



**MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

WELCOMES

YOU

TO THE

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

16<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**(IF YOU WOULD LIKE THIS HANDOUT IN LARGER PRINT PLEASE CONTACT THE  
PARISH CLERK)**

**PLEASE FIND ATTACHED REPORTS FROM:**

**PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT**

By Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman, Marden Parish Council

**PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

By Cllr Jean Robertson, Chairman of Amenities

**PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

By Cllr Lesley Mannington, Chairman of Planning

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

By Cllr David Burton

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

By Cllr Eric Hotson

**KENT POLICE**

By PCSO Nicola Morris

**COMMUNITY WARDEN**

By Mira Martin

**SIR CHARLES BOOTH CHARITY / VICTORY FUND / ALLEN & MAPLESDEN TRUST**

**MARDEN PARISH CHURCH**

**MARDEN ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS**

Blue House Cricket Club  
 Brownies  
 Friends of Marden's Heritage  
 History Group & Heritage Centre  
 Horticultural Society  
 Living Memories  
 Marden Bowls Club  
 Marden Business Forum  
 Marden in Bloom  
 Marden Children's Centre  
 Marden Congregational Chapel  
 Marden Library  
 Marden Medical Centre  
 Marden Memorial Hall  
 Marden Minors FC  
 Marden Motor Club  
 Marden Parish Magazine  
 Marden Pre-School  
 Marden Primary School  
 Marden PRG  
 Marden PTA  
 Marden Scout Group  
 Marden Society  
 Marden Theatre Group  
 Retained Fire Service  
 Royal British Legion  
 Short Mat Bowls  
 Tennis & Badminton  
 The Allens Coffee Shop  
 Thursday Club  
 Toddler Group  
 Village Club  
 Walking Group  
 WI  
 Youth Club

Reports from the speakers on the evening will be uploaded onto this report on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April.  
 These include:

Acting Chief Inspector Mark Hedges  
 Kent Police

Simon Jones  
 Kent County Council Highways Director

Emma Poole, Mark Dopson and Hannah Stainton  
 InvolveKent

Cllr Andy Turner  
 Marden Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Richard Adam  
 Marden Station/Railway

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**By Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman, Marden Parish Council**

This will be my last report as Chairman as our Council Terms of Reference only allow a chairman to stand for three years, and I have done my stint. A new chairman will be elected at the Council AGM in May and we will report back to you in the June newsletter.

I have reported for the last three years that Marden is going through a period of unprecedented change and that is still the situation. Change is becoming the norm.

Your Parish Council has continued to push for the best possible outcomes for the village from the developers who are building in excess of 500 homes in our village. I can report that we have now managed to arrange a meeting with Mike Kitchingside, the Senior Project Manager at Countryside, who are developing the old Cricket and Hockey Club site, to understand more about their timetable of work. This site is causing massive inconvenience to the community with the closure of Albion Road, incidences of damage to properties from lorries, damage to power lines and the ongoing use of South Road and Stanley Road for heavy lorries. I shall be seeking their assurances about how they plan to ensure that inconvenience to residents is minimised and what their community engagement policy is. I can also report that thanks to some detective work by Dr Morgan we may now be getting somewhere with the allotment saga at Highwood Green. I have a meeting soon with a Redrow representative and will update in the June newsletter. The Parish Council has continued to spend \$106 monies on improvements to the Playing Field and the Amenities Committee report will enlarge on this work.

Last year I reported that we had undertaken a consultation with residents about parking issues in the village. During the course of the last year we submitted parking proposals to Maidstone Borough Council, taking into account all the feedback we received, which resulted in the recent Traffic Regulation Order consultation. The consultation has now closed and I have discussed the results with MBC. The majority of proposals received no comments and will be implemented in due course. Disappointingly, despite double yellow line restrictions for Pattenden Lane receiving a lot of support when we held a public consultation session last year; with residents citing dangerous road conditions as a reason for needing them, a number of objections have been received by MBC. The Parish Council continues to support the implementation of double yellow lines in this location, for road safety reasons, and have asked that this matter be raised at the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board for a final decision. This does mean that the overall implementation of all the changes will be delayed until this matter is resolved. On a more positive note I am delighted to say that at long last a Traffic Regulation Order is in place to support the yellow no parking zig zags outside the School, which prohibits parking at certain times during term time. I'm sure, like me, many of you are horrified by the appalling parking and disregard for road safety exhibited at School drop off and pick up time. At least there is something now that the Parking Wardens can enforce.

Of great concern to the Council and to residents over the last 12 months has been the unprecedented amount of anti social behaviour experienced in the village. We have held a number of meetings with our excellent PCSO Nicola Morris, Youth workers and the Maidstone Community Safety Unit to both discuss the issues and crucially what action is being taken to address. Kent Police held a surgery back in February, which a number of residents attended, and Police surgeries will be an ongoing event. We held a surgery recently, to which there were no attendees. We will try different venues and times to see if that has any impact. I am delighted that Inspector Mark Hedges and Sergeant Nicholas Hatcher from Kent Police are here tonight to update us on the actions they have been taking.

The Youth Club has been run by Kent County Council youth workers for the last 10 years. Sadly they have now ceased this involvement with Marden, which is a great sadness to us as they have been providing valuable support to some of the village youngsters, I have taken this matter up with our County Councillor, Eric Hotson. Marden as ever rises to a challenge and as a community we are indebted to Mrs Joanna Rhodes who has set up a youth club, with some adult volunteers, to support our young people and to provide them with a safe venue on Friday evenings. We are grateful to our Borough Councillors who have provided a grant of £1500 to the Parish Council, which will be used to

support the Youth Club. If this youth club is to survive it needs adult volunteers – if you have time to spare and are keen to help out please let Ali know and she will pass on your details.

Volunteers again came to the fore on March 16<sup>th</sup> when approximately 50 adults and children turned out on a wet and windy Saturday morning to participate in the annual litter pick. Anyone who visited the Library car park that weekend will have seen the enormous pile of rubbish that was collected. Our grateful thanks go to all those who volunteered both on the Saturday and in the preceding week to clean up our lovely country lanes and village centre. We are also indebted to those residents who regularly undertake litter picks in their road, and indeed if any resident wants to regularly litter pick we can supply litter pickers, gloves and hi viz jackets.

I am absolutely delighted to report that the Marden Neighbourhood Plan has now been submitted to Maidstone Borough Council for formal consultation with statutory authorities, as per the relevant legislation. Getting this far is thanks to the ongoing dedication of a small band of volunteers from the community and Parish Councillors with the unwavering support of Ali our Clerk. Andrew Turner, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will give you a more detailed update.

I cannot avoid mentioning the review of the Maidstone Local Plan as everyone knows the call for sites process is underway. As the Parish Council has stated on a number of occasions we will not be commenting on any site in Marden that is put forward until the Strategic Land Availability Assessment has been completed and published by Maidstone Borough Council, which is not likely to be until 2020.

This year it is 125 years since Parish Councils were formed in 1894. My husband's grandfather, FW Tippen, sat on the first Parish Council in 1894, his son Herbert, Graham's father was a Parish Councillor in the 1940's and 50's, Graham served as a councillor for 20 years until 2004 and I have been privileged to carry on the Tippen tradition of service to the community since then and indeed provide a link back to that first Parish Council. Since 1894 innumerable, dedicated residents of Marden have given up countless hours of their time in service to our community and I am delighted that a number of previous councillors are here tonight to celebrate such a long standing institution.

Heartfelt and grateful thanks go to our current councillors who regularly voluntarily spend many hours working on issues pertinent to Marden. We are sorry that Sean Harvey has resigned due to pressure of work and thank him for the time he has spent as a councillor. This does mean we have a vacancy and for the first time since 1984 electors have called for a by election, which will cost the Parish in the region of £4000. On previous occasions when a Parish Councillor has resigned the Parish Council has co-opted new members, at no cost to the Parish. Maidstone Borough Council manages the election and we have been advised that it will be held on Thursday 27 June, nominations need to be submitted to the Elections Office at MBC by 4.00pm on 31 May. I would urge anyone wishing to stand as a councillor to make themselves aware of the Standing Orders and Code of Conduct (all available on our website) that explains the role of a councillor and critically the limitations placed on councillors. Any councillor or Ali would be happy to discuss these with you. It should also be remembered that the entire Parish Council stands down in May next year prior to the Parish Council elections.

Erika Lock our Assistant Clerk took a well-earned retirement in January, we miss her very much. We are currently in the process of recruiting a new Deputy Clerk. At this point I must mention our truly exceptional Parish Clerk, Ali. Not only does she 'manage' all of us Parish Councillors, gently keeping us on the straight and narrow but deals with many and varied queries from residents and non residents alike. For the last two months she has been coping single-handed in the Office and clerked all our Parish Council meetings. All of us here tonight are grateful for your hard work, dedication and constant good humour – thank you.

