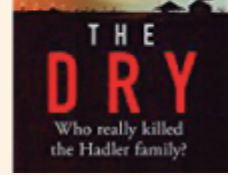


Iwade Reading Group Hilary Foulds

Iwade Reading Group enjoyed a literary breakfast at Dobbies for their February meeting. On the Agenda was a discussion about January's chosen book *Enduring Love* by Ian McEwan. The book had disappointed with the majority deciding not to finish it.

The first chapter was promising. Joe had planned a postcard perfect afternoon in the English countryside. This perfect day

turns into a nightmare when there is a freak ballooning incident in which a boy is saved but a man is killed. In itself the accident would change the couple and survivors' lives but fate has more unpleasant things in store for Joe. Meeting the eye of fellow rescuer Jed Parry turns out to be a very bad move. He becomes saddled with the ardent and unwanted attentions of a disturbed young man. Jed is instantly obsessed openly shadowing and stalking him and writing endless letters. It transpires that Jed has a delusional disorder known as De Clerambault syndrome or Erotomania, a type of delusional disorder where the affected person believes another person is in love with them.



had been saved and how he had been affected by the episode. The book is about Jed and the effects his condition has on Joe who, having failed to hold on to the balloon, desperately tries to hang on to his partner Clarissa in spite of the emotional turmoil Jed creates for their relationship.

I found the vocabulary challenging and there were whole paragraphs I struggled to understand. In truth the book was a useful sleeping tablet!

Our book for March is *The Dry* by Jane Harper which was the Sunday Times Crime Book of the Year in 2017. We will be discussing this book at Lynn's on 13 March.

Have you read anything exceptional lately? The Reading Group would welcome your reviews or recommendations. (Look for us on FB - Iwade Reading and Book Group)

BUSINESS FOCUS

Dog Loves Walker Iwade

"A dog warms your heart, they help people feel better without even trying. A dog is a companion, a friend, a protector and remains loyal to those who love them. A dog will encourage those that feel unwell to heal, those that feel lonely to feel supported. Our dogs assist the elderly, teach our children; our dogs are integral in our families. They provide comfort when needed, fun and make for wonderful memories and stories to come."



Hello, my name is Sacha and I love dogs. I set up Dog Loves Walker Iwade because I wanted to provide a quality pet services business for our local community.

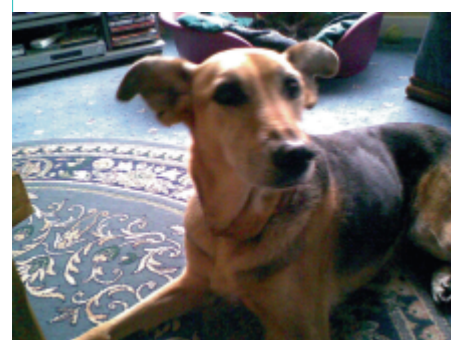
I am based in the heart of the village next to Woodpecker Park, which is very handy for dog walking and catching the fresh air whilst enjoying the interactions of village life.

My services are tailored to customer and pet needs. I provide dog walking, pet & home sitting, doggie day care, drop-in service and pet transportation.

I can provide dog walking services from £8.50 and provide a week-day doggie day care service from £15.00 which includes walking, feeding, play time and full companionship.

I am an experienced dog handler, reliable and run a professional service. I am fully insured, DBS checked, hold references and recommendations together with holding an Animal & Pet First Aid Diploma. I am registered as an approved carer on Tailster, Bark and Pawshake platforms and can be found on google maps.

Ultimately I am motivated by seeing happy and contented doggies whilst providing an invaluable service to our community. To all our furry friends; happy walking, running and playing!



Pet & Home Services

DOG LOVES WALKER IWADE

Sacha Johnson Managing Director

Iwade Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8UY

Mobile: 07926118672

Home: 01795 555171

Email: Johnson.sacha@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/IwadeSittingbourneKent>

<https://sites.google.com/view/dogwalkeriwadesittingbourne>



Want to get your business featured in our monthly Business Focus Feature? Tania Emery coordinates our this feature, so if you'd like to be considered for our next issue, please contact Tania Emery at tlemery@outlook.com

The Iwade Observer

March 2018



After noticing comments on Facebook bemoaning the lack of sociable activities in Iwade for people of a certain age, and coinciding with the public launch of The Barn, nine of us turned up to an initial tentative get together with ideas to regularly fill a couple of hours. Word spread quickly, and the following Monday twenty people came to find out more, with plenty of chatting over a cuppa. Freezing wintry weather on 5th February did not deter our intrepid seniors, almost forty of whom wrapped up well and made their way to the warmth of our lovely Barn where two kettles were needed for welcoming hot drinks.

