



Isleham Informer

Issue 49 • February 2012

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Gala 2012: Olympic Torch forces date change

The Isleham Gala Committee met in January and welcomed two new members. With most of the positions now held on the committee we hope to make this year's Gala another great and fun day for the village. The most important news to bring to everyone's attention is the change of this year's Gala date. The Gala has traditionally taken place on the first Saturday in July. However, this year, due to the Olympic torch

reaching Newmarket on this day, we have brought the Gala forward a week and it will now take place on Saturday 30th June. We hope that this will mean that people can attend both events.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the outgoing committee members for all of their hard work over recent years. We are still looking to fill the post of Fun Run organiser and additional volunteers are needed on

the day. If you feel you can help or have any suggestions or ideas of what you would like to see at this year's event don't hesitate to contact me. Alternatively, come along to the next committee meeting on Monday 20th February, 8pm, The Griffin. Subsequent meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month until the Gala. Any help will be gratefully received.

Steve Rust 01638 780104
steven.rust@tiscali.co.uk



Festival of Light

Thank you to everyone in Church and in the wider village community who supported The Festival of Light in St Andrew's Church during December. We opened the event with a very busy and successful Christmas bazaar followed by the two more reflective sessions when people enjoyed the splendour of the Church, its architecture enhanced by the lighting provided by Walter Gunstone, and the beauty of the trees. The

Carol Service by tree light was a fitting finale to the Festival with over 200 people gathering to see if their favourite carol was in the top 5.

The Festival of Light raised a fantastic sum of £1600, which will help with the maintenance of our building.

We are already planning the 2012 event and look forward to seeing you all there.

Kathy Carver



Photos by Vernon Place



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From the Editor

Welcome to the first Isleham Informer of 2012. Quite clearly this is a somewhat less weighty publication than the December issue. There are two reasons for this: firstly, an apparent lack of anything going on in the village has limited us to 20 pages this time. Should you feel that we are short selling Isleham somewhat by this, can I suggest taking up the initiative and sending us a contribution for next time?

The second reason for a slim-downed tome is that the printer offered to print December's on 150 gm paper rather than the usual 100 gm, at no extra cost and ahead of schedule. While this seemed an offer too good to refuse, it did mean that our gallant team of wonderful delivery wallahs were forced to haul around 50% extra weight on their rounds. We sincerely apologise for this and hope that any resulting injuries are now well on the mend.

For the first time in all of history (well, approaching nine years now), the Isleham Informer is in the Black! While in previous years the Parish Council has subsidised our publication by as much as £700 in a year, we are now sustained purely by advertising and can actually give back TWENTY whole English pounds! So many thanks to all who have supported us over the years.

On a not entirely unrelated note, our advertising manager, Kelvin Morgan has a new email address: advertising@islehaminformer.org.uk. While his old one will still work, this should mean any correspondence ends up in the correct inbox.

Ed Mayall

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

VILLAGE NOTES



The Three Rivers Group

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Join us for a monthly breakfast/coffee/latte/cappuccino group for fun, conversation and sharing our questions of life, faith and parenthood - all welcome!

Dates: Fridays 13th January, 10th February, 9th March, 30th March from 9.15 (after the school run) at La Hogue Café, Chippenham. Babies and toddlers welcome. (La Hogue has great play equipment, highchairs, children's menu etc.)

For more info: Helen Banyard - 721616; Kate Peacock - 723960; www.threerivers.org.uk

Dates for Your Diary

Let us know if there is anything you would like included here for future issues.

