

Isleham Informer

Issue 50 • April 2012

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

THREE MEN. THREE BIKES. ONE EIFFEL TOWER.

Why are we doing this?

Having experienced loved ones suffer from cancer, we (myself, Andrew Brown and Stuart King) are aware of the effects and devastation this illness can cause to not only the individual suffering from the illness but also families and close friends. Recently a family relative lost her long and brave battle with cancer with her final weeks being spent within the MacMillan Ward of West Suffolk Hospital where she received exceptional care and treatment.

It is at times like this that make us realise how much we need the support of charitable organisations such

as the MacMillan Cancer Trust who provide an amazing service where it is really needed.

It is estimated that one in three of us will suffer from this dreadful illness in our lifetime and we believe that

everyone should be entitled to the 'exceptional' treatment that my aunt-in-law received recently.

Our Challenge?

In order to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support we shall be cycling from the capital of England to the capital of France. Our itinerary shall be as follows:

Day 1 - London to Calais

An early start from London sees us head off with a tough day's cycling. We ride through the outskirts of London onto quieter roads and it's not long before we are among the hills and villages of rural Kent along country roads to Dover and the coast. Leaving the white cliffs behind us, we take an afternoon ferry across the channel to Calais where we spend our first night.

Cycling distance: 145 km

Day 2 - Calais to Arras

After a hearty breakfast in Calais we head south. Starting off fairly flat, our ride continues as we

continued on page 4...



In the last issue of the *Informer* we highlighted that the date of the Gala had been changed. However, due to other village commitments the Gala will now take place on 7th July; this is the traditional day the Gala takes place. Everything is now being put into place for this date. We are, however, 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: any help will be gratefully received. The next meeting will take place 16th April at 8pm in The Griffin.

As an addendum, we are pleased to note that the timetable for the Olympic Torch – the reason for the original date change – has been published and shows that the Torch will reach Newmarket at 17.29 on 7th July. This means anyone wanting to see the Torch pass will have plenty of time to enjoy the Gala first.

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

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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

First Sunday Isleham Community Skate Park car wash. 10.00 - 13.00

April

Monday 2nd	Isleham Parish Council	19.00
Thursday 5th	Mobile Library Church Street Mill Street	14.15–15.00 15.05–17.00
Thursday 12th	WI	19.30
Monday 16th	Gala Committee	20.00
Tuesday 17th	Isleham Gardeners	19.30
Thursday 19th	Isleham Society	19.30
Friday 20th	Mobile Library Church Street	09.30–10.10
Monday 30th	Isleham Parish Meeting	19.00

May

Thursday 3rd	Mobile Library Church Street Mill Street	14.15–15.00 15.05–17.00
Wednesday 9th	INFORMER DEADLINE	
Thursday 10th	WI	19.30
Sunday 13th	BBQ and Band, Social Centre	14.00
Tuesday 15th	Isleham Gardeners	19.30
Thursday 17th	Isleham Society	19.30
Friday 16th	Mobile Library Church Street	09.30–10.10
Monday 21st	Gala Committee	20.00

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Published by Isleham Parish Council

Printed by Urban Design and Print Ltd.

(<http://www.urbanprinting.co.uk/>)

NEXT ISSUE: Published 1st June 2012. The copy deadline for all editorial and advertising is 9th May 2012.

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

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VILLAGE NOTES

Isleham Gardeners Events

17th April – 7.30pm venue to be confirmed
Curry Night followed by a Gardeners' Forum (numbers limited) – Enquiries to Jenny on 01638 780729

15th May – 7.30pm back room Village Hall – all welcome
'Gardens and the National Trust'
Veronica Bennett, National Trust speaker

19th June – 7.30pm back room Village Hall – all welcome
'Alpines and alpine troughs'
Angela Whiting, D'Arcy & Everest (specialist alpine nursery)

IUFA

Isleham Under Fives Association are holding a Jubilee Indoor Market in the Village Hall, Saturday 16th June 2012, 2–4pm. We shall be hosting a range of stalls showcasing our local businesses and crafters, celebrating our village and the surrounding area. Refreshments will also be available. If you, or anyone else you know is interested in holding a stall, please contact Vicki Holder: vicki.holder@yahoo.co.uk, 01638 781609.

Lady Peyton's Alms Houses

There is now a vacancy in the Lady Peyton Alms Houses.

Persons should be resident in the parish of Isleham and 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 of interested tenants should be sent to:

Michael Siggs, P.O. Box 993, Colchester, Essex CO3 3TC telephone: 01206 765138, email: Michael-siggs@btclick.com

Obituary

John Edward DAVIS of Isleham Marina and formerly Edgware London, passed away on Saturday 10th March 2012 aged 79 years.

Beloved partner for 22 years to Josie Guy. A much loved father to Robert, Sandra and Linda. Father-in-law to Tim and Nalaka. Daughter in law to Liz.

Dear grandfather to Christopher, Jamie, Laura, Mya, Tia and Kieron.

