**Islip Newsletter**

Front cover image-Across river to village

Welcome to the latest edition of the Islip Newsletter where we aim to bring you all the news and views of our beautiful village and its wonderful residents and visitors.

Here at the Islip News desk we know that many Islipians get their news online but we also know that this isn’t the case for everyone. So, to get an idea of how you want to receive your local village news, we’ve put together a short survey which we really hope you will complete. There’s a paper version at the back of the newsletter so just tear that page off, fill it in and pop it through the letterbox of the Working Men’s Club by 14 November 2017. Or if you are more tech-savvy, please complete the online version at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Z8QYN/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Z8QYN/) We need you to tell us if you think the Islip Newsletter is a good thing and how we can make it better so that it works for you. This is your chance to have your say – don’t miss out!

**Copy deadline for the next edition is 24 November 2017.** Contact details are at the back of the newsletter.

**Bridge on the River Nene re-opens**

Image-New Mill bridge

*Caption – A ramp and wide safety steps with railings mean that more people can enjoy this route whilst boaters can still use this part of the river even when water levels rise.*

The much-anticipated Islip Mill footbridge has re-opened for all to enjoy and we hope you agree that it looks very smart.

The new footbridge will provide boaters with 3 metres headroom above normal water level and provide pedestrians with improved access from Islip to Thrapston and vice versa. Take a stroll and check it out for yourself.

This work was part-funded by Islip Parish Council.

**Have you walked the Thrapston Heritage Trail?**

Take a stroll over Nine Arches Bridge and follow the Thrapston heritage trail which takes in Thrapston House, the Union workhouse, St James Church and Montague House, home to the Washington family. You will find the route at www.nenevalley.net or by picking up a leaflet from the church porch. If anyone fancies devising an Islip heritage trail, please get in touch – see the useful contacts list at the back.

**Your phone box needs you!**

Image-phone box

*Caption – It’s almost there; just a bit more help needed to finish it off*

In previous editions we told you that the village phone box will soon be home to a new defibrillator for the use of villagers in an emergency.

The box is really starting to take shape but help is needed with painting the inside and with fitting glazing. If you have some time and skills to spare, please contact the Parish Council Clerk on 07756 851026 or at islip.clerk@gmail.com All materials provided.

**Village poetry**

Did you know that National Poetry Day was 28 September 2017? In celebration of poetry’s power to bring people together, here are two poems penned by local talent. For poetic inspiration, visit www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk or pop into the library and enjoy a whole section of poetic greats.

**Autumn**

The night time darkness lingers on,

Postponing every dawn,

The warm, dry weather we enjoyed

Has suddenly all gone.

The leaves are brown and curling now,

The land looks full of woe,

As time goes racing by we ask,

“Where did our summer go?”

Yet as the days grow short and dark

We need not feel despair,

For Christmastide awaits us next

To lift each earthly care.

As seasons come and seasons go

To challenge daily life,

The sun awaits behind each cloud

To ease our daily strife,

Then once again we can embrace

A world all clothed in green,

And dreary winter disappears

As if it’s never been.

In its due time, spring will return

To bring us light and cheer

Take heart my friends – we will survive

The rolling of the year!

**Charlie and the bird by Isobel Taylor**

A little bird hiding in an egg waiting to hatch

And a cat below called Charlie waiting to catch

Licking his lips, he sits and waits

One little jump is all it takes

It starts to crack and see a beak

And before too long you hear a squeak

**Have lots of fun and stay safe this Halloween and Bonfire Night**

Pumpkin image

On Halloween, lots of you will be heading out on the streets to trick or treat. Follow these useful tips to help you enjoy trick or treating, while staying safe.

* Make sure a responsible adult or guardian goes with you - it could be an older brother or sister if they're over 16
* Plan your route before you leave the house and make sure someone else knows where you are going
* Carry a torch and wear reflective or light-coloured clothing so you can be seen
* Stay close to home and if possible only visit the houses of people you know
* NEVER enter a stranger's home
* Stay on pavements and check carefully before crossing a road - especially if there's a large group of you
* Throw away any treats or sweets that have been opened or unwrapped
* If you are wearing a mask, make sure that you can see clearly out of it
* Make sure your costume is warm - it is almost November!

Firework image

Only adults should deal with setting up firework displays, the lighting of fireworks and the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used. Children and young people should watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance. Follow these top 10 tips for a safer fireworks party:

1. Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable

2. Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time

3. Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary

4. Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back

5. Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks

6. Never return to a firework once it has been lit

7. Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them

8. Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators

9. Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire

10. Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

Sparkler image

Sparklers are often viewed as being harmless but they burn at fierce temperatures, equivalent to a welding torch. Follow these top tips for sparkler fun and safety:

* It is recommended that sparklers are not given to under-5s
* Make sure everyone handling sparklers wears gloves
* Hold sparklers at arm’s length while being lit
* Don’t wave sparklers about close to other people
* Never hold a baby in your arms while you are holding a sparkler
* When the sparkler has finished put it in a bucket of cold water.

