

Isleham Informer

Issue 38 • April 2010

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Photos by Ed Mayall



The roof of the Village Hall was raised once more in March by song and laughter as Isleham PTA presented their own very special flavour of pantomime in 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'. Written by the genius duo of Doreen Speirs and Richard Drayton, the panto had all the hallmarks of a professional production – stunning costumes, larger-than-life characters, fabulous scenery and catchy musical numbers – with the addition of a large helping of local humour and a little good natured jibing. Even the school's headteacher, Mrs Bramley, did not escape mention!

A talented cast of actors with familiar faces supplied the finest in family entertainment. Vanessa Smith played a very convincing Snow White, and Richard Drayton as Muddles and Dan Bell as King Chucklebum were, as usual, on top panto form. Marie Bowker rose royally to the challenge of playing a 'baddie' in her portrayal of the evil stepmother.

Also worthy of mention was 'Bossy' the dwarf, brilliantly played by Leah Bowden in the style of 'Nessa' from TV's 'Gavin and Stacey', and Ray Goodwin's hilarious German accent had the audience in stitches as his

More on page 14





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From the Editor

You may notice as you leaf through your *Informer* (and no doubt absorb every last word) that this issue has rather less space occupied by advertising than has been the case recently. The reason for this, rather surprisingly perhaps in the current economic climate, is that some advertisers have found their exposure a little too successful with the result that they are getting more work than they can manage. So many thanks to our readers for your support of our sponsors! There are two up-shots of this: firstly, it means there is more space in the *Informer* for editorial content (good); secondly, there is a consequent reduction in the magazine's revenue (not so good). Therefore, if you are thinking of advertising in the *Informer*, now is the time: it obviously can be effective, there is space, we need you and at our still, frankly, almost insultingly cheap rates, you would be foolish not to!

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NEXT ISSUE: The next issue will be published 1st June 2010. The copy deadline for all editorial and advertising is 9th May 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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How to get into the *Informer*

We are always looking for articles to print in the *Informer*, so do send in details of your event your club report, fundraising effort, celebration, interesting photo, historical notes or anything at all pertaining to the village. Please contact Ed Mayall, phone 01638 780839 or email ed@islehaminformer.org.uk or any other member of the staff (contact details above).

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VILLAGE NOTES

New Board Games Club

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Contact Alison Young 01638 780351.

“B.B.Q., Band & Blossom”

NEWMARKET TOWN BAND at St Andrew’s, Isleham on Sunday 23rd May at 2pm.

Tickets £10 (Concessions £7.50). Available from the Post Office or a PCC member.

Please bring your own chairs.

Fenland Elite Youth Bus

The Youth Bus now comes to Isleham on THURSDAYS from 7-8.30pm outside the Priory. Attractions include: X-Box, Playstation, Chill-Out Zone, Tuck Shop. For years 7-11, entry is free for the first week, then 50p for members or 70p for non-members.

No Messing: The name’s Missing!

We apologise unreservedly to Mike and Gina Missing of The Griffin for the misspelling of their surname in the ‘Meet the Landlord’ article in the last issue of the *Isleham Informer*. Very careless.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDDING

Sam Roberts will be holding a Wedding Blessing at the Old Priory, Isleham on 24th April at 2pm.

OBITUARY

Mrs Gertie Ely passed away 7th February 2010, aged 94. Beloved mother of Mary Wightman, John Ely, and the late Margaret Giles. Grandmother to seven and great-grandmother to 10. Born Ipswich 16th December 1915. Mary Wightman would like to thank everyone for their kindness and cards, and donations to Limestone Community Centre.

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.

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Gala Queen, Princess and Prince Competition 2010

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Traditionally, it is the Gala Queen and her attendants, the Prince and Princess who lead the parade through the village on

Gala Day. This year, the competition to select the Gala Queen, Prince and Princess is being run by Isleham PTA, and winners will receive a number of fantastic prizes, including a tiara, hair-up/styling and a manicure or make-up for the Queen. The Prince and Princess will each receive a goodie bag packed with exciting treats. This will be a postal competition open to all children aged 5 to 16 years who live in Isleham or who attend Isleham Primary School. Girls aged 11 to 16 on the day of the Gala will be eligible for the Gala Queen. Girls and boys aged 5 to 10 will be entered for the Princess/Prince competition. It costs just £2 per entry. To enter, you need to complete the form below, and on a separate sheet(s),

provide your response to the questions asked. Send or email your entry to Alison Oliver, 13 Beech Close, Isleham, alison.oliver7@virginmedia.com. Tel: (01638) 781232.

