

News from
Marden
Parish Council



Spring 2018



www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council



Dear resident

A very Happy New Year. I hope everyone enjoyed the festive season, it's now lovely to see signs of Spring with snowdrops and crocuses starting to show their heads.

Budget setting for the forthcoming financial year has been a particularly hard task this year and I am grateful to Ali our Clerk and to fellow Councillors for the many hours spent anguishing over budgets, calculators and spread sheets. As explained below we have it found it necessary to make a small increase to the Precept to maintain the level of service the Parish Council provides to you, but this does mean we need to slightly reduce the frequency of the Parish Council newsletter. We do post all our meeting agendas and minutes on our web site and Facebook page. The details are on the back page of this newsletter.

There are several village events over the next few months that I would encourage as many residents as possible to participate in – the Parish Spring Clean on 10 March and the Annual Parish meeting on 8 May. You will find more details below.

As ever we extend a warm welcome to new residents to the village. We aim to ensure all new residents receive a welcome pack, if you haven't received one yet please contact Ali in the Parish Office.

Warm regards

Kate

Kate

Parish Council Finances

We have undertaken a thorough review of our financial situation and have concluded that we need to slightly increase the amount of money we can collect from residents to be spent in Marden. The Parish Council always strives to be prudent and diligent with our finances and in 2017 we did not need to increase the amount of Precept. The Precept is collected by Maidstone Borough Council on our behalf as part of the Council Tax, and we will make every effort to maintain the existing level of service as well as staying on a sustainable financial footing. This means that a Band D tax payer will pay £72.78 per year, or £6.06 per month in the next financial year. Last year it was £71.35 per year, or £5.95 per month, so an 11p per month increase.

As part of reviewing our finances to reduce costs, we have decided to decrease the number of editions of Parish Newsletters from 4 to 3 per year. Serving the community and engaging with residents are two of the Parish Council's main objectives. We are committed to communicating effectively with you and would like to know if you have any ideas or thoughts about what you would like to hear about in the Newsletter or on our Facebook page.

Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 8th May from 7pm in the Memorial Hall. This is an ideal opportunity to learn more about the role of the Parish Council, the work that has been undertaken over the past year and gives village organisations and groups the opportunity to let residents know of their activities. Organisations will shortly be contacted to provide a report from 2017 and these reports will be available on the evening and on the Parish Council website following the meeting. Organisations will also be able to speak at the meeting if they so wish. Tea & coffee is served at 7pm and the meeting begins at 7.30pm. After the meeting everyone is invited to stay to meet Parish Councillors over refreshments. Speakers are currently being booked, and if you have anything of interest you wish to hear about that is relevant to the village, please let Alison, the Parish Clerk know.

Why should I support Marden Business? *Kate Tippen*

The simple answer is that our local businesses are as an important part of our community as all of our residents, the school, the medical centre, the Church, the Chapel and the railway station.

Local businesses, especially the retail, pub and restaurant businesses rely on local support. We have been very fortunate that (so far) it has been mild and not especially wet this winter. Not that many years ago the village was virtually cut off due to flooding and, in years gone by, heavy snow has completely cut us off. The supermarket delivery vans wouldn't be able to get through in those conditions and village shops become a lifeline. But a village shop

Spring Clean Up - we need you! Saturday 10th March

Once again we are calling for volunteers to help out with the village clean up on the morning of Saturday 10th March. You will be provided with a picker, hi-viz and bags and are covered by the Parish Council's insurance. Please note that only over 16s will be permitted to litter pick the outlying roads, however, we have many areas within the centre of the village that can be picked by all ages.

Please contact Alison for further details and to register your interest – either via email: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk or call 01622 832305.

To entice residents to participate, every adult and child who volunteers will receive a raffle ticket to win a prize, so please put your hand up to help – we need as many of you as possible! It's a great community event working together to keep our lovely parish of Marden tidy.

isn't just for bad weather. It doesn't matter how long you've lived in the village, if you haven't visited our shops, pubs and restaurants recently, why not go and see what they have to offer? Not only will you find as wide a range of goods as you will find in a supermarket, you'll also find locally produced products with the added advantage of no add-on costs of delivery charge, petrol or car parking.

