

Isleham Informer

Issue 37 • February 2010

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Festival of Light - at its colourful* best!

(*You had to be there...)



Photos by Ed Mayall

Once again the Festival of Light was a great success, mainly due to all who contributed with their Christmas trees. The church looked stunning and many, many complimentary comments were passed.

Thanks to everyone who helped with refreshments, both providing and serving them, to all those who manned the stalls, to everyone who helped in the church, and to everyone who visited.

Hope to see you all again in December 2010!

Janice Pope

P.S. "Flower Festival" is on August Bank Holiday weekend. If you feel inspired please let me know.





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From the Editor

It was the fervent hope of the *Informer* that the front cover of this issue (along with three extra pages) would use this wonderful new invention of 'colour printing' so you could all see just how marvellous St Andrew's Church looked for the Festival of Light. We also have some wonderful pictures of Isleham in the snow that would have looked just fabulous. Unfortunately, this was not to be: the funding failed us. For the April issue, we would like to correct this by encouraging sponsorship to meet the shortfall between our budget and the extra printing cost. If you would like to help with a donation, in return for the gratitude of the *Informer* team – plus that of the entire village – (and a mention of how utterly gorgeous you are!) please get in touch with Kelvin Morgan (details below).

So, without further kerfuffle, it's on with the first *Isleham Informer* of the first year of the second decade of the third millennium.

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NEXT ISSUE: The next issue will be published 1st April 2010. The copy deadline for all editorial and advertising is 9th March 2010.

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.

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Girlguiding

First Isleham Guide Unit is re-opening and we would like to invite you to our Opening Ceremony!

girls in the lead

Tuesday 23rd February, 7pm,
St Andrew's Church, Isleham.

Followed by refreshments in the Social Centre (opposite Church).

To RSVP and more information please contact:
Caroline Hinit, Unit Guider: 01353 624615
Janine Taylor, Unit Guider: 01638 780701
Email: islehamguides@yahoo.co.uk

ISLEHAM SCHOOL PTA

Annual Quiz Night

Friday 5th March 2010

£20 Per team (max 4 people)
Price includes chilli/curry supper.

Look out for posters around the village for more information.



In aid of Fordham Pre-School

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Last game cash prizes Raffle
Tea and coffee Tuck Shop

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Tuesday 16th February 2010
Eyes down at 7.00pm

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Through the *Informer* we would like to thank all who gave so generously to East Anglia Air Ambulance Christmas Lights (Lights for Lives) at 43 Waterside, Isleham. A total of £394.51 was raised.

We would also like to thank the *Informer*, who did such a wonderful job of advertising for us.

Yours sincerely,

Ivan and Roberta Houghton

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Volunteering for Life

One of the scariest moments of my life occurred in the April of 1992 in the grandstand of the Rowley Mile racecourse in Newmarket. I remember it as if yesterday. A small group of friends, we were trundling up to the top of the grandstand – there were no escalators in those days. Right in front of me an elderly gentleman collapsed in the stairwell, clearly in great distress. His face had turned ashen grey and he was apparently slipping into unconsciousness. I panicked and I froze. Fortunately, one of my friends had the presence of mind to alert a security guard and in a matter of minutes a paramedic was attending to the gentleman.

We later discovered that he had suffered a mild heart attack and had been speedily transported to Addenbrookes Hospital, where he recovered.

Besides that image of a desperate human being came the thought – what if? What if there hadn't been help available? I guess he might have died.

This probably sounds a strange way to introduce the St John Ambulance service. We often associate this organisation with well-meaning ladies dispensing tea, sympathy and the occasional Elastoplast. Well, as I discovered, this is an insulting misconception of the hundreds of trained staff whom we often see, and often take for granted, at public events. And as the nation becomes more and more aware of the importance of Health and Safety, so the demand for trained staff increases.

With branches in Soham, Ely, Cambridge and Newmarket, St John is looking forward to recruit and train for both the cadet branch (8 – 16 years) as well as the adult wing (16 – 70 years). Depending on the wishes and aspirations of volunteers, training, which is of course free, enables staff to progress from basic first aid up

to paramedic level.

Hours are truly flexible and volunteers are

assigned a mentor who will gently introduce them into the various disciplines of care.

For youngsters considering a career in the medical or public service sectors, this experience will realise an impressive bonus when it comes to applying for a job, or for higher education. Older volunteers include disabled people, the retired, mums or working adults who can offer half a day over a weekend.

Having worked for nearly 30 years in the voluntary sector, I hear the same messages over and over again from new volunteers. "A chance to use my brain again"; "So good to become involved in the community"; "I've made more friends in the last 10 weeks that I had in the past few years"; "It has brought a structure and purpose back to my life".

Perhaps these sentiments will ring a bell for some readers.

Eleanor Liversidge

Eleanor is a full-time nurse working in Accident and Emergency at Addenbrookes Hospital. She is also the Duties Coordinator for St John Ambulance, although I think the title does her little credit. Basically she is part of a team that recruits, trains, mentors and coordinates the placements of volunteers. And she lives in Isleham. Interested parents or adults can contact her on 01638 781696 or at elandmark@btinternet.com.

When leaving Newmarket Races nowadays, I always put a pound in to the St John Ambulance collection box no matter how much I have lost with the bookmakers.

What price a life, eh?

Mark Stevens

The Isleham Twinning Society

2009 has been a pleasant year to look back on, with events both here in Isleham and in our 'twin' village, Nesles, in the Pas-de-Calais, France.

We started off the year with the Committee having a quiet dinner together without the pressure of having to organise anything.

A large group of us went to Nesles for a long weekend at the end of April, the perfect time to visit France. Experiences vary according to the family one is staying with. For example, David and I were taken for a walk round an old castle and through its bluebell-wooded grounds, were treated to a trip round the Baie de la Somme on an old steam train, had lunch on the quay-side at Le Crotoy, and went to our host's sister for coffee in the remote countryside of the region, as well as attending the formal evening meal at La Maierie. Our gift to Nesles this time was a pair of apple trees to be planted in the village, which were very well received.

