

AUTUMN 2020

MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER



Milky Way over Great Cheveney Farm, Marden by Ian Boswell

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WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

LESLEY MANNINGTON



Well, despite Covid-19, we had a lovely summer to enjoy our village socially distanced walks as well as our gardens and open spaces. But, sadly, Covid-19 has not gone away and looks like blighting our lives and activities well into 2021. However, who would have realised how much most of us would welcome the technology which has kept us communicating with family, friends, activities and work. I've had concerned calls asking if my health and well-being are OK. Life has been so busy with the current pandemic, that I have to respond that I could do with another 24 hrs in a day!!

As you will read in this issue, your Parish Council has been kept busy, with no let-up in the various important matters coming forward. What a delight it was to see the various entrants in the Scarecrow Safari, all of which showed imagination and talent. Very impressive and highly amusing! Just recently Councillors have been applying a lot of time and effort into the important submission we will be making to Maidstone Borough Council in the next step of the Local Plan Review Call for Sites. Our submission in respect of Regulation 18b of the exercise is being submitted in time for MBC's Strategic, Planning & Infrastructure Committee meeting planned for 9th November. Marden will definitely have a presence at that meeting, albeit virtually!

Christmas is not far away – it seems to come round more quickly each year. However, it doesn't look as though we shall be able to organise our usual 'Marden at Christmas' event, you've guessed it – because of Covid-19. However, we have other ideas up our sleeve to bring a bit of light and joy to the village.

I have to report that Green Tomato Chutney has now taken over from Banana Bread in the Mannington kitchen – closely followed by Ginger Cake! Youngest grandson took his first steps during the summer, and is now running all over the place, thus creating his own social distance! Take care, particularly with Hands, Face & Space.

Cllr Lesley Mannington



Marden Scarecrow Safari 2020



Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Call for Sites

Marden Parish Council (MPC) is mindful that many residents will be extremely concerned at the decision made by the MBC Strategic, Planning & Infrastructure (SPI) meeting in July to shortlist the land north of Marden as a possible site for a Garden Community, along with 3 other sites around Maidstone at Lidsing, Heathlands and the Leeds Langley Corridor. As reported in the Summer Newsletter, the Parish Council unanimously agreed that the three large-scale sites put forward in the Parish under the original MBC Call for Sites exercise, were deemed unsuitable for development. In August, MPC put out a Statement on both our Website and Facebook page to explain that Marden Parish Council had not changed its stance on its original response to the Call for Sites, in particular to site 309 – Strategic expansion North of Marden.

MBC has commissioned Stantec, an independent consultancy firm, to produce a viability assessment on the four potential garden community sites.

This document along with many others relating to the Local Plan was made available in advance of MBC's SPI meeting on 22nd September, this meeting did not discuss the documents. Since that time Parish Councillors have been reviewing the viability assessment and updating the evidence file already submitted to MBC. The Parish Council remains firmly of the view that the land north of Marden and the two sites adjacent to Copper Lane are not suitable sites for development. Several Parish Council meetings and workshops have subsequently taken place with residents and representatives of the Marden Planning Opposition Group in attendance to work up our response. In particular we need to ensure that our response is in total compliance with policies in the National Planning Policy Framework, the current MBC Local Plan and the Marden Neighbourhood Plan. Parish Councillors have spent many hours trawling through these documents to ensure our response is watertight. We expect to sign off our response at the Parish Council meeting on 27 October, prior to submitting to the 9 November SPI Committee meeting at which MPC will be represented.

The Parish Council continues to explore ways to maximise public awareness of, and participation in, the Call for Sites process and we urge residents to send in their comments to MBC. You can find MBC's evidence on the following link: <http://bit.ly/MBCEvidence>.

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Call for Sites (Contd)

Currently, the proposed timetable for the MBC Local Plan Review is as follows:

- Regulation 18(b) - Preferred Approaches Consultation – December 2020
- Regulation 19 – June 2021
- Submission (Regulation 20) – December 2021
- Examination (Regulation 24) – May/June 2022
- Main Modification Consultation – August 2022
- Plan and associated documents to MBC Full Council – October 2022

THANK YOU!

The battle of this exceptional and unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic continues, which has had and still is having, such an impact on many lives, a devastating effect on our economy and on our health. Now it looks likely to continue until late Winter/early Spring with the possibility of another mini-lockdown, and it seems that a vaccine will not be available for some time. It is such a difficult and challenging time for us all and as the crisis persists, it continues to affect us in different ways. As we all know, the outbreak has caused not only health, economic and educational turmoil, but also to our social lives and separation of loved ones, not to mention the great loss of life. We understand for many of you in our close community, you are finding the challenges extremely hard.



Despite this setback, we should be proud as a Parish that we have worked together as a true Community during this pandemic and once again, we would like to thank all of you who have been part of this. Let's keep up the good work and continue to pull together as a Community.

One positive thing that may have come out of this pandemic for many people is 'Connectivity'. Technology has allowed us to embrace one another enabling many meetings to still take place virtually such as via Zoom. It has helped many people to engage more conveniently and maybe more effectively. Technology has also helped many families and friends to keep connected too.

Marden Community Assistance Group

We would like to say a big thank you again to all of you who signed up with the Parish Council to be a volunteer for the Community Assistance Group, and even if you didn't sign up but have been helping a neighbour, we really appreciate the efforts volunteers have made with assisting those who are vulnerable in our Parish. It is in times of need that a community really does pull together and help others who are less fortunate.



Thank You to our Businesses

The Parish Council would like to congratulate all our local businesses who have been able to rally through the crisis. It is so gratifying to see our wonderful retail businesses in the village who were able to stay open or are reopening again after lockdown in what must have been such a difficult time for you – well done to you all. Marden is so fortunate to have so many businesses in the village and it is marvellous so many residents have been supporting them. Shopping with and investing in local independent businesses means you can have a strong and positive effect on the health of local jobs and they add character, a touch of warmth and welcoming personality. Also, good luck to the recently opened Marden Bakery (formerly Munchies).

We must of course also mention our amazing emergency services and the added Covid-19 restrictions that have been placed upon them.



GENERAL UPDATE

Thank You to our Parish Clerks

The Parish Councillors would like to give a big thank you to our Parish Clerks – Ali and Rachel - for the huge amount of work they have undertaken since the start of the pandemic crisis. Ali has ensured that the work of the Parish Council has been able to continue operating efficiently and all our policies and procedures have been followed, residents were still able to contact us and nothing has slipped through the wire. Rachel was instrumental in forming the Marden Community Assistance Group and ensured residents were kept fully up to date with vital information.

