

# News from Marden Parish Council



June 2018

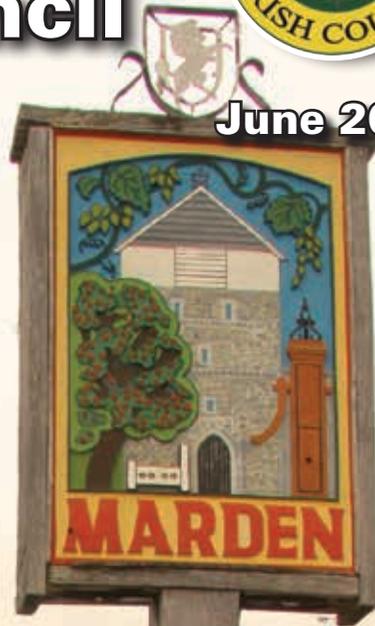


## MARDEN DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

You are invited to comment on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan from 9 June to 5pm on 21 July.

The document can be viewed at [www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk), at the Parish Office or at many shops and businesses within the parish (a full list can be found on the website).

For further details and information please contact Ali on 01622 832305 or [clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)



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

## Letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council



Dear resident

Wow the last month in Marden has been fantastic with two wonderful events which show case what the community of Marden is all about. For those of you who missed the Marden Theatre Group production of Oliver, it was a real treat. We have an incredible amount of talent, across all ages, in this village and Oliver really showcased what our residents can do. More recently the Big Musical Picnic was held on Southons Field on a lovely sunny afternoon. Great local music and families coming together for a happy, peaceful and fun afternoon. Well done to the organisers of both events. The Marden Neighbourhood Plan, which has been worked on over the last six years, is finally coming to fruition with the launch of the formal consultation period. There is much more information about this in the enclosed leaflet. If you care about the future of your community then please participate in the consultation.

Following the parking consultation held in February we recently held a constructive meeting with our County and Borough Councillors, Kent Highways and Maidstone Parking Services Managers to review the

findings. I am cautiously optimistic that we will be able to achieve some improvement to the parking situation in the village but any changes will take some time to implement and may not be as extensive as residents would hope for. I will report back to you when we have more concrete information.

Warm regards

*Kate*

Kate

## Annual Reports

### **Chairman's Annual Report – Cllr Kate Tippen**

I reported last year that Marden is going through a period of unprecedented change and twelve months on that is still the situation. Your Parish Council has continued to push for the best possible outcomes for the village from the developers who are building in excess of 500 homes in our village. I can report that we have had some success. Most recently Millwood Homes, who are building in Plain Road, have supplied and fitted, free of charge, new windows for the old cottage end of the Memorial Hall. Replacing the dilapidated Victorian windows with modern units, which we expect to lower heating costs for the Parish office and the tenants of the flat above.

We have continued to work with Kent Highways and the developers over the upgrading of the zebra crossing outside the School. Sadly it now appears that a controlled crossing with lights will not happen due to strict highways regulations about the proximity of driveways to traffic lights. Instead the lines on the zebra crossing and the zig zag, no parking lines, will be repainted. This has come as a great disappointment to us.

Section 106 monies have been allocated to the Playing Field from Highwood Green, The Parsonage and the Millwood developments. Last year we used some of this money to replace the play equipment at Napoleon Drive, which seems to have been very well received by children. A new youth shelter has now been placed at the rear of the Playing Field, as far away from houses as possible. We held a consultation morning on 3 February to gain residents views on how else we might spend S106 money at the Playing Field. As a result we will be ordering a new sports wall, to replace the old noisy one; some adult gym equipment and we will be continuing the tarmaced path all the way round the Playing Field to create a running/walking track. We will also hope to install CCTV at the bottom end of the Playing Field and tidy up the boundary hedge together with replacing all the litter bins and adding a few new ones. Once we have completed all of that we will see what monies are left for a refurbish or even re-build of the changing rooms, although the football club would need to help with funding if we rebuild.

