

News from Marden Parish Council

www.mardenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk



Summer 2016



Letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council

*Dear Resident,
This will be my last time I will be reporting as Chairman of the Parish Council as I have decided after 18 years as Chairman and a total of 36 years as a Councillor, the time has come to hang up my hat and step down. I have been involved in so many parish matters over the years and have tried to assist with residents' concerns as best I can. I will certainly miss being involved, but also looking forward to taking things a bit easier and having more time to spend with my long-suffering hubby John!*



I would like to thank all the previous Councillors and Chairman I have worked with over the years and for their commitment and friendship, and also the current Councillors for all their hard work and dedication. Once again it's been a busy year for the Parish Council and special thanks go to the very hard working Alison Hooker, the Parish Clerk and Erika Lock, Assistant Parish Clerk for keeping us all in line - you both deserve a gold star and I will sorely miss you!

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on the 5th April and the annual reports of the Village Groups were presented (a copy of MPC's reports can be found later in this newsletter or available to read on the website www.mardenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk which also gives details of all Parish Council meetings and other information relevant to the Parish including Planning Applications etc. You can also become a 'Friend' on our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/mardenpckent>. All meetings and minutes are well publicised and displayed around the Noticeboards in the Parish: outside the Library, the Post Office, Memorial Hall, Highwood Green and Chainhurst. The Parish Clerk is happy to display items you may wish to advertise on the Noticeboards providing it relates to the Parish.

Many thanks to all those residents who helped out at the successful 'Clean for the Queen' litter pick in March - you all did an amazing job. Once again the village is buzzing with events happening in our vibrant village and a special mention for the recent Queen's 90th Birthday picnic in Southons Field organised by the 'Marden in Bloom' group. Despite the bitterly cold windy weather, a lot of people turned up to make the event a great success. Don't forget to enter the 'Best Floral Display' competition, you should have received a flyer through your door, and there are posters around the village with details.

*Yours sadly for the last time,
Dorothy Reed*
Dorothy Reed

Kate Tippen Chairman Marden Parish Council

Dear resident,
It's a great, if somewhat scary, honour to have been asked by my Parish Council colleagues to Chair the Council for the next 12 months. Following in Dorothy's footsteps will be a hard act to follow. Dorothy has to be one of the few people in Marden who has served the village so consistently for so long and both the Parish Council and the village will miss her active involvement in parish matters, although we do hope to entice her out of retirement from time to time. Dorothy, on behalf of all of the residents and businesses in the Parish - thank you.



The elections took place on 5 May and your Parish Council was returned unopposed, without the need for election. It was very disappointing that only the existing Parish Council members, with the exception of Dorothy, stood for re-election. This now means that there are 10 Parish Councillors, not our full quota of 11. We wish to co-opt an additional Councillor to make up our numbers. So if you are interested in the village and want to help make a difference, please contact Alison in the Parish Office for information. We did welcome a new Councillor, Jane Cowin, in February who joined as a co-opted member and has stood again at the election. I would like to thank all my Councillor colleagues for standing again for a further 4 years and I look forward to continuing to work with you.

The village is undergoing more change now than it has done for many years, some might argue since the railway arrived in 1842. The Highwood Green development will be finished later this year and the Parsonage is due to start this year. We have also been informed that the Stanley Farms development should commence next year, if not before. As yet we do not know when the other developments that have planning permission granted will commence.

If you are a new resident to the village, then a very warm welcome to our community. We try to ensure a welcome pack is delivered to all new residents but as we are not automatically informed when a property changes hands, we have to rely on local knowledge. If you haven't received a welcome pack please contact Alison in the Parish Office, and she will send you one.

Warm regards,
Kate

Amenities Annual Report by Cllr Anne Boswell

The Amenities Committee looks after the open space in the village owned by the Parish Council and also the Cemetery, Rookery Path and Public Toilets. We also organise the annual village Christmas celebrations and the Summer Play Scheme and other ad hoc Events. Another very successful Village Litter Pick took place in March to coincide with the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign. Many thanks to all those residents and the Scout Group and Walking Group who participated. It certainly tidies up the Parish.

