

News from Marden Parish Council

www.mardenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk



Summer 2015



Letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council

*Dear Resident,
Many thanks to all those who helped out at the successful Village Litter Pick in March. The Annual Parish Meeting was held on the 5th May and you will find all the reports enclosed. Once again it's been a busy year for the Parish Council. My thanks go to my fellow Parish Councillors for all their hard work, and to Alison Hooker, the Parish Clerk and Erika Lock, Assistant Parish Clerk for keeping us all in line! We also welcome Chris Childs onto the Parish Council following his co-option in March.*



You can become a 'Friend' on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/marden.council?fref=ts> or visit our website www.mardenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk which gives details of all Parish Council meetings and other information relevant to the whole Parish. The Annual Reports of the Village Groups that were presented at the Annual Parish Meeting can be found on the website, as can the latest edition of the Parish Newsletter. If you live in the outlying areas of the Parish and have your newsletter posted, please contact the Parish Office if you would like it to be sent via email instead. We try to keep residents informed of what's going on, but if you have any suggestions, please let Alison in the Parish office know or email anne.boswell@ymail.com

Have a great summer and let's hope the sun shines down on us!

Regards.

Dorothy Reed
Dorothy Reed

Memorial Hall Roof Update

As previously advised, the Marden Memorial Hall Management Committee approached the Parish Council last year informing Councillors that after several years of trying to obtain funding for the hall roof replacement, it had been unsuccessful. The Parish Council was therefore asked to consider the possibility of obtaining a Public Works Loan (PWL). The issue was raised at successive Full Council Meetings and details were provided on the Parish Council website and Spring 2015 edition of the Newsletter. Residents were encouraged to offer their views and these were considered in the decision-making process.

Following extensive discussion, it was agreed that the only possible means of funding the necessary works was for the Parish Council to obtain a PWL and it was agreed to raise the Precept in January 2015 to include annual PWL repayments.

Academy Consulting then prepared the work specification and tender documents. They have been generous enough to offer these services free of charge and will continue to project manage the works. Tenders have now been received from three local roofing contractors and these are currently being considered by Councillors.

Village Mounting Block

We are pleased to announce that after prolonged negotiation with Kent Highways, the damaged village Mounting Block was partly rebuilt and reinstalled. It has been sited close to its original position on the High Street, but further from the junction to avoid damage. We hope you agree it looks pretty good – the History Group certainly endorses it! A London Plane tree was also planted close-by and many thanks to Kent Highways for undertaking the works and for making an excellent job of it.



KCC Highways installing The Mounting Block

Village Summer Play Scheme

We are delighted to announce that the Village Summer Play Scheme will once again run all day - from 9.30am-3.30pm and will operate from Monday 27th July to Friday 7th August at Marden Scout HQ. The scheme is open to village children from the ages of 5 to 11 year (children must have reached the age of 5 by 1st September 2014) and the theme this year will be the 'Circus'. Registration forms are available from Alison in the Parish Office and the Primary School Office from 1st June. A list of all the planned activities will be available at the same time. All staff are ready to go and excited about this year with Jen Hindley being our manager leading the team again. Reduced fees are available if places are pre-booked.

Speeding in the Village

Residents have told us about their concerns regarding speeding and the potential dangers to the Parish. This is illustrated by the unfortunate car accident at the Primary School in February. Our MP Helen Grant voiced her concerns to Kent County Council (KCC) and the Parish Clerk provided further evidence of the issues affecting Goudhurst Road. Unfortunately Paul Carter, Leader of Kent County Council, has advised that the expenditure on road safety measures in Marden is unlikely to be forthcoming. However, our County Councillor Paulina Stockell announced at the Annual Parish meeting, that KCC were re-investigating the issues outside the school further so watch this space!

A Rural Speeding Working Group has recently been established in Kent. Kent Police has made road safety a prime objective and the next meeting will take place shortly. We hope to update you in the next Newsletter.

