

BINGO

In aid of Swale Cats Protection

SATURDAY

**16TH
JUNE**

Iwade Village Hall
Ferry Road
Iwade
ME9 8RG

FREE
ENTRY

RAFFLE

TICKET SALES 7-7:20PM

EYES DOWN 7:30PM

Children over 8 years old welcome

CASH
PRIZES

LOW
PRICES

BRING YOUR
OWN FOOD
&
DRINK

To reserve your table, please
email publicity@swale_cats.org.uk
or call 01795 437372



Monday Friendship Group Janet Gregory

Our lovely Barn is such a welcoming place for our friendly bunch of people, and always a smiling face ready with a mug of tea or coffee. During May our guests were Michael Edwards (travel councillors) and Andrea's School of Art. Following a recent visit by Roy of GoCruise, some of our members took the opportunity of visiting Saga cruise liner "Sapphire" at Dover docks for a guided tour and delicious 4 course lunch, (see pic) and it is hoped that more outings can be organised.

Our doors are open from 10 30 to 12 15 on the 11th and 25th June, with forthcoming speakers including Iwade's Community First Responder and Iwade Village Warden, and guidance on avoiding scammers.



The Iwade Observer

June 2018



Were there?

On a warm Friday night in May 16 residents of Iwade, both adults and children took a walk in Iwade Nature Park amongst the orchards and ponds. What was sunbathing and what was skinny dipping in the orchards and ponds? Iwade community orchard has so much in the way of wildlife it is proposed that it becomes a local wildlife site and to verify the existence of various species we have to undertake surveys of the orchards and ponds.

With the days becoming warm and nights mild, the breeding season is now in full swing. Felt mats were laid down by the children four years ago, how many were remaining, how many had been removed, were there any left from the initial surveys undertaken by the housing developers. We were about to find out!

Reptile Survey

On the first part of the evening when the sun was still out and reptiles were still absorbing the last of the sun's warmth through the felt mats, Mike Phillips from Whitehorse Ecology and a volunteer for Krag (Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group) took us on a very interesting and informative walk. We checked out the mats which were still evident and had some great surprises. Many of the mats had only ants but one of the first which the children peered under had a Great Crested Newt, what a surprise. This was followed by another and one bright eyed walker spotted a Slow-worm bathing on the path as we wound our way towards the translocated orchard. With Great Crested Newts, Common Lizards also known as viviparous lizards and Slow-worms which are lizards without legs and even one which was about to shed its skin, we were well on our way to confirming we had the right evidence to become a local wildlife site.

Habitat Survey

Having seen a good total of reptiles and two amphibians was this sufficient evidence? We now needed to survey the ponds for

habitat suitability and most scored high for Great Crested Newts. We scrambled through nettles and undergrowth to reach some of the ten ponds then with data collected we needed to survey the ponds for amphibians.

Amphibian Survey

As darkness descended and with torches ready, a hardy group of adults and the same number of children proceeded to check out the ponds. The main pond was not so productive with only a frog, some ducks and a coot. But moving on to the smaller ponds in the new orchard we were rewarded with not only both male and female Great Crested Newts, and Common Newts

but we found in abundance the leaves of water plants folded up hiding the eggs of the Great Crested Newt. Once these guys have done their job in the ponds they reabsorb their

crests and elope to dry ground. Several male Great Crested Newts were discovered finding their way across the path surrounding the pond to dry ground.

We finally reached the two new ponds amongst the translocated plum trees, although not so productive for newts but they were dominated by the marsh frogs as well. Common newts were seen in all but the initial pond. A good productive night

If you would like to find out more about reptiles and amphibians or become a surveyor for reptiles, have a look at the Krag website <http://kentarg.org> or Whitehorse Ecology <http://whitehorseecology.co.uk> where reptile surveying training can be found.

For further information contact
Pippa Palmar
pippa.palmar@kentdowns.org.uk 01303 815170



BUSINESS FOCUS



The Old Sweet Cart
Wedding & Event Hire



'The Old Sweet cart' is a family run business who supply their elegant Sweet Cart for hire. We cater for all types of events mainly within Kent, but we do try to get involved where possible with all local community events in and around Iwade.

The company was only formed in October but has gone from strength to strength very quickly. As a family business, we pride ourselves on building positive relationships with our customers by providing the best possible experience through the hire of our services. We want our customers to feel totally satisfied with their choice to work with us, and hopefully recommend us to others.

