

# Iwade Observer

## March 2016

### Time To Plan The Plant

Joan Exley, IAA

Having just eaten a lovely pasta dish, it made me think about the allotment gardens and what I need to start doing soon such as putting onion sets to root and early potatoes to chit; egg trays come in useful. I am still using the tomato, onion and garlic (all grown on the allotment) bases I made and froze last summer. The pasta sauce still has that delicious, fresh taste, nothing artificial.

We always grow at least two rows of tomatoes and at least two varieties as you cannot beat the taste of home grown tomatoes. Last year I discovered a new variety, Big Daddy. The tomatoes certainly lived up to their name in that they were huge, not just in size but in flavour as well. I will certainly be growing them again this year. Cant wait!

If you feel that you would like to join us on the allotment gardens and enjoy growing your own fresh produce, give me a ring on 01795 473116 with your details. It is cheaper than going to the gym!



The Iwade allotments

#### Bird Table

Amanda Hurrell

After noticing the last bird table had been broken my husband Ian made a bird table to go in the community orchard in Woodpecker Drive to replace it. It all started when he was clearing out the garage a couple of weeks ago and rounded up all the wood he'd accumulated. One Saturday afternoon later and a new bird table was ready for its new home. He added some hooks to hang a seed feeder (donated by Dave Sewell) and coconut shell. We've noticed moorhens feeding on the ground where it's sited, eating the fallen bird seed. I'm going to add a nesting material store (hanging feeder) stuffed full with off cuts of yarn from my crochet granny blankets (not quite yarn bombing but almost!) so this spring look out for coloured nests in the trees around Iwade.



#### The Home Library Service

Your local Kent County Council Library has a team of volunteers who deliver and collect library items to and from customers' homes. This free service is called The Home Library Service.

Home Library Service customers are entitled to longer loan periods including CDs, spoken word cassettes, DVDs and also large print books.

Many people benefit from joining The Home Library Service. Some, find it hard to leave their home because they have to care for another family member. Some are elderly or suffer with ill health, even new parents who need the service for a few months until they get back on their feet.

Visit :-

[www.kent.gov.uk/leisure\\_and\\_culture/libraries/services\\_for\\_everyone](http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/libraries/services_for_everyone), phone us on 0300 333 6022, or next time you visit your local library ask for more information and an application form. Our volunteers delivering the Home Library Service are screened for this role.



**Sunday 13 March 10:00 | Iwade Village Food and Craft Fayre**  
Every second Sunday of the month 10am to 1pm at Iwade Village Hall. Great range of stalls and refreshments in the kitchen.

**Wednesday 23 March 13:00 | Pop Up Coffee Shop**  
Every other week at All Saints Church Iwade 1pm to 3pm every other Wednesday. Free, tea, coffee, home-made cakes, toys and stories for the children, why not get out of the house with or without children and meet some friendly faces.

**Thursday 24 March 11:15 | Mobile Library**  
11.15 to 11.25am at the Springvale end of Sheerstone, one piece of identification required to join. Why not give it a try? For further information please telephone 03000 41 31 31 or email [mobiles@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mobiles@kent.gov.uk)

**Wednesday 6 April 13:00 | Pop Up Coffee Shop**  
Every other week at All Saints Church Iwade 1pm to 3pm every other Wednesday. Free, tea, coffee, home-made cakes, toys and stories for the children, why not get out of the house with or without children and meet some friendly faces.

**Saturday 23 July 11:00 | Iwade Rock 2016**  
Iwade Rock 2016 is on 23rd July 2016 @ Iwade School Playing Fields 11am gates open – 10.30pm. Telephone or text 07921 151974 for more information or visit their facebook page IwadeRock

#### WEEKLY

##### Mondays and Wednesdays

**Evening Walking Group**  
7pm for 7.15pm start at Woolpack, all welcome, sensible walking shoes or trainers are advised. All welcome. Sociable, fit group. No charge.

