







Thank you to everyone in Church and in the wider village community who supported The Festival of Light in St. Andrew's church during December.

We opened the event with a very busy and successful Christmas Fayre followed by the two more reflective sessions when people enjoyed the splendour of the Church, its architecture enhanced by the lighting provided by Walter Gunston and the beauty of the trees.

The Carol Service by tree light was a fitting finale to the Festival with almost 200 people gathering to see if their favourite carol was in the Top 5. The Festival of Light raised a fantastic sum of £1700, which will help with the maintenance of our building .

We are already planning the 2014 event and look forward to seeing you all there.

Kathy Carver









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Festival of Light photos by Vernon Place (this page, above; Page 1, top right) and Ed Mayall (this page top left; Page 1, top and bottom left).

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Printed by Urban Design and Print Ltd.

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

NEXT ISSUE: Published 1st April 2014. The copy deadline for all editorial and advertising is 10th March 2014.

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



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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

Stay & Play Play and chill session for parents/carers and under fives. Every Monday 9.30–11.30am at St Andrews Primary School, Soham.

Breast Friends Breastfeeding support group meeting every Tuesday 11.30am–12.30pm, for new and pregnant mums. Come along for some free advice and support from a Lactation Consultant.

Well Baby Clinic Tuesdays 9.15–11.15am. Weigh your baby and have tea and a chat with the Health Visitor about any of your concerns.

Time Out Tuesdays For parents under 25 years. Every Tuesday 9.45–11.30am. Come along and make friends and get support.

Isleham Stay & Play Every Wednesday at The Beeches 9.30–11.30am. Play session for the under 5s and a chance to meet other parents and carers. Just turn up!

Sensory Saturdays A free play session for families of children with additional needs of any age. First and third Saturday of the month, 2–3.30pm at Soham Children's Centre.

Call or email Soham Children's Centre to book your place.

For more information call us on 01353 727188 sohamchildrenscentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk www.cambridgeshirechildrenscentres.org.uk or follow us on Facebook at Sure Start Children's Centres – Bottisham. Burwell and Soham areas



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Village clubs: information

0					
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	The Beeches
Brownies	Bridget Clements	01353 624103	Thursday	6-7.15pm	High St. Church
Craft Club	Hazel Thompson	01638 780633	Tuesday	1.30-4pm	Limestone Centre
Cubs	Emily Yellop	01638 780637	Tuesday	6.15-7.45pm	The Beeches
French Conversation (all levels)	Francine	francine@the waytofrance.com	Monday 1	6-7.15pm	1 Mill St
Isleham Gardeners	Jenny Hodd	01638 780729	3rd Tuesday	7.30pm	The Beeches
Isleham Society	Vernon Place	01638 780449	3rd Thursday	7.45pm	The Beeches
Paper, Patch & Sew	Victoria Rattle Julie Porter	01638 781301 01638 781390	Saturday Bi-monthly	10-4pm	High St Church
Stay & Play	Claire Freeman	01353 727188	Wednesday	9.30–11.30am	The Beeches
WI	Glenda Preece	01638 780734	2nd Thursday	7.30pm	The Beeches

VILLAGE NOTES

Isleham United Youth FC are looking for under 6s children for football fun on a Saturday morning. If you are in Year 1 please come along 10–11am at The Recreation Ground, Isleham.

Isleham WI is holding a Jumble Sale at the Beeches on Saturday 22nd February, 2–3.30pm.

Isleham United Youth FC is seeking sponsors for the Festival of Football 17th–18th May 2014.

For further information please contact: Craig Boneham: 01638 781693.

The Parish Clerk now has an office at the Beeches. She will be available for any queries on:

Tuesday 10am-2pm Friday 1-5pm Telephone: 01638 781687

Isleham Bowls Club is holding a Jumble Sale at the Beeches on Saturday 15th March.

Table Top Sale Saturday 8th March, 1–3.30pm at the Beeches. To book a table phone Lesley Faulkner: 01638 780734. Entry free.

