

Isleham Informer

Winter Edition • Issue 99 • December 2020 • www.isleham-village.co.uk

Remembrance Sunday

Those few of us gathered at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday (8 November) this year were more conscious than ever of the privilege and responsibility of doing so on behalf of the community. The names of the men of Isleham who lost their lives in the two World Wars of last century were read out by Rob Savage, the Last Post and Reveille was played by Ben Edwards, silence was kept, and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Parish Council, the WI and the Scouts Association. A later wreath was laid on behalf of Isleham School.

A fuller Act of Remembrance, with readings and hymns, was recorded in advance by members of the congregation at St Andrew's Church, and the video shared via YouTube for the benefit of those not able to gather in person because of national Coronavirus restrictions (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnsYgBuYUj8>). Although the format was very different from what we're used to on Remembrance Sunday, all our individual and collective actions, whether on our doorsteps or in public places, remain a powerful symbol that we stand together in our remembering, and in our commitment to pursue peace and reconciliation.

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

We will remember them.





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Community Update

Customers at the Co-Op are sad to say goodbye to Pauline Wilkes as she leaves after 25 years.



Enjoy your retirement Pauline



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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.

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NEXT ISSUE: Published February 2021 The deadline for all editorial and advertising is 9th January 2021

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.

December

Mon 7th Parish Council via Zoom 7.15pm
Sat 19th Farmers Market 10am

January 2021

Mon 4th Parish Council via Zoom 7.15pm
Sat 9th **INFORMER DEADLINE**

February 2021

Mon 1st Parish Council via Zoom 7.15pm

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

Letter to the Editor

Looking for a member of the Aldous family

My name is Paul Hacker and I spent lots of happy weeks in Isleham on school holidays. I use to stay with my Aunt and Uncles in East Fen Road, Irene and Dick Bird and Brian my cousin. My sister was born in Isleham at my aunt's, whilst I was born in Cambridge.

The Village seems full of people that I knew but they have all gone just the names remain. My mother's name was Beckett and there were twelve children in her family.

I wonder if you can help. I have had an email from a lady who had come into the ownership of a family bible of the Audus Family. She wondered if there was any folk in the village of that name who might want it. It has a number of family names in births etc

I thought if I could find any information on Audus family I would be able to help her.

Thank you
Paul Hacker
Email: paulhacker7@gmail.com

Notes from The Editor

Hi, when you read this edition the 2nd lockdown should have ended but it looks like we will have further rules to follow aproaching and during Christmas.

Keep safe in these strange times.

Don't let Sunnica sneak their proposals in under cover of the Christmas period.

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.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year
Clive Patterson

SUNNICA

YES or NO what is best for our villages.

For many months I have kept my feelings about this subject to myself in case I was asked to sit on the Planning Committee at East Cambs. It was becoming more and more difficult to keep my powder dry as my grandfather would have said. After the village meeting with Lucy Frazer I spoke to the Leader of the Council and asked to be removed from the committee for this application so I could finally speak my mind.

Firstly let me say I am firmly in favour of renewable energy in all its forms. I don't even mind Wind Turbines as long as they are out to sea and I have given my approval at Planning Committee to several solar farms locally. However this particular scheme is just too big and in the wrong place. I have visited the sites that affect the communities in my ward and the question I have yet to have answered is why here? The aim I understand is to transfer the power to the sub station at Burwell so why would you construct a pipeline 15 miles long to transfer the power? Why not build the solar farm near Cambridge, less energy lost in the transfer, fewer communities to disrupt? The only answer I have come up with is I'm afraid the following.

Sunnica, somewhat cynically, has gambled on the fact it's easier to railroad several small villages than it is to take on a city the size of Cambridge, and the might of the Colleges who cannot be bought off with

promises of vast sums of money for doing nothing for the next 40 years. Can you imagine the uproar if Sunnica attempted this scheme in Cambridge? It would never get off the ground! So Isleham and surrounding villages let's show the Inspectorate what we are made of! We may not have the money and influence of Cambridge but we have heart and guts aplenty. Let's keep chipping away with questions to Sunnica and when the time is right start putting pressure on Government to listen to our pleas to leave our community in peace.

Julia Huffer District Councillor, Fordham & Isleham

Speed Watch

Speedwatch has unfortunately been suspended for most of the year due to the lockdown. We were able to get some sessions in the new 20mph limit on Maltling Lane, nearly 1 in 3 cars was exceeding 24mph, hopefully our, very obvious, presence has alerted more drivers to the new limit.

Fordham Road is another area where many cars are well above the speed limit, usually between 10 and 20% exceed 35mph and we have recorded as high as 50mph.

We will resume sessions in the New Year as the weather improves, anyone who can spare an hour would be most welcome to join us.

Anne Noble



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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			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	Mark Fletcher	fletchermark100@gmail.com	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)			
Pre-school Isleham Under Fives Ass. (IUFA)	Tracey Rudderham	01638 781212 islehampreschool@btconnect.com			
Pilates (Booking Essential)	Jo Simcock-Simms	07974 653775	Monday	10 - 11am 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	Isleham Parish Council	01638 781687 islehampc@gmail.com			
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 January 9th for our February 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.



