

Thursday 5th November 11:15-11:30
Mobile Library
 At the Springvale end of Sheerstone, one piece of identification required to join.
 Why not give it a try?

Monday 9th November 19:00-20:00
Health Centre Patient Participation Group
 See article on page * for more information.

Wednesday 11th November 19:30
Iwade Parish Council Meeting
 At Iwade Village Hall allowing time for visitors' questions in the agenda.
 Why not go along and find out more about what goes on, it is a public meeting.

Thursday 12th November 13:00-15:00
All Saints Coffee Shop
 After a successful summer of coffee afternoons at All Saints Church, these will continue every other Thursday. All are welcome. Tea, coffee, cakes and chat, no charge.

Sunday 15th November 10:00
Iwade Village Christmas Food & Craft Fayre
 See article on page * for more information.

Wednesday 18th November 19:30
Iwade W.I. Meeting
 At Iwade Village Hall, AGM and Fish and Chips at £2 per person. No competition this month but a 50-50 raffle.

Thursday 19th November 11:15-11:30
Mobile Library

Tuesday 24th November 15:30
Tinkerbells Christmas Fair
 Tinkerbells are holding their very popular annual Christmas Fair at Iwade Village Hall. Date for the diary!

Thursday 26th November 13:00-15:00
All Saints Coffee Shop
 At All Saints Church. All are welcome. Tea, coffee, cakes and chat, no charge.

Sunday 29th November 16:30
Christmas Tree Lights Switch On
 At Telly Tubby Hill - Keep an eye on Facebook for more details closer to the time.

IWADE VILLAGE HALL
 Ferry Road, Iwade, Sittingbourne. ME9 8RG

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

Over 25 stalls selling perfect Christmas gifts for the person who has everything or nothing!

Sunday 15th November
10am-1pm

Holly wreaths, jewellery, greetings cards, Christmas tableware, illustrations, glassware, cushions, handmade wooden and sewn gifts, bunting, Christmas Eve hampers, toys, shabby chic gifts, folded book art, games, glitter tattoos and face painting, Christmas cakes, pocket money gifts, refreshments plus LOTS MORE!

For more info, please email
bookings@iwadevillagehall.co.uk
 www.iwadevillagehall.co.uk
 Find us on Twitter & Facebook: Iwade Village Hall

There will be no market on the 2nd Sunday of November due to Remembrance Day

Santa's Grotto

Tinkerbells Christmas fair

Tuesday 24th November
3:30 - 5:30 pm
Iwade village hall

Many stalls including Refreshments, Lucky dip, Bottle tombola, Teddy tombola, Christmas gifts, Cup cakes Plus many more

If you would like a stall then please contact Donna on 01794 742239

Iwadians - a Christmas date for your Diaries!!

The switching on of the Christmas Lights will take place on Sunday 29th November at 4.30 p.m. Keep an eye out for further details on Facebook closer to the time.

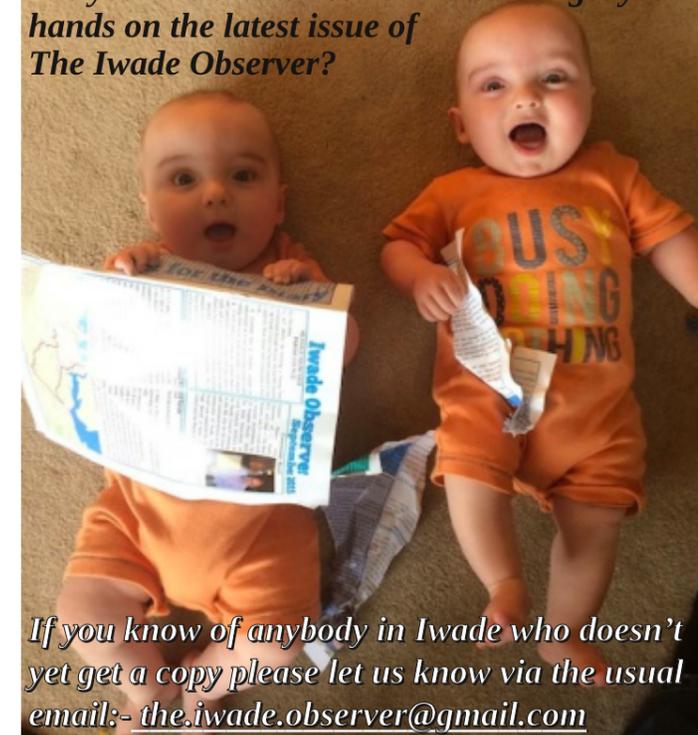
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Iwade Observer

November 2015

Are you like the twins? Can't wait to get your hands on the latest issue of The Iwade Observer?



