

## HAPPY DAYS - THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR MEETS POSTMAN PAT !!



March brought with it one of our favourite days of the year, World Book Day. There's nothing better than immersing ourselves in a good story. Our little ones enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters, from the cutest little Hungry Caterpillar to a perfect Postman Pat. We were entertained by fantastic immersive puppet shows including the Three Little Pigs which is always a hit. We built our own houses but amazingly the wolf could not huff and puff our houses down! Some of our Honeybees embraced their imagination with a bear hunt in our garden. They ran through the wavy grass, across the river and through the storm. What an adventure they had!

Speaking of adventures, one of our Nursery Nurses is off to volunteer in Ghana in the summer months and the children are enthralled by talk of her African adventure. They particularly like talking about all the animals she might see, and are keen to show off all their incredible animal noises. We are planning a cake sale in the next few months for her trip and would appreciate any support. Rumour has it, Happy Days' Bear may be accompanying her and we can't wait to hear about all his amazing adventures.



2024 marks the 20-year anniversary of Happy Days Nursery; 20 years of fun and laughter. We've never lost our passion for ensuring every child receives the best of care and enjoys happy days at our nursery. We hope, particularly as the new funding entitlements for working parents are introduced for 2-year olds (from 15th April 2024), we can share our passion with many more families.



We currently have some afternoon sessions available throughout the week and full days on Fridays. In September funding extends to include children from 9 months old. We are currently taking bookings for all rooms for September onwards. If you would like to register your interest, or discuss availability of funding for all ages, please call the office (01795 424348) or use the contact form on our website (<https://www.happydaysuk.co.uk/apply-for-a-place>).

We look forward to hearing from you. Here's to the next 20 years and all the families we are yet to meet!

APRIL 2024

# THE IWADE OBSERVER

## MEDWAY MODEL FLYING CLUB

### Phil Fearn

The Club's name is Medway Model Flying Club (MMFC), perhaps a little misleading as for all of its 50 years the club has flown at Iwade! It's named MMFC as the founder members all came from Gillingham or Chatham but could not find a suitable area to start a club there and Medway Council had banned all model flying in the local parks. After speaking to a friendly farmer Medway MMFC came to Iwade in 1974, and has been flying at Iwade ever since

We are currently situated approximately one mile from the centre of Iwade. We started flying in a field owned then by a local Land owner Ms June Thomas. Her Field was just off of Raspberry Hill. We had regular meetings there until we moved to our present site at Orchard Farm off School lane near its junction with Stickfast Lane.

We fly all types of models from Control line, Radio Control Drones or Quad-Copters too and planes of all descriptions - apart from Turbine models.

The club became affiliated with the British Model Flying Association (BMFA), our national body around 1999. They look after our interests nationally and communicate with the Civil Aviation Authority when needed and arrange our insurance and events



throughout the year . Picture shows some of our members after a BMFA national attempt to

started in 2022 to mark the BMFA's Centenary and has now become an annual event. Due to weather conditions the previous year's record of 3,109 model at 263 clubs was not beaten but watch out for next year's attempt.

Our club has spaces for new members including youngsters of all ages, from 10 to 100. We offer, free to members, one-to-one training and advice on appropriate choice of model and radio equipment to get started, and we operate a dual control system for novice pilots.

During the summer months the club organises one or two Swap Meets where you can pick up a bargain or sell your unwanted modelling related goods (see picture). A small charge is made for a pitch that goes into our charity fund. Any profits from our activities have been given to a charity and since we started the charity chosen has been the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance (KSSAA) and over the years the club has raised donations to the KSSAA in excess of £20,000.

During the winter months we arrange indoor flying at the Medway Park Sports and Leisure Centre in Gillingham where we have raffles to help cover the cost of the hall and any again all profits go to the KSSAA. We would love to be nearer but there are no indoor facilities in the area.

We are a friendly club and welcome anyone interested in the hobby to visit us for a



see how many models could be airborne at 12 noon on the 14th of May 2023. 2,224 models were in the air at clubs all over the UK and MMFC managed to get 22 up and flying! This event was



Medway Model Flying Club

chat or to join our ranks. Like to know more? Then please contact me at: [pfiwade@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:pfiwade@blueyonder.co.uk)



## IWADE INSPIRATION: ANIMATED ACTIVITY

As promised in my last month's column, I want to spend just a little time discussing communication with your local GP surgery and Health Centre. I'm old enough to remember the days when a call to your local surgery meant a visit from your doctor within days if not hours and his or her cheerful face would peer around your bedroom door with good medical advice and prescriptions for your chemist. No, it's not an episode of Call The Midwife; this really used to happen. How times have changed! If you want to make an appointment now, as you know, you will need to grapple with the ANIMA system. It's new and it can be confusing but change needs patience and a bit of persistence.

