

New Community Centre and Combined Sports Pavilion

At a Parish Meeting held on 18th September 2006, it was proposed that the existing Village Hall and Pavilion be replaced with a new all-purpose Community Centre and Pavilion. With the growth of the village and the increase in interest in sport, the present facilities are now outdated and far too small.

We do appreciate that a lot of hard work and money have been invested by parishioners to build and maintain the present Village Hall, however we must look to the future, and perhaps it is now time for the baton to be passed on to the next generation.

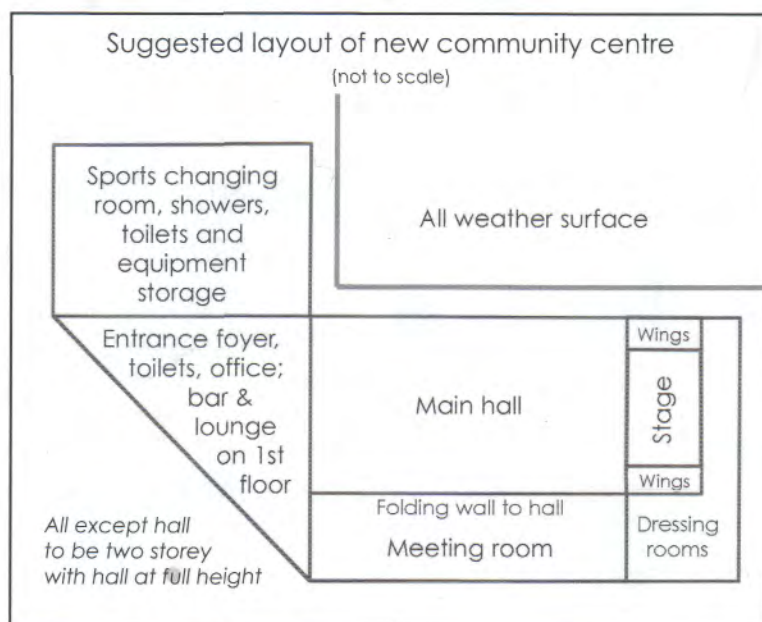
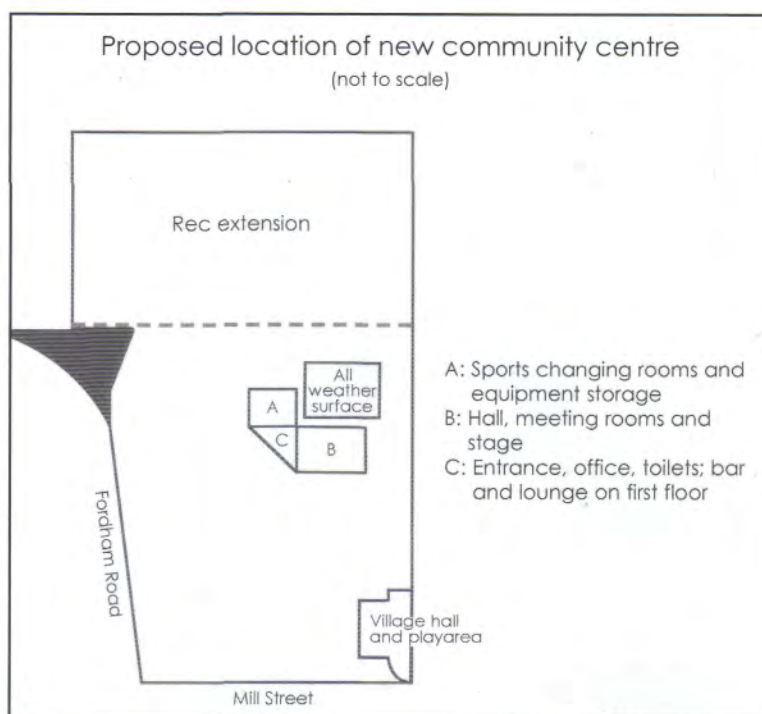
It has been suggested that the new building might be moved to a more central location around two sides of the all weather surface. The building could be two storey and include a main hall, stage, dressing rooms, storage, kitchen, meeting rooms, office, toilets, bar and rest area. The sports section would have changing rooms with shower and toilet facilities. It would also incorporate storage for a tractor and maintenance equipment, and sports clubs equipment. Other ideas include facilities for snooker, pool, badminton, basketball, a fitness centre and a café.

This is a very large project, but why should the village settle for second best? We will need all your support to help us make this project a reality.

In the first instance we would like to know your views on the project, and your ideas and ambitions for the village; so please take the time to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to either Isleham Post Office or to Ivy's Paper Shop by 18th December 2006. Extra copies of the questionnaire will be available from the Post Office and the Paper Shop. And to encourage you further, all completed questionnaires will be entered into a Christmas Prize Draw to be drawn on Friday 22nd December 2006.

WE CAN DO IT, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Cllr Geoff Garbett
Chair Community Centre Steering Committee



The Informer goes professional!

For the second time in less than a year, the *Isleham Informer* has a new look. This is due to a mention in the last issue that some help with the layout would be appreciated. As a result, designer Zoe French has joined our merry band and has already put my previous well-intentioned fumbblings in the shade. (Who says advertising doesn't work? Just think what a quarter page with graphics might achieve...)

This issue will be the first to be uploaded to our new Website – islehaminformer.org.uk – and soon all the previous 18 issues should be there too. Many thanks to Zoe and David Moss (of Dataconnectivity) for sorting this out.

We hope that you agree that the content of this issue is the equal of the new design. Foremost – as you will have noticed – is the announcement of the new community centre. This is a major development for Isleham and could bring new heart to the village. It is essential that the views of as many villagers as possible are taken into account in the planning of this. To that end, there is a questionnaire that you should complete and return. Otherwise, you can have no grounds for complaint when your views are ignored!

Also in this issue are several truly appalling jokes, – 'shocking fillers' if you like – for which I can do nothing but apologise.

Ed Mayall, Editor

The Tenth Anniversary of the Twinning of Isleham and Nesles

Perhaps the Annual General Meeting of the Isleham Twinning Association is a suitable moment to pause and reflect on what has been the most significant event in all our years of being associated with our French sister village, Nesles, Pas de Calais.

It was a weekend to be remembered on several levels, not least the programme of events which, due to careful and imaginative planning, rolled out faultlessly over three days of celebrations. Who could forget the faces of the children in the French party as they enthusiastically joined in the dancing at the Ceilidh at the Comrades Club on the Friday evening? We must acknowledge the help of some 'First-time Twinners' here, who know a thing or two about dancing – not to mention the superb music and the very patient 'caller'. It was a beautiful start to proceedings. The cooperative nature of our twinning was there for all to see.