Parking has continued to be an area of concern amongst residents. Following a questionnaire we circulated in 2016, we held a consultation session on 3 February with residents. Not surprisingly many concerns were raised ranging from lack of station parking, road safety outside the school and the top of Pattenden Lane to road congestion and many other issues. We have produced a report which has been sent to Eric Hotson, our County Councillor, and we are now very much relying on him to help us push through a review of existing parking restrictions and for proposals to be created to help alleviate parking issues in the village.

As per the attached leaflet, I am delighted that we have now almost got to formal consultation stage for the Marden

Neighbourhood Plan, and I extend my thanks on behalf of the village to those residents, Parish Councillors and Ali who have spent many hours working on this. Once fully approved this will give the Planning Department a very clear view of what the Marden community wants and expects.

I would like to thank all my colleagues on the Parish Council for their hard work and support over the last twelve months. Sadly two councillors resigned for personal reasons, Jane Cowin and Chris Childs and I thank them for all their hard work during their time on the Council. We were pleased to co-opt two new councillors; Mick Jones and Tom Stevens and we welcome them and their experience to the Council. Our Parish Caretaker, Colin Judge, took a well-earned retirement last Summer and our thanks go to him for all his hard work and effort for the village over the years. We were delighted to find a new caretaker in Chris Prince, who has really hit the ground running and is doing fantastic work for the village. You will no doubt have seen him driving round in the Parish Council van, a new asset that he and we are finding invaluable. Ian Jones our Cemetery caretaker continues to do great work there, and if you haven't visited the Cemetery it's well worth a walk up there to see how beautifully tended it is.

This report would not be complete without mention of our exceptional office staff. What you see at meetings is only a tiny proportion of what they are doing behind the scenes. Both Ali our Clerk and her Assistant Erika are very hard working, often working above and beyond their contracted hours, dealing with a huge variety of issues, have fantastic knowledge of all things Marden and remain cheerful, welcoming and unflappable. We are truly lucky to have the services of two such exceptional people here in Marden.

Finally there is one more person I want to mention. My predecessor as Chairman of the Council served Marden for 36 years as a councillor, 18 of those as Chairman. She has also run the Thursday Club for over 40 years and on top of that has been involved in countless village activities. It gives me great pleasure to present Dorothy Reed with a community award in recognition of her service from the Kent Association of Local Councils, signed by the High Sheriff of Kent and the Chairman of Kent County Council.



*Presentation to Mrs Dorothy Reed (former chairman), Mrs Kate Tippen (current chairman)*

### **Summary of the Amenities Annual Report Cllr Anne Boswell, Chairman**

The Amenities Committee is responsible for the open space in the village owned by the Parish Council and also the Cemetery, Rookery Path and Public Toilets. We also organise the annual village Christmas celebrations and the Summer Play Scheme + other ad hoc Events. As explained below, we had to cancel the Village Litter Pick in March because of weather conditions and have re-organised for Saturday 20th October once the vegetation starts to die back. Many thanks also to those residents who regularly litter pick around the village - it is such a community-minded thing to do.

### **Marden Playing Field**

Our main priority is to maintain this vital area

of village open space to a high standard. All the maintenance, including the mowing and landscape management, is undertaken by our new village caretaker, Chris Prince. Monthly tree inspections are carried out at the Playing Field, Rookery Path, Southons Field and Cemetery to ensure they are safe and remedial work undertaken if necessary. We have also recently had a Tree Audit and work will be undertaken as a consequence. Of utmost importance is the maintenance of the play equipment and regular safety checks are carried out and corrective measures taken where necessary. CCTV near the main play area monitors any anti-social behaviour in the playing field which our PCSO Nicola Morris and the Clerk continue to monitor. The area at the back of the playing field has been cleared and tidied although sadly rubbish still continues to be deposited there particularly in the pond and ditch. At some point, we hope to install CCTV in this area to help with the problem.