If you know of anybody in Iwade who doesn't yet get a copy please let us know via the usual email:- the.iwade.observer@gmail.com

Iwade @ The Barn - Open Day

Nicola McKenzie

The Barn was finally revealed to villagers on Saturday 10th October. The Open Day all came together in the last few days, with the electricity (a consumer unit if you want to get technical) being sorted the day before by Iwade's Dave Preston (how else we would make tea?!). Morrisons donated all the refreshments and baking ingredients (a massive thank you to Morrisons on Sheppey and Iwade's Kay Gorton for this), a Barn Clean Up by the trustees, an Ideas Board (for visitors to brainstorm ideas onto!!) by Graeme Horner and some last minute baking by Sandra Wilkinson (who volunteered to serve the teas and for baking not just one thing but four or five different things!), Emma McKenzie and Emily Cork, and we were good to go but would people come?

Well the answer is yes! and how!! The first time the Barn had been opened to residents to show off its potential as a community hub, it was abuzz (not sure if that is a real word! *(Yes Nicola - it is! - Ed)* with people chatting about its potential, its history (which was so interesting) and bouncing around ideas for the barn.

The Ideas Board by Graeme was brilliant and well written on by visitors (which was the idea of course, and some spellings and punctuation were even corrected!!) and gave us some great feedback on how people think they would like to see the Barn being used in the future.

Here's some photos we took on the day so you can see for yourselves. If you'd like to volunteer to get the barn set up (kitchen, toilet, decorating etc.) or you'd like to be involved in the running of the barn then do get in touch at : iwadebarn@iwadevillage.co.uk, We'd love to hear from you!



Reduction in Property Management Fees for Iwade Residents

Residents of the Kingsferry Place development in Iwade have seen an estimated £78 a year reduction in their property management fees thanks to Iwade Parish Council and the office of Gordon Henderson MP.

GEM Estate Management were charging residents living in Swallow Avenue, Fulmer Avenue, Redwing Avenue, Bittern Road, Berwick Walk, Woodpecker Drive and Helen Thompson Close to maintain an area of nature conservation land at the back of the development used by local people to walk their dogs.

Local parish Chairman, James Hunt, and the office manager to Gordon Henderson MP, Jess McMahon, investigated this matter and persuaded Swale Borough Council to take ownership of the land. The land has now been successfully transferred along with a sum of money for maintenance.

Swale Borough Council has plans to remove some of the fencing around the land, cut down the overgrown weeds and build a bridge over one of the nearby streams.

James Hunt said: 'I'm pleased that the transfer of the land has now been finalised and that the future maintenance costs aren't going to fall to the residents of Kingsferry Place.'

The parish council will continue to work with Swale Borough Council and outside organisations to ensure the land is managed to ensure it remains as intended for residents to enjoy and for nature to flourish.'

Jess McMahon said: 'The office of Gordon Henderson MP has been working with a number of residents across Sittingbourne and Sheppey regarding property management issues. This achievement shows that changes can be made and the fees can be reduced. 'We hope the residents of Iwade will continue to enjoy walking through the nature conservation land and looking after the wildlife living there.'

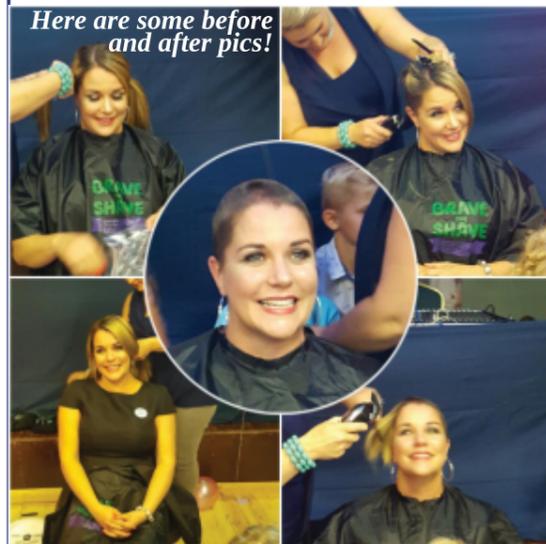


Braving the Shave!!

