

Isleham Informer

Issue 53 • October 2012

ed[at]islehaminformer.org.uk • 01638 780839 • www.islehaminformer.org.uk

35 Days at the London 2012 Olympic Games



Mandeville, Brian and Wenlock at Wembley Arena for orientation, 4th February

Local resident Brian Challis recently returned home after spending 35 days as a volunteer Games Maker at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Brian's role was as a NOC (National Olympic Committee) Assistant, based in the Athletes' village at Stratford working with Team USA. His tasks included driving, administration duties, and generally helping American athletes.

Games Makers were not paid expenses, or provided with accommodation – Brian stayed the 5 weeks with his daughter and son-in-law in South London. He acknowledges the support his wife Corrine gave to enable him to be a Games Maker, which took up all of his annual leave plus many Saturdays since January for training, meaning no holiday this year he says.

Brian originally registered to be a Games Maker back in November 2008, and after an interview in June 2011, he was offered a role in November 2011. He then had to go to London on ten occasions for various training sessions before commencing his duties on 12th July.



Final rehearsal for the Opening Ceremony

Among his many highlights he lists driving Team USA's Chief Security Officer around on many days, escorting Team USA's Athletes to the Stadium for the Opening Ceremony on 27th July, and just rubbing shoulders with elite athletes on a daily basis. Along with other Games Makers he also took part in the final Opening Ceremony rehearsal on 25th July, as a parading athlete!

He was also invited to lunch with the Athletes' Village Mayor, Sir Charles Allan, after being nominated by "someone" as a Games Maker having "gone the extra mile", and had the opportunity to hold Gold, Silver and Bronze Olympic Medals.

However despite all of those memorable experiences, he says the one thing that stands out was on the night of the Opening Ceremony when he unexpectedly bumped into his daughter Kika (who has worked for LOCOG for over 6 years) outside the Olympic Stadium, and being able to share with her the moment she and her colleagues had been working so hard towards for so long.

Overall Brian says being part of the Olympic Games was a surreal experience, and a truly "once in a lifetime opportunity".



With Team USA Weightlifter Kendrick Farris

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St Andrew's "Gift Day" Saturday 21st July 2012

"Thank you" to everyone who donated so generously to the Church Restoration Fund. The magnificent sum of £1629.80 was raised. All the money raised will be used for the ongoing repair and maintenance of our beautiful Church building.

Thanks are also due to all those who welcomed people into Church on "Gift Day" and provided refreshments.

Gill Savage

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CONTACTS:

Editor Ed Mayall T: 01638 780839

E: [ed\[at\]islehaminformer.org.uk](mailto:ed[at]islehaminformer.org.uk)

Features Glenda Preece T: 01638 780734

E: [gjpreece\[at\]aol.com](mailto:gjpreece[at]aol.com)

Advertising Kelvin Morgan T: 01638 781384

E: [advertising\[at\]islehaminformer.org.uk](mailto:advertising[at]islehaminformer.org.uk)

Distribution Fred Preece T: 01638 780734

Published by Isleham Parish Council

Printed by Urban Design and Print Ltd.

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

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

BECKen Bag Collection

BECKen Charity is holding a charity bag collection. If you have any unwanted clothes, shoes, hand bags and belts, bedding, curtains and soft toys (no bric-a-brac), we would be very grateful.

You may find a collection bag through your letter box, but if not, if you have anything you would like to donate, please fill any bag and contact us or bring to Lidgate Farm (Strawberry Farm) or phone Chris 07990 542872, or Jo 07947 205480. Thank you. We need donations before the 18th October please.

We are always looking for new members for our committee. If you feel that our charity is a cause that is close to your heart, we would be very pleased to hear from you. You can contact us on the above numbers or email us at becken[at]hotmail.co.uk for more information.



Isleham Gala AGM

This year's Isleham Gala AGM will take place on Monday 15th October at 8pm in The Griffin. This is a chance to look back at this year's event and plan for next year. A number of positions on the committee are up for re-election and if you would like to see something different at next year's event come along and tell us about it.

Steve Rust
steven.rust[at]fiscali.co.uk

Gardeners Club Quiz

The Gardeners Club recently held their annual Quiz Night in the Village Hall.

Questions were set by Chris Maxwell and at half time the appreciative quizzers were treated to home-made tomato and butternut squash soup.

Winners of the Quiz were Paul and Sally Chaplin, and John and Shiela Nation.

