

Isleham Celebrates



After the pomp and ceremony of the Coronation, the village came together for our own party on Sunday. More than five hundred people of all ages gathered at The Beeches Community Centre, where they enjoyed activities for all the family and generously contributed a total of £352 for the Air Ambulance.





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FOOD

Chicken & Chips £2

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Fish Fingers & Chips £2

Chilli Jacket Potato £3

Cheese & Beans Jacket £2

Chips £1

**JOIN US STRAIGHT AFTER THE GALA
CELEBRATIONS FOR AN EVENING OF
FAMILY FUN & FOOD**



Dates for Your Diary

If there is anything you would like included here for future issues: contact Glenda Preece,

T: 01638 780734 E: gjpreece@aol.com.

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

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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	11.15am	1.00pm
3rd Thursday Mill Street	3.30pm	4.15pm
4th Wednesday Church St	3.30pm	4.15pm
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	

June 2023

Sun 4th	Open Gardens	
Mon 5th	Parish Council	7.15pm
Wed 14th	Library Church St.	12.15-1.15
Thurs 8th	Fenland Friends	7.30pm
Fri 9th	Book Club	2pm
Thurs 15th	Isleham Society	7.30pm
Sat 17th	Farmers Market	9-12
Wed 28th	Mobile Library Mill St	3.20-4.15

July 2023

Sat 1st	GALA DAY	
Sat 1st	Disco	
Sun 2nd	Bowls Club v Cricket Club 100th Anniversary Celebration	
Mon 3rd	Parish Council	7.15pm
Wed 12th	Library Church St.	2.15-1.15
Thur 13th	Fenland Friends	7.30pm
Fri 14th	Book Club	2pm
Sat 15th	Isleham Market	10 - 1pm
Thur 20th	Isleham Society	7.30pm
Wed 24th	Library Mill St	3 - 4.15

Community Pantry at The Ark every Wednesday 10-12noon

Parish Councillors address list

Richard Radcliffe (Chairman)	45 Sun Street, Isleham Tel: 01638 780831
Dr Chris Corbin (Vice Chairman)	5 Priory Gardens, Isleham Tel: 01638 780221
Derrick Beckett	Appleyard Farm, 1 Houghtons Lane, Isleham Tel: 01638 780476
Vanessa Bruyneel-Smith	115 The Causeway, Isleham Tel: 01638 482410
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 781902
Christopher Elmer	30 Limestone Close, Isleham Tel: 01638 780934
Alistair Burn	4 Coates Drove, Isleham Tel:
Anne Noble	5 St Andrews Close, Isleham Tel:
Richard Liddington (Parish Clerk)	Parish Office, The Beeches Tel: 01638 781687 Email: islehampc@gmail.com
Website: www.isleham-village.co.uk	

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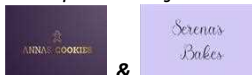
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Tuesday: 10am-5.30pm Thursday & Friday: 9am-5.30pm
Saturday: 9am-4pm Sunday: 10am-12noon

Watch our Facebook Page for our OFFERS!! @TFMButchers

Notes from The Editor

Summer is here!

Instead of using stock photos for the Informer header I am seeking local pictures of the village/countryside from different seasons for the Informer header.

Please send direct to the editor. Any pictures used will be acknowledged.

As others have noted it is with great sadness to hear of the recent passing of Philip Aspland and his wife Gill earlier this year, both had been active members of the village. RIP

Thanks to all the contributions, and help from the Informer volunteers. Next issue in August, see you then.

Clive Patterson



Isleham Community Pantry is open every Wednesday 10-12 noon, for those struggling in these days, to collect a free parcel of food. No voucher required.

We serve the residents of Isleham and Fordham to help in a short-term crisis. Longer term help and signposting to other agencies is available.

The Ark Church, 101 Beck Road, Isleham, Ely, Cambs., CB7 5QP

Email: Claire.Gillett.Communitypantry@thearkisleham.co.uk

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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@gmail.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 Cogan	01638 781705	Tuesday Wednesday	7.00 - 8.00pm 1.15 - 2.15pm	The Beeches
The Beeches	Finn Blair	enquiries@thebeechesisleham.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 July 9th for our August issue. We also need the photographer's name where necessary and details of photos for captions: please do ask subjects to give their permission to appear in the *Informer* - children should have parents' permission.



ISLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE –March 2023

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.

IPC CHAIR REPORT 2022/23

I welcome you all this evening to our Annual Village Meeting. This enables the Parish Council and other organisations in the village to let you know what has been going on and more importantly for you to raise any questions, issues, or ideas you may have for our village.

I am starting by thanking your Councillors who have all made valued contributions, shown great commitment, given freely of their time and effort to support our village, and in particular to Jeanette Malkin and Bob Mitchell who have stood down from the Council this year. I also welcome Anne Noble and Alistair Burns in joining us on the Council both bringing valued skills and expertise we will benefit from.

A special thanks to Jeanette Borderick our Finance Officer who stood down this year after many years of unstinting support and we welcome Janet Hall who has taken on that mantle. To Tim Wilding for maintaining the Cemetery and play area so well and to Gemma Rix for keeping our village so tidy. To our Clerk Richard Liddington for keeping us on the straight and narrow in what at times have been trying circumstances. We are fortunate to have a such good team.

And finally to you for coming tonight, for all of those who attended our meetings in the year and for all your contributions.

So let's look at what has the Council has done over the past year?

Our aim is unsurprisingly to improve our village for us all to live in.

The Council's monies were £283,000 at 31/3/22. And at 31/3/23 £198,018.

In 2022/23 we increased the precept but because of the growth in the number of dwellings the Parish part of the Council Tax payment reduced.

This is made up of £111,69 paid from the new developments in the village through the Community Infrastructure levy. We can only use this for "village improvements".

£27907 identified reserves for specific areas of work which leaves a balance of £59,642

So where have we spent your money and why do we have £85,000 less in the bank?

Let me start with the Beeches. We have and will continue to support the Beeches. I thank all the Trustees for keeping it going over the recent trying years. Without them we would have a shell of a building. I'm delighted to see it being increasingly well used, and there is developing a real buzz about the place, the result of the hard work and commitment by the staff and the Trustees. We have set up a longer term maintenance plan for the building to ensure works are programmed at the right times.

The impact of the rises in utility costs had the potential to undo all that had been done. To minimise this we have invested over £70,000 in new solar panels to reduce those costs for the Beeches and consequently our carbon emissions. There is more we might wish to do on this.

We have grant funded the kitchen upgrade. We've seen the immediate benefit of that with much greater use and have supported various community events. All this has contributed greatly to the increased longer term viability of this magnificent village facility for our community to benefit from.

Moving outside to the Rec we have upped our investment in improving its look, redoing the planted areas, taking an agronomist's advice condition on improving the grass and our maintenance, purchasing a new Tractor all to help to provide a safe and pleasant green space for us all to enjoy and for all the sports Clubs to have better playing surfaces. This is not a quick fix but even I can already see how the extra money spent has improved it. Linked into this we are working more closely with the sports Clubs to ensure we all understand each others aspirations and to help deliver these improvements.

We had hoped that the land from the Bloor Homes development would be all sorted and that we would working on extending the Rec. Sadly this transfer still has not yet taken place and it may be that there will be more work required than we initially understood to make it usable.

In the village itself my thanks to Netty Flindall for organising the annual litter pick.

We have replaced a large section of the crumbling Cemetery wall along the Causeway.

A safety barrier has been installed on the roadway leading to the Little Wash.

The Village Information Board has been erected outside the Priory.

On highways new traffic slowing measure are being installed on Fordham Road funded by ourselves and the County Council. We consulted on introducing a 20mph limit in the village which received overwhelming support and are progressing this with the County Council. In addition to these we have applied for funding for speed reduction at Pound Lane / Prickwillow Road at the entrance to the village.

We know our roads are in a poor state and we regularly raise this with the County Council but they do fill the pot holes. However our footpaths are atrocious and another year has passed with no work carried out to repair or resurface them to make walking safer and easier in our village. We all need to report these problems on the Highways fault reporting system on the County's website.

The allotments continue to be in demand and there are a few available at Dunstall and the Three Tree Allotments.

Planning, as usual, takes up a fair amount of our time at our meetings. We have been consulted by East Cambs on nearly 60 applications this year. Our comments have to be limited to material planning matters because the decision made by East Cambs has to be in accordance with the legislation. What is clear is that our Neighbourhood Plan has helped the decision making process and focused discussions at our meetings. The benefits are that it ensures that your views on the village as set out in the Plan are fully taken into account by East Cambs in the decision making process.