Isleham Parish Council Update

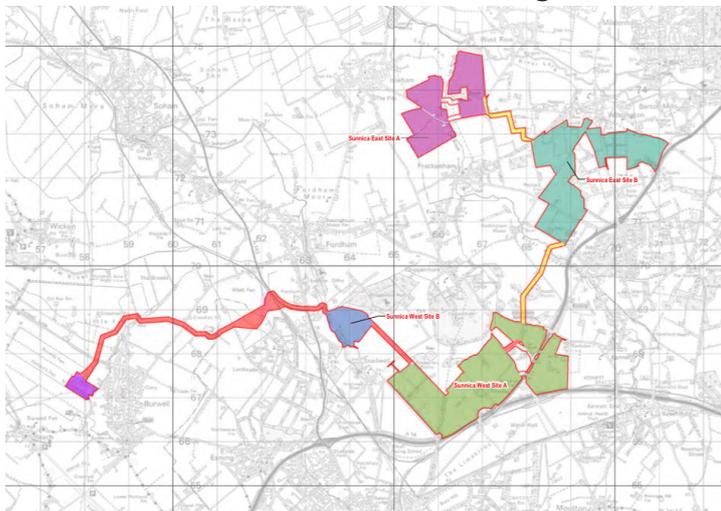
October 2020

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.

Sunnica

As you are aware, Sunnica have extended their consultation period until Friday 18th December 2020. Whatever your views, the Parish Council would strongly encourage all residents to carefully consider these proposals and to make your views known using the links at: <https://sunnica.co.uk/public-consultation/>, or by submitting a paper response using either the forms in the Sunnica booklet or by the action groups model forms which have been delivered to all houses in the village.



Allotment Matters

A very small number of plots are available on both the Three Trees site (Beck Rd) and the Dunstall site (Station Rd) The rent for a ten-rod plot which equates to 252m² is just £16 per annum and just £8.00 for a half-sized plot. Please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

Highways Report

Residents are reminded to see the Isleham News Facebook page for details of any impending road closures affecting our village.

Neighbourhood Plan

An early draft of our Neighbourhood Plan is about to be submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council for their initial thoughts and comments. We hope to be able to undertake further consultation with residents as soon as Covid restrictions are relaxed but should you wish to see an electronic copy of our draft plan please do contact me at islehampc@gmail.com

Fly Tipping

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

Recreation Ground

- The Parish Council wish to express their appreciation to all residents for respecting social distancing rules on the recreation ground.

- We continue to ask for 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

Planning Applications (October - November) *

20/00930/FUL Retrospective application for the retention of a half wave communication aerial on gable end and antrom A.99 fibreglass aerial on supporting structure in rear garden. 19A East Fen Road Isleham Mr D Dunnett No Objection

20/00990/FUL Two storey rear extension and new driveway (amendment) 15 Pound Lane Isleham Mr J Bye Conditional objection – based on previous response

20/01069/FUL Construction of 1no. four bedroom two storey detached dwelling and garage/ games room/gymnasium. 72B West Street Isleham. AT Consultants No Objection

20/01095/FUL Change of use from place of worship (D1) to dwelling (C3), removal of existing outbuilding to be replaced with single garage, landscaping and repositioned vehicular access off The Causeway. Isleham High Street Baptist Church The Causeway Isleham Mr A Drage No Objection but points of note were made

20/01132/FUL Rear single storey extension, front porch extension and loft conversion 17 The Pits Isleham Mrs Ayres No Objection

20/01147/VAR To vary Conditions 1 (Approved drawings), 4 (External Materials) and 6 (Flood Mitigation) for previously approved 20/00469/FUL for replacement dwelling and garage: South View 3 Prickwillow Road Isleham. Mr & Mrs Stuart No Objection

20/01192/FUL Proposed field access. Cambria Farm 29 Prickwillow Road Isleham. Ms Wilton-Clerk No Objection

20/00990/FUL Two storey rear extension and new driveway. 15 Pound Lane Isleham An amendment has been received for the development described above. The amendment involves revision to external finish of the extension, amended to brickwork to match existing dwelling. Mr J Bye No Objection

