

Isleham Informer

Issue 62 • Hune 2014

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Our charity 'BECKen' (Better Education for Children in Kenya) fundraises in the UK specifically to be able to improve the education of children in the Ukunda area of Kenya. We are achieving this in two ways, the first of which is to take basic educational equipment such as exercise books, chalks, reading books and pencils to local primary schools.

We are supported in Kenya by our Kenyan committee (we are also registered as an NGO – Non Governmental Organisation – in Kenya), which includes two very special people without whom we would not be able to do the work we do. Chris Mahoney and John Quince, the founders of BECKen, have known Katana and Saidi for several years. When Katana learnt of BECKen's plans he took himself back to college to study management and bookkeeping in order to help us. Saidi is a qualified chef and realises the value of education and is just as enthusiastic to help as Katana. Both the men have their own children who they want to see improving



their lives. BECKen could not succeed without their help as they oversee our projects throughout the year when we are back in the UK.

The picture to the left shows a typical toilet at a Kenyan primary school. Inside there is just a hole in the ground. How would you feel about sharing this toilet with over 400 others every day! This is what we found when we visited a primary school in February this year in Ukunda, Kenya. We delivered our supplies to this school, which is educating over 400 children as best they can. There are around 12 staff. The school has no electricity or running water, the children go home for lunch, as there are no facilities for cooking either. All the children and staff share the one toilet. BECKen is looking into

the possibility of building a toilet block for this primary school.

When we take supplies to a primary school Katana speaks to the head and tells them that he will re-visit the school to ensure that the children are using the items provided by BECKen as it is all too easy for those that have nothing to take advantage of such supplies. We will continue to help these schools if they make good use of the things we have provided.

The second way in which BECKen is trying to help education in Kenya was suggested by Katana. 'It's easy' he said, 'we sponsor students and pay for their education and books'. And so that is what we are also doing, but not just any students. We are looking only at secondary and college students, as primary age children are all offered free government education if they and their parents want them to go. Katana also has set down strict criteria that have to be met before accepting a student.

Photos by Jo Clegg





All students are told that if they do well we will continue to sponsor them onto further education at college/polytechnic so that they can learn a trade. One of our current students is in fact studying to be an electrician at polytechnic and through our sponsorship will complete his qualification later this year.

BECKen Charity and its committee cannot help any of the young people of Ukunda, Kenya without the help and support of others. We hope that this has given you an insight into the work we do and ask for your support in any way possible. To find out about ways you can help us and to read more about BECKen please visit our website where you will find all the information about us and you can see pictures and details of all the students we are supporting this year together with a gallery of pictures taken at both the primary and secondary schools we visited: www.becken.co.uk

Jo Clegg

Students, first and foremost, must want to continue their education but find that they are unable to due to their family situation. Many of our students have lost their fathers leaving the family unable to pay for the luxury of an education. All students must have attained a reasonable grade, which shows that they have the ability to further their education. We also request that all students provide their own uniform (this is obligatory in Kenyan schools) to show their commitment and Katana will not pay fees to the school on enrolment day if the student is not standing there in uniform.

No money is given to any student, all fees being paid in person direct either to the school or into the school's bank account. In the same way, books are bought for the students and handed to them. This enables BECKen to be totally confident that all fundraising monies raised in the UK go directly to the education of Kenyan students. Whilst visiting Kenya this year we enrolled 14 students; Katana and Saidi will make regular visits to the schools to ensure our students are attending and we will receive end of year reports to see how they are progressing.



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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	The Beeches
Bowls Club	Terry Pinder	01638 720875			
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@thewaytofrance.com	Monday	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
Twinning Association	Keith Woollard	01353 723010	Annual visits to and from Nesles		
WI	Glenda Preece	01638 780734	2nd Thursday	7.30pm	The Beeches

VILLAGE NOTES

Isleham Angling Society

Adult matches for Presidents Cup, six matches, best of five, £25 to the winner over all: 13th July, 24th August, 14th September, 19th October, 23rd November, 14th December.

Entry fee to matches will be £5 per adult, £1 taken from each peg for prize money given at end of season, based on number of points collected.

There will be no Junior matches this season.

Permits will be on sale very soon from Ivan Houghton 01638780333, Shane Dunbavin 01638781179 and Isleham Post Office.

Have a great season's fishing!