Please make sure you have read the terms and conditions carefully, as by submitting your entry, we will assume that you agree with them.



Competition Terms and Conditions

1. Winners must be available to participate in the Parade and to make presentations throughout the day on Saturday 3rd July 2010.
2. Winners are asked to jointly organise their transportation to lead the procession of floats on Gala Day.
3. You must live in Isleham or attend Isleham Primary School.
4. All forms must be signed by a parent or guardian and accompanied by the entry fee of £2 per child. Photographs are not required for this competition; entrants will be judged on their responses and artwork.
5. All entries must reach Alison Oliver by Monday 10th May 2010 for selection by a panel of independent judges on Wednesday 12th May.

Winners will be notified in writing and published in the next edition of the *Informer*.

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Entry Form

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Phone: _____

Signature of

Parent/Guardian: _____

On a separate sheet(s) of paper:

1. Tell us about your favourite things e.g. food, sports, books, clubs, people and pastimes.
2. Imagine you are the Queen or King of Isleham. What changes would you make?
3. Design, draw and colour a float for Gala Day to a theme of your choice.

ECSP

Tell us what is important to you and your community. The East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership (ECSP) is currently developing the new Sustainable Community Strategy, for launch in April 2011.

The new Strategy will replace the existing Sustainable Community Strategy for 2008-2011. It will set out how services can be improved and delivered to increase the environmental, social and economic well-being of the district and will act as an overarching partnership plan for East Cambridgeshire.

In order for the new strategy to be a leading and influencing document for the area it is important that the document contain the key aspirations of all local partner organisations and the community.

To complete the questionnaire go to www.eastcambsgov.uk; alternatively, if you would like a hard copy of the questionnaire please contact Melanie Wright on 01353 665555 or via email at lsp2@eastcambsgov.uk.

When is a river not a river?

Should the fenland rivers be designated as aqueducts?

The draining of the Fens exposed the waterlogged vegetation to oxidation, resulting in the lowering of the land by several metres. This necessitated the reinforcement of the river banks to maintain the water levels above that of the surrounding land.

David Alberry-King

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Isleham School Pool Association

Now in our eleventh year, we are looking forward to another Spring and Summer of great swimming. Last year the Association raised approximately £1500 to help maintain the school pool for the benefit of all its pupils. Many primary schools are losing their pools, so we are very proud of the Association and its members who enable us to keep ours open. It is worth noting that the majority of Isleham school children leave the school being able to swim and confident in the water.

All of this is only possible with fundraising, and below are some dates for your diary of our forthcoming events:

1. Family Fun Day and BBQ – 22nd May 12.30 on the school field. See additional advertisement for more information and please bring your family and friends along to support us and have fun.
2. Bags to School clothing collection – 8th June. Bring bagged unwanted clothing, shoes, bedding etc to the school car park by 9.30am. The last collection made £212!
3. Car Wash – Tharp Arms, Chippenham – 19th June 11.30–2.00. Come and relax and have a drink and possibly lunch, whilst we wash your car, for only £5!

A new committee was formed in October 2009 with the following taking up posts: Chair: Marie Bowker; Secretary: Julie Porter; Treasurer: Vanessa Smith (outgoing Treasurer - Marie Beaumont); Pool Carer: Pippa Walker. To join the Association, you need a child at Isleham School – or starting school in September 2010, and have completed the resuscitation training on either Monday 29th March at 6.45pm or Saturday 12th June at 8.30am, both to be held at the school. If you are unable to join the Association, maybe you would consider supporting it with a donation?

Following the success of our float winning second prize at last year's Gala, plans are already underway for this year's float. We would like to say a huge thank you to the Gala Committee for their generous donation to our funds.

