

News from Marden Parish Council

Winter 2016



www.mardenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk



Letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council

Dear Resident,

The nights are drawing in and Christmas will soon be upon us. I do hope many of you will come along to the village Christmas celebration, Marden at Christmas, on Saturday 10 December. If previous years are anything to go by, it promises to be an excellent day, you'll find more information about this in the newsletter.



The village continues to grow and we are maintaining a close relationship with the developers who have developments underway, with the aim of getting the best outcomes we can for the village. We are hopeful that soon we will be able to provide new play equipment in the Napoleon Drive Play Area and over the next few years upgrade and add to the facilities we have at the Playing Field, all funded by developer contributions.

One of the unfortunate themes of modern life is the vast amount of rubbish along our village roads and lanes. The Parish Council has held very successful litter cleans-ups in March over the last few years and we will be doing the same next year on Saturday 18th March. Please do join us for our annual spring clean - there is more information in the newsletter.

Many congratulations to 'Marden in Bloom' who gained a silver award following the recent judging. An outstanding result for such a newly-formed group. I know they have lots more plans for next year.

If you have recently moved to Marden - welcome - I hope that you are enjoying discovering all that our village has to offer and our beautiful countryside. If you haven't already received a village welcome pack, please let Alison in the Parish Office know.

On behalf of all of us on the Parish Council, in the Office and our caretaking staff may I wish everyone in Marden . . .

...a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Warm regards.

Kate
Kate

Call for Memorial Hall Trustees

Marden Memorial Hall is a vital village amenity used by many organisations, including the Pre-School Play Group who use the facilities on a daily basis in term time. The Hall is a charity which is run by a group of Trustees, with the Parish Council as custodian trustee, however the Council does not have any responsibility for the running of the hall. The Memorial Hall is such an important village community asset and it is with regret that a few trustees are standing down, including the Treasurer John Elphick, who has served many years in this important role. If there is anybody in the village who has a few hours to spare each month and would like to become a Trustee, could you please contact Alison at the Parish Office.

Village Parking

The lack of both long-term and short-term parking in the village is a cause of annoyance to a lot of residents. The Parish Council is being proactive in trying to address the various parking issues that face the village. Councillors are in the process of analysing the parking survey that residents were asked to complete a few months ago. 133 responses were received - so thanks to those of you who participated. At the same time, the Parish Council is also examining the existing parking restrictions and single and double yellow lines. Once all this information has been gathered, Councillors will discuss with Maidstone Borough Council and then a Public Consultation will take place.

Parking on Double Yellow Lines

It is concerning that vehicles are frequently parking on the Double Yellow Lines (DYL) outside the Post Office. This frequently causes problems, particularly for large vehicles turning at the junction. Can we please ask everyone not to park on any of the double yellow lines in the village however briefly you are parking? If there are no spaces available, then please use the public car park. The Maidstone Borough Council Parking Wardens do check village parking on a regular basis.

Parking on Pavements

If you have an issue with vehicles parking on pavements that obstruct your right of way, then please call 101 and try to take a photo, if possible, so it can be dealt with promptly by our PCSO Nicola Morris. Whilst the police have no power to remove vehicles parked on pavements, they will assess and an Advice Notice can be placed on the vehicle - the police can only give advice to the registered keeper. However, if the offender continues to park on the pavement, a Police Officer can issue a ticket for obstruction.

Firefighter Appeal - Parking in the Parish

Kent Fire & Rescue Service has concerns about poor parking in residential streets and fear that this could cause delays in getting their fire engines to emergency incidents. Can we please appeal to residents to bear this in mind, but of course to still not park on pavements that will restrict pedestrian access.

Speeding in the Parish

Do you want to do anything about speeding in the Parish? Then please contact Erika at the Parish Office who is organising some speed watch sessions. If you are interested, Speed Watch Kent have now organised online training for Community Speed Watch (CSW) and Erika is happy to give you the details. The village Firefighters will also be undertaking a Speed Watch session shortly. Email: erika.mardenpc@btconnect.com or call 01622 832305.

'Bag that poo, any rubbish bin will do'!

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) has recently removed the current dog bins in the village and several have been replaced with 'co-mingled' bins - in other words, placing general rubbish and dog waste together! The Parish Council has lobbied MBC on this issue. You may wish to take a look at MBC's Facebook page on their campaign for 'Responsible Canine Ownership': <https://www.facebook.com/Responsiblek9s/?rc=p> Once again, if you see any evidence of dog fouling problems, please email the details to: enforcementoperations@maidstone.gov.uk or call 01622 602202. Remember dog fouling is a serious health hazard - it must be stopped!