##### Wednesdays

**Boot Camp.** 6.20pm for 6.30pm meet at Stangate Drive Green (outside No 41) Different fitness levels, fun, £2 per person per session, all welcome

**Parent Carer and Toddler Group.** 9am to 11am Iwade Village Hall

##### Tuesdays & Fridays

**Yoga.** Iwade Village Hall. Friday 6.30pm and Tuesday 1.30pm

##### Thursdays

**Healthwalks.** 10.45am start at Iwade Pharmacy. All welcome, no charge

##### Saturdays

**Bokwa.** 9am Iwade Village Hall. All welcome, first lesson free, £4

##### Term Time Only

**Kingsquad.** Tuesday evenings termtime Iwade Village Hall 5pm - 6.15pm. For children school years 2-6, all welcome

*For other clubs in Iwade such as Wargames, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows check out [IwadeVillage.co.uk](http://IwadeVillage.co.uk) What's On Clubs and Activities*

#### Editors Note

**As ever thanks to all our contributors - so many of you that we have had to hold over a couple of articles to next month!! However a bit of a self congratulatory note! Great work from the team (a bit like a cricket team) this month. Marc opened the innings strongly before having to get stuck into some 'real work' Laura came in and played a blinder, literally learning our DTP package as she went along, in cricket terms it would have been an unbeaten century. And back in the pavillion with help when we foundered a bit was our 'sub' Mel. Brilliant work team!!**

#### DISCLAIMER

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newsletter, neither the printer, editor or distribution team can accept responsibility for any subsequent alterations, errors or mistakes in any material published herein. The views expressed in any articles are not necessarily the views of anyone involved in the production of this newsletter.

**Wednesday 27 January 13:00 | Pop Up Coffee Shop**

Every other week at All Saints Church Iwade 1pm to 3pm every other Wednesday. Free, tea, coffee, home-made cakes, toys and stories for the children, why not get out of the house with or without children and meet some friendly faces.

**Thursday 28 January 11:15 | Mobile Library**

11.15 to 11.25am at the Springvale end of Sheerstone, one piece of identification required to join. Why not give it a try? For further information please telephone 03000 41 31 31 or email [mobiles@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mobiles@kent.gov.uk)

**Tuesday 9 February 10:30 | Iwade Reading Group**

Iwade Reading Group meet every month. Get in contact with Hilary Foulds on 01795 474656 or by email at [hilary.foulds@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hilary.foulds@hotmail.co.uk)

**Wednesday 10 February 13:00 | Pop Up Coffee Shop**

Every other week at All Saints Church Iwade 1pm to 3pm every other Wednesday. Free, tea, coffee, home-made cakes, toys and stories for the children, why not get out of the house with or without children and meet some friendly faces.

**Wednesday 10 February 19:30 | Iwade Parish Council Meeting**

Iwade Parish Council normally meet at Iwade Village Hall at 7.30pm every second Wednesday of the month. Public meeting and time allowed on the agenda for the public so why not go along and find out more about what goes on? Watch this space for the agenda as it becomes available.

**Thursday 11 February 11:15 | Mobile Library**

11.15 to 11.25am at the Springvale end of Sheerstone, one piece of identification required to join. Why not give it a try? For further information please telephone 03000 41 31 31 or email [mobiles@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mobiles@kent.gov.uk)

**Sunday 14 February 10:00 | Iwade Village Food and Craft Fayre**

Every second Sunday of the month 10am to 1pm at Iwade Village Hall. Great range of stalls and refreshments in the kitchen.

**Wednesday 17 February 19:30 | February W.I. Meeting**

Kent in the 19th Century by Bob Ogley. Vote of Thanks: Competition: Photo from the 19th Century. Raffle: 50/50. Birthdays:Phyllis Halll, Doreen Harrington, Vivien Hines, Ann Mills

**Wednesday 24 February 13:00 | Pop Up Coffee Shop**

Every other week at All Saints Church Iwade 1pm to 3pm every other Wednesday. Free, tea, coffee, home-made cakes, toys and stories for the children, why not get out of the house with or without children and meet some friendly faces.

**Thursday 25 February 11:15 | Mobile Library**

11.15 to 11.25am at the Springvale end of Sheerstone, one piece of identification required to join. Why not give it a try? For further information please telephone 03000 41 31 31 or email [mobiles@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mobiles@kent.gov.uk)

**Tuesday 8 March 10:30 | Iwade Reading Group**

Iwade Reading Group meet every month. Get in contact with Hilary Foulds on 01795 474656 or by email at [hilary.foulds@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hilary.foulds@hotmail.co.uk)

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# Iwade Health Walks

James Apps

The idea of walking around Iwade in winter when the weather turns nasty is madness, but we do it for our health and wellbeing. So, if you see a group of bedraggled pensioners accompanied by younger folk - rumoured to be our carers perhaps - have pity on us for we know not what we do!