Becci Jeal

On 26th September I celebrated my 36th birthday in a rather unique way! After losing my beloved Mum to ovarian cancer in 2006 I decided to shave all my hair off in aid of Macmillan Cancer support. My hair was donated to The Little Princess Trust who make wigs for children who have sadly lost their hair due to treatment for cancer. I raised an amazing £2596. Considering my initial target was just £500 this is simply amazing and I would like to thank everyone for their donations and also their support. If you would like to help you can still donate at: bravetheshave.org.uk/shavers/rebecca-jeal/

This money will make such a difference to people's lives, not only those diagnosed with cancer but for families, like me, who are struggling to come to terms with this awful disease and the loss of their loved ones. It was a fantastic evening in the village hall, with a brilliant disco provided by Keith Reynolds of Sure Sound Entertainment. I would also like to thank my wonderful hairdresser Laura Webb for brandishing the clippers! Thanks to everyone who came, I didn't think I would enjoy it as much as I did!



W.I. Update

by Mary Foreman

Hi all. We are into October and the nights are drawing in, and getting colder. However Iwade W.I. have been busy in October. We attended the group meeting at Minster.

It was an enjoyable evening; the speaker was a wildlife photographer, and Abbey W.I. entertained us with their version of The Generation Game. We have also booked our Christmas meal at the Red Lion. During December we are having a trip up to London to the Borough Market, then to see the lights. For more details phone Glenn Walters on 01795 436515.

Iwade's Community Orchard

by Pippa Palmar

Did you fancy a flutter or go batty this summer? It was a cool summer night when 20 enthusiastic people from the community set out on a mission to discover who had taken up residency in their community orchard.



During the spring, evidence was discovered; yes! there were dragons in the undergrowth and beetles in the trees. Slow worms and common lizards were found warming themselves under mats laid down by children pre-Christmas and this was their reward.

But what did that summer night reveal? Following a talk about bats, their life style, their homes, their food and, no!, they are not blind, but their use of echo-location makes finding the next meal much easier.

The excited community group set off with bat detectors. Bat detectors pick up the echo-location sounds given out by the bats at a more audible level for the human ear. However, the night revealed very few bats; it was whelping time and mums and babies were well tucked up at home in their cosy holes in trees, roofs or bat boxes. Pipistrelle bats were found circling the church however; a majestic barn owl with beautiful cream plumage was seen hunting in the row of trees beyond.

After little luck with the bat detectors, our interest turned to the moths flying that night. A moth trap was set up in the new orchard. Were the mosquitoes flying? Yes and a few moths!



During the summer it was noticed that most moths were tending to fly in after midnight so an executive decision was made to leave the trap out overnight and

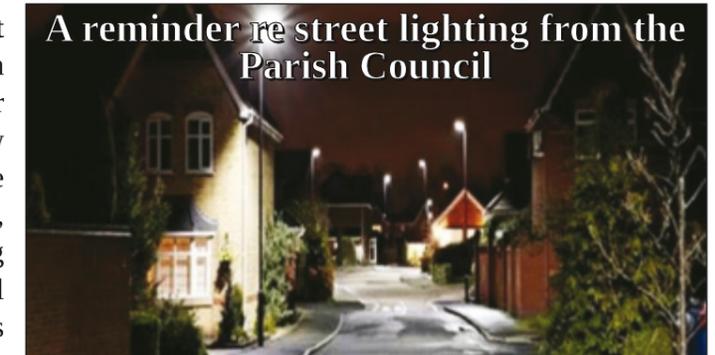
return to check it in the morning. We retreated to the cars and whilst packing away there was a friendly grunt from behind, yes we had a visitor to the orchard!

Mrs Tiggywinks, a hedgehog was making her way into the orchard. Watch out for her, we do not want to see her squashed on the road.

Later on during the summer we were pleased to welcome the Friends of the National Fruit collections, Brogdale. Members of this group descended from all over the country to discover why Iwade orchard was so important in Kent. With mouths aghast at the survival of the 80 year old trees which were saved and relocated, their interest turned to the Noble Chafer and its home amongst those trees which despite looking dead, do have some life. Yes this little beetle and, at a glance by a specialist, two other beetles have made these not-so-dead trees their home. This orchard now has a new life with the new trees which have been planted during the spring ensuring the continuity of life for this endangered species.



