

KENT VINEYARD BAGS SPOT IN HOUSE OF COMMONS BAR

Herbert Hall wines will be stocked and sold on the Parliamentary Estate. There was a Champagne moment for a Kent vineyard as it bagged a place on the House of Commons wine list for the summer months. That was the headline in a London newspaper.

Herbert Hall fine wines from Marden near Maidstone will have its English “Traditional Method” sparkling wine stocked in the House during May and June.

In the run up to the Diamond Jubilee and London Olympics, the Commons will be stocking the finest English wines from around the country and Herbert Hall will take the position of the only English sparkling wine available.

After a visit to the vineyard, and knowing Herbert Hall’s Brut and Brut Rose, local MP for Maidstone and the Weald, Helen Grant, wrote to the House of Commons catering staff suggesting they stock the wine. The wine did all the talking in the meeting a few weeks later, and a deal was done to sell the wine on the Parliamentary estate.

Owner, (Marden Society Member), Nick Hall has been at the vineyard for nearly five years and now adds this very special customer to his already impressive portfolio.

He said: “I am delighted. Everything we do is driven by a desire to make truly exceptional English wines that can compete at the highest level - so it is wonderful to be recognized in such a way.”



Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was marked by many celebrations, including on 22 June 1897, a progress to St Paul's Cathedral, where a short service of thanksgiving was held outside the building, as the Queen was too lame to manage the steps.

Eleven colonial Prime Ministers were in attendance. The Queen's progress continued via the Mansion House across London Bridge and through South London, before returning over Westminster Bridge, past the Houses of Parliament to Buckingham Palace.

In her journal the Queen wrote: "No one ever, I believe, has met with such an ovation as was given to me, passing through those 6 miles of streets . . . The cheering was quite deafening & every face seemed to be filled with real joy. I was much moved and gratified."

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 -
Albert Granville
“Raising the Mary Rose”

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

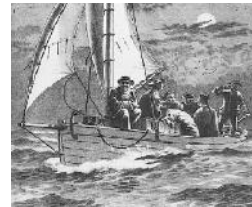
The Parish Pump

The Journal of the Marden Society

May 2012

SMUGGLING IN KENT

Do you think of the ‘black economy’ as pertaining to the present? The 18th & early 19th centuries had the equivalent in smuggling. A folk song says,



“We smuggling boys are merry boys
 Sometimes here and sometimes there
 No rent nor taxes do we pay,
 But a man of war is all our fear.”

All walks of society were involved and turned a blind eye to strange noises and comings and goings at night, or coming across stashes of goods, which disappeared again almost immediately. Alcohol, tobacco, tea and finery were the most popular items for smuggling with wool going to opposite way across the Channel to places like Ghent. Pegwell Bay, Sandwich and Deal were quiet places and therefore ideal, whilst Reculver Church made a great landmark to be seen from the sea. Romney Marsh was another isolated area that was popular for smuggling where they were known as Owlars, whether from signals or as a derivative of Woolers no one quite knows.

Peter Ewart returned to tell us about the characters involved in this illegal trade. Were they loveable rogues or just plain vicious thugs? With 22 miles of coast, Kent was one of the foremost counties for smuggling and gangs for different areas. The most notorious of these were from Wingham, Aldington and most ruthless of all – the Hawkhurst Gang. They were violent and intimidating, operating all over and even in daylight. They once combined with the Wingham Gang to smuggle 11 ½ tons of tea, when morning came they returned and set about the other gang. Even Dorset was not too far away from their reach when they broke into Poole Custom House. Informers got swift retribution from Hawkhurst members. One had his eyes put out and was buried alive; another was hung over a well and then stoned once his body was dropped down it. Offenders, when caught, could be hung and gibbeted in their own Parish. *Connecting with last month's talk were hangings of smugglers on Penenden Heath.* Another punishment was transportation to Tasmania.



Chater hanging at the Well in Laver-Holt Park the Bloody Villains standing by

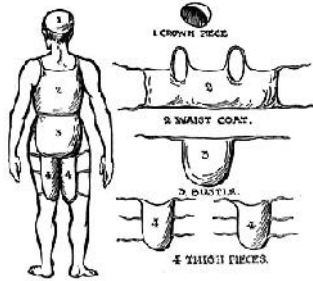


The Bloody Smugglers flinging down Stones after they had flung his Dead Body into the Well.

