

Isleham Informer

Issue 67 • April 2015

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

Keeping Isleham Tidy



On 7th March a litter pick was organised by the Parish Council. About 20 volunteers plus five groups of cubs and their leaders met at the Social Centre before setting off to improve the village by collecting all the litter they could find.

It was a lovely, sunny day and in a couple of hours a small mountain of litter was collected.

Most amazing was the number of whisky bottles found on the left hand side of Fordham Road, going out of the village: 'There must have been about 150!' said one of the volunteers.

Thanks go to everyone who helped, and also to Betty Ashley and Mary Wightman who provided very welcome refreshments at the end of the morning •



Photos Vernon Place

ALSO... p9 GALA ROYAL FAMILY COMPETITION • p12 FLOATING 'MIGRANT HOTEL' OPENS AT WASH...



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Letter from the Editor

There were several items that were omitted from the February issue of the *Isleham Informer*. Some of these were time sensitive, meaning that it is now pointless to issue an announcement of something happening in early March. I apologise to all those affected for this incompetence and am forced to accept that it is time for a change.

I took over as Editor of the *Informer* more than 10 years ago, at a time when I had few demands on my time and was able to devote myself growing the village rag into the esteemed organ it is today. Time moves on and the demands on my time have grown and I find that the attention I am able to my voluntary work on the *Informer* is becoming increasingly inadequate. This has been compounded by our inability to find a replacement for Kelvin Morgan as advertising manager, requiring me to add that role to my workload. Consequently, I have decided that the time has come to move on. June 2015 will see the publication of my final issue of the *Isleham Informer*. Indeed, unless some suitable candidates step up, it may well be THE final issue. Please get in touch if you have the time and skills required to keep this thing alive. *EM*

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

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.

every Tuesday	Coffee Morning	Social Centre, 9am-noon
April		
Thur 2nd	Mobile Library	Church St. 2.15-3pm Mill St. 3.05-5pm The Beeches, 7.30pm
Thur 9th	W.I.	
Fri 10th	Book Club 2pm The Beeches	
Mon 13th	Parish Council	The Beeches, 7.15pm
Thur 16th	Isleham Society	7.30pm The Beeches
Fri 17th	Mobile Library	Church St. 9.30 -10.05am
Tue 21st	Gardeners Club	7.30pm The Beeches
May		
Sat 2nd	Official opening of The Beeches	12.30pm The Beeches
Sat 2nd	VE Day Big Band Party	7pm The Beeches
Thur 7th	General Election	Polling station: The Beeches
Thur 7th	Mobile Library	Church St. 2.15-3pm Mill St. 3.05-5pm
Fri 8th	Book Club 2pm The Beeches	
Sat 9th	INFORMER DEADLINE	
Mon 11th	Parish Council	The Beeches, 7.15pm
Thur 14th	W.I.	The Beeches, 7.30pm
Thur 14th	ICE AGM	The Beeches, 7.30pm
Fri 15th	Mobile Library	Church St. 9.30 -10.05am
Tue 19th	Gardeners Club	7.30pm The Beeches

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I wonder if your readers could help in my search for the Darkin family from Isleham Fen, which includes William Fletcher (born 1792?) who married, I believe, Phoebe Woollard.

My name is Joyce Clarkson and my grandmother was Rose Parrish (née Darkin), who I believe is related to the above couple. I believe she is their great grand daughter. Her father was Josiah Darkin.

Yours, Miss J V Clarkson.

email: jclarkson414@googlemail.com

Village Notes

Newmarket Town Band & BBQ: Newmarket Town Band will once again be playing at the BBQ to be held at St Andrew's Church Social Centre on Sunday 12th May from 2pm. Tickets will be available soon from: Angela Wells, tel: 780583; Mary Wightman, tel: 781022; or from the Post Office. Tickets will cost £10, concessions £7.50, children £5 •

Involvement with The Beeches: On the basis that many hands make light work, we are keen to expand our Management Committee and also add to the current number of Trustees. If you might be prepared to get involved then please do not hesitate to contact either Mark (780350) or Philip (780874), the Chairmen of the Management and Trustee Committees respectively. They would welcome your call and explain what is involved •

Isleham Angling Society is holding their AGM at Isleham Social Centre at 7pm on Wednesday, 22nd April. All welcome •

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 Emergencies.....	0800 111999
Anglian Water Leaks.....	0800 771881
- 24 hour.....	0845 7145145
Social Services - office hours.....	0345 0455202
- out of hours emergency.....	01733 561370
Refuse Collection.....	01353 665555
RSPCA.....	07599 522716
- Cruelty line.....	0300 1234 999
Citizens Advice Bureau.....	Ely 0845 130 6442
	Mildenhall 01638 712094
	Newmarket 01638 665999
District Councillor (Derrick Beckett).....	01638 780476
Parish Council (Diane Bayliss: Clerk).....	01638 781687
Member of Parliament (Jim Paice).....	01954 211450

