

# News from Marden Parish Council



Winter 2019



## Letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council



Hello Everyone,

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter which is bursting with news and information. So much so that I am keeping my part concise! Firstly, we introduce Chris Barker who was elected to the Parish Council at the By-Election held on 27th June. Many of you will know Chris who has lived in the village for many years. We look forward to his enthusiastic contribution to the work of the Parish Council.

Apart from the odd intermittent downpour we all enjoyed a pleasant summer. The Playscheme was again, a brilliant success this year and we extend our thanks to all the staff who make this facility so enjoyable for the children at the beginning of the Summer break.

We are soon to learn about the Call for Sites within the Review of Maidstone Borough Council's Local Plan. This is to be released on Monday 4th November and we will be

highlighting those proposed sites, within our Parish, at our Open Days organised in November (see more information below).

There will be several other interesting topics at the Open Days on which we would appreciate your comments, so do please make every effort to come along to one of the sessions.

Christmas is not far off and Marden at Christmas, organised by the Parish Council, will be held on Saturday 7th December, starting at The Allens and then progressing down to the Memorial Hall where there will be various stalls displaying seasonal items.

I hope to see many of you there.

Best Wishes

*Lesley Mannington*

## Parish Council Open Days

**Friday 15th November 6.00pm till 9.00pm  
and Saturday 16th November 10.00am  
till 2.00pm in the Marden Memorial Hall,  
Goudhurst Road.**

Marden Parish Council invite all residents to come along and have your say on:

- Call for Sites Information
- Update on our Neighbourhood Plan
- Marden Infrastructure Spend Plan Consultation
- Field Gym Location for Playing Field
- Building Design Brief Consultation
- Parish information including what we do

**Plus what you as a  
Marden resident can do  
for your village!**

## New Councillor - Cllr Chris Barker

"I arrived in Marden in 1992 with my wife Linda and step-daughter Louise.

Having been born and raised in St Mary Cray, we set up home together in Orpington.

It wasn't until we left to come to Marden that we realised just how bad Cray and

Orpington had become through constant expansion. I continued my business in concert tour transport and managed a full forty years, retiring on my 67th birthday this year. I enjoyed my working life immensely.

Having spent the first 10 years using The Unicorn as my "watering hole", I moved to The Working Men's Club (now The Village Club). I never felt completely comfortable there and realised that things had to change.

I joined the Committee in 2002-ish, and attempted to alter from within. Bit by bit the Club improved by gaining a different demographic of committee members, to its now "thriving position". I now hold the position of Vice-Chairman. I was persuaded by James Davis to join the bell ringers in 2012 (the same years as my two step-grand-daughters came to live with us) and have enjoyed learning the craft to my current level.

I have been elevated to steeple keeper within the past three years – this position requires me to wind and regulate the church clock, along with the servicing and maintenance of the bells and frame. Linda and I were awarded Special Guardianship of the girls in 2015, they were 9 and 14. It was a wonderful day.

I stood for Parish Council back in 2008 and



missed success by 7 votes. Nine months later I declined co-option. I am now ready to have the time to try again. My main interest and task will be to improve transport services (rail and bus), along with attempting to improve all road services via chasing Kent Highways. I also intend to keep a close eye on maintaining current "good feeling" of living in Marden. I do not wish to see such a decline of quality of life and failing society as I did in Orpington."

## PLANNING UPDATE:

### Marden Neighbourhood Plan (MNP)

We are pleased to report that we received the Independent Examiner's Fact Check Report early in October. The Examiner reviewed the MNP and its supporting documentation including all submitted representations and has concluded that subject to a few minor modifications, the MNP can proceed to Referendum on the basis that it has met all the relevant legal requirements. He has also considered whether the referendum area should extend beyond the designated area to which the Plan relates and has concluded that this is not necessary. Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) have also reviewed the Examiner's report and found no factual errors.

The modifications were agreed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and approved at Full Council on 8th October. The plan was re-submitted to the Inspector on 9th October and we are pleased to say that we have now received the Final Examiner's Report (<http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/community/marden-parish-council-13394/independent-examiner/>). It will now be presented to the MBC Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Committee (SPI) which will hopefully recommend the MNP proceeds to Referendum stage. It was so encouraging to read the Inspector's Overview as below,



but MBC has also congratulated the Parish Council and the members of the MNP Steering Group.

***“It is clear that the Marden Neighbourhood Plan is the product of much hard work undertaken since 2012 by the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and by the many individuals and stakeholders who have contributed to the preparation and development of the Plan. There is no doubt in my view that the Plan reflects the aspirations and objectives of the Marden community for the future development of their community up to 2031. The output is a Plan which should help guide the area’s development over that period, making a positive contribution to informing decision- making on planning applications by Maidstone Borough Council.”***

#### **Maidstone Borough Council Call for Sites – Public Release Date Monday 4th November**

Please note that Marden Parish Council made it very clear to MBC that we did not wish to receive any prior information in advance of it being released in the public domain, but we understand that over 300 sites have been submitted to MBC across the Borough. A copy of the relevant sites will be sent to the Parish Office on the 4th November.

Please come along to the Parish Council Open Days in November (see above) to give us your thoughts/ideas on the sites MBC have selected for Marden. For updates on how the Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan Review and Call for Sites is proceeding please visit <https://www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/planning-and-building/primary-areas/local-plan-review> for information.