July saw us manning a tombola stall at the Gala, with

bottles of French wine as prizes, with suitable substitutes for the under-aged.

Early in September came the Safari Supper. Before you have visions of lofty giraffes, and herds of wildebeest, the supper started in Mill Street at Bryan and Pauline Wynne's with aperitifs and canapés, moved on to our house for the main course, and ended up in Sun Street with Rob and Gill Savage for an amazing selection of desserts. It was a warm September evening, and their beautiful garden provided the perfect backdrop. We are thinking of doing this again this year, so look out for the posters and tickets.

After the AGM came the Carol Service at St Andrew's church Festival of Light. How quickly the year goes round, and we look forward to further events in 2010.

We cannot review the year without mentioning the death of Alan Cant. Alan was a quiet, stalwart presence in the Association. He is sadly missed on both sides of the Channel.

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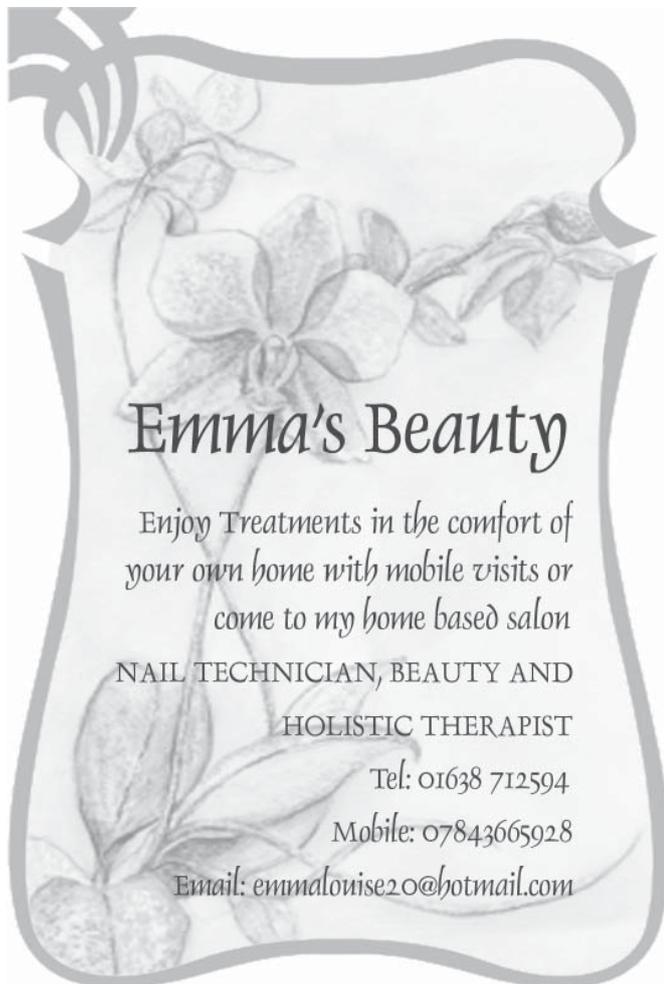
Book Club's Anniversary

The Isleham Book Club celebrates its fifth anniversary this year with a direct mandate from its members- "WE NEED MORE MEN!" There is currently what is politely described as a gender imbalance. Although the group is always well attended – we currently attract 12 members – there is only one male participant. This inevitably means that discussions relating to the really important topics in life – football, the state of the economy, the price of beer etc. – are rather one-sided.

The group meets on the second Friday of each month at the Social Centre. At each session one book is selected by members, and we discuss this book at the next meeting. Books discussed are not highbrow, and members come from all walks of life. We usually finish our discussions with tea and cakes and an informal update on what is happening in the village and any other literary events in the area.

It has been noted that the starting time of 2pm may be difficult for some mums and dads who pick up their children from school. There seems no obvious reason, however, why the group could not meet earlier in the afternoon. Anyone interested in joining can contact Deidre Deller on 01638 780544.

Finally, a note of thanks to Anna Chataway who is the founder of the group, and without whose vision and enthusiasm the village would be a poorer place. ■



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The Isleham Society

Robin Page was booked to give an illustrated talk on 19th November but as we were unable to attend, John Terry kindly took his place at very short notice; he is the Conservation and Wild Life Advisor to the 'Countryside Restoration Trust'.

The CRT was established in 1993 by the Chairman, Robin Page. It was launched in response to growing fears about intensive and industrialised farming, and initially aimed to purchase land that had been intensively farmed, in order to restore it to a living countryside. It promotes a working countryside using sensitive and sympathetic farming practices that encourage and protect wildlife to produce quality food. As the CRT has grown its aims have broadened to encompass purchasing farmland and woodland where traditional farming methods, wildlife habitat and biodiversity are under threat. It now has approximately 3000 friends and manages over 1000 acres of land with properties in Cambridgeshire, Essex, Herefordshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Surrey, Sussex and Yorkshire. The work of the Trust is a living and working example that sustainable, profitable and environmentally sensitive farming is a real possibility

As there was no meeting in December, the next one will be on 21st January when the speaker will be Ian Storey telling of 'The History and Running of Turners (Soham) Ltd'

A second reminder:

Footpaths of Isleham

We have had a reprint done of the Footpaths Map of Isleham and have distributed a free copy to the newer households in the village. It is inevitable that we have missed some, if a new householder would like to receive one, please see me or a member of the Isleham Society and we will arrange for you to have a copy. The Parish Council also have been given some copies for distribution.

Vernon Place, Chairman of the Isleham Society

Ely Soham Dial-a-Ride

Giving our community a lift

Our buses operate in Isleham on Monday, Thursday & Friday.