We are socialising, keeping healthy, and in the Spring and Summer walking on the paths surrounding the village is delightful. We see wild birds on the marshes, horses and cattle, the occasional Emu, wild flowers, well kept gardens, blossom and fruit on the trees as well as watching the seasons change. When Autumn arrives we can enjoy the colours and as the village is still there in the Winter we should also walk the pathways to show the place that we still like it!

Strange days; the weather rains upon us, the storms have reached Imogen, and a storm rages over what to do with the flag pole in the mini-metropolis of Iwade, and it is but February. Yet, these intrepid walkers plod on, wrapped in warm clothes, mostly although one gentleman named Ray, who shall of course remain anonymous, resorted on one cold January day to using a blanket as a makeshift coat. Cold day, Winter, forgotten coat?

The walks around Iwade as far as the NHS Walking Group are concerned should be about ninety minutes duration, which surprisingly offers some pleasant routes, taking in Bedlam's Bottom, The Lakes, as we like to call it, and The Orchard although it is possible to wander around the village and take in the lanes and streets. At times we walk down to the Swale and the bridge returning via the Old Ferry Road.

February 11th and we were sitting out in the warm sunshine enjoying a chat and our drinks. Strange days, because in February

it should be persisting down. For my part, as a poet and a painter I can get inspiration from the views around the village looking across the river, the crops in the fields, Funton brickworks, the Isle of Grain and the Isle of Sheppey including the graceful crossing.

For me the hub of the village is the Woolpack pub and across the road All Saints' Church; the first for a welcome ale after a walk, and the occasional lunch, and the latter for the functions held by the church community. I am not certain that the Woolpack would want poets and writers reading their works in the bars, or an exhibition of artworks, but All Saints' has hosted "Readings in a Country Church" for the past two years.

As for those strange people who gather at the Village Centre every Thursday morning, imagine they are enjoying themselves even if in the middle of a rainstorm they insist on tramping around in a group with whistles and high-viz jackets. They are having fun.

Why not come and join us?? simply turn up outside the pharmacy in the Village Centre any Thursday at about 10:30 for a 10:45 start, parking cars in the Woolpack carpark and returning to the Woolpack for a drink. ("I likes me pint after a stagger around the Village")



Iwade children having fun with the police

Following on from our topic last term on 'People who help us' and 'Keeping safe', we were very fortunate to have a visit from the local police. The children were given the opportunity to sit in and look at the equipment in the police car and took part in a talk led by the police officers on 'Stranger Danger' and how to keep safe and what to do in an emergency. The children found this an enjoyable experience and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Policemen very much for taking time out to come and see us.

Last term the children also celebrated Chinese New Year, taking part in activities and creating their very own lanterns and were given the opportunity to sample various Chinese foods.

**Tinkerbells Early Years**  
Jody Paine

We are very excited about our topics for this term, 'Mini beasts' and the 'Spring Season'. These topics will provide the children with opportunities to plant bulbs and prepare the raised beds in our garden for growing fruit and vegetables and will give the children a fun chance to explore and search for creatures in our very own mini beast hotel.

We are currently full at both Iwade and the Clock tower settings, and nearly full to capacity on our waiting list for September, however there are a few sessions still available. Therefore if you are interested in a place for your child from September 2016, please get in contact with us as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



The Kent Police helping our children in Iwade stay safe

## IVDAC\*

by Gareth Wiseman \* Iwade Village Does A Calendar

It has been an eventful month with the fable "Bobbing Hole" and other road closures but it certainly gave us time to explore other routes around Iwade.

I hope many of you have taken some excellent photographs of the local area. If you have then please submit them to "Iwade village does a calendar" on Facebook or to the Flickr account <https://www.flickr.com/photos/137692922@N02>, or alternatively you can send them to the Iwade observer e-mail account [the.iwade.observer@gmail.com](mailto:the.iwade.observer@gmail.com). If you're posting on IVDF then make a point of also posting on IVDAC!! We have had a few submissions so far (take a look on Flickr as above) but would like many more; we aim to put between 1 and 4 photos on each month of the calendar so there is plenty of opportunity for yours to make the cut. So any events like Iwade Market, Church Coffee Mornings, Woodpecker Orchard, Barn@Iwade, and the such would be very welcome, and of course the local flora and fauna are very photogenic so make sure you've got your camera with you when you're out and about. As a reminder, we aim to send to the publisher at the beginning of November so any photos from last November and December would be appreciated. Just post on Iwade Village Does a Calendar and we'll sort them from there!

