

*Butterflies at Old MacDonald's Farm!*

Throughout November we shared "Stay & Play" sessions with many parents. Butterfly parents were treated to a visit to Old MacDonald's Farm cosying up in the barn with cuddly farm animals, collecting eggs in the hen house and feeding the ducks. Bumblebee children pulled on their wellies, making the most of our garden, as they took friends and family on a Bear Hunt. There was much swishing, splashing, stomping, running and crawling as they acted out one of their favourite stories. In December we look forward to more "stay & play" fun which will definitely include a sprinkle or two of Christmas.

As we move in to the New Year, we will be busy working on our new vegetable garden ready for Spring. If there are any enthusiastic, green-fingered volunteers\* in the village, we'd love to hear from you. Let's hope we can share photos of an impressive veg patch next time! Sessions are available for Summer and Autumn 2023. Please contact us early to avoid disappointment or, for more information, please do not hesitate to telephone the office (01795 424348), or visit our website [www.happydaysuk.co.uk](http://www.happydaysuk.co.uk).

\*volunteers will be required to have a DBS check



**BUSINESS FOCUS**

Want to get your business featured in our monthly Business Focus Feature? Showcase your business, tell Iwadians who you are, what you do etc, and get into every home in Iwade - free of charge! We try to showcase one business per month. Email us: [the.iwade.observer@gmail.com](mailto:the.iwade.observer@gmail.com)

"Hi!, I'm Lisa, I'd like to introduce myself. I've recently started a new business here in Iwade. I'm a passionate Massage Therapist offering a range of Therapies tailored to clients' individual needs. I am mobile and I also work from Kailana Beauty Clinic in Iwade on Colson Drive. You can follow "Hands On Massage" on Facebook and Instagram or get in touch on 07742076675 See my special Christmas Deals"



*Santa's Little Helper*  
A Deep Tissue massage to an area of your choice. Great for healing tension areas that have built up over the year!  
£25

*Christmas Angel*  
Relaxing and de-stressing Back Neck and Shoulder massage with a mini gift!  
£35

*Ultimate Christmas Pamper*  
An extended Full Body massage, offering 90 minutes of pure bliss and relaxation with a pamper gift pack!  
£75



# Merry Christmas

The Iwade Observer  
December 2022

Year 6 find history on their doorstep!

On Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th of November, Year 6 pupils of Iwade, Bobbing and Grove Park (Bourne Alliance) visited the old WW2 anti-aircraft site in Iwade, which is now the Speedway site. Our pupils were given a tour of the site that dates back to 1940, when gun turrets were installed to fend off enemy aircraft. They learnt how the Luftwaffe would follow the River Medway or Swale to find the more densely populated areas to bomb. All the children had a fantastic experience, walking around the site, looking at the gun turrets and other wartime buildings. Our tour was informative, exciting and delivered by Paul and Ken, who work at the Speedway, prepare for race days and volunteer to lead these educational visits. It was incredibly kind of them to give up their time to talk to over 180 children! It is a wonderful piece of WW2 history that is just on our doorstep! Thank you to the Speedway for letting us visit!



Aerial view of the old Anti-Aircraft site showing the round gun mountings.





### **CHRISTMAS AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

**Thursday 15th December at 6.00pm  
CAROLS IN THE VILLAGE SQUARE**

**Join us for carols mince pies and mulled wine  
\*\*\*\*\***

**Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve  
CAROL SERVICE for the whole family at 4.30pm  
MIDNIGHT COMMUNION starting at 11.30pm  
\*\*\*\*\***

**Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day  
CHURCH OPEN for private prayer - No formal service**

**All Saints Church wishes you a  
Happy, Blessed and Peaceful Christmas**

### **MONDAY FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

We met twice in November, firstly on the 14th when we had a lighthearted bingo session the announcement of which drew a few groans from the gentlemen present. However they knuckled down, or in bingo parlance, got their eyes down and had a laugh - mostly at their own ineptitude!!

At the time of writing our second meeting on the 28th hadn't yet taken place so who knows what was in store for our merry band! It was threatened that we'd be doing some primary maths to enable helping of grandchildren with homework, but we'll see!

Preparations are in hand for our Christmas lunch on December 12th. so if you are a Friendship Group attendee, and that date had somehow passed you by, then make sure you get along! This year we are having our Christmas do in Iwade's wonderful barn from 11:30 until 14:00 on the 12th.

We then will not meet again until January 9th. So if you'd like to try something different in the New Year come along for a tae/coffee, biscuits and the chance to meet new friends and have a chat or even do some Primary maths!!