Marden Playing Field - Our main priority is to maintain this important area of village open space to a high standard. Our village caretaker, Colin Judge, undertakes all the maintenance including the mowing and landscape management. Monthly tree inspections are carried out at both the Playing Field and Rookery Path to ensure they are safe and remedial work undertaken if necessary. The changing rooms, which are owned by the Parish Council and used by Marden Minors Football Club, have been repointed this year.

We continue to maintain the play equipment and regular safety checks are carried out and remedial action taken where necessary. Unfortunately there has been another spate of anti-social behaviour in the playing field which our PCSO Nicola Morris and Community Warden Mira Martin continue to monitor. We are currently looking at the logistics of installing CCTV equipment and have been liaising with Rookery Court Management Company.

We are delighted to report that after many years negotiating with Taylor Wimpey, the transfer of the Napoleon Drive play area to the Parish Council has finally gone through. We should receive developer contributions from the Highwood Green development, which we will use to replace the outdated play equipment with under 5 equipment and improve the surfacing. We have discussed various options for the playing field with other developer contribution monies such as installing an adult gym and improved teenage facilities.

Once again a football match was recently abandoned because of excessive dog fouling. Whilst the field is covered by Maidstone Borough Council Dog Control Orders, they do not clear up the mess in the field. They will respond if dog owners are reported for allowing their dogs to foul the field and will then visit to monitor and view. Our Community Warden Mira Martin monitors the situation and we have sent evidence to Maidstone Borough Council. It is such a shame that a few irresponsible dog owners spoil things for others.

Southons Field - Southons Field is a beautiful open space facility with numerous species of trees owned by the Parish Council and the 'Kent Men of Trees' were very impressed last year with the vast array of trees. Overall, Marden was voted 'The Best Treed Village' – what an accolade! Opening hours of the field vary slightly depending on the season but is currently open for the use of anyone in the village between 7.00am to 8.00pm.

A play trail was installed last Summer for the use of both children and adults and usage of the field has increased considerably. We will also be installing a litter bin shortly.

The field is available for hire by any organisation in the village and various village celebrations take place there. This year to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, there will be a Picnic on Saturday 23rd April with wheelbarrow races and entertainment from the West Kent Big Band – donations to 'Marden in Bloom'. Another Big Marden Music Picnic will be held this year on



Dorothy was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a gold necklace from the Parish Councillors and staff at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting

Marden Annual Parish Meeting was held on 5th April the reports of the Parish Council are as follows:

Annual Accounts 2015-16

Budget Heading	Expenditure	Income
Play Scheme	£2,129.25	£4,357.40
Playing Field & Changing Rooms	£7,644.60	£541.00
Christmas	£1,840.70	£455.28
Marden Memorial Hall	£643.60	£1,212.68
Precept (MBC)	£-	£94,015.00
Bank Charges/Interest (Nat West/Santander/NS&I)	£87.75	£584.96
Community Warden	£-	£-
Cemetery	£5,714.91	£4,140.00
Parish Services Scheme/Council Tax Support (MBC)	£-	£12,355.00
Office Costs (inc. Rent, stationery, equipment, telephone & internet)	£5,431.04	£-
Staff Costs (salaries, PAYE/NIC, training, travel)	£61,357.96	£-
Chairman's Allowance	£202.17	£-
Audit Costs	£1,025.00	£-
Hall Hire	£120.00	£-
Insurance	£2,100.04	£-
Publications	£31.34	£-
Subscriptions	£1,903.36	£-
Newsletter Distribution & Publication	£3,964.96	£-
Advertising	£110.00	£-
Open Spaces & Maintenance	£1,314.61	£19,352.00
Public Conveniences	£11,196.27	£2,500.00
Donations	£200.00	£-
Youth Activities	£1,373.90	£-
Southons Field	£2,633.75	£125.00
Citizens Advice	£550.00	£-
Capital Expenditure	£10,971.88	£-
S106 contribution (developer contribution)	£-	£-
Legal Fees	£400.00	£-
Neighbourhood Plan	£2,420.47	£-
CCTV	£-	£-
Village Events	£119.90	£-
Miscellaneous (inc office security, delivery of generator)	£901.74	£246.69
Hall Roof Payments	£266,484.85	£-
Public Works Loan	£9,118.96	£334,862.75
	£401,993.01	£474,747.76