Our two caretakers – Ian Jones who looks after the Cemetery and Chris Prince who looks after all our open space in the village do a marvellous job and we are very grateful to them for their hard work.

Finally there is one more person I want to mention tonight. The Kent Association of Local Councils makes annual awards to people in the community who have gone above and beyond in the service of

the community. I am delighted to announce that this year the award goes to someone who is selfless in her concern for the needs of others, is tireless in her membership of the Walking Group, Marden History Group, the Patient Reference Group to name but a few groups and I am sure that many of you will have now worked out that the award this year goes to Catherine Alderson.

### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

**By Cllr Jean Robertson, Chairman of Amenities**

**(read at the meeting by Cllr Anne Boswell, Vice-Chairman of Amenities)**

The Amenities Committee is responsible for the open space in the village owned by the Parish Council and also the Cemetery, Rookery Path and Public Toilets. We also organise the annual village Christmas celebrations and the Summer Play Scheme + other ad hoc Events. We held a very successful litter pick on 16<sup>th</sup> March which was very well attended. Many thanks also to those residents who regularly litter pick around the village - it is such a community-minded thing to do.

#### **Marden Playing Field**

Our main priority is to maintain this vital area of village open space to a high standard. All the maintenance, including the mowing and landscape management, is undertaken by our village caretaker, Chris Prince. Monthly tree inspections are carried out at the Playing Field, Rookery Path, Southons Field and Cemetery to ensure they are safe and remedial work undertaken if necessary and our first Tree Audit was undertaken last year from which actions are being taken.

Of utmost importance is the maintenance of the play equipment and regular safety checks are carried out and corrective measures taken where necessary. CCTV near the main play area monitors any anti-social behaviour in the playing field which our PCSO Nicola Morris and Ali continue to monitor. The area at the back of the playing field has been cleared and tidied although sadly rubbish still continues to be deposited there particularly in the pond and ditch. Sometime this year we hope to install CCTV in this area to help with the problem.

As most of you will have seen in the latest edition of the newsletter we are having to remove the old rocking horse due to the level of noise when it is rocked heavily, when it was installed this was not meant to happen. However we are in the process of obtaining quotes for a completely new rocking horse to take its place and hope that this will be in place by the Summer.

S106/developer contributions have been used to purchase a new Youth Shelter, which was installed and repositioned at the end of playing field; more new litter bins have been purchased to replace the old bins on the Playing Field and an additional one in the Play Area. S106 money has also been used to acquire new benches for the field and the two play areas. The old Sports Wall has been replaced and is proving very popular with youngsters.

This year we will be using this money for adult gym equipment and a running/walking track which will shortly be installed.

As ever the problem with dog mess continues, and whilst the field is covered by Maidstone Borough Council Dog Control Orders, they do not clear up the mess in the field. They will respond if dog owners are reported for allowing their dogs to foul the field and they will then visit to monitor and review. Our Community Warden Mira Martin monitors the situation and it is such a shame that a few irresponsible dog owners spoil things for others.

We also maintain the changing rooms which are owned by the Parish Council and used by Marden Minors Football Club.

The Napoleon Drive play equipment for the under 5's seems to be enjoyed by many young children and another bench in the play area is shortly to be installed. The surrounding area is maintained by our Village Caretaker who has been trimming the hedges back and keeping the area tidy.

### **Southons Field**

The Parish is very fortunate to have an additional open space at Southons Field with its numerous species of trees. This is maintained by Chris, the village caretaker. Usage of the field has certainly increased particularly by families as a peaceful and safe haven to run around, have a picnic on the benches, or play on the Play Trail – a great piece of equipment for balance and co-ordination which can be used by adults as well as children. There is also now a football goal which is extensively used by families. For these reasons the field is kept 'dog free' (apart from guide dogs). Grasscrete at the entrance has been installed to help with wear and tear.

The Beacon! We are proud that this great new village asset was installed last Autumn. We were very fortunate to have the co-operation of Brian Stratton who works for UK Power Networks and Avedity who installed the pole for the basket which was made by Grant, Philip and Andy who work for Epic Engineering. Its first lighting took place on 11 November 2018 for the 'Battle is Over' event.

Opening hours of the field vary slightly depending on the season but it is currently open for the use of anyone in the village between 7.00am and 8.00pm.

The field is available for hire by any organisation in the village and various village celebrations take place there. Again this area of open space has been used for several village events over the past year. Southons Field is certainly a wonderful village asset.

### **Cemetery**

The Parish is lucky to have such an attractive and well maintained Cemetery with a convenient footpath running to it from the village centre. I would like to record our thanks to Ian Jones, our cemetery caretaker, for all the effort and hard work he puts into maintaining it to a very high standard. I am sure you will all agree it is a delightful, peaceful and important facility. In 2017 the Parish Council entered the Cemetery into the South & South East in Bloom awards and we attained 'Silver' – a great achievement.

We have created a new area which will come into use over the next few years. A central flower bed has been made and roses have been planted to create hedging to define the different sections. We are always grateful to residents who donate plants.

### **Public Toilets**

We recognise that the Public Toilets are an important facility which the Parish Council has responsibility for although they are owned by Maidstone Borough Council. We have recently agreed a new cleaning contract with a local company and we are pleased to report that we are very satisfied with the work undertaken so far. They are regularly checked and locked daily, and Chris deals with any maintenance that is required.

### **Christmas Celebration**

Once again another great village Christmas celebration took place last December and the well tested formula seems to work, with Carols and Morris dancing at The Allens, then a Christmas Fair at the Memorial Hall, complete with Father Christmas in his grotto. So many of the village groups now take part, including the Parish Church, making it such a great community event. This year's event will take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December and our grateful thanks go to our Parish Clerk Alison Hooker and her team whose hard work and planning always ensure the day is a huge success.

The Christmas trees were once again erected around the village which I hope you agree helps to make the village centre look so festive.

### **Summer Play Scheme**

Another successful play scheme was run last summer funded by Marden Parish Council and a grant from Eric Hotson, our County Councillor. The Scheme was led again by Jordan Manley and her successful team. Children were able to try out new activities, enjoy a visit from Animal Encounters and a coach load of children were taken to the Rare Breeds Centre for a day trip. Parents, grandparents and carers were given the opportunity to pop into during the afternoon of the first Friday to view the activities that the children had been doing and a brilliant End of Scheme Showcase was put on by all the children.

This year the scheme will run from 9.30am to 3.30pm from Monday 29th July to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August at Marden Scout HQ for 5-12 year olds. Registration forms will be available from the Parish Office from the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Jordan Manley has kindly agreed to lead the team again and we would like to extend our thanks to all the staff for their hard work.

### **Amenities Committee**

The Amenities Committee currently meets every two months on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the Parish Council meeting room and all are welcome to attend. I would like to extend my thanks, firstly, to my Deputy Chair Anne Boswell, for all her support; also the other members of the Committee – Richard Adam, Sean Harvey, Mick Jones, Ian Newton, Kate Tippen and Andy Turner - for all the work they have undertaken over the past year. Our Parish Clerk, Ali, does a huge amount of work 'behind the scenes'. Thank you Ali, we are very lucky to have you.

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**By Cllr Lesley Mannington, Chairman of Planning**

This last year has been just as interesting, in planning terms, as previous years, particularly with the extensive residential development which has been going on in Marden since 2012.

The last developments in Marden which come within the Maidstone Borough Council's current 5-year housing supply, are nearing completion. The village and its residents have had to cope with and suffer various inconveniences as a result of the developments, and the Parish Council is more than aware of these and takes steps to ensure that the developers are aware of our concerns.

During 2018 we have considered 136 planning applications of one kind or another. As we have stressed in the past, the Parish Council is a Consultee and it is not always certain that its views will be taken on board from the grass roots level when the planning decision is taken by either MBC's Planning Officer, or, indeed, MBC's Planning Committee when an application is called in.

Where necessary a representative of the Parish Council attends MBC's Planning Committee when particular applications are considered in order to put forward the view of the Parish. But it is not guaranteed that we succeed every time. In which case, we always try to have suitable conditions attached to an application.

As is common knowledge Maidstone Borough Council has recently embarked on the review of its Local Plan and the next Call for Sites exercise was started in March, finishing on 24 May this year. Marden Parish Council will not comment on any proposed or likely candidate sites for possibly developments after 2026 until the official list has been released for public consultation. We appreciate how many people in the parish must feel, having seen the current level of new development, but until the Call for Sites exercise is complete, and until the Parish sees confirmation of potential development sites, or indeed, any other applications, it would not be in the interests of the Parish for comment, one way or the other to be made.

Marden's Neighbourhood Plan is nearing completion and Andy Turner, Chairman of the MNP Group, will bring you up to speed on progress.

So, I am certain we can look forward to a very interesting future, planning wise. One thing I would stress, your Councillors all undertake the interests of the parish on a completely voluntary basis, and it is both unfair and totally out of order to brandish unkind, slanderous, libellous or any other type of communication on hard-working volunteers who are working for the good of all.

