Isleham Informer

Spring Edition • Issue 101 • April 2021 • www.isleham-village.co.uk

Isleham Women's Institute Closing

Isleham Women's Institute was founded in 1923, so is almost 100 years old.

Since The Beeches was built we have held our monthly meetings there, meeting old friends and making new ones, listened to many interesting speakers (and a few not so interesting!) run Jumble Sales, litter picked, entered floats in the Gala and kept the WI garden on The Pound.

We have enjoyed many summer outings, marked Harvest Festivals with tasty suppers, taken the most interesting trips with the Cambridge Federation and derived a great deal of pleasure celebrating Christmas together. However, in recent years many members have felt dissatisfied with the County and National Federations, and after a vote was held it was almost unanimously decided that we will leave.

This definitely does not mean that we will no longer meet up, but it will be as a women's group not associated with the Women's Institute. We hope that old members will join us, and we will always welcome new ones.

Before closing, members decided to make donations to local charities that are all part of our lovely community – Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Isleham Under 5's, Swimming Pool Fund, Community Pantry, The Beeches and Steel Bones.

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

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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.

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

Post Office **Mon - Thurs 9.00 - 11.30**

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

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.

April 2021

Mon 12th Parish Council via Zoom 7.15pm

May 2021

Mon 10th Parish Council via Zoom 7.15pm

Sun 9th INFORMER DEADLINE

June 2021

Mon 7th Parish Council via Zoom 7.15pm

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 781092
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

Notes from The Editor

Hi at last we are moving out of lockdown, it's great meeting friends and family again. Keep safe.

Very sad to see another long standing group the WI having to close, hoping they keep in touch.

Many thanks must 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

East Cambs District Council

Bonfires – Alternatives

Bonfires are often seen as an easy way of disposing of garden waste but they are not environmentally friendly.

• You should try and make full use of the civic amenity sites in the area that take green waste. Details of the local facilities can be found on the Cambridgeshire County Council and Suffolk County Council websites.

• The council provides a green bin collection service which allows you to dispose of garden waste without the need for burning.

• Composting is a natural alternative to burning which reduces the amount of waste sent to landfill and is a cost effective way of improving your soil fertility. Visit our Visit our Composting page for further advice.

How can I avoid causing a nuisance?
You should only have a fire when absolutely necessary but if you must have a fire there are Do's and Don'ts which can help you to avoid causing a nuisance.

Do

• Do make your neighbours aware that you intend to have a fire. This gives them the opportunity to close windows and take in washing.

• Do choose the location carefully. Make sure it is away from trees, fences and buildings.

• Do think about the wind direction and where the smoke is likely to go.

• Do avoid lighting a fire during unsuitable weather conditions. Smoke will hang in the air on damp still days but can blow across gardens and roads if it is too windy.

Don't

• Don't burn damp garden waste as this will produce thick smoke.

• Don't burn plastics, rubber, foam, car tyres, etc as this will produce toxic black smoke.

• Don't allow the fire to smoulder overnight. Rake over the ashes to make sure it is fully extinguished.

Statutory Nuisance
Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) it is an offence to cause a statutory nuisance. To be considered a statutory nuisance a bonfire would usually have to be a regular problem and interfering substantially with the wellbeing, comfort or enjoyment of your property.

If you wish to make a complaint about a bonfire, please complete the report form on our web site.

Report Light, odour or smoke pollution

For more information, please contact the Environmental Health Team by telephone on 01353-665555, or by emailing Customer Services

The Rising Sun Reopening 2021

Well, it's been an interesting 5 months! We spent the first month painting all the internal parts of the pub that we hadn't decorated during lockdown 1. We then enjoyed a quiet December and had all Christmas plans scuppered, as did everyone, but made the most of family time. The 3rd lockdown was announced and we felt like we had gone into hibernation for the winter. We have kept our weekend takeaway service going throughout which has given us a much-needed income and a way of keeping in contact with some of our customers.

We were on tenter-hooks waiting to hear what the Government's roadmap would be and how soon we would be able to open our doors again. We are pleased to announce that all being well, we will open up for outside service on April 12th !! We are excitedly planning on turning the carpark back into a seating area and will soon be painting fences, putting up the shade sails and washing down furniture in preparation.

We look forward to seeing you all again,
Pat, Claire & Penny
The Rising Sun

Picture on page 19

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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	Irene Brown	irene.c.brown@googlemail.com	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	Margo Towley	01638 781524	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 Joggers			Monday & Wednesday	6.30pm	The Beeches Car Park
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	Russ Boneham	07867429051/01638 780830 russ@innovoic.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			

• 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 May 9th for our June 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

March 2021

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. If you would prefer a copy of the agenda emailing directly to you then please contact me at the email address above.

