

# THE LATEST FROM IWADE TOURS



**W**e had a great day at the VE Day celebrations held last month, it was really nice to meet fellow villagers and also support the Royal British Legion by donating some Iwade Tours Gift Vouchers to the raffle. We look forward to the lucky winners joining us on an outing in the near future. Our website will be up and running very soon which Alan will be keeping up to date with all our trips and availability. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our day trip to the New Forest due to lack of numbers. Obviously we didn't want to disappoint those who had booked to come with us, but as we are a non-profit group we couldn't justify losing that much money and thankfully those travellers were really supportive and understanding. So, we are circulating some questionnaires to try and get some feedback and ideas for future days out. We have already organised a day trip to Brighton on Wednesday 13th

August following requests to book family friendly trips when children aren't at school. The cost is £40 per adult, £20 for Children and Under five's will go free. If you would like to join us in Brighton or any of our other trips please contact us on **01795 558001 or 07746893993**, or you can email **Iwadetours@gmail.com**.

## COFFEE, CAKE AND A NATTER



By **Linda Dawson**

**W**e recently held our first coffee morning and plant sale of the season, which was a great success.

It was lovely to see so many fellow allotmenters enjoying meeting new plot holders for the first time plus buying plants to fill up their plots. We were blessed with great weather and good company for a morning of coffee, cake and chatter.

If you would like to enjoy growing your own, why not put your name down on our waiting list by calling or texting Christine on 0797 1003424 or Sylvia 07802 419498. We look forward to hearing from you.

# The Iwade Observer

JUNE 2025

## IWADE'S WWII HEROINES



**L**ots of you will have enjoyed the activities celebrating VE Day 80. Scores of villagers attended at the Barn, the lighting of the beacon and a street party.

The Observer was delighted to receive the following from David Raistrick telling of two very plucky ladies of Iwade who were at *the* VE Day. We salute these two lively centenarians and thank them for all they and their generation did.

"I have provided photos of my mum, Betty Raistrick, in her WAAF's uniform (bottom left) and a recent photo in January at the time of her 100th birthday. Alongside those are photos of Connie Kilby (top left), who turned 100 in 2023 plus a newspaper cutting from the day after VE day; Friday 9th May 1945.

Betty had to wait until she was 17 years and six months old before she could volunteer to join the WAAFs, whilst Connie had joined in 1940. After initial training Betty was placed on barrage balloon sites in south London mainly in Kidbrooke, Eltham and Dulwich. The plan was to get the balloons up to hamper incoming German war planes.

She later learned to drive and joined the military transport unit, whose duties varied from driving pilots from their planes, often wounded, or taking live ammunition to dock areas. Connie

was a flight mechanic, and specialised in repairing and maintaining aeroplane engines, a vital job. Both Betty and Connie were stationed at Henlow in Hertfordshire but at different times. Connie remembers calling her sergeant when she saw hundreds of planes flying over the camp which she later found were all destined for D-day!

Betty met her future husband Jack during the war. Prior to D-day, he was camped near Portsmouth. He wanted Betty to see him before he went, but Betty didn't have enough money for the rail fare so one of her friends lent her the money. Connie's future husband also served in the RAF but they did not meet during the war.

When war ended, Betty went into central London from Henlow with her campmates and she remembers everybody being so happy, with lots of singing and dancing and lots of Americans. She lost contact with Jack for 10 months and so at the time of VE day she didn't know if he had made it to Germany. He eventually came back, and they got married in 1947. They moved into one of the new houses on the Sheerstone Estate in 1951 and Betty still lives there.

Connie moved into the same Sheerstone Estate from School Lane and has lived in the same house for 61 years. (Continued on Page 2)







## HONOURING OUR LOCAL LEGENDS

By *David Raistrick*



**"They have both seen the village grow and grow but still know a lot of other villagers. The focal point of the village in those days was the Village Hall and the Woolpack pub and there were days out from the village by coach.**

There is now a Facebook page where older Iwadeians are encouraged to upload old photos of the village and those who have grown up here. Not only this, but there have also been a number of reunions held, which Betty and Connie's family have attended respectively.

