

Isleham Informer

Issue 20 • March 2007

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Isleham Primary School 'outstanding' reports Ofsted

Isleham Primary is an outstanding school with outstanding leadership and outstanding teaching, according to Ofsted – the Office for Standards in Education.

Virtually every area of the school near Ely received the highest rating, with the remainder being categorised as above average.

The Ofsted inspector said pupils at Isleham, which has 202 pupils aged between 4 and 11, learned quickly and well because teachers expected high standards and accepted nothing less.

'Teachers prepare work which is very well matched to pupils' needs and they provide both interesting and challenging activities. Teachers use the interactive whiteboards exceptionally well to enliven learning and to clarify their teaching.

'The curriculum is excellent and meets pupils' needs and talents exceptionally well,' said the inspector's report.

'The care and support that pupils receive is outstanding. All the staff know the pupils very well. They ensure that they are kept safe and that there are high levels of care. All arrangements for the safeguarding of pupils are excellent,' it added.

Pupils in turn were praised for their good behaviour and attitudes to work. 'Children have great fun at school. Their personal development is good with outstanding features. They behave well, support each other and enjoy working together.

'They are very keen to work hard and are extremely well motivated by the outstanding teaching. Teachers prepare work well which is very well matched to pupils' needs and they provide both interesting and challenging activities,' said the report.

'Pupils' personal development is good. Some aspects are excellent. Their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding,' it added.

Leadership, management and governance were all



Deputy Head Tamsin Barker, Head Valerie Ellerker and some pupils of Isleham Primary School

described as outstanding. 'The headteacher demonstrates exemplary leadership skills and sets a clear agenda for raising standards.

'She has an unerring dedication to ensuring that the school continues to improve. In this she is supported exceptionally well by the deputy headteacher, staff and governors. As a consequence of the united effort, close teamwork and excellent provision, pupils in the main make rapid progress in all year groups.

'Everyone matters in this school and teamwork is one of the keys to its success. Teachers with subject responsibility are trained exceptionally well for their work. There is outstanding capacity for further improvement,' concluded the report.

The school was encouraged to ensure the progress of pupils who find learning hard is even more closely monitored.

Headteacher Valerie Ellerker said: 'I am very pleased with this Ofsted judgement, as it reflects the dedication and effective teamwork of everyone connected to the school.

'Nurturing the children in their care, helped by successful teams of support staff, governors and by partnership with parents, our teachers enable pupils to enjoy learning and success.

'Of key importance is the tremendous support received from our local churches and from the village communities of Isleham and Chippenham.' ■

COMMUNITY CENTRE & SPORTS PAVILION UPDATE: see page 5

From the Editor

Another season, another *Informer*. Let me begin by passing on our congratulations to Isleham Primary School on the results of the Ofsted report. Many of us have long believed that we have an outstanding school in our community and it is jolly decent of the Government to confirm this.

Secondly, thanks to all who continue to support the *Informer* by sending in news, announcements and contributions. The response has been so great that not only do we have 20 pages chock-full of scintillating Isleham tidings, but I don't even have room to finish this sent ■

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Contents

- 1 Isleham Primary School
- 2 The Isleham Society; Dial-a-Ride
- 3 Parish Council elections; Announcements
- 4 Community Centre
- 5 Cemetery land
- 6 PCSO Foster; CC Mediation
- 7 Useful phone numbers
- 8 Parish Council news
- 12 Isleham PTA
- 13 Twinning Association; Joyce's Corner
- 14 Churches' news
- 16 16th Century graves found; Bell ringing; Church porch
- 17 New vicar; Festival of Light
- 18 The Phoenix Players
- 19 Isleham Gala
- 20 WI report; The Rising Sun

NEW ADVERTISERS

*Contact Ian Humphreys on 01638 781796
for details of the ludicrously reasonable rates
for advertising in the Informer.*

NEXT ISSUE

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

The Isleham Society

March 15th should have been a visit to Waitrose at Newmarket but they have had to change the date to one later in the year; so instead there will be a talk given by one of our members, Mrs Angela Stubbins, about her life as a mother and teacher in Zimbabwe for 27 years. We will meet in the Village Hall at 7.45pm for 8pm. We end with light refreshments. All are welcome, but there is a charge for non-members of £2.

April 26th will be our AGM – same time and place as the previous meeting (above). We urgently require a Secretary and a Treasurer to replace those retiring at that meeting. As we only have about 10 meetings in a year there is not a tremendous amount of work to do, but these posts are vital to the running of our Society.

If anyone would like more information regarding the Society please contact myself on 01638 780449.

Vernon Place (Vice Chairman)

Cambridge Dial-a-Ride: Enabling Mobility Your free easy-to-use guide to community transport

“What is the Dial-a-Ride service, and the voluntary car scheme, and am I eligible?” If you have ever wondered this, help is at hand. Cambridgeshire County Council has just published its Community Transport Guide for 2007, and it is completely free.

The guide explains exactly what community transport is, how it works alongside conventional public transport, and lists district details of all community transport schemes operating throughout Cambridgeshire.

For a free copy of the guide telephone Gavin Moulton on 01233 717755, or write to him at Cambridgeshire County Council, ET 1015, Castle Court, Shire Hall, Cambridge CB3 0AP or email: gavin.moulton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



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Isleham Parish Council Elections May 3rd 2007

The Isleham Parish Council Elections are to take place on 3rd May 2007. There are 11 seats on the council and all of them are up for re-election this year. In order to stand as a Parish Councillor you must be 18 years of age on or before May 2nd 2007, you must be on the electoral roll and you must reside in the locality or within three miles of it and have done so for the previous 12 months.

The Parish Council plays a central role in decision making for the village and as a councillor you have the opportunity to play a part in making those decisions.

Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month (apart from Bank Holidays when the meeting is held on the second Monday). Councillors are expected to attend all meetings if possible; an absence of six consecutive meetings can result in disqualification from the position. Aside from the monthly meetings, Parish Councillors can expect to be part of a working party dealing with allotments, planning, burial, the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground.