Planning Report by Cllr Lesley Mannington

Saturday 4th June which has proved such a successful event.

The field is kept 'dog free' (apart from guide dogs) as a haven for families and for children to run around safely, and there are benches to sit and have picnics. Colin also maintains the field and I am sure anyone who has recently visited will agree that it is looking magnificent – it is a wonderful village asset.

Cemetery - The Cemetery is an attractive and well maintained village amenity with a convenient footpath running to it from the village centre. I would like to record our thanks to Ian Jones, our groundsman, for all his effort and hard work he puts into maintaining it to a very high standard. I am sure you will all agree it is a delightful, peaceful and important facility.

We will need to utilise a new area which we expect will come into use over the next few years. We have already planted up a central flower bed and will be creating the layout of this area during the year. Another bench is being installed for the enjoyment of visitors and some new rabbit-proof fencing has been erected.

Public Toilets - We recognise that the Public Toilets are an important public facility which the Parish Council has responsibility for although they are owned by Maidstone Borough Council. They were refurbished last year and are certainly smarter than before.

There have been a few anti-social behaviour incidents around the area which re-enforces the need for CCTV coverage which we are hoping to install soon. Hopefully this will help to deter further incidents. A cleaner services them daily and Ian & Colin regularly check, locks them daily and deals with any maintenance that is required.

Christmas Celebration - Once again another successful village Christmas celebration took place last December and the well tested formula seemed to work with Carols and Morris dancing at The Allens then a Christmas Fair at the Memorial Hall, complete with Father Christmas in his grotto. Many of the village groups took part including the Scout Group who served 'Toasted S'mores' at the Vestry Hall and the Parish Church held another Christmas Tree display and handed out hot soup. The Christmas trees were once again erected around the village which I hope you agree helps to make the village centre look so festive.

This year's celebrations will be held on Saturday 10th December and our grateful thanks go to our Assistant Clerk Erika Lock and Parish Clerk Alison Hooker whose hard work and planning ensured the day went off successfully.

Summer Play Scheme - Because of the success of running the scheme again all day last year, it will run from 9.30am to 3.30pm from Monday 25th July to Friday 5th August at Marden Scout HQ for 5-11 year olds. Registration forms will be available from the Parish Office from the 1st June. The Play Scheme is able to take place due to funding from Marden Parish Council and hopefully Maidstone Borough Council. A new supervisor has kindly agreed to lead the team this year and we would like to extend our thanks to all the staff for their hard work.

Amenities Committee Meetings - The Amenities Committee meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the Parish Council meeting room and all are welcome to attend. I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow councillors on this Committee – Maria Brown, Dorothy Reed, Jean Robertson, Kate Tippen and Andy Turner - for all the work they have undertaken over the past year – and I should also mention Cllr Richard Adam who also regularly attends.

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2015 your Planning Committee has considered in excess of 96 applications. In addition there have been several Extraordinary General Meetings to consider additional applications or amendments relating to large developments. These, in the main, have related to residential development in Marden, local needs housing and solar farm schemes. I can assure you all that our collective expertise, experience and patience has been stretched to the full in considering the various range of applications and making our recommendations to the main decision-making body – Maidstone Borough Council.

On occasions MBC take on board our recommendations, but although we are at the grass roots, the powers that be very often think differently, as we have witnessed with the increased large residential applications. We can make our points heard at the main MBC Planning Committee, as we have done on numerous occasions, but it very often feels like our opinions or advice are falling on deaf ears and is extremely demoralising no matter how strong a case we feel we have.

