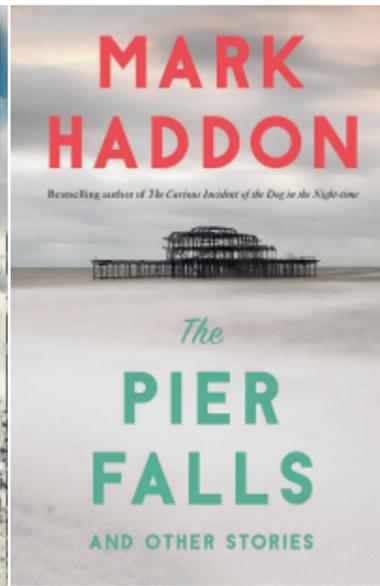


**Iwade Reading and Book Group**  
By Christine Freshwater

This month we again met on Zoom to review The 39 Steps by John Buchan.

On the whole we enjoyed the book, an interesting and exciting tale of spies and assassination in pre-WW1 UK. A thrilling tale of secrets, spies and the sinister Black Stone Gang, a conspiracy leading to global conflict. Richard Hannay is the hero of the story who was brave and intelligent and resourceful in trying to stop a foreign attempt to drag England into war. The story gives an insight into social history of the time and how the upper classes socially networked, very different to current day networking.

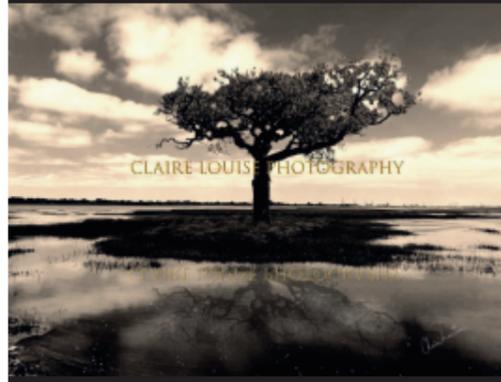
We found it both fascinating and descriptive, some of the language used was old fashioned by today's standards. This book was quite different from our usual reads, and this made a refreshing change.



The book for November is Rosie's War by Kay Brelland. The book choice for December is The Pier Falls by Mark Haddon. We will be doing a secret Santa this year, books to be wrapped and given to Hilary by 11th December, they will then be distributed to members to be opened at our December Zoom meeting on 15th December.

**BUSINESS FOCUS**

Want to get your business featured in our monthly Business Focus Feature?  
Email us: [the.iwade.observer@gmail.com](mailto:the.iwade.observer@gmail.com)



**Claire Louise Photography**

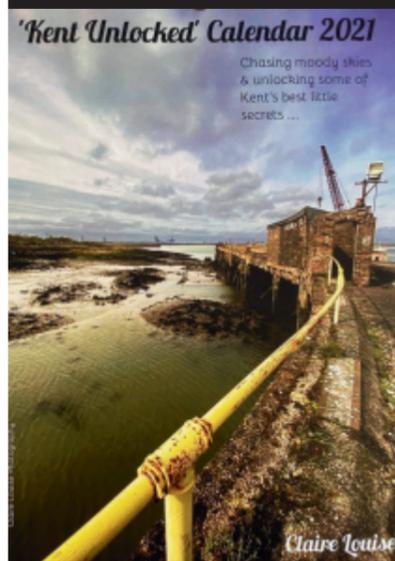
I am a small business in Iwade that got established during the lockdown this year, a small positive during a very difficult time for so many of us! I have always had a passion for photography but friends, family and Iwade residents encouraged me to sell my work including a 2021 calendar of Kent!

Fed up with 2020? Look forward to 2021 with a new outlook regardless of the restrictions; there is always a positive! Do you fancy something a little different? Join me on my adventures around Kent visiting secret, quiet and abandoned locations featuring moody skies and derelict surroundings!