Marden is a vibrant community and we can all play our part in preventing it becoming a dormitory village. Village shops and pubs have closed in too many places we will not let this happen in our village. With three grocery stores, a farm shop, a butcher, a

bakery, a pharmacy, a service station, a beauty salon, several hairdressers, three pubs, a village club, two restaurants, two takeaways, not to mention numerous small businesses, as well as our larger businesses in Pattenden Lane, why would you ever go out of the village for any of your food shopping or leisure time?

The excellent Marden Business Forum directory will shortly be published and delivered to every household giving you information about every village business. Make it your mission to support Marden!

Parish Council Vacancy

Following the resignation of Cllr Jane Cowin, Marden Parish Council has been given the authority to co-opt a new Councillor onto the Parish Council. If you want to find out more about the role of a Councillor, or you wish to obtain an application form, please contact Alison in the Parish Office.

Parking and playing field consultations

Many thanks to those residents who came along on the 3rd February to give us your views and comments on Marden Parish Council's parking and playing field proposals. We are in the process of analysing the results of the Parking Consultation and will produce a report with recommendations that will be sent to Kent Highways, our County Councillor and Borough Councillors. If changes are identified, it will probably take up to at least a year to implement them. We will keep you informed of progress via the newsletter. Insofar as the Playing Field Consultation is concerned, we will process the feedback and let you know our plans in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Marden at Christmas



Another successful and very well attended 'Marden at Christmas' event took place in December. The festivities began at The Allens with carol singing, music from East Peckham Silver Band and entertainment by the Weald of Kent and Boughton Monchelsea Morris dancers and the Wild Weald Women Short Sword Rappers – an eclectic mix of entertainment! The Parish Council elves served warming refreshments and Father Christmas made a brief appearance before his sleigh delivered him to the Memorial Hall where lots of children were waiting to visit him. En-route to the hall there were refreshments at The Unicorn, the 'Devil' and his assistant from the History Group were in the new stocks at The Library; Marden Church served warming soup where a Christmas Tree display was taking place and the West End Tavern hosted Anno Gin, 12 Bar Brewery, Turners Cider and Hush Heath wine. Whilst Father Christmas handed out gifts to the

children, people busied themselves at the very successful and varied craft fair. Refreshments were served by the WI ladies and Ballards Butchers. The event certainly engaged a lot of village groups and residents.

So many thanks to Erika Lock and Alison Hooker for all their hard work in organising such a great event and everyone else who helped make the day such a success. Thanks also go to Marden Business Forum for funding Santa's presents in Lapland.

Planning update

You can check out planning applications on Marden Parish Council's website under 'Planning Tracker'

Councillors are keen for residents to attend PC planning meetings. Planning meetings are usually held twice a month on a Tuesday evening in the meeting room of the PC Office. Please be aware that the PC reviews planning applications on behalf of the Parish. Planning applications are normally determined by Maidstone Borough or Kent County Council.

Marden Neighbourhood Plan

The draft plan has been submitted to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) for pre-examination consultation. The plan has been written by a group of dedicated volunteers on behalf of the wider Parish. The production of the plan by local volunteers has eliminated the need to buy-in costly consultant advice. This has ensured PC financial expenditure on the project has been minimal. It is hoped that the plan will then proceed to independent examination and a referendum. If successful the plan will form part of the formal determination of planning applications in the Parish. The

draft plan can be viewed on www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk and click on "Marden Neighbourhood Plan" for details."

17/504389/FULL – Marden Post Office, High Street - Change of use of existing redundant post and sorting office to café and shop, including the demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of a single storey rear extension and erection of a second floor extension to adjacent house to create a self-contained flat.

This application has now received planning approval and it is great news that it is going to be retained as a retail outlet and village café.

Allotment Appeal at Highwood Green - Land to the north of Tippen Way, Goudhurst Road

The granting of planning permission at Highwood Green includes the provision of an allotment site. However the Developer sought an alternative proposal - to develop the site for 3 bungalows. Objection to this application was raised by the PC and residents alike. The application was refused by MBC and dismissed at Appeal in November 2017. The PC is in contact with MBC to try to ensure the allotments are provided.

Maidstone Road Affordable Housing Development

Golding Homes asked the Parish Council to suggest a suitable name for the road on this small development, which has now commenced. Councillors thought it would be a nice gesture to dedicate it to Ken Rhodes, our famous village window cleaner who was always seen around the parish on his bicycle and was a great local character.

