

AUTUMN 2021

# MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER



*Copyright Mr Nick Moon*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**TREE CHARTER DAY - SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2021**

**MARDEN AT CHRISTMAS - SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021**

**LIGHTING OF THE BEACON EVENT - THURSDAY 2ND JUNE 2022**

**MARDEN CELEBRATES THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE - SATURDAY 4TH JUNE 2022**

## A LOOK AT THIS ISSUE:

**PLANNING UPDATE - PAGE 4**

**PARISH WISH LIST - PAGE 8**

**HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN - PAGE 11**



## UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL



Dear Resident,

What a summer it's been with most restrictions lifted life is returning to some degree of normality and we look forward to the autumn and winter in the hope that this remains the case.

The Parish Council is pleased to be able to resume our popular Marden at Christmas event on Saturday 4th December. A truly community-based day when there is something for everyone, both children and adults. Why not put the date in your diary now? You'll find more information later in the newsletter.

In recognition of the incredible work organising the Marden Food Bank during the worst of the pandemic and continuing through to today I was delighted to present the KALC Community Award to Kathy Young at the recent Parish Council Open Morning – a very well-deserved award.

Over the next few weeks the Parish Council will be busy providing feedback to Maidstone Borough Council on the latest draft version of the Local Plan. Many hours have been spent over the last 18 months on feedback on each draft and this latest Regulation 19 draft will be no exception. Your Parish Councillors commit to achieving the best possible outcome they can for our community.

As this is the last newsletter of 2021, on behalf of Marden Parish Council, may I wish you and all your family a very happy, peaceful and above all else healthy Christmas and New Year.

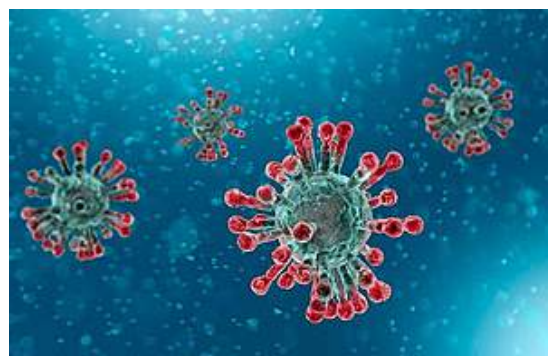
*Warm wishes*

*Cllr Kate Tippen*

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Thankfully now restrictions have been lifted, what a joy life is being able to return to 'normal' which has helped to raise everybody's spirits and we can now enjoy face-to-face gatherings. The Summer was an extravagant and successful mix of sporting and social events such as the Football Euros, Tennis, Olympics and Golf.

We should be proud as a Parish that we have worked together as a true Community during this pandemic and once again, we would like to thank all of you who have been part of this. Let's keep up the good work and continue to pull together as a community. Congratulations to all our local businesses who survived the crisis and supported us through the pandemic, as well of course to our wonderful Medical Centre, Pharmacy etc.



## GENERAL UPDATE



### **Welcome to our new Administrative Assistant**

The volume of work that our Clerks, Ali and Rachel, undertake has increased considerably over the past few years and the Parish Council has now taken the step to employ an Admin Assistant one day per week. We welcome Hollie Savory who started the role at the end of September and wish her all the best - she will be a great asset to the Parish Council team.

### **Parish Council Open Morning**

Many thanks to all those residents who came along to the Parish Council Open Morning on Saturday 25th September to meet not only the Parish Councillors, but our Borough and County Councillors. There was lots of information about the Parish Highways Improvement Plan, Parish Infrastructure Spend Plan/Wish List, Speed Watch, Flood Warden information, Parish Council events such as the Litter Pick on 16th October, Tree Charter Day on 27th November, Marden at Christmas on Saturday 4th December and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee events next June.

It was also an opportunity to say a big "thank you" to all the amazing volunteers who have worked so hard to help get us through the awful pandemic (see separate items below).



### **KALC Community Award**

The Open Morning was also a chance to announce the winner of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Award for 2021. This award is presented to a resident who has shown outstanding service in the community and is sponsored by KALC, Kent County Council and the High Sheriff of Kent.

It was a great pleasure for Cllr Kate Tippen to present the award to Kathy Young for all her remarkable efforts and commitment in being the driving force behind Marden Food Bank during the pandemic. Kathy has worked tirelessly and continues to ensure it runs smoothly. Kathy is also the Youth & Children's Minister and Church Administrator. Many congratulations Kathy - the award is so well deserved.

If you would like to nominate a resident who has shown outstanding community service, please let Ali the Parish Clerk know by the end of December 2021.

# GENERAL UPDATE CONTD

## Resumption of Parish Council Meetings

Now restrictions have been lifted, Parish Council meetings are no longer permitted to be held virtually and we are legally bound to hold them face-to-face. We are currently holding meetings in the Old School Room in the Memorial Hall which has a total capacity of 26 with social distancing. We may recommence Full Council meetings at The Allens in Albion Road but a risk assessment needs to be undertaken. If you wish to attend a Full Council, Planning or Finance Committee meeting, please can you let Ali know; or if you wish to attend Amenities, please let Rachel know.

Please check out all agendas on the Parish Council website, village notice boards, Facebook and the weekly e-newsletter:

<https://bit.ly/MinutesandAgendas>

## Parish Council Weekly e-Newsletter Village Round Up

Have you signed up for the Parish Council e-newsletter yet? Every Friday afternoon the "Weekly Village Round Up" lands in your inbox full of local news, information and updates. If you are keen to see what is being discussed at Parish Council meetings, then this is a great way to see the agenda for the following week, as well as planned roadworks, forthcoming events and much more.

If you would like to receive this, you can fill in your details at: <https://bit.ly/MPC-E-NewsletterSignUp> Scan the QR code below on your mobile phone camera and clicking on the link or you can email Rachel at [deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) who can add you to the mailing list.



## Marden Parish Council Play Scheme

As restrictions had been lifted, the Parish Council were able to hold a successful Summer play scheme. Over 80 children were registered for the two weeks. It was full every day and we were sorry we couldn't offer places to everyone that applied. A new venue was used this year at Marden Primary Academy and we hope to continue to use this facility in future years - thanks to all at the School that helped with this given the short notice we had to organise after coming out of lockdown.





A lot of activities took place including arts & crafts, sports & games and visits from Animal Encounters and Sublime Science. Unfortunately, the end of scheme inflatable assault course couldn't be used at the party due to heavy rain in the evening, but those children that were able to attend during the day made full use of it. Thanks are expressed to Jordan the Play Scheme Manager who spent such a lot of time and effort before the scheme opened to plan the timetable, and thanks also to all the staff who helped over the two weeks and our Clerks Ali and Rachel. We hope that your children enjoyed themselves.

## PLANNING UPDATE

### **Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Local Plan Review (LPR) Regulation 19**

The Maidstone Local Plan Review Regulation 19 Consultation draft document was discussed at the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure (SPI) Committee meeting on 4th October which focused consideration on the Regulation 19 proposal and the Parish Council was represented by Cllrs Matt Besant and Theresa Gibson.

There was a very high level of responses received for the Local Plan Review Reg 18b Consultation. The LPR consultation document includes preferred approaches towards accommodating future growth in housing, employment and retail, and locations for these, together with the infrastructure necessary to secure them. The consultation document also has important policy areas, including protection of key environment assets, climate change and funding of key infrastructure. The consultation also received a good level of response from infrastructure providers and statutory consultees whose main comments related to matters ranging from: highway capacity and utilities provision, to the need for new healthcare facilities, and the protection of heritage and natural landscapes. For more information, check out: <https://buff.ly/3Er7O6u>

Once agreed for publication, it is proposed there will be a six-week public consultation between 29th October and 12th December 2021 on the documents and updated evidence base giving the public, stakeholders and others with an interest in the borough the opportunity to make comment. The Parish Council will be discussing the documents at the Planning Meetings prior to the closing date and submitting their comments to MBC – please look out for the agendas for these meetings as residents are welcome to come along.