#### **Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan Review Consultation**

As most residents will be aware, Maidstone

Borough Council (MBC) has held the first stage of the Local Plan Review Consultation (which closed on 30 September) on Scoping Themes, Issues and Initial Choices (Regulation 18). So many thanks to those residents who attended numerous Planning Committee meetings and assisted MPC in completing the Parish Council response – working together as a team is so important. It was so useful to hear your views which helped to shape our response to MBC.

You can find MPC’s final response on our website which was submitted to MBC on 23rd September: <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/community/marden-parish-council-13394/mbc-local-plan-review/>

#### **Section 106 Agreements – Frequently Asked Questions**

The Parish Council has been closely monitoring Section 106 agreements over the last few years and following questions raised at the Parish Council’s Planning Committee meeting on 16th August, a ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ (FAQ) briefing note was compiled for residents and businesses setting out the position regarding these legal agreements. You can find the FAQ on the Parish Council’s website: <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/community/marden-parish-council-13394/mpcs-faqs/>

You can also check out more info on S106 agreements: <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/community/marden-parish-council-13394/s106-developer-contributions/> <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/community/marden-parish-council-13394/s106-developer-contributions/>

Further to information received from our Borough Councillor David Burton, we have written to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) to give us an update on S106 contributions for Healthcare, Open Space and Cycle Storage; and as a result of further

information received from our County Councillor Eric Hotson, we have written to Kent County Council for an update on Primary and Secondary Education, Libraries and Adult Social Services. We have asked them to confirm where this money will be spent and on what. We will give you an update in the next Newsletter.

### **Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP)/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

Marden Parish Council is currently working on a policy document entitled Parish Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP) [formerly the Marden Parish Council Development Contributions/S106 Agreements policy document]. The purpose of the ISP is to identify the infrastructure and investment needed by the parish and is essentially a 'wish list' of projects within the parish which would improve our facilities and infrastructure. Please come along to the Parish Council's Open Days in November (see above) for more information and for your input. The draft document can also be viewed at <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/community/marden-parish-council-13394/open-days-1516-november/> and the consultation will run from 15th November 2019 to 5pm on 3rd January 2020. You can leave your comments at the Open Days or in writing to Ali at [clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) or Parish Office, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden TN12 9JX.

### **Assets of Community Value (ACV) Steering Group**

At the end of April an informal Parish Council meeting took place where members of the public were also invited on whether it would be a sensible way forward to form a Steering Group to formally consider ACVs. The first meeting took place in June and it was agreed that this would be a Steering Group and Marden Parish Council (MPC) would be asked to act as the constituted

authority to take this project forward to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC). A spreadsheet has been drafted detailing all the buildings/open space in the Parish and the group are in the process of prioritising buildings and open space. It was agreed that the public houses in the Parish were of top priority – The Unicorn, The West End Tavern and The Stilebridge (which is currently up for sale). As a consequence, letters have been prepared to present to each public house as they have been identified as a village asset that furthers the social wellbeing and social interest of the local community, but they have been assured that a successful listing as an ACV will not interfere in any way on how their public house operates and is merely a safeguard.

## **MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:**

### **Meetings with County Councillor and Borough Councillors**

The Parish Council regularly hold separate meetings with our County Councillor and Borough Councillors so we are kept informed on various issues and lobby them on other items. Alison our Parish Clerk is currently arranging an 'overlap' meeting with both parties so we have a clear picture of issues from both sides.

### **Feedback Survey**

Parish Councillors are fervent about our Parish and know how important it is for us all to work together as a community. As you know, we strive to keep residents informed and are always looking at ways to communicate our message out to you.

In the Summer Newsletter we included a 'Feedback Survey' form and undertook an exercise online using SurveyMonkey. We asked how we could communicate better with you, what kind of events you would like

to see in the village, what you would like us to spend the Section 106 money on in the Marden Playing Field and your feedback on our Marden at Christmas event.

Many thanks to those residents who took the time to complete the survey and we have received a wealth of information and some very useful ideas. We really appreciate your participation in helping us and quite a number of residents have kindly offered to volunteer at events. The Parish Newsletter and our Facebook page came out tops on how you receive information followed by the Parish Council Website and posters.

A Village Fete/Dog Show in the Playing Field was the most popular event you would like to see which we may organise in 2021 and Park Run was a popular suggestion (see below). We have been analysing your ideas on what the remaining Section 106 monies for the playing field could be spent on and most popular were refurbishment of the football changing rooms to incorporate meeting room, toilets, kitchen etc, shaded area, more adventurous play equipment and more seating. These suggestions have been added to our draft Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP). The results will also be displayed at the Parish Council Open Days in November (see details above).

#### Have you followed us?

- Like and follow us on our Facebook page:  
@Marden Parish Council
- Follow our Twitter feed on:  
@mardenkentpc
- Follow our Instagram on:  
mardenparishcouncil

#### Welcome Packs

If you are a new resident to Marden, welcome and we hope that you enjoy your time living in this lovely village. If you haven't received a Welcome Pack and would like a hard copy or further information, please contact Ali in

the Parish Office on 01622 832305 or email [clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) You can also find the Welcome Pack on our website: <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/community/marden-parish-council-13394/village-welcome-pack/>

#### Marden Parish Council Surgeries & Table at the Library

Our clerks Alison and Rachel recently held a Parish Council surgery at the Friday morning Village Café and found it a useful exercise with a number of residents making suggestions and asking questions. The next Surgery will be held again at the Old Post Office Café on Friday 8th November 10.00-11.30am. We will shortly be placing more useful information in the Library again.