The calendar has over 12 photographs. It's A4 wall size and only £9.99 & a limited supply. Some of the places you may recognise but I like to do my own take on it... one of my photos called 'Isolation' is of a tree standing alone but still strong against the odds ... many of us can relate to that this year! I hope you enjoy my photos! Thank you for reading.

Calendars or prints can be ordered via Facebook, phone, email or via the website

Claire (Claire Louise Photography)  
Online gallery:- [clairewigham.wixsite.com/clairelouisephotos](http://clairewigham.wixsite.com/clairelouisephotos)  
Facebook Page:- [facebook.com/clairelouisekentphotos](https://www.facebook.com/clairelouisekentphotos)  
Instagram: @clairelouisephotos  
Telephone: 01795428478 / 07545786119



# The Iwade Observer

Nov 2020

## Iwade Primary School

**Head Boy and Head Girl Announcement for 2020-2021**

**Sky Community**  
Head Boy - Harvey  
Head Girl - Honey-Louise

**Ocean Community**  
Head Boy - Ted  
Head Girl - Lottie

**Forest Community**  
Head Boy - Mikey  
Head Girl - Skye

In Year 6, Term 1, we have been learning about WorldWar II through our topic: Is It Ever Right to Fight? The children in Kestrel Class have loved this topic and have written flashback stories, poetry, designed and made clay planes, read stories about the war and have used laptops to research about different elements of the war.

Here are a few of our Remembrance Day poems.

Red poppies grow in the field.

Emblems of peace in the sky.

Mourning goals the air.

Members of the fire of war create smoke.

Mounds of soil and rubble.

But by no means is it damaging the peace only.

Members of the fire of war create smoke.

Red poppies grow in the field and are a symbol of the soldiers in the war.

Felix

Rumbling, death, and suffering,  
to bomb the house next door,  
the world is full of it during the second world war.

We're edging close to victory,  
every single day,  
Allies are almost victorious,  
it's time for the Nazis to pay.

The world is never at peace,  
no conflict or spite,  
but the real question is,  
is it ever right to fight?

Ted

Remember those who fought,  
Experiences of pain,  
Many men gave their lives,  
Every day they would fight,  
For would give their best every day,  
Bright stars in the sky,  
Every day guns would fire,  
Remember their tough times,  
Attackers come every day,  
Never peace for 6 long years,  
Churchill led us through,  
End of war, end of battle, end of war.

Ted

Remember those who fought,  
Experiences of pain,  
Many men gave their lives,  
Every day they would fight,  
For would give their best every day,  
Bright stars in the sky,  
Every day guns would fire,  
Remember their tough times,  
Attackers come every day,  
Never peace for 6 long years,  
Churchill led us through,  
End of war, end of battle, end of war.

Jayden

Remember those who fought,  
Experiences of pain,  
Many men gave their lives,  
Every day they would fight,  
For would give their best every day,  
Bright stars in the sky,  
Every day guns would fire,  
Remember their tough times,  
Attackers come every day,  
Never peace for 6 long years,  
Churchill led us through,  
End of war, end of battle, end of war.

Belle

Remember those who fought,  
Experiences of pain,  
Many men gave their lives,  
Every day they would fight,  
For would give their best every day,  
Bright stars in the sky,  
Every day guns would fire,  
Remember their tough times,  
Attackers come every day,  
Never peace for 6 long years,  
Churchill led us through,  
End of war, end of battle, end of war.

Hany



## Criterion Theatre and Bluetown Heritage centre

Coming out of Covid.

I'm sure that most of us are yearning for some release from the lockdown and find new safe things to do. A small group of Iwade residents have been working very hard in the Criterion Theatre in Blue Town near Sheerness on Sheppey, with other volunteers, updating the Theatre and Heritage centre to make it Covid safe.