Application packs for Parish Councillor nominations will be available from the Clerk (Diane Bayliss 01638 781687) on Monday 5th March 2007 and must be submitted to East Cambs District Council by 12 noon on Wednesday 4th April 2007. This deadline is absolute and no nomination submitted after this time will be considered for election. ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

PEARCE A daughter, Penny Elizabeth, for Patrick and Clare of The Rising Sun. Born 10 February 2007, weighing 8lb 1oz.

TIMMINS/COLLEN A son, Max Paul, for Jason and Philippa. Born 29 November 2006 at the Rosie Maternity Hospital, weighing 7lb 3oz.

GUEST A daughter, Cara Robin, for Ruth and Bradley. Born 22 August 2006, weighing 7lb 12oz.

JONES A daughter, Hannah, for Mel and Tim and little sister for Owen. Born 6 August 2006 at the Rosie Maternity Hospital, weighing 5lb 2oz.

ANNIVERSARY

Golden wedding: Dr and Mrs Dixey of Inisfail House, Mill Street celebrated 50 years of marriage on 9 February 2007.

If you would like a birth, marriage, anniversary or death announcement included please telephone or email the Editor or any of the other Informer staff members (see Contacts on page 2). We are happy to print information about Isleham residents or people with relevant Isleham connections.



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low mileage 12000 miles..... £4995.00

2003 53 Landrover Freelander (Face lift) TD4 SE

Auto 5dr Java Black, A/W, leather, radio CD,
P/Sensor, F/S/H, low mileage 31000 miles.... £12995.00

2003 53 Renault Scenic Privilege

1.6 16v met green, A/W, C/L, E/W, radio CD,
38000 miles £7695.00

2003 53 Renault Laguna 1.8 16v Dynamique

Auto Sport Tourer (EST) A/W, E/W,
radio CD, 33000 miles £6595.00

2003 03 Renault Laguna Privilege

2.0 turbo met silver, E/W, A/W, C/L,
radio CD, 32000 miles F/S/H £6495.00

2003 03 Renault Scenic

1.9DCi Fiji silver/green metallic, A/C, A/W,
radio CD, 48000 miles £6495.00

2003 03 Vauxhall Vectra SXI

2.2 16v black, A/W C/L, A/C, F/S/H
66000 miles £5595.00

2002 52 Renault Laguna 1.8 Dynamique Hatch

Flame Red metallic, A/W, A/C, E/W, radio CD,
low mileage at 38000, F/S/H £5495.00

2002 02 Renault Laguna 1.6 Expression

metallic silver A/W, climate control, radio CD,
36000 miles £5295.00

2001 51 Renault Megane Dynamique

1.4 metallic blue, radio cassette/CD multi-player,
A/C, A/W, 20000 miles £4395.00

Community Centre Update

'Aim for the ultimate'

As Geoff Garbett stated in the previous issue this is potentially a very large project, arguably one of the most ambitious undertaken in the village for many years. Because of this we are still going through the many feasibility processes, which I should add are largely cost free. Our attitude, backed up by both professional and experienced advice, is to initially aim for the ultimate – why not if it can be achieved? If it proves that it cannot then we can always lower our sights. To clarify, the agreed minimum requirement is to replace the sports pavilion, which regrettably is no longer fit for purpose.

Progress made since the last issue includes visits to centres in other villages and gleaning valuable information from those involved; one or two more such visits are being planned. Most probable sources of grants have been identified and initial discussions with one major source proved extremely promising; others are being contacted. Fundraising, absolutely fundamental to the success of the project, is starting and these efforts will gain momentum in the coming months. To accommodate the proceeds a dedicated Friends of Isleham Community Centre Fund is likely to be formed. Further consultative meetings with parishioners, including the youth of the village, are to be arranged.

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VEHICLE SERVICES

At the time of writing this report, various architects are being interviewed and an appointment will have been made before you read this. Their first task will be to draw up draft plans to satisfy both the Committee and the Planners. We will communicate details of these plans as soon as possible.

Thank you to those who completed the questionnaire (and apologies to anyone who did not receive one). All suggestions made will certainly be borne in mind. One reply questioned whether it would be better to seek a new sports pavilion only and retain the village hall, with a relatively modest amount of money spent on its improvement. There may be others sharing this view, or indeed other contrary views, and we would be pleased to discuss these with any groups at anytime; if desired, we will attend one of your meetings. It is, after all, imperative to us that we have your support. To arrange a meeting please contact our secretary, Diane Bayliss on 01638 781687.

Should such a discussion take place on the village hall then we would express our total sympathy with the sentiment held by those who made considerable sacrifices to ensure its construction. We believe it is now time for many others of us in Isleham to stand up and be counted. We also believe a new community centre would offer far more facilities than currently available. It is also true that the more diverse the uses of a centre the more diverse the source of grants – we may never again have such an opportunity.

Summarising on progress to date – so far so good, although many, many hurdles have still to be overcome. We could still do with more people on our committee; if you are at all interested then please contact Diane Bayliss. If you have expertise relative to this project that you might offer on a one-off basis, or a fundraising idea, please also contact Diane.

Phillip Aspland, Vice-Chair Community Centre Committee

Extra: as we go to press...

- **Architect appointed** An architect has been appointed, the Johns Practice of Newmarket (subject to contract).
- **Volunteers** For those who volunteered to help in last issue's questionnaire, and those who would like to assist in any way with the Community & Sports Centre project, there will be a meeting: Monday 12 March, 730pm in the back room of the Village Hall.

