



# **MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**WELCOMES**

**YOU**

**TO THE**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**8<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**(IF YOU WOULD LIKE THIS HANDOUT IN  
LARGER PRINT PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH  
CLERK)**

**PLEASE FIND ATTACHED REPORTS FROM:  
ANNUAL REPORT**

By Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman, Marden Parish Council

**AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

By Cllr Anne Boswell, Chairman of Amenities

**PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

By Cllr Chris Childs, Chairman of Planning

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

By Cllrs Blackmore, Burton & McLoughlin

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

By Cllr Eric Hotson

**KENT POLICE**

By PCSO Nicola Morris

**COMMUNITY WARDEN**

By Mira Martin

**SIR CHARLES BOOTH CHARITY / VICTORY FUND / ALLEN & MAPLESDEN  
TRUST**

**MARDEN PARISH CHURCH**

**MARDEN ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS**

Blue House Cricket Club	Marden Primary School
Bowls Club	Marden Theatre Group
Brownies	Motor Club
Cricket & Hockey Club	Neighbourhood Plan
Friends of Marden's Heritage	Network of Rural Businesses
History Group & Heritage Centre	PTA
Horticultural Society	Retained Fire Service
Kent Air Ambulance	Royal British Legion
Library	Scouts
Marden Business Forum	Short Mat Bowls
Marden Minors FC	Tennis & Badminton
Marden Society	The Allens Coffee Shop
Medical Centre	Thursday Club
Memorial Hall	Toddler Group
Marden Parish Magazine	Village Club
Marden Pre-School Playgroup	Walking Group
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**PLEASE FIND ATTACHED REPORTS FROM:  
ANNUAL REPORT**

By Cllr Kate Tippen, Chairman, Marden Parish Council

I reported last year that Marden is going through a period of unprecedented change and twelve months on that is still the situation.

Your Parish Council has continued to push for the best possible outcomes for the village from the developers who are building in excess of 500 homes in our village. I can report that we have had some success. Most recently Millwood Homes, who are building in Plain Road, have supplied and fitted, free of charge, new windows for the old cottage end of the Memorial Hall. Replacing the dilapidated Victorian windows with modern units, which we expect to lower heating costs for the Parish office and the tenants of the flat above. This represents a significant saving to the Hall and Parish in installation and future running costs. We have continued to work with Kent Highways and the developers over the upgrading of the zebra crossing outside the School. Sadly it now appears that a controlled crossing with lights will not happen due to strict highways regulations about the proximity of driveways to traffic lights. Instead the lines on the zebra crossing and the zig zag, no parking lines, will be repainted. This has come as a great disappointment to us.

Section 106 monies have been allocated to the Playing Field from Highwood Green, The Parsonage and the Millwood developments. Last year we used some of this money to replace the play equipment at Napoleon Drive, which seems to have been very well received by children. A new youth shelter has been ordered to be placed at the rear of the Playing Field, as far away from houses as possible. This should have been installed in January but the continuing wet weather has delayed installation. We held a consultation morning on 3 February to gain residents views on how else we might spend S106 money at the Playing Field. As a result we will be ordering a new sports wall, to replace the old noisy one; some adult gym equipment and we will be continuing the tarmaced path all the way round the Playing Field to create a running/walking track. We will also hope to install CCTV at the bottom end of the Playing Field and tidy up the boundary hedge together with replacing all the litter bins and adding a few new ones. Once we have completed all of that we will see what monies are left for a refurbish or even re build of the changing rooms, although the football club would need to help with funding if we rebuild.

Parking has continued to be an area of concern amongst residents. Following a questionnaire we circulated in 2016, we held a consultation session on 3 February with residents. Not surprisingly many concerns were raised ranging from lack of station parking, road safety outside the school and the top of Pattenden Lane to road congestion and many other issues. We have produced a report which has been sent to Eric Hotson, our County Councillor, and we are now very much relying on him to help us push through a review of existing parking restrictions and for proposals to be created to help alleviate parking issues in the village

Andy Turner will be updating you on the Marden Neighbourhood Plan. I am delighted that we have now almost got to formal consultation stage and I extend

my thanks on behalf of the village to those residents, Parish Councillors and Ali who have spent many hours working on this. Once fully approved this will give the Planning Department a very clear view of what the Marden community wants and expects.

I would like to thank all my colleagues on the Parish Council for their hard work and support over the last twelve months. Sadly two councillors resigned for personal reasons, Jane Cowin and Chris Childs and I thank them for all their hard work during their time on the Council. We were pleased to co opt two new councillors; Mick Jones and Tom Stevens and we welcome them and their experience to the Council.

Our Parish Caretaker, Colin Judge, took a well-earned retirement last Summer and our thanks go to him for all his hard work and effort for the village over the years. We were delighted to find a new caretaker in Chris Prince, who has really hit the ground running and is doing fantastic work for the village. You will no doubt have seen him driving round in the Parish Council van, a new asset that he and we are finding invaluable. Ian Jones our Cemetery caretaker continues to do great work there, and if you haven't visited the Cemetery its well worth a walk up there to see how beautifully tended it is.

This report would not be complete without mention of our exceptional office staff. What you see at meetings is only a tiny proportion of what they are doing behind the scenes. Both Ali our Clerk and her Assistant Erika are very hard working, often working above and beyond their contracted hours, dealing with a huge variety of issues, have fantastic knowledge of all things Marden and remain cheerful, welcoming and unflappable. We are truly lucky to have the services of two such exceptional people here in Marden.

Finally there is one more person I want to mention tonight. My predecessor as Chairman of the Council served Marden for 36 years as a councillor, 18 of those as Chairman. She has also run the Thursday Club for over 40 years and on top of that has been involved in countless village activities. It gives me great pleasure to present Dorothy Reed with a community award in recognition of her service from the Kent Association of Local Councils, signed by the High Sheriff of Kent and the Chairman of Kent County Council.

### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

**By Cllr Anne Boswell, Chairman of Amenities**

The Amenities Committee is responsible for the open space in the village owned by the Parish Council and also the Cemetery, Rookery Path and Public Toilets. We also organise the annual village Christmas celebrations and the Summer Play Scheme + other ad hoc Events. Unfortunately we had to cancel the Village Litter Pick in March because of weather conditions and the ditches being full of water after all the snow and rain. We have reorganised for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October once the vegetation starts to die back. Many thanks also to those residents who regularly litter pick around the village - it is such a community-minded thing to do.

**Marden Playing Field**

Our main priority is to maintain this vital area of village open space to a high standard. All the maintenance, including the mowing and landscape management, is undertaken by our new village caretaker, Chris Prince. Monthly tree inspections are carried out at the Playing Field, Rookery Path, Southons Field and Cemetery to ensure they are safe and remedial work undertaken if necessary. We have also recently had a Tree Audit.

Of utmost importance is the maintenance of the play equipment and regular safety checks are carried out and corrective measures taken where necessary. CCTV near the main play area monitors any anti-social behaviour in the playing field which our PCSO Nicola Morris and the Clerk continue to monitor. The area at the back of the playing field has been cleared and tidied although sadly rubbish still continues to be deposited there particularly in the pond and ditch. At some point, we hope to install CCTV in this area to help with the problem.

As mentioned by the Chairman, a new Youth Shelter is being installed at the end of playing field which has been designed for durability and practicality and the Parish Council liaised with the Youth Club on its design. Two new litter bins have been installed in this area which hopefully will help with the rubbish issue and we are also going to replace the other bins on the Playing Field and install one in the play area itself.