This has also enabled Councillors to continue with most of our projects such as the Highways Improvement Plan, Infrastructure Spend Plan, Allotments, new equipment for the Playing Field, and also to continue lobbying our County and Borough Councillors on various issues including Highways. We are also considering publishing a regular e-Newsletter in addition to the hard copy Newsletter which is delivered to all households in the Parish to help keep residents up to date and informed.

Ali and Rachel were planning to return to the Parish Office in November, but now the Government are advising people to work from home again, this will be delayed.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

Please remember Marden Parish Council are here to provide support and help residents with issues – our mission is to communicate and engage effectively with our Community.

If you need assistance or have a query, please either call Ali on 07376 287981, email: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk or Rachel on 07940 241333, email: deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk.



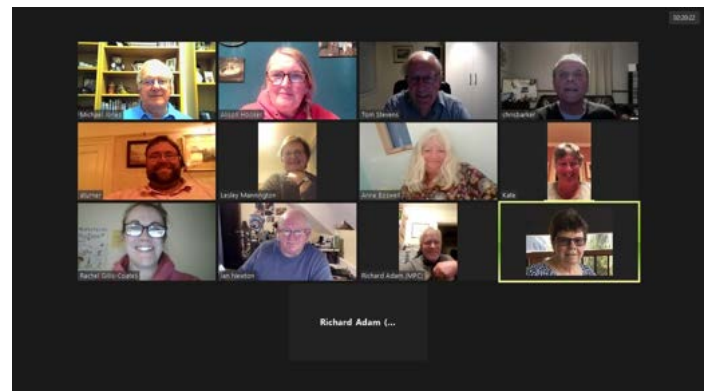
If you feel you need to meet with the Clerks on a face to face basis this can be arranged for either a Monday or Friday morning (10am to 12noon) at the Parish Office via an appointment system – please contact either Clerk to arrange. Social distancing and Government guidelines will be adhered to.



Marden Parish Council (MPC)

Meetings

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions – No 2) England Amendment No 4 Regulations 2020 came into force on 14th September. Whilst the Principal Regulations now permit local councils to hold meetings in Covid-19 secure premises (now as an exemption to the six-person gatherings limit), we have been strongly advised to continue to discuss vital council business remotely without face-to-face contact. We have, however, held a few smaller meetings face-to-face, but always following socially distanced rules.



MPC currently hold Full Council meetings on a fortnightly basis and the agenda is published on the MPC website and on village notice boards. All members of the public are invited to make comment to the Clerk before 5pm on the date of the meeting and members of the public who wish to take part can find a Zoom link to the meeting at the end of the agendas. MPC have a Filming and Recording of Meetings policy and Councillors have agreed to the recording of virtual meetings.



Marden Parish Council (MPC)
Website Accessibility

MPC is committed to making its website as accessible as possible in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018. We know some parts of this website are not fully accessible: e.g. some PDF documents are not compatible with screen reader software, some of the online forms are difficult to navigate using just a keyboard etc. If you need information on the website in a different format for example: accessible PDF, large print, easy read, audio recording, please email Ali on clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk or call 07376 287981 and we will consider your request and get back to you in 10 working days. You can check out our website on the following link:
<http://bit.ly/MPCWebsite>



PLANNING UPDATE

Government.UK Consultation – White Paper on Planning for the Future – closes 29th October

The Government’s Housing White Paper on Planning for the Future consultation proposes reforms of the planning system to streamline and modernise the planning process, bring a new focus to design and sustainability, improve the system of developer contributions to infrastructure, and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed. However, this may result in there being a risk of being overtaken by a very uncertain and unpredictable new planning system.

The Parish Council discussed their response to the White Paper on 27th October. Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) are extremely concerned on what the impact of the Government’s White Paper may have on Planning and they are currently working to the existing housing numbers, but these could be increased as a result of the White Paper.

Marden Neighbourhood Plan

At a Full Maidstone Borough Council meeting in July, it was resolved to adopt the Marden Neighbourhood Development Plan (2017-2031) under Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Marden Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory development plan for Maidstone Borough.

Marden Neighbourhood Plan (Contd)

Consequently, the plan will be used to determine planning applications in the Marden plan area. The decision statement can be viewed on the Maidstone Borough Council website: <https://localplan.maidstone.gov.uk/home/neighbourhood-planning>.

Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP)

The Parish Council has continued to work on the important ISP Parish 'Wish List' which has been based on residents' preferences made at the Consultation in November 2019. Once we are happy with the draft, which you can find on the MPC Website, we will arrange a further consultation early next year. The purpose of the plan is to identify the infrastructure and investment needed by the Parish and will form the basis for budgeting purposes in future years. You can view the draft document on: <http://bit.ly/MardenISP>



HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

One.Network is a useful tool that reports on live up to date traffic restrictions and roadworks. The dates and times may vary but the Parish Council aims to keep residents posted on Facebook on a weekly basis from the notifications received from one.network.



As residents are very aware, there have been quite a few roadworks/road closures which have been undertaken as emergency road closures and therefore not advertised in advance. This results in no 'Start of Works Notices' (SoWNs) being erected to warn drivers and residents of future road closures. This has recently occurred in Sheephurst Lane, Howland Road and Goudhurst Road which, as a result, has caused a considerable amount of chaos in the village. The latest incident was multiple problems with another Goudhurst Road closure with an inappropriate route diversion in Sheephurst Lane (which has a 7.5 tonne limit) and is not appropriate for HGV's. Although, as mentioned above, the Parish Clerks receive notifications via one.network and place on our Facebook page, we are aware that many residents are not on social media.

Road Closures (Contd)

The Parish Council have lobbied our County Councillor on this issue to take up with Kent Highways. We have also requested clarification that when road closures are notified, the diversions put in place are not always correct and don't include weight/height restrictions and other village road names; and when road closures take place and workmen are able to open the roads at night to allow vehicles through, that they take the "road closed" sign away or lay out flat before re-erecting when they start work again. The Parish Council also contacted Kent Highways directly about the Howland Road closure which caused a great deal of confusion and disruption which was closed for essential carriageway patching works being carried out and we received an apology.

Highways Improvement Plan

As previously advised, the Parish Council has collated a proactive action list of highways' measures for the Parish including residents' suggestions and the highway improvements due to be delivered by developers. A meeting took place in July with Kent Highways to discuss the document and what may be achievable in the short, medium and long-term. Our two priority traffic regulation orders are: 1. parking restrictions (SYL) extending past the primary school towards the village boundary (Spring Grove) or Admiral

Way on both sides of the road; and 2. Speed restrictions in Goudhurst Road between Sheephurst Lane junction and Winchet Hill and we have requested that Kent Highways undertake a speed survey in this area. Our next task is to identify locations for dropped kerbs in the village as there may be some funding towards the cost of this.