Dates for Your Diary

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

Every Tuesday Coffee Morning Social Centre 09.00–12.00 **Every Saturday** Isleham Youth Soft Football 10.00–11.00

February

Monday 3rd	Isleham Parish C	Souncil Beeches	3 19.15
Thursday 6th	Mobile Library	Church St	14.15-15.00
		Mill Street	15.05-17.00
Thursday 13th	WI	The Beeches	19.30
Tuesday 18th	Gardeners Club	The Beeches	19.30
Thursday 20th	Isleham Society	The Beeches	19.45
Friday 21st	Mobile Library	Church St	9.30-10.05
Saturday 22nd	WI Jumble Sale	The Beeches	14.00

March

Maich			
Monday 3rd	Isleham Parish (Council Beeches	19.15
Thursday 6th	Mobile Library	Church St	14.15-15.00
		Mill Street	15.05-17.00
Saturday 8th	Table Top Sale	The Beeches	13.00-15.30
Monday 10th	INFORMER DEAD	DLINE	
Thursday 13th	WI	The Beeches	19.30
Friday 14th	Book Club	Social Centre	14.00
Saturday 15th	Bowls Club Jumb	ole Sale Beeches	14.00
Tuesday 18th	Gardeners Club	The Beeches	19.30
Thursday 20th	Isleham Society	The Beeches	19.45
Friday 21st	Mobile Library	Church St	09.30-10.05

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				
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Addenbrooke's Hospital (Cambridge)	. 01223	245151		
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West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds	s)01284	713000		
Staploe Medical Centre (Soham)				
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- Prescriptions & Dispensary	. 01353	727695		
- Enquiries, Home Visits, Emergencies	. 01353	624123		
Minor Treatment Centre, Ely	. 01353	656675		
NHS Direct (for advice)	08	45 4647		
GP Out-Of-Hours	. 0330 1	239131		
Electricity Emergencies	. 0800 7	838838		
Gas Emergencies	0800	111999		
Anglian Water Leaks	0800	771881		
- 24 hour	. 0845 7	145145		
Social Services - office hours	. 0345 0	455202		
- out of hours emergency	. 01733	561370		
Refuse Collection	. 01353	665555		
RSPCA	. 07599	522716		
- Cruelty line	.0300 1	234 999		
Citizens Advice Bureau Ely	y 0845 1	30 6442		
Mildenha	ll 01638	712094		
Newmark	et 01638	665999		
District Councillor (Derrick Beckett)	. 01638	780476		
Parish Council (Diane Bayliss: Clerk) 01638 781687				
Member of Parliament (Jim Paice) 01954 211450				



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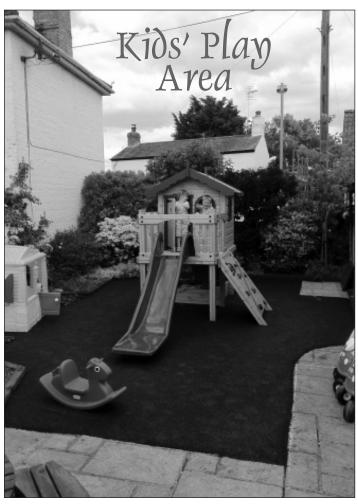
· FEBRUARY Friday 7th: Quiz

Saturday 8th: Band: 5 Ska Saturday 22nd: Band: Menumiteno

Friday 7th: Band: Beautiful/Dangerous Saturday 15th: Race Night for Isleham United Football Club

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



Isleham United Youth Football Club

Football Festival - 17th & 18th May 2014

I sleham United Youth FC, which has 220 members from age 4 years upwards, is holding its 6th Annual Football Festival on the weekend of 17th/18th May 2014. We are expecting to have 90 teams from Clubs around the County attend, which will enable us to raise funds for the Club and for our new community centre, at the same time giving some 500 children an end of season celebration.

I am writing this on behalf of the Club, as we are looking for sponsors for the Festival, with sponsors being allocated an advertising space in our Festival Programme or having their company sign board advertising their company around the pitches. We very much hope members of our Community will be able to support us and look forward to hearing from you so we can advise you of the format for your advertisement.

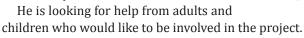
If you do not wish to advertise but would like to support us in any other way or require any further details please contact me. Thanking you in anticipation.

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

Landscaping Working Party

hanks to the generous donations from people in the village, the Parish Council is now in the fortunate position of being able to begin the landscaping of the land around The Beeches.

Paul Goldsmith of Greenwood Tree Company has kindly volunteered himself and several of his staff to organise the planting of the trees and shrubs from 9am on Saturday 22nd March.



If you are interested just turn up on the day – with a trowel or spade if you have one!