A reminder re street lighting from the Parish Council



As many residents expressed concerns about street lighting being switched off by KCC please have a look at this KCC site:-

kccmediahub.net/street-lighting-residents-asked-for-views-on-options745

This is your chance to let KCC know whether you think the lights should be switched back on or stay off! All comments on this consultation must be submitted by Sunday, 29 November 2015. If you want to have a voice on this issue make sure you submit your views.

Cooking with Robert Prendergast



The Observer is delighted to announce an exclusive partnership with one of London's best chefs; local resident and current Executive Chef of the 5 star Waldorf Hotel in London, Robert Prendergast. Robert has agreed to lend us his vast experience with some seasonal, regional and professional cooking tips! (perhaps we'll be seeing 'Iwade does Masterchef' soon!! - Ed)

Robert, originally from Limerick in Ireland, has previously worked for the Grosvenor Hotel London, InterContinental Hotel Park Lane, London and Hong Kong, Carlton hotel Edinburgh, Angel Hotel in Cardiff and various 5 star, boutique properties in Ireland.

Robert, who most recently returned from his role as consultant Executive Chef for the English Senior Ladies World Cup team in Canada where he spent 7 weeks with the team during the summer, is willing to offer up some of his secrets to assist you to grow in culinary confidence. Having worked in Hong Kong and having hosted food festivals in Japan, Robert has a wealth of International knowledge from the simplest of dishes to something a bit more elementary and will help you stretch your own culinary boundaries.

As Robert says, "Cooking has become an integral part of people's lives nowadays; Ingredients and knowledge are available at people's fingertips like never before, but having the confidence to push yourself isn't easy so I am hoping to be able to help you".

So, Robert's first recipe is for "one of the easiest and most rewarding dressings I have ever come across, originally from Japan, but borrowed by me, this recipe is amazing with sushi and sashimi, or if that's not your kind of thing just simply drizzle it over salads. I promise you won't be disappointed, it keeps for easily a couple of months if stored correctly in an air tight container, warm it up with a hint of wasabi if you like things hot!

Ponzu dressing

- 1 tablespoon Lime zest
- 50ml sesame oil
- 50ml corn oil
- 150ml stock syrup
- 200ml Kikkoman soy sauce
- 75ml fresh lemon juice
- 1 dessert spoon crushed black pepper
- 25ml Worcester sauce

Mix all ingredients together, refrigerate - use as required, give it a cocktail shake before you use it.

Let me know how you got on!!"

Any questions or comments mail to:- chefforiwade@gmail.com and Robert will try to answer your queries. As ever you can always contact The Observer at:- the.iwade.observer@gmail.com

SPEEDWAY ROUND UP

Paul Heller

Sittingbourne Speedway, at their track just off Raspberry Hill Lane, can reflect on a much busier time than in previous years.

Over the last few months the Club's regular practice sessions have seen a large number of riders and trainees come and use the track and it has thrown up a few interesting and unexpected faces. In August Micaela Bazan, Argentina's leading lady speedway rider popped in on her tour of British speedway tracks and put in a few fast laps of the Sittingbourne circuit. More recently the Club had a group of Carnival Queens come down and spend the afternoon riding on the Club's minitrack.

They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was difficult to see who had the biggest smiles, the girls or the Club's training instructors! At the other end of the age scale a very sprightly gentleman aged eighty also took to the track, had a great day with us and cannot wait to come back. He is, by far, the oldest person we have ever had on track.

Sunday October 11th was a special day at the track as the Club held its first public meeting for a good few years hosting the Ivor Thomas Memorial meeting, remembering the man who founded Iwade Speedway back in the 1970's, and the Malcolm Simmons Memorial Trophy commemorating one of England's finest speedway riders who was a good friend and supporter of the Club. A good crowd saw a varied afternoons racing with plenty of vintage speedway bikes roaring round the track to remind us of speedway from a bygone era.

The Club continues to grow and keep active and plans are already underfoot for the winter season of practices and races. If any Iwade residents would like to come and visit us please check our website www.sitruk.org for details of forthcoming events.

Iwade Reading Group

by Hilary Foulds

Lynn has chosen I Let You Go by Clare Mackintosh for November. This is Clare Mackintosh's first novel and it has had some fantastic reviews. We hope you enjoy reading it and that you might tell us what you thought of it either on our Facebook page or when we meet at Christine's on Tuesday 10 November.