We also maintain the changing rooms which are owned by the Parish Council and used by Marden Minors Football Club and hope to refurbish/extend if we have enough developer contribution money left. The new Napoleon Drive play equipment for the under 5's seems to be enjoyed by many young children and another bench in the play area is shortly to be installed. The surrounding area is maintained by our Village Caretaker who has been trimming the hedges back and keeping the area tidy.

As ever the problem with dog mess continues, and whilst the field is covered by Maidstone Borough Council Dog Control Orders, they do not clear up the mess in the field. They will respond if dog owners are reported allowing their dogs to foul the field and they will then visit to monitor and view. Our Community Warden Mira Martin also monitors the situation and it is such a shame that a few irresponsible dog owners spoil things for others.

## **Southons Field**

The Parish is very fortunate to have an additional open space at Southons Field with its numerous species of trees and is maintained by Chris, the village caretaker. Usage of the field has certainly increased particularly by families as a peaceful and safe haven to run around, have a picnic on the benches, or play on the Play Trail - a great piece of equipment for balance and co-ordination and can be used by adults as well as children. For these reasons the field is kept 'dog free' (apart from guide dogs). Grasscrete at the entrance to the field should be installed shortly to help with wear & tear caused by usage. Opening hours of the field vary slightly depending on the season but is currently open for the use of anyone in the village between 7.00am to 8.00pm.

The field is available for hire by any organisation in the village and various village celebrations take place there. This year the Friends of Marden Heritage held another 'Big Musical Picnic' event on Saturday 9th June, on Thursday 26th July 'Oberon's Cure' will be performed by the Rude Mechanical Theatre Company, and the PTA are planning another Firework Display on Saturday 3rd November – see details below. Southons Field is certainly a wonderful village asset.

## **Cemetery**

Again the Parish is lucky to have such an attractive and well maintained Cemetery with a convenient footpath running to it from the village centre. I would like to record our thanks to Ian Jones, our groundsman, for all his effort and hard work he puts into maintaining it to a very high standard. I am sure you will all agree it is a delightful, peaceful and important facility. Last year the Parish Council entered the Cemetery into the South & South East in Bloom awards and we attained 'Silver' – a great achievement.

We have created a new area that will come into use over the next few years. A central flower bed has been made and roses have been planted to create hedging to define the different sections. We are always grateful to residents who donate plants.

## **Public Toilets & Car Park**

We recognise that the Public Toilets are an important public facility which the Parish Council has responsibility for although they are owned by Maidstone Borough Council. A cleaner services them daily and Ian regularly checks and locks them daily, and Chris deals with any maintenance that is required. However, the toilets are a very expensive village asset to maintain and we are looking at monitoring usage.

The public car park in the Library area is owned and maintained by Maidstone Borough Council. The barrier has recently been repainted by Maidstone Borough Council (MBC). We have requested that it be removed, but MBC are insisting it is kept in place, although it is never locked, to prevent overnight parking. MBC have agreed the old bollards on the grassed area can be removed so the History Group can install a commemorative plaque there although it will be the History Group's responsibility to remove!

The Amenities Committee meetings were being held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the Parish Council meeting room, however, it was felt meetings could be reduced to once every two months and we are going to trial this for a year. I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow councillors on this Committee – Richard Adam, Sean Harvey, Mick Jones, Ian Newton, Jean Robertson, Kate Tippen and Andy Turner, but especially Alison our wonderful Parish Clerk and her assistant Erika for all their hard work.

## Summary of the Planning Annual Report - Cllr Lesley Mannington, Chairman

The Planning Committee continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, and I think it is true to say that it is a rare occasion when we do not have an application to consider, as a consultee advising Maidstone Borough Council of our considered opinion, since we are at the grass roots level with considerable local and professional knowledge. However, that does not mean that MBC always take on board our advice, as has been the case with new village housing developments, where we have urged against, for example, the inclusion of three-storey units as not being in keeping with rural surroundings.

