



Iwade Observer

Welcome to the March edition of the Iwade Observer. Please feel free to submit comments, articles, photos and suggestions for future editions to jc_hunt@btinternet.com

Enjoy!

March 2012

Puddleducks Reaches 100 Customers

Puddle Ducks Baby and Toddler Swimming classes which are owned and run by Angela Higginbotham of Evergreen Close in Iwade, has just reached their first milestone of achieving 100 customers. Angela bought Puddle Ducks last year and started offering the baby and pre-school swimming classes in Sittingbourne, Faversham, Ashford and Whitstable in September. Angela says 'it has been a fabulous first term

and the second term is now in full swing. Word is getting out about our classes and so far the feedback from customers has been excellent. Teaching babies and toddlers to swim is the best job in the world and it is such a lovely time for the parent and child to spend together, not to mention a vitally important lifesaving skill and good exercise. From Easter, we will be offering Friday afternoon lessons in Sittingbourne to add capacity to the already popular Monday



afternoon lessons, and we will also be adding more classes to our Faversham pool too. Of course, Iwade residents continue to get 10% off their first term with us so if you have a child who is under five years old, get in touch!

1st Iwade Brownies

Due to our dwindling numbers we are trying out a new approach to try and keep Brownies interested week in week out and we hope that we have succeeded. Our first meeting back after the Christmas break saw the Brownies start work on an Environmental themed badge. At our second meeting we had a sports themed activity evening where we used the school's PE equipment. Although the girls competed against each other in teams every one of them was a winner. At our third meeting we held a Chinese themed night in honour of the Chinese New Year. The girls tasted food using chopsticks, although the spoons did come out later. They also learnt a Chinese song and found out their animal sign according to the Chinese New Year calendar. Our fourth meeting was to celebrate Australia day, this was based around a "Buck Tucker Trial" involving getting sweets out of flour using a straw, marshmallows out of custard and jelly worms out of jelly.

We have a lot of notable dates happening next term, Mothering Sunday, St Patrick's Day, St David's Day and Easter. We hope to incorporate some of these events within our meetings.

We are a friendly bunch and would welcome new members. There are spaces available for girls aged 7 to 10 years old. The cost is £2 a week and a great time is had by all. Come and see us on Mondays 5.45pm to 7pm at Iwade Community Primary School term-time only or contact lisa.oflynn@btinternet.com.

Queens Jubilee Celebrations

Are you interested in celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee? Iwade Parish Council will be planting 10 trees in the Village Park with a plaque that will be unveiled on the Jubilee Weekend. The Parish Council would like to add to this and maybe have some live music and a BBQ etc but needs help from the residents. If you would like to get involved in making this a party for the village please let Lynda Fisher know on 01795 477015 or email: iwadepc@blueyonder.co.uk

WOW Days at Iwade School

Each term classes begin their CLJ (creative learning journey) topics with what's called a WoW day. CLJ is how we teach the subjects of history, geography, art, design technology, music, science, ICT. We also teach our literacy using the CLJ themes where we can. The children have their interests taken into account and take inspiration from topics such as "G'Day Mate" "Bombay dreams" "La Bamba" "The Terrible Tudors" to name a few of the most recent themes around India, Australia Mexico and the Tudor period in history. Teachers use WoW days to awaken interest in the theme and motivate all children to have the desire to want to learn more. Sometimes teachers plan their own days allowing their creative juices to flow, on other days we bring in talented visitors to help us bring the learning to life and sometimes visits out of school are planned. The school commits a budget of over £10,000 to enhance our children's



learning in this way. In order to make our money go that bit further we often join up with our partner school in Bobbing. When the topic comes to its conclusion we hold a showcase event. This draws the topic

together in celebration of the successful learning. We are starting to invite parents along to see these showcases as often work has been done at home as part of family learning.

Iwade W.I

You may recall from last month's Observer that Iwade WI is celebrating its 80th birthday this year. We started the year with a birthday lunch at Hempstead House Hotel in January when all 30 members and our area adviser Sue Maylem enjoyed lunch together followed by birthday cake made and decorated by our President Val Pugh.

Our February meeting was in the Iwade Village Hall where we welcomed Tony Harris with his talk Flying for Fun. Our March meeting is on Wednesday 21st March at 7.30pm also in the village hall. We have speaker Sarah Jane Ladbroke coming with her talk Mudlarking on the Thames. The Thames is now one of the cleanest metropolitan rivers in the world, but throughout history was treated more as the rubbish bin of London. Mudlarks have been around for centuries. It was the name given to people who scavenged the foreshore for saleable items. The modern mudlarks are a bit different from their original counterparts. They don't have to scavenge, they're just looking for artefacts and bits and pieces. Large amounts of ancient waste can still be found along the river's shoreline, providing a privileged window onto bygone eras for those who know what to look for. We are looking forward to hearing Sarah Jane's story. Also at the March meeting we are having a chocolate raffle. How can you resist? We will then be selecting Iwade WI's entry to the Newington Group annual competition. This year the competition is for a Crown, any medium, to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. At our meeting on Wednesday 18 April we have a fashion show courtesy of Edinburgh Woollen Mills. Some of our members will be modelling next season's latest styles. Watch this space.