#### Barclays Bank

We have learned that Barclays Bank has announced that if you are a Barclays Bank customer you will no longer be able to withdraw cash from the Post Office as from 1st January 2020. This is a great concern to Marden Parish Council as this may be something that other banks will follow. As Marden no longer has a bank, the mobile bank wasn't able to attend one week due to a breakdown and ATM machines in the village charge for withdrawals, this is something that the Parish Council will be discussing at the next Full Council meeting.

## HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

#### Parking

Maidstone Borough Council's Joint Transportation Board agreed in July with a unanimous vote to recommend the double yellow line restrictions for Pattenden Lane, new single yellow line restrictions in Albion Road and Sutton Forge and amendments to some of the existing no parking times. The changes were subsequently agreed at

MBC's Strategic Planning and Infrastructure (SPI) Committee on 10th Sept. This has now been signed off by the County Councillor and it is hoped that all the agreed parking restrictions will be in place soon.

### **Forward Works Programme**

Kent Highways have produced a full Years One & Two (2019/20-2020/21) Forward Works Programme which is available on their website: [https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/94574/Highways-planned-works-programme.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/94574/Highways-planned-works-programme.pdf)

### **Marden Train Station**

Councillors met with the station manager responsible for Marden in May to discuss various issues such as long-term measures to increase parking spaces; platform, approach road and car park lighting; car parking bay and approach road markings; drainage problems in approach road; traffic signage on approach road; missing paving slab from the steps to the ticket office and the possibility of replacing the ugly platform fencing. It was disappointing that no senior representatives from both South Eastern and Network Rail were present, and Alison our Parish Clerk is pressing for another meeting to see if some of these issues can/ have been resolved.

We also forwarded details of S106 money due to the railway station to South Eastern and Network Rail as money had been allocated for new bike racks at the station. There has been a spate of bike thefts from the 'open' storage facilities and there is currently only 5 locked and secure bike storage units which is totally insufficient for the amount of cyclists who want to store their bikes safely. Once a meeting has been arranged, Councillors will put pressure on South Eastern /Network Rail to ensure they provide more secure bike storage facilities.

The new flower beds at the front of the

station look magnificent and have improved the look of the station welcoming travellers to our village. Many congratulations to local resident, Norman Creasdale and staff at the station for undertaking this project. They have been awarded a cup in recognition of their efforts.



### **Works – Countryside Properties**

We reported in the Summer Newsletter that Cllr Tippen had met with Countryside, who are the developers at the old Cricket & Hockey Club site, as there had been an unfortunate amount of incidences of damage to properties from lorries, damage to power lines and the ongoing use of South Road and Stanley Road for heavy lorries. Countryside gave assurances about how they plan to make sure that inconvenience to residents is minimised. Councillors met again in September with the Site and Construction Managers to discuss about signage being obscured by parked cars and not visible to lorries, still issues with lorry movements and trying to access the site via Albion Road, lorries turning around at the Farm Shop (which aren't all lorries to the site) and further sewerage works etc. They advised that some overhead cable work by UK Power Networks will have to be undertaken shortly in Stanley Road to enable Countryside to remove the on-site sub-station. As soon as the Parish Council has been informed of the dates these will be advertised although Countryside has given us assurance that residents will be written to. At the time of the newsletter

being produced sewerage works are being undertaken and it is hoped that by the time you read this they will have been completed.

### **Lorry Watch – Volunteers Needed!**

We understand residents' concerns about the amount of disruption HGV's cause in the village and it has been suggested by Kent Highways that a Lorry Watch scheme be set up in the Parish to monitor the amount of lorries and other inappropriate vehicles passing through the village. The Parish Council has now received the relevant information and if you think you can spare an hour or two to do some investigative work, please let Alison in the Parish Office know.

### **Speedwatch**

Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered to participate in Speedwatch. Alison will be organising sessions shortly so we can get the scheme up-and-running and she will be in touch with you. If there are any other volunteers who have an hour or two to spare, please contact the Parish Office on 01622 832305.

## **OPEN SPACE:**

### **Playing Field**

The Parish Council has continued to spend S106 monies on improvements to the Playing Field and these monies can only be utilised at the Playing Field and not at Southons Field, the Cemetery or for any other parish facility. Now the running/walking path has been installed, we will be asking residents at the Open Days in November (details above) on where they would like the field gym to be positioned. We have also had some feedback on the Communications survey on where residents would like the remaining S106 monies to be spent in the Playing Field, but please come along to the Open Days to have your say.

Sadly, it has been decided that our dear old Rocking Horse needs to be removed, not just because of the high level of noise it makes when it is rocked heavily, but because it does not conform to current safety standards. Councillors have accepted a sealed bid for its purchase which has been ring-fenced towards the cost of a defibrillator at the Memorial Hall. So old Neddy will shortly 'go out to grass' for retirement and will be replaced with a young foal using some of the S106 monies allocated to the Playing Field.