On the 8th of May, Betty's son took her to a special 80th anniversary concert at the Royal Albert Hall which meant she had the chance to return to central London and celebrate for the first time in the 80 years since VE Day! She was also able to watch some of the old film footage, and potentially even spot herself.

We are very lucky to have two women from the greatest generation still living in the village just a stone's throw from each other. We thank them for the service at the time of our greatest need."

## VICTORY IN IWADE

**W**hat a great sight to see so many Iwade residents gathered around The Barn last month singing I Vow to Thee My Country whilst consuming copious amounts of Fish and Chips and drinks and then later around the park Beacon as it burned brightly to remind us of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

It wasn't just the vital importance and gravitas of the occasion, reminding us of the joy and relief felt by a grateful nation at the end of World War Two, but simply the fact of seeing young and old gathered together, enjoying one another's company, chatting, sipping their drinks and recognising how much we value one another. Our local schools in this part of Swale have rightly focussed on what took place across Europe eighty plus years ago and our children have learned together about the significance of war and the precious nature of peace. I have had the privilege of sharing in some of the school celebrations with parents, pupils and teachers and it has been deeply inspiring to see how our youngsters have taken the lessons to heart.

On a couple of occasions, we have sung together a new song by Matthew Crossey and Tom Kirkham, composed especially for this 80th Anniversary: Sing For The King. One of the lines touched me deeply. Raise your voices high, High up to the sky, And know that they'll always be more that ties us than sets us apart. Consciously or unconsciously, the residents of Iwade were living out that sentiment as they met and celebrated on 8th and 10th May. They do it on many other occasions too in and around our village.

Let's be honest now; our world is in a bit of a mess with hatred, racist activity, wars and conflicts in many places, including Gaza and Ukraine. We cannot turn a blind eye to these things but we can continue to stir up the kind of community activity that draws us towards each other to talk, to listen and to celebrate our lives and histories. Somebody once said: a world coming apart needs a people coming together. Or to use Matthew and Tom's words - know that they'll always be more that ties us than sets us apart.

We've shared our national VE Day anniversary celebration this year. Let's actively look for every opportunity to celebrate that which ties us together. God bless you!

*John x*

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE IWADE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP



By *John Guest*

**I**n case you were wondering, your local PPG is still going strong and delighted to report that matters are improving at the Health Centre on Monins Road. Thank you to those who have sent in suggestions and words of thanks and encouragement.

I am grateful to Sharon on Reception for drawing my attention to an important process for contacting your doctor. **Please take note;**

If you have the blue NHS App (easily downloadable free from the Apple or Android store) then log in and go to the **Home page**, scroll down to **Messages** and select View your messages. Scroll down to select the last of your three inboxes headed **GP Surgery Messaging**. Select this and then select **Send a Message**. You will then be asked **Do You Need Advice?** Select **No, my Message is Not Urgent** and then **Continue**. You will then see the name of your GP and you can select them for a message. Up to 64 characters (about 10 words) for the subject and up to 450 characters (about 75 words) for the message. You can ask your doctor anything and even request prescription medicines. **The one thing you may not do is request an appointment.** This must still be done via Anima or directly at the practice Reception.

The NHS app is very useful if you are able to use it and **remember**, please let us know your questions, comments and encouragements via the **Suggestion Box** in the Health Centre and in the Iwade Pharmacy. I am also happy for you to contact me direct via Text, WhatsApp or Facebook Message on **07710 353461**. Thank you.

## A PLEA FOR HELP

By *Rynn Kemp*

**T**he Iwade Observer Team is looking for somebody to take over as the newsletters' editor. I have done this for almost ten years now, but will soon be moving to Faversham. For obvious reasons, it would not be right for somebody living in Faversham to be 'doing' The Iwade Observer. Not only this, but the fact I have done this for nearly a decade perhaps makes it a good time to introduce some 'fresh eyes' and bring on new ideas. The Observer is run by a very small team of just two people, myself and Kayla Harriss who does a fantastic job each month of preparing each issue for the printers.

If you fancy giving it a go please get in touch and we can talk things over – email me at [The.Iwade.ObsERVER@gmail.com](mailto:The.Iwade.ObsERVER@gmail.com)

See *YOU* at the next  
**ASSEMBLY on SUNDAY**



Songs, stories, cakes and biscuits, meet new people!  
Children, parents, grandparents, family and friends.