Meetings of Iwade WI are held at 7.30pm every third Wednesday of the month. For more information about Iwade WI please refer to the village noticeboards or contact Hilary, our Secretary, on 01795 474686 or by email hilary.foulds@hotmail.co.uk. We love welcoming new members. How about coming along to one of our meetings to see how you like us? If you are nervous about walking through the door on your own just give Hilary a ring and she'll arrange for one of us to walk in with you. We are all individuals with different interests but we do enjoy getting together to listen to an interesting talk or to enjoy a meal together.



Do You Have a Romsey House Type?

Resident Heidi Girdler has problems with slabs coming off the lower roof of her Ward's Romney house and is interested to see if any other residents have the same issue.

According to Heidi, she has slabs coming off the lower roof which attaches to either side of glass roof panels on the lounge ceiling. She lives in Sanderling Way and is still within the 10 year NHBC warranty. When Wards came out to inspect they confirmed it was defective workmanship, however Heidi is unlikely to be covered to repair as they have a minimum claim level of approximately



£800.00. Further they will only repair the side that has come off and not the rest which are also likely to have been put up the same way!

Heidi has noticed a couple of other houses that have had this problem and wondered what outcome they had.

If you have had this problem with your house please email Heidi at heidi.girdler@talktalk.net.

Editor's Note

Well, I've tried to make this issue Iwade Observer as colourful as possible. Hopefully when you read this the weather will be starting to get warmer and the snow will be behind us. I've added some residents' photos on page 7 just as a reminder of the snow (we may still have it now - hopefully not).

It's sad to be seeing Mel, our PCSO leaving the village but she assures me that a new PCSO will be taken over her role but at the time of printing it was not known who that would be - Thanks for all your work in Iwade Mel and good luck over in Grove Ward.

It's been good to see more residents coming along to the monthly Parish Council meetings recently. The Parish Council is there as a 'bigger voice' for residents. At each monthly meeting there is time set aside when residents can comment on anything on the agenda or raise any other concern they have in the village. Why not come along?

If you would like to keep up to date on everything that is happening in the village why not have a look at the facebook group 'Iwade Does Facebook', if you haven't already. We have 330 members on there now and it's growing all the time. It's a great place to chat about anything Iwade.

James Hunt



Farewell To Mel

It is with regret that we have to say farewell to our PCSO Melanie Platt. Mel will be leaving the Iwade and Lower Halstow Ward to go and police the Grove Ward. Mel said " It has been a pleasure for me to work in the village, I have met some wonderful people and enjoyed my time here."

Newts & Trees



KRAG

A date has been set to survey the Great Crested Newts that are resident in the many ponds we have around the village.

KRAG will supply the necessary equipment and give training. It will take place in the evening of the 28th April. If you would like to get involved please contact me using the details on the right.



Iwade Parish Council are looking in to the possibility of having a Tree Warden to keep on eye on trees and hedgrows within the village. This will be a volunteer role and full training will be given. If you think that you may be interested in this role please contact James Hunt on 0778810128 or email jc_hunt@btinternet.com

Disclaimer

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Parish Council Notes

Taken from the meeting held on the 11th January 2012

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Harris, the Minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 14th December, 2011, were agreed by Members and signed as a true transcript.

Proposed by Cllr. Gregory and seconded by Cllr. White, the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 22nd December, 2011 were agreed by Members and signed as a true transcript.

Clerk advised that there was an error in the monthly minutes of the 9th November, 2011, under Finance, the item relating to the new 4 drawer Filing Cabinet – the cost put to Members and minuted in her notes was £149.99p, plus V.A.T., the typed figure of £129.49p plus V.A.T. was a mistake and was for a three drawer unit.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Village Park/Pond – Cllr. Hunt has spoken to Kent Reptiles and Amphibian Group (KRAG) who are keen to come and hold a meeting to talk to all villagers about Great Crested Newts and other wildlife within Iwade. Villagers are also coming forward, eager to be involved in environmental projects within Iwade and help with any surveys.

Cllr. Hunt also mentioned that during a meeting with officers from Swale Borough Council it was discovered that the pond in the Village Park is silting up and becoming overgrown with vegetation (Swale is responsible for the maintenance of this and the park). Cllr. Hunt expressed his concern that this will eventually prevent water from draining via an outfall pipe into Iwade Stream, with the result that flooding could occur during periods of heavy rainfall. Parish Council to pursue this with Swale Borough Council.

