

News from **Marden Parish Council**



Autumn 2017



Letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council



Dear resident

We seemed set for a long hot summer, until the schools broke up. I hope the late July and August weather hasn't spoilt your summer holidays. It certainly didn't spoil the annual Summer Play Scheme organised by the Parish Council. Many thanks to all those who worked to make it so successful and to Ali our very hard working Clerk who spent hours on many behind the scenes tasks essential to the smooth running of the play scheme. I was there when the children left on the final day and the atmosphere was electric, it was clear children and helpers alike had had a fantastic time. See the article for more information.

The Parish Council has spent a lot of time recently talking to the developers in the village and there's more information later in this newsletter. If you have recently moved to Marden - welcome to our village, we are very proud of our community and this Newsletter is one way of keeping residents informed about what's going on. If you haven't received a village welcome pack, then contact Ali, our Parish Clerk (contact information at the end of the newsletter) and she will send you one.

I reported in the last newsletter that Colin Judge our village caretaker had retired. I am now delighted to report that we have a new village caretaker, Mr. Chris Prince. Chris has recently moved to Marden and is looking forward to meeting many of you and getting involved with the village. You will see him around the village, especially at the Playing Field and Southons Field, do stop and say hello. Whilst we have been without a caretaker, we have tried to ensure that as much of the work as possible has continued. I'd like to thank Parish Councillor Ian Newton for giving up so much of his time to mow the fields, Ian Jones, our Cemetery Caretaker for taking on extra duties and other contractors who have taken on work for us.

Warm regards

Kate

Kate

Hey - our newsletter has changed!

With so many things going on in Marden we have so much to tell you. Our population has increased too so we're trying out a new format this time, not just full of interesting and important information but now full of colour and, since the word count has gone up, it is an easier size to hold and read. Please let us know what you think of it by sending comments to clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk and let us know of anything else you would like included.

Do you have a few hours to spare once a quarter? As the village grows so does the number of newsletters we need to produce and distribute to every household in the

Parish. Currently distribution is done by Parish Councillors, Clerks, Caretakers and some residents (we post to the outlying rural areas). If you have any spare time to help us cover a few roads we would be very grateful. Please let Erika know if you are able to help
assistantclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Summer Play Scheme

The Summer Play Scheme was again a very successful event and this year the theme was 'Around the World Safari'. A great trip was organised to the Rare Breeds Centre and a visit from Animal Encounters along with many activities including arts, crafts, sports and an inflatable assault course. The parents, grandparents etc were invited to come along on the first Friday afternoon to view what the children had been enjoying and also were able to watch the end of scheme showcase on Wednesday 2nd (albeit in the rain!). Over 75 children were registered, many attending for the whole of the scheme.

We've had such great feedback from parents with all the imaginative activities Jordan Manley and the rest of the staff undertook keeping the children entertained and happy. So many thanks for all their hard work – the kids had a whale of a time. Parent feedback forms have been sent out and it would be great if these can be completed and returned to Alison so that we can look at possible improvements next year. If you have not received a form and your child attended, please let Alison know.

Parking and Road Safety

Cllr Kate Tippen

Last year we asked you for your views and suggestions about parking in Marden. Since then we have analysed the responses and it is probably no surprise that there are no simple answers. However, we have continued to work in the background to lobby KCC Highways Department; our County Councillor, Eric Hotson; South Eastern Trains and with developers to ensure they meet the highways conditions they have been set.

Where are we now?

Measures that are due to be implemented as a result of the developments, although no date is yet set, include:

- Upgrading the zebra crossing outside the School to a Puffin crossing (there was information about this in the last newsletter)
- Installing an interactive speed sign on Goudhurst Road near Highwood Green/ Parsonage sites
- Additional double yellow lines by the entrance to the Parsonage
- Enhancing the 30mph gateway to the village on Goudhurst Road
- Introducing a zebra crossing between Chantry Road and the Station
- Extending the 30mph speed limit along Thorn Road to beyond the junction with Copper Lane and the entire length of Plain Road
- Enhancing the 30mph speed limit gateway at the Howland Road entrance to the village

One of your main concerns is road safety especially outside the School. No doubt many of you are aware of the recent accident outside the Memorial Hall, and the

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numerous accidents that have previously occurred in that location. We have asked Eric Hotson, our County Councillor, to urgently investigate with Kent Highways and to come up with solutions to help improve road safety.

