

Isleham Informer



Issue 41 • October 2010

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Fabulous Flower Festival



Above and below: A selection of the stunning entries for the Flower Festival at St Andrew's Church during the August Bank Holiday Weekend. The theme this year was 'Book Titles'. Photos by Vernon Place





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

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VILLAGE NOTES

Bridge Club

Our Bridge Club is a well-established village society that meets every Wednesday at 2.00 pm. We are keen to extend our membership. It is open to anyone, including complete beginners who would be offered free training prior to membership. Please contact Pam Martin on 01638 780961.

Isleham Youth Football

Youth Football is thriving in Isleham – as can be seen every weekend when passing the recreation ground. Local children are joined by others from surrounding villages who all come to enjoy the coaching offered by this well organised club. The ages start from under 6 (training every Saturday morning), so the children are in Year 1 at school – up to the adult team. We also have ladies’/girls’ teams that play every week, ages from under 8 upwards. We offer coffee, tea and bacon rolls every Saturday morning, so people can come and watch the young, enthusiastic children play whilst having refreshments... the more people the better! The money taken goes to all the teams for equipment, football kits, balls etc. To get involved, just come up to the recreation ground on training nights in the week or Saturday morning and talk to any Manager – you will be very welcome.

David Wells, Coach

The Granta Chorale ‘Adoramus’

The music of love in all its many forms laced with flowers, spells and sleep! At St Andrew’s Church, Isleham on Saturday 16 October at 7.30pm. Interval refreshments will be available. Tickets £8 (children £2) are available from Patterson’s General Store and Isleham Post Office; Mark Liversidge T: 01638 781696, Email: mark.c.liversidge@btinternet.com and after Sunday services at church.

The Granta Chorale, a choir of 20–24 singers, was formed by Janet Wheeler in Autumn 2007. The choir performs a wide range of music from the Renaissance to the present day and has already achieved an enviable reputation as a result of its performances in local churches. For more information about The Granta Chorale please see the choir’s website www.grantachorale.org.uk.

ADVERTISING in the INFORMER

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Our Kenyan Cousins

Isleham's BECKen Supports Children's Learning in Africa

It is generally acknowledged that as a nation we are one of the most generous in terms of charitable giving. It is an enormous 'industry', raising some £10 billion a year. Add to this the volume of donations given 'in kind', whether material (unwanted clothes, household goods etc.) and time (unpaid volunteers), and we begin to arrive at the statistic of 60% who donate on a regular basis.

In this month's edition of the *Informer*, we are reporting on two grass-roots initiatives that seem to epitomise all that is best in the sphere of charitable work.

Many readers will be familiar with Lidgate Farm: they grow and sell strawberries and raspberries, but behind the scenes is a beehive of activity that underpins the charity BECKen that was established to assist children in a school called The Goodnews Academy in a small village in Ukanda, Kenya. In a country where life expectancy is less than 40 years, where cholera, typhoid and malaria are regular visitors and housing for most consists of crude breezeblock with no electricity or running water – well, that's Third World reality.

Our story begins around ten years ago when Chris and John first visited the region and they fell in love with it – so much so that they built a house there, which now operates as the headquarters of BECKen. The bedrock of any emerging country is education and this is precisely where the couple direct and channel all their funding. Local education provision was threadbare: over 100 pupils to a class, no desks, chairs, books... so, as Chris says, "We simply took it on." Eighteen months later, the village now boasts a self-sufficient school for what started with 50 and now has 140 children, classrooms with desks and chairs, an ever-growing library, a cook who supplies two healthy meals a day and the equivalent of a local PTA. "We simply took it on..." I very much doubt that it was simple!

A little story that touches the heart concerns a little girl being fitted for her first school uniform. Despite being informed that it was a tad too large, she would not be parted with it: it was the first and only new dress she had ever worn and she was not going to give it back for anything.

Chris proudly displays photos of children sitting on their new chairs – like kids at Christmas, I thought.

Any charitable endeavour relies heavily on its infrastructure – fundraising, legal compliance,

financial management, corporate liaison; with the assistance of a dedicated team of local committee members, these issues are addressed. Their dream is to create a new school for up to 200 students at an approximate cost of £20,000. I think that it is a testament to the vision and energy of the founders to even contemplate such an undertaking. Chris says, "There is still much to be done."

Next time you notice a raffle or a car boot sale, a cake stall, a sponsored marathon or a Family Farm Fun Day with the word BECKen attached to it, you will hopefully be a little clearer about how our community sponsorship contributes to a little miracle in a Third World village.