17/505666/FULL – Two Rapid Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - Stanleys of Marden, Albion Road Stanley's application for the installation of two rapid electric

vehicle charging stations by InstaVolt was supported by Marden Parish Council and has now received approval. A welcome and innovative addition to the village's facilities.

17/505395/FULL – Spencer's Field, Goudhurst

Road This planning application has been submitted for residential development for 65 dwellings including affordable housing, structural planting and landscaping, levels, surface water drainage and attenuation, open space, vehicular access point via the Parsonage site and associated ancillary works.

At an Extraordinary General Meeting this was discussed by Councillors who acknowledged that this site is allocated for housing in the Adopted Local Plan. However, they expressed various concerns such as the positioning of the 2.5 storey dwellings in a rural setting; if the culvert outlet was found to be defective or unsuitable could the drainage strategy be implemented; and questioned the flood risk assessment which stated 'there is no indication that this area has suffered from flooding from any of the flood sources' when anecdotal evidence from local residents contradicts this statement in respect of surface water flooding. We await to hear if approval has been obtained.

Land West of Maidstone Road (Gladman Development) Marden Parish Council has been informed that Gladman have withdrawn the appeal on this land and therefore the appeal hearing due on 20th February was cancelled.

Open Space update:

Southons Field: If you haven't already discovered this lovely open space, owned by the Parish Council, then why not go and find it? Located in Maidstone Road a bit further along and on the opposite side of the

road to the Chinese take away the field is open during day light hours. There's lots of space to run around, kick a ball, play cricket, rounders etc, there is a play trail (for use of all ages) and picnic tables. Please note dogs, other than assistance dogs, are not permitted on the field.

Several village events have been planned for this year on the field and these are listed later in this newsletter. If residents or village groups would like to hire the field please email:

clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk or call 01622 832305.

Cemetery

The new section has now been planted with roses to create hedging to mark out the different sections and more daffodils have been planted in various areas. If you haven't visited the Cemetery, which achieved Silver in the S&SE in Bloom awards, you can take the pathway running alongside Maidstone Road which starts opposite the sharp bend by Marden Turf. It looks beautiful in the Spring and is such a peaceful place.

Playing Field & Napoleon Drive

Unfortunately, because of the recent weather conditions, the installation of the new Youth Shelter has had to be postponed. As previously mentioned, we are collating the feedback received from residents at the recent Playing Field Consultation, and will be reporting on our proposed plans in the next newsletter.

Health & welfare

How are you?

Kent County Council has launched a service to provide residents of the county with support for becoming healthier. Services include stop smoking support, healthy weight advice, blood pressure checks,

exercise advice and even a handyman scheme.

If you think you might benefit, why not try the 'ONE YOU' Quiz to get your health score on oneyoukent.org.uk or ask at Marden Medical Centre about how to get in touch with advisors.

Roads and footpaths

Marden Footpaths by *Catherine Alderson, Marden Walking Group*

The Marden Walking Group is very grateful to those residents who have bought the Walking guides. However, stocks are now very low, but we are intending to reprint those walks that are not affected by the new developments. We have been holding discussions with farm managers to help clarify for new residents the walking of dogs in agricultural fields. Whilst dogs are not banned in these areas, please ensure that leads are used where appropriate and keep to paths near crops. Please ensure you follow the yellow arrows which are the correct Kent County Council routes. You can purchase the guides from Marden Library.

Potholes/Drainage/Gullies

Once again can we reiterate If you spot either a pothole, flooded drain or gully, please report it either by calling 08458 247800 or online at www.kent.gov.uk It won't get fixed if it isn't reported and we have had so much rain recently.

Garden Hedges – How to Deal with them

We all know that the right garden hedge can really make a difference to a garden or a piece of land. However, if problems arise neighbours can fall into dispute, and sometimes homeowners and occupiers need to complain to their local authority about such matters. In August 2017, the Department for Communities and Local Government updated its guide "High

Hedges : Complaining to the Council."

You can find out more on the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications> and click on Over the Garden Hedge for guidance.

If your hedge/vegetation is encroaching on Highways land, it is the landowner's responsibility to keep it trimmed.

Road works/Road closures

Temporary Road Closures:

Because of carriageway works, Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting through traffic on various roads on or after 19th February 2018 for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed. Dates will be notified on Facebook and the Parish Website when known.