Finally, a huge thank you to the Committee for all their hard work over the last year. We do need more helpers/volunteers to enable us to meet this year's fundraising targets. Please feel free to contact either Marie Bowker (780954) or Julie Porter (781390)

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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. Full minutes are available from the IPC and on the Isleham Village Website at <http://www.isleham-village.co.uk/pcminutes.html>.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Monday 11th January 2010

Present: Clls Beckett, Earl, Baines, Carter, Wilkes, Malkin, Hobbs, R. Thompson

Apologies: CC Powley, CC Palmer, Cllrs Palmer, Neal, H. Thompson.

POLICE MATTERS

The suggestion of police surgeries to be held weekly for a trial period was agreed by the Council. The surgeries will be held on a Wednesday, one week outside the Co-Op at 9-9.30am, and one week in the Village Hall at 3.30pm. Posters will be put up and a note will be placed in the *Informer* and on the website. A meeting of the Neighbourhood Panel was held on 6th January, and had been well attended.

ISLEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school has outlined their proposals for a new access to the pre-school. It was agreed a letter be sent to the school stating that the Council can see no justification to support the proposal. It would seem it would make it more difficult for parents who are dropping off children at both school and pre-school, and will not help children making the transition from pre-school to school. The Council will request further information, including a site plan and proposals for the type of fencing to be erected.

ISLEHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The AGM and a Public Meeting were held on 7th January. As from then the ICA has no Chair. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk be appointed as a Trustee of the Association. Mr Goldsack addressed the Council requesting that ICA are granted permission from the Council to erect a marquee on the Recreation Ground on Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd July so they might hold a number of fundraising events around the Gala Day. The cost of £2800 includes insurance and security for the duration of the events. It was agreed that permission be given and that the deposit for the marquee is paid by the Parish Council.

FENLAND ELITE YOUTH BUS

The Youth Bus will continue to be funded free of charge until Easter, after which the Parish Council will need to provide the necessary funds. Councillors agreed more information is needed about the success of the bus before a decision is made.

PARISH PLAN

It was agreed that the Parish Plan be adopted. A Working Party will be set up to monitor and maintain progress over the next five years. The Chair thanked all those who had worked hard to produce the document.

CORRESPONDENCE

A reply has been received from BT stating that all mobile networks have been tested in the village and are working satisfactorily.

WASH MATTERS

Cllr R. Thompson discussed the proposals for a Woodstock kissing gate, a gravel pathway and angling platforms at the Little Wash.

Planning Matters

APPLICATIONS

Construction of first floor rear extension and re-roofing main building at 83 The Causeway – no objection.
Conservatory to rear, replacement garage, replacement of flat roof with pitched roof at 4 Church lane – no objection.

APPROVALS

Single story garage and single storey side extension at 5 Beech Close.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

To be held on Monday 22nd March.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Monday 1st February 2010

Present: Clls Beckett, Baines, Carter, Neal, Garbett, Wilkes, Malkin, Hobbs, H.Thompson

Apologies: CC. Palmer, Cllrs Earl, R. Thompson.

POLICE MATTERS

There have been two surgeries so far; no-one attended the first and two people attended the second. After four more weeks a review will be carried out to decide whether it is worthwhile continuing with these.

ISLEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school would like to meet with the Chair of the Parish Council to discuss issues regarding security and access at the school.

ISLEHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

A new Chair is still required for the ICA.
A donation of £823 has been made to ICA by the Isleham School of Performing Arts.

FENLAND ELITE YOUTH BUS

A report has been received from Andy Burnham showing that up to 10 young people were using the Youth Bus before Christmas, and they expect numbers to increase throughout the year. It was agreed that the Council will fund the bus from Easter with a review taking place after 6 months.

CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD MATTERS

It was agreed that 7th February is booked for the consecration ceremony at the cemetery.

RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

It appears that the car park is no longer being locked in the evenings. The Council will monitor the situation for the next few months and report to the PCSOs that a considerable amount of rubbish is left in the car park at night.
Mr Cox will be asked to empty the bins on the Recreation Ground.
Research about trees to be purchased for the Recreation Ground is on-going.

CORRESPONDENCE

It was agreed that a donation of £30 is sent to the Bottisham/Burwell/Soham Schools Cluster to help with transport costs to enable Isleham primary school children to attend this year's 'Cluster' events.

WASH MATTERS

The EA have funding in place to provide the kissing gate which will be installed shortly.

