

May 2023 THE IWADE OBSERVER

HAPPY DAYS BUMBLEBEES AND BUTTERFLY BABIES TINGLING SENSES

Caroline Wiles



Our senses have been tingling all over from our recent tasting sessions. Bumblebees spent time exploring different fruit and vegetables, while Butterfly babies experienced different smells, from cinnamon to mixed herbs. Whatever their age, our little ones just couldn't resist! We know children have to see, touch, taste and smell all sorts of different food stuffs to encourage them to try new textures and flavours. Encouraging independence

in selecting, cutting and tasting different food stuffs sows the seeds for a healthy relationship with food, and physical development. Speaking of sowing seeds, we have been busy planning the sensory aspect of our garden. The flower beds are ready for planting and we can't wait to test our senses as summer approaches.

Bookings for Autumn 2023 onwards are filling up fast. To avoid disappointment and reserve your space now, please call our office (01795 424348) and we will be very happy to help you.

Alternatively, use the contact form on our website (<https://www.happydaysuk.co.uk/apply-for-a-place>) and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you.



ANOTHER POEM FROM LISA

Spring has Sprung

Cool fresh air, blue skies
And clouds of white
The first orange crocuses
Poking their heads through the grass

Then mauve flowers nudging in close
As yellow daffodils come into view
Spring has sprung with the jumping lambs
And the smell of fresh cut grass



Iwade
Beacon Lighting
Join Iwade Parish Council
to celebrate the Coronation of
King Charles III
6th May at 8.30pm
Woodpecker Park

IWADE @ THE BARN

For April only we suspended the usual last Saturday of the month opening of The Shepherd's Crook micropub to enable us to focus on organising a Food and Drink Fair on Sunday May 7th to celebration the coronation of King Charles III

We hope you'll be able to get along and join in the fun on the 7th. The Shepherd's Crook will be open with a selection of real ales, we will have some of Iwade's top caterers attending, balloon modelling for the children, along with competitions, live music and an Open Mic if you fancy having a go.

It should be a great community event – Sunday May 7th from midday until 9 pm – make sure you don't miss it! We look forward to seeing you there.



CORONATION big lunch
FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL
Come and celebrate the King's Coronation.
SUNDAY 7TH MAY
12PM UNTIL 9PM
IWADE BARN
ARTS, CRAFTS & COMPETITIONS
MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
IT WILL BE A RIGHT ROYAL KNEES-UP!

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NEWS FROM CITIZENS ADVICE SWALE - APRIL 2023

This month we're sharing some recent success stories from our specialist advice services. Our specialist debt team can help people deal with their debts and our approved intermediaries can process debt relief orders. Our specialist benefits advisers can ensure people receive what they are entitled to and help them challenge and appeal benefit decisions.

Client A

Our client has a number of medical conditions and is unable to read and write. She had been receiving PIP and reported a deterioration to her conditions. Her award was reviewed and it was decided she was no longer entitled to PIP. Our client came to us for help with her appeal and was supported through the appeal process. She was awarded the enhanced rate of daily living and enhanced rate of mobility. She received £10,000 in arrears and ongoing will receive £627.60 every 4 weeks.

Client B

Our client wanted us to ask Swale Borough Council to write off a discretionary housing payment (DHP) overpayment. He is unable to afford to make payments. A payment plan of £40 per month was previously suggested by SBC but no payments were made as it was unaffordable. Our client did not deal with the DHP overpayment at the time he was informed about it due to his low mood and depression. He has no other debts. Our debt caseworker wrote to SBC to ask that they use their discretion to not recover, or to write off the debt. One week later SBC confirmed that the decision had been made not to recover the DHP payment for £5,400.

For general advice, or to contact our specialist advisers, please email us at www.citizensadviceswale.uk/email-general-advice or call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979. To request a call back from our debt team please visit www.citizensadviceswale.uk/debt

We run drop-in sessions at Swale House in Sittingbourne every Monday (10am-12pm) and at 43 Stone Street in Faversham every Wednesday and Friday (10am-12pm). No appointment needed.