In addition to this, but outside the local planning arrangements, we have had the application by Sunnica for a solar energy farm which clearly will have huge impact on our area. With the support of 90% of our community we have consistently opposed this proposed development and I will not go into all those reasons here. We worked effectively with our neighbouring Parish Councils, all of us contributing to a Landscape Assessment to raise these issues at the Planning Enquiry. We also took every opportunity to ensure that our local voices were heard at the Planning Enquiry and that our concerns were made clear. In particular I would thank Catherine Judkins for the support she so freely gave to us throughout this long running process and to the many of you who involved yourselves in trying to understand the ever-changing proposals from Sunnica and making your views known to the Planning Inspectorate.

This has been a painful process and I have been greatly saddened that Sunnica has caused so much disruption and distress. Their continually changing proposals lead me to question whether they are competent to deliver such a massive scheme. They were unwilling to properly consult or engage with our communities nor do they offer us anything but a destruction of our views and landscape in return for temporary footpath along the Beck Road unconnected to the village.

It surely did not need to be like this. I hope that our concerns will be given the weight they

deserve by the Planning Inspectors and the Secretary of State that Sunnica so readily ignored. We await the decision later this year.

Looking to the future.

- We await the traffic slowing measures on Fordham Road
- The footpath to the Nature Reserve
- Exploring the options to improve energy efficiency at the Beeches
- Planning for extending the Rec with the transfer of the land as part of the planning agreement with Bloor Homes
- Extending the Tractor Shed
- Developing support for our community

We welcome your ideas on what we should be doing and how we can make our village a better place to live.

Isleham Market

Dates for 2023

This year the opening time will be from
9am – 12 noon.

We look forward to seeing you.

17 June

15 July

19 August, 16 September

18 November

Provisional Christmas Market date 8 December

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CHURCHES

THE Ark CHURCH

Spring 2023 at The Ark has been one of fresh vision and growth. We have also just relaunched our Kids and Youth Work, this covers every child from the ages 0-18 on Sunday Mornings. Everyone is welcome to come and join us at 10:30am on Sundays.

Little Oaks continues to run on the first Friday of every month. This month (May) we hosted 191 parents and preschoolers. Our team thoroughly enjoy hosting this group and feel encouraged that it serves so many families in the surrounding areas.

Thankfully, our overflow car is nearly finished so we can accommodate more people who arrive at The Ark. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who continue to donate and help run the Community Food pantry.

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support that has such a positive effect on people's lives.

Abigail Denniss
Leadership Team
The Ark Church, Isleham

Pound Lane Free Church

Pound Lane Free Church – Community Events
Music Mayhem If you have one or more pre-school children then we'd be delighted to see you at our weekly Music Mayhem from 9:30-10:30. The name says it all! Lots of children with parent/carers making 'music' and singing songs for the first half hour and then the children play while the parents chat. With Sockeroo appearing to meet the children. Sessions are free, with free refreshments for adults and children. Every Monday on weeks when Isleham Primary School is open (see www.isleham.com/html/musicmayhem for further details and open dates).

Coffee Morning Every Thursday from 10:00-11:30 (come for it all or drop in for a few minutes). Free

drinks and free home made cakes, sausage rolls, scones etc. Make some new friends, or chat with old ones. An eight minute "In the News" slot looks at a few humorous items from the last week's news ending with one that links to a Bible truth.

Children's Summer Extravaganza Struggle to find good free things to do with the children during the Summer holidays? Following the success of last year's event, we will again, God willing, be holding a special event for children (nominally up to the age of 8). Last year this included Bouncy Castle, outdoor games, craft activities, science experiments, plus much more.

Book the date in your diary! –

August 26th 13:00 – 15:00

General Information

Pastor: Mr Matthew Brabbs (07535908682 or 01638 781343 (Church Office), email pastor@plfc.org.uk)

Elders: Mr. Dave Hall, 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 Matthew:

Phone: 01638 781343 (Church Office) or 07535908682 (Pastor's mobile)

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

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We are looking for somebody to join our two volunteers on a rota to cover an hour or two on the day.

