

MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER



A LOOK AT THIS ISSUE:

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UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL



Dear Resident,

It was with great sadness the news of Queen Elizabeth's death was received by the nation on 8th September 2022 and I am sure, like me, many of you were deeply moved by this and by the memorable events of the following 10 days. It was a great privilege to represent Marden at the Royal Proclamation in Maidstone on 11th September, a truly historic moment and one never to be forgotten. On behalf of the community, I laid a commemorative wreath at the Church on 12th September.

It was only a few short months ago that Marden so successfully and joyfully celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee when so many members of our community came together for the wonderful beacon lighting and two days later a fabulous fete with great music and entertainment. 2022 will be a memorable year for so many reasons.

Parish Council life has continued at its usual busy pace with Councillors doing their best to support Marden and residents in every way we can. The period of National Mourning meant we were unable to conduct normal business for a 2 week period, so we have been busy catching up especially with planning applications which are time limited. We are now working on the ever-popular Marden at Christmas event,

More information on this can be found in the newsletter but please make sure you have put Saturday 3rd December in your diary.

We are very fortunate at the Parish Council to be supported by a great team in the Parish Office, led by Ali, our Clerk. In September Ali reached a major milestone of 20 years' service with the Parish Council. On behalf of the entire community, I thank Ali for her total dedication to the job, her knowledge, and her constant good humour, especially when she has to deal with 11 Councillors! Thanks Ali we would be lost without you.

This is the last newsletter of the year so may I be the first to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Warm wishes

Cllr Kate Tippen

A Tribute to HM The Queen Elizabeth II - 21 April 1926 – 8 September 2022

On behalf of the Parish, we send our deepest condolences to the Royal family. We were all deeply saddened at the passing of HM The Queen Elizabeth II who was such an extraordinary woman who led our nation for over 70 years. She was a role model like no other for so many generations and showed us the true meaning of duty and honour and fulfilled her promise to the nation.

The Queen was a true Stateswoman who totally devoted her life to duty, service, faith and family. She was a constant figure of unity and a stable force through an unprecedented ever-changing world.



It is difficult to put into words how much the Queen meant to people and the impact she had across our four nations, the Commonwealth and around the world. Throughout her long reign, the Queen showed unstinting love and dedication to public service and charitable causes and had such a tremendous relationship with people. Rest in peace your Majesty.

Proclamation of King Charles III

We send our warmest wishes to King Charles III on his accession to the throne. HM has already gained great knowledge and understanding of his role under the guidance of his mother which will help to cement his status as the new sovereign of all four nations and the Commonwealth. He has committed to many areas of interest and engagement over the years and will have a positive impact on society. We wish His Majesty good health and strength throughout his reign.

GENERAL UPDATE

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings are held on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm. Full Council is held on the second Tuesday of each month at The Allens in Albion Road, Planning is held on the first and third Tuesday of each month, Amenities on the fourth Tuesday of each month and Finance quarterly. These meetings are now being held in the Parish Office at the Memorial Hall. If you wish to attend a meeting, please contact Ali the Clerk (or Deputy Clerk in the case of Amenities). Alternatively, if you have an item which you would like Cllrs to consider/discuss, please let either Ali or Rachel know 10 days before the relevant meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend a meeting and raise an issue/concern but please note that Cllrs may not be in a position to respond to you immediately.

All agendas are displayed on the Parish Council Notice Boards, in the weekly e-Newsletter and posted on our website each week. You can find the agendas and minutes on our website:
<https://bit.ly/MinutesandAgendas>

Meet the Clerks

Ali, Rachel and Hollie hold 'Meet the Clerks' sessions monthly at The Old Post Office Café from 10am-11am. Come along to raise any issues that you have or just to say hello. Next dates scheduled: 20th October and 17th November. There will not be a Meet the Clerks in December.

Parish Council e-Newsletter

Weekly Village Round Up

Have you signed up for the Parish Council e-newsletter yet? The "Weekly Village Round Up" is sent out every Friday and is full of local news, information and updates and lands direct in your inbox. You can sign up by either emailing Rachel at deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk, by typing in the weblink below: <http://bit.ly/MPC-E-NewsletterSignUp> or scanning the QR Code here via your mobile phone camera and clicking on the link:



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Marden Warm Hubs

With the current financial crisis, escalating food prices and fuel poverty, we could find that residents in our community are facing the choice between heating their homes, feeding themselves or not being able to do either. The Parish Council, Medical Centre and Parish Church are working collaboratively to see how as a community we can work together to support the most vulnerable in our community over the coming Winter months. We are in the process of co-ordinating a list of where activities/buildings are open in the village during the day where people can be assured of finding a safe, warm and friendly environment.

We are sourcing a supply of blankets so if you have any spare or would like to knit/crochet one, please let Rev Nicky Harvey know: email: rev.nickyharvey@gmail.com Shout out also for volunteers who may want to help – please email Alex Morgan who is co-ordinating the list: am341947@gmail.com

Marden Community Charity

The Marden Charity is there to help any Marden resident purchase essential items that they need and can't otherwise afford. Grants of up to £100 are available from the Charity. The form just needs to be countersigned by someone who knows your circumstances eg doctor, social worker, Involve Social Prescriber, School or a trustee of the charity. The process is very quick and entirely confidential.

The charity also supports anyone from Marden who needs financial support for a specific educational purpose e.g., help towards buying textbooks, towards cost of an educational trip or outing etc with a grant of up to £100. The charity is there as well to support village organisations with grants of up to £500 for specific projects that will benefit the community.

The application process is simple and all the information and application forms can be found here <https://bit.ly/MardenCharity> If you have a specific query about the charity please email: mardencommunitycio@gmail.com

Patient Consultation Questionnaire

The Weald Primary Care Network (PCN) has launched a Patient Consultation Questionnaire on Enhanced Services - and is looking for patients to respond to an anonymous online survey via the Marden Medical Centre website that takes about 3-4 minutes to complete. Our social prescribers are enthusiastic to learn more about your health and wellbeing and services or activities that are available to you, or those that you already access in the Weald. Your feedback will help shape future service delivery. To take the survey check out: <https://www.mardenmedicalcentre.nhs.uk/news/patient-consultation-questionnaire>

Dementia Friendly Community Marden

As you know, the Marden Dementia Group recently gained 'Dementia Friendly' Status from the Alzheimer's Society. You can find more information about the group's activities in the leaflet enclosed with this Newsletter.

Alzheimer's Research UK

Are you interested in taking part in any research with the Alzheimer's Society? Research has the power to transform the lives of everyone affected by dementia. But it's only thanks to supporters that can help make progress towards finding treatments and one day, a cure - but it can't stop now.

New research suggests that vigorous physical activity, whether for leisure, work or through household chores and DIY, is associated with a reduced risk of developing dementia.



September was World Alzheimer's Month, but you can still register via the link below. More people need to take part in dementia research if we're to bring about the life-changing treatments people desperately need.

Volunteers play a vital role in helping researchers to find new ways to diagnose, prevent and treat dementia. There are lots of different studies to take part in, from trying out new memory tests, to online assessments of dementia risk and brain health. Check out: <https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/campaign/world-alzheimers-month/>

Marden Medical Centre Update by Dr Julie Morgan

Please consider using the NHS App for prescriptions requests. We still receive lots of requests on paper and by emails from chemists which are both slow to upload manually and have scope for mistakes around the items you need. Please consider using the NHS app to make things faster and safer.

