

The Beeches Entertainers bring a bit of Magic

The Beeches Entertainers took to the stage at the start of April with the long-awaited pantomime “Aladdin”. Postponed from 2020 when it was just two weeks’ away from going on stage and the first covid lockdown came into place, the team finally brought the show to The Beeches in front of over 300 people over the three-show run.



The audiences were treated to an adaptation of the traditional story, with Aladdin (Vala Taylor) trying to win the heart of Princess Jasmine (Micheala Farr), assisted along the way by Widow Twankey (Richard Drayton), Wishy Washy (Pauline Wilkes) and their cat Tiddles (Ruth Bendall) and of course the Genie of the Ring (Marie Bowker) and Genie of the Lamp (Ray Goodwin). They were up against the evil Count Tooten (John Bedford), who had real trouble controlling the palace guards Ping (Cynthia Sheldrick) and Pong (Mark Fletcher). There was plenty of singing and dancing too, with the chorus (Bob, Caty, Chris, Jerome, Nikki, Noah, and Sally) providing colourful and fun numbers to sing along to, thanks also to Wayne Bailey who helped with the chorus’ choreography. Tim Washtell and Steve Evans did a great job keeping everyone in tune, and with great lighting effects. The team were also joined by Ellouise, Lily and Niyah from Ruth Bendall’s dance group who did a lovely job of entertaining the audiences while the backstage staff (Barbara Murfitt and Julie Aldous) made changes to the scenery.

A member of the Beeches Entertainer’s team said “We were so pleased to finally get on stage, Lesley (Gunn) started to write this panto in the summer of 2019 so it’s taken a long time to get to this point. It has also been a very testing few months, and many of our team had to take time away from rehearsals with covid and other illnesses. In fact we were one person down for the performances as Vanessa (Smith), who was due to join us in the chorus, was unwell at the time. It was also the first time we had to include a full compliment of understudies, just in case Covid struck our main characters, and it really was touch and go at one point, but the reactions from our audiences really told us how much they enjoyed the shows and made it all worthwhile.” The team not only welcomed new faces on stage this year (Caty, Jerome, Mark and Noah), but were also delighted to see so many new faces in the audiences as well.

Continued on page 11 + Pictures



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Dates for Your Diary

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

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

CONTACTS

- **Advertising** Emma Joy-Staines T: 07368 181797
E: emmajoystaines@yahoo.co.uk
 - **Design & layout** Clive Patterson T: 07771830336
E: patterson.clive@gmail.com
 - **Features** Glenda Preece T: 01638 780734
E: gjprece@aol.com
 - **Distribution** Fred Preece T: 01638 780734
 - **Published by** Isleham Parish Council
 - **Printed by** Gipping Press www.gippingpress.co.uk
- NEXT ISSUE:** Published June 2022 The deadline for all editorial and advertising is 9th May 2022

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.

April 2022

Mon 4th	Isleham Parish Council	7.15pm
Fri 8th	Book Club	2pm
Thurs 14th	Fenland Friends	7.30pm
Sat 16th	Isleham Market	10-1pm
Thurs 21st	Isleham Society	7.30pm
Sun 24th	Bowls Open Day	2pm

May 2022

Mon 2nd	Spring Bank Holiday	
Mon 9th	Isleham Parish Council	7.15pm
Thurs 12th	Fenland Friends	7.30pm
Fri 13th	Book Club	2pm
Mon 16th	Parish Meeting	7.30pm
Sat 19th	Isleham Market	10-1pm
Thurs 21st	Isleham Society	7.30pm

Community Pantry at The Ark every Wednesday

10 - 12 noon

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	Mildenhall 01638 719111
	Newmarket 0300 330 1151
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

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 482410
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.co
Website: www.isleham-village.co.uk	

Notes from The Editor

Well another great Panto from the Beeches Entertainers who had to struggle people testing positive for COVID. A great evenings entertainment. 2 years in the making.

Many thanks must go to all that contribute articles and pictures and to all that help to put all the various pieces together and then distribute the Informer.

Keep safe

Clive Patterson



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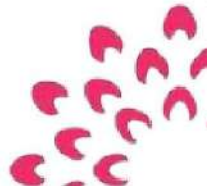
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Village Notes

DOG FOULING

Sadly, you may have noticed that some owners are not picking up after their dogs.

As offensive as it is to see dog poo left on and near our pavements, it is also a serious health hazard, especially to our children.

Most of us have had the misfortune to have trodden in dog mess and know how revolting and difficult it is to clean off our shoes, clothes and pushchair wheels, but did you know that a nasty infection can be transmitted in dog faeces? Toxocariasis, which sometimes leads to blindness in humans.

