

Thursday 3rd December 11:15-11:30 | Mobile Library
At the Springvale end of Sheerstone, one piece of identification required to join.

Wednesday 9th December 19:30 | Iwade Parish Council Meeting
Iwade Parish Council ordinarily meet once a month on the second Wednesday at Iwade Village Hall at 7.30pm and allow time for visitors' questions in the agenda. Why not go along and find out more about what goes on, it is a public meeting. Keep an eye out for the agenda which will be published here as soon as it becomes available.

Thursday 10th December 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 13th December 10:00-13:00 | Iwade Village Food & Craft Fayre
There's never been a better time to pop down to see what's on offer at Iwade Village Food & Craft Fayre. It runs on the 2nd Sunday of every month in Iwade Village Hall.

If you're on the lookout for some fresh fish plus all of your veg and preserves from our outdoor stalls, then how about something sweet to finish it off? We have a couple of stalls selling homemade cakes and desserts that will satisfy even the sweetest tooth! But if you hanker after a more natural sweetness, we have locally produced honey on offer every month. There's always a little to taste too if you want to try it.

Along with the food stalls, we have plenty of other stalls to catch your eye too – ladies fashion scarves, handbags, beautiful handmade greetings cards, books, handmade craft items, jewellery, soaps, knitted items and wonderful scenic and wildlife prints. If it's brunch you're after, we've normally got bacon, sausage and fried egg butties cooking, plus the normal tea, coffee and squash to wash it down with. We can't promise Michelin stars, but we do promise to fill your stomach!

If you're interested in booking a stall at a future market, please email fayre@iwadevillagehall.co.uk or by mobile on 07588 401553. Please support your local market and come down to visit.

Tuesday 15th December 13:00-15:00 and 19:00-21:00 | Experience Christmas
1pm to 3pm and 7pm-9pm 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. Do come and have a look!

Wednesday 16th December 19:30 | Iwade W.I. Christmas Party
To be arranged. No competition this month but a free Christmas-themed raffle. Happy Christmas to the Iwade W.I.!

Thursday 17th December 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?

Saturday 19th December 19:00 | UK Paper Brass Band Carol Concert
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 December 16:00 | Christingle and 'Experience Christmas'
'Experience Christmas' and Christingle, a 60 minute service ideal for people of all ages.

Experience Christmas will see 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.

Thursday 24th December 23:00 | Carols and Holy Communion
11pm at All Saints Church Iwade, tickets are not required. Happy Christmas!

Thursday 24th December 17:00 | Carol Service
At All Saints Church the singing will be led by a choir formed from people from the village who will have been rehearsing since October. Tickets not required this year.

Friday 25th December 09:30-10:30 | Christmas Day Service
At All Saints Church the Christmas Day Service will include a community breakfast and carol singing. Happy Christmas!

Porchlight Appeal

Jackie Kemp

There has been so much interest in helping people closer to home after the success of the Blythwood Shoebox Appeal.

The church has agreed we can meet there on December 2nd - it's a Wednesday, from 6pm. I have bought some gift bags as I feared we would not get enough shoe boxes! So the plan is that together we will fill the boxes and bags with whatever is donated. If you have already chosen to fill a bag or box please bring it along and stay to help us if you have the time.

There is such a huge response of interest that I am looking to see where else we can take gifts if we have too much for Porchlight. This could include The Quays In Sittingbourne or The Salvation Army. But at the moment Porchlight is our choice (see www.porchlight.org.uk).

Iwade Scouts are having a talk from Porchlight and so the leaders are bringing some volunteers to help us and they will present our gifts at their Scout meeting the following week when they hear the speaker. I hope, with parental permission, we will be able to take a few photos to share on FB or in The Iwade Observer.

So don't stop getting things ready please. You can give items of toiletries or underwear, combs and brushes, note book and pens, sweets (selection boxes are good as if there are spares we can put them into a FoodBank), anything you think might appeal and bring a sense that

someone does care. The only limit is NO ALCOHOL. There are males and females at Porchlight between the ages of 16 and 25. I will also bring paper and sellotape so we can cover boxes or wrap a few items to make the presents a surprise. I'll make cakes too ... (bring some as well if you wish) I think the church at Iwade is getting a reputation for cakes!



Editors Note

Wow! Another Christmas almost upon us!! We wish all Iwadians a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Special thanks to our team of distributors led by Stephen Plumb, and all contributors who fill these pages each month.