Marden Medical Centre Update by Dr Julie Morgan (Contd)

The app will also allow you get health information and advice, manage your appointments, see most of your GP medical records and get Covid passes.

A full guide on how to access the app is on our website but this is a basic summary:

You will need to have the following:

- (1) A smart phone with camera;
- (2) An email account;
- (3) Your NHS number will help but is not essential, it is on most printed prescription slips;
- (4) A photo ID such as passport or driving licence.

You will need to electronically send a picture of the ID and then record a short video. Every step is explained. It will take a few minutes to do and a few hours to be verified.

Simply download the free NHS app from your Appstore or Google Play store. This is the one we would recommend you use.



Involve

Involve's vision is 'healthy, connected people and communities'. They help to improve health, empowering people and communities to live well and tackling the root causes of ill health including isolation, loneliness, disadvantage and frailty.

The charity was established in 1975 to develop volunteering and communities and are now leaders in social prescribing and other innovative approaches to improve wellbeing in communities.

Social Prescribing – Weald PCN

The NHS now offers 'social prescribing' which means support around your non-medical needs.

They provide a space for you to talk about what matters to you and can connect you to specialist services and local groups. The service is open to all patients 18 or over who may benefit from a conversation about their wellbeing. You can also access social prescribing at Marden Food Bank on Mondays between 10am-12 noon at the Vestry Hall.

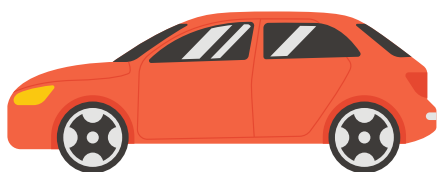
*Weald PCN Social Prescribers -
Steph Guthridge, Janine McLellan,
Jade Smith*

Children's Navigation – Weald PCN

There's also a Children's Navigation service that works with children with long-term health conditions, neurodevelopmental issues (ASD and ADHD) and mental health concerns. They work with children aged 0-18 and up to 25 for people with SEND. They collate and provide information so that families can be signposted to receive support from a variety of agencies.

*Weald PCN Children's Navigators -
Lesley Campbell, Katie Filmer*

Please contact the Medical Centre for a referral to Involve social prescribing or children's navigation. These are free services funded by the NHS. For more info, call 03000 810005 or check out: www.involvekent.org.uk/



Community Transport

Involve Kent - covers the Maidstone and Malling areas which stretches to the surrounding villages including Marden, Yalding, Staplehurst etc. Call 03000 810005 - ext number 1.
<https://www.involvekent.org.uk/community-transport>

Imago/Dial2Drive - Tonbridge

0300 777 1200

<https://www.imago.community/Adult-Support/Dial2Drive>

Volunteer Centre – Ashford

01233 665535 -

<https://ashfordvc.org.uk/contact-us>

Community Car Service - Tunbridge Wells and East Sussex

01892 511 627 -

<https://communitycarservice.org.uk/>

Marden Parish Sport, Fitness & Leisure List

The Parish Council maintains a Village Welcome Pack and are currently compiling a more comprehensive list of all sport, fitness and leisure activities in the Parish. This list will be used by the social prescribing organisation Involve to help signpost residents (see article above). If you want to include or update a fitness activity you are running, please let Hollie our Admin Assistant know by email: adminassistant@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk You can find the Welcome Pack at: <https://bit.ly/VillageWelcomePack>

Village Defibrillators

There are defibrillators located at the telephone box at the Library area and outside Marden Village Club and the Memorial Hall is planning to install one. By using a defibrillator before an ambulance arrives, you can significantly increase someone's chance of survival. So why not familiarise yourself on how to use a defibrillator? Check out: <https://www.sja.org.uk/get-advice/first-aid-advice/how-to/how-to-use-a-defibrillator/>



Kent Fire & Rescue Service – Online Home Fire Safety Check

An easy-to-follow home fire safety check has been developed through a partnership between the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), Fire Kills and Safelincs. It will take you through your home one room at a time and the simple questions will help you spot fire risks. The tool offers tips and advice on the steps you can take to reduce those risks. At the end you will receive a personalised fire safety action plan to help keep you and your household safe from fire. Check out:

<https://www.ukfrs.com/prevention/online-home-fire-safety-check>

Marden Foodbank – Donations Needed

The Foodbank runs out of the Vestry Hall every Monday between 10am and 12 noon and anyone in need of food is welcome to come along and receive a bag. Currently there are over 30 families on the register with 12-15 families seen each week. With the increase in the cost-of-living, demand is very high and stocks are running a little low.

Please do consider supporting them however you can, by dropping a donation in the crate in the church porch, at the Church Office in the Vestry Hall, or at the Vicarage. For further info or to make a financial donation, please contact Kathy Young: office@mardenchurch.org.uk or call 01622 831890.

They would be grateful for donations of the following items: tinned soup, tinned tomatoes & vegetables (carrots, potatoes, sweetcorn, etc), tinned meat and fish, cereal, milk, fruit juice and squash, pasta & rice, baked beans, tinned spaghetti & macaroni cheese, tinned puddings & custard, jars of pasta or curry sauce. Visitors can also call in to meet with colleagues from Involve Kent, a charity who provide advice, encouragement, and support to help resolve all manner of problems.



Community Lunches

On the third Monday of each month, an enthusiastic group of volunteers provide a two-course home-cooked meal plus tea or coffee for older people in our community especially for those who live alone or are frail. The next lunch will be on Monday 21st November and then on Monday 16th January in the Vestry Hall at 12.30pm and costs £5.

If you would like a change from eating alone or preparing meals and think you would enjoy a meal in good company, then why not pop along. They are also looking for more volunteers to help prepare the lunches, so please contact Janet McIntosh on 01622 831256 if you would like to help or attend a lunch – it's a great way of being part of the community.

Help for Households

With everybody facing rising goods and energy prices, inflation, and cost of living pressures, the Government is offering help for households and you can check out what living support you could be eligible for such as help with support, energy bills, childcare costs, housing support, transport costs and helping to find work. Check out: <https://bit.ly/GovHelpforHouseholds>

SUSTAINABILITY, BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

BBC Radio Kent “Make a Difference”

Marden Parish Council would like to congratulate Marden Wildlife on their amazing achievement at the BBC Radio Kent’s “Make a Difference Awards”. Marden Wildlife were winners of the Environmental category. A lot of what Marden Wildlife has achieved has been down to the inspired leadership that Ray Morris has provided and the inclusivity of the group including all the fantastic volunteers and partners such as the Marden Farmer Cluster, Kent Wildlife Trust, Natural England, the RSPB, BTO and many others – well done to you all.



Marden Wildlife Update

By Ray Morris

It's been a busy Summer! With an increasing number of Facebook members, and with more keen naturalists joining the group, biological recording has increased, with significant records being submitted to the national databases. Most recently, highlights have been a rare moth only ever recorded on four other sites in coastal Kent, a plant rarely found outside coastal or brackish wetlands, and sightings of Turtle Dove flocks with (nowadays) unusually high numbers - the latter being a direct result of local farmers supporting wildlife alongside their usual food production.