Local residents in Chainhurst are also deeply concerned about speeding traffic. If you have issues you wish to bring to the attention of the Council, please contact Alison in the Parish Office mardenpc@btconnect.com

Let's Get Speed Watching

If you're worried about the speeding in the village and want to help to do something about it, now's your chance. The Parish Council have recently purchased speed watch equipment and a number of volunteers have been trained, but before we commence the project, we need more. Please contact Alison in the Parish Office and get involved. Speed Watches collate information about speeding motorists and this is passed to Kent Police who are then able to issue warning letters and monitor the situation.

***Come on Marden, let's get Speed Watching
– we need more volunteers.***

Village Litter Pick

A huge thank you to all those thoughtful and caring residents who helped out on the village Litter Pick in March. Our special thanks to the Scout Groups and their families, the Youth Group and Marden Walking Group. What a tremendous job you all did and the areas we covered certainly look better. Thanks also go to our Borough Councillors who joined in – David Burton and Annabelle Blackmore. Underlyn Lane was *continued*



Here's Alison our Parish Clerk and husband Mike litter picking along the Goudhurst Road

particularly rubbish-laden. It's such a shame that an uncaring few spoil it for the rest of us. Unfortunately we were unable to cover all the unpaved roads in the Parish, and whilst residents are most welcome to borrow litter pick equipment from the Parish Office, please be aware that volunteers are only covered by the Parish insurance if the event is formally organised. Remember if you want to report a litter issue or fly-tipping, go to Maidstone Borough Council's website.

To help keep Marden beautiful, can we please encourage residents and businesses to regularly clear up their frontages and collect rubbish along their roads. **"Let's keep our village tidy.....it's good to do something positive for the Community"**

Special Village People

We are aware of a number of local residents who regularly collect litter and our thanks go to these unsung heroes - what caring citizens you are. If you would like to nominate a special village person, please email anne.boswell@ymail.com

Blooming in Marden!

A 'Marden in Bloom' group is currently being formed. This has the endorsement of the Parish Council and comprises village residents whose aim is to enhance the appearance of the village. The Group's first step is to become a member of 'Britain in Bloom' an organisation set up by the Royal Horticultural Society who get involved in various projects such as caring for local parks and squares, helping to establish school gardens and run wildlife projects. The Group's initial mission is to brighten up Marden by installing more village planters/troughs, holding a hanging basket competition and encouraging residents and retailers to keep their frontages clean and tidy etc. If you are a local business and would like to sponsor this project or make a donation, please contact Cllr Anne Boswell.

Similarly, if you have any thoughts and are interested in becoming part of the 'Marden in Bloom' Group, please contact anne.boswell@ymail.com or telephone 833351. We are looking for garden enthusiasts, carpenters/DIY'ers, artists or just local residents who want to be involved in the community. **"Let's get our village of Marden looking beautiful and be proud of where we live – it's great to engage!"**

Play Trail in Southons Field

The Parish Council is currently exploring the idea of a Play Trail in Southons Field and this would be designed to *continued*



Spring in Southons Field

blend in with the natural environment. Councillors have recently met up with 3 play equipment suppliers to look at ideas and costs. The intention is to install a Play Trail designed for children and hopefully expand this to provide equipment for adults if the necessary funding can be found. With a bit of luck, this may be up and running over the Summer holiday period.

CCTV

The Parish Council recently applied for matched funding to purchase CCTV equipment but unfortunately were unsuccessful in its bid. This is needed to monitor hot spot areas around the village particularly outside the public toilets and the play area. However, because of recent incidents at both the Public Toilets and play area, Councillors have agreed to go ahead with purchasing one camera which can be moved to different locations. Hopefully this will be a good deterrent. A mobile CCTV camera was recently deployed in a number of streets at the request of our PCSO Nicola Morris and it is hoped this has reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Dog Fouling

Marden Parish Council are taking the issue of dog fouling, particularly in the Playing Field, very seriously. We cannot over-stress the dangers dog faeces poses – Toxocariasis is found in dog faeces and can cause partial blindness. Children are particularly susceptible and the disease affects up to 100 children every year in the UK.

In February, a Marden Minors football match had to be abandoned due to a large amount of dog faeces on the pitch. The Clerk subsequently met with Maidstone Borough Council's (MBC) Environmental Enforcement Officer and the Community Warden. The field is owned by the Parish Council but controlled by Dog Control Orders and enforced by MBC. A leaflet drop was undertaken by MBC to the houses surrounding the pitch informing them of 'Dog Watch'. Several articles appeared in the press regarding the abandonment of the football match and the Parish Clerk has provided evidence to MBC.

