

Isleham Informer

Issue 27 • June 2008

ed@islehaminformer.org.uk • 01638 780839 • www.islehaminformer.org.uk

Chaini Tsunami Appeal report

Robert Myson visited Sri Lanka in 2007 to assist in the rebuilding efforts after the tsunami of Boxing Day 2004. He returned recently to continue work and sent us this report.

In the October 2007 issue of the *Informer* I made a request on behalf of the Chaini Tsunami Appeal. My aim was to raise £1700 to take to the Galle area of southern Sri Lanka, where I planned to complete the building of a house for a family made homeless by the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004. At that time I needed £800 to reach my target and I am very pleased and grateful to say this total was achieved thanks to the generosity of so many kind donors.

Amongst the donations was one of £100, delivered anonymously: I would like to thank that person most sincerely.

I returned to this exotic tropical island known as the 'teardrop of India', an island of sandy, palm-lined beaches and abundant jungle flora and fauna, a land of azure blue seas, balmy, star-strewn nights and golden sunshine... and it rained nearly every day!

Before leaving England I had asked Chaini, my contact in Galle, to find a suitable family to be re-housed. On my arrival she produced a set of plans and three quotations from local builders to finish the partly-built house of Prasad, his wife Manoja and their three month-old daughter, Diwya.



Ranjani's new home built with the help of your donations and Robert's hard work

In May Prasad's parents had acquired permanent housing and they had all moved in together. Manoja was then seven months pregnant. They had spent the previous two and a half years in either a tent or a wooden hut after their house and all they possessed had been swept away by the tsunami. All they saved was their own lives and the clothes they stood in.

Prasad lost his livelihood as a fisherman, but eventually found work as a labourer in the local cement works, for £16 a week. Like other refugees he had received a payment from the Sri Lankan government to help him build a new home, but it was not enough to buy a building plot (needed since the government had requisitioned his original home and land to extend the local military installation) and construct a home.

Until he found work Prasad and his wife had to use some of the money to buy the everyday supplies such as food and water. He had run out of funds with the foundations, floors and walls only partly constructed.

The builders started work on the day I returned to England. Your donations will pay for the house to be completed and for mains electricity and water to be connected.

Over the last two and a half years we have been able to send around £16,000 directly to some of the tsunami refugees. We have financed the building of Prasad's and one other house, and bought and equipped a fishing boat. We initially bought medicines and food, cooking pots and utensils and children's clothing, bicycles, wheelchairs, building materials and furniture. We

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Advertising

Contact *Kelvin Morgan* on 01638 781384 or at km305@tiscali.co.uk for details of the ludicrously reasonable rates for advertising in the *Informer*.

Next issue

The next issue will be published 1st August 2008. The copy deadline for all editorial and advertising is 9th July 2008.

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Disclaimer

The *Informer* would like to point out that we have neither tried nor tested all of the products and services advertised in these pages and therefore cannot accept responsibility for the veracity of any claims made.

From the Editor

John Bone of the Newmarket Journal wrote a few weeks ago: 'By sheer chance, I gained an unexpected glimpse of the incredibly active life of Isleham one evening last week. Several football teams, including the girls', were out training, while various societies were meeting in the village hall and everyone was ready to tell me just how active Isleham is.

'Why is it that social life thrives in some villages but falters in others? Is it down to individuals, geography, history, money? Would Isleham care to share its secret?'

So, would any Isleham care to enlighten Mr Bone on what is so great about Isleham?

Please let me apologise for the late appearance of the *Informer* on your doormat. I would like to say that the delay was to allow us to include the result of the Gala Queen competition, but that would not be entirely true. It would be more accurate to say that the editor just fancied a few days in Spain. Anyway enjoy this issue and we hope to see everyone at the Gala. ■

Contacts

Editor *Ed Mayall* T: 01638 780839
E: ed@islehaminformer.org.uk

Sub-editor *Alison Marsh* E: alisonmarsh@tiscali.co.uk

Features *Glenda Preece* T: 01638 780734
E: gjprece@aol.com

Advertising *Kelvin Morgan* T: 01638 781384
E: km305@tiscali.co.uk

Design *Zoe French* T: 01638 780007 E: zoe@zfdesign.co.uk

Distribution *Richard Turner* T: 01638 780965

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VILLAGE NOTES



Priory Garage

Sponsored cycle race

Saturday 7th June 2008 at 10.30 am. Meeting at the Priory. Everyone welcome. All proceeds to Isleham Community Association. For details please contact: Diane Bayliss on 01638 781687 or Donna Madgwick on 01638 781186.

Treasurer retires

The Village Hall Committee would like to express its sincere thanks to Mr David Aves who retired as treasurer recently, after holding the post since 1998. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of the village, and has been involved with the Committee for many years.

Job vacancy

Isleham Parish Council invite applications for the position of Caretaker/Bookings Clerk for the Village Hall. The hall is used regularly and this post would suit an active person able to work flexible hours throughout the week as necessary. The salary will be £75 per week. For further information please contact: Mrs Jeanette Malkin on 01638 780283, or Mrs Diane Bayliss on 01638 781687. Closing date for applications is 14th June 2008.

Mobile library changes

The new times for the mobile library are: Church Street 10.25 to 12.05; Beck Road 12.10 to 13.05; Mill Street 14.15 to 16.00. The times have been changed to allow Isleham Primary school children more time to choose books. The next visits will be on 12th and 26th June, and 10th and 24th July. For further information phone 08450 455225.

Isleham panto

A huge thank you to all those who supported the 25th Anniversary Pantomime this year. Everyone agreed it was one of the best ever performances. The Panto has become a village institution which not only raises money for the PTA but also provides great entertainment within the community. The PTA wish to thank Doreen Speirs, Richard Drayton and all the members of the cast and crew who dedicated so much of their time. Also, a very special thank you to everyone who came and supported this event. More than £2700 was raised which will enable the school to buy educational items and pay for school outings and activities not normally covered by the school budget.

Freckenham Flower Festival

St Andrew's Church Freckenham is holding its Flower Festival on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th July, 1-5 pm. The theme is Traditional Tales.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH

Jacklin/Curry To Tony and Jackie, a son, Theo James Jacklin; born 1st April 2008 at the Rosie Maternity Hospital, Cambridge, weighing 8lb 12oz.

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

www.manchetts.co.uk



Isleham Gala Day

Saturday 5th July, 2008

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

2008 Gala Queen, Prince and Princess competition results

The 2008 Gala Queen competition was held on Friday 23rd May at the Village Hall. More than 70 parents and children attended and thoroughly enjoyed the contest and disco afterwards.

Congratulations to Libby Milne, aged 12 who was crowned Gala Queen 2008; Chloe Gimblett, aged 11, Gala Princess; and Oliver Hoskins, aged 5, Prince. They will lead the procession of floats through the village to the recreation ground on Gala Day.