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Parish Council News

The following are the abbreviated and incomplete versions of the IPC minutes for the November and December 2009 meetings. Any parishioner may request a copy of the full minutes from the IPC.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

Present: Cllrs Neal, Baines, Carter, Malkin, R Thompspon, Wilkes, H Thompson, C.Cllr Beckett, 4 Parishioners

Apologies: Cllrs Earl, Garbett, Hobbs, C.C. Powley, C.C. Palmer

PARISHIONERS' QUESTION TIME

Mr Houghton brought it to the attention of the council that the Environment Agency will be dredging the river starting at the Marina bridge and working towards Prickwillow. Work will commence after Christmas.

POLICE MATTERS

The Neighbourhood Panel meeting was held on 6th October. There were a few parishioners from Isleham; however, still more residents are needed to make the evening more interactive. One of the issues raised was the parking situation on Beck Road – this is currently being monitored.

ISLEHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Cllr R Thompson attended a fund-raising meeting of the ICA last week and the committee have asked if the parish council can do anything to make the village more aware of the requirements for upkeep of the current hall in order to show the benefit of building the new centre.

VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

The entrance lobby to the hall was painted during the half term holiday.

RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

The recreation ground was sprayed and fertilised on Friday. The council will write to the YFC about the parking situation on Saturdays as the vehicle entrances to the recreation ground should not be blocked.

The Shell gas tank is empty and so the showers are not working in the pavilion. The Clerk has contacted Shell but they are unable to refill it until the tank is replaced according to HSE requirements. An urgent message has been sent through from Shell to the planners regarding a delivery date for this

It was noted by the council that the cricket square was recently vandalised; it was stamped across when it had been newly fertilised and the temporary fencing had been pulled down.

CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD MATTERS

It was agreed that two notices are put up in the cemetery advising people that all ornaments should be removed from the grave spaces or they will be removed by the cemetery keeper on or after 1st January 2010.

A repair will be carried out on the old cemetery wall by the cemetery keeper as soon as weather permits.

It was agreed that a teak headstone is allowed to be placed on the grave of the late Tom Chipper as long as it conforms to the standard height of 3 feet.

CORRESPONDENCE

It was agreed that a donation of £50 be made to the Ely and Soham Dial-a-Ride service.

It was agreed that a donation is sent to the CAB for £130 as previously included in the budget.

It was agreed that the Gala Committee are allowed to use the village hall and recreation ground on Saturday 3rd July 2009 including a dog show with terms agreed as previous years. The council will also make a contribution of half the cost of the toilets providing the cost is in line with previous years.

It was agreed that the council write to OFCOM asking that the telephone box on Mill Street is retained as it is used as the emergency contact telephone from the village hall and also ask that they would make an assessment of the mobile coverage in the village as not all networks operate here.

It was agreed that the parish council do not adopt the telephone box on The Causeway.

HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATH MATTERS

The council will write to the occupier of the first house in Croft Road as their garden fence is overhanging the footpath.

The council will write to the owner of the property in Sparkes Close about the clunch wall at the back of their house, which is crumbling away and is need of repair.

ALLONMENT MATTERS

A letter will be sent to a tenant of the Dunstall Allotments requesting that they desist from burning rubbish other than organic waste on their allotment plot or the matter will be referred to the Environment Agency.

Prices will be sought for a gate for the front entrance to the Dunstall Allotment and brought back to a further meeting with other matters arising from the Allotment committee meeting.

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Approvals

Change of use of part of agricultural field at rear of the gardens of 34, 36 and 38 East Fen Road for residential amenity land at Land to rear of 34, 36 and 38 East Fen Road Isleham for Mr Russell Milne.

Residential development for 6 dwellings at 55 Sun Street, Isleham for Mr and Mrs Waugh.

Planning Refusals

Erection of detached house and garage to the rear of existing dwelling at land rear of 8 East Fen Road, Isleham for Mr and Mrs Baines.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER

Present: Cllrs Wilkes, H Thompson, Hobbs, Malkin, Neal, Earl, Baines, Garbett, Beckett

Apologies: C Cllr John Powley

ISLEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

The primary school have asked the parish council to look into the possibility of an access to the play school from Jubilee Close. The council has no specific power available to act on behalf of the school; it was resolved that more information would be obtained and brought back to the next meeting when the council will consider whether there is anything they can do to support the request.

CEMETERY & CHURCHYARD MATTERS

There had been no further response regarding the consecration of the cemetery so this has been followed up and there should be further information arriving shortly.

An e-mail has been received from Pooley Bendall and Watson stating that confirmation has been received from the developers solicitor that the section 106 agreement is working its way around County and District Councils for signature; it is likely to take some time and realistically probably will not be formally dated before Christmas.

It was agreed that the Dial-a-Ride service is continued subject to a six monthly review.

HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATH MATTERS

- Damaged fence in Croft Road – a letter will be sent to the owner
- Hedge needing to be cut back on Beech Close – the owner has been contacted
- Overgrown hedge on Croft Road by the passage – a letter will be sent to the owner
- Uneven footpath outside the Co-op will be reported to County Council
- Deterioration of footpaths in Limestone Close – a meeting is being arranged with Gavin Wiseman from County Council
- Clunch wall on The Causeway – the clerk will contact Rosie Burton at ECDC

A number of street lights are not working – these will be reported to the County.

An offer has been made by a parishioner to purchase a bench to go outside the Post Office; it was considered that this would hinder access on the footpath and that as this is not an official bus stop the clerk will contact Eileen Oliver at ECDC to discuss the possibility of 'flip-seating' at the bus stop on Sun Street.

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

Construction of extension at 24 Robins Close, Isleham for Mr and Mrs Fowell.

Single storey garage and single storey side extension at 5 Beech Close, Isleham for Miss S Gowland – the councillors were unable to fully comment on this application as an up to date map was not provided.