Funeral service was held at St. Andrew's Church, Isleham, followed by cremation.

Band – B.B.Q. and Blossom

Newmarket Town Band

St Andrew's Church, Sunday 13th May 2012

2pm in the Social Centre garden

tickets from Post Office or church members

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:

Church Street

Mill Street

3rd Friday of the month: Church St

Arrive Depart

14.15 15.00

15.05 17.00

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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twitter: @waxpertwax



...continued from front page

peddle through rural landscapes and quiet back roads. The ride gets more undulating as the day continues until we reach Arras, our final destination for the day.

Cycling distance: 125 km

Day 3 - Arras to Compiègne

After a couple of hard days in the saddle, our legs may be feeling a little weary this morning as we head South once more. Today we travel through villages and along quiet French roads to the more forested region around the town of Compiègne, where we spend the night. Compiègne is nestled on the banks of the River Oise.

Cycling distance: 125 km

Day 4 - Compiègne to PARIS!

Our final day's cycling takes us South West initially through small villages and woodland before we meet the Parisian suburbs. From this point the traffic increases, but our destination and the finish is in sight. We cycle through the Parisian streets around the Arc de Triumph to our finish beneath the lofty arches of the Eiffel Tower.

Cycling distance: 90 km

Doesn't sound too bad does it?

So what is our Aim?

Our aim is simple - we would really like to raise as much money as we possibly can for MacMillan Cancer Support so they can keep providing 'beautiful' support to those who need it most. Our donation page can be accessed by going to: www.justgiving.com/team-isleham

Daniel Stackhouse



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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	Doreen Spiers	01638 780783	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 Hinitt	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

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

Blissful Babies Every Tuesday 1.30–3.00pm and Friday 9.30–11.00am. A relaxing sensory experience for babies with lights, music, toys and more. To book your place and more information call 01353 727188

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

www.cambridgeshirechildrenscentres.org.uk

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www.thesportsinjuryclinic.org

King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table

Photos of by Clive Patterson



March is here again and yet another village Panto. As we have performed the majority of the more traditional ones and we try not to repeat any, we are trying one with a difference.

This tells the story of Arthur and the sword in the stone, so has an historical setting, which may lead the children to find out more about that era. All the traditional panto fun is there, however, with a dame, principal boy and girl, and the usual village jokes. Costumes are fantastic, particularly those of the three horses and the "Welsh speaking dragon". A lot of work has gone into this production: finding and part-writing a script, work to incorporate the right music, making props, costumes and scenery. It all takes time and energy. The money made goes to the school, so that the children benefit from its proceeds.

What we have lacked this year is "fresh blood." Only two new people have come along – and they have helped enormously. But if the Panto is to continue then it needs people who will be able to take over the production. So if you're out there and you want to have a go, we are a friendly group who welcome newcomers. Please make the effort and come and join us.

Doreen Speirs





Gala Queen, Princess and Prince Competition 2012

**Sponsored by
Isleham School
PTA**

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

This year, the competition to select the Gala Queen, Prince and Princess is being run by Isleham PTA, and winners will receive a number of fantastic prizes, including a tiara, hair-up/styling and a manicure or make-up for the Queen. The Prince and Princess will each receive a goodie bag packed with exciting treats.

This will be a postal competition open to all children aged 5 to 16 years who live in Isleham or who attend Isleham Primary School. Girls aged 11 to 16 on the day of the Gala will be eligible for the Gala Queen. Girls and boys aged 5 to 10 will be entered for the Princess/Prince competition. It costs just £2 per entry. To enter, you need to complete the form below, and on a separate

sheet(s), provide your response to the questions asked. Send or email your entry to Su Harrison, 6 Cornwell Close, Isleham. suzanneharrison137@btinternet.com. Tel: (01638) 781837.

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



Competition Terms and Conditions

1. Winners must be available to participate in the Parade and to make presentations throughout the day on Saturday 7th July 2012.
2. Winners are asked to jointly organise their transportation to lead the procession of floats on Gala Day.
3. You must live in Isleham or attend Isleham Primary School.
4. All forms must be signed by a parent or guardian and accompanied by the entry fee of £2 per child. Photographs are not required for this competition; entrants will be judged on their responses and artwork.
5. All entries must reach Alison Oliver by Wednesday 2nd May 2012 for selection by a panel of independent judges.

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

Isleham School PTA is Registered Charity No 1109379

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Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

School: _____

Phone: _____

Signature of
Parent/Guardian: _____

On a separate sheet(s) of paper:

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

AskSARA!

A website offering help and advice to people with a range of day-to-day needs is now available with information localised for people living in Cambridgeshire.

AskSARA is a self-help guide that enables you to identify equipment that may help in your daily life. It will take you through a series of guided questions leading to general advice and recommendations on what equipment would be suitable to meet your particular needs.

It provides information on manufacturers and local suppliers of equipment including retail outlets, mail order and demonstration centres. You will receive a review of the recommended equipment so that you can compare and make an informed choice about which equipment will best meet your needs, and where to get this locally.