There are a few simple things we can all think about doing to help improve road safety outside the School:

● Do you park all day in Goudhurst Road? If you do consider if that is in the best interest of pedestrians particularly children walking on the narrow footpath between the School and Highwood Green. Due to parking in that area the road becomes one way and there is very little space for oncoming vehicles to pull in. We have had incidents of vehicles mounting the narrow pavement when there have been pedestrians on the pavement.

● Do you drop your children off at School and pick them up? Do you have to? Is walking an option? If you have to drive where do you park? Do you need to park so close to the School? Have you considered parking a little further away?

● I'm often in the vicinity of the School at drop off and pick up times and I have been horrified by the lack of road safety demonstrated by some drivers at that time. Turning in the road, reversing into the road from the School entrance, parking across residents' drives, parking very close to the Memorial Hall entrance so that the sight line is impeded, obstructing the pavement by parking there. These actions are dangerous and are nearly always carried out by people who have dropped off/picked up children from the School and seem to have no regard for the safety of their own or other children. **Please don't do it!!**

● If you are not connected to the School can you change the timing of your journey along Goudhurst Road so that it doesn't conflict with peak School traffic times?

● Whichever way you are travelling along Goudhurst Road/West End be mindful of your speed especially on the corner between the West End Tavern and the Memorial Hall.

Once we have a clearer idea of when the road safety improvements will be implemented and the exact details are available, we will then look to hold a Public Consultation day to gain your views about what else needs to happen to improve road safety across the village.

GCSE results are out

5 out of the top 10 highest grade achieving pupils at Mascalls School, Paddock Wood all went to Marden Primary School - Congratulations.

Well done to these 5 pupils along with all other students from Marden who have received their GCSE and A level results this year.

County Councillor and Borough Councillor Liaison

Marden Parish Council (MPC) now hold regular update meetings with our new County Councillor Eric Hotson and Borough Councillors David Burton, Annabelle Blackmore and Steve McLoughlin. These are proving to be extremely useful and important where we can raise issues including Highways and Planning matters.

The Patients Reference Group (PRG)

If you are a patient of Marden Medical Centre, you can become a member of our Patient Reference Group and keep up to date with the latest developments in services in the NHS in West Kent.

WHO WE ARE: The Marden Medical Centre Patient Reference Group was formed in 2011 and exists both to facilitate the work of the Marden Medical Centre in its provision of services to patients and to provide a central point of reference through which the Practice may obtain advice, views and help of its patients. It is not a forum for complaints. For the most part it is a virtual group and information about developments in local and West Kent NHS services and Newsletters are regularly sent to members - Please join us.

Unfortunately in the last edition of the Parish Newsletter the incorrect link to Marden PRG website was given. This is the correct link to go to for information
<http://www.marden-prg.org.uk/>

Southern Water Services (SWS)

The Drainage Area Plan (DAP) for Horsmonden, which includes Marden, is now complete and due to the complex drainage systems in Marden, SWS have been undertaking a wide range of structural condition surveys, modelling and working closely with both the Environment Agency and Kent County Council (KCC), as well as other organisations, who also have a role in delivering drainage services to Marden.

SWS have found that whilst the sewer network serving Marden is predominantly

foul only, there are significant issues with both groundwater infiltration and surface water inundation. The solution that has been identified will require a multi-agency approach as they can be best delivered through watercourse management, in conjunction with improved management of highway flows. SWS have already worked with KCC, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, to ensure the actions outlined in their Surface Water Management Plan are carried out. However, SWS would like to encourage the local community to get involved by ensuring that local drainage ditches, often maintained by local land owners, are kept clear and in good working order. This will ensure that surface water is able to drain away to land, lessening any impact on the public sewer network.

Wastewater flows from Marden are transferred to SWS's Wastewater Treatment Works at Horsmonden through a 3.6km stretch of pipe from the Roughlands Pumping Station. The pipe is old and needs replacing to protect the environment and ensure wastewater can continue to be removed effectively. 1.4km stretch of this pipe has already been replaced and SWS are currently investigating whether they need to return to complete the replacement of the remaining 2.2km and certainly the new pipe will be better able to accommodate the demands of the new developments in Marden. A proactive Sewer Rehabilitation Team have been working in the wider sewer network serving Marden, refurbishing sections of pipe as well as manhole chambers which they have identified as being particularly vulnerable to infiltration. This includes the rehabilitation of 1070m of sewer to reduce infiltration completed prior to April this year with a further 330m planned.

