



Iwade Observer

Image by Christina Craycraft

A very warm welcome to the first edition of 2011. On behalf of us all at the newsletter team we'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Jan - Feb 2011

Allotments Update *by Nicola McKenzie*

Thank you to all the allotmenters who came along to the Iwade Allotment Association Christmas drinks in the Woolpack in December and to the Woolpack for making a donation to the raffle which raised £39. It was great to see such enthusiasm for this community project.

If you would like an allotment and are not already on the waiting list then email me Nicola McKenzie (stepping in for Joan Exley temporarily) at allotments@iwadevillage.co.uk or telephone me on 439892.

The intention is to have both standard plots at approximately 125 square metres and some starter plots at half that size for novices, the less able or the time-poor!

Why not come along to Gardening Club which is now on the third Thursday of the month in the Woolpack from 7.30 to meet like-minded people over a drink, the best way to meet!



A New Year poem written by Canon Alan Amos

January, a new beginning, cold and bleak and hard as iron,
Yet hidden in the earth beneath the frost
are seeds of beauty and of joy.

For you I wish new growth,
and new adventures;
new friends, and old friendships regained;
for you I wish the strength to find opportunity
where others see only discouragement;
for you I wish the happiness that lingers long,
beside a home fireside.

This will be a year to make the most of things,
to show what we are made of,
to live outwards from what we have garnered within.

God bless you all,
Alan

After a two month break the Farmers Market will be back on Sunday 6th February, doors open from 10-1pm. Come along early and pick up some fresh eggs, meat, cheese, cakes, honey and stop for a cuppa and a chat with your friends. See you there!

Editors Note

by Tara Kent

It seems like ages ago that I last edited the Iwade Observer but it's good to be back. Many thanks to all of you that have contributed to this edition. If you have some news to share please let us know. You can email me at tarakent@sky.com or contact us through iwadevillage.co.uk. We've got lots of articles for you this month with information on new things happening in Iwade, but before we move forward I'd like to share some pictures with you from December 2010. Best wishes.



3 year old Callum and a four legged friend, taken by his Mum Becci in the fields behind Chetney View.



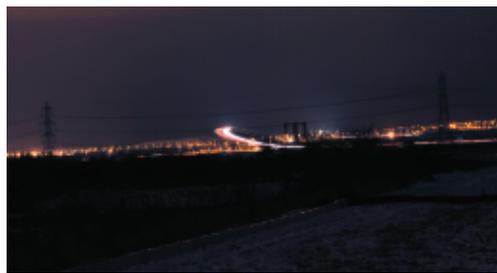
Tinkerbells busy and bustling Christmas Fayre in the village hall.



Church concert held in Iwade Village Hall.



The travelling nativity scene on one of its stops around the village



View of the Sheppey Crossing from Iwade, taken by Christina Craycraft who also took our front cover shot.



Our beautiful All Saints Church in the snow, sent in by Chris Mortlock.



Debbie Martin's beautiful snow covered garden.



Our very own editor James not letting the snow stop him getting to his clients.

Disclaimer

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Gordon Henderson MP Press Release

Local MP, Gordon Henderson is urging his constituents in the voluntary and community sector to enter funding programmes set up by the National Lottery. The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) is currently responsible for delivering around half of all funds raised for good causes. It funds projects connected to health, education, environment and charitable purposes, with a focus on improving communities and the lives of people most in need. Mr Henderson recently visited

two projects within his constituency which have already received funding. These were the Swale Domestic Violence Group in Sittingbourne and the Queenborough and Rushenden Action Together on the Isle of Sheppey. The Isle of Sheppey Sailing Club's Sailability project also recently won a £50,000 prize on the People's Millions shown on Meridian News, which will be used to refurbish and extend the inside facilities of the clubhouse. Mr Henderson said, "I know that many local groups are in need of funds for important

initiatives and I am keen to see more of them awarded grants by the Big Lottery Fund. "I would urge any group interested in submitting an application to do so as quickly as possible. They can get more information on the funding programmes currently open for entries, either by visiting <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/southeast/funding-se/funding-finder-se.htm> or by contacting my office who will be delighted to advise them"

Broadband Update

By Nicola McKenzie

As I write we are waiting on the final cabinet to go live to give all residents the option of superfast broadband in Iwade. This should be live by the end of January all being well. If you have signed up we'd appreciate your feedback and if you haven't been able to sign up and think you should be able to then contact me Nicola McKenzie on 01795 439892 or on email at nicola@iwadevillage.co.uk. There were some teething problems as capacity was reached on one of the cabinets but an additional cabinet has been put into the cabinet now. Happy Surfing.

