

SUNSHINE STIRS THE DUST AT SPEEDWAY



By Paul Heller

On Sunday 1st June Kent Eagles saw off the spirited resistance of the Thurrock Hammers to win the resurrected Ken-Ex Cup by a 52-37 points margin in front of a large crowd on a hot sunny afternoon.

The hot weather caused a few problems for the track staff in keeping the dust down, but a lot of hard work and extensive watering managed to keep the meeting moving, but the afternoon was held up by a lot of falls and re-run races. The visiting side put up a determined display to keep the scores close but a mid-meeting trio of 5-1 maximum heat wins, plus a 4-2 heat win saw the home side take control and run out comfortable winners by the close.

On Sunday 8th June the track ran its first race meeting of the season for the flat track riders. There were some 20 riders taking part who raced over 25 heats plus finals. The weather stayed sunny with a stiff breeze and a fair-sized crowd enjoyed a relaxed afternoon of racing, and had a thoroughly entertaining day.

On Sunday 15th June it was back to National Development Trophy League racing as the Kent Eagles took on the Plymouth Centurions. A superb meeting with everything running smoothly, a sunny afternoon, another large crowd and the whole meeting completed in just 2.5 hours, put some big smiles on the supporter's faces. In spite of the final score line of 54-36 to the Kent Eagles, the racing and the score line was very close throughout, with the visiting side putting up some stern resistance and with only 2 points separating the teams with just 4 heats remaining. In the final reckoning the Eagles recorded maximum points from those 4 races to put some daylight between the two sides and run out worthy winners. This victory took the Eagles to second place in the National Development Trophy League.

Thankfully there was none of the previous meeting's dust and track problems with the track staff providing an excellent racing surface which saw the track record broken twice during the afternoon's racing.

The Iwade Observer

JULY 2025

CELEBRATING THE HERONS WAY



On Saturday 7th June 2025 the Iwade Herons FC held their annual Presentation Day. Although the forecast had us all watching the skies, the sun made a welcome appearance, and the rain kindly stayed away setting the stage for a fantastic day.

With a lively buzz filling the air, the heart of the event was the trophy presentation stage, where players of all ages were recognised for their hard work, dedication, and achievements throughout the season. Proud parents, teammates, and supporters cheered as each player stepped up to receive their award, each one thoroughly deserved. Beyond the stage, the inflatables kept the children entertained. For those looking to relax, there was no shortage of refreshments - ice-cold beer, sparkling

Prosecco, mouth-watering fish and chips, and ice cream that went down a treat in the afternoon sun. And a big thank you to Keith (aka Mr Iwade Rocks) from Sure Sound Entertainment for providing the music and hosting the event. It was a day full of joy, shared memories, and celebration—not only of the players' accomplishments but of the spirit that makes our village club so special. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the managers, coaches, families, and supporters who help make the club what it is. Now it's time for the tournaments and we wish all our teams the best of luck with them and then we look forward to our new season starting in September. If your child is interested in joining the Iwade Herons FC then please contact us via our website www.iwadeheronsfc.co.uk for spaces.

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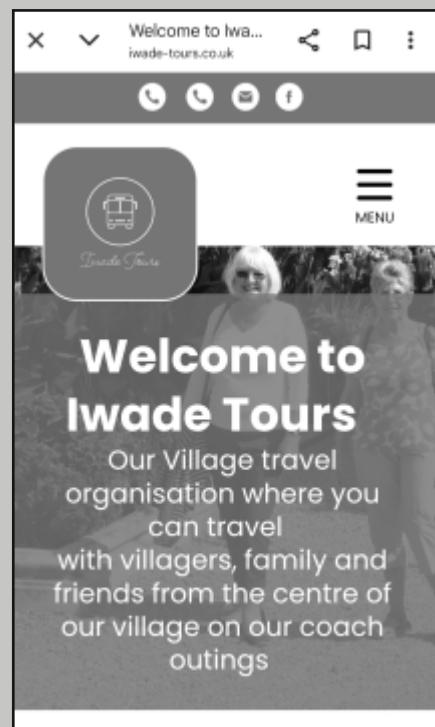
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NEWS FROM IWADE TOURS

Well it's hard to believe we are now in July and after a busy few months behind the scenes we are really looking forward to getting back on the road with you as we see our itinerary in full swing for the remainder of 2025!

Our website is now live at www.iwade-tours.co.uk plus we are also listed on the Iwade Village website where you can find information and dates for all our trips for 2025 and 2026. We welcome any feedback and suggestions.

Our bookings are going really well with some trips now with limited availability, Matthew is always on hand to answer the phone to take bookings or enquires.



