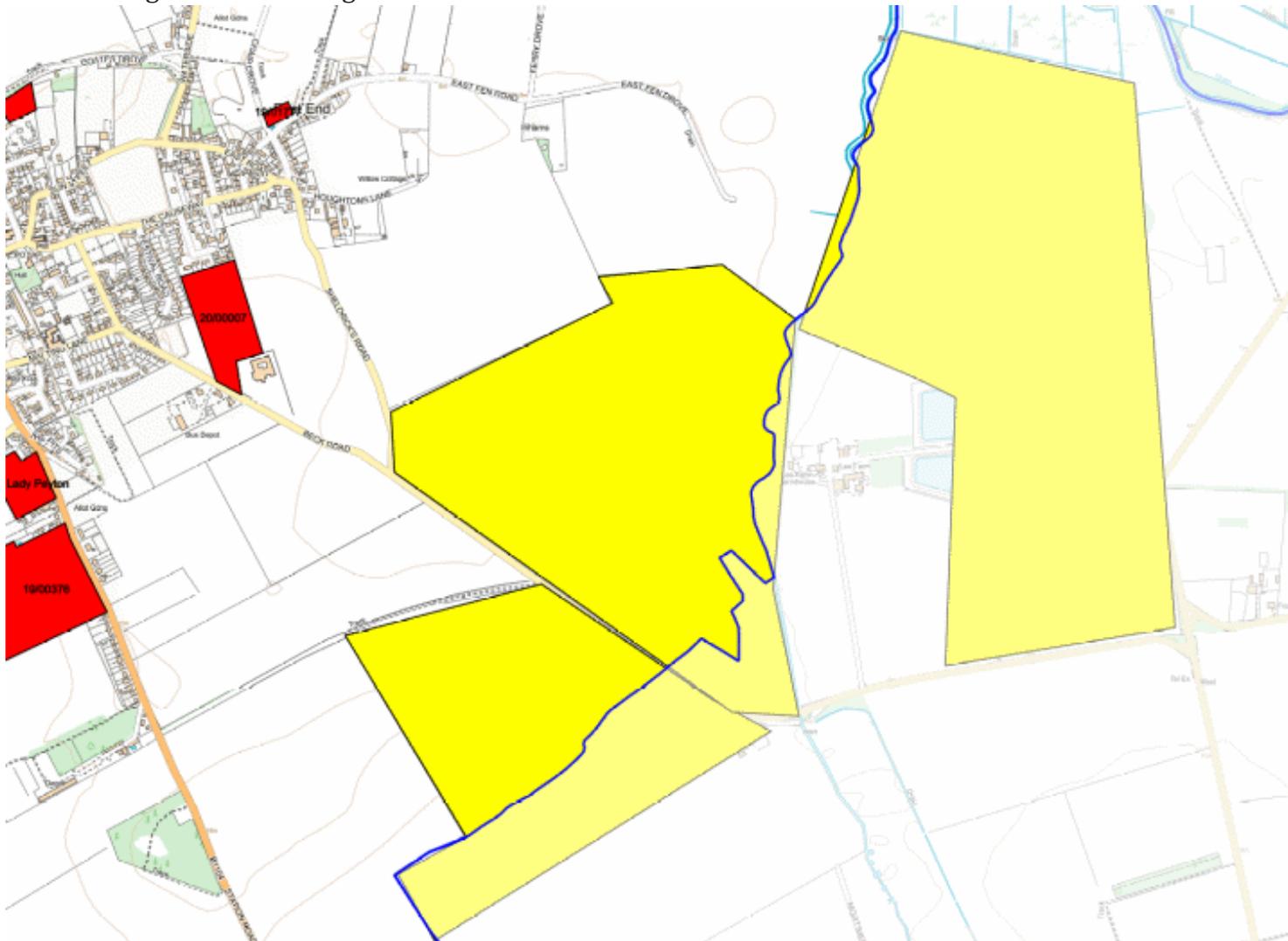


THE SUNNICA PROJECT - I didn't realise!

Under the cover of COVID 19 Sunnica has been quietly progressing its proposal to site the largest Industrial Scale Solar Power Plant in the UK around the villages of Isleham, Chippenham, Fordham, Freckenham, Red Lodge, Snailwell, West Row and Worlington. From the time of the consultation at the Beeches, the map we are shown of the site has changed twice, and there will now be panels almost to the Ark and on both sides of Beck Road leading to the Lea Bridge.



Isleham land - gold
Suffolk land - yellow

Indicative plan
Red area - proposed housing development

The land around our villages has been used for many hundreds of years to grow food. Of late we have come to appreciate the open views of the countryside around our villages, and, as we have walked and cycled we have seen the crops growing in those fields. Only 3 months ago the shelves of our supermarkets were stripped of food because of our fears. In coming years, with a growing world population and

Continued on page 11



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Community Update

THANKS WALLY!

Although we weren't able to have our Gala this year we were entertained by Wally Gunston who cheered everyone up by decorating his house in his own traditional way, then with his colourful trailer that he drove round the village promoting Gala 2021 which will be on Saturday 3rd July.



For 3 nights over the weekend of the 3rd, 4th and 5th July, St Andrews Church was lit up in blue by Wally to mark the 72nd birthday of the formation of the National Health Service on 5th July 1948.



MANCHETTS Newmarket



MOT



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Dates for Your Diary

If there is anything you would like included here for future issues: contact Glenda Preece, T: 01638 780734 E: gjprece@aol.com.

The *Isleham Informer* is published six times a year, every other month.

CONTACTS • Advertising Emma Joy-Staines T: 07809244895 E: emmajoystaines@yahoo.co.uk • **Design & layout** Clive Patterson T: 07771830336 E: patterson.clive@gmail.com • **Features** Glenda Preece T: 01638 780734 E: gjprece@aol.com • **Distribution** Fred Preece T: 01638 780734 • **Published by** Isleham Parish Council • **Printed by** Gipping Press www.gippingpress.co.uk

NEXT ISSUE: Published October 2020 The deadline for all editorial and advertising is 9th September 2020

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.

August

Mon 3rd Parish Council via Zoom 7.15pm

September

Mon 7th Parish Council via Zoom 7.15pm

Wed 9th **INFORMER DEADLINE**

Health Survey

Take new survey about health and care during the coronavirus crisis

How has the covid-19 pandemic and lockdown affected your health and care?

People in Isleham are being asked to give their experiences in a new survey from Healthwatch Cambridgeshire - the local champion for people who use health and social care services.