Bend at Church Farm Corner, Maidstone Road and Barrier at the end of Howland Road

Work had been undertaken a few months ago by KCC Highways with the aim of alerting drivers to slow down when approaching this dangerous bend on the Maidstone Road. However, some vehicles are still speeding and a few have actually careered off into an adjacent resident's garden. The resident is now logging any incidents along with any flooding on the corner and to report this directly to Kent Highways. A Stage 4 road safety audit would normally be undertaken after 12 months. However, our County Councillor has agreed to meet with the Highways Inspector and resident to discuss further.

The Parish Council has also been asked to liaise with Kent Highways regarding the barrier at Howland Road/Battle Lane junction. This will be raised as a safety issue and Kent Highways will be asked to look at signage at the approach road.



Speed Indicator Device (SID)

Kent Highways have finally obtained a Purchase Order from the housing developer to cover the cost of the Speed Indicator Sign scheme that was discussed almost two years ago. The three locations which Kent Highways agreed were on Goudhurst Road (by the entrance to Gravel Pit Lane), Thorn Road (on grass verge by Cobtree House and Beechway) and Howland Road (on grass verge by Numbers 13 and 14). Adjacent residents were consulted about the positions. The SID would be in situ at each location for a period of 1-3 months and then moved by the Village Caretaker. Hopefully, this device will help deter speeding along these roads particularly those entering the village on the Goudhurst Road. The Parish Council did discuss other possible locations with Kent Highways in Pattenden Lane and Maidstone Road near the bend, but these were not deemed suitable.

Speed Watch & Lorry Watch

Because of Covid-19 and social distancing, the Speed Watch and Lorry Watch schemes were put on hold. However, the Parish Council will now make it a priority to kick start these projects as soon as it is deemed suitable.

Kent County Council Public Rights of Way (PROW)

The usage of the public footpaths in our Parish has escalated especially during lockdown, and it is pleasing that they have been kept in a reasonable condition by the PROW officers who have been out and about regularly fixing problems. If you want to report any non-urgent issues such as broken stiles, overgrown vegetation or fallen trees, damaged or dangerous path surfaces, damaged or missing signposts, you can submit a separate report for each individual problem online:

<http://bit.ly/ReportAProblemPROW>

In an emergency (something which can cause an injury or accident) please call: 03000 41 71 71 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm). You can also find a map of the Parish's PROW as follows: <http://bit.ly/MardenPROW>



OPEN SPACE

When the Playing Field, Napoleon Drive and Southons Field re-opened its play equipment in July, signage was erected and MPC ensured the play equipment was safe to use and risk assessments undertaken. Could we please ask residents to continue to follow the rules – maintain social distancing at all times, hand cleaning to be undertaken before and after using equipment, parent/carer to be advised to clean down equipment before and after use, 30 mins max in the play area and no food or drink in the play area. The Public Toilets also re-opened with relevant Covid-19 signage.

Southons Field

It has been wonderful to see this lovely open space being enjoyed by so many families over the Spring & Summer and children and toddlers being able to run around freely and safely. Because of the huge increase in use and the deterioration of the existing benches, the Parish Council will be installing six new picnic benches including two with wheelchair/pram access. We are currently investigating the possibility of installing some wooden swings. There is also a box of Community Games available for families/village groups for use in the field and once Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, you can contact Ali or Rachel if you would like to borrow them. There have unfortunately been a few incidents of anti-social behaviour after the field has been locked recently.



Wildflower Meadow by Ian Boswell

The field is open during daylight hours only – Sept-Oct 7am-7pm; Nov-March 8am-4pm; April-Aug 7am-8pm. We would also ask if you could kindly respect the privacy of residents who live adjacent to the field. The woods are also out of bounds.

We would like to thank Marden in Bloom for all their hard work in creating the Wildflower Meadow in the field.



Wildflower Meadow by Ian Boswell

Marden Playing Field

The Parish Council has listened to the growing concern of residents regarding the issues around the youth shelter, including the use of nitrous oxide cannisters, and we have been liaising with Nicola Morris our PCSO. Nicola and her fellow PCSOs regularly visit the field and chat with the young people and she is also in contact with the parents of those young people who have been misbehaving. The Parish Council will be installing some CCTV to help monitor the situation and posters will be placed in the shelter giving warnings about the side effects of nitrous oxide.

Marden Playing Field (Contd)

The outdoor gym equipment, new litter bin and benches are on order which have been taken from the Section 106 money allocated to the Playing Field. It is great to see that Marden Minors Football Club have also resumed playing matches at the weekend following FA guidelines and risk assessments and appropriate insurance in place.

POLICE AND CRIME UPDATE

Since the Summer Newsletter was issued, there have been various crimes of note including criminal damage and a few thefts and burglaries. There have been a number of patrols in the area and CCTV views with cannabis warnings issued, a helicopter was deployed due to the manner of a vehicle driving in Howland Road, also motorbikes have been seized which were believed to be stolen, bikes being stolen from Marden Train Station (now recovered) and quarantine visits/calls have been conducted to local residents returning from overseas.

As already mentioned above, there have been a number of anti-social behaviour reports such as groups of youths being abusive in the Playing Field and causing a nuisance, issues with gas cannisters, damage in Southons Field and a youth was arrested in possession of a catapult and stones. Our PCSO Nicola Morris has also been working with one of the Housing Associations on some of the issues.

Residents are the 'eyes & ears' of the village, so please continue to report incidents as it helps to put extra resources into the parish and Kent Police try to collate as much evidence as possible. In an emergency call 999, or If you have any information relating to any crime in the Parish, please call 101. Alternatively you can report an incident online: <https://www.kent.police.uk/>

CrimeStoppers.
Speak up. Stay safe.



If you witness something which could be helpful in an investigation, you can check out the Kent Police Appeals page: <http://bit.ly/KPAppeals>



For Kent Crimestoppers anonymously, dial 0800 555 111. If you need to report incidents on trains or the tube, please text the British Transport Police on 61016 to report non-emergency incidents on trains or dial 0800 405040 to give more information.



**BRITISH
TRANSPORT
POLICE**

Domestic Abuse

Whoever you are, whatever your situation, you are not alone - does your partner or someone in your life frighten you with the things they say or do, do they isolate and control who you see or where you go, do they control your finances? Domestic abuse is more than just physical abuse and Kent Police can help and support you - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can use Live Chat to talk to one of their 101 operators at www.kent.police.uk/contact or in an emergency, call 999.



If you don't want to contact the police, there is a network of people ready and waiting to support you. You can use Freephone, 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247, or Help and support service: www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk

For the Men's Advice Line call 0808 801 0327 or Broken Rainbow call 0300 9995428.