DISCLAIMER

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Iwade Observer

December 2015



An Armistice Day to Remember.

Nigel Downes

As everybody knows the Armistice to end the First

than the Tower!!!), along with some small memorial



World War was signed on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. On the same day in 2015, around 450 children from Reception to Year 6 from Iwade School, came to 7 special services each led by Stephen Plumb.

The children sang a selection of war time songs which included 'The Quartermasters Stores' and heard Gary Jules 'Mad World'; their act of remembrance was very moving!



crosses carrying the names of some Iwadians that had died in WW1 and WW2. A very moving



In homage to all those who lost their lives



in that war and ensuing conflicts and reminiscent of the art installation, at The Tower of London last year, 'Blood Swept Land and Seas of Red' that marked the centenary of the start of World War One, the pupils of Iwade school had each made their own poppy to display in the Church garden (I think ours were better



Spotted flying overlooking the new build area and provoking an interesting thought on how our village has changed; a "Lest We Forget" flag flying over a soon to be forever lost, and forgotten, agricultural view.

Iwade Village Food & Craft Fayre
Sunday 13th December
For all your Christmas gifts and treats
Iwade Village Hall 10am - 1pm
Regular stalls at Iwade Village F&C Fayre

- Crafty Cards 4 All
- Ellens Crafts
- Spyralz Jewellery
- Dizzie Dees Designs
- P.'s Farm Shop
- Belt Busters snack bar
- Cornucopia Cakes
- Scarves & Bags
- Linda's Pies and Crumbles
- Queen borough Fishman
- Joannes Preserves
- James Scenic Prints
- Candles, 3D frames, knitted items

New stalls always welcome contact:
Geri on 07588 401553
email: fayre@iwadevillagehall.co.uk

Iwade Village Hall – December

Spiritual Night A first for the Village Hall, we had lots of positive feedback from the many people that came, the hall was full to brimming and it's a definite plan to organise another one. We hope to make the next one even more successful! We had psychics, healers and readers all working alongside each other and they were so busy, a few of them even stayed later than planned to accommodate the requests for private readings. A great night was reported and we'll look at getting another date in the diary after Christmas. Meanwhile, if you've got ideas that we could incorporate for the evening, please let us know.

The Christmas Food and Craft Fayre was held in November and we had some amazing stalls selling their goods. The hall was rammed with stalls and customers alike, and it was so good to see so many people supporting our local artisans. A bit of a stressful start to the day with the wind as we couldn't get the marquees secured well enough to ensure the safety of everyone, so, to avoid any Mary Poppins moments, we moved as many people as possible inside the hall.

It did mean we were a little tight for space and even had to utilise the kitchen for the first time, but lots of the stall holders and customers commented on how great the atmosphere was, so we are very happy. *(Ed - great work by the Village Hall folk - it was really abuzz!!)*

Out thanks go to everyone who helped on the day, we couldn't have done it without you. Many thanks also to those people who had stalls and to everyone who came to have a look around on the day. We are very lucky to have such clever, artistic people living near us as the chance to get a bespoke, handmade item is a luxury normally afforded to those in larger towns and cities.

The next Food and Craft Fayre is on December 13th and, although not specifically a Christmas one, there will be lots of stalls there that joined us in November, so a great chance to grab last minute presents or some lovely food for the festive period.

Don't forget that there will be no fayre in January, so the next one after December will be Sunday 14th February. A Valentine's special no less! Perhaps a romantic walk down to the hall could be exactly what your partner wants!

Back to December then and recently, a very generous, but anonymous benefactor donated an inflatable grotto to us all. By 'all', we mean the village. It will be managed by the Parish Council and is for the use of all of our community groups in Iwade and we're really happy to be the first to use it on Christmas Eve. We had been making tentative enquiries to borrow one, but nothing had been confirmed so when we heard about this one, we requested its use.

Our plans for Christmas Eve then are to open up The Grotto during the hours of 12-4 inside the hall. Tickets will be available from Iwade Pharmacy from Tuesday 1st December and will cost £1.50 with each child receiving a gift from Santa.

Each child will be allocated a 1 hour slot (12-1, 1-2 etc) and you are free to arrive anytime within that hour. There will be limited availability for each slot, so please buy your tickets quickly to ensure you get the hour you want.