**All work and no play makes you very dull**

Image-rocking horse

*Caption – Kids of all ages love our village park*

Our recreation ground is a real asset to the village with all ages enjoying the new play equipment. Yes, we’ve seen the mums and dads enjoying a sneaky go on the swings when the kids are busy whizzing down the zip wire and it’s great to see.

The play area is for everyone to enjoy and we hear that it’s popular with visitors from surrounding towns and villages too. One mum from Thrapston regularly visits the site with her little one who just loves the rocking horse. Let’s face it, we all love a go on that one!

**Hosting a party? Need some meeting space?**

The village hall and the pavilion have all you need for your function/ event. Both boast ample community space with excellent kitchen facilities, parking and easy access.

The hall, which is licenced for entertainment, seats 100 for larger events and has a smaller room for meetings. For more information, contact Penny Pedroli on 01832 730057/ penny@midasstrategies.co.uk or Julie Lymn on 01832 730119/ julielymn@icloud.com

The pavilion has a large function room with French doors enabling outside use (ideal for sports, bouncy castles, picnics etc.) as well as an FA Step 7 standard football pitch, training pitch, cricket square, floodlighting and changing facilities. For more information, visit www.islip-parish.co.uk or contact Richard Maxwell on 07811 744264 or islip-pavilion@outlook.com

Both facilities are ideal for workshops and classes so please spread the word if you know of someone who is looking for a great venue. And if you’re looking to join a class, try short mat bowls, karate, table tennis, singing, art, Pilates or the Islip Age Concern Welcome Club. Use the details above to find out more.

**Volunteering opportunity!** Do you have a few hours to spare and want to give back to the village? Help is needed with managing the village hall and with maintaining the garden around the hall. If you can help with either, contact Penny Pedroli on 01832 730057/ penny@midasstrategies.co.uk or Julie Lymn on 01832 730119/ julielymn@icloud.com

**Bowls and friendship**

If you’re looking to try something new or fancy meeting new people, try bowls.

The Islip Bowls Club meets at the bowls green next to the Recreation field for practice on Tuesdays 6-8pm. Weekly matches are held on Thursday evenings and either Saturday or Sunday afternoons. All you need to get started is a pair of smooth flat-soled shoes. There are various sets of bowls for you to borrow until you’re ready for your own set. For more information, call Barbara Finch on 01832 733154.

If you’d rather play indoors, then try the Islip Short Mat Bowls Club which meets at the Village Hall every Tuesday morning 10am-noon and, during the winter, Wednesdays 2-4pm. It’s £3 per session with a £5 annual membership that includes tea and biscuits.

Short Mat Bowls is a non-contact sport played on a 45ft carpet and provides gentle physical exercise. For more information, call Rosemary Shannon on 01933 624252, or come along to a session. All ages are welcome.

**Speedwatch is back**

Image – Islip village road sign

Speeding continues to be a concern in Islip and we all need to check our speed when driving through the village.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) is a scheme to help people reduce traffic speeding through their neighbourhood and volunteers are needed to operate the cameras in Islip. You will receive training from Northants Police and will work with fellow volunteers to run CSW sessions where you will record details of speeding vehicles which is then passed to the Police to follow up. To become a volunteer, contact islip.clerk@gmail.com or 07756851026. Your help is really important for keeping our roads safe for all to use.

**Christmas is coming and Islip is looking festive**

Image – scissors and ribbon

At least, it will be when you all take part in the Islip wreath-making competition!

You can make it out of anything - recycled bits n’ bobs, foliage, tinsel, old wrapping paper and ribbons. And you can make as many as you like. Enjoy a bit of healthy competition by challenging the kids to make one that is better than yours.

Just let us know at islip.clerk@gmail.com or 07756851026 that you’re taking part so that our judges don’t miss your entry. Make sure it is on display on your front door by 20 December ready for judging. There’s a prize for the best wreath as well as the glory of being Wreath Champion of Islip. So, get planning the best, the classiest, the sparkliest, the craziest wreath Islip has ever seen!

**Church news**

The Christmas Tree Festival is back at St Nicholas Church, Islip on Sat 9 Dec 10am-4.30pm and Sun 10 Dec 12.30-4.30pm so pop down to enjoy the splendid trees and cuppa with cake. Only £1 each with proceeds going to the church restoration fund.