Please contact us if you can help

St Andrews Church

Life continues in good spirits at St Andrew's, despite our continuing lack of a rector to lead our worship and our parish ministry. We continue to offer services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., offering holy communion on some Sundays and morning praise on others, as well as a prayer group who meet every Monday, morning prayer service in the social centre at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesdays and a short online prayer service at 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday. Our Sunday worship continues to be supported by our bell ringers and our choir, both of whom practice on Friday evenings, and new members are always welcome at both groups, no experience is necessary! Everyone is welcome at any of these gatherings, and please do contact us if you'd like to find out more details about any of these regular services and meet-ups.

On Tuesday morning, we continue to hold a coffee morning after the morning prayer service which runs until 12 noon, serving hot bacon rolls alongside tea, coffee and other refreshments. Again, this is open to all. On a Tuesday, if you're popping into the Post Office (housed in the other half of our social centre, opposite the church) then why not stay and join us for a cuppa and a chat?

The church has also recently been undergoing upkeep and renovation. Over the past year we've installed improved heating under six of the pews, and are also very grateful to the group of local volunteers who helped to clear gutters and the



paved surroundings of the church late last year. Last month, work began on restoration of the parapet and north wall of the north aisle and some of the pointing of some areas of stonework.

This work was identified in a five-yearly report in 2018 but has only recently



been able to take place, thanks to a combination of local fundraising efforts as well as the money raised by our coffee mornings and the newspaper delivery service.

The latest report has just been completed and has identified a further set of repair work and upkeep which will cost around £250,000 in total, including further repairs to the roof and replacement of the unreliable current church lighting with more sustainable and reliable LED units. We will complete the various works identified as funds become available, and we are always hugely grateful to those who attend our fundraising events and who support our Gift Day, which this year is due to take place on 22nd July. Details of other social events can be found elsewhere in this issue.

We are hopeful that we will make progress soon on appointing a new rector, but in the meantime the church is open during daylight hours for quiet contemplation and prayer, so whether at one of our services or socials, or just to grab a peaceful moment for yourself, you will always be welcome with us.

Mark Walsh – Licensed Lay Minister, St Andrew's and the Three Rivers Group



Andrew Myson
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a_myson@yahoo.co.uk

Isleham Coronation Celebrations

There was a free BBQ, bouncy castles, a circus performer, face painting, all sponsored by the National Lottery – a grant to the Isleham Community Association. Entertainment included a short play by the Isleham Society, an 'Isleham Ode to the Coronation' and a display by some of the children from the Isleham School of Performing Arts.



There was a competition for the best Coronation Quiche, won by Sarah Pollard, and a Victoria Sponge by Jennifer Leonard.



Outside the Tug-of-battles were heavily contested (medals awarded to teams of men, women and children), and other games were enjoyed, with music provided all afternoon by Carl Chapman.

The BBQ continued throughout the afternoon, thanks to stalwart (and handsome!) volunteers, Phil, Tim, and Luke, all served by IPC Chair Richard Radcliffe and his wife.



There were bouncy castles, and an assault course and face painting for the children, and treats to enjoy to enjoy all through the afternoon



At 5 o'clock it was time for the disco, with DJ Michael Driver. Excitement reached fever pitch when Zachary King and Winnie Sheldrick were named King and Queen of the Disco.

Four frenetic hours later it was sadly time to go home, "One more song, one more song" cried the children, but the end had to come. The celebrations closed with a good old British Conga line, and a rousing rendition of 'Sweet Caroline'.

After a great deal of hard work from the staff and directors of The Beeches, the ICA, friends and other volunteers, it was a brilliant day. The sun shone and the community came together in a day to remember.



As usual Wally Gunston did the village proud by decorating round the church, the war memorial and the Priory, as well as putting up metres of bunting at The Beeches, and covering his house with bunting and flags

Thanks Wally, we love it.





Mark Goldsack

Another informer bounds along but as I write it is spring and sunny after heavy showers. None of which spoiled our day yesterday as having accepted an invitation my wife Sarah and I attended a Coronation Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. About the most British thing I've ever done but special for us both and especially after the Coronation day coverage.

As for Isleham and Coronation what an amazing effort put on for all on Sunday 8th. It truly shined a light onto the selfless and committed people in our community who step up and deliver constantly for others. Congratulations to The Beeches and all involved.