It would be very difficult for all Councillors to carry out our duties if we didn't have the diligent, efficient assistance of our Parish Clerk, and until recently, our Assistant Clerk who retired earlier in the year. I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors, who all bring experience, a vast amount of knowledge and at times sympathy to the table and which makes the job of Parish Councillor worthwhile.

## **SPEAKERS**

### **GUEST SPEAKER: ACTING CHIEF INSPECTOR MARK HEDGES:**

Provided an update on the role of Kent Police in Marden. Thanked PCSO Nicola Morris for the great work that she has been doing, and continues to do, in the village. For the past 18 months/2 years Kent Police have gone through a large amount of change in how they deal with crime/policing and have been focusing on serious crime, domestic crime, sexual abuse etc. Various teams have now been set up to deal with these. Unfortunately the knock on effect from this was the lack of policing in rural areas and other aspect of policing slipped. Police Commissioner Matthew Scott has employed an extra 380 officers in Kent Police who are undertaking training. Kent Police has gone from 70/80 officers per year to over 400 being trained last year. Training takes about 10 months and the number of the teams are increasing. Currently the rural police team consists of 1 Inspector; 2 Sergeants and 12 Constables.

Kent Police are increasing the local policing team this financial year to get a quicker response and also looking to potentially putting more officers in town areas. PCSO Morris constantly asks for resources and assistance. CI Hedges reported that Nicola had won an award for work undertaken in Marden and continues to speak to the Inspector on anti-social behaviour which has been causing anxiety etc with residents together with working in partnership and holding regular meetings to discuss how to deal with these issues. Community Protection Warnings/Orders/Notices are being handed out. These are given to parents and offer support to help stop the ASB. Early indications this month show a reduction in the amount of anti-social behaviour. Nicola works with partners in housing as to what they can undertake; holding bike/property marking and hopes to hold further events and Police/Parish surgeries. Liaison continues with site managers to help reduce theft from building sites and CCTV cameras have been deployed in the area to be a deterrent. Raised awareness through the Youth Club through a Youth and Community Safety Group helping with social relationships etc. If a particular issue is raised then operations are put in place with resources.

#### Questions:

Are the problem youths coming from outside the village, new housing etc? - Same youths causing problems elsewhere. Wednesday night youth club closed and there is more of an outreach youth going to areas with problems. Friday night youth club has a few issues but for the past couple of weeks has run smoothly. National issue is knife crime – Kent Police are increasing stop and search around young people and working with the youth groups.

What is the relationship with British Transport Police? –PCSO has worked to engage with BTP particularly with youths using the railway line to cause problems elsewhere along the line.

How is Maidstone dealing with County Line (mobile phones used for drug running)? – An effective team is in place who deal with county line issues. Every town in the South East will have a team. Is not aware of any issues in Marden but is always a possibility due to the railway line. Arrests are being made constantly.

Glad to hear more resources but how is the police force going to deal with the increase in population the South East? - Starting to get the Police numbers back up to be able to be more pro-active.

**GUEST SPEAKER: SIMON JONES, KENT HIGHWAYS DIRECTOR:**

SJ had been in post for just over a year and his previous role was with Highways England. He provided some statistics of how many roads, whitelines etc are maintained and managed by Kent Highways. In the last 12 months have fixed thousands of potholes and since January have done proper patching (400,000 sqm) rather than just filling potholes. Received £30,000 through Brexit to put to maintenance. Some asset damage caused by vehicles cannot be reclaimed back so has to come out of budget.

SJ reported that there are 40/50 fatalities on the road each year and 700 people are injured – however this number is fairly consistent over the past 10 years and therefore need to look at what is to be done differently to bring these numbers down. Assessments are being undertaken to see what are the safest roads.

Kent Highways is current

Looking to what communities want in the future and be able to invest in the community. Suggesting to parishes to put a highways plan together of what is wanted in the community. (A257 plan) – a copy would be forwarded to the Parish Council.

**Questions:**

Road safety issues in general: SJ would provide details to the Parish Council to distribute and advised everyone to go through the parish council to report issues – these would then be forwarded to the relevant officers at Kent Highways.

Large number of HGVs going through Marden and an excess of inappropriate traffic in the village. SJ suggested Roadwatch could be set up in the parish and he would send the relevant information to the Parish Council.

**GUEST SPEAKERS: EMMA POOLE, MARK DOPSON AND HANNAH STAINTON,****INVOLVE**

INVOLVE is a social prescribing initiative working with Marden Medical Centre. Emma thanked everyone for the warm welcome given and stated that she had been instrumental in setting up the group in Marden with help from the Medical Centre but Hannah would now be taking over the role. Social prescribing has been running for the past couple of months and patients are able to make appointments to speak with Hannah to discuss issues regarding social interaction etc. This can be engaging with village organisations or other groups to become involved with. Involve are also able to signpost residents to other outside organisations and charities. Involve are able to offer longer appointments and have informal chats with patients and help put them in touch with local groups and organisations of interest to them. Working with all age groups, carers and patients offering support. Hannah is now running surgeries on two mornings per week at the Medical Centre and is making her way round to the groups to see what is offered in the village.

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**By Cllr McLoughlin**

A verbal report was given at the meeting – waiting for copy to be sent to Parish Office.

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

**By Cllr Eric Hotson**

EH thanked the Parish Council and the Clerk for the amount of work they had undertaken over the past year which has doubled. EH also expressed thanks to PCSO Nicola Morris, Community Warden Mira Martin and Kasha of the Childrens Centre.

EH had been involved with Marden as County Councillor for two periods over the past 20 years ago. He is County Cllr to many parishes who all are dealing with the same issues as Marden. Along with other County Cllrs he receives an annual grant of £15,000 to spend in the communities of his ward. Marden benefited from almost £5,000 for community and highway projects in the past year but the grant is available to any village organisation who wishes to apply.

EH gave background of his responsibility at Kent County Council and it has been another difficulty and challenging year with more financial cuts expected over the coming years.



**By PCSO Nicola Morris**

**01622 604392 / [nicola.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nicola.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk)**

**Marden 2018/19**

Over the last twelve months I have continued to work within the Marden & Yalding Ward.

- Regular contact with Marden Parish Council
- Regular contact with Golding Homes and MBC – joint visits
- Promoting Neighbourhood Watch
- Bike marking
- Surgeries/drop ins
- Linking in with site managers for new building sites
- Persons identified on local CCTV for Antisocial behaviour issues
- CCTV deployed to The Parsonage
- Joint Family Management Officer visits to support local families
- Regular contact with Southeastern railway
- Regular contact with British Transport Police – statements completed – offenders identified
- Antisocial behaviour issues being dealt with – encouraging local residents to continue to report – linking in with social services and schools – CPWs issued (Community Protection Warnings)
- Intelligence gained around OCGs (organised crime groups)
- Prolific local offenders targeted and remanded
- Raising awareness around CSE (child sexual exploitation) – linking in with Marden Youth Club
- Proactive patrolling around repeat crime venues
- Joint operations held with Kent Police, Southeastern railway and British Transport Police to combat crime, antisocial behaviour and drugs within Marden

- Op Innovate – Rural initiatives - CPT (Community Policing Team) deployed to Marden – road checks and stop checks completed – linking in with Paddock Wood officers – scrap metal checks also completed
- The Community Safety Unit (CSU) have been used to combat local issues – taskings have been put in place
- The Kent Police website shows a breakdown of crime and locations – just need to put in your postcode on the home page. Follow up visits are conducted to local victims of crime
- All antisocial behaviour victims are followed up by myself, whether a call or a visit is requested

Anyone wishing to contact me about any issues or crime prevention advice can call the non-emergency Police number 101 and ask for local officer PCSO Nicola Morris 56202. Please continue to report any suspicious persons/vehicles/nuisance through 101

Thank you for your continued support in making Marden safe.

PCSO 56202 Nicola Morris - Maidstone Neighbourhood Team

### **COMMUNITY WARDEN**

**By Mira Martin**

No report received prior to meeting

### **SIR CHARLES BOOTH CHARITY**

**By Graham Tippen (Hon Treasurer)**

The Sir Charles Booth Charity is an educational support charity set up to provide financial aid to local people with their children's education. When he made his will, in 1792, he made the bequest that a sum of money be invested for the benefit of the children of the parish, providing they had attended the village school and met a number of other requirements.

#### **So how much is available?**

The will specifies that the money available shall be the interest earned on his endowment. What may have been a lot of money over 220 years ago is obviously worth much less today, in real terms. However, by prudent investments over the years, the Trustees to the Charity are able to make payments of £100 or thereabouts, for each individual applicant. In order to reserve the funds for the future, normally a maximum of 2 awards are made annually, though each case is considered on its merits by the Trustees.