## PLANNING UPDATE CONTD

MBC plan to submit these documents subsequently for Independent Examination (Regulation 24) by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. The next steps will be a Main Modification Consultation and then the Plan and associated documents to MBC Full Council in Autumn 2022. You can find further details about the Local Plan Review on the MBC website: [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk)

### **Marden Neighbourhood Plan**

Once Regulation 19 has been approved, it is proposed that the Marden Neighbourhood Plan will be reviewed and updated. A provisional date for a meeting is Saturday 15th January 2022 at 10.00am till 11.30am. Please email Ali if you would like to attend and be a part of this working group. The Parish Council will also be looking at incorporating more climate, sustainability, and biodiversity strategies.

### **Land north of Copper Lane & Albion Road, Marden**

The Maidstone Local Plan Review – Regulation 19 Consultation, Evidence Documents and Sustainability Appraisal Consultation disappointingly still includes the Land North of Copper Lane (74 dwellings) & Albion Road (39 dwellings) sites. In December 2020, the Parish Council once again submitted and expanded to Maidstone Borough Council upon the reasons for the unsuitability and unsustainability of

these two sites including: the poor pedestrian connectivity to the village, the significant impacts of vehicular access into and out of the site and around the village, the visual impact of the developments on the village, the environmental and biodiversity impacts, they do not conform with a number of Marden Neighbourhood Plan policies, poor sustainable transport connectivity with Maidstone and the surrounding area, limited local employment opportunities, lack of capacity on the railway and the sewerage, water and electrical supply concerns. Marden Parish Council's Regulation 18b response can be found here: <https://bit.ly/Reg18bMPCResponse>

The Parish Council will be discussing these proposed sites along with MBC Local Plan Regulation 19 at its Planning meetings prior to 12th December.

### **Land North of Marden Update**

In the Summer Newsletter we advised residents that the Parish Council had received an application made to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion for a proposed development of up to 2,000 dwellings etc despite the original Garden Communities Land North of Marden Site 309 being omitted from the 'Regulation 18b Preferred Approaches' document. The Parish Council submitted a robust response to MBC on 19th May detailing once again the unsuitability and unsustainability such a proposal would have on our unique Wealden village.

MBC issued a Planning Decision Notice to the applicant on the EIA Scoping Opinion in June and advised that an Environmental Statement would need to be submitted if a future planning application is presented. Since then, we have not received any further information on this proposed site but are keeping a watchful eye.

### **Reed Court Farm Update**

This complex planning application is for the erection of a new free-range egg farm consisting of 3 hen houses with extensive outdoor ranges and fencing, formal vehicle access from Hunton Road and associated parking, landscaping, woodland and tree planting, drainage and other associated works. MPC recommended refusal again in April and you can find our response at:

<https://bit.ly/MPCPlanning>

The “We Love Chainhurst” group sought legal advice on this application which was submitted to MBC in August and now Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) has sought legal advice. This is now being reviewed and will be discussed at a future MBC Planning Committee meeting, at which the Parish Council will also submit its comments.

### **Land North of Shephurst Lane, Marden – Sheepwash Solar Farm**

The proposed development is for a solar energy farm with a site area of approximately 78 hectares which would generate and store up to 60 megawatt (MW) of renewable energy

to be exported to the National Grid. Representatives from Statkraft attended a Parish Council Planning meeting on 17th August as part of the pre-application public consultation. Although the site is at Little Cheveney in Shephurst Lane and within the Parish of Collier Street, it borders Marden in the North East of the site. Technical and illustrative plans were presented to Councillors who raised a number of questions/issues about the site. You can find the Parish Council's Q&As on the Parish Council Website. (No application has yet been submitted to MBC). You can view the minutes of the Planning Meeting on 17th August 2021 here:

<https://bit.ly/PlanningMin17082021>

### **Parish Council Planning Meetings**

The Parish Council is keen for residents to attend MPC planning meetings which are usually held twice a month on a Tuesday at 7.30pm currently in the Old School Room at the Memorial Hall. Agendas for all meetings are published the week before and placed on notice boards around the village, on the Parish Council website and Facebook page and in the weekly e-Newsletter. Please note that MPC is a statutory consultee and does not make the final decision on planning applications, this is done by Maidstone Borough Council. You can check out planning applications on Marden Parish Council's website under 'Planning Tracker' or on Maidstone Borough Council's Website:

<https://bit.ly/MBCPlanning>

## **Planning Predetermination**

Decisions made by local authorities and other public bodies which are based on bias, predetermination or a closed mind have always been open to legal challenge by judicial reviews. Being predetermined is different from having a disclosable interest eg being opposed to building at the other end of the village may be predetermination, but may not be a disclosable interest. Marden Parish Council strive to keep an open mind and be impartial prior to discussing planning matters so Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) take the Parish Council's comments seriously - we only reference 'material planning considerations' based on planning policy and evidence. Comments based on opinion, rather than planning policy or evidence, will almost certainly be disregarded by MBC because of the risk of legal challenges from unsuccessful landowners if used for decision making.

## **PROJECT UPDATE**

### **Village Festive Lighting**

The tradition for many years in the village at Christmas is for the Parish Council to erect Christmas trees on residents' houses in the centre of the village. As advised in the Autumn 2020 Newsletter, many of the trees and lights are old and worn and it was expensive not only to replace them, but to PAT test, erect/remove them each year and then store. At a public consultation in November 2019, we

asked residents what they would like to see in the village at Christmas and the majority asked for more Christmas lights. We are pleased to announce that we will now be using a contractor to place white festoon garland lights wrapped around 15 lamp posts from Marden Primary Academy to Marden Farm Shop. Ongoing, this process will not only be at a lesser cost, but less time-consuming than the existing tradition. We will also be placing lights in trees at the library area etc.

Rachel, the Deputy Clerk, has been in touch with those residents who previously had a tree/lights erected on their house to have the opportunity to reserve one and these have now been delivered.

### **Marden Emergency Plan**

Many thanks to those residents who have volunteered to assist with this important project and some impressive talent has come forward from our community. The Marden Emergency Plan Steering Group are now putting together the plan and this was exhibited at the Parish Council Open Morning in September for residents to view. Its purpose is to increase the readiness and resilience within the local community in the event of an emergency; community groups are able to provide support to statutory agencies (if needed) and has the ability for community groups to support themselves when outside assistance from statutory agencies is delayed or overwhelmed.





The plan will identify the risks most likely to impact our community; identify relevant steps to mitigate and respond to emergency situations; identify vulnerable people/groups in the community; identify community resources available to assist during an emergency including people, facilities and equipment; provide key contact details for the Community Emergency Response Team, local volunteers, the Emergency Services and Local Authorities; and describe how the plan works and how information is communicated. If there any other residents who like to be part of this exercise, please let Ali the Clerk know.

### **Parish Council Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP)/'Wish List'**

The Parish Council continues to work on the Parish 'Wish List' which has been based on residents' preferences made at the Consultation in November 2019 and was also presented at the Open Morning on 25th September for residents to come up with other ideas and comments.