READING GROUP

Jackie Kemp

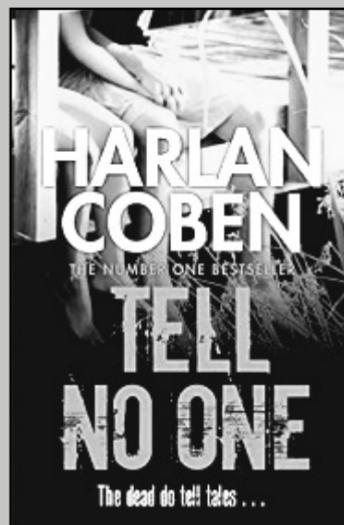
Iwade Reading and Book Group's April's meeting discussed a novel from Rachel Hore, "One Moonlight Night". On a personal level, I felt it was the best book I have read from our Book Club for ages. I'm not that keen on "chick-lit" or books that tend to be same-ish or about crime fiction.

The book was written well and drew you into the story very quickly, and totally believable. I read it swiftly; I wanted to know what was happening for the family, wherever they were. It is fast moving, on the whole, and believable.

The story is based around the second world war, where a somewhat well-off couple became a family, and during the bombing in London, the family house was destroyed. The father was in Europe fighting on behalf of Britain, and we heard very little about him for some time, the reason being he was brought down when flying over Germany and he had to find his way to safety. France was mostly under German control, and he had to make his way to Vichy France and then on through to Spain to Gibraltar and home. All the time the family did not know where he was or if he was alive. Meanwhile his wife and two children made their way back to Norfolk to stay with her husband's family. This was quietly uncomfortable due to some events in his childhood and his estranged cousin. This cousin was running the family's estate. There's good coverage of their life-style. And eventually there was a happy (ish) ending. I make this comment to help other readers to be tempted to read a very well written story, thoroughly recommended.

As we discussed the book at our meeting we recalled memories of our own lives, many of us being late WW2 or a few years older, well into the 1950s and how life was then.

We meet next on Tuesday 9th May at Iwade Barn when we will be reviewing Tell No One by Harlan Coben.



OLD AND NEW

The distinction between old and new is something which troubles both the world we live in today and the church. Have you ever noticed, for example, that products can be advertised in quite contradictory ways? Sometimes we're encouraged to buy something because it's 'new' - the latest thing, you've never seen anything like it before. And sometimes we encouraged to buy something because it's just like things used to be, it's traditional, what your grandparents would have known.

For instance, we live in a society that is constantly buying and throwing away mobiles, as if they are two for a penny. Just because they do not have the latest features. Yet turn on the television and you discover people longing for antiques, distressed furniture and fireplaces in their homes. As a society, we can't decide whether old or new is best. And in a way this has also filtered into the life of many churches. For example, in worship we often divide ourselves up according to whether we like a traditional or a contemporary approach. Equally we avoid using the Old Testament as a text for preaching because we think it is superseded by the new and then at other times we cling to an 'old' commentary of the Bible even though scholars have found for us important new insights. I think sometimes in churches we marginalise those who are 'older' and long only for new and younger people to join us - but equally sometimes we are desperately frightened of anything new.

So how do we respond? Well it is always tempting to choose one or the other, either to hold on to the comfort and reassurance of the past or to sweep it away in a grand step into the unknown.

Yet, from a Christian perspective I think we always need the old as well as the new. It is easy for people who live today to think those who lived

before us simply are old fashioned and thus have no understanding of what it is like to live in a rapidly changing society. But they have wisdom to pass on to us and it would be unwise to ignore it. Of course, there are also times when it would be foolish to place "old wine into new wineskins". In a way, what I am trying to say is that on one hand we need to be strongly rooted in the traditions of our faith and denomination, but also we need to be open to the Holy Spirit who constantly questions and renews it. We are called to make faith and life new again in our day - but not, I think, by turning away from all that is past.

Imagine that all the people who have ever worshipped in our churches, served in our community were here today - there would be thousands of them with many different experiences and stories to tell. And in a way they are here - part of our community, part of who we are now. But our faithfulness to their witness lies in responding to the Gospel with integrity for our own times - while never letting go of their hands. This is what we need to do as we walk together discerning through prayer, listening, and consultation what God's has in mind for our churches and Communities we serve.

Every Blessing

Revd Robin Selmes



**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING -
MINUTES CONT.**

**Projects – Updates on Current and
New**

King's Coronation 2023 – Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. D. Waters, members agreed to purchase a Coronation Flag at the cost of £29.99p.