Flower Festival

Freckenham's Annual Festival is over the weekend of the 12th/13th July. Theme: Forever England St Andrew's Church, Church Lane, 1pm - 5pm on both days; 5pm Service of Praise on the Sunday



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

Weekly events at the Beeches

Mondays	Pilates	Bookings only	20.00-21.00
Tuesday/Thursday	Walk-in Class		09.30-10.30
Mondays	Jigsaw	Dance Group	16.00-18.00
Thursdays (June)	Tai-Chi	Class	13.00-14.30
Wednesdays & Fridays	Hour of Power		18.00

June

Monday 2nd	Isleham Parish Council	Beeches	19.15
Thursday 5th	Mobile Library	Church St	14.15-15.00
		Mill Street	15.05-17.00

Friday 13th Book Club The Beeches 14.00

Saturday 14th PTA Jumble Sale The Beeches 13.00

Tuesday 17th Gardeners Club The Beeches 19.30

Friday 20th Mobile Library Church St 09.30-10.05

Monday 30th Isleham Parish Council Beeches 19.15

July

Thursday 3rd	Mobile Library	Church St	14.15-15.00
		Mill Street	15.05-17.00

Saturday 5th **Gala Day**

Gala Family Night

Wednesday 9th **INFORMER DEADLINE**

Thursday 10th WI The Beeches 19.30

Friday 11th Book Club The Beeches 14.00

Tuesday 15th Gardeners Club The Beeches 19.30

Thursday 17th Isleham Society The Beeches 19.45

Friday 16th 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

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
 GP Out-Of-Hours (non-emergency) 111
 Electricity Emergencies 0800 7838838
 Gas Emergencies0800 111999
 Anglian Water Leaks0800 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
 Parish Council (Diane Bayliss: Clerk)..... 01638 781687
 Member of Parliament (Jim Paice) 01954 211450



The Rising Sun

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FOOD SERVED

Friday 12 noon to 2pm and 7pm to 9pm

Saturday 12 noon to 9pm

Sunday 12 noon to 2pm

ENTERTAINMENT

• JUNE •

Friday 20th: Band: Beautiful Dangerous

Saturday 28th: Band:

Blackjack Blues Band

• JULY •

Saturday 26th: Band: Menuviteno

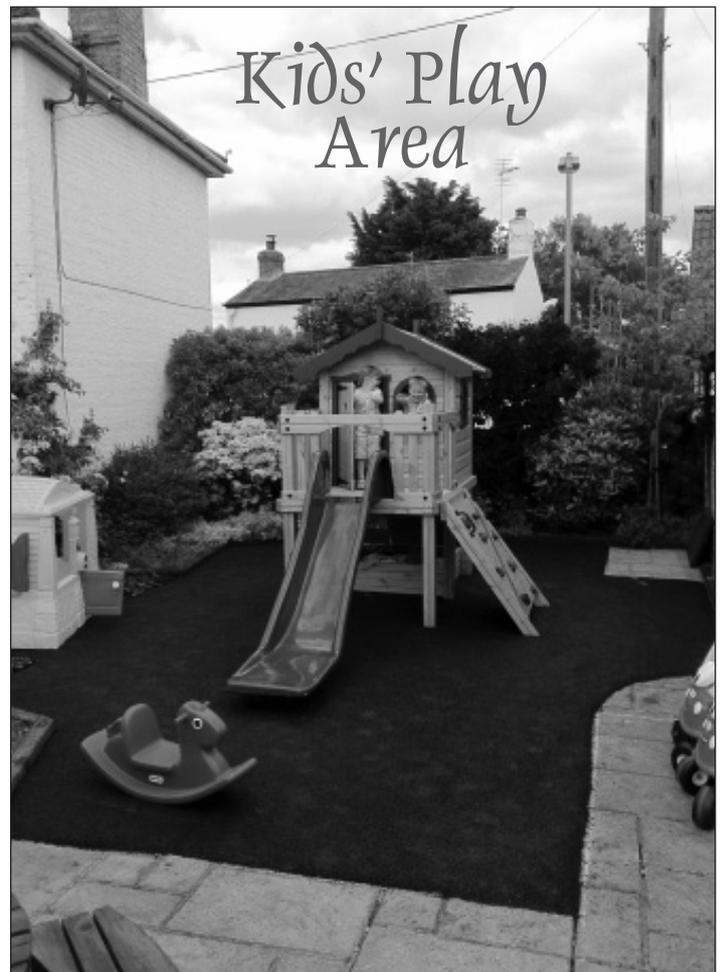
OPENING TIMES

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

Our Local Foodbank Could Help Lots More People!

What's all this about?

Most people by now have probably heard of Foodbanks. The Ely Foodbank (www.ely.foodbank.org.uk) affiliated to the Trussel Trust, (www.trusselltrust.org) was set up 18 months ago, providing emergency food for desperate people in local communities, from distribution points in Ely, Littleport, March, and more recently, because of growing demand in this area, at Soham.

Since 2004 over 420 Foodbanks have been launched nationwide in a wide range of towns and cities. The fast-growing network gave emergency food to over 913,000 people in 2013/14. Sadly, many more people are going hungry in towns with no Foodbank, which is why we believe that every town should have one.

Who can help, and what food is needed?

Each week, all Isleham households (at least, those who can afford to do so) are invited to donate one or more items to the local Foodbank, such as tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned tomatoes, instant potatoes, tinned vegetables, tinned sponge puddings, tinned rice puddings, or tinned fruit.

However, at the moment, they have plenty of beans and pasta!