One of the Patient's Group I chair wrote to me of their experience of Anima which was, on the whole, positive. It did take two attempts, the first saying: "system at capacity, please try again at 2.30" but once the request was accepted there was a call within 10 minutes and an appointment notified by text within 15. The actual GP appointment was prompt and the doctor was good-humoured, attentive, understanding and thorough although she did have a rather strong accent. Many of us on the PPG are agreed that Iwade surgery like so many parts of the NHS is struggling with underfunding, lack of resources and pressures on time and talent. It leaves us all feeling a bit grumpy and impatient but deep down we know we have to try and make it work.

But what to do if you can't get online or get to grips with Anima? Iwade practice assure me that the young and the elderly are prioritised and therefore, it is possible to bypass Anima and make an appointment direct. Please persist with reception and explain politely that you are unable to use the system. I will be asking the Iwade Practice for a more widely publicised and thorough explanation of how Anima works. WATCH THIS SPACE!

Incidentally, I got my first post in the Pharmacy PPG metal box. It was a well worded letter with many positive comments about the Iwade practice and its staff and appreciation of their kindness and courtesy. The letter was anonymous and contained no contact details leaving me unable to follow it up directly so a THANK YOU in this column must suffice. I will pass on the contents to the practice and also raise the "things which could be improved" section of the letter.

As always, please contact me with any concerns.

God bless you!

**John Guest**



## HELP US KEEP OUR VILLAGE CLEAN!

In our busy lives, we often overlook the small acts of kindness that shape our communities. Today, I want to extend a big thank you to our first two volunteers! Your commitment to keeping our paths clean is greatly appreciated.

As I've ventured into litter-picking and walked around the village, I've noticed many villagers quietly picking up litter they come across. It's heartening to see how after windy days, litter disappears overnight, thanks to these individuals. Even dog walkers with litter pickers contribute to the tidiness while out with their pets.

To all of you, a heartfelt thank you! Your efforts make a real difference. If you need equipment to assist your efforts, please contact me using the details on the poster opposite! Your dedication to our community's cleanliness is inspiring, and we're here to support you in any way we can.



## IWADE KEEPING MY VILLAGE CLEAN

### Why wait for our village clean up events?

It's the responsibility of every resident to help maintain a beautiful village. To support us all to benefit from a more beautiful environment, the Parish Council have a clean up kit you can borrow that includes:

- 1 x Litter Picker
- 1 x Hi Viz Vest
- 2 x Refuse Sacks

For more information Please scan:



CONTACT: [ClrRStalley-Moores@iwade-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ClrRStalley-Moores@iwade-pc.gov.uk)

## MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

FUNDED BY IWADE PARISH COUNCIL LITTER PICKERS KINDLY DONATED BY McDonald's - Belling, M9 8RZ

## SPEEDWAY'S 2024 START

**Paul Heller**

The sound and the smell of speedway bikes once again filled the air at Sittingbourne Speedways tracks just off Raspberry Hill Lane on Saturday 9th March. The Club ran its first practice session of 2024. The practice saw some 30 riders taking part on both the main track and the mini track making it a well-supported event.

The speedway season starts in a few weeks' time, just before Easter, so this was an ideal opportunity for riders to get themselves race fit and to sort out any bike problems. Thankfully, for once, it was a dry day and the tracks were in a good raceable condition,



unlike the previous weeks when it has been so wet the tracks have been waterlogged and impossible to even walk on.

As the 2024 season takes shape it could be a very busy year for the Club as we have the newly re-formed Kent

Kings team riding their matches here. We will also be home to the Crayford Kestrels team who will be using the track for their matches. In addition, we will have our normal practice sessions plus increasing interest from the flat track racing fraternity which will certainly keep us on our toes.

Our pictures show some of the riders going through their paces in the recent practice session



## ANDREA'S ENGLISH TUTORING (TEACHER OF ENGLISH)

Tel: 07590 223175

Email: [asartbuzz@gmail.com](mailto:asartbuzz@gmail.com)

GCSE Preparation classes: Years 10 and 11

Full DBS, Safeguarding, Child Protection/Wellbeing, etc.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEND A HAND WITH IWADE RAINBOWS?



**Julie Stoneman**

I run the Iwade Rainbows for girls aged 4 - 7yrs and am in need of a reliable person to become a Unit Helper on Mondays between 16.15 - 17.40.