Approvals

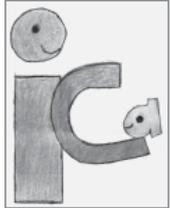
Proposed rear extension garden room with additions and alterations at 13 Beech Close, Isleham for Mr and Mrs Oliver.

Planning

Extension and loft conversion at Wayside Farm 19 Fordham Road, Isleham for Mr C Harvey.

Planning Refusals

2 Storey extension and alterations to property at 17 East Road, Isleham for Mr James Bailey. ■



Isleham Community Association

Grand Yard Sale

Saturday 10th/Sunday 11th April

If you would like to take part in this community event phone Mark Goldsack 01638-780350, and you will be added to the growing list of those people who on either or both days that weekend will sell their goods from their homes.

It is an opportunity to have a good spring clean and sell those things you store from year to year but never use, whilst raising money for the new Community Centre.

Please join us on this weekend .

Parish Councillors address list

Derrick Beckett (Chairman)	Appleyard Farm, 1 Houghtons Lane, Isleham CB7 5SR Tel: 01638 780476
Terry Carter (Vice Chairman) Steven Baines	5 Old School Close, Soham CB7 5WD Tel: 07905 705302 Emmanuel House, 8 East Fen Road, Isleham CB7 5SW Tel: 01638 780406
Martin Earl	83 The Causeway, Isleham CB7 5TA Tel: 01638 780766
Jeannette Malkin	17 Little London, Isleham CB7 5SE Tel: 01638 780283
Lionel Neal	104 Beck Road, Isleham CB7 5QP Tel: 01638 780066
Geoff Garbett	16 Croft Road, Isleham CB7 5QR Tel: 01638 780863
Elaine Hobbs	Portman House, 7 The Birches, Soham CB7 5FH Tel: 01353 725818
Hazel Thompson	9 Limestone Close, Isleham CB7 5RP Tel: 01638 780633
Roseanna Thompson	Fenrose Farm, 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 islehampc@btinternet.com www.isleham-village.co.uk



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This is the first in a (short!) series of pieces introducing the proprietors and philosophies behind local hostleries.

The Griffin

At a time when village pubs across the country are closing as fast as Post Offices, it is truly heart-warming that Isleham is able to retain both services. The Griffin has recently been taken over by Michael and Gina Messing, and they bring a real community feeling to this 16th century hostelry – just ask the locals. Besides the introduction of traditional beers (hurrah!), they have also introduced a restaurant, attract a regular clientele for darts and pool, and have plans for outdoor petanque,

quiz teams and summer barbecues.

But what really characterises a traditional pub is the breadth of customers it attracts. The Griffin a regular host to the women's football team, the Women's Institute is to have a meal there in February, families with their children (and dogs) residents from the Marina – anyone who is looking for a friendly community welcome.

Many older residents would associate the modern public house with canned music, pinball machines, Star Wars technology and karaoke in to the early hours. Take your dog for a sandwich and a cup of coffee – you'll be surprised. *Bon appetit!*

Mark Stevens



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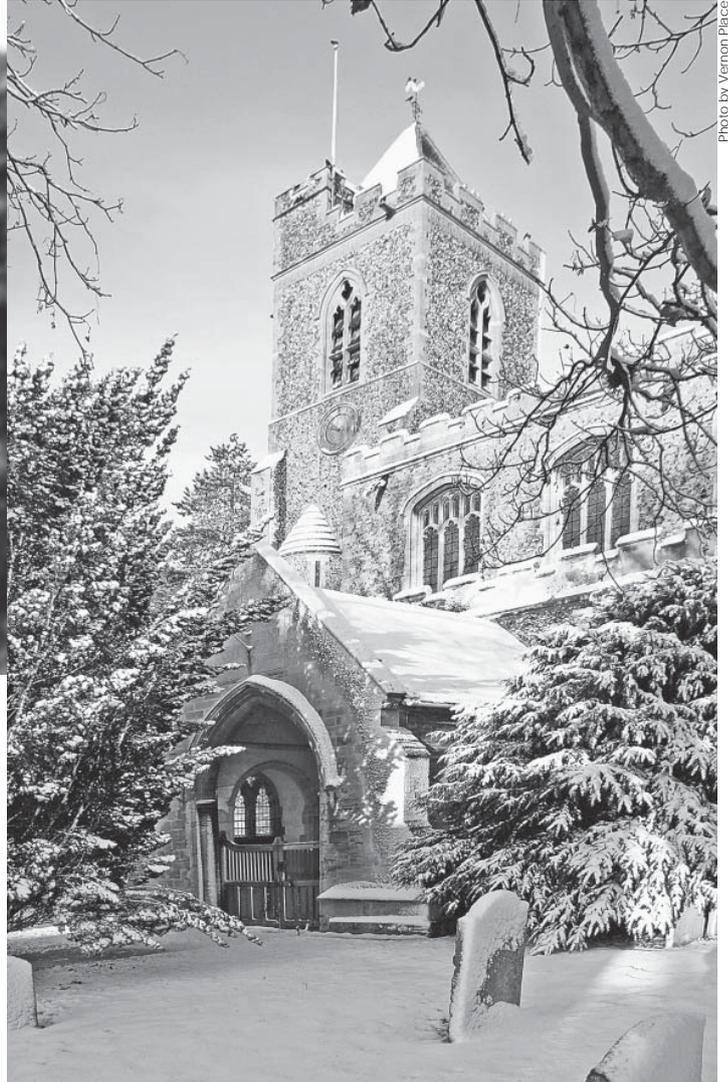


Photo by Vernon Place

Isleham Parish Action Plan

This Action Plan was adopted by Isleham Parish Council at their meeting held on Monday 11th January 2010.

A committee is to be set up to monitor the progress made in achieving the objectives identified by Isleham parishioners.

The plan will be available on the Isleham village web site, www.isleham-village.co.uk

Copies of the plan will be distributed to all local interest groups, and will be available from the Parish Clerk Mrs Diane Bayliss.



