's new theatre group was held at the Comrades Club on 1st October. It was a rather casual evening's entertainment with a few songs, poetry, readings, skits and one dance performance of an unexpected nature. The evening was started off by the singing talents of Tim Washtell, who enticed the audience to sing along to old favourites, readying them to enjoy the evening.

While there were numerous acts, all of fine quality, of particular note were Malcolm Speirs and Roy Pallett's recreation of several old Peter and Dud routines and Teddy McKenzie and Pamela Harris's rendition of the Peter Sellers and Sofia Loren's song "Goodness Gracious Me!" However, the highlight of the evening for many was a Belly Dancing performance by Angela Osborn-Brown. While the Belly Dancing wasn't true comedy it was rather humorous watching people's reaction to the dancer shimmying right next to them as she circled the room.

The Junior Phoenix Players put on a few excellent performances in their self-written sketches, despite the very limited rehearsal time since their formation. Special mention should go to Vala Taylor and Kirsten Carver for their portrayal of the difficulties of the age-gap.

It was a full evening with the show not ending until after 10:30 so it was good value for money. The main draw back was that some of the voices were a bit quiet and hard to hear at the back. But overall "A good time was had by all" said Liz Sergeant, a member of the audience.

It was with much regret that Agatha Christie's 'Murder in the Vicarage', which we were due to perform at the end of November, has been cancelled because the Christie estate withdrew the licence.

Members of The Phoenix Players felt that there wasn't enough time to stage another production before the pandemonium of the holidays. Instead The Phoenix Players are planning an evening of carol singing and readings in mid December for their own amusement, and will be inviting a few friends to join in. Currently there are no plans for a production in the New Year because some members will be involved in the PTA's Pantomime Production. We may be assisting the Youth Section with their show but nothing has been formalized yet. Please check your next issue of the Informer for updates.



Lost!

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. Forced by a low fuel supply to ask directions, he reduced altitude and looked around for help. Unfortunately, he could only spot a solitary woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted to her, "Excuse me. I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The woman below replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 10 metres above the ground. You're between 40 and 41degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be in Information Technology!" said the balloonist.

"I am," replied the woman, "How did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is, I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip."

The woman below responded, "You must be in Management."

"I certainly am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the woman, "You don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due solely to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is that you are in exactly the same position as you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault."

BOWLS CLUB REPORT

The bowls club once again enjoyed a good summer mainly with success for the ladies. In the last Informer I reported on the winning of the Ladies County KO Cup and the trip to Leamington Spa. At the time of writing, they were chasing hard for the league title. On the last match of the season against Ely Beet, a 5 - 0 win recaptured the league title in our ladies favour. Each season the ladies continue to capture the silverware and its well beyond time that the men start doing the same! The men's team had an average performance, eventually finishing in sixth in the league.

In the internal club championships, all matches were played in a good spirit and the finals played over a weekend in September. As you will see Celia & Barry Clarke have had an outstanding season and next season will offer a big challenge to ensure the trophies are more evenly shared amongst fellow members!

The winners were:

Men's Singles	Barry Clarke
Runner-up	Ivan Hymus
Ladies Singles	Celia Clarke
Runner-up	Rebecca Telfer
Handicap Singles	Eric Plested
Runner-up	Barry Clarke
Pitcher Memorial Singles	-Barry Clarke
Runner-up	Robert Burling
Club Pairs	Rebecca Telfer & Barry Clarke
Runner-up	Chris Dunkley & Terry Pinder
Club Triples	Sheila King, Celia Clarke & Herbert Beckett
Runner-up	Ivy Allars, Sylvia Pinder & Brian Pope
Husband & Wife Pairs	Celia & Barry Clarke
Runner-up	Sylvia & Terry Pinder
Tenrich Trophy	Pat Houghton & Barry Grimwood
Runner-up	Edna Sharplin & Herbert Beckett
Telfer Trophy	Chris Dunkley

During the winter months the club has two teams that play in division 1 & 3 of the East Cambs Carpet Bowls League. Team 1 have made a solid start for our first visit to the top division, consolidating in mid table. Team 2 have yet to find another gear thus far and need to put some good performances to avoid the wooden spoon.