Sherenden Lane, Marden & Staplehurst: Road closed from Goudhurst Road to Wilden Park Road. Alternative route via B2079 Goudhurst Road, Winchet Hill, Curtisden Green Lane and Wilden Park Road (and vice versa).

Pagehurst Road, Staplehurst: Road closed from Marden Road to Park Road.

Alternative route via Marden Road and Park Road (and vice versa).

For details of all roadworks, please check out: <https://www.roadworks.org> Diversion notices will be put in place during the works.

Upcoming Gas Works – Chantry Road and West End

Forefront Utilities have some upcoming works to complete on behalf of SGN, who is responsible for maintaining the gas network in our area, and essential works are due to start in late April for approximately 7-8 weeks. Works will be to excavate & install 208m of 250mm gas pipe, which is required to maintain minimum gas pressures in the area and have been approved by Kent County Council. During

the works, if you have any queries, please contact the Customer Liaison Officer, Connor Greenslade on 07818 494540 quoting the permit reference number XW056-W114761829-00275; or the SGN Project Manager, Paul Sainsbury, on 07711 491501.

Police and Crime update

At the time of writing, over the past few months only a few crimes have been reported in Marden. Two stolen Land Rovers were reunited with their owners after being recovered by officers from the Rural Task Force and drivers are reminded of the steps you should take to deter thieves:

- Lock all doors and close the windows whenever you leave the vehicle
- Don't leave anything on display – even a jacket can seem like an appealing target for a thief
- Wipe away suction marks from your SatNav on the windscreen or dashboard
- Park in a garage, secure car park or well-lit area if possible
- Consider having windows etched with the vehicle registration number or use an invisible ink marker pen to mark these details and your postcode on the underside frame of the vehicle
- Make a note of the chassis number
- Make sure you don't leave your car keys visible from the outside of your home

It is so important that crimes and incidents are reported directly by you to the police or local authority

<https://www.kent.police.uk/> Click on Services/Report a Crime

Fly Tipping Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) is committed to working with the police to prevent and enforce against fly-tipping crimes in our borough and have issued various fines to both businesses and

residents not disposing of their waste correctly or for carrying waste without holding a proper Waste Licence. Businesses and householders have a 'duty of care' to ensure that their waste is disposed of legally, if not they could be held responsible and fined.

Beware of the Facebook Fly-Tipper! Have you ever been tempted to dispose of your waste from a person advertising on Facebook? Did you stop to think if they would dispose of your waste responsibly? If you need any waste to be removed, MBC offer a bulky waste collection service to residents from £20.

Visit www.maidstone.gov.uk and search for bulky waste.

CountryEye App It is also worth considering downloading the CountryEye app on your phone which can be used to report a number of rural crimes, including fly tipping, and you may be able to report HGV vehicle problems soon too. The app is free and is available now for both Android and iPhones. 'Safer Kent' is working together for our rural community. The app identifies 5 different rural categories which make up the majority of incidents that occur in the countryside.

Theft – Vehicle, Metal & Cable, Machinery & Plant, Livestock, Outbuildings, Fuel & Oil and Equine

Farm Crime – Arson, Fly Tipping, Trespass with and without Firearms, Criminal Damage and Suspicious behavior with and without vehicles.

Wildlife Crime - Poaching, Animal Welfare, Endangered Species & Conservation, Hare Coursing and Horse Crime
Heritage Crime – Off-roading and Metal Detecting/Night Hawking
Reporting missing or damaged hydrants.

Highways & public transport

Councillors regularly hold meetings with our 3 Borough Councillors, Annabelle Blackmore, David Burton and Steve McLoughlin and County Councillor Eric Hotson.

A Kent Highways engineer is currently investigating the parking issues outside the school and the junction with Pattenden Lane and Church Green, and viewing the signage into the village for HGV lorries. We have also requested a Highways engineer check out the road between Tanner Farm and Sheephurst Lane crossroads to see what is advisable to warn drivers of the road conditions as there have been a number of incidents along this stretch of road.

Drainage & water

Please check out Marden Parish Council's website for useful links on drainage and flooding together with Kent County Council's short guide, explaining the highway drainage services that KCC provide and how they are delivered. It explains their legal obligations and also the roles and responsibilities of others: www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk and click on Other Information tab.