20/01304/LBC Replacement of the existing timber

windows with extended chamfered frames and slim-line glazing. Manor House 2 Pound Lane Isleham. Mr Jones No Objection
19/00447/DISC Land Accessed Between 2 And 4 Fordham Road Isleham To discharge Condition 9 (Footpath improvements) of decision dated 9 December 2019 for Reserved Matters for the construction of 121 dwellings and associated works following approval of outline planning permission 18/00363/OUM Bloor Homes
No Objection – although clarification is to be sought regarding what was believed to be Bloor homes original proposal to include a service road adjacent to Fordham Rd
Trees and Shrubs
20/01186/TRE T1 Field Maple- Reduce crown by 30% due to branch snap and remove deadwood Location: The Co-operative Food 2 West Street Isleham No Objection
20/01341/TRE Inisfail House 6 Mill Street Isleham T1 Sycamore – Fell as close to ground level as possible. Tree is growing against the old clunch wall. Mr P Raynes No Objection
Planning Approvals (October – November)
20/00680/FUL Single storey side/rear extension, internal and external alterations Location: 6 Sheldricks Road Isleham
20/00911/FUL First floor extension above single storey projection and alterations Location: 44 Sun Street Isleham
20/00958/FUL Internal and external alterations. The Walnuts 23 Limestone Close Isleham
20/01010/LBC Proposed re-ordering of bathroom and WC. 7 Church Street Isleham
20/01051/TPO (T2) Horse Chestnut – Reduce height by 2 metres and spread by 1.5 metres.11 Jubilee Close Isleham
20/01071/TRE (T1) Beech – Reduce by one metre to previous pruning points to maintain the tree in the aesthetically pleasing shape and to prevent the tree from becoming too big and growing over the property a short distance away. (T3) Maple – Pollard to previous pruning points.11 Jubilee Close Isleham
20/01093/TRE T1 Silver birch- reduce by up to 1.5m in height and 1m in spread. 17 The Pits Isleham
20/01028/TCON To comply with Condition7 (Tree Topping, Lopping and Felling) of Decision Notice 79/00173/FUL. Grass Verge Opposite 36 Pound Lane Isleham
20/00890/VAR To Vary Conditions 1 (Approved Plans) and 12 (Hard Landscaping) for previously approved 18/00819/FUL to erect two dwellings with attached garages and external works. Site Between Houghtons Lane And East Fen Road Isleham
20/01047/RMA Approval of the details for reserved matters for Landscaping for previously approved 20/00286/VAR for 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
20/01147/VAR To vary Conditions 1 (Approved drawings), 4 (External Materials) and 6 (Flood Mitigation) for previously approved 20/00469/FUL for replacement dwelling and Garage. South View 3

Prickwillow Road Isleham.
20/01186/TRE T1 Field Maple- Reduce crown by 30% due to branch snap and remove deadwood. The Co-operative Food 2 West Street Isleham Ely Cambridgeshire
20/01065/FUL Erection of covered Gazebo including enclosed cupboard and cladding to rear wall. 22 Little London Isleham
20/00930/FUL Retrospective application for the retention of a half wave communication aerial on gable end and antrom A.99 fibreglass aerial on supporting structure in rear garden (height 10.6m) 19A East Fen Road Isleham
20/01218/TRE T1 Plum – 30% reduction /1m reduction in height and 2m in width. To increase light as overshadowing large portion of garden. 15 The Pits Isleham
20/01239/TRE T1 Maple – Fell to ground level. There are two trees of this species within this garden. This species has the potential to form a large tree. Retaining both trees is untenable and unsuitable for this environment. T2 Horse Chestnut – Crown lift to 3mtrs all around and give a clearance to the garage roof by 2mtrs. Specimen is fully mature. Damage has been done to tiles in recent high winds, this work is necessary to reduce further damage and retain the area underneath the canopy as a usable area Location: 22A Pound Lane Isleham
Other planning Matters
20/00889/FUL Application Withdrawn - Proposed detached 4 bed house, double garage, parking and associated site works (outline granted 19/01178/OUT). Appleyard Farm 1 Houghtons Lane Isleham
Patterson's Site It was agreed to a request from the site owner to meet to discuss possible options for the site

Planning For The Future

Residents may be interested to know that the Government has published a new White Paper: Planning for the Future which proposes some very radical changes to the planning process including significantly reduced consultation on individual applications. A copy of the proposals can be found at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907956/Planning_for_the_Future_web_accessible_version.pdf

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

Village Note

The informer

We are looking for a distributor for our bi-monthly magazine.
It involves making deliveries to 35 addresses
If you can help please email
fpreece2@aol.com

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



Networking for parents and carers of Isleham's Under 5s & Health Walk volunteers needed

Busy Bees was a 'Stay and Play' baby and toddler group held on term-time Wednesday mornings in The Beeches and provided toys, craft activities and singing for under 5s. It also provided the opportunity for parents and carers to meet each other, share knowledge and have a cup of tea and a biscuit. It was run by volunteers and overseen by the Isleham Under Fives Association (IUFA), the charity that funds and operates the village pre-school.

It is not anticipated that Busy Bees or Music Mayhem, a singing and play session at Pound Lane Free Church on Mondays or Acorns, a monthly toddler group at The Ark Church, will be able to resume anytime soon due to Covid-19 restrictions.

With the local Child and Family Centre also not being able to offer as many services, many parents and carers in the village, especially new ones, may not have had the opportunity to meet contemporaries yet. Busy Bees already had a private Facebook group for attendees, and I would like to encourage any parent or carer of an under 5-year-old or expectant parents to join the group. Hopefully, people will get to know others in the village with children of the same age, share craft and activity ideas and knowledge about other local baby and toddler activities.

For example, many local dancing, singing, exercise groups, swimming classes, science/nature groups, breastfeeding support groups etc. etc. have gone on-line to provide services. Some are even able to operate physically even in the Nov/Dec restrictions.

If there is demand it may be possible to organise video-based coffee mornings, form Messenger/WhatsApp groups or pair people up to go walking together. If you're interested in helping with these, please let me know!

If you do not use Facebook, please make contact using the other methods. I am working on making myself a little bee brooch so if you don't know who I am you can spot me walking around the village and introduce yourself. If I don't meet you in person, I look forward to 'meeting' you on the Facebook group or via email.

