

# MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER



## A TRIBUTE TO THE PARISH

### A LOOK AT THIS ISSUE:

**A THANK YOU - PAGE 1-9**

**PLANNING UPDATE - PAGE 13**



# WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

**LESLEY MANNINGTON**



Hello everyone. This summer's Newsletter is larger than normal because there is so much more information which we feel you would find useful, particularly for those who do not have access to online/website facilities.

I hope you are all coping with the unprecedented times with which we are faced. Some of us, who, like myself, have been isolating since the beginning of lockdown, may well remember what it was like at the end of WW2. But this is something else! I sympathise with everyone having to cope in lockdown, in whatever your circumstances, but probably the worst thing is being isolated from our nearest and dearest. I have missed the hugs from my children and grandchildren which I think we all take for granted in the normal course of events. For those of us on the internet, thank goodness for Facetime and Zoom, and any other face to face communication facilities. And thank goodness if we are lucky enough to have a garden – the weeds in mine have never been so shocked at their manual removal!

Like many, I have used the lockdown period to get all those outstanding jobs done around the house and garden. But it has also meant

returning to hobbies suited for an isolated existence, like painting, drawing, sewing, etc. Not to mention all that cooking and baking which we've all been trying. Never thought I'd quite like Banana Loaf, which is now a regular weekly bake! Best wishes to everyone, Stay Safe and Alert!

*Cllr Lesley Mannington*

**WE'RE  
in this  
TOGETHER**

## THANK YOU!

This is not the normal Parish Council Newsletter, but these are not normal times. How do we start to thank everyone? The Parish Council would like to pay tribute and show our appreciation to those of you who have stepped up and gone above and beyond what is expected in this difficult time. In Marden, we have experienced a real sense of people and communities coming together to help one another. We have put together a compilation of 'Thank You's' below to all those residents, village groups and businesses in the Parish who have contributed to help get our village through this phenomenal and unprecedented period of time.



We apologise if we have left anybody out, it is not intentional. The sheer selflessness and sacrifice people have made which has helped to bring our community even closer together in these most challenging of circumstances is amazing and there have been many moving moments to come out of this crisis too.

It must be immensely challenging for those residents who have been self-isolating during this period and we understand how difficult it must be but also to those of you who have suffered with this devilish illness. For a lot of people, it has been a time of reflection and re-evaluation of what is important in our lives. All the sacrifices that have been made, all the patience and support, for the great care, consideration and acts of kindness so many people have shown. For those who use social media, this has helped to keep many people in Marden connected and the Parish Council Website offers Coronavirus advice and information. Our Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter have strived to keep residents up-to-date on the Covid-19 situation and other issues.

On a lighter note, it has been great to see so many residents taking their daily constitutional walks enjoying the emergence of Spring on the public footpaths and seeing what the lovely Marden countryside has to offer.



*Marden Skies Photo by Nathan Rogers*

The thousands of daffodils that have been planted by Marden in Bloom looked stunning at the beginning of Spring. We have been fortunate that the weather has generally been kind during the lockdown period.



*Kate Ingram & John Warnett entertaining residents in the High Street at the weekly Clap for Carers (Photo copyright to Kim Eageling)*

### **“Clap for Carers”**

A great community-spirited opportunity for residents who joined in the weekly “Clap for Carers” to show your appreciation to NHS staff and carers for all their hard work and dedication on the front line - a great morale booster.

It is also important to thank all those key workers who have had to rally through the crisis, to help keep us safe, healthy and with access to provisions. We are sure there are many of you in the parish out there who work in:

**Health and Social Care**; those working in **Supply Chains** including producers and distributors of medicines and personal protective equipment; in **Education and Childcare** – nursery, teachers, teaching assistants and social workers; **Food Chain** workers including those involved in production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery of goods. **Key Public Services** such as those required to run the justice system, religious staff, those responsible for managing the deceased and journalists providing public service broadcasting; **Local and National Government** workers in admin roles essential for the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response or delivering essential public services including payment of benefits; **Utility Workers** – staff needed to keep oil, gas, electricity, water and sewerage operations running. Staff in the **Civil Nuclear, Chemical and Telecommunications** sectors, those in **Postal Services** and those working to provide essential **Financial Services; Public Safety and National Security** – Police and support staff,



Ministry of Defence civilian staff and Armed Forces personnel, Fire and Rescue staff, and workers responsible for Border Security, Prisons and Probation and finally **Transport** - those keeping Air, Water, Road, and Rail passenger and Freight Transport modes operating.

### **Marden Community Assistance Group**

Thank you to those residents who rapidly kick started the community assistance process. The Parish Council delivered an urgent Coronavirus Newsletter in March to all households within the parish providing information and contact details for volunteers and vulnerable people. Following this, the Parish Council set up a Marden Community Assistance Group and Rachel, our Deputy Clerk, along with other Councillors, co-ordinated a list of volunteers and vulnerable people. There are currently 54 vulnerable residents/families and 96 wonderful volunteers who have come forward to help with shopping, dog walking, collecting prescriptions or just be available to have a chat on the phone.



It is brilliant to see what kind-hearted and thoughtful people we have living in Marden and thanks again to all those residents who are going out of their way to help others who are self-isolating and are in need. If you know of anyone in need of assistance in the Parish, please email Rachel on [deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) or message her on Facebook or call 07940 241333.

The Parish Council has also been working with Maidstone Borough Council Community Hub – see details below.

## Marden Food Bank

The Food Bank is currently situated at Marden School and this will continue during the Government restrictions and your help is always needed. We would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this possible, by their donations of money, food and personal hygiene items for adults and babies and to local shops and community initiatives.

We have been astounded by people's generosity at this time - this is community working together at its best. There has been a phenomenal number of financial donations received through the Parish Church from residents towards the Food Bank. A resident (who would prefer to remain anonymous) provided a cash donation to Marden Parish Council and together with grants from County Councillor Hotson and Marden's Borough Councillors we have been able to pass over £4,000 to the Church. Marden Village Club has also provided a fantastic contribution and through the Trustees of Marden Memorial Hall a grant of £4,500 was received from the Kent Community Fund.

All these donations are being used to replenish the food bank.



To use the Food Bank you must have a referral from either the Marden Children's Centre, your GP (Doctor), Family Liaison Officer at the School or your Social Worker.



## **Marden Food Bank (Contd)**

If you would like to make a financial donation, please contact the Church Treasurer, Jane Lowther, on 01622 832974 or email [mardenchurchtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:mardenchurchtreasurer@gmail.com) and she will give you the details to make a simple and secure bank transfer. If you can only offer cash - please discuss that with Jane as to how the transaction can be made. The Food Bank accepts goods outside the main school door and is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10am-12 noon. All items are gratefully received, but goods particularly required are washing powder or liquid (smaller sizes if possible please), nappies, baby milk, toilet roll, pasta, rice and cooking sauces. The Church, Parish Council, Children's Centre and School who are all jointly involved are delighted that those families who need it the very most have been able to utilise the facilities, and that as a community, we have been able to help meet your needs. Special thanks go to Kathy Young, Jane Lowther and Amanda Abbitt on behalf of Marden Church; Natalie Stockford & Bridget Manser from the Children's Centre; and Candice Dady the Family Liaison Officer at Marden Primary School.



