



HAPPY DAYS GOES PLATINUM!

Caroline Wiles

We celebrated the end of 2023 receiving an accreditation with #justquality, achieving our Platinum Award. The award was the culmination of a yearlong process during which we reflected on our daily practises identifying the impact we add to each child's learning, development and well-being. It was a great team collaboration ably led by Sarah, our Nursery Manager, and a fabulous way to end the year.

It's certainly been a very busy start to 2024 with the introduction of Working Parents Funding from April. The Government website, www.childcarechoices.gov.uk, details how parents can access support with childcare costs via the Tax-Free Childcare Scheme and Early Years Education Funding for 2, 3- and 4-Year Olds. The Tax-Free Childcare Scheme can be used for all ages and allows parents to receive up to £2,000 per year towards childcare costs. Check out our website or call the office for more information. We have limited sessions available for Summer and Autumn 2024 so please contact us early to avoid disappointment or, for more information, please do not hesitate to telephone the office (01795 424348), or visit our website www.happydaysuk.co.uk.

BUSINESS FOCUS

Want to get your business featured in our monthly Business Focus Feature? Showcase your business, tell Iwadians who you are, what you do etc, and get into every home in Iwade - free of charge! We try to showcase one

FUZZY LOGIC

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Hello! I'm Sam...

I started Fuzzy Logic last year to use my 15 years of experience in business development to support small businesses unleash their full potential. Fuzzy Logic are a "one-stop shop" in everything business technology. Let us revolutionise your business TODAY!

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07543601174



IWADE

KEEPING MY VILLAGE CLEAN

Why wait for our village clean up events?

It's the responsibility of every resident to help maintain a beautiful village. To support us all to benefit from a more beautiful environment, the Parish Council have a clean up kit you can rent that includes:

1 x Litter Picker

1 x Hi Viz Vest

2 x Refuse Sacks

For more information please email:

CllrRStalley-Moores@iwade-pc.gov.uk



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

FUNDED BY IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

Iwade Barn

needs you!

Trustees needed!

Would you like to be involved in the running of the barn? We are looking for new trustees to help us.

The ideal person will be an active participant of the charity to ensure we can run the barn and events.

If you feel you have some spare time, and skills that could help us, then please get in touch to find out more.

Contact James Hunt on 07788101228 or trustees@iwadebarn.org.uk

Follow us on



Iwade at The Barn



MARCH 2024

THE IWADE OBSERVER

TINKERBELLS EARLY YEARS – GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER

How are we term 4 of the year already? The children have had a busy term, we have talked a lot about people who help us, and were lucky enough to have nurses and a policeman come to the setting where the children were fully engaged in all the resources they brought in.



envelopes.

Our topic for this term is Spring and minibests, the story for the term is a family favourite, The Hungry Caterpillar, the classic edition of a best-selling story written for the very young. A newly hatched caterpillar eats his way through a variety of foods



until he gets bigger and bigger until eventually he turns into a beautiful butterfly.

Are you aware of changes to funding the government have introduced as from April 2024?

From Apr 2024 - Up to 15 hours for eligible working families in England with a 2-year-old.

Sept 2024 - Up to 15 hours for eligible working families in England with a child between 9 and 23 months old.

From Sept 2025 - Up to 30 hours for eligible working families in England with a child from 9 months old up to school age.

Please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk for further information

We have limited availability at both of our settings and sessions are filling quickly for September 2024. If you are interested in a place for your child please call in for a parent information pack alternatively you can contact us via email:

enquiries@tinkerbells-preschool.co.uk



STILL TIME TO GET SOME RAFFLE TICKETS AND SUPPORT THIS WONDERFUL CHARITY

The Big Raffle

WIN £10,000

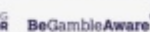
£1 per ticket

Cash prizes could be yours! Have you bought your tickets yet?

The Big Raffle closes 31 March 2024.

For terms and conditions please visit our website: demelza.org.uk/raffle

You must be 18 or over to purchase. Promoters: Ashley Henson and Lavinia Tracy Jarrett. Registered Charity Number: 1239651. Licensed by the Gambling Commission (www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk) under the 2005 Gambling Act. Our Licence Numbers are Non Remote 004892-14-00207-017 and Ancillary 004892-A-00707-006.



Scan now to enter





ALL SAINTS CHURCH IWADE

Kim Guest

We announced in the last edition of the Iwade Observer that the church tower roof is in need of urgent repair and the Parochial Church Council have set up a fund for anyone who is interested to donate towards the cost of the repair.