A craft activity you can undertake with your child over the next few weeks is to contribute to the Christmas community colouring project by the Isleham Society. It would be lovely to see some more window artwork by our youngest residents.

Buggy walks & Health Walks

I am currently waiting to undertake training to become a Health Walk leader with a view to be able to organise a regular Buggy Walk at the start of 2021. The Health walk Scheme really needs more people to come forward and volunteer to lead walks. It involves a half day online training session, a training walk and leading a walk before being signed off as a Walk Leader. If you would be able to help with the buggy walk idea, please let me know, the more trained walk leaders the more likely the group can meet regularly and accommodate demand if it proves popular. If anyone in Isleham wants to train and help set up other community walks, Sophie Edwards the local Health Walk coordinator would love to hear from you.

Ellen Bazeley-White

Busy Bees Facebook group page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/islehambusybees> (a visible but private group)

Email: isleham.busybees@gmail.com

IUFA website & Facebook page: <https://www.islehamunderfives.co.uk> / & <https://www.facebook.com/islehamunderfives>

IUFA /Pre-school telephone number: 01638 781212

Health Walks: <https://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/>
Sophie Edwards, Walk Coordinator, 01353616348, sophie.edwards@eastcamb.gov.uk

Ancient Greek Day

Year 4 at Isleham Primary School were propelled back in time to 476BC to take part in an Ancient Greek themed day. The children learned about the Ancient Greek number system, made laurel wreaths, played games such as Ostrakinda and Morra and sampled Greek food. They even had a brass lesson in their fabulous costumes!



Yr5 Victorian Day

Year 5 recently took a trip back to 1870 as part of their Victorian Topic. We'd like to say a special thank you to Denny Abbey Farmland Museum for allowing us to borrow artefacts for free to help us learn about this time in history. We had hands-on experience with Victorian farming equipment and Victorian children's toys. The pupils experienced Victorian lessons such as writing lines with chalk on slate and chanting their times tables. Their teachers were behaving differently and the rules were different too! Some even had to wear the Dunces' hat for misbehaving. It wasn't all doom and gloom, however, as they experienced Victorian playground games such as the hoop and stick, skipping and hopscotch.



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Isleham Poppy Project

Well what a rollercoaster of a year 2020 has been!

With the cycle of lock downs and slow releases of them the Poppy Project team weren't sure if we would be able to erect the village Poppy display this year or not. The year did however give us time to sometimes slow life down a little which meant lots of lovely people could be involved in happily crocheting and knitting poppies for the display, people whom may not have been able to be involved in the project before. Our usual meetings full of laughter, cake and chat had to be put on the back burner and on-line chats were formed instead. It was lovely to see from our chats that no matter what life would throw at us, we still, as a group, were determined to have a display to remember those brave souls who lost their lives in combat even if it had to be on a slightly smaller scale.

With life being a little more settled and no lock downs being reported a net was put in the Church for people to go and add Poppies to. This net was going to mean that the display could flow towards the memorial this year, something that we had had in mind for some time, the net was amazingly filled within a few days. Then on 24th October a small group of us got together to lift the Poppy display back to its rightful place in front of the War Memorial, the net of Poppies was added to the display and the flow of Poppies made its way all the way towards the War Memorial. 'Mercy' the dog with her purple poppies to signify the loss of the animals in the wars stood proudly again next to the cascade of red Poppies and in the evening the display was alight in red thanks to the Church and Memorial up-lighting being given a makeover especially for the occasion. Sadly the display within the Church didn't go ahead but we are hoping that next year we can go bigger and better, Brenda Downey and I felt particularly sad that we couldn't add the Soldiers who are named on the Memorial to their pews this year, an honour we always cherish. Along with all of the above and with the knowledge that the Royal British Legion were going to find it particularly hard to raise money for the charity this year I decided that we should sell handmade Poppies again. This became even more important when we realised that sadly our village wouldn't be able to sell official Royal British Legion Poppy merchandise. I also decided that it would be rather apt if I created some Poppy Masks (so 2020!) for the charity. The lovely Roseanna Thompson kindly came forward and offered to sell handmade Poppies in shop TFM Butchers. The sales via the village Facebook page and the Butchers did amazingly well and with the support of all the wonderful people who bought Poppy Brooches and Masks we raised a whacking £418 + (and I still have a few orders coming in) for the Royal British Legion.

We were aiming to take the display down on Saturday 14th November but as lock down commenced again on 5th November, we have had to leave the display up until at least 2nd December. This will add a bit of wear

and tear to those lovely Poppies but it has meant that I have been able to go and stand behind the display on sunny days and secure the Poppies into place, this has given me a real insight into how many people from the village and elsewhere come and see the display and how many conversations are started by it being there.