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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
Beavers (boys & girls 6-8 yrs)	Emily Yellop Alison Oliver	01638 780637 01638 781232	Tuesday	5.15-6.15pm	The Beeches
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 (boys & girls 8-10yrs)	Emily Yellop	01638 780637	Tuesday	6.30-8pm	The Beeches
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	Saturdays bi-monthly	10-4pm	High St Church
Pilates	Jo Simcock-Simms	07974 653775	Monday Wednesday	7-8pm, 8-9pm 12 noon	The Beeches
Scouts (boys & girls 10-14 yrs)	Emily Yellop	01638 780637	Tuesday	6.30-8pm	The Beeches
Tania Fitness	Tania McQuilkin	07983 440187	Tue: Powerhoops & kettlebells	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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	Sunday	10am - 12 noon
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Community Orchard

Most of the 36 trees in the Community Orchard were planted as whips in February 2013. They were sourced from EAOP. This is a nursery that specialises in East of England heritage fruit trees. We bought a mixture of culinary and dessert apples, choosing as many as possible that originated from near Isleham. These include a Morley's Seedling which was first grown in Fordham, Chiver's Delight from Histon and a Clapton Red from Wickambrook. There are some, however, from further afield – a Russet from Somerset, James Grieve from Scotland, Newton Wonder from Derbyshire and the ubiquitous Braeburn from New Zealand. Only one tree, a Bramley, has failed. We intend to plant a replacement next winter.

The orchard is a community orchard and, in addition to those who sponsored the trees, many people have helped in its management and maintenance. Clive Winters keeps the grass mown and has created a path around the trees. He also trims the hedging, tops up the water tank and generally keeps the site tidy. We are very grateful to Louise Parker, who has helped us by pruning the trees this year, and to Mervyn Crawford who made the attractive sign at the entrance to the site.

We recently acquired a small area of land adjacent to the orchards. Three concrete benches have been supplied by Brian Prince of JKH Drainage, installed by SP Landscapes, with lettering by Mildenhall Monuments; all at no cost to the Parish Council; an extremely generous and much appreciated gesture. When the grass has been mown a few times we hope this will provide a pleasant seating area.

At the present time we have someone designing an information board which will indicate the position of each tree. We are also having engraved metal labels made.

It may be a year or two before the trees produce much fruit but, once the orchard is established, people will be free to take the apples. We will put up a sign to indicate which trees have fruit that is ripe. JM

Peer Support for Type 2 diabetes

A new peer support and education service called Type 2 Together will connect people who have diabetes in their local area. Relaxed and informal group sessions will be led by volunteers who are themselves living with diabetes and who are trained to share their advice and experiences. The free service will provide information leaflets to help people live well with Type 2 diabetes, and is available to anyone living with Type 2 diabetes. Anyone interested in joining a local group should call the Diabetes UK regional coordinator on 0345 123 2399 or email Type2Together@diabetes.org.uk

For more information visit the Diabetes UK website at diabetes.org.uk/How_we_help/Talk-to-someone/Type-2-Together



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Isleham WI



At our AGM in February Margaret Davies was re-elected President, all Committee members joined again, and have been joined by Lesley Cockerton. After the business Ruth Diver talked to the meeting. Ruth was recently awarded the MBE for services to Education, and she talked movingly about her experiences as a special needs teacher. Ruth had brought her medal to the meeting, and we admired this and saw photographs of the day. She was a very interesting speaker, enjoyed by everyone.

In March our speaker was Mark Linney, a pilot with Virgin Airways. He gave an entertaining talk about the life of an airline pilot, which is not always as glamorous as might be imagined. Mark finished his talk by showing us photographs taken from the flight deck – although he assured us he wasn't flying the plane at the time.

In June the national WI is holding a garden party at Buckingham Palace, hosted by the Duchess of Cornwall, to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Institute. An invitation has been extended to a member from every W.I. in the country, and we had a raffle to determine the lucky winner. It was won by Kat Tilbrook, who is very pleased to represent us.

Our programme for 2015

April Traditional Toys; **May** A Woman's Life in the Army; **June** Summer outing; **July** Life as a Film Extra; **August** The Cooking Cannon entertains; **September** Harvest Supper; **October** Members Evening; **November** Making Christmas baubles; **December** Christmas Party

If you would like to join the WI or simply come to a meeting to see what it is like, please do come along. We meet on the second Thursday of each month in the Beeches, 7.30pm for 7.45pm, and new members are always welcome. For further information contact: Glenda Preece on 01638 780734 or email gjpreece@aol.com •

Isleham Bowls Club

Need a new hobby to fill up some spare time, or just meet up with new friends? Then this may be for you... As spring arrives and with it the new outdoor bowling season, perhaps YOU might be interested in taking up bowls. You never know, it could be better than you ever expected!