Further to this we are proposing to set up a Friends of All Saints Iwade group for anyone who is interested in getting together to raise the necessary amount for future repairs to the building.

As probably the oldest building in the village, which is Grade 1 listed, the building has historical interest for the village as well as a place of worship.

The Friends of Kent Churches Charity have offered a grant of £6,000 towards the cost of the tower roof and the church's fundraising efforts already have raised about £1500.

However, the estimated cost of the repair will be about £20,000 so we have some way to go.

If you are interested in joining the group or donating towards the cost of the repair please contact Kim Guest at directorhavco@aol.com or Rev Julian Staniforth at Julian.staniforth@gmail.com.

IWADE INSPIRATION: GOOD INTENTIONS

John Guest

The road to hell is paved with good intentions so they say and, in some ways, I guess that's true. However, I would suggest that for many it's just the first few yards because for lots of us, good intentions can actually turn into good and right choices. Good intentions are just the beginning of the journey; not one that leads to hell but to heaven. True, if it is only intentions without actions, we may be in for a rocky road but if what we truly intend leads us to clearly decide and so to fully act, then we are paving our way with good and right choices.

Take LENT for example. A Christian season of abstinence and reflection that starts on ASH WEDNESDAY and leads through to Easter. It is a time of the year when all kinds of people give up all kinds of things in an effort to become better individuals: chocolate, smoking, biscuits, swearing ... the list goes on. Unfortunately, like the resolutions we quickly make at the beginning of the year, they can quickly be forgotten. Good intentions don't always lead to prolonged good choices.

In terms of less "spiritual" matters, what about our good intentions in relation to our healthcare issues? Last month I wrote about my somewhat hesitant involvement with the Iwade Patient Participation Group. I confess I'm still having doubts but I am intending to give it my best shot; building relationships with the staff at the Health Centre, reaching out to the irritated and marginalised in the local community. What about you? Are you struggling with some good intentions and choosing to persevere with the often frustrating administrative confusions of Anima and getting through effectively on the telephone? I've been picking up several negative comments on social media and elsewhere and, believe me, I really identify with a number of the criticisms expressed. It makes me realise we still have a long journey ahead of us!

Can I encourage you to put some more intentions into actions? Get in touch with me or pop a note into the metal PPG box in the pharmacy or at the Health Centre and we will respond.

07710 353461 for texts and WhatsApp and kingdomclown@gmail.com for emails. Next month I hope to write some more about Anima and possible alternatives.

Who knows? Turning good intentions into good and right choices may pay dividends in many areas of life!



Disclaimer

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IWADE MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

What a bunch of old romantics!!

At the February meeting members of The Breakfast Club enjoyed their usual sausage and bacon rolls, tea and coffee before embarking on a card making session led by local, ace card-crafter Hilary Foulds.

Some of the gents found themselves way outside their comfort zone but stuck to the task tenaciously, driven by their wish to produce something special for



out where needed.

Ladies! if your husband/ partner said he'd made the card himself especially for you then the veracity of his claim is proved in the adjacent photo, and he is indeed a gallant and romantic gent!

The Breakfast Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Barn from 09:30 (although there is no meeting this month (March) – next meeting will be on April 2nd) Why not come along and give it a try!

GROW-YOUR-OWN - IWADE ALLOTMENTS

Wouldn't it be nice to grow your own fruit & veg on your own plot at the allotments! We have now opened our books for 2024, if you would like to put your name down on our waiting list please get in touch.

Text or call Christine on 0797 1003424 or Sylvia on 07802 419498

their loved one, with Hilary and her glamorous assistants helping



ASSEMBLY on SUNDAY dates for 2024

Cakes and biscuits, songs and stories, make new friends!
Children, parents, grandparents, family and friends.

All welcome!



14th January ... 4th February (1st Sunday)
10th March ... 21st April (3rd Sunday)
12th May ... 9th June
14th July ... no AoS in August

All in Iwade School Hall at 3.00pm

ASSEMBLY ON SUNDAY is a joint project of
All Saints Church and the Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust.
Further details from: John Guest 07710 353461

Iwade newsletter

Get the latest crime statistics by visiting: www.kent.police.uk/yourarea



Kent
Police

January 2024

Drop-in surgery

- Sunday 28 January 2024 11:00 – 12:00
- Iwade Village Hall car park from a marked police vehicle

Your local officer is Police
Officer
Jez Chittim

Good work story/stories

ASB & Crime relating to the PROW between Springvale and Sheerstone – In November I was provided with the names of two juveniles thought to be responsible for some of the ASB and criminal damage reference this PROW. There is no evidence linking them, however I did go and speak with them and their parents about this and advise that I'd be making them my first visit should anything further happen. Last week I spoke with one of the residents living next to this PROW and they stated that it had been better; there are no calls to police since October reference this. It is worth monitoring as this is likely a seasonal issue more than anything else and the lack of anything happening may be due to the weather and the fact it gets dark early. For now though, it appears some progress may have been made.