DUNSTALL APPRENTICE GRANT

It was agreed that the award of £220 to Matt Gutteridge be approved, subject to him producing satisfactory receipts.

HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATH MATTERS

Cllr Powley said we should continue to report pot holes to CCC although the work may not be carried out until the weather improves.

Concerns have been raised about the number of cars for sale that are being parked at the Priory. The Clerk will write to the garage reminding them that there should be no car sales on the Priory Green.

As from 14th February the Stagecoach service from Isleham to Cambridge will no longer be operating. Cllr Powley will take up this matter and the Clerk will write to MP James Paice.

NATURE RESERVE

Access to the nature Reserve is very dangerous and there might be a grant available to move it to a more suitable location. The Clerk will raise this with Charlotte Lowry at a meeting next week.

Planning Matters

APPROVALS

Extension at 24 Robins Close.

REFUSALS

Construction of first floor rear extension and re-roofing main building at 83 The Causeway. ■

Extra push for Haiti

Local mums raise over £1500 with a Buggyfit walk

Over 20 mothers and babies in buggies from Soham, Isleham & Ely took part in a walk from Soham Children's Centre to Fordham and back on Saturday 20th February.

Moved by images of utter devastation in Haiti, this group of local mothers decided to raise money for the DEC Appeal. "Mums from different groups in the area all agreed to do the walk. It started as a chat after a Buggyfit session, so it was a fantastic sight to see the long line of people walking down the road," said Sharon Wright, co-organiser of the event and mum to 9 month old James.

The group, led by Buggyfit leader Jo Simcock, set off in glorious sunshine, buoyed by the fact that sponsorship pledges had already reached £1500 before the walk had even started. The staff at the SureStart Centre had kindly agreed to come in so the babies could be fed and changed, and the mums had refreshments.

"We were amazed that so many people sponsored us even before we had begun the walk. It's so heart-warming to see people being so generous and helping others who are far worse off than we are."

Anyone still wishing to sponsor the mums and babies can do so via the Soham to Fordham Buggy Walk justgiving website: www.justgiving.com/sohamtofordhambuggywalk

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	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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Service 204

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Chippenham, High Street	07.19
Snailwell, Short Road	07.24
Newmarket, Fordham Rd, Tesco	07.30
Newmarket, Guineas Bus Station	07.35

Newmarket – Isleham

Service 204

Monday – Friday

Newmarket, Guineas Bus Station	17.50
Newmarket, Fordham Rd, Tesco	17.55
Snailwell, Short Road	18.01
Chippenham, High Street	18.06
Isleham, The Causeway, opp Kennedy Road	18.11

Google Streetview

Observant web surfers in the village may have discovered that the results of the visit from the Google Streetview camera car last June are now online.

Enter 'Isleham' into the Google search engine, click 'Maps' and you should be presented with a lovely panorama of the the junction of Church Street and Pound Lane. Click on this and you will be able to take a virtual stroll around the village on a balmy summer's day without any of that tedious standing up nonsense normally required for such a perambulation.

Hmm... seems I've left the front door open...

Ed Mayall

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Both volunteers and contractors have been busy making improvements at the nature reserve in Isleham. Volunteers have been cutting back some of the small trees and hedges along the old railway track to encourage grassland and wild flowers back and to improve access for walkers.

Contractors have been putting in some new gates and resurfacing the track and car park to improve access and security. The laying of the access track unfortunately coincided with some very wet weather, creating very wet, muddy conditions at the site, so apologies for the inconvenience this caused. This should improve with drier and warmer Spring weather and we are also planning on putting down some surfacing underneath the gates to improve this for the future.

Some great news is that we have now appointed a Volunteer Warden for Isleham Local Nature Reserve, Andrew Garbett. Andrew applied to a previous ad in the *Informer* and has now been appointed as the Volunteer Warden. Andrew's main jobs are to keep an eye on the site, reporting any comments from the public or incidents, litter picking, keeping a wildlife diary and maintenance jobs. Do say hello to Andrew if you're on the nature reserve!

We also had a very successful first 'Friends of Isleham Local Nature Reserve' meeting, where over 20 people came along to discuss the nature reserve and

be a part of managing it. Our next meeting is Monday 19th April 7.30pm, Isleham Village Hall Back Room. All are very welcome and we need help with practical work, wildlife surveying, events, publicity, working with the school and community groups, litter picking, just coming to meetings and giving your opinions and comments and lots more!