Thanks go to our judges Pauline Cooke and Ian Shooter of the Garden Design Centre at Scotsdales of Great Shelford, and to Graeme and Angela Wells who very kindly gave the prize money for the winners.

A presentation will be made to the three winners on Gala Day at 2 pm by judges Ian Shooter and Pauline Cooke.



Gala Queen Libby Milne, centre; Gala Princess Chloe Gimblett, right; and Gala Prince Oliver Hoskins, left.

Competitions and attractions

The competitions are for entry on the day between 11 am and 12 noon. Entries will be displayed in the Fruit & Vegetable Tent. Rosettes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places plus a Best in Section prize and an Overall Section Winner (points tally) prize. Entry 50p per item or three for £1.

SCARECROW COMPETITION

Made from any material. No bigger than 1 metre high. £25 to winner of each category.

1. 5-7 years of age on 31/8/08
2. 8-11 years of age on 31/8/08
3. 12 years of age and over on 31/8/08

ART COMPETITION

To be displayed in the Village Hall. Entry forms available from the Pre-School, the Post Office and the Paper Shop. Closing Date: Friday 27 June 2008. Entries to the Pre-School before 3.30pm on the day. Eligibility: Under 5 years of age on 31/8/08.

HOME BAKING

To be judged by Mhairi Smeeton from Isleham Fresh Produce.

1. Six wholemeal bread rolls
2. 1lb loaf of white bread (breadmakers permitted)
3. Six fairy cakes
4. Rhubarb crumble
5. Carrot cake to the following recipe:
Mix together 300g plain flour, 450g sugar, 1 tsp baking powder, 1 tsp baking soda, 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp cinnamon. Add: 300g of grated locally grown carrots, 8oz oil and 4 eggs from an Isleham supplier. Beat medium speed for 2 minutes, add chopped walnuts (optional), grease and flour 13x9" cake tin, pour mix into tin and cook for approx 30 minutes at 190 degrees C. Cream Cheese Icing: Beat 100g cream cheese, 75g butter, 1 tsp vanilla. Gradually add 200g icing sugar beating till smooth.

CHILDREN'S HOME BAKING

Under 12 years of age on 31/8/08

1. 6 chocolate chip biscuits
2. Cup cakes
3. Mr & Mrs Potato Head
4. A country garden on a plate
5. A flower arrangement in a decorated jam jar.

FLOWER ARRANGING COMPETITION

Rules: A: Staging 2'6". B: Accessories may be used. C: Fresh Flowers and Foliage must predominate. D: No silk, artificial or dried flowers. E: Drapes, stands etc to be provided by exhibitor.

1. An arrangement entitled 'The Olympics'
2. A vase of flowers from your garden
3. Vase of mixed herbs
4. 6 stems of sweet peas

5. Single rose stem
6. 3 pansies.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE COMPETITION

1. 4 potatoes
2. 4 broad beans
3. 4 courgettes
4. 4 carrots
5. A basket of produce from my garden or allotment
6. 4 sticks of rhubarb
7. A bowl of mixed soft fruit

Other competitions

- Children's Fancy Dress
- Baby Show up to 23 months – open to all
- Mini Mr and Miss Isleham – age 2 yrs to Pre-School: open to Isleham residents
- Boys' and Girls' U16 Running Race
- Boys' and Girls' U10 Running Race
- Boys' and Girls' U16 Cycling Race
- Children's Fun Races
- Wheelbarrow Races
- Egg Throwing
- Children's Fun Run approx 1.3 miles (open to all)

IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Children's Art Competition, Children's Writing Competition, Isleham Primary School Brass Band, and refreshments available throughout the afternoon courtesy of the High Street Church.

FUN DOG SHOW

Isleham Playing Field, judging starts at 2 pm. £1 per class – pay in ring. Organiser: Jackie Riley tel: 07939 003681 .

1. Best Puppy 12 months & under
2. Best Veteran 7yrs +
3. Best Crossbreed
4. Best Pedigree
5. Best Short Coat
6. Best Long/Rough Coat
7. Best Rescue/Re-Homed
8. Best Waggy Tail
9. Lovely Eyes
10. Mr & Miss Isleham
11. Junior Handling up to 16yrs
12. Adult Handling
13. Prettiest Bitch
14. Handsomest Dog
15. Best Local Dog (10 mile radius)
16. Dog 'Judge' would like to take home
17. Best in Show from all winners

Please note: ONLY dogs which are participating in the dog show will be allowed on the Recreation Ground between 1 pm and 6 pm on Gala Day providing they are kept on a lead and that the owner cleans up after them.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Grand Parade and floats, craft marquee, grand prize draw, children's fun fair, the Glen Moriston Pipe Band, barbecue, egg throwing, stalls, tug of war, inflatable assault course, bungee run, bouncy castle, reptile display, fire engine from Cambs Fire & Rescue, real ale bar by In & Out Inns.

There will also be a display of vintage bicycles from 'The Old Spokes Home' in Burwell and the Cunningham Collection from Freckenham. The collectors will be riding some of the bicycles dressed in period costume in the Parade. ■

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Community Centre update



Firstly can I say a big thank you to all those people who have contributed to our ICA Fund Raising cause to date. Up to 13th May we have raised close on £2000.

I am also very grateful to the current users of the Village Hall who are making sterling efforts (excuse the pun), for our cause. These include the W.I. who have donated the proceeds from their Spring Fair on 17th May, the Isleham School of Performing Arts who are putting on a Cabaret show on 9th, 11th and 12th July, and the Phoenix Players who are presenting an hilarious farce, 'Inspector Drake and the Perfekt Crime' on 17th, 19th and 20th July. All proceeds from these events are going to the ICA, so please come and support them.

Also many thanks to the Thompsons for their support with the ICA Duck Race, to be held in conjunction with their Open Farm Sunday on 1st June.

Other events include a Sponsored Cycle Ride on 7th June, more details from Diane Bayliss on 01638 781687.

The Committee also have VIP passes at £5 each, for an evening's Charity Greyhound Racing at Mildenhall Stadium, on Friday 6th June. Gates open at 6.30 pm, first race at 7.30 pm. These tickets are for adults, but any accompanying children under 14 are admitted free. A great night out!

Finally can I appeal to anyone who would like to join our Fund Raising Committee to contact me; we would welcome some extra help.

*Tim J Washtell. Tel: 01638 780378
Fund Raising Chairman*

- Tickets for the Mildenhall Charity Greyhound Racing on Friday 6th June are also available from Rosie Thompson, tel: 01638 780994; Caroline Hillary, tel: 01638 781070; Greg Cummins, tel: 01638 781145; Glenda Preece, tel: 01638 780734.

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Chaini Tsunami Appeal report

Continued from page 1

have also refurbished a school classroom devastated by the tsunami. The work goes on...