For further information contact the Parish Clerk: 01638 781687 islehampc@btinternet.com



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hank you to those who filled in the questionnaire in the Informer about the Isleham Railway Nature Reserve. Several people have asked to be put on our mailing list for information about events on the reserve, work parties and meetings – we will be contacting you all.

The responses to the

questionnaire were very helpful in confirming that what we are trying to do on the reserve, and the issues we are trying to address, are shared by the majority of people who have shown an interest. People were pretty evenly split in the reasons given for visiting the reserve, between those who primarily appreciate it as an area to exercise their dogs and those who enjoy the natural environment and wildlife there. Dealing with dog mess was one of the main concerns raised, and we'll continue to look for ways of encouraging use (and disposal) of poo bags – though our impression is that the problem is not as severe as it once was.

Securing safe access to the site was also high on the list of concerns raised. Some temporary repairs have recently been made to the entrance but we are encouraging the Council to make more permanent repairs. We will also be pursuing the options for warning signs for traffic approaching the hill at the entrance. Several people made a plea for safer walking access from the village to the reserve. We agree that this is a key limitation to the value of the reserve for local users and we will look further into possibilities here.

In short, most of the responses were supportive, the majority of issues identified are ones we are working on / are aware of, and we note (and will respond to) the strong wish even among those who are not regular visitors for further information on wildlife etc. at the site.

Our AGM is on 14th April – we will be discussing some of these issues (as well as hearing about local wildlife) and all will be welcome.

For further information please contact:

Alastair Burn (01638 780553), or Andrew Garbett (07903 092899)

|sleham Gardeners

hope you have all recovered from the excesses of the festive season and the gales and wet that we had over the same period.

I must confess to being a bit slow off the mark this year. It is the second week in the New Year and I haven't yet sown a seed or turned any soil over. I hope by the time this edition comes out I will have caught up a little.

I feel really sorry for those poor gardeners and allotmenteers whose land is under water; we have been very lucky in our region.

February is usually one of the busiest months of the year for seed sowing and ground preparation. Lots of summer veg and brassicas should be sown this month, no heat required. An early crop of carrots and peas can be sown now but may require a cloche or fleece covering in harsh weather.

For the flower garden, it is time to sow the likes of geraniums, godetia and lobelia. However, they will need a minimum temperature of 15–16°C degrees (that's round about 60°F for us old timers). What ever you are sowing I wish you much success.

Isleham Gardeners have a very exciting programme for this year. Our May meeting involves a trip to Langley's Nursery, Santon Downham and we are also planning a trip to RHS Wisley in July. We will be holding our usual plant sale in May, our cream tea afternoon in August and we are hoping to have a bigger and better pre-Christmas event in December.

Our garden club meets every third Tuesday of the month at the Beeches. Membership is only £10 per year and entitles you to discounts at our local garden centres. So come along, you will be very welcome.

Wishing you all good gardening.

Phil Adelphus

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ISLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council normally meets on the first Monday of every month at 7.15pm. Meetings will be held in the main meeting room of 'The Beeches'. Members of the public are invited to attend the meetings and 15 minutes is set aside each month for public question time.

Full copies of the minutes are available on the Website; the Notice Board and from the Parish Clerk Tel: 01638 781687 islehampc@btinternet.com



Police Matters

- New Contact No for Police 101.
- A speedwatch survey was carried out on Waterside Road on 4th December between 8.10 and 9.30am. Six vehicles out of a total of 48 were doing 33–34 mph and six were doing 35–39 mph. In the experience of the speedwatch team, this is very low traffic and they consider their conclusions did not concur with the subjective impressions of local residents who spoke to members of the team.
- The team requested that the Parish Council focus any further efforts on Station Road, Isleham as they consider the 40 mph speed limit too high for this area of the village.

Recreation Ground Report

- The Parish Council are considering options for a tractor/ equipment store to be sited on the recreation ground between the new community centre and the MUGA.
- The Council have agreed to change the lighting system on the MUGA to a 7-day timer so that the lights are no longer activated by the door being opened.
- A closer has been fitted to the MUGA door so that it cannot be inadvertently or deliberately left open.
- It is hoped that the grass seed will be donated to the Parish Council and the ground will be levelled and seeded when the ground is dry and the conditions are right.

ICA Report

- The Beeches is now open for business.
- The car park has been completed however there are a few remedial works which are due to be carried out in the next couple of weeks.
- A grant of £3000 has been awarded by Lloyds Bank which will go towards the purchase of chairs for the main hall.
- A grant of £685 has been awarded by ECDC for the purchase of a laptop overhead projector and screen for the Centre.

