



Isleham Informer

Issue 65 • December 2014

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

Centenary Remembrance Day



*They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:*

*Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

Laurence Binyon

STOP PRESS!



LEFT: Ruth Diver, MBE
at a party held in her honour at The Beeches, Wednesday 26th November, the day she collected her award from Prince William at Buckingham Palace. More details and pictures next issue...



Left: Scouts, Cubs and Brownies of Isleham on parade for the Centenary Remembrance Service
Left: The Last Post.

Village Co-Op and new bakery

While there can be no doubt that the availability of freshly-baked bread from our new look Co-Op is to be applauded, your editor feels that the inclusion of maple-pecan plaits will only lead to further apparent shrinkage of garments. Ah, well: the diet can start again next month! •



Left: Pauline Wilkes, village baker and right: Ray the Manager.

All photos: Vernon Place

W.I. CENTENARIANS CELEBRATE... SEE BACK PAGE!



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Village clubs: information

CLUB	CONTACT	TEL	DAY/DATE	TIME	PLACE
Angling Society	Ivan Houghton	01638 780333			
Ballet & Dance	Lisa Nixon	07512 717758	Tuesday	from 4.30pm	The Beeches
Ballroom Dancing	Cynthia George	01954 202095	Friday	7pm	The Beeches
Board Games	Alison Young	01638 780351	Last Thursday Sept-June	2-5pm	High St. Church
Book Club	Doreen Spiers	01638 780783	2nd Friday	2pm	The Beeches
Bowls Club	Terry Pinder	01638 720875			
Bridge Classes	Barry Lowe	01353 658358	Wednesday	10am-noon	The Beeches
Brownies	Bridget Clements	01353 624103	Thursday	6-7.15pm	High St. Church
Busy Bees	Pre-School	01638 781212	Wednesday	9.30-11.30am	The Beeches
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	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
New Age Kurling	Lisa Milne	01638 780186	Friday	2-3.30pm	The Beeches
Paper, Patch & Sew	Victoria Rattle Julie Porter	01638 781301 01638 781390	Saturday Bi-monthly	10-4pm	High St Church
Pilates	Jo Simcock-Simms	07974 653775	Monday Wednesday	7-8pm, 8-9pm 12 noon	The Beeches
Tania Fitness	Tania McQuilkin	07983 440187	Tue: Powerhoops Thur: Kettlebells	9.30-10.15am 9.30-10.15am	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

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From the Editor

Just about enough room here to say a massive thank you to our fantastic team of deliverers who do such a fine job of ensuring that everyone gets their Informer as soon as it's available. Thanks also to the outgoing Kelvin Morgan whose prowess as advertising manager leaves us with quite a hole to fill. And to Fred, Glenda and Zoë for continued essential support and hard work. Finally massive thanks to everyone who bothers to read any of this, and – even more – contributes! Merry Christmas to all and I hope 2015 brings you everything you deserve. •

VILLAGE NOTES

Halloween thank you

The French and Wightman families would like to thank everyone who 'trick or treated' at Limestone Close on Halloween, your support raised £295 for the East Anglian Children's Hospice.

Isleham Social Centre bookings

Please note that if you would like to book the St. Andrew's Church Social Centre for your event, you can contact Mary Wightman on 781022 or Angela Wells on 780583.

Bowls Club Christmas Bingo

Isleham Bowls Club Christmas Bingo will be held on Wednesday 17th December, 7.30pm at the Bowls Club. All welcome.

Poppy Appeal 2014

Poppy Appeal Organisers Pauline Wilkes and Gill Savage would like to thank everyone who donated so generously to this year's appeal. Special thanks are due to Brian Challis, who single-handedly collected in excess of £450 around the village. An amazing total sum of £1,670.45 was raised and has been sent to the Poppy Appeal fund. Well done everyone!

Dates for Your Diary

Let us know if there is anything you would like included here for future issues: contact Glenda Preece, see page 3.