Thanks Gareth and the IVDAC\* crew.

(Picture from Flickr November)

## Iwade W.I.

by Tricia Ebelthite

Hi everyone. The days are slowly drawing out, and already we have had a great start to the year. Our soup and bingo night was great fun. Two of our members enjoyed a lovely evening at Newington W. I. to celebrate their 96th Birthday. Good food and entertainment was enjoyed by all.

Our February meeting we had Bob Ogley who gave a talk on "Kent in the 19th Century."

We have a very full and varied programme for 2016. Want to try? Come along, you will be most welcome, it's the third Wednesday of the month at the Village Hall. Contact Glenn (Secretary) on 01795 436515



Virgin London Marathon 2016



Local resident Steve Carnt has been busy preparing for this year's London Marathon on Sunday 24th April and has found this challenge and the training quite a struggle. His focus and drive comes from his goal to fundraise for the JDRF, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund. The money raised will go a long way to trying to improve the lives of many people who live with this life changing condition.

Steve speaks with first hand experience as his eldest daughter, Isobel, was diagnosed with type 1 Diabetes at the age of 6, like a bolt from the blue. Since diagnosis, there have been a few tough times as the family try to come to terms with the condition. Family life is now controlled by carb counting and keeping blood sugars within a certain range to prevent health problems in later life. This is where the JDRF come in. They are a charity focused on raising money to find a cure for diabetes and develop technology to make day-to-day management of Diabetes easier.

All the money raised through sponsoring Steve will go towards doing that. Steve is hoping to raise awareness for the charity whilst challenging himself, in the hope that he can raise as much money as possible. If you would like to contribute to the JDRF, go to

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/carnty>

Any donations, large or small, would be gratefully received, and will go towards helping this worthwhile cause. As we go to press Steve had raised £660 towards his target of £2000 - well done Steve.

It was a rather sad meeting as it was our last planned face-to-face one after being unable to conjure up the necessary support to continue. Despite a few years of trying various methods, it seems that we failed to entice new members, despite it only needing attendance once every 3 months for 1 hour. At this meeting, we were lucky to have Dr Poplett - our lead GP, Dr Mogga - our new GP who is working 3 full days a week, Ursula MacMahon – our Practice Nurse and also Sam Toms – our Practice Manager, all came along to explain new plans for IHC and to answer any queries the patients had.

During that meeting, Sam explained that a new Advanced Nurse Practitioner was due to start in the next few weeks and that once she and Dr Mogga were settled, it would allow Dr Poplett some much needed time to look at the appointment system. We all know that sometimes it's difficult to get an on the day appointment, but most of us can help ourselves in these situations too. By only accepting an appointment between certain hours, or only wanting to see a certain clinician, it limits the ability of the reception staff to help you. Of course, some people just can't have an appointment at any time and some people have to see a specific clinician, but if you can, be flexible as this will allow the staff to assist you greatly.

We've said it before, but it's worth saying again as I witnessed this myself a few weeks ago .. if you are collecting test results, please do not call before 2pm or ask for an appointment before that time. This is just one of a few reasons the phones are busy and the appointment slots seem filled.

For those of you who have mentioned that the waiting area is empty but appointments are nil, please remember that our clinicians do not just see patients in the surgery throughout the day, they also have telephone call backs, home visits and care home visits, there are numerous reasons why the waiting room may seem empty when you visit.

We have asked Sam, the Practice Manager to make a sign for the front desk to explain why the receptionists should answer a call before assisting someone who has come up in person. The reason is because it could be a medical emergency on the phone, whereas, if someone is stood in front of them, it's visibly less likely to be one. Whilst the frustration is understandable, the staff are not ignoring you, they are just following an agreed and very common process in health centres. Hopefully the sign will explain this to anyone who does not receive the Observer.

