

Remembrance Sunday



Remembrance Sunday A large number of parishioners turned out on Sunday 12th to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts

The service was led by Revd Stephen Day whilst Robert Savage read the Roll of Honour and Benjamin Edwards sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

The Parade was led by John Fletcher, who carried the Cross. Joining the Parade were representatives of year 6 at Isleham Primary School and some teaching staff. Also in the parade were some military veterans as well as representatives of the Parish Council & village associations/ societies. A total of 7 wreaths were laid.

Mrs Ivy Rutterford moved to Isleham in her 20th year and 68 years later we celebrate her volunteering in the village. She was a member of the Isleham Branch of the British Legion, and during the year of 1993 she took over the care of the war memorial as the previous lady retired. Not only did she work to keep it tidy, but she bought soil, weed control and plants for the Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter, and of course took great pride in the poppies on Remembrance Day. Ivy says she has thoroughly enjoyed doing this and that she is sad that unfortunately she is no longer able to carry on. Ivy, the village thanks you for everything you have done for the past 30 years.



Thanks also to Wally Gunston who adorned the village with poppies, and flags on the Priory, and to Zoe Leeson and all the poppy makers, and those who erect the display at the church. The village looked wonderful.



More pictures Page 9



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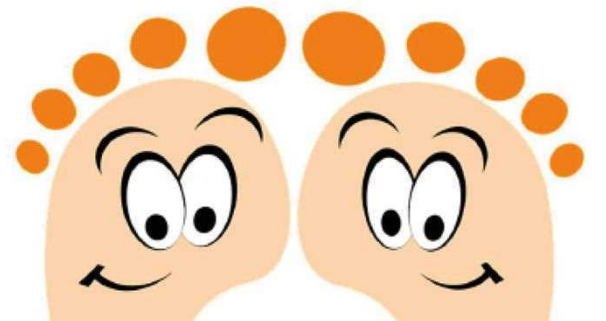
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Dates for Your Diary

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

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

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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	558400
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: Helen Dunn.	01638	781687
MP: Lucy Frazer	lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk	

December 2023

- ** Festival of Light****
- Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd 3 - 6pm**
- Mon 4th Parish Council 7.15pm
- Fri 13th Book Club Christmas Lunch
- Sat 9th Isleham Christmas Market 9-12noon
- ** Festival of Light****
- Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th 3 - 6pm**
- Tue 12th Isleham Community Meal
- “ The Ark at The Beeches 4.30-6.30
- **Wed 13th Bowls Club Xmas Bingo ****
- Wed 13th Library Church St. 12.15-1pm
- Thurs 14th Fenland Friends 7.30pm
- Sun 17th Kids Christmas Disco 6-8pm
- Thurs 21st Isleham Society Carols 7pm
- Wed 27th Library Mill St 3.20-4.15

January 2024

- Happy New Year**
- Mon 8th Parish Council 7.15pm
- Wed 10th Library Church St. 2.15-3.15
- Thur 11th Fenland Friends 7.30pm
- Fri 12th Book Club 2pm
- Thur 18th Isleham Society 7.30pm
- Wed 24th Library Mill Street 3-4.15

**Community Pantry at The Ark
every Wednesday 10-12noon**

Parish Councillors address list

Richard Radcliffe (Chair)	45 Sun Street, Isleham Tel: 01638 780831
Dr Chris Corbin (Vice Chair)	5 Priory Gardens, Isleham Tel: 07788 415500
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 CB7 5SJ Tel: 01638 780553
Anne Noble	5 St Andrews Close, Isleham CB7 5TB Tel: 07880 738076
Helen Dunn (Parish Clerk)	Parish Office, The Beeches Tel: 01638 781687 Email: islehampc@gmail.com
Website: www.isleham-village.co.uk	



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 Cambridge, CB25 0AA

Village Notes

Annual General Meeting Isleham Community Association

Isleham Community Association (ICA) Charity no. 1151164 was set up in 2013 to support the development of The Beeches.

The Trustees of the charity are holding their Annual General Meeting on

**Wednesday 13th December at 7:15pm
in The Beeches**

All parishioners are welcome to attend.

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Notes from The Editor

What a great show by the Beeches Entertainers with good food as well. Another enjoyable evening's entertainment.

Walter did the village proud for remembrance day, many thanks.

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. Please keep the articles coming.

Thanks to all the contributions, and help from the Informer volunteers.

Next issue in February, see you then, have a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

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
 Telephone contact 07394 395718 please leave a message and it will be retrieved on Mondays and Wednesdays.