The findings of the DAP will be used to guide current and future investment in the area and will inform the development of a Drainage Strategy.

Check out:

www.southernwater.co.uk/drainagestrategies

Planning Update:

Please check out the 'Planning Tracker' link on the Marden Parish Council website <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/> Councillors try to hold regular meetings with the developers to keep on track and here's a brief update:

● **Gladman Developers** – As you are probably aware, Gladman have appealed against Maidstone Borough Council's (MBC) decision on the proposed Maidstone Road development and a date for the Public Enquiry is still awaited. However we have been advised that MBC will robustly defend their decision of refusal.

● **Millwood Homes** – Land off Plain Road - Parish Councillors recently met with Millwood Homes who confirmed that work is progressing well and it is envisaged that the first five houses, including the show house, the access from Napoleon Drive and the area of open space, will be finished by October. Parts of Plain Road are breaking up and Millwood has met with Kent Highways about rectifying this. It is understood that the balancing pond in Napoleon Drive is still in the ownership of Taylor Wimpey and not Millwood, so Marden Parish Council will liaise with them requesting it be cleared and maintained. Millwood have already cleared the ditch and reduced the vegetation at the back of the Playing Field, but unfortunately a large amount of litter has accumulated again and Millwood are going to see what assistance

can be given in clearing the area again. The village Youth Club is also hoping to assist with clearing the area of litter.

● **Redrow – Highwood Green** – Parish Councillors recently met with Ian Day the Redrow site manager for both Highwood Green and The Parsonage. He has confirmed that the ditch on Goudhurst Road will be cleared soon and that the area opposite Spring Grove Cottages has been seeded. The management company appointed by Redrow will be responsible for maintaining these areas, along with the rest of the site. Redrow are doing their final works to the roads on the site in readiness for transfer to Kent Highways.

● **Redrow – The Parsonage.** Ian updated Councillors on progress. Some of the houses are now completed and occupied. The site will not be fully completed until 2020. Maidstone Local Plan allowed for a further 50 dwellings to be built in the field adjacent to the Parsonage and Ian confirmed that Redrow has now purchased this field and are submitting a planning application to Maidstone Borough Council. It is envisaged that this site will be developed in conjunction with the Parsonage, hence the 2020 completion date. The top course of tarmac on Admiral Way is due to be laid shortly, hopefully this will reduce the flooding at the entrance to Goudhurst Road. There is still top soil to be removed from the site so the heavy lorries will continue for a few more weeks. There will be a footpath link between the Parsonage and the path which links Maynards and Goudhurst Road. The link is closed at the moment for safety reasons. Redrow own the ditch, which separates the site from Maynards and The Cockpit, and will shortly be undertaking clearance of the ditch, as well as some work for Southern

Water, they will also be constructing a fence along the ditch line. Redrow and the management company, yet to be appointed, will be responsible for maintaining the ditch and hedgerow. The new large area of open space at the rear of the site is due for completion in Spring 2018. Ian confirmed that there is a wheel wash at the site and that Goudhurst Road is swept twice each day. He also confirmed that all their suppliers are given strict delivery times so as not to conflict with peak traffic at school time. He also confirmed that all work with machinery only takes place between 8.00am and 6.00pm Monday to Friday and 8.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays. He did admit that there is some out of hours working by plasterers, decorators, electricians etc, but none of this should involve external noise.

● **Jones Homes** - Appledown Grange, Howland Road – The groundwork for this site has nearly finished and Councillors will be arranging an update meeting with developers.

● **Marden Cricket & Hockey Club** – Revised plans were supposed to be resubmitted earlier this year, but as yet nothing has been received by the Parish Council. Therefore Councillor Burton is checking with Maidstone Borough Council Planning for an update on the position.

Street Names - Did you know?

The roads in Highwood Green have been named after village families who lost loved ones in the First World War. More information about this and many aspects of Marden history can be found at our excellent Heritage Centre, located at the Library.

Street names plates for The Parsonage have now been installed – did you spot that they are all named after hop varieties?