And if you’re feeling creative, decorate a tree on the theme of a Bible story. Your tree must be no larger than 5ft and needs to be at the church by 6pm on 8 Dec.

**Church services**

Held at St Nicholas, Islip unless stated otherwise

Sun, 15 Oct 11am - Parish Communion

Sun, 2 Oct 10.30am - Benefice Service, Thrapston

Sun 29 Oct, 10.30am - Sunday Worship

Sun 5 Nov 11am - Parish Communion

27-29 Oct – Art & Craft Show. Fri & Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 12.30-4pm. Local artists. Refreshments available.

If you would like to come to a church service but don’t want to come on your own or find getting there difficult feel free to contact one of the church staff listed on the Useful contacts page.

Help is always needed with flowers, cleaning, teas, reading and giving out books etc. Do please contact a churchwarden if you can help in any way. We’d love to hear from you!

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**Dingbats** are visual word puzzles from which a well-known phrase or saying has to be identified; say what you see. Answers are on the bottom of the Useful Contacts page

**Useful contacts**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Group/organisation** | **Name** | **Phone** | **Email/ website** |
| Islip Newsletter | Lou Spolton | 01832 731009 | newsislip@gmail.com |
| Art Club | Sarah Pendred | 01832 733531 | sapendred@gmail.com |
| Age Concern Welcome Club | Tess Rose | 01832 732718 |  |
| Bowls Club | Pete | 01832 735170 |  |
| Friendship Club | Liz Curtis | 01832 732619 |  |
| Ladies Choir | Barbara | 01536 394431 |  |
| Parish Council | Julia | 07756851026 | islip.clerk@gmail.com |
| Short Mat Bowls | Barbara Finch | 01832 733154 |  |
| Rose & Crown pub |  | 01832 734474 | islip.pub@gmail.com |
| Woolpack pub |  | 01832 732578 | enquiries@thewoolpackinnislip.co.uk |
| Working Men’s Club | Terry | 01832 733165 |  |
| St Nicholas Church |  |  |  |
|  | Rector Revd Nolan Robson | 01832 734614 | www.oundledeanery.org.uk/parishes/islip |
|  | Joy Farey-Wood (reader) | 01832 733073 |  |
|  | Sally Morris (warden) | 01832 733392 |  |
|  | Elizabeth Cox (warden) | 01832 734253 |  |
|  | Gisela Daniels (secretary) | 01832 734133 |  |
| Streetlights |  |  | streetlighting.ipc@gmail.com |
| Sports Pavilion | Richard Maxwell | 07811744264 | islip-pavilion@outlook.com |
| Village hall | Julie Lymn | 01832 730119 | julielymn@icloud.com |
|  | Penny | 01832 730057 | penny@midasstrategies.co.uk |

Please remember that most or all of these people are volunteers, so please be considerate about when, and at what time you call.

For more information, please visit [www.islip-parish.co.uk](http://www.islip-parish.co.uk)

**Dingbats answers** – 1 All over the world; 2 Children in need; 3 Flat iron; 4 High seas; 5 Peace be with you; 6 Round Robin; 7 Altar boy (alter/altar); 8 Double cream; 9 Forever and a day; 10 Man overboard; 11 Read all about it; 12 Cake mix; 13 Double decker bus; 14 Dust to dust; 15 The game is up; 16 Maximum; 17 Room at the top; 18 A multitude of sins

**Tell us what you think of the Islip Newsletter**

We’re always looking for ways to improve the newsletter and need to know how you use it and how we could make it better. Please answer the following questions and pop your response through the letterbox of the Working Men’s Club by 14 November 2017. We’ll print the results in a future edition of the newsletter and on www.islip-parish.co.uk

1. How would you classify yourself as a reader of the Islip Newsletter? Please tick the answer that applies most of the time

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I read it cover to cover |  |
| I read most of the articles |  |
| I only read one or two articles |  |
| I ready every other issue |  |
| I never read it at all |  |

2. Please rate the following aspects of the Islip Newsletter.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Excellent | Good | Average | Poor | Very poor |
| Range of content |  |  |  |  |  |
| Quality of writing |  |  |  |  |  |
| Design and layout |  |  |  |  |  |

3. What do you like most about the Islip Newsletter?

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| --- |
|  |

4. Is there anything about the Islip Newsletter that you think we could do better?

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| --- |
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Thank you for taking the time to respond to our survey. Please remember to post it through the letter box of the Working Men’s Club. Or you can complete an online version at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Z8QYN/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Z8QYN/) Please respond by 14 November 2017.