Action: RFO

Reports from Representatives

Hall – It was reported that the Village Hall have received a steady number of bookings for occasional hirers and work on the floor to sand and varnish will go ahead during the Easter holidays.

KALC – Cllr. Langham attended the meeting and advised there were speakers from the General Purpose Committee. Cllr. Langham will attend the next SAC on 14 March and on the agenda are speakers Alan Watson, Community Speed Watch Manager and Scott Montgomery, Community Resilience Manager. There will also be a report on Lighting grants and the response from KCC.

Swale Western Area Committee – Cllr. Tolhurst attended the meeting and reported there was a discussion about the Kent County Council Community Services Consultation on proposed changes to the way KCC used their buildings to deliver some community services. Feedback was invited by 26th March 2023.

The reduction in Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) and the effect in the Western area was discussed. Area Committee members commented that the new Police model of moving to community policing and replacing some PCSOs with Police Officers could be beneficial.

IWADE INSPIRATION

John Guest

It was Emily's birthday and she was celebrating with her family on the next table from me in the local pub. She had balloons and cake and lots of fun: all the good things a six-year old should have. I got one of those funny "nudges" inside so I reached into my pocket for a modelling balloon and a few puffs later presented Emily with an unexpected surprise – a bright yellow balloon mouse! In return I got a beaming smile, a high five and a warm thank you from mum.

Now I don't always remember to carry my modelling balloons with me despite being asked repeatedly by Charlie for a red balloon sword after the Sunday church service. I do however, always look for opportunities to inspire. You remember we talked about this last month? Not everyone can model (or even blow up) balloons; they require well-trained lungs or a strong pump. But everyone can inspire others. It doesn't have to be in a pub or at a birthday party. It can happen anywhere. It doesn't have to be performed by a big show-off like me as a grand gesture or theatrical flourish. In fact, the best inspirations are done quietly and discreetly, often with a hesitant anxiety that we may have crossed an unseen line. Believe me friends – it's worth the risk.

The way we build community; in fact, the way we build any relationships is by reaching tentatively across that unseen line to touch someone else's life. It may be a small compliment or a welcoming smile. It may be offering to carry someone's bag as happened to a friend of mine twice recently during a difficult part of her journey. We started to relearn the value of these little "inspirations" a couple of years ago when facing pandemic panic the world realised we still needed each other.

Thank God we're all different and we can all inspire in different ways yet we all need it and we can all give it. As a clown I tend to be a bit of an extrovert and I like to talk to the checkout assistant and the waiter in the restaurant. Sometimes I even offer to pray for complete strangers. Phew! That can start some interesting conversations!

What about you? Fancy a bit of inspiration? Some random act of kindness? You can keep it confidential. And if you feel like inspiring me, why not WhatsApp me and make me smile?



SPEEDWAY'S WET START TO THE SEASON

The recent spell of wet weather played havoc with the Sittingbourne Speedway's track preparations for the new season but despite the inclement weather some 40 new fence panels were fitted along the back straight and third bend and the track was professionally re-profiled and re-laid in time for the opening match.

The new season kicked off with a knock out cup match against Mildenhall on Sunday 9th April and although the track and the stadium itself were in fine shape and ready to go unfortunately the adjoining field we use for our car park was waterlogged and we could only use the top part of the field as this was the only part of the field that had firm ground.

The match itself drew a bumper crowd, our largest one so far, but led to some horrendous parking problems as our restricted car park soon filled up and we had to try to squeeze everyone in. Also, the meeting was held up for over an hour as the paramedic had to come over from Crowborough and got held up in traffic and we could not start without them. After overcoming all these problems the meeting itself was a thrilling affair with the lead constantly changing throughout the match until we reached the penultimate heat with the scores level. The final heat saw a win for the visitors and they won the meeting by two points.

It was not quite the start we wanted but if this standard of racing continues we should be in for an exciting season. Full marks to all the track staff and volunteers who worked so hard throughout the day to fit everyone in and to get the meeting on.

IWADE MONDAY FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We are a small friendly group who meet (unsurprisingly!) on a Monday. We meet at The Barn on alternate Mondays for tea, coffee biscuits and a chat from 10:30 until midday. We hold quizzes, play games and have occasional speakers as well as just a chance for a good old-fashioned natter!