Even tiny amounts of poo could be sufficient to infect one of our children or sportspeople while playing.

So please, do the right thing. Bag it and bin it! And remember:

DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE RECREATION GROUND

If you do see any dog fouling, please report it online on www.self.eastcambs.gov.uk or 01353 665555.



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We also attend two Farmers Markets:

Isleham Farmers Market with a Touch of Craft every 3rd Saturday each month and Freckenham Farmers Market every 4th Saturday of each month.

On-Farm Shop Opening Hours:

Tuesday: 10am-5.30pm Thursday & Friday: 9am-5.30pm

Saturday: 9am-4pm Sunday: 10am-12noon



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	Rowland Wells	01638 780191			The Bowls Club
Busy Bees	Pre-School Zara King	01638 781212 zara_covington@hotmail.co.uk	Wednesday	9.30 - 11.30pm	The Beeches
Craft Club	Margo Towley	01638 781524	Tuesday	1.30 - 4.00pm	Limestone Centre
Fenland Friends	Fiona Jones	01638 780440	2nd Thursday	7.30-9.30	The Beeches
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	Agnieska Beswick	07840 141694 agakardys@hotmail.com	Monday & Wednesday	6.30pm	The Beeches Car Park
Isleham Performing Arts	Ruth Bendall	07894 118801 ruthbendall@yahoo.co.uk	Wednesday Thursday	7pm - 8.30pm 9.30am - 10am 4pm - 5.30pm	The Beeches
Isleham Society	Mark Fletcher	isleham.society@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	Jamie Saunders Adrian Sheldrick	07872 507989 (Chairman) 07775 522765 (vice chairman)			
Pre-school Isleham Under Fives Ass. (IUFA)	TBA	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	Finn Blair	enquiries@thebeecheisleham.co.uk			
Yoga	Natasha	07738477746	Friday	10am - 11am	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 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 2022

Parish Council Meetings are generally held on the first Monday of each month at The Beeches. Members of the public are invited to attend the meetings and 15 minutes are set aside each month for public questions. (No food or drink to be bought into the meeting room, please.)

Full copies of the agendas and minutes are available on the Parish Council website, the notice boards outside The Beeches and at the junction between Church Street & Pound Lane 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.

**Forthcoming Parish Council meeting dates include:
Monday 4th April 7.15pm
Monday 9th May 7.15pm
Monday 6th June 7.15pm**

Annual Parish Meeting

In line with national legislation the annual Isleham Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 16th May at The Beeches, starting at 7.30pm. This meeting is open to all electors of Isleham and provides an opportunity to hear about activities and initiatives that have taken place in the village over the past 12 months as well as to speak on any matter of local interest.

Queens Jubilee

+Most of you will be aware that the country will be celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee at the beginning of June 2022, which includes an extra bank holiday on Friday 3rd June. Details of the jubilee, including possible celebration events can be found at <https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/>
Following the last edition of the Informer I am pleased to report that the Beeches are indeed planning a special event to celebrate this jubilee. Details will be announced shortly.

Priory Car Park

We are most grateful to the vast majority of people using the Priory Car Park for adhering to the new rules. Some concerns have been expressed however that some residents are failing to park in the designated bays and this is affecting access to / exit from the site and setting a precedent for other drivers to do likewise.

We have and continue to invest in improving this area if the village and we would therefore appreciate your cooperation on this matter.

Planning Applications (February – March) *

21/01830/FUL Erection of a coach workshop building, ancillary offices, concrete pad and associated works. Neals Travel 102 Beck Road Isleham. J Miller Conditional objection.

21/01850/FUL Proposal: Demolish one house, one derelict house and ancillary lean-to structures attached to the garage and replace them with one new house, retaining the existing garage 21 East Road Isleham. Mr Brown Conditional objection

22/00027/FUL Alterations to existing conservatory 25 Beck Road Isleham. Mr Churley No objection

21/01807/TRE Proposal: T1 - Norway Spruce - Removal to ground level due to poor form. T2 - Mulberry - Removal to ground level, due to location next to garage. 5 Church Lane Isleham Mr/Ms Steer No Objection

21/01770/VARM To vary Condition 1 (Approved plans) of previously approved 20/00260/OUM for Erection of 17 dwellings and new access. Land Adjacent To 8 Hall Barn Road Isleham. Newman Rose Ltd. Objections

22/00133/FUL Partial change of use from garage to grooming parlour. 34 The Pits Isleham. Ms C Stone Objections

22/00141/FUL Construction of double garage with store room. 23 Church Lane Isleham. Mr P Clayton-Smith Objections

22/00170/FUL Demolition of existing extensions. and construction of extensions and associated works. 17 Croft Road Isleham. Mr & Mrs Casey No Objection

21/01809/FUL Erection of 4no. new detached dwellings, associated parking and formation of 2no. new vehicular accesses off Pound Lane.