The purpose of the plan is to identify the infrastructure and investment needed by the Parish and we have started to allocate capital funding

towards potential projects as well as any CIL money we receive. You can view the document at:

<https://bit.ly/MPCISP>

We will shortly be publishing a questionnaire to gain residents feedback on the proposals. We will publicise this on our Facebook page and in our weekly e-newsletter. We also hope to put paper copies in the Library. The closing date for feedback is 30 November 2021

### **Fingerpost Refurbishment**

A specification for all heritage fingerposts has been compiled for refurbishment and the Parish Council is currently obtaining quotes for the works. Once received, Councillors will ascertain what work can be undertaken in the current financial year and this project will be undertaken on a phased basis. A priority list has been drawn up as follows: Sheephurst Lane/Goudhurst Road wooden finger post sign to be replaced with a new wooden sign, cast-iron signs to be refurbished at Bunches Lake (Park Road/Howland Road/Battle Lane junction), Plain Road/Thorn Road/Albion Road junction and by the Old Post Office (High Street/Maidstone Road junction). There is also a cast-iron sign in Stilebridge Lane/Underlyn Lane which is in serious need of repair with only one post remaining – if anyone has any historic photos providing details of what was originally on this fingerpost please let Ali know.

## **Library Area Path**

The Community Payback team cut down the scruffy hedging along the side of the library a few months ago and the Parish Council are in the process of getting quotes for removing the roots and placing an additional layer of slabs to form a safer path for residents to use. We are liaising with both Kent Libraries and our County Councillor to see if a donation can be made towards the cost of the work. We also plan to create a new flower bed by the new slabs and propose to use some of the 'Welcome Back' planting grant from MBC to purchase the plants.

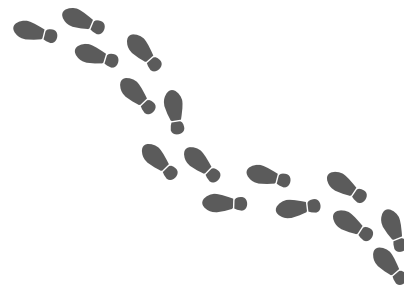
## **Assets of Community Value (ACV)**

As previously explained, there is an ACV Steering Group who are in the process of investigating Marden's potential Assets of Community Value which forms part of the Community Right to Bid. A nomination form was submitted to Maidstone Borough Council for the Unicorn Public House which has now been accepted as an ACV. If you would like to be part of the ACV Steering Group, please let Ali know.

## **Allotments at Highwood Green**

The Parish Council understands the frustration of residents who have put their name down for an allotment plot. We are still making slow progress with Redrow on the transfer of the freehold land at Highwood Green to the Parish Council, but they seem to be 'dragging their heels'.

Numerous attempts have been made at chasing Redrow, but we don't seem to be getting anywhere which is so disappointing. They want the Parish Council to take on the parking bays by the proposed allotment site, but these are designated residents' spaces and not the Parish Council's responsibility. We have drawn up a draft Tenancy Agreement and once this has been agreed with the Allotment Society will be provided to Redrow as part of the legal agreement. Hopefully by the time of the next newsletter, we will have some more promising news.



## **Public Rights of Way (PROW)**

The parish of Marden is lucky to have 35 miles of public footpaths, which are there for everyone's enjoyment. There is guidance on how these public rights of way should be treated and respected by all users in The Countryside Code. Most of the footpaths are over farmland where crops are grown which end up in the food supply chain and for that reason it's really important that you don't let your dogs or children run into a field full of crops, this could be anything from wheat, oats, rape to apples and pears. The footpaths cross privately owned land and the only right you have is to walk on the route of the footpath and not to stray off it.

If you are unsure of the exact route of a footpath then there is some very good information available such as the Ordnance Survey app which you can download onto your smart phone; the Kent County Council (KCC) website has details of all footpaths in Kent: <https://bit.ly/PROWMap>

The Marden Walking Group has produced an excellent set of local walk leaflets which can be purchased from No47 or the Farm Shop for £5. They will also shortly be available in the library. There is also a map of all Marden's public footpaths outside the library.

Most of our footpaths are way marked and in a good state of repair but if you find a footpath is obstructed then you can report it to KCC using the weblink above.

Please remember to always follow The Countryside Code when you are walking the footpaths:  
<https://bit.ly/CountryCode2021>

### Respect everyone:

- Be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside;
- Leave gates and property as you find them;
- Do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking;
- Be nice, say hello, share the space;
- Follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.

### Protect the environment:

- Take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit;
- Do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can;
- Always keep dogs under control and in sight;
- Dog poo "Bag-It and Bin-It" any public waste bin will do;
- Care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance.

### Enjoy the outdoors:

- Check your route and local conditions;
- Plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do;
- Enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory.



### Public Toilets

The Parish Council maintain the Public Toilets in the Library area (Maidstone Borough Council own the building), and we are fortunate to have this facility in our village. We would like to say a big thank you to our cleaning contractor RJP Cleaning Services for keeping the toilets so clean and immaculate - well done Ross you do such an excellent job.

# HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC TRANSPORT

## Parish Council Highways

### Improvement Plan (HIP) Update

The Parish Council has put together a 'wish list' of all the highway improvements that Marden needs now in a Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) which is reviewed with Kent Highways on a regular basis. Kent County Council is responsible for highways, but their funds are very limited, and they are only able to deliver a very small number of the improvements identified. The Parish Council may have to fund some of these improvements through the money collected in Council Tax or through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), but we have not received any substantial money yet.

The HIP was on display at the Open Morning on 25th September and residents who attended were given the opportunity to complete a Feedback Form. Your input is vital to help us ensure that the Parish Council is prioritising the highways issues that are important to you and to help us push for more funds for Marden. If you were unable to attend the Open Morning, you can find the Feedback Form and the HIP document on the Parish Council website and there will also be copies in Marden Library. <http://bit.ly/MPCHIP2021>

It is so important that we receive as much feedback as possible from residents. The closing date for feedback is 30 November 2021.

### Community Speed Watch– Shout Out for a Speed Watch Co-ordinator

The Parish Council is very concerned about the amount of traffic and speeding which are causing problems in the village, and we understand how important it is to start up the schemes as soon as possible now restrictions have been lifted. However, our busy Clerks do not have the capacity to co-ordinate, and we are putting a shout out for somebody to become a Speed Watch Co-ordinator. We already have a few volunteers who have put their names forward to help with the sessions. Training will be provided and the Parish Council has the necessary equipment. If there is anybody out there who is happy to take the lead on these projects, please let Ali know.

### Lorries in Howland Road

Several residents have raised their concerns to the Parish Council over damage to both properties and vehicles caused by HGV's driving along the narrow part of Howland Road (High Street end). Our County Councillor is currently arranging to meet the Kent Highways Manager and residents on site to see what could possibly be done about the problem.



## Marden Gateway Signs

The Parish Council has been co-ordinating with Kent Highways for a Gateway sign to be installed in Thorn Road. The location has now been agreed by the chevron near the bend and part of the road will need to be closed whilst Kent Highways, who have agreed to fund, will install the sign over the next few months. The Parish Council is still hoping that one will also be positioned on entry to the village in Goudhurst Road soon which was one of Redrow's Highways conditions.



## Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The posts for the mobile SID were installed some while ago in the three agreed locations - Howland Road, Goudhurst Road and Thorn Road - which should help deter speeding along these roads. The SID has now been installed and will be moved between the three locations every three months, or sooner if required.

## Other Highways Issues

Residents have made the Parish Council aware of the following highways issues:

- Goudhurst Road/Gravel Pit Lane junction - issues with lorries - the Parish Council have contacted Kent Highways regarding signage on the public highway.

- A229 road conditions on Staplehurst Road - our County Councillor will take up with Kent Highways.
- Junction of The Wickets/Albion Road - parking close to the junction - referred to our Borough Councillors regarding the Highway conditions on the planning permission which were omitted from the second approval.
- Admiral Way - Pavement Parking - the Parish Council will contact the management company at the Parsonage to ascertain the parking consents for this development.