It has been a very humbling experience for me to meet and work with other volunteers and aid workers, but more poignantly to have seen the human spirit and dignity of those who have suffered so dreadfully but who were lucky enough to escape with their lives, unlike nearly 36,000 other Sri Lankans.

I visited old friends on my trip and was pleased to see that most of them are now back on their feet. I also saw Ranjani and her children whose education I have been sponsoring over the last couple of years. Ranjani's husband died two months after the tsunami, from the effects of ingesting fuel oil: because he survived for this amount of time his family only received a fraction of the compensation available to those who died immediately. Ranjani now works six days a week in a local clothing manufacturing plant (a 'sweat shop' to us). She also makes lace at home to supplement her meagre living to raise Keveni and Mahiri.

There is an orphanage and school for disabled children in Galle which I assisted on my last visit to Sri Lanka. Financial help from the government is minimal so they have to constantly seek private donations to pay for basics such as electricity and water. I fortunately could provide enough money from your donations to pay for the next six months' utility bills.

I continue to raise money for building projects in Sri Lanka for tsunami victims. If you would like to help in any way or donate please contact me on 07801 966979 or email rob.myson@btinternet.com

I feel that the trip was a success and I hope that you are pleased with the way in which I have used your donations. Again, I thank you for all your support, but more importantly I pass on thanks to you that so many of the refugees asked me to convey.

Robert Myson

Vintage tractor for sale

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New playground equipment

Isleham Parish Council are very pleased with the new teen play equipment, partly funded by the Big Lottery Awards for All Funding Scheme and match-funded by the Parish Council. It is hoped that Isleham's young people will greatly benefit from this equipment and that it will provide many years of enjoyment for forthcoming generations. ■



Football, cricket and basketball can all be played on the multi-use equipment. It is suitable for all ages, from toddlers to teenagers – (there were no teenagers around on this particular morning; as it was only 11.30 am they may still have been abed).

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From the new Headteacher at Isleham Primary school...

I would like to start my first contribution to the *Informer* by thanking everyone for the very warm welcome I have received since taking up my position as Headteacher at Isleham Primary School. I have very much enjoyed my first few weeks in the post and been particularly impressed with the enthusiasm and good manners of the pupils here.

I am really looking forward to getting to know them all by name and to working with parents, staff, governors and the wider community to provide the best possible education for the children here.

The children have been very busy already this term enjoying cross country running, a football tournament for our older girls, tag rugby before and after school and the chance to learn to 'Maypole Dance'! The children in our school Animation Club have been making a film for the Cambridgeshire Young People's Film Festival. All our classes will be enjoying educational visits over the coming weeks: Wimpole Hall, Duxford, Sutton Hoo and Wicken Fen are all on the list! (Visits this term have been kindly subsidised by the school Parent/Teacher Association.)

We are very fortunate in having been selected to participate in a new singing initiative to 'restore singing to the heart of the primary school curriculum'. Isleham, along with only nine other primary schools have been successful in their bid to take part. The project will involve singing tuition over the coming months for our pupils with a professional singing 'animateur' from Ely Cathedral and a visit to the school by Ely Cathedral Choristers.

I am pleased to announce that three out of the seven finalists at the recent Soham Village College Young Musician event were from Isleham Primary school. Well done to Jamie, Liam and Abigail who have our best wishes for the area final at West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge on 24th June.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank Isleham Co-Op who have kindly supported our 'After School Booster' classes for Year 6 children by providing fresh fruit, squash and biscuits before the sessions begin at 3.15 pm. These refreshments have been much appreciated at the end of a busy day!

Nicola Bramley, Headteacher, Isleham Primary School

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Parish Council News

The following are the abbreviated and incomplete versions of the IPC minutes for the March and April 2008 meetings. Any parishioner may request a copy of the full minutes from the IPC.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 3rd MARCH 2008

Present Cllrs Beckett, Neal, Carter, Garbett, Baines, Mrs Wilkes, Mrs R Thompson, Mrs H Thompson, Mrs Hobbs, Mrs Malkin, three parishioners.

There were no apologies for absence.

MATTERS ARISING

- The precept request was not raised from £37,500 to £39,500 as the Council did not meet the final deadline for changes to be made.
- The police have acquired two speed guns at a cost of £2500 each for the Speedwatch project.
- Vacancy for Parish Councillor: Notices of vacancy have been placed on the notice board and at the Post Office; parishioners have until Friday 14th March to request an election by writing to East Cambridgeshire District Council. If an election is not requested by at least 10 parishioners then co-option papers will be sent out and another notice will be put up inviting anyone who wishes to stand as a Councillor to contact the clerk within 14 days. If more than one person stands for election then the Councillors will vote at the next meeting.

POLICE MATTERS

- A crime report from PCSO Barbara Neill is attached to the minutes.

VILLAGE HALL REPORT

- The committee has just purchased a new ladder because the rubber feet on the old one were damaged.
- The outside light fitting has been vandalised and will be replaced by the end of this week; the new fitting should be vandal-proof.

RECREATION GROUND REPORT

- Jim Hill from Cambs FA has inspected the new recreation ground; it needed verti-draining as soon as possible as well as fertilising. The chairman has taken the opportunity to have the verti-draining done; the fertiliser has been delivered and will be put on as soon as possible.
- Tractor: A tractor has been identified at a cost of £7,500. It was agreed that the chairman and vice-chairman travel to Yorkshire to purchase the tractor.

ISLEHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

- It was agreed that the Parish Council agree to a 50 year lease to the ICA of the community building and car park from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2058.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council approve the model Trust Deed and Lease documents as discussed and amended at the last Parish Council meeting.
- It was agreed by the Councillors that the Parish Council continue to be responsible for the replacement and upkeep of the Play Area equipment.
- The ICA have taken into account the cost of surfacing the area.

ISLEHAM INFORMER

- Concerns were raised about deliveries of the *Informer*. It seems there are a few houses in the village that are being consistently missed. However it was pointed out that this job is carried out by volunteers and 95% of copies are delivered successfully; if the Councillors know anyone who would be willing to help deliver copies to please pass details on to the clerk.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- Council Tax increase of 5%.
- Repairs to street lighting still needs to be carried out at Little London, and numbers 4 and 6 Jubilee Close. The broken column still needs removing from East Fen Road.
- Yellow lines on Maltings Lane, The Causeway and Sun Street need to be extended, but there is no money in the current budget to finance this. C.C. Broadway will look into this.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- The Fenland Flier will be continuing for the next three years.
- The Social Car Scheme has been agreed and will begin shortly. A request has been made to the Parish Council for volunteer drivers, a Parish Council representative and a financial contribution. Cllr Mrs H Thompson will represent the Parish Council on the committee. It was agreed that the Parish Council donate £50 towards the cost of setting up the scheme.