School Bus

Owing to recent roadworks, the morning school bus has been stopping on Church Hill instead of the usual bus stop. This has resulted in children blocking the pavement at the station approach, and some parents turning vehicles around at the entrance to the station. Can we please ask parents to drop their children at the bus stop? The alternative has been causing disruption for those walking and driving to the station.

Napoleon Drive Play Area

As previously advised, the Napoleon Drive play area has now been transferred to the ownership of Marden Parish Council. Councillors are currently looking at under-5 play equipment options to replace the existing outdated apparatus, and will hold a Public Consultation in the New Year. The surrounding shrubs and vegetation are being tidied up and cut back over the Winter.

Diseased and Dying Trees

The Parish Council have taken advice from a Tree Surgeon and unfortunately there are a number of diseased and dying trees, some potentially dangerous, in the Playing Field, Chestnuts and Rookery Path areas. Several of these have now been removed because of the danger they may pose to the public. Once all the work has been completed, Councillors will look at replacing some of the trees, if appropriate, especially those that have Tree Preservation Orders (TPO), along Rookery Path. This is, of course, a costly but necessary exercise.

Keeping Marden Tidy!

The Parish Council is very grateful to Alpha Wholesale, who is based in Pattenden Lane, for clearing the unsightly pile of rubbish from the area at the end of the Playing Field. Marden's Community Warden, Mira Martin, is looking into installing a rubbish bin there and the Parish Council is investigating ways in which the ditch can be cleared. It is also hoped to clear the vegetation in this area creating a tidier and more open aspect.

Can we please request that residents keep their front gardens clear of weeds and overhanging hedges. However, any overgrown hedges or verges on Kent Highways land can be reported direct to Kent Highways via their website: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

Parish Litter Pick

Saturday 18th March

Again this year's litter pick was a great success and the Parish Council will co-ordinate another tidying up exercise in the Parish on Saturday 18th March. If you would like to volunteer your help, please let Alison in the Parish Office know either via email to mardenpc@btconnect.com or call 01622 832305.

It's a great community event working together to keep our lovely parish of Marden tidy. Councillors, on behalf of all residents, would once again like to thank all those thoughtful residents who regularly litter pick around the village.

CCTV/Anti-Social Behaviour

CCTV cameras for the Playing Field to monitor anti-social behaviour will hopefully be installed within the next few weeks.

Marden Cemetery

A new section has recently been marked out at the Cemetery which will be lined with shrubs and planted up in the Spring. If you would like to donate any perennials or shrubs for the Cemetery please let Alison, the Parish Clerk, know. A new bench is being situated in the far right end, and if you would like a plaque to be placed on the bench in memory of a loved one, again please contact Alison. The S&SE in Bloom judges thought the cemetery was a beautiful place and suggested it be entered in the S&SE in Bloom Cemetery category. Ian Jones, the groundsman, was congratulated for maintaining it to such a high standard.



(MinB) - Silver Award!

MinB were absolutely delighted to learn that Marden was awarded 'Silver' in the Small Town category at the S&SE in Bloom Awards Ceremony in September. This is an excellent start for our newly-formed group. Can I thank all of the Committee and other members who have helped so much with this huge project to help tidy up our lovely Parish and make it more beautiful.

Our motto is 'It's All About Village Engagement' and we are grateful that so many of the village groups and residents participated. We have arranged numerous fund-raising events and had a number of generous sponsors, but our particular thanks go to Golden Hill Nursery who funded all the plants in the Summer.

We have been planting 2,000 crocuses at various spots in the village which were kindly donated by Weald of Kent Rotary, via John & Mary Elphick, in support of the 'Purple4Polio' campaign. The apple crate planters have also been re-planted with winter foliage and more perennials and bulbs have been planted at the Library area. Next year we will be focusing on encouraging children to get involved in projects such as growing pumpkins, sunflowers, and making bat and bird boxes. Residents will also be encouraged to grow more bee and butterfly enhancing-

plants; to create a wildflower meadow; to hold weed clearing groups; and maybe enter more competitions. So come on Marden help us achieve our goals and improve the look of our village – the S&SE in Bloom judges main observation is the clearing of weeds – so please try to keep the front of your properties clear and tidy! *Cllr Anne Boswell, Chairman of MinB*



A wintery scene.