We know that some of you have recently experienced being cut off when calling IHC and we're really sorry to hear that as we were hoping the phone problems of 2014 were long gone. We reported the problem to IHC and they immediately contacted the comms supplier who are now monitoring each reported cut off, please do let the surgery know if this happens to you .. they will need the time of your call and a short explanation of what happened (rang twice, then cut off, or got cut off in queue). Without your feedback through the correct channels, IHC will not know of any problems, so please, use the feedback box in the surgery, or use the website link [www.mhiwade.co.uk/complaints](http://www.mhiwade.co.uk/complaints).

Ending on some good news, once Dr Poplett has a chance to look at the appointment system, we may be able to trial a couple of walk-in sessions at various times. We've always thought these to be a good idea, but it's not quite as easy as we'd all like to think, so fingers crossed, we will hopefully see a few of these in the future.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has attended our meetings and we wish you all the very best for the future.

**“The Iwade Observer team republish the following, with apologies for an error caused during editing which significantly changed the apparent views of Iwadians. Please note that the 4th bullet point relating to the level of support for future housing development should have read "85% would not be supportive ..." rather than the figure of 5% that we published last month”**

**IWADE HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) from Action with Communities in Rural Kent was commissioned by Iwade Parish Council to undertake a housing needs survey in the parish to identify what, if any housing is still required in the parish.

A survey was posted to every household within Iwade in October 2015. 1522 surveys were distributed with 429 surveys being returned, representing a response rate of 28%.

Analysis of the returned survey forms identified that 91% of respondents are owner occupiers either with or without a mortgage; the remaining 9% are a mix of renters (private and social housing) and shared owners. 42% of respondents have lived in the parish for 10 years or more.

Our analysis has also identified that:

- 11 households need affordable housing – a total of 5 single people, 1 couple and 5 families
- 17 households need open market housing – a total of 3 single people, 9 couples and 5 families
- In total 3 older households (over 60) need affordable housing and 7 older households need open market housing.
- 85% of respondents who answered the question said they would not be supportive of future housing development in Iwade parish.
- 62% of respondents who answered the question said they would not support a development of affordable local needs housing if there was a proven need for people with a genuine local connection to Iwade parish.

IVH is really in need of some help!!

1) IVH Trustees are in need of a Clerk. This is a voluntary position and the lucky person (!) would be asked to attend our monthly meetings (normally the 1st Wed of each month) to take and then produce the minutes for us. It would really suit somebody who has experience of minute taking and is able to keep confidentiality at all times. Please email [secretary@iwadevillagehall.co.uk](mailto:secretary@iwadevillagehall.co.uk) if you're interested.

2) Iwade Rainbows. They are in desperate need of adult help for their Monday session or it faces the real threat of closure. Rainbows are a group of girls aged between 5 and 7 that do crafts, badges etc. and other fun activities. For more info contact Sue at [susanthomas2609@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susanthomas2609@hotmail.co.uk).

3) A request from the organisers of our Food and Craft Fayre and it really is a simple one. They just need customers! The team work tirelessly to get new stallholders signed up and I can guarantee they get as frustrated as you do when they end up with empty tables due to last minute cancellations. Hopefully those stalls will be back next month with no illnesses or dramas! If you know of anyone who would like a stall, please ask them to get in touch with Geri on 07588 401553. They have enough craft stalls, but would love to hear from anyone selling food (especially bread, meat, cheese or seafood), drinks, plants and flowers, pet supplies or anything else that they don't already have! New stalls would be outside and a trial month is £7.50 (own table and gazebo required as necessary). They are also offering a free stall to 1 lucky charity per month so if you are involved in a registered charity and want to sell things to raise money for them, please contact Geri.

For the next Food and Craft Fayre on Sunday 13th March, we have a colouring competition - see below. We hope to have a Police car and a fire engine in attendance. Watch out for more news on our website, Facebook, or the 2 village noticeboards. We have begun to think about the Summer Fayre already!! Last year we had a dog competition which was great fun, but this year, I thought we could focus more on humans! Nothing too serious, but the only ideas I can come up with are to find the parent and child who most look alike (any ages), or an Iwade Prince and Princess competition (for the over 10s perhaps?) Do you have any ideas? Want to help out? Contact [secretary@iwadevillagehall.co.uk](mailto:secretary@iwadevillagehall.co.uk) please!