The roads at the Millwood site will all be named after countryside flowers. There will be two roads at the Howland Road site – Roberts and Ramsden named after a much loved previous headmaster of the Primary School and a village doctor.

Marden Parish Council (MPC) Van

MPC have now leased a van for the use of the Village Caretakers and Clerks which is a much needed resource.

The van will also be available for village groups and societies, when not needed by the Parish Council. Drivers must be over 25, hold a full driving licence and the van must not be used for personal or commercial use. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Open space update

Napoleon Drive Under 5 Play Area – as many parents are already aware, installation of this new play area has been finished and we understand lots of young children have been enjoying its benefits – another much needed village asset. This has been fully funded by Section 106 money from the Highwood Green development. At some point, we are hoping to install a bench and over the next few months, we will be further tidying up the grassed area around. *See photograph.*

Playing Field – Councillors will be sourcing a new Youth Shelter for the Playing Field which will be funded by Section 106 money. It will be positioned at the far end of the field



Napoleon Drive Under 5 Play Area

away from the Play Area, and two new litter bins placed close by, one kindly funded by our Community Warden Mira Martin. We will be liaising with the Youth Group before a decision is made. We will also remove the existing Youth Shelter which has reached the end of its life. We also plan to replace the existing Sports Wall which will have more features and hopefully a lot quieter than the existing one! After that we will be exploring Adult Gym equipment which will be positioned near the Sports Wall and maybe even a running track around the edge of the field. Residents will be consulted regarding any future plans at the playing field. We have a large sum of Section 106 money available to develop facilities at the Playing Field, and if you have any ideas about new facilities, then please let us know.

Southons Field – this beautiful field is now well used by families for picnics and such a lovely place to relax and enjoy with, of course, the added bonus of the Play Trail. This Summer it hosted two big events – the very successful ‘What Marden Does Best Event’ (see below) in June and the Rude Mechanical Theatre Company’s excellent

performance of ‘The Commercial Traveller’ in July which we are hoping to run next year too.

Hopefully if we do receive any developer contribution money for this field, we will be able to install more facilities.

Marden Cemetery – The Parish Council entered the cemetery into the South & South East in Bloom competition this year and the judges came along in July. They were very impressed with our lovely cemetery which has been so carefully and creatively tended by our cemetery caretaker Ian Jones (below) for 30 years – the results will be announced later in September.



Byelaws

As the majority of you will have read in an earlier newsletter, Marden Parish Council are looking to amend the open space byelaws. Some amendments have had to be made and to view the new revised document, please go to www.marden-pc.gov.uk you will find the document in other information.

Marden in Bloom

We hope you enjoyed the Summer planters and thanks to those residents who have helped to water them. The generosity of Golden Hill Nursery has been outstanding once again in donating all the plants for the Summer. We have installed another one in Chantry Road and also on the railings leading to 'The Cockpit'.

'Insect on Plant' Photo Competition - Don't forget to post your entries before **the end of September** – it could be a bee, butterfly or any kind of insect. You can post on our Facebook page or email to: mardeninbloom@outlook.com or pop a photo into 7 Barnes Walk. We are planning to display entries at the Library and the contenders will also be displayed on the Marden in Bloom Facebook page.

'Best Blooming Frontage Competition' – both Marden in Bloom members and the

Walking Group checked out the Parish observing all the lovely front gardens. 75 potential contenders were identified which were whittled down to 25. Members have now made their nominations and here are the results: 1st place and outright winner - congratulations to Mrs Joyce Pope of 3 The Allens - a beautiful display; joint 2nd place - 32 Sovereigns Way and The Cottage, High Street; joint 3rd place - our beautiful St Michael & All Angels Church and 5 Cranham Square - well done for all your hard work and effort in making your front gardens look so great and, of course, to the other 20 contenders - you know who you are! We are hoping to put on a display of the gardens in the Library in the Autumn and on our Facebook page.

School Project – Back in the Spring every child was given a packet of Sunflower Seeds to grow and we have focused on showing the children how important bees are. *'The Longest Runner Bean'* competition was won by *'Griffins'* class and the children had fun watering and watching their beans grow.

Autumn Bulb Planting – we are planning to plant more bulbs around various green areas in the village in October and we will place posters up around the village and on Facebook when this will take place. Please come along and help – a great community activity to help make our village look pretty in the Spring!