Isleham Primary School



It's hard for young children to understand the importance of world events such as the coronation of a King, but hopefully they will go on to think of this time with fondness, and maybe even tell their children about the day. While I have heard great things about the celebration at 'The Beeches', the school also offered the children the opportunity to take part in events to commemorate this historical time.

The children enjoyed an afternoon tea style lunch, they also had a craft task to complete over the morning, and held a gala after school, which was a great success! The Year 5 pupils, designed, made and then led their fun games and stalls at the event. The gala itself made a profit of £700 for PTA funds, which was due to support from all who donated, gave up their time on the day, helped with all of the preparations and of course those who attended!

Here are some of the Year 5 children recalling the events of the day:

Lewis wrote, 'On the 6th May 2023 the United Kingdom crowned a new monarch, our own Prince Charles became King Charles III. Ariella added, 'Our school, Isleham Church of England primary school celebrat-

Dick Whittington Delight

The Beeches Entertainers took to the stage at The Beeches once more in March/April to bring the delightful pantomime "Dick Whittington" (by Julie Petrucci and Chris Shinn) to nearly 300 people over three performances.

Audiences watched as Dick Whittington (played by Marie Bowker) and his trusty cat Tommy (Nikki Farr), met new friends and managed to defeat the Evil King Rat (John Bedford) to bring peace and calm to both London town and the mythical island of Mycoco.

Children from the Isleham School for Performing Arts, trained by Ruth Bendall, delighted the audiences with two dance routines as well as being King Rat's faithful rat army. Richard Drayton once again played the Dame - this time it was the role of "Sarah", and she was assisted along the way by Idle Jack (Noah Walston appearing in his first main role). Mark Fletcher played Alderman Fitzwarren and his daughter Alice was played by Vanessa Bruyneel-Smith.

Pictures bottom of page 12

On a less celebratory mode towards the end of May I have Frank Proctor the CCC Director responsible for roads and Pathways, walking around Isleham with me. I want him to see poorly repaired potholes, trip hazard paths and more and then I want him to do something about them. I will post the outcomes

Finally for now, as both were such special events here are a couple of pictures that I think captured the last few days for my wife and I.

Enjoy your summer and remember if I can assist please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mark Goldsack

Pictures top half of page 12

ed by having a gala to raise some money for the PTA. We also celebrated the king's coronation by having a special lunch (sandwiches and Victoria cake). 'We tried to have a parade but then it really rained, so we had to go inside!' shared Aiden. Mia wrote about the games the class made and led, saying, 'Then the rain cleared and we went through with the gala. We had 10 games; corgi obstacle course, play your cards right, hook a duck, pull the stick out of the sand, score or save against the king, find the crown jewels on the map, guess the number of jewels in the jar, guess the name of the coronation teddy, royal polo, and don't drop the king.'

'It got sunny and the gala went on. My favourite games were; guess how many jewels were in the jar, and my own game!' recalled Sophia. Hattie ended her writing by adding, 'There were also ice cream van and tractor tours and more like this. This was very fun and an amazing experience.'

The next event to organise and look forward to, is the wheel-a-thon which will be an ending to the half term. The children will use a wheeled vehicle to complete laps of the school playground or field. If you are asked by a member of the school community to sponsor them, please donate to support our purchase of iPads.

From Dawn Deacon, Headteacher

Pictures middle of page 12

Cont'd on page 15

Isleham Bowls Club

May always signals the transition from moving the indoor carpet bowls scene to the outside and warm sunny evenings on the lawn bowls green (and cold windy damp ones as well).

During the winter months we meet on a fortnightly basis playing matches between club members to determine a Grand Final. This year Sheila Peters, Heather Munns & Darren Dunbavin defeated John Fletcher, Margaret Marsh & Graham Cochrane to win the trophy.

With 2 weeks of the 17 already gone, the outdoor season has now started with mixed results, with the club winning 2 league matches and losing 4 in the 3



various leagues we are in.

In April we hosted a 'come and try' day when we had 8 new bowlers sign up and some further interest shown so hopefully a few more to follow.

On Sunday July 2nd we will celebrate our 100th anniversary with a social fixture against members from the cricket club, so a date to keep in your diary to come up and watch (or even take part in?) For further information you can contact either: Secretary Sylvia Pinder 01638 720875 Captain Barry Grimwood 01638 781943 Chairman Rowley Wells 01638 780191

It is an enjoyable social activity for both men and ladies, SO COME ALONG, we would be really pleased to see you!