**Monday
Friendship
Group**

We now meet fortnightly on a Monday. March dates are the 5th from 10.30 – 12.15am (when Roy and Margaret, of Iwade based company Go Cruise, will be joining us), and again on 19th at the same time.

On Easter Monday 2nd April please bring along a decorated egg (hard boiled!) with a chance to win a prize. With team jigsaw puzzles, a games table, free book and puzzle swaps, computer helpdesk, plenty of laughter and endless hot drinks, anyone wanting some company is welcome to join us. (NB. If any relevant Iwade business would like to come and chat to us for half an hour, please let us know via The Observer's email:- the.iwade.observer@gmail.com - we will eventually get a social media presence sorted – honest!!).

Janet Gregory

p.s. In spite of appearances to the contrary there are a number of men who attend – they were all a bit camera shy though – come along and help them out a bit !!



Easter Egg Drawing Competition



To enter send us a photo of your egg-cellent Easter Egg drawing

The winning egg will be featured in our April issue, and the winner will receive some Easter treats!

Send your masterpiece with your name and age to:
the.iwade.observer@gmail.com
by 15th March

Competition for ages 2 to 6 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.

MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB



(AKA Bacon Buttie Bonanza!!)

A new venture.

Starting Tuesday 6th March (and on the first Tuesday of each month thereafter) from 9.30 until 11.30 in Iwade Barn, there will be a Men's Breakfast Club.

This meeting is open to all men in the village that would like to get together for a cuppa, a bacon buttie or two and a natter.

Please come along and support this new venture.

All very welcome. Come on ladies - boot your man out!!



Ron Francis

IWADE VILLAGE CLEAN UP

Sunday 27 May, 2018

9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon

Please come along and help tidy our Village.

Spring

The Village Clean up starts at 09.00 a.m., helps to report to the Village Hall to collect black sacks and sign in. Refreshments will be available during the morning and we are looking to do something from 12.30 p.m. onwards, details to be confirmed.

Sponsored by
Iwade Parish Council

Ed's Note

Last month's profusion of pre and post-Christmas news meant that we were very short of space for Ed's Note!! Not that I'm sure you missed it!!

This month we note that efforts are being made to set up a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme and we hope that comes together and is able to move forward with the relevant support. It never hurts to keep an eye out for what is happening around us!!

However, it was interesting to note the crime stats for December 2017 - the latest available - in the light of, what is often Facebook fuelled, hype about the lawlessness of Iwade. Look at stats from surrounding areas and you'll see Iwade is still a safe and great place to live.

Use Facebook to celebrate all that is good about Iwade. Don't talk it down!!

Deadline for April Issue

Please let us have your contributions and photographs by March 15th, to the.iwade.observer@gmail.com

Do it now and beat the rush!!

Tinkerbells Early Years - Sirens, Mini beasts and Spring!

Jody Nichols

Term 3 was a very exciting term at Tinkerbells. The children had lots of fun learning all about Chinese New Year. We celebrated by making lanterns, lucky envelopes and having a Chinese themed snack time too where the children got to sample many yummy Chinese foods!

They also took part in lots of activities relating to our topic,



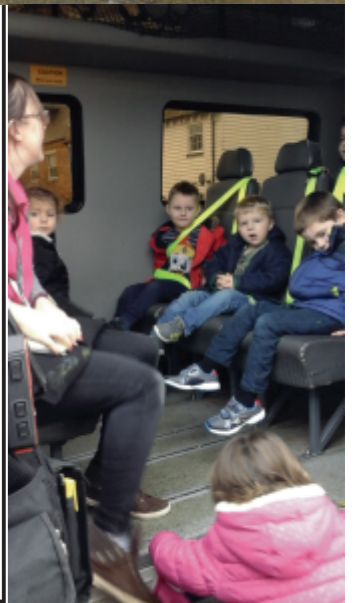
'People who help us.' We made 'mini me' versions of those people and hung them around the hall for all to see. The children learnt so much from this topic as we have been talking about how to keep safe and learning about the many occupations of the people who help us in and around the community.