Recreation ground extension

The extension for the recreation ground is now complete, however, to allow the grass to grow and establish itself, it must not be used until autumn this year. A hedge has been planted and a fence erected to protect this area, and it should not be entered nor the hedge or fence scaled. The short cut through this area is now closed and should reopen with the extension later this year. ■

Cemetery land to be sold for funds

'Needs identified for Community Centre, play area and housing'

Isleham Parish Council conducts an audit of its assets from time to time. In conducting this survey it was found that the cemetery land had been farmed by a small holder for several years, but since his death, no real use had been found for the land. As the land is within the development area and suitable for housing, after an approach by District Council as to whether the land could be included in the development plan, the PC had to decide whether it was in the best interest of the village to keep it set aside for burials, which would involve maintenance of the land for 60 years or longer, and whether this was the best use of the land. After many hours of discussion it was decided that better use could be made by selling the land and using the money to benefit the village.

Having identified needs for a new Community Centre, new Play and Leisure Facilities, and affordable homes for village people it has been decided that the P.C. will sell the land for building. This will give us the opportunity to use some of the capital to help towards the new Community Centre and to purchase a rural exception site for affordable homes to rent or buy for young people in Isleham who cannot at the moment get onto the housing ladder. (This would include families of Isleham residents who have had to leave Isleham because no suitable housing can be found.) The Parish Council will also investigate new children's play equipment and leisure facilities for young people. Any surplus funds would generate interest that would enable the council to keep the precept down.

The purpose of this exercise is to benefit all of the residents of Isleham in the best way possible, and there may be other projects that will benefit the village that will be brought to the Council by parishioners to be considered.

The Parish Council also hopes to put out a 'housing needs' survey in the near future to establish exactly what the needs are in Isleham for affordable housing and we would appreciate co-operation in sending these back.

There will be opportunity to bring ideas and suggestions to the Parish Meeting to be held on Monday 19th March 2007 in the Village Hall.

Diane Bayliss, Clerk, Isleham Parish Council

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Wednesday 7.30-11pm	Thursday Closed
Friday 8-11pm	Saturday 8-11pm
Sunday 12-3pm and 8-10.30pm	

Regular Functions

Tuesdays: **Line Dancing** 7.30-9pm

Wednesdays: **Bingo** 8.00-9.30pm

First Friday each month: **Quiz** 8.30-9.30pm

Third Sunday each month: **Jam Session** 3.30-6.30pm

Coming up

Saturday 17th March **Rockin' Revival**

St Patrick's Day: Guinness £1.50 pint

Tickets available £5

Saturday 9th June is the Queen's Official Birthday
and 'The King' is appearing!

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Support your village club. Why not have a
party at the club? – a lot of people do!

New members always welcome.

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for Isleham

For those of you that I haven't had the pleasure of meeting, I am Gaynor Foster and I am the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for Isleham. I have covered this area for about 1 year, as well as other beat areas: Fordham, Chippenham, Snailwell, Kennett, Badlingham, Barway, Wicken and Upware. I work part time in a shift rotation covering days, night and weekends.



In case you are unaware, PCSOs do not have the same powers as Police Officers and our role is very different. Just a little taster of what I do – I engage with the community and conduct high visibility patrols – either on foot or vehicle. The schools and Sheltered Housing Schemes in my areas get regular visits and I also tackle ASB and minor parking offences.

I am more often than not the first point of contact for Isleham and the other villages, so next time you see me please feel free to stop and chat. Alternatively, if you have an issue or a concern you would like to talk about in more depth, please contact me direct on 07921094938 or email me at gaynor.foster@cambs.pnn.police.uk. I look forward to meeting and speaking to you.

Gaynor Foster

Cambridgeshire Constabulary Mediation Service

Available for local anti-social behaviour issues

East Cambs Community Safety Partnership can now offer limited access to a Mediation Service for anti-social behaviour, by accessing the Cambridge and District Community Mediation Service. The Mediation process is confidential; less formal than the courts or police procedures; and may lead to more neighbourly relations. There is no charge to you.

If the problem relates to anti-social behaviour and is appropriate for mediation, this is how it normally works: a pair of mediators will visit the people on each side of the dispute, separately and in their homes, to hear how each views the problem.

If both parties are willing, a face-to-face mediation session is conducted ideally in a neutral setting convenient to the clients. The task of the mediators is to improve communication between the parties and help them work together to devise a solution. Nothing is imposed, and the outcome is not legally binding.

If there is a problem between yourself and neighbours that relates to anti-social behaviour and might be resolved by an experienced mediator, and both parties are prepared to participate with an open mind, then contact: Brian Tully, ASB Co-ordinator for East Cambs on 01353 656641 and he will make the referral to the Mediation Service. ■

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Citizens Advice Bureau	0845 1306442
- 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

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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 NOVEMBER 6TH

PRESENT Cllrs Carter, Neal, Borok, Cave, Garbett, Mrs Gannon, Mrs Malkin, Chaplin, Beckett, CC Broadway, six parishioners.

Apologies for absence from Cllrs Puckey, Bishop.

POLICE MATTERS

- **Police Report** A letter will be sent to the police asking if stop searches can be carried out in Isleham as in Soham.
- 15th November first Neighbourhood Panel Meeting in the Walter Gidney Pavillion in Soham.

VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

- **Report from Village Hall Committee** At the meeting last week Maureen Aves tendered her resignation because of ill health. The Parish Council agreed that she can be made an honorary member to recognise her work over the last 40 years.
- **Fire safety regulations** The Village Hall Committee are now responsible for their own appraisals and fire assessment. Back cupboard needs to be tidied up with paints etc. locked away. The chairs and curtains need to be fire retardant, the curtains are, however; the chairs need to be checked. Yellow warning tapes on outside steps. Smoke alarms. Doors should be unlocked during performances. Portable equipment needs to be checked. 'No parking' signs on fire doors. Halogen spotlights lethal near fabrics (stage). Keep a book recording monthly checks of all equipment (fire extinguishers etc.) This could be carried out by Donna Madgwick as she is in the building on a regular basis. May need to upgrade some of the electrics in the hall because it is over 30 years old.
- **Report from Recreation Ground Committee** Grass growing rapidly. Look at next step in the spring. Community Centre had their first meeting 11th October on how we want to formulate committees. Philip Aspland chair of fundraising committee. Meeting tomorrow night. A questionnaire has been composed for the Informer and a piece explaining what we are doing. The Clerk has obtained three quotes and others are being sought. A meeting for all clubs in the village is being held on 22nd November.
- **Play area equipment** It was agreed that the money in the play area fund be used to carry out the essential repairs to the play area. If possible a cheaper flooring will be found for the play area.