Police and Parish Surgeries

Unfortunately, now that the weather is changing the PCSO has an issue with a venue. With most libraries being closed at the moment and public gatherings not allowed, a lot of surgeries have gone on line, and currently with cases rising again, it is felt that face to face may take a little longer to arrange. However, PCSO Nicola Morris is happy to chat to you on the telephone or via email. Her contact details are:

Phone: 101

Email: nicola.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk



Maidstone Community Protection Team

The Maidstone Community Protection team are looking to reintroduce their rural surgeries in the safest ways possible which admittedly is difficult with libraries being closed. However, they are very keen to continue with the surgeries as they feel that they brought huge value to the residents and once they are able to identify a Covid-19 secure location details will be made available.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Coronavirus Outbreak

What you Can and Can't Do

The Government advice continues to change, but at the time of going to print, in England groups of people are limited to 6 which includes children. If you see any abuse of this rule, it can be reported to:

<http://bit.ly/KPCoronavirusBreach>

The Parish Council frequently puts updates on our website and Facebook page, but here is a link to the latest FAQs on what you can and can't do: <http://bit.ly/GovernmentCOVIDFAQs>

Marden Medical Centre Update

Many thanks again to our wonderful Medical Centre for operating so efficiently. Since June, the surgery door has been open for a number of pre-arranged appointments and for collections from the dispensary. Please observe all infection control measures. The outdoor shelter has been removed and they are keeping the building safe. Most issues are assessed by phone or video, including the need to be seen in person.



You can collect medication at 12pm-2pm or 4pm-6pm to avoid busy times and you **MUST** wear a face covering and wash hands to enter the surgery. Please do not queue to get an appointment, instead book an on the day telephone assessment appointment using either the Patient Online Services from 8.25am onwards or call 01622 831257 from 8.30am onwards. Telephone calls will not be at a specified time, but at some point, during the course of the day.

There is a Doctorlink service for access to advice, a symptom checker and telephone appointments on: <http://bit.ly/MardenDoctorlink>

You can check out their Facebook page: <http://bit.ly/MardenMedicalFacebook>

The Medical Centre have submitted a planning application to Maidstone Borough Council for the proposed siting of a cabin at the back of the car park to provide additional space for the existing doctors' surgery and associated works.

Marden Medical Centre Patient Participation Group (PPG)

PPG was formed in 2011 and acts as a patient voice, representing patient's views, helping the GPs deliver high quality health care services and new members are very welcome. The PPG is free to join, you will receive regular health & well-being information by email and receive the bi-annual Newsletter. For more information on why you should consider joining the Group, visit our website:

<https://www.mardenppg.org.uk/>

You can also follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mardenmedicalcentrepvg>

Meetings have continued throughout the pandemic and our next virtual meeting will be on Thursday 17th December 2020 at 7:00pm and the guest speaker will be Carole-Ann Alexander from The Harmony Therapy Trust based in Sheerness. Their website is: <http://theharmonytherapytrust.org.uk/> The Trust provides different types of complementary and supportive therapy to medically referred NHS patients, free of charge. You do not need to be a PPG member to participate in PPG meetings and for more information on the Group and how to join these meetings, please contact ppg@mardenppg.org.uk or give me a call on 07769 53 88 97.

John Haddow, Chairman

Covid-19 Testing

The COVID-19 assessment unit at Headcorn Aerodrome is now closed and any patients with potential COVID-19

symptoms who require a face-to-face clinical assessment will be seen at the Medical Centre. There will be an initial phone assessment with a GP or paramedic practitioner, so please go online or phone the surgery in the usual way to book. Patients will be seen in an area which has been zoned from the rest of the surgery to minimise risks to other patients and staff, and there will be a separate entrance and parking area.

Assessments will be conducted during designated time periods. However, if the surgery is closed and you feel you have symptoms, then call the NHS 119 number. The Medical Centre do not keep or have access to Covid-19 testing kits at the surgery.



myGP App

The easiest way to track your health at Marden Medical Centre is with the myGP app - it's easy and free to download: <https://mygp.me/316AHD1>

Download the **myGP**® app



www.mygp.io/app



Covid-19 App - NHS Test and Trace

Our phones have been an important part of staying connected during the pandemic and they are also one of the key ways you can help to protect each other. The NHS Covid-19 app is the fastest way to see when you're at risk of coronavirus by letting you know anonymously if you've been in contact with anyone who reported a positive test and advising you of the real-time risk level in our local area. The quicker you know, the quicker you can alert and protect your loved ones and help the spread of the virus. If residents haven't already done so, the Government has recommended you download this App if you are able to and you have the correct technology. Track and Trace became a legal requirement on 18th September and you can find an overview, including what happens if you test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive on:
<http://bit.ly/NHSCOVIDTestandTrace>



Flu Immunisations

Many thanks to the Medical Centre staff for so efficiently organising the flu jab sessions - what an excellent job!

The latest details for the Marden Medical Centre by-invitation flu immunisation clinics can be seen on the Surgery website:
<http://bit.ly/MardenMedicalFlu>



Marden Food Bank

Marden is fortunate that the Food Bank is still running and is now based in the Vestry Hall. It is accessible under the same terms and conditions as previously on Mondays and Fridays only between 10am and 12 noon. Food and toiletry item donations may be left at the Vestry Hall during the Food Bank opening hours and to use the Food Bank you must still have a referral from one of the following: Marden Children's Centre, your GP, Family Liaison Officer at Marden School or your Social Worker.



Marden Food Bank (Contd)

For the Foodbank to be able to meet families' needs, we do need to please ask for the communities' continued help. Donations of both food/toiletries and finance are still increasingly important to the continuation of this service. Any donations are welcome, but the food/household items that are particularly useful are: washing powder/liquid (smaller sizes please so they are easy to carry), Nappies, Baby Milk, Toilet Roll, Pasta, Rice, Cooking Sauces. We are also experiencing an increased demand for shower gel, deodorant, shampoo and sanitary products. If you wish and are able to make a financial donation, please contact Jane Lowther by email on treasurer@mardenchurch.org.uk or phone 01622 832974. Jane will give you the details to make a simple and secure bank transfer or if you can only offer cash please discuss that with Jane as to how the transaction can be made.

Thanks go to all the residents, local shops, volunteers and community initiatives who have made generous donations in finances, time and food items to this Food Bank. Thank you also to all the families in the village who have used/are using the new Food Bank. The Church, Parish Council, Children's Centre and School, who are all jointly involved with this are delighted that you, those families who need it the very most, have been able to utilise the facilities, and that as a community we have been able to

help meet your needs. We all hope that you are able to continue to access the supplies available and please remember that there is always someone you can contact to help in these difficult times.

