

THE CLOTH TRADE IN MARDEN

Marden largely depended on agriculture for its economy, although the cloth trade flourished for a while. After Edward III in 1331 invited continental clothiers to come to England and to bring their knowledge of textiles with them, Flemish and French weavers settled in the Weald.

One or more families of weavers settled in Marden in the fourteenth century; little is known about them although they must have helped in the economic growth of the town. Although never particularly wealthy, several surviving high quality timber-framed buildings indicate that Marden was quite prosperous. The late fifteenth century White Lyon House, built in the Flemish style with its gable towards the street, may have been a cloth hall as found in many cloth-making towns such as Headcorn, Smarden and Cranbrook.

And it is believed that Marden Mill was originally a fulling mill that was associated with the cloth trade. The cloth trade in Marden reached its peak in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries when nine clothiers and their families lived and worked in the town. In 1640 three clothiers from Goudhurst and Marden invented a new process of dyeing cloth and three vats were set up in Kent but by the late seventeenth century the cloth industry was in decline. Marden largely depended on agriculture for its economy, although the cloth trade flourished for a while. By 1682 there was only one clothier working in Marden.

There was at least one silk mercer in the town in 1562 when the church is recorded as having silk altar cloths and curtains. Some linen weavers using locally grown flax worked in Marden from the early seventeenth to the mid-eighteenth century.

ADVANCE NOTICE
WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL
Dennis Chambers
Ghosts—Fact or Fiction?
Come along with an open mind

The Parish Pump is distributed free to
Members of The Marden Society
every two months



For details of Membership please contact
the Membership Secretary
Aileen Hill on 01622 831418

The Parish Pump

The Journal of the Marden Society

March 2011

Report of the 2011 Annual General Meeting

The AGM, held in January, was a successful evening with a lively meeting followed by a Cheese and Wine social, to which members stayed for a chat with other Members.

Maureen Clayton, the Chairman, thanked the Committee for all their support and help over the year and Edith Davis for continuing to do the Society programme, posters, and Parish Pump. Chris Turner kindly audits our accounts each year.

She also reported that the Committee had decided to hold nine General meetings a year, rather than the present five. To that end speakers have been booked to cover: - April, June, August, and October in addition to those months of, January, March, May, September and November. She hoped they would attract higher attendances to the meetings than has been the present case. The Members present agreed to this. This would not however mean more Parish Pump editions, which would remain at the present five.

Maureen further reported that subscriptions for 2011 would remain at £2 and £2.50 for at least 8 meetings

MARDEN VINEYARD NEWSLETTER

2009 ON TRACK FOR CHRISTMAS LAUNCH

Early samples of the Herbert Hall 2009 vintage have shown the wine to be developing well in bottle. They suggest that the first vintage of Herbert Hall Sparkling Wine will truly reflect the excellent ripening conditions of that year. The tasting also gave an indication of our house style.

We produced samples in both BRUT and BRUT Rosé styles. The BRUT has the very slightest 'oyster pink' hue while the BRUT Rosé, coloured with Pinot Noir, is more conventionally a 'Rosé'. Both wines have been tested at various sweetness levels so that we can start to predict optimum balance between sugar and acidity in the finished wine.

At a tasting in London last month the BRUT sample was already found to be fresh and elegant with a good balance between fruit and acidity and the beginnings of a yeasty aroma. The Rosé style was marginally fruitier with less of a yeasty aroma than the BRUT. Both had a fine and sustained soft mousse.

The 2009 wine will continue to develop in bottle until it is ready for disgorging, probably in the early summer. It will then be laid down for another 3 months before it is ready to drink. If all goes to plan we are hoping that the first cases will be available by Christmas this year.

NICK HALL

UPDATED MARDEN WEBSITE

The Marden Society has taken over and updated the old 'Marden Online' website.

This is now available at www.mardensociety.org.uk though the old address www.marden.org.uk will also get you there.

The site has information about the Marden Society and its meetings, but also has a wide range of links to local organizations and services including schools, shops and transport links (trains and buses etc.). We would like to invite more local organizations to contact us so we can add links to their website.

Also, and most importantly, it has a link to the Marden events diary, which is operated by the Church, but includes many other events in and around Marden. Again we would encourage all village organizations to use this diary to promote their events, and to ensure they do not clash with other events! Contact Chris Gosling (chris@mardenkent.plus.com or 01622 832976) to put non-Church events in the diary. Finally, the site has a photo gallery, with a selection of pictures of Marden sites and events. We would like to expand this and would welcome more pictures from Marden residents. If you have any photos that you think would be suitable, please contact Rob Spain, our Webmaster (rob@ukspains.com.)

THE RAILWAY COMES TO MARDEN -160 years ago

150 years ago, on 31st August 1842, the railway came to Marden.

Nearly all the village turned out to see the first train steam down the line from Paddock Wood; farmers and shopkeepers had given their men a day off to witness the tremendous event and children stood in awe at the monster. The village band was playing hymns and tunes of Empire in the life of our Wealden

But back in the 1840's made around 20 mph on its way finished until November of 1842

the route to the capital was still via Redhill, the current route via Sevenoaks and Orpington not being opened until 1868. After centuries of being linked to the outside world only by horse, carriage or foot, Marden was now part of the growing spider's web of lines that was to cover the country. More titbits about the railway in Marden over the last 150 years in a later issue.

Editor's note: This article first appeared in the July 1992 Parish Pump

This year, the KCC is celebrating the coming of the Railway to Kent



awesome wonder at the metal there (yes, we did have one) gleaming and polished in the sun, to herald this momentous change village.

Marden's first train would have to Headcorn where the line when Ashford was reached. The

MARDEN WALKING GROUP

The official walks for the summer period are as below.

2 APRIL SATURDAY 2.00PM SOCIAL STROLL A walk along the ridge from Linton to Boughton Churches and return. Meet at the Village Car Park and we shall go by car to Linton Church Car Park.

END APRIL NO END OF MONTH WALK DUE TO ROYAL WEDDING/ BANK HOLIDAY

7 MAY SATURDAY 2.00PM SOCIAL STROLL. A walk to see the Bluebells in Bridgehurst Wood.

24 MAY TUESDAY 7.00PM HORTICULTURAL. A walk to Marden Meadow to see the Orchids and Wild Flowers

29 MAY SUNDAY ROGATION SUNDAY. A Boundary stones walk with Linton Group - watch posters for details of times etc.

4 JUNE SATURDAY 2.00PM SOCIAL STROLL. Blossom in the orchards (Meet at Village Car Park)

24 JUNE FRIDAY 7.00PM W.I. MIDSUMMER STROLL. Orchards and lanes round Marden (Finish 8.15 approx) Meet at Village Car Park

2nd JULY SATURDAY 2.00PM SOCIAL STROLL. Dorothy Reed walk (the new path via the Cemetery). Meet at Village Car Park

31 JULY SUNDAY 10.00AM GENERAL. West End Wander Meet at the Village Car Park

By popular demand we have been asked to increase the frequency of the Saturday afternoon walks.

We shall therefore depart EVERY SATURDAY AT 2.00PM (weather permitting) from the Village Car Park. I shall not be leading every walk but one of the team will be there. All these social strolls are open to anyone who wants some exercise, fresh air and company.

CATHERINE ALDERSON

**NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH
Mick Lynn and Geoff Doel**

“All The Year Round”

**A performance of Folk Songs and slides
of Country Customs throughout the year**

**8 pm in The Old School Room, Memorial Hall
Raffle & Refreshments**