TO APPROVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL

- It was agreed that the exclusive right of burial be approved for Mr Richard Brown.

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATH MATTERS

- Letter from Miss Marsh re Maltings Lane: A letter will be sent in reply to say that the Parish Council will consider the yellow lines amongst other projects for the jointly funded minor highways bid.
- The Parish Council will write to C.C. Highways to see if they can replace the white lines on the Waterside/Marina junction or contact the owner of the roadway.
- Trees on the top of Waterside (Sun Street): Cathy White to look at the trees at the top of the pit.
- Grass verge on Waterside Road – Highways to look at this.
- The hedge on the corner plot of the Dunstall Allotment needs cutting back. It was agreed that the clerk will contact Greenwood Tree Surgery to arrange to have the hedge cut as long as it is within the restrictions of the bird nesting season.

ALLOTMENT REPORT

- The allotment committee at the Dunstall Allotment said the allotments were marked out satisfactorily. There are currently about 15 available plots marked out for rent.
- It was agreed that the Council approve the erecting of a shed on the Dunstall Allotment by Mr & Mrs Ward.
- It was agreed that the Council approve the erecting of a shed on the Dunstall Allotment by Jan Lewis.
- The Three Tree Allotment site is in poor condition and needs ploughing and drilling. It was agreed by the Council that a notice be placed to advertise the allotment for seven days. If no one comes forward to rent the site then the allotment committee will arrange to have the site cleaned up.
- It was also agreed by the Council that there would be no objection to Mr S Thompson renting the land if he so wished.

WASH REPORT

- A representative from the District Council has been out to look at the position of the roadway. A surveyor has been out and given a quotation for the cost of preparing a measured survey of the access roadway. It was agreed that the clerk seek two further quotations and that the cheapest quote be accepted in order that the work might be carried out as soon as possible.
- Duck Race at Open Farm Sunday – the ICA can hold a duck race in place of the PTA, as was previously agreed in the contract.

PLANNING MATTERS

- Notice of Appeal. The Council has received notice that the Appeal by Mr & Mrs Newman of 15 Church Street for a bungalow and a double garage has been allowed.

LATE SUBMISSIONS

- The clerk will write to ECDC and Veolia saying that the Council are unhappy with the recycle collections from outside the Co-op; it seems that most weeks only one collection is being made.
- Razor wire for the village hall roof – next agenda.
- There is a dangerous deep drop on the verge of Waterside. The Council will contact CC Highways about repairing the roadway.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7th April 2008

Present Cllrs. Beckett, Carter, Neal, Baines, Garbett, Mrs R Thompson, Mrs H Thompson, Mrs Malkin, Mrs Wilkes, 6 parishioners

Apologies CC Powley, Cllr Mrs Hobbs, Mr P Clark

MATTERS ARISING

- White lines on the Marina/Fen Bank Road – County Council Highways are writing to the owner of the Marina with regard to replacing the lines.
- The trees on Sun Street will be dealt with.
- It was already too late to cut the hedge on the corner of the Dunstall Allotment therefore this will now have to be done after 31st July.
- The Three Tree Allotment – no-one came forward to rent the land.
- The Council have not heard back from either Veolia or ECDC regarding the recycling facilities and rubbish bins outside the Co-op.
- Repairs will be made to the passing places on Waterside Road.
- As for the additional driveways on Waterside Road there are a number of other people who have done this over the years. If it is the wish of the Council that this matter is followed up then the CC would do so; however, all properties would need to be contacted and many of them have been like this for a number of years.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL

- The last meeting of the Panel was well attended with District, County and Parish Councillors as well as 20-30 members of the

public. There were talks about the Area Emergency Plan and dog fouling. There was also a demonstration of the new speed check machines. Speed checks will take place in all the villages as speeding is the main concern of parishioners. The meetings are highly recommended as they give local people a chance to have their say to those who are in authority in their area. The next Neighbourhood Panel meeting will be held on 2nd July.

VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

- It was agreed that the Council postpone a decision on the roof wire until after the new play equipment is installed.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council contact East Cambs District Council to see what an all year round performance licence for the village hall would cost.
- Lighting in Village Hall Car Park. The village hall committee will look into having additional outside lighting at the front of the village hall.

RECREATION GROUND REPORT

- The fertiliser that was spread on the new recreation ground seems to be working.
- The Council are trying to borrow a spiker to aerate the ground, which would reduce the cost of verti-draining the recreation ground.
- Dogs on Recreation Ground: Following a request by the Gala Committee it was proposed by Cllr Garbett and seconded by Cllr Baines that on Gala Day, dogs participating in the dog show should be allowed on the recreation ground from 1–6 pm providing they are kept on a lead and the owners clean up after them.
- Club Fees: It was proposed by Cllr Garbett and seconded by Cllr Neal that the Cricket Club pay £300 towards the cost of the cricket fencing along Mill Street.
- Awards for All Grant: It was announced at the Parish Meeting that the Council have been awarded a grant of £10,000 from Awards for All towards the cost of new equipment for the Recreation Ground. It was proposed by Cllr Baines and seconded by Cllr Carter that a working party including Cllr Mrs Malkin, Cllr Mrs R Thompson, Cllr Garbett, The Clerk and Philip Aspland (ICA), be formed to look at the positioning of the new equipment. They will also consult some of the teenagers and talk with members of the cricket and football clubs.
- The tractor should be delivered on either 14th or 21st April. The Dexter will then be redundant and should be sold for about £1,000. Any offers should be sent to the clerk or brought to the next meeting.

CEMETERY MATTERS

- Sale of cemetery land: Draft Particulars for the sale of the land – It was proposed by Cllr Garbett and seconded by Cllr Carter that the Parish Council hand the affordable housing over to Hereward Housing but retain nomination rights and press for the properties to be 100% rented.
- It was proposed by Cllr Garbett and seconded by Cllr Neal that the public open space under the section 106 agreement be moved to the recreation ground.
- Cemetery Rules: It was agreed that the burial working party will look at the cemetery rules amidst concerns about statues and lighting on the graves in the cemetery.
- Cemetery Mower: The engine on the small mower recently blew up and has been replaced. The cemetery keeper will meet with the burial working party to discuss various matters concerning the wreaths, statues and vases left on the graves which interfere with the mowing.

COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

- It was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Neal that subject to the final draft plans being received at the next meeting the architect should be paid £12,000, which was the figure originally agreed upon for this work to the planning stage. £5,000 to be paid by the Parish Council and £7,000 by the ICA.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- Street lighting is still generally a problem for the CC although some repairs have been carried out. There are 1000 faulty streetlights that they know of in the County.
- Lights that need mending by EDF take a very long time as they are the lowest priority. The County Council may try to get another supplier although no progress has been made on this at the moment.
- There is no news on extra yellow lines for the village.
- Fence on travellers' site on the edge of the road.
- There is a considerable amount of dog fouling on the Nature Reserve – can anything be done about this? The clerk will contact the dog warden.