### **SITTINGBOURNE SPEEDWAY'S BUSY YEAR**

The speedway league season officially ended on 31st October and although we still had some practice days planned throughout November and into December we can still reflect on a very busy and successful year at Sittingbourne Speedway.

The year started with our new track improvements all in place and a healthy calendar of practices and training sessions planned for both tracks. We were then asked to accommodate the Kent Royals speedway team and league racing returned to the track after an absence of many years. Starting in April, the ten Kent Royal meetings we ran were incredibly well supported events with better than expected attendances at every league match plus some excellent racing and some thrilling matches where the result was not decided until the last heat of the meeting. The team finished just one league place short of a place in the play offs to determine the league champions, so a highly successful first season ended on a very optimistic note and plans for next year are already in hand. We also ran a junior team in the Midland Development League as a second half event alongside the main league meeting which gave some of our junior riders the opportunity to get some league racing experience under their belt.

We were also asked to run some rounds of the British Youth Championship and were very pleased to be nominated to hold the British Youth Championship Finals in early October where the British Youth Champions were crowned and received their trophies.

Alongside all this we also found time to have the Flat Track racing community down to use the track to run several well supported training sessions.

Aside from speedway activities in early November we had the pleasure of hosting several classes of school children from the local schools for a wartime history tour of the Gunsite where our tracks are situated. Unfortunately, these trips were somewhat marred by the heavy rain showers we had at the time but this did not stop everyone having an interesting and informative visit.

The work does not stop, for our Winter program begins now with a lot of track and building repairs to be carried out and our annual Speedway Pitbike Winter Series to get underway.

Lastly, the Club would like to wish all their friends, helpers, volunteers and supporters a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing everyone again in 2023

### **We're back!**



After the success of The Iwade Food and Drink Festival, at the beginning of October, the trustees of Iwade@TheBarn have decided to run the pop-up micro pub, The Shepherd's Crook, monthly once again. So our next date is Friday 16th December from 18:30, and then the last Saturday of each month from January 2023.

Please come along and help raise money for the barn, whilst having some great drink with good company.

### **Tinkerbells Early Years**

Term 2 is well underway at the setting, the children have been getting creative, experimenting with materials and created various firework pictures, for sweet treats they made chocolate apple slices and breadstick sparklers. The children have also been busy with various activities relating to winter and Christmas. We had a visit from Click Create who took the most amazing autumnal photos of the children over at the orchard, how lucky are we to have such a great space so close by.

The children have been learning new Christmas songs which we will be showcasing at our Christmas production to the parents/carers at the end of term. We also held our Christmas fair last month, it was nice and busy and great to see so many of our children again who are now at school.

Term 3 is set to be busy, our topic for the term is 'People who help us', and about all the people in our community who help keep us safe. We hope to have visits from a few of these professions so the children can learn about the job roles, we look forward to updating you next time.

We have limited availability at both of our settings and sessions are filling quickly for September 2023. If you are interested in a place for your child please call in for a parent information pack alternatively you can contact us via email: [enquiries@tinkerbellspreschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tinkerbellspreschool.co.uk)

### **Parent and Toddler**

We have been extremely busy over the past couple of months, it has been lovely to see so many new faces, the baby area has started to fill up again which has been nice as all babies from last year are now toddling around the hall. Our timetable is now underway and is as follows:-

1st Tuesday of month – normal session

2nd – craft week

3rd – boogie tots

4th – sensory and messy play.

Sessions are £2.50 per child, siblings £1.00. We are open every Tuesday 9am-11am term time only. There is no need to book you can just turn up, please join us for tea, coffee, biscuits and meet new people.

### **FLOOD ACTION GROUP**

Following the flooding in May 2018 a flood action group was formed in the village supported by the National Flood Forum. Multi-agency meetings were arranged with some success but there remains work to be done to help prevent further flooding.

I attended a meeting hosted by the National Flood Forum and The Kent Flood Action Group who are working on a plan named Building Resilience In Communities (BRIC) with the hope that by working as a group more notice will be taken by the powers that be. One of their ideas is to build a story-map of each area which would show ponds, streams, drains etc so that problem areas can be identified. David Jordan from the NFF is willing to come to show how to download and maintain a Geographical Information System for the village if a village group is operating.