So our next projects are installing an adult gym, focusing on both lower and upper body, which will help residents on their keeping healthy & fit campaign! The existing Sports Wall is going to be replaced which is more robust and has 'shush' washers to minimise noise and a tarmacked pathway around the field to create a running/walking track.

As ever the problem with dog mess continues, and whilst the field is covered by Maidstone Borough Council Dog Control Orders, they do not clear up the mess in the field. They will respond if dog owners are reported of allowing their dogs to foul the field and they will then visit to monitor and view. Our Community Warden Mira Martin monitors the situation and it is such a shame that a few irresponsible dog owners spoil things for others.

We also maintain the changing rooms which are owned by the Parish Council and used by Marden Minors Football Club and hope to refurbish/extend if we have enough developer contribution money left.

The new Napoleon Drive play equipment for the under 5's seems to be enjoyed by many young children and another bench in the play area is shortly to be installed. The surrounding area is maintained by our Village Caretaker who has been trimming the hedges back and keeping the area tidy.

**Southons Field**

The Parish is very fortunate to have an additional open space at Southons Field with its numerous species of trees and is maintained by Chris, the village caretaker. Usage of the field has certainly increased particularly by families as a

peaceful and safe haven to run around, have a picnic on the benches, or play on the Play Trail – a great piece of equipment for balance and co-ordination and can be used by adults as well as children. For these reasons the field is kept ‘dog free’ (apart from guide dogs). Hopefully at some point, the Parish Council will be able to install a few pieces of Trim Trail equipment to help residents continue with their fitness campaign! Grasscrete at the entrance to the field should be installed shortly to help with wear & tear caused by usage.

Opening hours of the field vary slightly depending on the season but is currently open for the use of anyone in the village between 7.00am to 8.00pm.

The field is available for hire by any organisation in the village and various village celebrations take place there. This year the Friends of Marden Heritage will be holding another ‘Big Music Picnic’ event on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June, on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July ‘*Oberon’s Cure*’ will be performed by the Rude Mechanical Theatre Company, and the PTA are planning another Firework Display on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Southons Field is certainly a wonderful village asset.

### **Cemetery**

Again the Parish is lucky to have such an attractive and well maintained Cemetery with a convenient footpath running to it from the village centre. I would like to record our thanks to Ian Jones, our groundsman, for all his effort and hard work he puts into maintaining it to a very high standard. I am sure you will all agree it is a delightful, peaceful and important facility. Last year the Parish Council entered the Cemetery into the South & South East in Bloom awards and we attained ‘Silver’ – a great achievement.

We have created a new area which will come into use over the next few years. A central flower bed has been made and roses have been planted to create hedging to define the different sections. We are always grateful to residents who donate plants.

### **Public Toilets**

We recognise that the Public Toilets are an important public facility which the Parish Council has responsibility for although they are owned by Maidstone Borough Council. A cleaner services them daily and Ian regularly checks and locks them daily, and Chris deals with any maintenance that is required. However, the toilets are a very expensive village asset to maintain and we are looking at monitoring usage.

### **Christmas Celebration**

Once again another great village Christmas celebration took place last December and the well tested formula seems to work with Carols and Morris dancing at the Allens then a Christmas Fair at the Memorial Hall, complete with Father Christmas in his grotto. So many of the village groups now take part, including the Parish Church, making it such a great community event. This year’s event will take place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December and our grateful thanks go to our Assistant Clerk Erika Lock and Parish Clerk Alison Hooker whose hard work and planning always ensure the day is a huge success.

The Christmas trees were once again erected around the village which I hope you agree helps to make the village centre look so festive.

### **Amenities Committee**

The Amenities Committee meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the Parish Council meeting room and all are welcome to attend, although we are looking at reducing meetings to once every two months. I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow councillors on this Committee – Richard Adam, Sean Harvey, Mick Jones, Ian Newton, Jean Robertson, Kate Tippen and Andy Turner - for all the work they have undertaken over the past year.

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

*By Cllr Lesley Mannington, Chairman of Planning*

The Planning Committee continues to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month, and I think it is true to say that it is a rare occasion when we do not have an application to consider, as a consultee advising Maidstone Borough Council of our considered opinion, since we are at the grass roots level with considerable local and professional knowledge. However, that does not mean that MBC always take on board our advice, as has been the case with new village housing developments, where we have urged against, for example, the inclusion of three-storey units as not being in keeping with rural surroundings.

The Maidstone Local Plan has now been adopted, which should give a breathing space as far as any more new development is concerned. We continue to highlight the pressure which the new housing developments in Marden will have on what is becoming a fragile infrastructure. Of the five Rural Service Centres outside Maidstone itself, which have taken the major hit on development, Marden's main thoroughfare is a 'B' road, and we see gridlock at various times of the day, particularly near the school. The station car park is usually full by 8.30 am, and our residential streets have become unofficial commuter parking. As a Council we are fully aware of all the difficulties which excessive development can bring, whether in connection with infrastructure, education, health, leisure and, indeed, behaviour.

Work has been progressing on the finalisation of Marden's Neighbourhood Plan and we will be launching the six-week consultation period under what is termed Regulation 14 at the Big Musical Picnic on Saturday 9 June. It will continue until 21 July with open days planned for 13 and 14 July. This period will be the community's chance to see the final plan before it is submitted for examination by Maidstone Borough Council. It will be available online for everyone with internet access, and also as a hard copy at locations around the village, such as the Library, the Medical Centre, dentist, Village Club, etc. We would urge you all to give the Plan serious attention. It is about anything to do with Marden's future.

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors for their support as well as our Clerk, Ali and Assistant Clerk, Erika, who ensure that everything is kept in order. Marden Parish Council is a Council to be proud of and I am aware of many other Parishes who are quite green with envy with our level of professionalism and commitment.

## **MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

By Cllr Blackmore

In January 2018 the Maidstone Borough Local Plan was adopted by the council having undergone a rigorous inspection by a planning inspector. For the present this gives us certainty and will allow defence against inappropriate large sites which are not contained within the framework of the plan. Maidstone Borough Council are required to undertake a review of this document and adopt any necessary changes by 2021. Housing pressures continue to dominate national news and it is possible the borough may be required to consume further housing and business growth.

During the past year Maidstone Borough Council have purchased 14 units for temporary accommodation because the council has a statutory duty to house an individual or family who present as homeless. Although is a positive start further properties are needed to continue to meet our rising homeless. A decision has been made to add a further 15 units to invest in a range of dwellings across the borough during 2018/19.

Maidstone Borough Council has recently expanded its commercial waste service which provides a much needed service for small businesses who are unable, due to their size, to access national contracts. The acquisition of another refuse vehicle for this purpose has increased the capacity Maidstone Borough Council are able to offer.

Maidstone Borough Council is part of the Medway Flood Partnership group which also includes the Environment Agency and Kent County Council. The Flood Action Plan has a range of initiatives within the Medway catchment area to manage and reduce flood risk. Maidstone Borough Council's proposed contribution of £1 million should help to leverage further funding. Thankfully no significant flooding incidents have occurred in the past three years however it is essential that this subject remains on the Council's capital programme.

Maidstone Borough Council, along with many other organisations, have seen a modal shift in contact during the past year. The upgrade which is taking place on the website should make contact easier. More information is included to assist residents in their quest for assistance. The website address remains the same [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk). This address allows the reporting of missed bins and also fly tipping.



## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

By Cllr Eric Hotson

Local Government has faced another difficult year with Northamptonshire County Council failing to agree a balanced budget and Thanet District Council failing to prepare a Local Plan. In both instances Government Inspectors have are now running relevant departments.

Kent County Council has had to find £80m savings making a total of almost £1b over the past 6 years.