Lastly, we'd like to thank everyone who has given their time up to help run community events throughout the year, not just at IVH, but across Iwade. It's not an easy task, and often it's a thankless one, but everyone should know that volunteers are the reason behind most activities whether it is a children's group like Brownies or Scouts, a grotto, an Easter egg hunt or maybe a village clean up day. If you can spare any time, then why not step up and offer your help to a local group or charity, I guarantee they'll be grateful for the offer.

On behalf of everyone on the IVH Committee, we wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. Hope to see you some of you on Christmas Eve!



Scouting in Iwade

Dean Stickells

The Scouting movement was proud to be represented at the Remembrance Day service on November 8th at All Saints Church. We had the

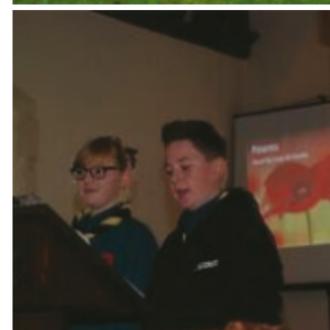


honour of being asked to read as well as our normal offerings which this year consisted of handmade wreaths and a banner of poppies. The pictures show us



getting ready to parade our standard, and some of our members reading to the 150 plus people that attended the service.

The Cubs recently enjoyed an evening at a local public IT facility provided by Amicus Horizon, where they worked towards some new badges including Photographer and Digital Citizen. The facility was provided free of charge and the Cubs were made very welcome by Ross Bell who manages the Centre in Milton Regis who even provided refreshments. Thanks Ross!



A favourite lamb dish

from Robert Prendergast

Here we have one of my favourite dishes; I am a massive fan of secondary/cheaper cuts of meat. With a bit off care these can produce a wonderful meal. Most braising joints tend to leave you unsure about cooking times but don't worry it's meant to be fun not stressful.

At the hotel when we are braising meat we set the oven temp to 82 degrees (there is a little bit of science behind this but effectively it's about breaking down connective tissues etc and maintaining all the flavour!) We do this over night so it goes in the oven at about 10pm and we take it out at about 10 am, you could leave it in longer if you were serving lunch.

- 2/3 kg Lamb Shoulder will generally feed 4 to 6 people
- Half a bunch of celery
- 4 whole carrots
- 4 whole peeled onions
- Half a garlic bulb
- 50 g Rosemary
- 50 g Thyme
- 2 Bay leaves
- 25 g Mace
- 25 g Ginger
- 10 g Paprika
- 2 red chillies
- 2 litres of Veal Stock or bouillon will do

Method:

1 Roughly chop all the vegetables and herbs, or in a blender, but you don't want to make a puree just have them small as if you had roughly chopped them.

Mix in the dried powders to the mixture, then rub the combined ingredients into the lamb and leave for 24 hours in a fridge.

To braise, warm the liquid and pre-heat the oven. Remove the mixture from the lamb shoulder and keep to one side. Seal the lamb all over in a hot pan; remember to season the lamb with a nice sea-salt or table salt and some cracked black pepper before searing in the pan, when done sear your remaining vegetable mix and add to the mix. Cover the dish with a suitable lid or tin foil and leave.

Ideally it's best if you leave it over night at 82 degrees but you must ensure that your oven is free from any defect and in good working order. If you are uncomfortable with leaving it over night you can put it in on the morning you require it at about 180 degrees for about 4 hours.

When ready remove from the liquor and leave to rest under a lightly dampened tea cloth, about 30 minutes later it should be ready to serve. Leave in the middle of the table and tuck in, serve with nice thick gravy with maybe a hint of mint in, to cut through the richness of the meat. It can be accompanied with anything from a simple mash, to a creamy dauphinoise or even braised lentils and some roasted or steamed garden vegetables.

I hope you enjoy these recipes and remember don't be too worried about it, it's only food and if it all goes wrong you can nip out for lunch or have take away. If you would like to know how to get the lamb looking like the picture or if you have any other questions please feel free to contact me at on chefforiwade@gmail.com and I will endeavour to answer all your questions. Have a great day!



All Saints Church Iwade

Stephen Plumb

Sorry that some of the details below are a repeat of last month's issue, but I didn't want Iwadians to miss the opportunity to visit their Parish Church this Christmas Season.

A big thanks to the Iwade community that has supported and been part of the life of the church this past twelve months.