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
October

Monday 1st	Isleham Parish Council	19.00
Thursday 4th	Mobile Library Church Street	14.15–15.00
	Mill Street	15.05–17.00
Sunday 7th	Skate Park Car Wash – Priory	10.00–13.00
Thursday 11th	WI	19.30
Monday 15th	Gala AGM The Griffin	20.00
Friday 19th	Mobile Library Church Street	09.30–10.10

November

Thursday 1st	Mobile Library Church Street	14.15–15.00
	Mill Street	15.05–17.00
Sunday 4th	Skate Park Car Wash – Priory	10.00–13.00
Monday 5th	Isleham Parish Council	19.00
Thursday 8th	WI	19.30
Friday 9th	INFORMER DEADLINE	
Thursday 15th	Isleham Society	19.30
Friday 16th	Mobile Library Church Street	09.30–10.10
Tuesday 20th	Isleham Gardeners	19.30

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 12.00noon. 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 (Non-emergency) 101
Accident & Casualty (Addenbrooke's) 01223 217118
Addenbrooke's Hospital (Cambridge) 01223 245151
Newmarket Hospital 01638 564000
West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds) 01284 713000
Staploe Medical Centre (Soham)
- Appointments 01353 624121
- Prescriptions & Dispensary 01353 727695
- Enquiries, Home Visits, Emergencies 01353 624123
Minor Treatment Centre, Ely 01353 656675
NHS Direct (for advice) 0845 4647
Electricity Emergencies 0800 7838838
Gas Emergencies 0800 111999
Anglian Water Leaks 0800 771 881
- 24 hour 0845 714 5145
Social Services - office hours 0345 0455202
- out of hours emergency 01733 561370
Refuse Collection 01353 665555
RSPCA 07599 522716
- Cruelty line 0300 1234 999
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

FREE TO ENTER

Write a poem about Isleham



We are delighted to invite FREE entries for the UK's annual contest to find the best LOCAL poem about Isleham or another village or town in your area. Anyone can submit up to three poems for the competition. The top poem will win £1,000 cash. There's no age limit and no entry fee.

This competition is designed to encourage newcomers young and old to "have a go" at poetry.

"The poem can be about something or someone from the poet's home area," explained United Press Publications Executive, Julie Embury. "It can be

descriptive, historic, romantic, factual, or personal - anything you like, as long as there is a local connection. Winning entries so far have been about towers, a river, village life, and local history. This competition is open to anyone and is completely free to enter - so what have you got to lose?"

Send up to three poems, of no more than 25 lines (including blank lines) and 160 words each, by **December 31st 2012**

to -

Local Poem, United Press, Admail 3735
London EC1B 1JB. Tel 0844 800 9177
www.unitedpress.co.uk

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Your Entry Form

Please use block capitals
when filling in your details.

Students must give their parental or home town
address - not University or University residence.

I enclose up to three poems for the Local Poem Competition.

All the poems are no more than 25 lines and 160 words each (a blank line counts as one line).

Mr Mrs Miss Ms First name Surname
please circle one

Address Town

County Code

Email address

Landline Mobile.....

AFTER THE WINNERS ARE CHOSEN we make every effort to reply to EVERY person who encloses a LOOSE 2nd class stamp. Do not send a stamped addressed envelope.

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	Bridget Clements	01353 624103	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[at]the waytofrance.com	Monday	6–7.15pm	1 Mill St
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 Julie Troll	01638 781301 01638 781390	Saturday Bi-monthly	10–4pm	High St. Church
Tea & Toast	Emma Champion	01353 727188	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

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

Isleham Tea & Toast Every Thursday at Isleham Village Hall, 9.30–11.30am. Play session for the under 5s and a chance to meet other parents and carers. Just turn up.

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.

Well 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 18th August. 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 9.45–11.30am. Come along and make friends, have a chat and get support and information.

Stay and Play Fun play session. Every Monday 9.30–11.30am at St Andrews Primary School, Soham. Just turn up.

Twins and Multiples A chance to chill and chat with other parents. Every Wednesday 9.30am to 11.30am at St Andrews Primary School, Soham. Just turn up.

For more information call us on 01353 727188

sohamchildrenscentre[at]cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshirechildrenscentres.org.uk

Help to bring better broadband to your area

Access to the internet is becoming part of everyday life – whether you use it for working from home, keeping in touch, job-hunting, online shopping, paying bills, downloading entertainment, or interactive learning. But many people are frustrated by low speeds and poor connections, particularly in more rural parts of the county.

You can help to bring better broadband access to your area by supporting the Connecting Cambridgeshire campaign.

Your local councils are working with partners in business, health and education to provide access to superfast broadband to at least 90% of homes and businesses across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and better broadband connections for all other premises by 2015.

We need all our residents and businesses to show suppliers where there is demand for better broadband to attract substantial investment, which will help us to fill in the gaps.

Register to get Cambridgeshire connected using the online form at www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk, or fill in a Freepost reply form in the leaflet at your local library or council office.

It only takes a minute – all we need is your postcode and a landline phone number (these details will only be used to support the campaign). The more registrations we get, the more likely we are to succeed.

Please encourage your friends, family and neighbours to register, so that more people can benefit from better broadband access.