If anyone is interested in reforming the Flood Action Group please let me know, with the recent heavy rains the village should be prepared. Barrie Whiting [cllrbwhiting@iwade-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrbwhiting@iwade-pc.gov.uk)



## IWADE READING GROUP - NOVEMBER 2022

Hilary Foulds

This month we set to reading Jeffrey Archer. Everyone had to admit that, like him or not, with his writing skills and themes he's a very good writer. A wide range of titles were covered including "Prisoner of Birth", a stand-alone novel well worth the read, "Nothing Ventured" with an exceptionally good twist at the end, it's sequel "Over my Dead Body", "Tell Tale" a collection of short stories with "A Good Toss to Lose" particularly recommended, "The Prodigal Daughter" about a girl's ascension to the position of US President and "Not a Penny More". We decided to have a free

reading month in November and to dispense with a book of the month. We'll report back our recommendations of anything good we've read at our meeting 13 December which will be followed by a celebratory lunch for Christmas at the Woolpack. Remember to bring your Secret Santa!

Our meeting on 10 January will review *The Last House on the Cliff* by Ann Wyk Clark and *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James.

We meet at The Barn every second Tuesday at 10.30. Love reading? We'd love to meet you!

## A Christmas Message

*So here we are, amazingly, already in December - and approaching Christmas - and the end of 2022. How is it that time goes by so quickly?*

*I wonder how your year has been - what highs and lows have occurred. I wonder how things in your own life have been impacted by the things going on around you – those events happening in our communities, our country, and our world.*

*I wonder how you are managing and how you are feeling.*

*It does seem as if we are all of us living in the midst of significant change and uncertainty. And aware that there are so many people and places in the world experiencing conflict. This knowledge can leave us feeling overwhelmed and anxious and our lives can feel dark and troubled.*

*And yet ...*

*There are good things happening. There are moments of blessing. I hope that you will be able to pause and reflect on these - and be able to look and listen at what is happening around you. I hope that you have known personal moments of joy. I hope that you can gaze in wonder at the winter landscapes. I hope that you will notice families and neighbours and communities working together to help each other - and volunteers who listen and come alongside to make a difference - and national and international organisations working to bring aid and to establish peace.*

*...There is so much that we can give thanks for.*

*Sometimes these good things are not obvious – or perhaps we have just become so used to receiving bad news and expecting to be disappointed that we don't notice. But I think we have to look for the good things that are happening – and join in with what brings blessing – and give thanks.*

*And I would encourage you to look again at the Christmas story – to look again to Jesus – who is our light in the darkness and our hope and our peace.*

*With every blessing, particularly this Christmastide,*

*Lis Willmet,  
Lay Reader*

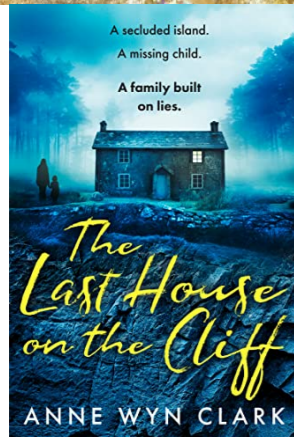
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# IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2022**

Present: Cllr. A. Dollimore – Chair  
Cllr. S. Waters - Vice – Chair  
Cllr. P. Hyde  
Cllr. S. Lancashire  
Cllr. R. Stalley-Moores  
Cllr. D. Waters  
Cllr. S. Tolhurst  
Cllr. S. Cheeseman  
Lynda Ives, Acting Clerk/RFO  
5 Residents

## Welcome and Apologies

The Chair formally welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Cllrs. Langham and Whiting.

## Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None.

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. S. Waters, the minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held 30 September 2022, were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

## Visitors/Public Time

**Visitors** – A resident attended to mention the issue of children in the village causing a nuisance; he asked what can be done? Cllr. S. Waters mentioned the Youth Provision Initiative, funds have been allocated and Iwade is included in this. In the past there have been Youth Clubs, but these gradually folded and a youth Games Bus. A Teen Shelter was suggested, but residents objected to this being near to their properties. The Council involved itself in the search for a Skate Park and did try to form a Youth Council, so that youngsters in the village could put forward ideas and get involved in initiatives, sadly this did not come to fruition. The resident agreed to speak to a contact and come back with information about possible initiatives.