No experience needed just an interest in volunteering and assisting with the weekly term-time meetings which include activities and crafting.

If you'd like to give it a try and have some fun too, please do get in touch with me, Julie Stoneman at: [rainbows1stiwade@outlook.com](mailto:rainbows1stiwade@outlook.com)

## PASTORAL LETTER

### **Food for Thought: “Who do you say I am?”**

“Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” Such are the words that will ring out every Sunday morning now across the world in this Easter season throughout this month of April. For like Christmas, Easter is not just a day. It is a period when Christians acknowledge the impact of the risen Jesus, not just transforming the lives of his followers then but transforming the world ever since.

This same Jesus had been executed and buried just a few days before. Yet there he stood amongst his friends unmistakably alive, having overcome death. Even the worst thing that anyone could do to another to silence them, by putting them to death, could not prevail. Is this why in recent times the Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny, a professed Christian, was able to face into his ordeal and eventual death at the hands of Putin’s brutal regime? Even death could not hold him.

Christians speak of this as being the greatest day in history. Even as I write these words, I’m sure that there will be some thinking, “really?” Yes, really. For it is not just Christians who

say this. For the historian Tom Holland, himself a non-believer, identifies how the values of Western societies have been formed by the disruptive impact of the Christian faith itself rooted in Jesus’ resurrection. Where else did our assumptions about “loving your neighbour”, “going the extra mile”

and being a “good Samaritan” come from”? They condition our responses to situations such as Gaza, Ukraine and the plight of asylum-seekers and refugees. The prevailing cultural attitudes of ancient times were turned completely on their head. As Holland himself observes in his own words “it is, to coin a phrase, the greatest story ever told”\*.

Many found Jesus’ teaching tough because it was not what they wanted or expected. He asked his follower Peter at different times, “who do you say I am” and “are you going to leave too?” He replied, “Lord, to who shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God”.

What about you? Who do you say he is? Not sure? Have questions? Then come and explore them with us.

Blessings

Julian

Rev Julian Staniforth, Rector of The Six benefice

\*Dominion by Tom Holland



## NEWS FROM CITIZENS ADVICE SWALE - MARCH 2024

We’re experiencing a busy winter at Citizens Advice Swale, including our energy advice team, which was formed in response to the national cost of living crisis.

Fortunately, with the help of funding from a number of local and national bodies, we’ve been able to direct energy advice and financial assistance to the most vulnerable in our community as well as to those who’ve needed extra support in these challenging times.

Since our energy project began, the team has operated through a number of channels, providing face-to-face energy and general advice in local foodbank venues while ensuring we reach out to the most isolated clients by telephone and email. The aim of the project hasn’t simply been to help clients access emergency energy funding but to provide a holistic advice service to address clients’ specific issues. As important as it is to deliver this short-term assistance, we aim to empower clients to tackle the root of their problems so they’re better able to manage going forward.

Although each client has been affected in different ways depending on their individual circumstances, we’ve noticed several recurring themes from those we’ve helped.

Single parents with young children have been some of the most affected by the cost of living crisis and they’ve struggled to afford the high energy costs alongside the rising prices of food, school supplies and other essentials. Many of these parents have found themselves asking for food and fuel vouchers for the first time in their lives and so it’s been pivotal for us to assist these clients to help them find the necessary providers of support within the community.

The cost of living crisis hasn’t discriminated in terms of age however, with several middle-age and pension age clients struggling to afford expensive energy payments. Many clients in this age bracket have been unaware of the energy support available, with much of it being

advertised on the internet or gov.uk website. We’ve ensured that such clients are able to navigate the myriad of energy related information that is communicated over the internet and that they’re receiving all the support they’re entitled to.

Many of the clients we’ve helped also suffer from multiple health conditions. When providing energy support to these clients we’ve discovered that many of these clients haven’t been accessing the necessary benefits or housing according to their health needs. Our holistic approach to advice has been especially crucial here as we have been able to help the client with several types of issues at first contact and ensure they’re then able to receive help from specialists, e.g. debt and benefits, in our wider local team.

Throughout this project we’ve found that the majority of our clients requiring energy support are those that pay using Prepayment Meters (PPMs), however many billed customers have also struggled to maintain payments. Regardless of payment type, we’ve ensured that all clients are receiving any financial assistance that they qualify for in addition to providing practical energy advice to help maximise their income.

If you need help with energy, please get in touch with us by filling out the form at [www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/hsf](http://www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/hsf)

For help with other issues (e.g. benefits, debt or housing), please email us at [www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/email-general-advice](mailto:www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/email-general-advice) or call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979.