Of course, like all entertainment locations the Criterion has and continues to suffer from the accompanying down-turn in visitor numbers and of course the lockdown itself during the busiest time of the year. The Theatre and Heritage centre are run entirely with help of volunteers but survives with the income from the shows

and weekly cinema. The centre itself is an important source of support for local groups and schools with days for the local Alzheimer's group, visiting schools as part of their curriculum and even outreach days to schools covering such subjects as The Victorian's, Vikings and World War Two. Further to this the centre has very educated members around the history of Sheppey with local history talks and hopefully tours of the island's history in future. Upcoming events include a live Murder Mystery night with a three-course meal, a Sheppey-at-War talk and an international modern folk music group, and not to forget the weekly Friday cinema showing a wide variety of films.

As you can see the Criterion isn't just a unique entertainment venue it is an important part of the community but it needs everyone's help by using these

facilities, enjoy a film or come to a show, maybe a history talk by one of the volunteers about Blue Town and the island's amazing past. As I started about the work being carried out we have a Victorian Schoolroom, a 1950s play room, a War room, a Dockyard room the latest exhibit the 1940 home with more to come. Just as a taster here are a couple of pictures of the 1940's home.

The Criterion Theatre is just 7 miles from Iwade and is open Thursday to Saturday each week, please visit you will be most welcome.

*(Ed's note – if you haven't been across to The Criterion/Heritage Centre it is well worth a look and is thoroughly recommended. Give it a try – such a great place just on our doorstep)*



## Happy Days By Caroline Wiles

Everyone loves jumping in muddy puddles – Peppa Pig.

At Happy Days Nursery we love to jump in to our wellies so we can play in puddles, use our mud kitchen and explore the seasonal changes in our garden. We know children love to learn and explore through outdoor activities; Autumn is the perfect time for outside adventures! The cooler weather and autumnal colour changes provide the perfect backdrop for engaging learning activities. Not only are the children having fun, but they are learning -using their senses and developing motor skills, as well as having a great opportunity to burn off some energy too. If we're not splashing around in

the garden, we're engaged in exciting activities indoors. Autumn gives us a great focus for inside activities, with the children exploring natural objects such as leaves or conesto create their latest masterpieces. They are so proud when they hand over their fabulous creations to Mummies and Daddies. We are always on the look out for natural resources for our activities, so if you collect leaves or conkers when you are out and about in the village, please feel free to drop them off at Happy Days Nursery. We have limited spaces available so if you are interested in sessions for your child, please do not hesitate to contact the office (01795 424348) for more information or visit our website [www.happydaysuk.co.uk](http://www.happydaysuk.co.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.



## Iwade Health Walks



*The Woolpack Pub & Dining*

**Festive Fayre Menu**

Available from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

**STARTERS**

**HOMEMADE SPICY PARSNIP & APPLE SOUP** V GF+  
Served with Sour Dough  
Or

**MUSHROOMS IN GARLIC BUTTER** V GF+  
Served with Sour Dough  
Or

**SMOKED HADDOCK & SPRING ONION FISHPAKE**  
Served with Dressed Mixed Leaves & Tartare' Sauce  
Or

**BREADED BRIE** V  
Served with Dressed Mixed Leaves & Kentish Chilli Jam  
(\*Gluten free rolls are available)

**MAIN COURSE**

**TRADITIONAL ROAST TURKEY**  
Roast Breast of Turkey, Served with Homemade stuffing & a pig in blanket  
(\*Gluten free stuffing available)  
Or

**BRAISED BEEF**  
Prime British Beef, Slow Cooked in a Creamy Peppercorn Sauce Laced with Brand  
Or

**BAKED FILLET OF SALMON**  
Served with a Creamy White Wine & Mushroom Sauce  
Or

**ROASTED FIELD MUSHROOM** V GF  
Filled with Roasted Mixed Peppers, Caramelised Onion & Creamy English Brie

All Main Meals Are Served with Roast Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Brussel Sprouts & Honey Roast Parsnips

**DESSERTS**

**TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING** V  
Served with Custard Sauce  
Or

**HOMEMADE RASPBERRY PANNA COTTA** V GF  
Served with Kentish Vanilla Ice-Cream  
Or

**HOMEMADE SHERRY TRIFLE** V  
Or

**LEMON ROULADE** V GF  
Served with Sicilian Lemon Sauce & Clotted Cream

**COMPLIMENTARY TEA OR COFFEE & MINCE PIES**

**Two Course's £24.95**  
**Three Course's £29.95**

A £15.00 Per Person Deposit Is Required to Secure Your Booking.