A few questions he has answered this month:-

•Q. I don't live in Iwade, am I able to book a trip?

A. Whilst we are Iwade Tours we will accept bookings from anyone, however we will only have one pick up/ drop off point. So, provided you can get to Woodpecker Bus Stop by the allotted time then you are most welcome.

Q. I am a solo traveller and nervous about being on my own.

A. One of the main reasons for Iwade Tours was to help bring people together, so you will be looked after and escorted by Alan, Elizabeth and Matthew on all trips. No doubt by the end of your trip you will have made new friends.

Q. I have limited mobility and can't walk long distances

A. Alan is our expert and always looks to keep walking distances to a minimum to try and help ensure all trips are fully inclusive. Mobility scooters (provided they can be folded down) can be stored beneath the coach.

We have included as much information about each individual trip as possible on the website and newsletter. For example, the trips to the shows in London i.e. The Lion King and Mamma Mia will include free time before the show or some trips like the Vintage Essex Guided Tour will include refreshments and a ploughman's lunch! So, ensure you read these fully as you may be pleasantly surprised what is included in your day out!

We are already looking forward to the Cream Tea and Guided Tractor ride at Tiptree on the 23rd July!

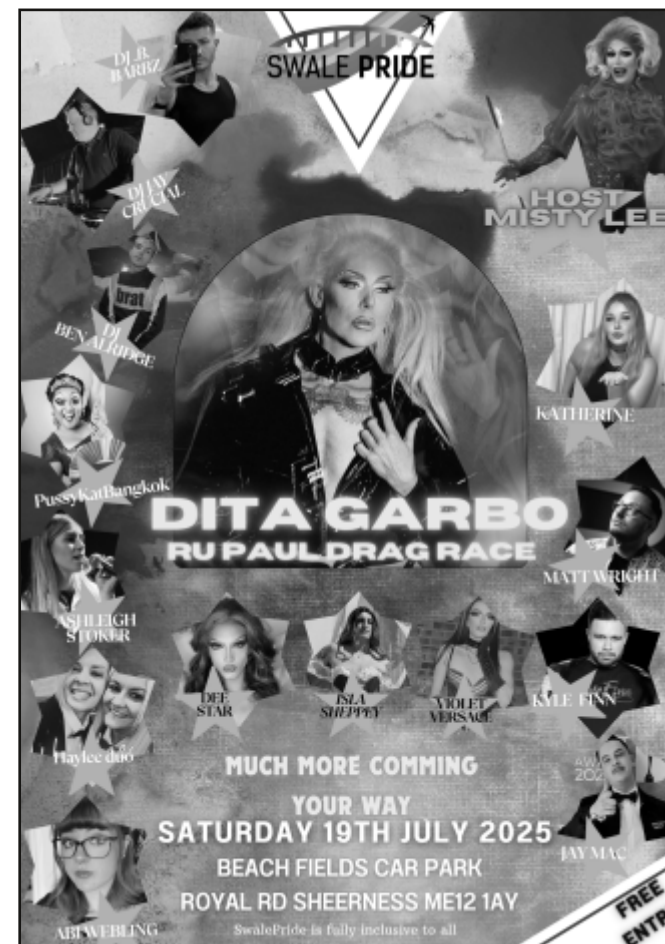
Thank you for your continued support and if you are interested in finding out more or booking one of the trips please don't hesitate to call us **01795 558001/ 07746893993**

IWADE READING AND BOOK GROUP

By Ann McDermott

This month's book was 'Her last summer' by Emily Freud. Twenty years ago, Mari vanished while backpacking in Thailand with her boyfriend Luke. He was accused of murder, but has always insisted he's innocent. Besides, her body was never found. Now he's finally ready to talk and filmmaker Cassidy Chambers wants to be the one to uncover what really happened. But as she delves deeper into the past, Cassidy begins to fear what lies ahead. It was well received with everyone liking it. Next month's book is 'Mad Honey' by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan, chosen by Marion.

We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 10.30 in the barn and new members always very welcome.



BREATHING IN AND OUT

It was my birthday last month – I was seventy! I know: I can hardly believe it myself. Well ... I look so young! We also celebrated another birthday last month. In the Church. Christians have been celebrating Pentecost – the birthday of the Church – every year for nearly 2000 years. 2.3 billion people and still growing!

