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Community Update

The Parish Council has agreed to the phone box opposite the Rec being used as a temporary Community Pantry and children's book exchange.

The Isleham Cricket Club volunteer's group has put up some shelving, and foil on the windows to keep the sun out.



Please put any food (nothing that needs to be refrigerated) in the pantry that you have to spare, and please take what you need.

This in no way replaces the amazing work the local food banks do, and please, do not stop putting your food bank donations into the box at the Co-op.

J.Pawson

Isleham Village Litter Pick

On 14th March 31 residents turned out on the Saturday morning to help clean up our village.

We have done this every year for the last 6 years, and each time the number of volunteers has increased.

We spent about two hours going all round the village, and collected a large pile of bags, which were happily collected by ECDC on the Monday morning. Thanks to every one who helped, and also to Betty Ashley and Mary Wightman who provided us with very welcome tea and biscuits at the end of the morning.



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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: gjpreece@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: gjpreece@aol.com • **Distribution** Fred Preece T: 01638 780734 • **Published by** Isleham Parish Council • **Printed by** Gipping Press www.gippingpress.co.uk

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

June

Mon 1st Parish Council via Zoom 7.15pm

July

Mon 6th Parish Council via Zoom 7.15pm

Thu 9th **INFORMER DEADLINE**

Community Co-op Thanks



During the lockdown, we have been so grateful to our wonderful local Coop store for supporting us in providing meal cards for children entitled to free school meals during the school's closure.

The local team have been so supportive in making the scheme work for local children from the very first day of school closure, despite the national online voucher scheme not yet still being fully operational. Thank you Isleham Co-op from everyone at Isleham Primary School.



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

Apologies but due to the start of the pandemic we had to cancel the April informer. I was also worried that we wouldn't have enough articles to fill this one but as you can see the content is full. A lot has been going on despite the virus.

I must pass on my personal thanks to all the volunteers who have stepped forward during these strange times, delivering fruit and veg and collecting prescriptions.

*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*

Isleham Volunteers

When the lockdown was announced, in what seems an age ago now and, what a period of time it has been. At the very outset I was called by Tim Aichison to see if I could help the Isleham Cricket Club help those vulnerable and locked down in Isleham. We were joined by Adrian Sheldrick and Joanne Pawson, and the four of us set about seeing what we could do to help!

To say I'm proud is not enough. I am actually blown away by the kindness and commitment of so many, but then by the gratitude and gratefulness of our residents. Since the outset we have provided a basic 'help me' service which has provided shopping runs, and basic errands across our village. We have also run a daily prescription collection service for those that use Staploe Medical Pharmacy. This has reduced journeys between Isleham and Soham, protected our residents but also protected Pharmacy staff and customers. Our special thanks to the fab six on this Rota each week.

Hilary Threadgold Julie Aldous Alison Bye Dominic Smith Stephanie Winters Katie Holloway

Each week we have collected the gifted items for the foodbank and taken these to Soham. Here they sort onto needed parcels and distribute to those users of the service. After many years of support Rev Goodwin has now stepped down as Isleham co-ordinator and Marie Bowker has stepped in to continue this great service.

In addition to shopping and errands, on occasions when goods have been gifted we have organised boxes and bags of vegetables and other items to be delivered around Isleham. again to those known to be vulnerable. With such amazing support we have had gifts from:

Thomsett Burgess growers
Isleham Fresh Produce
Marco Caferelli
Fountain Fresh Foods
David S Smith
G's of Soham

all of which have been sorted then distributed by volunteers.

There have been a few headline stories such as linking Janice Jaggard with her husband of 62 years whilst he was hospitalised. Using iPads donated by volunteers we were able to facilitate this couple who had not seen each other for weeks, enabling them to see and chat with each other.

We have scared rooks from nest building on a chimney, cut lawns, walked dogs and collected specialist dog food as needed. The list is endless and as at 6th May involves over 350 prescriptions collections, 125 shopping trips, over 1000 veggie box deliveries. We have over 120 volunteers who have played some part.

Finally, I would like to add that we are doing all of this with the support of your Parish Council. They have been with us since day one, and remain at the heart of what we are doing.

As I type this report today I know people that have been very ill through this virus and I know many who have suffered financially and emotionally through these hard times. My heart goes out to you all but I am an optimist, rare for a County Councillor I believe! I think sunshine follows rain and that brighter days are on the way. I have seen such generosity, overwhelming gratitude and a neighbourly spirit in Isleham that has truly moved me to tears on occasions. This is indeed a special village, an amazing community, and in your cricket club and volunteers a very lucky place to live.

Stay safe Cllr Mark Goldsack



Volunteer Adrian Sheldrick making a very appreciated delivery to an Isleham resident

The Beeches

Good day all.

Writing this is bitter sweet because as Trustees we had to make the tough decision to close The Beeches during lockdown to support the controls as dictated by government. The decision was not made lightly but we believe that we acted in the best interests of our staff, users and community. We await further instruction and long for the day when we can open the doors again and enjoy all that The Beeches offers.