Kathy Young, Pastoral Assistant
Email: youthandchildren@mardenchurch.org.uk

Phone: 07834 760787



Kent Together Helpline

Kent County Council is running a 24-hour helpline called Kent Together. It is a single, convenient point of contact for anyone who is in urgent need of help during the Covid-19 outbreak. If you are vulnerable and have an urgent need that cannot be met through existing support networks, please check out www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether or call 03000 419292.

Marden Dementia Group

Sadly, the Marden Dementia Friendly Community project and Living Memories Cafe are on hold until Covid-19 is under control. We are very much looking forward to getting back to work as soon as we are allowed to. If you have not already registered with us and would like to support us once we are up and running again, please email: rachel_chacon@hotmail.co.uk or gail.jessel@hotmail.co.uk.

**Mental Health and Support
with Addictions**

During this pandemic, there has been a lot of information about the virus and its effects on mental health because of the social, financial and psychological implications it carries which can seriously impact on mental wellbeing. If any residents need help, have relatives or friends who need support with any addiction or mental health issues, please check out the link for guidance and helpful information: <http://bit.ly/Rehab4Addiction>



Loneliness during the Coronavirus

The Mental Health Foundation is part of the national mental health response during the coronavirus outbreak. The Government advice is designed to keep us safe, is under constant review and will be different depending on where you live. Please check out: <http://bit.ly/CoronavirusandLoneliness>



Allotment Update

The Parish Council have been in discussions with Redrow on the transfer of the freehold land at Highwood Green to the Parish Council, but Redrow still need to agree a specification and on-going management plan with Maidstone Borough Council as part of the Section 106 agreement. Redrow also asked the Parish Council if they would take over the adjacent car parking area outside the allotment site, but Councillors agreed they did not want to take this area on.

An Allotment Society has now been set up and we would like to thank Jill Nichols and all involved for their hard work in establishing the society. The Parish Council are currently in the process of putting together a formal agreement on the 'Rules & Regulations for Good Management' and once agreed with the Allotment Society, will be provided to Redrow as part of the legal agreement.

It has also been agreed that 2 of the allotment plots will be dedicated as a secure Dementia-friendly garden.

Marden Children's Centre

Whilst the Children's Centre in Marden remains closed because of social distancing, they are currently still supporting the Food Bank which is now at the Vestry Hall. The staff are sending e-mails to families in the area with activities to do with their little ones now most of the children are back at school. A Spooky Hunt is being arranged for half-term week where there will be a series of pictures for the children to find around Marden Playing Field. You can make contact via Facebook page: Maidstone Children's Centres or email: mardenchildrenscentre@kent.gov.uk if you have any questions or want to know what's going on.

Maidstone Community Support Hub

Maidstone Borough Council has created a Community Support Hub to provide a co-ordinated response to help provide and deliver essentials to people across the borough who are most in need. The Maidstone Hub will offer help to those people who don't have a support system in place and to assist those people with serious medical conditions who have been told to remain indoors for 12 weeks because of the Coronavirus. It has a specific focus on providing access to food, medicines and other supplies and will be open Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5pm. The hub can be accessed via: <http://bit.ly/MaidstoneCommunityHub>

Kent Support and Assistance Scheme for those in Crisis

The Kent Support and Assistance Service (KSAS) may be able to help you if you are having serious difficulties managing your income or if you are facing exceptional pressures because of an emergency. The support can be accessed via: <https://bit.ly/34gK9Wm>

DRAINAGE AND WATER

You can find information on local drainage and flooding on the Parish Council website: <http://bit.ly/MPCDrainageandFlooding>

Government Flooding Grant

The government has announced an extension of the £5,000 grant scheme available to homes and businesses affected by flooding last winter. The Property Flood Resilience (PFR) scheme will be extended by nine months which takes into account delays to repair work and the additional pressures placed on local authorities by Coronavirus. The extension will give homeowners and businesses more time to carry out repairs and local authorities a greater period to process the grants. The new deadline for applications from communities flooded in November 2019 is now 31 December 2021, while those flooded in February 2020 have until 1 July 2022. Please click on the link below for more information: <https://bit.ly/3oaw7NB>

Road Closure Pilot

Yalding, Hunton and Collier Street parishes are part of a road closure pilot scheme liaising with the Environment Agency, Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council when flooding occurs. We have requested, particularly since the flooding took place last Winter, that Marden be included in this pilot as some of the roads also cover Marden (Sheephurst Lane, Green Lane and Chainhurst, Hunton Road). As we still have not heard about being included in the scheme, Councillors recently lobbied our County Councillor Eric Hotson who will investigate further.



Water supply in Battle Lane

A resident has been in contact with South East Water regarding a reliable permanent water supply to the Wanshurst Green area and has approached the Parish Council to give some weight to assist residents. Councillors agreed to contact South East Water to seek assurance that there is a plan in hand to resolve this issue, what is and when exactly is it planned since the problem has been going on a long time and is unresolved.

CLIMATE, SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY

Cancellation of Village Litter Pick

A Parish Litter Pick had been arranged for 17th October, but due to advice from Maidstone Borough Council, we were unable to hold this event safely given the current social distancing rules. However, if you would like to do some litter picking, under the 'Keep Britain Tidy' guidelines, up to 6 people can do so. The Parish Council are happy to provide you with the necessary equipment. You will need to agree and sign the risk assessment and will be covered under the Parish Council insurance. Please let Ali know if you would like to clear an area/road either via email: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk or call 07376 287981.

As ever, thank you to those residents who have kindly volunteered and hopefully we will be able to organise something in the Spring if the pandemic is over by then. Another big 'Thank You' to all the residents who regularly collect rubbish around the village – we know who you are – it has not gone unnoticed – you are our Litter Heroes!





Dog Poo

It is so disheartening to report that there has been a noticeable increase in dog poo on footpaths around the village with poo bags being hung on branches or thrown into the bushes. Please, please, please can we ask residents yet again to be responsible and respect not only our environment but our children - it can be a dangerous health hazard not just for our children but also wildlife. There are plenty of litter bins around the village or just take the bags home and dispose of in your non-recycling bin. A big thank you to those kind residents who collect the bags that have been discarded and to Marden Scout group for undertaking a Dog Poo Awareness campaign back in the Spring.

If you notice any incidents (including an address), you can report them directly to MBC who can enforce PSPOs by either calling 01622 602202 or the online form on the RK9 campaign page:
<http://bit.ly/RK9Campaign>
<http://bit.ly/MBCDogControlOrder>
Alternatively, it is also worth letting our Community Warden mira.martin@kent.gov.uk know if you have a rough idea of time and place of the offence and Mira will try and investigate.