The Gala took up most of the next day (and that was a triumph in itself). The French gamely staged a walking float with us and joined the cavalcade through the village on what must have been one of the hottest days this century. There was a stall selling French produce and generally everyone played their part. It was pleasant afterwards to relax with our guests as the day cooled down. Many of us had bought champagne to drink if England won their match in the World Cup. We lost, but France won so we drank it anyway!

Special thanks are due to Andre and Geraldine, who manfully – and womanfully – played host to all the French children and their teachers. Apparently, the swimming pool was a great success, the children had a whale of a time (literally), and made a rather sweet speech of thanks to Andre and Geraldine in English before they said goodbye. We thank them too.

On Sunday, after coffee at the Griffin and other locations, it was a privilege to be present at the Rededication Ceremony that took place outside the Priory. We felt so proud of our Isleham children as they danced the Maypole, sang songs, and solemnly and expertly played their instruments. Some of the

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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue will
be published
1st March 2007.
The copy deadline for
all editorial and
advertising is
9th FEBRUARY 2007.

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The Twinning Association's walking float at this year's Gala French visitors are members of their local band and remarked on how touching it was to see and hear the children play.

After this, lunch at the Bowls Club: so ably catered for by a great band of ladies. The menu was an ideal meal for such a hot day, and after demolishing it we all enjoyed relaxing, sitting outside having a glass of wine (or two) and chatting (or making hand-signals!). Again we had some beautiful music to enhance the occasion and many danced away the afternoon. It was lovely to see the 'dinner-ladies' coming out of the kitchen for a quick bop and joining in with the rest of us!

Then the bus was ready to whisk them all back to Nesles, tired but happy. As always we waved goodbye and 'au revoir' until the bus was out of sight, the driver honking his horn until he was right round the corner; then another Twinning Weekend is over. This was a special one that will be remembered for a long time: some of our French friends felt it too and have said so. Events like this do not happen on their own and we must thank every single member of the committee (and all the others who contributed in so many ways) for their meticulous planning. From the well-produced programme down to the final farewells, it was an absolute triumph... BRAVO!

Ann Cant, October 2006

Shocking fillers...

I was in the jungle and there was this monkey with a tin opener. I said, "You don't need a tin opener to peel a banana." He said, "No, this is for the custard."

This policeman came up to me with a pencil and a piece of very thin paper. He said, "I want you to trace someone for me."

This lorry full of tortoises collided with a van full of terrapins. It was a turtle disaster.

I told my girlfriend I had a job in a bowling alley. She said "Tenpin?" I said, "No, it's a permanent job."

So this cowboy walks in to a German car showroom and he says "Audi!"

I met this bloke with a didgeridoo and he was playing Dancing Queen on it. I thought "That's Aboriginal."

I visited the offices of the RSPCA today. It's tiny, you couldn't swing a cat in there.

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2003 53 Renault Laguna 1.8 16v Dynamique

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2003 53 Mini One black 1.6, Radio C/D, A/W,

air con, C/L, F/S/H, 46000 miles £8695.00

2003 03 Renault Scenic 1.9DCi Fidji silver/green metallic,

A/C, A/W, radio C/D 48000 miles £6495.00

2003 53 Renault Laguna 2.0 Turbo Privilege

metallic silver, climate control, P/S, A/W, radio-C/D multi Player, 36000 miles £5995.00

2002 52 Renault Laguna Privilege Sport Tourer 1.8

16v metallic grey, A/W,C/Control, C/D, F/S/H only 43000 miles £5995.00

2002 Renault Laguna 1.6 Expression in metallic silver

A/W, climate control, radio C/D 36000 miles £5495.00

2002 52 Peugeot 206 Look 1.4HDi diesel

black, 3dr, 50000 miles £4895.00

2001 51 Renault Megane Dynamique + 1.4

in metallic blue, radio cassette-C/D multi-player, A/C, A/W, 20000 miles £4595.00

2001 Y Renault Espace Grand Expression 2.2 DCi

metallic silver, A/W, A/C, Radio C/D, F/S/H only 44000 miles £8595.00

1999 T Toyota Yaris S VVT-I 998cc 3 dr

blue, 30000 miles £3250.00

2004 04 Ford Ranger XLT Double Cab 4x4 2.5 TD

metallic silver, A/C, A/W, radio C/D, 18000 miles £8995.00 + Vat

2003 03 Renault Kangoo SL19 1.5DCi 70 panel van

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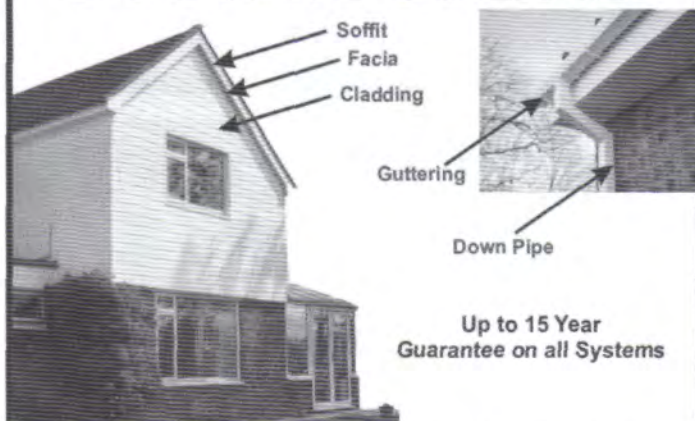
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Addenbrooke's Hospital (Cambridge)	01223 245151
Newmarket Hospital	01638 665111
West Suffolk (Bury St Edmunds)	01284 713000
Staploe Medical Centre (Soham)	
Appointments	01353 624121
Prescriptions & Dispensary	01353 624122
Enquiries, Home Visits, Emergencies	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 555 5999
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: Clerk)	01638 781687
Member of Parliament (Jim Paice)	01954 211450
Isleham Informer	
(Ian Humphreys)	01638 781796
(Zoe French)	01638 780007
(Ed Mayall)	01638 780839
(Glenda Preece)	01638 780734
(Richard Turner)	01638 780965

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Calling all gardeners

Earlier this year I was fortunate enough to be allocated an allotment by the Isleham Parish Council. The benefits derived from this have been amazing: meeting old and making new friends who are keen and willing to share knowledge and information; the obvious benefit of fresh air and exercise (light or strenuous according to ability); and of course the joy of eating and preserving the fruits of one's labour.

I was not over-ambitious but in addition to putting in fruit bushes etc. to bear crops in future years I was able to grow two crops of potatoes, garlic, onions, beetroot, three varieties of beans, courgettes, peppers, aubergines, tomatoes and marrow. Some of these I had actually started in the garden prior to getting the allotment. All in all I am delighted with my first season.

Other allotment holders were incredibly kind and supportive and this in conjunction with watching the 'Big Dig' etc. set me thinking that an Allotment Association would be a great idea. This not only helps with an exchange of expertise but also facilitates bulk-buying of seed and plants, thereby making the production of good healthy food even more economic.