We are missing the junior cricket evenings, cubs and scouts, all user group and pilates etc. The Beeches was constructed by the village for the village and we will endeavour to open at the earliest opportunity that is safe and legal to do so. Until then, on behalf of all at The Beeches, stay safe, look after yourselves and we look forward too seeing you on the other side.

Kind regards Trustees
Isleham Community Association The Beeches.

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 July 9th for our August 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.

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Isleham Parish Council Update

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of every month at 7.15pm. Meetings are held in the main meeting room of The Beeches. Members of the public are invited to attend the meetings and 15 minutes 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 meeting 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.

Covid19

I am sure that you will want to join IPC in expressing our most sincere thanks to County Councillor Mark Goldsack, Tim Acheson, Joanne Pawson, Isleham Cricket Club and the numerous other volunteers who have worked so tirelessly helping to meet the needs of our village during the current crises. Their generous and selfless actions have been widely acknowledged not just the immediate beneficiaries but also by Cambridgeshire County and East Cambs District Councils.

Allotment Matters

There are still a number of 10 rod plots available on Three Trees Allotment site (Beck Rd) and a very small number of half sized plots on the Dunstall Site (Station Rd) The rent for a ten-rod plot which equates to 252m² is just £15 per annum and just £7.50 for a half-sized plot. Please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

Highways Report

Residents should have seen notification from Cambridgeshire County Council that in partnership with the Parish council they intend installing speed cushions on Beck Road as well as establishing a 20mph zone on Maltings Lane and Croft Road. This initiative is being undertaken to reduce the risk of accidents to school children as well as the repeated issue of cars crashing into the wall of one particular house on Beck Road. The Parish Council are currently putting together a further Local Highways bid to fund the purchase of further resources aimed at improving road safety in the village.

• Residents are reminded that wherever possible notifications of highways work are posted on the Isle-

ham News Facebook page.

• The Parish Council are particularly grateful to the large number of volunteers who participated in the village litter collection day on the 14th March

• Residents will have noted that the bus shelters on Sun Street and The Causeway have been repainted. Our appreciation goes to the Cambridgeshire Community Payback scheme for this work.

• New signs for a number of the most popular footpaths in the village have been purchased and will be installed in the near future.

Neighbourhood Plan

It was unfortunately necessary to cancel the public consultation on the proposed Neighbourhood Plan which was due to be held on the 26th March. This will be rearranged at the earliest possible opportunity.

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 the closure of the playground during the Covid19 crises and 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 or 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 (Feb – May) *

19/01774/FUL Two storey rear extension 24 Station Rd Isleham. Albendan Ltd No Objection

19/01777/OUT Residential development comprising 4 No two storey dwellings and garages and associated site works. Site West of 45 East Fen Rd. Isleham Albendan Ltd Objections

20/00011/FUL Proposed single storey dwelling, car port, parking, access and associated site works. Land East of 55-57 Waterside Isleham. Mr & Mrs A Beckett Objections

20/00007/OUM Residential development for up to 80 dwellings (class c3) with associated access, infrastructure and public open space. Land North east of 100 Beck Rd Isleham. Penland Estates. Objections (also to subsequent revisions)

19/00376/OUM Outline planning application for the erection of up to 215 dwellings with public open space, landscaping, sustainable drainage and vehicular access points from Station Rd & Fordham Rd. All matter reserved except for main vehicular access. Land off Station Rd Isleham. Gladman & Mr C Harvey Objections (also to subsequent revisions)

20/00142/OUT Construction of 1no. detached dwelling and garaging for horticultural manager. Floral Farm Fordham Rd Isleham. Mr M Caffarelli. Conditional objection (also to subsequent revision)

20/00168/FUL Alterations 2 ground floor windows. 4 Priory Gardens Isleham. Mr D Fitchett No Objection

19/01735/FUL Demolition of existing bungalow and garage and construction of 1 no. Four bedroom detached chalet style bungalow. 46 West St Isleham. Mr & Mrs Hawes Objections (also to subsequent revisions)