Over half of our £1.6b budget is spent on elderly care.

Marden like so many parishes within my Maidstone Rural South division faces its own pressures and they are shared with me at my quarterly meetings with your Chairman, Councillors and Clerk.

I have read with interest the recently published Village Parking Survey and will support the establishment of a tripartite meeting with MBC, KCC and the PC.

I have supported the Parishes complaint to South Eastern Rail re .poor service, or lack of it, during bad weather earlier in the year and the request for an improved service.

From my Community and Highway Grant I have allocated the following sums;-

1. Summer Play School Scheme £500
2. Speed reduction in Hunton Road, Chainhurst £1,250
3. Marden Primary School artificial football pitch £2,500
4. Improvement to signage and road markings along A229 £1,000
5. Marden Heritage Centre digitisation of documents £1,000

Finally, the annual pothole blitz has commenced with the Government allocating kent and extra £0.9m. Together with our own resources we have £7.5m for the pothole programme. Local contractors have now commenced work across the 5,000 miles of roads in the County.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me on any concerns you may have – [eric.hotson@kent.gov.uk](mailto:eric.hotson@kent.gov.uk) or 01580 892312

Eric Hotson

County Member for Maidstone Rural South

And Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services



**By PCSO Nicola Morris**

**01622 604392 / [nicola.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nicola.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk)**



Over the last twelve months I have continued to work within the Marden & Yalding Ward.

- Regular contact with Golding Homes – joint visits
- Promoting Neighbourhood Watch
- Persons identified on local CCTV for Antisocial behaviour issues
- Joint Family Management Officer visits to support local families
- Regular contact with Southeastern railway
- Regular contact with British Transport Police – statements completed – offenders identified
- Antisocial behaviour issues being dealt with – encouraging local residents to continue to report – linking in with social services and schools
- Intelligence gained around OCGs (organised crime groups)
- Prolific local offenders targeted and remanded
- Raising awareness around CSE (child sexual exploitation) – linking in with Marden Youth Club
- Proactive patrolling around repeat crime venues
- Joint operations held with Kent Police, Southeastern railway and British Transport Police to combat crime, antisocial behaviour and drugs within Marden
- Op Innovate – Rural initiatives - CPT (Community Policing Team) and Special Constables deployed to Marden – road checks and stop checks completed
- The Community Safety Unit (CSU) have been used to combat local issues – taskings have been put in place
  
- The Kent Police website shows a breakdown of crime and locations – just need to put in your postcode on the home page. Follow up visits are conducted to local victims of crime
- All antisocial behaviour victims are followed up by myself, whether a call or a visit is requested

Anyone wishing to contact me about any issues or crime prevention advice can call the non-emergency Police number 101 and ask for local officer PCSO Nicola Morris 56202.

Please continue to report any suspicious persons/vehicles/nuisance through 101

Thank you for your continued support in making Marden safe.

PCSO 56202 Nicola Morris - Maidstone Neighbourhood Team

### **COMMUNITY WARDEN**

**By Mira Martin**

We aim to help the people of Kent to live safely and independently in their neighbourhoods and communities

We are a trusted friend in the community, listening to and encouraging vulnerable residents, of all ages, to resolve problems and enhance their quality of life.

We aim to promote a greater understanding of the cause and effect of anti-social behaviour and provide a uniformed presence to tackle it. We DO NOT have enforcement powers but if we cannot solve your problem directly we will know someone who can.

Areas that we have been able to assist with include; neighbourhood disputes, rogue traders and doorstep callers; fly tipping; graffiti and abandoned vehicles; talks on Road Safety; Stranger Danger; Internet Awareness and How to tackle Bogus Callers. We have set up a variety of different projects which have included educating vulnerable residents in how to stay safe and warm, sports fun days; setting up youth clubs and other activities and an electrical safety project.

We are also able to refer residents for home security, fire safety checks and other assistance they require.

Kent Community Wardens can be contacted via the website  
[www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens](http://www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens)

You can contact the Community Warden for Marden & Staplehurst, Mira Martin, by telephoning 07969 584 179 or E mailing [mira.martin@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mira.martin@kent.gov.uk)

### **SIR CHARLES BOOTH CHARITY**

**By Graham Tippen (Hon Treasurer)**

The Sir Charles Booth Charity is an educational support charity set up to provide financial aid to local people with their children's education. When he made his will, in 1792, he made the bequest that a sum of money be invested for the benefit of the children of the parish, providing they had attended the village school and met a number of other requirements.

**So how much is available?**

The will specifies that the money available shall be the interest earned on his endowment. What may have been a lot of money over 220 years ago is obviously worth much less today, in real terms. However, by prudent investments over the years, the Trustees to the Charity are able to make payments of up to £100 for each individual applicant. In order to reserve the funds for the future, normally a maximum of 2 awards are made annually, though each case is considered on its merits by the Trustees.

**So who are the Trustees?**

The Will of Sir Charles and subsequent Charity Commission documents specify that there should be seven Trustees in all. The current trustees are: Dorothy Reed (Chairman); Rev. Ali Duguid; Robin Judd; Richard Day; Eunice Doswell; Sarah Hill and myself.

**So how do I apply for an award from the Trust?**

Just contact any one of the Trustees, in writing, given the reasons for your application. They will then meet to discuss your request and inform you of their decision. Any award will be made by cheque and successful applicants will be expected to provide a report or other information on how the money has helped them.

**VICTORY FUND (1959)**

**By Anne Cox**

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

**ALLEN & MAPLESDEN CHARITY**

**By Mike Lutener**

In 2017 the the Allen and Maplesden Trust distributed £545. This was £15 given to 15 Couples and £10 give to 32 Singles.

Along with the Victory Fund we are exploring the possibility of merging the two funds to enable us to give more money to the people of the village.

**ST MICHAELS & ALL ANGELS PARISH CHURCH**

**By Revd Ali Duguid**

**Personnel**

In February Revd Dr Steven Sivyer's curacy was transferred from Marden to Boughton Monchelsea, whilst he and his family continue to live in the parish. A well-attended farewell service and party was held for him and Reader Emma Sivyer (Steven's wife) and presentations were made.

At Easter, Mrs Hanna Rosser resigned her post as Children and Families Minister after nearly 20 years of service with us, 9 of which were paid. Hannah has moved to a new and busy post at Paddock Wood, and her leaving service was very well attended, with a party afterwards. She was presented with a large cheque, which she gratefully received, intending to use it for a short holiday with her husband. A new post was designed for a Youth & Children's Minister and in September we appointed Mrs Mara Lane to this post on a probationary contract. She is responsible for JAM, Friends & Heroes (new style Sunday Club), Messy Church, the Nativity, and Christingle Services. Mrs Lane, along with the Vicar, has also worked on setting up a new lunchtime club in School (Storykeepers), which will start in Jan 2018.

### **Support of Worship Services**

We continue to be grateful to Peter Hall and his family for their hospitality, enabling us to hold services at Little Mill Farm Oast in Spring for Rogation and at Christmas this year. Also for supplying us with Christingle apples, decorations and apples for Harvest as well as giant pumpkins which we turn to soup for Christmas, and also the wonderful Christmas Tree.

### **Community building and Fundraising**

We have held many small and some large events, which build community, advertise and fundraise for the specific projects of the CITG, charities and general maintenance.

These include:

- Fortnightly Craft Group
- Weekly Community Café
- Monthly Community Lunch
- Annual Christmas Tree Festival and soup giving (no financial profit expected)
- Many charities, coffee mornings, Lent lunches, etc
- Patronal Festival combined with Harvest Festival.

These are each organised by the Mothers' Union and/or members of the church.