KCC request that any highways or drainage issues be reported on the KCC Website.

Launch of the Medway Flood Action Plan

The Medway Flood Action Plan sets out the partnership's activities to reduce flood risk over the next 5-10 years and a 25 year vision. The launch is part of a long journey with the partnership, communities and individuals to build awareness and preparedness for flooding, and identify and

develop more actions which can help to reduce flood levels and risk in the catchment area.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/then-go-to-medway-flood-action-plan-launched>
You can also find details of the Middle Medway Flood Resilience Scheme at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/then-middle-medway-flood-resilience-scheme>

Other Parish information

Marden Primary School The Governing Body of Marden Primary School are looking to recruit two enthusiastic members of the public to join them. In this instance they are looking for people who do not have children at the school, but who are willing to use their skills and expertise to support the work of the school in a strategic role.

If you would like to know more about this exciting and rewarding opportunity, please email the school office@marden.kent.sch.uk and mark it for the attention of the Chair of Governors.

Memorial Hall Bookings - Alison is no longer responsible for hall bookings/enquiries for the Memorial Hall therefore please contact Hannah, the Facilities Manager, on 07562 625626 or email mardenmemorialhall@yahoo.com

AGM – The Memorial Hall AGM is being held on Monday 12th March commencing at 7pm in the John Banks Hall. Have you a few hours a week? Would you like to volunteer as a Trustee on the Hall Committee to help run/maintain this wonderful village community building? If so, why not come along on the 12th to find out more.

Calling for On-Call Firefighters Kent Fire and Rescue Service have a continuous programme of recruitment for on-call firefighters and Marden, as well as Paddock

Wood and Cranbrook, have been identified as needing more assistance. On-call firefighters are not based at a fire station, but they carry a pager and respond to emergency incidents using the local station to respond from when this happens. They receive an annual wage to reflect the time they commit to being available plus additional payments for certain activities. They are expected to undertake and attend training at least once per week.

On-call firefighters are men and women who may have other jobs and are able to provide evening, daytime or weekend availability "on-call" cover. They need people who can be available for at least 50 hours a week, a minimum of 30 hours which must be predetermined. Firefighters are a vital part of today's fire and rescue service. They provide an efficient, effective service that gives emergency cover to more than 90 per cent of the UK.

If you would like to become involved and fit the basic requirements, then please contact Marden's Watch Manager Andy Wardley – either email: andrew.wardley@kent.fire-uk.org or call 01622 692121 Ext7907.

Parish Council Van & Trailer The van leased by Marden Parish Council and trailer are both available for village groups and societies to borrow, when not needed by the Parish Council. Drivers must be over 25, hold a full driving licence and the van must not be used for personal or commercial use. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Award Scheme The Parish Council has entered Marden into the KALC Community Awards Scheme for 2018 and have nominated a well-deserving resident who has served the Parish for many years –

the resident's name will be revealed shortly! However, in future, the Parish Council would like residents to nominate somebody who you feel has made a significant contribution to the local community and must live or work within the Parish. There is no pre-determined criteria on what a significant contribution to the local community might be. It could be somebody who has a long and sustained service to the community or part of it; achievement or actions of an inspiring nature to the local community; or activities which have reflected credit on or brought benefits to the village or its people.

If you would like to nominate somebody please let Alison know.

South & South East in Bloom Entry for 2018

- Anne Boswell, Chairman of Marden in Bloom

Marden in Bloom have entered the Parish in the South & South East in Bloom Awards and judging will take place in July. To help score points with the judges, we would be grateful if residents and businesses could try to keep the front of your properties clear and tidy – the judges don't like weeds! We will be organising a Weed & Litter Clearing event on Wednesday 27th June mainly around the centre of the village – we would welcome the help of residents in this exercise.

Our aim is to achieve Silver Gilt or even Gold – we attained Silver in 2016. We have various projects and competitions in the pipeline and the School Project should certainly help to achieve 'brownie points'. We will be issuing a leaflet with further details of our plans and competitions shortly. We are hoping the village green areas where we have been planting bulbs will make a show in the Spring – this is a long-term plan and our ambition is to make Marden the prettiest village in Kent in the

Spring! Please check out our Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/MardeninBloom/>

Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management (ICCM) Photographic Competition

The Parish Council is entering Marden Cemetery into the ICCM photographic competition this year and would welcome any creative photos you have taken of the Cemetery. Please email a suitable jpeg photo to Alison by 1st June and all entries will then be judged by Councillors. The best two will be submitted to the ICCM. If one of the Marden photos is successful this will be placed in the next available edition of our newsletter and any prize money received will be paid to the photographer.