The season starts on Saturday 25th April at 2.30pm and anyone is welcome to come and see the set up and facilities. Play on the bowls green is subject to conditions on the day, but weather permitting, existing members will be happy to give you some instruction. You do not need to bring anything other than a flat pair of shoes (most trainers will suffice) as the club has bowls, and some shoes if needed.

We play at all levels of the game, so there is something for everyone. There's a ladies-only league and men-only league on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and two mixed leagues, one in the afternoon on Mondays or Fridays, the other on various evenings during the week. There are also competitions at all standards, as well as basic entry level bowls.

For further information you can contact either: Barry Grimwood on 01638 781943; Bob Cole on 01638 662827; Terry & Sylvia Pinder on 01638 720875; Rowley Wells on 01638 780191 or Doreen Raven on 01638 780836. So, come along, we would be really pleased to see you!

Springtime is also about concluding the indoor carpet bowls season and preparation for the new outdoor season. In the East Cambs carpet leagues, both teams are nearly finished with their winter programme. Team A are going to finish in mid-table in Division 1, but in the same division, Team B's position is more gloomy. With just two matches to be played, they look certain to return back to Division 2. *Barry Grimwood, Club Captain*

Weston's Ramblings

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

With the weird weather we now seem to be having, walking with Phoebe is a mixture of pleasure and cold, rain and freezing ear lobes. I appear with her at about 7.30am on the Nature Reserve field on Fordham Road. It can be dark, pitiful or magnificent if you are human. It is a festival of smells and a joyous place to run if you are a young Labrador. It can also be a place of many 'leave it' commands as fox and rabbit droppings act as magnets to an unsophisticated dog!

The sky is fantastic on the right day, the shades of red with vapour trails make you want to soak it all in. I usually just stand and listen to the world waking up. I love the idea of sound mapping. The early train sounding off at all crossings and the New Farm dog yapping for its walk. Robins fresh in from Russia singing their territory, the last owl flies soundlessly to roost. In the hedges we have had up to 800 fieldfares, a grey large thrush that clears out red berries. Its friend the redwing is also present. This is a small thrush size bird with a distinctive red on the wing. Other early morning birds have been green woodpeckers, flocks of lapwings going over to feed on sugar beet tops and of course the black headed gulls that follow the plough.

Give me a ring on 780692 if you want to join Phoebe and I for an early morning walk. It is worth it!

Tony Weston, for the Friends Of Isleham Nature Reserves Group

Email : tonysleham @ yahoo.co.uk



Friends Of Isleham Nature Reserves has an interest in several parts of the village.

The Nature Reserve on Fordham Road is full of berries and the very last of the insects. They are finding places to hide for the winter, as the vegetation dies back. We have been tidying it up carefully for the winter. Thank you so much to all the dog walkers who collect and remove their dog mess from the paths and the field paths, and the muck collectors who remove the mess left by some others



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Work has started on building our skatepark!

Our Christmas 2014 draw took place on 20th December. Prizes went to:

- 1st** Home-Made Christmas Cake: Linda French
- 2nd** Car MOT: Lynne
- 3rd** Patchwork Blanket: John
- 4th** Brut Maschi: R. Brooks
- 5th** Whisky: Mary Clarke
- 6th** Languedoc White Wine: Lorraine
- 7th** Calvet White Wine: Kathy Carver
- 8th** Campo Viejo Red Wine: Katie Ginn
- 9th** Thornton Chocolates: Jeanette Stebbes
- 10th** Smellies: Sharon
- 11th** Shoe Bag: Claire
- 12th** Sachy Bag: Lisa Luker

Well done to everyone who won a prize and a huge thank you to everyone who donated the prizes and bought tickets. We raised £133. Fantastic! *Pauline Dunbavin*

Get creative with recycling at family activity days

Recycling will be brought to life this Easter at a series of fun family activity sessions at AmeyCespa's waste management park, off the A10 at Waterbeach. Staff at the Education Centre, which is run by AmeyCespa in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council, are holding free activity days on Tuesday 31st March, and Wednesday 1st, Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th April.

The sessions will include hands-on, practical activities using recyclable packaging and a range of other reusable materials, as well as a chance to see parts of the site in operation. The activities are particularly aimed at children aged between six and 12 years old, but all children over the age of six are welcome. All youngsters must be accompanied by an adult. Sessions will run from 10am to 12pm and 2pm to 4pm on each day and booking is essential to confirm your place. All of the centre's staff are fully qualified teachers.

Mark Shelton, Waste Education Manager for AmeyCespa, said: 'This is a great chance for families to find out more about how they can reduce the amount of waste they create, and increase the amount they recycle. The activities are really hands-on, including making moving Easter cards and flowers, which is a great way to bring the recycling messages to life. This will be followed by a minibus tour of our site to see it in operation.'