Still looking to the year ahead, we will be organising another Table Top Children's Sale (no, you still can't sell your children!), a Quiz Night, another Psychic Night and hopefully, the ever popular Iwade Household Sale (Emily, are you reading this?!). These are becoming very popular in the UK and now have the catchy title of Garage Safari's ... maybe we can get all of Iwade on 'safari' in 2016!

To close, don't forget that the hall has regular groups in there every day of the week and most would welcome new members ... You can find all of their contact details on our website [www.iwadevillagehall.co.uk/timetable](http://www.iwadevillagehall.co.uk/timetable).

Fancy hiring the hall yourself? click on the Hiring tab on the website and all details can be found there along with our online calendar.

We're on Facebook and Twitter too .. just search for Iwade Village Hall, then follow us and keep up to date with what's going on!

Thank you for supporting the hall, we hope to see you all soon.



**Please colour in, then drop off at the village hall during Iwade Food and Craft Fayre on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 10am-1pm for your chance to win an Easter egg. Age ranges are: 2-5, 6-9, and 10-13.**

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name and number for parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_

**Church News**  
by Stephen Plumb

Community Choir  
Last Autumn around 18 adults and 5 children came together to form a Community Choir in Iwade. They met every other week to practice, and sang at the Christmas Tree light switch on and at the Christmas Eve services at All Saints Church. Nikki Hudson, who lives in Medway, helped with practices and preparing the program. Nikki is unable to continue this, due to work/life commitments. Many of those who were part of the choir would love to continue, but we need someone who has some musical ability/ experience in helping to lead a group of people to sing. If you or someone you know who may be interested in helping get the choir singing again, please contact Stephen Plumb:-  
07905 040119 or email:- asiwade@btinternet.com.  
Many thanks.

Easter Family Craft afternoon.  
Looking at some posts on IVDF and the success of the craft activities hosted in the church recently by Maria Downes and Hilary Foulds, there appears to be some 'crafty' people in Iwade. That's got us thinking of hosting an Easter Craft afternoon, with crafts, activities on an Easter theme which can be taken home and given as gifts to family and friends. The crafts would be particularly geared towards parents and children making them together. The afternoon will run from 2.30 - 4.30 finishing with a sandwich and cake tea. Cost £1 adult/child as a contribution towards the craft resources. For more details email:- asiwade@btinternet.com  
Phil Fearn

**Iwade ROC Cafe**

Iwade ROC cafe is an exciting new venture that is soon hopefully to become a reality for the young people of Iwade. For the past 9 months a small group of people have been working behind the scenes to research, organise and finance the development of a new youth venture for Iwade, and this is now very close to coming to fruition.

Iwade ROC Cafe is being set up as an independent project under the affiliation of a national charity ROC (see www.roc.uk.com) and will be only the second such project to start in Kent.

As we are getting closer to 'going live' we have now two qualified youth workers, Toni and Abbie, on the team, who will be making themselves known to young people in Iwade over the next few weeks to gauge interests and to begin to make the project known.

More details to follow in next month's Observer, in the meantime you can contact Stephen Plumb on 07905 040119 or email at asiwade@btinternet.com for further information.

**Iwade Front Garden Competition**  
Amanda Hurrell

OK it's a bit cold outside to be thinking about planting your summer borders or veg plants right now but it will soon be time. It's a great time to be looking at seed catalogues from the comfort of your warm home and looking forward to spending warmer days outdoors. I've been asked to organise this year's Iwade Front Garden Competition and this year I've added some different categories to make it easier for anyone to join in. Although we've only had one garden competition, we have decided to continue with this to remember Dave Manning, who originally came up with the idea when he was the Chair to the Iwade Parish Council. It was great fun judging it before with the help of Lynda Fisher and I'm really looking forward to this years competition and getting involved looking at residents gardens.

This years 4 categories are: Edible Garden, Front Garden, Best Hanging Basket, and Tallest Sunflower. March is a good time to start off sunflower seeds with your children. A limited number of free sunflower seeds will be available soon and a competition entry form. If you are interested in joining in why not get in touch with me Amanda Hurrell, Dawn Gale or our parish clerk Lynda Fisher. You can message either us through IVDF.

Oh and lots of great prizes for the winners!

**Can you help??**

I am a straight older lady. I would like to meet a new Buddy to enjoy outings and adventures together. Could you be that person? Are you a positive, adventurous and reliable person, maybe a car owner/driver who is also looking for an occasional companion??