As a company we want to become a bigger part of the community and hopefully become a regular choice for local residents who are thinking of celebrating a special occasion. 'The Old Sweet cart' always endeavour to meet the customers' needs to the best of their ability, this is why we are such a special company to work with.

'The Old Sweet Cart' can be contacted via



our website www.theoldsweetcart.co.uk, but we would also be happy to provide a face to face consultation to discuss our customer's requirements, we think this ensures complete customer satisfaction, and just adds that personal touch.

Young Photographer Competition

To enter take a photo of the local wildlife in Iwade, and send to the.iwade.observer@gmail.com

The winner will receive a photography book and a bug hotel.

Entries must be with us by 15th June 2018.

Competition for ages 7 to 12 years old.



By sending in the artwork you are confirming that you are the legal guardian of that child, or that you have sought permission from their legal guardian.

Brownies' Toymakers Kerry Holman

It has been a busy few weeks at 1st Iwade Brownies. We have said sad farewells to some Brownies, but welcomed new ones which has been great. This term at Brownies, we are working on the Toymaker badge! We have been designing our own games, and have played everyone else's too. We have also enjoyed playing some old classics! As part of the badge, we will be designing and making puppets, so that we can put on a show for the parents! Our imaginations have been going wild, and our creations have taken longer than the leaders anticipated! However, they are pleased that it has been a good way of recycling odd bits from the cupboard...



Memory / Dementia Café The Barn

On Friday 15th June 10.30am – 12.30pm
Also on Friday 13th July 10.30am – 12.30pm

Anyone is welcome to attend.

There is no charge.

A great place to come if you are caring for a person living with dementia, if you're worried about someone's memory, or if you just want to meet other people affected by dementia.

Stimulating activities, information & support are also available.

For more information call:
Jeannette – 01795 428364 / 07930 187737

Bluebells and Spring Blossom James Apps

The walking group is taking advantage of the mostly good weather in and around the village. That is to say we can enjoy the displays of flowers and blossom in Iwade gardens as well as taking in the seasonal displays on the pathways around the village.

This time of the year the lure for the average walker is to seek out the native plants in the woods around us. We planned a walk in the Woodland Trust Estate at Hucking with a lunch at the Hook and Hatchet for the 30th April. The day was chosen for the possibility that the bluebells would be at their best. I looked at the weather forecast ahead of the day and all indications suggested that it would be fine.



Wrong!
The day was a washout so we postponed the trip to 8th May. The difference was that in the woodland area close to the Church entrance where normally the display is breathtaking the blooms were fading. However, the bonus was spotting a Woodpecker doing its bit. I was assured that it was a Greater Spotted variety although I don't think it knew that being busy with attracting its mate. The sight of the bluebells, fresh May blossom, woodland flowers and fresh green leaves plus a nice lunch, made the usual Thursday walk that followed one to savour and appreciate the pleasure of wobbling around Iwade, Jewel of the South



Tinkerbells Early Years Jody Nichols

May ended term 5 nicely at Tinkerbells. We have had a very busy time having fun and learning about our topic, 'Animals.' The children chose and took part in various activities which explored the theme. They made



masks of their favourite animals, played games and created puppet animals too! We also had fun planting some vegetables in our garden. The children have been taking good care of them and are very excited to see some of them starting to grow already!

It's hard to believe it but June is now upon us as we begin our final term of the academic

year! We are very excited about the upcoming events and activities for the term too. Our topic will be 'Healthy living' where we will explore how to keep ourselves fit and healthy. We are looking forward to a sponsored walk and of course our annual sports day too.



As the term progresses, we will be preparing our older children for their transition to big school. This is a very exciting time in their journeys and we will be celebrating it in many ways with them. If you have any questions about this please feel free to talk to a member of staff.

We are currently full at Tinkerbells, Iwade until September and only have a few afternoon spaces thereafter. There are some spaces available at our Clock Tower setting but these are also limited.



Therefore, if you are interested in a place for your child, please call in for a copy of our prospectus as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can email us at: enquiries@tinkerbellspreschool.co.uk

Grow your own, Pick your own, Eat your own! Christine McQuade

The growing season has finally arrived. After a wash out Spring the sun has made an appearance! We are bit late starting, but it's never too late to grow your own. You never know you could be harvesting your own fruit and veg sooner than you think! If you are interested in having a plot on our allotments, put your name down now as we have opened our waiting list for this year. You could soon have an allotment like those pictured here!!