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATH MATTERS

- Footpath on Fordham Road: The plans will be looked at by the chairman and the clerk and the matter will be brought back to the next meeting.

- Trees on Sun Street (top of Waterside). The clerk met with Cathy White from ECDC; the Council will need to write to Highways or the landowner requesting that the ivy be cut away from the trees, the dead wood be cut back and an inspection be carried out to see if the trunks are in a fit condition to sustain new growth as there is no soil at the back of the trees to nourish the roots. The Council will write to Mr Clarke to request that he carry out the work required on the three ash trees.
- Lorries on Temple Road/Common Gate Drive: There are still lorries coming down East Fen Drive and Common Gate Drive that are getting stuck on the corner and causing traffic problems. There should be signs made to direct traffic away from Isleham towards the carrot factory. It was agreed that County Councillor Broadway would contact County Council Highways about this matter. The Parish Council will contact the Highways Department to request that a larger sign be placed at the top of Little London saying no HGVs.

TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATION FROM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. That the lighting be improved in the Village Hall Car Park.
 2. Cemetery land to put up for sale following the April Parish Council meeting.
 3. To make changes to the Housing Needs Survey.
 4. There should be no further planting in the New Cemetery.
 5. To put details of Council Tax bills in the *Informer*.
 6. The Dunstall criteria should change so that applicants can only be awarded once.
 7. The amount of the grant to remain at £220.
 8. To advertise the grant regularly in the *Informer*.
- It was agreed that the recommendations from the Annual Parish Meeting be approved.

PLANNING APPROVALS

- Residential development comprising of 2 two-bedroom, semi-detached dwellings, associated parking and site works at site north east of 8 Goodchilds Gardens, Isleham for T & E Developments.
- Erection of conservatory and utility room to rear of listed building at 5 Mill Street, Isleham for Mr & Mrs J Tatum.
- Waterside Road: Concerns were raised about a new travellers' site on Waterside. On the road there was a layby; has the layby been taken out or is it still there? The Council agreed to ask Highways to look at the layby and the proximity of the fence to the road – CC Broadway also agreed to look into this. A retrospective planning application has been submitted for four caravans on the site. The Council will write to their local MP (James Paice) with regard to this breach of planning regulations and ask for his support should this matter go to appeal.

CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

- Three applications were received. The chairman read out each candidate's application. Following one Ballot the clerk as Proper Officer of the Council declared Martin Earl as duly elected with an overall majority of votes.
- The chairman welcomed Mr Earl to the Parish Council.
- The chairman thanked Mr Elmer for attending the meeting and for his willingness to stand for election. He also thanked Mr Cave in his absence for being willing to stand for election; the clerk will write to him to inform him of the election result and thank him for standing. ■

Parish Councillors address list

Derrick Beckett (Chairman)	Appleyard Farm, 1 Houghtons Lane, Isleham CB7 5SR Tel: 01638 780476
Terry Carter (Vice Chairman)	5 Old School Close, Soham CB7 5WD Tel: 07905 705302
Steven Baines	Emmanuel House, 8 East Fen Road, Isleham CB7 5SW Tel: 01638 780406
Martin Earl	19 Aves Close, Isleham CB7 5TE Tel: 01638 780766
Jeannette Malkin	17 Little London, Isleham CB7 5SE Tel: 01638 780283
Lionel Neal	104 Beck Road, Isleham CB7 5QP Tel: 01638 781066
Geoff Garbett	16 Croft Road, Isleham CB7 5QR Tel: 01638 780863
Elaine Hobbs	49 Hall Barn Road, Isleham, CB7 5QZ Tel: 01638 781681
Hazel Thompson	9 Limestone Close, Isleham, CB7 5RP Tel: 01638 780633
Roseanna Thompson	1 Fen Bank, Isleham CB7 5SL Tel: 01638 780994
Pauline Wilkes	6 Limestone Close, Isleham CB7 5RP Tel: 01638 780640
Diane Bayliss (Parish Clerk)	37 Croft Road, Isleham CB7 5QR Tel: 01638 781687

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Neighbourhood police report

Neighbourhood Watch schemes

The number of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in our villages have been dwindling for a while now. As some of our villages are quite remote I feel it's important that we increase the numbers again. The police have looked at ways to revitalise these schemes and as such I have been appointed Neighbourhood Watch champion for this area.

Interested? We are looking for co-ordinators who would be responsible for taking details of any problems in their area to the police. Any relevant information that the police have and any points to be raised about local issues affecting the area are given to the local co-ordinator to pass on to residents.

Neighbourhood Watch is a great way to share information about your area so if you are interested in setting up a scheme let me know and I will provide all the information you need.

Holiday advice

Four out of five burglaries occur when a house or flat is empty; so don't advertise that you're away. It's a good idea to ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye out: ask them to collect post left in the letterbox, and generally make the place look lived in. You can repay the favour by doing the same for them. Warn any key-holding neighbours not to put your surname, address or even your house number on your keys in case they fall into the wrong hands.

Is there a Neighbourhood Watch scheme? It could help keep your home secure while you're away, and has many other crime prevention and community benefits (see above).

Use the checklist below to help keep your home secure. Read it, plan ahead, then tick off the items just before you go.

- Cut the lawn before you go.
- Arrange for pets to be properly looked after.
- Register your property on www.immobilise.com. If your property is stolen and later recovered it can help police identify the rightful owner.
- Cancel deliveries of milk, newspapers etc. discreetly – don't announce your departure to a shop full of people. Only tell people who need to know you're going away.
- Make sure your house looks occupied. Closed curtains in daylight makes it look as if no one is home. It may be worthwhile to use automatic time-switches for lights and a radio in downstairs rooms.
- Don't leave valuable items such as TVs, videos or hi-fi's visible through windows.
- Lock garage and shed with proper security locks. Put tools away so they cannot be used to break into your house.
- Don't have your home address showing on your luggage for the outward journey.
- Finally, lock all outside doors and windows. If you have a burglar alarm, make sure it is set – and that your key holder knows how to operate it.

Just before you set off allow a couple of minutes to check everything. Have a safe journey, a great holiday and a welcome return.

Barb Neill, PCSO 7237 Tel: 077360 86870

Mobex: 7111222 Email: barb.neill@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood Panels: local action and improvement in your area

This April saw the latest round of Neighbourhood Panels in East Cambridgeshire, with the Soham and East Panel having their second meeting following on from last year's successful pilot arrangements. In fact, on the basis of the Soham and East area pilot, the District Council (ECDC) have made the pioneering decision to extend Neighbourhood Panels across the district (to give five Panels in all).