Christine has already selected the book for our meeting at Hilary's on Tuesday 12 December. She has chosen The Kashmir Shawl by Rosie Thomas, an epic story of wartime, family secrets and forbidden love, set against the stunning exotic backdrop of 1940s Kashmir.

We'd love to know what you think of these books or if you have a book which you would like to recommend. You can find us on the Iwade Reading Group page on Iwade Village Does Facebook, by emailing us at hilary.foulds@hotmail.co.uk or by telephoning 01795 474656.

Church news

Harvest

A great Harvest Service in Church this year. We were joined by the children's choir from Iwade school along with some of their family and friends. Thank you to everybody who contributed to the collection taken for Tear Fund and Save the Children to help their work in relief of the Syria Crisis - you raised £138:56

The Bells, the Bells....

Our Bells are back in business! Glad to say our bells were checked recently and have been found to be in good working order. These bells are reputed to be the oldest in the country, and some of the members of All Saints' will be ringing them on Sunday mornings before the 10.45 service. DING! DONG!



Choir

The first meeting of the new choir took place on October 5th led by Nikki Hudson. About 15/16 villagers, adults and children, enjoyed the first session and subsequently are meeting once a fortnight to rehearse. Look out for further news of the choir's performances over the Christmas season.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

On September 25th we held a MacMillan Coffee Morning that was well supported, there being about 50 or so villagers during the course of the morning. A total of £221:47 was raised, and next year's event is already being planned!

Blythwood Shoebox Appeal

We are already halfway to our target of twenty shoeboxes. You could help by filling a shoebox (see list below) or simply putting a few things from the list into a bag to help us to fill one. Donations can be delivered to Church or to Jackie at 1 Alefe Way, (or an empty box can be collected if you can't get hold of one) by November 6th please.

Items that are suggested for filling your shoebox:

Toothbrush and paste, hat, scarf and gloves, underwear, socks, tights, soap, toy car (for boys), small doll (for girls), Shampoo, face cloth, deodorant, moisturising cream, comb/brush, sanitary products, shaving foam, razors, new make up. Candles, screwdrivers, pliers, sewing equipment, pens/pencils/sharpener, notebook, colouring books, rulers, rubbers. Sweets (but no chocolate or any other food) Best Before date at least March 2016) Or anything else that you think somebody who has nothing might appreciate.

Tinkerbells Early Years

Donna Barker

Last term at Tinkerbells went really well with our new and existing children settling in and learning all about themselves. Some of the children went over and filled the planter with some lovely plants and bulbs donated by Steve Anderson, we hope we have created a home for lots of butterflies.

This term at Tinkerbells is going to be a busy term as the Christmas period is quickly approaching. The children will be taking part in lots of fun Christmas-themed activities along with rehearsals for our Christmas Nativity, which I'm sure as in previous years will be an enjoyable time for all involved.

Our annual fundraising Christmas Fair will take place on Tuesday 24th November from 3:30pm till 5:30pm. If anyone would like a stall, please contact Donna on 07966 762239, everyone is welcome so we hope to see you all there.

We would also like to inform you that all our spaces at Tinkerbells in Iwade are currently taken, although if you would like to put your child's name down on our waiting list, please feel free to call in and pick up a prospectus. We do however currently still have spaces available at Tinkerbells at the Clocktower in Adisham Green in Kemsley.

All Saints Does Christmas

Stephen Plumb

This Christmas at your Parish Church, All Saints, there will be a variety of services to help you celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The Christmas season begins with 'Experience Christmas', when the church will be decorated around 6 major events of the Christmas story, and at each of these 'stations' there will be an opportunity to engage, reflect and pray. The children of Iwade School will be journeying through 'Experience Christmas' on Monday 14th Dec and Wednesday 16th Dec, both morning and afternoon. Everyone else is welcome to visit on Tuesday 15th Dec between 1-3pm and 7-9pm - do come and have a look!

On Saturday 19th Dec @ 7pm the UK Paper Brass Band will be leading a Carol Concert in Church. Tickets are £5 and include a light buffet and mulled wine.

Sunday 20th Dec @ 4pm 'Experience Christmas' and Christingle, a 60 minute service ideal for people of all ages.

On Thursday 24th Dec Christmas Eve, a choir, having been formed from people from the village who will have been rehearsing since mid October, will be leading the singing in both the 5pm Carol Service and the 11pm service of 'Carols & Holy Communion'.

