

**Hello Village Voice Readers,** I hope you are all well. Just wondering how many of us at week 2 of January have managed to keep our New Years' resolutions going. With all good intentions mine were set as less procrastination and more focus which has been a hit and miss mission since 2<sup>nd</sup> January. I have managed to successfully join forces with Mary Philo in updating the Iden Village Website- still ongoing, and I am ticking all the boxes of my to do list for the Village Hall. However, my Saturday morning alarm aka my snot filled Christopher Robin, decided that lie ins were not for me and we sleepily headed downstairs, children's TV keeping Christopher busy while I tried to wake up myself with a cup of tea in the kitchen. The kitchen window fogged up with the steam from the kettle, as I peered out through the rain drops into the dark grey scenery, remembering that this weekend had been pencilled in as a garden weekend. The thought of us all up to our ankles in wet muddy grass was not appealing at all, but as a family, we were out there clearing leaves and pinning the wisteria back to the fence. I many here faint cries from some readers as I let you know that I took the tree pruners to the magnolia. Now that it was bare of foliage I was able to see the branches that were trying to befriend the hanging electric and telephone lines, and decided it was now, or I could see us having electrical issues during the spring winds. My little snot monster has managed to master the art of getting wellies on and off, not always on the right feet, but definitely on his feet, which Im sure Poppy dog is very thankful for. Standing by me and looking up at the Magnolia, he eagerly waited for me to cut a branch and watched laughing uncontrollably as it slid down through the intact branches and with a thud to the ground. It was now over to him, as he marched over to the sacrificed branch and pulled it through the flowerless beds and dragged it towards his dad who was cutting them into more manageable pieces for the brown bin. Teamwork at its finest.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to Susannah Miller for her hard work in organising CarolSong. I will be the first to put my hands up and agree, organising adults for an event is very much like staple gunning jelly to the wall - I was one of those adults poor Susannah had to organise. Nevertheless, Susannah managed it, and it went without a hitch. The Bells were in full swing, Susannah poised at the organ, Stella took the service as we rocked from reading to carol. We began with God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen – which is how all carolling should start. We flowed through all the well-known carols and finished nicely with Once in Royal Davids City. Even Christopher joined in, holding a service sheet---upside down, swaying side to side as he hummed trying to join in with everyone. I think I managed to redeem myself from my faux pas in November and managed to

play Have yourself a Very Merry Christmas with the Saxophone not even one duff note! However, there's always one critic and Christopher was that one. Who unfortunately through my short rendition decided to make his thoughts known, as his dad attempted to pin the noisy little protestor. While playing I could see in the corner of my eye the battle between grown up and slippery 1year old. The imagine of a well-greased hog comes to mind. After CarolSong we all retreated to the Old Hall for tea and cake.

Under the Weather. Christopher's Immune system is well and truly battling this week, which in turns is testing my patience. My snot filled monster came back from Carolsong, fairly happy until he was told that it was too cold and wet to play in the garden. Then what can only be described as a declaration of war, the cute little blonde snotty monster morphed into a beetroot faced screaming banshee who couldn't decide what he wanted. Confused and desperate to stop the screaming we handed him everything, short of the kitchen sink. But it just seemed to make the situation worse to a point we were about a minute and a half away from a full on 2years old laying on the floor tantrum. I took action and picked up the bundle of .... well no longer joy, put him into the car seat. In my mind it seemed an easy process....but it was very much like trying to get a cat into a basket to take to the vets or a dog into the bath, lets just say it took the very last bit of energy, an arm, a blanket and determination to pin him in - to be able to lock him down. After a few deep breaths I got into the front seat and drove us off towards Rye realising that the terrible twos maybe rearing its ugly head.

Great news!! Bingo is back at the Iden Bowls Club starting 19<sup>th</sup> January, open to all Iden residents and villages beyond. All are welcome! Doors open at 2 p.m. Eyes down 2.30p.m. Complimentary tea and biscuits during the interval. A warm friendly atmosphere is assured and cash prizes to be won. Remember this will be at the Bowl Club premises opposite the Bell Pub, entrance is left of the War Memorial.

**January and February Dates: -**

12<sup>th</sup> January Natural Historical Society at Iden Village Hall at 7.30pm

14<sup>th</sup> January Church service at All Saints Church at 10am.

15<sup>th</sup> January Pop In at Iden Village Hall 11am until 1pm.

19<sup>th</sup> January Bowls Club Bingo, all welcome 2pm at the Bowls Club.

20<sup>th</sup> January Lunch at the Hall at the Village Hall. More info later.

28<sup>th</sup> January Church service at All Saints Church at 10am.

29<sup>th</sup> January Pop In at Iden Village Hall 11am until 1pm

6<sup>th</sup> February Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. all welcome.

12<sup>th</sup> February Iden WI at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. newcomers welcome.

Iden Village Hall is available to be hired for most events, call Teresa on 01797 280143.

If you have anything you'd like to add for next week. Contact Claire on [clairecarle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clairecarle@yahoo.co.uk) or 01797 280500 before the end of the weekend.

Keeping Iden Community Alive.