Highways Matters Although I do post notifications of impending street works onto the Isleham News Facebook page I am aware that due to the amount of detail, they are not necessarily always legible. If anyone would like a copy of these notifications then please do contact me at the email address above.
The Parish Council have a strong commitment to help retain the historic names of local droves and have erected a number of signs in and around the village identifying many of these droves. It is important to note however that some of these droves are on private land and that access is not necessarily permitted. To hopefully help residents on this matter I copy two maps of some of the main footpaths in and around our village. I am most grateful to Mrs Emily Stevens who has produced these wonderful maps of our village and for allowing their publication in The Informer.

See page 11 & 12 for the maps in colour

Contractors have been commissioned to undertake some ground works outside The Priory and residents will soon be able to take advantage of a new seating area and a village information board. A replacement notice board for outside The Beeches has also been ordered and it is hoped that this will be installed within the next few weeks.

Alotment Matters Although all of the plots on The Dunstall allotment site (Station Rd) are currently taken we do offer a waiting list for anyone wanting a plot on this site. Alternately a small number of plots are available on the Three Trees site (Beck Rd) The rent for a ten-rod plot which equates to 252m2 is just £16.50 per annum and just £8.25 for a half-sized plot. Please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

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 grou nd. 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 (February – March) *
18/00363/DISH Proposal: To discharge Condition 22 (Travel Plan) of decision 18/00363/OUM dated 8 January 2019 for Outline planning permission with all matters reserved except for access for the erection of up to 125 dwellings including affordable housing, land to be reserved for nursery use (Use Class D1), open space including an extension to the recreation ground, play areas, sustainability drainage features and associated infrastructure including foul sewage pumping station. Land Accessed Between 2 And 4 Fordham Road Isleham Bloor Homes Eastern Noted - No comment
19/01178/DISB To discharge Condition 7 (Foul & Surface Water) of decision 19/01178/OUT dated 12 November 2019 for Demolition of agricultural barns and residential development of five residential dwellings, garaging, parking, access road and associated works Appleyard Farm 1 Houghtons Lane Isleham Mr D Beckett Noted - No comment
20/01517/RMM Reserved matters of previously approved 18/01736/OUM for 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 Mr N Leggitt Noted – No comment
20/01642/FUL Two storey rear extension and front porch. 24 Station Road Isleham. Albendan Ltd No objection
20/01464/FUL Proposed single storey side extension and first floor extension together will small part removal of clunch wall 93 The Causeway Isleham. An amendment has been received. The amendment involves: A change in proposal description to read "Proposed single storey side extension and first floor extension together will small part removal of clunch wall" Objection
21/00070/LBC Internal alterations with the addition of an internal lift. External brick detailing alterations

in areas to ensure the building is watertight. The High House 41 Mill Street Isleham No Objection
21/00092/FUL Single storey rear and first floor extensions and internal alterations location: 51 Hall Barn Road Isleham No Objection

Planning Approvals (February – March)
20/01069/FUL Construction of 1no. four-bedroom two storey detached dwelling and garage /games room/gymnasium. 72B West Street Isleham
20/01559/TRE: T1 Silver Birch - Reduce the entire crown by up to 3mtrs, shaping accordingly. T2 Multi stem Ash - Reduce the entire crown by up to 3m all over. T3 Sycamore - Reduce the entire crown by up to 1.5m all over. T4 - Sycamore - Reduce the entire crown by up to 2m all over. These trees are all vigorous specimens with the potential to become very large. These works are required as a form of management to control the trees and to keep them to size befitting of their environment. 4 Dockings Lane Isleham
20/01584/TRE G1 Mixed group of Garden species - Fell to ground level as possible an Apple tree, Crab Apple, Yew, the smaller Holly and a dead shrub. Crown lift the larger Holly tree to 2mtrs from the ground. Reduce the height of the Laurel to approximately 3mtrs tall and 2mtrs wide from the wall to the drive, shaping to a flatter fan shape along the drive. G2 Mixed group of Garden species - Reduce the height of the Lilac hedge across the front of the property down to 2mtrs and trim back from the path edge. Cut the Forsythia to knee height and shape. Reduce the height of the Viburnum to 2.5mtrs and reshape. T3 Silver Birch - Remove the broken limb and tidy the wound. 26 Pound Lane Isleham
14/00690/NMAA Non material amendment to previously approved 14/00690/FUL for Proposed alterations and conversion of existing barn into ancillary accommodation. The High House 41 Mill Street Isleham.
20/01594/RMA Reserved matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of previously approved 18/01482/OUT for residential development of nine single storey dwellings, garaging, parking, access road and associated site works – phased development. Site North Of 4 Fordham Road Isleham.
20/01642/FUL Two storey rear extension and front porch (Retrospective) 24 Station Road Isleham.
20/01753/FUL Garage extension, rear porch and increased boundary wall. Grain House 2A Malting Lane Isleham.
20/01758/TRE Sycamore (T1 to T6) - Reduce in height by 1 to 1.5m below previous reduction points, and re-shape sides. 14 Robins Close Isleham.
20/01772/TRE T1 (Horse Chestnut) - Re-pollard back to previous points Location: The Old Chapel The Causeway Isleham.