Churchwardens Notes *by Sylvia O'Shea*

Rather belatedly we wish you all a Happy New Year. Thanks too to everyone who helped make the Christmas Eve Carol Services so special. Both services were lively with the full church resounding to the singing of well loved carols. See you all there next Christmas. Many folk had their Christmas spoilt by either being poorly or the weather forcing a change of plan. Trust you are all feeling better now, and we are not due any more snow. As most of us received a new diary, put the following dates in as an early reminder. June 25th/26th/27th is the bi-annual Flower Festival in Iwade Church and July 2nd is the Annual Band Concert by the UK Paper Band in the grounds of the Church at 7pm. Invitations have been sent to village groups to play an active role in the Flower Festival and a

meeting will be held in Church on March 12th at 10.30am when those planning a display can see (and choose) the location they would like to use. If YOU have a talent for flower arranging please let Sylvia know and come to the meeting. The subject this year is IWADE – OUR VILLAGE. With the wide range of interesting groups etc within the village now it should be an interesting display. Put your thinking caps on and join us. The monthly Family Service, held on 4th Sunday of the month at 10.30am is led by Stephen Plumb, the Church Army Missioner who lives in the village. Do please come along with (or without the children) and enjoy a lively happy time of worship.



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Public Consultation on Local Plan

by Peter Blandon, Chairman, CPRE (Protect Kent) Swale District Committee

Swale Borough Council (SBC) bases its planning decisions (theoretically at least) on the policies contained in the local plan. The current plan is about to expire. A Local Development Framework (LDF) to run until 2026 is being developed. Public consultation will soon start on four "Strategic Spatial Options", one of which will be chosen as the basis for the LDF. The options are briefly:

1. 13,500 new houses by 2026, located in urban centres. Growth of the Kent Science Park (KSP) by 18,000 m² and an extra 397,000 m² of employment land.
2. As (1) except that housing is allocated towards villages. 3,250 housing units to be located on greenfield sites in Newington, Boughton, Teynham, Eastchurch and Leysdown.
3. An "employment led, higher growth scenario". KSP to gain 145,000 m² floorspace using 120 acres of greenfield land and a junction linking it with the M2. Extra employment

generated at Sheerness Docks. An additional 450,000 m² of employment floorspace.

4. described as a "higher growth employment scenario, supported by additional housing provision, to strengthen Sittingbourne's main town role and to address transport constraints." This is the same as (3) but includes the provision of 18,500 new houses and the identification a Southern Sittingbourne Relief Road joining the M2 and A2, with a junction at Bapchild.

A background report prepared by SBC predicts that Swale's population will rise by 11,900 by 2026 but that working-age population will fall by about 1,200. Considering housing, under Option 2 Iwade would host around 650 extra houses, a population increase of 45 to 90%. Option 4 would create additional housing in Swale for between 35,000 and 55,000 people. The employment floorspace in Options 1 and 2 would allow the employment of an extra 8,000 people and Options 3 and 4 an extra 12,000. At briefing

meetings, SBC have seemed to favour Option 4 as a means of expanding science-based industry to overcome Swale's low education and skills. However, rather than increasing the skills of the Borough's existing population by encouraging education, etc. the plan seems to be to suck in workers from other areas, increasing pressure on facilities in Swale. Similarly, large-scale development on Sheppey would exacerbate the problems at Junction 5 and Keycol Hill. "Protect Kent" (the Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England) will be commenting on the "Options", probably expressing guarded support for Option 1. Consultation is on-line at <http://swale-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/> or comments can also be sent to SBC in the normal way. Consultation runs from the 17th of January until 5.00 p.m. on the 14th of March. The preferred "Spatial Option" will be decided by August.