It's a great way to meet people, look after your own local nature reserve and get outside and enjoy yourself... We do provide tea and cake too!

For any comments or information please contact Charlotte Lowry, Greenspace and Community Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council on 01223 715557 or charlotte.lowry@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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The Isleham Society

21st January The speaker was Ian Storey who gave a most enlightening and interesting presentation on 'The History and Running of Turners (Soham) Ltd.' He illustrated how a small family business, which started from very humble beginnings has, by hard work and good business strategy, been so successful in achieving a Company that is at the forefront of the transport world. Today it provides work opportunities for many people throughout the country and in particular for our local community – long may it continue!

18th February Vernon Place gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Old Isleham' (3) He used many old photographs from the 'Arthur Houghton Collection' as well as others provided by Michael Kelly, Peggy Woodroffe and Vernon Place. They all illustrated the village people and their activities in farming, the fen and the River Lark.

We are so fortunate that our President, Arthur Houghton, started collecting old photographs of our village so many years ago and we are now adding to the collection to preserve and record them for future generations. If you have any old photographs or documents about our village that you would allow us to use for the Isleham Society please contact us – we would copy them and not harm them in any way and they would be returned to you to keep in your family.

Future date 15th April the AGM followed by a talk by Dr Alastair Burn about our Isleham Fen Washes.

We welcome any visitors to our meetings – you don't have to be a member!

Vernon Place, Chairman of the Isleham Society

Women's Institute

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 11th February. Mrs Janice Pope was re-elected as President. The Rose Bowl was awarded to Ginette Hawes.

In March Keith Mutton came to give a talk about the birds of prey that he uses to drive birds from the airports at Mildenhall and Lakenheath. Keith had brought three of his birds with him; a harrier hawk, a peregrine falcon and a European eagle owl. He described how he bred, cared for and trained the birds, and told the meeting of the close bond that exists between him and the birds. It was a fascinating evening.

In April Bob Scott is coming to give a talk on Glass Blowing.

If you would like to join the W.I. or simply come to a meeting to see what it is like, please do come along. We meet on the second Thursday of each month in the Village Hall, 7.30pm for 7.45pm, and new members are always welcome.

For further information contact:

Glenda Preece
01638 780735; gjprece@aol.com

Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 21st May 2010

Hold a fish and chip supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives.

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat fish and chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 21st May 2010 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA)'s information and support services.

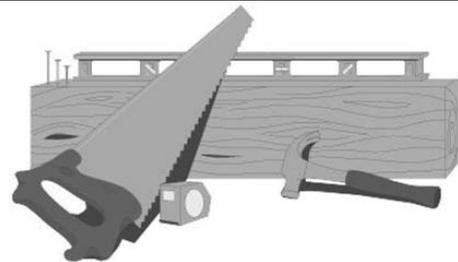
You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting seven friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

The money raised from the suppers will help SIA offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications that enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

For more information or to request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 ext 229, email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk

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From Page 1

woodcutter took pity on "Schnow Vight".

Judging by the amount of audience participation in the upbeat sing songs and raucous applause, the show was a resounding success. Well done!

One of the biggest fundraisers, this year's panto raised nearly £3,000, giving a fantastic boost to funds for the next phase of playground equipment to be enjoyed by all children at Isleham Primary School. On behalf of the PTA, my grateful thanks to everyone involved.

New members of cast and crew are always welcome, so if you would like to be involved, do get in touch.

Emma Jennings





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As another cricket season rapidly approaches I thought this would be a good time to update you on some of the developments within the cricket club.

I am delighted to say that we will be running three youth teams this season at under 11, under 13 and under 15.

At senior level we will be running two Saturday teams and a mid-week team.

We now have three qualified ECB coaches within the club and pre-season training has already started with sessions taking place for all ages at the Leys School in Cambridge every Sunday evening from 5-6pm.

For anyone who requires a lift to these sessions we meet at the recreation ground at 4.15pm. The cost is £2.50 per session.