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Enemies they had, not the least of these being unexpected rough weather. Often the cargoes were transferred to smaller boats before being landed. Barrels might also be put in sacks, weighed down and left near the shore, sometimes marked with a bladder and feathers, for later recovery. Watchers on land would look out for trouble and their own incoming boats. Pistols were adapted to fire a small flash as a signal. They always made elaborate plans to cover whatever might go wrong. In the earlier days their other enemy was the Land Guards with horse and pistol who each patrolled an area of 12 miles of coast and 4 miles of hinterland. These were not too difficult to avoid. Then came the Riding Officers of the Dragoons, where the officers got a cut of any booty captured. After the Napoleonic War the Navy, who were well disciplined, took charge of this task. With taxes being raised to pay for the war, the profits were enormous. Rewards of between £5 and £100, also pardons were well worthwhile.



Locally it took a stand by Goudhurst villagers to rout Kingsnorth and his Hawkhurst Gang. The boatmen of Deal bought tea and other contraband from East-Indiamen that hovered offshore in the early 19th century. ***By concealing the tea under their clothes in custom-made bags, they could sneak up to 30lb past the customs men.***

For the visual depiction of smuggling on the coast look for some of Turner's paintings.

EUNICE DOSWELL

MARDEN SOCIETY VISIT TO HORLAND FARM

On Wednesday 27 June, the Marden Society will be visiting Horland's Farm Summerhill Road. Richard Russell will be showing us his farm containing a newly planted Heritage Orchard of old varieties of fruit trees, old breeds of cattle, sheep and pigs and his Equestrian Centre. The visit will take about two hours.

We will meet in the car park at 6.45 pm for those wishing to drive there, or if you prefer to walk, leave about 6 pm.

Please 'phone me on 01622-831529 or e-mail tillergirl2913@aol.com if you want to know more about the visit.

This is the last Marden Society meeting until September, when we will hear about the raising of The Mary Rose. The next Parish Pump will be in July.

In celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, The Parish Council will be holding a Jubilee Fête in Southon's Field on Saturday 2 June. The Marden Society will be having two stalls; one with Giant Jenga and the other with a Skittles Alley. Hope to see lots of people there – and for good weather. It promises to be a great day out with so much going on.

But of course the 'must see' stalls are OURS!!

Looking forward to seeing you there.

MAUREEN CLAYTON - Chairman

THE HISTORY OF PARISH COUNCILS

Some thousand years ago when communications were poor and central government weak or often non-existent, villages were ruled by the Lord of the Manor and, as time progressed, Parish Priests and Schoolmasters became involved in the matters relating to the whole community, as they were the only adult inhabitants with any form of education.

Around 1600 the church took on a more active role in the government of the community and Church Vestry Meetings were organized and introduced legislation to give them the responsibility to levy the poor rate. These were the first effective local taxes. Everyone in the parish was entitled to attend the Church Vestry Meetings but in reality the work fell to a few individuals rather like the Parish Councils of today.

In the 1800's the Poor Law Amendment Act removed from Parish Vestries the responsibility for poor relief and handed it to the Poor Law Unions who were the predecessors of what are now our District Councils.

Although the Squire, the Parson and sometimes the Schoolmaster were still the leaders in the village, popular education was spreading and more people wanted a say in managing local affairs. It was W.E. Gladstone, then Prime Minister, who introduced the 1894 Local Government Act which, although faced with considerable opposition, made its way through the Houses Of Parliament to become law and result in the formation of Parish Councils as we know them today.

This new legislation resulted in the Parish Council being responsible for civil matters whilst church affairs became the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council.

The first Parish Council Election in Marden took place on 4 December 1894. There were twenty six Candidates for eleven seats. The successful candidates included Edward Day together with Stephen Stanley and Frederick Tippen (Graham's grandfather). All names that are familiar in the village today.

In the recent Parish Council Elections of 3 May the successful candidates were: - Richard Adam - **Anne Boswell** - Maria Brown - Lesley Mannington - **Jolyon McCarthy** - Ian Newton - Dorothy Reed - Bev Reid - **Jean Robertson** - Kate Tippen - **Andrew Turner** All those shown high-lighted are new Members. May we offer our congratulations to them all and our good wishes that they may enjoy the next four years?

Thank you too, to all the retiring Councillors some of whom have spent a number of years serving the people of Marden. In particular, Mike Lutener and Paula Spain.

EDITH DAVIS

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 23 May at 8 pm

"The USS Montgomery"

The American WW2 shipwreck at
the mouth of the River Medway

BORIS ISLAND

Apropos of the above, does the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, know about the sunken vessel? It is full of explosives and would surely be extremely dangerous to move!