The 1st amendment involves

1) Shared access drive is shown at 5m wide.
2) Landscaping and access to plot 1 car parking has been improved to help with manoeuvrability.

1) All hipped roofs have been replaced with gable ends.

2) All artificial slate roofs have been replaced with natural slate finish.

3) Red brick to plot 1 has been replaced with buff brick.

4) Weatherboarding to plots 2 and 3 has been replaced with buff brick.

5) Flat top dormers changed to pitched roof dormers throughout.

6) Garages - discrepancy between plan and elevations has been rectified.

7) Garages - the pyramid roof has been replaced with a standard roof with gable ends

The second amendment involves:

1) Reduction in height

2) Removal of garages

3) Layout changes

4) Change to red line (ownership)

Land Northwest Of 15 Pound Lane Isleham. Mr JJ Peters Objections

22/00197/FUL. Single storey rear extension (resubmission of 21/00665/FUL) 6 Little London Isleham No objection

Planning Approvals (February – March)

21/01749/FUL Single storey rear extension and internal alterations. 19 Robins Close Isleham

21/01467/FUL Additional first floor windows to service existing mezzanine floor. Kelly Developments Ltd 28 Hall Barn Road Industrial Estate Hall Barn Road Isleham

21/01822/FUL Proposed two storey rear extension including internal alterations

28 Mill Street Isleham JJ Peters

21/01830/FUL Erection of a coach workshop building with ancillary offices, concrete pad and associated works. Neals Travel 102 Beck Road Isleham

22/00027/FUL Alterations to existing conservatory. 25 Beck Road Isleham

Planning Refusals: (February – March)

Nil refusals

Other Planning Matters: (February – March)

Bloor Homes:

- have agreed to remove their previous condition that trees in the buffer zone adjacent to 35a, 35b and 41 Hall Barn Rd should not be greater than 2.6m

Bloor have also agreed to plant a tree in each of these three zones

- meetings are being held between Bloor and ECDC regarding Bloor's administration of the four plots, previously identified for self-build.

*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.eastcamb.gov.uk/planning/current-planning-applications>

Neighbourhood Plan

I'm pleased to inform residents that our draft Neighbourhood Plan has been reviewed by the external examiner and deemed to meet all the legislative requirements. Subject to a number of relatively small number of changes the plan will be shortly submitted to ECDC who will organise a referendum and hopefully its ultimate approval.

Fly Tipping

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

Recreation Ground

We would like to thank local residents for adhering to the rule of not bringing their dogs onto the recreation field

Allotment Matters

There are currently a small number of plots available on the Three Trees (Beck Road) site. Please do contact me if you are interested in taking a plot. The cost of a 10 rod (approx. 250m² plot is just £16.25 per year

Staffing

I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Gemma Rix has been appointed to the post of Village Litter Picker. Please extend your welcome and appreciation to her when you see her doing her rounds!

Isleham Primary School

'GOOD' NEWS!

Isleham C of E Primary was visited by OFSTED inspectors on 12th and 13th January 2022. We were thrilled with the positive report which has now been published following the visit, recognising all the hard work of staff, leaders and most especially of children in our school.



Inspectors recognised that since the last positive inspection in March 2016 and throughout the pandemic, the school has continued to develop and ensure the progress and happiness of pupils in line with the new OFSTED framework.

We couldn't be more proud of all members of the school community.

The inspectors wrote that "all children have every opportunity to live the school motto 'Let your light shine'. Pupils work hard in their lessons. They enjoy learning because teachers make it fun. They listen to what adults tell them and take pride in their work."

This is really 'good' news and we are very proud of the whole school community- children, families, staff members and governors for their ongoing support of the school and hard work throughout the pandemic which all make Isleham Primary a really great place to be!

The full report can be viewed via the school's website: https://www.isleham.cambs.sch.uk/web/ofsted_inspection/74766

Mrs Sarah Skillern

Headteacher



ISLEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Isleham Primary School needs two new Co-opted Governors.

We are a friendly, committed group of Governors who meet at least twice a term. You do not need to be an expert, help, advice and training are available from various sources.

Governors are responsible for ensuring the strategic direction of the school, its performance and the use of resources to support learning. They help to ensure that our school provides the best education it can for children, parents and our local community.