sion)
 20/00258/FUL Erection of six dwellings with associated parking. Pattersons Stores 11 Mill Street Isleham. Mr Slightholme. Objections (also to subsequent revision)
 20/00260/OUM Erection of up to 17 dwellings and new access. Land adjacent to 8 Hall Barn Rd. Mr B Saxby. Objections (also to subsequent revision)
 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. Mr & Mrs Baxter. Objection
 20/00314/FUL Proposed two storey side and rear extension and single storey front extensions and Internal alterations. Sunnyside 21 Church lane Isleham. Mr & Mrs Smart. Objections
 20/00314/FUL Proposed two storey side and rear extension and single storey front extensions and Internal alterations. Sunnyside 21 Church lane Isleham. Mr & Mrs Smart. Objections
 20/00363/OUT Proposed one chalet style dwelling. 52 East Fen Rd Isleham. Mr Dunsmuir Objections
 19/01774/FUL Two storey rear extension (amendment) 24 Station Road Isleham. Albendon/Mr S Healey No objection
 20/00375/OUT Residential development for 9 dwellings with access from Hall Barn Road and all other matters reserved. Land West Of 39 - 47 Hall Barn Road Isleham. Cambridgeshire County Council Objections
 20/00389/FUL Single storey front extension. 18 Robins Close Isleham. Mr & Mrs J Kitchen Objections
 20/00463/FUL Proposed rear, single story extension and rear first floor extension including internal alterations. 50 Beck Road Isleham. Mr S Stebbeds No Objection
 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. Mr D Beckett No Objection
 20/00469/FUL Replacement dwelling and garage. South view 3 Prickwillow Rd Isleham Mr & Mrs N Stewart Conditional objection
 20/00491/OUM Construct 23 no. new dwellings (Inc. 7no. affordable) and the variation of an existing dwelling. Land South Of 46 East Fen Road Isleham. Mr Waters: Objections
Planning Approvals (Feb - May)
 19/01024/FUL Outbuilding for use by moorers for storage. 37 Prickwillow Rd. Mr & Mrs S Mutton
 19/01315/LBC Alterations to kitchen along with internal and external alterations. 18 Little London Isleham Mr R Warburton & Ms C Wilkinson
 19/01318/FUL Alterations to kitchen along with internal and external alterations. 18 Little London Isleham Mr R Warburton & Ms C Wilkinson
 19/01371/FUL Single storey rear extension including alterations. 8 Mill St. Mr & Mrs Thorburn.
 19/01696/DEM Notification of demolition of a Building. The former Pattersons Stores 11 Mill St Isleham Mr Slightholme
 19/01586/FUL Erection of greenhouse. Greenhouse is of painted aluminium and wood construction and fully glazed. 16A Hall Barn Rd Isleham. Mr S Rolfe
 19/01690/FUL Addition of roof lights (front elevation) to attic level (part retrospective) 4 Priory Gardens Isleham. Mr D Fitchett.
 19/01075/NMAA Non material amendment to pre-

viously approved 19/01075/FUL for proposed roof alteration for the creation of loft conversion and internal alterations. 40 East Fen Rd Isleham. Mr & Mrs Vaughan
 20/00168/FUL Alteration of 2 ground floor windows. 4 Priory Gardens Isleham
 18/01736/OUM Residential development of 10 dwellings as 3no. 4 bed detached with single garage for private sale, 3no. 3 bed detached with single garage for private sale, 2no. 3 bed and 2no. 2 bed semi-detached with on-site parking affordable housing. Land West Of 4 Coates Drove Isleham
 19/01774/FUL Two storey rear extension 24 Station Rd Isleham
 19/01735/FUL: Demolition of existing bungalow and garage and construction of 1no. four-bedroom, detached chalet style bungalow. 46 West Street
 20/00142/OUT Construction of 1no. detached dwelling and garaging for horticultural manager. Floral Farm Fordham Rd Isleham. Mr M Caffarelli.
Planning Refusals: (Feb - May)
 20/00011/FUL Proposed single storey dwelling, car port, parking, access and associated site works. Land east of 55-57 Waterside. Mr & Mrs A Beckett
 19/01777/OUT Proposed residential development comprising 4No. dwellings, garaging & access. Site West Of 45 East Fen Road Isleham
 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.
Other planning Matters
 Havebury / PlanSurv Proposals Re Lady Peyton Land - Fordham / Station Rd
 Representatives from Havebury & PlanSurv shared some initial thoughts with Councillors regarding a proposed development of 45 houses on land owned by the Lady Peyton Charity. Key information included: *Details for the reasons for objections can be found on the minutes of meetings and on ECDC /WSDC 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
Richard Liddington (Parish Clerk)	Parish Office, The Beeches Tel: 01638 781687 Email: islehampc@gmail.com Website: www.isleham-village.co.uk

1st Isolation Isleham Scout Group

In true Scouting style, we carry on regardless to keep our young people active, engaged and learning new skills. Obviously the arrival of Covid 19 has meant we have not been able to meet in person, but we continue Scouting from home. 21st century technology has enabled us to still teach and engage with our young people on a digital level.

BEAVERS

In beavers we have seen the children learning how to ride their bikes using the correct safety clothing and helmets, learning to cook and how to be safe on the kitchen. They have also been learning how to use a camera and record the world they see around them, how to communicate with the technology that we have at our disposal, how to read and write in code and stay in touch with loved ones they are missing. They have joined in with the district beavers to renew their promise and catch a glimpse of each other. The children have been learning that even though we cannot meet at the minute we can still come together as a community, they have been taking part in the bear hunt that was happening and putting pictures they have done in their windows.



CUBS

In Cubs many of our members have been busy learning to bake/cook, earning the 'Home help' badge by participating in chores around the house. Numerous Cubs have spent nights camping in their gardens – complete with toasted marshmallows! We've had star gazers, children learning how to care for pets, creative writing, learning to write letters, many lovely pictures/posters supporting our wonderful NHS staff. We've also had challenges set by leaders i.e. 'bake off'. St George's day saw a district online promise renewal using video calling technology – these are different and sometimes worrying times for us all, but our scouting family continues to be strong in supporting each other.