ISLEHAM PARISH PLAN 2009

Objective 1: To improve road safety in Isleham

Find out who is responsible for setting up the speed watch scheme in the village.

Lobby County Council for a 20mph speed limit in Maltings Lane to improve road safety outside the school.

Lobby the police to enforce parking restrictions outside the school on Maltings Lane and also on Mill Street at the top of Limestone Close.

Lobby County Council to improve signage on the A142 at the roundabout for the bypass for directions to the Carrot Factory.

Lobby County Council to replace faulty lighting with environmentally sensitive lighting.

Pass complaints about uneven pavements to the County Council and petition to be included in the maintenance programme for the next financial year.

Investigate the possibility of a footpath along Waterside Road to the Isleham Marina.

Objective 2: Environment/Footpaths

A litter picker is required to monitor the public waste bins emptying them during the week if necessary and collecting blown rubbish and bagging it up for the Monday collection.

To improve the recycling service an article will be placed in the Informer asking for comments to be made in writing to the parish clerk who will dialogue with ECDC and Veolia to see how improvements can be made.

Dog Waste Bins are a high priority and 8 have now been provided. The PC will look into providing another 6 (+2 free) in the next financial year.

A working party is being formed by the County Council to improve the condition of the nature reserve on the Fordham/Isleham Road. Details will be published in the Isleham Informer and on notice boards around the village.

Investigate the possibility of revitalising the pond on East Fen Road

Determine areas of concern regarding overhanging branches and overgrown hedges. Use the Informer as a vehicle to gather information

Public Footpaths. The 'Beating the Bounds' footpath map needs reprinting and supplying to every household in the village

Parish Council are responsible for maintaining the clunch walls at the cemetery. Other walls are the responsibility of the property owners although they may approach ECDC for grant funding.

Objective 3: To Improve Communication

Several comments were received about the Isleham Informer and these will be passed on to the Informer Team

A new suitable location needs to be identified for the notice board which also needs renewing.

ISLEHAM PARISH PLAN 2009

Objective 4: To Consider Improvements to Local Transport

Stagecoach to be approached to see whether anything can be done to improve the bus service.

Parish Council to continue to support Dial-a-Ride taking parishioners to Ely for shopping etc on Thursdays

Encourage support for the community car scheme through advertisement of the service.

Fenland Flier service could be discontinued in September 2010. The Parish Council need to make representation to CCC about the need for this service and to contact other Parish Councils to establish the need in their area. Encourage parents through the Isleham Informer to contact their MP's to obtain their support..

Objective 5: To control local development so that the character of Isleham is preserved.

Make contact with Cambridgeshire Acre Rural Housing Enabler to establish the need for affordable housing and progress the issue as required.

Parish Council to promote the needs of the community when considering planning applications including those which relate to back building.

Objective 6: To Promote Community Safety & Good Neighbourhood Scheme

Publicise Neighbourhood Panel meetings.

Put crime reports in Isleham Informer

Consider re-instating Police surgeries.

Approach PCSOs about increased police coverage of the village.

Look to revitalise the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the village. Arrange a public meeting to determine interest.

Advertise in the Informer for volunteers to come forward to set up a good neighbour scheme within the village.

Objective 7: Local Government (Parish Council)

Continue to place meeting notices in prominent sites around the village 3 clear days before any PC meeting.

Make sure PC decisions are well publicised either on notice boards or in the Isleham Informer.

Encourage the D Cllr & C Cllr to write articles for the Informer to raise awareness of local issues. Include these articles on the village website.

Lobby the County Council about including Isleham Marina within the Cambs County Council boundary.

ISLEHAM PARISH PLAN 2009

Objective 8: To Improve Social and Sporting Activities

ICA (sub-committee of the parish council which has charitable status) to seek funding for the new centre.

Ferland Elite Bus will be providing a youth bus for the village on a Wednesday night. The bus will run for a trial period of 3 months at no cost at the Priory, after which the Parish Council will consider the options for continuing with the service.

The possibility of a skate park will be considered along with the new community centre.

Requests were made for Non-Church based village events including film shows for families. Volunteers will be sought via the Informer to take this forward.

Requests were made for social events for the elderly. As a number already take place these organisations will be contacted to request them to publicise events more prominently.

Children's play facilities to be included in the new Community Centre Project.

Objective 9: To Consider Improvements to Local Services

Prescriptions for the over 60's are available to be collected from the Post Office. A number of residents expressed an interest in this service being extended. The findings from the survey will be passed on to the Post Office for their consideration.

Investigate the possibility of adopting the phone box; including finding out the cost of maintaining it and who would be responsible

Objective 10: To Inform Churches of Response to the Survey

Community Involvement by the Churches was recognised as important. The results of the consultation will be passed on to the Churches.

Miscellaneous

Inform the Parish Council that 42% of the respondents would be willing to pay a little more council tax to fund the extra amenities.

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PCSOs Barb Neill and Ian Hawkins

There has been a sudden increase in vehicles getting broken into around our area lately between Fordham, Isleham and Chippenham. The most common items stolen from vehicles are Sat Navs and mobile phones.

The simplest advice I can give to help prevent you maybe becoming a victim of this is to simply not leave any valuables in your vehicle. I know that a lot of us think 'well it will be ok for just one night'. That one night might be the unlucky night that somebody breaks into your vehicle.

Please take extra care in ensuring that you remove all your valuables from your vehicles. If you are shopping and stop somewhere, make an effort to at least hide any valuables out of sight. This should only be a temporary thing but if it is out of sight, it's out of mind.

We have now launched a dedicated phone number for people with communication difficulties.

The police enhancement access line (PEAL) is available 24 hours a day for non-emergency calls for anyone who has a communication difficulty.

Those wanting to use the system must register first to ensure their details are already in the system. They will then be given the dedicated number, which allows them to contact specially trained call taker. The scheme can be used for all non-emergency calls. In the event of an emergency people should always call 999.