We are particularly keen to hear from people with experience in finance or data analysis to support our resources committee.

Due to the constitution of our Governing Body we are currently unable to accept parents of children at Isleham Primary School as co-opted Governors.

If you would like to know more please contact Fiona Borley, Chair of Governors on FBorley@isleham.cambs.sch.uk

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and expect all staff and governors to share this commitment.

The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.



LADY FRANCES PEYTON HOSPITAL ALMSHOUSE CHARITY

VACANCY FOR SECRETARY/TREASURER

This Isleham Charity currently owns and manages the 4 Almshouses in Isleham and is intending to develop more homes to meet local needs.

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 have the skills we need and are interested in becoming involved with this local Charity please contact Richard Radcliffe on richardradcliffe0@gmail.com 07513430397

ISLEHAM UNITED YOUTH F.C.

Isleham United Youth F.C will be holding their annual football tournament this year at Isleham recreation ground CB7 5RY on 21st and 22nd May with the kind support of the Isleham Parish council.

Hopefully there will be about 180 teams with 4 yrs old up to 17 yrs olds plus young girls and ladies teams, which brings around four thousand people plus Peopleton Isleham over the weekend.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the event. If anyone wants to help with parking for a couple hours on Saturday morning 21st May or Sunday morning 22nd May, or anything else, perhaps the BBQ? please get in touch 07545395573 or if not please come along and watch the children having lots of fun at this wonderful event

If anyone requires anymore information then please get in touch.

Steve Isaacson IUYFC

Vacancy School Caretaker

CARETAKER REQUIRED AT ISLEHAM C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 1ST JULY 2022

Due to the retirement of our current Caretaker, we are looking for a new Caretaker to take on the role from 1st July 2022 in our friendly one-form entry school. We are looking for a caretaker for 17.5 hours per week to open the school daily, carry out some cleaning and maintenance of the school premises, manage the school pool and carry out general odd jobs! Hours can be arranged to suit the successful candidate.

The successful candidate needs to:

be honest, reliable and hardworking, be able to show initiative and work on their own

be able to prioritise and work as part of a team

have good DIY and maintenance skills and be able to carry out any works competently

be dedicated, enthusiastic, have a good sense of humour and a willingness to 'go the extra mile'

have basic literacy and IT skills in order to feedback on audits and work carried out

We offer: a friendly atmosphere and supportive school team, a well-equipped school which has been well maintained training opportunities when required

Applicants are asked to complete the school's application form (available from our website https://www.isleham.cambs.sch.uk/web/staff_vacancies/266196) in full and send this along with a covering letter to the Headteacher, Mrs Sarah Skillern in advance of the closing date listed below.

The application form and details are also available from finance@isleham.cambs.sch.uk

Closing Date: Monday 19th April (midday)

Candidates will be notified by email on the 20th April if shortlisted

Interview Date: Tuesday 26th April

The successful candidate will be required to attend a pool carers' course on 4th and 5th May (at the school's expense) if they do not already hold a pool carers' certificate.

Isleham C of E Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All appointments are subject to an enhanced DBS check, medical clearance and references.

NOR: 209

Mrs Sarah Skillern, Headteacher

Isleham Church of England Primary School, Malting Lane, Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5RZ

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Bowls Report

The carpet bowls season concluded on the 24 March with the East Cambs League K.O. Cup final. This was held at Exning Road Working Mens Club between Isleham A and Soham 'A'.

The match was played over 42 ends (6 matches of 7 ends each) and for the first 14 ends Isleham had won one match and lost one of the 4's matches. Then following the 4 pairs matches, Isleham won 3 but lost 1 leaving the final match score at 41 shots each. However with the addition of the handicap ranking of 3 to Soham and 7 to Isleham, this meant the final score of 48 shots to 44 in favour of Isleham A.

Well done to the team to mark a great achievement in that they had knocked out the number 1 seeds in the first round and number 2 seeds in the semi final.

The East Cambs league matches were also concluded in March.

Isleham 'A' had a poor season finishing bottom and the relegation back to division 2. Isleham 'B' didn't impress either in division 2 by finishing 6 out of the 7 teams.

Friday 1 April is the final of our internal club league and will be contested by Sheila Peters, Celia Clarke & Robert Burling V Glenda Preece, Margaret Marsh & Andrew Human (result in next edition!)

At the end of April we are due to start playing on the

outdoor green and looking forward to some nice summer evenings. During the season we play at all levels of the game so there is something for everyone. We play in three mixed leagues (one in the afternoon, Monday or Fridays, the other 2 on various evenings during the week). There are also competitions at all standards and also just the basic entry level bowls.