Councillor Roger Hickford, Chair of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee said: 'Easter has become a time of the year when we all seem to be overwhelmed by chocolate eggs in a variety of sizes. The activities at the Education Centre at Waterbeach are a great way to highlight what can be done with all the plastic, cardboard and foil packaging which surrounds them. The great thing about the activity days is they are an opportunity for families to learn together about how they can improve the recycling and reuse in their homes.'

To find out more or to book your place on one of the family activity sessions contact the education team on telephone 01223 815490, or e-mail education@ameycespa.com •

Police numbers maintained despite budget cuts

A report highlighting the scale of cost savings achieved by Cambridgeshire Constabulary was presented to Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Panel meeting today (18 March) by Police and Crime Commissioner Sir Graham Bright.

The panel were told that savings achieved between 2013/14 and 2015/16 amount to £13.3 million. These savings have been made without reducing the number of frontline officers. The number of officers in 2015/16 will be 1,343 with 990 of these being local policing officer posts. A total of 816 police staff and 150 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are also included in the budget. There will also be 300 Special Constables.

Commenting on the budget Sir Graham said: 'I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in meeting these savings targets over the last three years. Everyone has risen to the challenge of finding savings in every corner of the organisation to help balance the budget. In particular I would like to thank Chief Constable Simon Parr and my deputy, Brian Ashton, who have worked tirelessly with me to ensure Cambridgeshire Constabulary are on a strong financial footing as we move forward. To be in this position without having had to reduce officer numbers is a fantastic achievement.'

However, Sir Graham recognises that the task is nowhere near complete and that the biggest challenges are yet to come: 'Savings over the coming years will be of a similar scale to those already achieved. Whilst we can be proud of the way the savings have been managed so far, the savings we need to achieve moving forward will require some tough decisions and changes to the way we work. The savings needed cannot be accomplished through small improvements in efficiency. It will require innovative thinking by my Office and by the Constabulary.'

Future savings requirements are known and are being planned for. One of the ways that significant savings are expected to be made is through collaborating with other forces, notably with Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary. A Strategic Alliance has been agreed between the three forces who now collaborate on areas such as Roads Policing, Major Crime and Procurement. Teams across the Alliance are preparing plans to find further savings and several other areas of potential collaboration are being explored.

At the same time there has been a significant investment in the adoption of modern mobile technology. Officers are being equipped with smart phones and tablets with the ability to examine 27 databases automatically and enable simultaneous completion of multiple administrative forms. This offers significant potential savings to back office functions.

Through careful management of resources it has been possible to focus effort on some of the most vulnerable members of society, most visibly demonstrated through the Victims' Hub which was established last year to help victims of crime cope and recover from their experiences.

Sir Graham notes: 'I am fully aware that what the public want to see from their Police Force is greater visibility of uniformed officers. People want to see Bobbies on the beat with local officers patrolling the towns and villages. However, we have to operate in the reality of the budget we have available and the work we have to do to keep people safe. The new technology we are deploying will enable officers to receive and send real time information and reduce the need to return to a fixed base to complete paperwork. While I am not able to guarantee we will be able to maintain the same number of officers in the long term, the steps we are taking now help maximise the effectiveness and visibility of officers in the communities they serve.' •

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CB7 4LS**

www.adviceguide.org.uk

Tel: 0344 245 1292

Ely Citizens Advice Bureau holds a drop-in at the library in Soham, from 10am til 12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. The next is 11th February.

For free, confidential, and impartial advice for a range of problems – housing, employment, relationships, benefits, debt, consumer – drop in and talk to a trained adviser.

Wednesday April 8th and 22nd
Wednesday May 13th and 27th



Isleham Gala Royal Family Competition

Sponsored by Isleham School PTA

Traditionally, it is the Gala Queen and her attendants, the Prince and Princess who lead the parade through the village on Gala Day, however this year we are looking for a King, Queen, Prince and Princess.

This year, the competition to select the Gala "Royal Family" is being run by Isleham PTA, and winners will receive a number of fantastic prizes, including a tiara/crown and hair-up/styling for the King and Queen. The Prince and Princess will each receive a goodie bag packed with exciting treats.

This will be a **postal competition** open to all children aged 5 to 13 years who live in Isleham or who attend Isleham Primary School. Girls and boys aged 11 to 13 on the day of the Gala will be eligible for the Gala King and Queen. Girls aged 5 to 10 will be entered for the Princess competition. It costs just £2 per entry.

To enter, you need to complete the form and send your entry to Emma Downey, 25 West Street, Isleham, Ely CB7 5SD, or please hand into the school office.

Please make sure you have read the terms and conditions carefully, as by submitting your entry, we will assume that you agree with them •

Competition Terms and Conditions

1. Winners must be available to participate in the Parade ONLY on Saturday 4th July 2015
2. You must live in Isleham or attend Isleham Primary School.
3. All forms must be signed by a parent or guardian and

accompanied by the entry fee of £2 per child. Photographs are not required for this competition; entrants will be judged at the Family Disco on Friday 24th April 2015.