Could you be a Digital Champion for your area – helping to promote the campaign and encouraging more people to register? If so, please email your contact details to [contact\[at\]connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk](mailto:contact[at]connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk).

Dear Friends,

This comes as my last letter to you all in this newsletter, and I am finding that moving on is indeed a very bitter sweet experience. We decided after lots of soul searching that now was the time to move our family to pastures new; it is time for a new challenge and new experiences. I am looking forward to settling into my new patch of rural Hertfordshire, and I do hope that if you're passing in the Buntingford direction you will pop in and say 'hello'. My new parish is five churches, and we will be living in the largest of the villages, Great Horstead (although it's not actually that large!) It is a beautiful part of the country and somewhere we hope will feel as homely as this lovely part of Cambridgeshire has done for the last 5½ years.

I am finding that moving on means leaving behind many things – we've already cleared out the loft and I hope very much that by the time you read this, many more rooms will have been tackled. It seems we haven't managed to travel light and find ourselves weighed down with stuff – some of it necessary (e.g. shoes) some of it less so (Instruction manuals for things we no longer own?). When Jesus sent his disciples out into the world they were told to travel light, and assume the kindness and generosity of those they would meet. Stuff and belongings would weigh them down and not free their hearts and minds to serve God and stranger. It seems I have failed in that regard – (apparently I have 2500 cubic feet of stuff); but I do hope that I have served God in this place (not perfectly I know) and I most certainly have been met here with generosity and kindness; so thank you.

When Jesus sent his disciples out he told them that whoever welcomed them would welcome him, and in turn the Father who sent him. This is true of us today, when we welcome the newcomer, the old friend, the stranger and the unexpected guest; we welcome not

just them, but Christ who dwells within them. As we are made in the image of God, it is God who is love dwelling in our hearts – our challenge is to see the face of God in all who we meet.

So, God has called me elsewhere and I leave you with thanks and I know that along with Mike and Jenny the church will always be a place where all are welcome, and where everyone can find a spiritual home. I do hope you can join me for my formal farewell on 28th October at 10.30am at Fordham Church, followed by lunch at the Victoria Hall. All are welcome!

As for me I know it will be bitter sweet – I'll be wearing waterproof mascara!

Kate Peacock



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Update: Planned traveller's site Isleham Road, Fordham

As many of you are aware East Cambs District Council (ECDC) have earmarked land between Isleham and Fordham for two new gypsy and traveller sites in their Local Development Plan, a plan that many Isleham and Fordham residents strongly oppose.

Following two meetings, one in Isleham and one in Fordham, both of which were extremely well attended by residents from both villages, the news came from Katie Child, ECDC Principal Forward Planning Officer, that the land owner of one of the sites is no longer willing to sell the site for traveller site development, although ECDC did stress that they were yet to receive this information in writing.

However, the second site proposed to be located adjacent to the above site, is still on ECDC's list of identified Traveller Site possibilities and although ECDC have indicated that the site may not meet the specifications required, it has yet to be formally removed from ECDC's plans. This matter will be debated by councillors at the Development and Transport Committee in early November.

Residents were strongly encouraged by our local councillors, Joshua Schumann and Michael Allen, to continue to write to Katie Childs at ECDC with material planning objections matched to relevant points in the Local Development Framework. For copies of the documents please refer to the Isleham website under 'Isleham Vision'. On the website you will also find a PDF copy of an example objection letter should you wish to express your views to ECDC.

Alison Oliver

Isleham Community Skate Park



Thank you to everyone who supports us with the car washes they are a great success; hope to see you all back for the next ones: 7th October, 4th November, 2nd December.

We will be holding a firework and bonfire display again this year at Fordham Road, Isleham, starting at 7pm; admission £5.00 per adult; children under 16 free. Please come and enjoy the evening with us.

Many thanks

Isleham Community Skatepark.



Isleham Primary School



Isleham School cricket team qualified for the county finals at Clare College, Cambridge and then went through to the Six Counties Finals at Mildenhall at the end of the summer term. The whole team played very well and were a real credit to their school and village. They were well supported by parents and their Isleham Cricket Club coach Mr. Greg Cummins at each of the tournaments.

Vanishing Vases

At some point in September a few concrete vases were noted to have disappeared from the old cemetery. If anyone has any information on the current whereabouts of these, please contact either Diane Bayliss (Parish Clerk) or Tim Wilding (Cemetery Keeper).

Archaeologists wanted...

It is hoped that we will soon be making a start on the new community centre. Preceding this there will be an archaeological dig on the site and if any one is interested in volunteering to help with this, the archaeology team would be pleased to hear from you. In the first instance please contact the Parish Clerk 01638 781687.

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New Product Information from SeedSava Ltd

SeedSava is a simple but revolutionary new product developed from many years of vegetable growing experience to help gardeners sow standard packet seeds easily, economically and efficiently.