How did it all happen? Well, if you're interested in church history, you can look it up in the fifth book of the New Testament, appropriately named The Acts of the Apostles or, to put it another way, "The Acts of the Church". If you can't lay your hand on your bible right this minute ... keep reading here. I like to think it happened a bit like this ... Jesus gets back to heaven after his life on earth, during which time he has told people about the Kingdom of God, been crucified, come back to life and left his followers with an important mission. He is met at the pearly gates by the angel Gabriel who greets him warmly and asks how he got on. Jesus explains that his ministry was a great success and that he has left his ongoing work in the hands of a few of his "disciples".

Gabriel is horrified as he realises how inept and useless humans are and protests that Jesus can surely not be serious. God's work is far too important to be left to a handful of fishermen! Jesus is insistent that those he has called will carry his mission across the face of the earth into succeeding generations. "Yeah, right!" scoffs the angel; "well, don't hold your breath!" "I don't intend to," replies Jesus and with that he takes a deep breath and breathes out ...

And on our planet, the breath of God's Spirit touches human lives in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria and on to the ends of the earth. God's presence, power peace and purpose at work in our lives. You see – it doesn't matter what you look like on the outside; what size, shape or colour you are - it's what's inside that counts! You may be full of high ideals and have plans to make a difference in the world. That's great! But on your own you are going to meet all kinds of difficulties and face many overwhelming challenges. "Inspiration" – literally, breathing in will help you, especially if you know the indwelling breath of God and the presence of his Holy Spirit.

You're facing a big challenge? You know what to do ... ready? Take a deep breath ...

John x

NEWS FROM CITIZENS ADVICE SWALE - OUR IMPACT IN 2024/25

Our data is in for 2024/25 and we're proud to share the impact we've had on our clients across Swale.

We helped **2,047 people**. **11% were disabled** and **56% had a long-term health condition**. We helped with **2,213 debt issues**, **1,192 housing issues** and **3,715 benefits and Universal Credit issues**. In addition to this, we supported people with a **further 8,689 problems including energy, relationship, employment and consumer issues**. We're seeing an increase every year on the number of issues a client comes to us with, and more complicated cases, due to the continued effect of the cost of living.

Our specialist money advisers **wrote off £298,115 debts**, and our clients **gained income of £1,844,797** with our help. In 2024/5 every **£1 invested** into Citizens Advice Swale was **worth £14.66 in public value**. Our local services **saved the NHS £179,183** by reducing use. We **saved the Department for Work and Pensions £456,660** by keeping people in work. We **saved the local authority £161,267 in preventing homelessness, housing eviction and in council tax repayments**.

The **public value of improving clients' wellbeing (emotional wellbeing, family relationships and positive functioning)** was **£5,617,293**.

The **total value** to the people we helped was an astonishing **£5,975,751** and the **total public value** was **£7,739,720**. We're proud of our volunteers and staff for continuing to provide this service in our community. **How can we help?**

Drop-in sessions (no appointment necessary):

- 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)
- Tuesday, 11.30am-1.30pm, Murston Family Hub, Tonge Road
- Wednesday & Friday, 10am-12pm, 43 Stone Street, Faversham

Email advice:

Contact us online at www.citizensadvice.swale.uk/
[email-general-advice](mailto:email-general-advice@citizensadvice.swale.uk) (Monday-Wednesday)

Telephone advice:

Call Adviceline on freephone **0808 278 7979** (Monday-Friday 10am-3.30pm)

Debt advice:

Request a call back from our specialist money advice team at www.citizensadvice.swale.uk/debt

To stay up to date with our opening times, please visit www.citizensadvice.swale.uk or follow us on Facebook.



AN UNANSWERED PLEA FOR HELP

By *Rynn Kemp*

For the last few months The Observer Team has been looking for somebody to take over as editor of The Observer.

I have done this for nigh on ten years now and have now moved to Faversham. It clearly wouldn't be right for somebody in Faversham to be 'doing' The Iwade Observer, and anyway having done this for ten years it's now maybe a good time to have a 'fresh pair of eyes' and new ideas running the show. Unfortunately, with nobody having come forward this issue will be the final one!

The Observer is produced by a very small team of just two people, myself and the lovely Kayla Harriss who does a fantastic job each month of preparing each issue for the printers. We hope you have enjoyed getting your Observer dropping onto your doormat each month. We thank the loyal group of delivery folk who make that happen each month – thank you all. Thanks also to Colin our distribution manager for collecting the bulk supplies from the printers, sorting them out, and dropping them around several addresses in Iwade for delivery to individual households. Finally thank you to all those who have supported the Observer by writing articles and sending in photographs. Without you, the Observer would never have existed!