REPORT ON PARISH FORUM

- The Parish Forum dealt with several items that will raise their heads in the future, the main thing

being that Quality Status Council has come to the fore, because of the change in the Government's perspective, giving parish councils a bit more responsibility. Come any election, a minimum of 80% of the councillors must be elected. Further details in line with new legislation will be issued in the next few weeks. Two councils hold quality status – Sutton and Haddenham.

- **Schemes within villages to provide affordable housing** 1800 people are on the waiting list in the Hereward area. Conditions for eligibility are quite complicated. Laura Rezell (Rural Enabler) or Jane Hollingsworth (ECDC) will come out and talk to the council about this.
- **Neighbourhood Police Panels** We are in the pilot area for this scheme. However, it was noted that what happens in one area may not be suitable for another area.

PARISH PLAN

- There is a grant of £5,000 available to enable villages to carry out the work involved in drawing up a Parish Plan. If the parish council wish to apply for quality status we must have a plan in place. It will be an asset in light of future planning and LDF. The Parish Plan is a village project so it will be advertised in the Informer for any parishioners interested in being involved in the project.

TO APPOINT SCHOOL GOVERNOR TO ISLEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Cllr Mrs Gannon had been appointed as School Governor but is unable to continue with this commitment. It was agreed that Cllr Cave be nominated as a School Governor.
- **Isleham Under 5's Association** The playgroup are looking for funding in order to build a new playschool. The current building is in a state of disrepair and needs to be replaced within the next year. Any monies allocated to this project would have to be decided by the finance committee. The clerk will write to the playgroup asking if they wish to join the new community centre project.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

- **The drains at the Priory Garage** New drain put in and still in the process of clearing silt. Met with Bidwells, Middle Fen Drainage and David Groom looking to see how to go about putting in a pipe across the priory field: if it crosses English Heritage land, it would need special permission.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

- Isleham minor highways should be approved.
- School meeting – planning application for shelter looks satisfactory – much better than the previous one.
- CC overspent on quite a lot of budgets so they have cut money out of the highways budget.
- Capping council tax 5% so doesn't look too good for budgets next year.

TO DISCUSS BUDGET FINANCE MEETING

- **Tractor mower** £10,000 in budget to replace tractor and mower – may be able to apply for grants. Should start this process now. It was agreed that that a new tractor mower be purchased.
- **New Recreation Ground** Finances used from parish council funds will be about £3,000.
- **Play area equipment** £5,000 in budget any grant will need to be match funded £10,000 possibly set aside by ECDC.
- **To purchase a safe** £695 + £75 delivery (already approved).
- **Precept** Taking into account all considerations it was decided to reduce the precept from £36,500 to £31,000.
- **Application for Dunstall Apprentice Grant** Carla Ogilvie. The clerk will write and ask Miss Howes to resubmit the application with a letter from the applicant herself and a letter from the college.
- **James Norman** It was agreed that the apprentice grant be paid to James Norman.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- Proposed detached chalet bungalow and detached garage at 50 West Street, Isleham for Essencehomes Ltd – object on the grounds of poor visibility and narrow access.

PLANNING APPROVALS

- Insertion of windows at first floor (office) at 25 Hall Barn Road, Isleham for Benchmark Contracts Ltd.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY DECEMBER 4TH

PRESENT Seven parishoners

Apologies for absence from Cllrs. Neal, Puckey, Mrs Gannon, Borok, C Cllr Mrs Broadway, C Cllr Powley.

POLICE MATTERS

- The first meeting of the Neighbourhood Panel was held on the 15th November. Approximately 30 members of public attended and there were a number of police representatives. Isleham issues raised included anti-social behaviour, drug paraphernalia on the Priory green and speeding through the village.
- A presentation was given about extended schools by Lorraine Lofting from CCC about work outside of school hours, with young people. She will attend the next meeting to discuss comments. Needs public participation.

HIGHWAY/FOOTPATH MATTERS

- It was agreed that a notice be placed at the entrance to the Dunstall Allotment making it clear no dogs are allowed.

WASH MATTERS

- It was agreed that the council refuse the request for mooring from GOBA. ➡➡

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CORRESPONDENCE

- It was agreed that the finance committee meet to discuss adjusting the precept to take into consideration an amount for the Pre-School on Monday 18th December and bring a proposal to back to the January meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- **No 2 Church Street** A repair order has been issued to the owner instructing him to make the building habitable by June 2007 or a compulsory purchase order will be placed on it. ECDC will purchase it, repair it and sell it.
- At a seminar on affordable housing it was noted that there is a large need for houses to be built in the district that can be bought or rented at a reasonable cost. Any youngsters in the village who would like to rent or buy their own home need to put their names on the Hereward Housing waiting list.
- **Community Land Trust Scheme** Should there be any Council land available, the money could be found to build houses; having paid the builder the houses would be sold at cost. If the purchaser then wanted to re-sell the house has to be sold back to the trust, with any profit going to the purchaser. (There are about 53 of these houses in Ely at the moment.)
- **Transport Access Group** Isleham and Fordham have been identified as areas with very little public transport. There is a desire to see this improve possibly using services like dial-a-ride, and encouraging car sharing.

PLANNING MATTERS – APPLICATIONS

- Log cabin for recreational games room at The Crown, 10 Mill Street, Isleham for Mr P Davis & Mrs E Palmius – no objection.
- Construction of detached garage at 11 West Street, Isleham for Mr M Capp – query the height of the building and the visual effect. Planning permission previously refused because it was an open site.
- Construction of detached two bedroom bungalow, replacement dwelling at Trelander, 18 Prickwillow Road, Isleham for Mr & Mrs Mitchell – no objection.
- 3 Croft Road: construction of 3 bedroom dwelling - objection on the same grounds as last time, previous plans refused because of over-development of site.

