

MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER



A LOOK AT THIS ISSUE:

PLANNING UPDATE - PAGE 4-7

ALLOTMENTS - PAGE 9

POLICE & CRIME UPDATE - PAGE 12-14



**LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY**

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Resident,



Parish Councillors have once again asked me to chair the Parish Council, a role I am privileged to accept.

It was such a delight to see so many of you at the recent Jubilee events, especially after such a long period when we could not meet. I very much hope everyone enjoyed the beacon lighting and the fete as much as we did.

The Parish Council is very busy working on your behalf to achieve the best outcomes we can for the residents of Marden. With the review of the Neighbourhood Plan now started I would urge anyone who is interested in the future of the village to get involved, you will find more information about this in the newsletter.

A housing survey questionnaire will be sent to every household soon. Please complete it regardless of whether or not there is a housing need in your household. This is the best way for Maidstone Borough Council to understand where there is housing need in our community and to plan for the future. There is more information later in the newsletter about the survey.

Times are very tough for many people at the moment, both here in the UK with the cost of living crisis and further afield with the dreadful war in Ukraine.

I am delighted that Marden residents are supporting Ukrainian guests and that so many of you were generous in donating aid for Ukraine. Closer to home the Marden Food Bank is doing a sterling job, along with other agencies, to support those of our residents who are struggling at this time. I urge any of you who can help the Food Bank to donate what you can, you'll find more information in the newsletter. I hope everyone has an enjoyable Summer and the weather is kind to us.

Warm wishes

Cllr Kate Tippen

MARDEN CELEBRATES THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service and we were so privileged to witness such a momentous occasion.

There was excitement in the air in Marden – we certainly went to 'town' to celebrate one of the biggest milestones in British history. To mark this unprecedented anniversary, the village was alive with street parties galore and celebrations in honour of Her Majesty - a true beacon of light. It was very special to see our community come together again after such a long period of uncertainty throughout the pandemic. The Church was decorated so beautifully with flowers and displays and the streets full of bunting – such a monumental occasion full of joy and happiness.

The Parish Council hope you enjoyed the Queen's Platinum Jubilee events we organised and we would like to thank our community for joining us for the Lighting of the Beacon in Southons Field on Thursday 2nd June and the Village Fete on Saturday 4th June – we have certainly received lots of positive feedback. So many of you came along and everybody seemed to be having fun. We are also grateful to all those local village groups and businesses who took part, and we hope you all had a good time. Congratulations to our Clerks Ali, Rachel and Hollie for organising the events and to the Parish Councillors who helped.



Thanks to all the children who entered the 'Portrait of the Queen' competition – it was very hard to pick winners from the large amount of great drawings handed in. We are pleased to announce that all the portraits will be made into books which will be presented to the Primary Academy and Marden History Group.



GENERAL UPDATE

Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

The APM took place on Tuesday 5th April in the Congregational Chapel and verbal reports included the Chairman of the Parish Council, Amenities, Planning, Parochial Charities, Marden Parish Church, the Church Bellringers and Marden Village Club. Our Borough Councillor David Burton gave an update on Maidstone Borough Council, County Councillor Lotte Parfitt-Reid on Kent County Council along with a report from Mira Martin our Community Warden. Ray Morris gave an excellent talk about Marden Wildlife and the amazing work the group is doing. John Haddow, Chair of the Marden Patient Participation Group was unfortunately absent due to sickness, but his report was read by Cllr Kate Tippen. You can view all the reports on the Parish Council website: bit.ly/MPCAnnualParishMtgs

Parish Council Meetings

Since the end of Covid restrictions, Marden Parish Council has resumed face-to-face meetings. These are held on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm. Full Council is held on the second Tuesday of each month and Amenities Committee on the fourth Tuesday of each month and both held at The Allens in Albion Road. Planning Committee is held on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the Old School Room, Marden Memorial Hall and Finance Committee held quarterly in the Parish Council Offices, Marden Memorial Hall.

GENERAL UPDATE CONTD

Parish Meetings (Contd)

If you wish to attend a meeting, please contact Ali, the Clerk, (or Rachel, Deputy Clerk, in the case of Amenities Committee). If you have something you wish to raise either with Council or on an item on the agenda you are either welcome to attend the meeting or send to the Clerk prior to the meeting for it to be raised on your behalf – if you would like something to be considered on the agenda this must be with the clerks by the Tuesday week before a meeting.

All agendas are displayed on the Parish Council Notice Boards, in the weekly e-Newsletter, on social media and posted on our website each week. You can find the agendas and minutes on our website.



Parish Council e-Newsletter – Weekly Village Round Up

Have you signed up for the Parish Council e-newsletter yet? The “Weekly Village Round Up” is sent out every Friday and is full of local news, information, updates and lands direct in your inbox. You can sign up by either scanning the QR code above, emailing Rachel (email on the back page), calling the Parish Office number or at the website:
<http://bit.ly/MPC-E-NewsletterSignUp>



Marden Summer Play Scheme Monday 25th July-Friday 5th August 2022

The Parish Council is pleased to be able to run the Summer Play Scheme again this year from Monday 25th July to Friday 5th August at Marden Primary Academy. The Scheme is for 5-12 year olds (please note your child must have reached the age of 5 by 1st September 2021 and will include Year 7 children). This year's theme is “Kings & Queens” and Jordan Manley has once again kindly agreed to be the Scheme Manager. Registration forms are available from the Parish and School offices or online at:
<https://bit.ly/MPCSummerPlayscheme>.

Fees are £5 for a morning session (9.30am-12.30pm) or £10 a day. Space is very limited with several days already fully booked therefore pre-booking is advisable. If you would like your child/children to attend but are experiencing financial difficulties, please do not hesitate to speak with Alison on a confidential basis.

Meet the Clerks

Ali, Rachel and Hollie are holding ‘Meet the Clerks’ again on the fourth Thursday of each month at The Old Post Office Café from 10am to 12noon. Come along to raise any issues that you have or just to say hello. Next dates scheduled: Thursday 21st July, Thursday 25th August, Thursday 22nd September.

Annual Accounts for 2021/22

| Budget | Expenditure | Income |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Staffing | £91,470.82 | £0.00 |
| Administration | £16,493.83 | £0.00 |
| Newsletter, advertising etc | £3,480.73 | £0.00 |
| Vehicle/Machinery | £5,309.50 | £0.00 |
| Finance | £2,583.20 | £158,385.73 |
| S106/Community Infrastructure Levy | £16,692.00 | £262.50 |
| Miscellaneous | £2,998.97 | £921.49 |
| Christmas | £1,570.88 | £803.11 |
| Public Conveniences | £10,058.97 | £0.00 |
| Public Works Loan repayment | £18,237.92 | £0.00 |
| Neighbourhood Plan | £27.00 | £0.00 |
| Open Spaces | £12,590.94 | £800.00 |
| Other Amenities | £4,810.00 | £50.00 |
| Play Scheme 2021 | £2,199.37 | £4,136.50 |
| Cemetery | £5,720.71 | £7,558.00 |
| Parish Services Scheme | £0.00 | £8,034.00 |
| Capital | £10,841.74 | £1,000.00 |
| TOTAL | £205,086.58 | £181,951.33 |

| As at 31 st March 2021 | Current Financial Assets | As at 31 st March 2022 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| £2,121 | VAT repayment | £6,643 |
| £22,277 | Nat West (revenue) | £8,089 |
| £47,088 | Santander (capital) | £71,587 |
| £51,585 | Unity Bank (revenue) | £13,617 |
| £123,071 | TOTAL Financial Assets | £99,936 |

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31st March 2022 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.

Alison Hooker, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Marden Parish Council

PLANNING UPDATE

You can find the Annual Planning Report presented by Cllr Andy Turner, Chairman of the Planning Committee on the MPC website:

bit.ly/MPCAnnualParishMtgs

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Local Plan Review Regulation 22

All major modifications at Regulation 19 were agreed by MBC who submitted its Local Plan Review together with

supporting documents to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities on 31st March for independent examination. All documentation can be viewed on MBC's website:
<https://localplan.maidstone.gov.uk/home/local-plan-review-examination>
Further information about the Local Plan Review examination will be posted on the examination webpage for the Local Plan Review on MBC's website: <https://bit.ly/LPR-Reg22>

PLANNING UPDATE CONTD

Land Adjacent to Albion Road and Copper Lane

As many of you are aware, the draft Local Plan Review Regulation 19 allocated a further development site of 113 dwellings for Marden at land adjacent to Albion Road and Copper Lane.