**All welcome!**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July**

**in Iwade School Hall at 3.00pm**

ASSEMBLY ON SUNDAY is supported by  
All Saints Church and the Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust.  
Further details from: John Guest 07710 353461

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# SPEEDWAY LEAGUE SEASON GETS UNDERWAY AT IWADE

By Paul Heller

**On Sunday April 13th the first league meeting of the season took place at the Old Guns site track with the newly formed Kent Eagles meeting Leicester Fox Cubs in a National Development Trophy League meeting.**

The sun shone, a large crowd of over 500 packed the circuit and some closely fought racing kept everyone entertained throughout the afternoon. The Eagles opened up an early lead but this was pegged back by Leicester and the match looked to be moving to a last heat decider, but a 5-1 victory by the Eagles in the penultimate heat drew them six points ahead of the visitors with one heat to go. Though the match was already won, Heat 15 was a cracker of a race with the final score standing at Kent Eagles 47 points Leicester Fox Cubs 41. The whole day was especially pleasing for the new Kent Eagles management team with some good racing, a good turnout, and a good win to start off their League campaign.

Following on from this Thursday 17th April saw our

usual midweek practice with our regular Thursday riders enjoying a good day in the sunshine. Sunday April 27th gave a chance for aspiring speedway riders to have a go as the Club hosted another Try Speedway event with 13 riders taking part on the Clubs two tracks. Thursday 1st May saw our Thursday regulars again out on track for their usual practice day, then on Sunday 4th May it was the turn



of the flat track boys to take over the circuit for their own practice session. On Sunday 11th May the track held a Paul Hurry practice day where Paul was on hand to pass on his knowledge and expertise to a group of 18 up and coming riders.

There were a few

weeks break from racing, which would have given the track staff a well-deserved break, alongside a chance to carry out some maintenance tasks and put a few more tons of shale on the track for the coming months action. However, tragedy struck in the last practice as the cambelt snapped on the Club's water cart vehicle, so it was all back to work for some speedy repairs.



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# NEWS FROM CITIZENS ADVICE SWALE

Are you thinking about renting somewhere for the first time? It can seem daunting so we've shared some tips below. Most properties available for rent are listed online or with lettings agents.

If you have the chance, renting directly from a landlord might be a bit cheaper before you move in, as they may ask for fewer references and you might not

need to do a credit check. You'll have to deal with them directly if any issues arise during the tenancy. Some landlords use a lettings agent to find their tenants and then manage the properties themselves. If an agent is managing the property then you'll deal with them rather than with the landlord directly, for instance, if you need to get any repairs done.

**Never pay any money before you've seen the property as this is a common tactic used by rental fraudsters. If you can, take someone with you when viewing properties for a second opinion.**

**Ask the landlord or letting agent some key questions to make sure properties you're considering are safe, affordable and meet your needs.**

- How much is the rent? Is it payable monthly or weekly?
- How long is the tenancy for?
- Are bills included in the rent?
- Are any appliances or furniture included?
- Is there a break clause allowing any fixed term to be ended early, if needed?
- Does the landlord need a guarantor?
- Is there a tenancy deposit, how much is it, and how will it be protected?

It's also good to ask whether the tenancy is for a self-contained property, or whether there are shared facilities, whether or not it's a joint tenancy with other people and, if relevant, if you can have pets. Make sure you're happy with the arrangements. You can check if you'll need to pay a holding deposit while the landlord carries out pre-tenancy checks. A deposit can't be more than a week's rent and should be returned to you at the start of the tenancy. You should also ask your landlord or letting agent what documents you'll need to provide when you agree to rent the property including evidence of your Right to Rent.

Avoid 'subletting' which is when you rent directly from an existing tenant, as they might not have the landlord's permission to rent to you. If a tenant is showing you around the property on behalf of the landlord they should give you the landlord's contact details. If a landlord refuses to rent to you because of who you are, this may be discrimination - for example because of your race, religion or sexual orientation. A 'no kids policy' or refusing to rent to you because you get benefits could also be discrimination. You only need to tell a landlord or letting agent you receive benefits if they ask.