The Parish Council Allotment Committee Chairman is keen on this idea and offered to provide a suitable meeting point for interested parties.

Isleham has a huge number of activities on offer but lacks a Garden Club. With more and more people these days interested in their gardens wouldn't it be a good idea to get together? This activity could either combine with an Allotment Association or the two could run independently.

Truly, no great knowledge or skill is necessary, although, if you have it and are willing to share - wonderful. Otherwise, we can all learn together by our successes and failures (and there are always some).

If you are interested please call me on 781175 and I will liaise with the Allotment Committee Chairman to set up an initial meeting.

Margaret Davies

THOMPSON'S FARM FRESH EGGS

To all our customers over the years:

We would like to apologise that we are unable to continue selling our eggs from our stall by the road. Unfortunately we have had eggs and vegetables taken and not paid for, and our money tin was unscrewed and stolen.

We will now only sell the eggs from our new vegetable stall on the Farm. You can find our opening hours on our Thompson's Farm Meat advert (see right).

Thank you for your continued custom.

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FARM FRESH EGGS

An Autumn Ponder...

'I spy with my little eye...'

According to latest reports, Britain has the most snooped-on population in the whole world. Imagine that! There are over four and a half million CCTV cameras in this country, that's one camera for every fourteen members of the population. I suppose we have to have some of them, after all, it is easy money catching speeding motorists and no doubt this pays for some of the costs of the Ministry of Snooping (who is the Minister of Snooping anyway?). It would be a good idea to have some cameras in a position where they could actually help to prevent crimes and vandalism but that is probably asking too much from the M of S. I did notice in the Parish Council Minutes that a security light was not to be provided on the Wash as it is a nature reserve. Well I suppose it is after a fashion. I have noticed a horse (called Woody) prowling around there but not much else – apart from the odd few feral youths lurking on occasion, no doubt plotting the downfall of the next generation of unmarried mothers – unreservedly!

A good year for Isleham? I think so. The Gala Day was brilliant, and I actually came second in the buggy race, as well as winning a bottle of whisky in the tombola, so I was well satisfied. The meeting regarding the proposed new village hall raised a few eyebrows when it was mooted that the new premises could cost over a million pounds. No problem, get a few speed cameras in Mill Street, Malting Lane and Church Street and we'll be home and dry. Add a few beetle drives and suchlike and we could have it carpeted! Seriously, a Committee has been formed and a questionnaire is included in the 'Informer' for you to send in your own ideas. Please do so: as Lao Tzu said, 'The longest journey begins with a single step'. Funds can be raised – as witnessed in another part of this edition of the 'Informer'.

Halloween is over, winter draws on. Not long till Christmas appears again and another edition to deliver. We could use a bit of help to deliver on the Causeway so any offers to Richard Turner please, 780965. To all of our readers, delivery people, advertisers (where would we be without them?) I would like to send the Season's Greeting and a Prosperous New Year.

Ian Humphreys

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A Country Garden

by the Happy Hoer

The joys of winter are crisp, Christmas-card scenes of ice and snow. The beauty of the garden now is in the structure of well-shaped plants, the silhouette of trees and the flow of lawns, paths and boundaries. Shrubs with colourful stems, winter berries and flowers add colour and interest on cold dark days. Winter cyclamens and pansies are very reasonably priced, and these make attractive pots for outside the window, or on the patio.

The hard work of October and November, clearing and digging to over-winter the ground, should all have taken place, but there is still plenty to be done during these short days.

December: Grass should have stopped growing now, but on a dry day, with the blades set high, a quick run over makes all the difference to the appearance of your garden.

Now is the time to prune currant and gooseberry bushes. Cut out about one third of the old wood, leaving the bush room to breathe. Check over the blackcurrant bushes for 'bud mite'. Blackcurrant gall mites over-winter inside buds, causing them to swell and fail to develop. Check bushes in winter and early spring for any fat, rounded buds. Pick off any you find, and burn them.

Check the ties and supports on fruit trees, deal with canker on apple and pears, clear weeds away from the plants, and hoe the surface to expose pest eggs and larvae to the birds.

Half prune roses to stop wind damage, and give them a final spray of fungicide if black rot, rust or mildew have been serious this year.

January: Welcome in the New Year with a new project. Forward planning now will enable you to be make an early start, whatever your plans.

Seed catalogues are a constant source of interest at this time of the year, and one of the best I have seen is 'Plants of Distinction' (available from Abacus House, Station Yard, Needham Market IP6 8AS or www.plantsofdistinction.co.uk), but I am sure you all have your own favourites. Order seeds early to ensure a wide selection of varieties.

Rhubarb can be forced now by placing an upturned bucket over one or two crowns.

There is still time to pot up daffodil and tulip bulbs in containers for a later than usual show, and you can also sow the first of the half-hardy annuals – begonia semperflorens, antirrhinums and pelargoniums.

The letter in this issue of the Informer about starting a Gardening Club in the Village sounds a great idea, and hopefully many of you will be interested. It only leaves me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. ■



PUZZLE & JOKES

Isleham Wordsearch

You may remember that way back in the dim and distant (and warm!) days of June, we asked you to find 22 words to do with Isleham in the below grid. This clearly proved rather tricky and we have only recently received even a stab at a correct solution. The words we were looking for were:

Bowls Club, Causeway, Comrades Club, East Road, Fen Bank, Gala, Griffin, High Street, Informer, Isleham, Marina, Merry Monk, Pattersons, Pound Lane, Priory, Rising Sun, Riverside, School, Social Centre, St Andrews, Village Hall, Waterside.



The winner - selected at random by an independent adjudicator - is Charlotte McGreavy of Sheldricks Road. Many congratulations, Charlotte! Your prize is in the post...

More shocking fillers...

I'm so lazy I've got a smoke alarm with a snooze button.
I bought some Armageddon cheese today, and it said on the packet 'Best Before End'.
So I went to buy a watch, and the man in the shop said "Analogue." I said "No, just a watch."
I was in this restaurant and I asked for something herby. They gave me a Volkswagen with no driver.
So I met the bloke who invented crosswords today today. I can't remember his name, it's P something T something R.
I phoned the local ramblers club today, and this bloke just went on and on and on...
My mate asked me "What do you think of voluntary work?" I said "I wouldn't do it if you paid me."

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&
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ISLEHAM WASHES ON THE RIVER LARK

Where they are, what they are, and why they are important

by the Thompsons of Fen Bank, Isleham.

If you venture along Waterside you will arrive at Fen Bank: this is where the Washes start. Walk along the top of the bank (a Public Footpath) and head towards Fenland Boats and Prickwillow for about two miles until you arrive at what, many years ago, used to be the Anchor Public House and is now a private dwelling. This is where the Washes end.

The Washes are split into two areas as you can see from our map below. The Little Wash, as we call it, is opposite our farm and the road leading to the Marina runs through it. The Large Wash runs towards Fenland Boats.