SECTION 106 MEETING MONDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

- Section 106 monies are available on developments of nine houses or more at the moment, however there is a good possibility that it will be changed to apply to each individual new home. The parish council must apply for money at the same time as the planning application is made and also specify where the money will be used.

PARISH COUNCIL FEES

- It was agreed that the petrol pump site rent be increased by £5.
- It was agreed that the angling fees, allotment rents and lugger bank rent remain the same for the next year.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY JANUARY 8TH 2007

PRESENT Cllrs Carter, Neal, Beckett, Puckey, Mrs Gannon, Borok, Cave, Garbett, Mrs Malkin, Bishop.

Apologies for absence from Cllr Chaplin, County Cllr Powley.

POLICE REPORT

- December report not received.
- The councillors are concerned that there has been no visit from the police at a PC meeting, also there is nothing in the November report from south area police. This is not acceptable and needs to be queried with the police. (There is opportunity to do this at the next neighbourhood police panel on 17th January.)
- **Neighbourhood Panel Newsletter** The neighbourhood panel is part of the answer, the police want parishioners to come along and share their concerns. Several issues were raised at the last meeting and the police are looking to address some of these before the next meeting.

REPORT FROM VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

- Signs have arrived and have been put up. Difficulty finding yellow warning tape. Unable to get a metal cabinet so a polycarbonate one has been ordered (Northern Tool).

REPORT FROM RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE:

- Committee still to meet. Mowers need to be serviced (Palmers). Looking at what the contributions should be by all the clubs. There has been a slight miscalculation in the spec from Turftracks so a little more land had to be built up and levelled around the edge of the new recreation ground. The fence and hedging is being put up at the moment.
- **New Community Centre** Quotations have been received from five architects and the committee are planning to interview them all if possible and then bring a recommendation to the Parish Council.
- Next meeting on 17th January: Neil Davis from Histon is coming to this meeting to offer advice.
- It was suggested that the recreation ground committee meet with Mr Sheldrick to discuss possible options with regard to the mowers (repair or replace).

CORRESPONDENCE

- **Citizens Advice Bureau** It was agreed that £100 be given subject to confirmation from the budget. Find out how many people from our parish use it.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

- **Budgets** There will almost certainly be a council tax rise of 5% and there is a need to reshuffle the budget to save 1 or 2 million pounds.
- **First neighbourhood panel** went well and the next meeting is on 17th January.
- **Widening East Fen Road** no response at the moment.

* **Ditch in the Priory Field** still trying to sort this out, there has been some improvement in the situation but more needs to be done to ensure no recurrence of previous problems.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

- **Hedging on Fordham Road** will be part of Hereward's re-planting program in February.
- **Jeremy Smith** from transport and access working party will be at the next neighbourhood panel. They are looking at public transport in Isleham and Fordham. Parishioners and councillors can put across their view of public transport in Isleham. They will also see if there is any scope to join with Forest Heath. Out for consultation in March/April.
- **Pressure washer** It was agreed that a pressure washer is loaned to the PC and Mr Cox be asked to pressure clean the playground.
- **Precept** It was agreed that the precept for 2006/07 be set at £36,000, enabling the parish council to make a donation of £5,000 to the Under 5's Association towards the cost of a new building. The money will be given at the commencement of building works.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- Loft conversion at 45 West Street, Isleham for Master George Boughton-Fox – no objection.
- Proposed covered shelter at Isleham Primary School: no objection.

PLANNING REFUSALS

- Construction of three-bedroom detached dwelling at 3 Croft Road, Isleham for Mr A Coleman. ■

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: 07931 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

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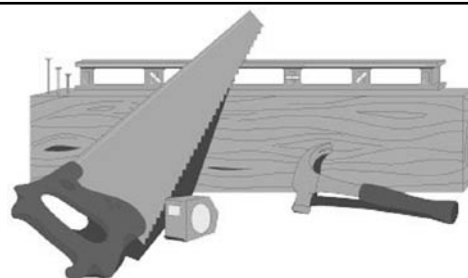
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Isleham PTA Winter 2006/7 Report

On behalf of the PTA at Isleham School, may I wish everyone a Happy New Year, and thank you all for the various ways in which you support our school.

Last term, many of you helped by collecting Tesco vouchers for us. In total the school has managed to collect 19,611, which is an amazing amount, and certainly kept us busy counting! We were able to buy lots of new equipment for use in PE. Just some of the items ordered are: two free-standing tennis nets, six folding hurdles, two CD players, two hoop racks, 20 floats and lots of balls. The children will have such fun using all the new equipment, so thank you very much to all who collected for us.

PANTOMIME

The big fund raising event for the PTA in the Spring term is always our end of term pantomime, and this year's looks like being better than ever. Tickets for ALADDIN will go on sale to the public at 3.30pm on 18th March, in the school library. Prices are £6 for adults, and £3 for children/OAPs. All children who attend Isleham School (and younger) must be accompanied by an adult. There are many ways in which you can get involved: somebody is needed to record one performance for us, or if you feel you could help with make-up, or

behind the scenes in anyway we would love to see you. We also need help on Sunday afternoons making and painting scenery. Please speak to either the School (01638 780336) or a PTA member who will be able to give you the relevant information.

We will be holding another cake stall on 29th March (when second-hand uniforms will also be available). Letters will come home with the children nearer the time.

We will let you know of other events coming up this year in future editions of the *Informer*. In the meantime, if you would like to contact the PTA please visit our web page on the school's new web site at www.isleham.cambs.sch.uk or telephone me on 01638 781390.