Barry Grimwood, Club Captain

1st Isleham Scout Group

Isleham Scout group is fighting for its life, we currently have around 30 children enjoying Scouting every week. But due to work commitments we need more adults to help run weekly meetings and the Trustee board.

Scouting offers fun & adventure for both youth members and adults\

Scouting operates a Team based module allowing a flexible volunteering model. Full training and support is provided for all adults.

If you would like more information please email dc@newmarketdistrict.co.uk





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We at The Beeches would like to thank you all for your continued support with our new food and drink offering. We are pleased to see the centre being well used and have loved meeting lots of new people. We look forward to a long future of providing the village a sociable venue to enjoy food and drink seven days a week.

Here is a reminder of our food and drink offerings throughout the week:

Day time cafe: Monday to Saturday, 9am - 4pm. Fresh coffee and cake available

The Beeches Lunch Menu, Tuesday - Friday, 12pm - 2pm.

Don't forget that Fish & Chips are available every Friday lunch time.

Fish & Chip Fridays, Friday lunch 12pm - 2pm, and takeaway 5pm - 7pm

Full English Breakfast, Saturday 9am - 12pm

Sunday Roast, 12pm - 3pm

To book a table, please call us on 01638 780097 or email thebeechesisleham@gmail.com

Thank you, The Beeches

The team were joined for the first time onstage by Rose George who played the Captain, and Lesley Gunn, normally behind the scenes, played the Fairy.

Ray Goodwin played the King of Mycoco and Cynthia Sheldrick played the island native. The main chorus was in fine voice with Pauline Wilkes, Bob Mitchell, Sally Masterson, Chris Clarke, Joy Ashton, Ruth Bendall, Margret Cowley, and Debbie Fletcher all taking on different chorus roles throughout the show.

Barbara Murfitt, Tim Washtell and Steve Evans once again looked after Stage Management, Music and Sound, and Lighting, and stage helpers were Julie Aldous, Neil Wilkes and Andrew Northfield. Chris Clarke was assisted by Lydia Smith with hair and make-up while Jo Elmer and Sarah Diver were Front of House. Wayne Bailey, once again, helped create the group dances and behind the scenes Karen Royal and Diana Ayling were part of the team creating costumes and props.

A spokesperson for the Beeches Entertainers said, "We were happy to be able to keep the ticket costs the same as 2022, which was very important during these times, and we were delighted that the community got behind us so well either by coming along to see the shows or helping us along the way during our three months of rehearsals." "The pantomime is a great community effort. We had a great time during rehearsals and our audiences were wonderful at all three shows, singing along with some of the songs, booing King Rat and cheering for the heroes. We had lots of children joining in with the Fancy Dress competition and the whole audience had fun singing along with the community song led by King Rat and the Fairy."

The team were also pleased to announce that with the funds raised over the three days they were able to make a financial donation of £1000 to The Beeches, plus a £250 donation to Isleham Primary School and donations to other local groups who gave their help to the Beeches Entertainers during rehearsal time.

The Beeches Entertainers will return in November with the Premier performance of Lesley Gunn's new comedy Murder Mystery "The Mysterious Murder at the Murder Mystery". Performed on two nights on 3rd & 4th November, more information, including ticket costs, will be available on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/beechesentertainers> and will also appear in future edition of The Isleham Informer. The Murder Mysteries are always popular, so we are all looking forward to seeing the Beeches Entertainers back on stage soon!

Isleham Society



As I write this report, we have just had the sad news of the death of Vernon Place.

Vernon was one of the great contributors to preserving the heritage story of this village. His photos and his books, along with Arthur Houghton's 'Memories' book, and those two recollections of Elijah Wells, have gifted us who live here now wonderful insights into the often very different life situations of previous generations over the best part of a hundred years.

Thank you, Vernon, from all who have related to the Isleham Society which you chaired, and to which you have given so much. And our deepest sympathy to the many friends and family for whom Vernon's passing will be an especially emotional loss.

The Society has been very active since my last Informer report. Membership has grown, and we are able to advertise a range of relevant activities organised by similar heritage organisations in the area.