This simple to use patented horticultural tool is the brain child of Suffolk entrepreneur John Hoare, founder of the leading drainage supplies company JKH Drainage Units Ltd. Mr Hoare, now in his eighties, has a lifetime of innovation and vegetable growing behind him. He has applied these skills to developing SeedSava.

The purpose of the SeedSava is to reduce the amount of seeds you sow, therefore fewer seedlings will grow – and this will eventually result in you having less thinning to do. Less thinning means fewer disturbances to the roots of your delicate seedlings, and less chance of disease getting in through the loosened soil.



SeedSava comes with a base section, four hoppers with differing hole sizes, a lid and easy to follow illustrated instructions. The hoppers are numbered and colour coded to suit the variations in seed sizes.

The selected hopper clips into and slides gently a short way along the base. When the holes in the hopper line up with the holes in the base the seeds drop through on to the ground in the desired position, then simply move the device along by its own length and repeat. Any surplus seeds can be easily returned to their packet for use later in the season or the following year.

For further information please contact Charles Russell at [info\[at\]seedsava.co.uk](mailto:info[at]seedsava.co.uk) or watch our video of SeedSava in use at www.seedsava.co.uk.

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All welcome

If you would like to display a tree or wreath this year contact:
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[Sheila_karma_farm\[at\]hotmail.com](mailto:Sheila_karma_farm[at]hotmail.com)
If you would like to have a stall at the fayre on Saturday 8th please contact:
Kathy Carver on 781116 or
[Kathy\[at\]carverfamily.org.uk](mailto:Kathy[at]carverfamily.org.uk)

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Post Office News

We would like to inform the village community of Isleham, that the contract we currently have with DVLA (Driver Vehicle Licensing Authority), is up for renewal by the government, which could mean that if we do not meet the required number of car taxes we do at the post office, we could lose this valuable service.

We would like to express our general concerns, with regards to the ever-decreasing customer numbers who use the Post Office at Isleham. We felt that the best way to do this is by an article in the local Isleham Informer.

We would like to make it known to the village community that we need more customer support; otherwise the future looks bleak. We cannot afford to lose any more valuable services like this one, and unless customer support picks up for us, then we will have no option but to consider the future of the Post Office here.

We have seen a dramatic decrease in our Post Office salary over the last four years, and with services continually being taken away from us, it is a struggle to survive as a financially viable business. We have had to take on additional work behind the scenes, operating an eBay and customer website, which sometimes causes a little confusion with customers coming in to find Ian not at the post office counter. He is more often than not attending additional duties elsewhere, and not putting his feet up having a coffee!

We have also taken on a pet sitting/dog walking service, to again supplement our income.

We appeal to customers who are tempted to carry out all their transactions online (i.e. by going direct debit, using couriers instead of Royal Mail, getting a franking machine, paying their car tax online, getting their Euros online) to reconsider the affect this is having on the survival of their Post Office; after all, it has been part of the village community for many years now!

On a last note, we should like to add, that although

we are up for sale, doesn't mean we have closed our doors to business! This is still a Post Office, with a shop and newsagent, so please don't give up on us just yet. We feel that the "For Sale" sign most probably has caused a lot of unsettlement from our customers, who have been worried about the future of the Post Office. And yes, we have been on the market now for two years, (18 months as a business, and currently up for residential/semi-commercial as a house.) We cannot tempt buyers to take on the business, if we do not have the customer support that we desperately need!

So please give us the support we need, so that the future of the Post Office here is secure!

*Ian and Yvonne Bishop
Isleham Post Office*



It has been a good year down the Reserve again with very few problems.

Unfortunately one of these problems has been with the younger members of our village who have been using the Reserve to ride their motorbikes and quad bikes.

I would like to remind people that the use of such equipment is not allowed at the Reserve, and this includes the field. These actions can cause danger and damage to dog walkers and their dogs and of course the wildlife. As the ground has been very wet this year it is also damaging the wild flowers, in turn killing off any insects and other mini beasts. So we would like people to think before they use the reserve so we can preserve the site and make it a special place for everyone to use.

One noticeable change with all the wet weather was the decline in our butterflies. Saying this though, at our annual Family Fun Day in August, we still managed to find lots of interesting bugs. This year we had the biggest turn out for our Fun Day and the weather was full of sunshine. Everyone who came really did have a fantastic day.

One recent event the Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves held at the reserve was a 'Bat Night' on 18th September for the village Cubs, so just a little note that the car park may have been a little full; apologies.

Again if anyone would like to join the Friends group then please do get in touch.

Thank you for all your support over the year.

*Andrew Garbett (07903 092899)
Alastair Burn (01638 780553)*

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Isleham Community Centre

Two months of progress behind the scenes

This update comes to you whilst I am sitting by the poolside in Italy enjoying the sunshine, tasty food and excellent vino, not forgetting great hospitality so I shall keep it short.