The Maidstone Local Plan has now been adopted, which should give a breathing space as far as any more new development is concerned. We continue to highlight the pressure which the new housing developments in Marden will have on what is becoming a fragile infrastructure. Of the five Rural Service Centres outside Maidstone itself, which have taken the major hit on development, Marden's main thoroughfare is a 'B' road, and we see gridlock at various times of the day, particularly near the school. The station car park is usually full by 8.30 am, and our residential streets have become unofficial commuter parking. As a Council we are fully aware of all the difficulties which excessive development can bring, whether in connection with infrastructure, education, health, leisure and, indeed, behaviour. Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors for their support as well as our Clerk, Ali and Assistant Clerk, Erika, who ensure that everything is kept in order. Marden Parish Council is a Council to be proud of and I am aware of many other Parishes who are quite green with envy with our level of professionalism and commitment.

## Financial Annual Report

Budget Heading	Expenditure Income	
Staffing	£70,312.64	£307.15
Administration	£14,257.77	£0.00
Advertising & publicity	£5,144.48	£0.00
Vehicle	£2,416.86	£0.00
Finance	£16,935.36	£129,111.64
S106 (developer) contributions		
	£32,165.00	£18,196.00
Miscellaneous	£620.00	£0.00
Christmas	£2,285.82	£517.79
Public Conveniences	£8,572.37	£0.00
Public Works Loan	£18,237.92	£0.00
Neighbourhood Plan	£715.00	£0.00
Southons Field	£5,010.03	£436.56
Playing Field & changing rooms		
	£5,938.30	£950.00
Other Amenities	£2,521.31	£0.00
Play Scheme	£2,263.99	£3,841.76
Memorial Hall	£512.15	£449.33
Hall Risk Assessment grant		
	£9,900.00	£0.00
Hall roof payment	£7,028.85	£0.00
Cemetery	£3,375.91	£4,370.00
MBC Parish Services Grant		
	£0.00	£12,002.50
Capital	£5,686.11	£0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£213,899.87</b>	<b>£170,182.73</b>

### Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2018

31.03.2017	Current Assets	31.03.2018
£4,017	VAT Control A/C	£6,432
£98,398	Nat West (Reserve)	£37,377
£17,881	NS&I (Capital)	£17,966
£50,008	Santander (Capital)	£38,456
£482	Unity (Reserve)	£33,271
<b>£170,786</b>		<b>£133,501</b>

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of Marden Parish Council as at 31st March 2018 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year.

## Marden Neighbourhood Plan

You will see from the insert with your newsletter that the Marden Neighbourhood Plan has now entered a very important phase and is in the formal six week consultation period, which ends at 5.00pm on 21 July. It is very important that all residents take the time to review the plan and feed back their comments to the MNP Group. The insert tells you how you can do this. There will be an open morning on 14 July in the John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, or for those who cannot get there on Saturday the Parish Office will be open on Friday 13 July between 6.00pm and 8.00pm. Please, if you care about the future of your community, participate in the consultation.

## Summer Play Scheme

Marden Summer Play Scheme will run from 9.30am to 12.30pm or 9.30am to 3.30pm from Monday 23rd July to Friday 3rd August at Marden Scout HQ for 5-12 year olds (please note that your child must have reached the age of 5 by 1st September 2017 and this year children in Year 7 will be welcome). Jordan Manley has kindly agreed to be the Scheme Manager again with the theme being "Once Upon a Time" to include fairy tales, pirates, superheroes, Disney etc. There will be an assault course, a visit from Animal Encounters, an outing to the Rare Breeds Farm, a Showcase on 1st August and an end of scheme party on 2nd August from 5.30pm-7.30pm.