The club is open all year round and is always looking for new members both social and bowlers. A social member costs £15 per year and offers carpet bowls, bar facilities and a chance to meet other people of the village, and why not try playing lawn bowls for a social evening in the summer?

*Barry Grimwood
Club Captain*



The Informer would like to apologise for any delays caused by technical difficulties...

Qualified Holistic Therapist

CRYSTAL THERAPY, REFLEXOLOGY, INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE AND REIKI

These therapies gently assist the body to heal itself by releasing blocked energy and allowing the free flow of energy throughout the body. Crystals are placed on or near the body, and replace negative energy with pure, high vibration energy.

THERMO-AURICULAR THERAPY (HOPI EAR CANDLES)

May be helpful for blocked ears, sinus congestion, headaches, stress relief and assist relaxation.

ORGANISER OF A MEDITATION GROUP

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE.

Contact Joanne Duffy IIHHT TATH
01638 721386

ADMIRAL WINDOWS

& CONSERVATORIES



01480 456789

Ermine Street Alconbury Cambs

www.admiralconservatories.com

Cricket Club Report

With Isleham being back in the CCA senior league this season always looked as if it was always going to be tough, but a good start put Isleham first team in a strong position near the top of the league with five wins in six games. By mid season however the side's form took a dive and they slumped to a mid table position and they need to battle hard to avoid relegation as four teams go down.

The seconds also had a promising start in CCA Junior league 3NA but again as the holiday season comes round a shortage of players has left them weakened and occasionally too short to put out a side at all, leaving them in deep trouble near the foot of the table.

Tables as at 26/08/05 with one game to play:

<u>CCA Snr 3 table</u>	P	W	L	NR	BP	AVE	PTS
Camden CC	16	13	2	1	14	18.3	274
Histon CC	17	10	5	2	37	15.8	237
Balsham CC	16	9	5	2	39	15.6	219
Madingley CC	17	8	6	3	48	14.9	208
Cambridge Granta CC	17	9	6	2	40	14.7	220
Isleham CC	17	7	8	2	53	12.9	193
Bottisham-Lode CC	17	5	10	2	61	10.7	161
Longstanton Grasshoppers CC	17	4	10	3	64	10.3	144
Willingham CC	17	4	9	4	52	10.2	132
Little Downham CC	17	4	12	1	66	9.13	146

<u>CCA Jnr 3NA table</u>	P	W	L	NR	TIE	BP	AVE	PTS
Coton CC	14	9	2	3	0	11	17.4	191
N.C.I. SSC	14	8	4	2	0	28	15.7	188
Doddington CC	13	7	5	1	0	38	14.8	178
Pymoor CC	13	6	5	2	0	29	13.6	149
Milton CC, Cambs	13	5	6	2	0	39	12.6	139
Wimblington CC	13	4	6	2	1	36	10.6	11
Isleham CC	13	3	7	2	1	50	10	110
March Town CC	13	2	9	2	0	48	8	88

NEW FEED SHOP NOW OPEN IN ISLEHAM



FEEDS AND FORAGE TO SUIT YOUR
HORSE AND YOUR DISCIPLINE

WOODCHIP BEDDING STABLE AND YARD EQUIPMENT,
VETERINARY FIRST AID, LOTIONS, SHAMPOOS,
SUPPLEMENTS, HERBS ETC FOR YOUR HORSE



PET FOOD
CAT, DOG, SMALL ANIMAL AND WILD BIRD
FOOD AND FEEDERS
CAT AND DOG ACCESSORIES



MALLOW FEEDS

Walnut Tree Farm Prick willow Road Isleham Cambs CB7 5RG



DELIVERY AVAILABLE

Phone: 01638 781794

All major credit and debit cards accepted