

# MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

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# URGENT UPDATE

Dear Resident

At this unsettling and unprecedented time, it is more important than ever that communities come together to support each other.

There is a lot of fantastic community support going on at the moment in the village and we would like to thank all of you for everything you're doing to help each other.

The Parish Council is concerned about those residents who are in the 'at risk' groups – specifically older people and those with chronic medical conditions, who maybe staying at home now or know they will be in the future. If this is you and you do not have any family or friends who can help you with your shopping, collection of medical supplies or prescriptions, please let the Parish Office know. If you know of someone who may need help please encourage them to contact the Parish Office, we can only arrange help for people if we have their consent.

We already have a large list of residents who have volunteered to help, but if you would also like to volunteer please send your details to the Parish Office. Whilst we know lots of people would like to help, please do not volunteer if you are one of those who are 'at risk'. We will match up those that need assistance with volunteers so that they can make contact with each other and agree how best to help over the coming months. We will issue guidance to both volunteers and those asking for assistance.

Call 01622 832305 or email: [deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) giving your name, address, phone number and email if you have one. The Parish Council will only hold your personal information for the duration of this crisis and will destroy it once the situation returns to normal.

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There is also a useful slip at the end of the newsletter that can be cut out and put through a neighbour's door if you are able to offer assistance directly - there is no need to let the Parish Council know about anything you've organised yourself.

For up-to-date news from Marden Parish Council, please follow us on Facebook on @mardenparishcouncil.

Please, please, please follow the Government advice about Coronavirus and let's all work together to keep Marden safe. The website link is: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

We would like to also draw resident's attention to keep an eye out for any fraudulent scammers taking advantage of the current situation whether it be door-to-door knocking, via phone or email. Please inform any vulnerable family members, neighbours or friends to be vigilant. Please go to Kent County Council's Public Protection Facebook page on @publicprotection for further information.

The Clerks at Marden Parish Council can be contacted during working hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - see contact details below. The Parish Office is closed all day Wednesday. Mobile numbers can also be used but will go to answerphone out of office hours but any messages will be picked up the next working day.

Whilst our Clerk and Deputy Clerk are doing all they can in the current circumstances, please be aware they also have their own families to take care of and of course, may have to self isolate themselves.

Best regards

**Marden Parish Council**

**Office Number - 01622 832305**

**Parish Clerk - Mrs Ali Hooker**

**Email: [clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)**

**Mobile Number: 07376 287981**

**Deputy Parish Clerk - Mrs Rachel Gillis-Coates**

**Email: [deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)**

**Mobile Number: 07940 241333**

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**Social isolation** can be difficult especially if you live alone. Think about others and yourself. Here are a few tips from the Medical Centre

- A phone call to check on your friends, relatives and neighbours can make all the difference.
- If you have a smart phone set up What's App with friends and family, say hello each morning, face time each other.
- If you belong to a choir or "Come and Sing", sing down the phone together.
- If you belong to a book group, discuss the book on the phone or email your views to the group.
- If you like craft work, send pictures of your achievements or ask advice.
- Don't forget your garden - send photographs of your flowers or a sunset or a favourite tree, via post, email, Facebook or WhatsApp so that everyone can be cheered up.
- Watch the same television programme or film and discuss it with a friend or relative.

**And finally What's Off** - Normally we'd be updating you on future events, but as you can expect, pretty much all future events have been cancelled:

Local elections are postponed until May 2021 which means the current Parish Councillors remain in office for a further 12 months.

Other events which are cancelled include:

- The Parish Litter Pick on 21st March
- The Annual Parish Meeting on the 7th April
- Marden Celebrates VE Day on the 9th May

Please keep an eye on the Parish Council Facebook page for details of any more cancellations we hear about.

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## OTHER LOCAL SERVICES

**Marden Medical Centre** is working hard to ensure we are all looked after during these difficult times. They have had to make some significant changes to the way they do things. Please be understanding with our wonderful team - they have your best interests at heart. To get up-to date information from the Medical Centre, follow them on Facebook: NHS Marden Medical Centre or on Twitter @MardenMedical.

**Marden Parish Church** has two trained counsellors who are happy to offer support if you are feeling anxious about the virus and its impacts and would like someone to talk to. Please call the Church Office on 01622 831890 or Carol Walker on 01622 831132 or Amanda Abbitt on 01622 820881 to arrange.

**Marden Children's Centre** is preparing to run a food bank to support those families who are self-isolating or in quarantine because of Coronavirus and who normally benefit from school meals. If you can donate non-perishable food items, please drop them off at the Children's Centre Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12.00pm and 1.00pm to 4.00pm.

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## **Hello! If you are self isolating, I can help**

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

I live locally at: \_\_\_\_\_

My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_

If you are self isolating, I can help with:

- Picking up shopping
- Posting mail
- Help with urgent supplies
- A friendly phone call

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to avoid physical contact (2m distance). Items should be left on the doorstep once items have been obtained and confirmation that those you are helping know you are dropping them off. Please remember to wash your hands.

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