

THE JUBILEE FETE

The Marden Diamond Jubilee Fête luckily took place on the best day of the Jubilee weekend, and the turnout was terrific.

The atmosphere was happy go lucky and the stalls were all busy. We had a skittle alley and Giant Jengas, and were kept busy all day

And from me thanks to the helpers on the day, without whom nothing would have happened! Steve, Rob, John, Diane and Carol worked hard taking money, straightening up skittles, rebuilding Jenga and making sure the stall ran smoothly. The key rings designed by Rob Spain were very popular as were the fridge magnets

It was a good day and we were so busy that I only managed a quick tour of the rest of Southons Field towards the end - luckily the Pimms was still available.

Congrats to Keith Rookledge, Anne Boswell and the team for all the organization.

MAUREEN CLAYTON (Chairman)

KENT AND SUSSEX AIR AMBULANCE OPEN DAY

When I enquired for details of this year's date, I was told that this very popular event had been cancelled this year.

The reason given by Bridget was that because of everything else that is happening this summer; Royal Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics, most organizations felt they would not be able to compete. Very sensibly, as it happens..... on the day that Air Ambulance would have chosen, the heavens opened and the rain poured all day!

Like other charities though, Air Ambulance has had a presence at other public gatherings. You may have seen their stand at the Marden Jubilee Fête? And the weather was just what one expects for a summer fête: blue skies, fluffy white clouds and a refreshing breeze.

Here's to better luck next year!

The Editor

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 24 October - 8pm
Peter Golding
Kent Geology" - The Maidstone Dinosaur

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/August 2012

BIRDS OF SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

How many bird species do you think have been seen in Kent; one hundred, two hundred? No, the answer is 350 according to John Buckingham who made a welcome return. His talks and wonderful slides always interest those whose knowledge on the subject is not great and also those of us who have attended his lectures and holidays.



It's fascinating how the range of bird habitats is forever extending – global warming or not. It was only in 1952 that the first of those ubiquitous birds, the collared doves, arrived from India. Another Indian immigrant is the ringed neck parakeet. They are making their way south from London and may soon arrive in Marden. The buzzard, that large bird of prey, has already returned to Kent. Species that have been re-introduced are the red kite with its distinctive forked tail and the little owl. Did you realize that the tawny owl is the only owl that hoots – and then only the male.

You might think that the friendly robin in your garden is the same one throughout the year. But the robins of the winter move on to other countries and new ones come for the summer. Nests are only temporary shelters for laying eggs in and hatching each brood. Once fledged the youngsters are chased off before another brood emerges. Nightingales fly in from the continent and as we are the closest county we have a higher population of these beautiful songsters than elsewhere in Britain. An inhabitant of great numbers is the secretive wren. How a bird of 4 ½ inches can find enough breath for its powerful song of up to 1 ½ minutes is amazing.



John's close up photography showed us the combs on the claw of a heron – useful for grooming when you've been fishing in muddy waters! The greater spotted woodpecker actually has a barbed tongue coated with green, sticky saliva – great for extracting insects from holes.

We are extremely lucky that Kent has such a diverse range of habitats. We have the chalky downs, woodlands, conifer forests, heathland, rivers and coast which provide us with such a richness of wild life.

Ringing birds is John's latest enthusiasm; you serve a long training to become fully accredited for this. Because of bird ringing we know that it can take a redshank three weeks to fly from Iceland to Sandwich Bay. Also discovered is the fact that the swallows arriving here come precisely from Cape Town, some six thousand miles for such a delicate bird. Wonderful and amazing.



EUNICE DOSWELL

Newer Members of The Marden Society may be unaware of its beginnings.

As Secretary for 22 years, I inherited the complete Archive and since Peggy Skelton's retirement from the Committee at this year's AGM, I have been reading all the documents. If it were to be converted into book form, it would come high on the thriller list!

So, if you are sitting comfortably, I'll begin.

Peggy and her husband, Joe lived at Plain Farm at the Beech end of Plain Road. Agricultural land lay behind a row of oak trees at the end of their garden.