The work of the Parish Planning Committee also extends to assisting in the production of Marden's Neighbourhood Plan, on which we have made considerable progress. The plan is now in its draft stage and is nearing the point when we can move forward towards its official examination.

Additionally, the Planning Committee have considered in depth Maidstone Borough Council's draft Local Plan and have reported back to MBC on where it needs to be amended as far as Marden is concerned.

We are often accused of not keeping the Parish adequately informed on up-coming planning applications. All Agendas are advertised on the notice boards around the village at the Memorial Hall, the Library, the Post Office, the new development at Highwood Green and at Chainhurst, as well as being posted on the Parish's website.

Additionally it is incumbent on Maidstone Borough Council to display its own planning notices and to inform neighbouring properties of an application. In the main part, with the exception of the proposed development at the Cricket and Hockey Club, all the developers have held exhibitions so that members of the public can view what is being proposed and comment directly to the developers.

All our parish meetings are well publicised and are open to the public when you are very welcome to attend and have your say.

Parish Council Co-option

Due to only 10 Parish Councillors being re-elected in May, the Parish Council has been informed by Maidstone Borough Council that we need to look at co-option. Any person willing to fill this vacancy should contact the Clerk in the first instance for an application form which should be returned on or before the 30th June 2016. The applicant's name must appear on the current register of the Voters List or the applicant should (a) during the whole of the 12 months preceding 4th June 2016 have resided in or within 3 miles of the Parish or (b) the applicant's place of work during the whole of the 12 months preceding the 4th June 2016 is in the parish. The applicant must be over 18 and not debarred from standing as a Councillor. If you would like some more information please contact Alison or Erika at the Parish Office. The Parish Council will consider all applications at the Full Council meeting on 12th July.

Village Parking Questionnaire

The Parish Council is very well aware that all day parking around the village causes much annoyance to residents and we are keen to find out what you think. Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) controls parking restrictions and the Parish Council will discuss your concerns with MBC once we have received your views. If you are concerned about all day parking in your road, or any other road in the Parish, please complete the questionnaire enclosed with this Newsletter and return by 1st July.

'Clean for the Queen' Litter Pick

A huge thank you to all those thoughtful and caring residents who helped out at the 'Clean for the Queen' litter pick in March. Our special thanks to the Scout Groups and their families and Marden Walking Group. What a tremendous job you all did and the areas we covered certainly looked better. Thanks also to our Borough Councillor David Burton who drove around with Cllr Anne Boswell collecting all the rubbish bags. We must also thank those residents who regularly litter pick around the village. Unfortunately we were unable to cover all the unpaved roads in the Parish, and whilst residents are most welcome to borrow litter pick equipment from the Parish Office, please be aware that volunteers are only covered by the Parish insurance if the event is formally organised. Remember if you want to report a litter issue or fly-tipping, go to Maidstone Borough Council's website.



To help keep Marden beautiful and it's also the South & South East in Bloom's theme this year 'Clean and Green', can we please encourage residents and businesses to regularly clear up their frontages and collect rubbish along their roads.

'Let's keep our village tidy – it's good to do something positive for the Community'.

On a separate issue, you may have noticed a massive pile of unsightly rubbish in an area behind the Playing Field where teenagers congregate. This land is being purchased by Millwood as the developer for the Stanley Farms site and will eventually be fenced off. Meanwhile Mira Martin, our Community Warden, has engaged the help of a colleague and a couple of local young people to litter pick this area. Are there any local volunteers willing to continue keeping the area clear? Litter picking equipment would be supplied.

Dog Fouling

Once again we need to mention the ongoing issue with dog fouling especially in the Playing Field. Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) have now provided posters which have been placed in the Playing Field to try to discourage this disgusting issue. The MBC Dog Warden does visit Marden from time to time and the Community Warden monitors the situation. If you see any dog fouling problems and manage to take a photo or description of the dog and/or owner, please either email enforcementoperations@maidstone.gov.uk or call 01622 602202.