### **The Building**

We are hugely indebted to all the dogged hard work of the CITG committee and are very grateful that we now have an operational tea station, an effective heating system and functioning toilet facility. All these assist us to be hospitable and therefore missional. THANK YOU!

### **The Grounds**

Under the new oversight of the Fabric Committee, the Churchyard is developing well into its state of 'Gods Natural Acre'. Outside contractors are maintaining areas of tight mowing and areas of natural (but maintained) growth. At harvest, as a community project, we planted many bulbs in this area, assisted by the 'Marden in Bloom' team and horticultural society as well which we hope will spread. The gates are now left permanently open and we have received many positive comments on how lovely it all looks. We are grateful to volunteers who

have cleaned ivy from the extensive walls, trimmed trees overhanging the pavement and to Robin and Barbara Judd for maintaining the flowerbed so beautifully.

### **The People**

Service attendance fluctuates as always, depending on weather, school holidays etc and it is noticeable that 'regular attendance' may now mean once a month or once a fortnight. This is the same throughout the country and is an indication of lifestyle change, but Marden Church is healthy and not amongst those 'in decline' as the press would infer. We are very grateful that Revd Stephen Hardy set up a new, user friendly website and, along with parish visiting and other advertising, new people are joining our Church community. We are very grateful to all who give their time to creating and editing the Parish Magazine as well as having an active Facebook page. We now have more homegroups and we ran an Alpha course in the autumn, which was well received by those who attended. We continue with our Mission objective of:

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN:  
 WORSHIPPING TOGETHER  
 LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER  
 SERVING OTHERS.

## **MARDEN ORGANISATIONS AND SOCIETIES**

### **BLUE HOUSE CRICKET CLUB**

**By Steve Waite**

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

### **BOWLS CLUB**

**By Mick Collins**

Marden Bowls Club continues to provide an excellent facility for the village and surrounding areas with lawn bowling during the summer months and short mat bowling during the winter months.

We boast one of the best bowling greens in the county and again during this summer the county will be using Marden as its venue for their major inter county competition, the Middleton Cup, as it has for the past two seasons. Such is our popularity the Kent under 25 team are also using Marden for some of their major fixtures during this coming season.

Our green is maintained by members on a voluntary basis although we did employ contractors to help with some major renovation work last autumn.

Likewise our lady members are kept very busy during the summer months providing refreshments for these county games.

We currently have about sixty five members but the percentage of members from the village of Marden is very low, and a leaflet drop to most households in the village last spring yielded very little interest. Bowls like most other sports is finding it hard to recruit new members, but without some new blood coming through clubs will disappear.

During the summer months the club has a very full fixture list which includes matches in the Weald League, the Maidstone League, the Maidstone Triples League and the Millennium League with a full list of weekend friendly matches. During the winter months the short mat bowlers play friendly fixtures with other short mat clubs including the Marden West End Club, who play in the village hall.

There are club competitions during the summer and winter and the trophies are presented at an enjoyable presentation dinner at the Weald of Kent Golf Club in January of each year.

Last summer the major achievement for the club was to witness four club members reaching the quarter final of a county competition with Robert Thew earning his county badge and joining the other nine members in the club able to represent the county.

Over the last year we have installed LED lighting in the club house and we are currently looking to replace the heating system although an air conditioning system may be too far to stretch financially.

We have just negotiated a new twenty one year lease with the Village Club for the land and at the same time updated our Trustees, so we are well set for the future but desperately need new members.

In mentioning earlier the county matches held at Marden, none of these would be possible if we could not use Southons Field for car parking, so we are grateful to the Parish Council for this facility.

## **BROWNIES**

**By Anne Thompson, Assistant Brownie Leader**

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

## CRICKET & HOCKEY CLUB

By Charlotte Sharp

[www.mardenrussets.com](http://www.mardenrussets.com) / [www.mardencricketclub.co.uk](http://www.mardencricketclub.co.uk)

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

## FRIENDS OF MARDEN'S HERITAGE

By Kitty Naylor



Because we had decided to take a Sabbatical from the Big Musical Picnic in 2017 the 'WHAT MARDEN DOES BEST' team decided to run a village event at around the same time as The Friends usually organises the Picnic. They very kindly donated proceeds generated by their event to The Friends of Marden's Heritage, Kent Air Ambulance and Marden Primary school. This meant we benefitted to the tune of around £1,200 and we were able to fulfil our financial obligation to the Heritage Centre with the help of this donation for the year 2017 - 2018.

The Hog Roast in September - kindly hosted by Sue Fenn at Turnpike House - went well. Raising £373 which will be going towards the renovation and restoration of the windows in St Michael and All Angels Church. We had a presence at Marden at Christmas as usual, but in the main hall this year, which was just as well because they didn't use the Old School Room this time, so we would have been cold and lonely! We tried changing things round a little this year by selling stocking fillers and doing our usual jam jar card game. We raised £36 which was an increase on last year, but the aim of attending this event is not really fundraising but supporting this village celebration.

Our January quiz took place and had a modest but welcome attendance. We had a visiting team from Loose who rather stole the show, with a remarkably high score. Their local pub quizzes had recently stopped and they had been looking for a quiz to attend and saw ours coming up and were keen to take part. They were very complimentary about the food, the standard of questions and how welcome they were made, and delighted with their miniature wine bottle prizes!

Our most recent event was the BAE Systems Brass Band St Georges Day Concert. A fantastic evening, well attended, and very loud, even drawing in a reveller off the street part way through the evening. A rousing and energetic performance, with some well-known tunes given a brilliant new twist, by having



been arranged for brass, played with great skill and enthusiasm. The band have expressed that they would like to return!

The Picnic draws ever closer, and we are deep into the organisation and lots of arrangements are underway. A few tweaks that the 'WHAT MARDEN DOES BEST' crew introduced, have been incorporated into the Picnic, as they proved popular with stall holders and visitors alike last year.

As ever we are more than happy to accept offers of help on the day, even if only a hour of your time is available.

A long-standing committee member, Ian Grimes stood down from the Friends, but with the kind offer of helping where he can. Our youngest committee member, Denise Macey, has also decided to stand down due to other commitments, but again, will kindly see out the events she is committed to this year. A big thank you to both Ian and Denise for their time and work as committee members, it is greatly appreciated. This means we are now down to seven committee members, while we should be ten or more, so we are looking volunteers.

### **Hi-Kent (Hearing)**

Have you got a hearing aid, if so, get your batteries at the Hi Kent Sessions, currently in Marden Library at 1.30 – 2.30 pm

Dates for the remainder of the year are:

31<sup>st</sup> May

26<sup>th</sup> July

27<sup>th</sup> September

29<sup>th</sup> November

### **HISTORY GROUP & HERITAGE CENTRE**

**By David McFarland (Chairman) - 832295 / [history@mardenhistory.org.uk](mailto:history@mardenhistory.org.uk)**

Since our last report:-

1. There have been three exhibitions in-house, the latest 'Weddings in Marden' which is to be followed shortly by 'Listed Buildings and Religion in Marden'. Also, exhibitions at Picnic in the Park, the Christmas Fair and at the Horticultural Society sale.
2. The replacement of the stolen milestone plaque on the Maidstone Road, with thanks to Colin Addison and P&P Signs.
3. Plaques to identify the location of those lost by enemy action in the Second World War have been prepared and are about to be placed in Pattenden Lane and Maidstone Road thanks to P&P Signs.
4. Erection of a commemorative stone for Sidney W Highwood, First World War aviator, on the Library & Heritage Green (LHG).