Kent Highways have repaired the footpath in the Chestnuts area and the space which was damaged after installation of the running track. The issue of rubbish in the field continues particularly around the Youth Shelter which Chris our Caretaker spends so much of his time collecting. The Parish Council are also in the process of sourcing additional CCTV in the field.

### **Southons Field**

The usage of this lovely open space has escalated over the last year or so especially this Summer and it has become the main venue for village events. It was wonderful to see so many families spending time together having a picnic, kicking a ball around, laying in the sunshine under the beautiful trees, adults and children playing on the Play Trail. Well done to Donna Luttschwager for taking the initiative to arrange activity sessions with families on Tuesdays during the school holidays – great community engagement.

There is a Community Chest available for use and it has been agreed that the Marden EcoHub group will become a key holder to use the equipment. The field is dog-free (apart from guide dogs) and open during daylight hours. Residents and village groups are welcome to hire the field. Please call 01622 832305 or email: [clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) for details.



## POLICE & CRIME UPDATE:

### Parish/Police Surgeries

If you have any issues to discuss with our PCSO Nicola Morris, we will be holding Parish/Police Surgeries on Saturday 19th October at 12pm outside the Library, Saturday 16th November at 12pm outside the Memorial Hall (to coincide with the Parish Open Day) and Saturday 21st December at 12pm outside the Library.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

Several reports of anti-social behaviour were reported in September, but it seems to have calmed down since the beginning of the year, although there have been some recent incidences of knocking on residents' front doors late at night. We urge residents to continue to report any occurrences so that an accurate picture is in place and incidents can be responded to appropriately. So please call 101 – if it's not reported, it isn't investigated! Alternatively, you can report an incident online: <https://www.kent.police.uk/> Then click on Services/Report a Crime.

### Nuisance Off-Road Drivers

– Don't be a loser.....

If you cause a nuisance by off-roading without the landowner's permission you could lose:

- Your bike
  - Your licence
  - Your money
  - Your freedom
  - You could face a heavy fine or prosecution
- Contact Kent Police – for crime prevention advice or to contact your local office, call 101 or visit [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk). Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or 999 in an emergency. If deaf or speech impaired text 'police' and your message to 60066.

## YOUTH PROVISION:

### Youth Club

As reported in the Summer Newsletter, the Youth Club that was run by Kent County Council workers for the last 10 years has been stopped and the volunteer group which started up on a Friday evening for youths has also unfortunately been discontinued. However, the Clerk has contacted the Cabinet Member at Kent County Council regarding youth provision in the village and the Parish Council is due to meet with the Maidstone Youth Leader shortly.

The Parish Council have received a grant from our Borough Councillors of £1500 to use on youth provision and we are investigating the possibility of organising some sporting sessions for young people maybe similar to the Get Active programme run by Golding Homes in the Summer.

### Skateboard/Bike Park in Marden

As reported in previous newsletters, a petition was handed to the Parish Council by a young resident some time ago and it was also suggested in the recent Communications Survey. Councillors have been investigating the possibility of creating a Skateboard/Bike Park in Marden which needs to be easily accessible from the village centre and away from residents which means the Playing Field and Southons Field would not be viable. We have been looking at whether there are any parcels of land that would be available, but so far none have been found. If you know of any suitable parcel of land, then please let us know.

## HEALTH & WELLBEING:

### Marden Medical Centre

*Care Quality Commission (CQC)*

So many congratulations to our amazing Medical Centre who were awarded

‘Outstanding’ assessment following the CQC inspection in May 2019 and a special mention was given for being exceptionally ‘caring’ and ‘well led’. Marden is so fortunate to have such a fantastic medical practice. This is a real credit to the hard work and dedication of the whole team – well done to our excellent doctors and support staff as well as the Patient Participation Group, the Friends of Marden Medical Centre and the patients who have supported them. You can read the report and 35-page evidence table on their website: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-540436730>

**How to Book An Appointment:** For routine appointments you can use Patient Access, My GP App or NHS App to book routine appointments on line for up to 6 weeks in advance; you can telephone the Medical Centre (01622 831257) after 10.30am if you would like a receptionist to help you book an appointment; or at the reception desk at the Medical Centre but please be aware that at times the desk is very busy. For urgent appointments you should contact the reception (by phone or in person) from 8.30am.

For medical emergencies you should call 999 and for Out of Hours advice telephone 111.

### **Parkrun**

One of the suggestions from our Communications Survey was the possibility of setting up a Parkrun facility in the Playing Field. The key to starting any Parkrun is to find the right person to lead the event as a local volunteer, to champion its benefits to our community and to build a strong core volunteer team who are passionate about delivering the event going forward.

Parkrun UK operate as an independent not-for-profit organisation supported by commercial and various other organisations. To survive financially, they look for local

organisations to contribute towards the establishment of events in the area - they seek to achieve a £3,000 start-up fee which is a one-off cost and they commit to supporting every event indefinitely from then on.

Parkrun is a simple concept – just turn up every Saturday and walk, jog or run 5k, or if you’re a junior, then 2k every Sunday. It doesn’t matter how fast you go or what you wear, what matters is taking part. All you have to do is register once, print your barcode then turn up and take part. Participation is free and weekly timed events take part across the world in 20 countries! It’s a great community-engaging event and a fantastic way of getting the community fit and healthy – it’s about inclusiveness and well-being. So, if there is anybody out there who would be interested in helping to set up a Parkrun facility, be a volunteer, or would like to sponsor the project, then please let our Deputy Clerk – Rachel know.