We were very fortunate to have a visit from our local PCSOs in their police van. The children were very excited to meet them and learn all about what they do. They really liked and loved hearing the sirens! We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for coming. It really does teach our



children lots and it's very exciting indeed!

This term our topic will be 'mini beasts' and 'spring.' We are really looking forward to exploring this topic and learning all about the many little creatures that live in the world around us. In keeping with this, the book of the term will be 'The Hungry Caterpillar.'



All of our sessions at Tinkerbells Iwade are currently full until September 2018, however there are a few spaces available at our Clock Tower setting. Therefore, if you are interested in a place for your child, or would like to be put on our waiting list, please call in for a copy of our prospectus or email us at: enquiries@tinkerbellspreschool.co.uk for more information.

Babies at the barn!

This week (Monday 5th February) was the first baby group at the barn (by the time you are reading this there will hopefully have been several more!). It was great to see lots of new people and have a cuppa in the lovely warm barn whilst the babies played. If you are interested in coming along we meet every Monday 1-2:30 (currently term-time only). The group is aimed at under 1s and we have mats down on the floor with lots of toys to keep them entertained (BIG thanks to everyone who has donated toys and mats, we are very grateful!). The cost is £1 and tea/coffee and biscuits are provided. We also have a Facebook group (search for Iwade baby group) to keep up to date with any news. Hope to see lots more new faces over the coming weeks!

Louise Wade and Rachel Jeffery



SORT OF OOPS!

Walking in the mist and rain on a cold January Thursday looks forward to the wild winds of March. (Ed. Really ??) We walked to Sheppey Crossing via a few streets around the village just to keep off the muddy footpaths. Rumours of the road being closed or restricted at the junction beneath the crossing abounded so, being nosy, we set off to find out. On the way we observed furniture, two fridge/freezers, a pile of discarded child car seats and other rubbish. This was enough to complain about but when we reached the bridge there was a largish Oops! A truck

loaded with what appeared to be scrap metal or maybe a mixture of domestic rubbish was lying on its side surrounded by head scratching workers and Police. It seemed that the vehicle may have been driven too fast around the roundabout, hence the Oops! But, this day was a cold and eerie walk with the willows bathed in misty rain, their winter colours a pleasant sight creating an avenue leading to the village. However, it was cold and for those who may remember the children's tale "The Thirteen Clocks", February it was cold and getting colder and the road was long and getting longer. We had a few pleasant days and also the use of the Barn at the end of the walk. With regard to the Barn and its facilities I have to say that this is a pleasant alternative which I think may catch on.



That, of course is up to the organisers of the Barn and the will of the walkers. It is good to have the extra parking and not clutter up the roads and the chance to have a chat with a cuppa while the underfloor heating caresses our frosty feet. Thanks.

With March looming up and the prospect of daffodils, spring blossom at the end of the month and birds flitting around we look forward to seeing how the new work around the pond will develop. Although we like the walks out of and around the village we can also look forward to some fine displays from gardens and plots in our travels.

James Apps - Iwade Health Walking Group

The Future of The Iwade Observer

We carried out a survey through Survey Monkey with a cut-out-and-return paper option. Carried out over the period November 28th to December 31st 2017.

There was a total of 73 responses and we thank all those who responded for their time and thoughts.

These are the results:-

Q1. Do you receive a paper copy of The Iwade Observer?

100% did receive a paper copy (this was the first month when additional copies were available to distribute to all of the new development.)

Q2. If not do you mind stating the name of the road in which you live?

In view of responses to Q1 this was not applicable

Q3. Do you feel The Observer still has a role to play in communicating news and information within the village?

Yes = 97.3% No = 2.7%

Q4. Are you happy with the range of contributions in The Observer?

Yes = 91.8% No = 8.2%

Q5. Which type of contributions do you most value?

Varied responses – this list is in order of popularity with most popular at the top:-

1. Village activities and events
2. Parish Council news
3. Stories about residents
4. Clubs and nurseries
5. What's on calendar
6. Local businesses
7. Iwade Health Centre

Q6. What sort of contributions would you like to see?

A very wide range was specified which it is not practical to list here (i.e. most respondents put something different!)

Examples included:

- Neighbourhood watch
- Recipes
- History
- News from the school

The Observer team has looked at all of these suggestions and plan to try and develop some of them over the

forthcoming issues.

Q7. Would you prefer a paper copy or an online only copy of The Observer?