The Woolpack are looking for Tuesday night darts players, if anyone is interested please contact mark on 01795 472656 or pop in to find out more.



Iwade's WI ladies at the Luncheon Club, a garden party in wintry June, and at a card making class.

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WI by Hilary Foulds



Reflecting back on last year, 2010 was a good year for the Iwade Womens Institute.

We started the year with an evening meal at the Cherry Tree to celebrate our birthday. This was followed in February by a talk from a solicitor about Collaborative Family Law. In March we heard a very witty talk about hand made walking sticks, then in April there was a talk about Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. In May we voted on a resolution put forward nationally concerning the labelling of food. Our President went to the Annual General Meeting in Cardiff to register our vote. We had our usual summer break from the village hall with our Garden Party in June when we braved the very cold weather with true British grit. The Barbecue in August was also partly bighted by the weather though we had a super evening. Local historian Helen Allinson came to the village hall

in July to speak about Kentish Life in Victorian Times. We served our usual fabulous supper to over 40 invitees including representatives from other WI's in our group at our annual Harvest Supper in September. In October John and Sue Pearce entertained us with their Glenn Miller Lives On evening. November was our AGM and, to round off the year, we had a lovely Christmas Party in the village hall. Interspersed between these formal meetings we have enjoyed card making, sugarcraft and knitting/sewing workshops and have learnt to play Rummikub. Also in 2010 we went to a pantomime at the Brick Lane Theatre, saw Loose Women again and visited Buckingham Palace. We enjoyed the Group Meetings hosted by Newington WI in April and Upchurch in September. We also participated in the Top Team Quiz organised last year by Holm and Danley WI. (It's Iwade's turn this year!) We like a quiz and formed a table of competitors at the Quizzes held

by Iwade Church and the Sittingbourne Heritage Museum. Now looking forward, Memberships have been renewed and Iwade WI members are looking forward to the programme of events for 2011. Meetings are held at 7.30pm every third Wednesday of the month, mostly held in Iwade Village Hall. It's not to late to join. To join it costs £30 for the year plus we make a small 50p charge for coffee and biscuits or cake and there is an optional raffle every meeting. We are a very friendly group of 26. It's a great idea to join particularly if you are new to the village. There is no better way to help you feel part of the village community. The company is great and the WI opens the door to other activities and outings if that is what you are looking for.

If you are interested, come along to our next meeting (see below) for a taster evening or telephone Hilary for more information on 01795 474686.

WI programme for 2011:-

19 Jan	Birthday Dinner at the Dancing Dog	19 Oct	Growing Old Disgracefully – June Faulkner
16 Feb	Macknade Fine Foods – Stefano Cuomo (with samples!)	16 Nov	Annual General Meeting
16 March	Kent Air Ambulance	21 Dec	Christmas Party
20 April	Indian Embroidery – Shirley Boyland		
18 May	Resolutions		
15 June	to be arranged		
20 July	My Life as a Gravedigger - Joan Ingleton		
17 Aug	Summer Supper		
21 Sept	Harvest Supper		

This programme is the minimum we do at Iwade WI. In addition we have Knit and Natter, Sugarcraft and Card making/Scrapbooking sessions as well as a luncheon club that meets every 2 months. Members can do as much or as little as they want.

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M.O.T. TESTING (by Appointment)

February in the Garden by Ann Menzies

If you are anything like me, once Christmas day is over I am desperate to get planting. However, even now it is still very early to sow many plants, not only because of the cold, but the light levels are low as well, which means early seedlings tend to get drawn and pale as they stretch to find what there is. Sweet peas and broad beans can be sown in a cold frame, but if there are mice around they will be looking for food, and the seeds are a welcome addition to their diet. Even seeds of hardy plants need some warmth to germinate, and one problem can be that when they are moved to colder conditions they might think they have already been through winter. The problem of this with vegetable seeds is that they then come into flower early, (often called bolting). For most vegetables this