SCOUTS:



VE Day Celebrations, Lockdown and school lockdown childcare

Isleham Co-op celebrating VE Day

Pictured are Pauline Wilkes with Bev Parrington dept manager, and her 2 daughter's Ellie and Molly who have been temporary employed to help out. during the crisis. Nine other staff at the Co-Op - Pauline Quinn, Marcelle Newton, Ben Chapman, Louis Coombs, Matt Jones, Chloe Morris, Rory ? Luke Smith, Chloe Glavin and Ian Lorello-Creed, who support the management team.

All the staff at the shop have played a very important part in keeping the shop open serving the village during these very strange times. Thank you to them all..



Huge thanks to everyone who came to help today move our excess furniture and rugs etc to their temporary storage location. It is definitely true that many hands made light work as everything was moved in no time and the teachers are now all set for us to re-open to selected pupils from 1.6.20 if it is safe to do so. THANK YOU ALL.

Fruit and veg boxes are on their way out to some of those on the list provided by the parish council. We get enough donated each week to provide about 100 boxes - so everyone on the list should get something every 2-3 weeks.

A huge thank you this week (19th May) to Marco Caffarelli, Jo Lomas and Catherine Audus, Tesco's and DS Smith for the donations.

Big thank you to Isleham Cricket Club Volunteer's Group for organising and delivering.



A small selection of pictures taken by Walter Gunston of his displays to mark the 75th anniversary of victory in Europe day 8/5/2020 and pictures from other residents.

He decorated his car and trailer with red, white and blue bunting, and added his silhouette soldiers by placing them in the trailer, to surprise the residents of Isleham during the afternoon, while they were enjoying sandwiches and cakes on their front door step or in their front gardens, as he was driving around the whole village he was playing a recording of St Andrews Church Bells ringing out, the response from the residents was amazing, every now and then he would stop and sound his air raid siren. Walter commented "it was lovely driving around seeing all the smiles, thumbs up and even applause from the residents".



Friends of Isleham Nature

Reserves

Gardens and Green Spaces

Since the middle of March most of us have realised how lucky we are to live in a village setting where most of us have gardens and there are many green areas around the village for us to walk and enjoy. You may be lucky enough to have hedgehogs visiting your garden on a regular basis, to ensure their safety please take extra care when strimming, mowing, turning compost heaps and setting light to piles of garden material. Ensure that fruit and vegetable netting is kept at a safe height (30cm) to avoid entanglement.

If you are not seeing any hedgehogs please consider if your garden is hedgehog friendly- cutting small holes (15cm x 15cm) in fences or under gates allows them to visit. They will happily eat meat-based dog or cat food or proprietary hedgehog food, but will also help rid your garden of slugs. A shallow bowl of water is also appreciated.



You can find information at www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk

During these summer months don't forget to look upwards for the birds in the sky above the village. Red Kites and Buzzards are now regular sightings, and the swifts, swallows and house martins have returned from their winter migration. If you have any of these birds nesting at your property please let us know so the information can be included in our survey.

The Nature Reserve has had more hedge laying done to encourage a wider variety of both animal and plant species. Earlier in the year there were several beautiful areas of violets. Unfortunately the virus means we will not be able to do our annual bioblitz.

The Orchard trees are now well established, and there was plenty of blossom. Despite the virus the pathways through the trees have been mowed and all are welcome to walk around the trees, there are benches where you can sit and enjoy the peace and quiet. Last years dry weather reduced the amount of fruit but hopefully this year will prove better.

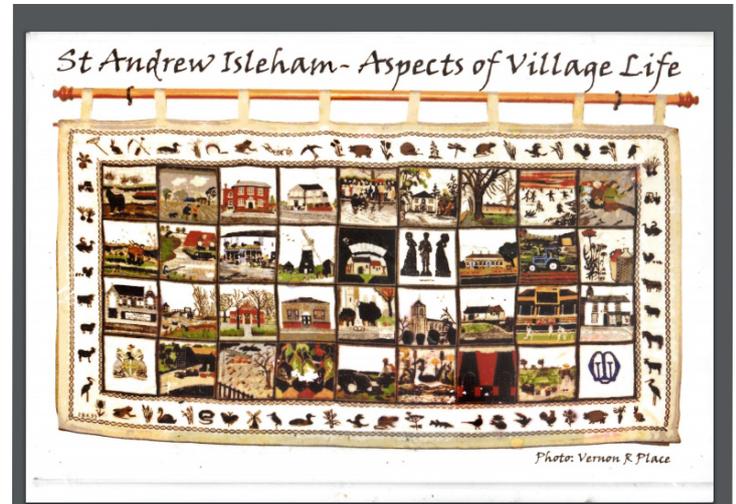
For those who wish to venture a bit further there is Millennium Wood, which also has pathways and benches where you can sit and enjoy the sun.

Finally please may we ask that, as you return to work, you stay alert for the wildlife which has now grown accustomed to empty roads. Muntjac deer can weigh 10-18kg, so apart from being injured they can also cause substantial damage to your car.