4. All entries must be submitted by 17th April 2015. Winners will be informed on the night of the 24th April. They will also be notified in writing and published in the next edition of the Informer in May.

Isleham School PTA is Registered Charity No 1109379

Gala Royal Family 2015 Competition Entry Form

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Date of Birth:

School

Phone:

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

I am free to attend the disco on the 24th April 2015 ☐

**ISLEHAM PTA PRESENTS
FAMILY FUN NIGHT AND DISCO**

**ISLEHAM GALA "ROYAL FAMILY" (King, Queen, Prince and Princess)
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**The Beeches, Isleham
Friday 24th April, 7pm start**

Tickets
 £5 per adult on the night (£4 in advance)
 £3 per child on the night (£2 in advance)
 Children under 3yrs free

*If you would like to enter the "Royal Family" competition please complete the entry form in the Informer or contact Emma Downey on 01638 781430 or isleham-school-pta@sky.com
 Tickets can be purchased from the school or a PTA member*

The Rising Sun



Sun Street, Isleham.

Tel: 01638 780471

FOOD SERVED

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

Saturday 12 noon to 9pm

Sunday 12 noon to 2pm

ENTERTAINMENT

4th April: 5 Ska

2nd May: Snatch
(Rock Band)

Race Night & Quiz
to be arranged

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



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Isleham Floating Hotel Now Open For Migrants

Several hundred kilos of gravel later, and with the able help of Steven and Martin Thompson, the Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves management team has renovated the island on Isleham Washes making it more attractive to breeding waders, and floated three new nesting platforms for terns, which will be returning from their African winter quarters in the next few weeks.

For the birdwatchers among you, there are almost 60 avocets feeding on Isleham washes just now (mid March), many of which will disperse to breed locally at the Ouse Washes and other wetland sites in the Fens. Earlier in the year our group joined forces with Years 4, 5 and 6 for Isleham School's contribution to the RSPB's Big Schools Birdwatch on 19th January. The children (and teachers) were bursting with enthusiasm (and many were extremely knowledgeable) and we clocked up around 25 different species in the school grounds and a short distance into the village. This was followed up by some classes dissecting owl pellets, whilst others drew some characterful bird pictures. (See below)

Isleham School's results will help to inform the national picture of how some of our garden birds are faring. Our Friends of Nature Reserves group would like to thank the school and especially the children for the welcome they gave us, and for a brilliant day.

Our AGM will be held at The Beeches on 13th April at 7.30pm. We'll hear a talk by Louise Bacon on butterflies – how to attract them and how to assess their numbers, in preparation for our own butterfly counts on the Railway reserve later in the year. All are very welcome to join us at the AGM, hear about butterflies, and help shape our future events and help plan the management of the sites we look after. If you'd like to learn more about our activities or become involved please get in touch with: Alastair Burn (Chair) 01638 780553; Avi Stacey (Management Organiser) 01638 780023. We can also be found on Facebook at 'Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves' •



Beautiful bird pictures by Taylor McGuire and Sue-Lin Mulgrew; part of a thank you to The Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves for their help in the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch.

Isleham Under Fives Association

We are having a great year at the Preschool! Our wonderful staff work hard every day to make sure each child gets tools they need to succeed as they embark on their educational journey. First, we'd like to give a HUGE thank you to the Isleham Co-Operative for choosing us as their charity for January and February. The generosity of the staff and customers helped us raise £295 for IUFA. We greatly appreciate everyone donated spare change and joined us for the 'Love Our Preschool' tombola and bake sale on 14th February. Thank you to Home Base for donating ceramic tiles which the children decorated to sell. We have some real artists in the village! (If you would like to purchase your child's tile for £3, please speak to the preschool staff). Our goal is to raise enough money to upgrade our technology and better prepare the children for primary school.

Busy Bees Playgroup is growing and more fun than ever! They meet every Wednesday during term time from 9.30 to 11am at the Beeches and everyone, from the babies to the carers, has a great time. We have free play, crafts, song time, and lots of socializing for everyone. New faces are always welcome! The cost is £1 per child to cover the cost of the room hire and supplies.

We are excited to announce that Kevin Henderson, his partner Tracy Arnold and her mum Helen, the parents and grandmother of one of our students, have accepted the '3 Peaks in 24 hours Challenge', and they have chosen IUFA as their designated charity! They will climb Ben Nevis (Scotland, 1400 m), Scafell Pike (England, 980 m) and Snowdon (Wales, 1085 m) at the end of July. If you want to support them through equipment or monetary donations, please email iufafundraising@gmail.com or henderson123@outlook.com for more details.