Remembrance Sunday with the contribution made by the uniformed organisations and then the 'Sea of Poppies' made and placed by the pupils of Iwade School, was deeply moving.

The Foodbank continues to receive and distribute donations of food to local people, again thank you. Collection points at Iwade Health Centre and All Saints Church.

The Blythwood Shoe box appeal to make up Christmas parcels for children and adults overseas again captured people's attention, and sparked their generosity. 41 boxes were collected by Blythwood easily outreaching our target of 20 boxes!!

Subsequently many residents have also offered to raise awareness and gifts for Porch Light, a charity working with young people in Medway, who are homeless. The church will be open on Wednesday 2nd December from 6pm to wrap and prepare gifts - everybody welcome to come and help, enjoy the atmosphere and have tea/coffee, cakes and a chance to meet new friends.

All Saints' Christmas season begins with 'Experience Christmas'. The church will be decorated around 6 major events of the Christmas story, and at 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.

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

Sunday 20th Dec @ 4pm 'Experience Christmas' and Christingle, a 60 minute service ideal for people of all ages. Each child attending will receive a Christingle (a traditional decoration made with an orange, a candle and sweets)

A big thank you to all those who have come together to form a Community Choir for Christmas, and the fun we've had learning the songs. Special thanks to Nikki Hudson who has worked hard to get the choir concert-ready for their 'debut'. The choir will be singing at the Village Christmas Tree 'switch-on' on 29th November at 4.30.

The choir will also be singing on Thursday 24th Dec Christmas Eve, at 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. Finally, from everybody at All Saints, we wish you a Christmas full of joy and peace, and a very happy new year!

A Thought for Christmas

Rev'd Julian Staniforth

So the latest Christmas adverts have now launched, with their competing visions of Christmas seeking to entice us to part with our cash. Yesterday, my wife came back from shopping in Sittingbourne, somewhat aghast how, already in the first half of November, the shops were full of Christmas. "You would think it was happening tomorrow!" she said.

Then late last night, the shattering news of the latest Islamic State-inspired terrorist attacks in Paris, leaving over 120 dead and 300 injured. This, after the marking of Remembrance across this and others nations, scarred by the last century's two World Wars. The high cost of the values of peace, freedom and justice is all too clear. A city finds itself shocked, bewildered and traumatised by what has happened.

How can this be?

The contrast between the two is stark. No matter how we might like to escape into the commercialised dreams presented by the adverts, these terrible events shatter any such illusions. "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" goes the French saying. "Nothing changes" in other words. The brutality of one human being to another still knows no bounds, as these lines from a song* express:

"Will our wars go on forever,
and will peace be never
at Christmastime?"

Yet it was into such a world that the Jesus came. Not just to reveal God's love for this hurting world, but to transform it. How? Simply by being Lord of our lives, if we will let him. The verse continues by bringing out that unsettling challenge:

"If we keep him in the manger
then there is no danger
from the Christmas Child"

As Christmas approaches, may we risk that danger and not limit him to the manger; may we join in making our own this song's joyful refrain:

"Oh let this child be born in your heart!
Oh let this child be born in your heart!
Tonight, tonight."

Every blessing to you and all those you love this Christmas as we celebrate again Jesus, Immanuel; the Lord God who saves and is with us always.

Rev. Julian Staniforth

Rector of The Six benefice of churches

*from The Christmas Child by Graham Kendrick

The Observer is delighted that with a bit (not too much!) arm-twisting David Whitehead has agreed to write regularly for the Observer, about some of his memories of country life in and around Iwade when it looked a very different place to what it does now!

Lambing in Iwade years ago!

When I was a boy, about 8-10 years old, my friend was the son of a shepherd and I would go with his dad looking after the sheep, it was something I was interested in but at times as a young lad it was a bit scary for me!

When he was getting ready for "lambing" the first thing to do was put the rams in with the ewes. The rams were fitted with harnesses with a marker at the waist area, this would have a red colouring on it that would leave it's mark on the ewe's back so he knew what ewes he had mated.

When the pregnant ewes were ready to lamb he would catch them and put them somewhere sheltered, lay straw and make squares with bales for them go into, then he would hang lanterns (Hurricane Lamps) on metal rods to keep away the foxes and to give him some light. He would then watch them to see what ones were ready to give birth and he knew by their movements and facial expressions when thta was going to happen. When they came he only ever "pulled a lamb" if it was in trouble (not like today!) If one was in trouble he would help pull it out and if there was any tearing he would cover it with "Jeyes Fluid" & either stitch it up with twine or use big safety pins!