Anne Noble

Aspects Of Village Life

Many people will be familiar with the wonderful tapestry which has been hanging at the back of St Andrew's Church for the past twenty five years. The Isleham Tapestry Group, many of whom were also members of the Mothers' Union or Women's' Institute, undertook a five year project to produce this beautiful sampler tapestry depicting village life as the 20th century drew to a close.



Thirty ladies contributed their needlework skills to the thirty six panels and the beautiful border which surrounds them. Topics include activities such as skating, a pancake race, tractor ploughing, Fen fowlers, and the mole catcher. There are buildings some still here, some whose purpose has changed and some we have lost. It is a fascinating and very visual piece of our history.

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary, and the people who created it, the Isleham Society has taken advice on how best to restore and preserve the tapestry which has suffered a certain amount of deterioration over the years. It is now being carefully dried and will be gently cleaned, and the stitching repaired as required.

Once current restrictions are lifted, it will be re-hung in the church with a protective backing and with the names of the contributors displayed. Sadly of course most of the ladies who made this unique artistic record are no longer with us but there will be a social ceremony to thank those who are, and commemorative items such as jigsaw puzzles and table mats made to spread the word and encourage lots of residents and visitors to appreciate, and marvel at, 'Aspects of Village Life'.

Mark Fletcher (Chairman Isleham Society)



Isleham Society Quiz

- 1) Riddle 'I am red and also read (in a way). You'll find me somewhere on Causeway'. What am I?
 - 2) If you are a pheasant what do you do on Feb 2nd?
 - 3) What greening event took place in Coates Drove last December?
 - 4) A riddle: I'm biased but why (in normal times) in Jubilee Close might you end up with jack on Friday?
 - 5) And another the last Isleham ...what?
 - 6) What tragic event on the village outskirts received permanent recognition in January this year?
 - 7) The Saxon Royal House of King Anna, within a short drive of here, produced six saints. Where was their seat of power? And what did the best known saint do?
 - 8) One year (in the nineteen seventies) saw a watery connection between Station Road and what famous sporting event? What was it?
 - 9) Isleham cricket team 1912 surnames. Can you guess at least four of the nine 'old village families' who made up that pre-WW1 eleven?
 - 10) Lots of nice plump pigs around here. What is the gestation period for an Isleham Blue sow?
- The Isleham Society Quiz is compiled for the Informer by Mark Fletcher. Suggestions for questions with a local connection are welcome but we can't guarantee acknowledgement or use.

Thanks. Fletchermark100@gmail.com

Lady Frances Peyton Hospital Almshouse Charity

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This Isleham Charity owns and manages the 4 Almshouses in Isleham.

We are looking for a well organised person to be our Secretary/Treasurer to help the Trustees run the Charity and manage our homes.

The Charity provides housing for those in need and we are looking to use our assets to deliver more much needed affordable housing in the village

The Charity meets a minimum of 4 times a year with other meetings as and when required.

Expenses will be paid for this work.

If you think you have the skills we need and are interested in becoming involved with this local Charity please contact Richard Radcliffe on 01638 780831 or 07513430397

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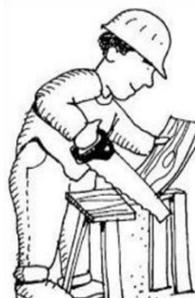
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

At the time of writing the country is still in a period of lockdown from which I do sincerely hope we will soon exit, and see a little glimmer of light, in the very near future.

I, through your letter page, write a heartfelt thank you to everyone in our village of Isleham who has acted so courageously and cautiously during these horrible, and to some quite frightening, few weeks. We in the the village should feel proud of the way that everyone has rallied round with offers of help and kindness wherever needed.

Our one and only shop – our friendly and helpful Co-op “Open all hours” has been a tremendous helpline – nothing has been too much trouble for the hard working staff.

The volunteers from the Cricket Club organised through Mark Goldsack – rather like a modern day Robin Hood and his band – have done a wonderful job distributing the boxed vegetables kindly donated by Isleham Produce World, Gs Growers and Floral Farm. And helped where necessary in delivering medical prescriptions.

Our little Post Office has tried to keep open as much as possible, even though it has been short of staff, the ‘Posties themselves who have kept on delivering our mail, and the rubbish collectors who have cheerfully collected our house and garden waste.

There are so many people to whom we should say a huge THANK YOU – obviously the NHS workers and carers and other key workers, many from our village. When we all show our appreciation by clapping on a Thursday evening I know we clap with a tremendous feeling of gratitude.

The Corona pandemic has been an enormous wake-up call for the whole world; let us hope that the final outcome will prove to be of great benefit to our children and grandchildren, May we look forward to meeting up with our loved ones and friends, and begin socialising again in the not too distant future.

Joyce Hazelwood

Isleham Society

Firstly, many thanks from us all to Clive Patterson who stepped down as Chairman at the February AGM. I’m grateful to have the chance to step into that role and will try to continue the good work.



At time of writing we don’t know when our programme of meetings and visits can restart. We’ve had to postpone the March and April talks by Ellen Bazely-White and Simon Durance, and also the visit to the Grange Musical instrument collection. However, there is a great line up of events in the pipeline so, as soon as we can, we’ll begin to catch up and, given a bit of time, we won’t miss out on anything!