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Autumn Clean-Up

MBC are running an Autumn Clean-Up following the success of *'Clean for the Queen'* in 2016 and the *'Great British Spring Clean'* this March. As we all know, litter remains a problem across our borough



often cluttering streets and open spaces and causing harm to the environment. MBC want to change this by carrying out another clean-up this Autumn and need your nominations for where you think their team can help – *'It is vitally important for everyone to join together to help clean up our communities and show that we don't tolerate litter'*. If you would like to get involved and see an area near you cleared up, please email nicolatoulson@maidstone.gov.uk or call 01622 602568. Of course, Marden Parish Council will be organising their annual litter pick next Spring and the date will be announced in the Winter Newsletter.

Fly Tipping

Maidstone Borough Council is cracking down on fly-tipping in the borough and is currently pursuing several investigations to secure prosecutions against persistent fly-tippers. Not only is fly-tipping anti-social, it is a crime! Illegally dumping waste is punishable by a fine of up to £50,000 or 12 months imprisonment if convicted in a Magistrates' Court. Since January 2017, MBC Enforcement Officers have been meticulously preparing a series of legal files and working with Kent's Rural Policing Team to secure convictions. Most residents are keen to act responsibly and enlist the help of traders, often through social media, to dispose of their waste. Unfortunately, quite often these traders turn out to be rogue and do not dispose of the waste using legal channels, resulting in the home owners facing a fine of up to £5,000. MBC offers a reasonably priced Bulky Waste Collection service which residents can access online at www.maidstone.gov.uk you can also use this website to report any fly tipping you spot around the village.

Marden Youth Club

The youth service now falls under the new Early Help and Preventative Services and youth sessions are known as *'Open Access'* meaning they are universal services. The Youth Hub for Maidstone is Infozone and Marden Youth Club meets each Wednesday in the John Banks Hall from 6.30pm to 8.30pm where a team of 3-4 youth workers have a planned activity each week and the most important aspect of their job is to actually talk to the young people, to get to know them and find out what is going on in their lives. Average attendance is 15-30 young people aged 11-19 and quite a few have additional needs and/or are vulnerable in some way. The youth workers have implemented new strategies to manage behavior and allocate each young person their own *'key worker'* that they can talk to if they have a problem. They are also able to keep the youth club open during school holidays and day trips can be run by the Infozone core staff team in the daytime. This is an excellent service for our young people and the Infozone staff are to be highly commended. Anybody is welcome to go along and see what they get up to each week.

Marden Children's Centre

Each Maidstone Town and Rural Children's Centre offers different services including childcare, early education, training or finding a new job, ante-natal classes, baby clinics, support with breastfeeding, support with parenting and speech and language, drop-in sessions for parents and children, services for children with special needs and disabilities and opportunities for families to get involved with volunteering and designing services.

Do you know what services Marden Outreach Centre provide in helping to support families?

Monday – Open 8.30am-4.30pm

Discovery Play – Stay & Play (0-18 months)
9.30-11.30am

Child Health Clinic Drop In (2nd Monday of month) – 9.30-11.30am

Child Development Checks on other Mondays by appointment

'Sing & Sign' Babes Class at 1pm and Stage 1 at 1.45pm – please contact Victoria Jones on 07775 536403 for details and booking

Tuesday – Open 8.30am-4.30pm

Golding Homes Job Club Fortnightly 1-3pm – drop in for a cuppa & cake and get advice about job searches and applications, CV writing, training opportunities and more.

Thursday – Open 8.30am-4.30pm

Stay & Play – 0-5 years – 9.30-11.00am

IASK Drop in 9.30-11.00am - ask for details of a special educational needs and disabilities service for children, young people and their parents

Friday – Open 8.30am-4.30pm

Baby Massage – 5 sessions -2-3pm

Marden Minors Football Club (MMFC)

Marden Minors Sunday who play at Marden Playing Field in Division 1 of the Maidstone & Mid Kent League, are looking for good standard senior players to join them (particularly wingers or strikers). If you are interested please contact Andy on 07539 391533.