Planning Refusals: (February – March)
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
Other Planning Matters: (February – March)
20/00863/FUL and 20/00864/LBC Conversion of a grade II listed outbuilding into a separate 2-bed dwelling house including widening of access.41 Mill Street Isleham. Application withdrawn.
20/01749/FUL Garden storage shed to the rear of property (retrospective) 1 Goodchilds Gardens Isleham. Planning application withdrawn.

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

Busy Bees – Networking for parents and carers of Isleham's Under 5s Walks & Health Walks

Are you a parent or carer of an under 5-year-old or an expectant parent?

Busy Bees was a 'Stay and Play' baby and toddler group held in The Beeches that provided play and crafts for children and an opportunity for parents and carers to socialise. Groups like this (there was also Music Mayhem at Pound Lane Free Church and Little Acorns at The Ark) can't operate again yet but if you would like to 'meet' others with young children and learn about local groups and services that are active or offering online support or activities, then join the Busy Bees Facebook group.
Let me know if you're interested in video-based coffee mornings (or evenings) or some form of free local online toddler group!!!!
A few people have also recently started training as Health Walk Leaders, with a view to starting up an Isleham based buggy walkr as a replacement /addition to the currently non-running groups.
If you're able to volunteer to be a walk leader, to help with the buggy group or to start up other walks in the village or locally, I'm sure the local coordinator would like to hear from you.
Thanks, Ellen Bazeley-White

Facebook Group: Busy Bees Isleham (a visible but private group) https://www.facebook.com/groups/islehambusybees
Email: isleham.busybees@gmail.com

Isleham Under Fives Association (IUFA) run the Isleham Pre-school: https://www.facebook.com/islehamunderfives https://www.islehamunderfives.co.uk

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

Karma Farm

"Just returned from a lovely stay here at the end of a cycling holiday. The location is beautiful, and my partner and I enjoyed relaxing around the campfire and doing a couple of short walks and cycle rides in the surrounding fens, which are idyllic. We stayed in the yurt which was very cosy - wonderfully decorated with solar powered fairy lights, and which also had a kitchen shed with a gas camping stove and a couple of chairs to go around the fire pit. I really appreciated the sustainable ethos of the site and its friendly and homely atmosphere. I will definitely be back! A side note for 2020: the site also felt really safe and well-organised in terms of COVID-19 precautions. We had access to our own locked shower and toilet cubicles and there was plenty of hand sanitizer available " - Google review from August 2020.

Here at Karma Farm we are now busy painting, repairing and renewing, ready for the new season. Following the success of last year, we are continuing with providing each camping group their own lockable toilet and washbasin. This means we are able to open from the 12th April for tents, campervans or to stay in one of our Yurts.

People ask what makes us an 'eco-campsite' - our philosophy is to reuse and recycle wherever possible. We use our own timber where we can and to provide firewood for campfires - you may have seen the pile of wood on the Prickwillow Road which came from further along the road. They had to be felled because of moth damage to the base of the trunks and were a danger to traffic. Wildflowers are allowed to grow for the bees and insects and birds and wildlife are everywhere.
We are in an ideal location for walking, cycling or bird watching on the Isleham Washes. It is a short walk to TFM butchers to buy all you need for your BBQ or to the village for shopping and the local pubs. We look forward to meeting any of your friends and family who wish to stay on our campsite.

Will and Sheila Taylor.
For more information or bookings contact :
wtkarmafarm@gmail.com

Andrew Myson
Painting & Decorating
24 Hall Barn Road, Isleham
Ely, Cambs, CB7 5QZ
T: 01638 780680 M: 07775673480
a_myson@yahoo.co.uk

News from Isleham C of E Primary School

Farewell to all-rounder Rosie Burton as she retires after 32 and a half years (plus!) at Isleham Primary

On Wednesday 24th March 2021, we said a fond farewell to Mrs Rosie Burton, who retired from Isleham Primary School after 32 and a half years' service.

Despite the Covid-19 distancing measures in place, we wanted to give Mrs Burton a good send-off, and so, the children and staff carried out a 'wave-by' past the office window to mark Mrs Burton's last day. She was also presented with some beautiful bouquets of flowers & cakes from staff and governors, an engraved vase, a framed picture with images created to by the children of the school, and some garden vouchers to enable her to keep adding to her family garden now that she has retired. Rosie was presented with her gifts by her granddaughter Olivia and friends, and posed for a photo by the office hatch!

