

# SPEEDWAY BEATS THE WEATHER AND GETS ON TELEVISION

By Paul Heller

Speedway is a seasonal sport which runs during the summer months but here at Sittingbourne Speedway we try to run as much as possible, but of course, at this time of year it is very much dependent on the weather.

Luckily the mild early November weather has allowed us to keep running and on Sunday 3rd November we were able to host the second "Try Speedway" event. This is a specialized training program set up and run by two accomplished riders – Scott Nicholls and Paul Hurry who want to encourage and train new and existing riders to help overcome the current league rider shortage. Over 20 riders took part using both the minitrack and the main track to learn the basics and to improve their riding ability. It was also featured on the Wednesday 6th November Meridian news program which carried a report of the event plus some film of the action on the track and some interviews to give the ideas and aims of the venture.

Following on from this the last date in our calendar will be an open practice planned for the 24th November, and we are hoping the mild weather holds on for us to run the event.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank and wish all our friends, supporters, volunteers and helpers a very merry Christmas and a happy new year, and look forward to seeing everyone in 2025.



## SWALE LADIES WHO LATTE

By Tania Gough

Our October meeting experienced a mix of emotions, as our speakers Adelle Martin and Fiona Shoults were telling us about their new venture STRONGER TOGETHER THROUGH CANCER CIC. Both ladies have gone through their own cancer journeys and have now joined forces to help other small business people going through the same thing.

If you'd like to find out more, you can find them at: [www.strongertogetherthroughcancer.org](http://www.strongertogetherthroughcancer.org)

We meet at the barn on the third Wednesday each month from 10 -12pm. You can find us on Facebook at Swale Ladies who Latte group.

# The Iwade Observer

DEC 2024

## IWADE MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB



At their November meeting the Men's Group enjoyed a morning of crafting with Hilary. After wards they had enjoyed bacon and sausage rolls washed down with mugs of coffee the fun began.

Hilary had kindly offered to show our enthusiastic group how to make a decorated sparkly Christmas cracker. Most of our guys threw themselves into it enjoying the challenge. Thanks to Hilary's patience and skill all were rewarded with a unique cracker to take home and to fill with suitable gift of choice for a friend or loved one. The Men's Group is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Barn and is always pleased to see new members. We supply bacon rolls with coffee or tea for a small fee of £3 it starts at 9.30 until 11.30 and is open to all senior men in our lovely village. Our next meeting is December 3rd at 11.00 (please note change of time for this meeting only) as it's our Xmas lunch.



The trustees of Iwade at The Barn would like to wish all hirers, supporters and community users of the Barn and our micro-pub, The Shepherds Crook, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your support in 2024, we look forward to doing it all again in 2025.

## IWADE INSPIRATION: THE LITTLE YELLOW LINE

Last Christmas, I told our local children the story of the little yellow line that just lay by the side of the road unnoticed and ignored hoping people wouldn't park on him! But he had an amazing adventure when he followed an interesting couple to a cattle-shed where a baby was born. The little line was so squashed up by the number of animals and people squeezed into this small space that he was pushed into a nearby field where he spent his time lassoing and rescuing lost sheep. As he lay exhausted in a corner, all crumpled and bent he suddenly heard some lovely music and felt himself changing and floating up into the air. The story continues ...

He felt himself getting lighter and lighter and before he knew it he was floating high above the earth and as he floated he felt himself changing. All of a sudden, the Christmas angel appeared beside him, floating in the air. "Oh, Christmas angel!" said the little yellow line, "what's happening to me? I feel so strange." "Little yellow line," said the Christmas angel, "you are very special. You are helping to make the first Christmas!" "Who, me?" said the little yellow line, "but I'm nobody. I'm just a little yellow line that lies in the road that no one notices. How can I be special?"

"You showed Mary and Joseph the way to Bethlehem," said the angel. "you helped the lost lambs back to the flock so they were all ready for the song of the heavenly host. And look, you see those figures down there?" The angel pointed to a group of travellers far below them on the earth. "If you shine hard enough you can guide the wise men on their way to the stable where the baby Jesus is to be born. You are special, little yellow line – you're a star!"

*And the little yellow line – who was now a beautiful shining star - shone and shone and shone!*

Christmas is all about stories. And yes, the beginning of the greatest story ever told. It's for the great and the good and it's for the little and the bad. And it's mostly for those who, like the little yellow line, feel overlooked and unnoticed. Here's another story ... So ... Mary and Joseph knock at the door and the innkeeper says "no room!" "But my wife's pregnant!" protests Joseph. "It's not my fault," retorts the innkeeper. Replies Joseph: "it's not my fault either!"