Mark Stevens

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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
Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Assoc.	Jenny Hodd	01638 780729	3rd Tuesday		Bowls Club
Board Games	Alison Young	01638 780351	Last Thurs Sep-Apr	2.30-5pm	High St. Church
Book Club	Deidre Deller	01638 780544	2nd Friday	2pm	Social Centre
Brownies	Caroline Stamp-Dod	07766 336694	Thursdays	6-7.15pm	Village Hall
Busy Bees	Kelly Chawner	01638 781098	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	6-7.15pm	Village Hall
French Conversation	Francine	francine@thewaytofrance.com	Monday	6-7.15pm	1 Mill St
Gala Committee	Fred Preece	01638 780734	3rd Monday	8pm	The Griffin
Guides	Janine Taylor Caroline Hinitt	01353 624615 islehamguides@yahoo.co.uk	Tuesday	6.30-8.30pm	Social Centre
Isleham Society	Vernon Place	01638 780499	3rd Thursday	7.30pm	Village Hall
Line Dancing	Andrew Palmer	01354 696063	Mondays	7.45-10.15pm	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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Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves

On Saturday 21st August The Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves and the Soham Children's Centre organised a fantastic Family Fun Day, which was enjoyed by all, especially the young residents of Isleham and the surrounding areas. There was bug hunting, a seed safari game, arts and crafts, outdoor games and an area was laid out for families to enjoy picnics. The weather was really lovely and the event had a great atmosphere about it. We hope to organise more fun events like this in the future.

Thank you to everyone who is responding to the 'bin it and bag it' campaign down at Isleham Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The dog fouling problem has greatly improved and your support with this campaign is greatly appreciated. Clearing up after your dog means the site can be used by families and various

groups such as the school or the Scouts, in a safe and pleasant way. It will also help to improve the soil for wildflowers and grassland species. Thank you and keep up the good work!

Dates for your diary include... Next Friends meeting on Monday 11th October, 7.30 pm, at the Village Hall. If you have an interest in wildlife in Isleham then please do come along and get involved with managing sites and enthusing others about wildlife on their doorstep. Also we have a work party to do some practical work at Isleham LNR on Wednesday 20th October, 10.30-3.30 – even if you pop down for an hour, all help will be appreciated. Equipment and training and a cup of tea provided! Just wear old clothes and stout footwear.

Charlotte Lowry

Families enjoy the Fun Day in August. Photo: Charlotte Lowry





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INFORMATION

Thursday bus from Isleham to Ely Market

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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

A new timetable will be published shortly. For further details 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)

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Gas Emergencies 0800 371787

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- out of hours emergency 01733 561370

Refuse Collection 01353 863864

RSPCA 0870 5555999

Citizens Advice Bureau 0845 130 6442

Ely 0845 130 6442

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

Sure Start Children's Centres



What's on for FREE for families with children under five at Soham Children's Centre, next to Weatheralls Primary School

Under Ones' Group Pop along and meet other new parents in your area for tea and a chat. Every Wednesday 12–2pm. No need to book – just turn up!

Baccy Busters Need help to stop smoking? Come along for some free help and advice. Every other Monday, 3–4pm.

Free crèche available. Call 01353 727188 to book.

Breast Friends Breastfeeding support group meeting every Tuesday 11.30–12.30pm. For new and pregnant Mums. Pop in for some free advice and support from the Lactation Consultant.

Baby Clinic Every Tuesday 9.30–11.30am. Weigh the baby and have tea and a chat with the Health Visitor about any worries or concerns.

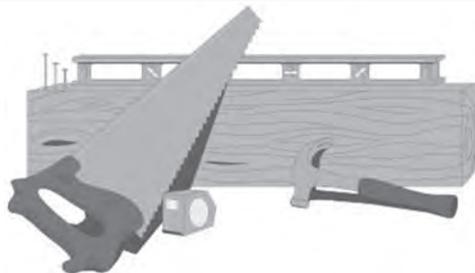
Stay & Play From September, every Monday 9.30–11.00am at St Andrew's Extended Schools Unit in Soham. Tea, coffee and play session for parents and carers and their under 5s.

Isleham Tea & Toast Every Thursday at Isleham Village Hall, 9.15–11.30am. Pop along for some tea and toast, a play session for the under 5s and a chance to meet other mums.

For more information call us on 01353 727188

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A Brand New Home for IUFA Pre-school



Under construction: Contractors working to complete Isleham Pre-school's new building.
Photo: Vernon Place



Left: A new play area for the under-fives.
Photo: Emma Jennings

It's over 25 years since Isleham Pre-school first occupied a 'Portakabin' on the site of Isleham Primary School, and high time for a change. The dilapidated old building was demolished in July to make way for a brand new timber building for Isleham's under-fives.