*Laundry Bags at Marden Medical Centre*

## **Marden Medical Centre**

The Medical Centre is enormously grateful to all their patients for their understanding during these extraordinary times and the messages of thanks and support have meant so much to all the staff particularly at a time when they have been hit hard with staff sickness and have struggled to provide an essential service.

At present, the Medical Centre is triaging all patients on the phone and it may be appropriate to undertake a video consultation. To maintain staff safety, a number of clinicians are working from home using either secure NHS laptops or approved remote access log-in.

It would be helpful if patients could use the on-line access where possible to book appointments and order prescriptions.

From 1st of June the surgery door opened for a limited number of prearranged appointments and collections from the dispensary.

## **Marden Medical Centre (Contd)**

Please observe guidance on social distancing when queuing both in and outside the surgery and wearing face covering is preferred by all those entering the building. Do not go to the surgery to book appointments, this should be done online or by phone.

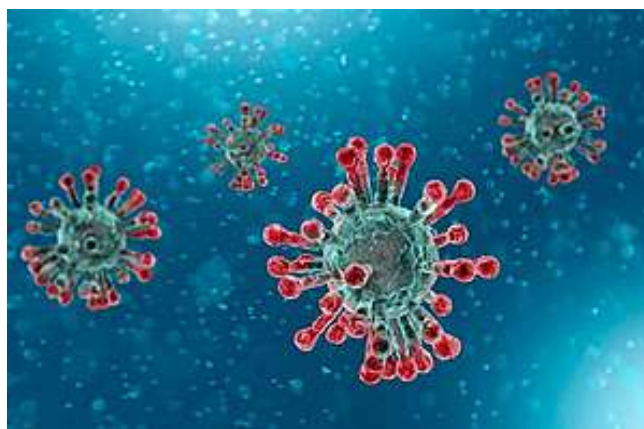
There is still a prescription delivery service available for isolated and shielded patients to have their prescriptions delivered to their home. Patients need to make the Medical Staff aware if they need this service. The Medical Centre now sends prescriptions to Pharmacies electronically and this speeds up the delivery and removes the necessity for paper prescriptions to be sent. If you need to collect medication from the surgery please do so between 12.00pm and 2.00pm or 4.30pm and 6.00 pm to avoid busy times.

All clinical staff have been wearing full PPE and are seeing patients in their cars in the marquee in the car park for simple tasks such as blood tests.

Routine child and adult immunisations are a high priority and they are continuing with this service. They are currently unable to provide non-essential tasks e.g. private medical reports, ear syringing, minor surgery. Planning is underway for flu clinics to be provided in the Autumn.

If you feel unwell, please call Marden Medical Centre on 01622 831257 or call 111. If you need a dentist or optometrist urgently, call 111 and you will be directed to the emergency clinics. For up-to-date info, please refer to their website: [www.mardenmedicalcentre.nhs.uk](http://www.mardenmedicalcentre.nhs.uk) or their Facebook page NHS Marden Medical.

Please do not attend the surgery if you have symptoms of cough, fever or loss of taste or smell. Please share this message as widely as possible with friends, neighbours and family who may not have internet access.



## **Patient Participation Group (PPG)**

A special thank you to Sian Burr, ex-Chairman of the Patient Participation Group, who has been keeping members updated on Marden Medical Centre and other important health and wellbeing information. PPG have also been delivering medications from the surgery dispensary to patients who are unable to leave their homes. The AGM took place on 25th June and John Hadow has now been elected Chairman and Chris Childs, the Deputy Chairman.

### ***Scrubs and Face Coverings***

Another big thank you to Sian Burr, the ladies from the Mother's Union/ Craft Group and other residents for making laundry bags for the Medical Centre and Priority House in Maidstone. They have also made face coverings and head bands. Another big shout out to Stacey Black who has been coordinating a massive effort to make scrubs bags for NHS and health workers as well.

### ***Local Covid-19 Assessment Centre***

Well done to our local COVID-19 Assessment Centre in raising money for equipment which has now been achieved. It is a dedicated space based at Headcorn Aerodrome where the Weald Primary Care Network GPs (which includes Marden Medical Centre) can assess their patients with symptoms of coronavirus face-to-face. It does not offer testing, but the doctors and nurses there can assess people who might be becoming more unwell with COVID-19. They can then advise if their patients can stay safely at home or whether they need to go to hospital.

### ***Marden Pharmacy***

We thank you for continuing to provide prescriptions to residents whilst putting yourselves at risk and what must have been an incredibly busy time for you. Thanks must also be given for the wonderful delivery service you have provided to those residents who have been self-isolating.

### ***Marden Fire Station and First Responders***

We may never see you, but to know you are there if residents are in difficulty - we thank you.



### ***Marden Primary School***

Thank you to Marden Primary School for looking after those children who need to be at school and to the teaching staff who have been doing an amazing job in supporting their pupils and trying to stay connected to keep their little brains ticking over so they can continue their education. They have even been organising a daily online Fitness Challenge.

Congratulations to all those parents who have had the challenge of supporting your children's education at home, especially if you are having to work from home as well. Also well done for making a 100th birthday card to send to Captain Tom, the inspirational war veteran who has raised more than a staggering £32m for the NHS by completing 100 laps of his garden. Thanks to Nav of OneStop for getting so many of your customers to sign the card!



## **VILLAGE BUSINESSES**

We were so fortunate that so many of the village shops remained open during the crisis – a special mention to:

**Marden Farm Shop** – thank you to Rachel and staff for staying open to provide us with local produce and making deliveries to those residents who are in need whilst putting yourselves at risk. It was so sad that the beautiful bicycle was stolen that was being used for deliveries.

**One Stop** – thank you to the Athwal family and staff for enabling us to continue to shop locally and keeping the Post Office open. You have gone over and above with making deliveries to those who are vulnerable, again putting yourselves at risk. Also, a huge thank you to Nav's mum, lovely Raj, who has been cooking takeaway Indian food and donating every single penny to the NHS – she raised £1300 in the first week. Keep up the good work!

**Stanleys of Marden** – thank you to Liz and staff for continuing to stay open for the public to get fuel and to stock up with compost etc.

**West End Stores** – thank you John and Pat for staying open, restocking your shelves when you can and for making additional deliveries to those in need whilst putting yourselves at risk so that residents can shop locally.

**Kebab Fish Knight, Marden**

**Tandoori , The Unicorn, Taj of Kent, West End Tavern and Little Bee**

**Eatery** – thank you all for providing a take away service to residents to what must be a very difficult time for you all.

Also thank you to **Autobase, Ballards the Butchers and Kent Mart** for staying open and other businesses in and around the Parish. **Golden Hill Nursery** reopened enabling residents to stock up locally on plants and **Beechbridge Plants** who have been selling plants outside their property.

It is such a shame that some of our local shops and businesses had to close. However, it is good news that these are beginning to reopen as we go to print – **BUPA Dental Surgery, Forty Seven, the Green Door, John's Hairdressers, Little Eden, the Old Post Office Café, Munchies and Tanner Farm Park.** The **Hong Kong Kitchen** has now been taken over and renamed **Cherry Tree** serving Chinese food – good luck to the new owners. Our wonderful **Marden Village Club** will also hopefully be able to re-open soon.



