

News from Marden Parish Council

www.mardenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk



Autumn 2015



Letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council

Dear Resident,

Once again Marden has enjoyed an incredibly busy and vibrant summer of events. To name but a few: the Saints-v-Sinners annual cricket match which raised a staggering £21,000 for Cancer Research organised by the Hockey & Cricket Club. Their aim was not just to raise a serious amount of money for charity, but to send an important message of



solidarity to those residents of Marden dealing with cancer; the wonderful Marden Big Musical Picnic in Southons Field organised by 'Friends of Marden Heritage' which was attended by over a 1,000 people and raised over £4,600 – a fabulous day once again (photo above); Marden Primary School's Summer Fete; Marden Society's trip on the River Medway; the Fun Dog Show organised by Maidstone Borough Council; numerous Horticultural Society and Thursday Club trips ... and so the list goes on. It never fails to surprise me how Marden is such a vibrant village.

One very special event was the Marden Business Forum's 'Showcase Evening'. A variety of local businesses, both large and small, displayed their 'commodities' to help make residents more aware of what happens on the commercial side of the village. We have over 100 businesses in Marden and they all contribute to local employment both, within the village and from the surrounding area. The businesses in Pattenden Lane also help to keep our retail stores, pubs and restaurants busy. So many products are made locally ranging from cider-making to medical equipment and are listed on both the Marden Business Forum calendar and the directory produced by the NRBF (Network of Rural Businesses Forum). Please check out the calendar and/or directory when you're looking for a local tradesperson.

The Summer Play Scheme once again proved a great success. A special thanks from myself and fellow Councillors to our Parish Clerk, Ali, and all the staff for their hard work, creativity, dedication and boundless energy in entertaining and educating the children. My particular thanks also go to Jen Hindley the Play Scheme Supervisor who helped to make it all happen. The opening of the new 'Play Trail' in Southons Field was attended by many children and parents and lots of fun was had by all. It's a great new village facility.

Regards.

Dorothy Reed

Dorothy Reed

Speeding in the Village

Councillors are continuing to liaise with Helen Grant MP, our Borough and Kent County Councillors following the accident outside Marden Primary School back in February, Maidstone Borough Council's Joint Transportation Board are looking into designing a scheme to improve road safety outside the school. The proposals will hopefully include the installation of a 20mph speed limit by the school, an interactive warning sign and possibly raising the level of the existing pedestrian crossing to make it more visible. Fingers crossed funding will become available to undertake the works.

Let's Get Speed Watching

If you're worried about the speeding in the village and want to help to do something and can spare the odd hour to help support the community, please let Erika in the Parish Office know. Come on Marden, let's get Speed Watching – we need more volunteers!

Memorial Hall:

Roof Update

The work on the hall roof has begun but will not be finished until December. This means that there is less space in the Memorial Hall car park. Trustees have stated that parking is therefore restricted to hall users only and if anyone who is using the hall is able to walk or car share that *Continued after advertisement*

Memorial Hall Vacancy: Role of Caretaker

Minimum 10 hours per week / £9.00 per hour

The Trustees of Marden Memorial Hall have a vacancy for an employed part-time person to undertake "caretaking" duties at the hall.

Duties will include: ensuring the facilities are adequately equipped/heated for hire, unlocking before and after events, be responsible for the security of the building, carry out "running repairs" and repainting of facilities, liaising with Trustees, hall users and members of the public and maintain the safety checks and arrange annual inspections for hall equipment. A full job description is available on request.

The successful candidate will need to be friendly and happy to work on own initiative, have some experience with working with people, have some knowledge of maintenance work, be flexible and be adaptable to deal with a varied workload. Please note that some heavy lifting is involved.

For a copy of the job description and application form please contact the hall secretary on 07562 625626 / 01622 832305 or email mardenmemorialhall@yahoo.co.uk.

Closing date for applications: 1st October 2015.

would be appreciated. This means, therefore, that if you are dropping off/picking up children who attend the primary school or use the car park for the Children's Centre, parking in the hall car park is not an option.

The Parish Council wish to thank Tom and Mike at Academy Consulting for their help in preparing the tender documents, issuing the contract to Finkis Construction & Artisan Development and project managing the work.