Cemetery & Churchyard Matters

• An initial survey of the wall has been carried out and the matter will be considered further by the Council at the beginning of the next financial year.

Planning Matters

 Planning Applications have been considered for 47 Waterside, Isleham and at Land West of Parkland Fisheries Prickwillow Road, Isleham.

- Planning Approvals have been received for 23 The Pits, Isleham; Change of use of social centre (D1) to create Post Office (A1) at St Andrew' Social Centre, Isleham.
- Change of use from commercial to residential Post Office Stores 17 Sun Street.

Financial Matters

 A small working party met to discuss furniture requirements for the Clerk's office; a new desktop computer has been purchased, blinds have been installed and a new book case has been delivered.

Highways Matters

- A letter of appreciation was received from St Andrew's Church following the road closure for Remembrance Sunday.
- A number of letters have been sent asking residents to cut back hedges over- hanging footpaths.
- Bollards have been installed on the Waterside Road opposite the entrance to the Lady Maynard Allotment.
- 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.

Allotment Matters

- A dog bin has been purchased and this will be installed at the entrance to the Dunstall Allotment Site.
- There are still a number of plots available on the Dunstall Allotment site. Please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

Parish Councillors address list

Derrick Beckett Applevard Farm, 1 Houghtons Lane (Chairman) Isleham CB7 5SR Tel: 01638 780476 Vanessa Bruvneel-115 The Causeway, Isleham CB7 5ST Smith 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 104 Beck Road, Isleham CB7 5QP Lionel Neal Tel: 01638 780066 Clive Patterson 21 West Street, Isleham CB7 5SD Tel: 01638 780669 Glenda Preece 94 The Causeway, Isleham CB7 5ST Tel 01638 780734 Richard Radcliffe 45 Sun Street, Isleham CB7 5RU Tel: 01638 780831 Hazel Thompson 9 Limestone Close, Isleham CB7 5RP Tel: 01638 780633 Pauline Wilkes 6 Limestone Close, Isleham CB7 5RP Tel: 01638 780640 Diane Bayliss 37 Croft Road, Isleham CB7 5QR (Parish Clerk) Tel: 01638 781687 islehampc@btinternet.com www.isleham-village.co.uk



Isleham WI

n November members held a Coffee Morning in the Social Centre in aid of The Beeches. Thank you to everyone who attended.

We finished the year with our Christmas Party at the Limestone Community Centre.

The buffet was provided by the members and as usual was delicious. We were entertained by Mel Sargeant from Soham, who sang and played the keyboard. It was a most enjoyable evening and our last at Limestone. Many thanks to the residents who welcomed us there.

We held our first meeting of the New Year at The Beeches, which was very exciting. Everyone was pleased with this lovely facility. Our speaker was Yvonne O'Neill from the Yellow Butterfly Tea Rooms in Ely. She came with a colleague, Rachel, and between them they entertained and informed us whilst demonstrating cake decorating and how to make sugar flowers. They obviously love what they do, and their enthusiasm was infectious. We learnt a lot, and laughed a lot: what more can you ask!

We were very happy to welcome new members to our WI and because our numbers are increasing members decided that in the immediate future we will try out the main hall for our meetings.

Our programme for the rest of 2014 is as follows:

February 13th

March 13th Stephen Poyser: Honey from Flower to Table

April 10th Roman's Original Fashions

Maureen James: Fenland Folklore May 8th

June 12th **Summer Outing**

Peter Jackson: A gardening talk July 10th

Sue Baker: Egyptian Style Belly Dancing August 14th

September 11th Harvest Supper October 9th Members' Evening

November 13th Kate Salmon: Tudor Costumes and Food

December 11th 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 Beeches, 7.30pm for 7.45pm, and new members are always welcome.

For further information contact:

Glenda Preece, 01638 780734, gjpreece@aol.com





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Triangle Farm Shop

CHURCHES

High Street Church

One month into the New Year already! We hope 2014 will be a happy and healthy one for all of you.

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 is made up of two age groups, 3–7 years and 7–11 years, and offers a wide range of activities relevant to their age group. A fun filled time with activities and Bible stories, encouraging the children to discover the Christian faith for themselves. We would love to see some new faces. Visitors are 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 which is just what is needed after a busy week at school!