Many villagers have been surprised just how quickly the new premises have been constructed, as Winchester-based contractors Homelodge Buildings Ltd. have worked through the summer holidays to make a long-held dream for Isleham families into a reality. Fundraising for the building started almost a decade ago, when it became clear that the previous temporary building would have to be replaced. A staggering £38,000 of the total cost of around £220,000 has been raised through the efforts of local parents over the years; some of their children are now at secondary school!

The Pre-school, established in the 1970s, is now part of the Isleham Under Fives Association (IUFA), run by a Committee of parent volunteers. Both IUFA and Pre-school staff had significant input throughout the planning process. Pre-school Manager Jenny Larner explains that the building was designed very much with the children in mind, with light, airy spaces; a new kitchen; improved toilet facilities and easy access to the play garden.

She adds, "We are so lucky to finally have the new building." The start of the construction had to be urgently brought forward to early July to avoid the budget being affected by County Council spending cuts. "We are very grateful to the School and the Bowls Club for allowing the builders access to the site earlier than planned, and to Pound Lane Free Church for giving us the use of their rooms as temporary premises."

At the time of writing, contractors and the five-strong Pre-school staff are making the finishing touches to the building, which is expected to open its doors on Monday 27th September. The new Pre-school is expected to increase the number of available places from 18 to 26 children. An Open Day is planned for later in the year to enable Pre-school parents past and present to appreciate the results of their fundraising.

Emma Jennings

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Cattery with a Difference

Ambling down to the Marina I pass the cattery sign on Waterside. Well, I don't own a cat so I never really gave it a second thought. But this is a cattery with a difference – most of the 28 residents are, in fact, refugees. For the past five years Lorraine and Geoff Smith have dedicated their time and finances to the rescue, rehabilitation and housing of deserted animals.

The plight of unwanted, and often neglected, pets is not a pleasant one – many are 'disposed of' or simply left to suffer and die from exposure, disease or famine. Well not if the Smiths can help it! They have developed a programme of welfare that addresses all the practical components of care and rehoming – neutering of kittens, veterinary care, microchipping, interviewing potential owners; and if they cannot be re-housed then they have a home for life at Waterside,



and they are never without companions. A particular favourite is Scruffy who was found abandoned, with its front foot caught in its collar; he had open, putrefying wounds and seemed very likely to join a catalogue of fatalities. Mercifully he recovered and is now restored to perfect health.

The English, they say, are famously compassionate to their four-legged friends, but the Smiths' dedication goes far beyond their sentiment. This was a special visit to special people – so many lives saved, many animals with new and responsible owners. Geoff and Lorraine have recently installed a number of units for commercial boarding; if ever a venture deserved to flourish it is this.

Photo of feline dinner time: Lorraine Smith

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Parish Council News

The following are the abbreviated and incomplete versions of the IPC minutes for the July and August 2010 meetings. Full minutes are available from the IPC and on the Isleham Village Website at www.isleham-village.co.uk/pcminutes.html.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 5TH JULY 2010

Present Cllrs. Beckett, Neal, Carter, Garbett, Baines, H. Thompson, R. Thompson, Wilkes, CCllr Powley, Mrs Hobbs, Clerk: D. Bayliss, 5 parishioners

Apologies for Absence Cllrs. Earl, Malkin, CCllr Powley

OPEN FORUM

A letter from the CC re: the byway from Fen Bank Road to Prickwillow will be addressed under Highways Report.

MATTERS ARISING

Work has been carried out on Dunstall Allotments.

Mr Banyard has asked the Council to contact BT re: state of telephone box on Mill Street.

A 'soakage survey' is to be carried out by Belway on the Cemetery site.

ISLEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

A tree has been presented to the school by the Twinning Association.

ICA

The Gala Festival was very successful and a letter will be sent to Mark Goldsack and the fundraising Committee congratulating them on a very good event and thanking them for their hard work.

RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

Work on the new all-weather pitch is approved and will begin on 1st September. Notification of this will be put in the Informer.

Prices for patching work under the slide will be investigated, as will the cost of new bins.

CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD MATTERS

A complaint has been received about the trees adjacent to 14 Beck Road. Tree Officer Wendy Thomas has been out to the site and confirmed that the Council do not need permission from ECDC to carry out this work.

CORRESPONDENCE

The mobile library service will be reduced to a minimum of 12 visits per year; currently it comes to Isleham twice a month, amounting to a 50% reduction in service. The Council will write to CCC to see if this can be changed to a visit every three weeks.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT AND BUSINESS

The county is in a serious financial situation and unfortunately cuts will continue to be made across the board including the mobile library service.

HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATH MATTERS

It was agreed that the Council object to the plans by County Council to register Fen Bank Road between Isleham and Prickwillow as a Restricted Byway.

It was agreed that payment is made to the County Council for a White 'No Parking' Line to be drawn on the road by the Fordham Road gate on the Recreation Ground.

A correspondence from Cllr Powley re: 'rat running' through the villages has been received and was discussed briefly; however, it is unlikely that any improvements will be made to the junction at the moment because of financial constraints.

From 26th July the ESDAR service 204 will leave Newmarket at the later time of 18.10 pm in order to maintain the connection with Stagecoach 11/12 from Cambridge. The morning journey will remain as it is.

ALLOTMENT MATTERS

The allotment competition has taken place and a first place and runner up were chosen.

It was agreed that the Council pay £15 for the 'Best Kept Allotment' Prizes purchased by the Clerk.

It was suggested that next year the competition may be run by the Isleham Allotment Association.

PLANNING MATTERS

Front and side single extension at 7 Malting Lane, Isleham for Mr Ian Granby.

It was resolved that the Council send an objection to the District Council's proposals for a Gypsy and Traveller Site on Fordham Road, Isleham, stating that the school is already full; that this is a green field site; and that any development would potentially pave the way for more development in this area. Concerns were also raised about access as this is a very fast road.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 2ND AUGUST 2010

Present Cllrs Beckett, Earl, Neal, Carter, Garbett, Baines, Malkin, Wilkes, Clerk: D. Bayliss, one parishioner

Apologies Cllrs H. Thompson, R. Thompson, Hobbs, CCllr Powley

OPEN FORUM

Mr Cox asked if it would be possible to speak to Mr Sheldrick about not mowing the top of the recreation ground on Thursdays or Fridays after the white lining has been done for the football clubs. This matter will be raised with Mr Sheldrick however the weather conditions have to be taken into account when the mowing is done.

ICA

It was agreed that 6 wire panels are replaced behind the goals on the new all-weather pitch.

It was agreed that the quotation from Archial Architects for the remainder of the community centre project is approved.

VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

It was agreed that necessary electrical work be carried out to the village hall. 50% refund of fees will be paid to

Pound Lane Free Church and Isleham School of Performing Arts as a gesture of goodwill for the inconvenience caused by electricity failure.

PARISH PLAN

At a meeting on 12th July it was agreed to contact Cambridgeshire ACRE re: housing needs survey. The notice board has been erected, but there is no further information about the pond.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter has been received from Jane Grant detailing the planned reduction in hours of the mobile library visiting Isleham. It was agreed the PC write to the CC asking them to reconsider the timings for Isleham before the timetable takes effect in October.

HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATH MATTERS

The condition of 2 Church Street was raised as a matter of concern again and it was resolved that the PC would write to the ECDC Conservation Officer expressing concern about the ongoing condition of the property. Concern was also raised about the condition of the footpath outside the property and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to Mr Senyenko asking him to make the footpath safe.

PLANNING MATTERS

Proposed 4 bedroom detached 2 storey dwelling – to replace existing derelict 2 bedroom semi-detached dwellings, also conversion of existing clunch outbuilding to new garage at 44 East Fen Road, Isleham for Mr Mayes – the Council object to the proposal on the grounds that it is not in keeping with the surrounding area and will be overpowering to the bungalow next door. The Council consider that a chalet bungalow with a lower roofline would be more in keeping.

Planning approvals

Two storey rear extension at 38 Station Road for Mr J. Woollard.

Single storey rear extension with mezzanine at 15 Church Lane for Mr and Mrs K. Smith.

Two-storey rear extension along with covered porch to side at Field Farmhouse, 1 Temple Road, for Mr and Mrs Connor.

Redevelopment for a four bedroom house and a separate garage at 31 Waterside for Mr B. King.

Planning Refusals

Replacement of existing bungalow with two storey dwelling at 10 East Fen Road, Isleham for Mr G. Bruyneel.

Gypsy and Traveller Site

In spite of the Government's decision to scrap targets for Gypsy and Traveller Sites, ECDC are planning to continue looking for sites in the district in order to prevent further illegal sites from appearing. It was resolved that the PC should write again to Katie Child reiterating their objections to the proposals.

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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RAVE IN THE NAVE

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Isleham Twinning Society

Thank you for supporting us at the Gala this year. Our stall is always very popular; it must be that good French wine!