Every Tuesday Coffee Morning at the Social Centre 09.00–12.00

February

Thursday 2nd	Mobile Library	Church Street Mill Street	14.15–15.00 15.05–17.00
Sunday 5th	Car Wash, Priory		10.00–13.00
Monday 6th	Isleham Parish Council		19.00
Thursday 9th	WI		19.30
Thursday 16th	Isleham Society		19.30
Friday 17th	Mobile Library	Church Street	09.30–10.10
Monday 20th	Gala Committee		20.00
Saturday 25th	WI Jumble Sale		14.00

March

Thursday 1st	Mobile Library	Church Street Mill Street	14.15–15.00 15.05–17.00
Monday 5th	Isleham Parish Council		19.00
Thursday 8th	WI		19.30
Friday 9th	INFORMER DEADLINE		
Thursday 15th	Isleham Society		19.30
Saturday 17th	Bowls Club Quiz		19.00
Teams of 4 @ £20 per team; light supper included			
Monday 19th	Gala Committee		20.00
Tuesday 20th	Isleham Gardeners		19.30
Friday 16th	Mobile Library	Church Street	09.30–10.10
Saturday 17th	BECKen Charity Dance		contact Julie on 01842860498

Isleham WI Jumble Sale

Saturday 25th February
at 2.00pm

in Village Hall

Cakes

Brick-a-brack Books and toys

Tombola

Clothes Refreshments
Admission 20p children free

INFORMATION

Thursday bus from Isleham to Ely Market

Circular route: 9.15am Limestone Close – Malting Lane – Beck Road – The Causeway – East Road – Sun Street – Church Street – West Street – Hall Barn Road – Fordham Road – arrive Ely 10.00am; Return 12.00 noon.

Fares: Adult Bus Pass Holders £2.50 Return

Adults £5 Return

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

This service is financially supported by Isleham Parish Council.

Mobile Library

1st Thursday of the month:	Arrive	Depart
Church Street	14.15	15.00
Mill Street	15.05	17.00
3rd Friday of the month: Church St	09.30	10.10

Child Health Clinic

Soham Child and Family Team Child Health Clinic will be in Isleham Village Hall with the Tea & Toast group on the second and fourth Thursdays every month from 10–11am. For more information phone Naomi Greener on 01353 624411.

Useful phone numbers

Emergency for Police, Fire, Ambulance 999
Police (Cambridgeshire) 0845 4564564
Accident & Casualty (Addenbrooke's)

. 01223 217118

Addenbrooke's Hospital (Cambridge) 01223 245151

Newmarket Hospital 01638 665111

West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds)

. 01284 713000

Staploe Medical Centre (Soham)

- Appointments 01353 624121

- Prescriptions & Dispensary 01353 624122

- Enquiries, Home Visits, Emergencies 01353 624123

Minor Treatment Centre, Ely 01353 652162

NHS Direct (for advice) 0845 4647

Electricity Emergencies 0800 7838838

Gas Emergencies 0800 371787

Water & Sewage Emergencies 0345 145145

Social Services - office hours 01733 561370

- out of hours emergency 01733 561370

Refuse Collection 01353 863864

RSPCA 0870 5555999

Citizens Advice Bureau Ely 0845 130 6442

Mildenhall 01638 712094

Newmarket 01638 665999

District Councillor (Derrick Beckett) . . . 01638 780476

Isleham Village Hall (Diane Bayliss) . . . 01638 781687

Parish Council (Diane Bayliss: Clerk) . . . 01638 781687

Member of Parliament (Jim Paice) . . . 01954 211450

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The Isleham Society

17th November 2011 Dr Alistair Burn of Isleham gave an illustrated talk entitled "Fenland washes and other places of interest". He gave an interesting account of how the Isleham washes have changed through the years. Because they now remain partially flooded throughout the whole year, it is encouraging new birds to visit the area with some such as the avocet, to nest here for the first time on the small islands created for them. Some of the once common birds such as the snipe are not now as numerous as they were say, 60 or 70 years ago. Another change that has taken place over the past few years is changes in the crops grown in the fen and the surrounding area, which are attracting new species of birds to visit us.

Dr Burn also brought us up to date with the developments in Lakenheath Fen and what The Friends of the Isleham Nature Reserve were involved with; this is on the site of the old railway line extending west from Fordham road. We are very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable person so actively involved in our village with projects of this nature.

There was no meeting in December.