Salt Bags – Cllr. Gregory and the Clerk met with a KCC Engineer (Ian Young) today to look at possible sites for salt bins. It appears that the Parish Council will have to purchase these bins as there is a strict points system which has to be met if they are installed and paid for by K.C.C. Seventy-five percent of these points are allocated to 'steep inclines' which Iwade does not have. The Officer took photographs of the suggested sites and will be forwarding details of costs to the Clerk. These costs include the bins being filled on three occasions after which the Parish Council will have to pay for the salt.

Roundabout Sponsorship – Cllr. Whiting has been looking into the matter and there does not appear to be a problem with K.C.C. He will contact Swale Borough Council to see if he can try and assist the Parish Council with its desire to see the roundabouts on the A249 planted to enhance their appearance; the hope is to get this project funded by sponsorship.

Mobile Phone Reception – Cllr. Phillips reported that he has been advised that the problems within the village are due to the smart phone usage that is operating on a different signal. A new type of technology is being introduced to cope with this but is not available at the present time. The problem users in Iwade experience is also widespread across the country and won't be solved until the new technology is up and running.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Trees – Cllr. Hyde has spoken to Jon Bourne, Technical Director at Knauf and brought him up to date on the matter. He has also contacted the Nursery regarding the trees. They have suggested Birch root balls with an 18 cm girth and recommended planting from the middle of February onwards.

Councillors thought that during the Jubilee weekend it might be nice to invite the Mayor to unveil the tree commemoration plaque and if finished open the School's Sensory Garden at the same time, if the Headteacher is agreeable. A further suggestion was to turn this into a Diamond Jubilee celebration for the whole of the village - perhaps the Village Hall could have a barbeque with entertainment in the garden area? We could also approach Wards to see if they are willing to use one of their JCBs to dig some of the holes for the trees. All of this will need to be investigated further, agreed/coordinated with the Mayor, Iwade Community Primary School, the Village Hall Committee, Graeme Tuff of Swale Borough Council, Wards and Knauf.

Visitors/Public Time

Parishioners – A resident queried why the traffic lights had been out in Ferry Road – Councillors assumed there

was a problem with the units.

County Councillor and Borough Councillors – County Cllr. Whiting has already advised on the roundabout sponsorship. He thought the community groups within the village would also like to be involved in the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

Temp. Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO – A copy of the Warden's report has been circulated to all Members. The Warden advised that he will be calling on homes in areas affected by dogs' mess asking for people to come forward with details of offenders.

There are problems with cars parking on pavements and traffic speeding through the village. He will check on the parking problem and County Councillor Whiting volunteered the use of the mobile speed sign he has available for problems such as this. Proposed by Cllr. Gregory and seconded by Cllr. Jones that we request that Iwade be placed on the waiting list for this piece of equipment; Clerk to e-mail County Councillor Whiting with this request and seeking the instigation of a 20 m.p.h. speed limit in Iwade.

Finance

Replacement of old Parish Lighting – Clerk suggested updating the old Parish lighting. She has received complaints that there are 'dark areas' in Sheerstone; the lighting comprises of a variety of columns (concrete, aluminium and fibreglass) and some of the lamps are becoming difficult to replace when they need repairing.

The cost per column of the 'swan-necked' lighting in the new parts of the village is £1,500, on top of which there is an approximate cost of £600 for disconnection/reconnection of the electrical supply. At present there are 26 old columns in the village. It might be possible to obtain match funding towards this cost and the fraud money repaid to the Parish Council could be put towards the project. Clerk to investigate further and report back.

Donations - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Iwade W.I. and Iwade Parent and Toddler Group for the Financial Year 2012/13 – It was agreed that the sums allocated in the 2012/13 budget of £820 for the Parent and Toddler Group; £252 for Iwade W.I. and £1596 for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, as a result of requests submitted by the groups via the new Parish Council Application for Financial Assistance, to meet such costs as hall hire fees, be paid in one lump sum in the new financial year.

Village Hall Updates

Cllr. Hunt stated that it was hoped that the outline application would be submitted to the January meeting of Swale's Planning Committee, but he understands the report was not written in time. Clerk instructed to write to James Freeman, Head of Development Control, and expressing concern that the delay could damage this community project. Cllr. Gregory suggested putting an item on Swale's L.E.F. Agenda 'Community Approach to the New Village Hall'; Clerk to action.

Complaints Regarding Dogs' Mess

Cllr. Hunt informed that there have been numerous complaints on 'Iwade does Facebook' regarding dogs' mess within the village, particularly in School Lane and Dunlin Walk. See item 5, and the Community Warden's plan of action.

Hedgerow Survey

Councillors are concerned at the loss of established hedgerows and trees within the village and as a result of this would like to try and keep some type of a record of those remaining. Clerk to investigate the possibility of having Tree Wardens within the village and report back to the next meeting.