Here's a flavour of what some of our innovative local businesses have been doing:

## AIRCLEAN

YOUR AIR FILTER MANUFACTURER

**Airclean** have been supplying NHS and key worker supply chains around the UK in the fight against the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic. Projects such as a further 42 units delivered to a hospital in the north of England, and additional emergency deliveries to visor and face mask manufacturers.



**Anno Distillers**, a Marden-based distillery, has swapped spirits for making hand sanitiser in an effort to aid the public during the coronavirus outbreak. This is made to World Health Organisation standards and they donated the first 200 litres to key workers across the country. Anno hand rub is now available to the public.

**Burtens** Prototype Ventilators. Although the main thrust of their business is aimed at the veterinary sector, some of the products are identical to those used in human healthcare.

As soon as the COVID-19 crisis emerged they placed an embargo on veterinary sales of products that they thought may be useful to the NHS. To date their entire stock of oxygen concentrators has been supplied into NHS acute treatment units along with infusion pumps and syringe drivers and have initiated a rapid prototype project to design ventilators in response to the Government's call to manufacturers.



### P&P Signs Workshop.

Inventive Mo at P&P Signs has diversified from usual sign graphics into the production of medical visors at first to the NHS and now to retail

and personal use. Residents were able to donate these to hospitals locally. These are still available by ordering by email: [visors@pandpsigns.co.uk](mailto:visors@pandpsigns.co.uk).

Finally, thank you to Sue Bo in Plain Road for running a Charity Plant Sale donating all proceeds to Choices Domestic Abuse; Lotte Scade in Summerhill Road for running a Seed Sale to raise money for the RDA, a local riding school for the disabled; and Ellie from Hellebores & Hedgerows who generously donated 10 bouquets of home grown flowers on Garden Day UK to residents.

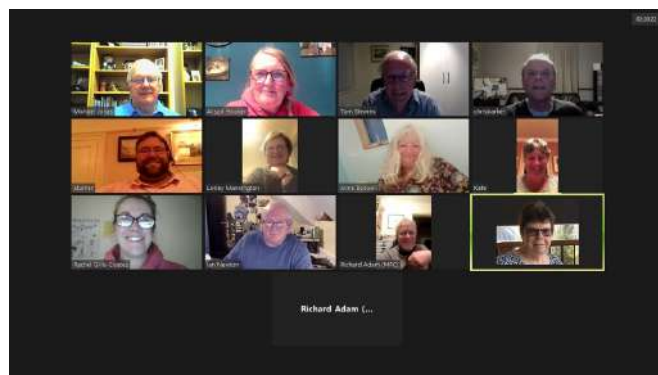
# GENERAL UPDATE

## ***Parish Council Meetings***

The Government temporarily removed the legal requirement for local authorities to hold public meetings in person during the Covid-19 pandemic so they can continue with some of their important work. As a result, local authorities in England were handed new powers in April to hold public meetings virtually by using video or telephone conferencing technology. The Parish Office has been closed and the Clerks are both working from home until further notice.

At an Extra Ordinary Full Council meeting on 24th March (Councillors self-distancing in the Memorial Hall car park), it was formally agreed for a Discharge of Functions, to set up an Emergency Committee, and adoption of temporary amendments to Financial Regulations, Scheme of Delegation, High Consequence Infectious Disease policy, Covid-19 Business Continuity Plan and General Business Continuity Plan. As a result, all Marden Parish Council meetings were cancelled/deferred until further notice and are now being held remotely via the Zoom facility on a Tuesday on a fortnightly basis. This method is proving successful and mainly includes updates from the Clerk, any urgent/key issues for decision and planning applications. You can view agendas and minutes on the Parish Council website and members of the public are, of course, welcome to join.

If you would like to join for a specific item/s, please let Ali know by 7.00pm on the date of the meeting. Various projects have obviously had to be postponed such as the submission of the draft Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP) which was out for local consultation until end March. We had to close the Public Toilets near the Library and are awaiting a decision by Government and Maidstone Borough Council before they can reopen as we take guidance from them. We have also compiled a Highly Contagious Infectious Diseases (HCID) Risk Assessment for all staff and councillors.



## ***Annual Parish Meeting***

The Annual Parish Meeting, which had been scheduled for 7th April, had to be cancelled and, at the moment, no new date has been set. You can find the annual reports from the Chairman, Amenities and Planning on the Parish Council website. However, if you wish to receive a hard copy please let Ali know. If local groups still wish to submit their annual report, please send to Ali via email to [clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) and these will also be uploaded to the website.



## ***Postponement of Local Elections***

Marden Parish Council elections were due to be held on 7th May, but the Coronavirus Act 2020 has postponed local elections, the Police & Crime Commissioner elections and local polls and referendums until 6th May 2021. Therefore the 11 existing Parish Councillors can remain in position until that date including the Chairman.

However, if you are interested in standing for next year's Parish elections and you feel you have something to offer the village, please contact Ali for more information. Information is also accessible on the Parish Council website <http://bit.ly/MPC2020Election>

## ***Summer Play Scheme Cancellation***

The Parish Council had once again planned to run the Summer Play Scheme from Monday 27th July to Friday 7th August this year at Marden Primary School. Councillors feel it would be too difficult to be able to socially distance the children whilst undertaking the fun activities, particularly if the weather is inclement and they would need to be inside. It is with much regret we have had to take the hard decision to cancel the scheme. We know how important it is for parents to help with childcare and entertainment during the Summer holidays, but these are exceptional circumstances and hopefully next year things will have returned to normality.



## ***VE Day - 75 Years Celebration***

It was so disappointing that we could not hold our VE Day commemoration event in Southons Field on 9th May especially as we had so much entertainment lined up for residents. It was also going to be a fund raiser for our local branch of the Royal British Legion which is chaired by Cllr Tom Stevens.

It was poignant that this commemoration happened in the middle of the crisis, but the nation could still thank the Second World War generation and provide the fitting tribute they deserve. It was great so many of you decorated your homes and held socially-distanced celebrations.

Marden History Group would love to receive your photos on how you celebrated VE Day and also any of the "Clap for Carers" on Thursdays at 8.00pm. Please email Eunice Doswell at [e.doswell@uwclub.net](mailto:e.doswell@uwclub.net) or Sally Sparrow at [sally\\_sparrow@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sally_sparrow@hotmail.co.uk). Many thanks from the History Group.

## Marden Parish Council Annual Accounts

It is at this time of year that we share our Annual Accounts with residents in our Summer newsletter.



### Annual Accounts for 2019/20

Budget	Expenditure	Income
Staffing	£77,959.91	£0.00
Administration	£15,510.77	£0.00
By-Election	£2,869.54	£0.00
Newsletter, advertising etc	£3,724.47	£0.00
Vehicle/Machinery	£4,908.80	£0.00
Finance	£2,104.73	£136,997.40
S106	£45,929.82	£44,931.82
Miscellaneous	£768.03	£290.00
Christmas	£2,587.89	£357.74
Public Conveniences	£11,099.73	£2,500.00
Public Works Loan repayment	£18,237.92	£0.00
Neighbourhood Plan	£311.77	£0.00
Open Spaces	£9,168.90	£0.00
Other Amenities	£5,760.60	£2,828.00
Play Scheme 2019	£2,263.45	£3,681.41
Cemetery	£1,165.66	£4,725.00
Parish Services Scheme	£0.00	£5,279.00
Capital	£1,096.63	£0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£205,468.62</b>	<b>£201,590.37</b>

As at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019	Current Financial Assets	As at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020
£2,400	VAT repayment	£2,541
£13,455	Nat West (revenue)	£14,555
£46,725	Santander (capital)	£47,007
£17,013	Unity Bank (revenue)	£11,612
<b>£79,593</b>	<b>TOTAL Financial Assets</b>	<b>£75,714</b>

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31st March 2020 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.