Future Events

19th January – Peter Jackson - From Scotsdales Nursery "Grow your own Fruit and Vegetables"

16th February – Vernon Place "Old Isleham photos (5)"

15th March – Mike Petty "Fenland Floods in 1947"

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors to any of our meetings.

Vernon Place
Chairman of The Isleham Society

Lady Peyton's Almshouses

The four Lady Peyton houses, two on the Causeway and two on Sun Street, which were built in 1996, are at present occupied. Over the past year, two of the properties have been empty for a number of months.

If you wish to put your name down on a list as a prospective occupier at sometime in the future please let us know your details.

Persons should be resident in the Parish of Isleham, in need of accommodation. Applicants must be over 18 years of age and be able to illustrate their need to the Trustees.

At present the weekly maintenance contribution (rent) is £90 per week.

Name and address should be sent to:

Michael Siggs

P.O. Box 993

Colchester, Essex

CO3 3TC

telephone: 01206 765138

email: Michael-siggs@btclick.com

Village clubs: information

CLUB	CONTACT	TEL	DAY/DATE	TIME	PLACE
Angling Society	Ivan Houghton	01638 780333			
Board Games	Alison Young	01638 780351	Last Thursday	2–5pm Sept–June	High St. Church
Book Club	Deidre Deller	01638 780544	2nd Friday	2pm	Social Centre
Brownies	Caroline Zwierzchowska-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	6.15–7.45pm	Village Hall
French Conversation	Francine (all levels)	francine@the waytofrance.com	Monday	6–7.15pm	1 Mill St
Guides	Janine Taylor Caroline Hinit	islehamguides@ yahoo.co.uk	Tuesday	6.30–8.30pm	Social Centre
Isleham Gardeners	Jenny Hodd	01638 780729	3rd Tuesday	7.30pm	Village Hall
Isleham Society	Vernon Place	01638 780449	3rd Thursday	7.30pm	Village Hall
Paper, Patch & Sew	Victoria Rattle	01638 781301	Saturday Bi-monthly	10–4pm	High St. Church
Tea & Toast	Claire Freeman	07827 234442	Thursdays	9.15–11.30am	Village Hall
WI	Glenda Preece	01638 780734	2nd Thursday	7.30pm	Village Hall
Yoga	Jill Bercovici	01638 510801	Thursdays (term-time only)	9.15–10.15am	Bowls Club
Zumba Fitness	Michelle Jacobs	07842 112190	Wednesdays Fridays	7.30–8.30pm 6.30–7.30pm	Village Hall

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Breast Friends Breastfeeding support group meeting every Tuesday 11.30am–12.30pm. For new and pregnant mums. Pop in for some free advice and support from a 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.

Soham Family Fun Saturdays 10am–12noon fortnightly from 21st January. At Ross Peers Sports Centre, Soham. A free play and chill session for families with children under five. Just turn up.

Time Out Tuesdays For parents under 25 years. Every Tuesday 9.30–11.30am. Come along and make friends, have a chat and get support and information.

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 parents.

Dig It A chance for you and your children to learn how to grow your own fruit and veg on a Soham allotment. Every Wednesday 9.30–11.30am. Meet at Soham Children's Centre. Ring to book a place.

For more information call us on 01353 727188

sohamchildrenscentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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A New Church Building



In the early part of 1812, three inhabitants of Isleham "extended the right hand of fellowship" to each other and formed a new Christian community in the village.

For almost 200 years the church they founded has met in the chapel at the east end of Church Street. During the last decade it has become more and more obvious that the chapel building is no longer suitable for the requirements of the present congregation. Parking is limited and the lack of internal space restricts our activities. There is, however, no room to extend the present building; a new one is required.

We are therefore very grateful for the gift of a plot of land on the edge of the village, which has enabled us to embark on the construction of a new church building. Our aim is to provide a facility that will not only accommodate our present church but also one which will be used by generations to come. Our vision is to have a



Christian centre that provides an appropriate venue for worship and an attractive social meeting place.