Mira Marden, our Community Warden, has also been talking to dog owners about the issue and once again we appeal for all dog owners to be vigilant and help to tackle this vulgar and irresponsible issue. If you see any dog fouling problems and manage to take a photo or description of the dog and/or owner, please advise either via email to: enforcementoperations@maidstone.gov.uk or call 01622 602202. It's such a shame that just a few uncaring dog owners spoil things for others.

Public Toilets and Vandalism

The refurbishment of the public toilets was finally completed and now looks a lot smarter. It is with deep disappointment that there have already been a number of incidents. If you witness any vandalism, you must report this to the Police by calling 101. The current opening times are 7am to 8pm but may be reviewed if further vandalism occurs.

Sewage Issues - Southern Water

A further meeting with Southern Water took place in April and some remedial works have been undertaken in Marden Road, Staplehurst. We are advised that the problems experienced in Marden are due to surface water penetrating the foul water

drainage system. It is hoped that a Strategy will be put in place by September 2015.

Surface Water Management Plan

A further meeting regarding the Surface Water Management Plan for Marden was held on 15th May and a report of this will be available in the next newsletter and on the Parish Council website.

Kent County Council Library Consultation

KCC has published its favoured option for the future of Kent Library, Registration and Archive Services and the intention is to form a Charitable Trust. A KCC Library representative addressed the March Parish Council meeting. Councillors firmly believe Marden Library to be special; it is a beacon of good practice and is proud to house the Marden Heritage Centre. Councillors were keen to get this message over to KCC decision-makers and responded to the formal consultation accordingly.

Conifers at the Playing Field

There is a hedge of mature conifers in the Playing Field to the Western boundary. The trees have been badly damaged and need to be removed. It is hoped this work will be undertaken shortly and Golding Homes have promised to provide a replacement boundary – a wall or fence.

What's on in Marden?

Village Siren – Saturday 6 June

The History Group will be "sounding" the Siren at 3pm on Saturday 6 June to commemorate 'D Day'. This marks the Normandy Landings on 6th June 1944 where thousands of Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy at the start of the major offensive against the enemy – don't panic - it's just a signal that the Big Music Picnic is about to start!

Marden's Big Music Picnic – Southons Field – Saturday 6 June

This was a wonderful event last year and we hope it will be even better this year. There are some acts you will have seen before and some new ones, and of course you can sing along to your old favourites with the Village Voices choir who will also be singing a few WW2 songs to celebrate VE Day. There will be lots of other attractions – children's races, tug-of-war, coconut shy, School country dancing, a bouncy assault course, face painting and Children's Craft Stall with the Bellringer's BBQ and tea and cakes from the Mothers' union. The Gates will open at 3.30pm and the event finishes at 8.30pm. Tickets cost £5 for adults, £4 for Seniors and £2 for Children (5-15) – tickets are only available at the gate.

For more info email: Steve.mcarragher@btinternet.com – or call 831007

Pre-School Open Day – Wednesday 1st July

Marden Pre-School is holding an Open Day on Wednesday 1st July from 9am to 11am. Please come along and see what the village Pre-School do and meet the staff - even if you don't have children/grandchildren attending you are still welcome to pop in for a coffee. There will be stalls selling gifts, jewellery etc and a cake stall. If you are selling items and would like a stall please telephone 01622 832857 to book.

Dog Show – Sunday 14th June at Marden Playing Field

Maidstone Borough Council are organising a Fun Dog Show on Sunday 14th June from 10am to 4pm at Marden Playing Field.



There will be 10 categories at £1 per entry and stalls include Battersea Dogs, Have A Go Agility, Golding Homes Wellbeing Bus, Free Microchipping, Ice Cream, and much more. All welcome – even if you haven't a dog! For more information contact Mira Martin or Louise

Duke at Maidstone Borough Council –
louiseduke@maidstone.gov.uk

Marden at Christmas – Saturday 12th December

If you wish to have a stall in the Memorial Hall at this event, preferably with a Christmas theme, please let Erika know at erika.mardenpc@btconnect.com

Police Surgery

Your local officer PCSO Nicola Morris will be holding a police surgery at Marden Library from **11am-12 noon on 6th June**. Please speak to Nicola on a first-come/first served basis to discuss any concerns you may have on crime and anti-social behaviour.