On Christmas Day morning our 60 minute service 9.30-10.30 includes a community breakfast, and carol singing. Please note that this year we are NOT issuing tickets for any of the above except for the UK Paper Band concert. For further information on any of the above please contact Stephen Plumb on 01795 470418

Village Hall News

A whirlwind of a year has gone by since the current committee took over the running of the hall and in that year, we have seen big changes to the way it's run. We had to increase the hire cost for our regular groups, which was a decision not taken lightly, but was necessary to ensure the continuing use of the hall. With no price increase in 5 years, but with the bills going skyward, there was no option but to increase the fees. Alongside the changes for regular hirers was a new process of booking for occasional hirers too and this is now really easy and straightforward. Payments are now accepted via on-line banking and Paypal. All of these changes have taken a significant amount of time to sort out and we very much appreciate the patience of you all as we work through these changes.

A few weeks ago, we had our AGM and we now have a new member onboard, George Preston. We still have one space available, so if you are interested in being on the Committee, please let us know!

One concern that came out of the AGM was the question of how to contact us. Well, it's never been easier as we are in the process of updating the website to include an email address for each of the Committee members. We also now have a mobile number - 07724 862744.

What a fantastic monthly Food and Craft Fayre we had in October. The hard work done by Gaye, Gerri and Jean was evident in the amount of quality stalls we could browse. There was a great atmosphere there all day! Next month, we have more of the same but with a Christmas twist to it - Loads of extra stalls inside and out selling Christmas goodies - Don't forget the date as it's the 3rd Sunday of the month instead of the normal 2nd Sunday (to avoid Remembrance Sunday) so please put Sunday 15th November in your diary now. We may even have some mulled wine on offer! See you there 10am-1pm.

Another event that will have passed by the time you read this is the Spiritual Evening organised by our Treasurer Deanna. A lot of work goes into organising these events and I know this one was no different, so fingers crossed you all enjoyed the first ever Spiritual Evening and another can be organised for 2016. Hope you all had a great time.

Back to Christmas again and recently, we asked on Iwade Village Does Facebook, if anyone would be interested in visiting Father Christmas on Christmas Eve. He has kindly offered to take time out of his busy schedule of delivering presents to sit in our grotto in the hall for this special occasion. Due to the large numbers

of people who expressed an interest in visiting, we will need to do more planning with Father Christmas and may even need to schedule set times for people so everyone gets their turn, but we'll give you more info once we pin him down! The aim is have the grotto open from midday to approximately 4pm.

Is there an event that you would like to see organised at the hall? We have plans in 2016 for a quiz night, another Summer Fun Day, Spiritual Evening, Girls Night In and a Race Night. If you have any ideas what may appeal to residents of Iwade and the surrounding areas, please let us know, your ideas are always welcome.

Lastly, some more contact details for you! Come join us on Facebook or Twitter by searching Iwade Village Hall or check out the website at www.iwadevillagehall.co.uk

Patient Group – Iwade Health Centre

Patient Groups work working together with GPs to improve services and to promote health and improved quality of care. Having a wide range of patients on board can only help for the future of Iwade Health Centre, so if you have an hour or two to spare every few months, please come along to have a chat with us. Being a part of the Patient Group will give you an idea of the problems and issues most health centres face, the biggest one currently being a lack of GPs available. But, you can make a difference by joining us and together we can work towards making Iwade Health Centre the best in the area.

The hottest topic for complaints is lack of appointments. It's not an easy one to solve and it's one that we, along with most other surgeries have to deal with. There's no quick fix and there's always work to do on it, but, one way we the patients can help, is to not miss our appointments!

The number of appointments missed in August alone was 135, including 40 for the GPs and 45 for the Practice Nurse. If you have a mobile phone, please register the number at IHC and you will be sent a reminder text before your appointment. If you use the online booking system, you can cancel appointments that way too!

We must all do our bit by remembering a booked appointment, add it to your paper diary, log it in your phone, write it on your shopping list, do what you need to do, but please don't forget your appointment!

Our next meeting is Monday 9th November from 7-8pm, if you're over 18 and a patient of IHC, you are more than welcome to attend.

