



### BROWNIES MEET HELPING DOGS!

*Kerry Holman*

We've had a busy half term at Brownies! As well as camp, we have been working on a Disability Awareness badge. We have met a guide dog and a retired animal detection dog and learnt a lot about how they help people!

Our camp took us around the world, trying new foods and playing new games. We enjoyed the company of two of our Brownies who left us for Guides at Christmas and new Brownies too! We look forward to our next adventure!

### HANNAH AND KALINA'S CAKE BAKES HELP LOCAL CHARITY

Hannah Wilson 15, held her third successful charity bake sale at the Iwade food & Craft Fayre on the 12th February to raise money for East Kent Rape Crisis Centre.

Hannah chose East Kent Rape Crisis as a charity to fundraise for because she has had a lot of friends who have been in tricky situations with men and women, and feels for everyone who has been in that situation.



She wanted to help others and know that they will be able to have support through times that are difficult for them because of what others have done to them without their consent.

Through selling a selection of home-made bakes ranging from brownies

through to giant cookies, fudge and meringues, Hannah has raised just over £500. Supporting her with baking and selling has been her friend Kalina Thomas 15, who is also a pupil of Westlands School.

She would like to thank those who have bought her bakes and in doing so have supported the charity.

East Kent Rape Crisis Centre offer free emotional and practical support in the form of face to face counselling, therapeutic crisis interventions, support through the criminal justice system and support and crisis phone lines.

They can be contacted on: 01227 451753 or [info@ekrcc.org.uk](mailto:info@ekrcc.org.uk)



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# March 2023 THE IWADE OBSERVER

## IWADE INSPIRATION

**John Guest**

Hello! My name is John Guest. I am hoping to write this regular column for the Observer, sharing a few reflections on life in and around the Iwade community. With so much bad news easily accessible through most media, it seemed a worthwhile exercise to try and share a bit more good news in my local area.

My family and I moved to Iwade some years ago and my grandchildren attend the local primary school where I also conduct regular assemblies. I retired in June 2020 and now spend much of my time caring for my 100-year-old father. I also work as a part-time audiobook reader and broadcast a weekly radio programme on Gateway FM. Last year I graduated as a doctor of metaphysics, having written a thesis on the value of play in helping relieve stress and burnout. I am a storyteller, children's



children's entertainer, balloon modeller and whiteface clown and have had four books published and one short story. I love sharing fun ideas and telling tales to children of all ages and it encourages me to see friends and neighbours rising to their true potential.



My purpose in presenting this column is to reflect on the principles of work, rest and play and to examine some of the values that make life worthwhile: kindness, compassion and generosity. Can you help? If you have any inspiring thoughts and ideas that you might like to share, please contact me via WhatsApp or the editor through the Iwade Facebook page. There are so many caring and committed individuals in our village. Little by little, perhaps we can all try to make a difference in raising the profile of our

community.

Inspiration is important, whether in Iwade or elsewhere. The word is based on the idea of breathing in, something we all do as a natural process yet take for granted. Without it, however, we simply could not live. And counting and evaluating what inspires us is as valuable as counting our daily blessings. Someone once said "It is not the breaths we take that are important; it is the moments that take our breath." Bearing in mind that we need to make the conscious effort to inspire before we expire, then the beautiful and the worthwhile and the exhilarating should inspire us long before we draw that final breath.

So ... will you join me? ... Ready? ... Take a deep breath ...



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Stalls, treatments, demos & fun for 16+

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**JOIN THE FLOOD ACTION GROUP AND HELP US MAKE IWADE FLOOD-  
PREPARED.**

**PLEASE CONTACT BARRIE WHITING AT [CLLRBWHITING@IWADE-PC.GOV.UK](mailto:CLLRBWHITING@IWADE-PC.GOV.UK) TO GET INVOLVED!**

**Barrie Whiting**

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 was to build a story-map of each area which would show ponds, streams, drains etc so that problem areas can be identified. I met with David Jordan from the NFF and a few other councillors on Wednesday 22nd February to learn how to create and maintain a Geographical Information System for the village. Following this we are working on this map also including previous problem areas in the village

If anyone is interested in reforming the Flood Action Group please let me know, with the recent heavy rains the village should be prepared.

**IWADE READING GROUP**

**Christine Freshwater**

At this month's meeting we discussed Us by David Nicholls. There were mixed feelings about this book; some found it difficult to get into but it was not without humour and some enjoyed reading it.