Good work story/stories

On Friday 29th December 2023 I conducted speed checks along School Lane, Iwade. In a half hour period I speed checked 32 vehicles. Of these 32 vehicles, 9 were travelling 15mph – 20mph; 23 were travelling 21mph-30mph and 2 were travelling 31mph – 35mph, falling under the speed we'd consider prosecuting as it allows for 10% difference between a vehicle speedometer and the speed gun we use. We then allow an extra 2mph, hence the expression most have heard of 10% +2. Anything above 35mph would get stopped. Moving forward I will be linking up with a colleague and as a minimum be carrying out two speed checks a month in all the areas I cover, I am hoping I will become a deterrent to speeding, however I will issue tickets whereby people are flouting the speed limit. I have found in other areas that the majority of speeding vehicles through villages are being driven by the locals that live there. Please feel free to advertise the fact I will be carrying out random speed checks.



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engagement tool
brought to you by
Kent Police

mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends,

In the Christian year we are now well into Lent. Lent represents the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness before starting his ministry and it is also the time that will lead us to Good Friday and the ending of his earthly ministry by his death on the cross.

Lent is traditionally a time for prayer and repentance - a time for reflection and response. It is a time for drawing nearer to God. Lent can, then, be a special and intentional time for being more open to God. And yet God is with us all the time – wanting us to be more aware of his presence and to his being at work in our lives.

At the beginning of the year I had the sense that God was encouraging me to be more observant and to really take note of the things going on around me but I also felt that he wanted me to interpret and understand them from a new and different perspective. I would like to share an example of this.

At the end of January I attended a meeting and as it drew to a close someone enquired what the date of the next meeting would be. There was a moment of silence and then one lady got out her diary and gave the answer. She commented that she liked to be well organised and so had written down every date when we would be meeting for the whole of the year. I smiled and nodded - I had also done this. I really like to know what I'm going to be doing. I like to have a sense of being in control. But

then someone else said, "Why would you do that? For myself I find it much better to simply take each day as it comes...."

I wonder how that comment makes you feel. It rather shook me! My initial thought was that going with the flow in that way would lead to complete chaos and that I would no longer feel in control - but I also knew that I couldn't ignore what had been said and that God was teaching me something important. For I had to acknowledge that while being organised and in control is helpful, particularly in seeing and managing the bigger picture, it can also mean that I miss out on what God is doing in, and through, and around me, in any one particular moment.

I felt that this was a moment of being drawn closer to God – of knowing his presence and his blessing. And this can happen in so many different ways – in a chance meeting, in friendship, in a wise word, in a beautiful view, in creativity.....

So I hope that you do have a meaningful Lent. But I also hope that you discover God at work in your life in new and wonderful ways. I hope that you will draw closer to him. I hope that you become more mindful. I hope that you know his presence with you and receive many blessings and that you arrive at 31st March - Easter Day - able to know and celebrate the joy of the risen Lord.

With every blessing,
Lis

UPDATE FROM CITIZENS ADVICE SWALE

We can all face problems that seem complicated or intimidating. At Citizens Advice Swale, we believe no one should have to face these problems without good quality, independent advice. We're here to give people the knowledge and the confidence they need to find their way forward – whoever they are, and whatever their problem.

General advice

We offer advice on a wide range of issues including debt, benefits, housing, employment, consumer, relationships, discrimination, tax, healthcare and education.

Specialist welfare benefits advice

Our benefit specialists have a detailed understanding of current legislation, rules and regulations, national and local practice and processes.

We can:

- Check what benefits you're entitled to and help you to apply.
- Challenge and appeal benefit award decisions and benefit overpayments.
- Help you with all types of benefit decisions including Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Personal Independence Payments (PIP), Universal Credit, Jobseekers

Allowance (JSA), housing benefit and tax credits.

Specialist debt advice

We also offer specialist debt advice. Each year, our specialist debt team deals with over 5,000 debt issues and helps manage total indebtedness of over £3.8 million. We understand there are many reasons people get into debt. The advice we provide is non-judgmental and is focused on exploring ways to manage your finances.

How can we help you?

