

Notes of Meeting of the Post Marden at Christmas Meeting held on Monday 5th February commencing at 10.30am at the Parish Office, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden

PRESENT:

Cllrs Boswell, Newton, Robertson, and Tippen.
Graham Tippen and the Deputy Clerk were also in attendance

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

Debrief of Marden at Christmas 2023

Cllr Boswell would like to express thanks to the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Graham and the Admin Assistant for all their hard work in preparing the day.

The Allens

There was a good turn out at The Allens although the carol singing was missed. The sausages, mince pies were the right amount. Although the children like the popcorn, there are still many bags left over, however this is always donated to the school or pre-school. More milk was needed (recommended that 5 x 4 pint bottles) as well as more hot chocolate powder.

Village

The village was busy and there were a lot of residents around enjoying the event. The church had more soup which went down well. All those taking part made a great effort. The Elf Hunt was again popular with the children. Whilst it drew residents with children into local businesses to shop, it did get busy in places and there had been a breakage reported in one local business.

Marden Memorial Hall

The craft fair was again a success and most stallholders had a good footfall. The Deputy Clerk had asked for feedback back from the stallholders and overall, the comments were positive. The stallholder fee was the right amount. Whilst it was a very cold day, the numbers of visitors came in waves as there were quiet periods. The Clerk was incredibly busy on the morning. The BBQ was less busy but that could have been because the West End Tavern was open this year. The Grotto was again, very popular with families in Marden. There were a few gifts left over for very young children and older children but these can be used next year. There was a vehicle parked near the entrance which made it difficult for Father Christmas to arrive.

Christmas 2024

Date

The date agreed for 2024 was Saturday 7th December.

The Allens

Cllr Tippen recommended that The Allens started at 10.30am instead of 11.00am so that there is more time. Cllrs agreed. More milk was needed (recommended that 5 x 4 pint bottles) as well as more hot chocolate powder. Choirs would be approached to perform and words provided to the Parish Council to print out. Cllr Tippen recommended that Come and Sing be approached then Forte Adult Choir. The timetable suggested would be 10.30am arrive, 10.45 Singing and then 11.15 Morris Dancing till midday. More kettles would be made available as it hard to keep up with the urns.

Village

The Elf Hunt will be placed in windows next year.

Marden Memorial Hall

This part would run as usual from 12.00pm till 4.00pm. Father Christmas recommended that his driver arrive at 11.30am to collect this year. It was suggested that a donation bucket be made available in the Grotto again this year, perhaps two. There would be a BBQ again this year with the same food. Cllr Newton recommended two bins be made available to make depositing of rubbish easier. Also, the gazebo be put up to keep off the wind and perhaps keep the servers warm. More help was needed in the set up and Cllr Tippen advised everyone to check your jobs and make sure they were carried out.

Budget

As a result of stallholder feedback, it was agreed not to increase the fees for stallholders as the income taken for the stalls more than covered the hire of the hall.