AskSARA is easy to use and widely accessible regardless of age or ability. It can be used with little or no training and easily understood without the need for supervision by a professional carer. The questions cover topics under three headings: Your Health; Your Home; and Daily Activities.

AskSARA ensures that the information that people get is useful and reflects what is available to them locally. It will be featured as part of the Staying independent, safe and well roadshows taking place in libraries across the county during 2012.

If you are interested in visiting the AskSARA website or finding out the dates when the roadshows will be in a library near you, please see: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social

Pattersons: The end of an era

Last day 31st March 2012

We would like to thank all our loyal customers over the past four years for their support. We didn't realise in 2008 when we said we would only be open for three days a week, that even this would be a bind, but it has been an experience that we are glad to have had.

Over the four years that we have run the shop, it has made us realise what a great lot of children we have in the village. Serving the children with sweets is certainly a pleasure we will miss.

At present we have no idea of the future of the shop, but depending on the level of remaining stock after the March Clearance, we may have to open for odd days around April/May.

After closure we will still be trading as CSPservices for computer repairs, builds etc. Available online at www.cspservices.co.uk or through 01638 780669.

Best wishes and thanks to all.

Clive and Susan Patterson

Police News

101

The number was introduced on September 21 and at the end of March the old 0345 number will fall out of use.

The number change is part of a national scheme to make 101 the single non-emergency number in England and Wales.

The system has been designed to recognise where the caller is dialling from and connect them with the local police service.

If a caller does not want to speak to their local force they will be given the option to be connected to a different one.

People should continue to call 999 when an immediate response is needed because a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, or someone is in danger.

David Old

Crimestoppers

This is an independent charity helping to find criminals and solve crimes. We run the anonymous 0800 555 111 phone number which allows members of the public to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously. People can also pass us information anonymously via a secure online form at www.crimestoppers-uk.org



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Cambridgeshire
& Peterborough

Campaign to Protect Rural England

Introducing the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is one of the longest established and most respected environmental groups in England. Your local CPRE Branch, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, was set up over 80 years ago – and we been speaking up for our countryside ever since. We want to protect it from the threats it faces, and to shape its future for the better.

CPRE campaigns for a beautiful and living countryside. We work to influence how we plan our towns and cities to make them better places to live and work, to ensure that the countryside is protected for all to enjoy for now and future generations.

We have a tiny office in St Ives and a part-time administrator, but our work is largely carried out by a small band of volunteers who are committed to protecting our landscapes and rural communities.

Standing up for the countryside

You may have read in the press about our concerns about the Government's planning reforms which could leave parts of our countryside at greater threats of development. Nationally, we've worked to impress on MPs and Government Ministers what these reforms might lead to.

In Cambridgeshire we are lucky to have diverse, evocative and beautiful countryside – in Isleham, for example, we can enjoy the unique and historic landscape of the Cambridgeshire fens. However, very little of our countryside has the official designation that would protect it from inappropriate development. With Cambridgeshire being one of the fastest growing parts of England, the countryside on our doorstep is under threat! The dangers include massive new housing schemes, warehouses and wind farms.

What you can do

Maybe you would like to help us in our work. We desperately need more volunteers and members. Joining us for just £3.00 a month would make a real difference. For more information contact Tracey Hipson at our office on 01480 396698 or e-mail office@cprecambs.org.uk.

In future articles we will let you know more about the work we are doing in Cambridgeshire. Our countryside is precious – after all, “when it's gone, it's gone”!

*Michael Monk, Chairman
CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*

ICA Gala Festival

I'm delighted to announce three must-have dates for your diary.

5th July 2012. Isleham's Got Talent.

Following a tremendous night last year the plans are for better and hopefully with real judges for the full experience. Entry forms and ticket information will come out around early May.

6th July 2012. Isleham's Grand Summer Ball.

The glamour night of the year, and in Isleham. Brilliant band, amazing meal, wonderful setting, superb charity casino etc. Book early and organise your own table. Again tickets on sale from May.

7th July 2012. ICA Family Fun Night.

Different from last year we have big plans this year, further details to follow as soon as possible. I can announce that we will have a children's entertainment-based Disco early evening, leading into one for the adults as the night progresses. In addition, we hope to be able to announce extraordinary outdoor fun and games once confirmed.

It is very much hoped that this year will be the last in the Marquee and we hope to sign off in style. Please make a date for one or all the above and hope to see you there.

The ICA is moving into a critical stage. If anyone wishes to help with events like the above or any of the numerous committees we are always looking for talented and willing support. For further information on the Gala Festival or joining any committee please contact Mark on 07831 168899 or 01638 780350.

Mark Goldsack

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Isleham
Primary
School

HIP-HIP HOORAY!

SCHOOL FLIPS ON PANCAKE DAY

Jasmine, Jessica, Isobel, Angharad and Jenny, Year 6

Even though it was February, not only was the sun beaming but the pupils were too. Everyone marched into Isleham Primary School, grasping their frying pans, faces lit up with joy and anticipation of what was about to happen.