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Village clubs: information

CLUB	CONTACT	Contact Details	DAY/ DATE	TIME	PLACE
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
Community Pantry	Claire Gillett	claire.gillett. communitypantry@ thearkisleham.co.uk 07394 395718	Wednesday	10.00 - 12.00	The Ark Church
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 (Chair) 07775 522765 (vice chair)			
Pre-school Isleham Under Fives Ass. (IUFA)	TBA	01638 781212 islehampreschool @btconnect.com			
Move it & Lose it	Jo Griffin	Jo.griffin@moveitorloseit.co.uk	Monday	2.00pm - 3.00pm	The beeches
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 January 9th for our February issue. We also need the photographer's name where necessary and details of photos for captions: please do ask subjects to give their permission to appear in the *Informer* - children should have parents' permission.



ISLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE –November 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, Helen Dunn: 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 December -7.15pm at The Beeches

Monday 8th January – 7.15pm at The Beeches

Monday 5th February – 7.15pm at The Beeches

Planning Applications (October 2023 – November 2023) *

Planning Applications:
23/00984/FUL Replacement dwelling (demolition of existing) with altered dropped kerb /access and associated works. 2 Station Road. Mr M Tarver No objections
23/01005/FUL Single storey side extension and associated works (Retrospective) 15 Church Lane. Mr & Mrs King No objections
23/01019/TRE T1 Beech – Cut back spread on house side above conservatory by approximately 3 – 3.5m. Raise to clear roof by approximately 1.5m, taper into remainder of canopy to shape. T2 Ash – Cut back above conservatory by approximately 2.5m. T4 Eucalyptus – Fell 1 Mill Street. Styman. No objections
21/01830/NMAA Non material amendment to previously approved 21/01830/FUL for erection of a coach workshop building with ancillary offices, concrete pad and associated works. 102 Beck Road. Neals No objections
23/01025/TRE G1 Lilac trees – Crown lift to 3m on highway boundary side and pollard to no less than 3m in height G2 Holly trees – Crown lift to 3m on neighbour’s side of boundary and pollard to no less than 5m in height G3 Laurel – Viburnum trees – Crown lift to 3m on neighbour’s side of boundary, pollard to no less than 3m in height and remove deadwood 26 Pound Lane. Mr Edd Evans-Morley No objections

23/00451/FUL Retention of livestock barn and stable block with external cladding, portacabin and completion of implements store in association with farm holding – retrospective
Land North East Of 29A Prickwillow Road. Mr & Mrs Martyn & Kate Mackinnon
Objections include: The positioning of these large / tall outbuildings so close to a highway does have a detrimental impact on rural views. The need for such large storage building for such a small parcel of agricultural land appears unjustified Council to request soft landscaping between the road and the development and that Agricultural status is placed upon the development.

23/00996/FUL. Boundary fence – retrospective
7Beech Close, Mrs Geraldine Roberts
Objections include:
The full-height fence to the side of the property obscures the view from the adjacent property and generally has an intrusive impact on the street scene.
There is a covenant on all properties in Beech Close that no fence may be erected in front of the building line without the consent of the Planning Authority.

23/01060/TRE. T1 Whitebeam - Reduce in height by removing 3 meters to prevent damage to neighbouring roof G2 Group of Boundary Trees (3x Cypress and 1x Yew) - Reduce in height by 3 meters to maintain in their current location 7 Church Street, Hindmarsh
No objections

23/01105/VAR To Vary Condition 1 (Approved Plans) of previously approved 20/01602/RMA for reserved matters of appearance, landscaping and layout of previously approved 18/00467/OUT Wayside Farm Fordham Road
No objections

23/01133/CLP. Erection of new pedestrian and vehicular entrance gates
9 Dockings Lane, Mr & Mrs Lee

Planning Approvals

23/00200/FUL Change of use of annexe to holiday let – retrospective 14 East Fen Road

21/01572/FUM Construction of 45 dwellings, new access, estate roads, driveways, parking areas, open space, external lighting, pumping station and associated infrastructure. Land West Of Station Road

23/01005/FUL. Single storey side extension and associated works (Retrospective)
15 Church Lane. Mr & Mrs King

23/01025/TRE
G1 Lilac trees - Crown lift to 3m on highway boundary side and pollard to no less than 3m in height
G2 Holly trees - Crown lift to 3m on neighbour’s side of boundary and pollard to no less than 5m in height
G3 Laurel – Viburnum trees - Crown lift to 3m on neighbour’s side of boundary, pollard to no less than 3m in height and remove deadwood
26 Pound Lane

23/01019/TRE
T1 Beech - Cut back spread on house side above conservatory by approximately 3 - 3.5m. Raise to clear roof by approximately 1.5m, taper into remainder of canopy to shape
T2 Ash - Cut back above conservatory by approximately 2.5m T4 Eucalyptus – Fell 1 Mill Street