Our exchange visit took place on the last weekend of April, which was the perfect time to visit Nesles, our twin village. The countryside was spread before us in all its beauty, the hillsides covered in sheets of bluebells and other wild flowers. We were, as always, treated like royalty, wined and dined with great generosity.

On the Saturday a trip to a coal-mining museum had been arranged. There is not one coalmine left in France, all have been closed. The museum, near Donai, has constructed a replica coalmine first below the surface, which traces the history of coal in France from the earliest days until the closures. To give us the impression that we were going deep underground we were all given yellow protective helmets to wear. Believe me, they are not a good look, and I doubt that the group photograph will ever see the light of day. Let's just say that Bob the Builder has nothing to worry about!

On Sunday some of us went to a Perrier horse-jumping event at Le Touquet; it was wonderful to see all the Thoroughbred horses from all over Europe, including Great Britain, performing at such close quarters in that beautiful setting.

Although the pre-arranged outings are very enjoyable, it is often the little things in between that are very touching. For example, a foray to the supermarket to buy cheeses, an impromptu glass of champagne to celebrate someone's birthday, a quick visit to the posh chocolate shop in Harellet to buy him a gift, a glass of beer by the sea in the setting sun of Wimereux... these are the things that endear us to that little village and its people.

Nesles will visit us next year, probably in the early summer. The proceeds from the Gala stall and from the up-coming (as I write) Safari Supper will help us to ensure that we return their kindness, and look forward to showing them Britain at its best.

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Women's Institute



Paula Dolan came to our August meeting to talk about her experiences as a mobile hairdresser, and to demonstrate some of the 'tricks of the trade'. It was a very light-hearted evening.

On 14th August, several of our members spent a day at Southwold on a visit organised by the Cambridge Federation of Women's Institutes. Despite a dismal weather forecast, the sun shone and Southwold looked beautiful. Members spent a relaxing day around the resort before meeting up at 5pm at the theatre for a performance of "Holiday Snap" by Michael Pertwee and John Chapman, a perfect comedy for a holiday Saturday!

We celebrated Harvest at our September meeting, and spent a satisfying evening enjoying good food, prepared by the members, and good company. We shared our meal with Justin Partyka, a photographer and writer who is taking photographs to be included in an updated edition of 'Fenwomen' by Mary Chamberlain, due out in the New Year.

If you would like to join the WI 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, 7.30 for 7.45 pm, and new members are always welcome.

Glenda Preece 01638 780734; gjpreece@aol.com

Isleham Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Association

OPEN MEETINGS

All meetings start at 7.30pm. Members £1; non-members and guests £2.

Tuesday 19th October 'Choosing Shrubs for Autumn Colour' with Graeme Proctor of Crown Nurseries, Ufford, near Woodbridge. Graeme will introduce a variety of shrubs for members to enjoy, discuss where to plant and how to prune. Opportunity to purchase plants at the end of the evening. Isleham Bowls Club.

Tuesday 16th November 'From Tundra to Tarmac'. Linda Gascoigne will give an account of how the landscape and wildlife of Britain have changed over the past 18,000 years since Britain was covered with ice, with particular reference to East Anglia. Isleham Village Hall.

Jenny Hodd 01638 780729

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A Personal Prayer

You know Lord that I am getting old.
Please stop my tongue from being too bold.
Help me to say NO to many requests,
And rest more, as my body suggests.

Help me to be particularly kind
To car drivers who are obviously blind.
With no thought for me, when driving at speed.
As a soaking from puddles I do not need.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains,
Dizziness, headaches and varicose veins.
Stop the air from turning blue
If someone pushes in front in a queue.

For those who don't like me I could say a prayer,
The truth is, Dear Father, I don't really care.
Help me around, but in no great haste,
If I get to 42" round the waist.

I have managed to get to my old age
Without having a drink or fags.
But underneath my poor old eyes
I now have travel bags.

I think I've grown old with humour and hearing,
Never a saint, but always God fearing.
Please may I ask, though it is nice in Heaven,
Could I stick around here till I'm eighty-seven!

Joyce Drayton

July 15th

Charlotte Lowry, Greenspace and Community Officer, Environment Policy and Projects for Cambs County Council described her work in many parts of the County and particularly the project she is involved with at Isleham Local Nature Reserve (where the old railway line used to run west from Fordham Road).

The volunteers, known as 'Friends of Isleham Local Nature Reserve' have cut back some of the small trees and scrub to create bigger grassland and wild flower areas allowing better access and safer, more pleasant walking. A new gate has been erected and the whole entrance area has been tidied up plus a Warden has been appointed to ensure the whole site is kept tidy. They have many projects planned for the future.