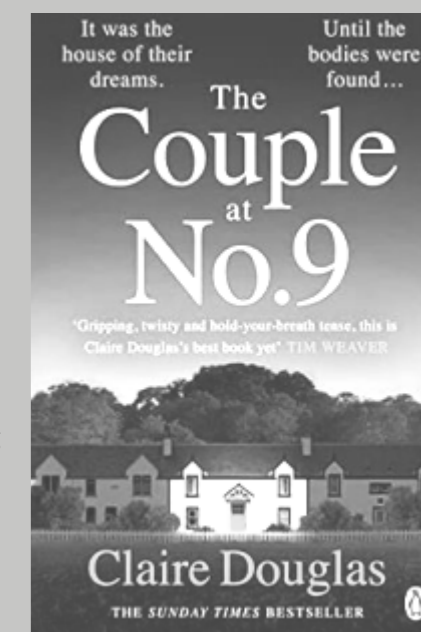
The story is narrated by Douglas and describes the family relationships both past and present with his wife and teenage son. Douglas is a Bio-chemist and a rather strange character. A grand tour of Europe is planned for the family and Douglas is hoping to rescue his marriage and get closer to his son. Douglas has planned an itinerary for the trip and does not want to change it however his wife and son have other ideas. There are many mishaps and rifts between the family members during this tour.

Thanks to Patricia for hosting, it was lovely to see everyone and to catch up at the meeting.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 14th March at 10.30 am in the Barn, Sylvia will be hosting this meeting, and we will be reviewing The Couple at Number 9 by Claire Douglas.

The book for April will be One Moonlit Night by Rachel Hore.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at The Barn at 10:30 – come and give it a try - Happy reading x



## PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends,

“Keep” or “throw out”?

I notice, as I write this in early February, that there are already signs of spring beginning to appear. Those first bulbs always surprise me and always make me smile – perhaps because they inevitably put in an appearance at a time when the weather is quite often cold and bleak and new growth would seem to be impossible – and fool-hardy. Yet nature is so amazing and resilient. And the new growth offers us a sense of hope.

As you read this it will be March and spring should be well under way. I hope you are being bombarded by all the wonders and joys that this brings.

Also underway will be Lent – traditionally the Christian season of penitence and self-discipline. In the weeks leading up to Easter we are encouraged to review and reflect. At first glance this does not seem to offer anything to smile about but Lent can also offer us a time for potential new growth, new hope, new joy.

I am currently in the process of helping a family member to declutter prior to their moving house. You have possibly experienced the same phenomenon – sorting and sifting through

cupboards and containers and every other possible hidey hole. And the resulting challenge of making decisions about whether to keep or throw out. Is the item still used or useful? Will it really ever be used again?

As we have worked there's been a lot of reminiscing and remembering. It's been a good, though emotional, experience. But we've also understood that underlying the tidying up and the throwing away has been the question about why we accumulate so much “stuff” and why we hang on to things when they are no longer useful? There's been a growing awareness that perhaps we are called to simplify our lives.

I think this is what God does in us as we turn to him during Lent. He encourages us to simplify – to get rid of those things – habits, prejudices etc - that we have clung to but which we no longer need and are no longer useful. God wants us to be less busy, less frantic and less stressed and to live with more freedom, more hope and more joy.

So I pray that you might find that this month is a time for de-cluttering and that God might surprise you.

With every blessing,  
Lis Willmet

## VOLUNTEER ROLE AT THE IWADE OBSERVER

### Urgently Needed

Distribution Manager

We urgently need a volunteer to take on the role of distribution of bulk copies of The Observer to our team of about 30 “deliverers” for onward delivery to households in Iwade.

This would entail collecting from our printers in town (so a car is vital), for 10 months each year (no Observer in August or January), sorting into bundles of 70/80 as appropriate and then distributing bundles to the delivery team. This could be a shared role.

Please get in touch if you'd like to help or would like more information. Email us at :- [the.iwade.observer@gmail.com](mailto:the.iwade.observer@gmail.com)



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## CONCERNED ABOUT PLANNING IN YOUR AREA?