Shrove Tuesday, better known in England as Pancake Day, is celebrated all over the world as it marks the beginning of Lent.

During the forty days and forty nights, people give up their favourite treats, such as chocolate, sweets and crisps.



Sometimes, pancake races are held in schools and this is exactly what Isleham Primary School got up to this Tuesday.

Jasmine, a winner of one of the races, reported "It was hard to resist the temptation of the scrumptious

pancake lying in my pan, beckoning to be eaten!"

Every child in the school took part and even some of the adults. It was a fun, educational activity that everyone enjoyed. James, another winner, commented "Today was fun, tossing pancakes and learning about Shrove Tuesday."

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Women's Institute

At the beginning of February, 25 members went to The Griffin for a meal. The food was good and we had a very enjoyable evening. Thanks to Mike and Gina.

Our AGM is held in February, but this year the snow meant we had to delay it for a week. When we finally met in the Social Centre on Wednesday 15th February the Committee, were all willing to stand again, with no other members showing interest, and Janice Pope was re-elected as President.

At our March meeting we welcomed Ms Vanessa Bennett, a volunteer speaker with the National Trust, who came to speak about its history. She illustrated her talk with slides and showed a few of the gardens.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12th April when the speaker will be Mrs C. Simms who will be speaking about "Confessions of a Diplomat's Wife".

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.

For further information contact:

Glenda Preece
01638 780734, gjpreece@aol.com



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Isleham Gardeners

I hope you are all recovering from the recent wintry weather. As I write this little article (beginning of March) we have just had a very warm, sunny weekend and

I was inspired to open some seed packets and make a start. Of course I've already sown tomatoes and cucumbers in the greenhouse, which as we speak, are just coming to second leaf stage. So far I have sown early carrots and parsnips – a little tip here, when sowing parsnips sow radish in the same drill. This has two advantages;

first, parsnips are very slow to germinate so the quicker germinating radish give a marker for the parsnip row, also you get a crop of early radish, which saves you space in a small plot.

By the time this edition comes out you should be on the verge of planting your seed potatoes if you have not already done so. Hopefully the weather will have been kind to us and warmed the soil up with enough rain to keep the ground moist. (Ah, wouldn't that be nice? Perfect growing weather!)

Away from the allotment it is time to start thinking about spring pruning your roses. The object of pruning is to encourage the formation of new strong flowering stems, maintaining the plants health by removing dead and diseased wood and improve the plants shape. So the general rules are:

1. Remove all dead and diseased wood right back to the base.
2. Cut out all weak and spindly shoots as they will never be strong enough to support a head of flowers.
3. On all bush and shrub roses, aim for an open centre, removing crossed or tangled branches.
4. Prune to achieve a balanced shape. Always cut back to a dormant bud, preferably outward facing, usually two to three buds from the base. Make the cut just above the bud slanting down away from it.
5. And finally always use sharp secateurs to avoid tearing the stem.

Don't forget our Isleham Gardeners club, every third Tuesday of the month. This month (April) we are having a Curry Night on the 17th at a cost of £10 per head, to be held in the small hall at the village hall. The same function last year was a great success so I hope to see lots of you there.

In the meantime - Happy Gardening!

Phil Adelphus



Isleham Community Skate Park



We would like to thank everyone who has helped support us with the car wash which is going very well every first Sunday of every month at Priory Garage from 10am to 1pm.

The bonfire/firework night was a great success thanks to Jo & Chris Harvey who organised the whole thing. We hope to have this event as a regular function.

The raffle for the homemade Christmas cake was won by Barry Grimwood (above): well done! We raised £102.00.

We still need people to sign up for the car maintenance evening, we have some people on waiting list but need ten to run the evening.

Thank you!

Pauline Dunbavin



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A band of the usual suspects turned out on a fine February morning for the last of our winter work parties on Isleham Local Nature Reserve. Several sections of the reserve have now been cut further back, aiming to allow in more light and encourage flowering plants (and their attendant butterflies and other insects) to flourish. An early morning visit to the reserve this month may well reveal a grass snake or lizard basking on the sunny banks, and yellowhammers are already starting to explore their territories along the hedgerows.

Several nest boxes and feeding stations have been erected by some of the group, so if you can, keep an eye out for the different birds that they are encouraging. If you have any bird food please feel free to bring it along to restock the feeding stations.

We have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Cambridgeshire County Council, with the aim of managing the site in a safe and well-managed condition for the use of residents of Isleham. The Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves group continues to be responsible for carrying out management and reporting on the condition of the site, whilst the Council is committed to maintaining access and fencing etc, as well as cutting the footpath.

We are grateful to Isleham Parish Council, which is enabling our work on the reserve to continue through its insurance cover, and to Cambridgeshire County Council, which has now provided training (first aid, work party leadership, chainsaw and brush cutter training) to several group members.

Elsewhere, last weekend saw a record number (46) of avocets on Isleham Washes (attracting in turn a good number of bird watchers). It will be even more important from now on to keep dogs under control on the Washes to enable ducks and waders on migration to feed undisturbed, and as ground-nesting birds settle down to breed.