Charlotte gave a most interesting talk, which included many photographs of her work with the volunteers and we wish them continued success in their endeavours to nurture and improve Isleham's environmental amenities.

There was no meeting in August but there will be a guided tour of 'Old Ely' by James Tilly (King's School) on the afternoon of September 16th.

Dates for the rest of this year:

October 21st Trevor Berlingham – an illustrated talk 'Life in Thetford Forest'

November 18th Peter Jackson from Scotsdales Nursery – an illustrated talk on 'Bulbs'

December – no meeting.

We welcome all visitors to our meetings; you don't have to be a member!

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A Pub For All Seasons

Sometimes, I think, the media exists only to bring us bad news. Bad news sells newspapers and TV slots. As a newcomer to Isleham I don't witness much bad news; mostly I observe and report on 'Community' and all that word represents. I have lived in villages all my life, but I have never experienced a rural environment that offers such a raft of joined-up benefits and enjoyment.

Which brings me neatly to the public house named 'The Rising Sun', successfully managed and developed by Pat and Claire Pearce since 2005. I sense that what makes their pub so special is the fact that it listens to its patrons and the village community, and seeks to provide the services and entertainment that our local society favours.

There is a school of thought that prefers that sporting activity is the lifeblood of a community. But how on earth does a village of 2,327 people sustain three football teams, three cricket elevens, a vibrant youth sports programme, 22 quiz teams, the pool team, two darts teams (and champions to boot), and so on...? My partner suggests that the majority of these people are bussed in from outlying villages and/or convoyed in from the local air bases. Well I haven't heard of too many buses servicing Isleham, nor have I witnessed flotillas of military vehicles crunching down the High Street. Perhaps I'm missing something or perhaps *The Rising Sun*, which acts as headquarters for these sporting bodies, should take some credit. I prefer the latter explanation.

Speaking to Pat – the landlord – there is a real buzz of excitement and pride in the pub's role as facilitator of these events. As a formidable second-row rugby forward, he knows how to help co-ordinate all the behind-the-scenes planning that underpins any successful sporting activity.

Behind and beside this sporting profile sits the more conventional feature of a successful rural pub. Claire prepares succulent home-cooked dishes that won't break the bank, and I can thoroughly recommend the Sausage and Mash – but would advise caution with the Sticky Toffee Pudding if you have dodgy teeth! The Sunday Roast is ever popular, and should be pre-booked. In the evening there is a pool room, darts, dominoes, Sky TV, live bands and frequent Karaoke nights; something for everyone, truly a pub for all seasons.

It is not hard to understand why, in 2008, The Rising Sun was voted Greene King Community Pub of the Year. Long may it flourish and prosper!

Mark Stevens



Above:
Landlord Pat is
a welcoming
face.



Left and below:
Isleham's Rising
Sun in Sun
Street, the heart
of the village.

Photos by Ed
Mayall



The Rising Sun



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FOOD SERVED

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Sunday Lunchtime Roast (advisable to book)

ENTERTAINMENT

• OCTOBER •

Saturday 2nd: Karaoke

Friday 22nd: Karaoke

Friday 29th: Halloween Fancy Dress Karaoke
(to be confirmed)

• NOVEMBER •

Saturday 13th: Swamp Donkeys

Friday 19th: Karaoke

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Bowls Club Report

2010 has been a challenging season both on and off the green. The club has been 'called upon' on a number of occasions to host events on behalf of the County. On the green, we engaged in a new League and were also subjected to a number of long term injuries to personnel.

It was a great honour for our club to have the Inaugural President of the newly formed *Bowls Cambridgeshire*, following the merger of the Men's and Ladies' Outdoor Associations. Sylvia Pinder has thoroughly enjoyed the season and conducted her duties to a high standard.

The club hosted two weekends of county finals. In July, the county individual finals were played to a high standard and team finals were played in early September. We also hosted a President's Day and a match between teams selected by the President and Vice-president of the county.

We hosted two touring teams; one from our Lancashire touring friends and the other from a touring team based in Southern England representing the Royal Bank of Scotland Bowling Club.

So we just found enough time to play the following:

- 26 Ely and District Evening League matches (finished half way in both men's and ladies' leagues);
- 18 Cambs and District League matches (won 16 and became Division 5 champions in our first season);
- 24 Afternoon League matches (finished second in Division Two and promoted to top flight).

In the Internal Club Championships, all matches were played in a good spirit and the finals played on Sunday 12th September, followed by a superb roast meal prepared by Sharon Grimwood and Amy Sugg.