We have called the enterprise "the Ark Project"

and we have embarked on a self-build undertaking using the skills that we have within our church membership. The building is a timber-framed structure, designed to be sympathetic to the local environment. We have opted to build the frame from green (unseasoned) oak. One thousand oak trunks have been obtained from two sources: the New Forest and the Elveden Estate, where thinning out of mature trees is a regular occurrence. The trees have been transported to a purpose built sawmill on the outskirts of Chippenham where milling and jointing of the oak sections is being carried out.

The project is in two stages with the first stage comprising the Junior Church rooms, dining area and

toilet block. Frame preparation for this first phase was completed in July 2011. Site preparation and foundations were ready shortly afterwards and the erection of the frame took place in late August 2011. At the time of writing the felting and battening of the roof is almost complete and tiling with reclaimed pantiles is about to start.

The actual building work is being carried out by a team of three church members assisted as and when needed by volunteers from the church. Other members are involved in the administration and planning aspects of the project. Yet others volunteer to be on site at night for security purposes. A small dedicated team meet twice a month to pray specifically for the project and many church members are on the prayer rota, committed to fast and pray when it is their turn.

One of the delightful features of the project thus far has been the interest shown by people who are not members of the church but who have gone out of their way to help. One village resident whose home overlooks the site has spent many days assisting the team. Local companies have loaned lorries to transport materials and machinery for us at no charge. A Cambridge firm has loaned us a large site-office for as long as we need it. Another Cambridge company provided the crane, with its driver, at no cost, which enabled us to erect the oak frame. A local building materials firm is providing materials at low costs.

We are very indebted to these people but there is still a large financial aspect to this project and we are very grateful to the church members and others who continue to provide the finance necessary to construct and furnish the new building.

Isleham has been a centre of Christian witness for more than 1000 years. People were inspired to build the Priory 900 years ago and the Parish Church was built about 200 years after this. Pound Lane Chapel was constructed 400 years ago and High Street Chapel 200 years later. The latter three buildings are still very much in use and, at a time when more and more people are seeking answers to the purpose of life, Isleham is blessed to have three such active churches.

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Ivan & Roberta Houghton's 2011 Christmas Lights Display

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Isleham Gardeners

Well here we are into another new year and another growing season. The weather so far has been kind to us and many of our perennial plants

have bloomed late into the winter and I have even seen new buds, catkins and spring blossom on some shrubs and trees. Although we benefit from mild winters I do feel that plants need a dormant period to prepare for the coming summer. Very often after a mild winter, the flowering and fruiting period is not so abundant. Then there is the problem

of late frosts that can devastate fruit blossom and flower buds. Oh, the woes of being a gardener!

On a lighter note we are now sowing seed for our spring and summer crops and blooms. I sowed my onion seed on Christmas day, a bit of a tradition with me. It's my way of exercising after lunch, and with a bit of luck by the time you get back someone else has done the washing up.

We have some very good speakers lined up for this year with topics to interest everyone.

On 21st February we have "Managing pests and diseases organically" by Terry Rands, an organic gardener.

On 20th March we have "Choosing and pruning fruit trees" by Graeme Proctor of Crown Nurseries.

We are always looking for new members so you would be very welcome to come along every third Tuesday of the month. You may learn something new or pass on tips to others.

Happy Gardening!

Phil Adelphus



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Those of you who visit Isleham Railway Nature Reserve (off Fordham Road) to walk dogs, watch nature, or just to stroll, will hopefully have noticed the results of our two work parties earlier this winter. With the help of the County Council, volunteers from the Wildlife Trusts and the Friends of Isleham Nature

Reserves (FoINR) we have opened up further some areas for grassland flowers to flourish and cut back some of the more leggy scrub growth.

Our aim is to create as great a diversity of habitats as we can within this small area – grassland and flowering plants for butterflies and moths, sunny and shady banks for other insects and reptiles, and denser scrubby areas for nesting birds... and for sloe gin enthusiasts.