As an example of very recent events, it was fascinating to hear how a Soham ex- slave changed the mind-set of the nineteenth century. It was mind expanding to hear how a local but world-famous scientist discovered the hole in the Ozone Layer and so challenged the world view of Climate change. We also produced a mini history of the village, 'Through Isleham Eyes', linked to the Coronation celebrations at the Beeches and facilitated the 'Spurgeon Trundle' to the river-bank baptism site.

So much else to come over the summer, including a follow up to 'the Dig' with a talk by the brilliant Charlie Haylock, voice coach for the film to be followed by a visit to Sutton Hoo. Horse racing and honey also in the programme!

The third Thursday talks also continue to provide opportunities to hear and value the stories of those who have lived here for many years, and also to debate and act on key issues such as the Sunnica proposals. The Isleham Society is keen to support community ventures such as Litter Pick, Gala Day, Remembrance Sunday, Speed Watch, Friends of Isleham Nature Reserve, Festival of Light etc.

We hope to do more in the near future to make the archive of heritage material currently in a cupboard at the Beeches more readily available. We would like to support our village Primary School, and also help people newly moving into the village to find out the history which contributes to making Isleham the special place this is.

Mark Fletcher (Chairman)

Isleham Gala 2023



Saturday 1st July

Would the lucky winners from Gala 2022 please return trophies and Rose Bowl to The Beeches. Many thanks

We look forward to welcoming you to Isleham Gala 2023.

Gala 2022 was our most successful and best supported one for many years. It was lovely to see the whole village coming together to celebrate our community and enjoy the day.

If you would like to take part in the parade please email barbaramurfitt14@gmail.com All are welcome: local groups; businesses; groups of friends or family; individuals. Floats or walking groups. We just need you to book in with us so that we can organise the logistics of the parade.

The parade starts from the junction of Kennedy Road and The Causeway at 1pm. We would like to ask that if you live along the route, you decorate the outside of your house with bunting or flags to make this more festive. An ideal way to use up all the bunting you have left over from the Coronation!

COMPETITIONS

All categories qualify for rosettes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Also prizes for Best in Show.

Entries must be brought to the Competition Tent between 11 – 12 only. Late entries will not be permitted. Please collect your items by 4.30. Cost 20p per entry

CAT 01 Fruit and Vegetable Category

1. Three potatoes
2. Three broad beans (in pods)
3. Three peas (in pods)
4. Three beetroot
5. Three sticks of rhubarb
6. Six gooseberries
7. Wonky fruit or veg from my garden or allotment
8. A container (basket, tray or box) of produce from my garden or allotment

CAT 02 Eggs

1. Six matched hens' eggs
2. Six eggs from mixed poultry. All must be free range (garden or allotment) and fresh laid

CAT 03 Floral Category

If used, staging should be a maximum of 2'6" high. Accessories may be used but no artificial flowers or foliage permitted. Fresh foliage acceptable

1. An arrangement to depict "The Coronation of King Charles III"
2. A vase, jar or bowl of flowers from your garden or allotment (foliage may be used)
3. A vase of fresh mixed herbs

4. 3 or 5 stems of sweet peas (single or mixed colours)
 4. 3 or 5 pansies (single or mixed colours)
 5. A single rose
 6. 3 or 5 roses (single or mixed colour)
- Children may enter

CAT 04 Bread (bread makers may be used)

1. A loaf of white bread
2. A loaf of wholemeal bread
3. Six white rolls
4. Six wholemeal rolls

CAT 05 Cakes

1. A Victoria Sponge using the recipe listed
2. Four scones – fruit, cheese or plain (please label)

CAT 06 Jams, Pickles Chutneys – a jar of....

1. Jam – fruit of choice (please label)
2. Marmalade
3. Chutney – any type (please label)

CAT 07 Arts and Crafts Section

Open to all ages including children. Entries from children to be clearly marked with age

1. A quilted item (please bring your own stand if you wish to exhibit a quilt)
2. A tapestry, embroidery or cross stitch item
3. An item created with yarn
4. A painting – any medium
5. A drawing – any medium
6. An item created in wood
7. An item modelled in clay, pottery or other material
8. Photographic Art
9. A felted item using either needle felt or wet felt technique
10. Scrap Model Challenge. To be made from any scrap materials – show us your recycling skills!

- a) Children up to school year 6. b) School year 7-11
c) Everybody else!

Children's Competitions

All children may enter adult sections but clearly mark entry with age.