Registration forms are available from the Parish Office and Primary School Office. Daily fees are to remain the same this year and if you would like your child/children to attend, but are experiencing problems, please do not hesitate to speak with Alison

on a confidential basis. The Play Scheme is able to take place due to funding from Marden Parish Council and our County Councillor Eric Hotson.

## Planning Update

You can check out the 'Planning Tracker' link on the Marden Parish Council website: <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk> Councillors would like to reiterate that the Parish Council acts as a consultee and makes recommendations, but the planning decisions are made by the Local Planning Authority – the officers of Maidstone Borough Council and your elected Borough Councillors.

## Health & Welfare

### Living Memories Café

Rachel Chacon, a local resident, has very kindly started running a Living Memories Café in Marden for people living with memory loss. Each meeting will have a different theme and they are organising various activities, music and memorabilia to encourage personal memories. They have a lovely group of volunteers from the community to help out and if you know someone that would benefit from the Café – maybe a family member, friend or neighbour, please let them know. If you think you could be a volunteer, or if you have a good memory and would simply like to contribute to one of our themes, please contact [livingmemories@mardenchurch.org.uk](mailto:livingmemories@mardenchurch.org.uk) or call 01622 831941. Thanks you so much Rachel for setting up such an important village asset.

## Police and Crime Update

There has been a noticeable increase in nuisance behaviour recently. Many of the reports, although not exclusively, relate to the Playing Field, Cascade Close and Tippen

Way. We have been concerned about this increase and recently met with Nicola Morris, our PCSO and representatives from Golding Homes, MHS (affordable home providers in the Parsonage) and the Youth Service. All the agencies are aware of the problems and are working with the individuals and families concerned.

Police resources are limited and they can only provide extra support where they have evidence of an issue.

If you witness any incidents, crimes or anti-social behaviour please call 101 – if it's not reported, it isn't investigated and is used as vital evidence to form an intelligence base. Remember if urgent attention is needed then call 999.

Our PCSO Nicola Morris is invaluable in helping to resolve crime issues in the Parish, but is not always on duty. So please call 101 rather than calling/emailing Nicola direct. You can also report an incident online: <https://www.kent.police.uk> click on Services/Report a Crime.

Both Golding Homes and MHS have information about how to report anti-social behaviour on their web sites <https://www.goldinghomes.org.uk> <https://www.mhs.org.uk>

## Highways & Public Transport

### Moveable Speed Indicator (SID)

Marden Parish Council has agreed for a mini-Speed Indicator Sign (SID) to be installed by Kent Highways rather than the originally proposed static Vehicle Activated Sign. This sign will be paid for by Redrow and installed by Kent Highways. The position of the mounting posts is yet to be agreed, but the sign is moveable and will be managed by the Parish Council. We are considering a few locations, but probably and most importantly on entry to the village

on Goudhurst Road to help with the speed of vehicles entering the village here. The display board shows the actual speed between 20-40mph, rather than just flashing 30mph when vehicles travel through at 35mph or more. The SID does not display above 40mph to deter any "high-score" mentality. Hopefully this will help to control the speeding of vehicles in the village and lessen the possible incidence of accidents occurring.

### Closure of Marden Station in the Snow

Whilst it may seem a long time ago now, the Parish Council contacted the Chief Executive of Southeastern Railways to make a formal complaint after they had made a decision to close Marden station for a few days because of severe weather conditions. It was pointed out that Marden Station is heavily used by people travelling to work, to school and others who rely on the train service for essential travel such as hospital appointments. The 'Estimates of Station Usage' showed that Marden was the busiest station in Kent without a train service for those days, but there were many other stations on the Southeastern network with lower passenger numbers who remained open.

We received a disappointing response from Southeastern and have written again to the Chief Executive as they had failed to respond to the key point made that the time has come for Marden to be treated on a par with Headcorn in respect of published/emergency timetables and for operational decisions by the Kent Integrated Control Centre during other periods of perturbed operation. Again it has been pointed out that Marden has similar passenger usage as Headcorn and both have a conductor-rail heating installed so a train is no more likely to experience power and traction problems in Marden than Headcorn.