Tuesdays Coffee Morning Social Centre, 9am-noon
Weekly events at the Beeches

Jigsaw Dance Group Mondays 4-6pm
Pilates (Bookings only) Mondays 8-9pm
Zumba (Walk in class) Tues & Thurs 9.30-10.30am

December

Mon 1st	Parish Council	The Beeches, 7.15pm
Thurs 4th	Mobile Library	Church St. 2.15-3pm Mill St. 3.05-5pm
Fri 5th	Christmas Party	The Beeches
Sat 6th	PTA Christmas Fair	School
Thurs 12th	W.I.	The Beeches, 7.30pm
Fri 19th	Mobile Library	Church St. 9.30 -10.05am

January 2015

Mon 5th	Mobile Library	Church St. 2.15-3pm Mill St. 3.05-5pm
Thurs 8th	W.I.	The Beeches, 7.30pm
Fri 9th	INFORMER DEADLINE	
Fri 9th	Book Club	2.pm The Beeches
Mon 12th	Parish Council	The Beeches, 7.15pm
Thurs 15th	Isleham Society	The Beeches, 7.30pm
Fri 16th	Mobile Library	Church St. 9.30-10.05am
Tue 20th	Isleham Gardeners	7.30pm The Beeches
	Grand Quiz Night	

Useful 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



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Wednesday 10th December
Wednesday 14th January
Wednesday 28th January



Retirement Planning & Experiences

- Are you approaching or experiencing retirement?
- Would you be interested in sharing and discussing the various options or hurdles that you may have come across?

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Weston's Ramblings

The second in a series of walks and bird-spotting around the village by **Tony Weston** with his dog, **Phoebe**.

The other day Phoebe (the chocolate Labrador) and I went for another walk starting from the Marina sluice. We walked 100 yards to the flood bank that runs parallel with the road going towards Karma Farm. The flood bank first passes the Little Wash, which had our breeding pair of Egyptian geese on it, and on to the main Wash. I had a little deviation to hear and see the fast-moving kingfisher come from Isleham Lock to the river entrance to the Marina. They fish from the branches of the willow trees.

The main Wash has the remains of the rafts we put in last year. The terns managed to brave the cows and raised three chicks as a result. The swans ate quite a bit of this tern raft – the Wash had a film of polystyrene and swan poo around it for weeks! The 51 avocets unfortunately found it too difficult to breed. One reason was a very belligerent oystercatcher, which took exception to anything trying to get on their island. With the shallow depth the avocets' long legs allowed them to feed all over the Wash.

We hope to give them a better chance of success in Spring next year. Look out for Isleham's version of 'Three men in a (cold) boat' putting more rafts in...

Beyond the Wash you come to another stretch of wash that is deeper. This provides a home for more teal and swans. On the road side you can see the yurts at Karma Farm campsite. It looks a great place to stay.

Further on, there is a new reservoir you can see into from the flood bank when you are about half a mile from the old inn

near Fenland Boats. It often has geese flying in at nightfall and potential waders in transit.

With the weather being warm I was drawn to think about things I saw in my travel. Phoebe the Labrador is a sniffer. Her world is not just a Doggy Daily Times but a smell-a-vision newspaper. She recognises moles, voles and wood mice tracks. She scents rabbits and seeks out fox poo to roll in!

My next observation was the winter flocks of birds moving around, particularly lapwings and starlings. I saw some lesser black backed gulls going up in a thermal – reminded me of my bird guide in Gambia. How can you explain uplift if you do not know what air is? With Phoebe now used to my stop-go progress I reached for my bird book to check rooks and crows. I am still no wiser except if there is a group of them they are probably rooks.

Next I pondered on why the track kept getting muddy in places. The late sun gave me an answer. Where trees shaded the track the grass was very poor.

Roll on spring to give us new grass growth... Happy Christmas and a Hopeful New Year!