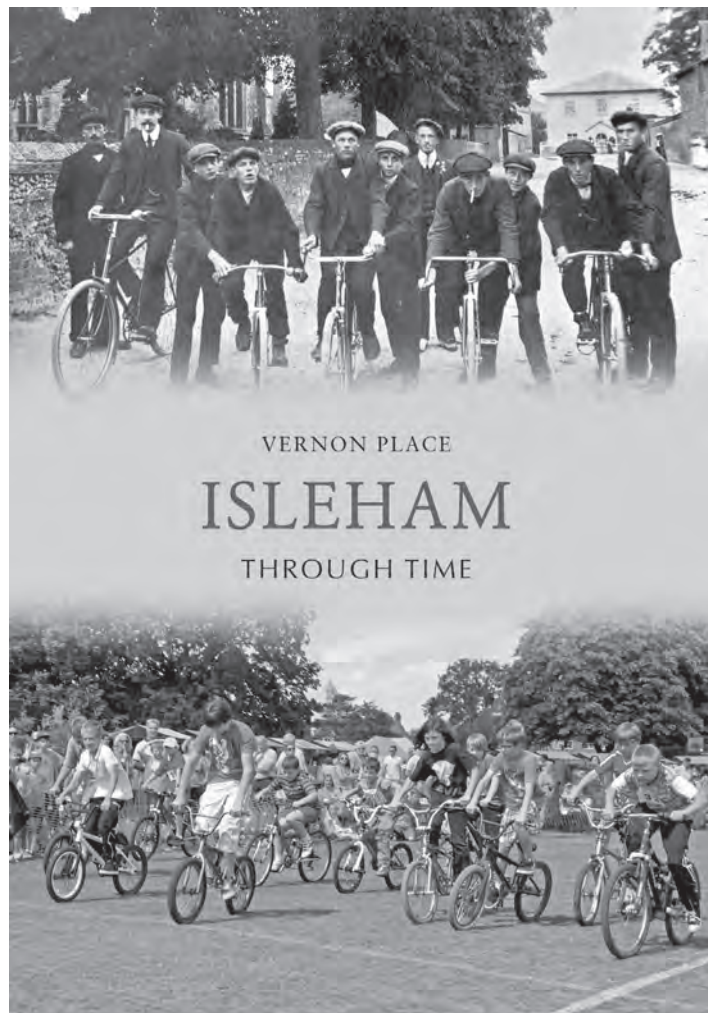
We will be arranging visits and events for children and adults on nature reserves around Isleham over the coming months. If you'd like to know more or get involved please contact:

Andrew Garbett (07903 092899)

Alastair Burn (01638 780553)

Search on Facebook for "Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves", or follow the blog – "friendsofislehamnr.blogspot.com."

Isleham through Time



It seems that this review comes a little late – just about everyone I speak to in the village is singing the praises of *Isleham through Time* by local photographer Vernon Place. Never mind: I'm sure there must be one or two interested parties yet to make the discovery.

On each page, Vernon has contrasted a contemporary photograph of Isleham with a similar view from the past. The pictures are complemented with a paragraph that describes the changes (or lack thereof!) that have taken place in the intervening years, and often includes some personal recollection from the author. This can not help but generate interest in our village's history.

Vernon's wonderful book is dedicated to Arthur Houghton in celebration of his 100th birthday last July. This dedication is undoubtedly deserved, since it is Arthur's tireless collecting and cataloguing of old photographs of the village that has made many of the 'before' shots possible.

I would venture that ownership of this book is all but compulsory for anyone who wants to know more about where they live.

The book, published by Amberley, is widely available online, including through Amazon and Play.com, as well as at all good bookshops*.

Ed Mayall

*A good bookshop is defined as one that sells *Isleham through Time* by Vernon Place!

DVD Reviews

At the moment, with the weather changing from freezing cold and snowing to nice hot sunny days, people don't really know what to do with themselves. Should you start the gardening? Or just stay in side and turn the heating up? My answer to you is to crash in front of the television after a hard day at work or college and do nothing. Luckily for you, some more great films are being released onto DVD this month, so really there's no excuse not to.

The first on my list is Crazy Stupid Love. This is a great little romantic comedy, which is more comedy than



romantic, but what else would you expect from one of comedy's well-known faces, Steve Carell. This film is about a middle-aged man's life changing dramatically from 'happy husband' to 'desperately divorced'. With his newfound friend Jacob, played by Ryan Gosling, Cal tried to rediscover his manhood. However Jacob isn't just teaching Cal how to get women, he's also learning about what love really is,

with the help of Emma Stone's character. This film puts a great twist on the original 'chick flick' and will make you smile if not laugh; however, as most rom-coms, it is quite predictable and surprisingly long.