CAT 08 Garden

1. Mixed flowers in a hand decorated container (such as a jam jar)
2. A garden on a plate

CAT 09 Baking

1. Three decorated cup cakes
- Any home-made cookies or biscuits – 5 on a plate

CAT 10 Other Creations

1. A painted pebble
2. A hedgehog potato
3. A wind chime made from any material

Recipe for Victoria Sponge Cake

The Victoria Sponge was named after Queen Victoria, who regularly ate a slice of sponge cake with her tea, each afternoon!

Ingredients sponge:

- 3 eggs
- 150g caster sugar
- 150g unsalted butter
- 150g sieved self-raising flour
- 1/2 tsp of vanilla essence
- Jam (strawberry or raspberry)

Ingredients buttercream:

- 150g softened unsalted butter
- 220g sieved icing sugar
- 1/3 vanilla pod or vanilla essence

Method Sponge:

- Preheat the oven to 180C (375F, gas mark 4)
- Grease and line two 8 inch cake tins (if you only own one tin, you can bake the sponge and slice in half)
- Cream the caster sugar, vanilla essence and softened unsalted butter until light and fluffy
- In a separate bowl whisk the eggs
- Gradually add the beaten eggs, a little at a time, to avoid the mixture curdling
- Sieve the flour and fold into the mixture
- Divide the cake mix between the two cake tins and smooth
- Place on the middle shelf of the oven and bake for approximately 20 minutes, until the cake appears golden brown
- Insert a skewer and ensure it comes out clean
- Remove the sponges from their tins and leave to cool

Method Buttercream:

- Cream the softened butter with the sieved icing sugar and seeds from the vanilla pod (or vanilla essence)

Assembling the cake:

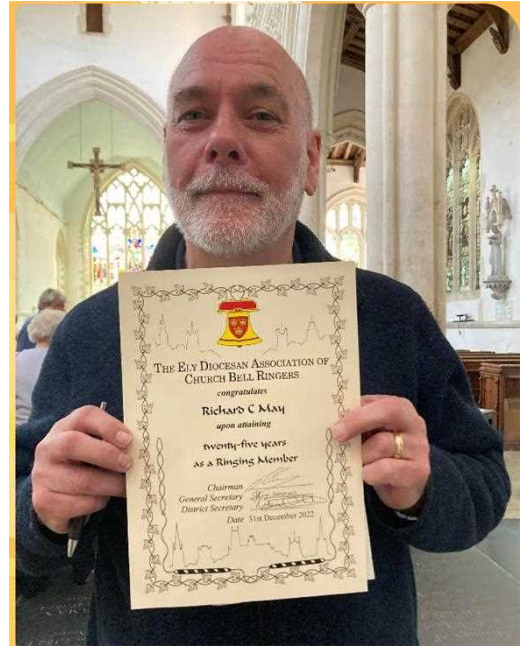
- Ensure that both sponges are completely cold before spreading a layer of jam onto the surface of one sponge
- Spread a thick layer of buttercream on top of the jam (if you prefer this can be done first)
- Gently place the second sponge on top and gently press down
- Sprinkle with icing sugar and serve with a pot of fresh English tea!

Timetable (Provisional. Times - approx)

13.00 Parade starting from the junction of

- Kennedy Road/The Causeway
- 13.30 Judging of Floats
- 14.00 Announcement of float winners
- 14.15 Entertainment in the main ring
- 14.45 Preschool Races, then older children's races & Tug of War(adults)
- 15.30 Isleham School Band in The Beeches
- 15.50 Entertainment
- 16.15 Last chance to buy Grand Draw tickets
- 16.30 Grand Draw and collection of prizes
- 18.00 Gala closes

Other events continuing all afternoon: Fun Fair, Car Show, Face Painting, wide range of food and craft stalls and attractions



Richard C May awarded for 25 years of ringing member



Name.....

Phone.....

Category (i.e. CAT01)

Category Number (i.e. 1,2,3 within category)

Age (If under 16)

**Please drop off items between 11 and 12 only. Late entries will not be permitted.
Please collect your items before 4.30pm otherwise we will have to destroy/dispose of them.
The Gala Committee take no responsibility for loss or damage of competition entry items.**

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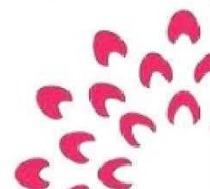
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