After the very wet Gala Day and the concern over the state of the recreation ground, the groundsman Ray Sheldrick together with the help of some of the local clubs are getting the ground back to a very reasonable condition. With the acceptance of the two major grant applications announced in the last *Informer* and another awaiting confirmation we are still on a positive trend.

Since the last *Informer* the ICA and the Parish Council have been hard at work trying to keep the build on track. One minor set back has been with the archaeologists wanting to investigate the whole building foot-print. Whilst this could have caused severe delays to the start of the build it wasn't as bad as expected. However, the proposed excavation has raised a few other problems; these have been taken on by the team who have come up with excellent ideas to help keep the build on track with only a minor delay to the start. Taking these into account it would now look like a October/November start by our main contractor, but please keep in mind there are a lot of factors that can affect this date.

The legal issues relating to the management of the new centre have resulted in the Parish Council and ICA management committee creating a lease for the centre and the formation of a management company with Parish Councillors, ICA, user-group members and trustees. Once again as a reminder we are, as always, looking for additional help, so if you are willing to put yourself forward for possible inclusion in any aspect of centre management please contact Mark Goldsack or the Parish Clerk for an informal, no obligations discussion.

Watch this space, Facebook or the village website www.isleham-village.co.uk for details of progress

The ICA now has a section within the Isleham village website (www.isleham-village.co.uk) and we shall be adding the latest news regarding fund raising & progress reports.

Anyone interested in assisting with fund-raising or grant seeking for the new Centre please contact the parish clerk Mrs Diane Bayliss on 01638 781687 or Mark Goldsack on 01638 780350

I'll sign off now finish my drink and take a quick dip.

Clive Patterson for the Parish Council/ICA Management Committee



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Parish Councillors address list

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
Jeannette Malkin	17 Little London, Isleham CB7 5SE Tel: 01638 780283
Bob Mitchell	10 Sparkes Close, Isleham CB7 5RR Tel: 01638 780707
Lionel Neal	104 Beck Road, Isleham CB7 5QP Tel: 01638 780066
Clive Patterson	21 West Street, Isleham CB7 5SD Tel: 01638 780669
Richard Radcliffe	45 Sun Street, Isleham CB7 5RU Tel: 01638 780831
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[at]btinternet.com www.isleham-village.co.uk

Isleham Gardeners

Hello Isleham gardeners. I hope you've had a good summer and that your efforts in your gardens and allotments have been successful. There are few pleasures that can beat eating your own freshly picked produce or arranging a vase of your own flowers.

I was really impressed by the number of entrants in the flower and produce competitions in this year's Gala; so much so that I was encouraged to think that it might be possible to arrange a flower and produce competition at the end of the growing year possibly starting next September. If this is something you would be interested in then please get in touch with any member of the Isleham Gardeners club. I will see what the general feeling is and take it from there.

Remember Isleham Gardeners meet every third Tuesday of the month and you would all be very welcome. Happy gardening,

Phil Adelphus



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The Isleham Society

25th July - A coach visit to the 'Sandringham Flower Show'. On an extremely hot day we visited one of the most prestigious horticultural events in the East of England. Many of the region's nurseries were exhibiting, in addition there were many show gardens displayed by leading designers plus some 200 trade stands, a craft marquee and arena entertainment. The main area featured the RAF Tigers Parachute Display Team, Motorcycle Display Team, Essex Dog Display Team, a Gymnastics display, Heavy Horses and a Marching Display by a Military Band. In addition to our coach party, Prince Charles and Camilla visited the Show and it was also good to meet Brian and Janice Pope who had recently moved away from the village. A worthwhile and enjoyable day.

August - No meeting.

20th September - A guided tour of the 'Theatre Royal' Bury St Edmunds with afternoon tea. Facts from their information booklet: "Built in 1819, this Grade 1 listed playhouse is the only surviving example of a Regency theatre in this country. It is the only theatre open to the public in the National Trust's portfolio of properties. Now fully restored its extraordinarily intimate auditorium and exquisite decorative scheme will provide visitors with an unforgettable and unique theatrical experience. Greene King, the local brewery, purchased the freehold, which

it still owns, in 1920. However, in 1925, in the face of overwhelming competition from two new cinemas, the Theatre Royal closed once more. Greene King struggled to keep the theatre in operation but was now content to use the building as a barrel store. So it remained until the 1960's when a group of local people led by Air Vice Marshall Stanley Vincent raised over £37,000 to restore and re-open the Theatre Royal in 1965. The building was vested in the National Trust in 1975 on a 999 year lease. The Theatre Royal is now managed as an independent working theatre by the Bury St Edmunds Theatre Management Limited".