The Playing Field is covered by Maidstone Borough Council Dog (MBC) Control Orders, but they do not clear up the mess in the field. They will respond if dog owners are reported for allowing their dogs to foul the field and they will then visit to monitor and review. After public consultation, MBC are implementing new Dog Control PSPOs for the fenced play area at the Playing Field and are setting about ensuring correct signage and that information is erected.

Air Quality – Diffusion Tubes

As reported in the Spring Newsletter, the Parish Council agreed to participate in the MBC's 2020 scheme to monitor air quality in the village. Diffusion tubes are now positioned outside the Primary School and at the junction with Maidstone Road/High Street. In July, it was reported that readings were untypically low, partly because of the current situation, and MBC submitted their air quality Annual Status Report to DEFRA. There were no exceedances of the annual mean objective for NO₂ and the school was the closest site to an exceedance at 38.1µgm-3 which means the result is comfortably below the objective.



Kent Wildlife Trust
Marden Farmer Cluster

Farmers and landowners across Kent hold a wealth of knowledge and experience in managing natural landscapes. With an increasing willingness by government to encourage and support newer farming methods, like-minded farmers are joining together in local clusters to share expertise in methods of conservation and regenerative agriculture, to restore and improve biodiversity and improve soils on their farms.

Water quality and flooding are also a focus. Although these clusters are farmer led, Kent Wildlife Trust support these groups by providing technical help and suggest targets to aim for. By several farmers working collaboratively over a wide area, this can open the door for landscape-scale initiatives, which deliver more successful benefits to the environment than individual pockets of excellence, however good.



Red Underwing Moth by Alan Reading



Male Green Woodpecker by Darren Nicholls

Following a meeting in March with a couple of keen farming families, the Trust agreed to set up a cluster based in Marden. Despite delays caused by lockdown, the cluster is now approaching a dozen members, and all are keen to sign up and get to work. New meadows are planned, and measures to protect the River Teise and Beult too. With the successful launch of the Marden Wildlife Citizen Science project happening alongside, there are aspirations for possible joint projects in the pipeline. It's an exciting time, and a chance to make our very biodiverse village even more so. Our citizen scientists are recording species that are new to the area every week, and the cluster work can only accelerate this.

Please check out the Marden Wildlife Facebook page where you can see evidence of the amazing array and unique wildlife which we have in our Parish:

<http://bit.ly/MardenWildlifeFacebook>

Water Refill Update

Once the Covid-19 restrictions have been eased and the virus is not so prevalent, the Parish Council are hoping to register to take part in the water refill initiative. Watch this space.....

Marden Community EcoHub

Currently it seems unlikely there will be any more Ecohub events in 2020, due to social distancing rules. However, please do join the Marden Community EcoHub page on Facebook to share ideas and resources and to stay up to date on future activities. In the meantime, please keep supporting your local businesses - not only have they provided a fantastic service to so many of us over the last 6 months, but they also contribute significantly to a greener and more sustainable community for the future:

<http://bit.ly/MardenEcoHubFacebook>
Vicky Croxford

YOUTH PROVISION

Kent County Council sadly withdrew its youth services in the village last year and we were fortunate that initially a thoughtful resident volunteered to run it for a few weeks. In January, a YMCA Youth Club was set up in the village but then had to close because of the pandemic. Since then, the West Kent Branch have lost a number of staff during lockdown which has left the service very short staffed and, as a result,

have had to cut the youth provision they offer including the Marden club. Councillors have lobbied our County Councillor and we have now made contact with the KCC Cabinet Member responsible for youth services expressing our concerns about the growing youth population in Marden and with no provision available to them. Hopefully, we will have something to report in the next Newsletter.

OTHER PARISH INFORMATION

Welcome to our new Vicar

We would like to welcome the Reverend Nicky Harvey to her new Ministry and home in the Parish. She was appointed as the Vicar of Marden on 13th October. Rev Harvey was recently the Assistant Curate at St Mary's Hadlow and on secondment to the Benefice of Mereworth, Watlingbury and West Peckham, Kent. We wish her all the best in our Parish and becoming a part of our wonderful Community.

Marden Community Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Registered with Charity Commission 1183843

Great news for our community especially in the current crisis as the new Marden CIO has been created by combining 3 existing Marden Charities - the Victory Fund, the Sir Charles Booth Charity and the Allens & Maplesden Charity.

**Marden Community Charitable
Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Registered with Charity
Commission 1183843 (Contd)**

The new charity would like to thank all the trustees of the original charities for all their hard work over many years. The objective of the new charity is the relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually, of people living in Marden Parish by making grants of money available for providing or paying for items, services, or facilities. The trustees of the charity will always include the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Vicar of Marden. The other trustees are Eunice Doswell, Ian Newton, Janice Collins, David Elphick, Dorothy Reed, Anne Cox and Kate Tippen. Please spread the news about this charity as we envisage that the current health and economic crisis will have resulted in hardship for some of our residents.

What type of things are covered?

This is a grant to individuals living in the Civil Parish of Marden who are suffering hardship or illness, for specific purposes where funding is not normally available from other sources to assist. For example, sight, hearing or mobility; quality of life or social care; education and training for children and young people; education and training for health and social care professionals Grants will also be available to village organisations for specific projects.



How much can I apply for? All grant payments will be at the discretion of Trustees with a maximum grant of £100 payable to individuals and £500 to village organisations.

How can I apply? Forms for both individuals and organisations can be downloaded from the Marden Parish Council website. If you are an individual applying for a grant, the form will need to be countersigned by someone in a professional capacity who knows about your circumstances or one of the charity's trustees (you will find their names on the website). If you are applying on behalf of a village organisation you will need a trustee to countersign your application.

For any further information email: mardencommunitycio@gmail.com or check out more info at: <http://bit.ly/MardenCharity>



Marden Primary Academy

On the 1st September, Marden Primary Academy opened as a new entity under the auspices of the Leigh Academies Trust and as a result Marden Primary School closed and its day-to-day relationship with Kent County Council (KCC) ceased. Most of the staff have remained unchanged and the land and buildings have been leased by KCC to the Trust for a period of 125 years (KCC retain the freehold to the site). Admissions will still be determined by KCC as will decisions around any expansion, for which KCC still hold a pot of Section 106 money. The Governing Body looks after all of the schools in the Trust and three of the former Marden governors will sit on that board. The Trust's aspirations for Marden Primary Academy and for all of the children it serves are uncompromisingly and unswervingly high. You can see the Trust's track record at:
<http://bit.ly/LeighAcademiesPerformance>

We wish the school all the best under its new entity.



Marden Library and Heritage Centre

The county's main Libraries started to reopen in July and the second tranche in August which disappointingly did not include Marden Library. It looks doubtful it will reopen until at least the New Year, and this also means our important Heritage Centre, run by Marden History Group, is unable to operate, as well as all the other activities that take place at the Library; such as a WiFi service, the use of computers (which a number of residents rely upon), Rhyme Time etc.