Marden Parish Council responded to the MBC Local Plan Review Regulation 19 in December 2021 and we had raised various concerns about this site in our Regulation 18b feedback in December 2020. Whilst some of our concerns have been taken on board by MBC in the latest draft, we still have a number of reservations.

However, the matter is now out of both ours and MBC's hands and we wait to see what the Government Inspector has to say later in the year.

"A Vision for Marden 2037" - Marden Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) Review

As part of the ongoing process of neighbourhood plans, the Marden Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in February 2020 following several consultations with residents and Maidstone Borough Council (MBC).

This now forms a legal document and is part of the planning policies within MBC. Due to the review of the Maidstone Local Plan, the Steering Group agreed it was time to review the MNP.

To kickstart the process, the Parish Council held an Open Day on Saturday 7th May "A Vision for Marden 2037" and many thanks to those residents who attended and gave feedback on the existing policies and made other suggestions. We are in the process of reviewing your feedback and analysing your responses and will then start to identify themes and changes to the MNP. Residents who were unable to attend the event also had an opportunity to give feedback online which closed at the end of May. If you would like to be part of this MNP Steering Group, please let Ali know: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk as we'd like as much input as possible from residents.

The Parish Council is aiming to send a draft pre-submission to MBC for their comments prior to a Regulation 14 Public Consultation in November and hope to submit a revised version to MBC early in 2023. You can find the documentation on our website: <https://bit.ly/VisionforMarden2037>



PLANNING UPDATE CONTD

Land at Maidstone Road, Marden – 22/501275/FULL

The Parish Council as well as residents discussed this application on 17th May for the erection of 39 bungalows for the over 55's, a communal hub, communal garden, footpath to Marden Cricket and Hockey Club and associated access and landscaping.

After extensive discussion, Councillors unanimously voted for refusal of this application as it does not conform to Maidstone Borough Council's (MBC) Local Plan and various Marden Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan policies specifically as the proposed site is outside the village envelope. If MBC are minded to approve the application, Councillors have requested it be called into MBC Planning Committee. You can find our response at: <https://bit.ly/ExFullCouncilMin17052022>

Reed Court Farm Proposed Chicken Farm – 20/50571

This complex planning application is for the erection of a new free-range egg farm consisting of 3 hen houses and extensive outdoor ranges and fencing, formal vehicle access from Hunton Road and associated parking, landscaping, woodland and tree planting, drainage and other associated works. In April 2020 the Parish Council recommended refusal and Maidstone Borough Council requested further information pursuant to Regulation 25 of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental

Impact Assessment) including a flood risk sequential test and a quantification of the biodiversity net gain which should now be 10%.

Additional Information was received from the applicant's agents regarding Regulation 25 in February 2022 and Councillors discussed at a Planning Meeting to ascertain whether any of the information received had answered any of our previous concerns.

Councillors agreed that the new information did not alter our view and continued to recommend refusal and wished to see this application go to MBC Planning Committee. No further information has been received on this application at the date of this newsletter going to print. You can view the Planning Minutes at: <https://bit.ly/PlanMeeting15022022>

Planning Applications and Planning Enforcement

Marden Parish Council (MPC) is notified on all applications for outline or full planning permission, listed building consent and advertising consent within the parish. Most planning decisions are made under 'delegated powers' which means that decisions are made by the Maidstone Borough Council professional planning officers. However, there are some applications, especially controversial ones, where the decision needs to be made by the relevant MBC Planning Committee. The committee comprises elected Borough Councillors who may accept, modify, or reject the recommendations made by the Planning Officer.

PLANNING UPDATE CONTD

It is important to note that Marden Parish Council makes recommendations to the relevant planning officer only and does not determine any planning applications – the final decision to grant or refuse planning applications rests with the Local Planning Authority – MBC.

The Parish Council can also make representations on other planning issues where it is not formally consulted e.g. enforcement action. We understand some residents may be reluctant to report planning issues and the Parish Council is happy to pursue on your behalf. If you feel there has been an issue with a planning consent, please obtain the site address and nature of the alleged unauthorised works/operations. The Enforcement Officer will require a specific site location and details of the alleged breach to investigate the matter. Please check out MBC's website: <https://bit.ly/MBCEnforcement>

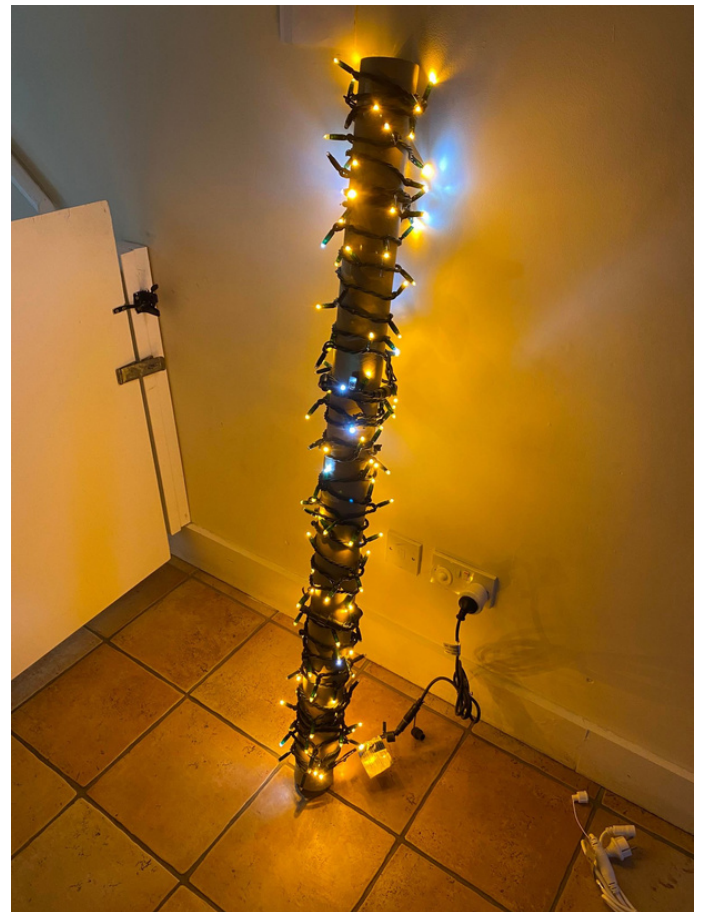


PROJECT UPDATE

Festive Christmas Lighting

As reported in the last Newsletter, the Parish Council along with many residents were less than impressed with the Christmas lights supplied to us in 2021. Luckily, we were not charged for the lighting, only for the electrical sockets – they certainly weren't what we had expected.

Unfortunately, the style of light columns/lamp posts in Marden would not permit motifs due to weight and being too low to the highway. Therefore, we have obtained quotes which fit our budget for column wraps. Two options were put out to public consultation at the Open Day in May, by paper at the Marden Library and via an online consultation for residents to choose which option they liked most. This closed on 31st May and it was close. Residents have chosen Option 1 which is pictured below.



Given the constraints of where we can put Christmas Lights in the village, we hope to have a more sparkling display this year.

PROJECT UPDATE CONTD

Infrastructure Spend Plan

(ISP/Parish Wishlist)

Thanks to all those residents who completed the survey where we asked you to rank your responses into a top six priority list from multiple options. The top six wishes were:

1. Additional car parking in the village centre for village services - we all know about the parking pressures in the village which are exacerbated by commuter parking. The Parish Council are continually trying to source where additional space could be available, but unless a pocket of privately owned land can be made available, this is not feasible in the short term.

2. Publicly accessible woodland areas - this is probably not achievable as all the woodland is in private ownership.

3. Dedicated building for young people including uniformed organisations and youth club - this is included on our 'wish list'. The source of funding would need to be from CIL money raised from development.

4. New enlarged pavilion at Southons Field with facilities such as utilities & public toilets - this has been on the Parish Council 'Wish List' for several years and is a high priority. Funding would need to be from CIL and MPC funds.

5. Skateboard/Bike Park - the Parish Council has been exploring the

possibility of a Skate Park for some while. It needs to be away from residents so is not feasible on the MPC Open Spaces, and unless a piece of land on the edge of the village could be made available, it is unlikely to happen.

6. Additional Litter Bins - The Parish Council has been liaising with MBC on the possibility of additional litter bins and is a high priority item on the 'Wish List'.