The Washes are common land, and they have not changed much in appearance for hundreds of years. It is organic and has been grazed and looked after by our family for over 20 years.

In 2005 a RSPB Bird Survey was conducted on the Washes and our farm. At the time of the survey 57 different species of birds were spotted on the land. Armed with this information, we were encouraged by Natural England to enter the Washes into the Government Stewardship Scheme, namely: 'Entry Level Stewardship and Higher Level Stewardship'.

After a lot of research and time we completed our application and sent it off in June 2006. By the end of



Little Wash

October we heard that our application had been successful and the Agreement would start on 1 November 2006 and will run until 2016.

This is a quote from our Natural England Representative, Andrew O'Brien:

"The Isleham Washes entered a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement on 1st November. HLS is run by Natural England, the new government agency responsible for delivering environmental conservation schemes for farmers and landowners.

"Isleham Washes is a special site for wintering waders and wildfowl. The combination of shallow open water, extensive areas of mud and wet grassland vegetation provides a rich food source and plenty of cover. Each year wading birds including snipe, redshank and lapwing, along with wildfowl such as widgeon, gadwall and teal are attracted to the Washes.

"The HLS scheme supports the Tenant by providing guidance and ensures appropriate management of the site. Cattle and ponies will provide suitable habitat for the waders and wildfowl through extensive grazing. A mosaic of vegetation structures will favour different birds, e.g. snipe like dense and tussocky vegetation, whilst lapwing prefer a more open sward. Some birds also breed on the site each year and it is hoped that management will encourage more birds to stay behind into the spring.

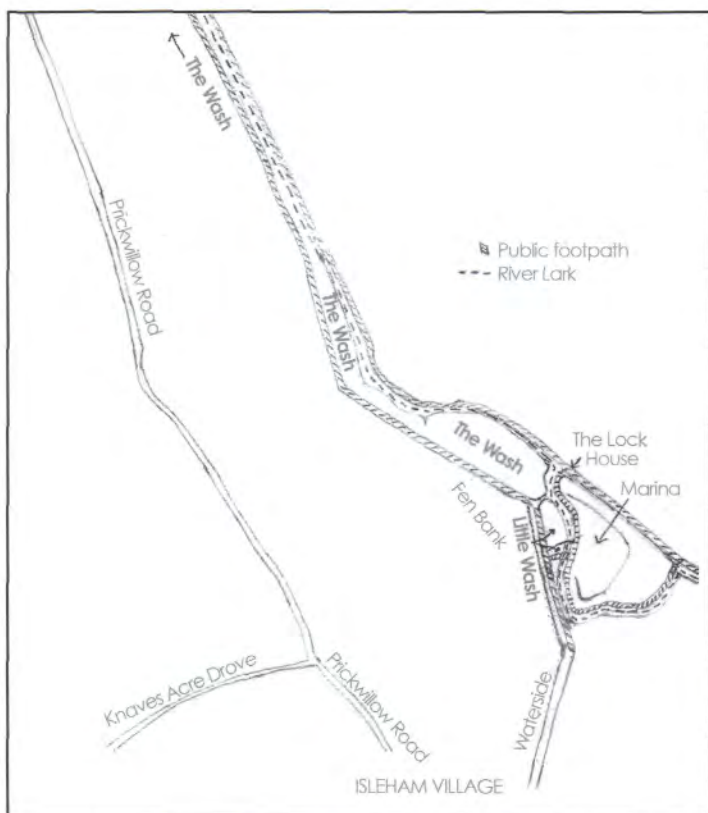
"The management of Isleham Washes in HLS means that the site and its visitors can continue to be enjoyed by local villagers."

We had great support from our Natural England Representative, ecologist Ian Johnson and Alistair Burn. Alistair lives in Isleham and for many years has studied the birds on the Washes. He was able to give us detailed information to support our application. We are very grateful to everyone who gave up their time and we would also like to thank them for their support.

This map shows you where the Washes and the Public Footpaths are; and we hope you find this information of interest. ■



Large Wash



The Rising Sun named region's Pub of the Year

Isleham pub named Community
Pub of the Year in Greene King
Excellence Award



The Rising Sun pub in Isleham is celebrating today after being named the North Anglia Region's Community Pub of the Year in the Greene King Free Trade Excellence Awards 2006.

Now in its fourth year, the awards scheme was launched by Greene King Brewing Company to recognise and commend customers operating independent pubs and clubs for their success and business excellence.

Traditional pubs are the heart of the community and the Community Pub of the Year award is specifically aimed at pubs that have demonstrated a clear commitment to the needs and concerns of the local community and that play an active role in local life.

Commenting on the success of the Rising Sun, Graham Green, Greene King Brewing Company sales manager for the North Anglia region said: 'The Free Trade Excellence Awards scheme is part of our ongoing commitment to our customers and their individual ambitions and achievements.'

"Our sincere congratulations to the Rising Sun for winning this award. Licensee Patrick Pearce is a real pillar of the community and is a fantastic example of how pub owners can work in partnership with their local area to achieve fantastic results for the customers. We wish him all the best for the National Final."

The Rising Sun will now go forward to the National Final for the chance to be crowned Community Pub of the year 2006 for the entire UK. ■



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** 7.30-9.00pm
 Wednesdays: **Bingo** 8.00-9.30pm
 First Friday of each month: **Quiz** 8.30-9.30pm
 Third Sunday of each month: **Jam Session** 3.30-6.30pm

December 9th Xmas Party Country/Western Line Dancing

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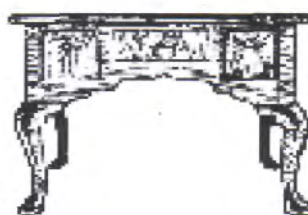
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Parish Council News

The following is the abbreviated and incomplete versions of the IPC minutes for the August, September and October meetings. Please remember that any parishioner may request a copy of the full minutes from the IPC.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 7th AUGUST

PRESENT Cllr Carter, Cllrs Neal, Mrs Malkin, Borok, Chaplin, Beckett and Cave, eight parishioners
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE from Cllr Garbett, Cllr Puckey, Cllr Mrs Gannon, County Councillor Mrs Broadway

REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

- Need for a disabled ramp.
- Some decorating will be done during the remainder of the summer holidays.
- There has been a complaint from a parishioner about the overgrown flower bed going down the steps to Sparkes Close – Mr Cox will cut it.
- Little London corner has not been cut for a long while: can this area be re-instated as part of the grass cutting contract? The map will need to be checked.

CEMETERY & CHURCHYARD MATTERS

- **To review burial fees:** It was agreed that the PC accept a 5% increase in burial fees. Cllr Borok objected to the increase.
- **Cemetery Roadway Quotes:** Harvey £4,770 Grays £5,480 Mead £5,359.12
It was decided that this matter will be looked at before the next meeting to ascertain exactly where the monies will come from for this work.