Parish Council Transparency

Councillors are often asked "What do the Parish Council do?" - All Parish Council meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the Marden Parish Council website and displayed on the village Notice Boards. Residents are always welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and if you look at the 'Site Map' on the website you will see information such as the Annual Returns and Accounts, Policy & Procedures etc. Under 'Local Planning' you can view details of all the large planning applications. If you get a moment, please check out the website: <http://www.mardenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>

2016 Elections

In May 2016 elections will be taking place to elect Marden Parish Councillors. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor and feel you have something to offer the village please contact Ali, the Parish Clerk, for more information. Your name needs to be on the current register of the Voters List, or have resided in or within 3 miles of the parish during the previous 12 months. Please email either mardenpc@btconnect.com or call 01622 832305

Play Trail in Southons Field

On your behalf the Parish Council has installed a children's Play Trail in Southons Field. The official opening was held in July where lots of children and parents attended. Over the summer, many families have been enjoying this great new village facility.

It is hoped that the Parish Council will secure some funding from the various housing developments. Such money could possibly be used to install larger pieces of equipment including an adult Trim Trail at Southons Field or the Playing Field. It is noteworthy that the contractors who fitted the equipment in Southons Field were heard to comment that it was "the most attractive and lovely environment they have ever worked in" which is a great commendation to a lovely and special village asset.



Marden Playing Field

Funding secured from developer contributions could also be used to improve the Playing Field. Councillors have discussed various options such as an adult gym/trim trail, running track, an additional youth shelter, more benches, bins etc. Residents will, of course, be consulted once plans have been formulated and quotes received. **Can we remind residents that dogs should be kept on leads whilst walking the playing field?**

The Council is also making progress with Taylor Wimpey on transferring the Napoleon Drive Play Area to the Parish. Once the transfer has been completed, it is hoped that the old equipment, designed specifically for the under 5's, will be updated. It is also hoped to remove the existing shrub boundary to incorporate the new area into the existing Playing Field.

CCTV

Councillors are keenly aware of the continuing issues of vandalism and anti-social behaviour particularly in the Playing Field and the area around the public toilets. Maidstone Community Safety Unit have installed CCTV outside shops in Church Green and all shop owners have been spoken to and advised to report any issues.

The Parish Council will shortly be installing a CCTV camera close to the Library to monitor problems in that area especially the public toilets. We hope to obtain a second camera to monitor the Playing Field.

Please report any anti-social behaviour to 101 as this is then recorded and will help with any funding bids we apply for to purchase additional cameras.

Fun Dog Show

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) organised a Dog Show in June on Marden Playing Field. This was a really successful day and very well attended. £335 was raised for Battersea Dogs Home. Advice was also given on the new law coming into force on 6 April 2016 whereby it will be compulsory for all dogs to be microchipped.

MBC's 'RK9 Campaign' is about tackling dog fouling in the borough and the idea of the campaign is to use the data collected to form the basis of where fouling hot spots are or just 'one offs'. This data will be collected by using patrols, signs, leaflets drops, bag 'n' flag events, community talks and educational visits to schools.



Check out the website:

www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/campaigns-and-projects/rk9 or the Facebook page

www.facebook.com/Responsiblek9s?fref=ts

Play Scheme *by Jen Hindley, Play Scheme Supervisor*

Torrential rain decided to make an appearance on Sunday 'set up' day after a week of glorious sunshine. We hoped that it wasn't a taste of things to come... and thankfully it wasn't. The sun shone on us for the whole two weeks of Play Scheme, meaning that the children could enjoy as much of the outside as they wanted.

Our circus theme seemed to be a roaring success with the children embracing the animal creating, clown making and show performing aspects of the fortnight. We made: juggling balls, a circus train, a giant community map, costumes, choreographed gymnastic routines, clown shows, created masks to name but a few. Parents came to enjoy a taste of our theme when the children performed in The Marvellous Marden Play Scheme 'Circus Show', with many acts. We had a visit from the Police who allowed the children to wear the uniform and get in the car as well as play a police themed game whilst learning about staying safe. A fab time was had at Tonbridge Park where the day was spent playing and having a picnic and

ice cream. We ended the week with our usual party where we had an inflatable assault course and sausage and chips.