Kent Libraries are focusing on the 'Select & Collect Service' which provides a book borrowing service where orders can be made both online and over the phone.

The Parish Council has raised our concerns with our County Councillor Eric Hotson and he is now keenly lobbying for the reopening of both Marden and Staplehurst Libraries. The History Group have also asked KCC Libraries if they will reconsider their decision. It has been pointed out that Marden Library and Heritage Centre have not only proved to be a successful partnership, but a unique enterprise in the UK. It has also become an important Hub for all ages and interests in the village.

Community Warden Update

Our Community Warden Mira Martin is answering phone calls and emails, so if residents have any queries or issues and you are not sure who to contact, Mira will try and assist or point you in the right direction to another service/agency. You can contact Mira on 07969 584179 or email: mira.martin@kent.gov.uk

Retirement of Borough Councillor

After 8 years in the role, one of our local Borough Councillors, Steve McLoughlin, has now retired from the role at the end of July. A few words from Steve: "I was first elected in 2012 when the reparation of Maidstone's Local Housing Development Plan was in its early stages and the production of Maidstone's Local Plan 2011-2031 was my most challenging task. The Local Plan was formally adopted in 2017/8 and now gives the Council control over where future housing and employment development should take place. But before that, planning permission was granted for over 500 homes in both Staplehurst and Marden and an additional 100 homes in Yalding. A review of the Local Plan is currently underway to include a further 7500 homes in the Borough. Planning is often a contentious issue and I was always ready to help residents either to support or object to various applications at Planning Committee meetings in the Town Hall.

Flooding was another major topic that I was involved with in establishing a link between the Borough Council, the Environment Agency and residents through the Joint Parishes Flood Group. The Council set aside £1 million to put towards flood mitigation measures and while the original expectation that the Environment Agency would construct two flood storage areas on the Beult and Teise, this proved to be impractical and individual property resilience measures have been installed instead. The Council continues to be an active member of the Medway Flood Partnership. I must thank all those who elected me for giving me the opportunity to work with, and better understand, how the Borough Council functions. For some time, I was the Cabinet Member with executive responsibilities for Corporate Services and I have also been Chairman of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and Cobtree Manor Estate Trust for several years. This has been a hugely interesting experience for which I am extremely grateful, and I hope that during my time I have been able to bring about a greater sense of purpose to the Council's financial performance and varied activities. My colleagues, David Burton and Annabelle Blackmore continue to cover the Marden & Yalding Ward."

NatWest Mobile Bank

NatWest's van is back in Marden every Tuesday between 2pm-3pm in the Library car park. Please bear in mind that safety measures are in place when using this service. The NatWest Bank van will also be in Staplehurst on Saturdays between 10.30am-11.45am in the Staplehurst Free Church car park.



PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Government Consultation on Managing Pavement Parking – Closing Date 22nd November 2020

Pavement parking is always an issue and this Consultation is seeking to find out whether a change of existing pavement parking legislation should happen. Three options are proposed:

- Improving the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process, under which local authorities can already prohibit pavement parking.
- Legislative change to allow local authorities with civil parking enforcement powers to enforce against "unnecessary obstruction of the pavement".

Legislative change to introduce a London-style pavement parking prohibition throughout England. You can have your say at: <http://bit.ly/GovPavementParking>

VILLAGE EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

As ever, a big welcome if you are new to our lovely village and you can find all the details in the 'Welcome Pack' on the Parish Council website: <https://bit.ly/MPCWelcomePack>

It is so disappointing that most village events have had to be cancelled because of the ongoing Covid-19 situation. It is also sad that most village groups and we are so fortunate to have so many in our village, have not been able to undertake their normal activities. However, there is an update below of what some of our Village Clubs/ Organisations have been up to during the crisis.



Marden at Christmas

Marden Parish Council were hoping to still run the Marden at Christmas event and were planning to hold this outside in the public car park by the Library rather than the usual venues at The Allens and Memorial Hall. Because of the continuing Covid-19 restrictions, Councillors have made the difficult decision that it is not safe to run an event at all which we realise residents will find very disappointing.

A Letter from Father Christmas

To all my dear friends,

I am so sorry that I won't be able to see you all in my grotto in Marden this year. I was really hoping that this dreadful Coronavirus would have been beaten by now, but it seems not and the last thing I want to do is to risk you all being very ill from being too close to other people.

But I am still going to come to Marden on December 5th to see you all and I'll be bringing my elves with lots of sweets with me too! Because we all live together in my house at the North Pole, that's alright. One of the elves will be driving me around the village and there will be places where you can pick up some sweets at a safe distance to cheer you up!

Let's all hope that by 2021 things will be back to normal. I know I can't wait!

With lots of love and best wishes for a very merry, safe and healthy Christmas!

Father Christmas

Along with a visit from Father Christmas on Saturday 5 December (a route will be advertised nearer the time) several small elves will be hidden in shop windows around the village centre. We'll advertise nearer the time some clues as to where to find the elves but unfortunately this year this will only be for fun as we will not be able to hand out any prizes.

There will be one competition for the best window display/garden display which anyone in the parish can take part in. This competition will run from 1st December with voting closing at 5pm on Sunday 20th December. Please let the Clerk or Deputy Clerk know by 27th November if you wish to take part and a map/locations will be made available to all who wish to see the wonderful displays. Everyone will have the opportunity to vote and this can be done via Facebook, email to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk, or via a note through the Parish Office letter box. A prize will be awarded to the winner.

The tradition for many years in the village at Christmas, is for the Parish Council to erect Christmas trees on residents' houses in the centre of the village. Many of the trees are becoming old and worn and it is expensive not only to replace them, but to PAT test and erect/remove them each year. We are pleased to announce that we will be using contractors to place festoon garland lights on alternate lamp



posts between the School in Goudhurst Road and Stanley's Garage in Albion Road (15 in all) which should give a lovely display. The lights we have chosen will then be reused in future years. If residents would like one of our original trees to erect and light themselves on their home we are more than happy for you to do this. Please contact Ali or Rachel.