Julie Porter, Secretary

Isleham PTA presents

Aladdin

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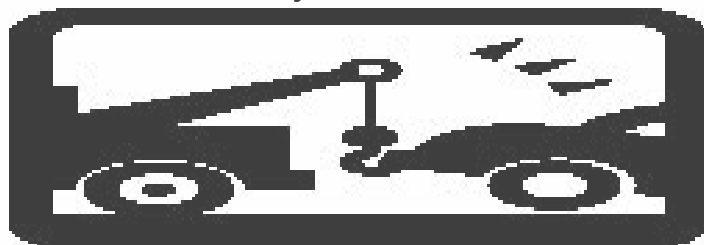
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Twinning Association

Continuing our successful fund raising of 2006, the Twinning Association is holding a Bingo evening on Monday 12th March in the Village Hall, and we look forward to seeing many of you there. Keep your eyes open for further details of this and other proposed events throughout the year.

Our next visit to Nesles will take place in June 2007, and we would welcome you to join us. We can assure everyone that these visits, besides being great fun, give an insight into all things French. We are always warmly welcomed and well entertained, and the ability to speak French is not essential! The Association aims to take a coach this year (numbers permitting) and would be especially pleased if some of the children and their parents who celebrated our tenth Anniversary with us could be included. Further details are available from any Committee member.

For those with access to the Internet, do look at the new Nesles web site: a link is available via www.isleham-village.co.uk. You may recognise some faces on the photograph gallery!

Ann Cant, Secretary: Tel: 01638 780703

JOYCE'S CORNER: All About Me

(For those who don't know)

I've worked as a home help to quite a few,
But retired when I was seventy two.
I used to arrange church flowers with a friend,
But sadly that also came to an end.

My husband was ill, and so was my friend.
Then Mother's Union came to an end.
Ending our meetings was very sad
But we remember all the good times we had.

I never liked school, that is the truth.
Two years in the army I served in my youth.
I've worked in a factory, a shop, on the land.
When my husband is gardening I still lend a hand,

I love doughnuts and chocolates and nice apple pies.
I don't put on weight – 14 is my size.
I like doing crosswords and riding my bike,
And in the nice weather, a lovely long hike.

I've made many friends in the club where I go.
I really love cooking, but never could sew.
I wish I could play carpet bowls a bit more,
But get cramp in my legs, which I try to ignore.

I love country music and a good cricket match,
And growing nice flowers in my own little patch.
I could live without telly, but love reading about when
The wonderful folks who survived in the Fen.

I dislike playing bingo, no ifs or buts.
Some people might think I'm a misery guts.
I love talking with friends with a nice cup of tea...
That's all I can think of to say about me.

Joyce Drayton

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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.

During the spring and summer we will be organising jobs for the elderly in the village community. Watch this space for further details...

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. ■

St Andrew's Parish Church

Priest: Rev'd Mike Banyard, who lives in Chippenham, is available to all in the village as a listening ear and for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Tel: 01638 721616. For more information on St Andrew's Church go to www.islehamchurch.org.uk

Weekly Activities

Sundays 10am Junior Church in Social Centre (in church 3rd Sunday).

The Junior Church needs teachers/helpers, please contact us if you can offer your services.

Tuesdays 9am to 12 noon: Coffee Morning in Social Centre (except March 29). Everyone welcome!

A short (15 to 30 minutes) Evening Prayer service will be held every Tuesday at 4.30pm in the Limestone Close community room.

Wednesdays 7.30pm Bible reading and discussion group at the home of Georgina and Bob Freestone, 103 Lakeside, The Marina.

Fridays

7pm Bell ringing practice - beginners welcomed!

Future events and activities

February 21 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Group Service at Chippenham.

March 2 2pm Woman's World Day of Prayer – Pound Lane.

March 12 7.30pm PCC meeting in the Social Centre.

March 21 12 noon Lent Lunch in the Social Centre £2.00

April 5 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Group Service Isleham.

April 14 6pm Beetle drive and Ploughman's Supper in Church.

April 16 7.30pm Annual Church Meeting.

April 21 10.30am Singing practice at Fordham Church.

April 29 Group service at Fordham.

May 11 10-12 noon Coffee Morning at 14 St Andrew's Close.

June 13 10-12 noon Coffee Morning at 5 Church Lane.

You must be on the Church Electoral Roll to vote for, or to be a member of the PCC. A new Roll is required this year; if you wish to join or remain on the Roll you must complete a registration form. Forms are available at the back of the Church. Please hand completed forms to Nick Carver or Robert Savage.

Church wardens

Robert Savage tel: 01638 780218 or email:

robsav@oneservice.co.uk

Nick Carver email: nick@carverfamily.org.uk ■

Pound Lane Free Church

Contacts: Dave Hall (Elder) 780636 or email pastor@plfc.org.uk; David Brown (Elder) 780410; Sue Hall (Secretary); Hazel Fleet (Sunday School) 780677; John & Abby Martin (All Stars) 780662; Steve & Helen Neale (Covies) 780717. For more information on Pound Lane Free Church go to www.plfc.org.uk

Sundays

10 - 11.15am Sunday School (School yrs 3-4)

10 - 11.15am All Stars (School yrs 5-6)

9.45 - 10.45am Covenanters (School yr 7 to age 19 yrs)

11am - noon Morning Worship (Creche available)

Communion 1st Sunday of month Refreshments

Communion 3rd Sunday of month: Evening Service 6.10pm - 7.30pm

Mondays

7 - 8pm All Stars Club Night. Fun, games, drama & outings
age 8 & School years 5 & 6

Tuesdays

7.30 - 8.00pm Fellowship (primarily for older folk)

Wednesdays

7.30 - 9pm Covenanters Club Night (School year 7- age 19)
Varied activities. Annual camp!