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## INTERESTED IN INCREASING ENGAGEMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

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## LIVELY MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

The Men's Breakfast Club had a lively turnout at the start of February. Generally a catch up on news events with plenty of opinions combined with an impromptu “did you know ... “ session. Here's a taster ... Alfred the Great apparently made a law that everyone had to be in bed by 8pm! Even had a curfew bell. I can't authenticate that of



course although I can vouch for the sausage and bacon rolls!

If you are a man of a certain age we meet at Iwade Barn at 09.30 on the first Tuesday of the month, come along enjoy a bacon roll and a coffee ... we are a friendly bunch. Contact Ron Francis on 07398209878 for more info.



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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH JANUARY 2023

## Present

Cllr. A. Dollimore – Chair  
Cllr. S. Waters  
Cllr. S. Tolhurst  
Cllr. D. Waters  
Cllr. R. Langham  
Cllr. S. Cheeseman  
Cllr. P. Hyde  
Cllr. R. Stalley-Moores  
Cllr. B. Whiting  
Lynda Ives, Acting Clerk/RFO  
County/Borough Cllr. M. Baldock  
1 Resident

## Welcome and Apologies

The Chair formally welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Cllr. S. Lancashire and Borough Cllr. C. Woodford.

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Whiting and seconded by Cllr. Stalley Moores, the minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on 11 December 2022, were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr. Langham and seconded by Cllr. Tolhurst, the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 11 December 2022, were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

## Visitors/Public Time

**1. Visitors** - A Resident raised the issue of the water leak and bad reinstatement work in Ferry Road, to the front of Plantation Court. This has been reported numerous times by the Parish Council and residents. Cllr. Baldock to take this up.

**2. County and Borough Councillors** - County/Borough Cllr. Baldock has been investigating the possibility of setting up a working Group at KCC to look at Highway Improvement Plans, hopefully to improve consultations with Parishes and Councils. Both KCC

and Swale Borough Council budgets are under heavy pressure, both suffering cash shortfalls.

## **3. Community Warden / PCSO**

Neither attended; no written reports received.

## Matters Arising from the Minutes

**1. Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) Review** – KCC, via a “Teams” meeting with the Clerk advised that (keep this on the agenda):

KCC will install corner protection double yellow lines for Sheerstone, Sandling, Kingfisher and Woodpecker, on safety grounds. It was proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. S. Waters, agreed to ask KCC to go ahead; the Parish Council to accept the extra cost of £700.

Action: Clerk

School Lane, KCC has already cut vegetation back at the junction and laid turf, this will vastly improve sight lines.

The Officer is in correspondence with the bus company concerning Chetney View, querying why buses use this as a turning point. She will advise further when she has received their comments.

The Officer has visited Cormorant Road, notes that there are already some double yellow lines that she was unaware of and feels that putting in further lines will only cause issues due to the narrow roads and is not viable. Councillors agreed no further action.

Following receipt of the traffic survey, KCC stated that a 20 mph speed restriction is not viable.

Swallow Avenue is being investigated by KCC; she is waiting for the Soft Landscape Team to advise on a planter at the back, around the tree, to make it clear that it is not a turning circle. The Officer also hopes to make it clear so that people can

see that it is a ‘Y’ shaped ‘circle’.

Grovehurst Gateway priority; the Officer advised that this facility would change with the two new developments and as such any expense on the old gateway will be a waste of money. She recommends that the Parish Council discuss the design of the new gateway with the developers so that we get what we want in this area.

**2. Site Entrance Pond Farm** – The Parish Council first objected to Sheppey Way being used as an entrance back at the beginning of October. The Officer acknowledged our comments and said he would take them into account. The Clerk chased as nothing further was heard from Swale Borough Council. The Clerk again chased for a response on the 14 December and on the same date was promised a ‘substantive response’ by a Senior Planning Officer (this was not received). It was disappointing to note that without any consultation this was approved on the 15 December. A complaint has also been lodged with KCC regarding the surface water being pumped from the site onto Grovehurst Road. Keep on Agenda.

Action: Clerk

**3. Tracker – Cllr Tolhurst** – Revised Tracker circulated to everyone. Cllr. Tolhurst kindly agreed to retain the role of updating this working document.

Action: Cllr. Tolhurst

**4. Mobile Phone Signals in the Village** – Cllr. Hyde has been investigating the mobile phone reception within the Village from providers O2, Vodafone, Three and EE; the worst appears to be O2, with most of the village coverage being 2G only. Members agreed the Clerk to write to the providers pointing out that there has been a large expansion of the village and to see if they are able to improve the service to Iwade,

which has now become a town! This improvement might be via boosters or other options that they could possibly offer.