**Mrs Ali Hooker**

**Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**

**Marden Parish Council**

## PLANNING UPDATE

Planning applications are still being discussed at the Parish Council meetings and residents are always welcome to join the virtual meetings via Zoom. You can find the annual Planning report on the Parish Council Website which would have been presented at the Annual Parish Meeting. Please see the link: <https://bit.ly/AnnualParishMtgs>

### ***Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Call For Sites***

As advised in the last Newsletter, the Parish Council (MPC) unanimously agreed that the three large scale sites put forward under the recent MBC Call for Sites exercise, were deemed unsuitable for development. The formal response was submitted in February to MBC - Land North of Staplehurst, Strategic Expansion of Marden and Pagehurst Farm and included all the comments received from residents.

In March, MPC sent their response on the remaining 19 smaller sites put forward under the MBC Call for Sites which included any comments received from residents. You can find these documents on the MPC Website: <https://bit.ly/CallForSites>

The Call for Sites was further discussed at a recent virtual MBC Spatial, Planning and Infrastructure Committee meeting, when the possible sites of a new Garden Village within the borough of Maidstone were noted.

The Parish Council is keeping wholly up to date on this, despite the pandemic and will be concentrating all its efforts as far as Marden is concerned on this aspect of the Local Plan Review. The second-stage consultation, with a more fully developed Reg 18b, is planned for later in 2020. MBC are working in close collaboration with infrastructure and transport providers, including Kent County Council and utility companies, to ensure that the necessary requirements are fully considered to meet the needs of future development.

### ***Marden Neighbourhood Plan (MNP)***

A resounding “yes” was received at the Referendum held on the 27th February to the proposed MNP and many thanks to those residents who supported this important planning document. It was due to be submitted to the Maidstone Borough Council Strategic Planning and Infrastructure meeting in April for formal decision but, of course, this was cancelled.

Under Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the plan had to be made by the Council within 8 weeks of the referendum result. Because of the current exceptional circumstances, confirmation has now been received from MBC that the MNP is now part of the Maidstone Development Plan and will therefore be used in future when making decisions on planning applications.



## **Marden Neighbourhood Plan (Contd)**

To view the plan and the FAQ flyer, please go to the MPC website:

<http://bit.ly/MNPDocNov19>

Marden Parish Council has now been informed that this is now due to be submitted to Maidstone Borough Council in July for ratification.

## **HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Train services have continued to operate to a special timetable throughout the Coronavirus lockdown, initially only for key workers, but more recently for other essential work journeys for those unable to work from home. It is now mandatory for travellers to wear face coverings on all public transport.

Bus services have also continued to operate to timetable throughout this period. Usage is restricted on the same basis as trains and the same government guidance applies. However, during this time, many people have explored the health and wellbeing benefits of walking and cycling for both work journeys and leisure purposes.



Vehicle drivers are urged to maintain vigilance for the increased numbers of non-motorised users on our main roads and country lanes.

## **Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)**

As previously advised, the Parish Council has collated a proactive action list of highway measures for the Parish which includes residents' suggestions and also the highway improvements due to be delivered by developers.



The document was submitted to KCC in January and a meeting will take place with Kent Highways in July. Prior to this meeting, Councillors are undertaking additional work to achieve a document that describes our highways issues and priorities that can be taken forward and used to lobby for change as well as in our own budget preparation. The updated document will be placed on the MPC Website shortly. Please note, the plan is for highway improvements and not highway maintenance.

## **Roadworks**

There have been a considerable number of roadworks including road closures in and around Marden in the last month. You can monitor future roadworks on the One Network link: <https://one.network/>

## ***Fault Reporting***

If you spot any problems out on the Highway during this time, the best way to report faults is via the KCC website:

[www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults)  
as this will provide a unique reference number to enable tracking of progress. It is also the quickest way to ensure faults are directed to the appropriate team for investigation and action. However, please call 03000 418181 if you spot a problem on the Highway that could cause an accident.

## ***Fly Tipping***

It is no surprise that there was a considerable increase in fly tipping whilst the rubbish tips were closed during lockdown. You can download the Country Eye app to report any fly tipping you come across, but also you can report any suspicious behaviour, incidents or concerns in the countryside. Please note the app is not intended for emergency purposes: <https://countryeye.co.uk/>

## ***Accident Spots***

Accident spots are not always reported if they are non-injury. Councillors encourage residents to report accidents where they are not recorded by Kent Police to Ali. Ali will keep a log as evidence and this information can then be added to the Highways Improvement Plan (see above).

## ***Development Signage***



As you will have noticed, there are an inordinate number of development signs attached to lamp posts and Highways signage littering our lovely Parish. The Parish Council has been liaising with Kent Highways and it transpires that many of them have been placed on the Highway without their knowledge. If authorisation has been received to erect the signage, a KCC reference number is placed on the back of the sign. We estimate that approximately two-thirds of the signs do not have a correct reference number and they will be removed and disposed of as well as any other unauthorised signage.

### ***Speed Watch and Lorry Watch***

We are hoping that both the Speed Watch and Lorry Watch sessions will be organised once things have settled back to normal and Rachel, our Deputy Clerk, will be in contact with those residents who have kindly volunteered. If there are any other residents who have an hour or two to spare, please contact Rachel on 07940 241333 (or 01622 832305 once back working in the office) or by email on [deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)

### ***Marden Train Station***

The Parish Council have been pressing for a meeting with Southeastern and Network Rail for some time now to discuss a variety of issues. A new Community Relations Manager has finally been in contact so hopefully, when things return to normal, a meeting can be arranged. We have also written to our MP Helen Grant regarding the S106 contributions for the station which had been allocated for new bike racks and other facilities at the station and she is liaising with the Kent County Council Cabinet Member regarding this.

## **OPEN SPACE**

You can find the annual Amenities report regarding our open spaces on the Parish Council Website which would have been presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on the link: <https://bit.ly/AnnualParishMeeting>

### ***Marden Playing Field and Southons Field***

Whilst the play areas had to close during lockdown, we have been lucky that the Playing Field and Southons Field have been able to remain open. We have been extremely fortunate that both our caretakers, Chris Prince and Ian Jones (with the assistance of Graham Carey) have continued to work through lockdown maintaining our open spaces, but of course carefully observing social distancing and have been provided with the necessary protective equipment. Many thanks to Chris and Ian for all their hard work. If the areas had been left untouched during the crisis, it would have taken a great deal of time and effort to get the areas back into shape. It has enabled residents to continue to enjoy them. The Parish Council would also like to thank Ross Purland for volunteering to help at Southons Field.

Following the Government announcement that play areas can be opened from Saturday 4th July, Marden Parish Council will be opening all of their play areas as soon as it is safe to do so and this will be advertised via Facebook and the Parish Council website.