For more information about the scheme contact the police service centre on 0345 456 456 4 or visit the force website - www.cambs.police.uk.

The following changes are being introduced to improve how we police the district:

1. We have a very dedicated group of volunteer Special Constables in the district who routinely come out and assist us when we need them. They have now been paired up with regular full-time officers and allocated a specific beat which is improving the effectiveness of the neighbourhood policing team. A new improved training package has been introduced to recognise the specialist role of Neighbourhood Policing. This new approach has already produced some good results.
2. The 'Off Road' motorcycle training has now been completed and you should see the bike routinely deployed in areas where this type of response can have the best results. Its purpose is to deal not only with rural crime, such as machinery thefts and hare coursing, but also dealing with the anti-social use of motorcycles in built up areas.
3. The times officers patrol Ely city centre and outlying villages has been varied to better meet the needs of the public and respond to calls for service. What this means is that there are now more neighbourhood officers patrolling later into the night to tackle local priorities. The officers have been given specific patrol tasks which includes all areas subject to antisocial behaviour and violent crime.

4. 'Speedwatch' has proved to be an enormous success. It is enabling my officers to be more effective by allowing them to focus their enforcement action where the speedwatch scheme has identified locations and times of speeding within the villages. I want to say a very public thank you to those volunteers who provide very valuable data.

5. Neighbourhood Watch is an area where we need to do better and we will be working to improve the flow of information to our Coordinators. I will update on progress in my next review period.

What have you done for you lately? - In addition to tackling the neighbourhood priorities, the team have been very busy addressing criminality across the district. Between 01/09/2009 and 30/11/2009 the team have arrested over 153 offenders across the neighbourhood and executed 7 search warrants for stolen property and drug offences.

Notable crimes and incidents - Cannabis seizure in Burwell. Your East Cambs Neighbourhood Team executed a drugs warrant in the village where cannabis resin and herbal cannabis with an estimated street value of £196,000 was seized. In addition, £15,000 in cash was seized from the occupant. A local man has been charged with possession of drugs with intent to supply and is going through the court process.

In Stretham a local man was arrested, charged and has been convicted of aggravated vehicle theft and is now serving a period of imprisonment.

Juveniles from Ely and Littleport have been arrested and charged with offences of burglary and in Sutton a juvenile has been reprimanded for a racially aggravated public order offence.

These are but a few of the offences that I have picked out. I hope in future to have a far more detailed breakdown for each of the Panel areas.

We have noticed in all the villages in the area there is still some inconsiderate parking and some illegal parking. The illegal parking is dealt with by a Fixed Penalty notice costing the owner of the car £30. When you leave your car for whatever reason please park it appropriately and legally and be considerate to other road users and pedestrians.

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2nd Hamper	Mrs M Rattle
3rd Newmarket Race Tickets	Jill Bercovici
4th Merry Monk Meal for two	Ian 781094
5th MOT Priory Garage	Stephen Allen
6th Hiedrick Champagne	Adrian Sheldrick
7th Brewery Tour	Mrs Blaber
8th Single Malt Whisky	Mr & Mrs Crouch
9th Eric Tennant £20 Voucher	Andrea Edwards
10th Gin	G Nicholas
11th Wine	Debbie Thompson
12th Luxury Manicure	J Gilbert
13th £10 Tesco Gift Card	Mrs A T Welsh
14th £10 Shoe Tree Voucher	Sammie
15th Paddington Bear	James Millar
16th Quality Street	Mr & Mrs D Thompson
17th Roses	Mrs Jakes
18th Quality Street	Liat Churley
19th Cambridge Monopoly	Ian 781813
20th Quality Street	Mr G Radford
21st Cheese Platter	Rachel Jakes
22nd Children's Selection	Lorraine Bedford
23rd Children's Selection	Leanne Dunsmuir
24th Jigsaw	Les Beckett
25th Stationery Set	R Threadgold
26th Milk Tray	Mrs Nicholas
27th Green & Blacks Chocolate	John Gowing

Women's Institute



We began 2010 with a talk from Maureen Penney on "Improving your Health Naturally". Members were interested in Maureen's idea, and we agreed that the New Year was

a very good time to think about diet and exercise.

The AGM is in February, when committee members will be elected and our Jumble Sale is 1- 2pm on Saturday 20th February in the Village Hall.

Speakers for the next few months are:

March 11th	Keith Mutton	'Birds of Prey'
April 8th	Bob Scott	'Glass Blowing'
May 13th	Margaret Haynes	'Haunted Ely'

We are a very friendly group who meet at the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of each month, and all are welcome. If you would like more information please get in touch.

Glenda Preece
01638 780735; gjprece@aol.com



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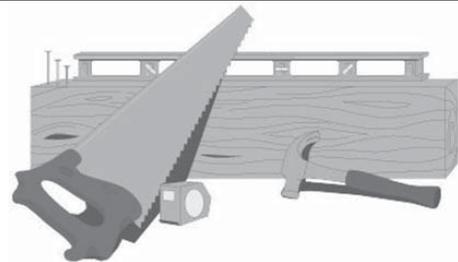
Entertainment Coming Up...

6th February	PAUL NEON & THE SAINTS	
20th February	GLAMTASTICS	Glam rock band
6th March	MACCA	5 man band 70s music right up to today
27th March	BUTTERSCOTCH	Pop/Rock Female vocal 4 piece band

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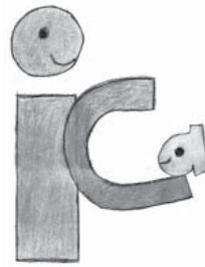


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Isleham
Community
Association

Community Centre Update

As you would expect, we have been concentrating most of our efforts on more accurately determining, and reducing, the funding gap referred to in the last issue. Much work is going on, currently behind the scenes, notably on establishing and trying to reduce building costs. You will

obviously be updated when there is something tangible to report.