Southeastern commented on the lack of station parking, which would have to be funded by Network Rail or through other public sector funding, and would need to be based on a positive business case. Southeastern have less than a year remaining of their current franchise, and the commercial case for any parking enhancement at Marden Station would need to be reviewed by the next franchisee once this begins in April 2019.

### **Morning School Bus**

As a result of a meeting with Councillors who were concerned about the congestion at Marden Station in the morning and to better serve the village's new housing developments, NuVenture has now agreed for the No 28 double-decked bus (serving the direct Marden to Maidstone route) to return to circling the village by running round Plain Road. Overhanging trees which were causing an issue for the bus in Plain Road have now been trimmed back and the revised timetable will commence in the new school year in September. The bus will start from Albion Road at 07.16 and run via Plain Road, stopping at Marden Beech at 07.22 and then to Marden Station stopping at 07.26 (current time 07.31). The afternoon bus will extend from Marden Station to Marden Beech along the Goudhurst Road, then Plain & Albion Roads. Young Persons Travel Passes/16+ continue to be available for travel, and pay-on-the-bus cash fares are also available.

### **Pothole Damage to the Highway Network**

During the very heavy snow period, Kent Highways received 2000 calls over 7 days and nearly 1000 winter enquires were logged. With the support of Parishes, Districts, Borough Councils and farmers, they managed to keep more than 1700 miles of primary roads salted, ploughed and moving. Whilst some rural communities

were badly hit, they worked hard along with the emergency services, to support the most vulnerable residents. Of course the road network did not escape unscathed and Kent Highways are planning a much wider pothole blitz campaign which started at the beginning of April. Fortunately, a substantial budget has been identified and delivery will be through local contractors. Whilst Kent Highways inspect every road in Kent on a regular basis, they also rely on the public and parishes to report any defects that are found.

So once again, can we remind residents to REPORT REPORT REPORT. There is an online fault reporting tool: [www.kent.gov.uk/highwaysfaults](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highwaysfaults) and the faults will go directly into the highways fault management system. Stewards inspect the faults and either make a temporary repair or arrange for a permanent repair to be completed as quickly as possible. Alternatively, please call 08458 247800.

### **Cast Iron Finger Posts**

Marden Parish Council is hoping to refurbish the 3 cast iron finger posts in the Parish. The cast iron sign at Bunches Lake at the end of Howland Road is in a position where it could be at risk to the person undertaking the work, so we have asked our County Councillor if some traffic management could be undertaken by Kent Highways.

### **High Street Trees**

Some of you may have been wondering what was going on with the trees in the High Street opposite the pharmacy. There has been a long and protracted debacle with Kent Highways, but finally the work has been complete and we now have two new trees. If you live close by, please can you give them a drink of water from time-to-time.

## Drainage & Water

Please check out Marden Parish Council's website for useful links on drainage and flooding together with Kent County Council's short guide, explaining the highway drainage services that KCC provide and how they are delivered. It explains their legal obligations and also the roles and responsibilities of others: [www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) and click on Other Information tab. KCC request that any highways or drainage issues be reported on the KCC Website.

### South East Water

South East Water have publicised its public service information to households and businesses which includes a 24/7 emergency line and 24/7 leak/hazard emergency line and customer support.

