

Isleham Informer



Issue 55 • February 2013

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

Festival of Light 2012



Vernon Place



Many thanks to everyone who supported last year's Festival of Light—whether displaying a tree, having a stall at the Christmas Market or coming along to see the trees.

The church looked wonderful and a special thank you goes to Walter Gunstone for his lights.

About £1,500 was raised altogether for the continued upkeep of the church.

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From the Editor

It is clear that 2012 was a successful year in many ways. Never mind that extended 'Sports Day' thingy in the summer or the overwhelming success of the hosepipe ban in ensuring that it rained just about every day. Never mind that the Mayan Apocalypse so confidently predicted failed to materialise. The really big news of 2012 was that the *Isleham Informer* not only was able to cover all printing costs through advertising revenue, but actually end up quite comfortably in the black.

As a result of this, the Informer committee has taken the decision to produce a few pages in colour. To help fund this upgrade and ensure that the comfortable financial situation is maintained, we will offer one colour page for adverts at an 'enhanced' rate:

Advert size	B/W ad Inc. VAT	Colour ad Inc. VAT
1/8 page	£15.00	£30.00
1/4 page	£27.00	£54.00
1/2 page	£51.00	£102.00
1 page	£99.00	£198.00

If any of our advertisers would consider increasing their impact by adding colour, please get in touch to book your ad!

The big topic in this issue is the growing and justified disgust of villagers at those dog owners who fail to clear up after their pets. While I share the concerns of our correspondents, the strange thing with this ongoing problem is that I have yet to meet anyone who has ever seen a blatantly missed 'poop scoop'. This suggests that dog poo is spontaneously generating on pavements. This doesn't seem likely, so I can only conclude that owners consider poo dropped when no one is watching is quite acceptable. It is not. Do the decent thing, eh?

Ed Mayall

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

Poppy Appeal

Pauline Wilkes and Gill Savage (Poppy Appeal Organisers) would like to thank everyone who donated so generously to this year's appeal. Special thanks are due to Brian Challis, Doreen Raven, Mel Beckett, and members of the Limestone community who organised specific collections around the village, in addition to the static collection boxes. A total sum of £994.59 was raised and has been sent to the Poppy Appeal fund. Well done everyone!

Gill Savage



Dates for Your Diary

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

Every Tuesday Coffee Morning at the Social Centre 09.00-12.00

February

Sunday 3rd	Car Wash Priory Green	10.00-13.00
Monday 4th	Isleham Parish Council	19.15
Thursday 7th	Mobile Library Church St	14.15-15.00
	Mill Street	15.05-17.00
Thursday 14th	WI AGM	19.30
Tuesday 19th	Isleham Gardeners	19.30
Thursday 21st	Isleham Society	19.45
Friday 22nd	Mobile Library Church St	9.30-10.05
Saturday 23rd	WI Jumble Sale	14.00

March

Sunday 3rd	Car Wash, Priory	10.00-13.00
Monday 4th	Isleham Parish Council	19.15
Thursday 7th	Mobile Library Church St	14.15-15.00
	Mill Street	15.05-17.00
Saturday 9th	INFORMER DEADLINE	
Thursday 14th	WI	19.30
Tuesday 18th	Isleham Gardeners	19.30
Friday 21st	Mobile Library Church St	09.30-10.05

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the kind gentleman who came to my aid on Christmas Evening when I fell and broke my hip. He helped my son carry me into my house. I do not know the name of the gentleman concerned but would like to say that his assistance was very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Cicely Clements

Bus Timetable

There are a number of changes to bus services, including to the 12 Ely to Cambridge service where the 06.10 and 07.00 buses will now run 10 minutes early on days when schools are open. For details and timetables, visit www.stagecoachbus.com.

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 £2.75 return, Adults £5.50 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

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 771881
- 24 hour	0845 7145145
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

Soham and District Neighbourhood Speedwatch

Neighbourhood Speedwatch is an initiative set up by the Soham and District Neighbourhood Panel nearly 5 years ago and seeks to highlight speeding in our towns and villages with the aim of reducing the likelihood of accidents and injury to residents and their pets and any resultant damage to their property.

The Speedwatch team covers the town of Soham and the villages of Kennett, Chippenham, Snailwell, Fordham, Isleham and Wicken and has been very successful in reducing the speed of local traffic, although we still suffer from those speeding who live outside the area.

Our equipment (which is paid for by the town and parish councils above) displays the passing vehicles speed when they are travelling in excess of the speed limit. We record the vehicle details and send this information to the police who issue a warning letter. The police use our information to track serial offenders and speeding hot spots.