OTHER WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Our midweek meetings are many and varied. There are lots of choices each term; some are ongoing and others run for shorter periods of time. They include relationship building groups, arts and crafts type meetings and a varied program of Bible studies, prayer meetings, topics of interest and family life courses.

New – Parenting 0–10 years. Parenting brings both joys and challenges. Starting after half term in February for five weeks, on a Tuesday evening, we will be running a parenting course for parents of children aged 0–10 years. If you would like to know more please contact Paul and Anne Claringbold (01638) 780013.

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! Why not come and eat with us? Please contact Kathryn via the Church Office.

Little Lambs is our parent/carer and toddler group which runs term time Fridays from 9.15–11.15am. Parents/carers can relax with a coffee while the children play. Each week we have a craft activity, juice time and end the morning with singing. All welcome!

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.

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.

New Church Update. Our building team have returned to the Saw Mill in Chippenham to work on the last phase of the oak structure, which is the main auditorium. Hopefully around May/June time they will bring the final part to the site ready for construction. We are planning another open evening at the Saw Mill, maybe later in the spring, so that you can come along and see the progress first hand. More details to follow. Thank you for your support and interest in the project.

If you are interested in finding out more about our new Church building on Beck Road, visit arkproject.org.uk ■

Three Rivers Group St Andrew's Parish Church

Welcome to St Andrew's, the Parish Church here in Isleham. All are welcome in this community of faith in Jesus Christ. St Andrew's is part of the Three Rivers Group, including the villages of Chippenham, Fordham, Kennett, Snailwell & Isleham. Do join us for worship and fellowship on Sundays and during the week.

Rector: The Rev'd Mike Banyard: 01638 721616, banyardmg1@ yahoo.co.uk

Curates: The Rev'd Dr Jenny Gage 3rivers.jenny@gmail.com; The Rev'd Becca Gilbert 01353 665420 becgilb@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs Helen Banyard

WORSHIP

Sundays. The main service is at 9.30 am. Junior Church meets in the Social Centre. On the third Sunday of every month we worship together at an All Age Holy Communion service.

Midweek.

Thursday:

Monday: 9.15 Morning Prayer at 7 The Close, Kennett Tuesday: 8.15 Morning Prayer, Social Centre Isleham

Wednesday: 8.15 Morning Prayer, Chippenham

4.15 Evening Prayer Snailwell 8.15 Morning Prayer, Fordham

Friday: 8.30 Holy Communion (BCP) Fordham

Tuesday Coffee Morning 9am – 12 noon Social Centre

Fridays

6.30 pm Choir practice. All welcome. Contact Mark Liversidge 01638 781696

7.30 pm Bell Ringing, beginners especially welcome .Contact Ruth Ogden 01638 780646

Sundays @ 7 Our Youth Group meets twice a month, alternating between Soham and Isleham, (usually in the Social Centre). Details from Rev'd Becca or Mike

Churchwardens:

Nick Carver 01638 781116, nick.carver@ islehamchurch.org.uk; Ruth Ogden 01638 780646, ruth.ogden@islehamchurch.org.uk; Rob Savage 01638 780218 robert.savage@islehamchurch.org.uk

Tower Captain: Ruth Ogden 01638 780646 ruth.ogden@islehamchurch.org.uk

Choir Director: Mark Liversidge 01638 781696 mark.liversidge@

islehamchurch.org.uk

Webmaster: Andrew Stephens 01638 781468/780229

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

Pound | ane Free Church

Pastor: Dave Hall (01638 781343 or 01638 780636, email

pastor@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 750481) **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 780030 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 (fortnightly) 2.30-3.30pm.

(Church 01638 781343) 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: Women's Meeting (fortnightly) 10.30–11.45am (Sue Hall 01638 780636).

Christianity Explored courses are run regularly – please ask for dates of next course.

For further information on any of the above, or if you would like to speak to Pastor Dave:

Phone: 01638 781343 (Church Office) 01638 780636 (Pastor's Home)

Email: pastor@plfc.org.uk; secretary@plfc.org.uk
Web sites: www.plfc.org.uk; www.isleham.com

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Only the wealthy need financial advice? Not so, everyone can benefit.

Here's a list of seven reasons why people seek financial advice.

1) Reassurance and peace of mind

Stock market volatility and the media's almost joyful focus on bad financial news can be very unsettling. A good financial adviser can help alleviate your concerns and demonstrate your financial decisions remain appropriate.