We were to have celebrated the 25th anniversary and restoration of the ‘Aspects of Isleham’ tapestry .That will happen eventually but not on the actual date, which was in April.

Last year we had an Open Day at the Priory (over a hundred people came) and were planning to do that again on July 25 (the Saint’s Day of St Margaret of Antioch) with even more information. I wonder, will that take place?

We have great local history talks lined up with Vernon Place and Clive and others, a visit to the Mildenhall Air Base, input from the representative of the National Farmers’ Union and much else.

We have the aim of broadening the interest in the village (and membership) by providing useful resources for the school, arranging ‘parent-friendly’ events at times that suit, and providing ‘Family-friendly’ activities like treasure hunt village walks. There are plans afoot to record and make available the fascinating recollections of their early Isleham days of some of our senior residents, and also to encourage everyone who lives here to research any aspect of village life past or present that interests them (for example commercial flower growing/ the railway/ barges and waterways/ the village at war etc) We will collate the material and make it available.

It would be great to revive the idea of ‘twinning’ with similar locations in other countries, and these days it must be possible to do this ‘virtually’ as a stepping stone to closer ties.

All these are ambitious proposals and will not happen overnight but I turn to my treasured copy of Arthur Houghton’s ‘Memories of Isleham an English Fenland Village’ and see that it was published by the Isleham Society in 1995 and the registered address is still the home of our Patron Ian Powys whose late wife Beryl also played such an important role as Secretary for many years. I, as the new Chairman, am inspired by that. Regardless of shut downs we’ll produce an Isleham Calendar this year along with much else of interest to all who live here, and perhaps especially valuable as a help to people moving into the village to realise just how lucky they are (that’s me included) to be a part of such a friendly, historic, hard working community, - and to join in with what makes it tick!

Mark Fletcher (very new) Chair of The Isleham Society.

I’m massively grateful, and dependent, on the work and advice of Glenda Preece and the Committee members.

If anything you have read in the above strikes a chord of wanting to be part of these aims please contact me at: Fletchermark100@gmail.com

Your knowledge, experience, enthusiasm and ideas are most welcome!

CHURCHES

St Andrew's Parish Church Pound Lane Free Church

I'm writing this in what feel like very strange times for us all. Strange in the life of the church; which in many ways usually revolves around meeting together on a Sunday morning. Of course it has not been possible to do that for several weeks and we have had to think about how we "do church" in these straightened circumstances.

After some prayer and thought by the ministry team we decided what we would do is prepare and distribute (mainly by email, but also in hard copy for those not yet digital) orders of service for people to use in their homes. The idea being that we could all use these at 10am (or other time if people preferred) and so whilst not being physically together physically in prayer we can pray together apart.

Our services have been a simple mix of prayers, readings, hymns (including youtube links) and a sermon written by one of the ministry team. We have also started to record our sermons and publish the videos on youtube so people can hear us preaching our text. We decided to follow this route as we felt it would include a much wider section of our existing worshipping community in being able to join us in worship. If we had gone down the lines of broadcasting online we would have excluded people from our main act of worship each week.

As the lockdown went on we decided that we wanted to try live worship and so have started to invite people to prayer using Zoom on a Wednesday evenings at 7pm. It is a short service of Compline, lasting around 30 minutes with a short address, readings and space for silent prayer.

We've also started a course on the Bible via Zoom, the first iteration of which will be coming to and end at the beginning of June and we may run it again if others show interest.

It has been very sad to have to keep the doors of our churches locked during this crisis. At a time when a place of peace could have been a great comfort. The churchyards remain open and are places of peace in their own right, but perhaps not the same. Sadly the difficulty in keeping the church sufficiently clean so as not to spread infection and the potential for churches to become places where people gather in an unsafe way. (Sadly this had been the case in many churches before the lockdown), mean that we continue to follow the government's advice in keeping the doors locked.

If you would like to join us in worship by joining our electronic or physical mailing list, join us to pray via zoom, or learn more about faith you can be in contact with one of our ministry team.

Rev'd David Cleugh 723010 davidrcleugh@gmail.com,

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

The Rev'd Anna Jones 07751 032166

revdannajones@gmail.com

Or find more information on our website www.threeriversgroup.co.uk

As a church family we really miss meeting together to worship our great God. Pastor Dave is recording a sermon each week which we can then watch in the safety of our own homes on Sunday.

We are thankful for all this modern technology that enables us to keep in touch with one another, whether it's our phones, Facetime, WhatsApp or Zoom calls, they all help us stay close and know what to be praying for each other.

We miss the chance to be with and teach our children and young people, if you're passing plfc you will see some of their wonderful art work on the windows.

If you would like to access the plfc sermons they can be found on YouTube on the Pound Lane Free Church channel (Go to YouTube and Search for Pound Lane Free Church).

If you'd like to contact us please call Pastor Dave on 01638 780636 or email pastor@plfc.org.uk

In all the uncertainty of recent times we are sure of one thing - our God is sovereign.