We were split into two groups for our excellent guides to relate the history of this wonderful little theatre as we were shown behind the scenes and allowed to stand on the stage. Some of our members are going to a show there next week - we saw some of the cast rehearsing for it!

Future dates

18th October - "The Tharpe family of Chippenham and Jamaica" An illustrated talk by Jill Shapland.

15th November - "A Magic Lantern Show" by Richard Ridby.

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

NB. If our Village Hall is unavailable for any of our meetings during the year, we will inform you of any change of venue.

Vernon Place, Chairman of The Isleham Society

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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 involvement in the local community. It includes: Life groups, plus Men's and Ladies' groups; Bible Studies; a Media and Creative Arts group using modern technology to convey the message of hope; a Quilting group, Papercraft group and much more. **The Inside/Out group returns this Autumn, looking at ways to serve the community. Look out for them!** 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.

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 at the Church Office on 01638 780652.

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\[at\]yahoo.co.uk](mailto:banyardmg1[at]yahoo.co.uk); The Rev'd Kate Peacock: 01638 723960, [kate.peacock\[at\]btopenworld.com](mailto:kate.peacock[at]btopenworld.com)

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

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

Choir Director Mark Liversidge: 01638 781696, [mark.liversidge\[at\]islehamchurch.org.uk](mailto:mark.liversidge[at]islehamchurch.org.uk)

Webmaster Andrew Stephens: 01638 781468/780229

Service Sheet Editor Rob Savage: 01638 780218 robert.savage[at]islehamchurch.org.uk

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

Pound Lane Free Church

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

Elder: David Brown (01638 780410)

Sunday:

Sunday worship: 11am and 6.30pm.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper:

First Sunday following evening service

Third 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 780030)

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

Covies (Year 7–18 years): 9.30–10.30am (Steve Neale 01638 780717).

There is a hearing loop installed and signing for the deaf is available as well as Braille songbooks. We have a comprehensive Child Protection Policy and a CRB check has been carried out on all children's and young people's workers.

Monday:

Music Mayhem: 9.30–10.30am.

(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.

Tuesday:

18 – 30s: 7.00pm.

(Suzanne Hall 01638 781805) Meeting in homes with monthly social events.

Wednesday:

Fellowship: 2.15–3.15pm.

(David Brown 01638 780410) 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. 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[at]plfc.org.uk

secretary[at]plfc.org.uk

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

As we are writing this our Harvest Service is only a week away – it will have been another opportunity to thank our God for all His goodness to us materially again over another year.

As this is the October edition we would like to thank you again as a village for your support for Operation Christmas Child last year and encourage you to take part again in November this year. Every home will receive a leaflet and if you are unable to complete a whole shoe box on your own any suitable gifts, as detailed in the leaflets, would be most helpful.

In this way we are showing God's love to very needy children and their families.

We would also like to tell you that we are starting a "Crafting Club" - details of which will be on our web-site. ■

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NHS Information @ GPs to be Cambridgeshire trialled in Ely practices



Care Network Cambridgeshire has just launched a new service called 'Information@GPs'. The service aims to give information to patients in their GP practices. The NHS is funding Care Network to provide information in nine of the Isle of Ely Health consortium surgeries until March 2013.

Care Network's Senior Coordinator Hilary Johns said, 'We'd heard from GP's that they have found it impossible to know the vast range of voluntary and other organisations in Cambridgeshire which could be beneficial to their patients. Information@GPs, will make available information on: help in the home; transport; support groups and social clubs; keeping safe and secure, and how to get advice on finances and benefits. But we will try to help with anything - or signpost patients to people who can.' She added, 'As it's a pilot project we'll be able to see what the actual need is, but we begun receiving requests for information before the service officially started.' 'We believe that GPs, practice staff and patients will all benefit from this new service.'

The service is available now at Burwell, Haddenham, Stretham, Chatteris, Littleport, Soham, Sutton, and the

two Ely surgeries once a week. An appointment can be booked with the receptionist at the patient's own surgery, or by calling one of the information officers on 07436 263347/8. Home visits are available to people who are unable to get to the surgeries.

For more information on this press release call Hilary Johns on 01954 211919.

Care Network is a Cambridgeshire wide charity which helps older, isolated and vulnerable people living in Cambridgeshire to stay independent and maintain social contact with friends and the community. We do this in two ways:

- By our direct services – Information@GPs and Help at Home (Incorporating Welcome Home from Hospital) offering free short term practical help to people at home.
- By providing support for local groups and volunteers to design and set up new schemes. We will try to help with anything! Some examples are: lunch clubs, social car schemes, village help schemes, mobile wardens, and social groups. We have 98 of them in our county-wide network so far.



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In August we held an Open Meeting where we welcomed several visitors. Unfortunately our expected speaker failed to materialise, but we were lucky enough to obtain the services of

Mrs Baptie who travelled down from Peterborough to tell us about her early life in India and give us a demonstration of Indian cookery. We learned how to make the most delicious onion bhaji and were able to enjoy samples.