## School Parking

Irresponsible driving and parking outside the school has been a problem for years and the subject of many discussions with our County Councillor, Kent Highways, Headteachers and School Governors. The school and our PCSO try to attend to encourage parents to park sensibly.

Through Parish Council intervention, white zig zag lines by the zebra crossing were recently extended as far as Kent Highways will allow and the yellow zig zags also extended as far as they are able to. In the Parish Council Highways Improvement Plan (HIP), we will prioritise the single yellow lines to prevent all day parking near the school and will take this forward with Kent Highways.

## OPEN SPACE

A Tree Audit was carried out recently on all the Parish Council Open Spaces – the Cemetery, Playing Field & Napoleon Drive play area, Rookery Path and Southons Field - and the Parish Council is currently obtaining quotes for any tree work that needs to be undertaken.

New benches and litter bins have been installed and a Dog Fouling Bag station will be installed shortly in the Playing Field. We are still awaiting delivery of the missing chest-press machine for the Adult Gym. Marden Minors Football Club have advised they will not be playing matches this season at the Playing Field as the pitch does not now meet FA requirements and Councillors will be meeting with Marden Minors representatives to discuss their plans going forward.

More picnic benches have been installed in Southons Field and the set of bay swings is proving very popular both with children and adults! A new bin is on order for the field and Marden in Bloom will be installing a bench near the Wildflower Meadow. The field is open during daylight hours only from 8am-4pm November-January.

The new Section 4 at the Cemetery is now in use. Please note only headstones are permitted in the new burial areas. For ease of maintenance, tended, fencing or the placing of other items on plots are not permitted.

## POLICE & CRIME UPDATE

There was reasonably low criminal activity from June to early August. Six crimes were reported – 2 burglaries, 2 thefts from motor vehicles and 2 thefts of motor vehicles. There were three reports of anti-social behaviour - noisy and nuisance bikes.

As you will see from the reduction in crimes recently, reporting incidents is so important as it helps to put extra resources into the Parish and Kent Police try to collate as much evidence as possible. In an emergency call 999, or if you have any names or information on a crime in the Parish, please call 101. You can also report a crime online:

<https://bit.ly/KPReportACrime> or check out the Kent Policy Appeals pages: <https:bit.ly/KPAppeals>. For Kent Crimestoppers anonymously, dial 0800 555 111 or check out their website: [www.crimestoppers.uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers.uk.org)

### **MBC Community Protection Team**

The Maidstone Community Protection Team have recommenced their Surgeries in Marden. The surgeries give residents the opportunity to discuss their concerns such as anti-social behaviour, nuisance, fly tipping etc, or you can just pop along for a chat to find out more about their team. The planned sessions are: 4th November and 18th November from 10am-11am in the Old Post Office Coffee House in the High Street. For further information, you can contact them on 01622 602202.

### **Ward Cluster Meetings**

These meetings involve Kent Police, MBC's Crime Prevention Team, Maidstone Borough Councillors and Parish Councillors. Wards are 'clustered' together for the meeting, so Marden was invited along with other parishes in the Marden and Yalding ward, Headcorn and Staplehurst wards. The meetings are an opportunity to highlight community safety issues including anti-social behaviour and neighbour nuisance. At the recent meeting on 12 October Cllr Kate Tippen along with Borough Councillors Claudine Russell and David Burton highlighted the key issues for Marden including pavement parking, irresponsible parking outside the School and speeding. These issues were common across other parishes in the cluster and will be added to an action list, which our PCSO Nicola Morris will be taking forward and liaising with other agencies who can assist in resolving these issues.

### **Motorbikes off Copper Lane and Howland Road**

There are ongoing concerns from residents living adjacent to a piece of agricultural land in the vicinity of Stone Pit Farm in Howland Road of excessive noise, dust and verbal intimidation caused from motorbikes being used on the field as a track. The MBC Enforcement and Community Protection Teams have been working jointly on this problem and the MBC Planning Enforcement has now served

an Enforcement Notice (effective from 29th October) and a Stop Notice (effective from 27th September) on the land. The MBC Community Protection Team has also issued a Notice to one of the landowners. Many thanks go to our Borough Councillors David Burton and Claudine Russell who pushed so hard for this action.

However, if activity on this site continues, could residents please report to: <https://bit.ly/MBCNoise>

### **Police and Crime Plan Survey**

This consultation is important because it will help to determine the priorities for Kent Police. Matthew Scott, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent would like residents to complete the survey, so they get the broadest response possible. Over the past five and a half years, progress has been made in tackling crime and antisocial behaviour in our county. 665 more police officers have been recruited and 50 more PCSOs. Crime fell by 5% last year, 101 waiting times are down, gangs and violent criminals are being brought to justice. The cadet programme for young people has come back and there's more help for victims of crime.

You can find the survey at: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PCC2021/> If there is anything that isn't covered by this survey, please email: [haveyoursay@kent.police.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@kent.police.uk)

## HEALTH & WELLBEING

### **Marden Food Bank – Mondays 10am-12 noon – Vestry Hall**

Anyone in need of food is welcome to come along to the Vestry Hall and receive a bag. Due to the cut in Universal Credit and the withdrawal of additional Covid payments, the food bank is still very much in demand, but our stocks are running a little low. If you could help in donating any of the following items, we would be very grateful: tinned vegetables, baked beans/spaghetti/macaroni cheese/ravioli, tinned soup, jars of cooking sauces, tinned meat/fish, Cereal, Longlife milk, juice/squash, pasta & rice, tinned puddings, custard and toiletries.

Donations can be dropped to the Vestry Hall on a Monday morning or left at the Vicarage any time. INVOLVE Kent (see article below) also hope to be at the Food Bank on a fortnightly basis. Thank you for your continued support.

*Kathy Young*

### **Marden Medical Centre Update**

The Medical Centre's priorities over the coming months are focusing on Winter demand, vaccination clinics and getting the message out that they are seeing people face-to-face.

The Medical Centre will be running Flu and Covid Booster vaccination clinics through to the end of January. Jobs will be offered to the over 50s, health and care workers and younger adults with certain health conditions.

All eligible patients will be contacted by text, phone or letter to notify them of clinic times and the booking process.

Eligibility for Covid Vaccination is governed by the JCVI, all eligible patients must be 6 months (182 days) after their second vaccination. You may also be contacted by letter or text inviting you to book your appointment via the National Booking Service or by phoning 119.

You can also book online here:

<https://bit.ly/NHSBookCOVIDBooster>

Please continue to protect yourselves, your family and the community of Marden by getting vaccinated!



### **Come & Sing!**

The 'Come & Sing' group meet every other Thursday at 2.30pm in the Vestry Hall. Why not pop along for singing, music, a good old natter and fun, not to mention the many health benefits + a cuppa & cake - Thursday 11th & Thursday 25th November, Thursday 9th & Thursday 23rd December. Sensible restrictions will be in place and if you have any questions or want to attend, please call Sarah Emanuel on 01622 832925 or email: [emanuelfamily@btinternet.com](mailto:emanuelfamily@btinternet.com)



## **Marden Children's Centre/KCC Open Access**

The Children's Centre in Marden remains closed despite the easing of restrictions. Our County Councillor has been lobbying KCC for the Children's Centre to reopen and it was hoped this would be September, but it is disappointing this has not happened.

KCC Open Access continues to adhere to practices to protect vulnerable children and families. Please check out: <https://bit.ly/KCCOpenAccess>

Across the continuum of need, and from pre-birth to 19, many children, young people and families will at some point need support. Open Access can offer practical support and guidance to encourage access to the vast array of services available within community services including Open Access.