It's God's fault; He invaded earth. He broke into history in the most amazing act of self-giving love. It's all about Him. It's His season, His birthday. Welcome Him. Receive Him. Worship Him. Let Him be born in YOUR heart this Christmas!

God bless you this Christmas  
John x

*Ho! Ho! Ho! It's the ...*

### ASSEMBLY on SUNDAY

#### Christmas Special!



Homemade mince pies, Grand Christmas Quiz, make your own Christingle, sing carols!  
Children, parents, grandparents, family and friends.

**All welcome!**

**Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
**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

## Happy Days festive update

With Christmas just around the corner excitement is building as we look forward to the village being decked out in twinkly lights. It may only be mid-November but we are twitching to stretch our vocal chords and blast out our Christmas favourites. Beware passers-by; we may not all be quite singing the same tune but you won't be able to fault our enthusiasm!! Hearing the children singing with such gusto is simply magnificent and we wouldn't have it any other way.

**Happy Days Nursery wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2025 here we come!**

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## COMMUNITY BUSINESS FOCUS



### Hi, Dan the decorator here. It's lovely to meet you all!

I'm new to Iwade and am looking to meet new clients in the area. I run a small local painting & decorating business with over 15 years of experience in all aspects of decorating. We specify in interior & exterior works, including wood refurbishments. If you have old windows that need revamping or any old neglected wood that looks a bit tired, we can bring them back to life!

**We pride ourselves on a very high standard of work! Customer satisfaction is key.**

We love what we do and we treat your home as if it was our own. So, feel free to contact us for a free no obligation quote today. Previous work is available to view on our Facebook page and whilst you're there please could you support our small local business by giving us a follow!

**Phone - 07393637877**  
**Facebook - Allbrite painting&decorating**  
**Instagram - Allbriteuk**

Thank you and hope to meet you all soon.



## VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

I would like to introduce myself, I'm Stuart Lancashire the new Trustee Chairman of the Village Hall Committee

I would like to let everyone know that we have now updated our website and it's now possible to make bookings via our fully automated booking system which I hope will make it easier for anyone who wants to use the hall. It would be nice to see the Hall being used to its full potential and a real hub for the residents of the village. Bookings can be made via the website [Iwadevillagehall.co.uk](http://Iwadevillagehall.co.uk)

## NEWS FROM CITIZENS ADVICE SWALE

### Managing your finances over the festive season

As Christmas approaches, it's natural for excitement to build. However, for many families, this period can also bring financial stress. We have some practical tips to help manage your finances during the festive season.

#### Plan ahead with a budget:

Start by listing everyone you need to buy gifts for, along with other seasonal expenses like decorations, food, and activities. Determine how much you can realistically afford to spend and allocate your funds accordingly. Stick to your budget as closely as possible and keep receipts for all your purchases. This way, if you need to return an item, you can do so easily.

#### Prioritise your spending

Ensure that you pay priority debts such as Council Tax arrears first. Remember that household bills often increase during the winter months due to higher energy usage and more time spent indoors. If you have existing debts, it's important not to ignore them.

#### Avoid debt:

Using credit cards and loans can lead to further financial strain if you're unable to keep up with repayments. If you do need to borrow, make sure you understand the terms and have a clear plan for repayment.

#### Have yourself a thrifty little Christmas:

There are many ways to make Christmas special without breaking the bank. Homemade gifts, thoughtful gestures, and family traditions can be more memorable and meaningful than expensive presents. Consider activities that focus on spending quality time together, like baking, crafting, or watching holiday films.

#### Ask for help if you need it:

If the financial strain becomes overwhelming, remember you're not alone. We can check you're receiving the benefits you're entitled to. Our specialist Money Advisers can help you with organising your debts and budgeting.

#### If you'd like additional support, you can attend our drop-in sessions without an appointment:

- Monday, 10am-12pm, Swale House, Sittingbourne
- Tuesday, 10am-12pm, Sheppey Gateway, Sheerness (except the second Tuesday of every month, which is held at Sheerness East Working Mens Club)
- Wednesday & Friday, 10am-12pm, 43 Stone Street, Faversham

Alternatively, email us at [www.citizensadviceswale.uk/email-general-advice](http://www.citizensadviceswale.uk/email-general-advice) (Monday-Wednesday) or call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979. For debt advice, request a call back from our specialist money advice team at [www.citizensadviceswale.uk/debt/](http://www.citizensadviceswale.uk/debt/).

## Iwade Allotment Association

The year is nearly over for our plot holders at the allotments but it's been a good growing season once it eventually got started! So we wish all our allotment holders a very merry Christmas and a successful growing year in 2025.