At our meetings this month we held an Easter card-making session led by Hilary Foulds, and we look forward to the visit of a surprise 'celebratory' guest on May 15th.

If you'd like a bit of company and a chance to make new friends just come along to one of our Monday meetings which are on My 1st, the 15th, and fortnightly thereafter (please note though there will be no meeting on May 29th)

MARC WILSON

I am delighted to be your Liberal Democrat candidate for Bobbing, Iwade and Lower Halstow for the upcoming local elections. I am a family man that has watched his children grow up and enjoy the community of Iwade.

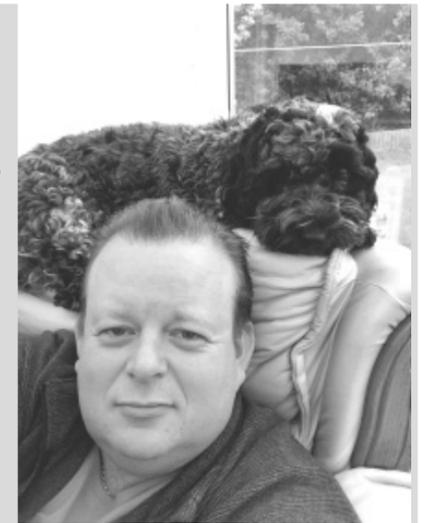
But I also see and

experience the problems and frustrations that we have here, and as a

businessman I have the capabilities to get involved to help, inform and ultimately try and effect change. You can contact me at

marc@zebraboo.com

Many thanks.



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IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH 2023

Present

Cllr. A. Dollimore – Chair
Cllr. S. Waters – Vice Chair
Cllr. R. Stalley-Moore
Cllr. R. Langham
Cllr. S. Tolhurst
Cllr. D. Waters
Samantha Gray, Clerk
S. Wood, Gala Lights
2 residents

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair formally welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Cllrs. Lancashire, Cheeseman, Hyde and Whiting.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Langham and seconded by Cllr. D. Waters, the minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on 8 February 2023, were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

Visitors/Public Time

1. Visitors

a. A resident advised the path in front of Woodpecker Park is flooded. Clerk to inform Kent County Council.

Action: Clerk

b. A resident contacted the Parish Council by email regarding yellow lines on the councils H.I.P request and parking issues at their address. Clerk to respond to resident.

Action: Clerk

2. County and Borough Councillors

- None attended. Cllr. Baldock sent this report via email: The Conservative Budget has been passed by Full Council. With a multi-million pounds cut to Highways Maintenance, against a backdrop of a backlog nearing £3/4 billion and roads in Kent found to

be the worst in England by the RAC in 2022, this effectively signals the end of any real pretence by KCC that our highways will ever be properly addressed, and again brings forward the possibility that within a decade they will have to start closing roads.

There is also further cutting of the budget for Community Wardens. A big issue currently is the large number of school children that have not been able to get a school place at any of their preferred schools and I am helping them with their appeals.

3. Community Warden / PCSO

- None attended

Matters Arising from the Minutes

School Lane – Bollards – Council members reported at the previous meeting that the improvement to the junction at School Lane/Chetney View could benefit from bollards to prevent any parking on the grass verge. Cllr. Dollimore will source a quotation.

Action: Cllr. Dollimore

Woodpecker Drive – The Clerk circulated an email received from KCC which advises they will not support traffic calming at this location. KCC suggest carrying out Speed Watch at Woodpecker Drive. Cllr. Langham will look into adding the area to Speed Watch.

Action: Clerk

Bobbing Garden Village Plan

– Council members viewed a map of the proposed development and discussed the size of the development. Local Parish Councils have met to put a plan in place to fight the development. There is also a resident's group and their next meeting is 25 March at Bobbing

Village Hall.

Brambles Village Hall – The Brambles that run along the back of the Village Hall Garden are very overgrown and require cutting back once a year. Cllr. Dollimore will source a quotation.

Action: Cllr. Dollimore

Planning

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

23/500789/FULL: Conversion of existing roof space to habitable rooms, including two new dormer windows and a rooflight to the front and a flat roofed dormer to the rear with skylights. (Resubmission 22/505170/FULL). ADDRESS: 7 Meadow Brown View Iwade Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8XB. Council members discussed and advised no comments.