Contact: Christine McQuade - 07971003424



Men's Breakfast Club Ron Francis

The Men's Breakfast was well supported at its June meeting in the Barn. Bacon and sausage rolls were washed down with plenty of tea or coffee. Our very own Community First Responder, Alex Hill delivered a very interesting talk about the work of The Sittingbourne Community First Responder service which was thoroughly enjoyed by all – see pics. The next meeting will be on June 5th at 09:30 at the Barn where all men of retirement age will be most welcome.



(Ed's Note – Janet Gregory sent in this genuine church notice (not from All Saints I hasten to add) which seemed appropriate to the Men's Breakfast Club – "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands." Well maybe it's not a rummage sale but send your hubby along if he's not worth keeping around the house!!)

KARAOKE & DISCO AT THE VILLAGE HALL – 7TH JUNE 7:30 TILL 11PM

THIS IS A **FREE** EVENT – BUT TICKETS WILL BE NEEDED E-MAIL :
CHAIR@IWAVEVILLAGEHALL.CO.UK
BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND DRINK

We have new entertainment equipment and this will be a dry run

Bingo for Cats!!

It's bingo time again! A very popular evening last time so we're having eyes down again to win cash prizes on Saturday 16th June; it's bring your own food and drink and we'd love to see you there and raise more money for Swale Cats Protection, so please come along to Iwade Village Hall from 7pm and support us. Everyone over the age of 8 is welcome to play. For more info, please call 01795 437372 or email publicity@swale.cats.org.uk.

Since our last update, we've been busy rehoming cats that have come into our care through no fault of their own. We rehome a huge number of cats and kittens despite not having a homing centre like our colleagues in Bredhurst or Maidstone (Notcutts), it's all done from the homes of our volunteers and funded by events like the bingo evening. Many people think we are all one branch of Cats Protection, but we are very much our own group in Swale, running events, trying to get more volunteers, dealing with feral populations and lately, training the Bredhurst team to trap, neuter and return (TNR).

TNR is something Swale excels at, our welfare volunteers are the best and they spend many hours staking out cat traps in order to catch the unneutered populations. The process starts weeks before the stake outs though with Swale CP and a local resident starting a feeding pattern for the group of cats. This encourages the cats to come to one feeding location at specific times of the day and once that pattern is established, we can pop a humane trap in that area and hope that one of them enters it. It's not as easy as popping your own pet cat into a basket of course, these cats are feral and have never been handled before so there is generally a lot of hissing and spitting while the cat is safely transferred to a travel basket.

Once safe in the van, our volunteer will then take them to a local vets where neutering spaces have been pre-booked. A period of recovery is given afterwards, then the process is reversed with the volunteer collecting the cat and returning it to wherever it came from. These cats cannot generally be rehomed, so returning them to live their feral life is the best thing to do for them and as they can't reproduce any longer, we save them from many illnesses and diseases that unneutered cats can suffer from.

Each vet space costs money of course which is why we continue to fundraise in Swale. Your support with that is greatly appreciated and we hope you can always find a way to help us.

An easy cashless way to help is to donate any unwanted gifts to us for our raffles as they can raise a lot of money. Things like men's or ladies' beauty sets, bottles of bubbly or anything cat-related too. If you don't have anything suitable, please consider donating the price of takeaway hot drink each month, it would be a massive help for our small branch. You can sign up to a regular or one off donation by visiting our page at: <http://bit.ly/DonateSwale> or if you want to donate goods, please email: fundraising@swale.cats.org.uk or call 01795 437372.

Along with our bingo evening, we'll also be fundraising at the Bredhurst Cats Protection adoption centre on Sunday 3rd June between 11am-3pm. It's their Spring Fair so is sure to be a great day out as normal with lots of different stalls, entertainment and cats of course! Easy to get to by going through Medway Services, past the Travelodge then turning left onto Matts Hill Road.

That's all for now, you can keep up to date with what's happening at Swale CP by joining us on FB and Twitter by searching for Swale Cats Protection, or visiting our website at www.cats.org.uk/swale.

Really hope to see you at the bingo night!

Iwade Parent and Toddler Group ...