Several members of the FoINR have now had training, courtesy of the County Council, in leading work parties and using a range of tools. We have a final work party for this winter planned for Saturday 18th February – starting 9.30am. Join us if you can – bring heavy gloves and stout shoes or boots, we will provide the tools and tea and coffee. Later in the year we will be organising events to see wildlife and for children, so watch out for news of our events (search on Facebook for “Friends of Isleham

Nature Reserves”, or follow a blog - friendsofislehamnr.blogspot.com).

If you would like more information about the work parties or want to get involved in the group, please contact:

Andrew (Warden) on 07903 092 899
Alastair (Chairman) on 01638 780533

Women’s Institute

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

We finished the year with our Christmas party to which WI members from Chippenham, Soham and Fordham had been invited. The buffet had been provided by

members and was enjoyed by all. Following the meal we laughed our way through a barn dancing evening, providing lots of exercise for the dancers, and much amusement for the spectators. A good start to Christmas!

At our first meeting of the year, in January, we welcomed Georgina Pharoah, a trustee of Addenbrooke’s Hospital, who talked to us about the history of the hospital, which opened in 1766 in Trumpington Street, Cambridge. Dr John Addenbrooke left just over £4500 in his will “to hire and fit up, purchase or erect a small, physical hospital in the town of Cambridge for poor people”.

Georgina brought photographs from the archive, which illustrated her very interesting talk.

The AGM is in February, when committee members will be elected and our Jumble Sale is at 2pm on Saturday 25th February in the Village Hall.

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, 7.30pm for 7.45pm, and new members are always welcome.

Glenda Preece
01638 780734, gjpreece@aol.com

Letter to the Editor

3rd January 2012

Dear Editor,

The putting out of rubbish and collection in the village is beyond a joke! The village woke this morning to find rubbish strewn all over the streets due to the strong winds and residents inability to place their rubbish out for collection in the morning. It takes seconds to place rubbish bags out on the doorstep on the morning of collection and NOT days before. I noticed bags were put out even as early as Sunday, and with no collection until Tuesday, they were open to attack by the weather, cats etc. This is NOT good enough, we all live in this village and it is up to us to try and keep it clean and tidy!

While on the subject, I have spoken to Veolia on numerous occasions regarding the black plastic rubbish bags. The dustmen are supposed to place them in letterboxes, NOT on the doorstep to then be blown around the village by the wind. Perhaps somebody from the Parish Council should speak to Veolia to make sure they comply with this.

Many thanks,

Steve Hill

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Isleham Primary School

After examining the topic of children in World War 2, Year 3 wrote some poems in role as an evacuee. As we were studying shape poems, we wrote them in the shape of an evacuee's suitcase. It was an emotive subject, especially as we learnt about children evacuated from London to our own village.

Evacuee

My stripy suitcase is blue and brown. It is rock solid. It creaks and it bangs. Inside there is my favourite teddy. He is bright red and his eyes are old, old buttons. I have packed my favourite clothes. They all smell good. But I miss my mummy and daddy. I've left them at home. I wish I was there but I need to get away from the war. I hope my new home in the country is real nice. I want to eat good food.

Luke Frost

Evacuee

Tattered and creaky, rusty and faded, I walk on the platform clutching my leather suitcase. Before I left, I packed some of Mum's homemade blueberry muffins in a small tin lunch box, a precious photo of my family in an elegant frame, a bright pink comb, my best clothes, my Dad's small pocket watch and my best old teddy. I hope I like my new place to live.

Isobel Bedford

Evacuee

My broken suitcase is heavy. I've packed it with my teddy and blankie. I want to cuddle them tight but I have to be brave. I am crying and my tears drop onto teddy's nose. I am squashed on the train. My suitcase wobbles. Inside my precious vest smells of vinegar cake which my mum has wrapped up inside newspaper - just for me. I can't wait to taste it. I can't wait to make new friends. I can't wait to get away from the bombs and sleep in the peace. I want this war to end.

Taylor Bird



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Sometimes I see him as I pass by
On a summer's day, when the sun is high.
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On a patch of grass only four feet square.