On Sunday 24 April, we are holding our Barry Clarke Cup and the club facilities will be open for viewing. The Bar will be open so you are most welcome to come and have a drink / look.

For further information you can contact either:

Secretary

Sylvia Pinder 01638 720875

Captain

Barry Grimwood 01638 781943

Chairman

Rowley Wells 01638 780191

SO COME ALONG, we would be really pleased to see you!

Barry Grimwood Club Captain



Creating equality in youth football and inspiring the next generation of women footballers

A little over 2 years ago, Danny Clark, with support from Isleham Football Club and The FA Wildcats, established Isleham Wildcats to introduce football to girls aged 5-12. From the very first session, the turnout has been exceptional with so many girls wanting to get fit, make friends, have fun and learn football.

Despite a bit of interruption in 2020, Isleham Wildcats continues to go from strength to strength, with new faces every week and a regular attendance of 20 to 30+ girls from Isleham and the surrounding villages.

Danny and the team of Livi, Liam, Graham and Jamie have used the Wildcats as the foundation and development path for creating the two new Isleham Youth FC teams for U10 and U12 Girls.

Wildcats starts up again on 1st August and we're looking forward to welcoming back everyone as well as many more new faces!



Isleham U10 Girls are looking for players to join our newly formed team!

Training starts in August at 6-7pm on Thursdays.

Come along to the next Wildcats session

Or contact Jamie and Graham on Facebook:



Isleham U12 Girls are looking for players to join our newly formed team!

Training starts in August at 6-7pm on Thursdays.

Come along to the next Wildcats session

Or contact Livi and Liam on Facebook:



“We had people tell us that they’d not been to a panto before and they were already looking forward to next year’s show! And of course, we were pleased to see so many of our friends who have supported us for so many years. It was so great to see smiling faces and people enjoying themselves, everyone was saying they’d really loved the show. It really is why we do all this, so from all of us to everyone who came along to watch, or helped us along the way, a huge thank you!”

It is a tradition in the Isleham panto to sing one of the songs from the show as an “encore” at the end, however, this year in break from tradition, the encore was an adaptation of the Bill Withers’ classic “Lean on Me” which the whole team, on and off stage, all joined in with and dedicated to the people of Ukraine. It was probably the only time that the panto has ended with tears, and also the first time Makaton signing had been included. Thanks to the generosity of the audience, and the help of the front of house team (Jo, Sarah and Melanie), the team were able to donate £210 to the Ukraine Appeal.

The Beeches Entertainers return in November, with the ever-popular comedy murder mystery shows! Join them for “Killing Thyme” (written by Lesley Gunn) – more details to come in The Informer soon, or you can follow the Beeches Entertainers on Facebook or Twitter.

(Photo credits: Steve Evans)



Isleham Society



In February we had an unusual history lesson when nine characters told us about Isleham life in their times and as 'seen through their eyes'. They included a Roman matron, a Saxon headman, a mediaeval monk, Lady Margaret Peyton, a poor fen woman, a bargee, an eel catcher, a village schoolteacher of eighty years ago and a young woman growing flowers for sale in Covent Garden when Isleham still had a railway station! Thanks to all who took part.

March is a non-competitive 'Isleham quiz and chat' evening with questions designed to encourage sharing memories of life in the village some years ago. The April talk will be about Antarctic exploration and the ships involved (topical as I write with the discovery of Shackleton's 'Endurance'). We are also offering a series of 'hands-on Botany workshops' on Thursday mornings.

In May we will find out more about the geography, wildlife and history of the Fen Way being developed between Cambridge and Isleham. Unless otherwise stated, meetings are at the Beeches on the third Thursday of the month. Doors/bar open 7pm for 7.30pm start and finishing about 9pm. A year membership is still only £10 single or (incredible value) £15 for a household. You are also welcome to turn up as a visitor £2 per session.



Fenland Friends

We are an informal group enjoying good company and a variety of social events. The last few months activities have included a beetle drive, woodturning made to look easy, Easter card making and chat.



More information about events plus other village heritage information is on the Isleham Society Facebook Group and we send updates to anyone who would like to be on the contact list.

Isleham.society@gmail.com

Best wishes Mark Fletcher (Chairman)

Community Pantry update

The Community Pantry, The Ark Church, Beck Road, opens each Wednesday between 10 and 12 offering parcels of food and some toiletries to those who are struggling to make ends meet.

We have been providing between around 15 parcels, feeding around 30 adults and 14 children, regularly each week.