On the subject of reporting, this is my last update. The ICA held its AGM on 7th January, at which I stood down as Chair. I have fulfilled the role for three years and feel it is time for new blood. If one likens the past three years to a relay race, it cannot be won in the first two or three legs, but it can be lost during this time. I feel I have handed on the baton with a good chance of winning – good luck to the rest of the team.

As you know, teams perform better with the spectators behind them, so please give them your support. They have, by and large, a thankless task and would be heartened to know that you are supporting, and where possible, helping them.

See you at the Grand Opening.

Philip Aspland

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JOYCE'S CORNER

I'm glad the old year's gone at last,
 Though I have good memories of the past.
 There are lots of things I hope to do
 With a new great grandson to look forward to.

I look out of my window and I can see
 Squirrels that run up the walnut tree.
 Leaves fell like confetti to the ground:
 They fell so gently without a sound.

Snow has fallen day after day.
 Now it is time that it melted away.
 I still have bulbs I need to set
 With ground so hard that it won't be yet.

The bushes are full of berries this year.
 Now the gulls will start to appear.
 There are so many birds I daily feed,
 They all love the scraps with bread and seed.

We have a club where we sew and knit.
 I like a hobby that's not "keep fit".
 Threading a needle's a bit of a chore,
 And it's hard to pick up if it falls on the floor.

Hurry up March when we alter the clocks,
 So I can leave off my pink bedsocks.
 Bulbs will come up, snowdrops in bloom,
 The warm Spring weather can't come too soon.

Joyce Drayton

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INFORMATION

Thursday bus from Isleham to Ely Market

Circular route: 9:15am Limestone Close – Malting Lane – Beck Road – The Causeway – East Road – Sun Street – Church Street – West Street – Hall Barn Road – Fordham Road – arrive Ely 10:00am; Return 12:00 noon.

Fares: Adult Bus Pass Holders £2.50 Return
Adults £5 Return

Our buses are accessible to all, however to improve customer service, wheelchair users and those with small children requiring booster seats are advised to contact Ely/Soham Dial-a-Ride in advance: Ely Soham Dial-a-Ride 01353 661161

This service is financially supported by Isleham Parish Council.

Mobile Library

Stops alternate Thursdays. Next visits: 1st, 15th and 29th October, 12th and 26th November. For more information phone 08450 455 225.

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 Child Health Clinic will be in Isleham Village Hall with the Tea & Toast group on the second and fourth Thursdays every month from 10–11am. For more information phone Naomi Greener on 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 555999
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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Fordham Pre-School Would like to invite you to a Nearly New Sale at the Victoria Hall Fordham on Saturday 6th March, 10am–12noon. 50p entrance fee. If you would like to become a seller please contact Donna Thompson: 01638 720375 or Louise James: 01638 720220.



Isleham WI

JUMBLE SALE

in The Village Hall

Saturday 20th February at 2.00pm

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Cake stall

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Friday	3pm-7pm
Saturday	10am-4pm
Sunday	10am-noon

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Village clubs: information

If you would like details of your club meeting times to appear here, please contact Glenda Preece on: 01638 780734 or email gjpreece@aol.com

CLUB	CONTACT	TEL	DAY/DATE	TIME	PLACE	
Art Group	Sally		01638 780023	Tuesdays	7-9pm	Village Hall
Book Club	Diedre Deller		01638 780554	Alternate Fridays	2pm	Social Centre
Brownies	Annette May		01638 780934	Thursdays	6-7.15pm	Village Hall
Busy Bees	Mel Jones		01638 780902	Tuesdays	9.30-11.30am	Village Hall
Craft Club	Hazel Thompson		01638 780633	Tuesdays	1.30-4pm	Social Centre
Cubs	Angela Dann		01638 781947	Tuesdays	6.30-8pm	Village Hall
French Conversation	Francine		Francine@the waytofrance.com	Monday	6-7.15pm	1 Church St
Gala Committee	Fred Preece		01638 780734	3rd Monday	8pm	The Griffin
Isleham Society	Vernon Place		01638 780449	3rd Thursday	7.45pm	Village Hall
Keep Fit: Aerobics Pilates	Parris Williams		01638 781663	Thursday	7-8pm 8-9pm	Village Hall
Line Dancing	Andrew Palmer		01354 696063	Mondays	7.45-10.15pm	Village Hall
Little Stars Drama	Stephanie Eustice		07788 425733	Tuesdays	4.30-6pm	Village Hall
Paper Craft Evening	Victoria Rattle		01638 721128	2nd Friday	7.30pm	High St Church
Ruth Bendall School of Dance	Ruth Bendall		01638 780260	Wednesdays Saturdays	4.30pm 9am	Village Hall Village Hall
Tea & Toast	Claire Freeman		07827 234442	Thursdays	9.30-11.30am	Village Hall
W.I.	Glenda Preece		01638 780734	2nd Thursday	7.30pm	Village Hall



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*Forthcoming attractions:
On Valentine's Day you will be serenaded with music from Jacen Bruce
We are also offering a special 3 course menu
Saturday 6th March: 'Machine' (band)*

CHURCHES' NEWS

High Street Church

Sunday Services: All are welcome to our Sunday services throughout the year.

Morning Worship: 10.30am All ages are very welcome from the very young to the very old. The children have their own activities.

Evening Fellowship: 6.30pm 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 babies 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. The older Junior Church meet at the Village Hall. This is for children who are 7 to 11 years old (that's the noise you've heard from the Village Hall on a Sunday morning!). Their morning starts from 10am 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 they all have a lot of laughs!

Weekly Activities

Are you interested in how to stay active in later life? If so, we are running an exercise class for the more mature on Monday afternoons at 2pm at the Chapel.