... meets every Tuesday morning in term-time from 9am to 11am in the Village Hall. It's run by volunteers and is an excellent playgroup. There's a baby area to protect the little ones from the toddlers, a range of toys to play with, and different tables for crafts, books and puzzles for quieter activities. The children sit down for a drink and a biscuit at around 10 (that's the only quiet time!) and parents can help themselves to tea or coffee. £2 for the first child and 50p for each additional child.

Our dates for June and July are 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th June 3rd, 10th July then back in September!

Brooke Acott

SPEEDWAY SEASON OPENS

Sittingbourne Speedway got their season underway with their first public meeting of 2018 on Sunday 15th April at their track just off Raspberry Hill Lane.

The event consisted of two challenges match's, a youth event and demonstrations from speedway sidecars and a sizeable crowd saw 40 heats of speedway spread over three hours which helped brighten up what was a dull, cloudy afternoon. The meeting was marred by a nasty crash in one of the early heats which caused a delay as a section of the air fence was damaged fortunately there were no serious injuries and as the meeting restarted and things settled down the racing got better and better with some exciting tussles out on the track.

The Club were very pleased to run this the first meeting of the year as all the recent wet weather had made track preparations very difficult and can now look forward to a very busy program of public events lined up for the coming summer months.

Disclaimer

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01795 417416 printroom@swale.gov.uk

KCC report from Kent County Councillor Mike Whiting

I have received a complaint from a resident about a lack of allocated parking bays for Blue Badge holders behind the shops, which I am following up. I am also following up a complaint about the Iwade Meadows Management Company on behalf of a resident.

Following an issue raised at a recent Parish Council meeting by a member of the public, I have confirmed that the consultation in respect of the yellow lines in Springvale was indeed carried out in accordance with the rules.

The Environment Agency have said they will not do anything about stopping children playing on the Mansfield Drive Bridge. Their safety team's view is that the bridge is as safe as it can be. Given that view, I am not sure what more can be done to alleviate the concerns of the resident who originally raised the issue.

Many will be aware of the chaos once again caused by the broken manhole in Swale Way recently. I am told engineers have fitted a new stronger cover today and have told me that if it breaks again then they will divert the drain and put the manhole somewhere else.

Finally, Swale Borough Council and Spirit of Sittingbourne have announced they will be closing the roads around Sittingbourne station for 20 weeks from June to September to allow them to take out the roundabout and start building the cinema, restaurants and hotel. I am told a full press release from Swale Borough Council will be issued, explaining the diversions and other changes necessary to allow the work to go ahead. I will publish more details on my Facebook page as I get them.

If you have a comment on any of the above or you need help with anything, then please email me at: mike.whiting@kent.gov.uk.

Ed's Note

Great to read on FB about attempts to bring AmDram to Iwade. Mandy, from Mews Brewhouse, called a meeting of "anybody interested" in setting up a group to produce a pantomime for Iwade. That would be a great addition to village life, and we look forward to reading more about how plans are progressing. Mandy is of course featured elsewhere as winner of a KALC Community Award recently. This award has been made to a number of villagers over the years and recognises people for their contribution to village life. Well done Mandy and all past winners.

Neighbourhood Watch News

We have purchased 9 Neighbourhood Watch signs and we had one free from the Liaison officer.

I would like to thank Iwade Parish council for the funding to be able to purchase them and for arranging them via their handy man to be put at strategic points around the village. Also thanks to my wife Carole who rode around the village in her mobility scooter to choose the best locations for them. There will be some notices going up in the parish council notice boards soon so please take a minute to read them.

We are hoping to arrange another meeting very soon if there is enough interest. Please comment on our Facebook page Neighbourhood Watch.IwadeVillage or text me on 07946887094 .

Regards. Terry Wiles

Iwade Village Hall Update

The hall AGM will be held on 6th June at 7pm. All residents over the age of 18 are able to attend. Please arrive by 6.50pm for a prompt 7pm start. Anyone wishing to join the Hall Management Committee will need to email this intention by 7pm on Tuesday 5th June to: chair@iwadevillagehall.co.uk

Tickets have been selling fast for our 50's & 60's night with live band Quiff & the Shades. Please contact:- treasurer@iwadevh@gmail.com to secure your tickets. This event is on 2nd June 7.30pm - 10pm tickets are £6 per person. There will be a cash bar but please feel free to bring your own snacks.