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. Last year we collected enough vouchers to buy new gardening tools for the allotment as well as outdoor riding toys that the children love to play with. There is a collection box at the preschool for drop-off, or you can mail them to IUFA, 3a Maltings Lane, Isleham, Ely, CB7 5SZ.

Upcoming Events: • Gala Day Stall and Float: We will need help in June preparing our annual float for the Gala Day Parade. If you can give an hour or two of your time to build the float or work the stall on the day, we greatly appreciate it.

• Ladies' Pimms Night: Look for more info on a great ladies' night out at the Rising Sun in mid-July, just before summer holidays.

• Christmas Event: Our Christmas Shopping Night will be Monday, November 30, 2015 from 3:30–5:30pm at the Beeches. If you or someone you know would like to participate as a vendor or volunteer, please contact us!

If you want to get involved with the committee or help with an event, please contact Kat Tilbrook at iufafundraising@gmail.com. Thank you friends, family and neighbors for supporting the children of Isleham. Like us on Facebook – Isleham Under Fives Association. UK Registered Charity No. 294978



The Isleham Society

David Fitt (our speaker) and his business partner Dr John Salters set up a small village industry using the ancient craft of distilling with a small batch copper pot distillery at The Old Salt Depot, Brinkley Road, Dullingham. It is a small independent company entitled the 'English Spirit Distillery'. When they were setting up the distillery some six years ago their aim was to produce the best spirits possible. They make a diverse range of spirits: vodka from local sugar beet, gins, the only rum made in the UK, fine English Single malt, apple brandy and seasonal eau de vie, grappa and liqueurs; the rum created in Dullingham called 'Old Salt Rum' won first place in an international competition called Rumfest held in Hong Kong.

David described how they train local employees to work in the Distillery, and as their business has achieved such good results and sales they plan to expand the business using even more local labour if possible and continue to use the small batch copper to distil their unique range of spirits.

He finished off the evening with an opportunity to taste the various spirits they distil. You can book a free tour and tasting at their facilities for groups of up to 25, this can take between 90 minutes to two hours.

Future talks:

April 16: The AGM we will also have a speaker (to be arranged) and finish the evening with refreshments brought by the members.

Visitors are welcome to attend any of our meetings – the cost to non-members is £2 per person. *Vernon Place, Chairman*

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Isleham Parish Council Update



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 781687, email: islehampc@btinternet.com

ADVANCE NOTICE

Parish Council Elections take place on 7th May, 2015. Nomination papers are available from East Cambs District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely; telephone 01353 665555.

POLICE MATTERS

- Non-emergency Contact No for Police – 101

RECREATION GROUND REPORT

- The cricket netting is to be ordered from SJD Sports International and will be ordered and installed before the cricket season starts in May.
- 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 play area continues to be well used and maintained.

SKATE PARK REPORT

- The skate-park is being installed now and should be ready for use in early April.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- The new financial regulations have been adopted by the Council.

THE BEECHES

- The roadway to the rear of the centre has been re-instated using the correct infill material.

PLANNING MATTERS

- Planning Applications have been received for:
14/01399/FUL Camp Site at Karma Farm, 8 Fen Bank, Isleham for William Taylor
14/01244/FUL Single storey side extension to replace existing conservatory, alterations to main roof and external insulation at 6 The Pits, Isleham for Mr Tim Acheson
14/01383/LBC Internal Alterations The Griffin, 11 Church Street, Isleham for Mr & Mrs Missing
15/00117/FUL Single storey rear extension at 2 Croft Road, Isleham for Clint Grove

15/00142/FUL Single storey extension to rear and covering garage to form annex 48 East Fen Road, Isleham for Mr & Mrs S Petts

15/00127/FUL Two-storey side extension, single storey rear extension. Re-location of front door to front elevation at 2 Goodchilds Gardens, Isleham for Mrs Emily Rutterford

- Planning Approvals have been received for 14/00309/FUL Construction of one detached dwelling at land adjacent 56 West street, Isleham for Messrs Clarke & Clarke

14/01365/FUL Garage conversion and separate cart lodge at Poppies 23 Prickwillow Road, Isleham for Mr & Mrs Mesher

14/01344/FUL Two storey extension, single storey extensions and cart shed garage at 10 Little London, Isleham for Mr & Mrs Flynn

14/01345/LBC Two-storey extension, single storey extensions and cart shed garage at 10 Little London, Isleham for Mr & Mrs Flynn

- Planning Refusals have been received for 14/01336/FUL Remove existing single storey extension and replace with a two-storey extension, which incorporates existing outbuilding at 14 Pound Lane, Isleham for Jamie Stevens

14/01347/ADI 3 illuminated signs (retrospective) 2 West Street, Isleham for the Co-Operative Food

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

- Schedule of Certification of Street Numbering 20 Little London (site rear of 18).