ALL BOOKING ARE SUBJECT TO THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES  
MAX 6 PEOPLE TO A GROUP

*Children's Festive Fayre Menu*

Suitable for Our Smaller Diners Under 10

**MAIN COURSE**

**ROAST BREAST OF TURKEY**  
Served with Sage & Onion Stuffing & Pigs in Blanket, Roast Potatoes, Garden Peas & Baton Carrots  
Or

**BATTERED COD GOUJONS**  
Served with Chios & a Choice of Garden Peas or Baked Beans  
Or

**PORK & LEEK SAUSAGE**  
Served with mash & a Choice of Garden Peas or Baked Beans  
Vegetarian Option Available Upon Request

**DESSERTS**

**TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING** V  
Served with Creamy Custard  
Or

**WARM BELGIUM WAFFLE** V  
Topped with Chocolate Sauce, Cream & Chocolate Flake  
Or

**BANOFFEE SUNDAE** V GF  
Vanilla Ice-Cream Topped with Sliced Bananas, Toffee Sauce & Whipped Cream

**£10.95 Per Child**

IF YOU HAVE A FOOD ALLERGY OR ANY SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENT,  
PLEASE LET US KNOW, AND WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO ACCOMMODATE YOU.  
DISHES SHOWING V ARE SUITABLE FOR VEGETARIAN.  
DISHES SHOWING GF ARE SUITABLE FOR A COELIAC

## Statement from Iwade Patient Participation Group

### Re: Iwade Health Centre

It is with regret that we have to say goodbye to Dr. A Tannor, who has left Iwade Health Centre to take up an appointment nearer to his home, and spend more time with his family.

He has been replaced by Dr. Amer who will be at the practice on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, along with our long term locum Dr. Kamilla who will be working on Tuesday and Friday.

Also, sadly Natalie and Daniel have both left. Natalie to spend more time with her young family, and Daniel who has been seeking other job opportunities for some time. These positions have both been filled and the two ladies start at the end of October.

A new Advanced Nurse Practitioner will be starting with the practice at the beginning of October, as an additional member of the clinical team.

The Iwade Health Centre is well placed to serve its patients at this challenging time with the following clinical staff.

Two GPs, Two Advance Nurse Practitioners, Paramedic, Health Care Assistant, Community Mental Health Nurse, Junior Pharmacist, Prescribing Nurse, Prescribing Pharmacist, making up a highly experienced and knowledgeable clinical team.

### Tinkerbells Early Years

By Donna Barker

Our first term at Tinkerbells has flown by, it has been a little different!! However, it has still been fun and we have been getting to know all the new children and their families. Our topic for the term was 'All about Me' and the children took part in various activities where we learnt about our families. The children's self-portraits brightened up the setting for the term and they are always a great talking point with the children.

Towards the end of the term the children worked their small hand muscles hammering tees into pumpkins, lots of fun for the children and excellent for fine motor control and hand-eye coordination! The children have also been creating various pictures using leaves, exploring different methods and resources. We have continued to make the most of the weather in the garden throughout the term.

Term 2 is upon us already and we are excited to explore Winter and Christmas with the children. This is always a busy term and we look forward to sharing our news about the term with you all in the next edition.

We have limited availability at both of the settings, if you are interested in a place for your child please feel free to pop in if you would like to be added to the waiting lists or require a place from September 2021. Alternatively you can email us at [enquiries@tinkerbellspreschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tinkerbellspreschool.co.uk)

#### Disclaimer

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## Iwade Health Walks

By James Apps

We went for a Covid secure walk on the 17th September taking the Orchard route with no incidents and a fairly good crowd. People followed the rules which made the walk easier to manage. However, with the restrictions still in place nationally, as a group we are more or less compelled to continue as we have done since August. The 'one off' walks will be the thing. We have planned another for October 29th under similar circumstances. Sadly, until the virus is more or less under control this is what will happen. It would be nice to be able to register new walkers but unfortunately under the present conditions that is not yet possible.