Outdoor training for the youth section of the club will commence (weather permitting) on Friday 23rd April at 6pm at the recreation ground. We welcome all ages from 8-15 and newcomers to the game are particularly welcome, boys or girls.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a massive thanks to Mr Ray Sheldrick who has taken over our groundsman duties for the forthcoming season.

If you are a budding cricketer (young or old) and would like further details on the above please contact Adrian Sheldrick on 01638 780 780.

Robert Blair, Vice-Chairman

Bowls Club Report

The winter season is always a lot quieter than the outdoor matches but it doesn't seem like that to the committee. The clubhouse has been used virtually every weekday evening since the New Year, with bowls matches against other villages on a Monday and our own internal competitions on Tuesdays and Fridays. Bingo is held every Wednesday and High Street Chapel have been conducting an 'Alpha Course' on a Thursday evening. With occasional weekend bookings for various functions, the club has been a valuable asset that has benefited from the National Lottery funding (over 10 years ago now!).

The male members of the club are currently upgrading the green facilities as the club is proud to be hosting the Bowls Cambridgeshire finals in July, a first for our club. This is as a result of Mrs Sylvia Pinder being elected as the President for 2010, a great honour for our village.

In the East Cambs League, Team 1 are holding their own in mid table as are Team 2 who play in Division 3. Unfortunately, there will be no success in the cup competitions this season. The internal competitions are progressing well and winners will be advised in the next issue.

As we always say, anyone is more than welcome to come and see what the game of bowls is all about. The season starts on Sunday 18th April at 2.15pm and our members would be glad to assist you with advice or equipment to allow you to 'have a go'.

For any additional information, please contact either myself (01353 722781) or the club secretary, Mrs Pat Houghton (01638 780789).

Barry Grimwood, Club Captain

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CHURCHES' NEWS

Pound Lane Free Church

Pastor: Mr Dave Hall (01638 781343 or 01638 780636, email pastor@plfc.org.uk)

Elder: Mr Michael Gee (01638 552805)

Every Sunday

Sunday worship: 11.00am and 6.30pm

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(3yrs – Yr3): 10.00–11.15am (Mr Karl Yellop 01638 780637)

All Stars (Yr4 – Yr6): 10.00–11.15am (Mr John Martin 01638 781747)

Covies (Yr7 – early 20s): 9.30–10.30am (Mr Steve Neale 01638 780717)

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.

Monday

Music Mayhem: 1.30–2.30pm (Mrs Abby Martin 01638 781747 Preschool children during school term only) A fun time for your pre-school children – action songs, musical instruments and the ever popular "Sockeroo". Followed by refreshments and a time to relax with friends whilst the children play. New members always welcome.

All Stars Fun Night: 6.45–8.15pm

Wednesday

Fellowship: 2.15–3.15pm (Mrs Sandra Rampley 01353 624733) This caters for the more mature who are retirement age or over. They enjoy meeting together for a Bible talk, spiritual songs and prayer. Various fun evenings and meals are also organized 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.

Church Night: 7.40–9.00pm

Thursday

Coffee Morning: 10.00–11.30am

Covies Club Night: 7.00– 9.00pm

Friday (fortnightly in members' homes)

Women's Meeting: 10.30–11.45am (Sue Hall 01638 780636)

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); 01638 780636 (Pastor's home); email pastor@plfc.org.uk or secretary@plfc.org.uk; Website: www.plfc.org.uk or www.isleham.com

You are invited to join us for our **Easter celebrations** this year: The Combined churches Good Friday Service is at High Street Church this year at 10.30am on Friday 2nd April. On Sunday 4th April please join us as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection in our Easter Day Family Service at 10.30am; the service will be followed by refreshments. A crèche will be available for very young children.

We would also like to give you advance notice of some exciting events we have planned for July this year. We have invited a young man called **Henry Olonga** to come and share his faith and testimony. Henry is from Zimbabwe and was the first black international cricketer for that country. Henry is also a talented singer and has released his own album.

Visit his website www.henryolonga.net

It is planned that Henry will be with us from 16th to 18th July 2010. We would love for you to have the opportunity to meet him and to listen to him.

16th July 8pm Henry in concert, Isleham Village Hall.

Spend the evening with Henry as he sings and speaks of all that has happened in his life from world cricketing success to seeking asylum under threat of death.