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING Held on Tuesday 9th September, 2015

The Chair introduced John Lancaster from Mongoose Energy; who had come to outline proposals relating to Orchard Farm Solar Farm in School Lane. The company wishes to help the community set up a Benefits Society (which is a type of co-op) and raise money to buy the solar farm from the developer. They run the farm on behalf of the community and any profits go back to the shareholders (members of the community can invest in shares) and into a community fund (they estimate this will equate to £80,000 per year; the project will span 25 years) which can then pay out grants to organisations for projects such as efficient lighting, loft insulation, solar heating, etc. There is also the prospect of cheaper electricity for households. The developer of the farm is OPDE; they asked Mongoose Energy to help them convert the project from purely commercial into community owned. Mongoose will be aiming to launch a share offer at the end of October and will be inviting local people to become members of the Co-operative; they will also be holding local events in Iwade and the surrounds to promote this, the first one being in mid-October. Mongoose Energy will be interested in hearing from anyone who would like to be on the Board of Directors.

Visitors/Public Time

•Visitors – A resident mentioned the Localism meeting and School Lane Playing Field/Pavilion; Clerk to arrange a meeting between the Iwade Herons and Parish Council and to organise a separate meeting with Persimmon to discuss this and other matters.

•A resident raised the issue of safety in Grovehurst Road; the problems pedestrians have crossing the A249 slip roads and the recent incident. The Chair advised that the Parish Council has consistently raised this in the past and KCC always waits for something to happen! The latest incident was reported to the Police. It was suggested arranging a meeting with the Highway Agency and others to look at the area and to see what can be done; the person involved in the incident is willing to attend the meeting.

•County and Borough Councillors – As he could not attend County Cllr. Truelove forwarded the following details: “He has arranged for improved signage and markings at the junction of Sanderling and the Street and will show the Parish Council what is planned. On School Lane, he is going to get the KCC Development team to discuss with the developers the lack of a good sight line for pedestrians and to look further at extra yellow markings.”

•Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO - The Community Warden's report had been circulated. There are on-going problems on the new development (CSU, PCSO and Amicus are aware); fly tipping incidents in Sheppey Way and Old Ferry Road; incidents with youths in Woodpecker Park (he will speak to the PCSO regarding these) and there have been problems with the new road layout near to the Medical Centre.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

•Grovehurst Road Resurfacing and renewing White lining in the Village – Clerk has received a response from KCC: “At the December 2014 meeting, the condition of Grovehurst Road Gateway was part of the list of around twenty sites that were discussed. As with many sites, there was not the funding to carry out works there this year but rest assured the site will not be removed from the list until improvement work has been carried out. KCC will also be looking at the white lining.”

Iwade Localism Project (Swale Borough Council)

The Minutes of Localism Meeting held on Monday 7th September, 2015, were circulated. The Parish Council to sit down with Iwade Herons to look at how the Pavilion and field will be managed; there is a need to ensure that the field is open for everyone to use. Swale Borough Council is writing to the landowner of the Allotments to see if they will pass the lease on to either the Allotment Association or the Parish Council.

•Mansfield Drive Bridge- The Parish Council met with the Police,

Environment Agency and Swale Borough Council to look at the bridge. The Police, Parish Council and residents don't want it opened but unfortunately the Environment Agency has now confirmed that they will be opening it on Health and Safety grounds.

•Village Maintenance- The Chair mentioned weeds, the way grass cutting is being done, etc.; there are a lot of things that are not being carried out properly that the Parish Council could organise better. Going forward it looks as though more things will be pushed on to Parish Councils with cuts at KCC and the Borough Council; it might therefore be appropriate to employ someone as a general Handyman; perhaps something to look at when preparing next year's Budget.

•Grovehurst Roundabout- In light of the most recent incident it was agreed to arrange a site meeting with Kent Police, the Highways Agency, Iwade and Kemsley Borough Councillors, County Councillors and Gordon Henderson M.P. to look at what can be done to enhance pedestrian safety.

Any Other Matters Arising

•The Chair wished to place on record thanks to Rynn and Jackie Kemp, Graham Horner, Stephen Plumb and Matt Gale for helping move the compost into the planters and for Jamie Dicker for the use of his tipper truck. The Church is keen to adopt a planter and Tinkerbells are happy to look after one if someone sponsors it; they are keen on a wildlife garden. The Chair will speak to Ickles Pickles and Happy Days to see if they will sponsor/maintain the Grovehurst Road planters. Iwade Garage might be willing to sponsor a planter with one of the Nurseries maintaining it.

•Cllr. Gale advised that the draft contracts have now been received for the Vodafone Rural Signal, which just needs to be returned. Once up and running (hopefully by Christmas) it will cover the whole of the village.