The updated ISP plan can be found on the following link on the Parish Council website:

<https://bit.ly/ISPApril2022>

Side of Marden Library Area

You will have noticed there is a new flower bed bordering the new slabbed area next to the Library and Cllrs Kate Tippen & Anne Boswell planted up on a freezing blustery day back in March. We are delighted to complete the final stage of this project and hope residents agree that it does look so much better and safer.



PROJECT UPDATE CONTD

Allotments & Dementia Garden Update

The Parish Council understands the importance of allotments from a health & wellbeing perspective, and we recognise residents' frustrations at not being able to start using their plots and the Marden Dementia Group not being able to create the dementia garden.

The Parish Council has continued to liaise with Redrow about the allotment site at Highwood Green and negotiations were curtailed during the pandemic. Redrow has been determined that the Parish Council take on the parking spaces adjacent to the site as well as the allotments and we have made it clear to them we do not want responsibility for the parking spaces.

Early in May Redrow confirmed that only the allotment land would now be transferred to the Parish Council, but a few days later a subsequent email was received stating that we would be expected to undertake ownership of the car parking areas in accordance with planning obligations. Once again, we told Redrow we would only take on the allotment site and reiterated to them that MPC has no planning obligations relating to this site. Once we achieve an outcome that is satisfactory to the Parish Council, the Allotment Association, and the residents of Highwood Green, we will let residents know.

Finger Posts & Street Furniture

After extensive investigation, the Parish Council has finally received an acceptable quote to refurbish the fingers and roundels from the three cast iron posts at Howland Road/Battle Lane junction, in the High Street and junction of Plain/Thorn Road and a new wooden fingerpost at Sheephurst Lane/Goudhurst Road junction. They will be removed and reinstalled after work has been undertaken and then the repainting of the posts will be carried out in situ.

We are hoping the Community Payback Team will repaint the unsightly bollards at the junction of the High Street/Maidstone Road which need refurbishing. If you feel there is any street furniture that needs renovating, please let Ali the Parish Clerk know.



Local Needs Housing Survey

Marden Parish Council is working with Maidstone Borough Council to assess whether there might be a need for "local needs" housing in the parish so that residents who cannot afford to buy or rent locally, are not forced to move away.

It also helps those who have already had to move away make a return to their family support networks and contribute to the local community. To identify whether a need for this type of housing exists in our community, a Housing Needs Survey will be delivered to every household during late June and July. Please do look out for it; we would like to hear from as many residents as possible. The survey will also ask older residents of the parish who might need to downsize or move to more suitable housing to respond, whether they need affordable housing or housing to buy on the open market.

HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Parish Council Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) Update

Highways issues continue to be a cause for concern for residents and the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) that the Parish Council has developed currently has 28 outstanding items on it. Whilst Kent Highways are supportive, lack of funding means it is doubtful that many of the identified issues will be resolved soon. The Parish Council will continue to push for funding to get some of the key issues dealt with.

Thanks to all those residents who responded to the recent survey on your priorities and the top five issues have been added to the HIP document. We have been liaising with Kent Highways and we are pleased to

advise that the following actions are currently being undertaken.

Because of parking issues at the High Street/Albion Road junction, Kent Highways have extended the double yellow lines beyond the lay by in front of the Chemist area. They investigated this junction to see whether a pedestrian island could be placed there, but this is not feasible because the turning circle is not big enough for larger vehicles. They have also agreed for dropped kerbs to be installed at the school entrance at Marden Primary Academy in Goudhurst Road. These works will be funded by KCC out of their small works budget. Because of the issues with parked vehicles along Pattenden Lane, it is planned for yellow lines to be installed. An informal consultation was undertaken with residents and businesses of Pattenden Lane and Kent Highways are now reviewing these responses and a formal consultation will be advertised in the coming months for parking restriction proposals in this area.

Gateways to the entrance to Chainhurst have also been added to the HIP along with a gateway in Maidstone Road. Following a resident's request, double yellow lines on the south side of Stanley Road junction have also been added to the HIP. Please check out the HIP document on the Parish Council's website:

<https://bit.ly/MPCHIPJune2022>

HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONTD

Village Parking Enforcement

The Parish Council have been lobbying Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) regarding parking around the village especially near the school at drop off and pick up times along with other locations where restrictions are being ignored.

MBC has now agreed to an increase in enforcement patrols in Marden to help improve levels of driver compliance to the parking regulations in the area. Let's hope it has a positive effect.

Marden Railway Station

The Parish Council act on behalf of users of Marden Railway Station as it a valuable service for Marden and surrounding areas. We have had varying degrees of success holding meetings and now things have returned to normality, we are seeking a meeting with the station manager/Network Rail on a number of issues including upgrading the cycle rack facilities. We are also working jointly with our County Councillor to ensure that KCC are effective at lobbying for the best train service as possible.

From a sustainability point of view, we need to try to get as many people as possible off the roads and utilise the train service more. There's a lot of engineering works/strikes planned, so please check before you travel.

Kent County Council Bus Consultation – Bus Funding Reductions

KCC recently undertook a bus consultation proposing savings by reducing the money they spend on providing some bus services that private bus companies cannot afford to run and are no longer cost effective.

Fortunately, Marden's bus services are not currently on the list of services out for consultation for future savings, but we need to keep a watchful eye as already Marden has a very limited bus service. However, the number 5 bus which runs on the A229 and stops at the Stilebridge looks to be a route earmarked for a cut in subsidy. If residents have any comments/suggestions, we encourage you to raise with the relevant bus company or let the Parish Council know so we can act for the wider community.

KCC - Removing Private Trees from the Highways

The Winter storms served as a reminder that vulnerable and weak trees can cause significant damage and in some cases loss of life, additionally they can significantly impact how we are able to reliably use roads. KCC as landowners need to ensure their trees are properly managed to minimise the risk of failure with the associated consequences.

HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONTD

KCC - Removing Private Trees from the Highways (Contd)

KCC are trialling a new process to recover costs associated with the clearing and removal of private trees that are obstructing the highway or are considered a risk to highway users. In the interest of public safety, KCC ask that owners or occupiers of land with trees near the highway have them regularly inspected by a competent person to meet their 'Duty of Care' and KCC as the Highway Authority also have a 'Duty of Care' under the Highways Act 1980 to ensure the free and safe passage for users of the highway. Where they need to remove trees that are blocking the highway or are an imminent risk to highway users, they will do so under their emergency procedures and may seek to recover all reasonable costs from the owner or occupier of the land. More info on KCC's fees and charges can be found at: <https://bit.ly/KCCHighwaysPermit>



OPEN SPACE

You can find an update on the Parish Council Open Spaces in the annual Amenities report on the Parish Council website which was presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 5th April by Cllr Anne Boswell, Chairman of the Amenities Committee:
<https://bit.ly/MPCAnnualParishMtgs>

After the Queen's Platinum Jubilee events in Southons Field and the recent Marden Motor Show, hopefully most residents now know of the existence of this beautiful, tranquil field which is dog free (with the exception of assistance dogs). Many thanks to Warren Porritt for donating and erecting a football goal in Southons Field.

POLICE & CRIME UPDATE

Maidstone Task Force have been very active in both Marden and Yalding recently with one Sergeant and four Police Officers in attendance and are working closely with the community. They are here to act on community issues that mean the most to us and want to hear from anybody who has information.

They conducted three Stop Searches on individuals suspected of being in possession of drugs. Cannabis was located and seized from two individuals and a crime recorded. In February, there were 2 burglaries, 3 criminal damages, 1 arson, 1 theft from motor vehicle and 2 attempted criminal damages. In March there was 1 burglary, 1 theft from motor vehicle and 1 attempted criminal damage. In April, there was a theft of an e-scooter but this was returned after local and Facebook enquiries. After a spate of fires in the Churchyard arrests were made and it is hoped that the culprits will receive restorative justice by helping to tidy up the Churchyard.

POLICE & CRIME UPDATE

CONTD

It is an offence to carry Cannabis or to drive whilst under the influence of Cannabis and they will continue to implement stop and search in Marden to locate people carrying/using drugs and take them off the road to ensure a safer environment for all. If you have information about local crime that you think would be of interest to the Maidstone Task Force, or Ring doorbell footage or mobile pictures/footage of suspicious activity then please email: rebecca.burns@kent.police.uk. This includes theft/shoplifting/burglaries, assaults or violence, drug dealing or drug use, drink driving, no insurance driving.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

In March several reports were received of anti-social behaviour during half term week. On 12th April, there was a proactive patrol in the Marden area by Maidstone Police who teamed up with the British Transport Police for a 'Day of Action' to intercept anti-social behaviour which included assaults on trains between Marden and Paddock Wood and at the railway station. There were also reports of males with catapults and CCTV was viewed and males identified.