Pond Notes: If anyone wants help with their pond, water plants or just advice feel free to email or give a call to me on 01638 780692. Avi Stacey and I have raised a fair amount of cash to help the work on the Nature Reserve by this method •

*Tony Weston, for the Friends Of Isleham Nature Reserves Group
Email: tonysleham@yahoo.co.uk*

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Burglars don't go away for Christmas – police issue social networking warning



Detectives are urging people going away this Christmas not to advertise their holiday on social media.

Officers are concerned that burglars scan networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter to find out when homes will be unoccupied.

Last December, about one in six burglaries in the county were at properties where the residents had been away for two days or more.

The worst affected areas were Cambridge, Peterborough, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire, which all had around 60 burglaries in the month.

Police issued the same warning in July when a number of homes in the Werrington area of Peterborough were broken into while residents were on holiday.

Detective Inspector Fran Jones, force lead on burglary, said: 'It's understandable that people will be excited about going away, even if it's just for the weekend, but our advice would be not to advertise it on social media.'

'Unfortunately, as well as your genuine friends, criminals may also be looking and take the opportunity to break into an unoccupied home. My advice would be to only tell relatives and trusted friends and neighbours.'

In addition, residents are advised to keep Christmas presents out of sight as much as possible.

DI Jones said: 'Before presents are placed under the tree, they should be kept out of sight, such as in closed wardrobes or under beds. Ideally, they should not be put under the tree until Christmas morning, particularly if it's visible from outside.'

'And don't forget that burglars can target homes where they see discarded packaging from expensive gifts. Cardboard boxes and packaging should be properly broken down so it fits into a bin.'

Residents who want advice on protecting their home are urged to visit the force's new crime prevention website tool. An interactive house allows users to visit key areas around a home where security could be improved: www.cambs-police.co.uk/GetCloser/Burglary.asp

December Bulletin from Cambs Fire and Rescue Service

It is the time of year when we're enjoying a tippie with friends, cooking heaps of delicious food and decking the halls. The fire service has these messages to make sure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke:

- Kitchens are a fire hotspot, so take care while cooking festive fancies. Never leave cooking unattended and turn off appliances when not in use.
- Switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure they confirm to the British Standard and never overload plug sockets.
- Be careful when drinking alcohol while smoking or cooking.
- Finally, make sure you have a working smoke alarm that is correctly fitted and works. And NEVER take the batteries out to power presents!

To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, call 0800 917 99 94. Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @cambsfrs.

Isleham Gardeners



It's that time of year again when we sit down and assess the success or otherwise of our gardening year. Sadly, apart from my fruit crop, I have nothing to comment on about my own allotment other than the fantastic crop of fat hen and other assorted weeds. As some of you may know, due to illness, I have not been able to cultivate my plot this year but hopefully I will be firing on all four cylinders next year.

We had a wonderful spring, giving us a chance to get some early crops in, although I understand that, due to the unseasonable warmth, carrot fly ruined some crops. However, from what I saw of the entries at the Gala and reports from fellow allotmenters, most of you had a pretty successful year. Fruit harvests were particularly high. My plum and pear trees were laden with good large fruit and although my strawberries were planted very late I still got a good return on them.

Isleham Gardeners have another full programme planned for next year with some very good speakers on interesting subjects. Our first meeting next year is our Grand Quiz Night on Tuesday 20th January 2015. This has proved to be a great success in the past so we hope to see as many of you as possible.

We are always happy to see new faces at our meetings. Membership costs only £10 per year and this entitles you to good discounts on your purchases from the garden centres at Fordham and also discount on seeds from Kings Seeds through the Allotment Association, to which we are affiliated.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Philidelphus

St Andrew's Church

Festival of Light 2014

Saturday 6th December 3.00 – 6.00

Tree Display and Christmas Fayre

Sunday 7th December 3.00–6.00

Saturday 13th December 3.00–6.00

Tree display and refreshments in church

Sunday 14th December 3.00–6.00

Including a

Family carol service 4.00. All welcome

Once again, you can pick the carols you'll sing at the Carol Service on 14th December.