In the last issue I wrote about how the lockdown had changed what I do and how I had found some friends. Also, what happened was that being restricted to home and garden, suffering from a knee that would not cooperate, and unable to just take a walk, I had to find other means of distraction.

I was invited to take part in the Kent Creative Social Journal by an old friend. The idea was to create art works ad-hoc as a journal during the lockdown. Not having any journal style books I used the pages of a National Trust magazine/s to paste in copies of my work. I filled it with collages, water colours, oil colours, drawings and poems with comments attached to the illustrations.

The resulting work was quite different from what I had done before once I had stopped using older pieces. Seeing what others were doing was a great help and toward the end of the exercise I was becoming quite happy with where I was going with it.

Not only was I pleased with my work but I was also getting some encouragement from some real artists - as I say 'I am not an artist, I just paint pictures' but for a while I felt like one. Of the two pictures, one is a watercolour with a collaged illustration from a magazine and the other is a ten-minute seascape in oils. The idea was to take only ten minutes from setting up with paints and the heavy paper to completion. You could say more like going stir crazy.

However, back to the September walk! We passed through the orchard to see apples ripening on the trees and as we walked the fields so we had a hint of Autumn; the crops harvested and fields ploughed over, new rows being prepared for autumn planting of saplings and that feeling of change in the air.

On the orchard walk - pictures by Steff Woodard

All pictures opposite

## Hi everyone,

Like many others in the village I gained a new title earlier this year, I was now known as a Key worker as I work in a Supermarket, and for us our lockdown experience was very different to most.

I am the store manager in Asda Kingshill, so the first thing I noticed was the difference in the amount of traffic on the roads, no more queuing on the A249 or M20 so I could get to and from work within 25 minutes, it used to be at least a 40-minute commute.

In my shop, we have over 200 colleagues, the first thing I had to do when Boris announced the initial 3-week lockdown was review my colleagues individually. All colleagues who were considered extremely vulnerable, vulnerable or living with someone extremely vulnerable were immediately asked to stay off work for 12 weeks, all colleagues were fully paid for this time and I know they all really appreciated this from the company. Any other colleague who reported "symptoms" were also fully paid for the 14-day/7-day isolation period. Therefore, at times I had over 60 colleagues out of the business at any one time. We also had a very quick recruitment drive to get some temporary colleagues into our stores to support the increased footfall and take some pressure off the permanent colleagues. I also had to attend daily Zoom Conference calls with our regional teams to report colleague absences and get the daily briefing from Head Office.

Obviously on top of colleague welfare I had my customers to look after too. I am sure you remember all the initial "panic buying" before the lockdown when toilet paper and pasta was non-existent. To put that into context, on an average day we have 5000 customers in our stores, if each of these customers bought 10 more items that would be 50,000 less items on the shelves so you can see how quickly our shelves emptied. We get deliveries daily and hold minimal products in our warehouses, therefore our daily deliveries just couldn't keep up with this increased demand.

We then introduced restrictions on how many of each item you could buy to try

and help our stock last longer throughout each day, we had queues around the carparks and had to recruit external security guards to help manage this very difficult time. Then we had the arrows, which again added a whole new dimension to my role. Overnight we all became a traffic officer as we had to remind customers to follow the one-way signage, and this was one of the biggest challenges, and the cause of most of the abuse as some customers really didn't like having to follow the arrows. But overall, I feel this system was the right one to keep everyone moving in the same direction, going up and down each aisle and if anyone forgot a product my colleagues would go and get it for them once at the checkouts. Due to social distancing we had to restrict numbers in our shops so we were counting everyone in and out, unlike other supermarkets we did allow families and couples to shop together.