Usually the ewes had between one and four lambs (they were a bit smaller then because the Rams were "Halfbred Rams" which were quite small) The shepherd always wanted to save as many as he could because he got one shilling & sixpence bonus for all of them that survived. If one of the ewes lost a lamb he would take lamb from a ewe that had 3 lambs, and the dead lamb would be skinned, its fleece rubbed in the afterbirth of the mother, and this fleece would then be tied onto the other lamb (this was known as a "Jacobs Jacket"). She would then lick it and smell it and hopefully think it was her own.

When the lambs got older they would all be "penned up" in a square pen with a big post in it, then you would hold the lamb (facing away from you and sit it on top of the pole, the Shepherd would have a "brazier" going and he would put the "Tail Cutter" tool (it was a rod that had an iron handle with a wedge shaped iron cutter on the end) into the fire and get it red hot, then he would burn off their tails which were bagged up, taken home, and mum used to make soup out of them, it took ages to skin them all! (I did hear that some shepherds put them under their potatoes when they planted them to make sure they got a good crop).

Another job for the shepherd was to cut the "Purse" (Scrotum) of the "Whethers" (boy lambs) and remove their testicles which he then threw to his dog. (nowadays they use rubber rings that cut off the blood and their bits drop off) The dog, of course, you weren't allowed to stroke or make a fuss of as it was a working dog and fussing it would spoil it (but I know it didn't because I used to make a fuss of it when the shepherd wasn't about!) Within a few days the lambs would be running and jumping around the field. No livestock had it so bad in those days and thank God it's so much better for them today.

(Ed - thoroughly enjoyed reading this David, it brought back many lovely childhood memories - looking forward to your next piece already!)

JUST THREE SNIPS!!

Pippa Palmar

Pruning young fruit trees for traditional orchards
You may have noticed that new plum trees were planted this last spring to gap up where the older trees were dying in your community orchard. The varieties we planted were; Old Green Gage, Oullins Golden Gage, Opal, River's Early Prolific, Victoria and Warwickshire Drooper. However, since we have planted the new trees need a little pruning. I am sure we all need a little guidance on how to prune.

Initial points to remember

Do not prune stone fruit such as plum and cherry in the winter, disease can attack the open wounds. This should be done after flowering.

All young fruit trees require formative pruning, the initial pruning of a young tree to develop a balanced shape.

This work involves pruning young growth back to encourage the tree to grow in the right direction and develop thick branches.

The eventual aim is to develop an evenly spaced, open network of branches above the height of grazing livestock and/or machinery.

Stone fruits such as cherry and plum do not respond to pruning as well as apple and pear trees so their formative pruning should be kept to a minimum. Yes, so just three cuts are required for each of the first few years, in fact you could maintain this strategy for all fruit trees.

Background

Once a tree is planted, initial pruning is the most important period during the trees life. This will create a strong branch framework forming a healthy tree that will crop well in the future. Strong, well-spaced horizontal branches which support the weight of the fruit and ensure it gets as much sun are necessary. Young trees which are not pruned may develop thin, vertical, overcrowded, crossing and badly placed branches and unable to support the weight of the fruit and therefore bend or even break.

How to prune these young trees

Initially, make sure there is only one leader which will form the main trunk of the tree. If this or the top bud becomes damaged, the central leader may grow weakly. In this case cut it back to a healthy, well-placed side shoot which will develop into a new leader. Any growth from the rootstock should be removed as it will direct the trees energies away from the grafted variety.

A good branch structure is important to support the laterals at a height above the reach of grazing sheep or machinery used to manage the orchard. The first branch on the trunk does not increase in height from the base as the tree grows: only the girth increases. Therefore your first branch should start between 1.5 and 2.0 metres for a traditional orchard. Ensure that as you prune and remove the initial unwanted the branches they need to be evenly spaced rising by about 20cm round the tree creating a radial as you look vertically down as seen in the diagram. But remember only three cuts are needed each year in the first few years!!! This is a slow process. Following this allows the tree fruit to ripen evenly and the blossom to be pollinated. Branches which are crossing, weak or diseased must be removed. Remember if you remove a branch horizontally, the growth hormones will be stimulated to produce buds which will become branches, defeating the object of your initial cut. Make a clean cut as close and vertical to the point of attachment as required. Remember the more you prune, the stronger the regrowth (if the tree is healthy). Just three snips!!