We are a lovely community of friends willing to help and offer advice by the bucket load! A few new allotmenters this year have been enjoying the fruits of their labour. Why not join us if you are interested in a plot.

To find out more, please give Christine a call or text on 0797 1003424 or Sylvia on 07802 419498.

The Iwade Observer team wish all of those celebrating the holidays a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a fantastic new year!

We will be back with the next edition in February.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in the School Hall  
ASSEMBLY on SUNDAY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
CAROLS in the Precinct (mince pies and mulled wine)

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> (10.00 - 13.00)  
WREATH MAKING in the Barn

Christmas Eve at 4.30pm  
CAROL SERVICE in ALL SAINTS

Christmas Eve at 11.30pm  
MIDNIGHT COMMUNION in ALL SAINTS

No Services on CHRISTMAS DAY (25<sup>th</sup>),  
following Sunday (29<sup>th</sup>) or NEW YEARS EVE (31<sup>st</sup>)

Services in ALL SAINTS as usual from  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 10.30am

ALL WELCOME!



## Christmas Greetings from everybody at All Saints Church Iwade

Thank you to all those who have contributed to our building appeal for the repair of the tower roof and also the south aisle roof. Our fundraising efforts are continuing as there is much work needed to ensure that the 12th century building is kept in good order.

Please note details of our Christmas services and Community events for December and do join us when you can. Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year from all of us at All Saints.

## PASTORAL LETTER

What is greatness?

Embedded in the slogan used by the US President-elect is the word "great". Yet what do he & others around him mean by this? Is this for the many or the few?

We often now see the acronym GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) applied to the achievements of significant sportsmen in their different sports. So, in football there are debates about whether it is Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo, but what about Pele and Maradona? Who gets to decide? Not the players themselves. Yet the boxer Cassius Clay (before he became Muhammad Ali) famously stated "I am the Greatest" as part of putting down his opponent Sonny Liston before their fight, although he did go on to make his point by winning the fight. Yet it seems that self-proclaimed "greatness" can be about expressing a sense of self-serving superiority, arrogance with power and authority over others, rather than for others. Sadly, this can lead to violent conflict and war, as either an individual or system seeks to impose their will on and lord it over others. Is that really what "greatness" is all about, the subjugation of others? We see this being played out currently in different parts of the world as certain leaders vie for power with people just trying to live their lives, but paying the price, with their lives, homes and communities being devastated.

So, back to the question of who decides who is great or the greatest?

Jesus said, "whoever wants to become great, is to first serve others" Mark 11.43-44 in response to the desire for assumed power and significance on the part of two of his disciples James & John. He told them, in no uncertain terms, how even he "did not come to be served but to serve". Such thinking is challenging. It was then and remains so today. For our assumptions about greatness are turned on their head. It is not about power and might, but about humility and service. On Remembrance Day we remembered those who gave their lives in service for a "land fit for heroes". Surely the claim to greatness of any land or society is measured by how the least are looked after. For Jesus said "whatever you do for the least, you did for me" Matthew 25.40. What better way for us today to continue to honour the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in war, than in serving others especially the more vulnerable in our midst. For in so doing, it is Jesus we are serving.

Blessings,  
Julian

Rev Julian Staniforth  
Rector of The Six

# COUNCIL MINUTES ROUNDUP

## IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

### 1) Election of Chair and Acceptance of Office

Due to a resignation the election of Chair is required. Cllr. Tolhurst was elected as Chair and duly signed the acceptance of office form.

### 2) Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies received and accepted from Cllr. Fuszard and Cllr. Hyde due to work commitments.

### 3) Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllrs. Langham and Lancashire declared an interest item 6.3.

### 4) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Tolhurst, the minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 11 September 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record. The Chair brought item 7 on the agenda forward.

### 4) Parish Council Vacancies

**1. Parish Councillor Application:** Scott Waters was co-opted onto the Parish Council and duly signed the acceptance of office form.

**2. Parish Councillor Resignation:** Al Dollimore has resigned from the Parish Council. The vacancy has been advertised and the notice to call an election ends on Thursday 10 October. After this date the position can be filled by co-option.

### 5) Visitors/Public Time

**1. Visitors:** A resident asked for advice regarding an issue in Stangate Drive.

**2. County and Borough Councillors:** Cllr. Baldock reported he recently held a Swale West Parishes Group meeting at which they discussed the issue of loneliness for people in the community. The group plan to create a website to advertise and view community events and also create chat benches. Cllr. Baldock advised he is Chair of the planning committee and will not comment on the planning applications on the agenda for this meeting.