We also installed Perspex screens at all checkouts and service points, we had ample gloves, hand sanitizer and masks provided for our colleagues use. One thing that made all of this worthwhile was that not one of my colleagues caught covid-19 and we all stayed safe and healthy throughout!

Our supply teams worked incredibly hard to source additional suppliers and our stock levels steadily reached acceptable levels however as the pandemic rumbles on throughout the world some areas are still being hit, for example cooked meat recently due to a breakout in a British factory, our George department has had a lot of stock stuck in ports around the world.

As you are aware all customers except those who are exempt are required to wear face coverings in all stores. So apart from this our stores are now back to 'normal', no arrows, no counting. However, should we go into a local lockdown we are geared up ready to install this again overnight if we have too.

Finally, I should comment on our Home Shopping teams. Literally overnight the demand for this service exploded and I know customers really struggled to get a slot. As a business, we did manage to open up more Click and Collect slots but

as each shop has on average 4 vans for home deliveries you cannot fit additional drops on these so this service was stretched. Our colleagues were starting work at 2am to get these orders picked and our drivers were out from 7am-10pm. If you are an online shopper from any of the supermarkets please bear in mind we do sometimes have issues we cannot resolve and therefore are unable to deliver shopping. For example, a driver goes sick, our drivers have to undergo specific training from a legal perspective so therefore not all colleagues can drive our vans so sometimes we have no suitable cover, our vans breakdown and the stores don't have spares, we have to acquire one from our regional fleet which can take a few hours to source depending where the van is. All our customers are really important to us and we strive to deliver great service as much as possible.

Throughout the initial lockdown we received lots of thanks and kindness from customers who were really grateful for everything we were doing. Yes it was a worry, would we catch anything and take it home to our families, but ultimately I feel very lucky to work for Asda. Lucky because I had a sense of normality, I had routine, I had no concern with regards to paying my mortgage, I was able to buy food, I was socialising (albeit, with work colleagues and customers) but I wasn't isolated. The only real impact I felt was not seeing family and friends but I survived with video calling and letter writing. Let's hope life continues moving in a positive way and we embrace this new normal.

But next time you are in a supermarket, please remember we don't get it right all the time, we are human, the virus is still around! But we are all in this together.....

Stay safe  
**Liz Richards**

*(Ed's note - thanks Liz, a fascinating read. It's all too easy to forget how many people, in all walks of life, went "over and above" to get us through lockdown.*

*P.S. Other supermarkets are available!!)*

## IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL 'ZOOM' MEETING – 16 Sept 2020

### Welcome and Apologies

The Vice-Chair formally welcomed everyone to the Zoom video conferencing meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Parish Cllr. Cheeseman and the PCSO (who could not attend due to Kent Police not supporting the use of Zoom because of security).

### Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Langham, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12 August 2020 were agreed and will be signed by the Vice-Chair as a true transcript.

### Visitors/Public Time

Residents, County and Borough Councillors, PCSOs and Community Wardens were advised that they could attend as normal but public speaking time might be limited; they were also invited to forward reports/questions to the Clerk beforehand.

**1) County and Borough Councillors** – County Cllr. Whiting advised - the issues relating to activities at Raspberry Hill Farm in Iwade continue to be of huge concern to residents, in particular in Iwade. There is a lot of work going on behind the scenes to address any illegal or unauthorised activity, but I will continue to press the agencies to take urgent action. One example is HGVs using our country lanes to access the site. Unless their purpose in visiting the site is a lawful one then they can be prosecuted for using the lanes, which are restricted. That is one example of the practical steps I have suggested to the police chief at Sittingbourne. There are also some existing planning enforcements dating back years. I have asked Cllr Mike Baldock, cabinet member for planning enforcement at Swale Council, to look at this and at the time of writing await a reply. Cllr. Whiting would still like to receive any photographic evidence from residents. Also, in Iwade there has been some anti-social and threatening behaviour by a small group of youths. Matters were reported to the police and a dispersal order was put in place over one weekend during August. Police and other agencies are involved. It is vital that people report these sorts of issues directly to the police via 101 or using their online reporting page (<https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/oc>)

[r/af/how-to-report-a-crime/](https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/oc)) or even 999 if the crime is happening. Another avenue for complete anonymity is Crimestoppers - <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>. The police do not monitor Facebook or other Social media and unless it reported properly there is no official record.