would be a problem, but I have just read a tip that if calabrese is sown now and exposed to a cold snap you can get an extra early crop. Keeping 3 university students supplied with dried chilli is really stretching me, so I've got 120 seedlings on the go this year. Hopefully I will be able to plant some of the hardier ones outside at the allotment, as well as finding space in the greenhouse for those that need longer to mature. I've tried the idea of early sowing tomatoes, but it just hasn't been worth the hassle the last couple of years. I'm planning on sowing these mid-month, so they should be safe to go in the greenhouse protected from late frosts with fleece, at the end of April. The bulbs are coming up nicely now, with crocus tips and snowdrops the first to show some colour. Sadly my winter jasmine which was in full flower before the snow in December,

was decimated, and there are few flowers to be seen there. If we get another fall do remember thick snow is heavy, so knocking it off shrubs is a sensible precaution. I have heard of some people having greenhouses collapse under snow too, but a thin layer provides insulation from the cold if you have any plants overwintering. My main jobs in the garden will be tidying and pruning. Both these have been a bit delayed for me due to a wrist injury, so you may well be ahead of me here. I've got the grape vine and roses still to do, along with checking out my pot grown apple trees. Planning is also a great activity for this time of year, with a great excuse for reading through books and Internet sites to find the ideal plants, edible or ornamental, to make the best of the coming season.

Dates for the Diary

Mobile Library Thursday 3rd February between 11.15am and 11.25am Sheerstone (Springvale end)

Iwade Farmers Market Sunday 6th February 10am to 1pm Iwade Village Hall

Communion Service Sunday 6th February 11am All Saints Church Iwade

Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 9th February 7.30pm (Please check Parish Notice Boards for confirmation and venue)

Church open for visiting Saturday 12th February All Saints Church Iwade

Family Communion Sunday 13th February 11am All Saint's Church Iwade

WI meeting Wednesday 16th February Contact Hilary on 474686 to join

Mobile Library Thursday 17th February between 11.15am and 11.25am Sheerstone (Springvale end)

Gardening Club Thursday 17th February 7.30pm Woolpack

Holy Communion Sunday 20th February 10.30am 11am All Saint's Church Iwade

Family Service Sunday 27th February 10.30am All Saint's Church Iwade

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Parish Council Notes taken from the meeting of 10th November 2010

Matters Arising from the Minutes

The shortfall of £8,064.64, relating to the fraud, has now been received from NatWest Bank.

Graham Tuff has advised that when replacing dead plum trees in the village park only 'whips' are available in the variety that is already planted there; it is impossible to obtain mature trees.

Visitors/Public Time

Parishioners

No comments

County Councillor and Borough Councillors

Cllr. Willicombe reported that the first roundabout, leaving the Village prior to crossing the A249, has been resurfaced and the second has been reinstated by Eon. Cllr. Whiting reported that KCC's policy of 'seek and find' for potholes finishes at the end of this month and any faults now need to be reported. Cllr. Stokes reported that the E.A. is still active regarding the 'smell' in the village.

Temp. Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)

report acknowledged.

PCSO

did not attend.

Finance

Audit – 2008/09 and 2009/10 Accounts

Clerk still awaiting report from District Audit.

Financial Regulations

Clerk advised that she has spoken to the Internal Auditor, David Buckett, and regulations tailored to suit the Parish Council will be forthcoming.

Action: Clerk

Sensory Garden, Bush Shelters and Contingencies

Clerk to ascertain whether the School still requires the £2,000 for a sensory Garden. This amount was obtained from the Subsidiary Grant by the previous Clerk, but never passed on to the School.

It was proposed by Cllr. Manning and seconded by Cllr. Gregory that the bus shelter, (which is suffering from the effects of past vandalism) adjacent to the village park be removed and replaced with a 'rustic' style shelter. Clerk to obtain costs for this and look at costs for siting two new shelters in other locations in the village. Action: Clerk

Clerk advised that it is considered good practise to have an amount in the Reserve Account set aside for 'contingencies'. Based on the maximum advised of six months expenditure this sum is in the region of £15,000; added to which needs to be the £12,000 earmarked for repairs to the bus shelters; making a total of £27,000 in the Reserve Account.

Village Hall Car Park

to come back to Council when re-surfacing quotes are received.