- It was agreed that the Parish Council would write again to East Cambs District Council regarding the condition of the house on the corner of Sun Street and Church Lane.

- The Parish Council are keen that the Priory Garage continues to be used for business purposes, however an opinion cannot be expressed on this to the District Council until an application is made.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

- The council are still trying to negotiate with the Highways Department re signage on the Fordham Road by the Nature Reserve.

- The new street lighting is being installed in the village by Balfour Beatty.

- If your streetlight 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

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

ORCHARD MATTERS

- There are two trees available to be sponsored in the Orchard. For further information contact Mrs Malkin on 01638 780283.

OTHER MATTERS

- The current Dial-a-Ride service is to cease at the end of March 2015 however the service should be continued by the Fenland Dial-a-Ride Service. More information will be available in the next report.

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

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Parish Council Elections take place this year on 7th May. If you wish to become a Parish Councillor and work for the welfare of the residents of Isleham please read on:

If you are over 18, a British subject or Euro-national, a registered local elector, in the whole of the 12 months preceding the day of election have your principal or only place of work in the parish, or in the whole of the 12 months preceding



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the day of election have resided in the parish or within 3 miles of it you may stand for election.

There are two forms that need to be filled in and these are available from East Cambs District Council after 1st February 2015 at www.east-cambs.gov.uk/elections-voting/election-forms-candidates

1. Nomination Paper – This gives your details and has to have a Proposer and a Seconder.

2. Candidate Consent to Nomination – This gives the conditions that allow you to become a candidate and must be signed in the presence of two witnesses.

The forms have to be delivered in person at the District Council offices between Monday 30th March and Thursday 9th April at 4pm. An interview room will be made available for people to be seen without making an appointment. Any nomination papers that are received by post will not be valid under the new legislation.

All candidates that stand for election will need to complete expenses forms and return them by no later than Thursday 4th June 2015; any elected candidate shall not sit or vote in the council until the election expenses forms are submitted. If the elected candidate sits or votes the penalties are £50 for every day on which they sit or vote. Failure by any candidate to complete their election expenses is an illegal practice. •

Parish Councillors address list

Derrick Beckett (Chairman)	Appleyard Farm, 1 Houghtons Lane, Isleham 01638 780476
Vanessa Bruyneel-Smith	115 The Causeway, Isleham 01638 781708
Paul Chaplin	Jay Jay Lodge, Waterside, Isleham 01638 781745
Jeannette Malkin	17 Little London, Isleham 01638 780283
Bob Mitchell	10 Sparkes Close, Isleham 01638 780707
Lionel Neal	104 Beck Road, Isleham 01638 780066
Clive Patterson	21 West Street, Isleham 01638 780669
Glenda Preece	94 The Causeway, Isleham 01638 780734
Richard Radcliffe	45 Sun Street, Isleham 01638 780831
Hazel Thompson	9 Limestone Close, Isleham 01638 780633
Pauline Wilkes	6 Limestone Close, Isleham 01638 780640
Diane Bayliss (Parish Clerk)	37 Croft Road, Isleham CB7 5QR 01638 781687 islehampc@btinternet.com www.isleham-village.co.uk

Become a Police Support Volunteer

Do you want to get involved in your Community? Have you considered volunteering? Police Support Volunteers are people who give time and enthusiasm to make a difference to their community. We are looking for committed people who will help us create a safer Cambridgeshire.

No particular experience is required and we will provide you with all the necessary training, support and development. So, if you can give a few hours each week, then becoming a Police Support volunteer could be for you.

When you volunteer you will become part of Cambridgeshire Constabulary and learn about how your local police force works. You may want to utilise your existing skills. Enhance your CV, or just meet new people. In return we'll help you learn valuable skills and provide you with training for your specific role.

Volunteers can assist in a variety of ways, such as

- Supporting the Major Crime Unit
- Co-ordinating Speed Watch
- Contacting and helping victims of crime
- Operating CCTV
- Working on crime reduction initiatives
- Helping with IT and administration
- Volunteering with our local policing teams on community engagement projects

As long as you are 18 or over and have the commitment and passion to work with our communities, then we want to hear from you. To find out what roles we have available and how to apply please contact the Recruitment team on 01480 847661 or email recruitment.applications@cambs.pnn.police.uk •

The Beeches: Grand Opening and VE Day dance

'So much is owed by so many to so few!'

Not just an amazing quote but one so heartfelt and honest. 70 years on and May is the anniversary of VE Day. Those that fought and gave it all did so to allow us to live freely and enjoy life to the full.

On Saturday 2nd May The Beeches is proud to present a night of celebration to honour VE Day. Open to all gather your friends, don your costumes from the 1940's era, and join us; food from the period and dancing to the amazing Galaxy Big Band. We welcome you all to also join us at lunchtime that day for the formal opening of The Beeches. A welcome drink and canopies for all before to stalwarts of our wonderful village formally open the centre. We are delighted that Vernon Place and Ruth Diver MBE are to officially open The Beeches after short speeches from the Chair of the Parish Council and Chair of the Isleham Community Association.