We are so grateful to individuals who donate money and food when they can, which underlines what wonderful kind people there around.

We are also grateful to Mildenhall food bank, Isleham Co-op, Soham and Ely hygiene bank who regularly donate food to enable the pantry to offer a variety of products in each parcel.

Thanks must also go to the team of 16 regular core members of the Ark pantry team, who sort and pack the parcels and to those who deliver to those who can't get to The Ark Church themselves.

Donations can be left at 18 East Fen Road at anytime or brought to The Ark Church Wednesday or Sunday mornings.

If you do need short term help in these days, please contact us via Isleham Community Pantry Facebook page where your request will be dealt with in a professional, discreet and confidential manner.

We can also provide longer term support through our connections at Ely food bank, if requested. You do not need to struggle alone.

Best wishes Claire Gillett

New members are always welcome to join the group; we meet at The Beeches, the second Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m. Fiona Jones



CHURCHES

St Andrew's Church News for Isleham

The Ark Church



As I write the government has relaxed some of the rules allowing Ukrainian refugees to come to the UK. I, like many of us, have been thinking through how I can best help. At the Ark we have direct contacts with Polish and Romanian churches and have send money as they look after some of the many Ukrainians who have fled their own homes to go to neighbouring countries.

Before the pandemic we held some church meetings with migrant workers mostly from Eastern Europe and occasionally a few Ukrainians would come along. This week one of them contacted me on Facebook asking if the church would be able to accommodate her and her young son, if the Russian army got any closer. I said "yes", in reality I am her friend, and she was asking me and my family, but I'm sure many people would be willing.

This article is normally about events at the Ark Church, what's happening and how the community can join in. There is an important event that is happening at the Ark, at other churches and in every corner of society. That event is each of us asking "have I got space - space in my house, space in my life, space in my heart?" I have just been sent some photographs from Poland showing Paul, a chap from the Ark, who shares his time between Poland and Isleham helping local churches as they accommodate refugees. The Ukrainians have broad smiles and whatever concerns and anxieties I have melt away.

Sometimes I think accommodating a few people only scratches the surface! But then I am reminded that God has a remarkable habit of taking what we have and doing something extraordinary with it!

Martin Wells is one of the leaders at The Ark Church
101 Beck Road, Isleham, CB7 5QP
E mail - contact@thearkisleham.co.uk
Phone: 01638 780985
Facebook – Ark Church Isleham
YouTube – The Ark Church, Isleham
Web site - thearkisleham.co.uk

At the time of writing the news of conflict in Ukraine casts a dark shadow over the world. The local community's response in organising donations in kind, fundraising and in offering to host refugees, among many other gestures of support, has been remarkable. It's my fervent prayer that by the time you will be reading this the worst of the fighting will be over; and that peace will be a real prospect, though the relief effort and the need to rebuild trust and relationships will surely still be ongoing.

April, May and early June offer us much by way of celebration and distraction as 2022 rolls on. For the church, Easter, falling this year on Sunday 17 April, is the greatest of feasts; the time when we welcome and celebrate new life in and through our risen Lord Jesus Christ. We will be 'making a joyful noise' in worship with a eucharist service in every church in the Group that day (see below), including the much loved 'Dawn Service' (at 5am) with breakfast at Chippenham when we light the new paschal candle from a brazier and declare that 'Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!' If you're intrigued – do join us!

The joy of Easter Sunday feels the more exuberant as it follows hard on the heels of Holy Week, which is a much more sombre time. But it's also an important stage on our annual and lifelong journeys of faith as we remember the events leading up to Jesus's crucifixion, and ask ourselves where we stand in the crowd. The season of Easter stretches over 7 weeks, including Ascension Day (40 days after Easter Day), until the next great feast of Pentecost, or Whitsun, sometimes celebrated as the church's birthday since it marks the day when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus's disciples and gave them the gift of speaking in many languages so that the Gospel could be spread throughout the world.

The other great celebration we're anticipating at this time, and especially in this issue, is the magnificent landmark of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years since she came to the throne in 1952. The Coronation Service took place the following year, on 2 June 1953, at Westminster Abbey, where all the kings and queens of England have been crowned since William the Conqueror, on Christmas Day in 1066. But fans of Netflix's series *The Crown*, or the film *The King's Speech* may have noticed a more local landmark feature in their coronation scenes. Both were filmed at Ely Cathedral!

Queen Elizabeth II's coronation has a special place in history for a number of reasons. It marked a turning point in the nation's mood after the years of rationing and austerity following the Second World War. It was also a technological watershed, with the number of people watching the event on television (many on brand new sets, or round at a neighbour's) outstripping those listening on the radio for the first

time. Perhaps a lesser known fact is that the 1953 coronation was the first time a congregational hymn was included – ‘All people that on earth do dwell’.

