

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Looking at the Tithe Map for 1841 is fascinating – at least to me. All the little hop poles, denoting the hop gardens all over Marden, would barely appear today. However, did you know that each field had its own name? No one knows when they were named but each one tells a story; a description of the land in its own right. Here are just a few selections.

There are those with a botanical aspect – trees were very popular – Maple Tree Field, Chesnut(!) Field, Ash Bed, Chequer Tree Field, Filbert Platt, Elm Tree Field, Alder Beds – some must have been rather damp – Ozier Bed, Rushy Field,

Willow Bed – some much prettier – Cammomile Field. Gorse Field, Broom Field, Flax Gratten, Daisy Mead – and then the very prickly variety – Thistly Field, Thorn Field, Bramble Wood.

Also very popular were animals and birds – Great Ox & Little Ox, Coney Field & Warren Field, Cow Field, Fox Hole Field, Calves Platt, Bo Peep, Horse Pond Meadow - then - Swans Meadow, Rookery Orchard, Lapwing Field, Great Red Robin – also Cricketing Field, Eel House Meadow, Otter Cape Mead – and who would want to enter Snakes Wood?

Part Two in the next issue of the Parish Pump

EUNICE DOSWELL

For detailed information about the village don't forget to visit the Society's very own website at www.mardensociety.org.uk

ADVANCE NOTICE
WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER
Chris McCooey
"Kent Scandals"
Sensational, salacious and sad!

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

July 2011

GHOSTS !!!

The presence of ghosts is still believed and being explored by Dennis Chambers, who has spoken to us once before. This ex-policeman from Manchester has now appeared on radio and television, besides writing his book on Haunted Pluckley. Manifestations can take the form of many things. There is a Spitfire said



to still be heard flying low over Biggin Hill.

Then there may be the long gone cat that comes to curl up with you. Some places just evoke a ghostly atmosphere – none more so that the ruins of St Mary's, Great Chart on the way to Pluckley, seen silhouetted on the hill against a moonlit sky.



One of the stories that Dennis related was of the 1965 car accident on Bluebell Hill. It was on the A229 that a Ford Cortina with four young female passengers on the way to The Running Horse collided with a Jaguar coming from Aylesford. Three of the four were killed, one of them due to be a bride the next day. Since then various motorists have been adamant

that they have knocked down a young lady and despite getting out and searching high and low, there has been no one to be seen at all. Others have reported picking up hitchhikers – one, a talkative girl who wanted to go to a pub in Maidstone, only to disappear into thin air before they arrived. Another much quieter girl wanted to be taken to an address in Gillingham – again she disappeared before arrival, but the spooky thing was that she had asked to go to the address of one of those killed in the original accident. The watercress gypsy is just one of the Pluckley ghosts. She is said to appear along by the Pinnock Stream on the road to Smarden. Picture this gypsy, having gathered her watercress, and then perched on the parapet of the bridge to relax by smoking her pipe. Unfortunately too much gin had collected on her shawl; up she went in flames, fell back into the water and drowned.



Several of our members believed that they have experienced something super-natural, whilst other remained more sceptical – who really knows?

EUNICE DOSWELL

MARDEN VINEYARD NEWS

The first bottles of Herbert Hall Sparkling Wine are now available. Because of licensing laws I am not allowed to sell direct from the winery. Tim Fletcher of Rodney Fletcher Vintners will handle local sales. Tim is an excellent wine merchant - he and his father have supplied restaurants and private buyers for many years. He always has a really interesting list and is very good value too. You are sure to find some nice wines at all prices if you visit his warehouse.

I have explained the **HH** Wine Club discount arrangements to Tim. Anyone who wants to buy wine should contact him direct by phone or email. Just tell him you are a Wine Club member. Wine can be collected from his warehouse in Horsmonden or he will arrange delivery. Supply is very limited but I hope more will become available when it is degorged towards the end of the year. I had hoped to hold a launch party at the winery but time has just slipped away. I hope to do something later in the year.

Tim's contact details are:
RODNEY FLETCHER VINTNERS
TEL: 01892 724314 / 724209
EMAIL: wine@rfvintners.co.uk
http://www.rfvintners.co.uk/

Any questions please give either Tim or me a call.

NICHOLAS HALL

Jonathan Ray, writing in the GQ Magazine gave some welcome publicity to our local Marden Vineyard.

Only a few years ago, English wine was notoriously infra dig. Today, though, it is as chic as anything. Next year, sales of English sparkling wine (and note that it is English wine, not British wine, which is vile gunk made from imported concentrated grape juice in the UK) will be greater than the imports of fizz from America, New Zealand, Chile, South Africa and Argentina put together.

We have almost 400 commercial vineyards in the UK, which, between them, produce more than three million bottle a year. The red and white still wines are pretty good but the sparklers are truly excellent.

Established names to look out for include my favourites, Ridgeview and Breaky Bottom, both near Brighton; Nyetimber in West Sussex; Denbies (the UK's largest) in Surrey and Camel Valley in Cornwall. Among the new kids on the block are Stopham Vineyard in West Sussex, which looks to Alsace for its inspiration, with plantings of Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris, and Herbert Hall in Marden, Kent.

The soil and climate in the Southeast are not dissimilar to those of Champagne. **Herbert Hall's** ten-acre biodynamic Vineyard of low-yielding Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier lies on an ideal south-facing slope with gravel-seamed clay soil that would be the envy of many a *grande marque*. Its first sparklers are about to be released and, having had a preview, I can vouch for their exceptional, champagne-rivalling quality.

MARDEN VISIT TO IDEN MANOR CHEESE FARM

In place of a June meeting Members of the Society and friends went for an evening visit to the Iden Manor Cheese Farm in Staplehurst. Karen Reynolds took the group round the farm explaining the cheese making process, together with information on their dairy herd of Holstein Frisians.

The visit ended with an opportunity to sample some of the cheeses produced, in a particular Kent Blue, which can be purchased from the Marden Farm Shop and specialist cheese outlets. It is well worth sampling; a mild blue cheese with a taste of its own.

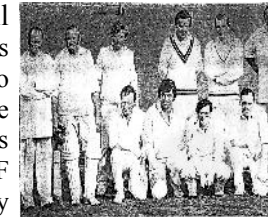
MAUREEN CLAYTON. (Chairman)

CRICKET IN MARDEN

This photograph of the Marden team appeared on the Cover of the Parish Magazine August 1972.

The first written evidence of a Cricket Club in Marden dates from about a hundred and ten years ago and that record suggests that the Club was already well established.

On occasions Vicar 1882-1906, who appeared for the side cricket field was Road, in 1920 F invited the club to play Lane.



Douglas Carr, son of T A Carr, played for Kent and England, on this ground. In 1900 the behind Southons on Maidstone Manwaring of Moatlands Farm on a field adjoining Copper Lane.

Kent cricketer James Seymour bought Howlands and rented the present ground to the club, in 1924, 5 and 6 he arranged for the Kent XI including such players as A F P Chapman, Frank Wooley, Tich Freeman and Leslie Ames to come to play Marden and District usually on the last Saturday in April.

Entrance fee was one shilling (5p) or one and sixpence (7½p) if you sat on an apple box. The Russets welcomed the opportunity to play hockey on the ground in winter.

Today the ground, with its pavilion and with many cricket and hockey matches throughout the year, is very much part of the Marden scene.

Editor:- In view of the Planning Application to move The Marden Cricket Club away from its present central site, it is timely to reprint this 1996 Parish Pump article.