Paper copy = 72.6%
Online only = 27.4%

Q8. Would you support the idea of a very limited print run that would be available for you to collect from a number of collection points within the village?

Yes = 68.5% No = 31.5%

Q9. Any other comments

While we were not seeking compliments, many respondents used this section to make comments such as:-

"I love this publication", "really good to receive this", "a very well done to The Observer", "well done let's not lose it", "It's one thing that makes Iwade stand out... as a community", "gives a great sense of belonging", etc.

In addition, comments such as these were made:-

"I fear that older people, in particular would not get round to reading it on the internet", "I like the paper copy but wouldn't want to collect one", "not everyone ...wishes to access the internet for everything", "... concerned it wouldn't be read if it went online", etc.

In summary

We tried to make this survey an objective look at the qualities of The Observer and how people would like to access it. The responses overwhelmingly show it is valued as a community resource, that a significant number of people, 72.6 %, would prefer a paper copy, and that 31.5% would not support the idea of collection points for a smaller print run.

We have taken note of the many suggestions that were made in response to question 6 and hope to use these in the future to develop a wider range of articles to appeal to all villagers.

Once again many thanks for taking part.

Rynn Kemp and Dale Wells.

IWADE YOUTH GROUP

Iwade Youth group continues to go from strength to strength having started at the beginning of the new school year last September. It is now a popular and 'looked-forward-to' Friday evening activity among young people in Iwade, meeting at the Village Hall from 6:30 to 8:00 during term time.

Our biggest challenge though at the moment is to be able to develop a roster of volunteer helpers to take a bit of the load off the very small band of volunteers presently in place. Indeed, if you're a qualified youth leader we would be absolutely delighted to hear from you. However, you don't need any specific skills (patience is of course a virtue) but simply a willingness to help with sports, arts and crafts, games, tuck shop, etc. We can organise your DBS and there may be training courses available if you wish to take your interest further, as we are affiliated with the MYTrust (formerly Young Kent).

We apologise if you tried to get in touch last month, but a change of broadband provider led to an unexpected change of landline number. The number below is definitely now OK!! We look forward to hearing from you – please call 01795 436027 or email us at iwaderoc@gmail.com

The Iwade Observer Distributors wanted

We are now able to deliver to every house in the village including the Holly Blue and Peach Blossom areas where some residents may have been missing out.

If you would like an excuse to get out and do some exercise while doing something to help the community send us an email to: the.iwade.observer@gmail.com

We have two rounds "up for grabs" so get in touch now and beat the rush !!

Rounds are:-

1. Holly Blue (odd numbers only), Red Admiral, Grayling and Chalkwell Close. and
2. Peach Blossom, White Satin, Nutmeg, Green Oak and Grass Emerald.

Disclaimer

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What's On - Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Venue	Time
1st March	Health Walk	Village Centre	10:30
2nd March	Iwade Youth group	V. Hall	6:30 - 8:00
5th March	Friendship Group	Barn	10:30 - 12:15
5th March	Babies at the Barn	Barn	1 - 2:30
6th March	Mens Breakfast Club	Barn	9:30 - 11:30
8th March	Health Walk	Village Centre	10:30
9th March	Iwade Youth group	V. Hall	6:30 - 8:00
11th March	Food and Craft Fayre	V. Hall	10:00 - 1:00
12th March	Babies at the Barn	Barn	1:00 - 2:30
13th March	Iwade Reading Group	See article for details	
14th March	Parish Council Meeting	V. Hall	7:30
15th March	Deadline for April issue of The Iwade Observer		
15th March	Health Walk	Village Centre	10:30
16th March	Iwade Youth group	V. Hall	6:30 - 8:00
17th March	Cats Protection Quiz	V. Hall	Sold out !!
19th March	Friendship Group	Barn	10:30 - 12:15
19th March	Babies at the Barn	Barn	1 - 2:30
22nd March	Health Walk	Village Centre	10:30
23rd March	Iwade Youth group	V. Hall	6:30 - 8:00
26th March	Babies at the Barn	Barn	1 - 2:30
29th March	Health Walk	Village Centre	10:30
30th March	Cats Protect sausage sizzle	Bunnings	
2nd April	Friendship Group	Barn	10:30 - 12:15

If you would like to have your event listed in the future please send the relevant info to the.iwade.observer@gmail.com



Swale Cats Protection

We love fussy cats here at Cat HQ! Why? I hear you ask, as surely they are more problematic than non-fussy cats? Well, what we love are YOUR fussy cats as when they decide the food you buy them is no good for them anymore, it sits in a cupboard just gathering dust. Gather dust no more though as we'd love to take it off your hands and use it for our foster and feral cats. Feeding the cats in our care is a huge cost and one we continually fundraise for, but if you have redundant wet food, dry food or even treats, we'd love to hear from you (and so would our cats no doubt)!