We run drop-in sessions at Swale House in Sittingbourne every Monday (10am-12pm), at the Sheppey Gateway in Sheerness every Tuesday (10am-12pm), and at 43 Stone Street in Faversham every Wednesday and Friday (10am-12pm). No appointment needed.



## ASSEMBLY on SUNDAY

Theme:  
**DRAGONS!**



Cakes and biscuits, songs and stories, make new friends!  
Children, parents, grandparents, family and friends.

### All welcome!

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April**  
**in Iwade School Hall at 3.00pm**

ASSEMBLY ON SUNDAY is a joint project of  
All Saints Church and the Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust.  
Further details from: John Guest 07710 353461

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

## HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2024

### Present

Cllr. A. Dollimore - Chair  
Cllr. S. Fuszard  
Cllr. T. Guest  
Cllr. P. Holowczycki  
Cllr. S. Lancashire  
Cllr. R. Langham  
Cllr. R. Stalley-Moores  
Samantha Gray, Clerk

### Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies received from Parish Cllrs. Tolhurst, Hyde, and Waters, County Cllr. Baldock and PC Jez Chittim.

The Chairman moved agenda item 7.1 forward.

**7.1** – Application for Parish Council Vacancy – Members agreed to co-opt Paul Holowczycki as a member of the Parish Council and he duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

### Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Stalley-Moores and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 January 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

### Visitors/Public Time

- 1. Visitors:** none attended
- 2. County and Borough Councillors** none attended
- 3. Community Warden / PCSO**  
Police Constable Chittim supplied a newsletter, see Appendix 1.

### Matters Arising from the Minutes

**ASB & Crime relating to the PROW between Springvale and Sheerstone** – Still waiting to hear from Swale Borough Council who agreed to supply a temporary CCTV camera when one becomes available. The Clerk will take off the agenda until we receive further information.

Action: Clerk

**Memorial Plaque Policy** – Members agreed to amend the policy to include the estimated cost to install a plaque

and include the Planters in the village in the scheme, as well as the trees in the Woodpecker Park Memorial Walk. The Clerk will circulate to all members.

Action: Clerk/RFO

The Clerk will add information about the scheme and how to apply to the Parish Council website. The scheme will be advertised on Facebook and the Village noticeboards.

Action: Clerk

**Iwade Boundary** – Members discussed moving the Parish boundary line to border with the A249. The Clerk will circulate an example map to show the proposed new boarder to council members.

Action: Clerk

**CCTV** – The CCTV camera at the end of Sheppey Way/Old Ferry Road was scheduled to be installed on 14th February. No further update, keep on the agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

**Jackson Civil Donation** – Jackson Civil have agreed to donate £1,000 to a community project in Iwade. Cllr. Tolhurst, Cllr. Guest and The Clerk met with Jackson Civil to discuss using the donation to clear reedmace in the pond. Cllr. Tolhurst has been in contact with Swale Borough Council and the Environment Agency (EA) unfortunately the EA do not have resources to assist with the clearance at this time. Bring back to the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

### Highway Improvement Plan

**20mph speed limit** – KCC Highways have advised speed surveys from October 2022 have been analysed and show Ferry Road, Grovehurst Road and Sheppey Way are not suitable for a 20mph zone and the Parish Council should consider additional measures, but the housing estates in the village are suitable. At a previous meeting with Highways, it was discussed that roundels should be installed as an additional measure. The Clerk will arrange a meeting with Highways and

County Cllr. Baldock to discuss this.

Action: Clerk

**Sheppey Way** – Council members discussed the tragic accident that occurred on Sheppey Way. The Clerk will contact KCC Highways to find out if they will take any action to improve safety for pedestrians using Sheppey Way. The Clerk will ask KCC Highways if this can be discussed when the meeting is scheduled to discuss the 20mph speed limit.

Action: Clerk

### Planning

For details please refer to <https://www.iwade-pc.gov.uk/community/iwade-parish-council-18357/agendas--minutes-2024/> for full minutes for this meeting

### Correspondence

**Application for Parish Council Vacancy** – see item 1 above. The Chair welcomed Paul Holowczycki to the Parish Council.

**KCC Kent Parish Council Winter Support Scheme** – Members agreed to apply for a donation to Iwade Church for the Swale Food Bank.

Action: Clerk

**Pre-Submission Draft of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 – Regulation 19 Public Consultation January 2024** – Members read the information circulated to them and made no comments regarding the plan.