23/00296/FUL Change of Use from agricultural to equestrian use with associated outbuildings (tractor store, stables, field shelter) and associated works (Retrospective) Land Adj Larkhall Farm 38 Prickwillow Road Mr & Mrs S Mutton	
23/00938/ Side extension and internal alterations 6 Bowers Lane Mr & Mrs Place	
23/01060/TRE T1 Whitebeam - Reduce in Fulheight by removing 3 meters from the height and prune to clear the building by 1.5m to prevent damage to neighbouring roof G2 Group of Boundary Trees (3x Cypress and 1x Yew) - Reduce in height by 3 meters to maintain in their current location 7 Church Street	
Planning Refusals	Nil Refusals

Highways and Footpaths Potholes -

Cambridgeshire County Council have a relatively simple website for reporting potholes and other highways faults Go to: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults
Simply zoom in on the electronic map and you will see previously reported faults. Identify the exact location of the pothole
Complete the other details, which includes an opportunity to attach a photograph
Submit the form and make a note of the submission number as this will enable you to more easily keep a check on the progress of repairs .

Fly Tipping - Incidences of fly tipping should be reported directly to ECDC via their website: WWW.EASTCAMBS.GOV.UK/WASTE/FLY-TIPPING

Recreation Ground We await the legal transfer of a parcel of land to the north of the existing recreation ground as part of the Bloor Homes development and are currently considering various options for what this land might be used We would like to thank residents for adhering to the rule of no dogs on the recreation field or the play area.

Facebook Page We run an Isleham Parish Council Facebook Group to share agendas, minutes of meetings and other information relating to the work of Isleham Parish Council. Please email islehampc@gmail.com for an electronic invitation to join the group.

Dunstall Charity Grant Applications for a £400 grant for those starting apprenticeships or certain further education courses are open.
Criteria for the grant

1. Applicants must have been resident in Isleham for one year, be under 25 years of age and submit a letter of application to the Clerk.
2. The maximum grant available under the scheme will be £400.
3. Applicants must have spent the money first, and send in original receipts with their application.
4. Applicants must be serving an apprenticeship, for example chef, mechanic, engineering, or be a university student or student of further education at university level studying for a specific career, for

example geologist, computing, law.

5. Applicants can only claim for books, uniform, protective clothing, tools, computer and course specific software; but not for stationary or office supplies.

6. Applicants must have already started the University, College of further education or apprenticeship/job.

7. Applicants are required to submit a letter from their course tutor or employer, stating that they are attending the course, or that they have commenced employment.

Applications and supporting evidence should be submitted to: The Parish Office, The Beeches, 32 Mill Street Isleham or via islehampc@gmail.com

Allotment Matters There are currently a small number of plots available on the Dunstall and Three Trees (Beck Road) sites. Please do contact me if you are interested in taking a plot. The cost of a 10 rod (approx. 250m² plot) is just £17.00 per year

Police Matters - Reporting Crime. Please use the following link to read about the neighbourhood team and how to report on the Cambridgeshire Constabulary website. www.cambs.police.uk/area/your-area/cambridgeshire/east-cambridgeshire/east-cambridgeshire/about-us/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area

In addition, the QR code below takes you to their community survey. They use the results to set out their priorities and where to send the resources.



The main message to the community is to report everything because if they don't know about it, they can't do anything about it. A lot of people post on Facebook instead of reporting it to them.

New Parish Clerk I have enjoyed my first few weeks as the new Isleham Parish Clerk. Many thanks to Richard Liddington for passing me the reins and for all his help and support throughout this process. For any queries or matters you would like to raise, you can find me at the Parish Clerk office located at The Beeches on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10am – 12.30pm, and can contact me throughout the week on

islehampc@gmail.com.



CHURCHES

St Andrews Church

Gift Day

Our annual "Gift Day" took place in September & was once again very well supported. Thank you to all those who contributed, not only by your very generous donations, which are still continuing, but also by helping with the Church maintenance/clean-up on the day. To date donations received amount to more than £5,000. An amazing amount!

All the money received goes into the Church Restoration Fund and is used in the ongoing maintenance of our ancient and beautiful Church building. This year, urgent repairs to the roof & parapet have been completed, but there is always more work to be done.

Thank you everyone for your continued support. Gill Savage & Sean Edwards, Churchwardens.

Date of Christmas Services.

Festival of Light 3rd & 4th December with Xmas market on Saturday 3rd
Also on 9th & 10th December . Carol concert 4pm on Sunday 10th.