The Public Toilets should be open again with normal opening hours by the time you read this newsletter and relevant COVID-19 signage will have been erected. Daily cleaning will be undertaken but any concerns should be reported to the Parish Council.



## ***Marden Playing Field and Southons Field (contd)***

Installation of the outdoor gym equipment and additional CCTV in the Playing Field has obviously been postponed but Ali and Rachel are working on these to get them installed as soon as possible. A small pot of money has been set aside in the budget for a few new pieces of equipment in Southons Field e.g. new seating, wooden swings etc. and once things are finally back to normality, the Amenities Sub-Committee will discuss further.

At the Parish Open Days last November we asked residents to let us know what we could spend the remaining S106 monies on in the Playing Field (this money can only be utilised at the Playing Field and not at Southons Field, the Cemetery or for any other Parish facility). As a result, an S106 Sub-Committee was set up and we started discussions with Marden Football Club. These of course have been curtailed and will be resumed at some point.

### ***Cemetery***

Marden Cemetery is such a peaceful and wonderful open space that Ian Jones, our Cemetery Caretaker, maintains and we have been allowed to keep it open during the crisis, unless a funeral is taking place. There is a plethora of wildlife in the hedgerows and areas around, but it is sad to report that the bird feeders Ian maintains are regularly stolen by thoughtless visitors who have no respect.

A poster will be placed on the signage board requesting that visitors consider using more sustainable flower tributes and endeavour not to leave plastic on graves and interment of ashes' plots.

## **POLICE AND CRIME UPDATE**

### ***Kent Police***

A big thank you to our wonderful Kent Police who continue to work night and day, 365 days a year, to keep us safe. Their tried and tested plans allow them to focus on what's most important and work together with communities across Kent.

If you need to make contact:

- Report a non-urgent crime or incident online at [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report) or call 101;
- In an emergency, call 999;
- If deaf or speech impaired, text "police" and your message to 60066;
- For advice and information visit [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk); or
- For the latest news follow @kent\_police on Twitter or find them on Facebook.

### ***Off Roading***

There have been a few occasions when quad and other bikes have been ridden on the Playing Field. Please could residents note that all mechanical vehicles are not permitted on the Playing Field or on any other Parish Council open space. If you spot this happening again, please call 101.

### ***Anti-Social Behaviour/Police Reports***

In the recent reports received from our PCSO Nicola Morris, two local arrests had been made with a vehicle seized which had been used in crimes targeting horse stables and this investigation is ongoing. A motorbike has been seized and 3 Section 59's issued regarding nuisance motorbikes, and a Police Dog patrolling the village regarding drug intelligence. A few reports have been received on anti-social behaviour and two Community Protection Warnings have been issued as a result. Please continue to report any anti-social behaviour or crimes by calling 101 or online at [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk). If an emergency dial 999.

### ***Parish/Police Surgeries***

These have obviously been suspended during the crisis, but two surgeries have been planned for 11th July and 22nd August with PCSO Nicola Morris in the car park at the rear of the library to allow for social distancing to be taken into account. Both surgeries will commence at 12noon until 1.00pm.

### ***Domestic Abuse***

This is a crime and it can affect anyone. During this COVID-19 pandemic, limited contact with the outside world may make you or someone you know feel unsafe, but Kent Police's specialist teams are still here to help 24/7, in the same way they always do. Kent Police will respond to your call and can arrest anyone committing offences against you. In an emergency dial 999 or 101 for non-emergencies. You can also speak to someone online at [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk).

There are other agencies working with Kent Police to support you:  
National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247 • Domestic Abuse Support Services in Kent and Medway:  
[www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk](http://www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk)  
Victim Support: 08 08 16 89 111  
[www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)  
Broken Rainbow:  
[www.brokenrainbow.org.uk](http://www.brokenrainbow.org.uk) •  
Childline: 0800 1111

### ***Rogue Traders***

Doorstep fraudsters generally seek to carry out services that are either completely unnecessary or sub-standard. If cash is paid in advance, they will often leave without starting any work. Services offered will include cleaning driveways, gardening or roof and guttering repairs. If someone knocks at your door, always refuse on the spot repairs or maintenance. Don't allow anyone to pressure you into agreeing to have work carried out. If you ask them to leave and they don't, contact the police on 999. Don't ever go to a bank or cash point with a trader - legitimate traders would never do this. Use reputable traders who are members of the KCC Trading Standards approved trader scheme, run in partnership with Checkatrade. Ask for quotes in writing and check that the tradesperson is from the company they say they are from.



# KENT FIRE AND RESCUE

## **Water Safety**

A lot of reports have been received of people swimming in lakes, rivers and reservoirs. Please note that local reservoirs are NOT for public access AT ALL. Please be aware of the dangers:

- Take any warning or safety signs seriously – they are there for a reason;
- Don't jump or dive in – you don't know how deep the water is and there may be unseen hazards;
- Never swim near weirs or locks as there are often dangerous currents.

Sometimes the water is not as safe as it looks, and is full of dangers you can't see:

- The water is often deeper than it looks;
- It's very cold, and can quickly cause cramp and breathing difficulties;
- It may contain hidden rubbish and debris such as broken glass which can cause injuries;
- Sometimes it can be polluted and can make you very ill.

For further information visit <https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/water-safety/>



# HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Building on strong, cohesive and caring community and supporting each other in the community to provide a safe place is essential, especially in our current circumstances. Marden Parish Council strive to help raise awareness and provide as much information on services as possible. We are so lucky in Marden to have numerous community support groups such as the Marden Walking Group, the Marden Living Memories Group, the Patients Participation Group, and the Thursday Club. There is a Defibrillator in the phone box at the Library and it is planned to have one installed at the Memorial Hall.



## **COVID-19 Testing**

Details of new testing arrangements have become available and anybody who is showing coronavirus symptoms is eligible to book a swab test to find out if they have the virus. The primary registration route will be via [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus), but people in Kent who do not have any access to the internet, or who have difficulty with the digital portals, will be able to ring a new national 119 service to book their test.



## ***Maidstone Borough Council Community Support Hub***

This Maidstone Hub provides a coordinated response to help provide and deliver essentials to people across the borough who are most in need. It has been set-up in response to the Government's introduction of 'shielding' and the call to create a network of hubs covering the whole country for the most vulnerable. The Community Hub will offer help to those people who don't have a support system in place and to assist those people with serious medical conditions who have been told to remain indoors for 12 weeks because of the Coronavirus.

Working with local volunteer and community groups, the Community Hub will provide a service to anyone of any age who needs additional support at this time. It specifically focuses on providing access to food, medicines and other supplies and will be open Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5.00pm. You can access the Hub at: <https://bit.ly/MBCCCommunityHub>

## ***Kent Together by Kent County Council***

A new 24-hour helpline has been set up to support vulnerable people in Kent who need urgent help, supplies or medication. The helpline – called Kent Together – provides a single, convenient point of contact for anyone in the county who is in urgent need of help during the Coronavirus outbreak.

It is a collaboration between KCC, central Government, District, Borough and local councils, the voluntary and community sector, the NHS, emergency services and other partners to ensure help is at hand for vulnerable people.

If you are vulnerable and have an urgent need that cannot be met through existing support networks, you can contact the Kent Together helpline at [www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether](http://www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether) or by calling on 03000 41 92 92.