The winners were:

Men's Singles Paul Norman **Runner-up** Robert Burling

Handicap Singles Barry Clarke **Runner-up** Chris Dunkley

Ladies' Singles Carol Wells **Runner-up** Celia Clarke

Pitcher Memorial Singles Barry Grimwood **Runner-up** Darren Dunbavin

Club Pairs Rebecca Blyth & Michael Bartlett

Runners-up John Foreman & Andy Gillett

Club Triples Pat Houghton, Robert Cole & Andy Gillett

Runners-up Vic Jugg, Bob Mitchell & Jeff Marsh

Tenrich Trophy Cathy Storey & Robert Burling

Runners-up Len Youens & Jeff Marsh

Telfer Trophy Darren Dunbavin **Runner-up** Robert Burling

As with any club that depends on volunteers, a big thank you must go to those members of our club who give up valuable time to ensure we have a first class facility within the village. This was most definitely noticed by many visitors to the club this season who all praised the village and the club to a very high standard and the envy of many!

Isleham can feel very proud of what the Bowls Club has achieved in 2010.

Barry Grimwood, Club Captain



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Evacuation to Isleham - the Early Days

The second part of an account by Mike Rouse of conditions experienced by evacuees to Isleham in 1939

"Mindful of the Government's slogan 'Dig for Victory' we set about trying to hire a plot so that we could do our share. Here again we struck oil; after a few preliminaries we were able through the good offices of Mr Diver and Mr Howlett to hire an acre and a half of land at a nominal rent. The plot practically adjoins the school."

The garden plot was divided up under Mr Zealey's supervision and the boys were given their own plots. Soon they were busy digging and weeding, and cabbages, strawberries and hundreds of bulbs and lettuces had been planted. A rock garden was constructed, Mr Simons and Mr Zealey bought timber and metal; and a chicken run and hut were constructed at one end of the allotments. Miss Moseley, the school secretary, provided the money for the purchase of a dozen hens. By 12th December one dozen eggs had been produced, with the first six being given to Miss Moseley.

One of the first things the evacuee boys did on arriving in the village was to pick a football team. Matches were arranged, the first ending in a 1-0 victory for the Isleham boys, a second match brought a 2-1 victory for the locals, but despite losing boys back to London a third match was drawn one all.

One of the evacuees, N. Lefcovitch, described a river baptism: *"The River Lark situated two miles from my billet is a scene of splashing happy-go-lucky schoolboys and adventurous fishermen having the courage to venture up to their knees for tadpoles. Here and there comes a yell from an unfortunate who has struck his toe on the bottom when diving from a height. However, the most picturesque sight that I saw was that of Baptism. When this ceremony takes place there are about four to five hundred people thronging the banks. The candidate (as the one to be Baptised is called), is dressed completely in white and held up by two ministers dressed in black, and standing waist deep in water; one of the ministers assisted by the other, sways the candidate backwards, causing him or her to be submerged in water; and then amid the cheers and acclamations of the people, the baptised one is led away to a nearby house and suitably clothed again."*

On the 18th October the Reverend Flory invited the evacuees to St Andrew's Church, where he held a short service including their school prayer, Psalm 29, in Hebrew, and an evacuee, Smolinsky, read a portion of Chronicles. The vicar was so impressed with the School Prayer that he asked for a copy to hang in the Priest's Chamber. The Rev. Flory told them of the history of the church and the Peyton family, he also asked them to remember part of the 91st Psalm: *'He shall cover thee with His feathers, under His wings shalt thou trust. His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.'*

F. Rosenthal paid tribute to country life: *"Evacuation has made a great change in our lives. From town boys we have become young farmers. When in London who would have dreamt that one day we would help farmers feeding the pigs and chickens? Occasionally boys come to school plastered in mud, for work is not always so easy. One great advantage we have in the country is to find a real spirit of life in Nature. To explore the country is great fun and also very instructive. Blackberry picking, of course, is very popular with us all, as it is something most of us have never done before."*

Mike Rouse, Ely 2010



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CHURCHES' NEWS

Pound Lane Free Church

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

Elder: Michael Gee (01638 552805)

Every Sunday:

Sunday worship: 11am 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 Year 3 during the morning service.

Refreshments are served after the evening services, except the first Sunday of the month.

Fellowship Lunches are served after the morning service on the third Sunday of the month.

Kingdom Kids (3 years – Yr 3): 10am–11.15am (Sandra Robertson 01638 781343)

All Stars (Yr 4 – Yr 6): 10am–11.15am (John Martin 01638 781747)

Covies (Yr 7 – early 20s): 9.30am–10.30am (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: 9.30am–10.30am.