The gift of a tin of tomatoes may cost 34p, which isn't a huge amount of money, but the more households that can donate food, the more it represents a huge amount of compassionate help given to hundreds of desperate people whose lives are in crisis. At the moment, we collect about 40 items a week in Isleham. But we do need to share the load, and this is why we are asking for your help.

Where to take the food?

There are three Isleham collection Centres:

1. At St. Andrew's church (on Sunday mornings),
2. At The Social Centre (Tuesday mornings) and
3. At the Isleham Co-op (daily between 8am and 10pm) by kind permission of the Manager.

What happens after you donate food?

Each week, the food you kindly donate is taken to the foodbank distribution point, at Soham. It is weighed and date-marked, and consolidated in a central store at Ely, where food "parcels" for individuals or families are then made-up, and delivered back to Soham for distribution. It sounds complicated, but it works.

Who can benefit from foodbank help?

People in need may call at any distribution centre - locally at The Salvation Army, Bushel Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5BY, on Thursday mornings between 9.30am and 11am, where they may exchange vouchers for 3 days' worth of food.

Where are the food vouchers obtainable?

In Isleham, vouchers are available - in complete confidence, of course - from The Reverend Christopher Goodwins at 102 The Causeway, CB7 5ST, Tel: 01638 780284. If it is not convenient for you to collect food from the Soham distribution point (for instance, if you have no transport, or if you are disabled, or confined to your home) it may be possible to arrange for it to be delivered to your home.

Could we persuade Isleham people to set the lead in generosity?

We feel confident, now that the Foodbank idea has been explained, that Isleham households really will respond. If we all take part (all who can, that is) it will help so many hundreds of other people, whose lives are in crisis - often through no fault of their own. And, just for the record, twice as much food is distributed at Soham than comes in



at the moment. In other words, we rely on the generosity of people elsewhere, to help our local people in need! And that's why we are asking you to redress the local balance, and share in donating more food each week.

Who are these people who need help?

At Soham, the voluntary Staff there have processed 92 individual vouchers representing 162 adults and 99 children. Here are three examples of people who have been helped by your generosity - (their names have been altered, to preserve anonymity):

MARY was doing the weekly shop in the supermarket, for her family of three teenage children and her husband, two cats and a dog. At the check-out she discovered that someone had stolen her purse. They are a family that lives by the week, and although not in debt, were on low income, and had no savings. The Foodbank supported the family for a week. In gratitude, she herself now donates food on a regular basis!

JANE and her young children were being subject to abuse, and were moved by social services, away from her partner, into social housing in a small village in the fens without a bus service or shop. She has no car, and the credit on her telephone had run out. Because of a paperwork error, her benefit payment was delayed. A good neighbour gave her a lift to the Foodbank, and we then delivered food to her for a couple of weeks until she got sorted out. She was most grateful.

JOHN lives in an uninsulated shed, five miles from Ely, and it was necessary for him to go to the Job Centre there each week. The bus that should have picked him up that day went straight by, and although he phoned-up to complain, he was obliged to wait for the next bus. The delay was not his fault, but nevertheless made him late for his appointment, and cruelly resulted in him getting his benefits sanctioned for four weeks. It was winter. The Foodbank that helped him out was an absolute godsend, and restored his faith in human nature.

It's compassion in action!

It's really dreadful that people should need help like this - but it is so important that we help them!

So - if you can - please DO support the local foodbank, and join us in a weekly show of compassion, by donating one or more items of food!

Thank you, so much!

The Reverend Christopher WH Goodwins, MA(Cantab)

Bowls Report

The carpet bowls season has now concluded and in the East Cambs league, Team A retained their division one status by finishing in fourth position. Team B also enjoyed a successful season and finished as runners up to Soham in Division 2, therefore gaining promotion to join Team A in the top division for the 2014–15 campaign.

In our internal competitions, the winners were as follows:

	Winner	Runner-Up
Singles	Darren Dunbavin	Robert Burling
Pairs	Margaret Marsh Robert Burling	Ann Cant Darren Dunbavin
Fours	Margaret Marsh Sue Thompson Robert Burling Darren Dunbavin	Glenda Preece Ann Cant Jeff Marsh Carol Wells
Triples League	Margaret Marsh, Liz Howe and Robert Burling	

Now the summer months have arrived, attention turns to lawn bowls on the outside green. 2014 was always going to be a challenging year for different reasons and this has been compounded somewhat since the start of the season.

In 2013, we had 30 men bowlers to fulfil all our fixtures and these were all satisfactory completed. On the eve of the 2014 season, this number had reduced to 18 for a number of different reasons, with only one being due to club issues. But we have since managed to recruit eight new men to help try and readdress the situation. So if you are reading this and may be interested in participating in a new hobby, please contact someone from the club who would be more than willing to help you.

Results have not started well during the opening weeks of the season, health issues within the more experienced bowlers of the club have severely hampered the quality of teams being submitted. We have also opted not to enter many of the early competitions for men.