In May, there were several reports in Cascade Way and Challenger Way and both the Police and Medway Housing are working in partnership to deal with antisocial behaviour, nuisance motorbikes and drug activity around this area. Please continue to report anything of note through 999, 101 or to housing directly:

https://www.medway.gov.uk/.../report_anti-social_behaviour

Golding Homes have installed CCTV in several of their blocks of flats and are looking to work with the new Youth Worker once the Youth Club is up and running.

From aggressive, noisy or abusive behaviour to neighbourhood disturbances involving drugs or animals, antisocial behaviour takes many forms, and you should report all crimes and ASB to the Police. If you've witnessed antisocial behaviour, please report it to the Police on 101. You can now report certain anti-social behaviour online so check out:

<https://bit.ly/KPASBReport>

or online at

www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/

This now includes a live chat feature.

You can also report anonymously via:

www.crimestoppers-uk.org or 0800 555 111.

My Community Voice (MCV)

Maidstone Borough Council and Kent Police are keen for residents to use "My Community Voice" which builds processes that support residents.

So, it's important that you use 'My Community Voice Kent' (MCV) to ensure issues are recorded and safeguarding issues can be monitored. MCV is a two-way engagement tool set up by Kent Police for residents, businesses and community groups in Kent and Medway. MCV will enable Kent Police to update users with news, alerts, appeals, engagement events and general policing activities. Members of the public can choose what information you receive and how you receive it, and you can also share or reply to messages.

MCV offers another avenue like Neighbourhood Watch and the Parish Council continues to welcome all residents who have set up a Neighbourhood Watch group and are happy to place anything in the Parish Newsletter if any group wishes to provide information.

Please note that My Community Voice is not for reporting crimes or incidents. Instead you should:

- Report a non-urgent crime
- Talk to us via LiveChat
- Use the textphone service 18000 if you are deaf or speech impaired - or text on 999 if you have pre-registered with the emergency SMS service
- Call 999 in an emergency, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

Check out:
<https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/>

Cold Calling/Fraudsters

The Maidstone Task Force have been focusing more attention in the Marden area recently as there has been a crime trend in which fraudsters make cold calls and pretend to be the Police and ask members of the public to withdraw money. The Police would never ask for your bank details or Pin, as you to transfer money or handover cash sums or send a courier to collect your bank cards, cash or PIN. If any phone calls are made to you about this, please record the number and inform the Police via 101 or an online submission. You can also submit an Action Fraud report online.



Fearless – Part of Crimestoppers

For young people, Fearless is a site where young people can access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality. It also allows them to report anonymously issues or concerns. Check out:
<https://www.fearless.org/>

Nuisance and Community Issues

Report via www.maidstone.gov.uk or
<https://bit.ly/MBCComProt>



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Marden Community Engagement Forum

Parish Councils have tried to make real strides in community engagement throughout the pandemic which has helped to make communities become stronger and social cohesion has increased amongst those who might previously have been missed. Marden Parish Council strive to provide as much information as we can on health and wellbeing and in the Spring Newsletter an updated 'Health & Wellbeing Contact List' was included as a separate leaflet in conjunction with the PPG and Medical Centre – this will be updated on a regular basis. A Marden Community Engagement Group was set up in 2021 by Dr Julie Morgan and is a very useful collaborative liaison group who link up and share information to try and tie up missing links. Members include Marden Medical Centre, the PPG, the Children's Centre, the Parish Church, Involve (Social Prescribing), the School, Village Community Warden, the Parish Council etc.

The Parish Council has a comprehensive 'Welcome Pack' where you can find a list of village organisations and exercise/fitness information which is updated on a regular basis. If you know of a group that has not been included, please let us know. Check out: <https://bit.ly/VillageWelcomePack>
This list will also be shared with Involve the Social Prescribing group to signpost residents.

Dementia Friendly Community Marden (DFCM) By Rachel Chacon

DFCM hope to progress this further in building our inclusive community across all ages and any unseen barriers. Marden Medical Centre is working with DFCM (Charity Inc. Group) to give a newly diagnosed patient or family caring for someone with dementia envelopes which will include artwork from children in the village. We are also planning to produce a 2023 calendar with the children's artwork.



We organised a Virtual Dementia Tour in Marden in partnership with the Library in May. This was no ordinary training session, and the brave participants were asked to complete various tasks whilst wearing glasses that inhibit vision, earphones that inhibit hearing and in a dark space with someone interrupting and intimidating them.

Afterwards they met in the library and listened to a talk which expanded on this experience with some very interesting information about dementia. Thirty two people from across the village completed this experience helping to raise awareness of the condition that so many are now living with.

If anyone is interested in doing this training, please check out: www.training2care.com website for further information. Many thanks to all those who took part and thank you to the Marden community for helping us to raise the funds to finance it.

A message to those who took part: Please share your experience with as many people as possible to help raise awareness as far as possible. Thank you to those residents who visited our stall at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event and hope the information was helpful.

Upcoming events:

Saturday 9th July - A Forget Me Not Walk with a browse round the Craft Market in the Vicarage Garden, to finish with a bite to eat at the West End Tavern – timings to be announced. For more info, please contact Rachel on: 01622 831941 or email: rachel_chacon@hotmail.co.uk

The Parish Council would like to congratulate the Dementia Group on gaining 'Dementia Friendly Status' from the Alzheimer's Society – well done on all your hard work achieving this important status.



Marden Medical Centre Update **By Dr Julie Morgan**

Like the rest of the NHS, General Practice is under unprecedented pressure, and we have never been busier. We are always looking for ways to use our limited resources most efficiently. More than ever, we rely on our practice team working together to support you. We have been joined by a clinical pharmacist, Chinny. Clinical Pharmacists are trained in the assessment and treatment of medical conditions and have specific skills in the use and review of medications. She will be working with the doctors and the rest of the team to provide clinical and medication reviews. Search: What is a Clinical Pharmacist NHS

Use of remote technology during the pandemic has, in many cases, proven successful. Patients often find this convenient as they do not need to book time out of their day to attend the surgery. Efficient information gathering means that we can devote our limited time to patients that really need it. Search: Medlink Solutions Remote Reviews

We know that some patients have been worried about spam, but we can assure you that a text message from the surgery regarding your condition is genuine and completing the templates whenever possible is helpful for us.

<https://www.mardenmedicalcentre.nhs.uk/>

HEALTH & WELLBEING CONTD

Involve – Financial Support

Involve have received a small grant from Maidstone Borough Council to enable support to households who may be struggling due to financial hardship, especially those with children. A small, one-off sum, usually in the form of a supermarket gift card, can be issued to clients who are assessed as being at risk of food or household poverty. There is no automatic entitlement and clients will need to meet with one of the Involve team to discuss their needs. For more info, please contact Involve on 03000 810005 and ask to speak with one of the CCG Social Prescribing team.



Marden Patients Participation Group (PPG)

Are you a patient of the Marden Medical Centre and would like to have a say in your or your family's healthcare? Do you have an interest in ensuring the Marden Medical Centre and the local NHS Hospitals & Specialists offer you the services you want - when you need them? We have an excellent Medical Centre in Marden. The GPs and staff take a keen interest in patient feedback. Have you considered joining the Patient Participation Group (PPG)?

The Marden Medical Centre PPG is free to join, there is little call on your time unless you want to volunteer to offer more help, you will receive regular

email updates and be advised of any important Marden Medical Centre information. For the latest information see :

<https://www.marden-prg.org.uk/>.

Alternatively contact John Haddow via email at ppg@mardenppg.org.uk or call him on 07769 53 88 97.



MIND - Release the Pressure – Don't Suffer in Silence

Mental health and well-being continue to be an important part of the community agenda and mental health and loneliness is the most pressing need in the UK.

Mental health is different for everyone – how we are thinking, how we are feeling and how we're behaving which are all interconnected. MIND, the mental health charity, provides holistic support and free mental health awareness training including suicide prevention. They have a highly trained and experienced team available 24/7 to provide expert support no matter what you're going through.

You can find more info at:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/> or text the word Kent to 85258 or call 0800 107 0160 or text 85258 for free

confidential support at any time. You can also contact CALM on 0800 585858, Papyrus on 0800 068 4141 or Samaritans on 116 123.