This year, the vote is being held at the Christmas Fayre on 6th December. You get five votes free (and can buy more if you want), and you have the power - cast all your votes for one carol, or spread your vote! Then come to the Carol Service on the 14th and sing the winners!

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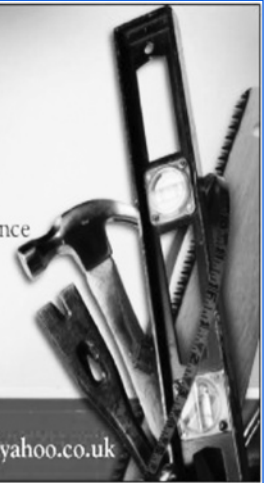
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The Isleham Society

17th July, 2014: Meeting at the Beeches.

Andy Malcolm gave an illustrated talk on the 'The Fisherman's Mission', representing the only national charity that provides financial, practical and spiritual help for working, retired and disabled fishermen and their families. He described what the real cost of our fish and chip meals was. A good challenging speaker – and singer of sea shanties.

18th September, 2014: Mildenhall Tour

We enjoyed a guided tour of Mildenhall Town centre and the Church followed by a tea break in the Museum. After a brief talk on how the Museum was updated and improved we made our own way round but with help on hand if we wanted to ask questions. There is a most impressive upgrade and display, including a replica of the Mildenhall Treasure and the skeleton of an Anglo-Saxon warrior and his horse, which were found at RAF Lakenheath in 1977 (which I photographed on site when it was discovered). Local schools are making use of the Museum's facilities and it is easily accessible to us locally – a very worthwhile visit for young and old and those in-between.

16th October, 2014: David Palmer, Auctioneer

Our planned speaker cancelled the day before he was due, but when Anne Cant contacted David Palmer, the well-known auctioneer, he immediately came to our rescue. He described how he started auctioneering in 1982 and how he has been asked to appear on television in programmes such as Flog It, Bargain Hunt and Cash in the Attic. Wearing one of his well-known colourful waistcoats, he talked of his experiences in conducting auctions all over the country, clocking up around 40,000 miles a year and on one occasion conducting three auctions in one day. He was an extremely interesting and provocative speaker and answered many questions asked by the appreciative audience. We were very grateful for his help at very short notice.

20th November, 2014: Andrew Sankey 'Pot Luck'

Andrew Sankey talked about old country sayings, those originating in the cottage garden, and why they were considered important.

Please note there will be no meeting in December. The next one in the New Year is on 15th January 2015, entitled 'Old Isleham'

You don't need to be a member to attend any of our meetings although there is a small charge of £2 per session.

Vernon Place, Chairman



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A letter from Chris Ginn of Priory Garage.

Dear friends and customers of Priory Garage,

January 2015 is going to be a very exciting time for our business, and I am delighted to share the news with all our customers. After 26 years at Priory Garage, we have taken the decision to move to new, purpose-built premises at nearby Victoria Way, Newmarket, a location that has been carefully chosen to be easily accessible and remain close to our Isleham roots. This decision has not been taken lightly, and is due to a number of factors, including constant difficulties with vehicle parking and the ageing fabrication of the current Priory Garage premises: it would not be commercially viable to rebuild on the present site. The move to state-of-the-art facilities will offer more welcoming surroundings for our customers, allowing us to further improve our service and provide better workshop conditions for our staff. The majority of our customers will also benefit from easier access and parking, in a modern environment that we believe you – the customer – are entitled to. Manchetts Commercials is also relocating to Newmarket, allowing us to consolidate both branches of the business at the same location. The Manchetts Burwell car workshop remains unaffected by the restructuring, and will remain at its current premises.