Until recently we have always maintained a healthy number of volunteers to carry out speed checks. However, due to various reasons we are currently down to 4 active and 3 inactive members. Our effectiveness is therefore blunted as the more checks we carry out the greater effect we have on speeding motorists.

We urgently need more volunteers to join Speedwatch and carry out speed checks.

The equipment is portable and easy to set up and operate. Although we have a serious role to play the team enjoy carrying out the checks and its always rewarding with an interesting interaction between ourselves, and local residents and motorists.

If you can spare some time and are interested in joining us we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the co-ordinator **Joe Pattinson**, Tel: 01638577077/07770267252 e-mail: josephpattinson[at]btinternet.com



Mrs Greco. While they are there, they get into all sorts of the most extraordinary scrapes, including becoming stars of the Olympic Games in Athens!

Each of the 309 pages contains a special illustration, and the front and back covers show one of Billie Barton's own original, and beautiful, oil paintings.

Available on Amazon [at] £8.64

Laughter at the Vicarage Part 1: The Curate's Egg

If you've ever wondered what strange things clergy get up to behind the closed doors of their vicarages, then this new book (the first of three parts) by Isleham resident **BILLIE BARTON**, will reveal all—well, nearly all!

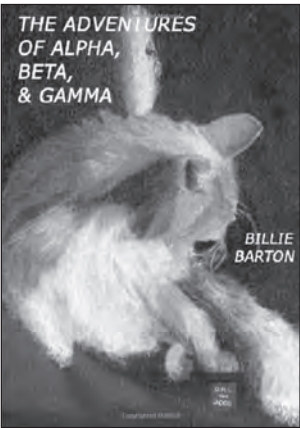
Describing the extraordinarily chequered career of her beloved husband, Gabriel Gillespie, Geraldine paints an amusing look at how he ever managed to persuade the powers-that-be that he should end up as a Vicar, and some of the scrapes into which he got himself.

Some readers may recognise that this book is largely autobiographical, despite being considerably embellished with artistic licence, but then that's half the fun! See how much of Cambridge, London and Norfolk you can identify.

Available on Amazon at £7.50



New Books



Parents with young children will be most interested in this book by an Isleham resident, **BILLIE BARTON**.

The Adventures of Alpha, Beta, & Gamma is an enchanting story, about three little kittens who accidentally get aboard *The Ariadne*, a Greek trawler at Plymouth, and become stowaways. They earn their keep on the journey to Greece by being the ship's official mouse-catchers, and end up on a Greek island where they become the working kittens of Farmer and

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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	Bridget Clements	01353 624103	Thursdays	6–7.15pm	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 Porter	01638 781301 01638 781390	Saturday Bi-monthly	10–4pm	High St. Church
WI	Glenda Preece	01638 780734	2nd Thursday	7.30pm	Village Hall





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

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.

Sun Dads! Play session for dads and male carers and their under 5s. With bouncy castle, ride-ons and free bacon butties! Every third Sunday of the month. 10.30am–12.30pm at Burwell Sports Centre.

Time Out Tuesdays For parents under 25 years. Every Tuesday 9.45–11.30am at Soham Children's Centre. 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 9.30–11.30am 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

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2012 Christmas Lights
Total donated: £494.00**

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Thank you for advertising for our Christmas lights in the Informer. It was very much appreciated by my husband (Ivan) and myself. We raised a total of £494.00 for East Anglia Air Ambulance over the Christmas period 2012–2013. Please give our thanks to all who contributed.

Yours sincerely,
Roberta Houghton



Dear Editor,

I do not mean to whinge and moan but it is getting beyond a joke. Walking home from school this week my eldest daughter unfortunately trod in a pile of dog poo. She found this very upsetting and I found the whole clean up process very unpleasant! It was not her fault: it is getting dark when we walk home from school and there is so much dog mess on the pavements it is very hard to avoid. It worries me and numerous other parents how much of this mess is trodden in on the way to school and then walked into school where children are playing, sitting and eating and the germs and disease carried in dog poo is a real concern.

The mess seems to be mainly along the Causeway, Sun Street, Beck Road, Mill Street and Malting Lane, which for many is the school route. I have called the dog warden and whilst they said they will come and clean the pavements they cannot patrol the street to catch the offending dog owner. I did explain to the dog warden that whilst it is great they can come to clean up the mess, this would need to be done on a daily basis!

I am not anti dogs: I love dogs! And I realise it is not the dog's fault it is the owner who cannot be bothered to clear up the mess. They know who they are and it makes me wonder why no one has spotted the offender as it seems to be on a set route, they probably walk the dog late at night or early in the morning.

I am certainly not moaning at you; I am just merely expressing a real concern of a disgusting problem that I feel needs addressing. Several of us parents have had enough and I thought I would just get in touch to see if something can be done.