With KCC grants we continue to waymark local footpaths with additional wildlife and farming information and are ordering new equipment to monitor moth populations (essential for pollination) on more farms. Collaboration with Kent Wildlife Trust has involved displaying our work at public events. At the recent Weald of Kent Ploughing match, Marden attracted a lot of interest for its wildlife as well as admiring looks at Guy Eckley's enormous tractor and drill, with its applicator for home-brewed soil-enhancing microbes. A stand at Claire Dominic's Art in the Garden exhibition resulted in a donation of £1000 to the RSPB – to be reinvested in Marden for farmland bird conservation.

SUSTAINABILITY, BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE CHANGE CONTD

Marden Wildlife Group (Contd)

Finally, our nomination (by someone in Folkestone) for the BBC Radio Kent's "Make a Difference Award", took four of us to a posh ceremony at Maidstone's Great Danes hotel where Marden Wildlife was announced winner in the Environmental category. The result of 600+ enthusiastic villagers, 18 farmers with 3000ha of land, and dozens of volunteer experts spending thousands of hours supporting wildlife. Now it's a busy Autumn too!

You can check out the Marden Wildlife Facebook page or email: mardenwildlife@gmail.com

Marden Parish Council Environmental Sub-Group

The Parish Council has set up an Environmental Sub-Group and is currently drafting the Environmental Policy and Terms of Reference.

A Sustainability plan has been drafted for the Parish Council and initially we will look at realistic manageable ways in which we operate such as recycling, utility companies, how to mitigate climate impact and the functions of employees and external contractors e.g. formulating an Open Space Biodiversity Policy, investigating carbon calculators, creating a

Sustainability Audit and an Estate Management Plan - mowing, planting, purchasing of equipment, recycling as well as ways of working within the office. This will also help to shape and reinforce some of our Marden Neighbourhood Plan policies. We then plan to look at what can be done to assist the wider parish with biodiversity etc. in helping to fight climate change locally.

We recently held a meeting with Maidstone Borough Council's Sustainability Officers to gather advice and support and they have provided us with information on Green Grants, MBC's Tree Strategy, Carbon Calculators, Carbon Neutrality, Offsetting Events Emissions etc. MBC will devise a Net Zero Goals Template/Carbon Action Plan for Parish Councils to use and provide other resources to assist with net zero goals. They will also assist with Carbon Literacy Training once this has been rolled out.

The next Environmental Sub Group meeting is planned for Tuesday 1st November at 6pm in the Parish Office and residents are welcome to come along. Please let Ali know if you are interested in attending:
clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk



The Queen's Green Canopy

Following the passing of HM The Queen and the wishes of HM The King, the Queen's Green Canopy has been extended to the end of March 2023 to give people the opportunity to plant trees in memoriam to honour Her Majesty.

We are delighted to announce that we will be planting a Commemorative Tree in honour of Her Majesty in Marden Playing Field. The oak tree has been donated to the Parish Council by Roger Butler at Golden Hill Nursery and the Parish Council would like to thank Roger for his kind generosity.

The Parish Council will also be planting a few other indigenous trees at the Playing Field and Rookery Path in late Autumn to fill in gaps and help to create a wildlife corridor. One of these trees will also be in honour of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Adrian Rabot a local resident who works with the Police Cadets, is also applying for a grant to plant trees possibly to replace some of the saplings that were planted last year which either died or were destroyed at one of the new developments.



Christmas Tree Collection – Library Car Park - Sunday 8th January

Weald of Kent Young Farmers Club will be collecting your Christmas trees from the Library Car Park on Sunday 8th January from 10.30am to 12.30pm, for a small donation which will go to a local charity that the members will chose soon! Trees can also be dropped to a trailer by the memorial hall. The trees will be chipped, and the chips turned into compost and spread on the local fields. This is a great sustainability initiative so please take your trees along. Weald of Kent Young Farmers Club are planning a lit up tractor run through Marden on the evening of Sunday 18th December, at around 6:15pm. 30 tractors will be lit up for Christmas and process along High Street and Goudhurst Road. Like their Facebook page for the latest news @wealdofkentafc .

Do Your Know Your Carbon Footprint?

Everyone has an environmental footprint – it comes from all the things you do that have an impact on our planet such as the energy you use, the things you buy and food you eat. By making changes to our lives like switching to more sustainable everyday habits, we can reduce our environmental footprint and the damage we do to our planet. The average UK footprint is 9.5 tonnes. The past few years has shown us how connected we all are. Individual actions might seem small but collectively they can make all the difference. Follow the link to learn what your carbon footprint is and the changes you can make to improve it:
<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>

SUSTAINABILITY, BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE CHANGE CONTD

Free Water Saving Devices

There's lots we can all do to save water and help the environment whatever the weather. South East Water can help you save water with simple free devices that make your home more efficient. These include leaky loo strips, regulated shower heads, kitchen streams and much more. Check out:

<https://bit.ly/SaveWaterSaveMoney>

PLANNING UPDATE

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Local Plan Review Regulation 22

All major modifications at Regulation 19 were agreed by MBC who submitted its Local Plan Review together with supporting documents to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities on 31st March for independent examination. Updated information on the Local Plan Review examination is posted on the examination webpage on MBC's website:

<https://localplan.maidstone.gov.uk/home/local-plan-review-examination>

Land Adjacent to Albion Road and Copper Lane

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

Marden Parish Council responded to the MBC Local Plan Review Regulation 19 in December 2021, and we raised various concerns about this site in our Regulation 18b feedback in December 2020.

We are waiting to hear what the Government Inspector has to say about the site. Rydon Homes held a public exhibition of their proposals for this site in July.

Marden Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) Review

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

This forms a legal document and is part of the planning policies within MBC. Due to the current review of the Maidstone Local Plan, the Steering Group agreed it was time to review the MNP and held an Open Day in May. We are in the process of reviewing your feedback and analysing your responses and will then start to identify themes and changes to the MNP.

If you would like to be part of this MNP Steering Group, please let Ali know: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk as we'd like as much input as possible from residents. You can find the documentation on our website: <https://bit.ly/MNPReview>

PLANNING UPDATE CONTD

Land at Maidstone Road, Marden

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

Maidstone Borough Council has now refused this planning application for a variety of reasons and is contrary to various MBC and MPC policies such as: scale of development in the open countryside and out of character with the rural locality, poor quality layout, limited natural landscaping, unsustainable travel, an out-of-date ecology appraisal, an unacceptable Surface Water Drainage strategy etc. It is understood that this application has now gone to Appeal.

Reed Court Farm Proposed Chicken Farm

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

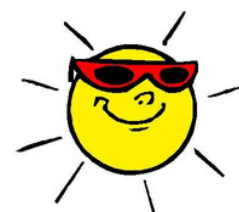
Assessment) including a flood risk sequential test and a quantification of the biodiversity net gain which should now be 10%.