Following the move, we will continue to operate as an authorised Renault Service Centre for both Renault Cars UK and Renault LCV and Trucks, offering our customers all the services that they currently enjoy, including collection and delivery, loan cars and while-u-wait repairs, if required. Our experienced staff will be pleased to provide Renault

UK vehicle servicing and repairs, Renault 4+ service contract and warranty repairs, servicing and repair of other manufacturers' vehicles, MOTs for cars (Class 4) and LCVs (Class 5 and 7), HGV vehicle testing, fast-fit tyres and exhausts, as well as HGV and bus repairs. And, with no height restrictions on our new workshops, owners of vehicles such as motor homes and horse boxes will find servicing and repairs far easier.

It's also great news that all staff from both branches of the company fully support – and are very positive about – the decision, and will be moving to the new site with us, ensuring that you continue to enjoy the high level of service and experience in vehicle maintenance and repair which you expect and deserve, at a competitive price. For all our customers in Isleham, I will be more than happy to collect and return your vehicles by appointment, as I will still live in this wonderful village.

We will be closing the doors at Priory Garage for the final time on the 24th of December 2014 and moving the workshop equipment and parts to the Victoria Way premises over the Christmas week, with trading from the new site beginning on the 2nd of January 2015. You can continue to contact us on the existing phone numbers, or via the website details.

I look forward to seeing you at the new premises, where you can be sure of a warm welcome from familiar faces.

Chris Ginn, Director

Tel 01638 780625/780352

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Isleham Parish Council Update



QUALITY
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COUNCIL

781687, email: islehampc@btinternet.com

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of every month at 7.15pm. Meetings are 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. (No food or drink to be brought into the meeting room, please.)

Full copies of the minutes are available on the Parish Council website, the Notice Board and from the Parish Clerk, Diane Bayliss: tel: 01638

Cespa for £18,000. The Skate Park installation is set to begin on November 24th.

The Beeches

- It was agreed at the November meeting that the Parish Council would pay for the acoustic panels that have been put up in the main hall at the Centre.
- The Parish Council are currently in discussions with the consultants and the contractor concerning the poor condition of the roadway to the back of the Centre.
- The final snagging list for the centre is due to be completed the last week in November. The contractor is intending to carry out any remedial works after Christmas.

Police Matters

- Non-Emergency Contact No for Police: 101
- East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership has produced a Members Briefing Pack on the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Pack 2014 which came into effect on Monday 20th October.

Recreation Ground Report

- There are a few slots available on the MUGA in the evenings and it is also available at weekends and during the day. Please contact the Parish Clerk for further details.
- Please remember no dogs are allowed on the Recreation Ground or on The Beeches car park and footpaths.

Play Area Report

- The Zip-Wire has been ordered following the Councillors agreement at the November meeting to contribute the £1,600 necessary to make up the purchase price following the fantastic effort by all of those involved in Beach to the Beeches which raised an amazing £5,091.
- Benches, Picnic Tables and Waste bins have all been installed in the new play area.

Skate Park Report

- The Council were successful in their grant application to Amey

Planning Matters

- 14/00990/FUL: Carry out loft conversion, replace existing kitchen flat roof with new pitched roof, and internal alterations to existing building for Mr & Mrs Beckett.
- 14/00853/FUL: Proposed stable block to replace existing buildings at 9 Prickwillow Road, Isleham for Mr Carl Rutterford.
- Planning Applications have been considered for 14/01093/FUL: Single and two storey extension to rear and erection of new separate garage at 10 Station Road, Isleham for Mr & Mrs Frost.
- 14/00788/FUL: Construction of 4 bed dwelling to the rear of 18 Little London, Isleham (amendment) for Mr T Drayton.
- 14/00961/FUL: Proposed portal framed building for HGV trailer repairs at Universal Garage 8-9 Wells Business Park, Hall barn Road, Isleham at 18 Malting Lane, Isleham.
- 14/00520/FUL: Proposed change of use of the Old Comrades Club to four flats including demolition of rear extension at 21 Church Street, Isleham for Mr Tom Neet.
- 14/00/599/FUL: Two storey side extension to replace existing conservatory at 17 Mill Street, Isleham for Mr Savin Beamon.