Get to know your Parish Councillors: Cllr Mick Jones



Originally from London's East End I moved to the Medway Towns in the mid-60's and then Ashford in the 70's. In 2014 my wife and I decided to downsize and found a property to suit our needs in Marden.

Although now retired, I spent my working life in the Public Sector primarily in the New Town Service, ending my career leading a small team dealing with the Human Resources requirements of the organisation. For many years I was also a Trade Union Representative at both local and national level negotiating the pay and conditions of service for New Towns Staff. My interests are Ballroom Dancing, Videography, Cooking, Wine, Travel, Lawn Bowls and now, of course, the Parish Council.

I joined the Parish Council last year when I applied for co-option. I have to admit to being somewhat surprised that I was the only applicant. There is a lot to learn, much more than I anticipated, but I do hope to make a constructive contribution to the workings of the Council during my term of office.

Boundary Commission Proposals

The Boundary Commission of England put forward proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries following a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650. One of the suggestions was for Marden to be included within the Mid Kent & Ticehurst Constituency. The Parish Council gave their input on the proposals and whilst Councillors support the revision to the composition of constituencies in principle, it disagreed that Ticehurst and Etchingham be included within Marden's constituency. However, Cllrs agreed that they would not be adverse to another Kent Ward of a similar size population being included. Check out:

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2018-boundary-review-revised-proposals-published/>

What's going on in Marden?

There is so much going on in our village – a plethora of community groups and sporting facilities - and if you're new to the village you can find all the details in the 'Welcome Pack' that the Parish Council provides to new residents. We have a thriving Heritage Centre run by the History Group, a vibrant Theatre Group who are planning 'Oliver' for their next production and recently ran a 'Rising Stars' Drama Workshop, a Bowls Club, Cricket, Tennis & Hockey Club, Badminton, Scout Group to name but a few, as well as groups such as the WI, Horticultural Society, Motor Club, Thursday Club, Marden Business Forum, Friends of Marden Heritage, Marden Society etc. – the list is endless.

As ever there's lots going on this Spring and Summer and any group, organisation or business who are arranging an event please let Erika know on 01622 832305 or email assistantclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk which can be advertised on the Parish Council website under 'Village Events' and also on the Facebook page.

If you would like to include your village group event in the Newsletter, please let anne.boswell@ymail.com know. You can also check out events on <http://www.mardenchurch.org.uk/specialevents.htm> Let's keep Marden connected!

Marden Society - Wednesday 28 February @ 7.30pm – Vestry Hall. Mary Smith on a 'A Schoolgirl's War' – tea/coffee & raffle.

Aircraft West Walk - Sunday 4th March @ 10am – meet at the Library - led by Geoff Burr - 5.5. miles or 7.75 miles depending on the weather. The Walking Group also run walks on Wednesdays which will restart in March, Saturdays at 2pm from the Library,

and Ian Balmer is proposing to run long distance walks along the Weald Way from Eastbourne to Gravesend. Please contact Catherine Alderson on 01622 832455 for more information.

Parish Litter Pick – Saturday 10th March – see details above

'Oliver' - Thursday 31st May-Saturday 2nd June @ 7.30 in the Memorial Hall - Marden Theatre Group's next amateur production will be Lionel Bart's 'Oliver' and they are currently auditioning for roles for this production. For more info, please contact: secretary@mardentheatregruop.co.uk

The Big Musical Picnic – Saturday 9th June – Southons Field - watch out for details of this big event run by the Friends of Marden Heritage.

The Rude Mechanical Theatre Production's performance of 'Oberon's Cure' – Thursday 26th July at 7.30pm in Southons Field – details tbc

'The Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute – Sunday 11th November – a national Beacons of Light celebration to mark the end of WW1. Marden Parish Council and the Church of St Michaels & All Angels will be participating in this special occasion and will be in contact shortly with village groups.

Watch this space.....



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