#### **So who are the Trustees?**

Sir Charles stipulated that the trustees must include the Vicar of the day, likewise the owner of Great Cheveney Farm (where he lived). The current trustees are: Dorothy Reed (Chairman); Richard Day; Eunice Doswell; Revd Ali Duguid; Robin Judd; and myself.

#### **So how do I apply for an award from the Trust?**

Contact any one of the Trustees, in writing, giving the reasons for your application. They will then discuss your request and inform you of their decision. Any award will be made by cheque and successful applicants will be expected to provide a report or other information on how the money has helped them.

### **VICTORY FUND (1959)**

**By Anne Cox**

No report received prior to the meeting however the Victory Fund is merging with the Allen & Maplesden Charity

**ALLEN & MAPLESDEN CHARITY**

There were no donations made in 2018 as this charity is merging with the Victory Fund to enable us to give more money to the people of the village

**ST MICHAELS & ALL ANGELS PARISH CHURCH**

**By Revd Ali Duguid**

**The Parochial Church Council**

(Marden PCC) is a registered charity and responsible with the Vicar for the Governance of the Church and as such are trustees.

**Electoral Roll**

currently has 186 members, however every 6 years there is a complete revision of the roll and this will happen in 2019 and be presented at the APCM.

**Sunday Services**

The Register of Services shows an average attendance figure of 93 for Sundays in 2018. This figure is comprised from 2-3 services each Sunday.

We delight in being able to continue to keep the Church open during the day for visitors and those seeking space and peace.

**Community building and Fundraising**

We have held many small and some large events, which build community, advertise and fundraise for specific projects, charities and general maintenance.

These include:

- Craft Group
- Regular Community Café
- Regular Community Lunch
- Christmas Tree Festival and soup giving (no financial profit expected)
- Many charities, coffee mornings, Lent lunches, etc
- Patronal Festival
- Christmas Bazaar

These are all organised by the Mothers' Union and/or members of the church.

In addition, Living Memories was set up to support people with dementia and their carers. The group is organised by Rachel Chacon and is fully supported by the church as an outreach project. Also, Come & Sing, held in the Congregational Church, and organised by Sarah Emanuel in partnership with the Medical Centre has proved very popular and the atmosphere is vibrant!

In 2018 we employed Mrs Kathy Young as the Youth & Children's minister and organises many activities for the spiritual growth and nurture of our younger people, alongside having fun, safely.

**Finance**

continues to be a burden – maintaining the lovely (listed) mediaeval building and enabling ministry and mission, alongside an increasing parish share paid to the Diocese each year. This last figure has risen to £79,000 in 2019.

**The Building**

Bishop Trevor visited Marden church in February and blessed the new toilet, as part of the service. Along with the tea station and improved heating, the toilet has had a major impact on our ability to be hospitable and therefore missional. Thanks to a generous donation, the lighting in the church has significantly improved with the replacement of all the bulbs with LED equivalents. These also have the advantage of being less expensive to run.

**The Grounds**

the Churchyard is developing well into its state of 'Gods Natural Acre'. Outside contractors continue to maintain areas of tight mowing and areas of natural (but maintained) growth. Once again, at Harvest, bulbs were planted and we are all enjoying the springtime flowers. Thankfully we now receive much praise and the churchyard with its open gates is visited and enjoyed by many.

**The People**

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became effective from 25.5.18 and we were completely compliant before the set date. A copy of the Data Protection Policy is held in the church office and on the website. We continue to follow strict Safeguarding procedures, DBS checks and Data Protection.

We continue with our Mission objective of:

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN:  
WORSHIPPING TOGETHER  
LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER  
SERVING OTHERS.

Finally I would like to express how grateful we are to all the volunteers and donors that help with all the aspects of St Michael and All Angels.

## **MARDEN ORGANISATIONS AND SOCIETIES**

### **BLUE HOUSE CRICKET CLUB**

**By Steve Waite**

No report received prior to the meeting

### **BROWNIES**

**By Anne Thompson, Assistant Brownie Leader**

No report received prior to the meeting

### **FRIENDS OF MARDEN'S HERITAGE**

**By Kitty Nayler**

**(outgoing Chairman)**

In April 2018 we held our St Georges Day Concert, courtesy of BAE Systems Brass band, it was held in St Michael and all Angels Church and raised the sum of £429.61. We have invited the Band back for our next concert which takes place on the 27th April, as they were so good and so well received.

June saw the resurrection of the Big Musical Picnic after a years' Sabbatical. It was a resounding success and we had great weather, great music and lovely people, as well as raising £4,256.20 Our Autumn Event was switched from the Hog Roast to a Musical Barbecue, which Lady Susan Fenn very kindly hosted in her beautiful garden! Lovely Autumn sunshine ensured that the day went well, and we enjoyed music from The Cafe Society Band, with The Village Voices as the supporting performers, raising £504.89. Our winter Warmer Quiz in January was again well received, and under the name "Chilli Evening Quiz" with jacket potatoes and chilli on the menu raised £417.47.

All the proceeds from The Friends of Marden's Heritage events are split between the History Group to support the Heritage Centre, and the Church to maintain its fabric. As for the last three years, Church funds have been ring fenced to go towards the renovation and repair of the beautiful stained-glass windows in the Church, we are now a good way towards our target!

Our upcoming event is again the Big Musical Picnic, taking place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June on Southons Field as usual, however not under my chairmanship. I am standing down after ten years on Committee and three years as Chairman.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the support I have had over the years in my role - in particular from the amazing committee members, and latterly to the lovely Lucie Green who has been working with us all year to take over the reins.

### **HISTORY GROUP & HERITAGE CENTRE**

**By David McFarland (Chairman) – 832295 /**

The Marden History Group is now 21 years old and the Heritage Centre 11 years old.

We thank all volunteers for their dedication in keeping the show on the road in the Library 18 hours a week, and elsewhere.

The very good relationship with the KCC libraries and their local staff has been maintained again this year.

We thank the Friends of Marden's Heritage who have worked hard in both providing entertainment for the village and money for us.

Our splendid exhibition staff produced three exhibitions this year;

- Weddings in Marden
- Religion in Marden

- Listed Buildings in Marden

We had stalls at the Picnic in the Park and the Parish Council Christmas Fair.

The air raid siren was fired on Remembrance Sunday, Tony Jeanes played music, and the Fire Brigade and Royal British Legion were in attendance. We also fired it to announce the Picnic in the Park.

The stocks were used at the time of the Christmas Fair with the fearsome Nick Hoad taking over as the devil.

The Heritage Centre Green was enhanced by Parish Councillor Ann Boswell with flowers and Gallagher's kindly supplied and delivered a large piece of ragstone to which we are intending to attach a plaque in our possession commemorating the Marden Airfield 1915 – 1935.

We are working with the Royal British Legion to erect a silhouette of an unknown soldier on the site near PLUTO. It will be in place to commemorate Remembrance Sunday when we will fire the siren, which will also be fired on D-day Thursday 6 June.

Unfortunately, though ill health, the extended Marden hoppers, Kim Taylor Parker's family, were unable to visit this year, and for unknown reasons Marden School did not make their annual visit to the Heritage Centre.

Tony Singleton, a member of the Wealden Buildings Study Group, offered his services in providing detailed surveys of listed buildings in the area at no cost. He has completed eleven so far.

We are holding on to our volunteers for dear life. A leaflet advertising our need was distributed in the Parish News Letter recently. Four new volunteers have been forthcoming so far.

Due to the growth of our History Collection we have invested in the digitisation of the appropriate documents in our possession with the help of money from villagers and in collaboration with a scheme to avoid duplication.

The village is probably aware that it has been recommended by Libraries and Archives that Marden's Library is to increase its hours from 18 to 28 per week. This will be something of a challenge.

As volunteers we would like to thank everyone who has given us so much help and support over the years. Please note, we are on Facebook.



**HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**By Jill Nichols (Chairman)**

Marden Horticultural Society continues to thrive with many great speakers and interesting trips. 2018/19 was very eventful with trips to Madrona Nursery near Pluckley, Wheelgate Nurseries, Penshurst Place, and the Wisley Flower Show. The Christmas party and members' artisans fayre with an informative talk and Christmas table demonstration from Jo Manser was a great finale to 2018. We now have a sound system which can also be used at outdoor events. We had a successful plant sale, although donated plants were down, due to the wet and cold Spring. The Picnic in the Park was a great day with beautiful sunshine and our raffle and tombola to win potted plants, helped towards our yearly expenditure.

Our website is full of information on speakers, things to buy and sell and local companies that offer garden/landscaping services. Our trading table has brought in extra funds and we are very grateful to

Jane for such an informative notice board and Sally for running the monthly raffle. Our meetings are well attended and this year we have two special speakers – Peter Beales Roses in April and Nick Bailey from Gardener’s World in November. Both meetings will be in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 second Tuesday in the month.

Check out our website [www.mardenhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.mardenhorticulturalsociety.co.uk) Guests are welcome to meetings in the Vestry Hall and if anybody is interested in joining please contact Jill Nichols on 01622 833411 or one of the other committee members. Copies of our current programme are available in the library.