The issue of lorries mistakenly entering the Village and turning in Chetney View, with near misses to property and vehicles, was raised. Cllr. Whiting has received videos and photos from residents and passed these on to KCC, asking the Officers to confirm that all of the lanes into the Village are 7.5t restrictions and that all aggregators are aware. Cllr. Whiting again mentioned the Highway Improvement Plan (the Clerk expressed concern that this was double taxation on residents); it was agreed to invite the Officer concerned to attend a meeting to discuss the scheme. Action: Clerk As part of its environment strategy, KCC has published the Kent and Medway Climate Change impact assessment. Details are at [https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0015/111381/CCRIA-for-Kent-and-Medway-part-one-methodology-and-summary-findings.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/111381/CCRIA-for-Kent-and-Medway-part-one-methodology-and-summary-findings.pdf) with further appendices at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-wasteand-planning-policies/environmental-policies/kents-changing-climate>.

It is an extensive piece of work and if the public have questions or want to know more then please email [climate.change@kent.gov.uk](mailto:climate.change@kent.gov.uk). During my time as KCC's Environment Cabinet Member I proposed a Pollinator Strategy known as Plan Bee. To help Parishes and other groups get involved I am making available grants of up to £200 to organisations to plant more wild flowers or create bee hotels (yes there are such things for those solitary bees) and bee highways. It's all in the Plan, details at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-and-planning-policies/environmental-policies/kents-plan-bee-pollinator-actionplan>. If you want to apply for assistance in setting up a pollinator-friendly environment, or know of a

community group, youth organisation or other, then please ask them to email me or fill out a grant application form which can be downloaded at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-grants-and-funding/combined-members-grant>.

**2) Community Warden/PCSO** – Community Warden – no report The PCSO written report – Crimes of note: Assault in the Village Square by a group of youths on a male – a crime report has been submitted. Report of someone possibly tampering with a vehicle on Ferry Road. However, on attendance, police found no-one in the area and no damage caused. A vehicle was reversed into near the main car park while another vehicle was trying to get away from a group. The windscreen on the other vehicle was smashed. A crime report was submitted and is being investigated.

There was a fight between older males on Sanderling Way. Police attended and a person was taken to hospital for a check-up. The incident is being investigated. A car's wing mirror was broken on the road up to the main car park, and a group of youths were seen nearby. A crime report has been submitted. Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note: Unfortunately, anti-social behaviour in the village again became an increasing issue over the past month, with groups of youths hanging around the bus shelter and village square, creating a nuisance for residents. A dispersal order was put in place by police for three weekends, which had some effect on the volume of calls, as has the return to school. A number of dead birds have been found around the Woodpecker Park area, and some youths have been seen holding these. There has been no evidence to suggest the birds were actually killed by the youths, despite a small trial by Facebook. Words of advice have been given to individuals about potential diseases these birds could be carrying. The small stream that runs along the bottom of Mansfield Drive is being used by youths as a gathering place. There is also evidence of nitrous oxide use, and reports of people smoking drugs in the area. Residents have planted shrubs to deter anyone getting down to the stream, as the steep banks could easily lead to an accident. However, the Environment Agency, Southern Water and Swale Borough Council have all said the land does not belong to them. A resident has

complained about the number of large lorries entering the village and then having to turn around at the top of School Lane when they realise, they cannot get through. The resident mentioned the lack of signage on the approach to the village, warning drivers that it is not suitable, and that some of the signage in place is covered by vegetation.

### Correspondence

**1) Call for sites to be submitted as proposed Local Green Spaces** – agreed to respond - Iwade Parish Council, in addition to the play areas (including both sides of Woodpecker Park, maintained by the Borough Council, which we assume are already included) would like to put forward the area of land to the rear of The Woolpack Public House; the area of land between Dunlin Walk and the rear of Iwade School, which is already used as a recreational area and the area at the top of Evergreen Close, which backs onto Fans Lane. We assume the area to the side of the Medical Centre, which will eventually be handed over by Persimmons to Swale Borough Council, will also be included.