Christmas Eve	Saturday 4 th December
Crib Service 4pm,	Midnight Mass 11.45pm
Christmas Day	Morning Praise 9.30am

Pound Lane Free Church

Upcoming Christmas Events

God willing, we will be holding a number of seasonal events in the lead up to Christmas.

Candlelit Carol Service 17th December

We will be holding our annual Candlelit Carol Service at 6:15pm on the evening of December 17th. As well as singing a number of well-known traditional carols, the children and young people of the church will be taking part in the service. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Village Carol Singing

On the evening of Monday 18th December we will be walking around the village singing Christmas carols. We will be leaving from the car park at the Priory at 7:00pm and you are very welcome to join with us, or just listen out for us as we come by. We will not be collecting but will have Christmas booklets to give out to everyone we see.

Christmas Day Family Service

What could be a better way of starting Christmas Day

than joining with us at 10:30am to worship the One whose birthday it is all about.

It is an all-age family service and children are encouraged to bring a new present to 'show'. Refreshments will again be served after the service.

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)
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

THE Ark CHURCH



If you live in or around Ely - do you know about Ely
Minor Injury Unit?

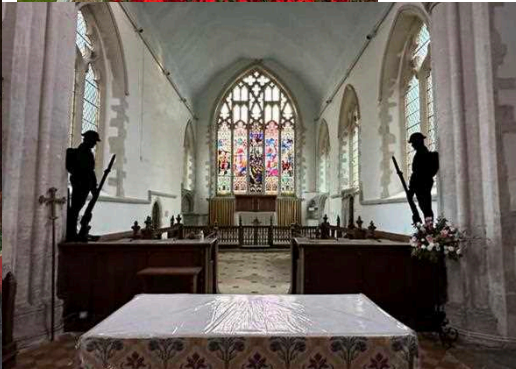
It's open every day for help with cuts, minor burns/
scalds, minor injuries, bites, stings, earaches, eye
problems and more.

Open 8.30am – 6pm with no appointment needed.
Princess of Wales Hospital, Lynn Road, Ely, CB6 1DN.

Pictures from The Murder Mystery



Remembrance day pictures





The Beeches Community Centre

I would like to introduce you to the new management at The Beeches

This is Nathan Beckett the Manager and Donna Woodcock Assistant Manager. They both started on the 6th November.

Nathan is very excited and grateful to have got the job. He has spent the last 2 years working as a Chef Manager in this area working with clients in social housing. He has been overseeing 3 kitchens and 1 restaurant. Before this he worked in social care working with vulnerable children and adults.

Donna has been working as an accountant for many years and is local to the village. She has also been involved with the Beeches for a number of years so is excited to now put all her time and effort into it. Both are very pleased to have got started and have lots of ideas for future events. They are also both very excited to be working hard with the local community and put things together to support everyone here in the village. Please check out the Beeches facebook page to keep updated with this and if you have any ideas or thoughts about how the Beeches can support the village better then please feel free to email or pop in and see them. Their email address is thebeechesisleham@gmail.com



Very best wishes The Beeches 01638 780 097 www.thebeechesisleham.co.uk



Life at The Community Allotment

A slow start to the year due to the lingering cold weather and the Summer filled with a plague of mosquitos made it a bit trickier than usual for plot visits but we didn't let it deter us. The year started with our first 'Wine and Weeding' event in late April where lots of strimming, weeding and mowing took place to get to plot ready for the year ahead. We were also lucky enough to have one of our water tanks plumbed in to the shed by the fab Rick with the pipes etc donated by Donna, this has proved a life saver for the plot when the weather finally warmed up. We collected so much water that I was then able to syphon a lot off to awaiting water butts and it has kept us going all year, we have also had another tank delivered by Stuart which was kindly arranged by Sandra and her family. We went off piste a little in May when we visited the lovely Rose's gorgeous garden to help prep it for the village open garden event. The lure of cake and wine drew in a large team and the job was done in no time, we then finished off the evening sitting and enjoying the garden (and the cake).

The donated fire pit came out in June/July as the evenings still seemed to have a chill and it also helped ward off the mosquitos for a little while. Many a lovely evening was enjoyed and the plot was really starting to take shape.



The 'Nature Pond' was a hive of activity with a busy Bumble Bee nest under it and Newts and Dragonfly larvae were found in the pond, it is lovely to see that the local wildlife is enjoying the area as much as we do. In August we had a lovely meet which coincided perfectly with the 'Blue Moon', after some work on the plot we sat and enjoyed the view across the



open fields and watched it appear and enjoyed seeing the bats flying over and feeding at the same time. We have been harvesting lots of lovely fruits, veg and flowers from the plot, this year included crops of garlic, tomatoes, courgettes, onions, chillis, raspberries, herbs, apples and lets not forget all the lovely flowers. We also harvested some Rhubarb which Donna created Rhubarb Gin with, it was delicious!