Contacting the Parish Council

One of the most important roles of the Parish Council is to acknowledge and, where possible, act upon issues raised by local residents. We are always happy to respond to emails and letters, and it is our duty to look into any issues that residents may have. On occasion we receive correspondence of a potentially libelous nature, although the Parish Council appreciates that sometimes issues can be contentious. However correspondence should not contain unhelpful, derogatory and/or inflammatory comments nor use language that we consider to be unacceptable. The Parish Council will not respond to any such correspondence until it is written in an acceptable way. Can we reiterate that Parish Councillors are volunteers who give a great deal of their time for the good of the Parish. Our aim is always to be transparent and please come along to Parish meetings which are open to the public. Check out our website or look at the Parish Noticeboards: <http://www.mardenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>

Clearing Snow and Ice

Kent County Council (KCC) is responsible for clearing snow and ice from roads and roadside footways (pavements) in Marden, and the B2079 through the village is one of KCC's primary salting routes. During periods of severe weather, other authorities, including Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) and Marden Parish Council may also provide assistance if they have resources available. If the Parish Council is able to assist KCC to keep these routes clear of snow and ice, our priority will be to help clear the busiest lengths of footway in the village centre which is the North side of the main road between Church Green shops and the bus stop near Haffenden Close; and the South side of the main road between the bus stop near the Library car park and High Street shops.

If you are clearing snow and ice yourself, these simple guidelines below have been published by the Government and KCC. When you clear snow and ice:

- Do it early in the day – it's easier to move fresh, loose snow
- Don't use water – it might re-freeze and turn to black ice
- Use salt, if possible – it will melt the ice or snow and stop it from re-freezing overnight
- You can use ash and sand if you don't have enough salt – it

will provide grip underfoot

● Pay extra attention when clearing steps and steep pathways – using more salt may help

● Be careful when you are shoveling snow – ensure your own safety and visibility, especially when it's dark

NB: The salt/grit mix from the yellow salt bins may only be used to clear public roads and paths, and must not be spread on private drives or pathways.

You may also wish to help your neighbours. For comprehensive information, please visit the KCC website www.kent.gov.uk for their Winter service provision. From the home page, click on 'Roads and Travel' then 'What we Look After', then 'Winter Service'. It provides useful information on salt bins, gritting routes, how and when KCC salt the roads, clearing snow in the community and the latest weather updates.

Large Planning Applications

You can view an update of large village applications that have recently been submitted on the Marden Parish Council website: <http://www.mardenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/default.cfm?pid=1803>

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MARDEN ?

Air Raid Siren – Sunday 13th November at 12.15pm – will be sounded for Remembrance Day

Farmers Market – Sunday 13th November and Sunday 11th December in the Memorial Hall – 9.30am-1pm

Marden Society – Wednesday 23rd November at 7.30pm in the Vestry Hall – talk by Peter Cook on 'Our County Regiment'

Marden Walking Group hold regular walks, it's such good exercise and great to get outside and socialise:

● Wednesdays – 16 and 23 November – meet outside Library and checking out some of the routes

● Saturdays at 2pm – meet outside Marden Library:
19 November - Stilebridge to Chainhurst (share cars)
26 November - Local Walk

● Sundays at 10am – meet outside Marden Library:
27 November – Aviation East (shortened version 4.75 miles) visiting some of the sites of war-time crashes

● Wednesday Publications – our publications are running short of stocks and the maps will have to be altered to show our new residents homes. If you would like to be involved and have some new ideas for routes, please contact:

Catherine Alderson, Chairman of Marden Walking Group – email: catherinealderson123@btinternet.com

Christmas Market at the Vestry Hall – Friday 25th November 6.30pm-9.30pm & Saturday 26th November 9.30am-12.00pm Lots of goodies and refreshments with festive songs from Marden Primary School Choir

Salvation Army Carol Singing at the West End Stores – Friday 2nd December – at 7.30pm

Marden Scouts Christmas Post Delivery Service - Following the success in 2016 Marden Scout Group will again be running the very popular Christmas Post Delivery Service. Look out for posters and post boxes throughout the village from the start of December.

School Christmas Fair – Saturday 3rd December – 11am-1pm – Marden Primary School. Come and get festive at Marden Primary School with our Christmas Fair. We have stalls galore, some for fun and some to help you with your Christmas shopping. There will be craft activities, a cafe, plant sale and not forgetting a visit to Santa's Grotto plus more. Something for everyone!