The Soham and East Panel met on Wednesday 2nd April in the Beechurst Hall at the Village College with 57 people present, and Councillor Derrick Beckett chairing the meeting.

There were presentations by Council Officers on Nuisance Complaints and Area Emergency Planning, and from Inspector Alan Savill on police actions, trends in crime and anti-social behaviour and the proposed priorities for the next three months. Following extensive discussion, involving all those present, the following priorities were agreed:

- Report back from the Speedwatch pilot in Soham and the villages – more volunteers are needed by Cllr Joe Pattison.

The policing priorities were agreed as being:

- Anti-Social Behaviour in Soham: High Street, Clay Street, Fountain Lane, Ten Bell Lane, Recreation Ground and by Weatherall's and in Kennett.
- Burglaries from homes of elderly residents in Fordham, Kennett and Chippenham.

Cllr Beckett confirmed that other 'issues of concern', raised by members of the public and other representatives from each Parish would receive attention within the next three months (to July).

Councillor Peter Cresswell, Chairman of Community Services, said 'The Panels have made great strides in dealing with the issues that have been raised so far in our area. However, we need everyone's support to make a difference, which is why we would encourage anyone with an issue to come along to the relevant meeting and see how we can deal with it.'

A newsletter summarising the outcomes from the Panel meeting was published in mid-May, together with an invitation to (even more) members of the public to come to the next meeting (in which we hope there will be increased public participation) on Wednesday, 2nd July 7 – 9 pm at Soham Village College (Beechurst site).

A revised Neighbourhood Panel webpage is now available in the A-Z section of the District Council's website, www.eastcambs.gov.uk, and you can receive more information directly from Alan Williams, Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator, tel: 01353 616349 or email: Alan.Williams@eastcambs.gov.uk. Please let Alan know if there are other links that you would find useful from the webpage. ■



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The buzz about... Busy Bees

Isleham Toddler Group, also known as Busy Bees, meets on Tuesday mornings in the village hall from 9.15–11.15 am. All children aged 0–5 are welcome, with their mums, dads, grandparents or carers. Sessions are very informal; pop in for the whole time, or just part of it. There are toys for all ages and a carpeted area for smaller babies. Children can take part in craft activities and join in with singing at the end. Refreshments are provided for the little ones and there is unlimited tea, coffee and hot chocolate for accompanying adults. Sessions cost £1 for one child, £1.50 for two or more.



This term we have lots to look forward to: the Gala of course, and some day trips as well as various fund-raising events (watch this space).

If you have recently had a baby we would love to see you. It is never too early to come and make friends at the toddler group and it is great to get in touch with other people who have children the same age.

Mel Jones

Busy Bees is part of the Isleham Under Fives Association, registered charity no 294978. For more information please call Mel on 01638 780902 or visit www.iufa.org.uk/bees

The Isleham Society March/April report

In March we had a visit by Chris Jakes of the Cambridgeshire Collection, a researcher, lecturer and author who gave an excellent presentation of slides entitled 'Pictures of Old Ely'. For many it brought back memories of buildings, shops and cinemas we used to know and some of the older pictures reminded us how the city used to be in former times.

At our AGM in April the following officers were appointed. President: Arthur Houghton; Vice President: Dr John Dixey; Chairman: Vernon Place; Vice President: Peter Flatt; Secretary: Mrs Beryl Powys; Treasurer: Bryan Wynne; Programme Secretary: Mrs Betty Ashley; Committee: Mrs Barbara Brown, Alwyn Clements, Mrs Pam Martin and Ian Powys.

After the business meeting we were able to view many items belonging to the society including the 'Arthur Houghton' collection of Old Isleham pictures and documents as well as enjoying refreshments brought by the members.

Information still wanted: does anyone have pictures, records or stories regarding the Isleham Home Guard or the Isleham Silver Jubilee Brass Band that we could borrow to copy for our records please? We will not harm or alter your original documents as we can simply scan them into the computer to keep them on record in our village collection.

We have started to set up a community archive of a digital collection of photographs, written word reminiscences, sound recordings and video clips about Isleham for the Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network. The web site is: www.ccan.co.uk. If anyone is interested in being involved in this project please contact us; you don't have to be a member of the Isleham Society in order to contribute items. We hope to include information on the whole of our village activities both past & present.

Vernon Place, Chairman of the Isleham Society

Isleham School of Performing Arts

SPA proudly presents a 'Cabaret' variety show at Isleham Village Hall on 9th July at 7 pm, 11th July at 7 pm and 12th July at 2 pm and 7 pm. All proceeds from tickets will go to ICA. Tickets available around the end of June, £4 for adults and £3 for concessions. The Cabaret will include popular dances from the school's repertoire over the years, and a selection of new works. The programme offers an excellent evening's entertainment for all age groups, together with an opportunity for older and ex-pupils to reminisce.

The school is fast-approaching its 25 year anniversary in 2009, when we will be celebrating by taking a troupe to Disneyland Paris to perform.

For further details on the Cabaret and the Paris trip please contact Mrs Bendall on 01638 780260. ■

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Anyone for coffee?

After the third Coffee Morning at Pound Lane Free Church, we are delighted to report that not only are people coming, they're coming back and bringing friends with them!

The mornings are completely informal: you will find us in the hall of the extension where tea, coffee and cold drinks are served along with home baked goodies. 'In the news this week', a short mid-morning slot focuses on a topical news item from a Christian perspective to get us thinking. There is a library of Christian books and the Good News paper is free and has proved popular.

If you are free on a Thursday morning any time from 10 to 11.30 am why not come along? There's no charge and you can meet old friends and make new ones.

If mobility is a problem, we can offer transport (ring us at PLFC on 01638 781343); we also have two disabled toilets, a hearing loop and wheelchair access. ■



Women's Institute Spring/Summer 2008 report

In April we welcomed Mr and Mrs Chris South, who entertained us with tales of their travels all over the world. They donate the money they earn in speaking fees to the admirable work they also do in Sri Lanka with victims of the tsunami.

Our speaker in May was Peter Hering of Cellini Jewellers, Cambridge. Cellini is an award winning independent company of more than 20 specialists, including diamond graders, gemologists, valuers, designers, watchmaker, pearl stringers, engravers, goldsmiths, and silversmiths. Peter gave us an insight into the fascinating world of diamonds, and regaled us with the legends attached to some of the world's most famous stones. After his talk there was a competition to guess the value of two lovely diamond rings. To her amazement, Caroline Bird gave the closest valuation, and was congratulated by Peter and presented with a very pretty pearl bracelet.

There is no meeting in June, instead we have our summer outing on the 19th. The next meeting is on 10th July, when the speaker will be Mrs Karen Faulkner, talking about 'Medicines and Potions'.