Additional Information was received from the applicant's agents regarding Regulation 25 in February 2022 and Councillors discussed at a Planning Meeting to ascertain whether any of the information received had answered any of our previous concerns. Councillors agreed that the new information did not alter our view and continued to recommend refusal and wished to see this application go to MBC Planning Committee. MBC is currently waiting for a Consultant's Report and are hoping this will be discussed at the November Planning meeting. You can check out this planning application at: <https://bit.ly/ReedCourtPlanApp>

PROJECT UPDATE

Marden Summer Play Scheme

The Parish Council organised another successful Summer Play Scheme in July/August at Marden Primary Academy with a total of 454 children attending over the 10 days. Activities included arts and crafts around the theme "Kings & Queens" and sporting equipment was available including table tennis, pool and football.



PROJECT UPDATE CONTD

Marden Summer Playscheme Contd

An emergency services morning was held with a visit from Maidstone Police Task Force, Marden PCSO and Police cadets which ended in an enjoyable football match between the Police and children. Other activities included a visit from 'Cold to the Cure' where spiders and reptiles were brought in and an inflatable assault course.



It is with regret that Jordan Manley is unable to work as Manager of Marden Summer Play Scheme next year and Marden Parish Council wishes to pass their thanks for all the years and commitment Jordan has put into running the scheme. Marden Parish Council is now looking at options of how to run the play scheme in the future - either bringing a company in to manage it for two weeks or employing a new manager and staff on the same basis as previous years. At the moment we are still looking at these possibilities and costings, but if you think you would like to be considered for manager please email your details to Ali: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk You will need to have NVQ Level 3 in Childcare or equivalent and ideally first aid/safeguarding qualifications and be available for the first two weeks of the School Summer holidays and for several hours on the

lead up to the scheme for planning purposes (assistance will be given with this if required). Please note this is not a job application, but to give the Council an idea of how to proceed.

Festive Christmas Lighting

A public consultation was held in the Spring for residents to choose which wrap around garland light option they would like on various lamp posts in the centre of the village at Christmas. We could only choose the wrap around garlands as Kent Highways will not permit us to have motifs on streetlamp columns due to the height, location and weight of the motifs. Hopefully this Christmas they will make much more of a festive display than last year.

Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP/Parish Wishlist)

Marden Parish Council has been working on an Infrastructure Spend Plan 'Wishlist' following an initial consultation in 2019 and the document has been updated as a result of feedback received by residents.

This is a working document, and a further public consultation will take place over the next few months. In the meantime, if you have any comments you wish to make, please forward to Ali at clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk The ISP plan can be found on the following link on the Parish Council website:

<https://bit.ly/MPCWishList>

Finger Posts & Street Furniture

Great news that the Parish Council has been able to arrange for the replacement of the old dilapidated wooden fingerpost at Goudhurst Road/Sheephurst Lane junction and a new post has now been installed. The fingers and roundels have been refurbished and reinstalled on the cast iron fingerposts at the Howland Road/Battle Lane junction and Plain Road/Albion Road junction. Unfortunately, there was an issue in removing the fingers etc. from the post at Maidstone Road/High Street junction but we have now agreed that a local contractor will undertake this additional work along with refurbishment of all three main posts on site.

The Community Payback Team will be painting the unsightly bollards at the junction of the High Street/Maidstone Road which need refurbishing. If you feel there is any street furniture that needs renovating, please let Rachel, the Deputy Parish Clerk, know.



Marden Car Park

The car park behind the Library is owned and maintained by Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) who work closely with the Parish Council on all aspects of management and maintenance.

We have received feedback from some residents recently that they have had difficulty at times finding a space to park. As a result, the Parish Council has been in discussion with MBC about the options available. Before any final decisions are made, we want to find out from residents what their views are.

Parish Councillors agreed that the primary objective of the car park is for anyone using Marden services such as shops, Church, Library, Doctors, pubs etc; people visiting residents; and for local businesses who do not have their own parking. We would like to know if you agree with this. Parking is not permitted between 7.15am and 8.15am Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays and MBC have been enforcing this restriction.

In discussion with MBC the only other option they could suggest which they could enforce would be a restriction which would allow parking for 2 hours only. The Parish Council is concerned about this because there are people who would need longer than 2 hours parking if they are using village services or working locally.

PROJECT UPDATE CONTD

Marden Car Park Contd

A 2-hour restriction could move long term parking to nearby roads where there are no restrictions.

We would like to know from residents if they either:

- (a) Support no change to the current restrictions; or
- (b) Support a 2-hour parking restriction.

Please note MBC will not offer parking permits so this isn't an option.

Please email your feedback to Hollie: adminassistant@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk or pop a note into the Parish Council letterbox at the Memorial Hall. Please let us have your thoughts before 30th November 2022.

Housing Needs Survey

The Parish Council has been working with Maidstone Borough Council alongside Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK) to assess whether there might be a need for local needs housing in the parish so that residents who cannot afford to buy or rent locally are not forced to move away.

It is also an opportunity to know if there are older people and/or residents with disabilities in the parish who would like to downsize and/or move to housing more suitable for their needs.

Marden Library Area

The scruffy hedging was removed outside the Library and new slabbing laid and flower bed created to make the area safer and more attractive was completed in March. KCC own this piece of land and to extend the footway further we have asked Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) who own most of the remaining length of footpath if there is any possibility of having the path extended. Unfortunately, there is a lack of funding available, but we will continue to pursue. Many thanks to those residents who regularly water and weed the new bed and we will be adding more plants.

MBC also agreed to remove the ugly old barrier which has not been used for many years. This has now been done and helped to tidy the area up further.

HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Parish Council Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

The Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) that the Parish Council has developed was updated in September and items are prioritised based on Highway Improvement Plan Criteria such as usage, deliverability etc and of course feedback from residents. We are in the process of arranging a meeting with Kent Highways to discuss our top four priorities.

Whilst Kent Highways are supportive, lack of funding means it is doubtful that many of the identified issues will be resolved soon. The Parish Council will continue to push for funding to get some of the key issues dealt with.

Because of the problems with parked vehicles along Pattenden Lane, a consultation was undertaken with both residents and businesses in Pattenden Lane regarding parking restrictions. The Parish Council has now recommended single yellow line restrictions from 9.00am-5pm and Maidstone Borough Council have advised they are happy to enforce these restrictions. One of our top priorities is more yellow lines in Goudhurst Road because of the continued issue with traffic on the school run which is also a safety issue. We will update you in the next newsletter, but please check out the HIP document on the Parish Council's website:
<https://bit.ly/MPCHIP2022>

Double & Single Yellow Line Enforcement

The Parish Council, as well as our Borough Councillor Claudine Russell, have requested that Maidstone Borough Council Enforcement Officers increase their parking enforcement on the single and double yellow lined areas combined with the car parking restrictions times in the village. It is noticeable that cars are constantly being parked on the double yellow lines, particularly in the High Street and at Church Green/Pattenden Lane junction.

Kent County Council (KCC) National Highways & Transport Network – Public Satisfaction Survey

KCC is taking part in the NHT Public Satisfaction Survey and have opted to take part in six web-based surveys on specific issues: highway maintenance, accessibility, walking & cycling, public transport, road safety and tackling congestion. The surveys are available online and are open until February 2023 via the following link:
<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/national-highways-and-transport-2022-23>

The greater the take-up of surveys the more useful they will be in helping to understand the priorities and concerns of people who live or work in Kent.