Also in August several members took advantage of the trips organised by the Federation to visit King's Lynn and the Norfolk Lavender Fields where after a short talk they explored the Caley Mill site.

A second excursion was to Southwold on 18th August. It was a beautiful day, and members took full advantage of the sunshine – and the cream teas – and had a lovely day. In the early evening they visited the Summer Theatre for a performance of "Two and Two make Sex" before heading home.

At our September meeting we celebrated Harvest with a happy meal provided by WI members; a very friendly evening, enjoyed by all.

In October the meeting is organised by members, so the speaker will be a surprise to us all, whilst in November we will welcome Mrs Jacob speaking about "The Confessions of a Newsagent".

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[at]aol.com

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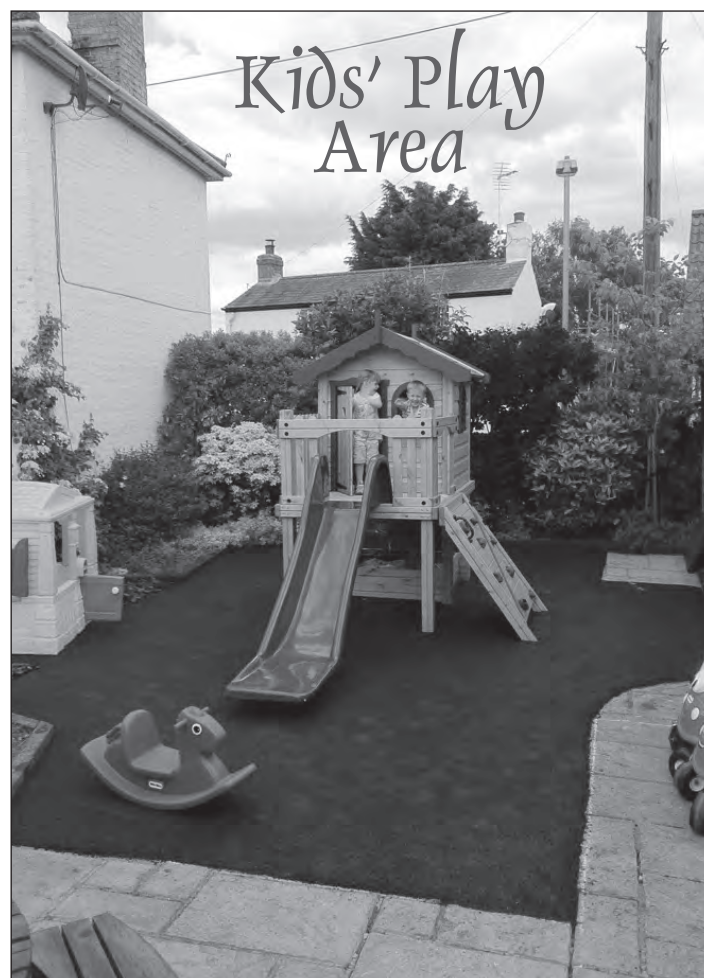
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Bookings now taken for
Christmas Parties



From the Three Rivers Rector, the Rev'd Mike Banyard

As many of you will have heard, Kate, the Associate Priest here, and who lives in Fordham, will be moving towards the end of this year. She has been appointed as the new Priest in Charge of the United Benefice of the Parishes of Great and Little Hornead, Wyddial, Anstey, Brent Pelham and Meesden. Congratulations! This is in the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside between Royston and Buntingford in the Diocese of St. Albans.

Kate's ministry here has been welcomed by so many and we will all miss her greatly. There will be many opportunities to bid her, and the family, formal and informal farewells. Her last Sunday in our group of parishes will be Sunday 28th October, and we will have a single service that day at Fordham at 10.30, with congregations from all our churches and a combined choir too; after that there will be a farewell feast (lunch) in the Victoria Hall in Fordham. You will be very welcome to both events, but please do let us know if you will be there so that we can make suitable arrangements for the catering.

Kate will be instituted in her new parishes on Tuesday 18th December, at 8pm, and many I am sure will want to go down to her new parishes to wish her well there. I am sure we will all wish them God speed in this new venture.

What an amazing summer, with Diamond Jubilee and the fantastic Olympics. I know some in our villages attended and had great times. And, as I write, the Paralympics are well under way, so my prayer is that these too will be marked by those Olympic values of friendly competition and a striving for the very best that we can do.

Congratulations too to all our young people who have achieved success in their examinations this summer, and a welcome back to school, college, employment or whatever the future holds for them.

Do join us on Sundays to give thanks for all our many blessings.