5. Continued to staff the Heritage Centre during the 18 hours per week that the Library is open, thanks to our staunch volunteers.
6. Visitor numbers since January have been 125 compared to 89 in the equivalent three months last year.
7. Kim Taylor Parker and three generations of her hop picking family were entertained, visiting old haunts in the village, with help from Peter Hall.
8. Only one book has been published, 'Percy Day's Boer War'.
9. Research, in particular into Wealden hall houses in the area, cataloguing, photographing and the maintaining of our website and Facebook page continue. We are busy raising funds to be able to digitize our largest documents.
10. Thanks to Marden Parish Council permission has been obtained from MBC to remove the white carpark protection bollards on the LHG. We will ensure that an engraved stone commemorating the airfield in Marden from 1914-1935 can be used instead.
11. It is hoped to install an old Marden gas lamp post on the site, if we can lay our hands on one. Also needed is some paving where the path has been worn, and a village sign board. The siren was fired on 12 November and the stocks utilised on 9 December.
12. The cost of maintaining the defibrillator due to the periodic need for replacement pads and batteries is about £86 per year. We would hope to be able to raise money within the community to help with that cost. The defibrillator is checked every week by our team.
13. Sir Nicolas and Lady Fenn's splendid book 'Of Shreds and Patches' is now on sale in the Heritage Centre, price £10.50.
14. It is 20 years since the History Group inched its way into the community, and 10 years since the Heritage Centre was created and opened in the Library.
15. We continue looking for volunteers to keep the enterprise on the road to help us with the variety of activities with which we are engaged, at times, frequency and location to suit each individual.



**HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**By Jill Nichols (Chairman)**

We have had an extremely busy and entertaining year with some fantastic speakers and great visits. Many of the speakers had plants to sell and meetings

were enjoyable as well as informative. As a result of the welcome and interest the speakers receive, the society sometimes gets invited to the speakers nursery/garden for a visit. In January we had the head gardener and one of the designers from Leeds Castle and as a result we are planning a visit next year.

In July the head gardener from Penshurst Place gave a fascinating talk and we have a visit planned for July 2018 with two personal tours.

We visited the RHS garden at Hyde Hall in Essex. The gardens have expanded and much is planned for the future and I am sure we will be making a return visit. We also went to the Olympic Park for a guided tour of the plantings. As it extends over many acres the trip was by foot and coach and culminated in a tour around the Docklands and a crossing on the Woolwich Ferry.

Jean Griffin from radio Kent came in November and said how much she enjoys visiting MHS as members are very involved and ask lots of questions.

We have a thriving society with over 100 members who can advertise products on our website for sale [www.mardenhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.mardenhorticulturalsociety.co.uk) We also have a Buyers Guide on the website if you are looking for garden related services/products/companies.

Our plant sale is our main fund raiser and takes place in May. This year it is the 12<sup>th</sup> of May – Vestry Hall – 9-11am

Guests are welcome at meetings - one free meeting before deciding to join. Whether you know the difference between a daffodil or a dahlia or whether you have a tiny courtyard or a large garden we would be pleased to see you. Vestry Hall – second Tuesday of the month.

## **KENT, SURREY & SUSSEX AIR AMBULANCE**

**By Jill Playle, Director of Communications**

Email: [jillp@kssairambulance.org.uk](mailto:jillp@kssairambulance.org.uk)

Kent Surrey Sussex



**Air Ambulance**  
A Charity That Saves Lives  
Registered Charity No. 1021367

We are so grateful for the continued support from the Marden community. The image below shows our activity for 2017 and highlights the true need for our service. Over the years, with the support of Marden Parish Council and the residents of Marden, we have developed a life-saving service which we are all proud of.

*For details of missions during 2017 please see poster on notice board.*

## **LIBRARY (KENT COUNTY COUNCIL)**

Marden Library, High Street, Marden TN12 9DP 01622 831619 Fax 01622 831619

Email: [mardenlibrary@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mardenlibrary@kent.gov.uk) Contact Name: Craig Fox

Opening Hours: Monday closed; Tuesday 1.15 - 6; Wednesday closed; Thursday 1.15 - 6;  
Friday 9 - 1.30; Saturday 10 - 2; Sunday closed

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

## **MARDEN BUSINESS FORUM**

**By David Burton**

Marden Business Forum has recently distributed it's 11<sup>th</sup> Directory; where has the time gone?! Marden Business Forum began life in 2007 when just a few local businesses came together. We now have a flourishing Membership of nearly 100 and counting. Reserved exclusively for those with a direct business connection to Marden. We proudly work to promote Marden as a great place to live and a fantastic place for business.

Did you know there are in the order of 200 businesses collectively employing approximately over 2,000 people in Marden? Which is why our regular friendly networking events are a great way for everyone to meet, facilitating many business opportunities.

We run as a non-profit making organisation with an elected Committee, who meet on the last Thursday of the month to organise events, the web site and the Directory. The cost of annual membership is outstanding value at only £25; if you are not a current member here are some of the many reasons and benefits in joining:

- Free listing in the Directory (delivered throughout Marden and the surrounding areas).
- Free listing in the online Directory.
- Free advertising of jobs, property and items for sale on the members' website.
- Free entry to regular networking and social events.
- Saving advertising and agency fees by using the email group.
- Crime watch between businesses.
- Close working with the Parish Council, MBC and KCC.
- Marden Christmas celebrations are supported each year with a donation from the forum; every child at the events receives a present from Santa.

All the latest news, events and Membership information can be found on our website

<https://www.mardenbusinessforum.com/>

We look forward to seeing you at the next event; everyone is welcome.



## MARDEN IN BLOOM

### By Anne Boswell (Chairman)

#### OUR PLANS FOR 2018

- We have entered the Parish into the South & South East (S&SE) in Bloom competition and we will be judged in mid-July.
- It would be great if you could keep your frontages clear of weeds and rubbish - this is one of S&SE in Bloom's main judging criteria.
- More planters, which depict apple crates, are going to be placed at Marden Medical Centre and planted with herbs, another at the entrance to the village on the Goudhurst Road at Highwood Green, at the Congregational Hall and two at Marden Primary School.
- We'd love you to participate again in our successful photo competition and maybe hang some baskets and pots to make the village look as attractive as possible.
- We will be contacting all the village groups and businesses to see how they can participate and help.
- Engaging children in horticultural practice – our joint project with the PTA at Marden Primary School is 'Blooming' and we are trying to help educate the children on where their food comes from.
- We are trying to encourage residents to grow more bee, butterfly & bat enhancing plants. Please post your photos on the Marden in Bloom Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MardeninBloom/>
- Lots of bulbs were planted last Autumn around the village and we will continue with this project in the Autumn. We've been tidying up the front of the Memorial Hall and created beds in the Library area.
- We are starting a joint project with the Community Orchard to create more wildflower meadows and bulb planting and maybe some events e.g. Apple Day.
- Encouraging sustainability e.g. composting and water butts etc.
- We're holding two photographic competitions this year:

#### **A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

Capturing images of wildlife in Marden (*not outside the Parish*) be it a bird, frog, fox, bat, bee hedgehog etc – let's have evidence of what wildlife is going on here in our Parish.

#### **A BACK GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

It could be a close up of your favourite plant or a general view of your back garden

- Entries will only be accepted by sending your photo/s in JPEG format via email to: [mardeninbloom@outlook.com](mailto:mardeninbloom@outlook.com) However, please feel free to post your photos on the Marden in Bloom Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MardeninBloom/> – the more the merrier!