### **Living Memories – “*Feel good about what you remember, not bad about what you forget*”**

If you have someone with memory loss, please take them along to the Living Memories sessions in the Vestry Hall from 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday 12th and Tuesday 26th November. For more info email: [livingmemories@mardenchurch.org.uk](mailto:livingmemories@mardenchurch.org.uk) or call Rachel on 01622 831941

### **Marden as a Dementia Friendly Village**

In June a meeting was held between different associations, organisations and residents of the village to gauge whether there was enough willingness and interest to work towards making Marden a dementia friendly community. The Medical Centre, Living Memories, and several organisations are now behind the idea and seminars are

currently being held on what a dementia friendly village registration entails. We will update you on progress in the next Newsletter on this extremely important initiative.

### **Allotments at Highwood Green**

Following the article in the last newsletter there has been much interest in the allotment area at Highwood Green. At the Parish Council meeting on 8th October members of the Horticultural Society and other interested residents explained the work being done to make Marden a Dementia

Friendly village. Part of this work would involve setting up a community garden and residents had identified that part of the allotment area would be an ideal location, with the rest of the area being made available as allotments. There are a group of residents who are keen to set up an allotment society to manage the site. The Parish Council agreed in principle to take on the freehold subject to a satisfactory legal contract from Redrow and the formation of a local group to run and manage the allotments.

A Joint Working Group will be set up with members of the Parish Council, Horticultural Society and Dementia Group to discuss the way forward and drive out all the issues.

If you are interested in having an allotment please register your interest with Jill Nicols at [horsa08@gmail.com](mailto:horsa08@gmail.com).

### **Marden Walking Group**

We all know the importance of walking and such a great way to improve and maintain our overall health. Just 30 minutes every day can increase cardiovascular fitness, strengthen bones, reduce excess body fat and boost muscle power and endurance. So do go along and join in some of the walks the Marden Walking Group arrange:

- Long Distance Walk – Saxon Shore Way

(Hastings to Gravesend) – 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays – call Ian Balmer – 01622 831578 for details

- Sunday Monthly Walks – 10am meeting at Library Car Park to share cars
- Saturday Walks – meet at the Library at 2pm – for more info, please contact Catherine Alderson on 01622 832455 – strong footwear, suitable coats – sorry no dogs!

### **Marden Library Activities**

There are many reasons for visiting the Library & Heritage Centre, aside from borrowing books. There is free WiFi and 4 public computers available, one with a scanner + you can print and photocopy. The public computers give you free access to 'Find My Past' website.

There are two library book groups held once a month each Thursday and Saturday which will always welcome new members. They will also be starting a children's book group – please go and ask about it in the Library. Other activities – Talk Time – every Tuesday from 2pm – coffee and chat and optional board games; Baby Rhyme time every Friday 10-10.30am and Mahjong every other Wednesday starting 2nd October (beginners welcome). There will also be Halloween crafts at half-term. For more info, please go and have a chat with Lucia in the Library. The Library hours have been extended and opening times are now: Tuesday to Friday 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm; Saturdays 9am to 1pm. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

You may have noticed 2 new planters outside the Library which is part of the Florilegium Project which is supported by the Royal Botanical Garden at Kew creating wildflower areas outside libraries with accompanying signage and quotes from literature about nature. A workshop was held recently in the Library, but the planters may be moved to the area between the Library and public

toilets as they will not be 'in bloom' until next Spring.

### **Marden Children's Centre**

The Children's Centre run by Kent County Council is an excellent facility and it is important it is supported as much as possible. Here's a flavour of some of the sessions they are currently running: On Mondays - Discovery Play 9.30-11.30 and Child Health Clinic (2nd Monday of month) 9.30-11.30am; On Tuesdays - Musical Menagerie 10-11am, Royal British Legion Careers Advice drop-in (26th Nov & 17th Dec) 9.30am-12.30pm, Think Action Counselling 12-4pm (by appointment only following referral) and Golding Homes Workwise Hub 10am-12pm (12th Nov & 10th Dec); on Wednesdays - Juniors Club held in the John Banks Hall 3-4.30pm; on Thursdays - Stay & Play 9.30-11.30am, Breastfeeding Drop-in Session 12.30-2.30pm; Fridays Think Action Counselling 9am-12pm (by appointment only following referral). For more details please call 01622 831503 or email: [mardenchildrenscentre@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mardenchildrenscentre@kent.gov.uk)

### **Marden Scout Group - Dog Poo Project!**

Dog mess is always an issue especially in the Playing Field and whilst the field is covered by Maidstone Borough Council's Dog Control Orders, they do not clear up the mess in the field. Most people are very responsible in collecting their dog faeces, but there's always a few who don't. With the agreement of the Parish Council, Marden Scout Group are undertaking a Dog Poo awareness campaign – so watch out for their posters around the village!

## **DRAINAGE AND WATER:**

Please check out Marden Parish Council's website if any problems occur regarding drainage and flooding where you can find the Highways Drainage and Flooding guide and the Environmental Agency Flood Action Plan and other agency advice.