With his dog's head resting against his knee
He's the picture of tranquillity.
Such a dear old chap in his scarf and hat,
The daily paper on his lap.

To see him there you would never know
He was 'Jack the Lad' many years ago.
Such a tearaway in his young heyday,
More full of mischief that words can say.

With his laughing eyes and his boyish charm,
Always a pretty girl on his arm.
Is he happy or sad, old Jack the Lad?
When he recalls all the fun we had.

His world has shrunk to this small plot,
But he seems contented with his lot.
Tho' years have gone by, you may still esp
That saucy twinkle in his eye.

Joyce Drayton



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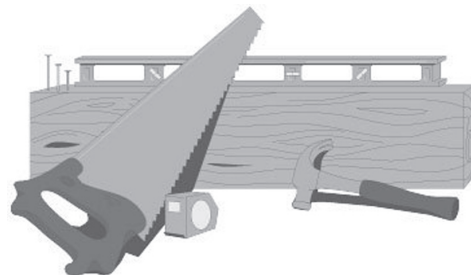
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Isleham Community Association Update

Whilst 2011 was an amazingly challenging but ultimately rewarding year as we moved things forward on the Community Centre, when you read this it is hoped that we will have achieved some key milestones, most of which reach d-day for decisions in January 2012. On the 11th the selected two contractors remaining will have delivered their best and final prices to our architects. By the 18th the Architect and Quantity Surveyor will then have selected their preferred bidder; thereafter the Parish Council will meet to review the costings and proposed contractor solution, before the agreed public meeting, the date of which is still to be confirmed.

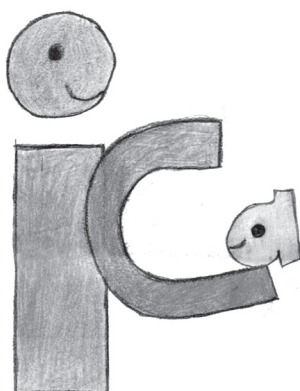
So, as stated, by the time you read this, we may have a decision and target start date on the commencement of the new centre. Of course, there remains the possibility that the decision may be to not proceed, due to financial issues. However, it is fair to say that the grant situation appears to be offering some good news, with renewed efforts from Tim Washtell and the ICA committee. A full and independently validated Business Plan covering the running costs and projected income streams for the centre has been produced. Behind the scenes the ICA and the Parish Council are working extremely hard to ensure that all data possible are before the council to aid their decision.

On behalf of the ICA it is very much hoped that when you read this we will have passed the significant milestones outlined above. It is our desire to have the building commenced by this summer with completion in spring 2013. There is much to do, and in truth, despite the amazing efforts of those involved so far, much of the work is still before us. To this end, we'd welcome anyone that is interested, to step forward and join one of the ICA committees. We need now and tomorrow financial, project management, HR and legal skills if at all available but willing volunteers of any type would be most welcome. There are fundraising events to organise and the summer Gala Festival to push on to even better things than the last two years, if that is possible.

If you'd like any more information on the ICA, or you would like to volunteer any support, please contact Mark Goldsack on mgelyvate@aol.com, or call 01638 780350.

Fingers crossed for an amazing 2012 and a sincere thanks to all involved thus far.

Mark Goldsack



Isleham
community
association

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Steven Baines	Emmanuel House, 8 East Fen Road, Isleham CB7 5SW Tel: 01638 780406
Derrick Beckett (Chairman)	Appleyard Farm, 1 Houghtons Lane, Isleham CB7 5SR Tel: 01638 780476
Vanessa Bruyneel-Smith	115 The Causeway, Isleham CB7 5ST Tel: 01638 781708
Paul Chaplin	Jay Jay Lodge, Waterside, Isleham CB7 5SH Tel: 01638 781745
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
Clive Patterson	21 West Street, Isleham CB7 5SD Tel: 01638 780669
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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Millennium Centre
Red Lodge

It's Panto Time!