Throughout the years, members come and go, some stay for short while, some don't take to bowls at all and some stay and get involved. Over 30 seasons ago, one member came along, joined in and improved to become one of the club's top bowlers. He won numerous competitions within the club mainly in the singles but also with partners in the pairs and triples. He also became an important team player and helped the club in winning a number of both Ely & District and Bowls Cambridgeshire trophies.

However, more recently he became increasingly involved with the maintaining of our green. He took great joy in producing a top quality surface for playing bowls and this has gained good reports from far and wide.

It has become one of the better greens within Cambridgeshire and also has recently hosted county teams from Suffolk, Norfolk and Leicestershire who all spoke highly of the work done by our grounds man.

This dedication was to rise early in the morning (I mean early – 4 or 5 o'clock) to check over the watering system in times of warm weather, swish away worm casts and dew

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in wetter times and spray for various elements before the wind would pick up. Then there were the leaves and seed pips that would descend from the lime trees adjacent to the green that needed to be cleared up, oh and yes the pigeon mess on the slabs underneath that needed pressure washing, say no more. All this was done voluntarily, because he loved the club.

Many of you reading this will know to whom I refer, but for those who don't, we lost to illness over the winter, the services of Barry Clarke, a true Isleham village stalwart. His services and dedication will be truly missed, however a small team of five are trying to carry on the high reputation in his absence but boy, oh boy, it's a hard act to follow.

Barry Grimwood, Club Captain

A glorious May Bank Holiday, and on the railway reserve the chaffinches and blackcaps are in competition for loudest songster. Some blackcaps come a close second to the nightingale in the quality and energy of their song. Alongside the path through the reserve, odd-looking creamy-yellow flowering spikes of the broomrape – a parasitic plant – are poking up among their knapweed host plants like giant downy asparagus tips, and on the sunny banks furry bee-flies and solitary bees are looking for nectar or nest sites.



On the adjacent field the dog walkers are fanned out like police hunting for a murder weapon (how can we persuade them all to take their dog-mess back to the litter bin at the reserve entrance?), whilst a few hundred yards away from them a chestnut, grey and black male marsh harrier quarters the fields and ditches.

Meanwhile on Isleham Washes, drama as a heron seizes a duckling, and pairs of avocets do battle with nesting terns and oystercatchers for exclusive rights to one of the islands that have been created there. On the nearby Luggar bank, which the Parish Council has asked us to look at for its nature conservation potential; reed warblers are singing their mechanical, repetitive song.

If you would like to know more about our local wildlife, or become involved in the work of the Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves Group, please do get in touch (see contacts below).

Hear occasional talks (our AGM talk in April from Chris Hainsworth of Natural England explained why Asian immigrants – water buffalo – are essential for the management of nearby Chippenham Fen); come on nature walks – we have dawn chorus, plant, bats and even night-sky walks planned for this year; social events – the Soham Children’s Centre will be hosting a picnic and bug hunt at the Railway reserve again this summer; or get involved with managing the reserve and other wildlife sites in our area.

Please contact: our warden – Andrew Garbett:07903 092899; our Chairman – Alastair Burn 01638 780552; or Group Contact – Avi Stacey avinashostacey@gmail.com

been chosen to receive. In recent weeks we have had feedback from one person – perhaps representing the views of others also – that there is disappointment that the competitions for Baby Show, Fancy Dress and Mini Mr & Miss Isleham have not taken place. Fancy Dress is now judged at the start of the Parade whilst children are on the floats or walking and the reason for this is that when the Parade reaches the field the children just want to go off and do other things and the competition is poorly attended. Entries for the other two competitions vary greatly from year to year. However, the main reason for the Small Ring not being run is lack of volunteers to help organise it. Gala Association currently runs with a small committee of just nine people and it is becoming harder year on year to organise the day. This said, we are enormously grateful to the great band of volunteers who without reminder turn up on the field on the morning to help with setting up. As reward they do get a bacon buttie! Many of the same people turn up at 5pm to help pack up. But we need more throughout the day or Gala is in jeopardy! Nearer to the day you will see rotas around the village– please put your name down – an hour here or there – 30 minutes, even will make the difference. It really is fun and the community spirit is truly amazing.

This year the competition for Gala Queen or other Personality will be organised by ICA so look out for their publicity for this. Anyone wishing to book a pitch, stall, or table in the Craft Marquee please contact Barbara on 780373.

Sponsorship and Prizes for the Grand Draw are also needed and if you are able to offer something please contact Sally on 781745

Margaret Davies, Chair, Gala Committee

Isleham Gala Day Reminder: Gala Day



Saturday 5th July 2014

Just a reminder of this important day in our village calendar. Full details of the events and competitions are in the programme included with this issue.

Earlier in the year we applied to Waitrose for their Community Matters project and are absolutely delighted to say that we have been awarded this. Throughout the month of May all who shop in Waitrose at Ely will receive a green token to place into a box of their choice. At the end of the month the tokens are counted and Waitrose present a cheque to three organisations that have

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CHURCHES

Pound Lane 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 (Suzanne Hall 01638 781805)

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.