I am very grateful for your time.
Matthew Cole



It's that time of year when we start to plan for the Gala. Once again, this year's event will take place on the first Saturday in July, which is the 6th July, at the Recreation ground. This year's Gala promises to give us new challenges, although it's difficult to see how we can top last year's torrential rain, as we plan events around the building of the new Community Centre.

We are always looking for volunteers to help organise and run the Gala. If you would like to help or have any suggestions or ideas of what you would like to see at this year's event please contact me. If you would like to come

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along to the next committee meeting it takes place on Monday 18th February, 8pm, in The Griffin. Subsequent meetings take place on the third Monday of each month until the Gala.

Any help is always appreciated and gratefully received.

Steve Rust

steven.rust[at]tiscali.co.uk; 01638 780104

1st in physio

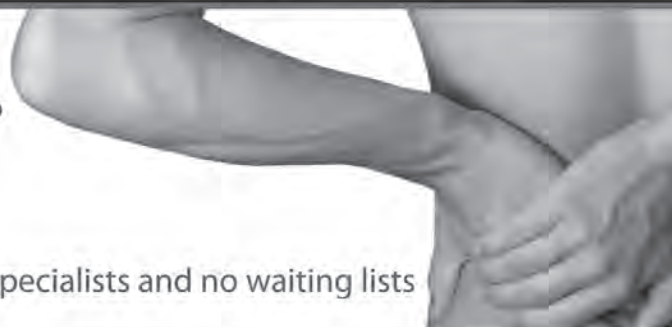


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Information about adult social care

Visitors to Soham Library have the chance to find out about local services to help themselves and people they care for to stay independent, safe and well when the Your Life, Your Choice "Live" roadshow comes to the library during March 2013.

The roadshow features a display of information to help people remain in their own homes for as long as possible and, for those needing support, provides details of local services and support. The roadshow will be at the Library from Monday 4 to Saturday 30 March.

If you are unable to visit the roadshow the Your Life, Your Choice website www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk provides information about local services and support to help you stay independent, safe and well. You can also get help and advice by contacting adult social care enquiries at Cambridgeshire Direct on 0345 045 5202.

Have your say on the future of Isleham

Help to produce a 'Vision' for your village

East Cambridgeshire District Council is preparing a new 'Vision' for Isleham in partnership with Isleham Parish Council. We are keen to get your views on how the village/parish should change or improve in the future. The Isleham Vision will provide a blueprint for the future growth of the village. It will be used to:

- Guide decisions on future development and planning applications
- Help ensure that infrastructure and facilities are retained and improved.

Public consultation took place in 2011 and 2012 on key issues and options. The District Council has taken on board your comments and is due to publish a 'Draft Isleham Vision' on 11th February 2013. Consultation on the draft Vision will run for 6 weeks, between 11th February and 25th March 2013. The Draft Vision includes proposals for new housing sites on the edge of Isleham at the following locations:

- Land south and west of Lady Frances Court
- Land at 5a Fordham Road
- Land west of Hall Barn Road
- Land west of Pound Lane
- Land at Church Lane

An employment site is also proposed adjacent to Hall Barn Road Industrial Estate.

For further information on how to comment on the draft Vision, see the District Council's website at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/east-cambridgeshire-local-plan or email [ldf\[at\]eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:ldf[at]eastcambs.gov.uk). If you have any questions, please call the Council's Forward Planning team on 01353 665555.

Stewart Patience
Forward Planning Officer

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Isleham Gardeners

Hello fellow gardeners and a Happy New Year.

At this time of the year it is easy to get depressed, looking out of the window at the dull, dreary, rainy weather; but in some ways this is one of the better times if you look at it from my point of view.

To start with, the days are getting longer—not very noticeable at the moment I know—but just keep that in mind. Then there's the sowing of seeds for new plants in the spring. Those lovely green cabbage and cauliflower shoots thrusting their way through the compost, no heat required, can be grown in a cold frame. Going out on a frosty morning with a spade and giving the old joints and muscles a bit of a workout to get rid of that winter lethargy or leaning on your spade day dreaming about the productive spring and summer to come. I feel better already!

Once again I throw out the invitation to anyone with an interest in gardening, be it home garden or allotment, vegetable or decorative, we cater for all.

This year we have another full programme of events to educate and entertain you including, clematis growing, pest control, growing fruit and veg and organic veg. We also have a curry night planned for May and a quiz night for later in the year, so come along and give it a try. We meet every third Tuesday in the Village Hall, subscription is £10 per year which really is very good value.

I must thank all who supported our Christmas mince pie and mulled wine afternoon, a great success.