The PTA is proud to present King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, which will be showing at the village hall from 21st–24th March. It promises to be a fantastic show featuring a cast of well-known faces and, of course, Isleham's very own brand of local humour. So come along for some good old-fashioned family entertainment.

Performances:

Wednesday 21st March 7pm

Thursday 22nd March 7pm

Friday 23rd March 7pm

Saturday 24th March 2pm
and 7pm

Tickets go on sale Sunday 19th February in the school library and then the following week before and after school. Book early to avoid disappointment: tickets for the Friday and Saturday performances usually sell-out on the first day.

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ISLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council normally meets on the first Monday of every month at 7pm in the Village Hall (Back Room). Members of the public are invited to attend the meetings and 15 minutes are set aside each month for public question time. Full copies of the minutes are available on the Website, the Notice Board and from the Parish Clerk Tel: 01638 781687 islehampc@btinternet.com

Isleham Parish Council is pleased to report that it was awarded Quality Status on 9th December 2011



Police Matters

- New Contact No for Police - 101
- PCSO Barbara Neill has been transferred to Ely City and PCSO Kieran Moran has taken over

Village Hall Report

- Andrew Smith has taken over as village hall caretaker from David Green who retired at the end of November.
- The hall is available for letting to individuals and groups for £10 per hour (main hall) and £5 per hour (small hall). Please contact the parish clerk for further information.

Recreation Ground Report

- Geoff Dabrowa has taken over as pavilion caretaker from David Green who retired at the end of November.
- The MUGA is well used although there are still some available slots during the week and at the weekends. The Council would like to remind parishioners that the MUGA should not be used unless a booking has been made via the Parish Clerk.

ICA Report

- The community centre project is progressing well and at the time of reading a public meeting will have been held and a decision on accepting a tender for the project will have been made.

Cemetery & Churchyard Matters

- The cemetery mowers will be serviced in January or February in order to take advantage of 15% discount from GMS.
- Some remedial works are to be carried out on the yews in the churchyard by East Cambs District Council.

Financial Matters

- A new cost centre has been created in the software package which shows the Community Centre expenditure as separate from the Village Hall.

Highways Matters

- A number of potholes have been reported and repaired.
- Consent has been given for remedial works to the trees at the rear of the Bowls Club.
- Approval has been given for the removal of a hedgerow off Common Gate Drove, Isleham.

Allotment Matters

- The Council have written to the County Council confirming that they do not wish the Three Tree

Allotment Site to be included in the development envelope of the village.

- A portion of the Dunstall Allotment Land has been set aside to be used as a Community Orchard – for further details please contact Mrs Jeanette Malkin 01638 780283.
- There are a number of allotments still available to rent both on Station Road and Beck Road, please contact the Parish Clerk Mrs Diane Bayliss for more information.

Planning Matters

- The council considered and raised no objection to planning applications at 4 Orchard Close, 18 Prickwillow Road and to the rear of 28 Hall Barn Road.
- Planning approvals were received for 27 East Road, 23 Prickwillow Road, 4 Croft Road, 9 Dockings Lane and 4 Orchard Close.
- Planning Applications are available for viewing on the East Cambs District Council Website or an appointment can be made with the Parish Clerk.

Street Lighting

- Balfour Beatty is in the process of replacing the street lighting throughout Cambridgeshire over the next several years. There will be 10% fewer lights; however, with the new white light source, the impact on the street will not be great. There is no more detailed information at the moment.
- If your street light is not working please contact the Parish Clerk with the light number; she will then report it to the County Council.

Dog Fouling

- A number of dog bins have been installed around the village although there are still a number of incidents of dog fouling. The dog warden can be contacted on 01353 665555 or you can file a report on the website www.eastcambs.gov.uk.

The Parish Council continues to support the Ely/Soham Dial-a-Ride Bus Service to Ely on a Thursday morning and the Fenland Elite Youth Bus which visits The Priory on a Thursday evening (term time only). ■

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CHURCHES

Three Rivers Group St Andrew's Parish Church

Regular Church Services

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

Third Sunday 8am Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer. All welcome.