**FUND-RAISING EVENTS** - Please come along to help support us:

- **GRAFTING/ESPALIER DEMO AT THE COMMUNITY ORCHARD** – date tbc in May
- **POP UP PLANT SALE** – SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE @ 8.3am – outside Crowhurst & Tompsett
- **STALL AT THE BIG MUSIC PICNIC** – SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE – Southons Field
- **WEED/LITTER PICKING SESSION** - WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE at 9.30am – meet at 7 Barnes Walk (off Howland Road) - mainly along the High Street, Church Green & West End area – would be great if residents could help.
- **PIMMS IN SUE FENN'S GARDEN AT TURNPIKE HOUSE, HIGH STREET** – SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE from 2.00pm-4.00pm
- **PIMMS & GARDEN PLANTING TALK** IN TOBY & KATE SPANIER'S GARDEN AT THE OLD VICARAGE, MAIDSTONE ROAD– SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JULY from 2pm
- **AUTUMN BULB & PLANT SALE** – either SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> or SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER at 8.30am – outside Crowhurst & Tompsett
- **APPLE DAY IN THE COMMUNITY ORCHARD** – SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER - tbc
- **WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP WITH GOLDEN HILL** – WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER at 7.30pm in the Vestry Hall – details tbc
- **CHRISTMAS TABLE DECORATION WORKSHOP WITH GOLDEN HILL** – THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER at 7.30pm in the Vestry Hall – detail tbc

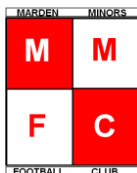
OUR THANKS GO TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS WHO HAVE HELPED US TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS SO FAR:



Please email us on [mardeninbloom@outlook.com](mailto:mardeninbloom@outlook.com) for more information on how to get involved or check out Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MardeninBloom/>

*Anne Boswell, Chairman & all the 'Blooming' team*



## **MARDEN MINORS FOOTBALL CLUB**

Affiliated to the Kent County Football Association

President: Mr Ian Ballard Chairman: Mr D. Errey

Treasurer: Mr Les Stracey Secretary: Mrs Hayley Crabb

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

## **MARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL P.T.A. By Rachel Gillis-Coates (Co-Chairman)**



### **ACTIVITY REPORT**

Our objective has been to raise money for Marden Primary School to buy additional items they have been unable to purchase within the school budget. We also organise events to help create a rich community feel involving the children, staff, parents and the local community.

The events we have organised since the start of the September 2017 term have been:

- A Macmillan Coffee Morning for new parents on 29<sup>th</sup> September
- A Film Night for the children after school on 13<sup>th</sup> October
- Our first successful Fireworks Display on Southons Field on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November
- A Crazy Hair Day for the children to bring in donations for the Christmas Fair on 24<sup>th</sup> November
- Christmas Fair on 2<sup>nd</sup> December which took place in the school and the doors were open to the public
- A Glow Disco for the children on 2<sup>nd</sup> February
- A Jumble Sale in the Memorial Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> February
- A Mother's Day Cake and Plant Sale on 9<sup>th</sup> March
- Easter Egg Hunt at school on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March

From this and past fundraising we have managed to help purchase for the school:

- Hardship Fund (for school to use to support families in need and the Residential Trip)
- Water bottles for the children's first year at school in Reception Class
- Contribution to our Year 6 Leavers activities and folders for the children leaving in Summer 2018
- Trip support and school visitors
- Kindle Fires for Year 1 children
- Some pets for the school along with housing, etc

- Motorised vehicle kits for Key Stage 2 children
- A new Early Years playhouse
- Bug Busting kits for all families to help the school combat head lice infections
- Upgrade of AV equipment in the classrooms
- Christmas Decorations for the children to make
- Contribution towards upgrading the school garden structure plus activities
- Purchasing of new Early Years toys to replace old or broken ones
- Whole school Science Workshops
- Red Ted items to support children's reading

Our future public events are:

- Curry and Quiz Night in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May.
- Summer Fair on the school field on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July.
- Fireworks Display on Southons Field on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

We are constantly looking for places for storage or venues to hold events. If you are able to help us, please email us on [mardenpta@outlook.com](mailto:mardenpta@outlook.com). You may wish to like our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MardenPrimaryPTA/>  
Follow us on Twitter: @PTAMarden

## **MARDEN SOCIETY**

**By Mo Clayton (President) [tillergirl2913@aol.com](mailto:tillergirl2913@aol.com)**

**01622 831529**

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

## **MARDEN MEDICAL CENTRE**

Church Green, Marden, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 9HP

Tel: 01622 831257 Fax: 01622 832840

[www.mardenmedicalcentre.nhs.uk](http://www.mardenmedicalcentre.nhs.uk)

In the last year the Medical Centre has again increased the amount of primary care activity it delivers. List size has increased, as has the number seen and the variety of appointments offered with an expanding team. Patient satisfaction remains high but pressure and demand is also increasing at a time when GPs as well as hospitals and social care are less able to meet expectation for a variety of reasons.

Last year we announced the recruitment of Dr Hannah DeCourcy-Hallinan working 5 sessions per week as a salaried GP, and Dr Peter Wilford as very experienced Retained GP who works 2 sessions per week. Both have proved very popular and vital members of the team with their own regular patients. The latest addition is Matt Cooper who works currently 4-5 sessions per week as a Paramedic Practitioner specialising in acute medical problems including home



visits. He continues to work for the Ambulance Service and is enthusiastic to expand his skills.

We are delighted to welcome Nurses Sam Watson and Juliet Rumblelow who will be filling the huge gap left by the retirement of Nurse Jenny Jones. She leaves in late April after nearly 37 years working for the practice. She started in 1981 with Dr John Oakley before the current premises was built. Sam has moved from working in a surgical ward and Juliet has years of experience from a London GP practice especially in travel medicine and contraception.

We are following the national trend to broaden the skill mix so that experienced GPs can focus on long term care and complex cases rather than simple coughs, colds or minor injuries. We would prefer the GPs to have longer appointments. We have also been developing the role of the Receptionist to work as Medical Assistants. They may ask for more detail from the patient, give messages to patients, deal with straight forward requests for things like sick notes, and give out results with strict protocols. They will also be trained to “signpost” patients to other sources of help and advice. Another innovation we are exploring is the use of Clinical Pharmacists to oversee medication issues and queries.

We must meet stringent demands in administration, Information Governance and training. There is a move to electronic only referrals and investigations. We have to be prepared for CQC inspections and we have training needs that requires regular afternoon closures. At a time of increasing IT reliance, we have frustratingly suffered nine significant power cuts due to a poor local network.

Our list size has risen less steeply than last year from around 6,200 to 6,280. This smaller rise has resulted from a rigid and sometimes unpopular policy regarding the boundary and the residence of patients. New houses are filling quickly, and we anticipate significantly more registrations in the next 2 years. This has driven our recruitment plans in anticipation.

We are having to use existing space efficiently and have, for example, asked the private physiotherapist and osteopath to give up their presence here. We have improved the entrance to reception both for disability access and to increase the waiting room capacity. The reorganisation and refurbishment of the reception is being planned. We have no current plans to properly extend the building or to relocate.

We are grateful to the Patient Reference Group for their support in reviewing what we offer and representing the needs of patients to the practice and to the Clinical Commissioning Group. Members have volunteered at times including the flu clinics and during building works. Their AGM is open to all patients and staff on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

We are also grateful to the Friends of Marden Medical Centre and those patients who donate money to them for the purchase of equipment. This year has seen record amounts given and therefore challenged the Friends to find new needs for an already well-equipped surgery. Their AGM is in June.

General Practice is under tremendous strain at present and since it does 90% of the contacts of the NHS for around 8% of the funding this highly efficient service feels undervalued. In West Kent including Maidstone there are several practices closing and areas where one cannot find an open list with which to register. GPs are retiring, and younger Drs are not applying.