The way most services are provided is changing to help keep people safe from Covid-19. So Healthwatch wants to know how this has affected you and those you care for and the impact on your mental health and wellbeing.

The survey is online, takes 10 minutes to complete and is anonymous. So you can share experiences in confidence.

What you say goes back to the people running the health and social care system, so they understand what is working well or what needs to change and why.

Like a paper questionnaire? Contact Healthwatch on 0330 355 1285.

Take the survey at:

www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/coronavirus-yourviews

Useful Information

Mobile Library

	Arrive	Depart
2nd Wednesday Church Street	12.25pm	1.00pm
3rd Thursday Mill Street	3.25pm	4.15pm
4th Wednesday Church St	9.45am	10.10am

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: Julia Huffer	01638 720013
Deputy Council Leader: Joshua Schumann.....	07841 524007
Parish Council Clerk: Richard Liddington	01638 781687
MP: Lucy Frazer.....	lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk

Notes from The Editor

Hi hoping that everyone is enjoying the good weather.

A few updates on the COVID 19 crisis and an important article/s on the Solar Farm proposal On a personal point I don't think the proposal is the correct way to impliment solar. Panels on supermarkets, car park covering, industrial units etc seem to be a far better way with less enviromental impact. Don't let them sneak this through and ruin our countryside for decades.

Many thanks must also go to all that contribute articles and pictures, to those who advertise with us, and to all that help to put all the various pieces together and then distribute the Informer. Clive Patterson

Access to and safe use of this playground

To ensure the health and safety of all users we need your cooperation in adhering to the following rules:

- The maximum number of persons allowed in this playground at any one time is 12 (max one adult family member per child)
- Please ensure social distancing of a minimum of 2m at all times
- The maximum number of persons allowed to use individual pieces of equipment at any one time is as follows:

 2 persons	 2 persons	 1 persons	 2 persons
 3 persons	 5 persons	 2 persons	 2 persons
 2 persons	 2 persons	 2 persons	 2 persons

- When you first arrive at the playground please either go straight to an unused piece of equipment or wait by the seating benches until one becomes available.
- Please be mindful of other people waiting to use the equipment. We suggest a maximum time of 5 minutes on each piece of equipment.
- Wherever possible please move between equipment in a clockwise direction, maintaining social distancing with other persons
- To help reduce the risk of contact with other children please ensure your children walk whilst in the playground

Cleaning and hygiene

Please be aware that it is practically impossible to keep this play equipment hygienically clean. Users are therefore encouraged:

- to bring hand sanitiser gel or wipes to clean your children's hands at the beginning and end of play
- to wear facemasks
- to avoid touching your faces, and to cough or sneeze into a tissue or arm when a tissue is not available
- to ensure your children do not put their mouths on equipment or their hands in their mouths

Failure to adhere to these rules could result in the playground being closed. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Richard Liddington Parish Clerk

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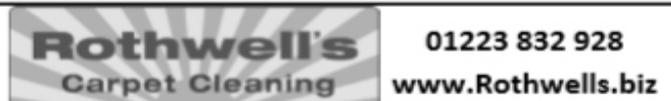
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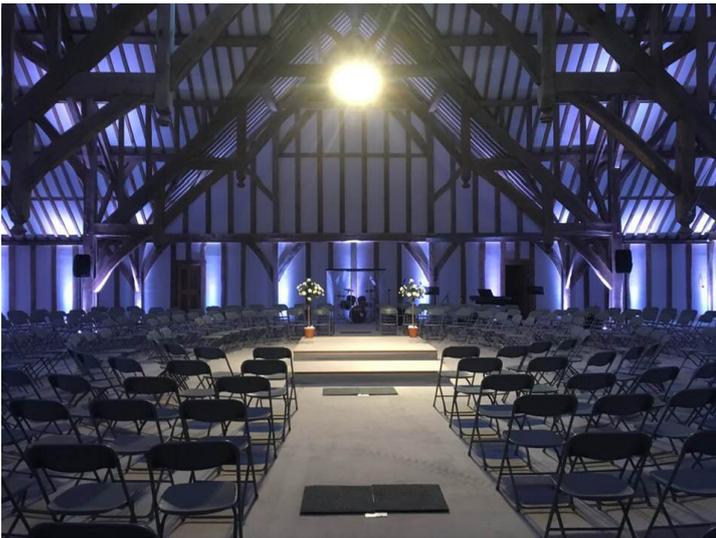
Village clubs: information

CLUB	CONTACT		DAY/DATE	TIME	PLACE
1st Isleham Beavers (boys & girls 6-8yrs)	Emma Bucknall	07807 349754 gsl@islehamscouts.org.uk	Tuesday	5.15 - 6.15pm	The Beeches
1st Isleham Cubs (boys & girls 8-10yrs)	"	07807 349754 gsl@islehamscouts.org.uk	Tuesday	6.30 - 8.00pm	The Beeches
1st Isleham Scouts (boys & girls 8-10yrs)	"	07807 349754 gsl@islehamscouts.org.uk	Tuesday	6.30 - 8.00pm	The Beeches
Beeches Entertainers	Barbara Murfitt	07510 173412 / 01638 780373			
Book Club	Doreen Spiers	01638 780783	2nd Friday	2.00pm	The Beeches
Bowls Club	Sylvia Pinder	01638 720875			The Bowls Club
Busy Bees	Pre-School	01638 781212	Wednesday	9.30 - 11.30pm	The Beeches
Craft Club	Hazel Thompson	01638 780633	Tuesday	1.30 - 4.00pm	Limestone Centre
Friends of Isleham Nature reserve	Avi Stacey	01638 780023	2nd Thursday Bi- Monthly	7.30pm	Various Please ring
Gala Committee	Lisa Alderson	07947 642333	3rd Monday	7.30pm	The Beeches
Isleham Society			3rd Thursday	7.15 for 7.30	The Beeches
Isleham United Youth FC	Steve Isaacson	07545 395573			
Isleham United FC	Jon Marks	07920 843914 jonmarks1965@yahoo.co.uk			
Isleham Tennis Club	Clint	07946 441351			
Isleham Cricket Club	Adrian Sheldrick James Tilbrook	07775 522765 (Chairman) 07884 582730 (1st Team Cap)			
Playgroup (IUFA)	Andreea Harris	01638 781212			
Pilates (Booking Essential)	Jo Simcock- Simms	07974 653775	Monday	10.00 - 11.00am 6.00 - 9.00pm	The Beeches
Pilates (Booking Essential)	"		Wednesday	12.00 - 1.00pm	The Beeches
Pilates (Booking Essential)	"		Friday	12.00 - 1.00pm	The Beeches
Tai Chi	Dave Coogan	01638 781705	Wednesday	1.15 - 2.15pm	The Beeches
The Beeches	Louise Quinn / Lisa Randall	01638 780097			
WI	Glenda Preece	01638 780734	2nd Thursday	7.30pm	The Beeches

• If you would like your club, society, organisation's news and photos, or anything you (and the *Informer* team) think is of interest to the village to appear in the *Isleham Informer*, please contact any member of *Informer* staff - see page 3 for contact details. Please supply your article and photos by September 9th for our October issue. We also need the photographer's name where necessary and details of photos for captions: please do ask subjects to give their permission to appear in the *Informer* - children should have parents' permission.