**LIVING MEMORIES**  
**(Dementia Café)**  
**By Rachel Chacon**

We started our Living Memories meetings in May last year with the help of a group of 12 volunteers from the Marden community, including Ali at the church who allowed us to use the Vestry Hall without knowing whether we could pay for it or not!

We were advised to submit a project plan for a KCC Grant by Cllr Eric Hotson and we subsequently received our first income of £750.00 in August. At the same time we applied for a Kent Community Fund Grant from the Lawson Foundation. We were successful in obtaining a further grant of £3,480.00.

A requirement of these grants was that we set up a Governing Committee that meets three times a year. The Trustees of the committee are myself, Ali, Gail Hall and Catherine Singh.

Our first Living Memories Café meeting was on 5<sup>th</sup> May and our theme was ‘I Remember my School Days’. I discovered for the first time what a strong community Marden is and has been for a very long time. We saw and heard from so many people who went to school together and who still live here, some of whom are now our willing volunteers.

We have continued with our meetings with a different theme each time, with volunteers and members bringing various memorabilia and stories to contribute. Thanks to our grants we use the internet to download music of the time and to access photographs and any information which will help to jog memories. Every meeting starts with a cup of coffee/tea, some homemade cake and lots of chat!

Our aim is that we can help our members to live with dementia without fear and isolation. We hope to improve the community’s understanding of dementia and to increase awareness of the condition by establishing a Dementia Friendly Community as our next project.

We advertise all around the village and in the Parish Magazine. We are seeing a gradual increase of members, with the help of the church and the surgery.

Our first birthday party will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May in the Vestry Hall. We will be celebrating with the help of a live musician, Mr Bing Lyle, singer and accordion player. You are very welcome to join us for our party, or at any of our meetings.

## **MARDEN BOWLS CLUB**

**By Mick Collins**

Marden Bowls Club continues to provide an excellent facility for the village and surrounding areas with lawn bowling during the summer months and short mat bowling during the winter months.

We have one of the best bowling greens in the county and again during this summer the county will be using Marden as its venue for their major inter county competition, the Middleton Cup, as it has for the past three seasons.

Our green is maintained by members on a voluntary basis although we now employ contractors to help with some major renovation work in the autumn. Likewise our lady members are kept very busy during the summer months providing refreshments for these county games.

During the summer months the club has a very full fixture list which includes matches in the Weald League, the Maidstone League, the Maidstone Triples League and the Millennium League with a full list of weekend friendly matches. During the winter months the short mat bowlers play friendly fixtures with other short mat clubs including the Marden West End Club, who play in the village hall.

There are club competitions during the summer and winter and the trophies are presented at an enjoyable presentation dinner at the Weald of Kent Golf Club in January of each year.

A new twenty one year lease with the Village Club for the land is now in place so we are well set for the future but we still seek new members. Over the last nine months the committee has been working with the Bowls Development Alliance to find ways of attracting new members. One of the major things to do is gain permission from the Borough Council to erect a Bowls Club sign in the yard of the Village Club showing the way to the bowls club. Together with an improved website, a Facebook page, the availability of in club coaching and a new member's booklet we will have everything in place to keep new members informed and interested.

We have an Open Day on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April starting at 2.00pm at which anyone is welcome to come along and try the game.

In mentioning earlier the county matches held at Marden, none of these would be possible if we could not use Southons Field for car parking, so we are grateful to the Parish Council for this facility.

## **MARDEN BUSINESS FORUM**

**By David Burton**

*A verbal report was given by David Burton, Chairman, at the meeting:*

Marden has an amazing business community with over 200 businesses employing over two and half thousand people from Marden and surrounding villages and covers one person businesses to those exporting all over the world. The MBF was started in 2007 and all members are invited to meetings which are held least 4 times a year. Speakers are varied. Going from strength to strength and actively promote Marden as a great place to live and work.



## MARDEN IN BLOOM

By Anne Boswell (Chairman) & all the 'Blooming' team

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Marden in Bloom were very proud to have attained 'Silver Gilt' category in the South & South East awards last year, one step up from 'Silver' awarded in 2016. All our hard work and efforts paid off and thanks to all the Committee members, helpers, residents and businesses who helped us to achieve this.

We planted c6,000 bulbs around the village last Autumn and it was wonderful to see them 'blooming' in the Spring.

We added new planters in Goudhurst Road by Highwood Green, a herb planter at the Medical Centre and two in the School Garden. The ones by Stanley's garage and the Congregational Hall have been sponsored by Liz Stanley and the Congregational Hall.

The front of the Memorial Hall looked pretty especially the flower bed on the right-hand side and we continued to weed and plant up at the Library area. The small area at the alleyway in Plantation Lane was cleared and planted with shrubs.

The photo competitions were a real success. We had some amazing entries for the 'Wildlife Photo' competition and 'Best Back Garden' competition which have been on display at the Library. Well done to all the winners and entrants.

Engaging children in horticultural practice – our joint project with the PTA at Marden Primary School is 'Blooming' and we are trying to help educate the children on where their food comes from.

A number of fund-raising events were held including a plant and bulb sale, Pimms in Lady Fenn's garden and at the Old Vicarage and Wreath Making sessions.

Our generous sponsors were thanked and advertised on the plaques in the planters and flower beds.

### OUR PLANS FOR 2019

We won't be entering the Parish in the S&SE in Bloom awards this year, but will focus on improving what we have achieved so far. We are currently applying for charitable status for Marden in Bloom. To help with ongoing costs, Marden in Bloom are looking for sponsors for the planters. The Parish Council sponsor the troughs and cycle rack in the High Street and Liz Stanley the planter by the garage.

We will continue with our bulb planting project in the Autumn.

We are gradually creating a long bed at the Library area and rockery and will tidy up the front of the Library and place a half planter there.

The Children's Centre have requested a planter and may install one at the railway station.

We hope the flower beds and planters at the Memorial Hall will look as lovely as last summer.

We are trying to encourage residents to grow more bee, butterfly & bat enhancing plants. Please post your photos on the Marden in Bloom Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MardeninBloom/>

Encouraging sustainability e.g. composting and water butts etc.

Project with the newly formed Youth Club run by volunteers

We're holding two photographic competitions this year:

- 'BEST BLOOMING POT' - Please send your photo/s in JPEG format via email to: [ardeninbloom@outlook.com](mailto:ardeninbloom@outlook.com) by 28<sup>th</sup> September.
- 'BEST SCARECROW' – Please send your entry via email to: [ardeninbloom@outlook.com](mailto:ardeninbloom@outlook.com) by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

However, please feel free to post your photos on the Marden in Bloom Facebook page

### FUND-RAISING EVENTS

Please come along to help support us:

- LADIES FASHION SHOW – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm in the Memorial Hall
- HANGING BASKET WORKSHOPS – 16/17 MAY – to be confirmed

- POP UP PLANT SALE – SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE @ 8.3am – outside Crowhurst & Tompsett
- PIMMS AT THE BIG MUSIC PICNIC – SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – Southons Field
- POP UP BULB SALE – SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER at 8.30am – outside Crowhurst & Tompsett
- SCARECROW SAFARI – SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – details to follow but it would be great if residents, village groups and businesses could make a scarecrow – send entries to [mardeninbloom@outlook.com](mailto:mardeninbloom@outlook.com) by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

OUR THANKS GO TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS WHO HAVE HELPED US TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS SO FAR:

Kent County Council, Golden Hill Plants, Redrow, Millwood Homes, Jones Homes, Golding Homes, Marden Parish Council, Pattenden Vet Clinic, Homeleigh Timber, Claygate, Firmin, Staplehurst Transits, Alter Image, Marden Pharmacy, Stanley Garage and Crest Engineering

We need as much help as possible – even if you can only spare an hour or two of your time – that would be great. Please give the planters a drop of water or deadhead if you live nearby – the watering is always an issue.

Please email us on [mardeninbloom@outlook.com](mailto:mardeninbloom@outlook.com) for more information on how to get involved or check out Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MardeninBloom/>

### **MARDEN CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

A verbal report was given by Kasha, Manager of the Children's Centre at the meeting: Started role two years ago and thanked the Parish Council for supporting activities. The Children's Centre is growing at the moment with an increase in parents and children attending the centre for groups and support network. Although the youth group has moved from Marden the Childrens Centre is helping to establish a junior club starting in May for 6-11 year olds. Thank you to everyone for making everyone welcome.

### **MARDEN CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL**

**By Colin Russell**

We are a small but welcoming church situated in West End, Marden. There is a Morning Service every Sunday at 11.00 lasting for approximately one hour. At present we do not have a Minister/Pastor and the services are led by visiting speakers from other churches in the surrounding area.