Flooding and Winter Weather

After a period of drought it seems odd to be thinking about flooding but this is a risk for all of us every year throughout the Autumn and Winter. If you've recently moved to Marden you may not be aware that when we have heavy and prolonged rain some of our roads flood, becoming dangerous to drive.



We have been given permission by Kent Highways to close roads in the event of flooding and are very grateful to those residents who have agreed to hold road closed signs and put them out in the event of flood.

Flooding and Winter Weather (Contd)

Marden is now part of a group along with Collier Street, Yalding and Hunton that will coordinate road closures in the area when flooding is a risk and will be working alongside agencies such as the Environment Agency, Maidstone Borough Council, Kent Highways and the Police. We hope that this will be a more effective and proactive approach than has been used up to now.

The roads that may have to be closed if there is flooding are: Sheephurst Lane, Plain Road, Green Lane and Hunton Road from the end of Pattenden Lane through Chainhurst to Hunton Bridge. If any of these roads are on your normal route, then why not check out alternative routes now rather than waiting til they have been closed. It may not be possible to put out diversion signs so remember the safest route will always be the main roads and high ground.

It is some years since we have had a snowy, icy winter. If this happens this winter remember that most of our lanes are not treated and can be very icy. As ever be prepared, identify safe routes and use the main roads wherever possible.

OPEN SPACE

Marden Playing Field

The Parish Council still has S106 developer contribution monies left to spend at the Playing Field which cannot legally be spent elsewhere.

We have already installed various pieces of equipment, benches, bins etc and we will be undertaking a public consultation on the changing rooms/
pavilion for residents to consider how this money is spent in a future newsletter.

Cemetery

The Parish Councill will be installing a sign at the beginning of the permissive pathway by the sharp bend in Maidstone Road which leads to the Cemetery which many residents may not be aware of..

Congratulations to Ian Jones, Cemetery Caretaker

Ian Jones our Cemetery Caretaker has completed 35 years of service and what an amazing achievement. He has kept Marden Cemetery looking so beautiful and has been such a reliable employee. Ian was presented with a glass plaque at the Cemetery and kind words were said from current and previous Parish Councillors. His main gift was a picnic bench for his long service and to enjoy in his garden. The Parish Council would like to thank Ian for all his hard work over this long period of time.



OPEN SPACE CONTD

Southons Field

The gates at the entrance of Southons Field are now in disrepair due to age and residents climbing over them when the field is closed. The Parish Council is in the process of investigating new replacement gates to be installed next year. Two of the old picnic tables have been removed due to wear and tear and will be replaced with a picnic table with wheelchair access and a small children's picnic table.



The access gate will be locked during the hours of darkness as follows: April-August 7am- 8pm, September-October 7am-7pm, November-January 8am-4pm, February & March 8am-6pm (or dusk if earlier).



POLICE & CRIME UPDATE

Maidstone Taskforce

As you may be aware, Maidstone Taskforce has been very active in both Marden and Yalding recently and are working closely with the community. It's a multi-layered team with representatives from Kent Police, Maidstone Community Protection, KCC Early Help, PCSOs and Community Wardens and they will be around for the foreseeable future. They are here to act on community issues that mean the most to us and want to hear from anybody who has information about local crime that you think would be of interest such as ring doorbell footage, or mobile pictures/footage of suspicious activity. This includes theft/shoplifting/burglaries, assaults or violence, drug dealing or drug use, drink driving, no insurance driving.



They also work with partner agencies to support those suffering from domestic abuse in the community. If you or someone you know needs help, please contact us via email at communityprotection@maidstone.gov.uk.

They also work with partner agencies to support those suffering from domestic abuse in the community. If you or someone you know needs help, please contact us via email at communityprotection@maidstone.gov.uk.

Dates when the Community Protection Team will be at The Old Post Office Café are 20th October and 3rd November from 10.00am to 11.30am.

Some of the actions because of the Taskforce presence include:

- Vehicle seizures with no insurance or licences.
- A vehicle pulled over as part of a day of action to combat waste crime and fly tipping. If you witness any fly-tipping, please make a note of registration plates and times/locations and send it to wastecrime@maidstone.gov.uk
- Stop Searches conducted on individuals suspected of being in possession of drugs. Cannabis located and seized from individuals. Several arrests and vehicle seizures of drug driving – drugs warrants executed.
- Several arsons reported with offenders identified and being dealt with – working alongside Kent Fire & Rescue Service and British Transport Police including fires being started in trees in the Church grounds when the Fire Service was called out on six occasions.

- Incidents/crimes at Cascade Close including criminal damage and assaults – part of an ongoing investigation with Medway Housing and MBC Community Protection Team. Community Protection Warnings have been issued to households in response to recent and continuing anti-social behaviour.
- A black Range Rover with cloned plates was seized which had been involved with several burglaries and cable thefts in the area resulting in two arrests.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Over the last few months, several anti-social behaviour reports were received including setting off fireworks, a nuisance motorbike, incidents in and around Marden Railway Station, ongoing work at The Cockpit with Golding Homes.

If you are a witness to any nuisance vehicle incidents, please report online via Kent Police website or 101. If you are able to safely obtain vehicle registrations, then this would greatly assist in being able to follow up on enquiries and potentially consider enforcement to those causing this nuisance.

ASB can range from something that is a mild annoyance, to something that causes real fear and insecurity. This has an impact on peoples' quality of life and how safe they feel.

POLICE & CRIME UPDATE CONTD

Anti-Social Behaviour (Contd)

Types of ASB include hate crime, continuous noise or parties, vandalism, misuse of communal areas or public spaces, criminal behaviour, alcohol related disturbances, nuisance vehicle noise, verbal abuse, harassment, intimidation, or threatening behaviour. Resolve, an ASB and community safety organisation, organised an ASB Awareness Week in July which brought together councils, police forces, housing associations, charities, community groups and sports clubs to show that tackling ASB is truly a multi-agency effort. If you would like to report something, call 999 in an emergency or 101 in a non-emergency. You can also report a non-urgent crime online at:
<https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/>

Maidstone Taskforce Survey

As explained above, the Maidstone Taskforce is currently working in Marden to help protect people from harm, identify and tackle crime hot spots and trends, identify vulnerability and provide protection/support where necessary and build community resilience through participation, empowerment and partnership. They would like to hear from residents in Marden on what they like and dislike most about the area. The survey results will be used by the Safer Maidstone Partnership to identify any issues they've not picked up on through

crime reports and data already and will help identify any community initiatives and strengths they can help develop and resource as necessary to build resilience. The survey takes about 5-7 minutes to complete and you can pop a pin on the map and comment to tell them where there are issues in Marden. The consultation closes on 13th November 2022.