Rosie knows Isleham Primary School very well- not just as an employee, but also having attended Isleham Primary School as a child, and then returning as a parent, when her own daughters also came to the local school. Now her granddaughter is also a pupil here.

Rosie remembers when she attended Isleham Primary School that there were 2 intakes of pupils at Easter and in September- she attended from age 5 to 11 before going onto Soham Village College. There was no school uniform in those days! There are still some villagers who know Rosie from her early school days who still live in the village.

The school only had 4 classrooms in those days and a main hall where the children took 11+ exams. She remembers entering the school via the library where the main entrance door was located (at the back of the school site) and recalls that when the children visited church, they walked through the school grounds via 'The Cut' (which was alongside what is now Limestone Close). The bowls clubs wasn't there then, and the path is now sadly disused.
The Headteacher was Mr Martindale when Rosie was a pupil- the children all liked Mr Martindale and enjoyed cookery lessons with Mrs Martindale in the area which is now the school office.

She started working at the school as a helper in the kitchens in October 1988 when the school put out a call for someone to help wash pots and pans. After that, she couldn't stay away! She worked as dinner lady and then became lunchtime co-ordinator. She then took on an administrative role in the office, and has been gradually cutting back over the years from a full-time role in preparation for her recent retirement.

Rosie has witnessed a great deal of change of the past 3 decades working at the school, but also since her own school days.

It has been a pleasure to work with her and we all wish her well for her retirement.

Sarah Skillern, Headteacher

Sunnica Update

Sunnica's archaeological surveys are currently underway, graphically demonstrating how many fields will become part of this giant solar park, and what an enormous effect it will have on our landscape. The compulsory purchase threats that have been made by Sunnica have also shown the determination of this company to inflict this scheme onto the local community and onto local landowners who do not wish to take part.

These fields with archeological diggings, would be full of panels

The statutory consultation period is now over and the next step will be the submission of the application to the Planning Inspector, possibly late May. At this point the local Councils will have an opportunity to say whether or not they feel that the consultation has been adequate. At the present time the Councils are considering their response, and anyone who feels the consultation has been inadequate can write or email their own councillors (Cambridgeshire County Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council) with their concerns. If the consultation is deemed inadequate then we will hopefully have a further round of consultation, with more details about the scheme being released.

The 'No to Sunnica' community group continues to stress their support for alternative forms of energy but has many questions about the Sunnica Project including, but not limited to:

1. Safety of batteries- so far no details have been supplied as to how any fires will be controlled. Will schools in the area need evacuating in the event of a fire?
2. Effects on wildlife- Natural England, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts and other environmental groups have raised concerns over the poor mitigation measures suggested so far, particularly with regards to the very rare Stone Curlew.
3. Effects of transport- large lorries (160 HGVs daily, 6 days a week) will be travelling along small country roads to the detriment of people who drive, cycle and walk along them, as well as wildlife. The cabling will require the closure of roads while the cable is placed across them.
4. How 'green' is this scheme? Other renewable schemes are much less scattered and do not necessitate 15miles of cabling to Burwell, with associated carbon costs. East Anglia may be one of the sunniest places in the UK but we have very low levels of sunlight compared to the deserts and Southern Europe where many of these solar farms are built.

Our fear is that we are losing productive vegetable growing land to a scheme that will disrupt all of our lives, changing the landscape forever, and which will be much less 'green' than many people think. And at the same time, hundreds of houses and commercial buildings continue to be built with no renewable energy sources fitted during construction. This vicious circle has to stop.

We will soon be setting up a crowd-funding page to cover the costs of expert witnesses contesting the application at the Planning Inspector examination stage. Any donations would be gratefully received and put to good use to try to prevent this scheme gaining approval. Many thanks in advance for your valued support.

Say
NO
To
Sunnica

Isleham Nature Reserve Notes

After a cold, grey winter Spring is starting to happen, and signs of green life are happening everywhere at last

We have been tidying up the Railway Nature Reserve on Fordham Road, as we do every Autumn and Winter. After cutting the grass and nettles on the path last October we have been trimming the banks and hedges along the Reserve, helped most ably by the Cambridge Conservation Volunteers . We had a dozen willing volunteers working well a few weeks ago, and are very grateful for the time and energy they put in. A few bonfires to remove the brash and the Railway Reserve is looking good for 2021.

We have cut and raked the banks of the village pond on East Fen Road, and dug out some of the mud that accumulates near the inflow pipe. The Fen blow (dust) ends up on the roads after the winds, and get flushed into the Pond when it rains! The small willow has been pollarded, but it will look a bit bare for the rest of this year .