Residents attended to see if there was any update on parking issues in Sheerstone, which they raised at the September meeting. Land ownership has been determined (part Swale Borough Council/part KCC) and the Chair asked residents to email details of the proposal to the Clerk, who in turn will forward them to Officers at both Councils. Action: Clerk

**County and Borough Councillors** – None attended, no reports received.

**Community Warden/PCSO** – Neither attended, no reports received.

## Matters Arising from the Minutes

**Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) Review** – Agreed to add Swallow Avenue yellow lines to the HIP. Councillors to assist with distribution of consultation letters. Action: All Councillors/Clerk

**Planters, The Street** – no update, take off Agenda for the time being. Action: Clerk

**Iwade Village Centre** – Clerk chased the village centre management group and received the following response: “One of our approved Contractors will be attending the site to remove all the loose and stored ricks around the area. Will also look at the prospect of reducing the height of the wall and capping it off whilst we wait for the Developer to respond to our communications.”

**Speeding, Sheppey Way** – PCSO has asked for random speed checks to be carried out.

**Site Entrance Pond Farm** – Clerk has written to Swale’s Planning Officer objecting to the entrance on Sheppey Way; she has received an acknowledgement.

**Parking Issues, Sheerstone** – see Visitors/Public above.

**Planning** – applications are viewable on: Swale: <http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications>; KCC: <https://cloud2.atriumsoft.com/KCCePlanningOPS/searchPageLoad.do> - None.

## Correspondence

**Tracker** – Cllr. Tolhurst put forward a proposal for a tracker to enable Councillors to keep up to date with the progress on projects/work, which was agreed. Cllr. S. Waters volunteered to look at the Council’s Microsoft 365 package to see if a central database can be kept which will enable all Councillors to log in and view the data. The Tracker will be used purely for updating purposes, not for decision making. Action: Cllrs. Tolhurst/S.

Waters

**Lamp Column painting** – Cllr. Hyde raised the issue of KCC lamp columns in the village needing repainting; some were -

showing signs of rust at the base of the column. Clerk to contact KCC Lighting to see if they will undertake any remedial work. Failing this the Parish Council to investigate costs and feasibility of undertaking this work. Action: Clerk

**Update on the Swale Borough Local Plan** – noted the next stages of the local plan review are paused due to the uncertainty around the Government’s direction of travel for the planning system.

## Finance

**Sign-Post Telly Tubby Hill/School Lane** – Quote £430 + VAT – Cllr. Tolhurst negotiating with existing company and looking at another supplier with a view to replacing the fingerpost at the bottom of School Lane. Bring back to next meeting. Action: Cllr. Tolhurst/Clerk

**Grounds Maintenance Contract** – to include additional areas in revised maps – Note cost TBA by Swale Borough Council – still awaiting information, bring back to next meeting. Action: Clerk

**The Queen’s Green Canopy** – Memorial Tree Planting for her Majesty – Clerk has sought advice and a quote for the supply of a native species tree. Bring back to next meeting. Action: Clerk

**Pond Management** – Cllr. Tolhurst spoke to David Carey, Chairman of the Kent Tree and Pond Partnership; he is happy to come out and look at the pond in Woodpecker Park. Cllrs. Tolhurst and Cheeseman agreed to meet with this gentleman. Bring back to next meeting. Action: Cllrs. Tolhurst/Cheeseman

**Plaque for Beacon** – agreed to investigate costs for a bass plaque to commemorate the late Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Action: Clerk

Projects – Updates on Current and New

**Christmas Lights Event 2022** – Taking place 4 December 2022. Snow Machine has arrived, and an application for a grant has been submitted to offset some of the cost. Cllr. Dollimore to provide vouchers for those who helped with the village clean up to obtain food as a thank you. South-East 4X4 will again assist with the road closure. Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore seconded by Cllr. S. Waters, agreed to donate £200 to this voluntary group.

Action: Cllr.Dollimore/Clerk

**Next Village Clean up** – Sunday 23 October. Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire agreed £250 to meet costs associated with the clean-up. Action: Clerk

**Village Hall** No further updates.

## Reports from Representatives

**Hall** – Painting now finished; new door locks and CCTV installed. Maintenance to floor being carried out during half-term and new carpet will be laid in due course.

**KALC** – Nothing to report.

**Swale Western Area Committee** – Next meeting 1 December; Cllr. S. Tolhurst to attend. Action: Cllr. Tolhurst

**Swale West Parishes** – Next meeting 17 October, Cllr. S. Waters to attend. Action: Cllr. S. Waters

## Any Other Matters Arising

Cllr. Hyde advised – Woodpecker Park – the lifebuoy is again missing. There is graffiti near to the Cairn, around the nature walk on the bridge and on the Lifebuoy cover. Clerk to report to Swale Borough Council.

Action: Clerk

**King’s Coronation** – Clerk to add this to the next Agenda.

Action: Clerk

Meeting Closed

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