Looking forward to seeing you in the coming months but, in the meantime, happy gardening.

Phil Adelphus



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Isleham Community Centre: A Quiet Time.

HOping that everyone had a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

This article sees the start of a very busy year ahead. With the completion of the work by the archaeologists we now have a large hole. There were no significant finds from the archaeological dig but this did cause a slight problem in that about half of the site is nearly double the planned depth.



Work has been progressing behind the scenes to resolve the extra engineering on the foundations thrown up by the archaeological dig and as this goes to press it should have been resolved and the builders should have moved onto site.

The weather has certainly been against us. This, and other factors beyond our control (Christmas holidays etc.), has resulted in the

decision being made to postpone the start of the actual build until January. Builders should be on site by the 28th January.

On the 8th December Jill Aspland performed the ground breaking ceremony. Pictures and further details should be in the next Informer as well as the local press. This will also coincide with the full press release as required by the grant providers.

A substantial saving was made with the help of all the volunteers who assisted in the digging and removal of the soil from the site. Our thanks go to them and to all of you for your patience whilst the work went on. Apologies for any mess created but we did try to keep it to a minimum.

Please take note that the fenced off area is now an official building site and as such is out of bounds unless authorised.

We are, as always, looking for any 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 fund raising, progress etc. 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 wishing you all the best for the year ahead.
*Clive Patterson For the Parish Council/
ICA Management Committee*

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ENTERTAINMENT

• FEBRUARY •

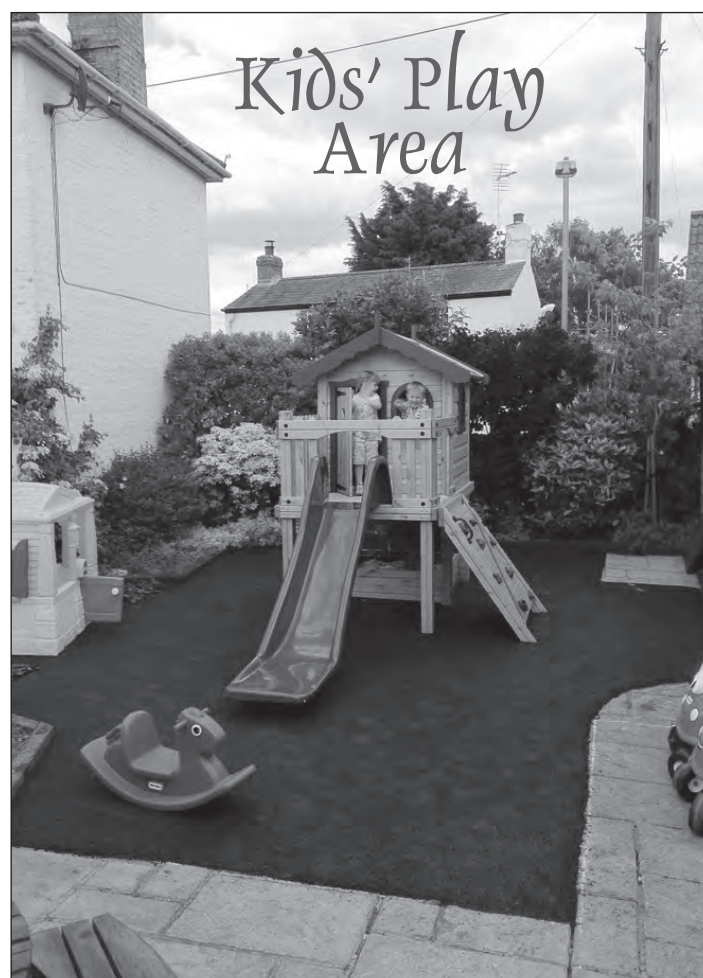
Friday 8th: Band: Rock B*st*rds
Friday 21st: Band: Eden Burns

• MARCH •

Saturday 2nd: Race Night
Saturday 16th: Band: 80-2-90
Saturday 30th: Band: Menumiteno

OPENING TIMES

Monday: 7pm to Close
Tuesday to Thursday: 12 noon to 3pm, 7pm to Close
Friday, Saturday: 12 noon to Close
Sunday 12 noon to 10.30pm



Kids' Play Area

Have you visited the village website
www.isleham-village.co.uk?

The original website was set up by Robin Grant during the 90s and was a great site to get a feeling for our village. The site is funded by Isleham Parish Council. After seeing the request for a replacement website manager in the October 2009 *Informer* I volunteered to manage the site.