Over the past year we have held a Macmillan Coffee Morning and have taken part in the annual Mustard Seed appeal for shoeboxes filled with Christmas presents for children in Eastern Europe. Last year we were able to send nearly 50 boxes, thanks in part to support from kind donors in the village.

### **MARDEN LIBRARY (KENT COUNTY COUNCIL)**

**Marden Library, High Street, Marden TN12 9DP 01622 831619 Fax 01622 831619**

**Email:** [mardenlibrary@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mardenlibrary@kent.gov.uk) **Contact Name:** Craig Fox

**Opening Hours:** Monday closed; Tuesday 1.15 - 6; Wednesday closed; Thursday 1.15 – 6; Friday 9 – 1.30; Saturday 10 – 2; Sunday closed

No report received prior to the meeting

### **MARDEN MEDICAL CENTRE**

Church Green, Marden, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 9HP

Tel: 01622 831257 Fax: 01622 832840

[www.mardenmedicalcentre.nhs.uk](http://www.mardenmedicalcentre.nhs.uk)

In the last year we have again increased the amount of primary care activity we deliver. This is a consequence of an increased list size but also an aging population and more complexity of health care. Patient satisfaction remains high as judged by our own surveys but also Government's postal GP survey run by MORI. This places us as sixth highest rated practice in Kent where all five above us are smaller practices. However, we do see demand and expectation that we can't always meet. Likewise, our partners in social care and in hospitals are also facing resource and staffing challenges.

This year we announced the retirement of Dr Graham Streeter in April after giving nearly 33 years of loyal service to the patients of Marden Medical Centre as a GP partner. He was also GP trainee in Marden before qualifying and has lived in the village all this time. He has seen the many changes in the work; moving from paper records, with weekends on call from home, to a highly organised IT-dependent enterprise with much more complex care to give. The guiding principles of NHS General Practice and his own commitment have, however, remained unchanged so that for some families he has been the defining GP for many generations.

We are happy to announce that Dr Jonathan Wentzel will be joining us in May as a sessional GP working up to six sessions here over three days as well as some outside interests in medical technology. He is leaving a partnership at an officially "outstanding" practice in Maidstone and is as experienced as any of the current partners having been a GP trainer and appraiser.

We have also persuaded our popular Paramedic Practitioner, Matt Cooper, to work for us on 5 days a week. He has a key role in dealing with acute emergencies, patient triage, some home visits and in seeing acute illness in his own clinics. He also works shifts for the Ambulance Service and is training in leadership and in prescribing.

Our two sessional GPs, Drs Hannah Decourcy-Hallinan and Peter Wilford, continue their tremendous contribution and we have a GP in training at all times, currently Dr Beatrice Taylor-Roberts.

The nursing team have all expanded their roles. Marianne Hamlyn became the team leader, Juliet Rumbelow has added a contraception qualification and Sam Watson is now in charge of the Cervical Screening programme. HCA Yvonne has undertaken more complex tasks such as spirometry and dressings which used to be the province of the nurses. Sadly, Marianne is moving out of the area and will be leaving us in May. Her replacement is to be confirmed shortly.

We have also been developing the role of the receptionists, led by Mary-Jane Bournes, to work as Medical Assistants who may ask more details from the patient and meet their needs without contact with the GP. They are also trained to "signpost" patients to other sources of help and advice. There is increased emphasis on team working, training, proper governance and professional development. This was never more tested than with a CQC inspection in March with 2 weeks' notice at a very busy time

The emphasis for the greater NHS has been to develop Primary Care Networks for which our local Cluster with practices in Yalding, Cranbrook, Goudhurst, Staplehurst and others is already up and running. We have changed our website to align more closely with them and to support some new services. We are leaders in that group which is already proving extra appointments on a Saturday morning in Staplehurst and should offer great administration and training support. The other drive is to promote "Social Prescribing" as a compliment to GPs, drugs and referrals which could mean a walking group or a singing group. We are a pilot for a scheme having an advisor in surgery on two days a week.

Our list size has risen more steeply than last year from around 6280 to 6520. The house building already agreed will see an estimate of up to 800 more patients in 1-2 years even with our efforts to reduce numbers living in neighbouring villages. We aim to continue from the current building despite room and parking pressure. We are considering a small extension on the site if funding can be agreed. In respect of the MBC call for further sites and the prospect of many more houses we are currently

opposed simply because it is not possible to recruit new GP partners and senior staff to run a practice even if a building became available.

We are very grateful to the Patient Reference Group for their support for what we do and representing the needs of patients to the practice and to the Clinical Commissioning Group. Members have volunteered at times including the flu clinics and we were pleased to have the Chair sit in on several interviews for key staff. The Group also led the event to mark Dr Streeter's retirement on April 4<sup>th</sup> with a "Gathering" at the John Banks Hall.

We are also grateful to the Friends of Marden Medical Centre and those patients who donate money to them for the purchase of equipment. This year has seen record amounts spent and has required them to find new needs for an already well-equipped surgery. Their AGM is in June.

On a final positive note we will undertake another sponsored event this year with the Cycle Horsmonden 2019 – Walking with the Wounded on April 28<sup>th</sup>. We will welcome any sponsorship from the patients for this worthy cause just as we have appreciated donations made to Dandelion Time as a collection to honour Dr Streeter's well-earned retirement.

**MARDEN MEMORIAL HALL**  
**By Ian Newton, Chairman**

Work is ongoing following the Fire Risk Assessment undertaken in 2017 with new external emergency exit doors and internal fire doors now in place. A new Fire Alarm system for the whole building is being installed during February 2019 half-term. This will complete all the major items raised in the assessment and once finished the assessor will be called back to evaluate. We are grateful to the Parish Council for providing a grant to undertake all this work. Without them we would have had to increase the hire fees and look to obtain funding from elsewhere. CCTV has also been installed on the external entrances to the building and the main hall is being decorated.

Unfortunately during 2018 problems occurred with some of the antiquated sections of the drainage system and following extensive work to repair and line these Victorian drains a further grant was given to us by the Parish Council – again we thank them for this.

The Pre-School continues to be our main user every day during the term time with morning sessions for two days per week and full days for three. Other users include Short Mat Bowls, Brownies, Karate, Badminton, Ballet, Pilates, Zumba and the Parish Council. Both Marden Theatre Group and the National Blood Service continue to use the facilities twice a year.

There have been no problems regarding licencing and all users who wish to sell alcohol obtain a Temporary Events Notice from the licencing authority. Music and theatre licences are obtained by the Facilities Manager annually and all relevant gas, electricity, health & safety and fire safety checks are undertaken each year.

The letting agent of Ellis & Co remains the same for the residential flat and no problems have arisen over the past year other than a small amount of maintenance work.

Millwood Homes who are one of the developers in Marden provided new double glazed windows for the residential flat and Parish Council offices – this means that the complete building is now double glazed.

Thanks are expressed to all the Trustees for their hard work and commitment during the year.

**MARDEN MINORS FOOTBALL CLUB**

Affiliated to the Kent County Football Association

No report received prior to the meeting

**MARDEN MOTOR CLUB**

**By Colin Addison**

No report received prior to the meeting

**MARDEN PARISH MAGAZINE**

**By Sarah Davies (Parish Magazine Co-ordinator)**

Marden Parish Magazine is produced monthly by volunteers and printed by our local printer The Hop Press, it aims to include details of village clubs and society events happening in and around Marden along with adverts for local businesses. It can be bought on annual subscription with delivery within the village. We are extremely grateful to all our volunteers, currently the team consists of 36 volunteers (30 distributors, 3 editors, 1 distribution lead, 1 subscriptions and 1 advertising coordinator).

During the year we have increased both production to 600 copies a month and added 4 extra pages to the publication. Complimentary copies are distributed to houses within the new developments when they are first occupied. If you wish to subscribe to the Magazine please contact Sandra Bourne 01622 831473. If you have new neighbours please consider giving them a copy of our magazine so they can see what the Village has to offer.

We welcome contributions to the editorial about village events – ideas and articles can be sent to [magazineeditor@mardenchurch.org.uk](mailto:magazineeditor@mardenchurch.org.uk) deadline for publication being 10<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

All profit raised from sales and advertising goes to support Marden Parish Church. Current subscription rates are £10 a year and £1 a copy. Individual copies are for sale in the library, the Church and Stanleys Garage.

The current and 12 months of archived copies of the magazine can also be found on the Church website along with advertising details.

**MARDEN PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP**

**By Hayley Schlosser (Manager)**

Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent, TN12 9JX

Telephone: 01622 832857

Email: [mardenpreschool@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mardenpreschool@yahoo.co.uk)

Marden Pre-School Playgroup is an established, term time only setting based in the heart of the village in Marden Memorial Hall since 1967. We cater for up to 45 children per session, aged from 2-5, serving both the local village and surrounding communities. Our Pre-School is an Un-incorporated charity steered by a strong Management Team and enthusiastic Trustees.