Talking of foster cats, I've just taken 'delivery' of my latest charge, a pure black beautiful girl with silky fur. As I type this, she has jumped on top of an almost ceiling height cupboard to hide away. This is common behaviour with our foster cats who must wonder what the heck is going on, being moved from one place to another with a vet visit in between. My normal trick is to let them be for a few hours after arrival in the hope they will settle with the new smells, but if not, it's clambering on a chair to bring them down and give them treats! Bribery is alive and well at Cat HQ!

Being a volunteer for any charity is rewarding enough, but for me, the cats make it extra special. Waving goodbye as they go to their new forever homes is a very happy day, even though I miss them all. Perhaps you have space in your home and heart for one of our cats and

could provide a forever home? Get in contact if you're interested.

Fundraising this month is probably happening as you read this ... we are due to be at Pets at Home on Mill Way Retail Park on 1-3 Mar holding a tombola on each day. Pets at Home have us as their 'partner' charity so every year, they invite us to fundraise in their shops and ask customers to 'round the pound' too (if you spend 89p for instance, they'd ask if you wanted to donate the 11p to us). Please pop in and see us if you're passing on those days.

Another big supporter of Swale CP is Sittingbourne Bunnings who have invited us to run their Sausage Sizzle again on Good Friday (30Mar), the busiest day of the year for them historically. Make sure you're hungry and come down for a Snag (an Aussie version of our sausage buttie), it's just £1.50 and every penny is for us. Bunnings will also have face painters, balloon artists and craft workshops for the children so don't miss it!

Rewinding a little back to the 11 Mar, we'll be at Iwade Food and Craft Fayre between 10-1 down the hall. Come down and say hi, we'd love to see you. We'll have our normal tombola (Easter themed so plenty of chocolate) and CP branded goods. On 17 Mar, we have our quiz night and although we currently have no spare tables and a waiting list of 3, I wanted to mention it just to say thank you to everyone who has booked already.

Keep up to date with us and the cats in our care via Facebook, Twitter and You Tube. Just search Swale Cats Protection, or go via our website:

www.cats.org.uk/swale

Neighbourhood

Watch Terry Wiles

There is a new Neighbourhood Watch group in the process of being set up. We are waiting for the PCSO to get in touch to organise our first meeting. Anyone from the Village is welcome to join see our FB page - 'Neighbourhood Watch. Iwade Village' (Note the all-important full stop followed by a space in the title). This was the position at the beginning of February but things move fast – sadly in the wrong direction ...

The liaison officer unfortunately resigned over the Christmas period, but Medway police are going to get the PCSO to contact us with regard to setting up our first meeting to explain the best way forward.

PLEASE can we have some feedback (write on our FB page) on who would possibly attend the meeting, which would probably be an early evening event. As soon as I know more I will let you all know.

IWADE'S CRIME REPORT STATS

(Reported in December 2017)

- Anti-social behaviour 5
- Burglary 2
- Criminal damage and arson 5
- Other theft 2
- Public order 3
- Theft from the person 1
- Vehicle crime 2
- Violence and sexual offences 4

Original source: www.police.uk
For more information about individual crimes and locations, please visit www.police.uk and type Iwade in "find your neighbourhood".

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IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 10 January 2018

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Dispensations are in place for Members relating to The Barn and Iwade School. Cllr. Horner declared an interest in Item 7.2.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Langham and seconded by Cllr. Cheeseman, the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 9 January 2018 were agreed and signed as a true transcript.

Proposed by Cllr. Langham and seconded by Cllr. Cheeseman, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 13 December 2017 were agreed and signed as a true transcript.

Visitors/Public Time

1. Visitors – No comments.

2. County and Borough Councillors – County Cllr. Whiting submitted a written report summarising his work over the past year.