I initially started amending Robin's original design but it was decided fairly early on that a major rewrite of the site was required to meet today's demands. There have been various changes to the structure of the site over the last 3 years including a second full revamp. The feedback from the increasing site visitors has been generally positive with changes for the better and the site content expanding four or five times. There are always bits and pieces that require improvement and an example of this is the presentation of the galleries, which after a few hiccups should now be cleaner and easier to navigate. From first taking on the site it has had two major updates and recently, a change of host allowing a decrease in the yearly cost, but with the benefit of unlimited space (ideal for galleries), and blogs for various organisations.

Some of the items you will find on the site are:

An Events Calendar, Listings of Activities/clubs/organisations, Community Centre, Churches and Chapels, Parish Council members and minutes/agendas, Education, Environment and Help, Events, Local Galleries, Health and Medical contacts/facilities, Places for hire, the *Isleham Informer*, Links to other local sites, Pubs, Shops and Farms Local Services, Transport and Travel, emergency contacts.

The Events Calendar on the site shows dates for meetings, village events etc. At present we are editing all entries and are sure some events are either being missed out or are posted too late to be of any use. To help remedy this we can grant access to any of the village organisations to add or update their own entries, all we will need is an email address, name and organisation, we can then organise access to the relevant calendar; this is already being done by the WI and the Gardeners Club.

Services, shops, farms etc.

Do you provide a service in or around the village? If so, do you have an entry on the village website? If you do are your details up to date? Please check. If you don't have an entry or the information is incorrect then email us: webmaster@isleham-village.co.uk. Send your details so that we can include your entry on the site.

Galleries, old programmes and leaflets

There is a range of galleries showing various aspects of the village and village events.

A few of the galleries are just a mixture: we need assistance in dating/naming the photos. Please take a look and send us an email quoting the album name and the picture number (last three digits). We can then put them in their correct album or even create a new one.

We are trying to increase the range of pictures within the galleries and also to publish additional galleries. Do you have any photos tucked away that we may copy?

We need old programmes and leaflets from pantomimes, gala days and any other past and future events. These will be scanned and returned as soon as possible. Please take a quick look in your cupboards, boxes, photo albums etc.

Blogs

Within the site access can also be given to groups/organisations to blogs (Online Logs) where updates can be posted by the group as and when it happens or is needed.

The Parish Council and Gardening Club already have access with the Community Skate Park group soon to come online. This facility takes a bit of pressure off me and also ensures that the information for the relevant group is up to date.

Ideas for the website

I am always looking for ideas to expand the site and increase the content. Some possible ideas include additional blog pages, births, deaths and marriages, a full business listing with pictures if possible. Expansion of the history page with places of interest and more details on the history.

If you have any ideas for additional content for the site or ways that may improve it, please email us with any comments/suggestions and we will give them all consideration.

All original photos, programmes, leaflets etc received will be well looked after and returned as soon as is practical after copying. These can be in any format paper, photos, digital (email, CD, pendrive). Please contact us beforehand if you have any queries.

Unless otherwise requested items of village interest (old pictures etc.) will also be made available to the Isleham Society.

Designed and maintained by Clive Patterson (CSPservices) for Isleham Parish Council.

21 West Street, Isleham, Cambs CB7 5SD

Phone: 01638 780669 / 07771 830336 Fax: 0872 1115594
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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

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Friends of Isleham
Nature Reserves



The Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves group has been going for several years now and we are keen to expand the range of activities we do and to encourage others to join us. Our main responsibility (by agreement with Cambridgeshire County Council) is the management of the railway Local Nature Reserve (just outside the village on the Fordham Road) and to encourage others to use and enjoy it. We are very aware of the importance of the reserve and adjacent area for people exercising their dogs, which means the site attracts lots of local (and not so local) visitors.

We have received a small grant from the County Council, which we are using to buy tools, identification guides and collecting equipment, and to pay for some site management in addition to that which we carry out ourselves. Our aim is to try to restore some more extensive areas of open, botanically rich habitat and to this end we will this year be carrying out some more intensive scrub removal than you'll have seen at the site recently. But don't worry, we will not do this until the berries have been stripped by the visiting flocks of fieldfares and redwings and we still intend to maintain a diverse habitat with plenty of scrub and small trees.

We will be organising more events on the reserve during the summer, including a day bug hunting for children (we had a successful day this summer with families from the Soham area Sure Start Children's Centre), and a day when we will be hosting other Friends groups from Local Nature Reserves elsewhere in Cambridge. Our group members are involved in the management of other sites in and around Isleham including the community orchard project, the village pond, the Wash and the Station Road wood. We are looking at the possibilities for a circular walk that takes in a number of important areas for wildlife, centred around the railway reserve.