General Advice:

- Drop in at Swale House, Sittingbourne (Mondays, 10am-12pm), Sheppey Gateway (Tuesdays, 10am-12pm) or 43 Stone Street, Faversham (Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am-12pm).
- Call Adviceline on Freephone 0808 278 7979.
- Send an online request at <https://citizensadviceuk.org/your-area/citizens-advice-swale/> email-general-advice/ (Monday-Wednesday).

Debt:

Request a call back at <https://citizensadviceuk.org/debt/>

We're an independent charity and we rely on donations and grants to make a difference to people in our community.

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2023

Present

Cllr. A. Dollimore - Chair
Cllr. S. Tolhurst - Vice Chair
Cllr. P. Hyde
Cllr. S. Lancashire
Cllr. S. Fuszard
Cllr. R. Langham
Cllr. T. Guest
Cllr. R. Stalley-Moores
Samantha Gray, Clerk
Lynda Ives, RFO
County Cllr M. Baldock (arrived 07.37pm)

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies received from Parish Cllrs. Waters and Whiting, and PC Jez Chittim.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Stalley-Moores and seconded by Cllr. Langham, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting and Finance Committee Meeting held on 13 December 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

Visitors/Public Time

- 1. Visitors:** none attended
- 2. County and Borough Councillors** Cllr Baldock advised KCC are removing fees from rubbish tips and hopes there will be a reduction in fly-tipping as a result of this change.
- 3. Community Warden / PCSO** Police Constable Chittim supplied a newsletter, see Appendix 1.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 1. ASB & Crime relating to the PROW between Springvale and Sheerstone** – PC Jez Chittim supplied an update in his report; the issues seem to be better but this will still be monitored. Keep on the Agenda.

Action: Clerk

- 2. Memorial Plaques** – The Clerk previously circulated information from Swale Borough Council who advise they are happy for the Parish to move forward with the proposal to allow for

memorial plaques to be installed. Members agreed that all plaques installed should be the same size, 125mm x 50mm. Cllr Fuszard will work on a write up for advertising the initiative.

Action: Cllr. Fuszard

3. Highway Improvement Plan – email

19.12. – Cllrs. Tolhurst, Langham, Baldock and The Clerk met with KCC on 18 December. They discussed implementing a 20mph speed limit in the village. KCC will carry out a traffic survey and will contact the Parish Council with the results. The Clerk has contacted Borough Cllr. Chapman regarding an application for a disabled parking bay. Two Kerbstones in Sheerstone that are a trip hazard will be replaced. The Clerk will contact a resident regarding a double yellow line request.

Action: Clerk

4. Update: contacting local businesses regarding litter in the Village Centre

– Cllr. Fuszard advised the Nisa shop will be taken over by new owners at the end of the month, and will approach the new owners to ask for an additional bin to be installed. Keep on the Agenda.

Action: Clerk

5. KALC Community Awards Scheme

2024 – Members agreed on an individual to nominate

Action: Clerk

6. Litter Picking Scheme – Cllr. Stalley-Moores informed members she has collected the waste sacks from Swale House. Swale Borough Council have recommended a website to order litter pickers from which Cllr. Stalley-Moores will look into. Cllr. Stalley-Moores will also approach McDonalds to ask for a donation of litter pickers.

Proposed by Cllr. Fuszard and seconded by Cllr. Tolhurst, members agreed to purchase 10 adults and 5 children's Hi-Viz vests for the scheme, at a cost of £6.00p + VAT each for the adult size, and

£5.50p each for the children's size.

Action: Cllr. Fuszard/RFO

7. Cllr. Tolhurst to sign the Vice-Chair

Acceptance of Office form – Cllr. Tolhurst duly signed the Vice-Chair Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

Planning

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

23/505539/FULL. 32 School Lane Iwade Kent ME9 8SE. Proposal: Erection of front, side and rear ground floor extensions. No comments.

Application: **23/505743/PROW:** Footpath ZR88 Sheppey Way Kingsferry Rbt To Kingsferry Bridge Iwade Kent. Proposed diversion to public footpath ZR88, Iwade. No comments.

Correspondence

1. Medway Estuary and Swale Programme – presentation by the Environment Agency, 6pm, Wednesday 17th January 2024 – email 13.12.23 – Cllrs. Tolhurst, Guest and Langham advised they will try to attend the meeting.

Action: Cllrs. Tolhurst, Guest and Langham

2. Public Footpath ZR88 (part) Iwade Definitive Map Modification Order and subsequent Extinguishment and Creation Order 2023 – email 18.12.23 – Discussed in item 6.2 above.

3. Hornbeam Trees – ready for fitment – Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore, and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, Members agreed a budget of up to £350.00p to include the cost for installation of trees plus watering tubes.