23/500878/REM: Approval of Reserved Matters for erection of 20no.residential dwellings (Appearance, Landscape, Layout and Scale being sought). ADDRESS: Land South Of Dunlin Walk Iwade Kent ME9 8TG. Iwade Parish Council stand by their previous objections, in particular:

This proposal would fail to provide safe vehicular access. Apart from the issues of the junction of The Street and Sanderling Way, access to the site is unacceptably unsafe. Vehicles exiting the proposed development from the western end run the very real risk of collision with vehicles entering and exiting the parking spaces of residents at

houses 1-4.

Kent Police raised issues with the development layout; the perimeter, boundary and divisional treatments include neighbouring boundaries and that of Iwade School, adding that the proximity of the school requires a CSE policy or additional boundary treatments. Parking, including visitor spaces and lighting policy were also of concern. Access to the site will be via Sanderling Way, already overpopulated with parked vehicles and pinch points. The proposed junction is on a corner and will struggle to cope with the additional demand of a possible two to four cars per new household. Coupled with the proposed access for potential new development (18/505157/OUT) on a blind corner, it will create a traffic nightmare in an area that already has issues. The junction of Sanderling Way/The Street is also a blind corner. Parents expressed views that this creates a significant child safety and child protection concern; they do not feel their children, whilst on their lunch break or in P.E. attire, should be overlooked by houses so close to the playing field. This could be classified as an infill development and over intensive development of a small site. The school could reach its maximum size of 630 pupils in 2 years' time, with further housing proposed another expansion of the school is very realistic. Drainage in this area is not good and any development on this site could result in run-off to the playing field, compounding the problem the school already has with flooding. Council members noted Iwade School have planted trees on their boundary and suggest the developer should pay a contribution to the school for

alterations they need to make due to the proposed development. **23/500759/FULL:** Part conversion of garage to provide utility room (Retrospective). 8 Ferry Road Iwade Kent ME9 8RR. Council members discussed and advised no comments.

23/500575/FULL: Change of use of land for a Gypsy/Traveller site comprising of an additional 6no. Mobile Homes, 6no. Touring Caravans and 1no. Utility Building. Land Adjacent To Tiptree Bungalow School Lane Iwade Kent ME9 8QE. Council members discussed and advised no comments.

23/500720/FULL: Conversion of existing attached garage to habitable space. ADDRESS: 6 Ringlet Grove Iwade Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8XE. Council members discussed and advised no comments.

Correspondence

Kent Priority Survey – Neighbourhood Watch – Members agreed to respond individually.

Roadworks – Sheppey Way – Council members discussed the road closure which happened without warning on Sheppey Way. This is due to ongoing electrical works. The road is currently open with traffic lights in place but Cllr. Dollimore advised the road may close again for future works.

Community Services Consultation – Kent County Council issued a Community Services Consultation. The Clerk circulated to all members to complete if they wish to.

Finance

Gala Lights – Quote to extend Christmas Tree Lights – Council members discussed the quotation with S. Wood who agreed to supply a revised quote. Keep on the agenda.

Action: Clerk

Plaque for Beacon – Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Waters, council members agreed to purchase an 8” plaque for the Jubilee Beacon, to be inscribed with ‘Iwade Parish Council’, at a cost of £149.95p.

Action: Cllr. Hyde

CCTV – Council members discussed a revised quote supplied by Swale Borough Council for 3 cameras and agreed that there was very little saving compared with the quote for 4 cameras. Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. S. Waters, members agreed to the installation of 4 CCTV cameras around the village, at the cost of £9,789.80, and annual cost of £3,875.

Action: Cllr. Tolhurst

Grounds Maintenance Contract – Swale Borough Council advised this year's grass cutting contract will include an uplift to cost of 11.1% but we are still waiting for the quotation. No update from KCC. Keep on the Agenda.

Action: Clerk

Faulty Street Light, nr 50 Sheerstone – Council members discussed quotes from Swale Borough Council and Kent Service & Management LTD to replace a bollard which needs to be removed for a street light repair. Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. D. Waters, members agreed to the quote for £565.00p from Kent Service & Management.

Action: RFO

Request for Donation – 1st Iwade Cubs and Scouts – Proposed by Cllr. S. Waters and seconded by Cllr. Langham, members agreed a donation of £530.00p

Action: Clerk/RFO