Alternate Thursdays

7.30 - 9pm Christianity explained

Alternate Fridays

2.15 - 3.45 pm Womens' Meeting held in Members' homes

Kingdom Kids: This is the group for three year olds up to school year 3. Starting at 10am the 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 - 10.30am where 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 11am. 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 Ten Pin Bowling, Chip Tasting, etc. ■



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16th century graves found

When it was time to repair the timber platform on which sit the pews at the back of St Andrew's church, the contractor was surprised to uncover a collection of gravestones dating back as far as the 16th century. As is the way when such things happen, the find had to be investigated by an archaeologist to check to see if it would need a full investigation.

The county archaeologist, Quinton Carroll, came to visit in early December and enthralled the older children at Isleham Primary School with an explanation of the finds. Among the many gravestones uncovered were some that marked the graves of people buried inside the church 300 or 400 years ago and other stones which were originally located in the churchyard but moved within the last 150 years to fill in gaps. Some of the graves mark the last resting place of members of the Casburn family, who ran the farms on the estates owned by the Peyton family in the 16th and 17th centuries, as well as one of the sons of Roger Peachey, vicar of Isleham in the late 17th century.

The graves are currently uncovered and available for inspection by members of the public for the foreseeable future. Please feel free to go and take a look. ■



St Andrew's Church in the snow, 15 February 2007

Picture courtesy Andrew Stephens

Bell Ringing

Bell ringing is one of the most quintessentially English traditions. It provides light exercise, good company and the satisfaction that good ringing can be heard and appreciated over a wide area. Ruth Ogden, the newly appointed Tower Captain, has taken over the leadership of the team of ringers at St Andrew's church and is keen to hear from anyone who might be interested in learning to ring. Ruth has been ringing for many years and is a vastly experienced teacher. If you would like to try out ringing to see if it interests you, then why not go for an individual lesson? You can then progress to ringing as part of the team. ■

A letter re: The Church porch

Sir – I know that there are few spots in the village where those without transport and who are too young to go to the pub can meet of an evening, especially in the dark and cold winter nights. Over the years, the 'key holders' who open and close the porch and church of Saint Andrew's have tried leaving the porch open to be used as a meeting place, especially when the winter weather is particularly foul. It is, admittedly, not an ideal place but it is at least a covered spot where folk can meet and talk – and have a chat, a drink or a takeaway: *on one condition* – that they leave the place as tidy as it was when they arrived. There is a conveniently placed dustbin just outside but rubbish still gets left in the porch. The congregation of Saint Andrew's welcome the idea of people using the porch as a rendezvous point (we would welcome some of those visitors on a Sunday, too!) but, please, if you are one of those who use the porch in an evening, leave the place as you find it: tidy and clean. Thank you.

Sincerely, Ian Powys

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Meet the new vicar for the Three Rivers Group

St Andrew's Parish Church is part of the Three Rivers Group of parishes, which includes Chippenham, Fordham, Kennett and Snailwell as well as Isleham. Two full time priests provide the lead in Ministry in these churches. Everybody is involved in ministry!

The Reverend Mike Banyard is the new Rector Designate of these parishes. He lives in Chippenham Vicarage and is available to all. His phone number is 01638 721616, and his email is banyardmg1@yahoo.co.uk.

He was appointed by the Bishop of Ely in December 2006 for this new role, and will be joined by a further priest, who will live in Fordham Vicarage, as soon as the process of application and interview is completed. Watch this space for the name of the new priest.

Mike writes, "It is a great joy to be continuing to

live and work in these villages. I know the area well, having arrived to teach in Ely in 1969, staying there until December 1984 when I travelled to Cyprus, Hong Kong and Germany to teach in secondary schools. Early retirement in 1997 led to a return to Hong Kong where I worked as Lay Pastoral Assistant at the Anglican Episcopal Cathedral in that great city. After my return to the UK in 2001 (landing at Heathrow on 9/11) and following training for the ministry at Westcott House in Cambridge, my wife and I moved to Chippenham in June 2003 after my ordination in the Cathedral. I have been the Curate in these parishes since then. I was ordained as a priest in June 2004, and am delighted to be asked to serve God and His church here.

"Everybody is especially welcome at St Andrew's! This ancient parish church is there for all, for prayer, and worship, for reflection on what it means to be human, and to experience God here at work among us. Do stop me when I am in Isleham (or anywhere else for that matter) and have a chat!" ■



Reverend Mike Banyard



The Festival of Light

It has now happened for long enough to become a tradition: St Andrew's annual Festival of Light was once again a very popular start to the Christmas celebrations. With a record number of trees on display from local groups, companies and other organisations, the weekend started with the ever-popular carol concert organised by the Twinning Committee at which the audience were treated to a selection of musical pieces from the incredibly talented children of Isleham Primary School.

Over the weekend, hundreds of people paid a visit to see the display. As the photograph of the altar arrangement shows, it was at its best after dark when, armed with a mince pie and a warming cup of mulled wine, hoards of visitors enjoyed the exhibits.

This year marks the 10th Festival of Light, and the congregation of St Andrew's will be trying to make this the best event yet. We are grateful for the tireless and enthusiastic leadership of Janice Pope for once again making the festival such a success. She and her team of helpers will be hoping to see you all once again at the start of the season of Advent. ■

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The Phoenix Players

A Christmas Carol

The latest offering by the Phoenix Players was a very welcome start to the Christmas Season. It was a joint effort by the Adult and Junior sections, and what a pleasure it was to see so many from the village taking part in this production – and so many in the audience. All performances were played to a full house.

It would be unfair to mention individuals, as the whole performance was a triumph for this recently formed group, but special mention could be made of the lighting effects which added so much to the atmosphere of the play.

Thanks are given to all those who helped in any way, especially Isleham School for use of equipment and selling tickets, to the Comrades Club, the paper shop, Priory Garage and the Village Hall Committee.