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends

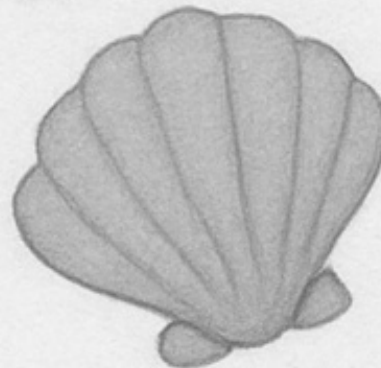
I have ,always enjoyed being out in the natural world, surrounded by the sights, sounds and smells of creation (I am thinking of bluebell woods rather than slurry, I have to say!). I have vivid memories of my teacher Mr Smith at Newington School, who would look out of the window and say, 'It's a lovely day! Get your coats; we're going for a walk.' How times have changed; there's no way that could happen in schools now! We would walk around lanes and footpaths around Newington, and Mr Smith – who I found out only a few years ago was a churchwarden at Upchurch – would point out the wildflowers in the hedgerows and teach us their names. I remember the occasion a slow worm ambled across the path down at the watercress beds, seeing water boatmen, just under the surface of the water, and pond skaters, doing as their name suggests. Red and white campion, lords and ladies, vetch... he was a knowledgeable man who helped us to notice the beauty around us. It's a habit that has stayed with me.

But one thing I am not good at is identifying bird song. I love to hear the glorious cacophony around me, but beyond the obvious – sparrow, robin, cuckoo, for example – I don't know what I'm hearing. Then I discovered a brilliant app, Merlin (and it's free to download!). You simply click, and it identifies the song of the birds in the vicinity. I've become slightly addicted, and love the different song heard at different times of the day and in different locations; my back garden, the woods at Monkey Island, by the dock at Lower Halstow, in Stockbury churchyard, to name but a few. And as well as informing me, I feel it's opening my ears and my

understanding of what's around me. If I know I'm hearing a blackcap, I stand some chance of seeing it. And I can't help but draw parallels with my broader perception of the world, both on the physical and spiritual level. Noticing. It's easy to go around blinkered by our own concerns, anxieties and lists of things to do. Not to be aware of the people around us, of the beauties as well as suffering right under our noses. Jesus was a great noticer; he knew when a woman seeking healing had touched his cloak in the busy throng around him (Mark 5), he noticed Zaccheus up in a tree (Luke 19), he noticed the lame man by the pool at Bethesda (John 5). And as he noticed, he loved and brought healing and acceptance to these people who would have been ignored by most of those around them. There's a lesson for us! And informed noticing, as I have found with Merlin, brings greater appreciation of and ability to engage with, my surround-ings. If we tune in prayerfully with what is around us, it's almost like having an app which helps us notice! Looking at the world, as Teresa of Avila famously prayed, with Christ's eyes.

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, Yours are the eyes through which to look out Christ's compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now.”

So, enjoy the blessings and beauties of creation, but also, live in the world as those who notice, care and are active. Wouldn't that make our world a better place? Every blessing, *Amanda*



<p>1) Welcome and Apologies The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. No apologies received from Cllr. Hartley.</p>
<p>2) Declarations of Interest and Dispensations None.</p>
<p>3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Hyde, the minutes of the Highway Improvement Plan Committee Meeting held on 8 April 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.</p>
<p>4) Visitors/Public Time</p> <p>1. Visitors: None attended.</p> <p>2. County and Borough Councillors: None attended.</p> <p>3. Police Constable: Did not attend the meeting and no report received.</p>
<p>5) Village Matters</p> <p>1. Ownership of Country Park, Land East of Iwade – The Clerk advised Swale Borough Council are not taking on ownership of the proposed Country Park in the Land East of Iwade, ownership is staying with the developer Bellway. Members asked the Clerk to contact planning consultant Alistair Hume and land owner Oliver Doubleday, to find out if the Parish Council can be involved in discussions about the ownership of the Country Park. Action: Clerk</p> <p>2. Tree Warden – Cllr. Tolhurst advised he has spoken with David Carey, Chair of the Kent pond and tree partnership, and has arranged for him to speak with a local volunteer who is interested in becoming the tree warden for Iwade.</p> <p>3. Land at Mansfield Drive – Council members decided not to take over ownership of land K813380, due to the ongoing maintenance this would require. Members asked the Clerk to advise the resident who</p>