We look forward to many more activities in the Community Orchard next year - Happy Christmas to all

Tinkerbells Early Years

Jody Paine

A fun and exciting term is underway and being enjoyed by all.

The children have been very busy this term with the run up to Christmas and have been taking part in Winter and Christmas activities. They have been creating their own firework pictures and are looking forward to creating Christmas stockings, making decorations and taking part in many other Christmas themed activities too.

The Children have also been really busy practising for our up and coming Christmas nativity and Christmas carol concert, which we are sure will be enjoyed by all involved.

Our Christmas fair was a great success and we would like to thank everyone that attended. We would also like to thank the local businesses that kindly donated prizes for our raffle.

Our topic for the New Year will be 'People who help us' and we have contacted the local Fire and police stations hoping they will pay the children a visit.

Our waiting list for September 2016 is growing rapidly so we would just like to remind everyone that should you require your child to be put on our waiting list for September sessions, then please do so ASAP to avoid any disappointment.

Tinkerbells would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Iwade WI

Christine Freshwater

Hi everyone, Christmas will soon be with us; we have been busy recently. At our October meeting we enjoyed a visit and talk from Claire Pearson and her dog Pal, a Medical Detection Dog. This proved to be very interesting and informative of the great work of this charity. At our November meeting we held our AGM followed by a Fish & Chip supper. In December we have arranged a visit to London's Borough Market for some festive shopping followed by a tour of the festive lights in London. Some of our members will be going for lunch and the panto at the Mid-Kent College and we will also be enjoying our Christmas meal at the Red Lion. Merry Christmas from Iwade WI. For more details call Glenn Walters on 01795 436515.

All Saints Coffee Pop-up Christmas Special

Thanks to everybody who has supported our coffee shop over the last few months. It has been great to see so many new faces and put a 'person' to a facebook name!!

On Thursday December 10th we are holding a Christmas Special from 1 pm. Gifts for the children, maybe some party games, and of course a chance to 'just get out of the house' and enjoy a chat over a hot drink and a bun!!

Hope to see you there - look out for FB posts for more information in due course.

A message from Duncan Dewar-Whalley

Swale Borough Councillor for Bobbing, Iwade and Lower Halstow.

It gives me great pleasure to wish all residents in Iwade a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I'm sure many of us will of course be looking forward to a welcome break with some time away from work.

However, I also appreciate that others will be working right through the Christmas period ensuring vital services are delivered. May I take this opportunity to send my sincere thanks to them.

Christmas offers us the opportunity not only for celebration but also for reflecting on the past and looking ahead to the year to come. It is also a time for us to send good wishes to those we care about.

I would like to thank our Parish Councillors who work throughout the year for the benefit of our community and of course our Parish Clerk Lynda who looks after the councillors including Cllr Ben Stokes and myself Celebrating and respecting all religious festivals together helps us to realise harmony across faiths and communities irrespective of our diverse backgrounds.

I hope that your Christmas is enjoyable and wish you a very happy new year

Duncan Dewar-Whalley.

Iwade Reading Group

by Hilary Foulds

Everyone enjoyed the twists and turns of November's book, 'I Let You Go' by Clare Mackintosh. So much so that we have made a note of her next book 'I See You' due to be released August 2016.

Our book for December which we will discuss at our meeting on Tuesday 8 December is 'The Kashmir Shawl' by Rosie Thomas, an epic story of wartime, family secrets and forbidden love, set against the backdrop of 1940s Kashmir. The Reading Group is looking forward also to celebrating our second Christmas together with lunch at The Woolpack in December.

Our book of the month for January is Virginia Woolf's 'To The Lighthouse' to be reviewed at our meeting on Tuesday 12 January. If you have a book to recommend we would love to hear from you. We would also welcome you should you like to join us at a reading group meeting. You can find us on the Iwade Reading Group page of Iwade Village Does Facebook, or find out more by either emailing us at hilary.foulds@hotmail.co.uk or by telephoning 01795 474656.



IWADE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING Held on 14th October, 2015

Present:

Cllr. J. Hunt- Chair, Cllr. M. Gale- Vice-Chair, Cllr. P. Horner, Cllr. R. Clark, Cllr. D. Gale, Cllr. P. Hyde, Cllr. S. Plumb, Lynda Fisher, Clerk, 8 Members of the public.