CCTV/Anti-Social Behaviour

The Mobile CCTV Camera is currently placed in the Public Car Park to monitor anti-social behaviour around that area and is hopefully discouraging problems. The Parish Council are also looking into placing a CCTV camera at Rookery Court to monitor anti-social behavior in the Playing Field.

If you witness any anti-social behavior, please try to call 101 straight away so PCSO Nicola Morris can provide sufficient evidence to the Maidstone Community Safety Unit. However, if the situation is fairly urgent and you cannot get through on 101, please call Maidstone Police Station direct on 01622 690690. Only in an emergency should 999 be used. There is a vehicle specifically designated to anti-social behavior which can be sent to Marden if issues are reported. Nicola also constantly monitors activity in various hot spot areas in the village in the evenings.

Closure of The Cockpit Play Area

This issue has been 'bubbling' since Spring 2014 when Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) produced a draft Play Area Strategy for the borough and announced the possibility of the closure of The Cockpit Play Area as "non-strategically important". The Parish Clerk has recently been in contact with MBC and Steve McLoughlin and has been advised that the play area is definitely going to close and the equipment will be dismantled, but MBC will continue to mow the area. Marden Children's Centre has lobbied Helen Grant MP who is speaking with Alison Broom at MBC on this matter. Watch this space for further updates.

Village Summer Play Scheme

We are delighted to announce that the Village Summer Play Scheme will once again run all day – from 9.30am-3.30pm (however children are welcome to attend 9.30am to 12.30pm if they wish) and will operate from Monday 25th July to Friday 5th August at Marden Scout HQ. The scheme is open to children from the ages of 5 to 11 years (children must have reached the age of 5 by 1st September 2015) and the theme this year will be "Rio Carnival & The Olympics". Registration forms are available from Alison in the Parish Office and the Primary School Office from the 6th June.

A list of all the planned activities will be available at the same time. Rob de Keyzer will be leading the team for the first time and staff are currently being recruited. Reduced fees are available if places are pre-booked and we have secured funding from Maidstone Borough Council to help disadvantaged families with reduced/free places.

You can speak to the Parish Clerk in confidence to discuss this in more detail.

Village Speed Watch

Several more residents have now been trained to operate the Speed Watch equipment and the Assistant Clerk will be arranging some Speed Watch sessions shortly.



The Marden in Bloom group have entered the 2016 South & South East in Bloom competition and judging is taking place on 13th July. We have been busy fund-raising to kick-start our project and initially we are installing a few planters around the village with a red, white and blue theme in honour of HM 90th birthday celebrations. We have received some help from Redrow to tidy up the frontage of the Memorial Hall and have contacted village community groups for their thoughts on ways they can help or participate. As a result, the Church is placing planters at the front of both the Church and Vestry Hall; the History Group are placing a section of the Pluto line at the front of the Library surrounded by a rockery with flowers and Golden Hill have generously offered to supply hydrangeas to run along the fence; the Horticultural Society have been raising money by selling sweet peas and holding a raffle at the Queen's Picnic event; Marden Walking Group are hoping to place a planter in the High Street and the Marden Society are looking into placing a trough at the front of the Library.

We are currently putting together the judging route for the S&SE in Bloom competition and it has pinpointed to us what an amazingly diverse Parish Marden is.

Calling all Marden Residents, Community Groups & Businesses 'Best Floral Display'!

Hopefully you will have received a flyer through your doors to enter the 'Best Floral Display' competition with a red, white & blue theme to mark HM The Queen's 90th Birthday. The categories are for residents, businesses/village communities and judging will be on Sunday 17th July. This is a chance for all you 'green fingered' Mardenians to brighten up your neighbourhood and will count towards the S&SE in Bloom competition. Boxes for entry forms have been placed at The Unicorn, Crowhurst & Tompsett, West End Tavern and West End Stores or email to info@mardeninbloom.co.uk All entrants can claim a 20% discount for up to 20 plants at Golden Hill Nurseries.