Facilities also offer regular use of the Primary School Playground as well as our own enclosed private garden. We have the use of child friendly accessible toilets, as well as our own bespoke children toilet and handwashing area. For children who are still in nappies we have a high-quality changing station and toilet training facilities. We benefit from the use of a fully equipped kitchen where we prepare healthy snacks.

Meeting the individual needs of all children in our care lies at the heart of Marden Pre-School Playgroups ethos, and we are therefore committed to providing high quality care and education for children. We ensure that we provide an environment that is safe, secure and welcoming. The children's learning and development is recorded, ensuring that the curriculum meets the needs of every child, socially, intellectually, emotionally and physically.

We are fully committed to work in partnership with parents to help children learn and develop.

We aim to nurture self confidence and self-esteem and encourage independence. We do this by providing a rich play environment that promotes children's rights to explore, question and learn. Each child is given care and attention, is encouraged to participate and learn together.

During 2018 our Pre-School has faced the challenge of the growing needs of our village, the staff and committee have really pulled together and we have been very inventive and flexible with the time and space we have on offer. However at times we have not been able to offer spaces for families requiring a Pre-School place for their child.

Our parents and local supporters helped the children raise over £1,200 during their sponsored bounce and £450 in the Christmas raffle and performance. We have used some of this money to continue to enhance the outside space and have a large list of wishes from the children of the things they would like in their pre-School.

We envisage that the 2019/2020 academic year will be just as busy as this past one and we would like to thank the families and village community for their support in continuing to hold our lovely Pre-School in such high regard.

To keep up-to-date with events and what's been going on at Pre-School please like our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Marden-Pre-School-Playgroup-522741814442369/>

Term dates:

Term 5 : 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

Term 6 : 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019

Pre-School Closures:

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 (Hall being used for Voting)

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (Bank Holiday)

**MARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**By Tracy Thomas, Headteacher**

This has been an interesting year for Marden Primary School, beginning with my appointment as the new Headteacher in April 2018. I have had experience in primary schools in the Cranbrook and Paddock Wood District, most recently as Headteacher of Horsmonden Primary School. Before teaching, I worked in the chemical industry for almost 20 years and I am keen to develop a love of science in the children at Marden.

Some highlights of the year have included:

- Children in the Reception classes found dinosaur footprints in their classroom and had to use their detective skills to find out where they came from.
- Children in Years 1 and 2 held a Woodland Creatures day where they all dressed as woodland creatures and took part in outdoor learning activities. Later in the year, they also visited Bedgebury Forest for woodland fun.
- In Years 3 and 4 the children visited Hastings for a Smugglers' adventure. This term, they took part in an immersive 'Bringing History to Life' workshop where they built a pyramid and learnt how to mummify a body.
- Years 5 and 6 found out about World War 1, linked with the centenary, and their learning culminated in a trip to Ypres to see the Menin Gate as well as English war graves, German war graves and a WW1 museum with trenches.

- Children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 visited Bethany School for science workshops. It was great to be able to use the science laboratories for practical science activities involving Bunsen burners and explosions!
- We have formed a School Band, ably assisted by Kate Robertson (musician and parent) and held our first concerts at school. Our choir also performed with the Young Voices choir at the O2.
- We have raised money for the Worldwide Fund for Nature and Demelza House Children's Hospice so far this year. These are two of the charities chosen by our School Council.
- Our Year 6 Life Skills group, who take part in a number of group and independent activities to earn their Life Skills award, undertook their own fundraising and raised over £3000.
- We are very grateful to our parents and supporters for helping us raise £20,000 towards a 3G mini pitch. We are one of only seven schools in the country to be chosen by the Football Association to receive the additional funding to support this project.
- Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in a residential week at Aylmerton Outdoor Education Centre in Norfolk. They took a boat ride to see seals, walked back across the mud flats (barefoot), joined in with team building activities, built woodland hides and found out about coastal processes.

I am sure that you will agree that this is a very special school, with a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for the children to enjoy. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at Marden Primary School and look forward to meeting many more members of the local community in the coming years.

#### **MARDEN PATIENT REFERENCE GROUP (PRG)**

A verbal report was given by Sian Burr, Chairman at the meeting:

Each and every medical practice has to have a PRG. The purpose of this group is a two way communication: from patients to GPs and West Kent Commissioning Group and is set up to inform patients on changes, initiatives and consequences of local care and the practice. Marden has a very active PRG and GPs and staff are very committed. All new patients are eligible to be members. Meetings are held 4 times a year and agendas are circulated to members who are welcome to attend. At the AGM of each year a guest speaker is invited. This year the AGM is on 9<sup>th</sup> May and speakers are from Involve and Making Marden Dementia Friendly.



#### **MARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL P.T.A.** **By Rachel Gillis-Coates (Co-Chairman)**

Our objective is to raise money for Marden Primary School to buy additional items they have been unable to purchase within the school budget. We also organise events to help create a rich community feel involving the children, staff, parents and the local community.

The events we have organised since the start of the September 2018 term have been:

- A Macmillan Coffee Morning to welcome new parents in September.
- A Film Night for the children after school in October.
- It was our second year of holding a Fireworks Display on Southons Field in November which was again very successful.
- Christmas Fair in early December which took place in the school and the doors were open to the public.
- Our popular Glow Disco for the children in February.

- We provided all the mums and female relations with tea/coffee and pastries to celebrate Mother's Day before the assembly at school as well as running a Mother's Day gift stall on the playground in March.
- We held an Easter Egg Hunt at school before we broke up for the Easter Holidays which the children really enjoyed.

From this and past fundraising we have managed to help purchase for the school:

- Annual contribution to Hardship fund
- Life skills Camp 2019
- Contribution to Leavers Activities 2019
- Water bottles for Reception Year September 2018 intake
- Outdoor Learning Resources
- £800 Per long term Trip support/ school visitors
- Upgrade of AV equipment in schools
- EYFS toys
- Drama backdrops for Xmas 2018 production
- Huawei media pads
- KS1 iPads
- EYFS tablets
- Books for every year to provide enhanced literacy.
- Our future public events are:
- Curry and Quiz Night in the School Hall on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May.
- Summer Fair on the school field on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July.
- Fireworks Display on Southons Field on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

If you would like to support us and get involved, please email us on [mardenpta@outlook.com](mailto:mardenpta@outlook.com).

Keep update on news and events by liking our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MardenPrimaryPTA/>

Or follow us on Twitter: [@PTAMarden](https://twitter.com/PTAMarden)

#### **MARDEN SCOUT GROUP**

**By David Brockis**

No report received prior to the meeting

#### **MARDEN SOCIETY**

**By Mo Clayton (President) [tillergirl2913@aol.com](mailto:tillergirl2913@aol.com)**

**01622 831529**

No report received prior to the meeting

#### **MARDEN THEATRE GROUP**

**By Mo Gillis-Coates**

No report received prior to the meeting

#### **RETAINED FIRE SERVICE**

No report received prior to the meeting

#### **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

**By Tom Stevens JP**

For several years Marden branch of the Royal British Legion was a sub branch of Goudhurst RBL due to lack of membership. That was until in November last year when new members came forward and a new Chair and committee were elected at their AGM. As a result of this increase in membership

Marden was awarded 'The Newport Cup' which is presented annually by the RBL to the branch who obtain the best percentage increase in membership. The Branch is committed to increase its membership.



The Newport Cup being presented to Mr T Stevens Chair Marden RBL by Cllr David Naghi Mayor of Maidstone

### **Proposed plans for upcoming events.**

#### Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup> - D-Day

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings the Branch will be commemorating the event at Marden Village Church

- Children representing Marden and Collier Street schools to attend and lay wreaths.
- Children from both schools to write their first names on small wooden crosses (supplied by branch) which would then be placed in the grassed area spelling out "D-Day"
- Children from both schools to read poems
- Branch and Standard bearer to parade and lay a wreath alongside the pupils.
- Bugler to sound last post at 11 am followed by 1 minute silence
- The 'Silent Soldier' to be placed near the church entrance
- WW2 siren to be sounded.
- Vicar to conclude service
- WW2 veteran (local resident) Vera Brett WRNS in attendance
- Representatives from the armed services in attendance
- Press have been contacted to cover the event.

#### Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> – Big Music Picnic Southons Field

- The branch will have a gazebo with information, membership application forms and photographs. Possibility of some merchandise for purchase. Advertising sails to be either side of the gazebo at the front and personnel available to answer questions.
- Vera Brett, WRNS village Veteran in attendance at some point.

#### Garden Party 7<sup>th</sup> July

Mr and Mrs Colin Fry will be hosting a fundraising Garden Party at their home for members and guests.