2) To protect me, my family, my wealth

The trauma and emotional turmoil caused by long-term illness or death are all too often exacerbated by financial hardship. An adviser can assess your current circumstances to identify needs and guide you through the best options to protect against some or all of the financial impact of an unforeseen event.

3) To help plan my financial future

Working with you, an adviser can put together financial plans and demonstrate how regular savings can create significant sums within just a few years.

4) To help purchase a home or other property

Buying a house remains the most expensive purchase most people make in their lives and most of us need to borrow. An adviser could save you thousands of pounds over the lifetime of a mortgage. Not only can advisers seek out the best rates, they can help you assess an affordable level of borrowing and may even find mortgages that are not directly available.

5) To help plan for my life after work

Most people realise that they cannot rely on the State for more than the basics in retirement - the onus is shifting to the individual. Pensions are seen as complex and often very dull but they remain essential for most people. A financial adviser will help you through the jargon, show you how to attain your goals and help ensure that your pension investments are appropriate.

6) To achieve the best from my retirement savings

Having done the right thing and built up pension savings, when it comes to taking those benefits the choice you make at retirement is one you may have to live with for 30 to 40 years! A financial adviser will help guide you through the many options available and find a solution that may produce more income for you for every year of your life.

7) To help meet my investment goals

The reasons for wishing to invest are many and varied - future school fees, supplement retirement, overseas property purchase, that long-desired boat or inheritance tax planning. Whatever the goal, a financial adviser can assess what is needed to achieve your dreams, put together appropriate plans in line with an agreed approach to investment risk to help deliver those dreams and provide those all-important regular reviews to ensure you remain on track.

Good advice will help you protect your income and your wealth, help you make the most of your investments and help secure you and your family's long term future.

Don't be afraid to ask for advice. All good independent financial advisers will be able to point you in the right direction.

For friendly, jargon free financial advice from a local adviser about any of the above potential need areas call Nick Osborne on 01638 781399, 07415 255421 or e-mail nick.o@landmarkgroup. org.uk





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Books, tea, cake and chat

he Book Group is now a well-established institution meeting regularly on the second Friday of each month. We do, as the title suggests, discuss a book, drink tea, eat cakes and generally put the world to rights. Our oldest member is over ninety and the youngest is her niece. Everyone has a turn at choosing a book and it does widen our horizons and introduce a variety of authors. Discussions are always lively and there's a lot of laughter.

Some of us have been members since the club began, but we always welcome new people and the atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. So, if you enjoy reading and have the time, why not give us a try?

For further information, just give me a ring on 01638 780783. Happy reading,

Doreen Speirs



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Left: Our Shop down on the Farm Below: Our very experienced Butcher Kevin in our Shop.



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Our Fenrose Lamb will be available later in the year, July or August.



Book Share

Te are hoping to start a Book Share facility at The Beeches, and are looking to collect books for children and adults, which will be available, for loan. If you have any books in good condition that you are willing to donate please leave them at the centre, or contact:



Doreen Spiers Barbara Murfitt 01638 780783 01638 780373

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the *Informer* for advertising the East Anglia Air Ambulance (EAAA) Christmas lights display poster in your December issue.

We would also like to thank all who donated so generously. We raised a total of £730.00 for EAAA over the Christmas period. Yours sincerely,

Ivan and Roberta Houghton

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to say a BIG THANK YOU to all the people who are involved in any way producing and distributing the Informer magazine.

We really look forward to catching up with all the village news, information and Joyce's wonderful poems.

Well done to you all, and keep up the good work.

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The Velo **Festival**



Celebrating cycling in Cambridgeshire through culture and sport

The Velo Festival is a programme of events taking place across Cambridgeshire from May to September, celebrating the Tour de France which will be travelling through the County on 7 July. The range of events and activities will be wide, including sports, arts, culture and community fetes.

We'd like to invite as many groups, clubs and organisations as possible to be part of the Velo Festival; this is an opportunity for you to benefit from promotion of your event across the County through the festival programme. Events should promote or celebrate cycling or elements of French culture and could span a wide range of imaginative events.

In previous years we have promoted cultural and communityled activities through Open Weekends and Open July, helping groups to reach residents across Cambridgeshire, and increase attendance at events. Particularly popular were the joint arts, culture and sport activities that allowed taster opportunities and a vibrant atmosphere for families to try something new.