Action: Clerk

**Telly Tubby Hill** – A resident reported an incident occurred on Telly Tubby Hill caused by broken plastic in the ground. A handyman attended the site to remove the plastic on the day of the report, and refilled the hole with soil. This area will be monitored.

**Councillor Resignation** – Members noted Cllr. Whiting has resigned from his position as Parish Councillor. Members would like thank Mr. Whiting for his contributions the council, he will be missed.

The Clerk will advertise the vacancy.

Action: Clerk

### Parking on grass verges and pavements

**Ferry Road** – Speak to KCC to request bollards are installed on some of the grass verges in Ferry Road.

**Meadow Brown View and Cormorant** – The verges are not maintained by the Parish Council, refer the report to KCC Highways.

**Woodpecker and Turnstone** – The Clerk will find out who is responsible for maintaining this area.

**Wigeon Road** - The Clerk will find out who is responsible for maintaining this area.

Action: Clerk

### Policies

For details please refer to <https://www.iwade-pc.gov.uk/community/iwade-parish-council-18357/agendas--minutes-2024/> for full minutes for this meeting

### Finance

**Interim Audit 2023-24 -**

**a) Interim Audit Report** – Members noted the Interim Audit Report, financial controls remained satisfactory. Members agreed that an interim audit is not necessary, next year we will revert back to a year end audit only.

Action: RFO

**b) Engage IT Consultancy to set up Cloud storage** – The internal auditor advised the Parish Council should engage IT Consultancy to ensure that all working files on the Clerk's and RFO's laptop are saved to a Cloud server. The Clerk will look into a local company carrying this out. Keep on the agenda.

Action: Clerk/RFO

**CPRE membership** – Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, members agreed to the cost of £36.00p for a one year subscription.

**Repairs to lamp columns in Meadow Rise & Sheerstone** – Due to issues with a repair members did not agree to this payment.

### **Anti-Virus protection renewal** –

Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Langham, members agreed to the cost of £79.99p for a two year subscription with AVG.

**Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** - Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Guest, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to 31 January. The following payments were agreed, Cllrs. Langham and Lancashire to log in and authorize payments.

Action: Cllrs. Langham and Lancashire  
For details please refer to <https://www.iwade-pc.gov.uk/community/iwade-parish-council-18357/agendas--minutes-2024/> for full minutes for this meeting

### **Projects – Updates on Current and New**

#### **D-Day 80th Anniversary Beacon**

**Lighting** – 6 June 2024 – Members are still looking into catering options for Fish and Chips. The Clerk is waiting to hear back from the Paper Mill band. Clerk to leave on the agenda.

Action: Clerk

#### **Christmas Event 2024 – Traffic**

**Management** – Members need to set up a diversion route for the Christmas Event this year. Members asked the Clerk to contact Civil Jackson to enquire about diversion signs. Clerk to obtain quotes from Traffic Management companies. Cllr. Dollimore is looking into possible alternatives for the event during bad weather.

Action: Clerk/RFO

**Litter Picking Scheme** – The Hi Viz-vets have arrived and members agreed that volunteers should be encouraged to wear them. McDonalds have agreed to donate four litter pickers to the Parish Council and help out during clean up events. Once the litter pickers arrive the scheme can go ahead. The Clerk will add information and contact details to the website. Cllr. Fuszard will update and supply the poster for

advertising.

Action: Cllrs. Fuszard & Stalley-Moores/ Clerk

**Parish Council 'Tracker' update** – The tracker has been circulated to all members who have read and noted the updates. Cllr. Fuszard asked the Clerk to find out when the mobile mast installed by Three will go live.

Action: Clerk

### **Village Repairs:**

a) Pond Management – Clear Reedmace – Cllr. Guest informed the council he is applying to become a pond warden and will keep the council updated. Keep on the agenda.

Action: Clerk

b) Lamp column painting – no update from KCC.

c) Planters – discussed in item 5.2.

d) Any other updates – nothing to report.

### **Reports from Representatives**

**Village Hall Committee** – There is a new improved website which includes booking. Hires are going well. There is a water leak in the ceiling, a roof seal is needed and will be arranged.

**KALC Area Representative** – nothing to report.

**Swale Western Area Committee** – the next meeting is 15 February.

Action: Clerk

### **Any Other Matters Arising**

A council member advised they reported to the police that quad bikes are driving on the pavement on School Lane by the football field, and this is not an isolated incident. The Clerk has asked the CCTV control room if there is footage and will chase this up.

Action: Clerk

Cllr. Fuszard reported that local business owners and staff were not aware they could attend Parish Council meetings. He will advertise that all residents are welcome to attend meetings.

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