We are now heading into the Winter when our meets tend to move indoors with events such as helping tidy the Poppies ready for the village Poppy Display, we also have an evening of creating wreaths and prep for our Community Allotment Christmas tree display at the Festival of Light. This will steer us back into Spring when we will start all over again on the plot.

It has been a pure joy to keep this project going for another year, so many lovely people have joined the various events and it is lovely to hear how much they enjoy meet-



ing up and how much joy it brings to them too. A huge thank you to you all for coming along.

I thought I would do a Gardeners' World style 'Jobs for the Winter' to sign off, so here it is.

Jobs for the Winter On dry days harvest seed (seed harvested from your own grown flowers and veg will always do well).

Plant Bulbs ready for a Spring display

Plant Hellebores – a gorgeous flower which helps feed early emerging pollinators

Now is the time to plant bareroot trees and fruit bushes

Plant out strawberry runners

Rhubarb crowns can be planted

Sow Broad Beans (Aquadulce) and Pea (Meteor) Plant

Onions and Garlic (the cold weather helps the garlic cloves to grow and split into segments)

Try not to be too tidy in the garden – all the fallen leaves and vegetation are fantastic for our smaller garden residents.

To kept up-to-date on the progress of the site please visit the links below or email me, I will be happy to answer any questions and chat about the project with you. If you would like to sponsor or donate anything to the plot

Cont'd on page 13

Lucy Frazer MP

As we approach the end of 2023, I wanted to look back on the year and let you know about some of the work I have been doing for you as your local Member of Parliament.



2023 has been a year of highs and lows. I think most people would join me in recognising the coronation of Charles III and Camilla in May as a memorable highlight. As the first coronation in seventy years, the event was always bound to be a special occasion, but I was moved by the many displays of national unity and celebration I witnessed over the Bank Holiday weekend.

However, for all of its wonderful moments, the year has presented us with challenges. Not only have we had a second year of war in Ukraine, but another conflict has commenced in the Middle East.

Locally, I have unequivocally opposed Sunnica's application for a 2800-acre solar farm since plans were first tabled, and most recently, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero to raise concerns about the fairness and thoroughness of the examination process, particularly in relation to the review of evidence on land quality and battery technology. I will continue to contest this application until the end.

I also know how important quality healthcare is to my constituents, and since I was elected, I have joined local health leaders and NHS trusts in calling for better health facilities in and around Ely. I was therefore delighted that the government invested millions of pounds earlier

this year in a new Community Diagnostic Centre at the Princess of Wales Hospital which will deliver medical checks, scans, and tests – cutting NHS waiting times. I have also recently written to the Health Secretary and the Integrated Care Board to press for the sufficient funding required to develop Staploe Medical Centre.

As MP for a largely rural constituency, I also appreciate the need for effective bus services. Following my efforts at the end of last year to prevent Stagecoach from axing or significantly altering 23 local bus routes, I was pleased to assist the Combined Authority with the retendering of bus services for at least another 12 months from April 2023. Recently, I have written to the Mayor to call him to identify how he intends to utilise the new £2.3 million government funding for Cambridgeshire's bus network, and to call for Isleham to be added to the No.112 route. More locally, a number of constituents have written to me about heavy congestion at Junctions 37 and 38 of the A142. In response, I have been working with my neighbouring MP, Matt Hancock MP, to request that National Highways appropriately upgrade the road to mitigate these issues, and in the process, ensure that they properly consult local residents.

Finally, I must mention how much I enjoyed meeting children at Isleham C of E Primary School in June for a special assembly. The session, which was co-run by Google and Parent Zone, was centred on the issue on online safety and was designed to help the children to identify and avoid online threats.

I wish you all the best for the rest of the year. And, as always, please do not hesitate to contact me on lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk if I can support you in any way.



Cont'd from page 11

we would love to hear from you, we would really like a gazebo for the plot so that we could have day time meets and any help towards that goal would be amazing.

Facebook – Isleham Community Allotment
Instagram – Isleham.Community.Allotment
Email – accommodation_in_spain@yahoo.co.uk

Where are we?

The Isleham Community plot is located on the Dun-stall Allotment site, on the first bend of the track.

Letter from Rev Day

For the last sixteen years now, my elder son and I have been gradually walking the South West Coast Path, from Minehead in Somerset to nearly Poole in Dorset – 630 miles in all. It goes through many popular seaside places, especially in Devon and Cornwall, but usually, we are the only two humans in sight, and often the only evidence of human activity is the path itself.