### PRESENT:

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| •Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair | •Samantha Gray, Clerk                            |
| •Cllr. P. Holowczycki      | •Lynda Ives, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) |
| •Cllr. S. Lancashire       | •County Cllr. M. Baldock                         |
| •Cllr. R. Langham          | •Six Residents                                   |
| •Cllr. D. Waters           |  |
| •Cllr. S. Waters           |  |

(Cont) He also advised it is coming up to the time of year the council will review their budget.

**3. Community Warden/Police Constable:** No report received.

### 5) Matters Arising from the Minutes

**1. Southern Water Leak Investigation:** Southern Water have advised no water leaks could be found on their pipework during the recent road closure. Members asked the Clerk to organise a meeting with Southern Water and KCC. **Action: Clerk**

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

### 8) Committees

**1. Appoint member to the Finance Committee:** Cllr. S. Waters was appointed to the finance committee.

**2. Appoint member to the Planning Committee:** Cllr. Holowczycki was appointed to the Planning Committee.

**3. Appoint member to the Highway Improvement Plan Committee:** Cllr. S. Waters was appointed to the Highway Improvement Plan Committee.

### 9) Correspondence

**1. Jackson Civil Engineering:** Jackson Civil Engineering advised they will not provide financial support for the temporary 20mph zone planned for School Lane, and would like to donate their time and resources instead. Council members noted this response.

### 10) Finance

**1. Updating Financial Regulations:** The RFO circulated the updated financial regulations for local councils to members prior to the meeting and discussed updates with members present at the meeting. Proposed by Cllr. S. Waters and seconded by Cllr. D. Waters, members agreed to adopt the financial regulations. **Action: RFO**

**2. Quotes to repair or replace 'Village Centre' finger post sign:** Awaiting cost. Bring back to next meeting. **Action: RFO**

**3. Gas burner for Beacon Lighting:** To convert the Beacon to gas lit instead of bonfire lit three burners are required at a cost

(Cont) of £300 + VAT for each burner. This cost does not include installation. Members will compare this to the cost of event insurance for a bonfire lit beacon. Bring back to next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

**4. Insurance cover for Beacon Lighting:** The Clerk has sourced an Events quotation from Unity for £461.76p. Members asked for two additional quotations to be sourced. **Action: Clerk**

**5. Quote to install tree guards:** Members asked the Clerk to write to Swale Borough Council for permission to install tree guards around trees in Woodpecker Park which comes under their maintenance. **Action: Clerk**

**6. Annual CCTV monitoring and network charges:** Proposed by Cllr. Langham and seconded by Cllr. S. Waters, members agreed to the cost of £3,500.00p + VAT which includes an £875.00p

discount due to issues in the last 12 months. **Action: RFO**

**7. Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration book:** Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. D. Waters, members agreed to purchase the 13th edition book for £137.00p + VAT. **Action: Clerk**

**8. Quote to remove trees in village hall garden:** Members asked for a quotation to be sourced to carry out an annual tree safety inspection. Keep on the agenda. **Action: RFO/Clerk**

**9. Accounts and Cheques** can be viewed on the Iwade Parish Council website: <https://www.iwade-pc.gov.uk/community/iwade-parish-council-18357/agendas--minutes-2024/>

### 10) Projects – Updates on Current and New

**1. Christmas Event 2024:** Members deferred this item to the end of the meeting, to be discussed in closed session.

**2. Parish Council 'Tracker' update:** Cllr. Tolhurst circulated updates to members and staff prior to the meeting.

**3. Village Clean-up October 2024:** The Council decided not to hold a litter picking event due to a recent litter pick being undertaken in the community by volunteers in connection with Iwade School. A resident advised the litter bin is missing in Sheerstone which the Clerk will report to Swale Borough Council. **Action: Clerk**

**4. VE Day 8th May 2025:** Covered in items 10.3 and 10.4 above.

### 11) Reports from Representatives

**1. Village Hall Committee:** Cllr. Lancashire advised the Chair of the committee and the bookings Clerk have resigned. Due to the resignations casual bookings cannot be taken. Regular hires will continue.



**2. KALC Area Representative:** Cllr. Holowczycki discussed the meeting arrangements for the February 2025 meeting.

**3. Swale Western Area Committee:** The next meeting will be 28th November. Add to the December agenda. **Action: Clerk**

**4. Swale West Parishes Group:** See Cllr. Baldock's report in item 5.2 – County and Borough Councillors

**12) Any Other Matters Arising:** Nothing to report.

**13) The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 11th December 19:30, in Iwade Village Hall.**



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