Borough Cllr. Dewar-Whalley apologised for his absence at meetings, due to clashes with the Borough Council's Cabinet and other meetings. He had noted that there appeared to be a free for all at the road-narrowing near to Iwade Garage and wondered if it was worthwhile taking this up with KCC Highways to see if they will install a give way sign. Clerk to check with County Cllr. Whiting regarding this and to raise the issue again of 20 mph speed limit. Action: Clerk

3. Community Warden/PCSO – The Community Warden Checked fly tipping and dealt with issues in Swale Way, Bannister Hill and Old Ferry Road. Advised of two thefts of property in Iwade, both in School Lane. Performed three predictive policing patrols on Sheppey Way.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

1. Cycling Clubs – Clerk to arrange a meeting with Sheppey Velo, Cllrs. Dollimore and Langham would like to attend. Action: Clerk

2. The Cairn Plaque – Agreed central wording to be "In Memory of the Fallen from this Parish who gave their Lives in the Great War 1914-18". Cllr. Cheeseman to approach a resident who he believes will be able to produce a draft design for the plaque. Action: Cllr. Cheeseman

3. School Lane Playing Field – The Chair and Clerk met with Swale Borough Council's Green Spaces Officer, who is looking into a couple of items and will update the Council in due course.

Planning

1. 17/506357/FULL: Erection of a part single storey and part two-storey rear extension: 61 Cormorant Road Iwade ME9 8WP – no objections.

2. 17/506410/FULL: Erection of a single storey side extension: 26 Sharfleet Crescent Iwade Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8UQ – no objections.

3. 17/506083/FULL: Demolition of existing garage and conservatory and erection of replacement detached garage, erection of two single storey side extensions and erection of new entrance gates: Kimlee Grovehurst Road Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8QZ – Members raised no objection to the building works, but object to the erection of new entrance gates. Councillors also object to the existing fencing to the front of the bungalow, as shown on the plan submitted on the 21st December. The height of this fencing obstructs the sight line and any vehicle existing the

property has to enter the road to obtain a clear sight line to the right, this can be hazardous.

Correspondence

1. Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan (KMWLP) 2013-30 Consultation – Clerk to ask Cllr. Mitchell to look at these documents and report to the February meeting. Action: Cllr. Mitchell

2. Mansfield Drive Bridge – Clerk has received further correspondence relating to issues with the opening up of the bridge over the stream. Clerk instructed to forward the information to Borough Cllr. Dewar-Whalley and to contact Swale Borough Council to see when the 'A' Frame to stop motor bikes using the bridge will be installed. Action: Clerk

Finance

1. Grass cutting contract – The Chair and Clerk were to meet with a Swale Borough Council Officer but due to him being ill, this did not occur. Clerk is awaiting a response from him as to re-arranging this to discuss next year's contract. Action: Clerk

2. Planter – Sanderling Way – KCC have given agreement, Clerk to meet with the Highways Steward to look at the site. Action: Clerk

3. 2018/19 Budget and Precept – The accounts for 2017/18 appear to indicate that there will be an overspend; this in the main is due to projects consisting of the Barn - £4245 (this does not include money used from the KCC Broadband Grant) and the ANPR Camera - £8125.

Included in next year's budget is the cost of the Cairn and a new project, which will span 2 years, to eventually install Christmas Lights from the Church up to Telly Tubby Hill, the costs will include the lights, installation and electricity. Grants for the year have been set at £3500 and following funding request from village organisations, the agreed sums put aside for each are as follows:

Iwade Brownies	£663
Iwade Scouts and Cubs	£1271
The Barn	£1200 – for insurance
Iwade W.I.	£366

Iwade Herons Agreed to pay for installation of bollard, awaiting quote.

Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore, seconded by Cllr. Clark, agreed the budget and no increase in Precept for the second year running; a Band D property will be £35.43p and the requested Precept £51207.56p Action: Clerk

4. GDPR Workshop – Clerk advised she will be attending the workshop on the 11th January; the cost for this has now been confirmed at £36 – half to be paid by Bobbing Parish Council. Action: Clerk

Projects/Project Updates

The Barn – nearing completion, an open day held recently for residents. The computer desk and IT equipment is now in situ. Only work outstanding is the skirting, a disabled ramp and the creation of a paved patio area. The Parish Council again thanked everyone who had worked on this worthwhile project.

Reports from Representatives

1. Hall - tickets for Santa's Grotto sold out; the event raised about

Monthly minutes continued...

£200. Met with the Community Engagement Officer who agreed to arrange to repaint the hall in February and in summer the stage area to be sanded-down and varnished, plus additional work outside the building. New radiator covers installed and new blinds will appear shortly. Events - 50s and 60s Night taking place on the 2nd June, a Quiz Night in March and the Market will be back in March.
2. KALC – nothing to report.