#### Remembrance Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Service at Marden Parish Church

#### Marden Branch Dinner 22<sup>nd</sup> November

To be held at Marden Cricket, Hockey and Tennis Club

### **SHORT MAT BOWLS (WEST END)**

No report received prior to the meeting

**TENNIS & BADMINTON CLUB**

No report received prior to the meeting

**THE ALLENS COFFEE SHOP**

**By Dorothy Reed**

We open Monday to Thursday between 10 am and 12 noon. Call in for a coffee and chat whilst out shopping. On Wednesday morning there is a games session, Scrabble, Dominoes etc. Once a month on a Tuesday, there is a lunch-time meal at 12 noon

There is a large selection of books and jigsaw puzzles to borrow.

**THURSDAY CLUB**

**By Dorothy Reed, RVS**

The Thursday Club is a club for senior citizens which meets once a fortnight in the Village Club from 2pm to 4pm.

We have a variety of events ranging from bingo, quizzes, speakers, holiday slides from around the world and entertainers. This is followed with tea and cakes, a small raffle and plenty of chatter.

During the summer months we have several outings to the coast and garden centres, plus an annual garden party (weather permitting). We also have a Summer picnic, but this is held in the Village Club.

An extremely large thank you to the Village Club for providing the venue and all the ladies who provide the "home made" cakes.

**TODDLER GROUP**

No report received prior to the meeting

**VILLAGE CLUB**

No report received prior to the meeting

**WALKING GROUP**

**By Catherine Alderson**

**LONG DISTANCE**

Ian Balmer and his team report they have now completed the Saxon Shore Way, the Wealden Way and half of the Greensand Way Phone on 01622 831578 for the next dates. Congratulations.

**WEDNESDAY WALKS**

Meet at the Library 9.45am MARCH TO NOVEMBER

Small group following local footpaths. Learn your way round our nearby countryside and make new friends. 1 to 2 hours depending on weather.

**SATURDAY HEALTH WALKS**

3 groups meet at 2.00pm - UPPER GROUP: Meet at the seat by the Library / LOWER GROUP - Meet at the seat at Bramley Court - Slow walks on pavements for about 30 minutes which avoid going up Church Hill. Sticks Welcome / B WALK - Meet at the Library - Walks in fields (1.5 hours) Learn about Marden and make new friends.

## **SUNDAY WALKS**

10.00am or 2.00 pm: Monthly from the Library Approx 5 miles. Local walks or sometimes sharing cars to venture further from Marden. Goudhurst and Yalding Groups also keep us informed of their walks.

We help to maintain footpaths and the yellow blobs direction signs. Thank you to those who report problems back to us.

WE DO NOT HAVE DOGS on our walks (except assistance dogs) There are many small dog walking groups where you can join in.

All our walks are advertised in the monthly Marden Parish Magazine available from the Library or apply to have one delivered.

## **SIX NEW WALKS AROUND MARDEN**

£5 for a set of six with interesting and updated routes including maps showing routes and footpaths. AVAILABLE FROM MARDEN LIBRARY, NO 47 GIFT SHOP AND MARDEN FARM SHOP.

## **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

**By Barbara Hammond, Secretary**

The year commenced with our Annual Meeting in May, when Jean Robertson was voted in as President with a Committee of 9. The Committee members meet every month and provide a huge support to enable many varied meetings and activities to take place.

Our membership has increased to 50 members during the year and meetings are always very well attended.

The meetings cover a range of subjects by very knowledgeable and often amusing speakers. These have included a talk on the excellent work of The Heart of Kent Hospice, The Magical Mystery of Houdini, Eva Braun – Victim or Contriver?, The Saxon Shore Way, National Trust Owletts and more recently, Titanic – The Ship That Never Sank! An afternoon trip to see the garden at ‘Timbers’ took place in July, which was followed by a very enjoyable cream tea.

Our July meeting is a ‘Garden Party’ where one of our members hosts the evening in their garden, hoping for fine weather. This year proved no exception, it was very warm and sunny and the Committee provided Pimms and strawberries and cream.

Each year we meet with our link Institute which is Hastingleigh in East Kent. This year we met them at The Pilot in Dungeness for a very enjoyable fish and chip lunch.

Our commitment to support the village saw us organising the refreshments for Marden at Christmas, which received an excellent amount of support from the members in supplying a large quantity of cakes which were enjoyed by everyone. We also ran our Cake Stall at the Horticultural Plant Sale, again very well supported.

The West Kent Federation of W.I's. celebrated their Centenary and several of our members attended a Garden Party in May and an Art and Craft Extravaganza which displayed many beautiful items made by members throughout West Kent.

We again entered the WI Competition which is held at The Matfield and Brenchley Horticultural Show in July. The title of the competition was ‘A Cricket Match Tea’ and our members worked hard and enthusiastically to produce our entry.

Our annual theatre trip to London took place in October, when 20 members went to see ‘Strictly Ballroom’. They all enjoyed lunch beforehand and had an excellent day. A group of us also enjoyed an excellent production of ‘Guys and Dolls’ by the Maidstone Amateur Operatic Society at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone.

Marden WI is a very active group with members aged from 30 to 85+! We meet on the first Thursday of each month in the Vestry Hall at 7.45pm and are always happy to welcome visitors and new members.

### **YOUTH GROUP**

**By Jo Rhodes, Friday Night Youth Club Volunteer**

My name is Jo. I have lived in Marden all my life and have seen an influx of teenage groups over the years (there was a time I was one of them) along with anti-social behaviour and with everything it comes and goes.

I put myself forward to take on a youth club for the current teenagers due to the amount of bad press they are currently receiving... but by no means am I saying the teenagers are innocent, we were all kids once and in order to grow we need to make mistakes in order to move forward and find the right track. I believe they are good kids and they just need a little help... they currently have nowhere to go apart from the metal shelter so is it any wonder they are bored?

We started Marden youth club only a couple of months ago so are still fairly new and finding our feet. We run on a Friday night each week 7.15pm until 9pm and on average we have 12 children between the age of 12 and 17. We have a basketball net, pool table, Wii and often play dodgeball which is great fun and very competitive haha!

I have 3 ladies that help Sharon, Siobhan and Tracey who I am extremely grateful to and a couple of others when they can but in order to continue we desperately need people to step up and help make a difference and give these kids somewhere safe to let off steam. If you are able to give some time on a Friday between 7.30 and 9pm it would be a great help or if you can donate a service such as boxing? Keep fit? Dance? etc then please contact us via email on - [mardenyouthclub@gmail.com](mailto:mardenyouthclub@gmail.com)

After all these kids are the future generation of the village so we are investing time in the village’s future.

Thank you in advance.

### **MARDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**Update By Cllr Andy Turner**

I am absolutely delighted to report that the Marden Neighbourhood Plan has now been formally submitted to Maidstone Borough Council. Maidstone Borough Council will now submit the plan for formal consultation with the statutory authorities in accordance with the relevant legislation.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a plan is a community produced planning document which is designed to influence development – it cannot be used to prevent development.

Getting this far is thanks to the ongoing dedication of a small band of volunteers from the community and Parish Councillors, with the unwavering support of Ali our Clerk. Many, many hours have been spent, on a voluntary basis, meticulously preparing both the plan and the supporting documentation. This is to ensure we have reflected all the findings from the many public consultations that have held over the last few years, and to ensure that the Plan is in conformity with adopted Maidstone Borough Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

We have achieved this at a cost to the community of just over six thousand pounds – this has mainly been typesetting and printing costs. At the outset both the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and

the Parish Council discounted the idea of using consultants to prepare the plan. This is likely to have cost upwards of £30,000. Although the use of consultants may have produced the Plan more quickly we were keen to ensure that all the content truly came from the community.

The Marden Neighbourhood Plan never set out to designate areas for development in Marden, but instead has created policies, which if accepted, state what the expectations are for any future development in the Parish. One of the main drivers has been the fact that if the Plan is approved Marden will directly benefit from a higher contribution from the Community Infrastructure Levy than it would have done if we did not have an approved plan. The Community Infrastructure Levy is the amount of money paid by developers to cover the increased demand on services and infrastructure resulting from their development. If the Plan is adopted it means that 25% of this money will come straight to the Parish and this money can be used for the good of our community. In tandem with producing our Neighbourhood Plan we have also created a Parish Infrastructure Spend Plan so that we are absolutely clear where we would allocate money when it becomes available.

Please take the time to review the submitted Plan and the supporting documents which are available to view via the parish website. Please also take time to look at the Parish Infrastructure Spend Plan. Following what we hope will be the successful adoption of the Plan we are now turning our attention to Assets of Community Value – watch out for an update as this project progresses.

**MARDEN STATION**  
**Update on South Eastern, Network Rail and consultations**  
**By Cllr Richard Adam**

There is no user group for Marden railway station in the village so the Parish Council represents the parish on matters relating to the railway. MPC responds to consultations including those on timetables changes and the Department of Transport franchise. A Cllr attends the annual Rail Summit at Kent County Council where parishes and Kent County Council group together to put pressure on Southeastern, Network Rail etc. Meetings with Southeastern Manager and Network Rail representatives are held and the next meeting arranged for next month. Cllrs continue to talk to the relevant bodies on issues on behalf of the parish.