Events will be publicised through the festival programme which will be available online, as well as on Cambridgeshire.net and through the Le Tour Cambridge Twitter and Facebook pages. If you would like to register to be part of the Velo Festival please send us details of your event via an application form, available

from thevelofestival@cambridgeshire.gov.uk by 28th February 2014. The first electronic publication will be publicised in April, and it will be updated during the course of the festival.

By registering your event as part of the festival you will:

- Be part of the celebrations marking the Tour de France coming to Cambridgeshire, putting Cambridgeshire as a great place to live and visit on the world map.
- Raise your event profile through free publicity provided by the Velo Festival programme which will be promoted alongside the Tour de France and available to download online.
- See your event promoted through Cambridgeshire.net and the Le Tour Cambridge Twitter and Facebook pages.

To qualify as part of the Velo Festival an element of your event should promote or celebrate cycling or elements of French culture. This can include:

- Cycling events, rides and races
- · Carnivals, fetes or fairs
- Art, sport and cultural projects, installations or exhibitions
- · Film, dance, theatre or music
- Walking and cycling tours
- · Community celebrations
- Food events

The information you provide in the form will be used to assess whether your event qualifies to be part of the Velo Festival, and to compile your programme entry. For more information or call Zoë on 01223 715502. Please note the programme is being compiled by Cambridgeshire County Council. This is not an application for funding.



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The Isleham Society

November 21st 2013

The Lost Water Mills of Cherry Hinton was the title of an illustrated talk by Michelle Bullivant (originally from Soham). A talented archaeologist, photographer and speaker, Michelle took on the role of an investigator and discovered there were several indications that there was a water mill site in the grounds of Cherry Hinton Hall. The Doomsday book mentioned four mills in Cherry Hinton that would have been water-powered. The southern end of Cherry Hinton village was known as Mill End and the watercourses in the park are manmade and take water from Cherry Hinton brook to form water head for powering a water mill. An enclosure map of 1806 shows these watercourses and three buildings positioned next to them, which may have been the mills. Millstones have also been found here. Further research was carried out in archives at Nottingham, Essex and St Thomas's Hospital (who owned land in Cherry Hinton).

With the help of students from St Bede's School under the supervision of qualified archaeologists from Active8 Archaeology an archaeological dig provided further evidence for a water mill and a water conduit on the excavated site.

Michelle finished her presentation with a brief history of Cherry Hinton Hall, built in the 1830s by John Okes, who also designed the park and lake by modifying the original watercourses. The Hall is now owned by Cambridge City Council who lease it out for various functions including the well-known annual Cambridge Folk Festival.

January 16 2014

The first meeting of the year was in The Beeches and was entitled JM & MA Thompson and Sons - Livestock Farmers - Agricultural Contractors - On-Farm Butchers (TFM Butchers) Plus Tenants & Managers of Isleham Washes. It took the form of an illustrated presentation by Roseanna (Rosie) Thompson assisted by her daughter Anna and her brother-in-law Martin Thompson. Their family farm is sited just beyond the entrance to the Marina but on the opposite side of the Isleham Fen Road.

It was a very interesting and detailed account of how the farm started as a part time venture by the two (senior) Thompson brothers in the 1960s; this expanded and John gave up his job in the 1970s eventually farming on the site where they now live in Isleham Fen in 1972.

John and Margaret then borrowed money to take over the Farm completely on their own in 1976 and were joined by their two sons Steve and Martin in their farm at Fen Bank Road. Martin has developed the Agricultural Contracting side of the business and has invested in highly technical and advanced machinery, working over a wide area for many big farmers and companies with his specialised equipment, which includes his pride and joy, a John Deere tractor.

Steven kept on their farming activities which have expanded considerably too with a large increase in the pigs reared, large herds of cattle, including the bulls, Laurence and the really large Bob; they also breed lambs and chickens also have managed the Isleham Washes for the last 30s years and in 2006 won a Defra for their stewardship.

Many people will remember in past years their Open Farm Sundays, when they, like many farms all over the country, invited the public to see at close hand the many aspects of farming life, they no longer participate in this event due to other commitments. One of their latest ventures, in 2007, was to open a Farm Shop

'TFM Butchers' (Thomson Farm Meat Butchers) selling their home produced beef, pork, lamb and free-range eggs. Their butcher, Kevin, makes the sausages by hand twice a week and is in the butchery every Thursday preparing all the beef, pork and lamb. They pride themselves on rearing all their stock in good conditions, and are members of The Red Tractor Assurance Scheme for cattle and pigs. They are inspected four times a year.