Everyone is most welcome and we truly look forward to seeing you at one or both events on what plans to be a memorable day. *Mark Goldsack, ICE Ltd chair.*

Upcoming Beeches events: see posters for more details.

3rd April - Steak Night

6th April - Easter egg hunt and hot cross buns

1st May - Italian Night

2nd May - VE Party 1940's theme

27th June - Summer Ball

5th July - Gala Day

30th October - Sportsman's Dinner

20th December - Family Christmas Disco

31st December - New Years Eve Party



April & May 2015

Mondays	7-9pm Pilates
Tuesdays	9.30-11am PowerHoops & KettleBells 4pm-9.30pm Ballet/Cubs/Scouts/ Your Body Class
Wednesdays	9am-12 Busy Bees 9am Bridge 10-11.30am Needles & Natter 12-1pm Pilates 6-7pm Hour of Power
Thursdays	7.15-8.15pm Hour of Power 7.45-8.45pm Your Body Class
Fridays	2-3.30pm New Age Kurling 7-8.30pm Ballroom Dancing
Saturdays	9-10am Hour of Power 11.15-12.15am Your Body Class 10am-1pm Breakfast 9am-close Café & bar open
Sundays	10am-1pm Breakfast 9am-close Café & bar open

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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.

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@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

Carolyn Bird

We are sorry to report the untimely passing of one of the most vibrant and passionate members of our church community. Carolyn Anne Bird made a contribution to every aspect of the life of St Andrew's, not least through her singing with the choir which she had been a constant member of since it reformed in 2007.

The choir have thrived over the past eight years and Carolyn's irrepressible humour and willingness to learn have been instrumental in that success, helping to make choir practices supremely enjoyable and allowing her joyous personality to shine through in everything she sang.

Even as she experienced difficulties with her health over the past few years, she never let that get in the way of her passionate involvement in all her beloved activities. If anything, as her health challenged her over the last few years it only caused her devotion to God to grow greater and to drive her to find new ways to contribute to church life.

She regularly composed her own prayers for when she led

the morning intercessions, and her wide variety of crafting skills allowed her to contribute everything from cakes at regular sales and coffee mornings to quilting for the quilt festival held last year.

Not only keenly and avidly involved in every aspect of church life but a spirited member of the Isleham Pantomime Crew, a popular member of the WI and the Limestone sewing group, Carolyn also attended and enjoyed Piece Makers quilting group with High Street Chapel members. Anyone lucky enough to receive a home-made greeting card from Carolyn could just feel her love sent through it, she touched the lives of so many in this village and beyond.

Her enthusiasm and positivity will be irreplaceable; to say she will be greatly missed is a huge understatement. She was just 54 and our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time. *Gill Pederson and Mark Liversidge*

Pound Lane Free Church

Pastor: Mr Dave Hall (01638 781343 or 01638 780636, email pastor@plfc.org.uk)

Elder: Mr 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 (Mrs Sue Thompson 01638 780030).

All Stars (Years 4–6): 10–11.15am (Mrs Suzanne Hall 01638 781805).

ovies (Year 7–18 years): 9.30–10.30am (Mr 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 (Mrs 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 (2nd Sat of month) 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

- Our Fellowship Meeting has just re-started its Spring programme, meeting alternate Wednesdays from 2.30 to 4pm. This meeting caters especially for those of older years; you will receive a very warm welcome if you would like to come along.

- Also our Coffee Morning is open every Thursday morning from 10.00 to 11.30am, lovely homemade cakes and savouries, a cup of tea or coffee and good conversations. Also the "in the News" spot looking at a topical item from a Christian point of view. All are very welcome.

High Street Church

I have just had my 50th birthday, despite all my attempts to keep it quiet plenty of people seemed to find out and I had a great day. A couple of weeks have gone by now and I am writing one or two thank you letters– this might seem a little old fashioned but I think that saying thank you is important.

When we are thankful, even for simple things like food, family and clothing, our attitude starts to change, the focus is off us and what we have and the focus is on the giver.

Join a thankful people on Sundays at 10.30 or 6.30pm or at numerous other events during the week. We have bible study, community choir, book club, stained glass group, luncheon club, youth groups, toddler groups... and much more, pop along and find out more. *Martin Wells*,

- We have lots going on in the week from book clubs to youth groups, groups discussing parenting teenagers to learning to drum or working with migrant workers, you could come along to little lambs toddler group or enjoy Rendezvous, our group for those who are retired

– there is too much to list. We also do great Sunday get-togethers at 10.30am and 6.30pm – the door is open.

- Catch us on Facebook – High street church Isleham – or our web site www.highst.org.uk

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 •

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