I have lived in Iwade for 5 years and have found people to be very kind and helpful and am sure there is somebody out there who might be looking to enjoy the same things as me. Are you that person, if so maybe we could meet for a chat over a coffee.

I love receiving The Observer as it keeps me aware of what's going on in the village.

If you think that we might be able for meet for a coffee and discuss some common interests then please contact the Iwade Observer on the.iwade.observer@gmail.com who will pass on your details, or if you don't use the internet 'phone 01795 478629.

Thanks for reading

Christabel.

**Chetney Lazarette**

I am working with the the British Library's Dept. of Prints, Drawings and Maps on some research into Chetney Hill, which was the site for the proposed Lazarette - the quarantine centre - in 1800. We are trying to contact the farmer (or landowner) who owns Chetney Hill. Perhaps you can help us identify the farmer/landowner so that we can write to that person? I With my thanks and best wishes,  
Michael Collins (email the.iwade.observer@gmail.com)

**Parish Council Minutes**  
**Meeting held on 13th January, 2016**

**Parish Councillor Vacancy**  
It was unanimously agreed that James Rook be co-opted and he duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**Visitors/Public Time**  
Visitors – A resident from Tunstall addressed the Council regarding the emerging Local Plan; she has spoken to the Planning Inspector on potential green spaces and Parish Councils could put areas forward when the new Plan comes out for consultation. Another resident mentioned that she also attended the Local Plan hearing and was present when the important local countryside gaps were being discussed; builders were pushing for these to be done away with. Residents in Tunstall have started a petition (now has 400 names) and she wondered if residents in Iwade would like to add to this?

Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO – The Community Warden's report had been circulated. During December he dealt with three fly tipping incidents on Old Ferry Road and elsewhere; was briefed on ASB issues in the new development at CSU; reported a build-up of litter in Chalkhill Close/Coleshall Cottages areas; spoke to two stores and a chemist in the area about a report of two traveller youths trying to pass forged £20 notes (and also spoke to the local PCSO about this) and advised a resident about dog fouling outside their property.  
**Matters Arising from the Minutes**  
Grovehurst Roundabout and Slip Roads – No response from Highways England; Clerk to take this up with KCC.

**Planning**  
15/509514/FULL/CATT: Proposed part two storey, part first floor rear extension: 3 Ferry Road Iwade ME9 8RG – No comments.  
15/510297/COUNTY: Countrystyle Recycling Building 17 Kemsley Fields Business Park Ridham Dock Road Sittingbourne: EIA Screening Opinion (County) - for a new gypsum line building, additional offices and lorry parking at existing waste management facility – received for information only.

15/510316/LBC: Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations to facilitate the creation of a new village hall: Iwade Barn 20 All Saints Close Iwade Kent ME9 8FP – No comments.  
15/510564/FULL: Demolition of garage/workshop; Construction of two-storey side and single-storey rear extensions, front porch and alterations to front fenestration: 6 Meadow Rise Iwade Kent ME9 8SB – agreed to object on the following grounds:  
Loss of parking spaces.  
Visual impact on the existing street scene; although this is not necessarily a negative comment.

**Correspondence**  
Outline Proposal Regarding the Operation of School Lane Rec by Iwade Herons – Swale Borough Council have asked whether the Parish Council is happy to take on the LEAP. Clerk to ascertain the cost of the proposed play equipment and insurance cover and bring back to the February meeting.  
The Chair and Clerk attended met with a representative from Persimmon and had a chance to look around the Pavilion again. Although finished the whole of the building, apart from the reception area has

not been painted. Photos were taken and sent to Graeme Tuff requesting that Swale push the developers to paint the rest of the inside of the building.

The Parish Council is in the process of obtaining quotes from landscape contractors for maintaining the field although it might be cheaper to purchase a lawn tractor (costing from £3500 to £5000) to carry out the work. The Lawn Tractor can have additional attachments for salt-spreading, etc.  
Feedback sought on draft Indoor Sports Facility Strategy 2015 – 2025 – Agreed to await the outcome of the consultation.  
Interim Audit Invoice & Finalised Report 2015-16 – Noted and accepted.  
Proposed Permanent M20 Lorry Area: Invitation to Stakeholder Briefing – Noted and awaiting consultation document.  
Swale Marching Band- Proposed by Cllr. Gale and seconded by Cllr. Hunt; agreed the sum of £200; this expenditure to come under S.107 of the Local Government Act.  
Consultation: Council Tax precept 2016/17 – Agreed to individually respond.