The Marden in Bloom project is about village engagement and participation and a chance to be proud of the village you live in. Please check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MardeninBloom> Come on Marden, let's get our village looking beautiful and we are asking you very nicely if you could keep your frontages weed free and tidy for the S&SE in Bloom judging event on 13th July.



We need your help at Marden Primary School

Could you become a volunteer reader at the school? We are looking for volunteers from our community to assist some of our children who would benefit from extra support with their reading. There are three routes you may wish to consider and, if so, please contact the school office to register your interest:

1. Can you spare 25 minutes after drop off at least 3 mornings a week to read with the same one or two children each day?
2. Can you spare an afternoon a week to hear readers in the same class each week?
3. Would you like something more formal, with ongoing training and support?

For more information and possible training please contact Malcolm Goddard, Headteacher, on 01622 831393.

Road Names on Development Sites

With the impending new developments, we would like your ideas on what the road names could be called. On the Highwood Green site, Councillors requested the road names be named after the WW1 fallen who had connections with Marden and lost their lives during that Great War. On the Parsonage site, which will be starting this year, the roads will be named after Hop varieties and unfortunately we could not consult on this as MBC and the developer wanted a response by the end of May. However if you have any suggestions of what the roads on the other new developments could be called, please let Alison in the Parish Office know. We already have roads named after apples, pears and cherries, so other ideas please e.g. the fallen of Marden in WW2 or residents who have made a difference to our village.

Newsletter Advertising

The Parish Council will always endeavour to include short items in the newsletter of no more than half a column from village community organisations. However, if you require more space, then you will need to produce a separate page to be inserted into the newsletter, at your own cost.

The request for insertion into the newsletter or a flyer must be made in writing to the Parish Clerk at least two weeks prior to the newsletter being sent to print (dates available from the Parish Clerk or www.mardenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk). A copy of the proposed insert should also be included and the Parish Council retains the right to refuse to accept the insert or ask for amendments to be made. Where the Parish Council accepts such an insert, it will be on the basis that it is ready by the date specified by the Parish Clerk and that the community organisation agrees to deliver a minimum of 25% (approx. 350 at the moment) of the newsletters in the time frame specified by the Clerk.

What's going on in Marden?

Any groups, organisations or businesses who are arranging an event, please call Erika on 01622 832305 or email erika.mardenpc@btconnect.com who will place the event on the Parish Council website under 'Village Events' and also on the Facebook page. Let's keep our village connected!

Marden Farmer's Market - 12th June. A new Farmer's Market has been set up in Marden and this is held on the 2nd Sunday in the month from 9.30am to 1pm. See the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Marden-Farmers-Market-1016286341740669/>

Village Siren – Saturday 4th June. The History Group will be 'firing' the Siren at 3pm to commemorate 'D Day minus 1' – so

don't panic – it's also a signal that the Big Musical Picnic is about to start! As an aside, The Heritage Centre's current exhibition 'Shops in Marden, Past and Present' running until August.

Marden's Big Musical Picnic Southons Field – Saturday 4th June 2pm-8pm Once again the very successful Marden's Big Musical Picnic, organised by the Friends of Marden's Heritage, will take place on Saturday 4th June. Gates open at 2pm & tickets available on the gate only - £5 for adults, £4 for Seniors & £2 for children under 15. Games & music start at 3.30pm – there's the Blues Brothers, the West Kent Big Band as well as all your favourite local artistes + stalls and refreshments! So come along and enjoy a fun family day out!

Table Top Sale Saturday 11th June – 10am-1pm at Marden Scout HQ (free entry for buyers). The Scouts are holding a table-top sale on 11th June. Pitches £8 (or £10 with table provided) & must be booked in advance via contact@mardenscouts.org Set-up for sellers from 9 am with parking in adjacent car park. Refreshments and BBQ available.