As a formally constituted group, we will be holding our AGM in April, including short talks about local wildlife. You may already receive emails from us and want to get more involved, or may wish to hear about our activities. If you do, please look out for the AGM announcement and come along. We will be including a questionnaire in a future issue of the Informer to find out more about what you'd like us to do or how you'd like to get involved. In the meantime please contact our reserve warden Andrew Garbett: 07903 092899, or chairman Alastair Burn: 01638 780553.



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The Isleham Society

December 2012: no meeting.

Our first meeting of the year was on 17th January 2013 when Dr. Carenza Lewis (Time Team) talked to us about the 'Isleham Archaeological Digs', and how these have contributed to the on-going research her team are doing about the history of East Anglia. She has been involved with the digs in our village gardens with students from Mildenhall College over the last two years.

The earliest pieces of pottery, found in a pit dug in Little London, date from the period from the eighth century BC to the first century AD, but much more was found from later periods.

More information about the digs can be found at <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/excavationreports.html>

Future meetings

21st February: "Royal Newmarket and Palace House" An illustrated talk by Christopher Garibaldi.

21st March: "Old Isleham Photos" illustrated talk by Vernon Place.

18th April: AGM followed by a talk by Liz Howe: "Update of my work in Romania", then by refreshment brought by members.

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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CHURCHES

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: 2pm.

(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.

Craft (third Wednesday of month) 9.30–11.30am (Suzanne Hall 01638 781805).

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

Craft (first Friday of month): 7–9pm (Martha Thompson 01638 7870030).

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

It seems a little late to be wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year but the last issue seemed too early!

As a church we are excited at the prospect of another year to worship and glorify our wonderful God and Saviour.

We will be celebrating Mothers' Day on Sunday 10th March with a 10.30am Family Service to which you are all warmly invited. Refreshments follow the service and each lady attending receives a small posy of spring flowers.

We particularly want to draw your attention to the forthcoming Easter Children's Event we will be holding, God willing, on Saturday afternoon 30th March.

If all goes according to plan we shall be doing this at Isleham Priory for children and parents from 2 years upwards. There will be an Easter egg hunt, races, cookie decorating, story time and bouncy castle, and each child will receive a "goodie bag" to go home with. Please do aim to come – there will be more information coming shortly.

Our Easter Day Family Service will be on Sunday 31st March at 10.30am followed by refreshments – all are very welcome. ■

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[at]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 Mike.

Priests The Rev'd Mike Banyard: 01638 721616, banyardmg1[at]yahoo.co.uk

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

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

Choir Director Mark Liversidge: 01638 781696, 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** ■

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 3-7, 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 7-11 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 11-14 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.

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 £3.00 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! 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.

New! Parenting Teenagers

Parenting teenagers is harder than ever before. There is no greater role in life. Discovering we are not alone in the challenges we face and sharing ideas with other parents can make a huge difference. This six week course, starting later in January at High Street Church, seeks to help us in this important and needy area of life. For more information contact Paul and Anne Clarinbold on 01638 780013.

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? Please contact our church office on 01638 780985. ■

Isleham Community Skate Park



A great big thank you to everyone who helped at our Bonfire and Firework Night and to everyone who came to have a good evening we raised £750.00

A huge thank you to Jo and Chris Harvey who make this event possible.

Car washes are a great success every 1st Sunday of each month. Please keep coming and enjoy a cuppa with freshly baked cakes at very reasonable prices.

Congratulations Frances Wright, who was the lucky winner of the homemade Christmas Cake Draw at Isleham Bowls Club on Friday 7th December. Barry Grimwood who won last year's cake picked the winning ticket. We raised £58.00: thank you.

Pauline Dunbavin

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I know it's not as nice subject but we need to talk about dog poo!

Dogs have had a special place in our hearts and have had a role in society for centuries. Dogs can be workers or faithful family pets and throughout history they have been loyal companions. All dogs, whether working or hapless hounds, have something in common... they produce poo!

However, it is unfair to blame the canine population; it is the responsibility of the dog owner to ensure that the mess is cleaned up. Although there are a great number of owners that do clear it up, myself included, there are great many that don't because they feel it is unhygienic. However, it is a greater health hazard to leave it where it lies—on pavements, parks or playgrounds. It does not wash away with the rain. It is also against the law.

The Law

Dog fouling is covered by several pieces of legislation:

- The Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 in England & Wales
- Litter (Animal Droppings) Order 1991 – made under section 84 (14) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003

These Acts require the owner to clear up immediately after his or her dog, should it foul 'designated land'. The fines start at around £40, rising to £1,000 - the maximum amount that can be issued in a courtroom. Designated areas are usually places where dog faeces are likely to cause a health hazard to people. These include children's play parks, public greens and parks, residential areas, cycle paths and walkways to name a few.