Visitors/Public Time

•Visitors – Seven residents attended to raise their concerns at the Planning Application 15/505910/REM – Coleshall Farm, Ferry Road development. Issues raised were a corridor being opened up adjacent to 36 Mansfield Drive creating a hazard as the stream is nearby; plots 228-230 need to be swapped back with 231-234. 2.5 high houses to the rear of properties in Mansfield Drive, residents will suffer from overlooking and loss of privacy. Who maintains the proposed hedge to the rear of Mansfield Drive - fencing is also needed for security and privacy. The wildlife corridor has been drastically reduced. Flooding is a concern as newer properties are on higher ground than the old.

Councillors commented that they are still concerned about the 2.5 high houses to the rear of properties in Mansfield Drive; although it has been explained that the third level is in the roof these buildings are still much higher than a normal two storey building. The residents of Mansfield Drive will suffer overlooking and loss of privacy; this will have a huge impact on existing bungalows. As mentioned in the Parish council's previous objection residents received a letter from the developer stating that only two storey high buildings would be placed to the rear of their properties; a copy of this letter was attached to the Council's submitted comments.

•County and Borough Councillors – Borough Cllr. Stokes sent his apologies; he is dealing with several residents' issues in Iwade at the moment. He asked if the Parish Council would like to apply for a Member's Grant of £200 towards the Christmas Tree/Lights.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

•Meeting with the Iwade Herons re Pavilion and Playing Field – Members of the Parish Council met recently with representatives from Iwade Herons to discuss how this was going forward and how site management would work between the two parties. The Herons will produce a business plan; consider a 25 year lease of the Pavilion and whether to take on the playing field; they will also discuss this with Borden Sports Association, who has a similar set up in Borden. There is also the thought that the area can be used by a Cricket Club and for Hockey. The field itself will remain open, as in the past, for the residents of Iwade to use.

•Grovehurst Roundabout and Slip Roads – Members of the Parish Council met with a representative from Highways England, County Councillors, Borough Councillors, KCC Officers and a member of the public involved in the recent accident, to look at the slip roads and the issue of pedestrians trying to cross them. Highways England (HE) agreed to investigate and advise of their findings. The Clerk has now received an e-mail clarifying the HE maintenance boundary and advising that investigations into the feasibility of installation of a 'pedestrian in the road ahead' warning sign on the northbound exist slip road will be undertaken.

Planning

•15/505910/REM: Coleshall Farm Ferry Road Iwade Kent ME9 8Q: Approval of Reserved Matters including details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the erection of 86 dwellings pursuant to outline application SW/08/1127 – Members agreed to respond as follows:

Plots 228-230 need to be swapped back with 231-234, as on the previous plan. This amendment has opened up a corridor adjacent to No 36 Mansfield Drive to the children's play area. A serious health and

safety issue is created in that there is nothing to prevent young children, attracted by the new 'pathway' falling into the stream (which at this point is some six to 10 feet below steep banks). Because of the development the stream is now extremely fast flowing, deeper and more a danger. The original layout prevented this access and it would be simple, and no cost to the developer to revert to it. If this remains as revised then we would enquire whether Kent Police have been consulted on this new 'walkway' – what are their views? We would also insist that close board fencing and a hedge sited along this corridor and continues along the stream bank for health and safety reasons and crime prevention.

Councillors are still concerned about the 2.5 high houses to the rear of properties in Mansfield Drive; although it has been explained that the third level is in the roof; these buildings are still much higher than a normal two storey building. The residents of Mansfield Drive will suffer overlooking and loss of privacy; this will have a huge impact on existing bungalows. As mentioned in our previous objection; these residents received a letter from the developer stating that only two storey high buildings would be placed to the rear of their properties; a copy of this letter was attached to our submitted comments.

Proposed hedge: we would again query maintenance of the hedge between the new and existing development; we believe this is not down to the residents but there is no access to maintain it? Furthermore it would appear that the hedge is in fact a narrow strip of plants of between 30 and 80cms in height. It will provide no barrier. This 'plant border' is the only marker at the end of the gardens of the new houses – they have no fence or other boundary? The Parish Council is concerned about the lack of security and privacy between the houses along that boundary.