Marden Village Baby and Toddler Group

The Baby & Toddler Group meet at The Congregational Chapel on Wednesdays (term time only) from 9.15am to 11.45am - £3 per family which includes refreshments. Come along for a chat and a cuppa where like minded parents/carers can get together whilst children can enjoy an array of fun and educational toys and activities. Healthy snack time for the children is included. We end the session with a short music time. Music Time held on Tuesdays (term time only) from 9.15am to 10.15am - £1 per family

Marden Memorial Hall - Facilities Manager position

Marden Memorial Hall Trustees are looking to employ a part-time Facilities Manager working a minimum of 10 hours per week at a rate of £12 per hour. To be responsible for all aspects of the Memorial Hall in regard to hiring of halls, invoicing, managing staff and overseeing maintenance and to ensure the hall complies with all current legislation relating to site safety, health & safety and management. The Facilities Manager will also be the main point of contact for hirers, prospective hirers and contractors.

For further details, job description and application form please email ardenmemorialhall@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 07562 625626.

Closing date 29th September 2017.

which includes refreshments. "Shake, Rattle & Roll!" Plenty of instruments with space to jump and dance to your favourite nursery rhymes. Get in touch at mardenvillagebabyandtoddler@gmail.com

Local Heroes!

Marden would like to thank those who organised the *'What Marden Does Best'* event back in June in Southons Field which showcased all that is great about Marden and gave coverage to our local sports groups, talented musicians, dancers etc, village groups and businesses. They raised an amazing amount of money which was distributed between the Kent Air Ambulance and Friends of Marden Heritage. So well done to our local heroes David Brockis, Chris Bampton, Nigel Jenner, Darren Reeves & Matt Mitchell - Co-organisers - you did a great job and it was a brilliant event and certainly a hot one.

If you would like to nominate a special *'Local Hero'*, please email anne.boswell@gmail.com

What's going on in Marden this Autumn?

As ever there's lots going on this Autumn and any group, organisation or business who are arranging an event please call Erika on 01622 832305 or email assistantclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk which can be advertised on the Parish Council website under *'Village Events'* and also on the Facebook page. If you would like to include your village group event in the Newsletter, please let anne.boswell@gmail.com know. Let's keep Marden connected!

Bulb Sale – Saturday 9th September from 8.00-10.30am outside Crowhurst & Tompsett – come along to buy your tulips and alliums for the Spring and help support Marden in Bloom.

Hog Roast at Turnpike House with Marden Heritage/History Group – Sunday 17th September - watch out for details!

Barn Dance Hoedown – Saturday 7th October from 7.30pm – Marden Memorial Hall Please come along and support Marden in Bloom for a good old 'yee ha'. Tickets £12.50 per head to include food and entertainment + a great raffle. Details to be posted around the village, but put the event in your diaries in anticipation of a good Saturday night of fun!

Marden Theatre Group will be presenting 'Allo Allo' - Thursday 26th, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th October in the Memorial Hall - the hilarious war-time sitcom set in France – full details on the Marden Theatre Group Facebook page and posters around the village:

Marden PTA Firework Display – Saturday 4th November - 5pm-7pm – Southons Field Please see posters and Facebook for more details nearer the time

Village Siren – Sunday 12th November at 12.30pm The History Group will be 'sounding' the Village Siren to commemorate Remembrance Sunday. There will be WW1 and WW2 music with the British Legion and Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

Heritage Centre Exhibition – Saturday 25th November 2017 – Weddings In Marden To be opened at 1pm by County Councillor Eric Hotson – will also be a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Heritage Centre.

**Christmas Wreath Making Workshop –
Tuesday 5th December at 7.30pm in the
Congregational Hall - Marden in Bloom**

would like to invite you to come along and be creative and make a stunning Christmas wreath with Fiona from Golden Hill. £25 per head but details will be posted around the village and on Facebook nearer the date.

Marden at Christmas Event – Saturday 9th December – A number of events will be running as in previous years – look out for the posters and on Marden Parish Council's Facebook page soon. If you would like to run a stall at this event, preferably with a Christmas theme, please email Erika: assistantclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk or call 01622 832305. Councillors and residents will be meeting on Tuesday 17th October to finalise the day so if you would like to contribute or suggest anything please contact Erika.