<http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/community/marden-parish-council-13394/drainage--flooding/>

## **CLIMATE, SUSTAINABILITY & BIODIVERSITY:**

### **Marden Community EcoHub**

The Marden Community EcoHub is a local group recently set up to share sustainable practice in the Parish with the aim of helping to improve the environment and community in which we live. They have been liaising with the Parish Council, the Parish Church and Marden in Bloom on various projects and held an EcoHub event on the 12th October. This event was to help make residents aware on how they can do their bit for the planet. Please check out their Facebook Page and give it a 'like' – it's such an important initiative.

### **Millwood & Redrow Ponds**

The Parish Council is well aware that residents are fed up with the dreadful state of the ponds behind the Playing Field and have been trying to meet with both Millwood and Redrow (who own the ponds) to no avail. However, Amanda Porritt, one of the EcoHub ladies, has been in contact with the sustainability managers at both developers to see if some restoration work can be done and tidy up the area. Redrow has now cut back the vegetation and advised that they have carried out all the work required by Natural England Licence, but are also planning to install additional planting with the new ecology pond and the NE pond. However, The Millwood development has now been transferred to Trinity Managing Agents, but the Head of Operations at Millwood has assured the Sales/Marketing Director that action on the pond will now be put in place. We will persist on this issue and hopefully will give you an update in the next Newsletter. Please note that the Parish



Council is unable to use S106 monies allocated to the Playing Field for the ponds as the Parish Council do not own the land.

### **Recycling Litter Bins/Water Refill Stations/Crisp Packet Recycling**

The Marden Community EcoHub has asked if there was any possibility of installing recycling litter bins and water refill points in the village. The Parish Council has been in contact with Maidstone Borough Council who informed that they had trialled recycling litter bins with very little success. The issue of contamination of the waste made it unsuitable for recycling, and Kent County Council do not have a separate waste stream for recycling street litter. Rachel, our Deputy Clerk, is currently investigating the possibility of having water refill points.

Marden Primary School and the West End Tavern have a facility for recycling crisp packets and raising funds for the Kent Air Ambulance. The Deputy Clerk is researching the possibility of installing more of these bins in other areas in the village and one may be placed in the Village Club.

### **Clean Air Sensors/Diffusion Tubes**

The Parish Council received a request to see if we could consider Clean Air Sensors and we contacted Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) who have advised that there is not much of an air quality problem in rural areas, although Marden has not actually been measured itself. MBC's project will run until the end of 2019 however MPC will continue to investigate this.

### **Tree Charter, Tree Mapping & Kent Men of Trees –**

As part of our Biodiversity Duty, the Parish Council is registering with the Tree Charter and becoming a Charter Branch in partnership with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Woodland Trust. The wildlife habitats, which trees

provide, are of great benefit to our community – each tree is a world within itself, teeming with life. There are 10 Principles of the Tree Charter for trees, woods and people which offer the bedrock for better policy and practice regarding trees in the UK.

As a starting point, Cllr Boswell has been undertaking an exercise, with the assistance of resident Jean Stratton, mapping the trees in the Parish Council's open space – we have over 300 of them! We have an amazing array of trees in our Parish particularly in Southons Field thanks to Barbara & Robin Judd who planted most of them when they owned that piece of land. Some of the trees in our open space still need identifying, but it's the Parish Council's long-term plan to map them on our Pear Technology Mapping System. A Tree Audit was undertaken last year but, as you can imagine, the cost of managing our trees is enormous. However, we plan to have a sufficient budget to cover these ongoing costs as we are passionate about our trees and know how important they are in our community.

Cllr Boswell also walked around with a representative from the Kent Men of Trees in August who was very impressed particularly with the variety and amount of trees in the Cemetery, and we are awaiting the report to see how we fared in the annual "Kent Men of Trees" competition.

### **Wildflower Meadow in Southons Field – 'Go Green Go Wild'**

Marden in Bloom (MinB) are in the process of creating a trial Wildflower Meadow at the far end of the field with advice from local farmer Peter Hall who has very kindly 'scalped' it close to the ground and will then cultivate patches for wildflower seeds to be sown next Spring once the ground has

warmed up. This is part of Maidstone Borough Council's 'Go Green Go Wild' project and MinB received a small grant to assist with the cost of the project. Once we know if it has been successful and understand the best method to create a Wildflower Meadow, we will then consider other areas we could establish. Hopefully if the seeds/plugs are successful, this will encourage more wildlife and is a project we can engage children in identifying bugs, butterflies etc and the importance of biodiversity.

## **Parish Litter Pick – Saturday 21st March**

Back in March we had a great turnout for the Annual Parish Litter Pick on a very wet and windy day. The Parish Council is co-ordinating another tidying up exercise in the Parish on Saturday 21st March 2020.

If you would like to volunteer, please let Ali in the Parish Office know either via email to [clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) 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.

### **Eco Church**

Our beautiful church of St Michael & All Angels is participating in an 'Eco Church'

initiative which is run under the guidelines of an organisation called 'A Rocha' which can be accessed at: <https://arocha.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Bible-Study-Plastic-in-Gods-oceans/pdf>. Well done Rev Ali Duguid and all the team embarking on such an important project.