WASH MATTERS

- Cllr Cave declared an interest in this matter.
- **STREET LIGHT FOR WASH:** After some discussion it was decided that the councillors will meet at the wash on Thursday 10th August at 6pm so that everyone is aware of where the proposed light would be placed.

ECDC EAST CAMBS PLAY STRATEGY

- The clerk will reply asking that Isleham be added to the list of play areas and complete form for lottery funding.

DUNSTALL APPRENTICE GRANT

- It was agreed that the apprentice grant be paid to Jemma Norman.
- The council will review the conditions of the apprentice grant before the next Parish Meeting.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- Amendment to proposed four bedroom house and single garage, access and parking and associated site works at land south of 10 Waterside, Isleham. No objection.

PLANNING APPROVALS

- Construction of first floor extension at 2 St Andrews Close, Isleham for Mr & Mrs Cheal.
- Construction of first floor extension at 4 St Andrews Close, Isleham for Mr & Dr Bond.
- Change of siting to isolation unit at Cambria Farm, Isleham for Ms J. Wilton-Clarke.
- Construction of 3 bed det. bungalow at land parcel rear of 3 Hall Barn Road, Isleham for Mr & Mrs Bird.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

PRESENT Cllrs. Carter, Neal, Borok, Cave, Mrs Gannon, Mrs Malkin, Bishop, Garbett and Beckett, seven parishioners

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE from Cllr Puckey, C. Cllr Powley.

- It was agreed that there should be a discussion to ensure there is no repetition of the situation where councillors who are unknowingly in breach of rules are recommended to be reported to the Standards Board.

VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

- The floor and the painting have been done, and a metal ramp is to be purchased, provided it is easy to handle.

RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

- The grass should be cut in the next week, and the fence should be done by the end of the month.
- The Grant money from ECDC has arrived.
- The cricket fence is not all up because of the workload of the person erecting it.
- Complaints about litter and vandalism on the recreation ground and other areas of the village. Parishioners need to write to the police about problems.
- Wire bins in the play area need replacing and a bin is needed outside the Village Hall. Repaired bins are to be placed by the Village Hall, opposite the school, by the Pound, by the river, by the Co-op and at the top of Little London Drove.

WASH MATTERS

- A meeting was held at the site to find out the position of the proposed light. Environmental Agency regulations say no structures are allowed within nine metres of the flood bank. A suggestion was made that marker posts be placed by the roadway, although this may make the road too narrow. The Council will write to Mr & Mrs Thompson to ask if reflectors can be placed on the existing fence posts on the left hand side of the road.

ROAD WIDENING

- 19 Church Lane, Isleham – The work was carried out in response to requests from parishioners that the drains were inaccessible. It was agreed that the council write to CCC requesting kerbing to join with the kerbing near St Andrews Close.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- Report from Inspector Gallop, Fordham will support the concept as will Isleham.

- Community Safety Partnership meeting 4th October.
- Move the meetings around the area.
- County Councils Minerals & Waste Plan – Grunty Fen recycling centre will be closed. The nearest one will be Witchford. A possible site would be on the Fordham Road.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL: We need to be reporting incidents and getting incident numbers.

RURAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME: Affordable housing, Community Transport, Communications with Parish Councils.

Three houses remain empty on the Fordham Road but they are not Key Worker houses.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- Create window in north elevation of main building at attic level & insert third velux roof light in east facing rear roof slope at The Sanctuary, 5 Priory Gardens, Isleham. No objection.
- Erection of 3 bedroom bungalow with attached garage, access and associated site works at site south of 18 Hall Barn Road, Isleham for Mr & Mrs D Harris. – Object strongly on the grounds that it is an un-adopted road and it is already an overcrowded site. Access for emergency vehicles and service vehicles?
- Construction of four bedroom dwelling and widening of existing access at land rear of 31 Hall Barn Road, Isleham for Mr & Mrs A Weston. No objection.
- Construction of car port with store above at Acorn House, 25b Beck Road, Isleham for Mr G. Baxter. No objection.
- Amendment to plans for 55 Sun Street, Isleham for Mr & Mrs Waugh. – Opportunity for affordable housing at this site? Does it conform to housing density? The development to include the cost of kerbing Sun Street. Original plan showed houses were affordable but we do not know what the new houses are going to be like. Refer them to the planning newsletter outline applications.

PLANNING APPROVALS

- First floor side extension at Concord Farm Temple Road Isleham for Mr I Rich.
- Construction of single storey rear extension at 15 Festival Road for Mr M Flatt.
- Proposed detached four bedroom house and single garage, access, parking and associated site works at Land South of 10 Waterside, Isleham for M & T Developments Ltd.
- Detached single storey dwelling, garage and parking for 48 West Street for Mr & Mrs Fleet.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 2nd OCTOBER

PRESENT Cllrs Carter, Beckett, Puckey, Chaplin, Cave, Mrs Gannon, Mrs Malkin and Neal, County Cllr Garbett.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE from Cllrs Bishop, Borok, C. Cllr Powely.



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VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

- Mr Cox has cleaned out the guttering.
- Painting of the doors has still to be carried out
- There are plans to paint the back of the stage.

RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE

- The new piece of land is growing nicely and has been mowed today, it has a few tread marks, which will be rolled in the spring.
- Fencing has been delayed awaiting grant money from the Football Foundation.
- Waiting for confirmation from Football Foundation for approval for contingency monies.
- Garage door – have not received a quote yet.
- Tractors and gang mowers well worn and need replacing.
- Possible opening of New Rec on Gala Day.

MEETING ABOUT NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE

- New Community Centre incorporating Pavilion – received no objections to the idea.
- Looking at formation of committee.
- Been in touch with planning committee – need to prepare a document to send to them.
- An idea for a design was suggested at the meeting, however it is only a suggestion.
- It was agreed that that Cllr Garbett, Cllr Neal, Cllr Chaplin and Cllr Bishop (fundraising) be nominated to serve on the new community centre project.

PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS TO POUND LANE

- A proposal has been put forward by the county council for signs on Pound Lane to make cars aware that there is a footpath coming out onto the road. Anti-skid paint will be used to slow down the traffic. It was agreed that the council write in favour of the proposal, but suggesting siting the sign on the left-hand side further back to avoid being hit by large vehicles.
- It was agreed that the council write to Highways about having double yellow lines in Sun Street almost to the Post Office on the opposite side of the road.

CEMETERY ROADWAY

- It was agreed that the quotation from Grays be approved.

TO APPROVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL

- In response to a letter from a parishioner it was agreed that in future names of the deceased will be omitted from the public agenda to avoid distressing family and friends.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- **2 CHURCH LANE:** Ready to serve a compulsory purchase order on the owner if the required work is not carried out.
- All Hereward houses taken.
- Neighbourhood Panels first meeting Monday 16th October at Chippenham Village Hall.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- County Cllr Broadway at the school Thursday to see about their planning application.