Tuesday: 18–30s: 7pm. (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. Age from 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

On Sunday 15th June we shall be celebrating Father's Day in our Family Service at 10.30am followed by refreshments and a BBQ Lunch. All are very welcome. Each man receives a small chocolate gift!

Thank you to all who attended the Easter Celebration. It was a great time of fun and excitement and wonderful to meet old friends and make new ones, as the children enjoyed all that was

going on. Especially good to be together as Andy shared the Good News of that first Easter Day.

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



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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

As we look towards the summer, various events are being planned... some of the children are off to **Junior Church Camp** in May, some of our older folk are off on Holiday to Sizewell Hall in June and some of our teenagers will be away in July at the Soul Survivor Camp.

During August, we plan to organise **Holiday Club** again and hope you will keep an eye out for further details.

Each week a few of our folk are making an effort to get to know some of the visitors to the area who are living and working over at G's in Soham. It's certainly time to brush up on our foreign languages!

Little Lambs, our parent and toddler group which meets on a Friday morning, is going well - there was great excitement in May when Peppa Pig made a guest appearance!

Luncheon Club, which meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, are arranging a trip to the seaside on 13th August - there may be some spare seats so why not check with the office?

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

The new Church building in Beck Road is progressing well and, having spent time at the sawmill, the team are back on site again and working hard.

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

All of our regular Church services and midweek activities continue at High Street, and you are more than welcome to join us, for more information, please contact the Church Office on 01638 780985.

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.

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

Thursday: 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

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Isleham WI

M & Co. from Ely came to our April meeting and we were entertained by a Fashion Show. Eight of our

members acted as models; they had been to the shop to choose four items each to show us. It was a very entertaining evening, and thanks go to all the models, and also to the staff of M & Co. At the end of the evening a collection was taken for MacMillan.

In May we welcomed Mrs Maureen James who talked about 'Fenland Folk Law'. Maureen has researched the origins of many of the sayings we have heard since childhood; first from grandparents and then from our parents. It was very interesting to hear her stories.

We do not have a meeting in June, as we have an outing, so our next meeting will be on Thursday 10th July when Peter Jackson will be giving a gardening talk

If you would like to join the W.I. 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

Isleham Twinning Society

Bonjour!

It has been another busy year for the Isleham Twinning Society. Last April our French friends visited us and we introduced them to 2 favourite things of ours - local Greene King beer and the No Hurry pub's Sunday lunch, both of which were welcomed and enjoyed with great enthusiasm.

This year we visited them and were treated to a concert of local musicians, including children. A visit to 'La Coupole', an underground bunker built by the Germans to launch missiles at GB, a delicious lunch and a 3D planetarium show. As always the hosting families were very welcoming and this year Alfie (18 months) came with us. He made friends very quickly and got spoilt with attention and presents.

We are always looking for new members young, old, families, couples, French speakers or not (Keith doesn't speak a word of French but he has managed three visits to Nesles without getting into trouble!), if you are interested then please call or email me (see below). We have many social gatherings during the year as a group, fund raising events and of course the visit to/from Nesles.

Our main fund raising event this year is a Safari Supper BBQ. This is where each course is hosted at a different address around the village. It is taking place on Saturday 19th July and tickets are available from Brian Wynne or myself. The cost £25 includes all food and drink and the fine hospitality of members of the Twinning Society. This is a great opportunity to get to know members, have a chat about what we do and sample some fine wine and tasty morsels.

We hope to see some new faces this year.

Michelle Woollard, Michelle@craftychefs.co.uk, 01353 723010

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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



Annual Parish Meeting

- The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 28th April at 7.30pm at The Beeches. The recommendations from the meeting included having a cul-de-sac sign at the top of Limestone Close; a sign showing access to the Nature Reserve on the Fordham Road; sending a letter to Manchetts of Burwell re parking at the Priory; writing to the Environment Agency asking them to look at the access over the weir and leaving the Dunstall Apprentice Grant at the same rate of £220. A request for trees in the new cemetery was discussed by the Parish Council but was decided against as tree roots are likely to interfere with the graves.

Parish Council AGM

- Mr Derrick Beckett was elected as Chairman and Mr Richard Radcliffe was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the next year.

Police Matters

- New Contact No for Police – 101.

Recreation Ground Report

- A working party headed up by Paul Goldsmith of Greenwood Trees Surgery successfully planted a number of trees and shrubs at 'The Beeches' car park on Saturday 22nd March. The Parish Council send their heartfelt thanks to all those involved.
- The grass seed for the recreation ground has been donated and will be sown as soon as weather conditions allow.

Play Area Report

- A play area scheme by Wicksteed has been chosen by the Parish Council. This will be installed in two phases as funds become available. Plans can be viewed in the Beeches.

Skate Park Report

- Quotations are being sought for the skate park and should be available for discussion and decision at the June meeting. As previously mentioned a grant application will be made to Amey Cespa to help fund this.

ICA Report

- Please note no dogs are allowed on the Recreation Ground or on The Beeches car park and footpaths.
- A notice-board has been ordered for the Beeches and will be placed on the two large posts at the front of the car park.