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Sports & Leisure Consultation

MBC is looking at ways of reducing barriers to participation in sport and leisure and one of those barriers being the availability of facilities and what can be done to make these facilities more accessible to more people as well as looking where there are gaps in the provision. They kickstarted this process by holding consultation events across the Borough.

The first consultation event was held in Marden in May where many village groups came along to have a say in what they thought we were lacking in Marden and how important it is to link in with other village groups. A full Public Consultation will be undertaken in the Autumn once MBC have collated all their evidence. As mentioned above, the Parish Council are updating their health and wellbeing as well as their sports and leisure lists.



Marden Childrens Centre

It's great to have the centre back open again two days a week on Mondays and Wednesdays for parents to come along and attend our groups. It's been a long time! We are looking to organise a networking lunch soon to link all the partner agencies and local businesses to support the community further. This we hope will make families aware that we are here for support and guidance.

We are constantly updating our Facebook page with all the groups and events we offer in the Maidstone area so watch this space. We hope to see more of you at the centre as it's a good way to meet and interact with new people, especially if you are new to Marden. If you would like to make contact, please visit the Maidstone Children's Centre website or Facebook page: <https://bit.ly/MardenCC> or email: mardenchildrenscentre@kent.gov.uk

Marden Community Warden

At the moment, our Community Warden, Mira Martin's work is mainly focused on individuals who have been referred by other agencies. She is still walking around the village, visiting clubs and would be happy to help if residents have an issue that they need assistance with. You can email Mira: mira.martin@kent.gov.uk or call: 07969 584179.

Marden Food Bank

Marden Food Bank supports families and individuals with food, hygiene and baby supplies and is open every Monday 10am-12pm at the Vestry Hall. Whilst we cannot provide everything everyone needs, we hope that what we can give is enough to allow household budgets to stretch a little further – especially now, with the prices of fuel and food leaving us all feeling the pinch.



HEALTH & WELLBEING CONTD

Marden Food Bank (Contd)

Visitors can call in to meet with colleagues from Involve Kent if they wish, a charity who provide advice, encouragement, and support to help resolve all manner of problems - and Jan and I are also here with a listening ear and time for a chat.

As you can imagine, with the increase in the cost of living we are finding that our donations are fewer, but the demand on the food bank is higher than usual. Please do consider supporting us however you can, by dropping a donation in the crate in the church porch; at the Church Office in the Vestry Hall; or at the Vicarage - our thanks and prayers are for you all, for helping us help others. For further info or to make a financial donation, please contact Kathy Young: office@mardenchurch.org.uk or call 01622 831890.

Kathy Young

Community Lunches

Once a month a team of volunteers provide a two-course home-cooked meal plus tea or coffee, for older people in our community - especially those who live alone or are frail. This is held one Monday a month in the Vestry Hall at 12.30pm and the cost is £5. If you would like a change from eating alone or preparing meals and think you would enjoy such a meal in good company, please contact Janet on 01622 831256 for more information.

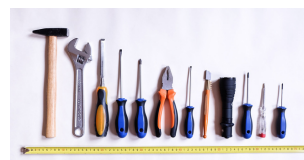
Janet McIntosh

Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)

KFRS supports vulnerable people and helps to keep customers safe and well across Kent. They distribute information on social media, online advice via TikTok for the younger population, hold safe and wellbeing visits, give talks to community groups, fire safety in homes and businesses. They have 14 designated safeguarding officers with 24/7 help & advice and many of the concerns raised are child & adult abuse, cuckooing, neglect, domestic abuse, modern slavery, radicalisation etc. They also work in partnership with Kent Police, Community Wardens, GP Surgeries etc. You can contact them on 0800 923 7000 or check out: home.safety@kent.fire_uk.org

Men's Shed Initiative

What's a Men's Shed? It's a community space for men to connect, converse and create. It helps to reduce loneliness, isolation and to gain new skills. Some sheds do have women members. Most members tend to be retired, socially isolated, have poor mental wellbeing, poor physical health or unemployed. The Parish Council has been exploring where a Men's Shed could be placed in Marden as it would need power, room for a decent sized shed and it has now been added to our Infrastructure Spend Plan/Wish List.



Maybe you would like to be a Shed Health Champion and help to set one up or you have space on your land? If so, please let Ali the Parish Clerk know. There are Men's Sheds in Staplehurst, Cranbrook and Tenterden. You can check out what they do at the Staplehurst Men's Shed on their Facebook page: or you can find more information at: <https://bit.ly/StaplehurstMenShed> www.kentsheds.org/meet-our-sheds or www.sbs-wellbeibg.eu Funding resources can be found at: <http://activmob.org/kent-sheds/>

SUSTAINABILITY, BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

“Think Locally Not Globally”

The Parish Council has now set up a Sustainability, Biodiversity & Climate Change Sub-Group and will be holding an inaugural meeting soon. Initially we are working at putting a policy together and then formulating a plan on helping to fight climate change locally. This will also help to shape and reinforce some of our Marden Neighbourhood Plan policies.

We recognise the importance of local action as we start to conceive climate change as a series of local problems rather than one single global issue. Already in Marden local initiatives are being taken such as the EcoHub collection point, but by taking on small actions, communities

that work together can bring about significant change overall. We would like to invite residents to be part of this important project, so please let Ali the Parish Clerk know if you are interested: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Village Litter Pick in April

On a sunny Saturday morning in April over 70 residents (adults and children) came along to help litter pick the village and surrounding roads – well done and thank you to everyone who helped. You may have seen the large pile of rubbish bags we collected when they were stored at Marden Car Park ready for Maidstone Borough Council to collect. Thanks once again to everyone who regularly litter picks around the village throughout the year to help keep Marden litter free.



Tree Charter Day – Saplings

The Parish Council organised this event last November and planted over 200 saplings around the new village developments which is also part of the Queen's Green Canopy campaign.

SUSTAINABILITY, BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE CHANGE CONTD

After a lot of hard work, effort and trying to tick a big sustainability box, it is sad and disheartening to report a lot of them have been destroyed or died at Windsor Meadows, Highwood Green and The Parsonage open space areas and Appledown Grange attenuation pond area.



In early March, Cllr Anne Boswell along with Adrian & Diana Rabot and the Police Cadets planted 100 more saplings on the boundary in Southons field – a mix of Wild Cherry, Hazel, Blackthorn, Elders, Rowan, Dogrose and Crab Apple. A few saplings have also been donated to the school to plant in their new Jubilee Garden.

The Parish Council is hoping to plant a few trees at the Playing Field and Rookery Path in the Autumn to fill in gaps and help to create a wildlife corridor. Cllr Matt Besant is also hoping to apply for more saplings from the Woodland Trust to try and replace some of those that have been destroyed.

Marden EcoHub

The Marden EcoHub Facebook group was set up several years ago by Anna Fisk, a Marden resident. It aims to make Marden as green and sustainable as possible and to promote the 6Rs: rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, recycle.

We would like to congratulate Anna, a very enterprising lady, who set up a recycling hub collection point in Marden near the Chinese takeaway in Maidstone Road a year ago which has been a huge success. The collection point helps to raise money for various charities and reduces Marden's carbon footprint by reducing landfill. After a year Anna appealed for fund raising support, and Marden Village Club kindly provided new bins helping the system to continue to work well.

The hub currently collects: print cartridges, bras, old pens, reading glasses, ring pulls, cheese wrappers, egg boxes, stamps, toothbrush tubes and brushes, beauty product tubes, roll on...so far.

Anna also organises Freebie Events around the village and a lot of residents use the EcoHub Facebook page to give away free items and share useful ideas around sustainability. To join the page please check out:

<https://bit.ly/MardenEcoHub>

Anna can also be contacted directly on the page.

Marden Wildlife Update

Thanks to a KCC Covid recovery grant, we have purchased 75 commercially produced footpath signs to erect around the village. Each has a unique QR code to scan with your smart phone. It will take you to a MW website page describing what you are likely to see and hear on your walk along the path, and how the adjacent farmland is being managed for conservation. Our original 25 homemade signs have been replaced and more are being added as time permits.

Kent Wildlife Trust ecologist Dr Kirsty Swinnerton is working with members and landowners to study the local turtle dove population and how the birds use the area's hedgerows, fields and gardens. Doves are being fitted with coloured leg rings for easy identification and we would be grateful for any sightings – please post them on the Marden Wildlife Facebook page:

<https://bit.ly/MardenWildlife>

or email: mardenwildlife@gmail.com

Ray Morris



KCC Tree Strategy Consultation

KCC recently held a tree strategy consultation for Kent seeking feedback on their proposed Tree Establishment Strategy for the county which closed on the 2nd May. It included targets for increased trees and extended tree canopy cover and the principles that should underpin any tree establishment.