The Ark Church

Perhaps you haven't had the opportunity to see inside The Ark? You would be very welcome to come on a tour. Just ring us on 01638780985 and we can arrange that for you.



The Ark prepared for a wedding



**Cafe and swap shop morning .
Thanks for the support.**



The entrance from the inside



Our Musicians play a big part in our worship and we are grateful for their commitment.



Some of the woodwork on display



Sunday morning before lockdown

It has been our privilege during lockdown, to offer extra space to our village school to use if needed. At the moment our services are on line but we look forward to the day when we can meet together again.



Isleham Parish Council Update

July 2020

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 are set aside each month for public question time. (No food or drink to be bought into the meeting room, please.)

Please note that at the time of writing the Covid19 outbreak means that our meetings are currently being held using the Zoom, online conferencing platform www.zoom.us. Should any members of the public wish to participate in this online meeting then could they please send their email address to islehampc@gmail.com so that they can be registered? Or if you simply wish to submit a written comment in relation to any of the agenda items please do so either via email or in writing to the addresses above.

Full copies of the agendas and minutes are available on the Parish Council website, the notice boards outside The Beeches and adjacent to the cenotaph and from the Parish Clerk, Richard Liddington: tel 01638 781687, email islehampc@gmail.com. Summarised agendas are also posted on the Isleham News Facebook page.

Covid 19

Our sincere appreciation goes to County Councillor Mark Goldsack, Tim Acheson, Joanne Pawson, Isleham Cricket Club and the numerous other volunteers who have continued to work so selflessly in meeting the needs of vulnerable residents during the current crisis.

Allotment Matters

All plots on the Dunstall site (Station Rd) are now let out. We are in the process of developing further plots on Three Trees site (Beck Rd) and these will be available for rent by the time of publication. The rent for a ten-rod plot which equates to 252m² is just £15 per annum. Please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

Neighbourhood Plan Work continues on the draft Neighbourhood plan. We hope to be able to share this document and gauge the thoughts and opinions of residents towards our proposals as soon as the current lockdown is lifted

Fly Tipping Incidences of fly tipping should be reported directly to ECDC via their website: <https://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/waste/fly-tipping>

Recreation Ground

*We continue to request the support of residents in not taking your dogs onto the Beeches site of recreation ground

*Councillors are in the process of considering what uses might be made for a parcel of land being bequeathed to the Parish as a result of the Bloor Homes Development

*The Parish Council wish to express their appreciation to all residents for respecting the closure of the

playground during the Covid19 crises and for respecting social distancing rules on the recreation ground. move between equipment in a clockwise direction, maintaining social distancing with other persons Please see the rules for use of the playground on page 3

Planning Applications (June - July) *

19/01178/DISA To discharge condition 5 (Contamination) and 9 (Archaeology) of Decision dated 12.11.2019 for Demolition of agricultural barns and residential development of five residential dwellings, garaging, parking, access road and associated works. Appleyard Farm 1 Houghtons Lane Isleham. Mr D Beckett No objection

20/00546/FUL Construction of storage outbuilding to serve existing mooring business (River View Marina) River View 26 Prickwillow Rd Isleham. Mr A Dillely Objection
20/00542/TRE G1 Cherry & Mulberry - Reduce entire crown of both trees by up to 2 metres back to previous points keeping the shapes as natural as possible. 3 West St Isleham Mrs D Howlett No objection

20/00595/FUL Single storey side and rear pitched roof wrap round extension with creation of new access & associated works. 22 Station Road Isleham. D Rowe No Objection

19/01318/DISA To discharge Condition 3 (Windows, doors and roof Window details) of decision 19/01318/FUL dated 16 January 2020 for alterations to kitchen along with internal and external alterations. 18 Little London Isleham. Mr Warburton & Ms Wilkinson. No objection

20/00617/FUL POTENTIAL DEPARTURE Construction of 5 bedroom, 1.5 storey detached dwelling. Land South East Of 58 West Street Isleham Cambridgeshire. (previously 19/01030) Mr D Clarke. Objection

20/00665/FUL Demolition of existing outbuilding (home office) and shed and replace with new home office and store. 39 Hall Barn Road Isleham. TAB Architecture No objection

20/00705/VAR To vary Condition 1 (Approved drawings) of previously approved 19/01178/OUT for demolition of agricultural barns and residential development of five residential dwellings, garaging, parking, access road and associated works. Appleyard Farm 1 Houghtons Lane Isleham Mr D Beckett. No objection

20/00710/TRE Proposal: T1 Picea pungens (Blue Spruce) - Fell to ground level, tree roots are damaging the tarmac driveway. T2 Cedrus atlantica & T2 Glauca (Blue Atlas Cedar) - Fell to ground level. Tree roots are damaging the low retaining wall. T3 Cedrus deodara (Himalayan cedar) - Fell to ground level. Tree roots are damaging the low retaining wall. Trees to be replaced in due course as part of a garden re-design. The Walnuts 23 Limestone Close Isleham. Mrs Julie Bond Conditional objection

20/00711/VAR Variation of condition 1 (Approved Plans) of decision 19/00366/FUL dated 22/08/2019 for construction of 3 no. dwellings, parking, garaging, access road and associated site works. 72 West Street Isleham. The Executors for Mrs J Reed No objection

20/00720/TRE T1- Beech - Fell and re-plant - The tree has a codominant main stem with a tight v shape union and signs of cracking T2- Yew - Fell and re-plant to allow establishment of new garden. 15 Pound Lane Isleham. Mr Bye Conditional objection

Continued on page 8

Parish Council Update cont'd from page 7

20/00792/FUL First floor bedroom extension above an existing hallway and garage + solar pv to roof. Wall insulation and render to existing exterior. 6 The Pits Isleham Mr T Acheson Objection

Planning Approvals (June – July)

20/00142/OUT Construction of 1no. detached dwelling and garaging for horticultural manager. Floral Farm Fordham Rd Isleham.