Action: Clerk

**5. Flood Action Group** – Cllr. Whiting is still awaiting a response from David Jordan. In the meantime, he will get in touch with Katia Sanhueza-Pino, from the Flood Action Group, to see if she can assist.

Action: Cllr. Whiting

**6. Pond Management** – Cllr. Tolhurst is still awaiting a reply from Swale Borough Council. Clerk agreed to email the Officer to push for a response.

Action: Cllr. Tolhurst/Clerk

## Planning

Applications are viewable on: Swale: <http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications>; KCC: <https://cloud2.atriumsoft.com/KCCePlanningOPS/searchPageLoad.do>

**22/505777/FULL: Section 73** - Application for removal of condition 21 (Dwellings approved shall be provided for and occupied by persons of 55 years of age or over) pursuant to 19/505215/FULL for Erection of 14 bungalows and chalet bungalows, which will provide age-restricted general market accommodation for those over the age of 55, together with 21 communal car park spaces and amenity space: Land Off Sheppey Way Iwade Kent: Agreed to respond as follows:

Iwade Parish Council strongly objects to this application and requires the age limit to remain as being accommodation for the over 55-year-olds.

Back in 2018/19 the Parish Council asked ACRK to undertake a Housing Needs Survey, as a result of this it became clear that there was a need for bungalows, both for the elderly able and disabled, particularly for those residents who wished to downsize but remain in a village where they had family links/resided

in Iwade a long time.

Much of the new build in the village has been houses with 3,4,5 bedrooms, for larger families; there is a shortage of 1/2 bedroom properties and most importantly bungalows, which as stated above are particularly suitable for the elderly/disabled.

## Correspondence

KALC Community Awards Scheme 2023 – Bring back to next meeting.

Action: Clerk

## Finance

**2023/24 Budget and Precept** – Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Langham agreed the 2023/24 Precept of £51620, which equates to a Band D Council Tax of £35.36, which means a further year of no increase to householders. It was worrying to note that Swale Borough Council has reduced the lighting grant from £2620 to £550, which will have an impact on the Budget.

Action: Clerk

**Sign-Post Telly Tubby Hill/School Lane** – Despite Cllr. Tolhurst again chasing FarmSigns for a revised invoice as this payment is still pending one has not been received. The new signpost for the bottom of School Lane has now been received. Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Langham, agreed to accept the quote of £105 for installation.

Action: Cllr. Tolhurst/Clerk

**Plaque for Beacon** – Cllr. Hyde put forward a suggestion for the plaque and wording. He will contact the company to see if they can alter it to meet the Parish Council’s requirements.

Action: Cllr. Hyde

**Gateway Repairs Sheppey Way** – Proposed by Cllr. D. Waters and seconded by Cllr. Dollimore, agreed to accept the quote of £785.

Action: Clerk

**CCTV** – Bring back to next meeting.

Action: Cllr. Tolhurst

**Grounds Maintenance Contract** – Clerk has approached KCC requesting details of the 2023/24 grant; they are unable to give this information until March 2023. She has approached Swale Borough Council to ascertain costs for the same year, if we take on the grounds maintenance for a further year; no response has been received as yet.

Action: Clerk

**Faulty Street Light, nr 50 Sheerstone** – Quote has not been received, Clerk to chase for this information.

Action: Clerk

**Request for Donation – Men’s Breakfast Club.** Bring back to next meeting.

Action: Clerk

**Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** - Proposed by Cllr. Whiting and seconded by Cllr. Tolhurst, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to the 31 December 2022; the following payments were agreed. Cllrs. Langham and Whiting to log in and authorize payments.

Action: Cllrs. Langham/Whiting

**Projects – Updates on Current and New**

**King’s Coronation 2023** – Cllr. Dollimore to place an article on Facebook. Agreed to include lighting the Beacon.

Action: Cllr Dollimore

**Reports from Representatives**

**Hall** – Repairs underway, some work to be carried out during half-term.

**KALC** – Nothing to report.

**Swale Western Area Committee** – Next meeting 16 February 2023.

**Swale West Parishes** – Nothing to report.

**Any Other Matters Arising**

None.

**Next Meeting(s)**

Wednesday 8 February 2023, 7.30 p.m., in Iwade Village Hall