**If you need any other pointers or advice on renting, or you run into any problems, here's how to contact us for advice:**

**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.citizensadviceswale.uk/](http://www.citizensadviceswale.uk/) email-general-advice (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.citizensadviceswale.uk/debt](http://www.citizensadviceswale.uk/debt)

To stay up to date with our opening times, please visit [www.citizensadviceswale.uk](http://www.citizensadviceswale.uk) or follow us on Facebook.



<b>1) Welcome and Apologies</b> The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. S. Waters, P. Hyde and C. Gomez.
<b>2) Declarations of Interest and Dispensations</b> None.
<b>3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, the minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 12 March 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.
<b>4) Visitors/Public Time</b> <b>Visitors:</b> None attended.  <b>County and Borough Councillors:</b> Cllr. Baldock advised that Bobbing Parish Council are arranging a CABE (Communities against Bobbing expansion) meeting and will be inviting other Parish Councils as this will impact all Parishes. This housing development would have an impact on roads in Iwade.  Cllr. Baldock also spoke to members about the Country Park planned for the Land East of Iwade development and advised the Parish Council may want to bid to manage it. Borden Parish Council manage a Country Park and maintain this as a nature park. Additionally the residents of Iwade could set up a Friends group to manage the park and they would be eligible for funding. The Clerk will add this to the next agenda. <div>Action: Clerk</div> Cllr. Baldock informed members that Swale Borough Council (SBC) are looking at Parish boundaries. Members previously agreed to propose a new boundary line and the Clerk contacted Democratic Services to apply for this. The Clerk will re-send the proposed boundary application to council members and SBC. <div>Action: Clerk</div> <b>Police Constable:</b> PC Phil Clemens introduced his colleague Katie, who will be working with him for 15 weeks as part of a Swale Community Safety Unit. He followed up on a discussion held at the last meeting