Sometimes, though, we're in one of those popular places.

I particularly remember Land's End: as we got within a mile of it, there began to be people around – people without backpacks or muddy boots! As we got closer, the number of people grew, until at the point itself it was positively crowded with people buying cups of tea and souvenirs, and vying for position for photographs next to the famous sign which says 'New York 3147 miles'.

They had come by car to visit a popular place, and probably most of them were hardly aware of the path that led there from hundreds of miles away, and carried on past for still more hundreds.

But really Land's End makes so much more sense when you come to it round the coast because then you can see it in its proper place.

It becomes part of a journey rather than just a 'destination'.

We carried on walking, and just fifteen minutes past the noisy theme park, we were alone again on top of the cliffs among the heather, enjoying the stunning views.

On this journey, the other thing about Land's End is it's the most westerly point. So suddenly, you're not walking west any more, but east – it's hard to notice at first, but everything has changed in an important way.

That walk made me think of the Christian story. Some parts of it are popular, with crowds, noise and bustle, and many people arrive, not along the path, but by some other route. But then they leave again, and they miss out on the tougher, but more beautiful and rewarding places which are so close by.

Christmas is a bit like Land's End because it's one of the most popular places in the Christian journey: we all enjoy it, and like the Christingles and the carol singing and we are touched by the story of God in a tiny baby, laid in a manger. But like Land's End, Christmas is a point in a journey rather than just a destination.

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At Christmas we get lots of hints that the path leads here from somewhere else, and leads on to other places: things like those readings from the Old Testament, the angels' song to the shepherds, and the visiting wise men.

The journey leads to Christmas from thousands of years before the birth of Jesus, in the words of the prophets who promised that God's faithful servant would come to take our sins away.

It carries on past Christmas through the sorrow of Jesus' death on Good Friday and the joy of his resurrection on Easter Day and beyond.

For many, those places look difficult or dark, and the temptation is to return to everyday life by the easy route.

But just as Land's End is only important because the rest of the coast around it, of which it happens to be the furthest west, so Christmas is only meaningful because of the rest of the story.

Without the story of how Jesus came to be, and what he went on to say and do, Christmas doesn't get past tinsel and lights. But when we come to it as the turning point on the journey of God's people, Christmas makes so much more sense.

God come as one of us, and the journey takes on a whole new direction. Now we're heading towards the sunrise – the ultimate redemption which God has made possible through Jesus.

On the coast path, each steep climb or descent, each rock to scramble over, each bog to squelch through, was made more bearable by knowing it was taking us nearer to our goal, to the point where we could take off our boots, put down our loads, and enjoy a good meal.

Christmas gives us that same hope in our spiritual journey, too. Christmas is the sign that whatever life brings our way, God has been here to share it with us, and walked along the path ahead of us.

Christmas is the promise that – whether it's round the next headland, or many miles further on – there is a welcome and a rest.

This is your annual invitation to come along on the journey!

St Andrew's Festival of Light

**Saturday-Sunday 2nd-3rd December and
Saturday-Sunday 9th-10th December
3pm - 6pm**

The countdown to Christmas in Isleham is always marked by St Andrew's annual Festival of Light.

The Festival of Light gives us the opportunity to view St Andrew's church illuminated by festive lights and trees. We are looking for individuals, groups, and companies to erect their Christmas trees in the church. Please contact Sheila Taylor at StAndrewsSoc@Outlook.com if you'd like to install a tree or if you'd like further information.

On Saturday 2nd December, they'll be market stalls where you can make a start on your Christmas shopping. Please contact Catherine Durance StAndrewsSoc@Outlook.com if you'd like to hold a stall or if you'd like further information.

They'll be carols, mince pies, mulled wine and hotdogs, and the event is finished-off on Sunday 10th with some festive entertainment at 4pm. Bring your family, meet old friends; and make new ones. It's a wonderful way to get into the spirit of Christmas.



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Free Transport to Newmarket

I hadn't realised, until my wife Doreen died in June this year, how dependent I was on having her car in which to get around. My son persuaded me to apply for a Bus Pass, which now entitles me to get to Newmarket twice a week, on market-days there, Tuesdays and Saturdays - *absolutely free!*

It leaves The Causeway (Isleham) at 9.30am, and twenty minutes later, it's at The Guineas (The Rookery). Plenty of time to do lots of things in Newmarket; and it leaves there at 12.20pm, for the return journey.

To find out if you qualify, phone this number, and you'll get all the help you need - as I did. **Telephone the County Council about concessionary bus passes on 0345 045 1367.**

The more people who take advantage of this transport, the more likely it is that it won't be withdrawn.