Link to survey:

<https://bit.ly/MBCTaskforceSurvey>

Link to map:

<https://bit.ly/MBCTaskforceMap>

My Community Voice (MCV)

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



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

Please note that My Community Voice is not for reporting crimes or incidents. Instead you should: report a non-urgent crime, talk to them via LiveChat, use the textphone service 18000 if you are deaf or speech impaired - or text on 999 if you have pre-registered with the emergency SMS service. Check out: <https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/>

Nuisance and Community Issues

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

Radicalisation

The PREVENT team who offer prevention and early intervention for those at risk or are concerned about radicalisation have put together a leaflet that can be used to provide some guidance, support and information to families who are worried about what their loved ones are doing online. This is an easy-to-read leaflet that covers awareness around things that families can do to protect their loved one online. There's also a list of support groups and organisations at the end of the document. You can check out: <https://bit.ly/KPPrevent>

DRAINAGE & WATER

South East Water Pipe Installation

As a consequence of lobbying by residents, our Borough Councillor Claudine Russell and with the intervention of MP Helen Grant, South East Water agreed to upgrade the water infrastructure around Battle Lane, Milebush Lane, Summerhill Road and St Anne's Green. They are currently in the process of installing a 200m water pipe on private land adjacent to Maidstone Road which will help to improve the water supply and pressure around this area and provide relief for residents.

YOUTH PROVISION

Marden Youth Club – Thursdays

6.30pm-8.30pm John Banks Hall

KCC's Integrated Children's Services are hoping to restart the Youth Club in the John Banks Hall (adjacent to the Memorial Hall) on Thursdays at the end of October from 6pm-8pm – 11 to 19 year olds welcome. They are hoping to run various activities such as cooking, arts & crafts, sports and hopefully in the future a few trips. Please spread the word to our young people in the village. They just need to turn up and see what it's all about. They are also looking for enthusiastic parents or members of the Marden community to help support the delivery of the youth group. No qualifications are required and training will be provided. Contact: Rob Yorke, Senior Early Help Worker on 07825633794 or 03000 419429 or email: Robert.Yorke@kent.gov.uk

OTHER PARISH INFORMATION

Condolences

It was very sad news that John, husband of our past Chairman and Cllr, Dorothy Reed, passed away earlier in the Summer and our condolences go out to both Dorothy and her family. John's father ran the barber's shop in the High Street and John took over for very many years. John was such a gentle and kind man and undoubtedly many residents will have fond memories of John cutting their hair and sitting on the piece of wood when younger.

Marden Primary Academy School Intake and Expansion - John Weir, Chair of Governors

It is now two years since the Governing Body agreed that the school should join the Leigh Academies Trust (LAT). The key reason for the school joining LAT was to consistently improve educational outcomes for all students in Marden. In addition, we felt that LAT could help the community achieve the planned expansion to two-form entry (60 pupils) and grow the school in a sustainable way for future generations.

We recently received confirmation from Kent County Council (KCC) that Marden's expansion to two-form entry will take place with effect from September 2023, when the school will admit 60 pupils in Reception for the first time. We hope this will cater for the increased demand for places in our outstanding Early Years' setting.

By 2024 we will require physical expansion of the existing buildings; the first extension to the school in 30 years. LAT and KCC are working on the plans for this extension now.



We are also pleased to report that attainment and progress across the academy have improved considerably relative to pre-pandemic national averages, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the entire staff and children. Improvements are very evident across Early Years provision, Key Stages 1 and 2. As ever, there remains more to do, but the senior leadership team and the staff are well resourced via LAT to continue to deliver improvements for the ongoing benefit of the students. Once validated, updated SATs results will be available on the school website.

Whilst academic progress is important, it doesn't make a community school. In selecting an academy trust, Governors were keen to identify one which would allow the school to retain and develop its own identity.

OTHER PARISH INFORMATION CONTD

Thanks to the hard work of the school staff and the PTA, Marden has continued with its long-standing traditions including a wide range of extra-curricular activities across the school year. These include excellent relations with Rev. Nicky at St Michael and All Angels Church, the Christmas and Summer fairs and an Easter Bonnet parade, alongside the various Year 6 leavers' events which we continue to value as a school community.

Lastly, with effect from September 2022, to confirm that Marden has joined LAT's Tonbridge Academies Board. The Tonbridge Academies Board is responsible for the strategic direction of Marden Primary Academy and The Hayesbrook School in Tonbridge (which will become the new co-educational Leigh Academy Tonbridge in September 2023.) <https://leighacademytonbridge.org.uk> Marden will of course continue to work closely with other LAT schools locally including Mascalls Academy and Paddock Wood and Horsmonden Primary Academies to develop and share best practice, build professional capacity and identify opportunities for continuing professional development. Full details of the governance arrangements for Marden are available on the academy website. You can also keep up to date with our news via our website which hosts a

weekly newsletter:
<https://mardenprimaryacademy.org.uk/newsletters/>

Update from Borough Councillor Claudine Russell

Hello everyone.

In case you don't know me I just wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I am Claudine Russell, one of your Marden and Yalding Ward Borough Councillors that sit on Maidstone Borough Council. I live in Marden and was elected in 2021. Since that time, I have worked on varying residents' queries throughout the ward including planning, housing issues, and anti-social behaviour issues to name but a few. I previously sat on the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee and in the newly formed cabinet system I am now the lead member for Leisure and Arts. It was an honour to be elected and to represent you all and please feel free to contact me (email is the best option) if you need help with any issue:

claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk



Just a reminder that the issues that Maidstone Borough Council cover are Bins & Waste collection, Benefits, Council Tax, Housing, Parking, Planning & Building, Business & Investment to include rates/licensing, Street Care and Cleaning, Burials and Cremations and various Community Support initiatives.

New Bench at Library

Marden in Bloom and Marden History Group received a donation from KCC towards the cost of purchasing another bench at the Library area which has been installed by Rob Thompson (one of the Bloomers) by the Dementia planter and telephone box. This is also to commemorate David McFarland who was Chairman of the History Group for many years.



Local Government Boundary Commission Review

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) held a public consultation on the borough's boundary as the number of Borough Councillors in Maidstone is being reduced from 55 to 48. Marden Parish Council proposed that Marden, Collier Street and Hunton be one ward although we would have preferred Marden to be a stand-alone ward but understand this would not be feasible. The Boundary Review are now proposing that Marden should be incorporated with Yalding, Collier Street, Nettlestead and Hunton.

KALC Community Awards

As reported in the Summer Newsletter Anne Boswell was presented with this award for her work in running Marden in Bloom. Each year at the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) the Parish Council makes an award to a resident who has shown outstanding service to the community. This award is sponsored by the Kent Association of Local Councils, KCC and the High Sheriff of Kent.

If you would like to nominate somebody in the village who you think has served the community and made a difference, please let Ali know: clerk@marden-pc.gov.uk by the 31st December 2022.

Marden Library

We've had a very busy summer at the library! We had a visit from Elmer the elephant who proved very popular with our young members. The children enjoyed doing a patchwork recycling activity and borrowing Elmer books.

- Bounce & Rhyme group for babies and toddlers is up and running again. This runs on Friday's during term time at 10.00am. Please come along to enjoy singing nursery rhymes and shaking instruments and generally having fun.
- Chatter & a Game of UpWords session for adults - this takes place on Tuesdays at 2pm -4pm and is run by one of our volunteers.