## ***KCC West Kent Partnership and Service Update***

You can find a lot of advice and support services on the Kent Support and Assistance Scheme via the following link: <https://bit.ly/KentSupportWestKent>

## ***Living Memories in Marden***

The Dementia Awareness day for Marden had to be postponed due to the current situation, but low-key awareness measures will be around the village, for example garlands of knitted Forget-Me-Not flowers. Unfortunately the living memory sessions have been unable to take place over the lockdown period, but if you know someone who would benefit - a family member, friend, neighbour, please contact Rachel Chacon on 01622 831941 or email: [livingmemories@mardenchurch.org.uk](mailto:livingmemories@mardenchurch.org.uk)

This project is supported by Marden Church and Marden Medical Practice.



### **Allotments and Community Garden**

As advised in the last newsletter, the Parish Council has agreed, in principle, to take over the allotment area at Highwood Green. The Parish Council would like to reiterate that it is committed to the allotment site and is working with several interested village groups to confirm the way forward.

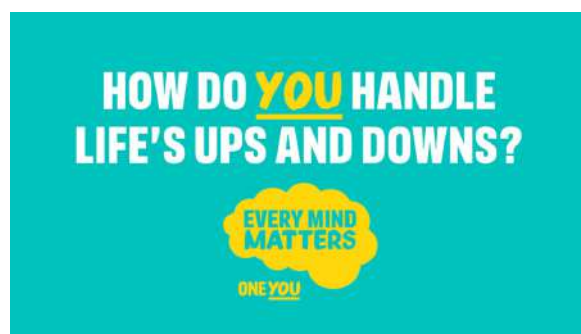
The Parish Council is also looking at exploring the possibility of a site for a Community Garden for all residents in another suitable central location. This would be an exciting opportunity for the community to pull together to provide a valuable facility that could serve residents with many types of disability and those with none. Of course, initial funding would be needed, and the Parish Council is dedicated to identifying potential sources, although it would require a community group and/or individual volunteers to assist in managing and maintaining the site in the future.

### **Marden Children's Centre**

Marden Children's Centre has remained closed during the crisis, but they are hoping to open shortly. Finding ideas to help keep your children entertained at home can sometimes be difficult, but if you would like some ideas of different activities and play ideas that you would usually find in their group sessions, please email: [Marden@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Marden@kent.gov.uk).

### **Involve and OneYou Assistance**

Both of these groups can give assistance. Check out [involvekent.org.uk](http://involvekent.org.uk) or email [office@involve.org.uk](mailto:office@involve.org.uk) or call 03000 810005 or if you need home help, call 03000 810007. OneYou can assist you on [oneyou.kent@nhs.uk](mailto:oneyou.kent@nhs.uk). There is a dedicated phone line for food and medicines for shielded people who need help. Call 0300 1231220 and they can also arrange befriending telephone calls.



### **Mental Health Awareness**

Kindness was the theme for Mental Health Awareness Week which took place at the end of May. Mental health is always important, none more so now during this period of lockdown, so do be kind to yourself as well as others. We know how much work is being undertaken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our communities – do keep up the good work. If your mental or emotional state becomes worse, or you're worried about someone you know – help is available. You're not alone – talk to someone you trust – sharing a problem is often the first step to recovery.

**SELF CARE  
ISN'T SELFISH**

## **Mental Health Awareness (Contd)**

You can find up-to-date materials from Mental Health First Aid, England on ideas for ways to be kind to yourself and others on their website. Find out how you can get involved:

<https://bit.ly/WeekMentalHealth>

You can also find information on looking after your mental health and wellbeing on the following link:

<https://bit.ly/KCCMentalHealth>

## **Calling All Carers – Help to Care**

Do you provide care for somebody in Kent and Medway? The NHS has recently launched their free mobile Help to Care app designed to help you spot the signs of a problem and find the right information and advice if you're worried about someone. This is for carers across the county, both professional or volunteers, who look after a relative or loved one. The app will empower carers to make the best decisions about the care they provide and feel confident about who they should call if they need support. Please check out: <https://bit.ly/HelpToCare>



## **Loneliness - Improving Support for the Socially Isolated**

Loneliness is one of society's most significant challenges. It reduces the quality of life and has an impact on health and wellbeing – it can affect anyone of any age, loneliness is not just about older people. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has recently launched a new joint guide with the Local Government Association (LGA) on tackling loneliness. In October 2018, the Government launched its first ever strategy on loneliness making it clear that responsibility for tackling loneliness cuts across more than one ministerial department. The guide has practical advice, guidance and case studies and focusses on 4 key themes:

- Making Connections – finding ways to reach and understand the needs of those experiencing loneliness.
- Making a Difference – providing services that directly improve the number and quality of relationships that people have.
- Linking Up – giving support such as transport and technology to help sustain connections.
- The Right Environment – creating the right structures and conditions locally to support those affected by, or at risk of, loneliness.

You can find the guide on the link: <https://bit.ly/NALCLoneliness>



## ***Citizens Rights for Older People (CROP) Helping You to Help Yourself***

This is a free and independent advocacy, information and advice service for older people. Under normal circumstances, CROP Volunteer Advocates will visit you at home, in hospital or residential care and act in accordance with your wishes and decisions. CROP can help with: completing benefit forms, attendance allowance, personal independent payments, carers' allowance, pension credit and employment support allowance. CROP accepts referrals for anyone over the age of 55. If you would like to use this caring service, please call 01622 851200 or email: [lenham@cropkent.org.uk](mailto:lenham@cropkent.org.uk)

## **DRAINAGE AND WATER**

### ***South East Water***

South East Water recently carried out maintenance, known as flushing, in the postcode sector TN12 9 to keep tap water running crystal clear. This involves pushing water through the pipes to draw out naturally occurring deposits, such as iron or manganese. Water is an essential part of life and during the COVID-19 outbreak their dedicated teams of key workers are continuing to improve and maintain the network to ensure water keeps flowing to your taps 24/7. They have put several procedures in place to ensure their planned work can go ahead both safely and efficiently. <https://bit.ly/SEWaterPipeCleaning>

Hot temperatures and dry weather over recent weeks have seen an exceptional demand on the drinking water network as everyone spends more time at home, particularly in the garden. This has meant that an extra 140 million litres of water have had to be pumped into the pipeline network on Bank Holiday Monday to keep up the demand. Key worker teams have been working tirelessly over the past weeks to keep taps running and continue to do so, but to ensure there is enough water for everyone as the hot weather continues South East Water need your help to spread the message and make everyone in the community "water aware".

How Can You Help? South East Water is asking everyone to help make sure there is enough water to go around by taking two simple steps – let your lawns go brown and be proud of your dirty car. These two actions will help make sure there is enough water for our communities, while fighting Covid-19. Water is a key tool in the fight against the virus as it keeps people healthy and hydrated and is essential to keep up with the extra hygiene measures everyone is taking. Water is also key for the hospitals and care homes across the South East region, so your help is needed to making sure there's enough to go around.



## **Flooding**

After such a long and protracted wet Autumn and Winter with flooding and storms, the weather has fortunately been dry since we have been in lockdown. As advised in the previous Newsletter, Yalding and Collier Street parishes are part of a road closure pilot liaising with the Environment Agency, Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council when flooding occurs, and we have requested that Marden should be included in this pilot scheme. Whilst the Environment Agency provide flooding/warning alerts, they have no authority to make road closures. This is the responsibility of Kent County Council.