**2) Government consultations on reforming the planning system** – Agreed to go with the response from NALC.

**Projects – Updates on Current and New Village Hall Site** – Members accepted the plans forwarded by the developer. Action: Clerk

### Reports from Representatives

**1. Hall** – still closed. Tinkerbells Nursery still using it, but no other users because of the present Covid-19 restrictions.

**2. KALC** – nothing to report

### Any Other Matters Arising

Cllr. B. Whiting mentioned the school entrance signs can only be seen from one side. Clerk to check with Community Warden/KCC as to progress on this matter. Action: Clerk

Cllr. De Fede suggested writing to the School to see if the Council can assist in any way to help it to remain open during the Covid-19 crisis. Action: Clerk

Cllr. Langham will contact Kent Police to see if he can get the Speedwatch Group up and working.

*Ed's Note, For reasons of space these minutes are abbreviated – to see the full minutes please see <https://www.iwadepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/minutes-2020/>*

Next meeting Wednesday 11th November 2020

## **Situations Vacant!!**

We have two volunteer positions available to help bring the Observer to each Iwade household each month.

1) Each month the 1700 or so copies that we have printed have to be collected from the printers in town (easy car access!) and sorted into bundles, and distributed to our deliverers, around the village, to take out to each household. We desperately need a volunteer to take on this Distribution Manager role which takes up no more than a day a month to fulfil. The role could easily be shared to reduce the workload, so if you only have a limited time available you could still help. If you are interested please let us know at:-[the.iwade.observer@gmail.com](mailto:the.iwade.observer@gmail.com)

2) Each month we create the newsletter using a desktop publishing software called Scribus. The new articles and photos are transferred into Scribus, then formatted and slotted into place. We are looking for a volunteer to take this job on as soon as possible. You will need to have some knowledge and experience using a desktop publishing software and you're own computer/laptop with access to the internet. Scribus is easy to learn, and once you've grasped it, the process will take around 5 hours to complete each month. If you are interested please let us know at:-[the.iwade.observer@gmail.com](mailto:the.iwade.observer@gmail.com)

## **Food for thought: Through the storm**

As I write this letter the hope of some measured return to 'normality' that perhaps many of us held during the summer, is now receding in the light of the announcements this week already by the medical and scientific advisers and the Prime Minister.

After six months of restrictions to everyday life, it seems we now face another uncertain six months as the colder and darker autumn and winter nights draw in. "How long, how long to sing this song" lamented U2 in their version of Psalm 40 all those years ago. They are words that perhaps resonate again now, as we wait to see what, if any, further restrictions may apply in coming days. Our assumptions about how life continue to be shaken as this virus, invisible to the naked eye, rocks the foundations of society.

We may at times lament what we have lost in these recent times, yet it may also be an opportune timeto pause and reflect on what we may have gained too. As the churches of 'The Six' we've been learning new skills through online worship, as part of keeping connected, never imagining six months ago that we would have our own YouTube channel!

Yet what are we noticing? A greater awareness of neighbourliness and of community, a re-assessment of life priorities perhaps, changes to assumed patterns of working, the importance of time with loved ones, the sacrifice of our wants for the sake of the needs of others especially the most vulnerable in our midst? What are the foundations for our living when the storms of life come along?

In the midst of different storms, Jesus appeared amongst his friends and said, "don't be afraid; peace be with you; my peace I give to you; trust in me". May we hear such words for our own lives, those we love, those we know around us and even those we don't yet know. In these still unsettled times, may we build our foundations on the Lord God who is Love, invisible yet seen and made known through the love of Jesus. As his people, remember we are here for you.

Every blessing!

Julian

Rev Julian Staniforth

Rector & Priest-in-Charge of The Six benefice