God bless,

Mike

01638 721616 banyardmg1[at]yahoo.co.uk

Erratum: On page 26 of the last issue, there was some frankly bizarre editing to the third paragraph of Mike's piece. What appeared was:

Paul writes "v"

Now, while I am in agreement that Paul's writing was of unparalleled persuasiveness, I rather doubt that his full meaning could have been conveyed by simply stating "v". What was meant to be there was:

Paul writes. "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong doing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things. Love never ends."

The *Informer* unreservedly apologises to Mike (and Paul) for the appalling truncation of this wonderful sentiment.



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ISLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council normally meets on the first Monday of every month at 7.15pm 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\[at\]btinternet.com](mailto:islehampc[at]btinternet.com)



Code of Conduct

- The new Model Code of Conduct as published by ECDC was adopted by Isleham Parish Council at the meeting held on 6th August 2012

Police Matters

- New Contact Number for Police - 101
- There is still a problem with parking around the village including outside the school, at the top of Limestone Close and on the yellow lines outside the Co-op. Please be considerate of pedestrians and other road users when parking your vehicles in the village.
- The next Neighbourhood Panel meeting will be held at Soham Village College on Wednesday 10th October at 7pm.

Village Hall Report

- There has been a problem obtaining light fittings and bulbs for the hall; it is hoped that this problem can be remedied before the nights draw in.
- The village hall will be closing 20 weeks before the end of the building of the new centre. This is likely to be next March/April and the Council will give as much notice as possible.

Recreation Ground Report

- The MUGA is available to hire during the day and at weekends – please contact the Clerk for more details.
- The Recreation Ground is very well used and maintained. A number of remedial works will be carried out this autumn including fertilising the grass and cutting back the hedges.

ICA Report

- The Council are still awaiting the final tender price from C J Murfitt and the outcome of a further grant application.
- A lease agreement is being drawn up between IPC and the Isleham Community Association (ICA)
- A further archaeological dig must take place before building can commence.

Cemetery and Churchyard Matters

- It has been agreed that the Council will look into replacing the hedge on the right hand side of the cemetery adjacent to the new development.
- The Council has purchased a leaf blower to help with maintenance at the cemetery.

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

Highways Matters

- It has been an exceptionally rainy season and as a consequence the normal grass cutting schedule has been insufficient. A contingency for future years will be considered when the contract comes up for renewal.
- There still seems to be some confusion over who is responsible for hedges and footpaths. The Council is trying to get a clear answer on this from the County Council.
- The Parish Plan working group met and discussed plans for the telephone kiosks. It has been agreed that the one on Mill Street will be turned into an information point and the one on The Causeway will be a book swap.

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 are still a number of allotments for rent on Station Road and Beck Road. Please contact the Clerk for further details
- The Council have agreed to keep allotment rents the same for the forthcoming year.
- Allotment Rents will be collected in the Village Hall on Monday 15th October. Please take the opportunity to come along and raise any issues you may have to do with allotments.

Planning Matters

- Isleham Vision is underway and there will be a public consultation in November/December of this year. For more details please contact the Clerk.
- The Council strongly objected to a proposal for a traveller site on Isleham Road Fordham. Approximately 140 people including Parish Councillors, District Councillors and County Councillors attended the September Parish Council meeting to express their objections. There will be a meeting of the Development and Transport Committee on 6th November (time and venue to be arranged) and the public are encouraged to attend to express their views.
- Planning approvals were received for 14 Robins Close and 8 Limestone 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. The Parish Council will be consulted on the process and residents will be sent information a few weeks before work begins.
- 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.

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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Bowls Report

The 2012 season has now concluded and, despite many issues over health, weather and work commitments, it has been a reasonably successful one.

The afternoon league team had a new captain this season and Brian Harris has done a great job in Division 2 of the league. Finishing fourth meant just missing out on promotion but he did lead his team to the KO Cup final. There they met Newmarket in a match played at Soham Bowls Club and were victorious on all three rinks to lift the trophy.

The ladies played well throughout the season and put on a winning game streak towards the end of the season, but eventually finished third. Sylvia Pinder did reach the final of the ladies over 55 singles but lost out to Val Hughes of Haddenham in the final at St Neots.

The men's team also achieved

more points than in recent years, finishing in mid table – encouraging signs for the future.

However, the mixed teams had more success to report upon. In Division 4 of the Cambs & District league, we finished second behind Steeple Morden and will find new clubs to visit in Division 3 next season. In the Ken Gilbert Trophy (a new competition from Bowls Cambs) we played March Town in the final at St Neots, on a hot baking day (yes we did have one this season!). The conditions proved too much of a test for all of us and we were profoundly beaten.

On an individual basis, I reported in the last issue that Darren Dunbavin had reached the county under 25's final. He played an England international (Robert Drew) in the final but came out victorious, so a massive achievement for him and the club.

In August he went down to Worthing for the national finals. He lost in the first round, but I'm sure he will make it there again.

Barry Grimwood, Club
Captain



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