A fantastic time was had by all. Here are a few things that the children had to say: Alex - "It was really fun with good supervisors"; Lucy - "Fandabidozy"; Cameron - "Awesome"; Rubie - "Very safe and unforgettable"; Leo - "It's been amazing, really really fun! It's been the most fun I've had this summer so far"; Jess - "It's really funny"; Maddy - "Play Scheme was epic! It's very creative and I like creative"; Heather "Playscheme makes me want to come back again". I think the children's reactions sum up the fortnight. But none of this would have been possible without the dedication and creativity of a fantastic staff team. Thank you Ali, Jordan, Maryjane, Rob, Kim, Hannah, Sophie, June and Jacob.



Marden in Bloom

The Marden in Bloom group has been formed and will be meeting in the Autumn to discuss ideas and projects for brightening up our village. Our initial thoughts are to hold a hanging basket competition and place planters around the village which we hope local businesses will want to sponsor. The Group is also liaising with the History Group to create a special area where the telephone box and siren are positioned next to the Library.

If you have any ideas/thoughts and are interested in becoming part of the Marden in Bloom group, please contact Cllr Anne Boswell - anne.boswell@ymail.com or telephone 833351. We are looking for garden enthusiasts, carpenters/DIY'ers, artists or just generally wanting to be involved in the community.

Let's get our village of Marden looking beautiful in 2016 and be proud of where we live – it's great to engage!

Marden Railway Station

Councillors recently met with a Southeastern Railway representative to discuss issues at Marden Railway Station - the lack of parking, step-free access to the down platform, potholes and re-lining of the car park, cutting back of vegetation particularly along both platforms and the lack of a Customer Information Sign on the down platform. The Parish Council has been trying meet with Network Rail for over a year to discuss the new fencing which is not suitable for a rural station. Hopefully Southeastern Railway will come back with a positive solution.

Marden Cemetery

Councillors are currently planning the layout of the new section in the cemetery which we hope to edge with rabbit-proof shrubs, perennials and bulbs. As the cemetery is such a special and peaceful place, residents may wish to

donate towards a shrub to demarcate the pathways. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to make a donation by either emailing Ali on mardenpc@btconnect.com or call 01622 832305.

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE EVENTS:

- Marden History Group's new exhibition on 'Hops and Hopping' in Marden Library
- Friends of Marden Heritage Hog Roast on Sunday 13 September from 12.30-4.30pm to be held in the garden of Turnpike House by courtesy of Sir Nick & Lady Fenn – please take along your own tables and chairs, drinks and glasses. Tickets are available from the Village Stores, the Heritage Centre and West End stores. For more information, please contact Kitty Naylor on 01622 832479.
- Marden at Christmas on Saturday 12th December – if you would like to run a stall at the event maybe with a Christmas theme, please contact the Assistant Parish Clerk erika.mardenpc@btconnect.com or call 01622 832305.

If you would like to include your village group event in the Newsletter, please let anne.boswell@ymail.com know. Alternatively, if you or your club/organisation would like to provide details on the Marden Parish Council website under 'Village Clubs & Organisations', please contact the Parish Clerk via email mardenpc@btconnect.com – "Let's Keep Marden Connected"

Marden Village Club

Marden Village Club in Albion Road has been judged to be the best Club in Kent this year by CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale). This is largely due to the excellent range of real ales and cider that are sold there but also the general ambiance of the club as well as the very competitive prices. Much credit should go to Simon and his team for the hard work they do in order to serve such high quality beers, but the members should also be recognised for their ability to consume the content of each barrel well before it starts to lose its freshness.

For more information about the club and how to join go to www.mardenvillageclub.co.uk alternatively pay a visit any evening or lunchtime at weekends.

Golding Homes

For Sale – 5 shared ownership properties for local people, Highwood Green, Marden.

There are 6 two-bed apartments, 6 two-bed houses and 6 three-bed houses. Five of these properties are specifically for people from Marden or its surrounding parishes.

For more information about these please contact Ward and Partners on 0844 335 2240 or email shared.ownership@wardandpartners.co.uk

Local Heroes!

There are so many local heroes in our village who have been nominated.