## **Reconnect – Kent Children and Young People**

The Children's Centre ran a Reconnect event on 18th August at The Cockpit play area where many families went along to participate in various activities. It was a great opportunity for residents to reconnect again after all the restrictions and provided a supportive forum.

Reconnect is a community-led programme designed to get Kent's children and young people back to enjoying the activities and opportunities they took part in before the pandemic. For more information, go to this website: <https://bit.ly/KENTReconnect>

## **Marden Living Memories Café & Dementia Friendly Community**



The Dementia Friendly Community and Living Memories were delighted to celebrate our escape from lockdown with The Roaring 20's Jazz Band and afternoon tea on Saturday 4th September. It was a very entertaining afternoon with almost everyone demonstrating how to/not to dance the Charleston and some dressing appropriately for this special occasion. We are looking forward to our next event to follow the Remembrance Service on Sunday 14th November -please look out for information on the Parish Council and Church websites. To raise awareness of Dementia, Marden in Bloom have made a planter to place by the old telephone box at the library area which will have a banner promoting Marden as a Dementia Friendly Village.

For more information, please contact Rachel on 01622 831941 or [livingmemories@mardenchurch.org.uk](mailto:livingmemories@mardenchurch.org.uk)

## **Information Advice & Support Kent**

IASK provides a special educational needs and disability advice and information which is a separate entity from SEN (Special Educational Needs). IASK is impartial and offers free advice for both parents and young people up to the age of 25. The trained staff offer legally based advice information and support on educational matters relating to special educational needs and disabilities, including health and social care. The Helpline is open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm and the staff are happy to meet with you at a time and place that is mutually convenient. You can call the helpline on 3000 413000 or 03000 412412, email: [iask@kent.gov.uk](mailto:iask@kent.gov.uk) or check out the website: [www.iask.org.uk](http://www.iask.org.uk)



### **Compaid - It's Easy to Volunteer & Help Make a Difference**

Compaid provides support to disabled, elderly and other vulnerable people in and around Kent, ensuring they can live their lives to the full. Their Transport Service helped those who could not use public transport to safely get out and about during the pandemic. They are looking for experienced drivers to join their busy transport team based in Paddock Wood. This is an interesting and rewarding role as you may be bringing disabled people to and from their digital skills training centre in the town, taking older people on shopping trips, or helping run outings in the local area.

You will be driving small minibuses of up to 14 seats, or smaller wheelchair adapted vehicles. The minimum commitment from you is 1 regular day per week expecting to be on the road for around 4-6 hours during the day, with regular breaks. All volunteers receive relevant training and reasonable local travel expenses. To find out more please contact Judith Williams, HR Manager on 01892 834539 or email: [judith.williams@compaid.org.uk](mailto:judith.williams@compaid.org.uk). Check out their website: [www.compaid.org.uk](http://www.compaid.org.uk)

## **INVOLVE KENT**

Actively Involved is a new Kent service which aims to improve health and happiness for those 55 and over, or people under 55 who are living with complex health conditions. If you've been feeling low, anxious or lonely and would like to meet others and find out about the wide range of activities, groups and day trips including bee keeping, crafts, fishing, exercise groups, coffee mornings, lunch clubs, singing and so much more, please do get in touch with us. We would really like to offer you support and help you reconnect with the things you enjoy or try something new, at your own pace. If you have mobility, transport or care needs, we can provide practical support to help you attend, and if you have worries about money many of our activities are fully funded or low cost, to ensure no one misses out.

For more information, please contact Involve Kent on 03000 810005, email [wk.connect.well@nhs.net](mailto:wk.connect.well@nhs.net) or visit the website: [www.involvekent.org.uk](http://www.involvekent.org.uk)



## DRAINAGE & WATER

### Review of Marden Flooding and Surface Water Plan (SWMP)

With all the heavy rainfall we have encountered over the Summer, Spring, last Winter and Autumn, it is believed this will have an impact on Marden's flooding problems. The more flooding issues that are reported, the more likely it is for our Parish to be higher in the queue for work to be undertaken. Link to where to report flooding issues

The Parish Council has documented an extensive review of Marden flooding issues and required actions which logs all the areas where there are problems such as foul and surface water flooding in the Parish, and this was submitted to Kent County Council as lead flood authority in May. The Parish Council held a meeting with KCC in September and raised our issues with them. Further discussions with other authorities such as KCC Highways, KCC Drainage and Southern Water will be taking place.



## CLIMATE, SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY

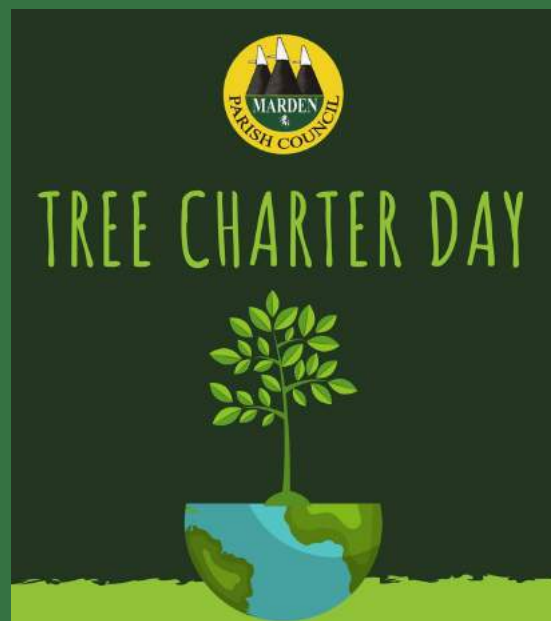
### Parish Council Biodiversity Plans

The Parish Council will be reviewing its existing policies and formulating new policies relating to climate change and biodiversity and how we will aim to embed this more into our decision-making and activities. As part of our Biodiversity Duty, we are now part of the Tree Charter and become a Charter Branch. We are running a Tree Charter Day (see separate article) and participating in the Queen's Green Canopy project.



### Village Litter Pick

A big thank-you to all those residents who kindly joined the Parish Councillors at the village litter-pick on 16th October to help clean up our country lanes and village centre. Anyone who visited the library car park afterwards will have witnessed the enormous pile of rubbish that was collected. We are as ever indebted to those residents who regularly undertake litter picks around the parish - we know who you are - it has not gone unnoticed - you are our Litter Heroes!



## Parish Council Tree Charter Day Saturday 27th November

Marden Parish Council is proud to be a Tree Charter Branch. The Tree Charter sets out the modern-day relationship between people and trees and a vision for the future. There are 10 Principles of the Tree Charter: to sustain landscapes rich in wildlife, plant for the future, celebrate the power of trees to inspire, grow forests of opportunity and innovation, protect irreplaceable trees and woods, plan greener local landscapes, recover health

hope and wellbeing with the help of trees, make trees accessible to all, combat the threat to our habitats and strengthen our landscapes with trees.

The last Saturday of November is Tree Charter Day – a day for the whole of the UK to unite in celebrating the value and importance of trees and woods to people. The Parish Council is currently in the process of organising this event and we would like to invite all residents to participate in this important initiative. The event will start at 10.30am in Southons Field on Saturday 27th November and residents are invited to join the Parish Council in planting both the Roots of Remembrance tree for those who lost their lives or have been affected by Covid and the Duke of Edinburgh Memorial tree. The Rev Nicky Harvey will say a few words of remembrance along with Parish Councillors. In the afternoon we plan to plant saplings from the Woodland Trust at various locations and WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please join us at noon at Highwood Green, 1pm at The Parsonage, 2pm at Windsor Meadows and 2pm at Appledown Grange. We need as many people as possible to come along and help us plant our new trees. Children and Adults are welcome to come, and we will provide tags so that you can mark your tree and watch it grow into the future. All you need is a spade! This event is also part of the Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Please let Rachel know if you can help.  
Email: [deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)  
Phone: 01622 832305.