20/00286/VAR Variation of condition 1 (Approved plans) of previously approved 19/01115/OUT for Construction of 2no. detached single storey dwellings and associated works. 55 Pound Lane Isleham

20/00314/FUL Proposed two storey side and rear and single storey front extensions and Internal alterations. Sunnyside 21 Church Lane Isleham

20/00373/FUL Demolition of existing storage building and erection of a replacement storage building for agricultural equipment. Site East Of Appleyard Farm Houghtons Lane Isleham

Planning Refusals: (June – July)

20/00007/OUM Residential development for up to 70 dwellings (Class C3) with associated access, infrastructure and public open space Location: Land North East Of 100 Beck Road Isleham. Penland Estates.

20/00258/FUL Erection of six dwellings with associated parking (resubmission of 18 /01375/FUL) Pattersons Stores 11 Mill Street Isleham

Other Planning Matters

Sunnica Councillors have submitted a number of provisional objections to the proposed solar farm which will fall within our parish boundary (see separate article)

*Details for the reasons for objections can be found on the minutes of meetings and on ECDC planning website: <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/planning/current-planning-applications>

Parish Councillors address list

Richard Radcliffe (Chairman)	45 Sun Street, Isleham Tel: 01638 780831
Derrick Beckett (Vice Chairman)	Appleyard Farm, 1 Houghtons Lane, Isleham Tel: 01638 780476
Vanessa Bruyneel-Smith	115 The Causeway, Isleham Tel: 01638 781708
Jeannette Malkin	17 Little London, Isleham Tel: 01638 780283
Bob Mitchell	10 Sparkes Close, Isleham Tel: 01638 780707
Marco Caferelli	22 Maltings lane CB7 5RZ,, Tel: 07971 335193
Glenda Preece	94 The Causeway, Isleham Tel: 01638 780734
Pauline Wilkes	6 Limestone Close, Isleham Tel: 01638 780640
Alan Dennis	2, Nursery Close, Isleham Tel: 01638 781872
Christopher Elmer	30 Limestone Close, Isleham Tel: 01638 780934
Dr Chris Corbin	5 Priory Gardens, Isleham Tel: 01638 780221
Richard Liddington (Parish Clerk)	Parish Office, The Beeches Tel: 01638 781687 Email: islehampc@gmail.com Website: www.isleham-village.co.uk

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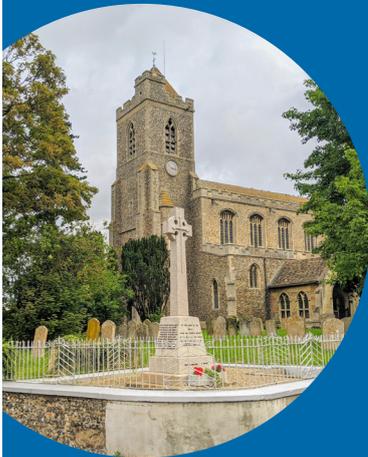


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07500 800441 or 01638 721343

preheatingservices@gmail.com

**In collaboration with
The Lady Frances
Peyton Trust**



BE PART OF ISLEHAM'S FUTURE

The Lady Francis Peyton Trust and Havebury Housing Partnership are working together on a proposal to build 45 affordable homes in Isleham.

Over the coming weeks you will receive an information pack through the post providing you with all the relevant details and we would like your comments to form part of the planning process.

Alternatively, visit www.havebury.com to have your say.

SUNNICA PROPOSALS NOW INCLUDE LAND IN ISLEHAM

I am sure that many of you are aware of the proposals for potentially the largest solar energy park in the UK to be constructed by Sunnica to produce sufficient renewable energy to power 100,000 homes, in this area.

Sunnica is now preparing to make a planning application to the Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for planning permission. As this is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project such major developments require planning permission to be granted by the relevant Secretary of State through a Development Consent Order. They do not follow the route of local planning permissions, which are considered, in our case, by East Cambridgeshire District Council. Sunnica's application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate who administer the application process on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Sunnica held an event at the Beeches last year to set out their proposals to get views from local people as part of the planning process. This is known as the non Statutory Consultation Phase of this planning process.

The indicative proposals then showed that the scheme would cover large parts of agricultural land in West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire but not directly on land within the Parish of Isleham.

The Parish Council is now aware that these proposals have changed and that agricultural land in Isleham is to be included within the proposal of the 1130 hectares (2792 acres) site which includes land around Worlington Freckenham, Chippenham and Smailwell. In Isleham now included are the fields on the east of Sheldricks Road and either side of Beck Road to the Lea Brook and around Lea Farm in Suffolk.

The Parish Council is concerned that in the initial consultation the proposal to include Isleham in the scheme was not shown and therefore no comment could be made by you. The Council has written to Sunnica to ask whether they intend to rerun the event held last year in the village to ensure their consultation is appropriate. At the time of writing no response has been received.