(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: 6.45pm–8.15pm.

Wednesday:

Fellowship: 2.15pm–3.15pm.

(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 organised 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: 7.40pm–9pm.

Thursday:

Coffee Morning: 10am–11.30am.

Covies Club Night: 7pm–9pm.

Friday: (fortnightly in members' homes):

Women's Meeting 10.30am–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, email secretary@plfc.org.uk

Web site: www.plfc.org.uk & www.isleham.com

Henry Olonga

The highlight of our summer was the visit of Henry Olonga. We were so pleased that so many people were able to

come and enjoy the events. The Concert in the Village Hall on Friday night was packed and we were able to enjoy hearing Henry's singing as well as the amazing story of his life in Zimbabwe, his test cricket career and his exile to the UK. We were really glad that some of the members of the Isleham Cricket Club were able to attend the Saturday morning Men's Breakfast – including some of the Juniors who enjoyed having Henry sign their cricket bats! Then in the evening we again had the privilege of hearing Henry sing and speak in the lovely setting of the Isleham Priory. He also presented the prizes to the winners of our Gala Day competitions: I. Richardson won the adult Cricket Quiz, Miss T. Richardson and Miss M. Thompson were the winners of the 'Spot the Ball' competition and Miss O. Alexander-Neal and Miss J. Thompson were the winners of the Children's Quiz. On Sunday morning Henry preached in the morning service. Throughout the weekend Henry's love of Christ and strong faith in Him as Saviour and Lord was clearly evident and we are so glad that Henry was able to come and share with us. If you were one of the many people who came and enjoyed Henry's ministry why not come along on a Sunday and hear more of the Saviour who changed his life?

As we turn our thoughts to the forthcoming events it is probably not too early to remind you to start thinking about the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal. We are always so grateful for the support that you give each year to this event. As always we will be sending details to each home in our village so get collecting those items for your box!

Below: Henry with the prizewinners of the Gala Day Competitions. Photo by Vernon Place.



Three Rivers Group St Andrew's Parish Church

Dear Friends

Well, the leaves are starting to fall, jumpers are re-appearing from cupboards, and the warmth of summer is behind us for another year. It is at this time of year when we pause for a moment and give thanks to God for all that is, for all that the world gives us, its beauty and abundance. I can't be the only one who has appreciated the sunsets of late, the colours of the leaves, and the glut of autumnal fruit in the shops and bagged up by roadsides. We all know that the best thing about autumn is blackberry and apple crumble (with custard)!

At this harvest time we stop to give thanks for all that we have, not just the traditional harvest crops of grain and fruit, but also the crops gathered in other industries, especially those located in this area. Harvest is a time of reflecting on the past seasons and giving thanks for our industry and employment; for haulage and transportation, for financial industries and technologies, for the hospitality industry, for the horse racing industry, for those who care and nurse, for all those aspects of creation that are not often mentioned when we think of a traditional harvest. This autumn we are encouraged to think of the harvests gathered in farming and in other sectors and we pray for this country at this time of economic hardship and cutbacks. We pray especially for those out of work, for those whose companies have not survived the recession and for those who struggle to make ends meet, both in this region and around the world.

This harvest I encourage us all to thank God for all that we do have, and not to take that for granted; to be generous with it, but also to thank God for the global harvest and for the fruits of every industry. We all depend upon workers around the world, and production from other countries, let us remember that we are all part of God's worldwide family and when we work together the world seems a community, not a group of nations. God bless the fruits of all our harvests, may we share it with the world! Kate

Flower Festival

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend, we at St Andrew's celebrated with our biennial Flower Festival. This year there were 22 beautiful displays; our Church looked absolutely glorious – see some of the displays on the front cover of this *Informer*. During the weekend we raised the magnificent sum of £2,000, and thanks go to all who helped in any way; serving teas, selling tickets, moving chairs and manning the church. We had a wonderful weekend.

Gift Day

On behalf of St Andrew's, I would like to thank all who gave so generously on our Gift Day on 17th July. The total raised was £1,600.

Festival of Light

Yes, it's that time of the year again; the Festival of Light will be upon us when we will be celebrating Advent. The dates are 26th, 27th and 28th November.

If you would like to put a tree in church and have not done so before, do let us know. *Janice Pope 01638 780380*

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 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.

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!

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

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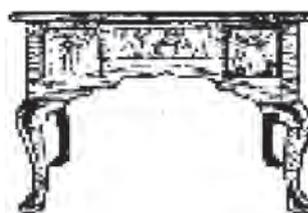
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