### **Marden Tree Warden**

We are delighted to announce that the Parish has a new Tree Warden and thank you Charlie Edwards in agreeing to undertake this role. If you would like to find out more or would like to become a Tree Warden, please contact:  
charlievictoredwards@yahoo.co.uk

### **Marden Wildlife Group**

Fourteen of the QR codes mentioned in the previous newsletter have now been placed on local farmland footpaths. Scanning them with a phone will download a description of the wildlife and conservation work taking place along the path. The codes are all linked to our website:  
[www.mardenwildlife.org.uk](http://www.mardenwildlife.org.uk)

Members continue to record all kinds of wildlife. Recently, the Parish Council received an informative poster from Butterfly Conservation, listing 25 species of butterfly recorded in the Parish with notes on how we might increase the tally – which actually stands at more than thirty! Moths, at over four hundred species recorded, were too numerous to mention! Collaboration with Marden farmers is moving up a gear. The significant steps being taken to support farmland birds through the winter will be tracked by MW members. Data collected from last winter showed, amongst other things, that the number of Yellowhammers ringed on Marden farms amounted to 3% of that for the whole of GB and Eire, 6% for England and 69% for Kent!

We will be talking to the Marden Society about our work on 24th November, illustrated with some of the stunning photos taken by members.

*Ray Morris*



### **Marden Butterflies**

As mentioned above, 25 types of butterfly species have been officially recorded in our Parish this year - Brimstone, Brown Argus, Comma, Common Blue, Essex Skipper, Gatekeeper, Green Hairstreak, Green-veined White, Holly Blue, Large Skipper, Large White, Meadow Brown, Orange-tip, Painted Lady, Peacock, Purple Hairstreak, Red Admiral, Ringlet, Small Copper, Small Heath, Small Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White, Speckled Wood & White Admiral. However, others have also been sited but not reported which include: Camberwell Beauty, Clouded Yellow, Marbled White, Purple Emperor and Silver Washed Fritillary making a total of 30! Please post a photo of any unfamiliar butterfly or moth on the Marden Wildlife Facebook page and somebody will identify for you: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/843689546133953/> Butterfly sightings can also be recorded using the free iRecord Butterflies app.

## YOUTH PROVISION

The Parish Council has been liaising with KCC to help to try to build Youth provision in Marden again, and the Youth Hub Manager is hoping to recommence outreach youth work. They are aiming to walk around the village one evening to chat to young people to see what they want out of the Youth Service. Hopefully, a Youth Club will be up and running at some point.

### KCC Online Youth Services

KCC is making all their youth services available online, including opportunities for you to talk to youth workers and friends, as well as lots of new activities for you to try. To find out what's happening and how to get involved, or if you would simply like the opportunity to talk to a youth worker about anything you are struggling with, please check out:

<https://bit.ly/KCCYouthServices>

More services will be added as and when they become available, so check the page regularly to see what's new. If you are feeling angry, stressed or anxious, you can also find lots of resources and links to further help on the Kent Online Youth Services website.

## OTHER PARISH INFORMATION

### Big Thank You to Stanleys Garage

Very many thanks to the great team at Stanley's who stepped up and went above and beyond their service to residents during the recent fuel crisis.

They did an outstanding job in helping to control the traffic and the long queues - they really are a credit to this village.



### Community Payback Team

Our Sunday Community Payback team are making progress on their allocated jobs around the village and we are grateful for their continued assistance in tidying up areas. So far they have cut back the shrubbery in Merchant Place, the Library Car Park, rubbed down and repainting the fencing around the play area along Morello Path and cut down the shrubs by the side of the Library.



### Reopening of Marden Library

It is such great news that the Library finally reopened in August after a refresh and refurbishment which has lightened up the Library. Opening times are as before: Sunday & Monday closed, Tuesday-Friday 10am-1pm and 2.00pm-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm. The Heritage Centre has also now reopened.

In due course, they are planning to start up school visits and introductions to the Library, along with rhyme times and story times for a younger audience. It may take a bit of time before they get back on their feet, but they would love to support our schools and families as they did before. They would also like ideas on how the Library can support the school.

They previously had book groups for younger readers and sessions specifically for children working with the school SENCO. If you have a literacy lead or other contact that we can talk to directly to link with the school, please let us know by emailing: [Mardenlibrary@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Mardenlibrary@kent.gov.uk) In the meantime, we would love to see everyone back in our library, please help us spread the word!

### **Would you Like Support with Digital Skills?**

Kent County Council's Empowercare project has a network of volunteer Digital Ambassadors that can help you get to grips with technology. Whether you have a device that you want to make the most of or would like to take advantage of their device loan scheme and learn from scratch, Empowercare are happy to help you learn some new skills. Empowercare Digital Ambassadors can show you how to do online shopping, make video calls to your family and friends, access community services e.g. libraries, and do anything you think would be useful to you.

It's a completely free service and they can offer support on a one-to-one basis or remotely. You can sign up via email: [empowercare@kent.gov.uk](mailto:empowercare@kent.gov.uk) or call 03000 422122. Check out the website:

<https://bit.ly/Empowercare>

### **National Debtline**

National Debtline is a good source of information about debt. If you need advice, please call: 0808 808 4000 to speak to an adviser, or you can find more information at:

<https://www.nationaldebtline.org/>

### **Step Change**

Step Change, which is a registered debt charity, offers a wide range of debt advice, solutions and support to help no matter what you're dealing with. Their services include: debt management, individual voluntary arrangement, debt relief order, bankruptcy including sequestration and MAP, equity release, debt arrangement scheme and protected trust deed. For more info, please check out:

<https://www.stepchange.org/>

### **Citizens Advice**

This Autumn, many low-income families will be hit hard with the increase in energy prices, the end of furlough and cuts to Universal Credit. Citizens Advice can provide one-to-one support on how to manage debt and help get finances back in order. For more info, visit the website:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/>

## **The Weald Club for the Disabled**

Since being formed in Headcorn in the 1970's and moving to Staplehurst in 1980 The Weald Club for Disabled People (Reg Charity no:1164015) has been a lifeline for disabled and infirm people in the area. Giving them an opportunity to meet weekly, on Fridays in The McCabe Centre, from 9.00am to 2.00pm. At these meetings members are able to socialise, enjoy activities and have a cooked lunch together. We have our own Minibus which is used for outings to the coast, shopping, and places of interest.

We are now in a position of having to think of the possibility of closing as we just haven't enough volunteers to enable us to continue. We desperately need volunteers to help at meetings, escorts for journeys in our minibus, and above all we need a cook to allow our members to have a cooked lunch.

If you think you can help please telephone Ken direct on 01580 891337.

*Ken Collins*



## **Shout out for Croquet**

A couple of residents are interested in being part of a Croquet Club, so another shout out to see if there is anybody who may be interested in helping to set up a croquet club or would like to join. You don't have to be naturally athletic to become accomplished at this game, but it's a sport that needs skill, strategy and tactics so good for the brain! It's a game for both ladies and gentlemen, young or old and it doesn't matter if you don't know the rules of the game, it's easy to learn. Please call Derek on 07545 289330 or email [derek.owens@btinternet.com](mailto:derek.owens@btinternet.com)

## **Hedges**

Can we put a plea out to residents to check your hedges and make sure that your plants/hedges are cut back so that they aren't obstructing the pavement for pedestrians, wheelchair users and buggies.