Other Planning Matters

- A presentation on the new Community Infrastructure Levy by Emma Grima of ECDC was made to the Council at the October meeting. From the Parish's perspective this replaces the old Section 106 agreements and means that the Council receive 15% of the levy on any new development in the village. This can be used on infrastructure projects in Isleham.

Financial Matters

- The Annual Return has been returned by the External Auditor and a copy has been placed on the notice board for 14 days as required.

Highways Matters

- 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

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



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- There are still a number of plots available on the Dunstall Allotment site. Please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

Other Matters

Dog Fouling

- PLEASE REMEMBER TO CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG! A number of dog bins have been installed around the village although there are still a number of incidents of dog fouling. The dog warden can be contacted on 01353 665555 or you can file a report on the website www.eastcambs.gov.uk
- The Parish Council continues to support the Ely/Soham Dial-a-Ride Bus Service to Ely on a Thursday morning. •

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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

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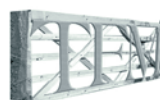
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CHURCHES

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, The Vicarage, 24 Mildenhall Road, Fordham CB7 5NR Tel: 01638 721616 email: banyardmg1@yahoo.co.uk

Associate Priest: The Rev's Dr Jenny Gage email 3rivers.jenny@gmail.com

Curate: The Rev's Sue Potts, The Vicarage, Chippenham CB7 5PP

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.

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 6.30pm Choir practice. All welcome. Contact Mark Liversidge 01638 781696. 7.30pm Bell Ringing, beginners especially welcome. Contact Ruth Ogden 01638 780646.

Churchwardens: Ruth Ogden 01638 780646, ruth.ogden@isleham-church.org.uk; Rob Savage 01638 780218 robert.savage@isleham-church.org.uk

Tower Captain: Ruth Ogden 01638 780646 ruth.ogden@isleham-church.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 Lane Free Church

Pastor: Dave Hall (01638 781343 or 01638 780636, email pastor@plfc.org.uk) **Elder:** David Brown (01638 780410)

Sunday worship: 11am and 6.30pm.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper: First Sunday following evening service and 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 terms. 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 at PLFC 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).

Saturday: Men's Fellowship (fortnightly) 8am (Paul Rogerson 01638 781343).

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

We want to say a very big thank you to all who helped in any way with this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign. Whether you filled a box, brought items or came and helped check boxes you played an important part in sharing God's love with disadvantaged children in Kyrgyzstan.

We warmly invite you to join us for our Christmas Day Family Service at 10.30am on 25th December. The service will be followed by refreshments and children are encouraged to bring along a present to show.



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High Street Church

SUNDAY SERVICES: All are welcome to our Sunday services throughout the year.

Morning worship: 10.30am All ages are very welcome from the very young to the very old. The children have their own activities.

Evening fellowship: 6.30pm A less formal service usually with opportunity for individual sharing. Come and hear about God's goodness! Tea, coffee and good conversation are available after both the morning and evening services.

Countdown to Christmas

Isn't it funny how we count down to Christmas? How many shopping days left, how many wage cheques, or for my children how many school days and then how many sleeps to go! We may cross off the days as we cross off presents on our shopping lists.

It was all a bit different from the first Christmas. Heaven and its angels had a very clear idea what was happening but the rest of the cast took a while to pick up the plot. Bethlehem was packed with visitors, many old friends and distant relatives that had come for the Roman census. In the commotion I wonder how much people had noticed a young couple with a donkey looking for a room, or paid much attention to a bunch of shepherds who had left their sheep on the open hillside to hurry into town. If I was an inn keeper and had a knock at the door I would be too busy, too occupied, too distracted and too mean to help a young couple and certainly too cynical to believe stories from shepherds about Angels, good news and a Saviour.

On reflection, I think our Christmases aren't so different from the very first one. I can be busy, distracted and in a rush. I can miss the entire point of Christmas and not give any room for Jesus. I might believe that it's OK for other people to make room but I'm busy doing my own thing.

The Angels that Christmas day sang something very remarkable. "Glory to God in the highest and Peace to his people on earth".