Practices are considering merging into larger partnerships or at least sharing staff and resources both in towns and country. There is no incentive for the traditional model and so like high street banks and corner shops we are threatened. Even in our set up, easy access to your usual doctor, especially for simple issues, cannot be guaranteed. GPs are also considering what is a "safe" amount of work in a day given that there is no easy option to divert work and there is no extra money no matter how many patients attend.

We are unlikely to change our partnership model in the near future and importantly no GPs have yet decided on retirement although Dr Streeter has now dropped to 3 surgery days a week. We have been required to join a cluster with nearby and likeminded practices including Cranbrook, Yalding, Horsmonden, and Goudhurst of which we are the largest. We will be cooperating on some services and requirements as well as having shared teams such as District Nurses. We feel more confident than many practices about the next 5 years but no element of the NHS is secure.

## **MARDEN MEMORIAL HALL**

### **By Trustees**

#### **Chairman's Report**

Joanna Rhodes was elected as Chairman of Marden Memorial Hall at the AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Meetings are held quarterly, usually on the first Monday of the month, however extraordinary meetings are called if urgent items need to be discussed. Agendas are sent out to Trustees the week before.

The caretaker continues to be employed undertaking any maintenance repairs. One cleaner resigned on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 with the other cleaner taking over all the cleaning duties. In November 2017 the Trustees employed a Facilities Manager working 10 hours per week who now undertakes all the bookings/issues from hirers, liaising with contractors, line managing the other staff and other related hall issues. All members of staff are paid monthly via BACS transfer and the Secretary undertakes all the necessary PAYE/NI contributions through the HMR&C website. Payments to HMR&C are paid monthly via BACS transfer.

The kitchen was donated by Redrow and this was installed in March 2017. Solar Panels, kindly donated, and installed, by a Solar Company who had installed a small solar farm in the parish, were fitted in March/April and the hall is already seeing an income from these. A Fire Risk Assessment was undertaken by an external company in April and the Trustees are working through the document,

with financial support from the Parish Council, to ensure that all necessary work is completed and within the current legislation.

The Pre-School continues to be our main user every day during the term time with morning session for two days per week and full days for three. Other users include Short Mat Bowls, Brownies, Karate, Badminton, Ballet, Pilates, Zumba and the Parish Council. Both Marden Theatre Group and the National Blood Service began using the hall again this year.

There have been no problems regarding licencing and all users who wish to sell alcohol obtain a Temporary Events Notice from the licencing authority. Music and theatre licences are obtained by the Secretary annually and all relevant gas, electricity, health & safety and fire safety checks are undertaken each year.

Tenants of the residential flat moved out in May and new tenants were found and moved in during June. The letting agent of Ellis & Co remains the same and no problems have arisen over the past year other than a small amount of maintenance work prior to the new tenants moving in have arisen over the past year.

## **MARDEN PARISH MAGAZINE**

**By Sarah Davies (Parish Magazine Co-ordinator)**

Subscriptions to the Magazine remains constant in number, the print run is 550 copies a month with most being delivered by a team of 28 volunteer distributors. The Magazine is produced by a volunteer team of three editors, one lead distributor and an advertising coordinator. We are extremely grateful to all our volunteers, they produce and deliver 12 editions a year, full of local village news and village society information along with adverts for local businesses.

We would benefit from extra assistance with many of the roles, editor, administrator and distributor – if you would like to find out more please contact Sarah Davies or anyone on the magazine team. Contact details can be found on the Church website or in the magazine.

We welcome contributions to the editorial about village events – ideas and articles can be sent to [magazineeditor@mardenchurch.org.uk](mailto:magazineeditor@mardenchurch.org.uk)

All profit raised from advertising goes to the Church Funds. Current subscription rates are £8 a year and 75p a copy. Individual copies are for sale in the library and the Church.

The magazine is printed by local printer The Hop Press.

The current and 12 months of archived copies of the magazine can also be found on the Church website along with advertising details.

## **MARDEN PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP**

### **By Hayley Schlosser (Manager)**

Marden Pre-School is a fully inclusive setting, welcoming families from Marden and surrounding villages since 1967.

We currently hold an Ofsted 'Good' Rating. We provide excellent care and education for children from age 2 to school age. We offer 15 hours free childcare for 3-4 year olds. We also offer funded places for our 2 year olds – please come and check your eligibility with the team. We also offer 30 hours extended entitlement for eligible families.

We have close links with the Primary School which offers children a smooth transition to moving on to big school.

We currently have 60 children on role. Each child has a Key Person and we follow the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. We are open every day during term time. We offer morning sessions every day from 08.45-11.45 and we offer full day sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 08.45-14.45 (full day sessions are offered to children age 3 and over).

The staff at Marden Pre-School are committed and have high expectations of themselves and the setting. The team has strong leadership with Mrs Hayley Schlosser as Manager, Mrs Nicola Wood as deputy and a supportive board of trustees.

Last year we completed our garden area so that it can be used all year round, the children love this space. We continue to make improvements to our provision and the environment with regular self-evaluation. We have been lucky enough to be able to fund training for our qualified teacher and another member of staff to become Language Leaders. This means we are able to offer higher quality teaching around literacy, communication and language.

As the village continues to grow the Pre-School is also growing too, we thank the Memorial Hall for our premises and the community for your support.

Staff and Trustees of Marden Pre-School.

## **MARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**By**

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

## **MARDEN THEATRE GROUP**

**By Rachel Gillis-Coates**

We have had a very busy year in Marden Theatre Group this year. Under our new chairman, Mo Gillis-Coates, we began our changes with a stall at the 'What Marden Does Best' celebration in June 2017 where we had a stall to promote the theatre group. This helped us attract many new members to our group. In July of that year, we supported the Rude Mechanicals by supplying refreshments on Southons Field for their show "The Travelling Salesman". We are very much looking forward to doing the same this year when they return to Southons field with their production of 'Oberon's cure' on the 26th of July. Tickets are available on their website: <http://www.therudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk/> In August 2017, we ran our first ever MTG Rising Stars Summer Drama School, organised by Rachel Gillis-Coates, in which the kids aged 7 to 15 put on a play in a week with the brilliant help from Mary-Jane Stevens and Jen Ward. Plans are afoot for this year's workshop and we already have a lot of interest. Then came our busiest month of the year, October 2017, with our production of "Allo 'Allo", directed by Marden Theatre Group's stalwart, Sally Hoad, where we had 3 sold out shows, 3 professional actors on stage, 2 members who had never been on stage and some Marden theatre group regulars and newcomers. The show has been very well received by the village, and helped us attract even more members! In January to February we ran some MTG Rising Stars Drama Workshops for the children, again organised by Rachel Gillis-Coates. These ran for five Saturdays leading up to our auditions for this year's musical, Oliver. We had four different teachers teaching five different skills, some of these based on Oliver. This prepared the children for the Oliver auditions in February. Speaking of Oliver, we are now in our final weeks of rehearsal of what is going to be an awesome show, but it is no mean undertaking with over 30 children and around 20 adults all capably directed by Sally Hoad and her assistant director, Claire Milner. You will not believe the fantastic set built by Nick Hoad with his trusty team of builders and we are lucky enough to have an orchestra under the musical direction of Mo Gillis-Coates, our chairman. Tickets will be available to the public from Monday 14th May at P&P Signs and West End Stores. Get them quick because they are going to fly! If you are unlucky and unable to get tickets for this wonderful production, we will be performing a few of our numbers at this year's Marden's BIG Musical Picnic on Southons Field on Saturday 9th June. We would like to thank the village for their continuous support and we look forward to an exciting future for the Marden Theatre Group. If you would like to follow what we are up to or join us, please find us on: <http://mardentheatre.co.uk/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mardentheatre/> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mardentheatre> Email us: [info@mardentheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@mardentheatre.co.uk)

## **MOTOR CLUB**

**By Colin Addison**

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

**By Chris Childs**

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

## **SCOUT GROUP**

**By David Brokis**

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

## **SHORT MAT BOWLS (WEST END)**

**By Dorothy Reed**

We meet in the village hall twice a week throughout the year, 7.30 to 9.30pm. We play friendly matches against other local clubs and have a very enjoyable social evening with supper. Anyone interested can come along on a Monday or Friday evening, just bring flat shoes, the club have bowls you can use.