OTHER PARISH INFORMATION CONTD

Marden Library (Contd)

- “Connect with Your Library” to promote the idea that libraries are places to get connected to technology by using broadband, computers, and other resources. Libraries also offer opportunities to connect with media, programmes, ideas, and classes—not just books! Marden is looking forward to seeing you!
- School Groups - We are looking to welcoming school groups back into the library again over the next couple of months along with our history group colleagues. This will be a chance for the children to learn about the history of the village.
- Hearing aid clinic on 24th November from 10am.

Make sure to check out our shelf dedicated to the latest books, and a section dedicated to biographies. Hope to see you soon! For more information or email: mardenlibrary@kent.gov.uk

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MARDEN?

After the pandemic, it was great to see so much happening in the village during the Summer. In May the Motor Club held a hugely successful show, in June the Lighting of the Beacon and Village Fete for HM the

Queen's Platinum Jubilee took place and the 'Rude Mechanicals' hilarious performance all in Southons Field. There was also Marden in Bloom's 'Garden Safari' and the 'Art in the Garden' event at Mill Farm in September and the recent Scarecrow Safari run by Marden in Bloom.



A very warm welcome to all new residents who have recently moved to the village. As you can see, there's always plenty going on and we hope you will all be very happy here in our friendly community. Our Village Welcome Pack can be found: <https://bit.ly/VillageWelcomePack>

Here's a flavour of what some of the village groups are up to this Autumn/Winter:

MARDEN AT CHRISTMAS
SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE
AGAIN IN MARDEN ON SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER
WITH CAROLS AND MORRIS DANCING AT THE
ALLENS IN THE MORNING AND THE CRAFT FAIR
AND SANTA'S GROTTO AT THE MEMORIAL HALL
IN THE AFTERNOON. PLEASE SEE THE POSTER ON
THE BACK PAGE.

Art & Craft Exhibition – Saturday 19th November – 10am-4pm

Local artists will be displaying their work on Saturday 19th November from 10am-4pm in the Vestry Hall in support of two charities. Coffee, tea and cake will be served.

‘Come & Sing’ in the Vestry Hall By Sarah Emanuel

All are welcome for singing, music, conversation, warmth and fun, not to mention many health benefits, plus tea and cake! They meet in the Vestry Hall at 2.30pm on alternate Thursdays. Upcoming dates: 10th and 24th November, 8th and 22nd December. If you'd like to come, or have any questions, please give Sarah a call on 01622 832925 or send an email: emanuelfamily@btinternet.com

Little Fishes Baby & Toddler Group

Little Fishes runs in the Vestry Hall every Wednesday during term time between 9.30am-11am. All parents and carers are welcome to come along with their little ones. There is no need to book, just turn up as and when you are able to. Suggested donation for each session is £1. For more info, please contact Kathy – office@mardenchurch.org.uk or Rev Nicky – rev.nickyharvey@gmail.com

Marden Badminton Club

Come and join us at Marden Badminton Club every Wednesday from September to May at 7.30pm to 9.30pm in Marden Memorial Hall - just £5 a session. For more information

please contact Mark on 07941 790205 or email: markandjoagain@yahoo.co.uk

Marden Bowls Club

Bowling started in late April in dry warm Spring sunshine and finished with our Finals Weekend in warm autumn sunshine, and as we all know, the whole summer was much the same.

We can reflect on a successful season, as we retained the Maidstone League title and our team in the Weald League were promoted to division one for 2023. The Club were runners up in the Millennium League, losing out narrowly to Bearsted as we also did in the Millennium Knock Out Trophy. Apart from the League games, the Club also played regular weekend friendly matches and organised regular mid-week roll-up sessions which give an opportunity for newer members to enjoy a more relaxed introduction to matches. Club Competitions were back to normal, and our finals weekend was on 17th & 18th September, with Jenny Cook and Robert Thew winning the Ladies and Men's Singles competitions, and a successful Charity Day raised £1,164 for the Heart of Kent Hospice.

Our attention now turns to Short Mat Bowls which takes place in Marden Bowls Club Pavilion every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons at 2.00pm. For joining details, please contact Secretary Brian Cooper on 01622 744850 or 07801 594147

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MARDEN? CONTD

Marden Cricket, Hockey & Tennis Club

It's still not too late to have a go and get involved with your local hockey club. The Marden Russets have been playing for over 100 years so whether a total beginner or a 'rusty' who's been away from the game for many years, we can accommodate all levels with appropriate training, coaching and a range of adult teams (8 Mens and 4 ladies).

We also run cricket teams for all ages and abilities, including a successful girls' squad. The season's over now but get in touch if interested. And there's tennis: we play all year round so come and join in. We run popular social tennis sessions and also designated beginners sessions where you can build confidence with other like-minded players.

We are a thriving club with great facilities and a friendly welcome. Visit www.mardenchc.co.uk for more information. Or contact membership@mardenchc.co.uk

Marden History Group & Heritage Centre

In September Marden History Group was involved with the National Heritage Open Days and, with the tagline Inventive Marden, showcased various aspects which have been invented or developed in Marden –

particularly Dr Roger Eltringham's Safe Anaesthesia, blackcurrant harvesting machinery and specialist hop-drying equipment. The History Group continues to search for fund-raising opportunities, particularly since the demise of the 'Friends', to whom the Group was most grateful for their fund-raising help over the years.

The Heritage Centre, located in Marden Library, was granted a KCC Lease in 2007 involving the payment of an annual rental. KCC are now looking to increase the amount paid which could result in severe financial difficulties for Marden History Group and thus, the existence of the Heritage Centre.

A financing idea being considered, is launching a 'Sponsors' format, where a voluntary annual contribution could be made towards the work and running of the Heritage Centre. If this is something you would like to support, keep a lookout for further details, or leave your contact information at the Heritage Centre. Losing the Heritage Centre in its current form would be disastrous and extremely sad after all the valuable work, particularly by the late David McFarland, in establishing the facility for Marden.

Check out:

<http://www.mardenhistory.org.uk> or
email: history@mardenhistory.org.uk or
the Marden History Group Facebook page.

Lesley Mannington, Chair

Marden Horticultural Society

Members have enjoyed getting together to visit several gardens over the Summer. While these visits - and our plant sales - have finished for this calendar year, the Society remains busy throughout the Autumn and Winter months. We continue to meet monthly - on the second Tuesday in the month - and have a varied programme of speakers planned.

Our October talk was given by an award winning creative floral designer and we look forward to learning how to garden sustainably and without plastic from well-known garden writer Sally Nex in November. Meetings are held in the Vestry Hall and start at 7:30. Tea and coffee are served after the talk.

New blogs on a variety of timely and topical subjects are posted on to our website every month with new content being highlighted in a monthly Newsletter (free to anyone wishing to subscribe - not just members). Please check out: <https://www.mardengardeners.uk> If you would like to find out more about the Society, please email: info@mardengardeners.uk or contact Sue on 07762 059412.

Sue Pennicott, Chair

Marden in Bloom

Many thanks to Golden Hill for donating most the plants in the Summer and to The Unicorn for organising a fantastic raffle. Also

thank you to our other sponsors and the Farm Shop who look after the planter there and the Horticultural Society who tend the planter in Goudhurst Road.



The 'Garden Safari' was a resounding success in June and many thanks to everybody who opened their gardens and to those residents who did the tour - we will be organising another one next Summer so if you would like to open your garden then please let us know. Thanks also to everybody who bought bulbs at the Bulb Sale in September.