Could it be true that in this baby Jesus was the Glory of Heaven and the living offer of peace to every person on earth? The Angels were certainly excited, only one was needed to deliver the message but a huge multitude came for the occasion.

Over Christmas, we might be busy or quiet, we could have company or perhaps be lonely, there may be a knock at our hearts from Jesus the Prince of Peace – I would recommend you invite him in, Christmas will never be the same again.

Why not come along to High Street Church over Christmas, we get a lot of visitors so you won't stand out and I'm sure you'll enjoy your visit. *Martin Wells*

Sunday 21st December

10.30am 'Bethlehem's story' Carols and a Nativity

6.30pm Celebration Carol Service

Christmas Day at 11am for an hour, Christmas celebration 'God's Gift in a manger' •



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Sportman's dinner roaring success

On Friday 7th November The Beeches hosted a Sportman's Evening, organised by the fundraising committee of the Isleham Community Centre, led by Mark Goldsack.

Before being entertained by comedian Johnny Tait, 175 people were treated to a three-course meal and then the star of the night, Tommy Docherty, a well known figure in the sporting world, commonly known as 'The Doc', a Scottish former football player and manager. Docherty played for several clubs, most notably Preston North End, and represented Scotland 25 times between 1951 and 1959. He later managed the Scottish national side, before transferring to Manchester United in 1972. Here he revitalised the team, bringing them back into the First Division and taking them to two FA Cup finals, winning on the second occasion in 1977.

Mark said "It was a fantastic night hugely enjoyed by everyone who attended. It showed that after just 12 months The Beeches is providing a magnificent venue for the people of Isleham and beyond."

Above: Tommy Docherty, special guest speaker. Photo: Clive Patterson



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Wednesday 9am-12 Busy Bees
Bridge 9am

Needles & Natter 10-11.30am
Pilates 12-1pm • 6-7pm Hour of Power

Thursday 9.30-10.15am Kettlebells with Tania
7.15-8.15pm Hour of Power

Friday 2-3.30pm New Age Kurling
5pm-11pm Ballroom Dancing

Saturday Hour of Power 9-10am
10am-1pm Breakfast

Cafe & bar open 9am-11pm

Sunday 10am-1pm Breakfast

Cafe & bar open from 11am

Contact Louise Hounsom

Tel: 01638 780097 • Mobile: 07742 832300

Amended rates for hire and conditions of use at The Beeches will be published on the website, at the Centre and on local noticeboards in the near future, and also in the next edition of the Informer.

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INSPIRING WOMEN

In October, Isleham W.I. members organise the evening themselves, as opposed to inviting a speaker. This time Sonia Norman entertained us with a description of her new business.

She then demonstrated different ideas for decorating small cakes and encouraged members to 'have a go' - which they did, with varying results!

This was followed by refreshments, provided by Emily Radcliffe and Sheila Taylor and served by Fiona Jones and Ginette Hawes. Finally, we had a quiz all about cakes drawn up by Fiona. Thanks to all of them.

It is 100 years in 2015 since the first Women's Institute was founded in England. In anticipation of the centenary a WI baton is travelling round the country, visiting every WI. In October it came to Cambridge, and on Wednesday 29th it arrived in Isleham.

Luckily the sun shone and several members met outside the Priory to welcome the baton and members from the Cambridge Federation.

In November we welcomed Kate Salmon who volunteers at Kentwell Hall with her whole family - and she was accompanied by her daughter, dressed in authentic costume of the time. When 'in roll' Kate is a yeoman's wife living as she would have done in the 16th Century, carrying out a variety of daily tasks. She had brought with her a variety of foods she had prepared, and she explained how they were made, and the fact that people like her would live mainly on grains and vegetables, only eating meat on very special occasions. Kate then invited us to sample the dishes. Some were very tasty, and some definitely weren't! It was a very interesting and entertaining evening.

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, tel: 01638 780734 email: gjpreece@aol.com

Photo: Vernon Place



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