Firstly, Kitty Naylor, Steve McArragher and Carol Hogg for organising the amazingly successful Marden Music Picnic in June and Mo Gillis-Coates et al for organising the musical aspect of the event. Another wonderful village day attracting so many residents and families. See the photos on:

<https://www.facebook.com/mardensbigmusicalpicnic?fref=ts>

Elaine Tree and Ann Thomson have been specifically nominated as 'Special Village People'. Elaine litter picks around the village daily and Ann litter picks outside the Memorial Hall. Could we once again thank all the other residents who regularly litter pick around the village - what caring citizens you all are.

We would also like to make a very special mention to little Mikey Ballard who was inspired to stage a 5 mile walk around Marden after watching the air ambulance fly in and out of its base helping injured people. Mikey raised an amazing £616 for the Kent Air Ambulance. He was only 7 at the time and mum Emma said he still had loads of energy left afterwards. How proud his Mum and Dad must be and maybe it will inspire other children in the village to undertake a similar money-raising feat.



If you would like to nominate a 'Local Hero' please email Cllr anne.boswell@ymail.com
"Community engagement is what it's all about".

Untaxed Vehicles

Now that Tax Discs are no longer displayed on windscreens of vehicles and you suspect that a vehicle is untaxed, please check out the DVLA website. You will need the registration number and the make of the vehicle. Your enquiry will remain anonymous and it will be investigated by the DVLA. Alternatively you can call 101 and tell the police who will also check it out. <https://www.gov.uk/report-untaxed-vehicle>

Fire Hydrants

Kent Fire & Rescue has asked parishes to be pro-active in respect of reporting broken/vandalised Fire Hydrants. Could we therefore ask residents to report any concerns to Erika in the Parish Office either via email erika.mardenpc@btconnect.com or call 01622 832305. You can view the positioning of our parish Fire Hydrants on the Parish Council website.

Marden Children's Centre Opening Hours

Please note that opening hours for the Children's Centre are now Mondays, Thursday (a.m. only) & Fridays. Change of time for Messy Play is on Mondays from 1pm-2.15pm. If you would like more info, please contact Karen Todd, the KCC Early Help Operations Co-ordinator on 03000 411035.

Police Surgery

Your local officer PCSO Nicola Morris will be holding a police surgery at Marden Train Station at the following times: Sat 26th Sept – 4-5pm / Weds 7th Oct – 6-7pm / Sat 17th Oct – 2-3pm / Sat 14th Nov – 2-3pm / Weds 25th Nov – 7-8pm / Sat 12th Dec – 10-11am – also Marden at Christmas

These surgeries are on a first-come/first served basis but is your opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have on crime and anti-social behaviour.

Freighter Service in Marden

As at the time of going to press no further dates were available on the Maidstone Borough Council website.
<http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/binsandrecycling/saturday-freighter-service>

Citizens Advice Bureau – Outreach Sessions

Future dates for the outreach team from Citizens Advice Bureau are:

Tuesday 15th September, 20th October and 17th November in the Committee Room of Marden Memorial Hall from 10am to 12noon.

Parish Office Opening Hours:

If you would like any info or advice on a Parish matter, please feel free to call into the Parish Office. Opening hours have now been changed to:
Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am-12pm.

Useful information:

Parish Clerk: Alison Hooker – 01622 832305
mardenpc@btconnect.com

Assistant Parish Clerk: Erika Lock – 01622 832305
erika.mardenpc@btconnect.com

Parish Council website: www.mardenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Police Contact: PCSO Nicola Morris – 101 or
Nicola.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk

Community Warden Contact: Mira Martin – 07969 584179
British Transport Police: Freephone 0800 405 040

Your Local MP:

Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone and the Weald, holds regular surgeries in the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you, please e-mail Helen at helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk or telephone 020 7219 7107 www.helengrant.org

Fault Reporting:

Maidstone Borough Council Flytipping, Abandoned Vehicles, Dog Fouling, Street Cleaning – 01622 602162
www.maidstone.gov.uk

Kent County Council:

The Parish Council frequently liaise with Kent Highways over the state of the roads and drains in the village. For any Pothole and other road issues, Vegetation and Street Lighting – please call 03000 418181 or via their website www.kent.gov.uk



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