Behind 40 and 42 Mansfield a 2 metre wide strip of grass is proposed with a 30-50cm planting as the only barrier to prevent entry from the public open space into the gardens of these houses. A similar situation exists at 38 Mansfield Drive. Security and privacy are totally absent; other and adjacent houses have the same virtually non-existent barrier between their gardens and those of the new homes. The inclusion of a 1.8m high close-boarded fence would achieve security and privacy for these residents.

The originally promised 2 metre wide wildlife corridor has now been reduced to (to quote one of my Members) 'the width of a chair', which is extremely disappointing.

As some of the gardens of properties in Mansfield drive are lower than the new properties, residents have deep concerns regarding flooding; some properties have already suffered this and we did raise this issue in our previous objection.

In light of the above the Parish Council requests that the Planning Committee to undertake a site visit so that Borough Councillors can fully appreciate the impact on security, health and safety, overlooking and loss of privacy and that the committee at least consider deferring their decision to give the Parish Council time to consult with Persimmon and their agent to follow up on all concerns and come to an agreement.

•15/507606/ADV: Advertisement - 4 No. externally illuminated fascia signs; Non-illuminated ACM direct print panels; Non-illuminated window vinyl graphics applied internally; Non-illuminated frosted manifestation vinyl window bands (x2) and door bands (x2); Non-illuminated ATM clip frame; 4 No. non-illuminated lockable poster frames; Internally illuminated totem sign; 3 School Mews Iwade Kent ME9 8UW – the Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds:

The Village Centre was originally designed with the shops facing 'inwards' on to the square to lessen the visual impact on the surrounding roads. The design was to try and give the street scene more of a residential impression. The 'Totem' illuminated sign to be located outside of the inner square on the corner of The Street/School Lane is totally out

of keeping with the street scene and will distract drivers' attention on this junction. It will be a blot on the present landscaped garden.

The illuminated signs above the unit are out of keeping with the adjacent shops in the courtyard and will cause a light nuisance to residents of the flats above and opposite.

The illuminated signs facing the car park are out of keeping with the area and will present a 'cluttered' appearance with addition of the proposed advertising boards.

Correspondence

•Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Safeguarding Board - Draft Strategic Plan 2015-2018 - Invitation to Join – Agreed individual Members to respond and the Chairman to place this item on Iwade Village Does Facebook.

Finance

•Christmas Tree 2015 – Agreed to have existing lights and associated equipment PAT tested and a timer installed in the lamp column; Clerk to approach B.W. May to see if they will carry this out and the cost involved. Clerk to ascertain cost of a tree from the supplier used last year; money has been set aside in the budget for this. It was agreed that the tree lighting ceremony will take place on Sunday 29th November, at 4.30 p.m. An article to be placed in the Observer advising residents of the date and time; Clerk to ask for the road to be closed.

•Planters – Cllr. Hunt wished to thank everyone who has agreed to maintain a planter; particular thanks go to those who are acting as sponsors. Those involved are Ickles Pickles, Tinkerbells, Iwade Garage, Heaven Hairdressers, Happy Days, School Lane Farm, Steve Anderson and the Church. Proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Hyde, all agreed, Cllr. Hunt to arrange signs indicating sponsor for each planter; the cost being £15.

Iwade Localism Project (Swale Borough Council)

•The Barn – The Barn now has electricity; the Lease is signed and hopefully by the end of this week the building will be handed over to the Trust. Details of the doors have now been received and it was suggested that a meeting take place between the Parish Council and the Trust to look at the project.

Emergency Plan

Cllr. Horner is looking into this. We need to adopt an Emergency Plan for the village and in this respect she has spoken to Victoria Hadfield, who is in the throes of assembling a new pro forma template for villages.

Reports from Representatives (Village Hall and KALC)

•Hall – Cllr. Gale reported that at the September meeting procedures and rules for various Officers were determined. The Committee is looking into hiring a new Cleaner. There are some new hirers – Yoga and Children's Dancing. The Hall has an alcohol licence which they are looking to reactivate. The floor needs to be sanded and varnished again and the A.G.M. has taken place. A letter has been received from the W.I. regarding storage; he has looked into it and there is no more storage available; lockers are being removed from the old storage cupboard because of Health and Safety Regulations. However, the Village Hall is looking at buying more lockers in the future.

Any Other Matters Arising

•Cllr. Hunt advised that he attended a meeting arranged by the Medway Estuary and Swale Strategy group and that Iwade is now a Key Stakeholder in the Engagement Group.