They hope their strategy results in woodlands and trees that are thriving with biodiversity and delivering services to help us to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies facing our county. KCC will produce a consultation report which will be presented to KCC for adoption. You can check out: <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/plantree>



Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Food Recycling

The bulk of refuse waste goes through the efficient recycling plant at Aylesford. The recycled waste is hand sorted and every stage is scrutinised. Separation of different waste is undertaken in Maidstone and KCC has overall responsibility on waste management.

SUSTAINABILITY, BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE CHANGE CONTD

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Food Recycling (Contd)

Recycled food waste is made into compost and sold to local farmers to plough back into the land. We know many of you already reduce your food waste by using a brown/orange food caddy and for those residents who don't, you can purchase one for £8 at: <https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/bins-and-recycling/primary-areas/need-a-new-bin> and is collected every week by placing alongside your other wheeled bin.



Please don't use plastic bags unless they are compostable, but can also be wrapped in newspaper. The average family wastes over £750 per year on food waste. So what can I place in my food caddy? Any raw or cooked food removed from its packaging.

YOUTH PROVISION

Kent County Council started to run a new Youth Club in the John Banks Hall on Thursdays but didn't have much attendance or success. They continued to do outreach by walking about the village to engage young people. We will let you have further updates on what is happening in our next newsletter in the Autumn.

OTHER PARISH INFORMATION

KALC Community Awards

Each year at the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) the Parish Council makes an award to a resident who has shown outstanding service to the community. This award is sponsored by the Kent Association of Local Councils, KCC and the High Sheriff of Kent.



It is with great pleasure to announce that the award this year was presented to Anne Boswell by Cllr Kate Tippen for her outstanding work and tenacity setting up and running Marden in Bloom which has helped to improve the Marden environment by providing seasonal floral displays which enhance the village. Anne was completely bowled over at being presented with the award and very proud to accept it on behalf of the 'Blooming' team who have all worked so hard over the last 6 years since the Group's inception.

If you would like to nominate somebody in the village who you think has served the community and made a difference, please let Ali know: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk by the end of December 2022.

OTHER PARISH INFORMATION CONTD

Church Bells Appeal

The current peal of eight bells of Marden church has been an integral part of village life for over 100 years, ringing for Sunday services and pastoral offices, as well as national events of significance.

The current bells were installed in 1909 and have had no significant maintenance work done to them since then. Most of the fittings are wooden and in urgent need of replacing and updating and without this work the bells will cease to be 'ringable'.

The restoration would enable the bells to be easily rung by all age groups, especially children and older people. The project will cost £80,000 and they are hoping to have raised enough funds to complete the project in 2023 so the bells can ring for another 100 years!

If you would like to make a donation you can make a bank transfer: Marden PCC – Sort Code 60-60-08 – account no 86090461 ref Bell Fund or by cheque payable to Marden PCC (dropped to the Vicarage). Please contact Jane Higgs (Tower Secretary) on 01622 831009 or bellringers@mardenchurch.org.uk or rev.nickyharvey@gmail.com on 01622 831379

Ukrainian Hosts

Congratulations to those Marden residents who are so kindly accommodating Ukrainian families and an initial meet up took place in May at the Old Post Office Café which will hopefully provide a network between hosts and families. Olga Rance, who runs the café, also organised a baking session for the Ukrainian guests to raise money for 'Support Ukraine'.

If there are any residents who have registered to sponsor and accommodate Ukrainian families but haven't heard back, can you either message Olga or go into the Old Post Office Café to discuss. Olga has families in Ukraine who are still looking to be hosted and will really appreciate your sponsorship. They have had much success in matching and supporting families so far and have managed to settle families into our community.

Maidstone Borough Council has provided essential information as part of the 'Homes for Ukraine Scheme' and contains useful points of contact and information of how and where to find assistance. For more information, you can check out: <https://bit.ly/MBCUkraine>



Ukraine Appeals – Thanks Marden for Your Support

How amazing that our wonderful community so quickly came together to show your support for Ukraine at the outbreak of this tragic war. Firstly, a huge thanks to Anna Fisk for organising various items to be despatched to Ukraine early on in the war.

Subsequently, Olga & Anna from the Old Post Office Café organised a regular collection of items supported by the Parish Council with Kate and Graham Tippen managing the collection centre at the Congregational Chapel.

Many thanks to all those businesses and residents who have donated goods and helped at the collection centre. Three large van loads of donations were sent to Ukraine, with one vanload driving to the Polish border by Olga. Such a lot of work and effort – well done to you all.



Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide (SAWW) Ukraine Appeal

The team from Marden Medical Centre joined by family and friends raised funds for the Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide (SAWW) Ukraine Appeal. SAWW is a Marden based charity which provides anaesthetic equipment to deprived areas of the world. It uses special machines that can work in remote locations.



The response to the appeal has been amazing and thanks to the generosity of residents, the team raised enough money to donate two portable anaesthesia machines and other lifesaving equipment to help treat those injured in the conflict. The team virtually walked, ran, cycled and swam from Marden to Kyiv and back in 4 weeks, a distance of 2842 miles – well done to you all on an incredible achievement. The funding raising appeal is still open and if you wish to donate, check out: <https://bit.ly/SAWWDonate> To see more about the work of SAWW please go to: <https://safe4all.org.uk/>

OTHER PARISH INFORMATION CONTD

Marden Primary Academy Update

It has nearly been a year since I took post at Marden Primary Academy and what a year it has been. We have a completely new curriculum here at Marden, teaching complex concepts transdisciplinary through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.

So, what does this actually mean? Well, this is really encapsulated in the EYFS where they were exploring the central idea: 'Shelter, for humans and animals, is a basic need.' The children supported Trevor, our excellent site manager, in creating a shelter in the early years garden.

They carefully talked through their plans with Trevor, considering any difficulties before setting to work. The children worked together brilliantly and demonstrated many of the learner profile attributes, which we actively work on as a school.

When the children learned that some people do not have a shelter and are in fact homeless, they wanted to help. Working collaboratively, the children planned a cafe for their parents. They made a video to explain their learning to the parents, wrote menus, made signs and sold cakes, biscuits and drinks to raise money for the charity, Shelter.

We are so proud of EYFS; they managed to raise a fantastic £245.95. A spokesperson from Shelter said, 'Amazing! What an incredible amount raised – we are blown away and so thankful!'.

We are also big believers in offering co-curricular activities, to broaden the horizons of our students and provide a greater holistic education. These are a few events which have taken place this year and are planned in the future: Year 4 British Museum academic visit, Queen's Jubilee whole school picnic celebration, Safety in action, Year 5 and 6 trip to Ypres, Belgium, Kent Police open day, Sports day, LAT Sports day at Dartford Grammar, LAT Cricket competition, Year 5 Cricket league, KS1 & KS2 Football league, Girls football competition, Tennis sessions. You can keep up to date with what is happening at Marden Primary Academy on our website with our weekly newsletter:

<https://mardenprimaryacademy.org.uk/newsletters/> If you would like to learn more about how we learn at Marden Primary Academy, you can find all the information on our website:

<https://mardenprimaryacademy.org.uk/>
Niall Dosad, Principal



Marden Primary Academy School Intake

The Parish Council understands how disheartening for those parents to learn that 13 children were not offered a reception place at Marden Primary Academy this September. Kent County Council (KCC) is responsible for allocating reception places.

This is a pressing issue for our village especially as various developments in Marden have raised over £1m S106 money towards the cost of expansion plans/providing additional spaces at Marden Primary Academy. Maidstone Borough Council are the collection authority for S106 and CIL monies and they are then passed to KCC or other providers for spending.

Both our County Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid and Borough Councillor Claudine Russell have been liaising with our MP Helen Grant and putting pressure on the Cabinet Member for Educational Skills at KCC on how the situation can be resolved.

If you are concerned about your children obtaining a place, you can also join the Marden Year R 2022 Waiting List Facebook Group: <https://bit.ly/ReceptionWtgList2022> where both Councillors Parfitt-Reid and Russell have commented.

Re-Election of David Burton

Maidstone Borough Councillor
Congratulations to David Burton on being re-elected at the May Elections.

David has served as one of Marden's Borough Councillors for 12 years and has also been re-elected to the post of Leader of Maidstone Borough Council. Marden Parish Council hold regular meetings with our three Borough Councillors who keep us up to date on issues and we lobby them on various matters which need resolving.