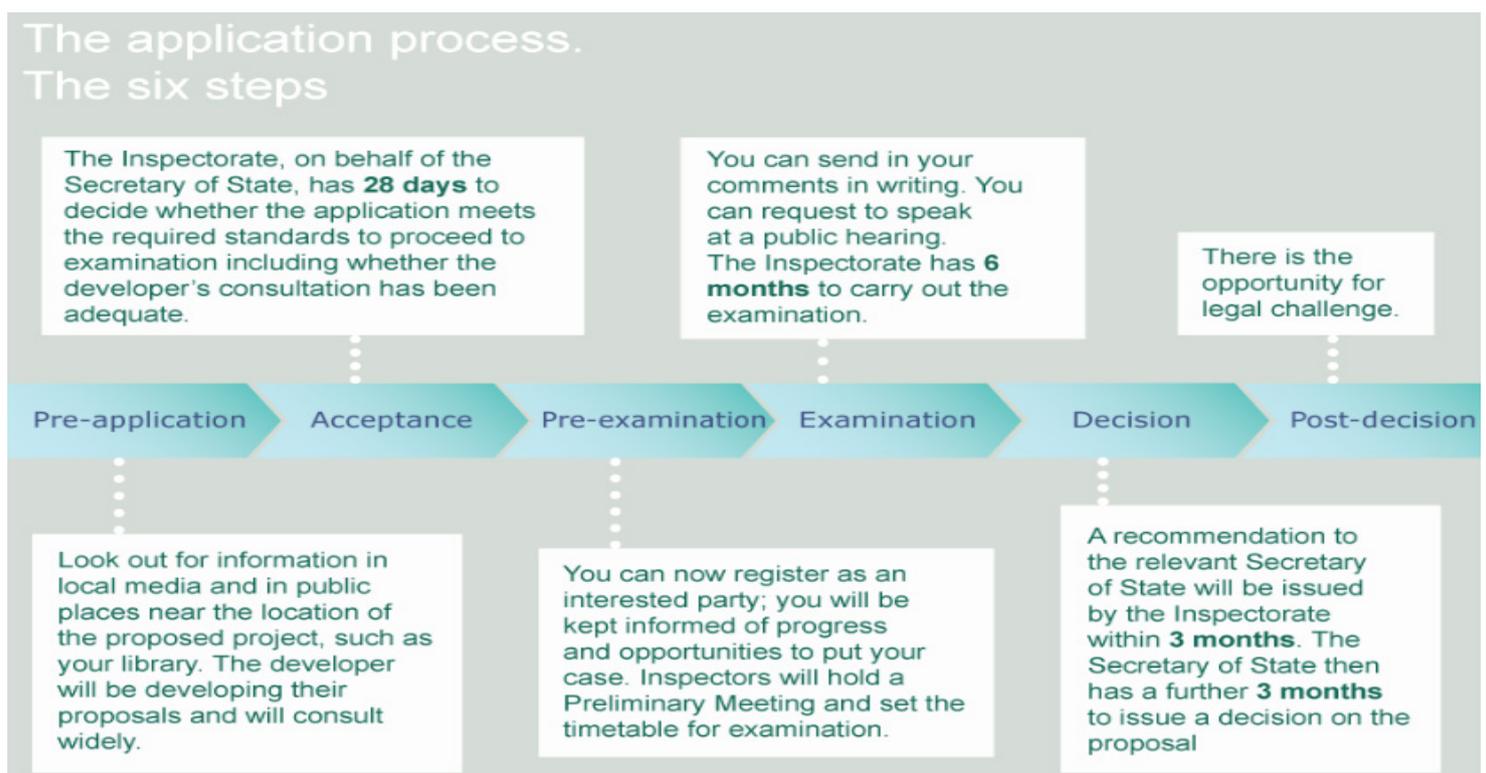
Sunnica indicated at a recent meeting that they intend to make their application for planning permission to the Government in the autumn 2020 when they have finalised their proposals for the Solar Farm. which will operate for 40 years.

Many of you responded to the Questionnaire sent out by the Parish Council and recognised the need for new renewable energy sources but were generally concerned over the extent and scale of this development. I would hope that Sunnica will rerun their consultation event now that it will impact directly on our village so our views can be made locally.

However we all, as individuals, groups or organisations, will have the opportunity to comment, in writing, on the final proposals as the the Government is required to consult widely as part of it considerations through the following process.

When that time comes in the Autumn I urge you to make your written comments to the Planning Inspectorate. In doing this we can ensure that our wide range of views in the village can be fully taken into account when the recommendation is made to the Secretary of State about Sunnica's proposals..

Richard Radcliffe Chairman, Isleham Parish Council



Reply from Sunica (from page 10)

Dear Richard

Thank you for attending the meeting last Wednesday evening, we're glad that you found it useful.

As we discussed during the meeting, we're currently in the process of finalising our scheme proposals ahead of the statutory consultation which we propose to hold later this year in September/October. This is the focus of our future consultation activity. The scheme proposals that we will present at the statutory consultation will, in part, be informed by the feedback that we received during the non-statutory consultation.

Through the statutory consultation we will seek feedback from all the communities affected by the scheme, including Isleham. The consultation will offer extensive opportunity to view and feedback on our proposals. Following the consultation we will again take time to consider the feedback and update our scheme design before submitting our DCO application.

Scott Harker

(For and on behalf of Sunnica)

Cont'd from front page

climate change potentially reducing the amount of land suitable for growing food, how can it make sense to take good productive land and cover it with solar panels and concrete pads for the batteries and fences all around?

Solar panels are only between 10-25% efficient at converting the sun's energy to electricity. Technology in these areas is developing so rapidly that in 10 years time there may be much more efficient, and cheaper, methods of producing energy rendering the site obsolete- what happens to all the panels then? Sunnica presented no plans for the decommissioning of the site and the recycling industry is lagging behind the speed at which the number of panels in the system is growing.

We could also ask why the planners let developments such as Bloor Homes go ahead with panels on only 24 of the houses?

Part of the Sunnica proposal is for 6m (19ft) high batteries which will take energy from the grid at night when it is cheaper, they will then sell it back to the grid at a higher price during the day when the price is higher-should we be allowing this to happen? Depending on the battery technology there are risks that if a battery sets on fire it will be extremely difficult to extinguish and may produce clouds of toxic fumes which could affect the health of people living underneath the plumes of smoke. The panels themselves may contain toxic elements which might, if the panels are damaged, leach into the soil rendering it unsafe for food production in the future.

Currently we do not know the exact size or orientation of the panels. We do know they are projected to be 2.5m (8ft) high and the ones at a similar but smaller site in Kent which has just received planning approval were East West facing as that is the most efficient orientation.



If that is the case there will be very little space between the ranks of panels and no grass or wild flowers growing beneath them. The wildlife which has been increasing over the last few years is also threatened, the pathways and corridors they currently use across fields will disappear as fences are erected around the sites. Stone Curlews and Harriers use the fields for food and for nesting, the Lea Beck has kingfishers and water voles- all are likely to be disturbed when construction begins.

The site is projected to start development in 2022 and will be complete in 2025, so for 3 years all our villages will be blighted by construction traffic, as concrete bases are laid for the batteries and panels and security fencing are erected.

Sunnica are currently discussing their plans with representatives of East Cambs, West Suffolk and Parish Councils. The results of the survey conducted by the Parish Council showed a majority in favour of Green Energy, but also a majority (84%) against Sunnica largely because of the vast scale of the proposal.

If we wish to have influence over the final outcome of this solar scheme we must individually and collectively make sure our views and opinions are heard very clearly by the Secretary of State.