Let’s hope that the weather will be kinder and more congenial for the street parties being planned to mark the Platinum Jubilee than it was in 1953 (when it rained!). Let’s hope too that the Jubilee will, like the new reign it commemorates did all those year ago, help us turn a corner after the challenging times we’ve recently experienced. Queen Elizabeth herself put and retains much faith in God the source of all wisdom and strength to guide her in all that she has to do:

When I spoke to you last... I asked you all, whatever your religion, to pray for me on the day of my Coronation - to pray that God would give me wisdom and strength to carry out the promises that I should then be making... I have been uplifted and sustained by the knowledge that your thoughts and prayers were with me.
[Her Majesty the Queen, Coronation Day, 2 June 1953]

Pound Lane Free Church

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

Elder: Mr. Matthew Hall

Every Sunday:

Sunday worship: 10.30a.m. & 6.30p.m.

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper:

1st Sunday during evening service

3rd Sunday during morning service

Fellowship Lunches are served after the morning service on the third Sunday of the month.

Kingdom Kids (3yrs. – Yr3): 9.45a.m. - 10.30a.m.

Youth a.l.i.v.e. (Yr.4 – 18yrs.): 9.30a.m. - 10.15a.m.

There is a hearing loop installed as well as Braille songbooks. We have a comprehensive Child Protection Policy and a CRB check has been carried out on all children’s and young people’s workers.

For further information on any of the above or if you would like to speak to Pastor Dave:

Phone: 01638 781343 (Church Office)

01638 780636 (Pastor’s home)

Email: pastor@plfc.org.uk or secretary@plfc.org.uk

Web site: www.plfc.org.uk

Full details of all our services, events, core beliefs and contact details are on our website: www.plfc.org.uk

Music Mayhem

We would like to invite all pre-schoolers to join us on Monday Mornings from 9.30 – 10.30am for a fun time of singing with actions and musical instruments, with the ever popular Sockeroo, followed by biscuits and a play time and tea or coffee for the adults. We operate a booking system, to sign up please go to: <http://www.plfc.org.uk/html/booking>

It would also be great to see you on Thursdays for

Coffee Morning any time between 10.00am to 11.30am to meet friends, enjoy lovely homemade cakes, sausage rolls and cheese scones and an interesting 8 minutes of ‘In the News this week’. The seating is well spaced, ventilation good, and all who serve food and drinks are taking a COVID LFT before the meeting and all good hygiene practices are observed. There is no charge for coming or for refreshments.

ISLEHAM CRICKET CLUB update:

Isleham Cricket Club is in full swing preparing for the up and coming season. Saturday senior net sessions are being held at The Hub in Mildenhall from 8am to 10am

Outdoor nets are planned for Thursday evenings once the weather improves.

The season starts on 30th April with the 1st XI taking on Thriplow. Then both teams have games on the 7 May with the 1st XI at home to Girton and the 2nd XI away to Milton

Wednesday evening games start on the 4th May

Full fixtures are on our Facebook page or play cricket web page. Fixture cards will be available in due course.

We have a full summer of games and welcome new players and supporters to join us and enjoy the summer sun, competitive cricket and a few well deserved celebratory drinks after.

The junior training also start again from the 3rd May and runs throughout the summer.

Tuesday evenings 6:30pm-8pm Years 6-10

Friday evenings 6:30pm-7:30pm Years 1-5

We are looking forward to an enjoyable sporting summer and welcome the village to join us

All the best

Jamie Saunders

Chairman ICC

Andrew Myson
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a_myson@yahoo.co.uk

Speed Watch

The Speedwatch team is again monitoring roads in the village.

Approximately 10% of cars are recorded at 35 or above in the 30 mph zones, with cars along Fordham road in excess of 40- at least one of those turned into the new Bloor homes development.

A session in Malting Lane again showed 10% of cars exceeding 24mph at a time when children are walking to school. Stopping distance at 20mph is 12m (40 ft), at 30mph it increases to 23m (75ft) To keep our children and pets safe please slow down in the village.

If anyone is interested in helping the team please contact Anne on 07880 738076

Letter of thanks from local MP

Isleham Parish magazine
94 The Causeway
Isleham
CB7 5ST

Dear Glenda

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your team for all the work that you have done over the last 24 months to support our community.

The pandemic presented a myriad of challenges, and many of us leant more heavily on our local communities than ever before. Local newspapers and magazines are key pillars of town and village life in South East Cambridgeshire, and I know that many residents feel the benefit of receiving the regular updates that your publication provides.