So - join the *jolly Isleham bussers*, and see yourselves what an excellent service it really is! Full marks to the Council for providing us with such a first class means of getting out and about!

Christopher Goodwins, (geriatric codger!)

With best wishes, Christopher



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Isleham Society



The Isleham Society encourages an interest in the village and its surroundings with a particular focus on history and heritage.

With that in mind, in September we enjoyed many thousands of years of local history presented in handleable objects by Mildenhall Museum, and in October we learned lots about Isleham's wonderful bees and the fascinating process of making local honey (highly recommended) from Dave and Sue Hall.

November revealed the complexities of dealing with enormous quantities of waste and just what happens to the contents of our Isleham re-cycling bins!

The Isleham Society is also very pleased to be able to contribute to events of significance to our village such as Remembrance Sunday and the Festival of Light.

It's also becoming a tradition to gather a few days before Christmas for carols and a little seasonal 'warmer' in the Social Centre Garden.

If you have any interest in the history and heritage of this remarkable village, please contact <Isleham.society@gmail.com>. Ask to be on the email info list and that will keep you up to date with news of events. Membership also gives you access to many interesting 'local history' articles. Did you know Benedict Cumberbatch made his first film here, the church has family connections with Oliver Cromwell or that Fordham Road was the scene of a political riot?

The programme of events for 2024 looks terrific and includes in January and February a 'footpaths' walk, a 'Mystery Objects' evening, and a return of the hugely popular Charlie Haylock this time with a 'History of Spoken English'!

And It's not just 'monthly third Thursday' talks at the Beeches, or the visits and themed walks, (great though those are) but we also try to support and develop projects and initiatives to assist long-term residents, and very new arrivals, to connect and share memories of how Isleham was in the past, and ideas for how it can be. We, of all ages, can have a say in that!

Annual individual membership is still, incredibly, only £10, - and a whole family can join for £15! The more members we have the greater the range of ideas, and questions we have as stimulus, - and the more The Society can contribute to the sense of community in the village.

With Seasons Greetings
Mark Fletcher (Chairman)

Feeders and Finches

Feeding the birds in our gardens is a major national pastime and gives enormous pleasure. It certainly helps birds to survive that otherwise wouldn't and some research suggests that the amount of supplementary feeding has the potential to support the equivalent of half the total number of birds in our countryside.

Over time, many of us will have seen changes in the visitors to our feeders. Long tailed tits and goldfinches seem to appear more often, but you may also have noticed far fewer chaffinches and greenfinches in recent years. Chaffinches failed to make it into the top ten of the RSPB's "Big Garden Birdwatch" this year, whilst greenfinches were moved from the "green list" to the "red list" of birds of greatest conservation concern in 2021 as their population has more than halved recently.



The main reason for this is a parasite disease – trichomonosis – that affects the birds' breathing and feeding. This disease was first seen in our finches in 2005. Greenfinches and chaffinches seem particularly susceptible though it does affect other bird species as well. The parasite (which doesn't affect humans) is spread through contaminated food and drinking water, so it is really important to prevent its transmission via our bird feeders and bird baths where the birds congregate.

Regularly (weekly if possible) cleaning and disinfecting feeders and bird baths; moving them around the garden so food can't accumulate (and so birds have fresh branches to wipe their beaks); and, if you find an ill bird, stopping feeding altogether for at least a couple of weeks can help break the transmission. And of course, it's important that not just you but your neighbours do this as well since "our" birds have no respect for our garden boundaries.

Alistair Burn

Isleham Community Pantry

The Community pantry continues to provide support and encouragement for those in Isleham and Fordham, who are struggling financially in these difficult times. Last month 38 parcels a week, on average, were given away and over 60 adults and 50 children were supported. We offer a warm welcome and are open every Wednesday 10-12 at The Ark Church, Beck Road Isleham. Please don't hesitate to get in touch, If we can help YOU! Vouchers are not required for this service and longer term help is available.

We are very grateful for the amazing support and generosity The Ark church, its members and many other individuals in the community, who regularly give to enable this service to be available.

Huge thanks go also to Coop, Fresh and Prosper, Fareshare, Ely food bank, East Cambs Food Network, Explore Outdoors (Kevin Porter), Carter Street Butchers, St Andrews and St Peter and St Mary Magdalene Churches (for their harvest produce), Piecemakers, Soham and Ely Hygiene Bank, Boomerangs pet food bank, Ely Baby Bank, and also to the wonderful team of volunteers, without whom this would not be possible.

Food Donations can be left in either coop crates or brought to the Ark on a Sunday, Monday or Wednesday mornings.