The next Food and Craft fayre will be on Sunday 10th June 10am-1pm. New stalls are always welcome. To book or for any other information please contact:- fayre@iwadevillagehall.co.uk

Swale Cats Protection are holding a bingo night on 16th June. For more information and to secure your table please contact:- publicity@swale.cats.org.uk or call 01795 437372

We have recently purchased PA/DJ equipment for the hall and will be testing it out on 7th July 7.30pm - 11pm with a karaoke and disco. This event is FREE as it enables us to try out the new equipment. However, you will need to get tickets so that we do not exceed maximum numbers in the hall. Please bring your own food and drink. Please email:- chair@iwadevillagehall.co.uk for tickets.

If you would like to get involved at the hall we are looking for a trustee and a clerk on the committee, or if you would like to help out with fundraising and events please contact:- chair@iwadevillagehall.co.uk

All information on events, regular clubs and booking the hall can be found at:- www.iwadevillagehall.co.uk or by contacting:- bookings@iwadevillagehall.co.uk

Please also keep up to date on the hall's Facebook page.

**IWADE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 11 April 2018**

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Horner and seconded by Cllr. Cheeseman, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14 March 2018 were agreed and signed as a true transcript.

Visitors/Public Time

1. Visitors – A resident raised an ongoing issue with an adjacent property; this is a private dispute and the Parish Council does not have the power to assist. Another resident mentioned overgrown vegetation in All Saints Close; advised this possibly falls to the Management Company to remedy; they will forward a copy of any sent correspondence to the Clerk.
2. County and Borough Councillors – County Cllr. Whiting advised, in 2016 a decision was taken to withdraw the mobile library service where it was not being used by more than two people on average each visit. The library stop at Sheerstone was monitored for the past year and averages only one user per visit. This service will be withdrawn, but KCC may offer those affected the use of an iPad to access library services and books online. Regarding yellow lines in Springvale, have asked for confirmation that there was proper consultation.
3. Community Warden/PCSO – The Community Warden reported two fly-tipping incidents near Sheppey Crossing. After a number of garage break-ins around Iwade carried out a ‘Sheduction’ initiative delivering around 200 information postcards to properties in Redwing Avenue, Bittern Road, Woodpecker Drive, Sanderling Way and Sheerstone. After a reported break in at Fulmar Avenue, delivered postcards to residents for them to order free smart water packs from the Swale Community Safety Unit. Have been checking out car parking issues in School Lane, now hopefully resolved. The PCSO has noticed an increase in bikes in the area and is looking into this. Burglaries have been increasing in most areas of Sittingbourne. Bikes in Ferry Road are on his radar!

Matters Arising from the Minutes

1. Facebook Page – Parish Council page created – agreed to place the URL on the Council website.
Action: Clerk

Correspondence

1. Government consultations on the National Planning Policy Framework & Developer Contributions – Cllr. Clark to put together bullet points and circulate to Members, brin

- g back to next meeting. Action: Cllr. Clark/Clerk
2. Swale Borough Council draft Open Spaces and Play Strategy: 2018-2022 – Noted.
3. Publication of Parish Council information – Agreed to respond that the information is in the public arena and can be obtained from the Parish Council website.
4. Consultation - Refresh of Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy – Agreed Members to respond individually. Action: All Councillors
5. Draft Economic Regeneration Framework for Swale 2018-2021 – Noted.

Finance

1. Grass cutting contract – Details received and cost less funds from KCC are £3816 (plus V.A.T.) for 2018/19. Proposed by Cllr. Cheeseman and seconded by Cllr. Horner, all agreed to accept the cost and continue the contract with Swale Borough Council. Action: Clerk
2. Neighbourhood Watch Group request for Financial Assistance – Proposed by Cllr. Gale and seconded by Cllr. Langham, agreed the sum of £90 for the supply of Neighbourhood Watch signs. Further agreed that the Parish Council will pay for printing leaflets about Neighbourhood Watch, the Chairman of the Iwade Group to supply the Clerk with the details. Action: Clerk

Clerk advised the central bronze for the Cairn is being caste.

GDPR

Proposed by Cllr. Gale and seconded by Cllr. Clark, agreed to go with the firm of GDPR-info, who will act as the Data Protection Officer, supply templates/policies and carry out an audit, for the yearly cost of £482.50p. Clerk advised a firm would be carrying out confidential shredding this month.