'Carolling around the Christmas Tree' – Friday 9th December from 6pm Marden in Bloom are holding a Carol singing and tree lighting event outside the Memorial Hall accompanied by the 'Village Voices' and some of the village's professional musicians on Friday 9th December from 6pm! Please gather around, along with your children and lanterns, and get into the festive spirit. We will be serving mulled wine and mince pies to help raise funds for Marden in Bloom. The tree has kindly been donated by David and Emma Elphick and the lights and planter sponsored by Redrow.

Saint Nicholas Christmas Tree Festival – Friday 9th December
As part of the 'Marden at Christmas' event, everyone is welcome to take a decorated tree for display in Marden Church (complete with battery lights) for all to enjoy on Friday 9th December between 2pm-6pm and collect on Sunday 11th from 2pm-4pm. The children will also perform a concert on Friday at 7pm.

'Marden at Christmas' Event – Saturday 10th December
Please come and join us to celebrate the festive season starting at The Allens at 11.30am with Carols accompanied by the Silver Band, Morris Dancing and refreshments. Then at the Memorial Hall from 1.30pm with a Christmas Craft Fayre, Santa in his Grotto and refreshments – see full details on leaflet enclosed.

Kent Chamber Choir Concert – Saturday 10th December at 7.30pm – will be performing in the church with Advent and Christmas music, in aid of Marden Church.

Job Search. 'Looking for Work?', 'Need Help Getting Online?', 'Want to talk to other local parents?' - Golding Homes is holding informal coffee, cake and chat at Marden Children's Centre on Mondays 1pm to 3pm. Contact 0300 777 2600 / www.goldinghomes.org.uk for further information.

Old Kent Carollers

Old Kent Carollers celebrate some of our area's less well known carols with hearty carolling sessions in the village each Christmas. The 'carol sings' take place from 8pm at The West End Tavern on the two Sundays before Christmas, and this year at the 'Marden at Christmas' event. If you'd like to learn some of the carols with us in the coming weeks, please email gmatkin@gmail.com or ring 07985 522734 for info.

Involve Kent – Offer a Ride to Local Residents!

Involve Kent, formerly Voluntary Action Maidstone, is a charity co-ordinating volunteer transport service which transports clients in the Maidstone and Malling area who are unable to use public transport due to their age, disability, illness, frailty or injury. They take them to doctors and hospital appointments, social trips, shopping or anywhere else they would like to go. They are also looking for volunteers for additional support with driving and in the office. If you are interested please either call 01622 677337 or check out the link: <http://www.involvekent.org.uk/support-us>

Public Rights of Way

Due to work starting shortly on the Stanley Farm development PROW KM281 and part of KM283 has been temporarily closed from 17th October for six months while new roads are constructed. The Order for new route for KM275 from Copper Lane to Park Road has been made, however it cannot be used until KCC have installed stiles and bridges which should be undertaken shortly.

Southern Water

Update on Drainage Area Plan (DAP)

Southern Water have been undertaking a detailed investigation of the sewerage network in the area and looking at the current impact of surface water on the drainage network. Hopefully the results of the investigation will be published shortly.

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 are: Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays 10am-12pm.

Council Contact Details:

Parish Clerk: Alison Hooker 01622 832305
mardenpc@btconnect.com
Asst Parish Clerk: Erika Lock 01622 832305
erika.mardenpc@btconnect.com
Parish Council Website: www.mardenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/mardenpckent>

Councillor details:

Kate Tippen, Parish Council Chairman 01622 832305
kate.tippen1@gmail.com
Richard Adam, Parish Council Vice-Chairman 01622 831673
richard@tn12.uk
Anne Boswell Amenities Committee Chairman 01622 833351
Maria Brown 01622 832305
Chris Childs, planning Committee Chairman 01622 832305
Jane Cowin 01622 832305
Sean Harvey 07719 619019
Lesley Mannington 07802 720069
Ian Newton 01622 831832
Jean Robertson 01622 831331
Andy Turner 07803 598813

Useful Information:

Police Contact: PCSO Nicola Morris – 101 or Nicola.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk Please note that emails will only be picked up when Nicola is on duty so anything urgent should be rung through to 101 or 999 if immediate response is needed.

Community Warden – Mira Martin – 07969 584179

British Transport Police: Freephone 0800 405040

Your Local MP – Helen Grant, 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 call 0207 219 7107 www.helengrant.org

Fault Reporting:

Maidstone Borough Council – for 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



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