- **FLOODING AT PRIORY GARAGE** Tanker out Monday morning to clear the mess. A quote has been received to put a pipe across the priory field for £4,500; permission will need to be sought from Bidwells. It was agreed that the quotation be accepted and the work carried out as soon as possible.

- **20 MPH ZONE** In the middle of Fordham around the church area and the school

- **PARKING IN SUN STREET** Traffic parked last Tuesday evening need yellow lines at least down one side to prevent parking both sides of the road.

- **ROUNDBOUT ON FORDHAM ROAD** Build up of water.

- It was agreed that the clerk be paid £30 per month expenses for office space and internet access, back dated from 1st July.

- The clerk will log hours spent on new community centre and charge the parish council accordingly.

FINANCE FOR PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT

- It was agreed that an amount be set aside at the finance working party meeting for the play area improvements.

- It was agreed that the wage for the caretaker be raised from £250 to £300 per four weeks.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- Installation of 2 transmission dishes at the Water Services Depot, Fordham Road, Isleham – Cllr Mrs Malkin objected to the application.

PLANNING APPROVALS

- Residential development for up to 8 dwellings at 55 Sun Street for Mr & Mrs Waugh.
- Construction of carport with store above at Acorn House 25b Beck Road, Isleham for Mr Gavin Baxter.
- Create window in north elevation of main building and insert third velux roof light in east facing rear slope at The Sanctuary, 5 Priory Gardens, Isleham for Dr & Mrs Corbin.
- Erection of a 3 bedroom bungalow with attached garage, access and associated site works at site south west of 18 Hall Barn Road, Isleham for Mr & Mrs D Harris.
- Construction of detached dwelling and widening of existing access at land rear of 31 Hall Barn Road, Isleham for Mr & Mrs A Weston.

WILDLIFE

- Cllr Beckett declared an interest but was asked to remain in the meeting.
- There seems to have been a rapid decline in bird wildlife – pigeons, geese, ducks, and even small bird population has diminished. The clerk will contact other Parish Councils and the Environment Agency to see if they have noticed a similar problem (Soham, Kennet, Fordham, Prickwillow).
- The ivy needs to be cut back on Maltings Lane. The clerk will contact Mrs Win and arrange for the work to be carried out. ■

Parish Councillors Address List

Terry Carter (Chairman)	5 Old School Close, Soham CB7 5WD Tel: 07905 705302
Steven Puckey (Vice Chairman)	Emmanuel House, 8 East Fen Road, Isleham CB7 5SW
Diane Bayliss (Parish Clerk)	37 Croft Road, Isleham CB7 5QR Tel: 01638 781687
Paul Chaplin	Jay Jay Lodge, Waterside, Isleham CB5 5SH Tel: 01638 781745
Derrick Beckett	1 Houghtons Lane, Isleham CB7 5SR Tel: 01638 780476
Jeannette Malkin	17 Little London, Isleham CB7 5SE Tel: 01638 780283
Linda Gannon	106 Lakeside, Riverside Island Marina, Isleham CB7 5SL Tel: 01638 781037
Lionel Neal	104 Beck Road, Isleham CB7 5QP Tel: 01638 781066
Henry Cave	1 Kingfisher, Riverside Island Marina, Isleham CB7 5SL Tel: 09731 106818
Victor Borok	3 Kingfisher, Riverside Island Marina, Isleham CB7 5SL Tel: 01638 780946
Geoff Garbett	16 Croft Road, Isleham CB7 5QR Tel: 01638 780863
Ian Bishop	17 Sun Street, Isleham CB7 5RT Tel: 01638 780256

JOYCE'S CORNER:

God's Little Creatures

All God's little creatures were put on earth
For a very good reason, they say.
But I think they're here for something else...
To annoy us humans each day.

Take the common fly for instance.
He has the freedom of the air.
But does he like that? No, he gets in your home,
And leaves his... dot dots everywhere.

Then there's the mouse who is tiny.
He should nest under the hedge.
But he'd rather nibble his way to the shed,
And chew up our apples and veg.

The little bats, they fly at night,
And do not have time to perch.
They cannot find a home of their own,
Instead they use our church.

Gnats are really nasty,
You can't see when they attack.
Slugs and snails creep out at night,
And eat plants behind your back.

Caterpillars are sneaky things,
Bright green they are, but it's fate.
You cannot see the little devils,
Till they crawl out onto your plate.

As for our little feathered friends,
We look after them well, I suppose.
But the only thanks we get from them
Are the droppings all over our clothes.

Joyce Drayton

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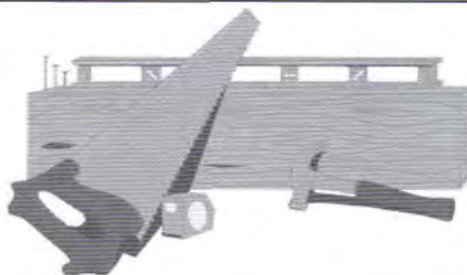
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A Baptism in the Fen Country

by the Rev. J.H. Callaway,
Minister of High Street
Chapel, Isleham
June 2nd and June 9th 1887

Our correspondent
Arthur Houghton has
found an account of
an open-air baptism



At a comparatively early hour, he writes, the village was astir, and long ere the sun had reached its meridian groups of villagers were seen wending their way along the dusty road to a point on the river Lark, about a mile distant from the outskirts of the village, where upwards of a thousand spectators

Continuing Rev Callaway's tradition – a mass baptism in the River Lark in 1909

had assembled. Pastor Callaway and his hearty helpmeet were there, prepared to give a friendly greeting to the converts – 41 in number – on their arrival. The sun was breaking through the clouds, and a western breeze was blowing up the river – sure portents of a

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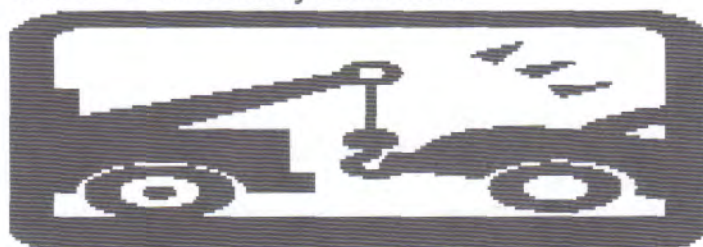
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fine day. For a few moments nothing was heard but the low murmur of human voices. At length a momentary hush fell on the assembly as the voices of singers and the strains of music fell sweetly on our ears. The unseen minstrels at last came in sight as a line of barges, filled with their joyous freight, rounded the river's bend. 'Here they come!' was on every lip, and very speedily, but silently and reverently, the converts, with their friends, passed over an improvised bridge and away up to a good deacon's house to prepare for the interesting ceremony in which they were to participate. In a very short space of time the candidates emerged from the house, each accompanied by a friend, and returned to the water's edge, which, above and below the natural baptistery, is overhung with shady willows. The scene at this moment was intensely picturesque, and one's mind could not refrain from wandering away to the banks of the Jordan, where a kindred scene was enacted over eighteen centuries ago. Our reverie, however, was soon cut short, as the pastor, with his deacons and the leaders of song, mounted on the stone coping of the lock gates. Presently a hymn was given out –

*Come let us join our cheerful songs
With angels round the throne;
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
But all there joys are one*

which was heartily sung by the assembled multitude. Anon, praise gave place to prayer, and then, in a clear sonorous voice, the pastor gave his address.