A huge thanks to Robert and Gill Savage, Brenda Downey, Brian Challis, Walter Gunston and Sally Poulter who have again given up their time to help with this project, without them it just wouldn't have been possible. Also, thanks to the Pound Lane Free Church and Mildenhall Airbase for their scaffold poles and camo net which are used to create the display. And not forgetting the lovely ladies who have crocheted extra Poppies this year for the display Joyce Hazelwood, Angela Lister, Sue Hall, Sue Hall (yes there are two) Sally Poulter, K Stratton and a special thanks to Brenda Stacey and her family for crocheting an amazing 2000 poppies. 59 men lost their lives from our village, some families lost all their children, 59 men never returned to be with their families. We hope we will continue to do them all proud
Lest We Forget

With thanks
Zoe Leeson
Islehampoppyproject@
outlook.com



Say
NO
To
Sunnica

Recycle Your Crisp Packets 22 Beck Road

It all began last Spring, listening to the radio, I heard about Walkers Crisps getting involved with a recycling company called Terracycle. No longer would crisp packets have to go to "landfill" that was a great idea I thought, so I made enquiries and joined the scheme, only just in time as the scheme soon took off nationwide and is now a "closed shop". At first we (Geraldine and myself) were sending off just a few kilos of packets a month but as word got round, apart from friends and family and people from our Church in West Row and Isleham saving them they soon started coming in from further afield, (Facebook is a great advertising tool), the boxes started getting heavier and heavier. A bonus for saving these otherwise "throwaway items" is that Terracycle reward us financially twice a year, they donate money awarded from points/kg that collectors have raised towards our selected charity or school beneficiary. The Shed Community Garden in West Row and Isleham School are our two chosen beneficiaries. Amazingly from those crisp packets we have raised just over £300 so far and the future looks even better as our monthly boxes are snow balling in weight and now regularly exceed 25kg.

It varies greatly due to the varying sizes of packets but somewhere around 500 packets weigh 1kg for which we get £1. We did not start collecting the packets for the money, but it is certainly nice to know we and all our supporters are helping local causes. A big thank you to everyone that saves us their crisp packets.

Our "Walkers Crisp" scheme only permits us to send, crisp packets of all brands and sizes including the multipack bags, Quaver type snacks, Cheddars all types, veggie type snacks, onion rings, Wotsits, Pom bears, Chipsticks, Monster munchies, Space raiders, Skips etc etc.

At present we cannot send peanuts, popcorn and Twiglet types of snack packets but are hopeful of this in the future, in the meantime we are not throwing any of these away.

As the volumes we are now dealing with have grown enormously it helps me and Geraldine greatly if the packets are flat and not crunched up as our sorting process means we have to check all packets are empty, pack them flat in bundles before folding and inserting them into large crisp packets, you would be surprised what we find in them apart from crisps. They are then bulk packed into suitable large, corrugated boxes and shipped via UPS to Terracycle. They are then washed and shredded before being turned into plastic pellets which can then be used in manufacture of various products.



For more information do look up www.terracycle.co.uk
Geoff and Geraldine Dabrowa 22 Beck Road.

Apple Tree Prints

"Appletree Prints" (run by villager Rebecca Human who sells print of her photos on products such as canvases) has decided to create a 2021 Calendar of photos she has taken in Isleham. All funds will be donated to Isleham Preschool, charity ref 294978, as a majority of their fundraising events have been cancelled because of Coronavirus.

The calendars will be available for £10 each and can be ordered via her Facebook page Appletree Prints or email to Rebecca.human@hotmail.co.uk



CHURCHES

The Ark Church

Christmas Comes to The Ark



I've always been slightly at odds with the modern Christmas. It's often highly organised, over choreographed and year after year can become repetitive. When it comes to Christmas, we can predict the food, the TV programmes and even when your uncle will fall asleep. Maybe, these repetitions become the basis of our traditions and traditions become milestones in our year.

The original Christmas was remarkable for its uniqueness, apparent chaos, and what looked like disorganisation. Mary and Joseph had to meet government requirements and travel miles when she was heavily pregnant. They arrived in Bethlehem, had nowhere to stay and ended up in a borrowed stable. Despite these problems, God knew, He had pointed to the events hundreds of years before and just to give reassurance he sent Shepherds and Magi. As I write this, during another lockdown, I wonder what Christmas will look like, both at my family home and The Ark. Last year we had just moved from High Street to The Ark, we were battling with carpets, heating, and temporary toilets. This year we are battling with a very different problem of the virus and not knowing what requirements we will face.

No doubt plans have been changed up and down the country. In all the uncertainty and confusion, we need the presence of God more than ever to bring hope from disappointment and joy from despair.

My prayer is that Christmas will pass beyond a tradition into a fresh experience of the Love of God in each of our lives. Whether we are locked down in God will surprise us in both our routine and in times when it all looks like chaos.

This year we are planning a couple of Christmas events (subject to government approval). We will be hosting two carol services on the 24th December one from 7pm – 8pm and the second from 8.30pm to

9.30pm. We will follow the necessary requirements; you will need to book in via the church web site (thearkisleham.co.uk). Bookings will open on the 7th December. We look forward to seeing you then.



We wish you every blessing this Christmas
Martin Wells – Leadership team – The Ark Isleham

St Andrew's Parish Church

At the time of writing it is not clear what the situation will be with public worship in December. We have tentatively pencilled in the following services.

Christmas Carols 4pm Sunday 13th December
Midnight Mass 11.30pm Christmas Eve
Christmas Communion 9.30am Christmas Day

We have decided to ticket all of these services to ensure we comply with government rules. People will need to wear face-coverings (unless they are exempt) and sadly we will not be able to sing together. The choir will sing at the Carol service and possibly at Midnight Mass. Tickets will be available from the 1st December through Eventbrite or Stuart Haggett 781737.