## **OTHER PARISH INFORMATION:**



### **Scarecrow Safari**

What an amazing village event organised by Marden in Bloom (MinB) last month. There were 39 entries and such an array of imaginative and fun scarecrows. Marden Parish Council had their own entry, Cynthia, the Parish Councillor (see above). The village was buzzing with residents and children alike observing and voting for their

favourite one ending in Southons Field for a cuppa and piece of cake. The feedback was wonderful and certainly a great way of engaging people. Many congratulations to the Scott family for creating Freddie Mercrowry (no 28) who won the public's vote (below) MinB will almost certainly run another Scarecrow Safari next year but probably with a theme, so get your thinking caps on!



Scarecrow Freddie Mercrowry

### **Marden Community Charity**

Many of you will know that Marden has 2 charities, the Allen & Maplesden Charity and The Victory Fund. Some time ago trustees of both charities agreed to amalgamate and form a new charity. The Marden Community CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) has now been registered with the Charity Commission and work is underway to close down the existing 2 charities and transfer all the assets. In the next newsletter we will be able to give you information about the aims

and objectives of the new charity and how grants of money will be made available. In the meantime, the trustees of both charities would like to thank Sheena Mumford, Mike Lutener and Robin Judd for their long service to the charities.

### **Parish Council Elections – May 2020**

In May 2020 the Parish Council is up for re-election and if you are interested in becoming a Councillor and feel you have something to offer the village or a specific skill, please contact Alison for more information. The criteria includes: you are British, or a citizen of the Commonwealth, are 18 years of age or over, are registered to vote in the area or if you have lived, worked or owned property in Marden for a least 12 months before the election. If you would like to get involved with the work of the Parish Council, why not consider standing for election? There will be more information at the Parish Open Days in November.

### **VE Day Celebrations**

Arrangements for next May's "VE Day 75" are already well underway with the Parish Council, the Royal British Legion (RBL) and Parish Church to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. Marden Parish Council is organising an event in Southons Field on Saturday 9th May from 2-5pm so please put this weekend in your diary to join in the celebrations. All money raised will go towards the RBL. The Marden Big Band and Village Voices have already been booked and other entertainment will be arranged including the possibility of a Spitfire flying over Marden during the celebrations.

If you have anything you would like to exhibit, something that is WW2 themed (uniform, vehicle etc) or have a stall please email Rachel, the Deputy Clerk, on [deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk).

Marden in Bloom are starting a project shortly by getting the children and village groups to paint poppies on rocks and will set up a “Marden Rocks” Facebook Page. The idea is not just to hide the rocks for others to find, but also possibly to build a ‘cairn’ around the base of the Village Beacon in Southons Field.

### **Marden Toddler Group**

Shout out for volunteers! Marden Toddler Group, who meet weekly on a Wednesday at 9.15am at the Marden Congregational Chapel, is in need of volunteers to help set up, clear up or serve refreshments. If you are able to help this invaluable group in the village, please email them on [mardenvillagebabyandtoddler@gmail.com](mailto:mardenvillagebabyandtoddler@gmail.com). Or on Facebook by searching for “Marden Toddler Group and Rhyme Time”.

### **First Farmers**

Would your children like to learn farming skills and experience the outdoor life? This is an after-school club with a difference (primary school aged children only) - Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons 4-6pm at Horlands Farm, Summerhill Road, Marden TN12 9DB. If you think your child would be interested, please contact Claudine on 07709 444090 or email: [cedars.equestrian@gmail.com](mailto:cedars.equestrian@gmail.com)

### **Summer Play Scheme**

2019 saw another wonderful Summer Play Scheme with many Marden children enjoying the activities. This year’s theme was “Circus Bazaar” and all involved enjoyed circus activities including a visit from a circus workshop on the last Friday. Parents were able to visit on the Friday of the first week to see what the children had been doing and also enjoy the End of Scheme Production on the 7th August. A trip was arranged during the first week to Tonbridge Park via the train where the

children were able to have a run around, play games and enjoy an ice cream before returning to Marden. Thanks are expressed to Jordan Manley who managed and planned the whole scheme along with all the great Play Leaders.



### **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Awards**

The Parish Council are participating again in the 2020 KALC Community Awards. The scheme is to give acknowledgement and recognition to those that have made a significant contribution to the local community. So if you would like to nominate somebody in Marden who has served the Parish for many years and you feel merits an Award, please let Alison in the Parish Office know by the 3rd January 2020. The winner will receive a Certificate signed by the High Sheriff of Kent, the Chairmen of KCC and KALC and presented at the Annual Parish meeting. Dorothy Reed and Catherine Alderson have been our well deserved winners in the past two years.



## PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS:

### **Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Sports & Leisure Survey – closes 27 December 2019**

This MBC consultation is open until 27th December 2019 and they would like to understand how they can deliver services differently and how they can use resources in ways that encourage, enable and empower people in Maidstone to be more active. Respondents can enter a prize draw to win various prizes and the survey should only take 6 minutes to complete:  
<https://wh.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=156949487743>

### **Kent County Council Strategic Statement – Early Engagement – closes 15 November 2019**

[https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/yourvoice\\_hubpage/consultation-Home](https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/yourvoice_hubpage/consultation-Home)

### **Kent County Council National Transport & Highways Survey 2019/20 – closes 29 February 2020**

[https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Nationaltransportsurvey2019\\_20/consultationHome](https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Nationaltransportsurvey2019_20/consultationHome)

Field in August, the 'Art and Music' event in the garden at Mill Farm in September, Marden in Bloom's 'Scarecrow Safari', the PTA Firework Display to name but a few.