Please attend the Statutory Consultation (dates and venues not yet published but anticipated to be early autumn) where the final plans will be available. Whatever your decision please ensure you are fully aware of what this proposal will mean – once planning permission is granted it is too late to say “I didn’t realise” If you would like to know more please contact the SAY NO TO SUNNICA Community Action Group



Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves

Over the last 4 months many people have realised what valuable assets we have in the green spaces around the village. The Orchard had a beautiful display of blossom earlier this year and the trees are now full of fruit. Some of the early varieties of apples will be ready for picking shortly after you receive this Informer. Due to Covid we will not be able to hold Apple Day as we have done over the last few years but we hope you will still visit the Orchard for quiet times and meditation.

The Railway Nature Reserve has looked lovely all spring with a wide range of birds and colourful flowers which, on warm days, attract clouds of butterflies. If you walk quietly you might see lizards basking in the sunshine. The recent rain has produced a surge of green growth .

The Reserve comprises the old railway track and, by kind permission of Gemma Maxwell, we are able to use the field adjacent. The field is owned by County Farms and farmed under a Stewardship scheme designed to encourage biodiversity, it is for this reason the grass is not cut until after most plants have seeded.

The hay from the field has a variety of grasses and herbs and can be fed to cattle over the winter. We pull up the ragwort that can harm livestock each year. In order for it to be used as hay the farmer needs to know it is not contaminated with dog muck and we are grateful to the dog walkers who clear up after their dogs to keep the grass clean.

Sadly the same does not apply to some of the human visitors to the Reserve and field. On a number of occasions an array of human waste was discovered first thing in the morning. Cleaning this up is not a pleasant job and, under current circumstances, poses a potential risk to everyone involved. Again our thanks to the early morning dog walkers who kindly took on that task. As a result of this it was regretfully decided that the only option was to lock the gate leading to the carpark overnight, the police have also been informed and will be making checks.

The hedge along Coates Drove has survived the very dry weather and the plants are establishing well. Over the next few years we look forward to seeing the hedge develop, and it will provide shelter for birds and animals and the berries and nuts will provide food.

We would welcome anyone who wished to help us maintain the Reserve, we are a small but friendly group. For more details please contact Avi on 01638-780023 or go to Friends of Isleham News on Facebook.





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Isleham Society Quiz



1. Which long standing building, part of village life disappeared from the village centre earlier this year?
2. Who monitored the Co-op 'Over '70's' 8-9am shopping time?
3. Where was The Primitive Methodist Chapel?
4. By what former name are numbers 60-68 West St historically known?
5. Why is Kennedy Rd so called?
6. When were the lime kilns in Limestone Close built? (give yourself 20 years either side)
7. What jobs did the following have in 2000? a) Chris Ginn b) Roy and Elaine Telfer c) Linda Staward
8. The Crown, The Cock, and The Bell were all in which street?
9. If you were 'shocking' in an Isleham field what would you be doing?

Thanks. Fletchermark100@gmail.com



Isleham Preschool

At Isleham Preschool, we aim to work in partnership with parents and carers to provide quality care and play based learning activities for all preschool children living in the local community.

As a registered charity, run by a parent based committee we welcome regular support and input from parents.

As a committee, we try to organise various fundraising activities throughout the year to raise as much money as possible to put back in to the preschool to be able to provide the best learning resources and environment for the children as possible.

We are always open to parents joining the committee, so if your child is joining the preschool in September or later on in the school year and you would like more information on how to join then please get in touch!

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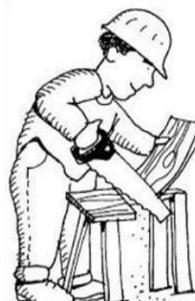
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County Council

There are many phrases over used at the moment to describe the period from just before Covid-19 lockdown to present day. Unprecedented, unrivalled, never seen before and many more are repeated by journalists on the TV, online and radio. In my opinion we could hopefully describe this period as a time of reset, a time of rethinking. Why would I say this? Well quite simply for us lucky enough to be living in Isleham we have seen the very best of society, the heart of community and an all round explosion of good will. From all of the many changes to everyday life that Covid-19 will bring, such as social distancing and use of wipes and hand washing, I am ever hopeful that this neighbourly approach, this caring attitude prevails to be the new normal.

Whilst much praise has been heaped on the volunteers, expertly marshalled by the cricket club, (and rightly so), as one of these active members I can say that this has been one of the privileges of my life. To be in a position to help those that need and value such help has been uplifting, rewarding and personally enriching. Not only has doing so helped so many in our wonderful village but it has also helped me. It has provided structure and routine where they were missing, contact and socialisation where that was barred, and a sense of service that I can only imagine was felt by our forefathers as times of national crisis such as war.

I won't list the statistics of over 700 prescription collections, 500 shopping trips, numerous errands and help, (ok I just did) but the ICC/IVG activity has been so much more. We have a phone box being used to provide those that need it sustenance and support, but in a dignified and non-judgemental manner. We have seen support from local business that has gone so far beyond that which could have been expected, I sincerely hope that the good people of Isleham recall who it was that supported them and now that they can they support these amazing small businesses.

However, despite the feeling a relief and pride that Isleham is one of only 3 villages in Cambs to not suffer a Covid-19 death, and that the outbreak levels in East Cambs are the lowest in the county, do NOT make the mistake of thinking this is over! The need to wash your hands, protect yourselves and others, and to act if you are showing the symptoms is still high. There are talks of a second wave, and even stronger hit than the last few months. In Isleham, we have come through this attack and made new friends and neighbours, so lets make sure that by we repel any further attacks by maintaining a good approach.

On other matters at County Council the way we have undertaken business has changed but the business itself has continued throughout the last 4 months. I have been working from home throughout attending remote meetings and seminars on all matters. Cambridgeshire County Council has fared well compared to other local authorities but we will face a deficit of funds to cover the Covid-19 costs. We are looking at how the government will cover some if not all of this, and what we can do to help, but our approach has been about people first.

Cambridgeshire County Council has an approach called 'Think Communities' which has seen officers move into localities for their work rather than be based in a central location. It is about supporting local volunteer groups to succeed and communities to be self sustaining. This approach meant that the Covid-19 attack and consequences has highlighted that this is right. We are lucky in our county to be ahead of thinking on such matters. We have seen the £5m fund for community funding run this last few months, as well as schemes such as 'Innovate and Cultivate' through which voluntary groups have applied and been rewarded with much needed funds to allow them to prosper.