DCLG Consultation - National Planning Policy Consultation on proposed changes – Noted.  
Invitation to Lord Lieutenant of Kent's Civic Service – Cllr. Horner to Attend.  
Kent & The Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons - 21st April 2016 – Details noted.  
**Iwade Localism Project (Swale Borough Council)**

The Barn – The Barn has now been handed over and a planning application has been submitted for internal works.  
Setting Parish Policies – Had a meeting with Swale Borough Council this morning to go through policies, including Safeguarding. It was suggested that the Parish Council lead on this, e.g. guidelines when setting up events, etc., in the Village. Swale will forward information to the Clerk, who will then organise a meeting between the Parish Council and anyone interesting in setting up events in the village; Swale Officers are happy to assist at the meeting.

**Emergency Plan**  
Awaiting paperwork; agreed to remove from the Agenda until Cllr. Horner requests that this item be reinstated.

**Update on Local Plan Hearing and Housing Needs Survey**

The Chairman attended the Local Plan hearing meetings. Some good arguments were put forward as regards Iwade. Swale mentioned 550 houses a year in the Borough, not including the Village; the Planning Inspector came up with a figure of 770. There was mention that more land is needed but any sites put forward will go out to consultation. The Parish Council put forward that improvements are needed to the Grovehurst Roundabout; Swale Borough Council and everyone now say that this is the top priority. Swale is still insisting on Local Countryside Gaps but the developers want these removed. Swale is also pushing for a review in five years' time. The full findings will probably be published in February/March 2016.

The Parish Council now has the results of the Housing Needs Survey which shows that 85% of respondents who answered the question said they would not be supportive of future housing development in Iwade parish and 62% of respondents said they would not support a development of affordable local needs housing if there was a proven need for people with a genuine local connection to Iwade parish. It was agreed to send the Survey to Cllr. Andrew Bowles, Leader of Swale Council; Cllr. Gerry Lewin, the LDF Panel and all of

Swale's Cabinet Members. Clerk to also post the summary in the Iwade Observer

**Reports from Representatives (Village Hall and KALC)**

Hall – Cllr. Gale reported that the Christmas event was successful and positive comments were received. The Village Hall Committee is still looking for a cleaner and someone to take Minutes.  
KALC – No representative at present; vacancy to be placed on the February Agenda. Action: Clerk

**Any Other Matters Arising**  
Cllr. Gale suggested obtaining more of the verge Bylaw signs in light of damage caused to areas around the village; Clerk to obtain prices and place on February Agenda

Cllr. White asked if the trees were going to be replaced in the Grovehurst Road entrance to the Village; the chair responded yes.

Cllr. Plumb mentioned yellow lines in All Saints Close and the delay; the Chair responded that because of objections from residents it had to go to the Joint Transportation Board.

**“The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th March in Iwade Village Hall starting at 7.30 p.m; residents are welcome to come early at 7.15 p.m. for a pre-meeting chat and refreshments”**

**Iwade Reading Group**

We all enjoyed Follow You Home by Mark Edwards, liking its fast pace and finding the chilling subject matter believable. Most of us couldn't put the book down until we'd finished it! The author ended by pointing out that monsters don't only live in faraway forests! He goes on to warn us that if we find ourselves in a train carriage far from home, whatever we do, don't fall asleep!

Next month, Tuesday 8 March, we'll be discussing our latest choice Our Endless Numbered Days by Claire Fuller. Peggy is eight years old when her survivalist father, takes her from their home to a remote hut in the woods telling her that the rest of the world has been destroyed. Deep in the wilderness, they make a life for themselves marking their days only by the sun and the seasons. When Peggy finds a pair of boots in the forest she unwittingly begins to unravel a series of events and, in doing so, discovers the strength she needs to go back to the home and mother she thought she'd lost.

On Tuesday 12 April our book is Diary of an Ordinary Woman by novelist Margaret Forster who died recently. She is possibly best known for Georgy Girl which she wrote in 1965.

If you are interested in joining us at a meeting you would be very welcome. You can contact us for the details on 01795 474656.