Reports from Representatives

1. Hall – Decorating finished.
2. KALC – nothing to report.

Any Other Matters Arising

1. Persimmon site – Cllr. Clark advised pathways have not been finished, they are a health and safety issue; there appears to be no contractors on site. Clerk to check with Enforcement and ask that in accordance with the planning conditions this be done. Parts of the new public open space have not been fenced; Clerk to raise this with Swale’s Green Spaces Officer.

News from The BrewHouse

Mandy Reeves



We’ve won our first award, a KALC Community Award Scheme 2018. On Wednesday mornings come and join our Baby Musical Rhyme Time, it is a musical mayhem for the Pre-School age group. Come and sing along to well-known nursery rhymes and songs & have some fun with our musical instruments. From 10am for the rhyme time to start at 10.30 until 11am (School Term Time Only). Then why not stay and catch up over lunch with all the other Mums, Dads, and Grandparents etc.

KALC – Kent Association of Local Councils, aim of the scheme is to acknowledge and give recognition to those that have made a significant contribution to our local community.

This award is not ordinarily awarded to businesses, but we had been nominated and won the certificate as the shop is a well-used community hub and our team have established a number of hobby and local interest groups and made it an integral part of the village. (Ed’s note – the Parish Council sent the Observer a copy of their nomination – see the footnote)

We would like to Thank Iwade Parish Council who nominated us for this award, we were very grateful and surprised to win and that we feel appreciated

Don’t forget we hold various events and groups every week:

Every Monday morning between 10am – 12pm we run The BrewHouse Woolly Natters, a knitting and crochet group where you can bring along your current project and get inspiration or learn something new and meet new people and have a chat over a slice of cake and cup of coffee

Do you love Crafting???????

If the answer is yes, come and join us on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12ish and join in all the fun with our fellow crafters, just bring along a project and have a play.

Calling all ladies who run their own business, every 3rd Tuesday of the month the Swale ‘Ladies That Latte’ meet up for a networking meeting, this is to support each other, ask questions, the village.” The nomination had to be contained within a share successes, and learn from other experiences – the next maximum of 32 words!

meeting will be held on 19th June.

On Wednesday mornings come and join our Baby Musical Rhyme Time, it is a musical mayhem for the Pre-School age group. Come and sing along to well-known nursery rhymes and songs & have some fun with our musical instruments. From 10am for the rhyme time to start at 10.30 until 11am (School Term Time Only). Then why not stay and catch up over lunch with all the other Mums, Dads, and Grandparents etc.

Why not come and join us for our new Cookbook Book Club - a book club with a difference, bring along your favourite cookbook or recipe and join us for coffee and a cheeky cake and share your favourite recipes. Get some new ideas and be inspired to be more creative with your food. Next meetup Sunday 24th June 1.30pm – 3.30pm

We celebrated the Royal Wedding for Harry & Megan on Saturday 19th May, all photos of the fun and games will be added to next month’s news.....

Finally, if you run a group that is looking for a venue, give us a call on 01795 426520, or pop in & arrange a suitable date. Don’t forget we are open 7 days a week - Monday – Friday 9am to 4.30pm, Saturday & Sunday 10am to 4pm (Closed Bank Holidays)

We not only offer amazing coffee and artisan teas, but you can also find breakfast, light lunches and delicious ice creams and sundaes and don’t forget our choice of cakes and cream teas. If you want something special, why not book an Afternoon Tea

You can be kept up to date on all our antics on our Facebook page:- www.facebook.com/mewsbrewhouse
We look forward to seeing you all very soon

(Ed’s footnote The Parish Council sent the Observer a copy of their nomination - "The coffee shop is a well-used community hub. Although a business, Mandy has established a number of hobby and local interest groups and made it an integral part of the village." The nomination had to be contained within a maximum of 32 words!)

**Iwade Reading Group
Sylvia Francis**

We tried the Barn for the first time for our last meeting, and a very pleasant venue it was too! The Book of the Month was “The Girl from Ballymor” by Kathleen McGurl. This was thoughtfully written about two young girls from different centuries. Kitty, a young Irish woman struggling to survive through the hardships of the potato famine during the 19th century, and Maria a modern young woman from England visiting Ireland to research her family history. The story has many twists and turns and it was generally agreed by the group that this book was well researched and enjoyed by all.

Next month’s book is “Keeper of Lost Things” by Ruth Hogan.

We will meet in Christine’s lovely garden on 12th June at 10:30