Finally, for this period I would like to send my best wishes to the many that during this period of lockdown have found themselves fighting battles of differing kind. Cancer, ill-health, debt, stress and more have all been growing while we have perhaps focussed elsewhere. I know of many in Isleham that have been fighting their battles in private and with dignity. I just hope that these few can and will benefit now from the new feel of community and neighbourly resolve that we have seen in lockdown, but quite frankly always new existed here in our wonderful village of Isleham

Stay safe, protect others and I hope to see you all very soon.

Mark Goldsack

County Councillor Soham North & Isleham, Chairman of Commercial & Infrastructure Committee



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CHURCHES

St Andrew's Parish Church

Since I last wrote for the Informer much has changed. In the middle of June we were allowed to open the church once more for private prayer. Thanks to an excellent team of volunteers we were able to ensure that the church was sparkling clean for the grand re-opening. Since the beginning of July we have cautiously returned to public worship at St Andrew's at our usual time of 9.30am. We've used teasels to mark which pews cannot be used to ensure that people are at least 2m apart. We have provided hand sanitiser for people to use as they enter, single use service sheets. Sadly at present we are not able to sing or to share the peace. We are able to receive communion but at present only bread and the priest celebrating is ensuring good hand hygiene at all points. We are still providing resources for those who haven't been able to return to worship with us. We are still holding our Tuesday morning coffee virtually using Zoom, please contact David if you'd like the log in details. We are in discussions as to when we might return to a physical coffee morning and when this might be safe.

Funds are going to be a problem, several of our usual fund raising events are not able to go ahead. We will be holding our annual gift day on Saturday 29th August. We recognise that lots of people have found the last few months financially hard but are hoping that the community will be generous as they have been in previous years.

Rector: The Rev'd David Cleugh

723010 davidrcleugh@gmail.com

Associate Priest: The Rev'd Sue Potts 721662 revd.sue@icloud.com

Curate: The Rev'd Anna Jones

07751 032166 revdannajones@gmail.com

Pound Lane Free Church

As I write this we are preparing plfc for reopening on Sunday 19th July. It's exciting to think that some of us will be able to meet together again to worship our great God in His house. Things will be very different as we observe social distancing and are not allowed to sing, but it's a step towards getting back to normal. Until further notice we will be having one service at 10.30am on Sunday mornings, please do come and join us, you will receive a very warm, socially distanced welcome!

We shall also, God willing, be re-opening our Thursday morning Coffee Mornings from 23rd July from 10.00am to 11.30am. Again all social distancing and other COVID-19 restrictions will be adhered to and you are invited to join with us.



With a heavy heart we closed The Beeches on 17th March, a few days before the Government ordered the lockdown. The staff were furloughed, and this has continued for four months.

With the lifting of many of the restrictions Louise, our Manager, has now started back to work, though not yet in the building.

There is a great deal of work to do before The Beeches will meet all the guidelines laid down by the Government to make it Covid safe for the staff and the public, but we will do our best to ensure we can welcome you all back by September.

The Trustees

Isleham Community Association

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Speedwatch

Since Covid and the reduction in traffic many people have commented on the speed of vehicles travelling through the village. As of 6th July we were able to resume Speedwatch sessions and will be checking roads around the village in an effort to persuade drivers to reduce their speed.

If anyone is interested in helping out there is a 1 hour training session- which can be done while we are actually doing a Speedwatch check. After that there is no commitment and sessions can be held at any time as long as we can get 3 people together. The more people involved the more sessions we would be able to do.

If anyone is interested in joining us please contact Anne Noble 07880 738076

Isleham Society



It's frustrating that we have had to miss so much this year and are not likely to be able to resume meetings for quite a while yet. We had also hoped to hold another Open Day at the Priory end July but English Heritage are being understandably cautious and will not allow that. The celebration of the 25th anniversary and restoration of the Isleham Village tapestry has also been postponed.

So as some consolation interest we have an item every week which is emailed to members and indeed to anyone who would like to receive it. Topics so far have been 'Beating the Bounds', 'The second Margaret Peyton', 'Wreckers', 'Flint working', 'John Tharpe of Chippenham', 'Local businesses during lockdown', 'A monk's life at the Priory', and also cartoons of how the village is coping. If you would like to be on the mailing list please contact Glenda Preece. If you would be prepared to contribute a short (max.600 word) piece on some aspect of local area heritage, and especially personal memories, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Ideas which spring to mind are things like: Waterside as a working canal; commercial flower growing; why the name 'Knave's Acre'? evidence of Saxon/Danish/Norman legacy; shops in the village over the last thirty years; the ferry; railway stories; what happened to the walnut trees? Fen winters in the 'old days'; local characters remembered; drama/sport/fishing and so on and so on. We can collect these anecdotes into a very useful resource. When this social distancing period is over I hope it will be possible to record the early memories of some of our long term residents. Perhaps in due course we will have a super history resource for everyone and perhaps especially our young folk.

Meanwhile, keep well and safe.

All good wishes Mark Fletcher (Chairman)

Business during Covid

We asked several businesses how they had been affected by the pandemic.

Our Farm, our On-Farm Shop 'TFM Butchers' and Covid 19

As we went into lockdown and our concerns regarding how it was going to affect our business, I happened to ask my Son-In-Law, "I wonder what should we do?", "sell a weekly Meat Pack and offer free delivery he said". So that is what we did.

Luckily, we already had our on-line service up and running. It needed a few tweaks, but we got there in the end. So, we went live and oh my goodness, our on-line Butchers went RED HOT. Within a few hours we had over one hundred orders and this has continued, numbers have dropped slightly as the panic buying has eased. We had to decide to put a limit on how long the service was live for as we knew we wouldn't be able to cope with so many orders due to it was only me, Roseanna Thompson, and our Butcher, David Hartnell working in the shop at the time. Our little shop was heaving with customers inside and out. We knew we would have to put a procedure in place to keep us and our customers safe. We measured from behind our counters, 2 meters and placed a box area by the door and bollards to indicate where was best for our customers to stand at a safe distance. We supplied hand sanitizer outside, supplied seating and put notices up. Thank goodness the weather has been kind to us.

Our Daughter, Anna Johnson, had gone on maternity leave before the lockdown which left Steven and I with all the work on the Farm looking after the animals and running the shop. We decided that I would go out on the Farm early mornings to tend to the Chickens and Sows with new-born piglets and leave all the rest of the work to Steven. Looking back, we were shattered. Very long 12-14 hour days every day of the week. For my husband Steven, Covid19 has not made any difference to working farm life. Farming, naturally can be a very self-isolating industry. Not leaving the farm very much, very long days and solitary. The Farm routine continued as usual with the extra pressure of produce for the shop.