Sadly there will be no festival of light this year but we will decorate the church festively. As at all times the church doors will remain open from around 9am to 4pm and you are always welcome to come and find a time of peace within our walls. Perhaps particularly at Christmas to come into church to give thanks for the gift of the Christ-child a gift that not even a pandemic can stop us receiving.

Regards

David Cleugh SCP

Rector - The Three Rivers Group

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(he/his)

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St Andrew's Church Isleham Nativity Trail 2020

Sorry that we can't hold our usual Crib Service on Christmas Eve this year, St Andrew's Church invites you to encounter the nativity story at different locations around the village in December. The St Andrew's Nativity Trail will feature scenes from the familiar story, with something to think about and something to listen to at each stop.

Find out more at <https://www.threeriversgroup.co.uk> and look out for the trail from 16 December.



Pound Lane Free Church

A normal Christmas?

I write this in the middle of November and, if all goes according to current plans, in the middle of the second lockdown. And the burning question that is being asked in the media every day at the moment is "how close to a normal Christmas will we have this year?" Today, Susan Hopkins (the government's medical adviser) said that they were working on a plan and wanted Christmas to be "as close to normal as possible". But what does a "normal" Christmas look like? The answer is clearly different for each of us. For some it is all about getting together with family, for others (especially the children) it's all about presents, for most of us it involves eating more and spending more than usual.

But these ideas of a "normal" Christmas are far away from the events that Christmas is intended to celebrate. After all, Christmas comes from the old English Cristes-messe (literally "Christ's Mass"). It is supposed to be about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

When I was a child (and that's many, many years ago now!) I lived in a very large town and at Christmas there would be numerous Manger scenes on display, open-air choirs in the town centre singing Christmas Carols, and children taking part in Nativity plays. In recent years much of this has disappeared from our town centres, and this year even in churches we are likely to be very restricted as to how we can celebrate Christmas; but perhaps, with restrictions in place instead of a truly normal Christmas we are being given a unique opportunity to celebrate instead the real meaning of Christmas in its place.

Why not plan this Christmas to read through one of the accounts of that very first Christmas in the Bible (Matthew 1:18 - 2:15 and Luke 2:1 - 2:20) and perhaps sing one or two of those great Carols like "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "Silent Night" (you can always find them on YouTube and sing-along) and then take a little time to stop and think about, and give thanks for, the coming of Jesus Christ into this world on His mission to save people like you and me.

Pastor Dave

Pound Lane Free Church

Isleham Farmers' Market & A Touch Of Craft

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Isleham Cricket Club Volunteers

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from Isleham Cricket Club I hope everyone is keeping well.

This year has been challenging that's for sure, but what a community we live in. Friends, neighbours and complete strangers have all stepped up to support one another through these difficult times, bringing everyone a little closer together. The community spirit has been amazing, you could say that the Christmas spirit has been with us all year.

Unfortunately our cricketing season this year was short and we didn't manage to put on any youth cricket. When we did get to play we had some great games that were very well supported by the village. It was nice to get back to some form of normality for a period. We are hopeful that next year will see us return to normal, with more coach's to support our enthusiastic youth teams.

With this in mind we are looking to pick up and push forward with our fundraising for new permanent nets. Which will be a great benefit to the club and youth training.

Craig Pawson got us off to a flying start when he undertook the grueling 251km race across the Sahara Desert last year.

We would like to put together a youth video as part of the fundraising campaign to be shared on social media and with local businesses. We would like the kids to catch a ball from their right and throw it off to their left. We encourage the kids to be vocal about how much they love cricket and Isleham Cricket Club. We will then cut this together into one video.

If you wish to take part please send the videos to me. By submitting we take it you are giving permission for this to be shared on social media and a go fund me page.

Wishing you all well, stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you all out enjoying and supporting us next summer.

All the best Jamie Saunders Chairman Isleham Cricket Club
T: 07872507989

Useful telephone numbers that may be of help.
1st Response Service(mental health crisis) 111 opt 2
Young Minds Parents Helpline – 0808 802 5544
Samaritans -- 116 123
Lifeline -- 0808 808 2121
Sane -- 0300 304 7000
Citizens Advice-- 0344 245 1292

The Isleham Cricket Club Volunteers Group has access to many other professionals and resources that we would be happy to put you in touch with, so do give us a call if you are unsure what to do in your situation.
07398 497633

If you are struggling with isolation or worries caused by Corona Virus, The Isleham Cricket Club Volunteer Group is still here to help.

Please contact us on 07398 497633 and we will arrange for an Isleham Volunteer to help you. Please note - the phone number has changed.

If you are self-isolating due to Coronavirus, we can have a volunteer help you with everyday tasks such as:

- Picking up shopping
- Picking up prescriptions
- Posting mail
- We can arrange for someone to call you for a chat on the phone
- And many other problems
- Finances struggling, help yourself to the Phone Box Community Pantry on Mill Street



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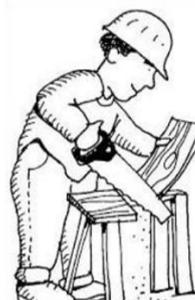
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Lucy Frazer MP

As we look to the end of 2020, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some of the work I have been doing over the course of this year.