The frogspawn in the pond will no doubt be demolished again by the visiting pair of ducks each Spring, but the duck weed is also eaten.

It was a dry year for the Community Orchard, so the apple crop wasn't large. The COVID emergency meant we couldn't hold the normal Apple Day celebration there in the Autumn – hopefully we can this year. The Coates Drove Hedge is growing well , but it will be ten years or more before it thickens enough to provide shelter for birds .

The Station Road Woods are a delightful place to walk , and sit – except for the difficult car access. We haven't done anything this year except putting up some bird boxes. Let us hope they are appreciated and used by our local birds.

As we are a very small group of volunteers who work on the Reserves, we are constantly looking for people willing to help us , so please get in touch if you feel you can help. Not only is it a fine way to enjoy the countryside , you can feel happy that you are helping the biodiversity of the local area.

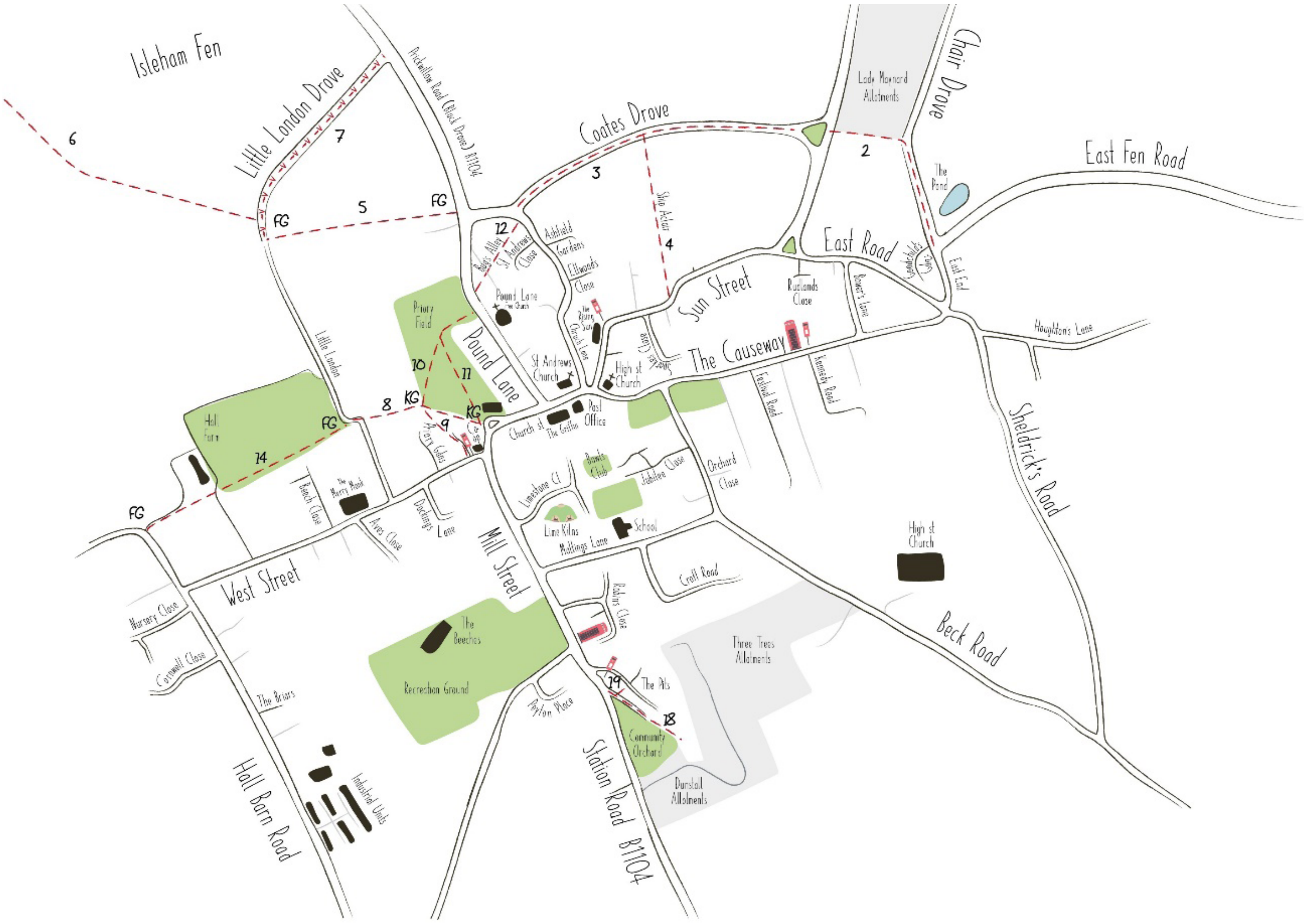
For more details look on our Facebook page http://tinyurl.com/foinr , Or phone Avi on 01638 780023

The Ark Church

Greetings from the Ark Church

As I sit writing this, the sun is shining, the end of lockdown is in sight, the daffodils are in flower and Spring is definitely in the air. There are signs of new life everywhere and after a year of global pandemic, anxiety and loss for so many people what a glorious reminder that there is always hope of a new beginning. However dark things seem, there is hope, Spring is coming. The Easter holiday is only a couple of weeks away now when Christians all over the world will celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus who died and rose again to give us all hope for a better tomorrow.