## **CLIMATE, SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY**

### **Village Litter Pick**

The village litter pick had to be cancelled in March and thanks so much to those residents who had offered to volunteer. A big thank you to our litter heroes who continue to litter pick around the village and the country lanes. We know who you are - it has not gone unnoticed - we really appreciate your efforts. If all goes well, the village clean-up will be rearranged for the Autumn. In the meantime, please do not drop your litter and please, please dispose of it in the bins in the village.

### **Wildflower Meadow**

Despite the lockdown, a few of the "Bloomers" have embarked on starting to create a Wildflower Meadow in Southons Field.

You can now begin to see them growing through. Please do keep off this area. This is a 'work in progress' project and doubt the seeds that have been sown will come to much this year. The annual seeds may flower, but the perennial seeds will hopefully make an appearance next year. If any residents would like to grow some wildflower plugs or donate plants for the meadow, please email: [anne.boswell@ymail.com](mailto:anne.boswell@ymail.com)

### **Marden Wildlife Facebook Page**

A Marden Wildlife Facebook page has recently been set up to showcase what an abundance of wildlife we have in the Parish. There are some great photos of birds, insects, wildflowers and wildlife photographs, including the orchids in the Kent Wildlife Trust's Marden Meadow. Please check it out: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/843689546133953/>



*Copyright Alan Pavey*

### **Tree Charter Day**

The Parish Council has registered with the Tree Charter and become a Charter Branch. Marden in Bloom and Marden Walking Group plan to hold a Tree Charter Day on the last Saturday in November. The trees are shortly going to be tagged by number in Southons Field and in due course, at the Cemetery, Playing Field, Napoleon Drive play area and Rookery Path.

# YOUTH PROVISION

## **YMCA Youth Club**

It was such a shame that the two new youth clubs being run by the YMCA West Kent branch had only just got up and running in January before being cancelled until further notice.

# OTHER PARISH INFORMATION

## **Marden Library**

Following Government advice, Marden Library and Heritage Centre had to close, but may be able to reopen soon. They have extended all loan periods until the end of June but you can email [libraries@kent.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@kent.gov.uk) if you need an extension. Digital collections are always available including reference resources as well as free e-books, e-audio books, a vast range of the latest e-magazines and daily e-newspapers. These can be accessed via their libraries page. The Ask a Kent Librarian Service is available on 03000 41 64 38 or email [akl@kent.gov.uk](mailto:akl@kent.gov.uk) or via 24/7 chat online.

Maidstone Libraries have been running Story and Rhyme sessions online for children. You can check this out on Kent Libraries, Registration & Archives, or catch up on any sessions you've missed via:  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/KentLibrariesArchives/220650382684407/>

## **KCC Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC)**

HWRC's reopened in May and you need to book a slot either online or by phone. The booking system is crucial to ensure that visitor numbers are kept at a level where social distancing can be maintained and minimise queuing.

KCC have focused on ensuring kerbside collections provided by MBC continue efficiently through lockdown. It is important that you limit use of these restricted slots as they should be used for emergency waste disposal. Journeys to HWRC's should only be undertaken if your waste or recycling cannot be stored at home safely or disposed of safely by other means. To book a slot check out:

<https://bit.ly/HWRCCentres>

## **Local Council Award Scheme Quality Parish Status**

This Quality Award demonstrates that a council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Quality councils go above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further. Marden Parish Council is very proud to have held Quality Parish Council status for over 11 years and works hard to achieve this level. We are required to re-apply every four years and we are pleased to announce we have just received notification that we can retain Quality status for a further four years.

## **Report from Mira Martin, Community Warden**

Keep updated on the latest scams, police reports, fire and rescue news, trading standards bulletins and much more by subscribing to the e-watch email newsletter via the website:  
[www.e-watch.co](http://www.e-watch.co).



Please continue to call 101 with any police issues. Maidstone Borough Council are not holding their Community Protection surgeries but can be called on 01622 602202 or contacted via their webpage.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

### ***Take the Lead on New Dog Control Measures***

Maidstone Borough Council are consulting with the public regarding the continuation of current Dog Control PSPOs involving dog fouling, exclusion of dogs from play areas, etc and also on introducing new orders relating to dogs on lead by direction, stray dogs etc. The Parish Council have already responded to the consultation, but if you would like to undertake the survey to have your say, please check out the following link – the consultation ends on 12th July 2020 - <https://bit.ly/DogControlPSPOS> If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to email: [communityprotection@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:communityprotection@maidstone.gov.uk) or telephone 01622 602301.

## VILLAGE EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

A big welcome if you are new to the village, and you can find all the details in the 'Welcome Pack' on the Parish Council website here: <https://bit.ly/MPCWelcomePack>

In normal times, it is exciting to report the events happening in Marden during the Summer, but of course all events have had to be cancelled including the 'Rude Mechanicals' performance at the end of July.

We thought it was important to report on what our Village Clubs/ Organisations have been up to during lockdown as follows.

### ***Friends of Marden Heritage - Marden's Big Musical Picnic***

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have had to postpone the Big Musical Picnic in July and we are looking at reorganising it on Saturday 19th September. The safety of our members and the people who support us by attending the event is our utmost concern, and we are reviewing the situation based on current Government advice. We will keep people posted on whether we will be able to hold the picnic this year.

*Lucie Green, Chairman*

### ***Marden Art Club***

The Thursday Art Club will start up as soon as the Vestry Hall is open and we hope new members will join us. We are a friendly group who enjoy painting as well as socialising - occasional tuition at a small extra cost. Any queries phone 01622 831529.

*Mo Clayton*

### ***Marden Business Forum (MBF)***

The MBF April AGM had to be postponed until further notice, but they are still providing monthly newsletters to members. MBF is an extremely useful forum for new companies and those who wish to engage with other Marden companies and provides an opportunity for general networking. You can check out their website on:

[www.mardenbusinessforum.com/](http://www.mardenbusinessforum.com/)

*Liz Stanley*

### **Marden Bowls Club**

The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown curtailed the end of our short mat season and has obviously delayed the start of the outdoor season. With some outdoor sports, including bowls, now allowed to restart, albeit under strict rules, the club have decided to remain closed for the immediate future and will review the situation when things improve. We are indebted to Dick Comport, Peter Collins, John Gardener and Tony Brooks for tending to the green through this period of enforced lockdown, because if it had been neglected it would have been very difficult to restore it to its former condition.

*Mick Collins*

### **Marden Community EcoHub**

Whilst the EcoHub ladies have been unable to continue with their craft evenings and events during lockdown, they are still active on their Facebook page. Don't forget the 6Rs: rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse, repair and recycle. If you have skills or items you would like to share, then please check out the Marden Community EcoHub Facebook page.