Financial donations are also gratefully received, cheques made payable to The Ark church (pantry fund) in an envelope and given to church office or by BACCS contact Claire for bank details.

We are currently preparing to share Christmas hampers with residents. Please get in touch if you are struggling and would welcome this support as a one off or more regularly.

Any other questions please contact:
claire.gillett.communitypantry@thearkisleham.co.uk or telephone 07394 395718.

Best wishes
Claire Gillett, Pantry Coordinator, on behalf of the whole Community Pantry team ♥

Isleham Community Pantry.

As you may be aware the pantry has been identified as a local cause which will benefit from customer spending at the Coop over the next 12 months. Simply click on the following link and register your support for our food bank: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/79375> The cost of food and basic provisions distributed through the pantry runs to approximately £6k per year and currently supports almost 40 local families. Your support for this cause is both needed and very much appreciated.

Thank you. Richard Liddington

Isleham Gala Day 2024

**Gala 2024 will be held on
Saturday 6th July 2024**



Following on from our AGM meeting in October we would like to thank the team that grew this year and decided to stay apart of us to support Gala for another year. Unfortunately not many more did come and join us In October but that doesn't mean there isn't time and we would like to shout out again how Important numbers are to continue a growing tradition.

At the AGM new roles were given out to everyone so the group can work together and do individual tasks to pull the day out of the bag, Have you read this far and thought you could make a difference and join In to help support the competitions or races or anything else?.

If so don't hesitate to contact the Gala team on Facebook and come and join us at the meetings from January

The next meeting will be the 17th January keep checking the social media pages, Facebook especially to find out where it will be held,

Maybe you can bring along a friend or family member as well or come to January's meeting to see what it is all about and if it could be for you first?.

Every one plays a massive part to make the day happen and for 42 years we have managed to do this but as we do say so often, with a small, very small committee it isn't easy. But with a large and growing community we do ask yearly just for some more help morning, noon and night on the day..

In January we look forward to planning Gala 2024 with the community and we look forward to seeing you there at our meetings with many more ideas and believe us when we say, July isn't far away.

Daniella Jacynka



Isleham Informer Advertising

We welcome any advertising in the Informer but to display the adverts in the best possible way we have put together the following guide lines.

All adverts should be kept to the same ratios as the ISO A series of paper sizes i.e. A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9.

Try to create the advert in A4 (or larger) portrait or landscape depending on the sizes listed below.

Try to maintain the ratio, we can always reduce the size when placing into the Informer as this will maintain quality. If the advert requires enlarging there will be a definite loss of quality.

All sizes are approx as most adverts will be adjusted to fit the page so could end up slightly smaller or larger.

Acceptable file types are: jpeg, psd, pdf, doc & docx.

Most other standard file types can also be accommodated as they can be converted.

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Half 195 x 135	A5 (A4)	Landscape	£42.50	£85.00
Quarter 95 x 135	A4	Landscape or portrait	£22.50	£45.00
Eight 95 x 65	A6 (A4)	Landscape	£12.50	£25.00
Twelfth 95 x 35	2/3 A6	Landscape	£7.50	£15.00

Prices correct as of April 2023. 10% booking discount on an annual subscription. All prices exclude VAT.

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ISO A formats

Format Width x Height (mm)

A3	297 x 420
A4	210 x 297
A5	148 x 210
A6	105 x 148
A7	74 x 105

The editor.

Pollarding



A few weeks ago we re-pollarded to of Isleham's Tilia (or lime or linden trees). Below provides a brief explanation of why, for the conservation minded, or simply curios.

Pollarding mature tilia trees is done for several reasons. Firstly, pollarding is a traditional method of tree management that involves cutting back the upper branches of a tree to promote new growth. This practice helps to maintain the size and shape of the tree, preventing it becoming too large or overgrown, and extends its lifespan.

Tilia trees, commonly known as lime or linden trees are commonly found in villages and community settings due to their aesthetic appeal and cultural significance. These trees provide shade, beauty and a sense of identity to the community. They are often planted in public spaces such as parks, town square, or along streets, enhancing the overall ambience of the area.

Moreover pollarded tilia trees offer habitat to native wildlife. The dense growth of new branches resulting from pollarding provides shelter and nesting sites for various bird species. Birds such as finches, tits and warblers find protection and food source within the tree canopy. Additionally the flowers of tilia trees attract pollinators like bees and butterflies, contributing to the diversity of the area.

In summary, pollarding mature tilia trees is done to manage their growth, maintain their appearance and prolong their lifespan. These trees are an integral part of a village.

Nick Sharp

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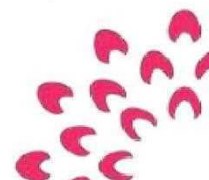
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