Continued on page 13



What great fun we had during the half term holiday, preparing packed lunches for the children of the village (of primary school age and younger). As most of you will have seen, we set up our stall beside the Priory each day of half term (Mon-Fri) with 50 brightly coloured bags filled with a nutritious lunch.

This project was supported by a very generous donation from a company run by a gentleman who grew up in the village. He was keen to help and to support meals for children. Then Tesco also offered to supply the 50 rolls we required each day for free! What a blessing that was. The children were able to choose which drink they'd like, which filling they preferred for their roll and most importantly which colour bag they wanted. It was such a lot of fun seeing their excitement each day as they investigated the contents of their bag and we really enjoyed getting to know names and faces of families during the week.

As the next School holiday approaches, we're planning to be a little more adventurous and we will be offering a free nutritious takeaway hot dog lunch for the children on Wednesday March 31st and Wed April 7th. Come and collect yours from the Priory car park from 11.30 onwards. Once again it will be first come, first served so please don't miss out. We look forward to seeing you there.
Vanessa MacLeod -The Ark Church

St Andrew's Parish Church

I'm delighted to be again writing for the parish magazine as there seems to be light at the end of the Covid-tunnel. It has also been fortunate that the government's roadmap of bringing us out of lockdown 3.0 has coincided with the beginning of Holy Week. Most of the churches of the Three Rivers Group therefore decided to return to in person worship from the 29th March. A hugely symbolic act to return to our church building in the week running up to Easter allowing us to end our "exodus" from the building to join together to celebrate the resurrection together on Easter Sunday.
Of course, I'm hoping that we don't leap immediately to the joy but also remember to pass through Good Friday on our way to Easter. All too often Christians skip over this day, not wanting to confront the pain and suffering of the cross, the quieter worship at which we ponder our own mortality and our shortcomings.
As we emerge from our latest (and hopefully last) lockdown there will be mixed emotions, as well as the joy of hugging, eating and drinking together and something more like "normal" life. There is also the sadness of those who we have lost and those who are still suffering the long term effects of having contracted the virus. and those for whom lockdown has had an adverse effect on their mental and physical health. This taking of the rough with the smooth is part and parcel of human life and the life of the church should reflect this, finding the balance between sorrow and joy, light and dark, penitence and thankfulness.
As we continue to move our way through the pandemic there will continue to be these mixes, new things we have learned, things we long to get back to, happy times and sad times. I hope that we find space to celebrate and commiserate, to smile and to cry, hopefully surrounded by a supportive community and family.

In person services at St Andrew's Isleham
For all services people will need to wear a face covering and keep socially distant whilst in church. There will be no communal singing for the foreseeable future though the choir may return towards the end of May
Tuesday 29th March 7.00pm Eucharist
Friday 2nd April 2.00pm
Good Friday Service Sunday 4th April 5.00am
Easter Vigil

Then Sunday Eucharists will continue as usual at 9.30am
We are continuing online services at 8pm on Sundays and 7pm on Wednesdays, contact David for more details.
Rev David Cleugh

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Isleham Joggers

If you are looking to get fit, training for an event or just need the motivation to get out and run then Isleham Joggers is for you! Isleham Joggers is a relatively new group but already has a wonderful 75 members and scheduled multiple runs, for all ability levels. Those normally available to run each week meet at the Beeches on Monday and Wednesday nights. There are two groups, one for short and one for long distance runners so anyone can join in regardless of a level of fitness. Join our Facebook page for updates, events or just general running chatter.

During the lockdown period we did not stop running. We were paired up and met at various meeting points across the village to kept everyone fit. I've always thought the hardest part of getting fit is just putting your sport gear on and leaving the house. My hope is that by setting up this group, we all find the motivation to leave the house and get fit!