We meet in the Village Hall at 7.30 on the second Thursday of each month. New members are always welcome. For further details please contact Glenda Preece on 01638 780734. ■

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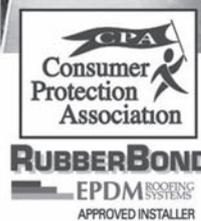
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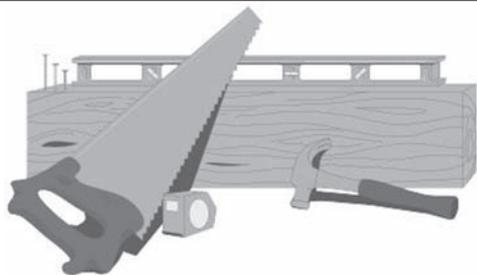
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Bowls Club report

The recent mail drop around the village gave better than expected results with a good number of people visiting the premises over the first couple of weeks of the season. Please feel free to visit us and see for yourselves the facilities we have on offer. There is usually someone here most evenings, weather permitting and subject to the club playing a match away from home.

The outdoor season has started with pleasant bowling conditions and the anticipation of a successful season ahead. Congratulations to Mrs Sylvia Pinder who has been awarded the position of Junior President of the County Association. She will serve a four year period, the main season being 2010, which will see her as County President, a first for Isleham Bowls Club.

In Division 1 of the East Cambs Carpet Bowls League, the first team have performed very well and finished in fourth position, a creditable performance, and in Division 3 the second team finished mid-table. In the knockout cup, the four comprising of Doreen and Denny Raven, Celia Clarke and Barry Grimwood lost on the very last end of the match against Over to miss out on reaching the County Finals.

The Club competitions were played in a good and friendly manner and trophies were won by:

	Winner	Runner Up
Singles	Doreen Raven	Robert Burling
Pairs	Margaret Marsh Jeff Marsh	Nigel Ward Robert Burling
Fours	Alison Ward Denny Raven Brian Pope Ivan Hymus	Nigel Ward Carol Doe Rowley Wells Barry Grimwood
League	Margaret Brown Denny Raven Herbie Beckett	Diane Athey Sheila King Robert Burling

Don't forget to visit us and see what we are about!

Barry Grimwood, Club Captain



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New Three Rivers Community Car Scheme

Isleham needs drivers! Can you help?

Rev. Mike Banyard writes:

An exciting new village scheme is starting up in Isleham soon, to provide door-to-door lifts to people who can't use their own car, when public transport or Dial-a-Ride isn't available. The Three Rivers Social Car Scheme will be run by and for residents from this parish of Isleham, and Fordham, Chippenham, Snailwell and Kennett.

So far we've had a great response. Representatives from all five villages were invited to a planning meeting in January at Fordham, where we agreed a constitution, the sorts of journeys the scheme can help with, and how much to charge. We'll help with all reasonable local journeys – social, health, other services, shopping etc. – plus longer trips to the main local hospitals. Customers will pay 25p per mile, including the distance from the driver's home. All requests will be made via a single public mobile phone number, so drivers' details stay private, and we'll refund drivers' petrol costs subsidised by Cambs County Council.

All parish councils have been invited to nominate a community rep to the scheme's management committee and make a donation to provide a start-up kitty. Isleham and Chippenham parishes have provided both so far. At this early stage we have two community representatives and four volunteer drivers 'signed up'. One person has kindly volunteered to consider being secretary. I (Mike)

will be the lead co-ordinator, and two other people may be able to help in a rota taking requests for calls and linking up with our volunteer drivers.

We already have some volunteers in Isleham, which is fantastic, but we need more drivers here to keep the cost of the service low for Isleham residents!

The idea for this scheme arose locally and will also help to fill a 'gap' that Care Network has identified recently while doing some transport and access research in our five parishes on behalf of the county council. The scheme got a very welcoming and positive response when Helen Randall from Care Network talked about the idea at both the Limestone Close coffee morning and the monthly High Street Church lunch in March.

Please contact us if you could help with driving occasionally and/or looking after our small bank account.

Many thanks!

Rev Mike Banyard, The Vicarage, High Street,
Chippenham. Tel: 01638 721616

- Contact Helen Randall at Care Network, 41E Forehill, Ely. Tel: 01353 772169. (Care Network is a Cambridgeshire charity that helps volunteers to support independence for older, isolated and vulnerable residents.)

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Churches' News

Pound Lane Free Church

Pastor Dave Hall Tel: 01638 781343 or 780636, email pastor@plfc.org.uk) **Elder David Brown** (01638 780410)

Every Sunday Sunday worship: 11.00 am and 6.30 pm
Celebration of the Lord's Supper: 1st Sunday following evening service, 3rd Sunday following morning service.

A crèche is available for babies to Yr3 during the morning service. Refreshments are served after the evening services, except the first Sunday of the month. Fellowship Lunches are served after the morning service on the third Sunday of the month.

Kingdom Kids 3 yrs–Yr3: 10–11.15 am. Karl Yellop 01638 780637

All Stars This is the group for 8–11s (Year 4–6). John Martin 01638 781747. Meeting each Sunday 10–11.15 am in their own special room they learn about Jesus and the Bible in a fun and interactive way. Quizzes, modern Christian songs, prayer, Bible reading and teaching all form the Sunday morning All Star time. For those attending regularly on Sundays the Monday Fun Night is a great time to come and have fun with your friends. The leaders organise nights as different as Chip Tasting to 'Sense Detectives' (if you don't know what that is ask an All Star!).

Covies Yr7–19 yrs: 9.30–10.30 am. Steve Neale 01638 780717. Leading on from All Stars is the Covie group. Sunday morning worship takes place in the Covie room – prayer, modern Christian worship songs, quizzes etc.; then the group splits for age-appropriate Bible study and teaching. For those attending regularly the Thursday Clubnight is a great time to chill with mates, knock a ball or two around the snooker table, challenge a friend at darts or air hockey or refine your table tennis skills. Nights out include Ten Pin Bowling, night walks, Covies at War and much, much more! The annual group Camp is the highlight of the year and Saturday trips to London and Ice Skating have been planned for this year.

• There is a hearing loop installed and signing for the deaf is available as well as Braille songbooks. We have a comprehensive Child Protection Policy and a CRB check has been carried out on all children's and young people's workers.

Weekly Activities

Monday Music Mayhem for pre-school children: 9.45–10.45 am (Abby Martin 01638 781747)

All Stars Fun Night 6.45–8.15 pm

Tuesday Fellowship: 7.30–8.45 pm

Wednesday Church Night: 7.40–9 pm

Thursday Covies Club Night: 7–9 pm

Friday (fortnightly in members' homes): Women's Meeting 2.15–3.30 pm

Christianity Explored courses are run regularly – please ask for dates of next course.