'We are a simple-minded people,' he said. 'We believe in God and in Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent. In the solemn spectacle in which we are all sharers this day we are witnessing for the truth. The meaning of this act may be misinterpreted by some present, but not by the forty-one friends of various ages who shall this day be buried with their Lord in baptism. How is it that they leave their homes, their work, their worldly profit and pleasure to thus publicly testify their loyalty to their Saviour? It is because they desire to follow His example and to do His will.'

The address was listened to with great attention and, having ended, the minister passed down between the open ranks of the disciples into the river, and, finding secure foothold, began to administer the ordinance. The Fen-men, goodly fellows all, while gallantly waiting their turn, handed down the members of the gentler sex. But who is this that the minister's wife places in the front rank? An old lady of seventy winters; she is handed on gently, tenderly, lovingly.

How changed are the circumstances in which these solemn events of the day take place! Not long ago jeers and beerhouse revelry would have been the accompaniments of such a scene as this. Now, subdued joy and reverent demeanour characterise the homewards bound throng as they disperse in groups. And if you had listened to the conversation you would have learned that this was the second public baptism which Pastor Callaway had conducted in the river during the week, making a total of 61 converts in all! Surely not a bad week's work for a little Baptist chapel in the fen country.

From 'The Christian World'

The Rev. J.H. Callaway died 1st October 1902, aged 73 years.

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Isleham School launched into cyber space

Last month saw the launch of the new look website for Isleham Primary School with an evening of entertainment and drama from many of the pupils.

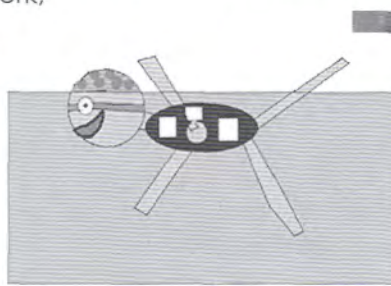
The website, which is updated every Monday, has all the information that parents and friends of the school could want to know; copies of letters sent home, dinner menus and uniform order forms are just a small selection of the many things that parents will find of use.

New families who have recently moved to Isleham may find the on-line prospectus of use as it gives details of every aspect of the school. There is also information about the after-school clubs on offer and details of children's activities available throughout the village.

The children help create their own class homepage, where you will be able to look at some of their work, read book reviews, diaries and even play their games. Photos of special work are also included, so that family members throughout the world can share in the children's achievements.

This web site is for whole village to enjoy, not just the families of those who attend the school, so please feel free to surf the school site and see what the children have been getting up to.

The web site is at: www.isleham.cambs.sch.uk



Isleham 2000 Project

The year 2000 marked the beginning of the new millennium. For many people this was a momentous point, not only in their own lives, but as a time to remember in history. For such an important occasion it seemed right that Isleham village should also commemorate the millennium. With this in mind the *Isleham 2000* book was published.

For those of you who might not have seen the book, we attempted to record photographically every street in the village, including hundreds of private houses, our village shops, public houses, places of worship, buildings of special interest and village activities. Our aim was to obtain a snapshot of village life in Isleham in the last remaining months of the 20th Century.

Over the last six years the books have sold remarkably well and we have raised £4474.15. This money has

been donated to Isleham village primary school and they have used the proceeds to help fund an outside teaching space for the students.

The Isleham 2000 committee, who were Maureen and David Aves, Pauline Wynn, Peggy Diver, Marian Scott, Vernon Place and Julie Bond, would like to thank the Parish Council for their financial help and everyone in the village for supporting this project. We hope that the books have provided a snapshot in time that will come to be a valuable piece of social history for the future generations of Isleham.

With most of the books now sold, the project has finally come to an end. There are a few books remaining, so if anyone would like a copy they can be purchased from Mr and Mrs Aves, 57 West Street, tel: 780443.

Julie Bond

Creative Balloons win gold – again!

Isleham-based balloon company, 'CreativeBalloons' have won a gold award at the National Balloon Show for the second year running.

Local balloon artist, Samuel Stamp-Dod, picked up the gold award for his table centre design, called 'Rock Your Socks Off' – a 50s rock'n'roll design. He also scooped a silver award in the delivery section of the competition with a valentine's bouquet of foil balloons held by a teddy.



As the competition took place on Remembrance Sunday, Samuel based his large sculpture piece on the poem 'In Flanders Field' depicting a field of poppies and rows of crosses around a union flag at half-mast.

'People associate balloons with happy occasions; I wanted to provoke a different emotion with this sculpture,' explained Samuel, 'Some parts of the design will keep and I hope I will be able to recreate the design for public viewing next year.'

If you can't wait that long to have a look at the winning designs, have a look at his website at www.creativeballoons.net.

PHOENIX PLAYERS

A Christmas Carol

The next production of the Phoenix Players will be 'A Christmas Carol', a cautionary tale by Charles Dickens, which we are performing in the Village Hall, Isleham, on

**Friday 8th December at 7.30pm
and Saturday 9th December
at 2.30pm and 7.30pm**

This is a family entertainment, presented by the adult and youth sections, which all the family will enjoy.

Advance tickets

£5 for adults and £2.50 for children.
Parties of 10 or more – one free ticket for every 10 bought.
Family ticket £13 (two adults and two children).

At the door

£6 for adults and £3 for children.
Parties of 10 or more – £5 for adults and £2.50 for children.
Family ticket £15 (two adults and two children).

Please call Doreen Spiers 01638 780734 for advance purchase of tickets.

This will be a lovely start to the Christmas season, and we hope to welcome you there.

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High Street Church

All are welcome to our Sunday services throughout the year: **10.30 am morning worship**. All ages are very welcome from the very young to the very old. The children have their own activities. **6.30 pm evening fellowship**. A less formal service usually with opportunity for individual sharing. Come and hear about God's goodness! Tea, coffee and good conversation are available after both the morning and evening services!

On Sunday mornings the following children's facilities are available: **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:

Our **Rendezvous** group — for the more mature amongst us — meets every Tuesday afternoon at 3 pm. Between 60 and 70 of us enjoy this time together each week but new faces are always welcome.

Luncheon club is for those of retirement age and happens once a month on the second Wednesday from 12-2 pm. 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.