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22&23

The Ark Church

"It's sad to see another chapel close," said a passer by as I emptied a few of the last chairs from High Street Chapel. I didn't know what to say, I was delighted to be out. The old building was stuffy, cramped and rigid, with stairs like the side of Mount Everest to get to the creche. Some of the children were in other buildings or in a rather rickety shed at the side of the chapel. As local residents would know the parking was also a challenge!

I paint a bleak picture, there are a host of great memories for many people of the old chapel; baptisms, marriages, and heartfelt worship and many, many people encountering God for the first time. I am thankful for everything that God has done, but don't want to be like Miss Havisham and be locked away by memories. I am excited for the future, that God might do something new, something remarkable and we would be part of it.

All around the country old chapels and churches are being converted into houses, shops and warehouses. However, new churches are springing up like a new harvest in more modern buildings in surrounding towns and cities. High Street leadership had dreamed for many years of a new building, but the time was yet to come. In fact, a sizeable sum was given away to another church building project in Peterborough as we waited for God's green light!

Feelings were mixed, some couldn't wait to have a new church home and others were nervous of the whole thing coming to nothing, having egg on our faces and empty pockets. Still others waited patiently on a faithful God. Over 10 years ago work started, initially on a sawmill, felling trees in Thetford Forest, buying giant wood working tools and preparing the site. Mechanics became carpenters, teachers became dumper truck drivers as people from church became the build team. This wasn't to be a quick build with concrete, steel and glass but using

Continued on page 17

Isleham Parish Council

I am writing this as the restrictions that we have lived with are beginning to ease. The last few weeks have seen us all having to alter the way we lead our lives and the mutual support shown to each other I have witnessed (from 2 metres I hasten to add) shows why Isleham is such a good place to live.

The Cricket Club have done fantastic work in setting up the Isleham Volunteers support network, so quickly, and in co-ordinating volunteers to help those who need to remain at home to self isolate or facing difficulties. The variety of tasks undertaken is amazing.

We have established a relief fund for the Village with contributions from the Parish Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and the generous donation from those in the village. This Fund is to help support the Isleham Volunteers and to meet local needs .

The staff at the Coop have been tremendous in their efforts to keep up with all our needs. How much more difficult would life be without ready access to our essentials within the village?

The School has remained open to look after the children of our essential workers and provided learning opportunities to those at home. The staff have adapted so well in doing what they do, caring and supporting our children in their learning.

There are many of you who have been using your skills in making equipment to help the NHS staff and brightening our village with messages of support.

Thanks to you all. Thanks also for the many unnoticed acts of kindness and help to each other that I suspect most of you will have done over recent weeks. They all help us to get through this worrying time.

Many of us have enjoyed the significant reduction in traffic in the village. We have all walked and cycled more and it is my hope that this will continue as the village has become a more tranquil place with greater opportunity to enjoy our environment.

The Parish Council has continued to meet monthly via video conferencing and it has been a pleasure to have local people joining us for these meetings. We have had to cancel the Annual Parish Meeting but hope to hold that later in the year.

We have seen many of the vacant allotments being taken up. We still have some allotments available. If you are interested email islehampc@gmail.com.

At the end of March we were intending to have a consultation day to get your views on development within the village to help our Neighbourhood Plan. We will aim to hold this consultation as soon as is practical. It will be interesting to get as many views as possible as I suspect that over the recent weeks many of us have been places and seen things we did not notice before in the village. We will be interested in your views as to what the village looks like and what is important to you.

Richard Radcliffe

Sunnica Energy Farm

The proposed Sunnica Energy Farm has now been extended along Beck Rd to the junction with Sheldricks Road, so now very much in Isleham Parish. This will mean the Energy Farm is comprised of three sites which will be connected to each other and ultimately to Burwell sub-station by underground cabling- probably dug 1-2m deep.

As this is currently only at the proposal stage there is considerable lack of detail on the size of the panels or the battery units which could be over 5m tall. The battery design is still in development and is therefore untested.

The farmland which would be used to create the energy farm is actually very productive land, used for growing a range of crops including onions and potatoes.

Whilst it is difficult to argue against the need for cleaner, greener forms of energy it is vital we understand more about this proposal. The impact on humans and wildlife in the area needs careful assessment. The area is home to rare birds such as Stone Curlew and Marsh Harrier

At the presentation at the Beeches the directors of Tribus and PS Renewables could not tell us what the plans were for the decommissioning of the Energy Farm. The solar panels may contain toxic elements as may the batteries and it is vital there is a plan in place to safely remove and recycle everything. We do not want to have the same problems in 30 years time as the nuclear industry has now decommissioning plants and disposing of waste.

The process for planning permission is not the usual local authority route. Due to the scheme's size; it is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP); it therefore goes through the National Infrastructure Planning process and is ultimately decided by the relevant Secretary of State.

Although the Freckenham farmer has withdrawn his land it can still be compulsorily purchased as part of the scheme.

Sunnica are aiming to provide detailed plans in the next few weeks and hold the Statutory Consultations. This is a chance to view and speak to them about the plans which they will submit to the Inspectorate.

Once submitted and accepted by the Inspectorate, interested parties can register their interest and then have 28 days to respond.