## **TENNIS & BADMINTON CLUB**

**By Gill Tarry**

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

## **THE ALLENS COFFEE SHOP**

**By Dorothy Reed**

We open Monday to Thursday between 10 am and 12 noon.  
Call in for a coffee and chat whilst out shopping  
On Wednesday morning there is a games session, Scrabble, Dominoes etc.  
There is a large selection of books and jigsaw puzzles to borrow.  
Once a month on a Tuesday, there is a lunch-time meal at 12 noon

## **THURSDAY CLUB**

**By Dorothy Reed, RVS**

A group which meets once a fortnight for anyone over 55 (although the average age is in the 80s).  
We meet in the Village Club from 2-4 pm and our grateful thanks to the Committee for this use of their building  
During the summer months we have trips out to the seaside, garden centres and lunch.

## **TODDLER GROUP**

**By Hanna Rosser, Children & Families Worker  
St Michael & All Angels, Church, Marden**

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

## **VILLAGE CLUB**

**By Bev Reid**

A verbal report will be given at the end of the meeting

## **WALKING GROUP**

**By Catherine Alderson**

Our main achievement in 2017 was the walking of the SAXON SHORE WAY. Ian Balmer led a group fortnightly and the 160 miles route was completed by the end of September. This year they are doing the WEALDEN WAY  
Another new event is the SATURDAY STICK BRIGADE. Those who have had hip or knee problems are encouraged to join us for a slow short walk on pavements to regain confidence and circulation in their legs. THE A GROUP meet on alternate SATURDAYS at 2.00pm at the LIBRARY or outside the MEDICAL CENTRE – no hills to climb. We visit interesting gardens and pathways and finish with a cup of tea at a participant's house. STROLL AND CHAT. The WALK AND TALK B GROUP also meet at 2.00pm on SATURDAYS for longer walks in fields (1.5hours) – a sociable occasion to make new friends and learn more about Marden.  
MID WEEK we meet at the LIBRARY at 9.45am on WEDNESDAYS MARCH TO NOVEMBER for an approximate 2 hour walk . Good company and we hope good weather. Come and join us. SUNDAY WALKS ARE AT 10.00AM MONTHLY from the LIBRARY for local walks or sometimes sharing cars to venture further from Marden. Goudhurst and Yalding groups keep us informed of their walks as well. All our walks are advertised in the monthly MARDEN PARISH MAGAZINE – available from the Library or apply to have one delivered. We help to maintain the footpaths and yellow blobs direction signs. Our new set of walks will be published shortly – directional checks, maps, printing and a new Ordnance Survey Licence all now very active.

THIS HISTORICAL VILLAGE HAS MANY INTERESTING ROUTES TO TELL YOU ABOUT. DO COME WITH US SOMETIME AND FIND OUT FOR YOURSELVES.

## **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

### **By Moira Ensoll, President**

Following a very busy 2016/17 during which we celebrated our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, you would have thought 2017/18 would have been quieter. How wrong can one be. The membership has been maintained and grown and now stands at 50 members – a positive benefit of village development.

The year commenced with our Annual Meeting in May when Moira Ensoll was voted in as President together with a Committee of 8 – all of whom provide excellent support. Towards the end of that month we entertained Goudhurst District WI for the District Conference where The Village Voices provided excellent entertainment.

Cakes always feature large within the WI and on one of the hottest days of the year we had a cake stall at the 'What Marden Does Best' event and prior to that in May another cake stall was organised for the Horticultural Society Plant Sale.

Our link Institute in East Kent is Hastingleigh and each year we have a reunion – in 2017 we enjoyed meeting in Tenterden for lunch. In addition, lunches are organised at periods throughout the year for members to meet usually in a local pub.

We took part in the WI Class at the Matfield and Brenchley Flower Show and gained 3<sup>rd</sup> place although we do have to admit there were only three entries! Still an entry is an entry.

In March, 2 teams took part in the District Quiz at Matfield with one of the teams gaining 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Also in March, the Annual Council Meeting for the County Federation was held in Tunbridge Wells with Baroness Floella Benjamin as guest speaker to 900 women!

The annual theatre trip in October saw a large party of around 20 ladies travelling to London to see 'An American in Paris' with of course an excellent lunch beforehand. Whilst on the subject of theatre, 20 members recently went to The Hazlitt Theatre for MAOS' production of 'Guys and Dolls'. As always this was a most enjoyable evening.

Our monthly meetings are well attended when many and varied subjects are covered by a range of speakers. These have included Lazy Gardening; Edith Cavell; Spooky Kent; A Kent Christmas; Sloe Seduction (a real favourite); Pudding tasting; Medieval Churches of the Romney Marsh; The Chocolate Quakers (but no free samples) and The Golden Age of Hollywood. All very different but all very enjoyable and entertaining.

As usual we took part in the Marden at Christmas event by providing refreshments including a magnificent display of cakes, during the afternoon in the John Banks Hall. Our own Christmas meeting was a jolly affair with mulled wine, mince pies and entertainment by The Village Voices including their version



of The Twelve Days of Christmas especially for the WI. It was a good start to the Christmas Season. Our Christmas lunch was held at The Horseshoes, Dean Street, East Farleigh where we enjoyed a good meal and excellent service.

Marden WI meets on the first Thursday of each month in the Vestry Hall commencing at 7.45 p.m. If you are interested in meeting new people and taking part in interesting activities, do please come along. Visitors and new members always welcome.



### **YOUTH GROUP**

**By Natalie Penfold, Maidstone Youth Project**

No report was received at time of printing. If a report is received this will be added to the website version of the 2018 APM Report

### **MARDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**Update By Cllr Andy Turner**

It's been a long time coming but MNP Steering ground along with Marden Parish Council have now got the Draft MHP to a stage where we feel it is ready to progress onto the phase. Regulation 14.

This is where we will hold a formal 6 week minimum consultation period to allow the community, organisations and statutory consultates the opportunity to comment on the plan so far.

Once completed , any suitable comments and suggestions will be incorporated in to the plan before moving onto the final phases of referendum and inspection.

We hope copies of the plan will be available in most public places including the parish office and, of course, on line.

The date for this consultation period to commence is the 9th June. Our launch will be at the Party in the Park event.

I would like to urge everyone to look at the draft plan, when available, so that we can engage with as many people and organisations as possible in order to ensure all of the parish communities are represented.

I would to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow NP'ers and Ali Hooker for the huge amount of time and effort dedicated to the production of this plan and

to Richard Wells for his efforts in the production of a very professional looking looking document.

Thank you.

**MARDEN STATION**  
**Update on South Eastern, Network Rail and consultations**  
**By Cllr Richard Adam**

**PATIENTS' REFERENCE GROUP**  
**Update By Sian Burr**

**MARDEN VILLAGE CLUB**  
**Update By Bev Reid**