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us and I want to pay tribute to everyone who has helped and supported their local communities and vulnerable individuals during the pandemic. The response to the public health challenge of Coronavirus saw us pulling together, ensuring that our communities across Cambridgeshire kept connected. And I know that our villages are continuing their great support to others. I was pleased to safely meet with local volunteers in person across the constituency during the summer months – and to take part in regular Zoom updates with local leaders and stakeholders.

The Coronavirus pandemic brought an economic shock to the UK like we have not experienced before, but I am encouraged to see that we are taking steps towards a positive recovery. By the summer, in our area 14,700 furloughed workers were supported through the Job Retention Scheme and 4,600 self-employed individuals were given help through the Self-Employment Income Scheme. 1,687 local businesses received a cash grant of up to £25,000 thanks to the local authority discretionary grant fund. Whilst these measures have brought relief to both employers and employees, it is important that we continue to support local businesses as we look to the future.

Whilst the government is focused on dealing with the pandemic, other projects are still progressing and I continue to work to improve our area.

I welcome the announcement that the Department of Health has awarded Cambridge University hospitals £1.9 million to expedite the complete redevelopment of Addenbrooke's hospital, this will include a new children's hospital. And at the beginning of October, the Prime Minister also announced the building of a new cancer hospital. Thousands of residents across Cambridgeshire rely upon Addenbrooke's Hospital for their medical care, and population growth makes its complete replacement with a brand new hospital in the years ahead a necessity. I have campaigned hard for continued investment in NHS services in our local area, and the construction of a new hospital has my complete support.

This development is further evidence of the government's commitment to this scheme, and the NHS more generally. I will continue to do everything in my power to make sure that Cambridgeshire sustains its reputation for world-class medical services.

At the beginning of October I held virtual meetings with residents to discuss the proposed Sunnica solar farm project. I am in favour of solar and other forms of renewable energy, however I understand and recognise the legitimate concerns many of my constituents regarding the proposed Sunnica Solar Farm. Following my recent meetings with residents I wrote to the company to express concerns raised with me about the proposed project, which referenced a number of issues highlighted in your correspondence, including scale, safety, the use of agricultural land and the projects potential impact on biodiversity. I will continue to do all I can to ensure residents views about this project are heard. If you would like to be kept updated on developments with regards to this project, and how I propose to deal with this issue, please do contact me.

Furthermore for some I have been pressing for improvements to the A10 and spearheaded the campaign for its dualling. Some progress has been made on this project. There are eight options for the project, and the Mayor and Combined Authority held a virtual consultation during the summer to collect feedback from residents and road users. I have continued to press the Treasury on the importance of this work.

Having campaigned since 2015 for a station in Soham I am pleased that plans have now been approved by East Cambridgeshire District Council. The main construction phase is planned for 2021, with an expected completion date of spring 2022. This important project will support economic growth and investment over the coming years.

Education has also been a key campaign pledge since I was first elected. Year after year I have taken heads to Westminster to meet the Education Secretary. As a result of much campaigning with teachers and others the 2021-2022 academic year will see per pupil funding increase by an average of 4%. The National Funding Formula allocations reflect a 60% increase in the total additional funding for small and remote schools- and this is good news for small schools in our area who can attract further funding due to their status. I remain proud that East Cambridgeshire is one of 12 Opportunity Areas that enables the region to unlock additional funding.

I continue to hold regular surgeries and am here to help with any issues you may have. Constituents who would like help with a problem or want to arrange a telephone call or a virtual meeting should contact me by emailing lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk. To keep up with my work follow me on Facebook and Twitter or visit my website – www.lucyfrazer.org.uk.

Best wishes for the rest of 2020 and I hope that 2021 will prove to be a better year for us all.
Lucy Frazer MP, South East Cambridgeshire

Laura Emily Dunn Office of Lucy Frazer QC MP
Member of Parliament for South East Cambridgeshire, Minister of State, Ministry of Justice
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA dunnlb@parliament.uk



Isleham Society



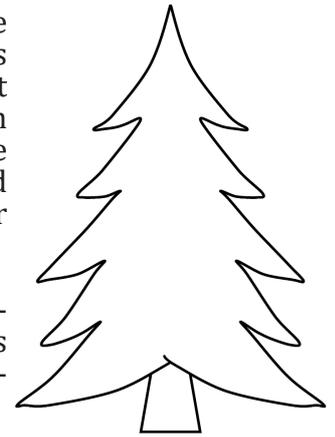
Well, we just carry on and fully expect that 2021 will be a year for great meetings and interesting visits!

The little ISOC articles get circulated roughly every fortnight, and can be found on the Facebook 'Isleham Society' page. The 'Family Friendly village quiz walk' was an attempt to provide a fun way of discovering places over half-term. Do try it – in a socially distanced appropriate bubble of course! Our November meeting was to have had a Farming Forum to help people like me with no background in agriculture to understand more of what's going on in the fields around us. That couldn't happen but Oliver from the National Farmers' Union in Newmarket who was to have been a speaker kindly wrote an article giving an overview of farming in East Anglia during the past year. Last December we organised Carols in the Priory. Not possible this year sadly, but I want to support seasonal good things such as the 'Christmas trees and stars in windows' – a community initiative.