WI 90th Anniversary Celebration Saturday 2nd July – 9.30am-12.30pm Marden WI was founded on 13th May 1926 when there were 120 members and continues to thrive today, although with fewer members. This year, being our 90th birthday, we have an Extravaganza on the morning of 2nd July in the Vestry Hall from 9.30am to 12.30pm when we are inviting the village for coffee and cake on the house plus historical and craft displays and a promotion of the WI today. Our monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month in the Vestry Hall commencing at 7.45pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For further details please contact Moira Ensoll on 01622 820568.

Napoleon Drive Play Area Finally the Parish Council have been successful in transferring the ownership of this small and 'tired' play area adjacent to the Playing Field from Taylor Wimpey. Hopefully we will be able to replace the current play equipment for the under 5's and resurface the area dependent on Developer Contribution monies.

Southons Field The Parish Council have placed a few logs to form a toddler table and seats at the Play Trail in Southons Field and we hope the little children enjoy having a picnic there! we're also hoping to install a couple of football posts to encourage families to kick a ball around. It's a beautiful dog-free open space (apart from guide dogs) to escape to and a safe haven for children to run around. Current opening times: 7am-8pm

Local Heroes!

Rachel Gillis-Coates is a well-known, friendly face in Marden. Along with her husband Mo (another 'Local Hero'), Rachel organises many events for the benefit of the community and is involved in several groups and organisations. She is active on social media, tirelessly publicising events and highlighting issues that affect the village she loves. Her family printing business supports the work of numerous local charities and she is unstinting with her time and efforts. Most of all, Rachel is approachable, big-hearted and great fun – someone was overheard saying 'I want to end up in whatever retirement home Rachel is at!' She is the perfect 'Local Hero'. If you would like to nominate a special 'Local Hero' please email anne.boswell@ymail.com know. 'Community Engagement' is what it's all about'.

NatWest Bank Mobile Branch

Please note that NatWest Mobile branch will be at the Public Car Park behind the Library between 2.15-3.15pm every Tuesday.

Police Surgery

Your local officer PCSO Nicola Morris will be holding police surgeries on the following dates and locations: 4th June 2-4pm Marden Music Picnic, 13th July (7-8pm), 3rd August & 7th September (6-7pm) at Marden Train Station.

Removal of the Saturday Freighter Service

The Saturday Freighter Service has unfortunately come to an end. For other ways to dispose of your waste, please visit Maidstone Borough Council's 'Other Collections Page' or take it to the Tovil Recycling Centre:

<http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/binsandrecycling/other-types-of-collections>

Recycling

Now the clothes recycling bin has been removed in the Public Car Park, your discarded clothes can be recycled by the Borough. Please check out the website:

<http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/binsandrecycling/recycling>
You can still recycle locally by taking clean clothes and shoes to the Primary School where there are two bins near to the school vehicular entrance (please note this is only accessible during school time). Please see posters for more details.

Parish Office Opening Hours:

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

Useful information:

Parish Clerk:

Alison Hooker – 01622 832305 – mardenpc@btconnect.com

Assistant Parish Clerk:

Erika Lock – 01622 832305 – erika.mardenpc@btconnect.com

Cllr Kate Tippen – 01622 832305 – Chairman

Cllr Richard Adam – 831673 / richard@tn12.uk – Vice-Chairman

Cllr Anne Boswell – 833351 / 07828 868703

Cllr Maria Brown – 832305 Cllr Chris Childs – 832305

Cllr Jane Cowin – 832305 Cllr Ian Newton – 831832

Cllr Lesley Mannington – 07802 720069

Cllr Jean Robertson – 831331 / 07950 816370

Cllr Andy Turner – 07803 598813

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

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/mardenpckent>

Police Contact: PCSO Nicola Morris – 101 or

Nicola.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk

Community Warden Contact: Mira Martin – 07969 584179

British Transport Police: Freephone 0800 405 040

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

Fault Reporting:

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

Kent County Council:

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