*Vicky Croxford*



### **Marden History Group and Heritage Centre**

Marden History Group are looking to put together a record and collating information of village life during Covid-19. Do send your photos and information to Eunice Doswell by email on [e.doswell@uwclub.net](mailto:e.doswell@uwclub.net) or to



Sally Sparrow by email on [sally\\_sparrow@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sally_sparrow@hotmail.co.uk). Alternatively you can add photos on the Marden History Group Facebook page. Hopefully, this special Parish Tribute Newsletter will form a good source of information to go into the Heritage Centre's Archives. You can check out their website which has lots of historical facts and stories of Marden's history: <http://www.mardenhistory.org.uk/home/>



### ***Marden Horticultural Society***

After our March meeting we didn't think we wouldn't be meeting for three months. However, if it's possible, we hope to get together in July and August. Thank goodness for our gardens, they are critical to our health and wellbeing. The weather has been perfect for gardening and raising plants and vegetables from seed, so much so we have been swapping plants and putting them outside our houses for members of the public or giving them away to other members.



We were hoping to have a garden safari in Marden this Summer, but instead we are having a virtual garden one and members can post photos on our Facebook page to put on our website: [www.mardenhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.mardenhorticulturalsociety.co.uk). Check out our website for our events and programme. We hope to see many new members and existing ones as soon as possible.

### ***Marden in Bloom***

We are hoping to hold another Pop-Up Bulb Sale on Saturday 19th September from 8am-11am either outside OneStop or online. Please look out for further details.

As you will notice, the 'Bloomers' have been busy replanting the planters around the village and hope they help to brighten up your day. The planter by the Marden sign in Maidstone Road was recently demolished by a lorry turning around, but our Treasurer Rob Thompson quickly cleared the site and made another one. The plants in the boxes on the railings at the West End were also stolen recently, but they are hoping to refill shortly. We won't be defeated!

Thanks to Golden Hill for providing most of the plants and to Marden Village Club, Peter Hall and Liz Stanley who sponsor three of them. Many thanks also to Marden Horticultural Society for taking over the planter in Chantry Road and Rachel Chappell who tends the planter at the Farm Shop. If you live close by to one, we would be so grateful if you could give them a drop of water.

*Anne Boswell*





## **Marden Church**

Although the church building and the Vestry Hall are currently closed, there are still quite a few things going on. The church service has been replaced by a short evening service via Zoom on the internet, and another on Facebook.

Our popular Friday Coffee Morning has also been replaced by a Zoom get-together, and details of that can be obtained from Sarah at [reader@mardenchurch.org.uk](mailto:reader@mardenchurch.org.uk) - do join us, but you have to provide your own coffee and cake!

There is also a weekly reflection on the church website [www.mardenchurch.org.uk](http://www.mardenchurch.org.uk) where more information can be found of all we are doing, including a virtual house group, and an on-line prayer meeting.

Unfortunately, the church is not allowed to distribute the Marden Parish Magazine at present, so there is now an on-line version, also on the website. Everyone is welcome to have a look, even if you are not a regular magazine subscriber. And, of course, church folk are involved in running the Marden Food Bank and offering prayer and pastoral care. For information or assistance, please contact the churchwardens, Carol Walker 01622 831132 or Graham Codling 01622 832622.

## **Marden Motor Club**

The Motor Show planned in May obviously had to be cancelled and Marden Motor Club await further Government advice before it can be rearranged.

*Colin Addison*

## **Marden Primary School PTA**

In lieu of any PTA fundraisers at the moment, we are still welcoming donations and any ideas you may have for raising much needed funds. As schools begin to reopen, it would be nice to provide something fun to welcome the children back and to begin planning as memorable an event as possible for school leavers.

Please contact

[mardenpta@outlook.com](mailto:mardenpta@outlook.com) if you have any suggestions, which would be very much appreciated.

## **Marden Society**

Hopefully, usual activities can be resumed in September after the strangest summer we have ever known! The speakers booked for the cancelled meetings will be booked for 2021. But on the plus side, we live in a friendly village with open spaces round us. Look forward to meeting up in the near future.

*Mo Clayton*

## **Marden Sports Club**

Marden Sports Club had to close and cancel all associated social events, gatherings and sports fixtures and training for Marden Russets Hockey Club, Marden Cricket and Tennis Club until the foreseeable future.

### **Marden Theatre Group**

We were very sad to have to cancel our planned production of "Waiting For God" at the end of May. The cast and crew had to stop rehearsals immediately and are now in limbo. The pandemic has hit us very hard as we still have outgoings for things such as storage and insurances. Our main income is from when we put productions on in the Marden Memorial Hall for the village.



Without any income from ticket and bar sales, we are indeed in a dire situation. We are pleading (in a standard MTG dramatic way!) for donations (perhaps the cost of a ticket and a few drinks £20 or anything you can afford) via our Justgiving page to help us make sure the group will be here when we come through the other side of this difficult time. We really hope we can afford to bring another fantastic performance to our wonderful village. Thank you residents of Marden. If you can help at all, please go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/mardentheatregrp>  
*Mo Gillis-Coates, Chairman*

### **Marden Walking Group**

Some of the Marden Walks Leaflets are being updated and they are preparing 15 outstanding Oral Histories. There will be a new Tree walking route which will coincide with Tree Charter Day on 28th November.

*Catherine Alderson*

### **Mothers Union/Craft Group**

Prior to lockdown the Craft Group were busy knitting forget-me-nots for Dementia Awareness week in May which have been handed to Dr Julie Morgan. There were a number of other residents who knitted some to display around the village as well. As mentioned above, the Craft Group and others also made quite a few scrub bags and head bands.

*Carol Walker*

### **Marden Women's Institute**

As with all other clubs and societies, the Federation of Women's Institutes is unable to proceed with members' meetings for the present. Here in Marden we have almost 50 members, most of whom are in self isolation. We keep in touch by phone and email and support each other where necessary. We were unable to hold our Annual Meeting in May so the current committee and I will remain in place until May 2021. We can't wait to be up and 'running' again and look forward to being together at our next meeting.

*Jean Robertson, President*

**Our Clerks continue to work from home during this time. They can be contacted via their email or on their mobile phones.**

# PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS AND OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

## **CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Lesley Mannington  
Telephone: 07802 720069  
Email: lesley.mannington@btinternet.com

## **PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Richard Adam  
Telephone: 01622 831673  
Email: mpc@tn12.uk

Cllr Chris Barker  
Telephone: 01622 832305

Cllr Anne Boswell  
Telephone: 01622 833351

Cllr Maria Brown  
Telephone: 01622 832305

Cllr Mick Jones  
Telephone: 01622 832305

Cllr Ian Newton  
Telephone: 01622 831832

Cllr Jean Robertson  
Telephone: 01622 831331  
Mobile: 07950 816370

Cllr Tom Stevens  
Telephone: 01622 832305

Cllr Andy Turner  
Telephone: 07803 598813

## **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

## **VICE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Kate Tippen  
Telephone: 01622 832305  
Email: kate.tippen1@gmail.com

## **BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr David Burton  
Telephone: 01622 862595  
Mobile: 07590 229910  
Email: david.burton@burtons.uk.com

Cllr Annabelle Blackmore  
Telephone: 01622 833299  
Email: annabelleblackmore@maidstone.gov.uk

Cllr Steve McLoughlin  
Telephone: 01622 820551  
Email: stevemcloughlin@tiscali.co.uk

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Eric Hotson  
Telephone: 01580 892312  
Email: eric.hotson@kent.gov.uk

## **POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER**

PCSO Nicola Morris  
Telephone: 101  
Email: nicola.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk

## **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:



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