For water supply/engineering helpline – call 0333 000 0002 – lines open Monday-Friday between 8am-7pm and Saturdays 8am-1pm  
Out of hours emergencies – 0333 000 0365 – please use the 24/7 helpline if you've got no cold water from your kitchen tap or have spotted a burst main/serious leak.  
Billing/Account Helpline – 0333 000 0001 – lines open Monday-Friday 8am-7pm and Saturdays 8am-1pm

## Other Parish Information:

### Autumn Clean Up – Saturday 20th October – We Need You!

Unfortunately because of the extreme weather conditions in March and the ditches being full of water, the annual Litter Pick was cancelled. Once again we are calling for volunteers to help out with the village clean up on the morning of Saturday 20th October. You will be provided with a picker, hi-viz and bags and are covered by the Parish Council's insurance. Please note that only over 16s will be permitted to litter pick

the outlying roads, however, we have many areas within the centre of the village that can be picked by all ages.

To entice residents to participate, every adult and child who volunteer will receive a raffle ticket to win a prize, so please put your hand up to help, we need as many of you as possible. It's a great community event working together to keep our lovely parish of Marden tidy. If you would like to volunteer, please let Ali in the Parish Office know – email [clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) or call 01622 832305.

### General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

We are sure everybody is tired of hearing about GDPR – everyone will have been inundated with emails and letters about this issue. GDPR, which came into effect on 25th May and brings the law into the digital age, is the biggest change to data protection in many years and gives back control to individuals of their own information. Of course, the Parish Council has a legal obligation to treat personal information fairly and transparently and has employed a Data Protection Officer who has advised the Parish Council on the GDPR and policies relevant to the new Regulations. Policies were agreed and adopted at the Full Council meeting on the 12th June, and if the Parish Council holds any personal data relevant to you, the Clerk or Assistant Clerk will be contacting you for your consent to hold the information.

### Goodbye Marden!

Over the last 18 years Marden has been home to the Kent Surrey & Sussex Ambulance service where they have developed a life-saving service which we are privileged and proud of. They have sadly now moved their operations to Rochester Airport and said farewell on the 28th April. We wish them continuing success in their new location.

## **Village Beacon**

The Parish Council are planning to install a Village Beacon in Southons Field. Hopefully this will be complete by the time of the Beacons of Light Celebration on Sunday 11th November to mark the end of WW1 and could be used at other important village events.

## **Bench at Library**

A commemorative bench is shortly to be installed outside the Library, replacing the current bench, in memory of a great local character and window cleaner Ken Rhodes. Many residents will fondly remember Ken riding around the village on his bike with his ladders. We felt that "Nice Weather for Ducks" would be a fitting tribute, which will be inscribed on the bench.

## **Watch out the South & South East in Bloom Judges are about!**

The judges will be coming to Marden during the w/c 9 July and 'Bloomers' will be taking them on a tour of various areas in the village they have been aiming to brighten up. We would be really grateful if you could keep your frontages clear of weeds and rubbish particularly in the High Street, Church Green and West End area and maybe enhance your frontage with a hanging basket or pot. We are holding a Weed/Litter picking session on Wednesday 27th June and possibly Saturday 30th June at 9.30am and any residents who would like to help, please let us know. Fingers crossed we will be awarded Silver Gilt or even Gold this time! For more info on how to get involved, please email: [mardeninbloom@outlook.com](mailto:mardeninbloom@outlook.com) or check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MardeninBloom/> Please feel free to post pictures of bees, flowers, wildlife or your garden on there. Anne Boswell, Chairman of Marden in Bloom

## **Ribbon of Red Movement**

Marden in Bloom have registered the Parish in the 'Ribbon of Red' movement to commemorate those fallen or injured in WW1. The aim is to have a ribbon of poppies across the UK. Seeds have been sewn at the Cemetery, the Churchyard, the Scout Hut, Marden Primary School and the Library area. Whether the poppies emerge is another matter! Peter Hall, one of our local farmers, is also planning to sew poppy seeds at the area opposite Little Mill Farm on the edge of five acres of sunflowers – that should be an impressive sight!

## **Public Consultation**

### **Rural transport – the Big Conversation**

Kent County Council is launching a consultation to find out if there is a more sustainable way of providing transport to rural communities in Kent not served by commercial operators.

They will be running a consultation from 13th June to 8th August 2018 and want to hear your views.