Health risks

All faeces contain bacteria that can cause stomach upsets if ingested. However, the greatest risk to public health from dog faeces is toxocariasis.

Toxocariasis

Toxocariasis is an infection of the round worm *Toxocara canis*. It is a disease that is spread via unwashed vegetables and dog faeces. Young children in particular are at risk due to their weaker immune systems and because they are more likely to expose themselves by ingesting the eggs.

Each *T. canis* female can lay up to 700 eggs a day. These are passed out when the dog defecates and can survive for up to three years in soil. After two to three weeks of warm weather the eggs develop into an embryo state, containing larva—this is when they become infective to dogs and people.

The larvae try to migrate through the human body as they would in a dog's, but the human body treats them as foreign material, which causes a reaction and tissue

damage. Symptoms can include severe abdominal pain, inflammation of the liver, visual impairment and even blindness.

Bag it and bin it

So next time you are walking around the village and your dog needs to poop, please remember to bag it and bin it. It's not hard, here's how:

Place a clean dog poop bag over your hand and scoop the poo. Tie a knot in the ends and dispose of it in our conveniently placed dog litter bins around the village. If done correctly, there is no need for your hands to come in contact with the poo... if in doubt wear a glove!

Remember, young children walk down Malting Lane and Beck Road every day. They may stand in the dog poo that was left by you. It is now on their shoes, they tread it into school, sit cross legged on the carpet of their class room or in the assembly hall. It is now on the back of their skirt or trousers, they have to wear those clothes for the next 6 hours until home-time. They've eaten their dinner with the hands that have tried, in vain, to clean up their uniform or shoes. The next day they're off sick, mum is beside herself with worry and has had to miss work. It could all have been so easily avoided had you taken the time to poop scoop.

Thank you for reading.

*Alison Oliver. Isleham Resident
and proud owner of Frank, my faithful four-legged friend.*



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POETRY COMPETITION

In October we announced a competition to write a poem about what your village or area means to you. One entry that has been chosen for publication by United Press is by Richard Cull, who says:

"I wrote it because as a fairly new resident of Isleham I wanted to express some of the starkness that I noticed in the area's environment, but then suggest that it has something even greater and powerful than many other villages—a place with a fervent Christian community. Although there may not be breathtaking hills to break up the landscape or birds making beautiful song everywhere, I felt that lots can be said for the spirituality and faith evident in the village—something worth coming to Isleham for!"

What does Isleham have to show?

The winds blow both this way and that way,
And can prove exciting, even extraordinary.
But unto Isleham it shalln't go.

The soaring fleet in flight give sight to the senses,
And break up the mindset:
Upset and unsympathetic.
Over the fens and glens they flow
But unto Isleham it shalln't go.

The rolling hills have a reason to radiate,
And demonstrate their beauty – timeless, delicate.
So over the fens and glen they will flow
But unto Isleham it shalln't go.

Yet the Spirit is felt in any place,
That is His way and cannot be displaced,
So what does Isleham have to show?
Go unto Isleham and you shall know.

Richard Cull

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Our last meeting of 2012 was in December when we had our Christmas party. Members and their guests enjoyed a 'feast' of a supper, to which they had all contributed, and were then entertained by a barn dance led by Ron

Coxall, followed by a raffle and a gift from Father Christmas. The dancing was great fun, helped use up some of those extra calories, and made a happy end to the year.

We started 2013 with a craft evening where Barbara Redman demonstrated "Boxes and Baskets", and then helped us achieved some creditable results ourselves. Very satisfactory.

Our calendar for the rest of the year is as follows:

14th February	AGM
21st February	Our 90th birthday party
14th March	Corsets, Crinolines and Camisoles
11th April	The work of Milton Hospice
9th May	Tales from Cambridgeshire
13th June	SUMMER OUTING
11th July	Hair and Make-up'
9th August	OPEN MEETING: Peter Carter; The Eel Man
12th September	Harvest Supper
10th October	Members' Evening
14th November	Flowers for Christmas
13th December	Christmas Party

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

Age UK Cambridgeshire has been awarded funds through the Department of Health as part of the Warm Homes Healthy People joint initiative. The projects aim to support people aged 60 or over to stay warm and safe over the winter months.

Keeping warm this winter 2012/13

Free Energy Efficiency Assessments

Age UK Cambridgeshire has received funds from the Department of Health to enable us to carry out assessments at the homes of residents aged 60 years or over within Cambridgeshire to determine if measures can be put in place to make homes warmer and reduce energy costs.

Our assessors may recommend certain measures such as draught excluders, radiator panels, nightlights, manual socket timers and hot water cylinder jackets to name but a few.