Sainsbury's Free Bus Service – Tuesdays and Thursdays

Sainsbury's in Staplehurst has been running a free bus service from Marden on a Tuesday and Thursday from the following bus stops. This is a useful service for those residents who are unable to drive, but if it's not used frequently by residents, it may be withdrawn so please pass on the information to others who would benefit from using it:.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Crossroads opposite Plain Road | 09:28 |
| Mayes Road | 09:32 |
| West End Tavern | 09:34 |
| Marden Railway Station | 09:36 |
| Marden Library | 09:38 |
| St Anne's Green Lane | 09:42 |
| Arrive Sainsbury's | 10:00 |
| Depart Sainsbury's | 12:15 |
| St Anne's Green Lane | 12:33 |
| Marden Library | 12:37 |
| Marden Railway Station | 12:39 |
| West End Tavern | 12:41 |
| Mayes Road | 12:43 |
| Crossroads opposite Plain Road | 12:47 |

OTHER PARISH INFORMATION CONTD

Elmer – Come & Find Him at Marden Library – 15th-26th August

Following the big success of 'Elmer's Big Heart of Kent Parade' last Summer, Maidstone Borough Council are organising an 'Elmer on Tour' in some rural areas and will be based at Marden Library from 15th-26th August. So why not take yourself along to the Library to meet the colourful character elephant, take a selfie and tag MBC! There will also be free art workshops at Lenham, Staplehurst, Shepway and Yalding – check out: <https://bit.ly/Elmer-on-Tour>



Local Government Boundary Commission Review (LGBCE)

The Local Government Boundary Commission has decided that the number of Borough Councillors in Maidstone should be 48 and currently there are 55. Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) recently held a public consultation on the borough's boundary and responses are currently being processed for submission to the LGBCE. MBC had proposed that the current Marden & Yalding Ward be amalgamated with Hunton & Linton Ward.

However, the Parish Council proposed in their response that Marden, Collier Street and Hunton become a ward with two Borough Councillors. The LGBCE will publish the Commission's recommendations by the 29th November 2022.

Marden Farm Shop

We would like to send our thanks to Rachel Chappell and her lovely staff who ran this superb village shop so well particularly during the pandemic and it was sad to see you go.

However, it was great news that it quickly re-opened, and we wish Adele and Helen all the best in running The Little Marden Farm Shop & Country Store. It's great to see locally sourced and sustainable produce being available. They are open Monday-Saturday 9am to 5pm.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MARDEN?

It's wonderful to see all the village groups being able to meet up again and there's so much going on this Summer. There was the excellent Marden Motor Show in May, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and The Rude Mechanicals performance in June – community engagement is finally here again. A very warm welcome to all new residents who have recently moved to the village. There's always plenty going on and we hope you will all be very happy here in our friendly community.

Here's a flavour of what a lot of the village groups are up to:

'Come & Sing' in the Vestry Hall

All are welcome to join in. They meet at 2.30pm at the Vestry Hall on alternate Thursdays.

The next couple of sessions are Thursday 14th July and Thursday 28th July which is a Summer Concert & Party. For more details contact Sarah Emmanuel on 01622 832925.

Little Fishes Baby & Toddler Group

Little Fishes runs in the Vestry Hall every Wednesday during term time between 9.30am-11am. All parents and carers are welcome to come along with their little ones.

There is no need to book, just turn up as and when you are able to. Suggested donation for each session is £1. For more info, please contact Kathy – office@mardenchurch.org.uk or Rev Nicky – rev.nickyharvey@gmail.com

Marden Cricket, Hockey & Tennis Club

Saints v Sinners Cricket Match – Sunday 3rd July from 1pm approx.

Marden's oldest sporting rivalry! This long-established fixture features top 'athletes' battling it out in good humour, and always comes with a thrilling finale. A fun afternoon for all and a fund-raising opportunity for a local village charity. Free access with parking. Bar open, BBQ, bring a chair/rug.

Marden Tennis Open Day – Saturday 16th July - 10am-2pm

A perfect taster opportunity, with adult cardio tennis, Family Sports Challenge and free coaching for all ages. Also, the famous Frying Pan challenge, and the speed machine to see how fast you can hit the ball. Clubhouse open for drinks and sausage baps.

Rackets available. Everyone welcome. Interested? Book your place: tennis@mardenchc.co.uk
Details of both events on the noticeboard poster beside the café: www.mardenchc.co.uk

Marden History Group and Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre, managed by its volunteers, is keen to welcome visitors interested in Marden's past. We were extremely grateful to Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid in helping us secure a Covid recovery grant from KCC to replace Heritage Centre equipment which had seen better days, including two new display cabinets which Peter Kershaw has been assembling for us.

On Saturday 28th May we were delighted that Barbara and Robin Judd officially launched the Centre's display commemorating the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, co-ordinated and mounted by the Centre's volunteers, particularly with expertise from Ann Farebrother and Barbara Dubois, who have co-ordinated our specialist exhibits for many years.

Sporting Memories Group at Marden Cricket & Hockey Club

Following a successful bid for funds by Marden Cricket & Hockey Club, The Sporting Memories Network will be able to run a free club every Tuesday between 2.30- 4.30pm – Starting on Tuesday 2nd August. It is a club where older adults from Marden and the surrounding area can get together to chat about sport as well as take part in a full range of competitions, sports and can discuss memories of sport from times gone by whilst enjoying a cup of tea!

The charity, runs clubs across England, Scotland and Wales and uses the power of remembering and talking about sport – along with physical exercise – to tackle dementia, depression, and loneliness in older people. There are currently over 100 clubs across Great Britain.

Sporting Memories clubs also provide social and physical activities that allow older people and all those connected with them, from family members and carers, to have fun whilst creating relationships and companionship with people in their local community. The Sporting Memories Foundation (sportingmemoriesnetwork.com)

The Marden Sporting Memories Group is being set up by lead volunteer Sue Eltringham who approached the Club with the idea of setting up a group based at MCHC. Sue is encouraging older people who love sport from Marden to join the club: “If you love your sport, we would really love for you to come along to the weekly sessions. Whilst the group starts by talking about sport, we do so much more and often end up doing a wide range of activities including sports quizzes and playing gentle indoor or (weather permitting) outdoor sports.”

“The club is also a great way for those who are isolated, or living with long-term conditions, to come along and break away from their normal routine whilst developing friendships and camaraderie which can go way beyond the club.”

If you would like to join the club, please contact Sue Eltringham via MardenSportingMemories@gmail.com or call 01622 833053



WHAT'S GOING ON IN MARDEN? CONTD

Marden History Group and Heritage Centre (Contd)

Visitors to the Centre will find the displays interesting and informative, even amusing, where younger versions of residents might be recognised during the 70 years of the Queen's reign.

The History Group took part in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations organised by the Parish Council and enjoyed by everyone. Our next big exhibition will be between 9th-17th September when we will be highlighting the amazing inventive talents of some of Marden's professionals and businesses. The static displays will be on show during the Centre's normal opening times as part of the national Heritage Open Days. Check out:

<http://www.mardenhistory.org.uk> or
email: history@mardenhistory.org.uk or
<https://bit.ly/HistoryGroupFacebook>

Lesley Mannington, Chair

Marden Horticultural Society

I am delighted to report that we held a very successful annual plant sale. Obviously, this makes our Treasurer happy but, as importantly, it was a great morning enjoyed by MHS members and non-members alike. The sun shone and the Vestry Hall was buzzing from the minute the sale started. Everyone seemed in a particularly positive mood.

Sadly, some members decided not to re-join this year, but we are encouraged by the numbers of enquiries from prospective new members attracted by the plant sale and our website.

The newly designed website launched last year has gone from strength to strength. New blogs continue to be posted every month with subject matter varied, entertaining and informative. New content is highlighted in a monthly Newsletter (free to anyone wishing to subscribe - not just members). We now have around ten traders advertising their horticultural services on the website.

We resumed face-to-face monthly meetings from February with some excellent speakers - and more lined-up for the rest of the year. Organised garden visits for our members have resumed. Please check out:

<https://www.mardengardeners.uk/> or
email: info@mardengardeners.uk.

Sue Pennicott, Chair

Marden in Bloom

The planters were replanted with a red, white & blue theme to tie in with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and if you live close to one, we would be very grateful if you could give it a water. Once again thanks to Golden Hill for donating most of the plants. Sadly because of plants being stolen and deterioration, the Chantry Road planter has been dismantled.