Any Other Matters Arising

1. Clerk received two nominations for Vice-Chair; Cllr. Cheeseman took up the post.

2. Cllr. Hyde asked the Clerk to chase BT to remove the empty phone box and reinstate the ground; ask Doubledays to remove the fly-tipping from the Grovehurst field entrance gate area of their field and ask the Police if 'Hawkeye' can be installed near to Sheppey Bridge in view of the 'Drifting' events. Action: Clerk

The Parish Council has asked that we publish this information from Allyson Spicer, tenacious researcher of local issues and ex-Tunstall councillor. (Iwade Parish Council has decided that Councillors will respond individually) and hope that you will also feel able to respond:

"Dear Clerks

I trust that you are all aware, from our local paper, of the news that Kent County Council in conjunction with Swale Borough Council submitted a bid to The Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), for forward funding to help with the necessary infrastructure that is so desperately needed. Unfortunately, their bid has included housing outside of the local plan, plus various new roads that the Inspector removed!

Unfortunately this comes at a huge cost to some of our villages, and figures of an additional 15,000 homes, have been mooted, above the target contained in our newly adopted Local Plan. I have an email from HIF Funding to say they will need local community support! - strangely though they only need to consult after



Iwade Village Hall Update

I'm writing this on a very cold and wet pancake day! I'm hoping by the time you are reading this, signs of Spring will be well on the way and all this wintry weather will be behind us, the clocks will soon be springing forward and lighter brighter weather will be here.

We were pleased to welcome new hirer Tetita Childcare to the hall over the half term holiday. Belema and her team offer holiday childcare, and more information can be found on their website:

<http://tetitachildcare.co.uk>

The internal decoration of the hall has started thanks to Kent Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company and I will be able to share pictures once the redecoration has been completed.

We are looking forward to our first quiz of the year on 17th March, which is being run in partnership with Swale Cats Protection and is fully booked, but please watch out for further quiz dates later in the year.

The Iwade Food & Craft Fayre returns on

Sunday 11th March 10am-1pm and in honour of Mother's Day a small bunch of daffodils will be given to the first 20 mums through the door! My thanks again to Iwade Food and Craft Fayre for agreeing to cancel February's market in order for the redecoration to take place.

Looking ahead we have plans for fundraising and events throughout the year and are currently looking into obtaining DBS certificates so that we can host discos for the children. Along with the usual quiz and race nights we also hope to have a murder mystery evening. We are also very much looking forward to the 50's and 60s evening with live band Quiff and the Shades on 2nd June, and more information on prices and how to book will follow shortly.

If you would like to get involved 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 and please also keep up to date on the hall's Facebook page.

shortlisting - which has to be the wrong way round! I am hoping to get the message out that we have the opportunity to let the HIF people know before they shortlist the bids that Swale residents don't support extra housing as a means to get more roads.

Our NHS Clinical Commissioning Group have indicated on a recent planning application that for every 1000 new residents in our borough they face a shortfall of funding of between £2.2 million and £3.3 million. This means (according to their letter) that, under the existing Local Plan, which will result in a growth in the population of approximately 30,000 they will face something like £90 million underfunding. A further 15,000 new homes will massively exacerbate that underfunding!

This leaves residents in Swale with a difficult decision. If we accept the infrastructure the cost will be developments (outside of our recently adopted Local Plan) for whole new communities larger than, for example, Faversham, which is likely to massively impact upon our roads anyway!

It appears the KCC are claiming their HIF

bid will support long term housing delivery on sites allocated in the recently adopted Local Plan, which is not true. Their bid must be supported by local communities and this will have a negative impact upon us all. So, although KCC put the bid in, they have to wait until the Government get all in - so the more people who email to say they don't support the bid (I think we have until the end of March) will put pressure on HIF not to let it proceed to stage 2.

We have a short opportunity (to end of March) to make those in charge of the bidding process aware of our views by emailing hif@hca.gsi.gov.uk (further info can be found at :-

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-and-planning-policies/housing-infrastructure-fund> where you can find a link to the Swale bid.)

If Parish Councils or residents support the view of KCC, I have no wish to ask you to change your minds, however if you believe that Swale roads, and our heritage will not survive further developments without improving our essential services can you please object and encourage your residents to email too."