17th July Henry at the Priory; food from 6pm

Join us for barbeque, bouncy castle, and family fun. Meet Henry and listen while he entertains you with talk of cricket, song and an insight into what makes him tick.

18th July Henry at plfc: Henry will be taking the 11.00am service at Pound Lane Free Church.

All of the above events are free of charge and do not need to be pre-booked. A range of Henry's music and art will be available for purchase on both the Friday and Saturday evenings.

High Street Church

Big Church Day Out

Saturday 29th May, Stanford Hall, Nr Loughborough. This is an exciting event when Christians of all denominations, from all over the country gather together for a day of family fun to celebrate together their faith in Jesus. The day includes well-known Christian bands, worship leaders, fun and entertainment for all ages, all set in the beautiful surroundings of Stanford Hall. For more information go to www.bigchurchdayout.com or contact the church office.

Easter Services: Please join us and our friends from St Andrew's Church and Pound Lane Free Church for the united Easter Good Friday Service on the 2nd April at 10.30am. Children will be catered for. Also all are welcome at our service on Easter Sunday at 10.30am as we celebrate together Jesus rising from the dead.

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!

Little Lambs is our parent/carer and toddler group which runs term time Fridays from 9.15–11.15am. 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 has been 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.

For more information about any of the events at High Street Church or general advice, call Jane or Sharon in the Church Office on 01638 780985 or Paul Hedger (Church leader) on 01638 721291 or go to www.highst.org.uk

Three Rivers Group St Andrew's Parish Church

Parish News – April 2010

When most of you read this the long weekend of Easter will be upon us, and the eggs will be started (or nearly finished!) and the holidays will be in full swing. For many the long weekend means an opportunity to visit friends and family, a chance to get going in the garden, or do some decorating or a DIY project. I read somewhere that more domestic accidents happen over the Easter weekend than at any other time of year; people falling off ladders while hanging wallpaper, people putting backs out after digging the garden, people electrocuting themselves... The list went on. So if you are thinking of a trip to the Garden Centre or DIY store – do take care!

But, for many Easter involves some slightly less dangerous activities – singing, praying, giving thanks, celebrating. Reminding ourselves of God's love that is so great and complete it turned death into life everlasting for all. God's own Son suffered and died and came back to life, to defeat the powers of death and to give us all life everlasting. Jesus opened the gate for each of us to enter Heaven, and to show us how great God's love is – it can overcome anything and everything.

Now, of course many may say that this is the more risky activity – and of course it is difficult to understand and think about. The death and resurrection of God.

The love that God has for me – despite who I am or what I may have done or not done. And they are right – it is hard and difficult to begin to ponder these great questions of life – where is God? What difference does it make to me? What is life all about? We have all asked these questions and thought about these things – I believe that we are all fundamentally built as spiritual beings – it is in our DNA.

We have just celebrated Mothering Sunday as I write this – a day when we remember and say thank you, not just to our Mums (important though it is to buy them lovely presents!) but we remember that it is a day when we remember Mother Church. We think about the church as like a Mother – a place of care and compassion, a place of love and teaching, a place of understanding and nurture. This is the original meaning of Mothering Sunday, to remind ourselves and to pray that the church is here for all, in times of need and in times of joy (and every week in between). And we do hope and pray that this is true of our church here.

So this Easter, whatever risky activity you choose to partake in – whether you decide to dig the garden or paint the walls, to pray or to question – do take care, and know in your hearts that God's love will overcome and that (we pray) Mother Church is here for all, for always.

See you on Sunday!

Kate Peacock

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@islehamchurch.org.uk; Nick Carver: 01638 781116, nick.carver@islehamchurch.org.uk

Tower Captain Ruth Ogden: 01638 780646, ruth.ogden@islehamchurch.org.uk

Choir Director Mark Liversidge: 01638 781696, mark.liversidge@islehamchurch.org.uk

Webmaster Andrew Stephens: 01638 781468/780229

Service Sheet Editor Rob Savage: 01638 780218 robert.savage@islehamchurch.org.uk

For more information about the Group and St Andrew's please visit our website at www.islehamchurch.org.uk

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Friday 23rd: Live Music - Elvis

- MAY -

Saturday 8th: Football Presentation
and Karaoke

Saturday 15th: Karaoke

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Sunday: 12 noon to 10.30pm



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