The Wildflower Meadow in Southons Field is in full 'bloom' so go check it out.



We hope residents enjoyed their Pimms at the Platinum Jubilee Fete and many thanks to the Unicorn who ran a raffle to help support us – the prizes were amazing and thanks to those businesses who contributed and residents who bought tickets.

Bulb Sale – Saturday 10th September

Outside OneStop from 9am-12 noon

Scarecrow Safari – Saturday 1st

October The theme will be 'Books'. If you want to enter, please email Heather who will be producing the map: scarecrowmarden@gmail.com Please like our Facebook page: <https://bit.ly/MinBFacebook> or email: anne.boswell@ymail.com if you'd like to join our friendly team. *Anne Boswell and the 'Bloomers'*

Marden Men's Breakfast

The next Breakfast will be held on Saturday 9th July at 8.30am in the West End Tavern. After a superb English breakfast, Toby Spanier will be talking about 'Renovating the Old Vicarage and other local buildings'. If you would like to breakfast with them (£8), please contact Geoff Burr on 01622 831106/0973 118241 or email: geoffreyburr@btinternet.com

Marden Oddfellows Group

Life's better with friends around – they make the good times greater and help when things are tough. Oddfellows is a fun social group and an ideal way to get to know new friends and new hobbies for both ladies and gents. They also host a range of online events and activities.



Did you know there is a group in Marden who meet in Marden Memorial Hall every other Monday 11.00am-1pm for coffee and a good old natter? Activities vary each week such as crafts, puzzles, wordsearches etc and they organise lunches and outings. All are welcome and annual membership is £25. Please contact Rose Mills on 01643 868308 or email: rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk

Marden Parish Church

Midsummer Market – Saturday 9th

July Please go along to support St Michael and All Angels Church on Saturday 9th July from 10am to 4pm in the Vicarage Garden. Lots of crafts & hobbies, cakes & produce, jigsaws, activities for children and refreshments.



Marden Branch of the Royal British Legion

A meeting instigated by Colin Fry and Chris Childs was held in May to resurrect the Marden Branch of RBL and 32 people attended, mostly new members but some existing, subscribing members as well.

The discussions were informative and enlightening with RBL's Membership Support Officer, Nikki Ward, describing the options available to the Branch. Full Branch status would currently be difficult to implement as we would need Officers appropriate to undertake the tasks of Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman etc along with 3 further Committee members, a situation that is currently thought to be out of reach. However, we are opting for 'Assisted Status' which obviates the need for such Officers and can be operated with just two people acting as points of contact. The obvious benefits to our Branch will be simplicity of operation with a minimum of 'fuss'. We'll be able to conduct our Remembrance Day celebrations, appear at various events & functions when an RBL presence is required and enjoy social occasions as appropriate. However our eventual ambition is to realise Full Branch status as and when suitable Officer candidates make themselves available. For more information, please contact Colin Fry on 07956 954224 or email: colinfry@brookdecorations.co.uk or Chris Childs on 07736 069901. Either of us will be extremely happy to hear from you.

Marden Society

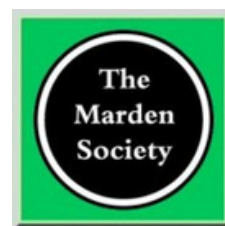
After our Summer Outing on 22nd June to Provender House near Faversham (home of Princess Olga Romanov, niece of the last Russian Tsar), there will be a break in the programme until September. Then on 28th September Geoff Doel will tell us the story of "Hopping in Kent and the Hartlake disaster".

In October 1853 a wagon taking around 30 hop-pickers and their families back to their camp crashed through the side of the Hartlake bridge over the Medway near Hadlow, drowning 30 of them. This talk was originally planned for November 2019, so we hope nothing will go wrong this time!

On 26th October Alison Bristo will tell us "All about Orangutans and why they are endangered". When Alison became seriously ill, it was her desire to visit orangutans in Borneo, that gave her the strength and determination to get well. After 3 years of battling with illness, she fulfilled her dream and went to work there.

Our talks are at 7.30 p.m. in the Vestry Hall and are free and open to all. Refreshments will be served after the talk. For more information contact Steve:

steve.mcarragher@btinternet.com or 07946 532591.



Marden WI

Marden WI is a very active friendly group who meet on the first Thursday of every month in the Vestry Hall from 7.45pm. Our forthcoming meetings cover a wide range of topics – Gardening for Bees, The Capsule Wardrobe, Queen Elizabeth II, The Elephant Project and Hopping in Kent. We also enjoy visiting gardens, theatre trips and pub lunches in between meetings. If you feel you would like to join us, please contact Barbara Hammond/President on 01622 831569 or email: barbham50@gmail.com.

Rhyme Time at Marden Library

Rhyme Time is held on Fridays 10am-10.20am (term time only) at Marden Library for toddlers. Booking is required and please speak to a member of staff for more information or email: mardenlibrary@kent.gov.uk



Short Mat Bowls

Mondays in Marden Memorial Hall – 7.30-9.30pm

The Short Mat Bowls group meet each Monday from 7.30pm-9.30pm with a break for a cuppa & biscuits.

They would welcome anyone that wants to join them for a regular fun evening, and it costs just £3 per session to cover the cost of hall charges – anybody from 14 onwards. If you fancy giving it a go, please give Shirley a ring on 01622 831755 for more info.

WET Golfers Society

By Sue Attwood

The WET Golf Society is affiliated to the West End Tavern which started in 2019. It has a good programme of Golf Days throughout the year, with a flagship Golf Day at Hever Castle Golf Club where members compete for the coveted Claret Jug. Partners are welcome to the evening prize-giving dinners at the West End Tavern and we hold socials throughout the year for all. This year, like last, we are holding a knockout tournament over the summer at the Village Golf Club.

In addition to the golf, the Society also aims to raise money throughout the year for charity. In 2021 we raised over £10,000 for Macmillan via raffles, a coffee morning and participating in the Macmillan 72 hole challenge where the golfers play 4 rounds in a single day <https://longestdaygolf.macmillan.org.uk/Team/wetgolfers>

We are an inclusive Society with members from Marden and the surrounding area. Our members are a good variety of age and ability and we are proud to have women members too. If you would like to know more, please contact our Captain Paul Attwood on 07831 463446 or pop into the West End Tavern to speak to Sean (Chairman) or Bridget (Treasurer) or email: wetgolfers@gmail.com



PARISH COUNCIL COUNCILLORS, CLERKS AND OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

CHAIRMAN

Cllr Kate Tippet - 01622 832305
kate.tippet1@gmail.com

VICE CHAIRMAN & CHAIRMAN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Andy Turner - 07803 598813

CHAIRMAN FINANCE COMMITTEE & VICE-CHAIRMAN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Richard Adam - 01622 831673
mpc@tn12.uk

CHAIRMAN AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Anne Boswell - 01622 833351 / 07808 868703

VICE CHAIRMAN AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Jean Robertson - 01622 831331 / 07950 816370

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Chris Barker - 01622832305

Cllr Matt Besant - 01622 832305

Cllr Matt Burton - 01622 832305

Cllr Ian Newton - 01622 831832

Cllr Tom Stevens - 01622 832305

Cllr Theresa Gibson - 01622 832305

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Hollie Savory
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Email: adminassistant@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr David Burton - 07590 229910
david.burton@burtons.uk.com

Cllr Annabelle Blackmore - 01622 833299
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Cllr Claudine Russell
claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Lottie Parfitt-Reid - 07919 360000
lottie.parfittreid@kent.gov.uk

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Helen Grant MP - 0207 219 7107
helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER

Nicola Morris
Telephone: 101
<https://bit.ly/KPReportACrime>
<https://bit.ly/KPRuralCrime>

COMMUNITY WARDEN

Mira Martin
Mobile: 07969 584179
Email: mira.martin@kent.gov.uk

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

Freephone: 0800 405040
Text: 61016

FAULT REPORTING

Maidstone Borough Council
(for Flytipping, Abandoned Vehicles, Dog Fouling and Street Cleaning)
Telephone: 01622 602162
Website: www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/do-it-online/report-it

Kent County Council
(for Potholes, other Road Issues, Vegetation and Street Lighting)
Telephone: 08458 247800
Website: www.kent.gov.uk

For regular parish information, updates and events, follow us on:



@MardenParishCouncil



@mardenkentpc



@mardenparishcouncil

Marden Parish Council, Parish Office, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, TN12 9JX

Website: www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk - Office Telephone: 01622 832305

Office Opening Times: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 10.00am to 12noon