ANYONE CAN REGISTER AS AN INTERESTED PARTY.

Scouts have been taking part in their Writers badge, camping at home, baking/cooking, home making skills, lots of crafts and simple pioneering tasks. We also managed to sneak in a camp just 2 days before lockdown! Again we also joined in with the online district promise renewal. We renew our promises each year at our St George's day service, which would usually follow our parade as a district in Newmarket. Most importantly, Scouts (along with Cubs and Beavers) have been continuing with their education from home. Many receiving copious amounts of work; but the entire leadership team could not be more proud of how all our members are embracing and adapting to the new lifestyle thrust upon us.

As an entire movement – nationwide – we have participated in a fundraising event: Hike to the moon! Each participating member of the Scout Association walked at least a mile and logged it online, the total miles across the country were added together until we had hiked 240,000 miles (the distance from earth to the moon). As a movement we raised an over £330,000 for The Big Night in appeal, supporting Comic Relief and Children in Need.

Finally, 1st Isleham Scout Group, would like to thank ALL keyworkers throughout the country for their hard work and for keeping our country running during these difficult times. We pray for your safety and we thank you for your courage, so everyone, please continue to look after yourselves and each other. We will come through this as a stronger community!

Continued from page 15

complex oak timber framing, the size of which hadn't been seen in the UK for hundreds of years. I visited the site and occasionally helped as timbers were transformed into trusses, then into a frame then, finally, into a building, section by section.

Many people have asked me where the money has come from, the answer is, almost entirely from members of the congregation. People have given up holidays, new cars and house extensions to see something remarkable grow up from the rich Fenland soil. On several occasions we have run out of money, almost laying off the construction team, causing some anxiety into the small hours of the night for many. However, all without need as God has supplied, usually at the last minute and in remarkable ways. The adventure took another turn at the end of 2019 as our insurance company didn't want to insure an empty church building any longer. So, one Sunday morning the church got up from their chairs and progressed the short distance up Beck Road to the Ark. It was a remarkable day, we still had no heating or carpets, but this was a new chapter. It was wonderful to have space, parking and the ability to host a lot of visitors from the village and further afield. We had really busy church meetings and other events like the swap shops, café mornings, Alpha courses and our Little Acorns Toddler group. The building is remarkable, breathtaking and truly soaked in prayer.

After a couple of months, the Ark adventure took another unexpected turn, it is now both an ongoing construction site, as work continues on the ground floor toilets, kitchen and cafe but also now a film set. The virus has forced the closure of churches, but the Ark has been filming and broadcasting services from day 1 of shut down. It is disappointing not to be able to use the building but interesting to host events on internet-based apps like Zoom, Skype and Facetime. The building is designed to accommodate between 450 and 500 and on a couple of occasions we have been very close to that limit. What is remarkable is that our broadcast meetings on YouTube often get nearly twice that number of views compared to our congregation. What the future holds, we really don't know but I am thankful for the past and excited for the future. I am look forward to seeing how God unfolds the next generation in the Ark.

Martin Wells
Church Elder
Ark Church – Isleham

To see church services at the Ark and videos on the building – have a look at the website or Facebook or YouTube channel - The Ark Church Isleham



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Isleham Primary School

On Friday 8th May 2020, despite the Covid-19 lockdown, the nation remembered the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, marking the end of the Second World War by staying at home and displaying bunting and posters.

The children attending the emergency childcare in our primary school did a fantastic job of creating the poster on the front cover, which has been proudly displayed in the school hall window alongside the other window displays created by the children and staff to spread joy to the local community for people to see when they are enjoying their daily walks, cycles and runs past the school.

The poster was sent through to Cambridgeshire County Council and formed part of the Cambridgeshire schools' 'VE Day- 75' poster compilation. Thanks to all involved.





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Isleham Society Quiz Answers

- 1) Dozens of village volunteers planted over 1100 saplings to provide a varied hedgerow habit of rowan, sloe, dogwood, etc.
- 2) That's when the Bowls Club meets, - and those are bowls terms.
- 3) The old phone box now stocked with books to borrow.
- 4) Breathe a sigh of relief! Feb 2 is the end of the pheasant shooting season.
- 5) Person to make a living as an eel-catcher.
- 6) Plaque put up at the Beeches commemorating the American Bomber crew who crashed in 1949.
- 7) Exning. The saints were all women (surprise) and included King Anna's wife Hereswitha. His best known daughter Etheldreda founded the abbey of Ely, a Wonder of the Mediaeval World.
- 8) There was a workshop which built the Cambridge racing eight for the Boat Race. (Source Arthur Houghton. More information welcome).
- 9) Chose from: Clarke, Goodchild, Wells, Sheldrick, Robins, Taylor, Harvey, Collen, and Human.
- 10) Three months three weeks three days. It's the same for all pigs actually. (Thanks TFM for info.)

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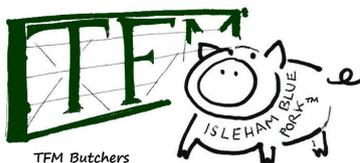
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