Perhaps you'd like to be kept informed of any outings we arrange, or you need help to complete some paperwork such as benefit forms, or perhaps you don't know who to ask for help with transport for hospital visiting. Please don't hesitate to ring - we'd love to help if we can. Contact Kathryn 01638 780652 or the church office.



Little Lambs caters for the other end of the age range. This mums' and toddlers' group takes place on Friday mornings during school terms. (9.15-11.15 am). All are welcome and it's free! Mums/carers come and chat over a coffee while the children play. New mums/dads/grandparents/carers are always welcome — come along and join in the fun. If you'd like to know more contact Sharon on 01353 720399.

Alpha is well known throughout the country as an excellent course for those wishing to learn about the Christian faith: it provides the perfect opportunity to ask

all the questions you've wanted to ask but have never dared! If you are interested in joining an Alpha course please contact Steve in the church office for more info. Tel: 01638 780985

There is a host of other midweek activities taking place. Contact us on the number below for more information.

Throughout the coming year we plan to hold various services and events for the whole community to enjoy. Look out for information in the village shops!

Priory Advent Service – by candlelight. Saturday 2nd December 4.30 – 5.00 pm 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 24th December - 10.30 am - **Christmas Family Service**. A service for all from the very young to the very old! 5.30 pm and (repeated) 7.30 pm - Christmas Carol Service. An opportunity to sing the traditional (and some not so traditional) carols. These two services will be the same enabling all those who wish to come to be accommodated comfortably. Whether you prefer to come earlier or later everybody is very welcome – a fantastic way to start the Christmas festivities.

Christmas Day - Family Christmas Celebration

11 am – 12 noon Come and celebrate the real meaning of Christmas before that Christmas dinner! We will finish promptly to avoid any tough turkeys or soggy sprouts!! 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 21291. ■

St Andrew's Parish Church

Services

3rd Sunday of each month:

8.00 am	Prayer Book Communion
10.00 am	Family Service
10.00 am	Junior Church

All other Sundays

10.00 am	Common Worship Communion
10.00 am	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:

Robert Savage	Nick Carver
38 Sun Street	15 Jubilee Close
Isleham CB7 5RU	Isleham CB7 5RW
01638 780218	01638 781116
robsav@oneserve.co.uk	

Events

A short Prayer Service (15 – 30 minutes) will be held on Tuesdays at 4.30 pm in Limestone Close Community Room. All are welcome.

Combined Three Rivers Group Service, Kennett Church, 10.30 am, 31st December 2006

Epiphany Toy Service 10 am 7th January 2007

Wishing you all a healthy and peaceful New Year. ■

Pound Lane Free Church

We'd like to give a huge 'Thank you' to everyone who helped by giving or sorting shoe boxes for this year's Operation Christmas Child appeal.

By the time you read this your boxes will be on their way to needy children in Eastern Europe, brightening their Christmas and displaying God's love for them. We will be showing the OCC DVD in our Candlelit Carol Service on 17th December at 6.15 pm. You are warmly invited to join us as we sing some traditional carols and enjoy items presented by the children's and young people's groups.

On 25th December we invite you to join with us in our Christmas Day Family Service at 10.30 am when we celebrate Christ's birth and praise God for the greatest gift of all – His Son. Children are invited to bring along one of their presents to show at the service.

Christianity Explored: We are currently running a series and are planning to start another course in the New Year. Christianity Explored gives a great opportunity to find out more about the Lord Jesus Christ – who He is, why He came and what it means to be a Christian – in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. The videos take us through the Gospel of Mark and there is time to discuss the topics covered and to ask any questions. We would be delighted to see you at the next session. Call 01638 781343 or email pastor@plfc.org.uk for details.

Kingdom Kids: This is the group for 3 year olds up to school year 3. Starting at 10.00 am their meeting includes Bible teaching, prayer, worship songs and craft activities around the teaching theme.

All Stars: A great group for the youngsters in School years 4, 5 and 6. God's word is taught in an exciting and relevant way and the youngsters enjoy worship songs, quizzes and prayer times. For those attending on Sunday there is also a Fun Night on Monday evenings when anything can happen (and usually does!).

Covies: Year 7 to end of teens – the Bible is central to the weekly teaching sessions on Sunday from 9.30- 10.30 am were modern worship songs, quizzes and prayer all make up the Covie meeting. Once a month the young people come to the morning worship Service at 11.00 am. For those attending regularly on Sunday the Thursday Clubnights are a time to chill with mates and enjoy a game of snooker, air hockey, fuse ball or table tennis, with regular trips out to 10 Pin Bowling, Chip Tasting, etc. ■



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Sophie on 07963 407257
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OR JUST TURN UP ON THE NIGHT!

Bowls Club Report

The bowls club once again enjoyed a good summer but unfortunately encountered no team success this season. The ladies were overtaken by the City of Ely in the last match of the league season to finish runners up. It was a case of playing the role of bridesmaid to the Ely club as they defeated us in the semi final of the league cup and the county league.

The men's team had an average performance, eventually finishing 4th in the league but did have a good cup run in the national two fours competition reaching the last 64 nationwide from over 1100 entries.

In the internal club championships, all matches were played in a good spirit and the finals played over a glorious weekend in September.

The winners were:

Mens Singles.....	Keith Munns
Runner Up	Brian Houghton
Ladies Singles.....	Pat Houghton
Runner Up	Diane Beckett
Handicap Single.....	Michael Bartlett
Runner Up	Barry Grimwood
Pitcher Memorial Single	Barry Grimwood
Runner Up	Rebecca Telfer
Club Pairs	P. Houghton & B. Grimwood
Runner Up	H. Munns & Brian Pope
Club Triples	D. Burling, B. Harris K. Munns
Runner Up	D. Raven, T. Sharplin
	B. Grimwood

Husband & Wife Pairs.....	Heather & Keith Munns
Runner Up	Diane & Herbie Beckett
Tenrich Trophy	Ivan Hymus Barry Grimwood
Runner Up	Terry Pinder Rowland Wells
Telfer Trophy	Tony Fuller

We live in an era where it is becoming harder and harder to find willing people to undertake running of a particular interest. This season we have said a big thank you to Herbie Beckett who has decided to 'retire' from groundsman duties after many years service, but rumour has it that he has already been seen in the club area clearing up this 'n' that! A commemorative tankard was awarded to him at the presentation evening held in September. By the time you read this, he will have received a top honour at the A.G.M. of being made a 'life' member of the club, one of only a few to have received this accolade.

During the winter months the club has two teams that play in division 1 & 3 respectively of the East Cambs Carpet Bowls League. Both teams have made a sluggish start to the season but are hoping for better performances in the new year.

There are a number of events held in the club over the winter months and many are open to all to attend. Please keep watch for posters in the village for details.

Barry Grimwood
Club Captain

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