Correspondence

D.S. Smith Paper – engaging with the local community – D.S. Smith Paper of Kemsley would like to engage with the local community and it has been suggested that the General Manager, Mark Steadman, attends the next meeting to discuss this with Parish Councillors and Parishioners. In the meantime Councillors will consider ways that this company could help Iwade.

Churchwarden's Notes

By Sylvia O'Shea

As I sit typing these notes (5th Feb) winter has hit the county causing many events to be cancelled. However, the morning services at All Saints went ahead as usual, with 13 hardy souls attending plus three children. I also saw folk out in the snow taking photographs of the church and hope that they are pleased with the results. I forgot to take mine with me. I will need to rely on memories.

I have received a thank you letter from the Church Army for the donation of £40 collected in the box with the POSADA that toured around the village before

Christmas. Thank you for your generosity. In March, there are two special services at All Saints we wish to specially invite you to. On March the 18th at 10.30am, there is a special service for Mothering Sunday, during which all Mothers (and Grandmothers) present will receive a small posy of daffodils. On March 25th we have the monthly Family Service at 10.30am, then Iwade is holding the monthly 6@6 Service. This is a service for the 6 churches in the cluster held at 6pm on the 4th Sunday of every month. It rotates around the 6 churches and if you haven't been to one before, do please come along and try it.

Rev. Hugh Nelson, our Curate hosts the events and you will find it very uplifting. It is a creative service of music, silence, prayer and worship followed by refreshments. Usually lasts around an hour or so.

A Little Thought To Share

"If others learn from our mistakes, and it saves them from the pain that ourselves experienced – Then it wasn't all in vain"
"We learn from our mistakes, we are less likely to repeat them"

Dates for the Diary

Mobile Library Thursday 1st March 11.15am to 11.25am Sheerstone (Springvale end)

Karaoke Saturday 3rd March 8pm Woolpack

Iwade Village Market Sunday 4th March 10am to 1pm Iwade Village Hall

Holy Communion Sunday 4th March 10.30am All Saint's Church Iwade

Youth Club Tuesday 7th March 7.30 pm to 9.30pm Iwade Village Hall

Church Open Day Saturday 10th March 10 am - 2pm All Saints Iwade

Family Communion Sunday 11th March 10.30am All Saints Church Iwade

Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 14th March 7.30pm Iwade Village Hall

Mobile Library Thursday 15th March 11.15am to 11.25am Sheerstone (Springvale end)

Holy Communion 18th March 10.30am All Saints Church Iwade

Youth Club Tuesday 20th March 7.30 pm to 9.30pm Iwade Village Hall

W.I Meeting Wednesday 21st March 7.30pm Iwade Village Hall

Family Service Sunday 25th March 10.30am All Saints Church Iwade

Six@Six Sunday 25th March 6pm All Saints Church Iwade

Mobile Library Thursday 29th March 11.15am to 11.25am Sheerstone (Springvale end)

Friendship Lunch - Next Venue & Date: The next Friendship Lunch will be held in Iwade Village Hall, from 12 noon until 2 pm on Friday the 13th of April. If you wish to come, to help us to know numbers, please call the following contacts by Monday evening 9th April: Ron Partridge 01795 842007 or Sylvia O'Shea 01795 478103. If you need a lift, also please call Ron Partridge.

For all dates and anything else 'Iwade'.....

iwadevillage.co.uk

**The next Parish
Council meeting
will be on
Wednesday 14th
March 7.30 p.m.**



Above: Woodpecker play area by Simon Filmer
Left: Photo by Gary Shovellor



Above: Daniel, aged 10, Woodpecker Drive



Above: Community Spirit by Becci Jeal



Left: Sheerstone Snowman by Denise Jacobs
Right: Iwade Pond by Simon Filmer



If you see anyone not cleaning up after their dog please report it to the Community Warden, Nick Mayatt on 07969 584184



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Wanted a very special Governor

Do you have an interest in how a school manages and supports it's more vulnerable pupils?

Are you available to attend meetings one evening each term and to visit the school to work with the Inclusion Manager on a regular basis?

Would you be prepared to be a critical friend to help promote the best possible policy and practice for pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities?

Whether you have experience as a school governor, previously worked in a school or just have time to spare and want to make a difference, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Helen Murrell at the school for more information.





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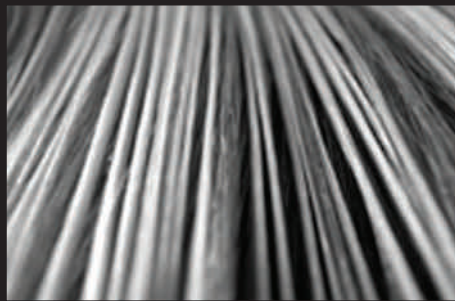
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