Some of our members have provided following comments which I hope you find inspirational.
"Running with others has provided me with much needed social interaction and coupled with the exercise it helps improve my mental health"

"Running has always helped me get through a bad day. Even better when you have someone to run with"
"I can have a stressful time at work and just chuck the trainers on, leave the phone behind and get away from it all to reset. I have loved having a healthy social hobby"

"Running has always been my happy place/my go to therapy to balance my life out. Even my children know this if I'm having a bad day they'll grab my running shoes and set them down next to me and silently walk away. Running has also brought some amazing people into my life"

"I never thought I'd enjoy running so much, really missed it over Christmas when I just didn't get the time, love the social meeting new people and it really gets my mind in a good place for the day. I hadn't run much over Christmas, Tuesday I had a really bad day feeling stressed so Wednesday woke up early morning had a short run it really sorted my mind out to a more positive and focussed Mindset ready for homeschooling. This group is amazing. And it's free "

"It totally resets me, I always say it's free therapy! Even when I'm feeling really tired, after I've run I don't feel tired like that, I feel refreshed. I love meeting up with everyone, it's easy, free, sociable (sorry if I talk too much!) and it's such an easy exercise to just do there and then. If you've only got half an hour you can still gain from it"

"Running has changed my life in many ways; improved fitness, gives me time away from all the kiddos, reduces stress after being stuck in the 'home office' all day, but most of all this group has given me the motivation and incentive I needed to actually get out and run (even on the freezing, dark and wet nights). Plus it's free, flexible and safe in these crazy times!"

"Running and being outdoors generally is my head clearing activity. I don't have to think about life when I'm active I just forget about life and focus on the rhythm, the space and nature"

"For 25 years, running has helped ground me. Self discipline, healthy eating, setting a positive example for my kiddos, free and safe mood stabilizer, most importantly—the people. I have met the most amazing and interesting individuals through running, this bridge that connects so many together, across race, creed, nationality and culture. There is something special about a runner. And I am thankful and proud to call myself and you fabulous lot members of the 'running' community"

Both running sessions are free so why not to come along and have it a go….?? :)

If you would like to join us for a run just turn up on a day but please wear something visible on you. I know that the evenings are lighter now but it's very important to be seen especially that most of us run on the road.

If you have any questions please contact me through Facebook.
Agnieszka Beswick

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County Councillor's Report

To the Residents of Isleham

As we pass the anniversary of 1 year in restrictions it is a sombre moment for many. Some have lost, some have suffered, and others are living with fatigue, mental health, money and other worries. I would like to think that we are all in this together and Isleham has proved that from the outset. In the last year we have seen so many acts of neighbourly kindness and support but they are just those that we see.
These acts go on between neighbours, family and friends all the time. It is easy to bemoan aspects of the modern world but human kindness remains a huge building block for any community, and I genuinely feel that is no better community than ours.

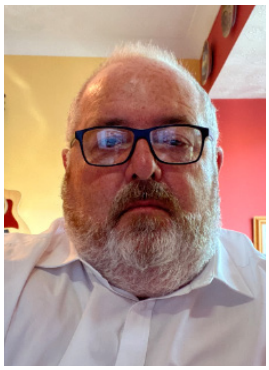
- This is now election season with the full Mayor, County Council and Police & Crime Commissioner elections on May 6th. Being your County Councillor I don't achieve everything I wish to do, but I do hit most targets. So let me take this opportunity of telling you some things that I have helped deliver for Isleham and some things I still need to bring through.
- I was actively involved in the Local Highway Bids for speed reductions on Malting Lane and Beck Road - installed
- I have worked with Isleham PC all year supporting their good work to keep the village running well.
- I have pushed and cajoled for pot holes to be formally reported then actioned, rather than a moan on facebook and nothing happening.
- I have driven road improvements to the second corner of Little London to stop lorries, that should not even be there, hitting the corner property.
- I have had byways and droves cleared and pathways opened up.
- I have campaigned and fought for the delivery of a new station for Soham, which will bring improved public transport not just through the station itself but from Isleham and surrounding areas to the station and town.
- I have always responded to requests for information, help or general questions, answering where I can or finding the answers and coming back to you.
-

However, I have not yet achieved, but continue to work hard for:

- Every gully in Isleham to be cleared and running free, especially that by the old Priory Garage and that in front of the Red House, adjacent the road crossing.
- Road markings on all but particularly Mill St to be redone for all to see.
- Working with the school governors and head, looking at future schooling needs for the village and surrounding area. Identifying available and possible sites and then bringing forward on a just in time basis.
- I have bided my time with the Sunnica position and gathered the data needed before stating that whilst I am firmly a fan of green electricity from solar, this is simply over-sized and imposing. Perhaps not so much for Isleham, if I am perfectly honest, but for our neighbours and the surrounding villages the imposition is too large an impact to accept.
- Bus route improvement for Isleham. Things are slightly better with some minor time changes to existing route, but these are too few and far between. I have managed to persuade the Mayor to include Isleham as a route stop on his ambitious CAM project. This will take time to bring through to being. but Isleham is now on that map. This will bring modern aged transportation direct from Isleham to the centre of Cambridge and beyond.