The next film has been on many people's minds (mainly young girls) ever since the first was released back in 2008. The Twilight Saga

– Breaking Dawn Part One is soon to be released on DVD. This film had a lot of hype and if you have watched the others leading up to it, it doesn't fail to bring you what you want. Which in this case is Bella and Edward finally getting married. Unlike the other Twilight films there is very little action in this film but luckily for Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner) there is



a bigger part for the werewolf pack and I think Jacob truly comes out of himself. The film in itself is quite boring at the start and takes a long time to get going. As the penultimate film in the saga you would expect something bigger to happen and as the biggest twist was given away in the trailer that leaves very little for the film. This

said, I did enjoy the film and the romance is still there to make every teenage girl's (and their mother's) heart jump. If you haven't done so I recommend reading the books – they are much better than the films – although the last remaining film promises to be a good one.

The Thing has been re-released and re-made from the old version back in 1982. I have never seen the original, but my mum said that it was the scariest film she had ever watched. So, whilst walking into the cinema that was all I could think about. Unfortunately, or fortunately depending on how you look at it, I wasn't really scared during this film, at least as not as much as I thought I was going to be. There were parts that made me jump or had me ill at ease but overall I was quite disappointed. The story line was very easy to pick up and, like most horrors, you know exactly who is going to survive and who isn't. There were a few twists but nothing big but one thing I have to give it credit for are the effects. The 'Thing' itself was edited very well and truly did look horrible at the end, looking very realistic and gruesome.

Michaela Farr



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JOYCE'S CORNER

Grateful Thanks

A busy thing with things to do
And people I must see.
And yet somehow I find the time
For one more cup of tea.

And if the day's a dreary one,
No bright or cheerful news.
A biscuit and a cup of tea
Will chase away the blues.

I made a list of things I love
Things that give me pleasure.
It grew, and then I realised
My life holds so much treasure.

We had a week of snow and frost,
But then the sun came out.
And with that ray of sunshine
It's said we'll have a drought!

When I look at those around me
Who bear a heavy load
I know that I am fortunate
To walk a smoother road.

Joyce Drayton



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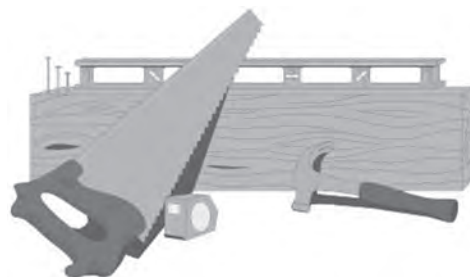
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Mr Lane (his son, Brian Lane, later became a wedding photographer; he had photographed the weddings of some of the audience present at the meeting).

Mike illustrated how and why the floods became so devastating and the amount of effort in man hours, machinery and money it took to bring the floods under control. He also reminded us of the human suffering it caused with loss of their homes and seeing animals they were caring for struggling and drowning in the waters.

His talk really enlightened us to the extent to which the floods affected the fens and the people living there. We were so fortunate in Isleham Fen, being saved from having our homes and livelihood destroyed just because the banks burst elsewhere, causing others to suffer instead of us.

The Isleham Society

19th January 2012 Peter Jackson from Scotsdales Nurseries started the new year by giving an illustrated talk entitled "Grow your own Fruit and Vegetables," emphasising the need to set many small quantities of plants and seeds in order to have a continual supply of food rather than set enormous amounts, which would be far more than we could ever eat! He spoke of some of the best varieties to grow according to our soil type, conditions and the seasons, as well as introducing us to some newer varieties now available. As usual, he answered many varied questions from the audience about aspects of gardening in his normal 'easy to listen to' manner, which made for an enjoyable and rewarding evening.

16th February Vernon Place gave a PowerPoint presentation in his series of "Old Isleham Photos" This fifth presentation had more modern photos rather than the early ones previously shown; they featured the late 1970s and early '80s taken by him for the Newmarket Journal as well as other village events he photographed.

A wide range of activities were shown including some that probably would not be allowed now for health and safety reasons, such as Pram and Pancake races when the streets were closed for the races and a sponsored Boys' Brigade event which involved climbing up and and down ladders erected in the Recreation Ground. It included organisations that no longer exist such as the Evergreens Club (over 60s) which was very active at that time, the Women's Branch of the Royal British Legion and the Girls' Brigade. Can you remember these events? The River Lark frozen in 1978 enabling people to play snowballs on the ice. In 1980 the Playgroup meeting in Limestone Close. Tracy Cox being crowned May Queen in '81. In '82 the Playgroup successfully picketing the District Council at Ely to stop the group from being closed. Finally the winners of the Boys Brigade sponsored go Cart Race in '83 were Michael and David Gee.

15th March Mike Petty gave a graphic account of the "Fenland Floods in 1947" He used pictures taken by a

Future Meeting Our AGM is on 19th April. After the business meeting, Dr Ann Noble of Isleham will give us an illustrated talk on "Food for the Future" this will be followed by refreshments provided by the members

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors to any of our meetings. The cost for non-members is £2.