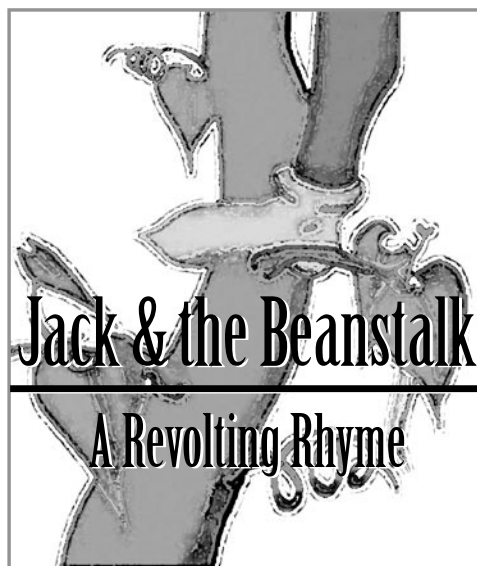
The next performance will be by the Junior Section, in the Spring, It will be the Roald Dahl version of 'Jack in the Beanstalk' done with a combination of acting and puppets, with the Adults in action again in early Summer. Something to look forward to! ■

Musical theatre for children comes to Isleham

The Phoenix Juniors will soon be presenting Jack and the Beanstalk – a musical version of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhyme. This giant of a musical sees Jack climbing the beanstalk to meet the ogre and escape from his mother, who is the real baddy of the story.

With catchy songs, energetic dances and a script completely in rhyme, the Phoenix Juniors plan to royally entertain the children of Isleham. The story is set on Jack's farm and comes alive with a mixture of fast-paced action, dance and puppetry – there is even a larger-than-life giant!

Tickets for the show, which is suitable for children aged between four and 11, cost £3 each. At the time of going to press the dates and venue for performances were still to be confirmed, however performances are expected to be on April 28th and 29th at Isleham Primary School. ■



Isleham Gala Day

25TH ANNIVERSARY • SATURDAY 7 JULY 2007

'In the village, for the village, children first'

The Gala Committee would like to thank the Isleham WI for running the Refreshments at the Gala for many years. They have now decided to have a well-earned rest. We would also like to wish the next group who will be supplying the Refreshments in the Village Hall on Gala Day the best of luck.

The Gala Queen, Prince and Princess Competition and Disco

The Gala Queen, Prince and Princess Competition and Disco will be held at the Village Hall on Friday 11 May 2007. Entry forms will be distributed through the School and will also be available from the Post Office and from Roseanna Thompson, 1 Fen Bank, Isleham, Tel: 01638 780994. Children between the ages of 5 and 14 years can enter.

Judges will choose 3 children from each category before the Disco. The 9 chosen children will be asked to have a brief chat with the Judges on the evening and then the Gala Queen, Prince and Princess will be announced. The 6 runners up will each receive a prize.

As last year there will be a disco. All Children must be accompanied by an adult. Adults can bring their own refreshments and we will supply refreshments for the children. We hope you all enjoy the evening.

The Gala Scarecrow Competition

Get your thinking caps on for our new competition. Your scarecrow can be made the traditional way with old clothes and straw, with fruit and vegetables, or with any other materials. Bring your scarecrow along before noon on Gala Day with all your other competition entries. Prizes will be given for the Best Scarecrow in each group. Look out for more details from posters around the village and in the Gala Programme, which we hope will be distributed with the next issue of the Isleham Informer.



Sponsorship

If you would like to advertise in the Gala Programme, have an advertising board in the centre of the Arena on Gala Day or if you would like to make a donation towards the costs of running the day, please contact Elaine Bailey on 01353 723726.

Is there something you would like to see or do on Gala Day? If there is, please contact Roseanna Thompson on 01638 780994 or come along to the next Gala Committee meeting, Monday 19 March, 8 pm at the Comrades Club. ■

25 years of Isleham Gala

This year we are celebrating 25 years of modern Gala in Isleham. If you have any photos of past galas we would very much like to include them in a special display, along with your memories of the day.

We would also like to welcome Gala Queens from over the years. If you know anyone who was a Queen, but has now left the village do please let them know about this.

Contact Fred Preece, 94 The Causeway. Tel: 01638 780734 or email: gjpreece@aol.com ■

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Isleham Women's Institute

Winter 2006/7 report



It has been a busy start to the New Year for the WI, after a very happy end to 2006. Our Christmas festivities took the form of a Christmas Karaoke, which was enjoyed by all, though it must be said that our ladies were in better voice than the gentlemen running the evening!

January saw us being educated about the poisons that enter our bodies through food, cleaning products, make up and bath accessories. Mr David Morley, accompanied by Lorraine Smith and Mary Rix, explained to us about the work of 'Nu-Ways' and the alternatives which can be obtained from them. Samples of these were available for us to look at.

Our February meeting was the AGM, when new officers and committee members are elected. Despite horrible weather, the

meeting was well attended, and our committee is now as follows:

President Jill Aspland
Vice President Janice Pope
Correspondence Secretary Eve Graham
Minutes Secretary .. Pauline Wilkes
Treasurer Glenda Preece
Committee members Hazel Thompson, Mary Wightman, Jenny Flatt, Lesley Cockerton, Carolyn Bird, Peggy Ferris

The Rose Bowl awarded to the overall competition winner was won by Carolyn Bird. It was presented to her by Janice Pope, who has held the bowl for the last three years.

Joyce Drayton and Jean Bird resigned from the Committee after serving for more than 35 years. They were thanked for all their work over the years, and were presented with flowers.

Our next meeting is in the Village Hall on Thursday 8th March, 7.30 for 7.45 pm. The Edinburgh Wool Shop is going to give a Fashion Show, using the Spring Collection from their shop. New members are very welcome.

For further details on any W.I. matters please contact Glenda Preece on 01638 780734. ■

More good news for Rising Sun

Following on from the announcement in December's *Informer* that The Rising Sun was named North Anglia's Community Pub of the Year – not to mention the future addition to the bar staff (see page 3) – the Isleham pub was ranked third in the National Final. This is an excellent result as the competition included pubs that are sole retailers in their communities. Our further congratulations go to Patrick, Clare and their team. ■

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