Cemetery & Churchyard Matters

- Remedial repairs are to be carried out on the cemetery wall by Mr Wilding.
- Notices are to be put up in both the old and new cemeteries stating that headstones are not to be removed without contacting either the clerk or the cemetery keeper

Planning Matters

- Planning Applications have been considered for: The Rising Sun, 11 Sun Street, Isleham Alterations and Extensions to Outbuilding to create two en-suite letting bedrooms for Mr & Mrs Pearce; Erection of a storage building at Mill Street, Isleham for Isleham Parish Council; Front Porch Extension 16 Malting Lane, Isleham for Mrs Rattle and construction of a single storey extension to rear of property at 41 Beck Road, Isleham for Miss V. McLeod; To vary condition 10 (no amplified music after midnight) of previously approved 12/00831/FUM for application to replace extant planning permission 09/00475/FUM for demolition of existing village hall and pavilion to provide new single storey community centre with play area, vehicular drop-off point and associated parking, relocation of all-weather football pitch and column lighting, kick wall and cricket nets at Isleham Recreation Ground, Mill Street, for Isleham Parish Council; Proposed Chimney at 7 Robins Close, Isleham for Mr & Mrs S. Ainge; Construction of one four-bedroom and one five-bedroom one and a half storey detached dwellings with garages at land adjacent to 56 West Street, Isleham for Messrs Clarke & Clarke; Construction of 1.5 metre wall between property and adjacent garden on north side of property at 2 Pound Lane, Isleham for John Jones.
- Planning Approvals have been received for Proposed replacement dwelling at 22 Little London for Mr & Mrs Turner; Change of use of ground floor from hair dressing salon to solicitors reception at 4a Church Street, Isleham for Pooley Bendall Watson Solicitors; Erection of a storage building at Mill Street, Isleham for Isleham Parish Council Front Porch Extension 16 Malting Lane, Isleham for Mrs Rattle; Construct single storey extension to rear of property at 41 Beck Road, Isleham for Miss V. McLeod

Financial Matters

- The final grant payment from the Football Foundation has been received. This will be held in reserve to be paid to C J Murfitt at the end of the retention period.
- Mr Trevor Bowd has carried out the internal audit for the Council and has found all accounting and procedures to be in order including those for the new building.

Highways Matters

- The zebra crossing has yet to be completed – a date for installation is still awaited from Balfour Beatty.

Allotment Matters

- Please note that organic waste only may be burnt on the allotment sites.

Isleham Gardeners

The wintery sun struggles into the sky,
And the end of the gardening season is nigh.

The dreaded winter is here once again,
We must suffer the frost and the wind and the rain.

At the turn of the year things don't look much better,
The soggy old ground just gets wetter and wetter.
So we get out our seed books and plan for the Spring,
Keep warm and dry, see what tomorrow will bring.

Then Spring is upon us and buds start to show,
And hopefully we've seen the last of the snow.
Birds are pairing, Spring lambs in the field,
And we dig and we compost to increase our yield.

Now our young plants are steadily growing,
But let's not forget continuous sowing.
To ensure that we have a year long supply,
Of carrots and beetroot and strange salsify.

It's harvesting now and our crops have done well.
We're happy and proud that makes our chests swell.
We carry them home with a nod to our neighbours,
And eagerly show them the fruits of our labours.

So all of you gardeners will know what I mean,
That gardening is fun, it's healthy and green.
And there's no carbon footprint twix garden and table,
We're all keen to do what ever we're able.

All you non-gardeners who are doubting your skill,
And worry about all the plants you will kill.
There's a place you can go, no I don't mean the pub,
It's Isleham Gardeners, your own garden club.

We are always happy to see new members. Membership costs only £10 per year and you qualify for good discounts at our local garden centres at Fordham. We have excellent speakers and there is always something new to learn.

Wishing you all happy gardening,

Philadelphus



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Wednesday 25th

Dates for May: Wednesday 9th
Wednesday 23rd

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Parish Councillors address list

Derrick Beckett (Chairman)	Appleyard Farm, 1 Houghtons Lane Isleham CB7 5SR Tel: 01638 780476
Vanessa Bruyneel-Smith	115 The Causeway, Isleham CB7 5ST Tel: 01638 781708
Paul Chaplin	Jay Jay Lodge, Waterside, Isleham CB7 5SH Tel: 01638 781745
Jeannette Malkin	17 Little London, Isleham CB7 5SE Tel: 01638 780283
Bob Mitchell	10 Sparkes Close, Isleham CB7 5RR Tel: 01638 780707
Lionel Neal	104 Beck Road, Isleham CB7 5QP Tel: 01638 780066
Clive Patterson	21 West Street, Isleham CB7 5SD Tel: 01638 780669
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 (Parish Clerk)	37 Croft Road, Isleham CB7 5QR Tel: 01638 781687 islehampc@btinternet.com www.isleham-village.co.uk

The Swifts are Back!