Here's some events to round up 2019:

### **Marden in Bloom – Bulb Planting sessions - Thursday 31st October + Friday 15th November at 9.30am.**

To continue our campaign to make Marden the prettiest village in Kent in the Spring, we've got at least 7,000 daffodil bulbs to plant this Autumn thanks to Jones Homes (Appledown Grange) sponsoring us. We would be so grateful if some of you could come and give us a hand. Please email: [mardeninbloom@outlook.com](mailto:mardeninbloom@outlook.com) or post on Marden in Bloom's Facebook page or call 01622 833351 if you can spare an hour or two.

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN MARDEN?

Marden is such a vibrant and community-led village and there are always so many events going on. Over the Summer started with the Marden Motor Club's Showcase day, the Friends of Marden Heritage's Marden BIG Musical Picnic which, unfortunately, was a wash out because of the dreadful weather. Fortunately, the Marden BIG Musical BBQ in Lady Fenn's beautiful garden was a great success. The Rude Mechanical's brilliant performance of 'Icarus Inc' in Southons

## **PTA Fireworks Display – Saturday 2nd November – gates open at 5pm in Southons Field**

The PTA will be back with a Family Fireworks Display in Southons Field on the 2nd November. Not only will you see the bursting colourful spectacular in the night sky but it will be accompanied to music!

Refreshments and glow toys will be available on the field. Please, no sparklers, no dogs and no cars on the field. All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Parking available at the Library and Marden station car parks. Tickets will be available shortly - Adult tickets are for over 18s - Child ticket is for age 3+ till 18 - Under 3s go free. All funds raised go to Marden Primary School PTA.

## **Meet the Parish Council Clerks – Friday 8th November -10am-11.30am at the Old Post Office Cafe**

Come and put face to names! Ali and Rachel will be at the Old Post Office Café to help answer any questions you may have with any community matters or point you in the right direction for advice.

**Marden Church Christmas Market - Friday 22nd November 6pm to 8.30pm and Saturday 23rd November 10am till 12 noon at Marden Vestry Hall.** The Christmas Market will feature festive songs from Marden Primary Choir on Friday evening.

**PTA Christmas Fayre – Saturday 30th November 2019 12noon to 3pm in the School Hall, Marden Primary School**

**Marden at Christmas – Saturday 7th December** See flyer included with this newsletter for more details.

## **What You as a Marden Resident can do for your Village**

- Reporting potholes in roads or street lighting issues by going online to <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> or call the Parish Office on 01622 832305
- Reporting any Anti-Social Behaviour by calling 101 – the more reports, the more action is taken!
- Fly-Tipping can be reported by downloading the app 'Country Eye' on your mobile
- Did you know you can report the following issues online by using this website? <http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/do-it-online/report-it>  
Fly Tipping / Litter Bin – broken or vandalised / Missed Refuse collection – rubbish overflowing / Dog Mess / Dead Animal on Road / Flyposting / Graffiti / Pest Problem / Planning Breach / Abandoned Vehicle / Empty Property / Needles

**Don't sit back and grumble, take action!**



**Custom Marketing Resources**  
Chainhurst 01622 820841  
[creative@cmr-group.co.uk](mailto:creative@cmr-group.co.uk)  
[www.cmr-group.co.uk](http://www.cmr-group.co.uk)

# PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS & OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS:

## Parish Council Details

Chairman Cllr Lesley Mannington  
832305  
lesley.mannington@btinternet.com

Vice-Chairman Cllr Kate Tippen  
832305  
kate.tippen1@gmail.com

## Cllrs

Cllr Richard Adam 831673  
mpc@tn12.uk

Cllr Chris Barker 832305  
Cllr Anne Boswell 833351  
Cllr Maria Brown 832305  
Cllr Mick Jones 832305  
Cllr Ian Newton 831832  
Cllr Jean Robertson 831331  
07950 816370  
Cllr Tom Stevens 832305  
Cllr Andy Turner 07803 598813

## Parish Clerk

Alison Hooker 832305  
07376 287981  
clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

## Deputy Parish Clerk

Rachel Gillis-Coates 832305  
07940 241333  
deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

**Address:** Parish Office, Marden Memorial  
Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden TN12 9JX

## Marden Parish Council Website:

[www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)

## Office opening times:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday -  
10.00am to 12noon

## Other Useful Contact Numbers

### Police Community Support Officer

PCSO Nicola Morris 101  
Email: [nicola.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nicola.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk)

### Community Warden

Mira Martin 07969 584179 (mobile)  
Email: [mira.martin@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mira.martin@kent.gov.uk)

# VACANCY

## MARDEN MEMORIAL HALL

## HALL CARETAKER

Marden Memorial Hall is looking  
for a caretaker to work a minimum  
of 10 hours per week for an hourly  
rate of pay of £9.50.

This might be the job for you if you are

- Hands on
- Flexible
- Have some basic DIY skills

For more information call the Hall  
Manager, Hannah Cale  
on 07562 625626 or e mail  
[mardenmemorialhall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mardenmemorialhall@yahoo.co.uk)

Please note a DBS check will be  
required, the role includes some heavy  
lifting and some evening and weekend  
work

**Closing date Friday  
6th December 2019**