In summary there is always more to do and little time to do it but I can assure you all, and have proved to many of you, that if you contact me, or ask for my help I will respond and direct you where I can, help you when I can, and listen to you.

I conclude by stating that being your County Councillor is a privilege and one that makes be burst with pride. I do hope that you can find it within you to vote for me again on May 6th, or before by post. If you'd like to call me to discuss anything on your mind, for Isleham and/or our community please do. Tel 07831-168899 or email mgelyvate@aol.com. Whether you support me or not I ask you all to vote. It is important, and really does have an impact on your village and all it gains or loses. I can assure I fight for the gains, and suffer few if any losses!



With vaccinations rolling out faster than we could have dreamt, I won't forget those that have suffered, and through the Isleham Cricket Club voluntary group I have been fortunate enough to able to help so many. Help with prescriptions, shopping, travel, food, and much more. For those that have lost or suffered we are still here for you. But let me thank you all for your support and your allowance of me and the team to support the so many that we have in the last 12 months.

Have the best possible Spring and lets hope for full lockdown freedom this summer. Until then, stay safe, keep distances, and wash hands. We are winning at last but the battle is not yet 100% won.

Kind regards Mark Goldsack County Councillor Soham North & Isleham.
Tel 07831 168899

Isleham Cricket Club

Happy Spring Isleham, and with summer fast approaching I am happy to report that it looks like we will have a full season of cricket this year.

Cricket plays an important role in many people's lives and helps to maintain positive mental and physical wellbeing. We look forward to seeing supporters out enjoying the summer sun, some village cricket and a picnic on the recreation ground this season

Our season will kick off on Saturday 1 May 2021 with the 1st team away to Saffron Waldon 3rds in the CCA Senior League, division 3.

Wednesday evening Cricket will also resume this season with Isleham away to Chippenham on the 5th May 2021

Youth Cricket will start again on Friday 7th May 2021 on the recreation ground and run every Friday through the summer 6:30 to 7:30pm. We welcome parents to join us in supporting the coaches and if your able to assist please get in touch.

Both senior teams will play on Saturday 8th May 2021 the 1st at home to Takeley 1st and the 2nds away to Sutton 2nds

We are excited to announce that Cambridgeshire County Cricket will also be playing some Sunday games this season at Isleham, with the first fixture agreed for Sunday 13th June 2021 Cambridgeshire U14's will take on Lincolnshire starting at 11am.

Fixture cards for the full season will shortly be produced and we will make sure these are available in the village and on social media.

In other exciting news the club are through to the final stage of the Amey Community Fund grant process. The cricket club is proposing to provide an enclosed two lane non turf practice area. This will be available for all age groups and provide much needed facilities for cricket in the village.

If anyone wishes to support or donate in any way please get in touch.

Wishing you all good health.

Jamie Saunders
Chairman
Isleham Cricket Club
07872 507989

Isleham Society

It is very frustrating that a whole year has passed without the possibility of meetings, but we are hoping to start a programme again during the summer.

We continue to wait for a safe opportunity to re-hang the very special and now renovated village tapestry in its place in St Andrew's and to celebrate those who created it twenty-six years ago.

Quite a few people have enjoyed the downloadable village walking tour/quiz available on the Facebook page (thanks to Ellen Bazeley-White for help with the lay-out of that). We are hoping to contribute to an information board 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 activities please let me know because we want to offer interesting events at convenient times for a range of age groups.

Mark Fletcher (Chairman)
fletchermark100@gmail.com

Isleham Cricket Club (Sad Loss)

Sadly, we were notified earlier this year of the sad loss of Roger Badgery, Vice President of Isleham Cricket Club.

Roger held most of the offices within the club over many years and was an integral part of the 1975 team that went to Lords.

He was an enthusiastic supporter of the club, whether providing advice and encouragement to the younger members or being vocal about beating 'the other side', especially our neighbours over the bridge! He would also join the team at the pub following a match to enjoy a pint and talk about the day's play.

He followed the team throughout his life, whether as a player or supporter and he will be greatly missed by all at Isleham Cricket Club. We would like to send our heartfelt condolences to Brenda and family.

Adrian Sheldrick
Vice Chairman, ICC

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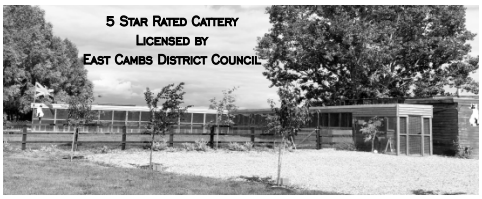

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