<p>COUNCIL MINUTES ROUNDUP</p> <p>IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY 2025</p>
<p>PRESENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. S. Tolhurst - Chair • Cllr. S. Waters - Vice Chair • Cllr. C. Gomez • Cllr. P. Holowczycki • Cllr. P. Hyde • Cllr. K. Rivers-Simpson • Cllr. D. Waters • Samantha Gray, Clerk • Lynda Ives, Responsible Financial Officer
<p>reported antisocial behaviour concerns to contact the police, and to provide the details of the land owner Plaxtol Investments, so they can discuss ownership and maintenance of the land if they wish to. Action: Clerk</p> <p>4. Ownership of Village Playgrouds – The Clerk circulated maintenance costs provided by Swale Borough Council for the playgrounds in Iwade. Due to the budget and resources that would be required, members decided not to take over ownership of the playgrounds.</p>
<p>6) Planning: applications are viewable on Swale: http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications; KCC: https://cloud2.atriumsoft.com/KCCePlanningOPS/searchPageLoad.do#</p> <p>1. 25/501164/FULL: Demolition of existing building and erection of 8no. dwellings, with associated access from Ferry Road, parking and landscaping. Iwade Village Hall The Street Iwade Kent ME9 8RG.</p> <p>Council members cannot comment as this is a Parish Council application.</p>
<p>7) Correspondence</p> <p>1. Notification of EGM - 19th June 2025 - Local Government Reorganisation – Members noted the date and time of the meeting and unfortunately no members are available to attend. Cllrs. Tolhurst and Rivers-Simpson will attend the Local Government Reform meeting being held by Swale Borough Council on Thursday 5 June. Action: Clerk/Tolhurst/Rivers-Simpson</p>
<p>8) Parish Council Matters</p> <p>Memorial Plaque application – The Parish Council agreed the application to install a Memorial Plaque on tree number RW1. Action: Clerk/RFO</p>

<p>9) Finance:</p> <p>1. Approval of the Annual Return, 2024/25:</p> <p>a) Section 1. Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 - Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Gomez, each section agreed by the Parish Council; form then signed by the Chair and the Clerk.</p> <p>b) Section 2. Accounting Statements 2024/25 - Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Tolhurst, figures agreed by Parish Council, Section 2 signed by the Chair, having been already signed by the Responsible Financial Officer when completing the form.</p> <p>c) Explanation of Variances 2024/25 – Circulated by the RFO and noted by council members.</p> <p>d) Cash Balance 2024/25 - Circulated by the RFO and noted by council members.</p> <p>e) Fixed Asset Register - Circulated by the RFO and noted by council members.</p> <p>2. Internal Audit Report 2024/25 – Noted and adopted by council members.</p> <p>3. Financial Risk Assessment - Proposed by Cllr Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Gomez; agreed and adopted.</p> <p>4. Statement of Internal Control - Proposed by Cllr Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. D. Waters; agreed and adopted.</p> <p>5. Tree guards x 26 – Proposed by Cllr. S. Waters and seconded by Cllr. D. Waters, members agreed to purchase 26 tree guards at a cost of £67.50 plus VAT. Action: RFO</p> <p>6. Donation Request from Citizens Advice Swale – Proposed by Cllr. D. Waters and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, members agreed a S.137 donation of £100.00p. Action: RFO</p> <p>7. Donation Request from Swale Pride – The Chair read the correspondence received from Swale Pride, a not-for-profit community interest company who are asking for assistance through financial contribution, in-kind support or by helping to raise awareness. Council members agreed they need more information to consider a financial contribution, but agreed to raise awareness through the village newsletter and the Parish Council website. Action: Clerk</p> <p>8. Grant application – Iwade Village Website – The Parish</p>

<p>cannot be given to the Iwade Village website as grants cannot be given to individuals or businesses. Council members will consider pre-approved payments to the Iwade Village website for work to re-design the website and to add monthly content. Council members agreed they need more information about work needed on the website and what will be provided going forward. Cllr. Tolhurst will find out and report back to the council. Action: Cllr. Tolhurs</p>
<p>10) Projects - Updates on Current and New</p> <p>1. Future public events – Cllr. Tolhurst explained to members that he met with a resident who contacted the council to discuss ideas for community groups. Members agreed the first step is to set a date for an Events Advisory Group meeting. Action: Cllr. Tolhurst</p> <p>Members also discussed holding the Christmas light switch on event at Iwade Barn on Saturday 29 November. Cllr. Rivers-Simpson will confirm this with Iwade Barn Trustees. Action: Cllr. Rivers-Simpson</p> <p>2. Tracker – Cllr. Tolhurst circulated the updated document to members.</p>
<p>11) Reports from Representatives</p> <p>1. Village Hall Committee – Nothing to report.</p> <p>2. KALC Area Representative – Nothing to report.</p>
<p>12) Items for Next Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV • Standing Orders – update with the change of time of monthly meeting • Loss of business due to road works
<p>13) The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 10th July at 8:00pm in The Barn, All Saints Close</p>