Vernon Place,
Chairman of The Isleham Society

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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



Michelle Jacobs 07842112190 Michelle@healthyworkingminds.co.uk

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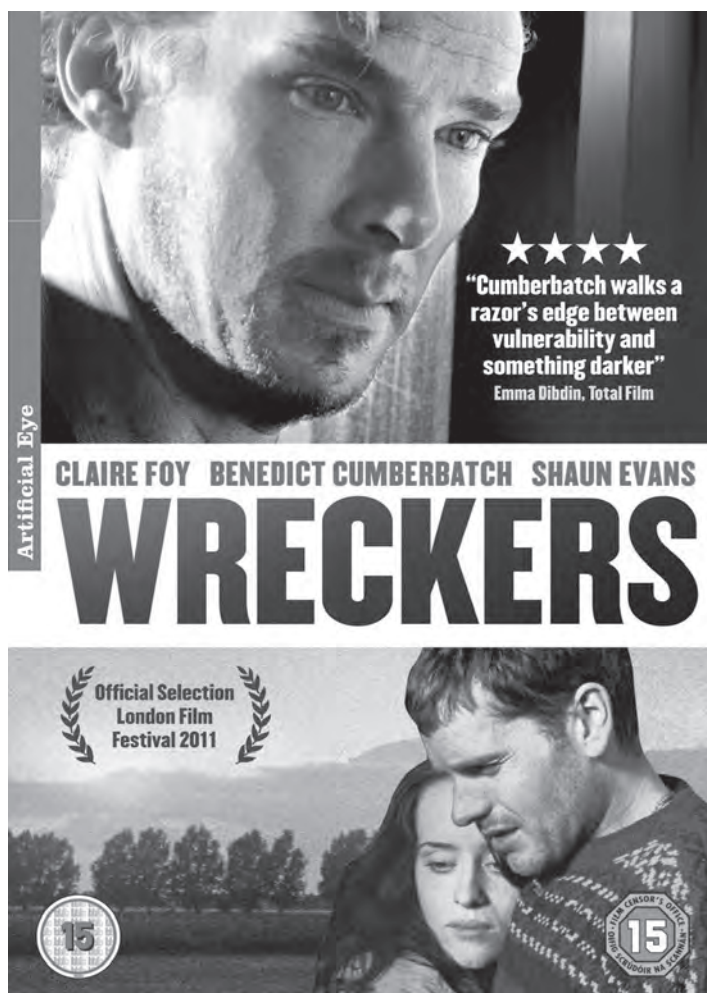
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Millennium Centre	Victoria Hall
Red Lodge	Fordham



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Tues
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Millennium Centre
Red Lodge

Wreckers DVD



The DVD of *WRECKERS* was released on 12th March. You can now own for yourself this 'brooding drama of rural disquiet and sexual tension' featuring compelling performances from Claire Foy, Benedict Cumberbatch and Shaun Evans. And, of course, largely filmed in Isleham! Order from Amazon or Play.com.

There are also upcoming screenings of 'Wreckers' at Arts Picturehouse, Cambridge on 24th April (with director Q&A) and 25th April.

"Featuring compelling performances from an exceptional cast of young actors, and evocatively filmed in lush fields, eerie churchyards and desolate rural houses, the debut feature from D R Hood is a haunting tale of secrets and lies in the English countryside." (Michael Hayden – London Film Festival programmer).

"A brooding drama of rural disquiet and sexual tension" Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*

"A rich, unsettling character piece" **** Emma Dibdin, *Total Film*

"A handsome debut" - Fionnuala Halligan, *Screen International*

"Smart, engrossing and well acted" – Tim Robey, *Daily Telegraph*

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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 was presented with their Quality Status Certificate at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 6th March 2012.



Police Matters

- New contact number for Police – 101.
- PCSO Kieran Moran has offered to hold a property marking event for persons such as allotment holders; please contact the Clerk if you are interested in taking part in such a scheme.
- The Neighbourhood Panel meeting was well attended and parishioners are encouraged to attend future meetings. Although we live in a low crime area it is still important to report incidents to the police in order that they have a realistic picture of what goes on in Isleham.

Village Hall Report

- The village hall is being well maintained and it has been agreed that a floor-cleaning machine will be hired to improve the condition of the floor.
- The Council are going to look into alternative venues for user groups when the village hall is demolished, which will be 20 weeks before the end of the new build.

Recreation Ground Report

- An accompanied inspection and risk assessment of the play area are to be carried out by Wicksteed.
- 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

- A public meeting was held on Monday 30th January where presentations on the business plan and the grant seeking process were made.
- The tender for the new community centre has been accepted from C J Murfitt. There are still some changes to be made to the final drawings but grant and loan applications are now being made and it is hoped the project will begin in the summer.

Cemetery & Churchyard Matters

- A working group has been set up to look at what remedial works need to be carried out at the War Memorial.

Financial Matters

- Additional insurance cover has been taken out to cover the additional funds being held by the council.

Highways Matters

- Beck Road has now been included on the secondary gritting route.
- Isleham Parish Council has adopted both of the red telephone boxes in the village and is now responsible for their upkeep.