## **South-East Water and Maidstone Borough Council (MBC)**

MBC is working in collaboration with South-East Water to help people on low-incomes have their water charges capped. Over 7,000 residents will benefit from the Social Tariff. Qualifying customers in the borough who are not already on the Social Tariff will be advised by South-East Water in writing that they have automatically been given the reduced rate. This is the first-time South-East Water and a local authority have worked together.



South-East Water has been able to apply a reduced tariff (Social Tariff) to eligible residents. The criteria for receiving the Social Tariff is household income of under £16,385. For more information about the Social Tariff please go to:

<https://bit.ly/SEWHelpBill>

### **Closure of High Weald Academy**

Devastating news that the Leigh Academy Trust recently announced the closure of the High Weald Academy in Cranbrook next Summer. We understand this must be a very unsettling and uncertain time for parents and pupils who attend the school from Marden. Our MP Helen Grant called a meeting on 8th October which was an opportunity for residents to voice their concerns and provide suggestions for the future of the High Weald Academy. If you were unable to attend this important meeting, we would urge you to submit your objections, comments and suggestions to counter the decision to close the school to Helen Grant – email [helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk)

### **Jo & Paddy Germain – Thanks**

We wish to acknowledge the kindness and consideration shown to us by so many in the Marden community following an unfortunate assault we suffered in our home on the 21st July. Two kind residents led a collection of over £200 for us from seventeen well-wishers the intention being that we should spend the money on an evening out.

We felt we could not accept the money however and asked that we be allowed to donate the cash to Demelza Hospice for Children instead. The group agreed and delivered a wonderful afternoon tea to us purchased we suspect from the Old Post Office Café. The event was of course out of character in our lovely village, emphasised by the number of cards and flowers we have been given by others. We are in shock that such an assault can have happened here and we hope that the person responsible learns the lesson that such behaviour is unforgivable.

*Jo and Paddy Germain*

## **WHAT'S GOING ON IN MARDEN?**

Since restrictions have been lifted there has been much cause for celebration in the village to help lift our spirits after such a long time. There's certainly been a welcoming flurry of events and it's great to see most village groups being able to return to normal. Some of the events that have taken place include the Bowls Club 50th Anniversary, the 100th Year Anniversary of Stanleys Garage, Marden Motor Show, Marden Dementia Group's "Roaring 20s event", FOMH Big Musical BBQ as well as live music events at the West End Tavern, The Unicorn and Marden Village Club. Great news that the owners of the Poet at Matfield are in the process of purchasing The Stilebridge Inn and we look forward to its reopening.

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN MARDEN? CONTD

A very warm welcome to all new residents who have recently moved to the village. There's lots going on and we hope you will all be very happy here in our friendly community. Our Village Welcome Pack can be found here: <https://bit.ly/VillageWelcomePack>

Marden Parish Council have a few events lined up - the Tree Charter Day on Saturday 27th November, Marden at Christmas on Saturday 4th December and Marden Celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next June - see separate details.

### **Siren**

The village siren will be sounded on Sunday 14th November outside the library at 11.30am. Prior to this World War II music will be played from 10.45am.

### **Marden at Christmas**

Our much-loved community celebration of Christmas is back! The event starts at 11.30am at The Allens in Albion Road with carol singing, Morris Dancers and the East Peckham Silver Band. This will be followed by Father Christmas in his Grotto and Craft Fair in the Memorial Hall from 1pm as well as many other activities on the day with our village groups and businesses. Watch out for posters/Facebook posts for more details nearer the time.

## Save the Date Marden Celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Thursday 2nd June & Saturday 4th June 2022

On Thursday 2nd June 2022 we will be celebrating another unique milestone in our history - Her Majesty's 70th year as our Monarch and Head of the Commonwealth - her Platinum Jubilee. It is a feat no previous monarch has achieved. More than 1,500 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom and overseas territories in recognition of the Queen's long and selfless service. Marden Parish Council are pleased to announce that our very own Beacon in Southons Field will be lit at 9.15pm, and at 9.09pm as the sun sets we are hoping a piper will play the 'Diu Regnare' which has been composed as a tribute to HR Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. Residents are invited to come along and take part.

On Saturday 4th June 2022 from 2pm, Marden Parish Council will also be hosting a free family friendly community event in Southons Field celebrating our Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There will be stalls, entertainment, music and lots of fun to be had for our wonderful residents and we look forward to seeing our community come together after what has been such a difficult couple of years. This event will follow Government guidelines given at the time. Please put these dates in your diary!

**Little Fishes Playgroup –  
Wednesdays 9.30am-11.30am in the  
Vestry Hall (term-time only)**

Exciting news, St Michaels & All Angels Church has started up a new Playgroup in Marden in the Vestry Hall. The children can play and socialise with stories, crafts and lots more. Please take your own drinks and snacks for children, but tea/coffee is available for parents/carers. For further info, please email the Rev Nicky Harvey on [rev.nickyharvey@gmail.com](mailto:rev.nickyharvey@gmail.com) or call 831379 or Kathy Young at [office@mardenchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@mardenchurch.org.uk)

**Marden History Group and Heritage Centre**

I was welcomed as Chair of the Group at the home of David McFarland at our June Steering Committee meeting. David has been a stalwart of the Group since its inception and although he has decided to retire as Chairman, we couldn't let him go so we appointed him to be President. David will continue to produce the monthly SPRITS newssheet which is circulated to members and supporters and will continue to observe the village goings on from his seat outside The Old Post Office!!



As we have highlighted in the past, The Friends have been finding it difficult to maintain membership. However, Diane Fisher has kindly taken on the role of sorting out the rota for managing the Heritage Centre. We had a very successful meeting at the library on 13th September of current and potential Heritage Centre helpers, and lots of offers of help were made. If you are also interested in helping, please get in touch via email: [history@mardenhistory.org.uk](mailto:history@mardenhistory.org.uk)

The Group is also most appreciative of the funds which the Friends raise to help with running costs of the Centre. The cream teas in the Vicar's garden were a great success and the BBQ and other events planned will be too. Once the electronics/communication services are reconnected, we can get back to what we do best – preserving the history of Marden.

*Lesley Mannington  
Chair*

**Marden Horticultural Society (MHS)**

The MHS' new website [www.mardengardeners.uk](http://www.mardengardeners.uk) continues to be a great success since its launch this Spring. Members receive two newsletters a month, while the growing amount of subscribers receive just the first. Have a look at the wide range of subjects covered in our blogs and find a local trader for your garden needs.

## MHS (Contd)

We visited Cacketts Farmhouse at Horsmonden in July - a new National Garden scheme property with a beautiful 1.5 acre garden, a 4 acre hay meadow and lots of cobnut trees. Our September visit was to Great Comp Garden, famous for its Salvias, but also its range of Azaleas, Magnolias etc in the Spring. We were back in the Vestry Hall for our September meeting which was a social gathering with craft and produce stalls - beautiful stained glass, paintings, pots, plants and pictures. It was fun hearing the comments on the running slide show of past events - from "I would love to go there again, me too, but where and when was it? - goodness knows." Our next four meetings will all be in the Vestry Hall with a wide range of speakers - please check out our website for full information.

*Jill Nichols*  
Chair



## Marden in Bloom

A special thanks to Dom Miller who is doing his Duke of Edinburgh's Award and as part of his community tasks, kindly watered the planters weekly for us. We have been very fortunate to receive a donation from Marden Parish Council from MBC's 'Welcome Back' grant to replant the planters and hopefully they will make a bright splash of colour during the Winter.



Marden History Group have also agreed we can place a new Dementia Awareness Planter by the telephone box in the library area.