As you may know, tours of the House of Commons were closed for a significant period of time, so that the authorities could put in place new procedures to ensure the safety of visitors. However, I am pleased to be able to confirm that this process has now been completed, and that MPs are once again able to arrange tours for their local constituents. I would like to invite you and your fellow editors to visit Parliament for a tour later this year. If you would like to join this group, I would be grateful if you would register your interest by emailing me at lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk.

also hope that it will be possible to meet you in person at the end of the tour, to thank you n behalf of all South East Cambridgeshire constituents for the work that you do. do look forward to hearing from you.

With Kind regards,

SUNNICA

The SNTS community action group would like to thank everyone who completed their registration with the Planning Inspectorate. By the time you are reading this we may have a clearer picture of the timelines going forwards.

The UK currently imports 45% of its food - we can't afford to increase this further. We believe that taking valuable, fertile land out of food production for inefficient energy production is wrong. There needs to be a Government policy that mandates all new buildings should have solar panels on rooftops - along with more of the solar schemes, such as solar PV on car parks and on brownfield land. If this is done, we can reduce the current drive for solar on productive farmland and wildlife habitats, and maintain both our energy and food security.

Lucy Frazer QC
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Isleham Neighbourhood Plan – Village Referendum

Thursday 28th April between 7:00 am to 10:00 pm at The Beeches

Following more than two years of hard work, I'm pleased to report that the Isleham Neighbourhood Plan has been accepted by the external examiner and is now subject to a formal referendum. This is the last stage of a complicated process before it can be adopted by East Cambridgeshire District Council

Everyone on the voting register who lives within the Parish of Isleham is eligible to vote. If you are new to the Village you would have needed to register before 8th April

For the reasons identified below it is very important that residents vote in support of this plan :

Firstly, what is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood planning is a way for communities to take a proactive approach to deciding the future of the places where they live and work. Communities can use a neighbourhood plan to help shape the future development and use of land in their neighbourhood. This includes the development of homes, shops, offices and infrastructure.

A Neighbourhood Plan helps set out a community's vision for their area over the next 20 years. Once adopted the Neighbourhood Plan has the same legal status as the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will be part of the statutory development plan for the district. It will be used in deciding planning applications for the area.

A Neighbourhood Plan can:

- Propose more development than the Local Plan
- Identify the most suitable sites for development
- Help to determine what types and design of development should take place

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot:

- Propose less growth than in the Local Plan
- Prevent any development from ever taking place in an area
- Be in conflict with national or local planning policies

'Our vision is that this Neighbourhood Plan should help maintain and further improve the character, infrastructure and environmental features of our village for both the current and future generations.

Our aims for this plan are that:

- The history of our village will be honoured and maintained, with new history being recognised and celebrated
- Isleham will maintain its visual and physical separation from Fordham and that its place in the locality will grow positively in terms of both its independence and its interdependence of other local towns and villages
- As the population of Isleham inevitably grows, it will be a place where everyone; feels safe, welcomed, experiences positive wellbeing and is able to contribute to our very special community.
- The demand for new housing will be justified, carefully planned and will have a positive impact on the villages distinctive character and semi- rural environment.
- That the natural landscape including footpaths, green spaces and valued views will be protected and where wildlife and habitats are able to flourish
- That as the village experiences growth, there will be proportionate improvements to the infra-structure of our village including increased employment opportunities and transport links

The referendum version of our Neighbourhood Plan & other associated documents can be found at:
<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/isleham-neighbourhood-plan>
Neighbourhood Plan (isleham-village.co.uk)



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Isleham Market 2022 dates

- 16th April
- 21st May
- 11th June
- 16th July
- 17th September
- 15th October

All markets start at 10am and finish at 1pm. Interested in running a stall? Please contact Finn at thebeechesisleham@gmail.com or on 01638 780097

Stay & Play event during the Easter holidays on Tuesday 12th April. Our fantastic hall will be full of bouncy castles, soft play and other activities for children. 10am - 1pm. £8 per child - guardian entry is free. Admission fees taken on the day

Jubilee Tea Dance, Sunday 5th June. To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we are hosting a tea dance. We have the incredible Nicholas Martin B.E.M on the organ playing a wide variety of dance themed music. 2pm - 5.30pm, £15 a ticket with food included.

To keep up to date with upcoming events please find us on Facebook at The Beeches @IslehamCommunityCentre or reach us on email at thebeechesisleham@gmail.com

Thank you
Finn Blair The Beeches



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