Public meetings are being held around Kent, the closest ones to Marden will be High Weald Academy, Cranbrook on 11th July between 7.00pm and 9.00pm and Sessions House Maidstone on 19th July between 7.00pm and 9.00pm. For further information see the Kent County Council web site [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk).

## **What's Going On In Marden?**

There is so much going on in our village – a plethora of community groups and sporting facilities - and if you're new to the village you can find all the details in the 'Welcome Pack' that the Parish Council provides to new residents. The new sporting complex at Marden Cricket, Hockey & Tennis Club in Maidstone Road is a tremendous asset

to the village and we wish the club every success.

As ever there's lots going on this Summer and any group, organisation or business who are arranging an event please let Erika know on 01622 832305 or email [assistantclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:assistantclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) which can be advertised on the Parish Council website under 'Village Events' and also on the Facebook page. If you would like to include your village group event in the Newsletter, let [anne.boswell@ymail.com](mailto:anne.boswell@ymail.com) know. You can also check out events on [www.mardenchurch.org.uk/specialevents.htm](http://www.mardenchurch.org.uk/specialevents.htm) Let's keep Marden connected!

**Marden Neighbourhood Plan consultation 9 June 2018 to 21 July 2018** – see insert

**Marden Walking Group** - arrange a variety of walks around the Parish – check out link: [www.mardenchurch.org.uk/specialevents.htm](http://www.mardenchurch.org.uk/specialevents.htm) or contact Catherine Alderson on 01622 832455

**Summer Play Scheme** – 23rd July to 3rd August – contact Parish Office

**The Rude Mechanical Theatre Production** - performance of 'Oberon's Cure' – Thursday 26th July at 7.30pm in Southons Field – tickets £16 + concessions from West End Stores, Crowhurst & Tompsett and online at: [www.therudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk](http://www.therudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk) Please take along low chairs and warm clothing!

**Pimms & Garden Planting Talk** – Toby & Kate Spanier's garden at the Old Vicarage – Sunday 29th July from 2pm – supporting Marden in Bloom – no entry fee but donations appreciated

**Pop Up Bulb Sale** – Saturday 15th September – 8.30am outside Crowhurst & Tompsett – raising funds for Marden in Bloom

**Autumn Clean Up** – Saturday 20th October – We Need You! See information above.

**Apple Day at Community Orchard** – Sunday 21st October – to be confirmed

**PTA Firework Display** – Saturday 3rd November – Southons Field – details to be advised nearer the time.

**The Battle's Over** – A Nation's Tribute – Sunday 11th November – a national Beacons of Light celebration to mark the end of WW1. Marden Parish Council and the Church of St Michaels & All Angels will be participating in this special occasion and will be in contact shortly with village groups. Watch this space for further details!

**Marden at Christmas – Saturday 8th December** If you would like to run a stall at this event, preferably with a Christmas theme, please email Erika: [assistantclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:assistantclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) or call 01622 832305.

## Parish Council Contact details & other useful Contact numbers

**Chairman** Cllr Kate Tippen 01622 832305  
[kate.tippen1@gmail.com](mailto:kate.tippen1@gmail.com)

**Vice-Chairman** Cllr Richard Adam 831673  
[richard@tn12.uk](mailto:richard@tn12.uk)

Cllr Anne Boswell 833351 / 07808 868703

Cllr Ian Newton 831832

Cllr Lesley Mannington 07802 720069

Cllr Maria Brown 832305

Cllr Sean Harvey 832305

Cllr Mick Jones 832305

Cllr Jean Robertson 831331 / 07950 816370

Cllr Tom Stevens 832305

Cllr Andy Turner 07803 598813

**Parish Clerk** Alison Hooker  
832305 / 07376 287981  
[clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)

**Assistant Parish Clerk** Erika Lock 832305  
[assistantclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:assistantclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)

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