Our **Rendezvous Group** – for the more mature among us – meets every Tuesday afternoon at 3pm. 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 12–2pm. An excellent meal for just £2 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. For further details on any of the above, please contact Kathryn on 01638 780652 or the Church Office.

Little Lambs is our parent/carer and toddler group which runs term time Fridays from 9.15 – 11.15. Parents/carers can relax with a coffee while the children play. Each week we have a craft activity, juice time and end the morning with singing. All welcome!

Alpha (Tim Malkin 01638 780592)

This Course is currently running during the Spring term. If you would like details about joining in with any future Alpha Courses we run please feel free to contact Tim Malkin or the Church Office. Now internationally acclaimed, this introduction to Christianity is widely accepted as an effective modern day tool to reach those who do not know Jesus. Each evening has an easy social setting, teaching and discussion and is open to all.

Marriage (Paul & Anne Claringbold 01638 780013)

Building a strong and healthy marriage that lasts a lifetime. This 8 week course is designed to both help and strengthen marriages and includes teaching on significant topics such as the art of communication, resolving conflict and having fun together. Each couple's privacy is respected and there are no group discussions.

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 Jane or Sharon in the Church Office on 01638780985 or Paul Hedger (Church leader) on 01638 721291 or go to www.highst.org.uk.

Three Rivers Group St Andrew's Parish Church

Regular Church Services

Sundays: The main service is at 9.30 am. Junior Church is in the Social Centre, and in church the third Sunday of each month for All Age Worship.

Midweek services

Mon – Weds: 9am Morning Prayer, Fordham

Thurs, Fri: 8.15am Morning Prayer Fordham

Monday: 3.30pm Evening Prayer Kennett (in school in term time)

Tuesday: 4.30pm Evening Prayer. Limestone Close (Last Tuesday of the month, Holy Communion)

Wednesday: Evening Prayer 4.15pm Snailwell, Holy Communion 5.30pm Chippenham

Weekly Activities

Tuesday: 9am–12 noon: Coffee Morning in Social Centre

Friday: Choir Practice 6.30pm in church. All welcome. Contact Mark Liversidge 01638 781696. Bell ringing practice 7.30pm – beginners welcome! Contact Ruth Ogden, the Tower Captain, for more information

Sundays@6. Our Youth Group

Our Youth group meets twice a month at the Old Vicarage in Isleham; we hope that many other young people will join us. Details from Rev'd Kate or Rev'd Mike.

Priests The Rev'd Mike Banyard 01638 721616 banyardmg1@yahoo.co.uk. The Rev'd Kate Peacock 01638 723960 kate.peacock@btopenworld.com

Churchwardens Rob Savage: 01638 780218, [robert.savage\[at\]islehamchurch.org.uk](mailto:robert.savage[at]islehamchurch.org.uk); Nick Carver: 01638 781116, [nick.carver\[at\]islehamchurch.org.uk](mailto:nick.carver[at]islehamchurch.org.uk)

Tower Captain Ruth Ogden: 01638 780646, [ruth.ogden\[at\]islehamchurch.org.uk](mailto:ruth.ogden[at]islehamchurch.org.uk)

Choir Director Mark Liversidge: 01638 781696, mark.liversidge[at]islehamchurch.org.uk
Webmaster Andrew Stephens: 01638 781468/780229
Service Sheet Editor Rob Savage: 01638 780218 robert.savage[at]islehamchurch.org.uk
For more information about the Group and St Andrew's please visit our web site at www.islehamchurch.org.uk

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Council Tax

Stay ahead of the game – be prepared.

Preparations are now underway to produce the Council Tax bills that will be issued to everyone in March. Our aim is to help our customers to avoid getting behind with the bills in these difficult times. One way we can do this is to make sure your account is set up correctly, using the method of payment you choose to use when the bills are first issued.

Below are all the alternative ways you can make payment, many of which require no formal setup. If you do not want to change your current method of payment used last year, you do not need to take any action.

If you would like either a stress free, easily maintained Direct Debit or, make payment in the community at your local Post Office or PayPoint you will need to contact us to set this up.

To set up a **Direct Debit**:

Contact us on 0845 072 6000 to set this up. Please have your account details to hand. Alternatively you can complete the Direct Debit mandate on the website at www.angliarevenues.gov.uk

To receive a **Payment Card** to use at the Post Office or PayPoint:

Contact us on 0845 072 6000 or email counciltax@angliarevenues.gov.uk please state your account reference, name and address. If you used a payment card to pay last year you can continue to use the same one, there is no need to request another.

You do not need to contact this office if you wish to use any of the following methods of payment.

By **telephone**: you can make a payment over the automated telephone line using your debit card. Please telephone 01353 616492 or 01353 616493.

Over the **Internet** simply log onto our website at www.eastcamb.gov.uk and click on 'payments' or

www.angliarevenues.gov.uk and click on 'make a payment'

A **Standing Order** can be set up using the following information. Co-Operative Bank plc, Cambridge Branch, sort code: 089043, account ref: 61514959 quoting your council tax account reference.

By **post**: Send a cheque made payable to East Cambridgeshire District Council to The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4EE. Write your account number on the back of your cheque. (Post dated cheques are not accepted.)

Cash is not accepted at any of the East Cambridgeshire District Council offices.

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Friday and Saturday 12 noon to 2pm
and 7pm to 9pm

Sunday Lunchtime Roast (advisable to book)

ENTERTAINMENT

- FEBRUARY -

Friday 5th: Karaoke with Baz/Lala

Saturday 13th: Karaoke with Clive

Friday 26th: Live Music - Jacen

- MARCH -

To be confirmed: Quiz

Saturday 20th: Band - Halo

Friday 27th: Karaoke with Clive

OPENING TIMES

Monday: 7pm to 11pm

Tuesday to Thursday: 12 noon to 3pm & 7pm to 11pm

Friday and Saturday: 12 noon to 12 midnight

Sunday: 12 noon to 10.30pm



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