At the beginning of May it is exciting to hear these amazing birds screaming over the rooftops of Isleham on their return from central and southern Africa. Their dark, torpedo shaped bodies and long scimitar-like wings enable swifts to perform their incredible high-speed aerial displays. They have a completely aerial existence, eating, drinking, sleeping and mating on the wing. They only alight to nest.



Apus apus

Swifts use the same nest sites year after year. These are usually in roof spaces, under pantiles and in the nooks and crannies of old buildings. The nests are constructed of material such as feathers, dried grass and petals, collected whilst in flight.

Two or three white eggs are laid and both parents help with the incubation. The eggs usually hatch after eighteen days. The adults bring food for the young up to forty times a day. At each visit they present a bolus of food containing between 200 and 500 insects, which have been collected in their throat pouch and stuck together with saliva. In order to catch enough insects, the parents may fly up to 500 miles a day. The young remain in the nest for approximately six weeks.

After they have fledged, they join their parents in the skies, feeding and building fat reserves until early August when they begin their long flight to Africa. The adults may leave before them. It will be three years before the young are old enough to breed. They mate for life.

The swifts will return to the UK the following April. The round trip is about 14,000 miles. Since swifts can live for more than 15 years and they are airborne almost all this time, over their lifetime, they may fly in excess of two million miles!

The delight at seeing swifts again this spring is tempered by the knowledge that these wonderful birds are suffering a devastating population crash. This is thought to be mainly due to the loss of nest sites because of the demolition of old buildings, re roofing, barn conversions etc.

Swifts are protected by law. It is possible to help them by being aware of their nest sites when carrying out restoration work. If repairing cracks in masonry, re-roofing or replacing soffits or fascias, make new access holes to match exactly the location of the old ones. Homemade or commercially constructed nest boxes can be installed onto old or new buildings or specially designed "swift bricks" can be built into the wall.

For more information swift websites include:

<http://rspb.org.uk/helpswifts>

<http://actionforswifts.blogspot.com>

<http://www.londons-swifts.org.uk>

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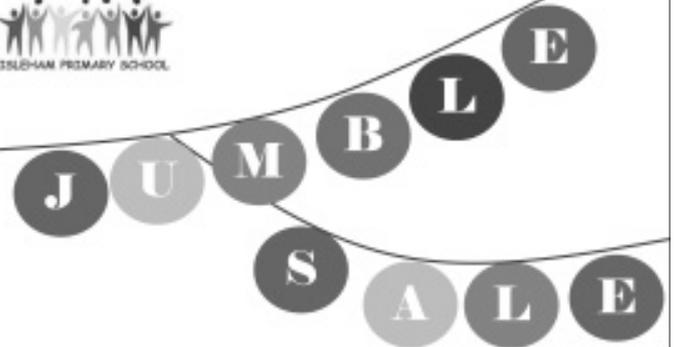
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The Isleham Society

At the AGM in April, the Chairman gave his report for 2013-2014. The officers and committee members were elected as follows: President: Ian Powys; Chairman: Vernon Place; Vice Chairman: Peter Flatt; Secretary: Glenda Preece; Treasurer: Bryan Wynne; Programme Secretary: Ann Cant.

Other Committee members: Rosie Evans, Beryl Powys, Betty Ashley

Mrs Ashley resigned as Programme Secretary. The Chairman thanked her for all her work, and presented her with a lovely hydrangea as a gesture of appreciation.

After the business of the meeting we welcomed Chris Mahoney and Jo Clegg who spoke movingly about the work they have been doing in Kenya to support the education of children there. There is an article by Jo, and the charity, BECKen, elsewhere in the Informer. Afterwards members were able to purchase items Chris and Jo had brought back from Kenya, in support of BECKen. The meeting ending with the refreshments kindly brought by the members.

At the May meeting, Vernon showed members the draft of a book by Tony Pringle of Newmarket "Isleham Remembers" that gives details, with many photographs, of everyone mentioned on our war memorial. Some photographs are missing, and Vernon asked members if they had, or knew of anyone who had, suitable photos in their collections. If they are passed on to Vernon he will be able to scan and enhance them before returning them. In that way none will be lost.

The speaker at the May meeting was Rodney Tibbs who worked for the Cambridge Evening News, and was the Motoring Correspondent for much of this time. Mr Tibbs gave an entertaining and informative description of his career, and illustrated his talk with slides.

There will be no meeting in June, as this will be replaced by a visit to 'Gressenhall Farm, Workhouse and Museum of Norfolk Life, on Saturday 14th June. Any members who were not at the meeting but who would like to go on the trip, should contact Ann Cant.

The speaker at the July meeting will be Andy Malcolm who will speak about "The Fishermen's Mission".

There is no meeting in August.

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors to any of our meetings. The cost for non-members is £2 Members and visitors should note that in future the meetings will start at 7.30pm.