The service is completely free and for more information, please call 01354 696650 or 01480 700205.

Shopping Service

Funding has been received from Wilkinson's and the Department of Health to enable us to continue running our

online shopping service. The service is for Cambridgeshire residents, aged 60 and over who are unable to, or may have difficulty in doing their grocery shopping. Many supermarkets now offer online shopping but unless you have a computer you cannot take advantage of this.

Orders can be placed over the phone to our shopping service and we will make all the arrangements, and arrange delivery to your home. There is no commitment to shop every week.

Age UK Cambridgeshire makes no charge for this but supermarket charges for delivery may vary.

Enquires and orders can be taken from Monday-Friday from 9-12 noon on 01354 696650.

Enquiries for all three projects can also be made by email to [melanie.murdoch\[at\]ageukcambridgeshire.org.uk](mailto:melanie.murdoch[at]ageukcambridgeshire.org.uk)

Melanie Murdoch

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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)



Police Matters

- New Contact Number for Police - 101
- Neighbourhood Panel forums have been set up to allow Parish Councils and members of the public to engage with the police and other services. No Police reports will be provided to Parish Councils outside of this forum

Village Hall Report

- The tea and toast group are no longer meeting in the hall on a Thursday because of health and safety issues.
- From 1st January 2012 all village hall bookings will incur VAT as the council have taken the 'option to tax' with HMRC in order that they will be able to claim back the VAT on the New Community Centre. This will apply to all users of the hall.

Recreation Ground Report

- The Recreation Ground has been verti-drained and is in much better condition as a result in spite of the amount of rain that we are having
- The tree works necessary for the new centre have been carried out by S P Landscapes
- The Ash in the tree line at the top of the Recreation Ground has been felled as it was in a dangerous condition
- The MUGA is available to hire during the day and at weekends – please contact the Clerk for more details.

ICA Report

- The Archaeological Survey has been completed and revealed two medieval houses as well as various pits and ditches.
- As a result of the archaeology C J Murfitts start date was put back to 28th January.

Cemetery and Churchyard Matters

- A number of graves have sunk owing to the very wet weather. This will be addressed by the cemetery keeper as soon as the weather permits.
- It has been reported to the council that a number of vases and some artificial flowers have been stolen from the cemetery.

Financial Matters

- The Parish Council are to look into what guidance is available to Councillors when they are considering requests for funding from national charities.

- The Council have approved purchase of Asset Register and Risk Assessment packages for the office.

Dog Fouling

- PLEASE REMEMBER TO CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG!
- 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

- The hedge on Waterside has been cut right back improving access on the footpath.
- The grit bin has been moved up to the triangle at the top of Waterside.
- There are a number of potholes still around the village and the County Council are working to get these repaired.
- A bid has been submitted to the Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement Scheme for a zebra crossing outside the village hall and for speed control measures on the Fordham Road.

Allotment Matters

- The Allotment Rules have been updated to include 'Failure to comply with the rules leaves the tenant liable to eviction'.
- For details about the Community Orchard 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.

Planning Matters

- Isleham Vision is underway and the public consultation is now likely to take place in the New Year. For more details please contact the Clerk.
- Planning applications were received for Chalk Farm, Temple Road, Isleham and 18 Malting Lane, Isleham.
- Planning approvals were received for tree works at 3 Robins 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.

Sue Hart

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Bowls Report

At the mid-point of the carpet bowls season, both teams look in good shape to push for promotion from their respective divisions. Team 'A' are sitting in second place in Division 2 just 2 points behind leaders Witcham 'A' whilst, in Division 3, Team 'B' are also second but a lot of points behind leaders Soham 'B'.

Both teams have now been knocked out of the league KO Cup.

The club has held a couple of fund raising events, namely a trivia evening hosted by Bob and Ellen Cole and a Christmas prize bingo evening organised by Doreen Raven and her team, which has raised in excess of £800. Thanks for all the effort they have put in to those events.

Every Wednesday from 7.30 pm we organise a cash prize bingo evening at the clubhouse and new players are very welcome, just turn up and play.

In November, the club held its AGM and the following were elected as officers of the club for the 2013 season:

President	Terry Sharplin
Chairman	Robert Cole
Vice Chairman	Rowley Wells
Secretary	Terry Pinder
Treasurer	Barry Grimwood
Club Captain	Barry Grimwood
Ladies Captain	Sylvia Pinder

As time now turns to spring and the onset of the new outdoor bowling season, perhaps YOU could get interested in taking up a new hobby. We are a few players down for the new season for various reasons, so you never know, it may be better than you expected!

Barry Grimwood, Club Captain

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