How rewarding to see a family run business, which started in such a humble beginnings, has flourished and grown into the successful business it is today through hard work and good business strategy. PS. When Martin got married at St Andrew's Church he drove his new bride to the reception at Mildenhall in his new John Deere Tractor! I took the photos – Vernon.

Vernon Place, Chairman of The Isleham Society

Isleham Community Skate Park



We hope you all had a great Christmas and wish you all the best for 2014.

We had a Christmas cake raffle on 15th December. The winning was picked by Frances Wright, who won last year. The ticket was number 967 belonging to Dave Bowers. This raffle raised us £117.00.

Well done to everyone who sold and bought tickets. Thank you.

Pauline Dunbavin

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he Beeches

he Beeches has had a very successful start to its opening. We saw roughly around 500 people on our opening weekend, including the 300 who attended the Isleham Youth Football Christmas Disco on 14th December. As our first major function we were immensely proud with the positive feedback we had from those who came and had a tour around the centre and from those who attended the party.

Since the open weekend, we have been mainly driven by bookings that had been taken before the centre opened, and then from the impact we had on those who came to see what the centre has to offer.

...continued on Page 20

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Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people rebuild lives after injury

ant to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 16th May 2014 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2014 SIA is celebrating its 40th anniversary and so we want to make the batter matter and raise £25,000 from everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £12,500 from the suppers.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350

or email fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit www.siafishandchips.co.uk.

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Ivan & Roberta Houghton's Christmas Lights Display 2013

Total donated: £730.00

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...continued from Page 18

The majority of the old user groups have booked to hold their meetings in the two meeting rooms provided and the main hall.

The Stay and Play sessions commenced on 15th January in the main hall at 9.30–11.30am

The Cubs commenced on 7th January in the main hall at 6.30--8pm

The WI commenced on 9th January at 7.30-10pm

The Book Club commenced on 10th January in the small meeting room at $2\text{--}3.30\,\mathrm{pm}$

The Isleham Gardeners commenced on the 21st January at 7--10pm

The Isleham Youth Football have hired the hall for softball training every Saturday morning $10\!-\!11\text{am}$

Breakfast has begun at The Beeches on Saturday and Sunday mornings providing breakfast baps and baguettes, and as we find our feet we will evolve with demand and look at providing lunches and theme nights. Our first weekend at this was a great success and I was very happy with the results.

The New Year's Eve party, which was a private booking organised by a group of Isleham people, was a great success. This is an event that had previously been held at the old village hall and over the years has continued to grow as word spread that it was being provided for the community. The group who organised this event are unsure if they will carry on for this year but as it is always a very popular event we will try and carry this tradition on for the foreseeable future.

Bookings have been coming in thick and fast with parties, christenings, conference facilities, Christmas parties, wedding receptions and many more.

For the time being we are presenting opening times on a monthly basis. This is so we can work around bookings during the week and then open up for the weekend. As the events start to commence we can see where we can open on a more permanent basis in the coming months.

Opening times (below) are also shown on the website (www. thebeechesisleham.co.uk), at the entrance to the Beeches and on our Facebook page.

Opening Times for February 2014

Monday Event driven (am & pm)
Tuesday Event driven (am)

6pm-10.30pm

Wednesday 9am–12 noon Stay & Play

5pm-10pm (bar not open)

Thursday Event driven (am)

6pm-10pm

Friday 10am-1pm

5pm-11pm

Saturday 9am–12 noon Breakfast

Bar open 11am-11pm

Sunday 9am-12 noon Breakfast

Bar open 11am-10pm

Times are subject to event driven days mid-week.

I would like to say a special thank you to all those who have volunteered in helping us collect and move furniture over the period before the open weekend.

I would also like to thank all those on the Parish Council and the ICA Committee for all their hard work and support. It has taken 8 years to achieve what we now have proudly standing in our community and I think all will agree that it has already been a success, and we all look forward to seeing the Beeches grow.

A special thank you goes to Janice Anderson who came forward with the donation of furniture from the Genome Centre in Hinxton. We have utilised everything that was kindly donated and has made the centre come to life.

Louise Hounsome, Manager