Midweek services

Monday–Wednesday: 9am Morning Prayer, Fordham

Thursday, Friday: 8.15am Morning Prayer, Fordham

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

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 ■

Pound Lane Free Church

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

Elder: Mr 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–Year 3): 10–11.15am (Sue Thompson 01638 781343)

All Stars (Years 4–6): 10–11.15am (Mr John Martin 01638 737212)

Covies (Year 7–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: 9.30–10.30am.

(Mrs Sue Thompson 01638 781343 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: 7.00–8.15pm.

Wednesday:

Fellowship: 2.15–3.15pm.

This caters for the more mature. They enjoy meeting together for a Bible talk, spiritual songs and prayer. Various fun evenings and meals are also organised during the year. New members are always welcome.

Church Night: 7.40–9pm.

Bible study, prayer and fellowship; for mid-teens upwards.

Thursday:

Coffee Morning: 10–11.30am.

Turn up any time between 10 and 11.30am for free tea, coffee and cakes. Chat with friends and make new friends. Open to any age. Includes an eight minute "In the News this Week" slot in the middle.

Covies Club Night: 7–9pm.

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

secretary@plfc.org.uk

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

18–30s this is a new group for all those aged between 18 and 30 years. It's held each week, meeting in homes and once a month going out for a social event e.g. bowling or the cinema. If you are in this age range, would enjoy finding out more about the Christian life and would enjoy meeting other people of your age, why not come along and give it

a try? Details from Alison or Suzi on 01638 781343.

If you have any spare time on a Thursday morning between 10.00am and 11.30am why not come along to the **pllc Coffee Morning**? We enjoy a good chat with friends both old and new, a cup of tea or coffee and a selection of sweet and savoury items to tempt our taste buds! A topical news item is looked at from a Christian perspective in the eight minute "In the News" slot then some of the gentlemen enjoy a game of dominoes. We'd love to see you and you will be sure of a very warm welcome.

Our pre-school group **Music Mayhem** meets from 9.30–10.30am. Anyone is welcome to come along, the sessions are free and are held in the hall of the church extension. We have a 30 minute singing time, including the M.M. "Hello" song, some action songs, musical instrument songs, parachute songs, Sockeroo the sock puppet makes an appearance and helps us chose a song and we finish with the M.M. "goodbye song". Each child receives his or her own Sockeroo sock puppet on the first birthday they are with us. From 10.00–10.30a.m. We have a play time for the children and refreshments. ■

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. 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!

Impact is 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!

OTHER WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Our midweek care structure called **High Street Life** gives a whole range of fresh initiatives to care, support and be involved in the local community. It includes: Life groups, plus Men's and Ladies' groups; a Media and Creative Arts group using modern technology to convey the message of hope; a Healthy Living group; practical DIY advice; a Quilting group, Papercraft group, and much more. Are you new to the village? High Street Life is more than just Church on Sunday so why not contact us, we'd love to get to know you and tell you what makes us tick.

Alpha – the relevance of the gospel in today's world – will start in the New Year. The **Marriage Course** (designed to help strengthen marriages) will also continue to run from time to time.

Our **Rendezvous** group – for the more mature among us – meets every Tuesday afternoon at 3pm. Around 60 to 70 of us enjoy this time together each week but new faces are always welcome.

Luncheon Club is for those of retirement age and happens once a month on the second Wednesday from 12–2pm. An excellent meal for just £2.50 not to mention the great company! For further details of any of the above, please contact Kathryn of 01638 780652 of the Church Office.

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!

So whether it's on a Sunday or midweek, we would love to see you. Why not come along, give us a call or take a look at what we do on www.highst.org.uk? If you would like to know more then please contact our church office on 01638 780985. ■

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Saturday 25th: Band - Snatch

- MARCH -

To be confirmed: Karaoke

Saturday 24th: Band - Halo

OPENING TIMES

Monday: 7pm to Close

Tuesday to Sunday: 12 noon to Close