Thanks to those residents who bought bulbs at our sale in September and any money raised will go towards the 4,000 Naturalising bulbs we will be planting this Autumn - that makes a total of around 25,000 planted! If any residents would like to join us at any of the sessions, please let [anne.boswell@gmail.com](mailto:anne.boswell@gmail.com) know - any help is much appreciated.

This year's photo competition is Fungi which are of great environmental and medicinal importance - so explore trees, dead wood, fields to see what you can find. Please email your Jpeg images to:

[mardeninbloom@outlook.com](mailto:mardeninbloom@outlook.com)  
by the end of 2021.

*Anne Boswell & the "Blooming" Team*



## **Marden Russets Hockey Club Centenary**

The village hockey club - our very own Marden Russets - have been thriving for 100 years this year. Quite a remarkable achievement for such a club which punches well above its weight across the region. With 8 men's teams, 3 ladies' teams and around 400 youngsters, there's a lot of hockey going on. To read more about the club's heritage (Marden Cricket Club dates back to 1789!) visit [www.mardenhc.co.uk/history](http://www.mardenhc.co.uk/history)

The new season is under way, with the promise of enjoyable, competitive hockey for all. New players of all ages and ability are always welcome with coaching and training sessions included - no experience required. Playing sport not your thing? Become a social member for just £25 pa and enjoy all the facilities and the sporting action. Contact: [membership@mardenhc.co.uk](mailto:membership@mardenhc.co.uk) for more information.



## **Marden Society**

Our monthly meetings restarted in September with a talk on "Captain Oates" followed in October with a talk on "Punch & Judy". On November 24th Ray Morris of the Marden Wildlife Group will be talking about the "Wildlife around Marden".



If Covid allows, meetings will continue next year as follows: 26th January AGM and Social Gathering; 23rd February "50 days in a Red Tee-shirt, a walk in the French Alps"; 23rd March "Anti-Terrorism". All talks are held at 7.30pm on Wednesdays in the Vestry Hall and are open to all with no entry charge and refreshments are served after the lectures. Chairs will be socially distanced, hand sanitiser provided on entry, and wearing of masks is optional.

We would like to welcome new residents in the village to the Society which was set up in the 1970s to promote high standards of planning and architecture in the Parish and to preserve and improve features of historic, environmental, or public interest. Membership costs only £5 per year and we are especially keen to find someone who is familiar with Facebook to help set up and manage a page. If you are interested, please email: [steve.mcarragher@btinternet.com](mailto:steve.mcarragher@btinternet.com) or call 01622 831007.

## **Village Café – Fridays 10am-11.45am in the Vestry Hall**

The Village Café is now up and running again in the Vestry Hall - go and enjoy coffee/tea and cakes and meet new people for a chat.

## Marden Theatre Group

At the time of print of this newsletter, MTC are getting ready for their performances of Waiting for God which is the first production for the group coming out of the pandemic.

Our actors were thrilled to be back on stage and we hope our audience enjoy it! On Thursday 18th November at 7.30pm at the Old School Room, Marden Memorial Hall, it

is our AGM when existing Committee Members and Officers stand down and should they wish, propose to be re-elected. Existing members have been on the Committee for a number of years now and we feel we need a new injection of creativity to the group. Would you like to get involved and be part of the decision-making process of this group? The existing Committee are happy to help any new Committee members and support them going forward. If you are interested in joining us, are already a member and want to hear about plans going forward, then come to the AGM on the date and time above. Drinks and nibbles provided.

*Mo Gillis-Coates*

*Chair, Marden Theatre Group*

*info@mardentheatre.co.uk*



## 2021 - WHO'S WHO AT MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL



**Kate Tippen**  
Parish Councillor Chairman



**Andy Turner**  
Parish Councillor Vice Chairman

### PARISH COUNCILLORS



**Richard Adam**  
Amenities  
Finance  
Planning



**Chris Barker**  
Amenities



**Matt Besant**  
Amenities



**Anne Boswell**  
Amenities  
Finance  
HR  
Planning



**Matt Burton**  
HR



**Theresa Gibson**  
Finance  
Planning



**Ian Newton**  
Amenities  
HR  
Planning



**Jean Robertson**  
Amenities  
Planning



**Tom Stevens**  
Finance  
Planning

### CLERKS



**Alison Hooker**  
Parish Clerk



**Rachel Gillis-Coates**  
Deputy Parish Clerk

### ADMIN ASSISTANT



**Hollie Savory**

### GROUND STAFF



**Ian Jones**



**Chris Prince**

# PARISH COUNCIL COUNCILLORS, CLERKS AND OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

## **CHAIRMAN**

CLlr Kate Tippen - 01622 832305  
kate.tippen1@gmail.com

## **VICE CHAIRMAN & CHAIRMAN PLANNING COMMITTEE**

CLlr Andy Turner - 07803 598813

## **VICE CHAIRMAN PLANNING COMMITTEE & CHAIRMAN FINANCE COMMITTEE**

CLlr Richard Adam - 01622 831673  
mpc@tn12.uk

## **CHAIRMAN AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

CLlr Anne Boswell - 01622 833351 / 07808 868703

## **VICE CHAIRMAN AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

CLlr Jean Robertson - 01622 831331 / 07950 816370

## **PARISH COUNCILLORS**

CLlr Chris Barker - 01622832305

CLlr Matt Besant - 01622 832305

CLlr Matt Burton - 01622 832305

CLlr Ian Newton - 01622 831832

CLlr Tom Stevens - 01622 832305

CLlr Theresa Gibson - 01622 832305

## **PARISH CLERK**

Ali Hooker  
Telephone: 01622 832305  
Mobile: 07376 287981  
Email: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

## **DEPUTY PARISH CLERK**

Rachel Gillis-Coates  
Telephone: 01622 832305  
Mobile: 07940 241333  
Email: deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Hollie Savory  
Telephone: 01622 832305  
Email: adminassistant@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

## **BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

CLlr David Burton - 07590 229910  
david.burton@burtons.uk.com

CLlr Annabelle Blackmore - 01622 833299  
annabelleblackmore@maidstone.gov.uk

CLlr Claudine Russell  
claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Lottie Parfitt-Reid - 07919 360000  
lottie.parfittreid@kent.gov.uk

## **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

Helen Grant MP - 0207 219 7107  
helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk

## **POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER**

Telephone: 101  
<https://bit.ly/KPReportACrime>  
<https://bit.ly/KPRuralCrime>

## **COMMUNITY WARDEN**

Mira Martin  
Mobile: 07969 584179  
Email: mira.martin@kent.gov.uk

## **BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE**

Freephone: 0800 405040  
Text: 61016

## **FAULT REPORTING**

Maidstone Borough Council  
(for Flytipping, Abandoned Vehicles, Dog Fouling and  
Street Cleaning  
Telephone: 01622 602162  
Website: [www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/do-it-online/report-it](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/do-it-online/report-it)

Kent County Council  
(for Potholes, other Road Issues, Vegetation and Street  
Lighting)  
Telephone: 08458 247800  
Website: [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

For regular parish information, updates and events, follow us on:



@MardenParishCouncil



@mardenkentpc



@mardenparishcouncil

**Marden Parish Council, Parish Office, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, TN12 9JX**  
**Website: [www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) - Office Telephone: 01622 832305**  
**Office Opening Times: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 10.00am to 12noon**



# Marden at Christmas

**SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021**

STARTING AT THE ALLENS AT 11.30AM

CRAFT FAIR AND FATHER CHRISTMAS IN HIS GROTTTO

FROM 1.30PM TILL 4.00PM

AT MARDEN MEMORIAL HALL

VARIOUS VILLAGE GROUPS AND  
LOCAL BUSINESSES TAKING PART