The Friends of Marden Heritage

Well what an eventful twelve months it has been so far. On a glorious sunny Autumnal day last September, we held our Autumn event which was a Musical Barbecue hosted in the beautiful surroundings of Lady Susan Fenn's garden. The sun shone and we were treated to wonderful music from the Village Voices supporting the Marden Big Band. This event was very well supported and raised £783.35. Come December we had a stall at Marden at Christmas with a Treasure Hunt which was great fun and seemed very popular with the adults; possibly because the treasure was a bottle of port and we raised £40.00. We began 2020 with the popular January Quiz, this time with a Medieval theme and a new format with our jolly Quiz Master asking the questions, dressed as a Medieval Jester. This was a very popular event which proved to be great fun and was well attended. An impressive £575.04 was raised from this event. All the proceeds from The Friends of Marden's Heritage events are split between the History Group to

support the Heritage Centre, and the Church to maintain its fabric. For the last four years, Church funds have been ring fenced to go towards the renovation and repair of the beautiful windows in the Church. Our Treasurer, Brian Woodgate, has also obtained a grant towards the cost of the work, which means that our target has been achieved. Sadly, due to the Covid-19 pandemic this year, we had to cancel our AGM, but relevant papers were circulated to members. We also had to cancel the St George's Day concert, the Big Musical Picnic and the Musical Barbecue. The safety of our members and the people who support us by attending the events is our upmost concern and as such due to the Covid-19 situation we will not be holding any events during the rest of 2020. I want to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their continued hard work and dedication and to all the wonderful people who have come along to our events in the past to help us raise much needed funds to ensure the continued preservation of Marden's heritage.

Lucie Green

Chair of Friends of Marden Heritage



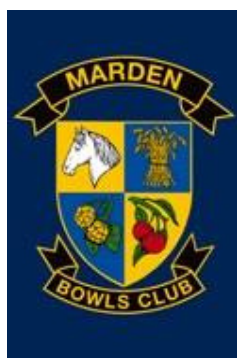
Marden Art Club

We are hoping to resume some painting at a large local studio soon - at least to kickstart our creative side again. We do benefit from the stimulus of other people's ideas and work. But as groups of 6 is now the maximum allowed that may be 'iffy' as well. Hope this passes soon for all our sakes.

Mo and Vera

Marden Bowls Club

The Bowls Club were able to resume play in June after Covid-19 restrictions were lifted and went on to arrange two internal competitions.



These were concluded on 5th September and since then the green has been closed and the necessary autumn renovation work carried out. We are planning to start our short mat season at the end of September, but due to Covid-19 only one mat, instead of two, will be used and sessions will have to be booked in groups of six maximum. 2021 represents the Club's 50th anniversary and a programme of celebration games has been arranged, so let's hope the world is in a better place by then. We are always seeking new members, so if you want more information contact Brian Cooper on 07801 595147.

Mick Collins

Marden Horticultural Society (MHS)

MHS has not met since April, however we have been keeping in touch with members and have visited Hole Park at Rolvenden which is a great family place to visit. We also had two separate get-togethers at Southons Field to sit and chat and catch up. We hope to manage more small events outdoors before the weather turns.

Jill Nichols

Marden in Bloom

Despite the current crisis, the Bloomers have managed to continue with various activities with our greatest achievement this year being the creation of a Wildflower Meadow in Southons Field (see photos above). Thank you to all those residents who purchased bulbs at the Bulb Sale in September - any profit made helps greatly towards our funding pot. The Scarecrow Safari still went ahead in September and it was wonderful to see families wandering around laughing, observing and voting for the best Scarecrow and we hope this helped to raise residents' spirits. The standard was so high and thank you to all those residents who took the time to create a hero/heroine. Congratulations to the Scott family yet again for winning with their amazing Her Majesty the Queen knighting Sir Tom scarecrow. The detail



was incredible.

Marden Parish Church

After 16 years, our church Administrator, Judy Noakes, retires at the end of October and Kathy Young will be taking on the Church Office. Office hours will be changing to Monday, Wednesday and Friday - 10.00 am to 12 noon - same times as the Food Bank which is now located in the Vestry Hall. Please note that the church is open for private prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am to 12 noon.

Rev Stephen Hardy

Marden Scout Group

At the start of 2020 we saw an increase in our membership on the previous year as the fun and adventure of Scouting in Marden remained ever popular. This would not be possible without the time given by all of our Leader teams, and so on behalf of our members, would like to thank them all. The COVID-19 lockdown forced us to suspend face to face meetings and our section leader teams where possible tried to continue to offer a Scouting programme and activities online. This included 57 of our members participating in a virtual camp and joined over 95,000 other members from around the globe setting a World record for the largest camp! With restrictions and limitations around indoor meetings, our section leader teams are currently trying to organise some outdoor meetings and online programmes. We ask that all our members where possible do their best to support these.

Sadly, our current Monday Beaver Leader team are stepping down at the end of the year and without adult volunteers coming forward, this section faces closure in the new year. If anyone wants to know more about joining our adult leadership team or other ways they may help the Scout Group, then please email:

gsl@mardenscouts.org.uk

Kieran Burns

Marden Theatre Group

Due to restrictions we are still unable to perform which makes it difficult for us raise funds. We would like to thank the community for your donations to our Justgiving page and hope to be back with a fantastic production soon.

Mo Gillis-Coates, Chair

Mothers Union/Craft Group

We are not planning to start up using the Vestry Hall until after half term at the earliest (except for the food-bank).

Carol Walker

Marden Walking Group

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the group recently decided that long distance walks will be deferred until next year. However, our walks' leaflets are available in No 47 shop in the High Street. So follow the footpaths and enjoy our countryside. Some of the earlier routes are also being updated. We were hoping to take part in the Tree Charter Day on Saturday 28th November in conjunction with Marden in Bloom but disappointing we have taken the decision to cancel the event.

Catherine Alderson

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS AND OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

CHAIRMAN

Cllr Lesley Mannington
Telephone: 07802 720069
Email: lesley.mannington@btinternet.com

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Richard Adam
Telephone: 01622 831673
Email: mpc@tn12.uk

Cllr Chris Barker
Telephone: 01622 832305

Cllr Anne Boswell
Telephone: 01622 833351

Cllr Maria Brown
Telephone: 01622 832305

Cllr Mick Jones
Telephone: 01622 832305

Cllr Ian Newton
Telephone: 01622 831832

Cllr Jean Robertson
Telephone: 01622 831331
Mobile: 07950 816370

Cllr Tom Stevens
Telephone: 01622 832305

Cllr Andy Turner
Telephone: 07803 598813

PARISH CLERK

Ali Hooker
Telephone: 01622 832305
Mobile: 07376 287981
Email: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

DEPUTY PARISH CLERK

Rachel Gillis-Coates
Telephone: 01622 832305
Mobile: 07940 241333
Email: deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Kate Tippen
Telephone: 01622 832305
Email: kate.tippen1@gmail.com

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr David Burton
Telephone: 01622 862595
Mobile: 07590 229910
Email: david.burton@burtons.uk.com

Cllr Annabelle Blackmore
Telephone: 01622 833299
Email: annabelleblackmore@maidstone.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Eric Hotson
Telephone: 01580 892312
Email: eric.hotson@kent.gov.uk

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER

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

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