Waste Bin for Handyman

Clerk has now secured a waste bin, located at the Village Hall site, for a weekly cost, including emptying, of £8.50. This has already been agreed by the Parish Council; the bin being for use by the Village Handyman in

connection with his work.

Fixed Asset Schedule/Insurance

the new Fixed Asset Schedule, based on insurance valuations was agreed. Agreed to look at the insurance schedule in more depth before renewal; Clerk to investigate ownership of some of the items listed and to see whether a claim can be made against the insurers for extra internal auditor costs incurred as a result of the fraud. Action: Clerk

Allotment Car Parking

Letter received from Iwade Allotment Association requesting assistance with costs involved for the preparation of site plans, estimates and planning fees amounting to approximately £450. Proposed by Cllr. Wilks and seconded by Cllr. Manning – agreed the donation of £450.

Church Flower Festival, 2011

Proposed by Cllr. Manning and seconded by Cllr. Hunt, the expenditure of £100 in respect of a Parish Council display for the Flower Festival.

Age Concern donation request

Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure – agreed a donation of £100 to Age Concern.

Continued on next page.

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Parish Council Notes Continued from page 7

Cheques raised at this meeting
Victim Support - £100.00
Mrs. J. Gregory - £36.58
Aon Limited - £107.28
L. Fisher - £46.50
Wages - £414.52
Inland Revenue - £116.64
Stiddard Maidstone Ltd - £11.75
David Buckett - £2543.95
David Buckett - £188.80
Mr. K. Maunders - £29.99
Steve Wakeling - £210.00
Iwade Allotment Association - £450.00

KCC Minerals & Core Waste Strategy
Cllr. Plum reported that KCC are putting together a strategy on how they are going to allow companies to extract minerals, or landfill or recycle. The consultation has gone through the first stage and is now in the second. The website contains 15 chapters on this subject and at the end of the document there is

questionnaire, the deadline for answers being 19th November. Cllr. Plumb requested to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council. Action: Cllr. Plumb

Correspondence
Bold Steps in Kent – Medium Term Plan to 2014/15 – Consultation Draft

Cllr. Gregory to look at this document. Action: Cllr. Gregory
Swale Landscape Character & Biodiversity Appraisal

Village Park Gates
Clerk reported that Graeme Tuff, from Swale Borough Council, was investigating the matter and she was awaiting his report. She will report back at the next meeting. Action: Clerk

Meetings are held on second Wednesday of every month. Why not go along and have your say.

Planning Notices

SW/10 1261 -1 Swaysdown Game Farm replacing mobile home with detached dwelling - Agreed to object on the grounds that it is outside the area designated for housing; in a Local Landscape Area and contrary to Planning Policy EC6.1

Biomass Combined Heat & Power Plant, Ridham Dock, Iwade approved by Swale B.C; K.C.C. are still awaiting further information.

APP/V2255/A/10/2131981/N WF 16 Woodpecker Drive, Iwade
Appeal allowed.

SW/10/1122 2 Swaysdown Game Farm, Iwade refused

India Bike Ride 3-12 November 2011

Join us on a trip of a lifetime and cycle for 5 days through rural Rajasthan along with other like minded people and raise funds for the Kent Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Canterbury (KM Charity of the Year 2010). This will be the 2nd major fundraising event for the Centre which provides therapies, advice and support for people with MS in Kent. We are looking for over 30 people to take part in the event which finishes with a visit to the Taj Mahal. For more info and a registration pack call 01303 862 996 or email info@lifecyclepromotions.co.uk or visit www.kentmstc.co.uk



Craft made by the children at Iwade Parent and Toddler Group.

Parent and Toddler Group meet every Tuesday (Term time) in the Village Hall 9-11am. Why not pop in for a cuppa, the first session's free!

Need some space to be you?

NWR is a countrywide network of groups where lively-minded women exchange ideas, have interesting discussions and join in social events with their group. NWR helps you to make new friends locally, encourages you to explore broader interests and meet other women in their own homes.

A new group has started in the Sittingbourne area and we are

looking for new members to join us. We meet every two weeks. We have also started a separate Book Club, which meets once a month.

If you would like more information please call Carol on 01795 479509 or contact NWR direct on 0845 4500287 or visit www.nwr.org.uk for more details.