Citizens Advice Bureau – Outreach Sessions

These sessions are held monthly, on Tuesdays, in the Committee Room, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden from 10am to 12noon. It is on a first come/first served basis and there is no need to make an appointment. The next sessions are being held on 16th June, 21st July, 18th August, 15th September, 20th October and 17th November. You can also visit CAB at Maidstone Gateway or telephone 01622 750770.

Hi-Kent

Hi-Kent provide outreach sessions for NHS hearing aid aftercare, advice and battery supplies. These are held in the committee Room, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden from 1.30 to 2.30 on Thursday 30 July, Thursday 24th September and Thursday 19th November. For further information telephone Hi-Kent on 01622 691151
www.hikent.org.uk

Marden Children's Centre, Goudhurst Road, Marden (next to Marden Primary School) 01622 831503

The Children's Centre is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and offer the following for parents/carers and young children:
Mondays: 9.30am-11.30am Discovery Play / 1.30pm-3.00pm Messy Play
Tuesdays: 9.00am-12noon Adult Courses (please ring the Centre for further information)
Thursdays: 9.30am-11.30am Stay & Play
1st Monday of each month – 9.00am-4.00pm Child Development checks (by appointment with Health Visitor only)
2nd Monday of each month – 9.30am-11.30am – Health Visitor's Baby and Child Clinic / Child Development checks until 4pm (by appointment with Health Visitor only)
3rd Monday of each month – 9.00am-12noon Child Development checks (by appointment with Health Visitor only)

Country Eye – Promoting Rural Safety

Country Eye is a partnership between the rural community, Kent Police and Neighbourhood Watch.

The aim of the partnership is to help reduce crime and the fear of crime by involving all members of the community and protecting those who are most vulnerable.

Membership is open to individuals, businesses or community organisations.

Country Eye is administered locally in each of the six Kent Police areas by the local Neighbourhood Watch Liaison

Officers. They are supported by volunteers. Information is circulated daily to all participating groups.

The Police cannot work in isolation – Country Eye promotes the sharing of information and the gathering of crime-related intelligence.

This is achieved by using modern communication methods and the co-operation of Country Eye's many rural partners. These include landowners, parish councils, libraries, schools, river & waterway organisations, horse watch, wildlife organisations, post offices, local business and rural churches.

Find out more about Country Eye in your area 01622 654143.



Everyone in the parish is invited to the Marden Business

Showcase on Thursday 2nd July 2015, 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Come along and see how the 100+ businesses in your village employ over 1,000 local people. See what is produced, meet the owners, find out about local services, you will be amazed. Free entry. Food and refreshments available.

Contact: committee@mardenbusinessforum.com for further details. www.mardenbusinessforum.com to join the Forum.

Parish Office Opening Hours:

If you would like any info or advice on a Parish matter, please feel free to call into the Parish Office. Opening hours have now been changed to: Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am-12pm.

Useful information:

Parish Clerk: Alison Hooker – 01622 832305 –
mardenpc@btconnect.com

Assistant Parish Clerk: Erika Lock – 01622 832305 –
erika.mardenpc@btconnect.com

Parish Council website: www.mardenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Police Contact: PCSO Nicola Morris – 101 or
Nicola.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk

Community Warden Contact: Mira Martin – 07969 584179

British Transport Police: Freephone 0800 405 040

Your Local MP:

Helen Grant, the re-elected MP for Maidstone and the Weald, holds regular surgeries in the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you, please e-mail Helen at helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk or telephone 020 7219 7107
www.helengrant.org

Fault Reporting:

Maidstone Borough Council Flytipping, Abandoned Vehicles, Dog Fouling, Street Cleaning – 01622 602162
www.maidstone.gov.uk

Kent County Council:

The Parish Council frequently liaise with Kent Highways over the state of the roads and drains in the village. For any Pothole and other road issues, Vegetation and Street Lighting – please call 03000 418181 or via their website www.kent.gov.uk