There were 20 entries for the Scarecrow Safari based on a book theme. It was great to see so many village folk wandering around on a warm Autumn day spotting the scarecrows - the children were all so excited. Thanks to all of you who entered - they were so amazing and creative. And if you didn't already know, the winner was 'Paddington at the Palace' by Marden Scout Group - well done to you all.

Check out the Marden in Bloom Facebook page or email: anne.boswell@ymail.com
Anne Boswell, Chair

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MARDEN CONTD

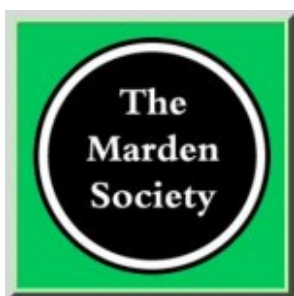
Marden Society

Our Autumn programme concludes on 23rd November with a talk entitled "Sentinels of the Sea, the Amazing History of Lighthouses", by Mark Lewis. This is an introduction to "pharology", the study of lighthouses, from the prototype Pharos of Alexandria through the history of their construction, methods of illumination, operation and maintenance, and lives of the keepers, including some extraordinary heroic stories.

Then after Christmas on 25th January we will hold our usual AGM, followed by a wine and cheese social. Our committee is now down to the minimum level allowed by the constitution, so we are urgently seeking extra members. If anyone feels they might like to get involved, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

All our talks are at 7.30pm in the Vestry Hall and are free and open to all. Refreshments will be served after the talk. For more information contact: steve.mcarragher@btinternet.com or 07946 532591.

Steve McArragher



Marden Sporting Memories

Marden Sporting Memories is a group where you can meet to talk about sport. Come and meet our local group to discuss memories of sport – ranging from school sports to major sporting events. The group also provide social and physical activities that allow you to meet new people from your local community with a shared interest of Sport.

Tuesdays 2.30pm-4pm at Marden Cricket & Hockey Club, Maidstone Road, Marden.TN12 9AG. FREE to join – FREE refreshments – FREE parking (full disabled access). For further details or to register your interest in attending the group please contact: MardenSportingMemories@gmail.com or call 01622 833053.



Marden Village Club

We are proud to report that we have won both Maidstone and Mid-Kent CAMRA Club of the Year and Kent CAMRA Club of the Year for 2022. This means we are now in the National CAMRA Club of the Year competition, which takes place soon.

We will be holding our second Annual Beer Festival from 28th-30th October, with a fantastic array of real ales and ciders, as well as live entertainment.

Our event will be open to members and non-members. Follow us on Instagram or Facebook for updates

Our charity fundraising is going from strength to strength thanks to our members. We are delighted to report that we raised an amazing £5,600 in the first half of this year for our two charities, SERV Bloodrunners and Marden-based charity, Living Memories.

Our award-winning club is in the heart of the village. As well as regular live entertainment, we also have a pool table, two dart boards and two full sized snooker tables. If you wish to become a member, please pick up an application form from the bar or email office@mardenvillageclub.co.uk for further information.

Marden Walking Group

Walking in nature is good for both your physical and mental health. We are fortunate in Marden as we have easy access to the countryside. Marden also has an active and sociable walking group and we also try to improve the walking experience by helping to clear footpaths.

There are organised walks available and leaflets for purchase of walks in the area. Every Saturday there is a short gentle organised walk starting from the Library at 2pm. On the third Saturday of the month until December some footpath maintenance will be tackled by doing some light pruning.

On the first Sunday of the month a longer walk is planned, exploring the countryside and points of interest around Marden. These start at 10am from Marden Library. Why not consider joining us and explore Marden and get to know some Marden residents? Details of walks are published monthly in the Parish magazine, or contact Sian Burr on 01622 831106/email: sianburr@hotmail.co.uk or Steve Mcarragher on 01622 831007/ email: steve.mcarragher@btinternet.com

Marden Woman's Institute (WI)

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

Barbara Hammond, President

Short Mat Bowls – Mondays in Marden Memorial Hall – 7.30-9.30pm

The Short Mat Bowls group meet each Monday from 7.30pm-9.30pm with a break for a cuppa & biscuits. They would welcome anyone that wants to join them for a regular fun evening, and it costs just £3 per session to cover the cost of hall charges - anybody from 14 onwards. Contact Shirley on 01622 831755 for more info.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MARDEN? CONTD

Village Café – Fridays 10am-11.45am – Vestry Hall

Go and enjoy coffee/tea and cakes and meet new people for a chat – old and young.

Wet Golfers Society

The WET Golf Society – affiliated to the West End Tavern – completes its golfing fixtures for 2022 in October with a Society Day at the Weald Golf Club. Other fixtures this year included competitions at Sweetwoods, Kings Hill, Dale Hill and Hever Castle, where our flagship event takes place with members competing for the coveted Claret Jug. The Society started in 2019 and invites partners to the prize giving dinners. We also run a Social programme with a number of Socials throughout the year. Over the summer we hold a knockout tournament at the Village Golf Club.

The Society also supports Macmillan, the Cancer Charity. Some of our members completed the Macmillan 72 hole Challenge again this year and we held a Prize draw raffle in September. Both events are supplemented by raffles at our Golf Dinners.

We are an inclusive Society with members from Marden and the surrounding area. Our members are a variety of age and ability and we are proud to have women members too. If you would like to know more,

please contact our Captain Paul Attwood on 07831 463446, pop into the West End Tavern to speak to Sean (Chairman) or Bridget (Treasurer) or email: wetgolfers@gmail.com
Sue Attwood, Hon Sec

PARISH COUNCIL COUNCILLORS, CLERKS AND OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

CHAIRMAN

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

VICE CHAIRMAN & CHAIRMAN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Andy Turner - 07803 598813

CHAIRMAN FINANCE COMMITTEE & VICE- CHAIRMAN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Richard Adam - 01622 831673
mpc@tn12.uk

CHAIRMAN AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Anne Boswell - 01622 833351 / 07808 868703

VICE CHAIRMAN AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Jean Robertson - 01622 831331 / 07950 816370

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Chris Barker - 01622832305

Cllr Matt Besant - 01622 832305

Cllr Matt Burton - 01622 832305

Cllr Ian Newton - 01622 831832

Cllr Tom Stevens - 01622 832305

Cllr Theresa Gibson - 01622 832305

PARISH CLERK

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Hollie Savory
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BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

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

Cllr Annabelle Blackmore - 01622 833299
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Cllr Claudine Russell
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Lottie Parfitt-Reid - 07919 360000
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER

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

COMMUNITY WARDEN

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

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

Freephone: 0800 405040
Text: 61016

FAULT REPORTING

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

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

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



@MardenParishCouncil



@mardenkentpc



@mardenparishcouncil



Marden at Christmas

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2022

STARTING AT THE ALLENS AT 11.00AM

CRAFT FAIR AND FATHER CHRISTMAS IN HIS GROTTO

FROM 12.00PM TILL 4.00PM

AT MARDEN MEMORIAL HALL

VARIOUS VILLAGE GROUPS AND
LOCAL BUSINESSES TAKING PART