4. Jackson Civil Engineering – email 02.01.24 – Jackson Civil Engineering advised they would like to make a donation to the Parish. Members agreed to ask for the donation to cover the cost and installation of a Duck House for the

pond in Woodpecker park, plus two new life rings, and also cover the cost of implementing a 20mph speed limit in the village. The Clerk will contact Jackson Civil.

Action: Clerk

5. Southern Water Update – email

02.01.23 – Southern Water advised on 9th January that following extensive leaking detection for a number of months, our expert leakage survey specialists have now completed a report into their investigation. The report confirms there is no indication of a fresh water leak. The Clerk has contacted KCC who advised this will need to be passed back to our drainage team to decide on the next steps for this issue. The Clerk will arrange a site meeting to discuss areas that require reinstating. The Clerk will also arrange a meeting with KCC and Southern water to discuss the leakage investigation.

Action: Clerk

Other items for discussion

- 1. Old Parish Council Dell Laptop** – Council members agreed to destroy the hard drive and recycle the old laptop.
Action: Cllr. Fuszard
- 2. Defibrillator for Village Hall** – The defibrillator has been delivered, and council members agreed to gift this to the Village Hall.
Action: Clerk

Finance

Quote for Festive Lighting 2024 – Proposed by Cllr. Hyde and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, members agreed to the quotation of £9,055 ex VAT for the Festive Lighting in 2024.

Action: RFO

Faulty streetlight, near 50 Sheerstone – quote to lower lamp column and repair fault – Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, members agreed the quote of £440.00p + VAT to lower the lamp column, plus £150.00p + VAT to repair the fault.

Action: RFO

Precept/Budget 2024/25 – Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, members agreed the

2024/25 Precept of £61,000.00p. This means an increase to residents of approximately £6.46p per year for a Band D property. This is due to an increase in costs the Parish Council need to cover.

Action: RFO

Grant request – Mother and Toddler Group – Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Stalley-Moores, members agreed a donation of £900.00p.

Action: RFO

Grant Request – We Are Beams – Proposed by Cllr. Langham and seconded by Cllr. Guest, members agreed a S.137 donation of £60.00p.

Action: RFO

Grant Request – Kent Community Rail Partnership – Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Langham, members agreed a S.137 donation of £50.00

Action: RFO

New Printer for the Clerk – Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Stalley-Moores, members agreed a budget of £350.00p to purchase a new printer for the Clerk with a refillable ink tank to reduce the cost of replacement ink cartridges.

Action: Clerk/RFO

Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting - Proposed by Cllr. Langham and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to 31 December. The following payments were agreed, Cllrs. Langham and Lancashire to log in and authorize payments.

Action: Cllrs. Langham and Lancashire

Projects – Updates on Current and New D-Day 80th Anniversary Beacon Lighting – 6 June 2024 – The Clerk will contact The Paper Mill silver band and invite them to play at the event, and will also contact the Church about taking part in Bell Ringing.

Action: Clerk

Parish Council 'Tracker' update – Lamp column inspections should have been carried out at the end of 2023, and the

results will be supplied to KCC in March. The Clerk will add "CCTV" to the next agenda.

Action: Clerk

Pond Management

Clear Reedmace – discussed in item 7.4.
New Duck House – discussed in item 7.4.

Village Repairs:

Pond Management – Clear Reedmace - discussed in item 7.4.
Lamp column painting – discussed in item 10.2.

To agree cost for planting up the planters – The Parish Council will ask for volunteers to come forward, Cllr. Fuszard is working on this project. Take off the agenda.

Action: Clerk/Cllr. Fuszard

Any other updates – Cllr. Dollimore advised vehicles are driving over a grass verge by Telly Tubby Hill, and will arrange a quotation for 2/3 bollards to be fitted.

Action: Cllr. Dollimore

Reports from Representatives

Village Hall Committee – bookings are still going well, nothing else to report.

KALC Area Representative – nothing to report.

Swale Western Area Committee – the next meeting is 15 February.

Swale West Parishes Meeting – nothing to report. Take off the agenda until the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

Any Other Matters Arising

Cllr. Tolhurst advised he has been approached by the doctors surgery to rejoin the Patient Participation Group with the practise manager and a GP.

Cllr. Fuszard advised he will speak to the Fish and Chip shop about steps taken since the recent closure.

Members noted the wooden dragonfly in Woodpecker Park is broken, Cllr. Hyde previously repaired this, he will try to repair again and will talk with the manufacturer.

Next Meeting(s)

Wednesday 14 February 2024, 7.30 p.m., in Iwade Village Hall