For further information on any of the above or if you would like to speak to Pastor Dave : phone 01638 781343 (Church Office) or 01638 780636 (Pastor's home), email pastor@plfc.org.uk or secretary@plfc.org.uk. Web site: www.plfc.org.uk

Music Mayhem A pre-school group every Monday in term time from 9.45–10.45 am. We sing and play musical instruments, and we are learning to sign songs too. There's a visit from Sockeroo each week and at the end of each session the children play while parents and carers chat over a cuppa. All are welcome and it's free!

Fellowship Group 7–9 pm on Tuesdays. This is for the more mature, retirement age and over, meeting for a Bible talk, spiritual songs and prayer, and various fun evenings and meals during the year. Refreshments are served at the end and it's a good time to catch up with friends and all their news. New members are always welcome.

High Street Church

Sunday Services: 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 am 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 meets socially and has a lot of laughs!

Weekly Activities

Our **Rendezvous** group – for the more mature amongst us – meets every Tuesday afternoon at 3 pm. Around 60 to 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 £1.50 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.

There are also lots of other midweek activities taking place, so whether it be on a Sunday or midweek we would love to see you. Why not come along or give us a call to find out more.

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

St Andrew's Church will be holding its annual **gift day** on **Saturday 19th July**. All households in the village will be receiving a letter with information about the day.

Tangible evidence of the improvement of the **Isleham bellringers** has come with the team being victorious in the novice category of the District Striking Competition held recently at Swaffham Prior. An excellent response to Tower Captain Ruth Ogden's appeal for new ringers has led to several people of all ages coming forward to learn this ancient art. It is hoped that this improvement will continue, reducing the frequency of discordant noises emanating from the bell tower. We are still looking for new ringers and anyone wishing to learn should come along to St Andrew's at 6 pm on Wednesday evenings for the beginners' class.

UPCOMING EVENTS Pudding Club – Friday 27th June, 7 pm, Social Centre. Bring a pudding, donate £1 and enjoy all those wonderful puddings. Bring your own wine.

Flower Festival

We shall be holding a Flower Festival over the Bank Holiday weekend 23rd, 24th, 25th August. The theme will be 'A Handful of Songs'. If you would like to show an arrangement, or know of anyone who would, please contact: Janice Pope 01638 780380. Also that weekend there will be refreshments, grand draw, book stall, tombola and bric-a-brac each day in the Social Centre. The festival and Social Centre will be open Saturday 23rd 11 am – 6 pm; Sunday 24th 11 am – 6 pm; Monday 25th 11 am – 6 pm.

Songs of Praise at 6.30 pm.

CHURCH SERVICES Sundays The main service is now at 9.30 am. Junior Church is in the Social Centre, and in church the third Sunday of each month for the family service.

Weekly activities

Tuesdays 9 am to 12 noon: Coffee Morning in Social Centre. Everyone welcome!

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

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

Fridays 6.30 pm: Choir practice – all welcome. Contact Mark Liversidge Tel: 01638 781696.

7.30 pm Bell ringing practice – beginners welcome! Contact Ruth Ogden, the Tower Captain, for more information: email ruth.ogden@islehamchurch.org.uk

PRIESTS *The Rev'd Mike Banyard* Mike is the Rector of the Three Rivers Group of Parishes; he lives in Chippenham with his wife, Helen, who is a Lay Minister. Mike is available to all in the village for a listening ear, and for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Tel: 01638 721616, email: mike.banyard@threerivers.org.uk

The Rev'd Kate Peacock Kate is the Associate Priest in the Three Rivers Group of Parishes; she lives in Fordham with her husband, Daniel, and their two young daughters. Tel: 01638 723960, email: kate.peacock@threerivers.org.uk

Mike and Kate are assisted by the Rev'd Dr Peter Debenham, the Rev'd Nigel Cooper (Chaplain of Anglia Ruskin University), Canon Tim Elbourne (Diocesan Director of Education) and the Rev'd Christopher Goodwins (formerly priest-in-charge at Isleham, author of The Bible in Limerick Verse).

CHURCH WARDENS Rob Savage Tel: 01638 780218, email: robertsavage@islehamchurch.org.uk; Nick Carver Tel: 01638 781116, email: nick.carver@islehamchurch.org.uk **Tower captain** Ruth Ogden Tel: 01638 780646, email: ruth.ogden@islehamchurch.org.uk **Choirmaster** Mark Liversidge Tel: 01638 781696, email: mark.liversidge@islehamchurch.org.uk **Webmaster** Andrew Stephens Tel: 01638 781468/780229, email: andrew.stephens@islehamchurch.org.uk **Service sheet editor** Rob Savage Tel: 01638 780218, email: robert.savage@islehamchurch.org.uk **For more information** on St Andrew's Church please visit our website at www.islehamchurch.org.uk ■

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INFORMATION

Mobile Library

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Stop	Arrive	Depart
Church Street		10:25 12:05
Beck Road (near Malting Lane)		12:10 13:05
Mill Street (corner of Limestone Close)		14:15 16:00

Child Health Clinic

Soham Child and Family Team hold a Child Health Clinic on alternate Thursdays in the Isleham Village Hall back room, 11.30 am to 12.30 pm. For more information phone 01353 624411.

Useful phone numbers

Emergency for Police, Fire, Ambulance	999
Police (Cambridgeshire)	0845 4564564
Accident & Casualty (Addenbrooke's)	01223 217118
Addenbrooke's Hospital (Cambridge)	01223 245151
Newmarket Hospital	01638 665111
West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds)	01284 713000
Staploe Medical Centre (Soham) - Appointments	01353 624121
- Prescriptions & Dispensary	01353 624122
- Enquiries, Home Visits, Emergencies	01353 624123
Minor Treatment Centre, Ely	01353 652162
NHS Direct (for advice)	0845 4647
Electricity Emergencies	0800 7838838
Gas Emergencies	0800 371787
Water & Sewage Emergencies	0345 145145
Social Services - office hours	01733 561370
- out of hours emergency	01733 561370
Refuse Collection	01353 863864
RSPCA	0870 5555999
Citizens Advice Bureau	0845 130 6442
- Ely	01353 661416
- Mildenhall	01638 712094
- Newmarket	01638 665999
District Councillor (Derrick Beckett)	01638 780476
Isleham Village Hall (Jeanette Malkin)	01638 780283
Parish Council (Diane Bayliss: Clerk)	01638 781687
Member of Parliament (Jim Paice)	01954 211450

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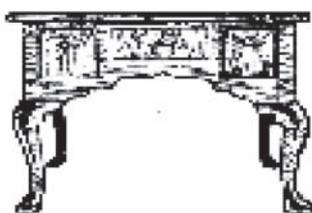
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Friday 6th - Rich Aroma - duo

Friday 13th - Quiz night

Friday 20th - Karaoke

JULY

Friday 4th - solo singer - Becky

Friday 18th - Karaoke

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Sunday: 12 noon to 10.30 pm

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