Allotment Matters

- 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 has been an increase in the number of allotments let on the Dunstall site; however, there are still a few plots still to rent on Station Road and a large number on 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 Karma Farm and 26 Hall Barn Road.
- The council objected to the planning application at 45 West Street, Isleham.
- Planning approvals were received for 8 Orchard Close.
- Approval for remedial works to trees at 35 Pound Land and 10–16 Limestone Close (Sanctuary Housing) has been received.
- 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, but the new white light source will be brighter, so the impact on the street will not be great. There is no more detailed information at the moment.
- If your streetlight 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, but 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

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. ■

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 at the All Age Communion Service on the third Sunday of every month. Third Sunday 8am Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer. All welcome.

Midweek services

Monday 9.15am Morning Prayer. 7, The Close, Kennett

Tuesday/Wednesday. 9am Morning Prayer Fordham

Wednesday: 4.15pm Evening Prayer Snailwell

Thursday/Friday 8.15am Morning Prayer Fordham

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)

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–Year3): 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.

Meeting on alternate Wednesdays and catering for the more mature in age. They enjoy meeting together for a Bible talk, spiritual songs and prayer. Various fun events and meals are also organized 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.

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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

Our fortnightly meeting for older folks, **Fellowship**, restarted on Wednesday 14th March at a slightly later time of 2.30pm. All are very welcome to this meeting; please call the church number if you require transport.

In June we are looking forward to the visit of our old friend **Roger Carswell**. Some of you will probably remember Roger as he has visited Isleham twice before. He is a man gifted in sharing the truths of the bible and we will be holding several events at which he will be speaking. Further details will follow.

Roger will also be taking our **Fathers' Day Family Service** on 17th June at 10.30am, there will be a Crèche for very young children and everyone is warmly invited. ■

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Fourth Festival of Football



Isleham United Youth FC, which has 180 members from age 4 years upwards, is holding its Fourth Annual Football Festival on the weekend of 12/13 May 2012. We are expecting to have 90 teams from Clubs around the County attend, which will enable us to raise funds for the Club and to give some 500 children an end of season celebration, as well as for our new community centre.

Craig Boneham, Festival Organiser
01638 781693, 07789 930171
kirstyboneham968@btinternet.com

Bloor Homes are proud to be associated with the Festival of Football, Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th May 2012.

We look forward to this year's Festival and on the Sunday we will be arranging for a Magician to come along and entertain the children, at our stand from 11am to 4pm.

In 2011 one of our projects was the Peyton Meadows Development in Isleham. We were invited by Craig Boneham to sponsor the Festival of Football event, and this proved to be a success for both Bloor Homes and the Festival.

We completed our New Homes Development in Isleham in July 2011. We have kept in contact with Craig, and September saw the under 6s and 7s teams in their new football

strip sponsored by Bloor Homes.

Bloor Homes are due to open our Petersfield development in Soham in early spring, with showhomes opening late May 2012. Presently under construction are three- and four-bedroom family homes ideal for the first-time buyer and families looking to move to a larger home.

Visit www.bloorhomes.com to find out more.



Bowls Report

As spring is now in the air, our attention turns to the 2012 outdoor season and hopefully evenings of glorious sunshine and warmth. As always, we all dream of achieving some level of success, either at a club or individual level. With in-excess of 55 teams to be selected over a 17 week period, it will certainly be another busy season for our players.

It doesn't all stop at playing the game, there are all the other associated voluntary duties. The green is cut every other day, the clubhouse is cleaned, teas are catered for and many other ancillary jobs are carried out by our membership.

Every year there are changes of membership due to various reason and 2012 will be the same. Some folks are planning moves (Sheringham is nice but Australia is a tad grand!) some due to career paths changing and some due to health. So therefore, there is always space to welcome new folks into the club. Every year we advertise this fact but very few people do manage to find their way up to the club. Is it time, is it shyness, is it a concern that you may be given loads of work as described above? Well don't let any of these reasons stop you. The season gets going in earnest at the beginning of May,

most evenings there will be someone on the premises (unless we are playing an away match) Please feel free to come along and see for yourself what enjoyment can be obtained from this sport held in our village.

The carpet bowls season is now heading to a conclusion and both teams in the East Cambs carpet bowls league unfortunately are facing relegation. In Division 1, Team 1 need a 'freak' set of results to keep in that division. However, Team 2 are confirmed as relegated to Division 3. I said at a recent match that if I was a football manager, I would have received 'the sack' a long time ago but fortunately we don't play for that much prize money (to be factually correct, it is a big fat Zero!) so I guess the hire and fire 'em attitude doesn't really apply in bowls!

However, one bright item to report is that Team 1 has a home semi-final against Sutton in the league KO Cup and would seem favourites to proceed to the final and be up against one of the big boys in the area: Over or Littleport Village Hall.

The internal competitions are heading for finals at the beginning of April and winners will be reported in the next issue.

So please don't forget us, you may get more than expected!

Barry Grimwood, Club Captain