

MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER



LOCKDOWN UPDATE

Dear Resident

Happy New Year to you all. Following the Christmas period, we find ourselves yet again in Lockdown and it is more important than ever that our community comes together to support each other.

There is already 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 vulnerable in the village and 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 Rachel, the Deputy Clerk know by calling 07940 241333 or by email on deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk. If you know of someone who may need help please encourage them to contact Rachel, 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 Rachel. 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.

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.

There is also a useful slip at the end of this leaflet 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 and local information from Marden Parish Council, please follow us on:

Facebook - @mardenparishcouncil

Instagram - @mardenparishcouncil

Twitter - @mardenkentpc

If you are not a fan of social media but do use email, you can sign up to receive our upcoming weekly e-newsletter from the end of January 2021 to keep up to date with local information and news from other services. Here is the link to register: <http://bit.ly/MPC-E-NewsletterSignUp>

The Parish Council are currently conducting their meetings virtually and invite interested residents to join them. Please go to the Marden Parish Council website for agendas and further local information: <http://bit.ly/MPCWebsite>

The Clerks at Marden Parish Council are currently working from home and can be contacted during working hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The Parish Office is currently closed but the post box is being emptied regularly. Please use the mobile numbers or send an email below should you need assistance.

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. Please, please, please follow the Government advice about Coronavirus and let's all work together to keep Marden safe.

Best regards

Marden Parish Council

Parish Clerk - Mrs Ali Hooker
Email: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk
Mobile Number: 07376 287981

Deputy Parish Clerk - Mrs Rachel Gillis-Coates
Email: deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk
Mobile Number: 07940 241333

Christmas Trees - Due to Lockdown, our contractor has been unable to come and take down the Christmas trees in the village. If residents are able to take their trees down safely, we are happy for you to do so and store for us until we are able to collect them. If not, we are afraid they will have to stay in situ until it is safe for us to collect them.

Emergency Plan and Flooding - The Parish Council are working on the Emergency Plan (for any emergency) for the parish and invite any residents who would like to help us with this. If you are interested in getting involved with this important plan and would like to help your community, please email Ali on clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk. Some residents in the parish have recently volunteered to become Flood Wardens and met virtually just before Christmas to discuss flooding in Marden. If you are affected by flooding, please do email Ali with information and any photographic evidence so that we can build the best picture of how the recent weather has affected the community.

Information from Marden Medical Centre - COVID-19 Vaccinations

We have been advised by Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) that patients of Marden Medical Centre will be receiving COVID Vaccinations from The Ridge Primary Care Network(PCN). This service will start from Monday 18th January, commencing with those over 80 years of age.

Initially the service will be from Headcorn Aerodrome (TN27 9HX) but other local vaccination sites may be available soon and you may also receive a letter from the national vaccination service inviting you to book an appointment at one of the larger mass vaccination sites.

The NHS is prioritising vaccinating those people who experts have agreed will benefit from it the most.

The Ridge PCN are contracted to provide a solution for patients who cannot travel or who are bedbound but this will likely be delayed till sometime later in the process. Transport suggested for patients to the Headcorn Aerodrome is: by car by someone in your support bubble, by taxi (at your own cost) or by NHS Responder Volunteers (referral needed by surgery).

Please rest assured you will be contacted by The Ridge to make an appointment so please do not contact the surgery regarding this. We will share all updates as we receive them; thank you for your continued support and patience throughout this terribly challenging time. In the meantime, you can get information about the COVID-19 Vaccination online at: <http://bit.ly/NHSCOVID-19Vaccine>.

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, go to their website: www.mardenmedicalcentre.nhs.uk, listen to answerphone messages, see their noticeboard outside the surgery, 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. The church is doing an amazing job of running a food bank to support families in the village. The food bank is open on Mondays between 10.00am and 12.00pm. If you can donate non-perishable food items, please drop them off at this time. Please remember to wear your mask and social distance.

Maidstone Borough Council can provide support if you are Clinically Vulnerable and need help in accessing food deliveries. Further information can be found at: <http://bit.ly/MBCCEVSupport>

Hello! If you are self isolating, I can help

My name is: _____

I live locally at: _____

My phone number is _____

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.