Meanwhile, we needed more staff asap. We fortunately know a few Butchers who were either retired or furloughed, who kindly agreed to come and help. I contacted Patrick Pearce at The Rising Sun Pub to ask if any of his staff who were furloughed would like to come and work for us, and luckily the amazing Zoe Ainge offered - and what a star she has been. Next a lovely lady called Noreen Human who lives on the Marina and is one of our customers also offered her help which we grabbed with both hands. Also, we cannot forget the fantastic Barbara Murfitt who has been our delivery driver, visiting old and new customers and self-isolating customers all over the area within 15 miles of our Shop. Barbara, Noreen and Zoe took to how the shop runs like ducks to water; they are fantastic and we could not manage without them. David our Butcher has been a star. He is at retirement age but has been working a 6 day week and continuing to prepare our produce to a very high standard.

So, now we have got used to the changes but still working very long hours, we are back to our normal shop opening hours. We are still fully staffed and continuing to supply our customers with their Weekly Meat Bag

and serving customers in our shop as we would normally. Work on the Farm is unchanged but the extra jobs of hay to make, bale and cart has started and soon, Harvest!

So personally for myself and my husband Steven we have got used to a different routine. Steven's parents live next door so we have been able to help them if they needed anything. We advised that they self-isolate because of our shop and coming in-contact with the public. What we have found very difficult as many have, is not seeing family. Our Daughter and Son-in-Law had our first Grandchild at the end of April, so not being able to spend time with them has been very difficult.

We are so fortunate to live in Isleham. Our Customers have been absolutely amazing, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for supporting our business, and our industry and for buying local.

Thank you from all of us,
The Thompson Family

The Rising Sun

The Rising Sun Inn is early seventeenth century and one of the oldest buildings in the village. Here is a quote from Arthur Houghton's book 'Memories of Isleham' 'At one time the small out building on the side of the entrance was a barber's shop run by Mr Herbert Goodchild. We had our Slate Club dinners in the Club House at the Rising Sun. I had my first Club dinner there after I had left school and started work and I had never seen such enormous joints of salt beef. There was a sing song after dinner. The women who cooked all this food must have worked very hard to cook all that meat and Yorkshire puddings in the brick ovens and huge dishes of vegetables.' Well, that sounds like the forerunner of the famous Rising Sun Sunday roast lunches which were so popular till lockdown and which we hope to enjoy again soon! Can someone tell me please about the Slate Club? For Pat and Claire Pearce the news on Friday March 20th was a dramatic shock meaning they went from having a business with bar sales, popular meals and nice on-site accommodation to having no customers and no income. 'From only ever shutting the pub one day per year in the last 15 years we closed our doors on our customers indefinitely. It was a very strange feeling as you can imagine. However, we decided that we were going to use the time to redecorate the inside of the pub which took us five weeks. We then decided to turn our attention to the pub garden and we jet-washed and repointed the patio, painted the fence panels and repainted the treehouse.

We have also been fortunate to have a new resin floor laid in the cellar and we've painted the cellar walls so it looks really smart down there. It is strange seeing it bare and barrel-free.

We are now preparing to reopen the pub in a limited capacity following the new restrictions/guidelines laid out by the government. We'll be busy making lots of signs and reorganising furniture inside and outside to be ready for opening Saturday 4th July! We are excited and slightly anxious about re-opening in the current situation but we are really looking forward to welcoming our customers back after so long.'

From the team who coped with Covid 19 at the Co-Op

For those of us on the retail food industry Covid 19 proved a real game changer. As soon as the lockdown was announced everything at store level went into overdrive.

Our backup stock of loo rolls were certainly the first item to disappear, very quickly – we even considered opening the 9 packs and allowing all customers one roll each! The fresh food, and all our daily deliveries were constantly sold out, shelves were empty of tins and long-life items.

The Co-Op, along with many others, introduced the 'Vulnerable Shoppers Hour', which included the NHS workers and other key workers. Thanks go to the Volunteers of Isleham Cricket Club who organised a rota outside the store during these times, It was an huge help to us. I know that the more vulnerable members of the village really appreciated their special time to shop.

A one-way shopping system was put into place, each customer had to take a basket even if they only wanted one item. This enabled us to keep a head count of the customers in the shop at any one time – this wasn't always appreciated by those who only wanted a newspaper or cigarettes.

For those of us working during this time it has been very different. We were advised to close at 8pm in the evenings, so we could spend time refilling shelves and catching up on deliveries.. And then the PPE started to arrive, which included the shielding at the tills.

For the most part our customers have been grateful for our service to the village, although there has of course been the odd incident when people wanted to buck the trend. However, we have managed so far, and we continued to work through this. Even as we speak face masks are mandatory in all shops, which includes staff as well.

It has not been an easy time, but as we look back at how we have coped during the last few months we think we have done well. We are still here, we still manage to have laughs and plenty of tea and coffee. The Co-Op is responsible for looking after us, and we are duty bound to serve you as best we can,



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Isleham Society Quiz Answers

1. W.J & J.E Patterson Village Store
2. The Cricket Club
3. On the Causeway about a hundred yards from the Alms Houses. Demolished due to subsidence.
4. Bernards Manor, or later, 'The Hall'
5. It's a 1964 development. Name commemorates President Kennedy who was assassinated previous year
6. 1860
7. a) manager of the garage
b) proprietors of Fish and Chip shop
c) school teacher
8. Mill St
9. Stacking sheaves of corn to dry.



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The School Pond at Isleham Primary

Lockdown has created a slightly quieter environment in school than usual, and although we have been missing all the children immensely, one benefit has been that the local wildlife has been thriving in our school pond! The children who have been in school have been intrigued to see dragonflies, frogs, newts, water snails and a variety of water wildlife throughout the past term. One of our mixed age-group bubble groups of children have created these fantastic paintings to share of our resident emperor dragonfly who ventured into the school at the start of July.



Evie, Reception



Finley, Year 2



Millie, Reception



Bethany, Year 3



Lottie, Year 3



Abi, Reception



Leo, Year 1



Jessie, Year 1



Abi J, Year 5

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The children found out that the emperor dragonfly is one of the biggest and fastest of the European dragonflies. It can swoop and dive through the air at speeds of 24mph. Adults catch and eat their prey, including butterflies and other insects in the air. They live near fresh water such as streams and ponds. Emperor dragonfly young called nymphs, take up to a year to become winged adults, but then live for only around 10 days.



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