Mill Farm Wetland Project

by Peter Hall

As you well know, in 2016 after a prolonged period of heavy rain coinciding with spring tides and a full moon, the confluence that is Yalding was badly flooded. The Environment Agency has spent many hundreds of thousands of pounds modelling weather systems and has decided there is a limitation to help Yalding. We live upstream in Marden, so although we may be sympathetic, we do not have filthy, freezing flood water pouring through the bedroom. However what we do have is thousands of acres of the largest flood plain in southern England and a great deal of land of marginal agricultural value to enable us to help our friends downstream.

continued

Fun at the Summer Play Scheme



Together with Kent County Council planning and funding and RSPB equipment, we started work in Autumn 2016 on a prototype scheme on farmland at the end of Pattenden Lane to 'park' excess water during such extreme weather events. Once completed, we hope to create twenty thousand cubic metres, or 2 million litres, of water storing wetland. This wetland will fill up and drain during extended periods of rainfall to buffer the flow of water into the Teise and Beult thereby reducing the surges that are so devastating downstream for both people and wildlife.

On its own, this project will not solve the problem, but there are dozens of farms within the catchment upon where similar schemes could be developed and we have already hosted visits from interested farmers and landowners.

Our project will cost approximately £20,000 and requires almost zero maintenance, so for the cost of the flood modelling for example, one could have 40-50 such schemes which certainly would have an effect on water management within the catchment. Excavation should be complete this Autumn and the surrounding meadow will be restored and a shelter belt of mixed species tree planting will be created on the bank along the north east side of the field.

The KCC & RSPB design is such that whilst the wetland will fill right up in flood situations, it will not drain fully out thus ensuring that under most circumstances, there will be a body of water with gently sloping banks all the year round. Such habitat will enable the land to hold a greater and more diverse number of species, particularly of birds. The intention is that once established, 'hides' will be positioned to enable 'birders' to watch the comings and

goings around the water; it is hoped that these facilities may also be used for educational purposes as well as providing invaluable wildlife habitat for such endangered 'red list' bird species such as the Turtle Dove and Yellow Hammers. A win for Yalding and a win-win for the tax payer. For more information check out <http://www.hehall.co.uk/> and they also have a very interesting report on '*Birds and Conservation at Mill Farm & Little Mill Farm*'

Kent Police

If you are interested there is a website available to everyone where you can log in, click on "Maidstone" then "Marden & Yalding" and it will provide details of all the recent crimes in the area. The link is www.e-watch.co. The website also provide other information in community safety -it's well worth a visit.

Mobility Aids Amnesty

If you have any unwanted crutches, zimmer frames, walking sticks or wheelchairs that are in good condition, please take them to Marden Medical Centre. They are working with the Red Cross who will pick them up and distribute back to the hospital or within the community.

Albion Road

As we go to print we understand that it will not be necessary to close Albion Road for the gas main works. Instead traffic flow will be controlled by traffic lights.

Children enjoying the Summer Play Scheme



Parish Council Contact Details

Chairman

Cllr Kate Tippen 01622 832305
07721 579006
kate.tippen1@gmail.com

Vice-Chairman

Cllr Richard Adam 831673
richard@tn12.uk

Amenities Committee Chairman

Cllr Anne Boswell 833351
07808 868703

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Cllr Ian Newton 831832

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07950 816370
Cllr Andy Turner 07803 598813

Parish Clerk

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

Assistant Parish Clerk

Erika Lock 832305
assistantclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

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Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden TN12 9JX

Marden Parish Council Website:

www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Follow us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/MardenParishCouncil/>

Office opening times:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday - 10.00am to 12noon

Other Useful Contact Numbers:

Borough Councillors

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annabelleblackmore@maidstone.gov.uk
David Burton 07590 229910
david.burton@burtons.uk.com
Steve McLoughlin 01622 820551
stevemcloughlin@tiscali.co.uk

County Councillor

Eric Hotson 01580 892312
eric.hotson@kent.gov.uk

Police Community Support Officer

PCSO Nicola Morris 101
nicola.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk

Community Warden

Mira Martin 07969 584179
mira.martin@kent.gov.uk

British Transport Police:

Freephone 0800 405 040

Fault Reporting:

Maidstone Borough Council
Flytipping, Abandoned Vehicles, Dog Fouling,
Street Cleaning 01622 602162
or via their website www.maidstone.gov.uk

Kent County Council

Potholes and other road issues / Vegetation
/ Street lighting 08458 247800
or via their website www.kent.gov.uk
Alternatively download the "CountryEye"
app on your phone.