<div>COUNCIL MINUTES ROUNDUP</div> <div>IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL</div> <div><div>PRESENT:</div><div><div><div><div>• Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair</div><div>• Cllr. J. Hartley</div><div>• Cllr. P. Holowczycki</div><div>• Cllr. K. Rivers-Simpson</div><div>• Cllr. D. Waters</div></div><div><div>• Samantha Gray, Clerk</div><div>• Lynda Ives, RFO</div><div>• County Cllr. M. Baldock</div><div>• PC Phil Clemens</div><div>• PC Katie</div></div></div></div><div>meeting regarding reviewing the positioning of cameras, which unfortunately has not happened yet but he will look into this. He also informed the council that during periods of absence Police Officers have authorisation to help cover other areas. PC Clemens reported on the following local issues: • It has been drawn to my attention that vehicles are once again preventing the correct flow of traffic through School Lane at School pickup/drop-off times and are parking along the yellow zig-zag lines. This is not only dangerous but also illegal. Moving forward I will be performing spot-checks during these times providing education to road users and to prevent nuisance behaviour. • A group of youths were spotted playing near the train tracks of the Swale railway station underneath the old Sheppey Crossing. I am told that they were playing with the signal box. Enquiries are ongoing with the British Transport Police to identify those involved. • Only one instance of a nuisance vehicle has been reported this month. I am happy to see that this trend continues and am hopeful that even during the warmer months this will continue.  • A resident contacted the Parish Council regarding issues of antisocial behaviour relating to a Public Right of Way in Springvale. PC Jez Chittim previously looked into the closure of the alleyway and installing a temporary CCTV camera. PC Clemens will look into this again and advised incidents should be reported to Kent Police. Reports can be made by dialling 101 or via their website <a href="https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report">https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report</a>. • PC Clemens advised the Environment Agency are looking into issues at Raspberry Hill. Members asked the Clerk to write to them. <div>Action: Clerk</div></div><div><div>5) Village Matters</div><div><div>1. H.I.P Requests</div><div>– The Highway Improvement Plan committee met on Tuesday 8 April. Members discussed and agreed the following actions: • <b>Priority Signage in Sheppey Way and School Lane:</b> Clerk to find out costs and design of signage, and to carry out a consultation with residents.</div></div></div></div>
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<div><div>• <b>Parking issues in Wigeon Road:</b> Request a quotation for bollards on the corners of the road. Add to the Highway Improvement Plan.</div><div>• <b>Traffic issues in The Street:</b> Ask Kent County Council (KCC) what they can do to prevent issues due to increased traffic from proposed housing developments. Also request results of road samples that have recently been taken by KCC. Add to the Highway Improvement Plan.</div><div>• <b>Traffic incidents on the junction of Ferry Road/ Grovehurst Road/Sheppey Way:</b> Request a high kerb. Add to the High-way Improvement Plan.</div><div>• <b>Parked vehicles with engines idling in Meadow Close:</b> Request signage from the Local Authority. Add to the High-way Improvement Plan. <div>Action: Clerk</div></div></div> <div><div>For remaining Village Matters, please visit the Iwade Parish Council website.</div></div> <div><div>6) Planning:</div><div>applications are viewable on Swale: <a href="http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications">http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications</a>; KCC: <a href="https://cloud2.atriumsoft.com/KCCePlanningOPS/searchPageLoad.do">https://cloud2.atriumsoft.com/KCCePlanningOPS/searchPageLoad.do</a></div></div> <div><div>7) Correspondence</div><div><div>1. Message from Larissa Reed re expression of interest to the Government for Local Government Reorganisation</div><div>– Cllrs. D. Waters, K. Rivers-Simpson and S. Tolhurst all expressed an interest in attending the meeting, depending on the date and time of the meeting. Members asked the Clerk to find out if the meeting will cover the potential role of Parish Councils. <div>Action: Clerk</div></div></div></div> <div><div>8) Parish Council Matters</div><div><div>To consider taking over the maintenance of playgrounds - Members discussed what would be required to take over ownership of the playgrounds in the village. Members asked the Clerk to contact SBC to express an interest in taking over ownership and find out the cost of running the playgrounds. <div>Action: Clerk</div></div><div>2. Vice-Chair Acceptance of Office</div><div>– Council member absent, bring back to the next meeting. <div>Action: Clerk</div></div><div>3. Salt Bins</div><div>– Members set a date to meet and set up the salt bins in the Village Hall car park. The Clerk will inform all council members, the Chair of the village hall and Cllr. Baldock. <div>Action: Clerk</div></div><div>4. Memorial Plaque application</div><div>– Members asked the Clerk to keep this application on the agenda. <div>Action: Clerk</div></div><div>5. Management of Parish Council email accounts</div><div>– Members agreed to Invicta IT Solutions handing over administration access to the Clerk. <div>Action: Clerk</div></div></div></div>
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<div>9) Finance:</div> <div>To view the Finance discussions from this meeting and all previous Minutes and Agenda's for Iwade Parish Council, please visit <a href="https://www.iwade-pc.gov.uk/community/iwade-parish-council-18357/agendas--minutes-2025/">https://www.iwade-pc.gov.uk/community/iwade-parish-council-18357/agendas--minutes-2025/</a></div>
<div>10) Projects - Updates on Current and New</div> <div><div>1. VE Day 8th May 2025</div><div>– Members held a committee meeting to discuss the event plans. SBC advised a water safety test is required for commercial use. Members asked the Clerk to request a copy of the Fish and Chip vans certificate. <div>Action: Clerk</div></div><div>2. Future public events</div><div>– Cllr. Rivers-Simpson advised The Barn are planning an event for the August bank holiday and they are hoping to have a Chinese food vendor.</div><div>3. Litter Pick</div><div>– Swale Borough Council will deliver the equipment for the event, this will need to be returned to Swale House follow-ing the event. Members discussed issuing vouchers for tea and coffee to volunteers. Cllr. Tolhurst will speak to The Mews Brewhouse. <div>Action: Cllr. Tolhurst/Clerk</div></div><div>4. Tracker</div><div>– Cllr. Tolhurst circulated the updated document to members.</div></div>
<div>11) Reports from Representatives</div> <div><div>1. Village Hall Committee</div><div>– Representative not present.</div><div>2. KALC Area Representative</div><div>– No meeting has been held.</div></div>
<div>12) Items for Next Agenda:</div> <div><div>• Town twinning.</div><div>This has been looked into in the past, the Clerk will look back at records. <div>Action: Clerk</div></div></div>
<div>13) The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 11th June</div>