Glenda Preece, secretary

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Thursday – 1–2.30pm Tai Chi
5pm–10pm

Friday – 10am–11pm
6–7pm Hour of Power

Saturday - 10am – 2pm Breakfast
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Sunday – 10am – 1pm Breakfast
Bar open 11am–8pm

Times are subject to events on event-driven days mid-week. Bookings and events can be found on our website www.thebeechesisleham.co.uk

The Beeches is continuing to see new user groups through its doors. We are happy to see that Hour of Power are attending the centre 3 days a week: Wednesday 6–7pm, Friday 6–7pm and Saturday 9–10am.

We also have Zumba with Carla on a Wednesday evening 7–8pm, Pilates on a Monday evening 7–8pm and then 8–9pm. Tai-Chi started on 22nd May from 1–2.30pm.

Our Friday night feasts are continuing to be a success. They are on the first Friday of every month.

Keep an eye out on the Beeches website for updates on themes.

For those who are interested in learning ballroom dancing, we have a taster session on the 20th June 7–8.30pm. Please feel free to come along with or without a partner and join in on the fun! If this is successful, we will be looking at making this a regular session.

Louise Hounsome, Manager



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Reviving the traditional skills of The Old Masters

It is a sad fact that, in today's art schools and colleges, traditional methods of painting in the Renaissance, Dutch Old Masters' and pre-Raphaelite styles are no longer being taught. They went out of fashion at the turn of the last century, and for the last 50 years have not been taught in English art schools at all; to learn, you need to go to Italy to do a course in classical art in Florence, which most of us can't afford to do! Nowadays the tutors themselves in the UK don't know the secrets passed down over the centuries, as it wasn't passed on to them.

As an established portrait painter, I feel very lucky that I didn't go to art school, but instead learned to paint under the

tuition of well-known artist, David Denby, who trained in the Royal Academy in London over 50 years ago, one of the last generation to be taught the traditional techniques which have so widely disappeared.

About 10 years ago I met the famous artist Dr Rosa Branson, MBE, who paints in the same style, and in the last couple of years we have co-founded The Worlington Movement, which aims to pass on these invaluable techniques to as many budding artists as we can. Rosa is now 81 but still has students coming to her studio in London to learn, as I do here in Worlington. Most students who come to me want to learn painting in oils at a beginners' level, but several have been studying in art school already for three years without ever having learned how to use oil paints properly.



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There are now about 20 very accomplished artists, who continue to come and paint with Rosa and myself, even though we have taught them everything we know... one of them lives in Isleham!

Learning this traditional painting technique is rather like following a recipe, and just as easy. Once you know the sequence

of stages a painting goes through to its completion and how to mix the colours, it is possible to produce great works of art, and is just a matter of practice. The main difference is that the painting evolves in several layers, the first one being in just raw umber, raw sienna and white. Each layer must dry before applying the next layer, and transparent coloured glazes are used to enhance and enrich the colours.

The 20 artists who have learned with Rosa and I are exhibiting widely; we have just had a successful exhibition in Henley on Thames, and the Suffolk branch is having an exhibition in Bury St Edmunds in May 2015. Meanwhile exhibitions are being organised in London, Lewes and Eastbourne.

Classes take place in Worlington every Thursday, both during the day and the evening at £10 a session. For further information contact Heath on 01638 717337 or 0785 993 1122. See www.heathrosselli.co.uk or www.theworlingtonmovement.co.uk

Heath Rosselli

Paintings by Heath Rosselli. The one to the left was to raise money for Help for Heroes

On 3rd May, a Saturday afternoon that couldn't have been sunnier, about 40 people met at the pond in East Fen Road, to begin the second annual Spurgeon trundle.

At 3 o'clock precisely, after three blasts on a vuvuzela (reminiscent of the rams' horn trumpets at Jericho) we set off along the track, rather like the pilgrims in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The time seemed to pass very quickly as we talked, and laughed, and got to know each other, and before we knew it, we were at the left turn into Ferry Drove.

Some who had earlier gone by car met us and walked the last hundred yards to the river bank, where we assembled for a short act of worship, and commemorated the Baptism of 'The Prince Of Preachers' – the Reverend Charles Haddon Spurgeon – on that very day, 164 years ago.

The occasion concluded with three cheers for Spurgeon being made, after which no one seemed to want to go



The 2014 Isleham Spurgeon Trundle

home, but stood around in small groups listening to stories about old Isleham, and the ferry, and what Baptisms were like there years ago – within living memory of some of the people there. Group photographs were taken, but no baptisms took place on this occasion, except for Millie, the golden Labrador who demonstrated how it should be done, by diving straight into the water.

Isleham residents were well represented, as were people from Worlington, Barton Mills, Fordham, and the three Isleham Churches. Peter Flatt had kindly mown the grass on the bank a day or two before, which made access much easier.

"Next year: Jerusalem!" was not exactly the cry made by people leaving the site, but it was suggested that it could well become a picnic in future years, for those who were prepared to trundle along the paths to Isleham's best-kept secret – the Spurgeon's Baptismal stone on the banks of the river Lark, at the site of the old Ferry.

(The Reverend) Christopher W.H. Goodwins, MA (Cantab)