We're also looking for a safe opportunity to re-hang the very special and now renovated village tapestry in its place in St Andrew's and celebrate those who created it twenty-five years ago. We are hoping to contribute to an information board at the new planting on Coates Drove to explain the importance of Isleham as a port (yes!) and the Waterside connection between the River Lark as far as the Priory.

The Society is for everyone with an interest in the heritage of Isleham and the region around – and there are lots of fascinating insights for all ages to discover and, just as importantly, lots of wonderful memories to preserve.



If you would like to be on the emailing list or have suggestions as to topics or speakers or events and activities please let me know.

Mark Fletcher (Chairman) fletchermark100@gmail.com

Cambs County Councillor's Report

Hello fellow residents,

The second lockdown feels very different to the first with the schools still operating and many people still working, but my fingers are crossed that this break halts the fast spread and protects the vulnerable. There is no doubt that the hospitals and medical teams appear better equipped with knowledge and equipment to attack the disease when presented, but there is no doubt that it remains a killer. In East Cambs we live in one of the lowest areas of infection in the UK, but that has not stopped it reaching us. Outbreaks at Soham VC, G's and a local Care Home prove that this disease picks on the most vulnerable and we must remain diligent against it.

ON a lighter but related issue I know that the amazing Isleham volunteer group is once again ready to assist with shopping, prescriptions etc. You should have had a leaflet from them with a new number to call for help but feel free to contact myself if in need.

During the last few months I have had the real pleasure of having my daughter, her husband and our grand-daughter live with us. What a joy it is to see the village through the eyes of a nearly 3 year old. A walk to the Priory from Robins Close now has the Magic place, then Martha's path, the noisy fence, before crossing the busy road, to visit the horses. The sheer wonder of this little adventures seem lost as we age but we live in a beautiful village, amongst helpful and kind people. We must not lose sight of this. For example if someone is without a facemask, yes they may have forgotten but they just may have a complaint that makes them exempt. I would ask everyone to stay clear headed and in the moment during these times, because many people are struggling behind closed doors. Please do call on you neighbours, telephone your friends, and even contact someone you may be wouldn't normally contact to say hello. Having someone make that effort and to hear a new voice can really lift the spirits, just as walking the village with my grand-daughter is doing for me.

Finally, it is the time of year for parties, for gatherings, carol concerts and more. Please do follow the guidelines, and protect yourselves and others from Covid-19 and more. I wish you all an amazing and joyous Christmas because despite that which we have lost due to the pandemic, we all still have so much to be grateful for and therefore be happy about.



Merry Christmas Isleham
Mark Goldsack County Councillor Tel 07831 168899

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Coates Drove Trees

Cambridgeshire is sadly one of the least wooded areas in Britain. With two large grass areas at either end of Coates Drove, the Parish Council agreed that we should ask Highways and CCC if there were any objections to planting trees in these areas.

With the help of Councillor Mark Goldsack, we are delighted that the County Council has agreed to provide trees from Barcham Trees for these areas - hopefully by the time this Informer is published the trees will be planted.

With the new hedge beginning to establish and the arrival of the trees we hope Coates Drove will become an even more pleasant area for the village to enjoy.

The hedge and the new trees are all native species which we hope will provide food and shelter for wildlife over the coming years, the grass will be left to grow so mowing is very much reduced and hopefully more wild flowers will establish.

Thanks go to the Parish Council, Mark Goldsack and Cambs County Council for making this happen.

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01638 781367 — lorraine@isleham-cattery.co.uk

Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves

Isleham Local Nature Reserve is the old railway track which stretches from Fordham Road towards Fordham. The Reserve shelters much wildlife with a variety of birds, insects and small animals, on sunny days lizards can be seen basking in the sunshine. The Reserve will be managed to encourage greater diversity of wildlife, with hedge laying and undergrowth removal in some areas to allow more sunlight down to the track and provide better nesting areas for some birds. The field next to the Reserve is not part of the Reserve but is owned by Cambs County Farms and farmed under a stewardship agreement to conserve the scarce chalk grassland. Over the last few years the villages have been allowed to use the field for walking and exercising dogs and it has been a wonderful contrast to the Reserve.

Recently it has been observed that there are fewer ground nesting birds in the area, including Sky Larks which are on the Red conservation list. In order to try to address this issue and to further increase diversity the Council has requested that dogs should be kept on leads whilst in the field. We are grateful to the majority of dog walkers who have enjoyed the use of the field, understood the reasons behind this request and have willingly complied – thank you.

The littering problem in the car park and field does seem to have stopped with the colder weather, but we were saddened by the graffiti which appeared,

hopefully that was an isolated incident. Many Fieldfares and Redwings descend on the Reserve over winter to enjoy the various hips, haws and berries and this is a good time to see them and enjoy a bracing walk.

Conservation Volunteers clearing the bushes back in the car park at the Reserve



We hope everyone continues to responsibly enjoy both the Reserve and the field with its spectacular sunsets and sunrises.

Anne Noble



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