Their first intimation that things were happening was when in the spring of 1977 the oak trees were felled and they heard the sound of heavy machinery. Then came the incidence of light aircraft being flown. They discovered that a company named Farmair Ltd. had bought the land and intended to use it as a base and airstrip for their crop spraying activities. They had begun clearing the land for the airstrip.

All this without actual Planning Permission. The fight was on.

The archive has a copy of the Certification of Incorporation of Farmair Ltd. 30 July 1976, giving the names of the Directors as Douglas V Gladdish of Staplehurst and Robert J Sharp of Tenterden.

The Kent Messenger of 29 April 1977 has a headline "**TIME SLIPS AWAY FOR STRIP PROTEST**", describing the missed opportunity of protesters at the Annual Meeting of the Marden Parish Council. Mr Joseph Skelton of The Plain, who has organized a petition objecting to the scheme said, "I am disappointed that the matter was not on the Agenda." Mr Short, the Clerk, explained, that "it would have been on the Agenda but we didn't receive the Planning Application until (last) Friday". In the Parish Council meeting that preceded the Annual meeting, Chairman Mr Robert Highwood, said, "I know people have strong views on this so we will defer a decision until the next meeting on 10 May when we have heard what everyone has to say".

Among those present waiting for the matter to come up was Mr Gladdish, who had submitted an Application to the Maidstone Borough Council for a landing strip for crop-spraying aircraft. He said that he was going to hold an open day and aerial crop spraying demonstration at Plain Farm, Marden. Spraying aircraft would be on show for inspection and staff available to answer questions.

The 6 May edition of **The Kent & Sussex Courier** carried a report of a public meeting in the Memorial Hall, Marden where 80 people attended and pledged support for an action committee led by Mr Joseph Skelton. Several suggested courses of action were put forward, including a proposal that the airstrip opponents should walk a footpath that crosses Plain Farm during the open day and crop spraying demonstration on the next week. That proposal came from Mr Ian Menage, who was elected Secretary of the action group.

The action group committee would raise funds for the battle ahead in an operation called **BOMB**, the Battle Over Marden Beech. Support would be sought from the Maidstone MP, Mr John Wells, Borough Councillors, Mr John Hall and Mr John Banks and from conservation groups.

Mr Skelton pointed out that the proposed airstrip would also be in the line of the NATO flight path, with military aircraft coming through at 600 mph.

To be continued

EDITH DAVIS

HH 2010 RELEASED

We have just released the first of the 2010 vintage. The Brut is more of a classic pale straw colour than the 2009 and the mousse a little softer. Sotheby's Wine Encyclopaedia author and Decanter World Wine Awards Regional Chair for Champagne, Tom Stevenson has reviewed it as follows:

"Herbert Hall's copper-tinged 2009 showed exceptional promise, particularly for vines that were just two years old, but Herbert Hall 2010 is in a different class. Delightfully pale in colour, with an intriguing display of fresh and lively floral-orchard aromas, Herbert Hall 2010 is exquisitely pure and focused on the palate, lifted by its silky mousse of minuscule bubbles and lengthened by the refreshingly crisp, laser-like quality of English acidity. It can be consumed with joy now, but will step up another level by Autumn of this year, and improve for a good year or two. Definitely one of England's best sparkling wines"

The Brut Rose is a little more fruit driven. It has only the faintest hint of pink and so looks and tastes very elegant. Both wines are available to Club members at 15% discount from Rodney Fletcher Vintners (www.rfvintners.co.uk).

WINERY OPEN DAY TASTING

I had been hoping to arrange a winery Open Day Tasting for members but the weather has been so foul that I have not yet managed to do so. However it is high on the list of priorities so when the weather eventually improves there will be an opportunity to visit and taste the new wines. Details will be sent out when we have fixed a date.

NEW LISTINGS

HH is continuing to attract interest from some of London's top restaurants and bars. We have been asked to supply Harvey Nichols and they will be promoting both the Brut and Brut Rose over the coming month. Other new customers include the Café Royal, Le Caprice and Rowley's in Jermyn Street, Modern Pantry and The London Capital Club.

2011: BOTTLED FOR SECONDARY FERMENTATION

The 2011 wines are now going through secondary fermentation in bottle. Although much lower yield than 2010 (thanks to a late frost) the base wine itself was of great quality and I am hopeful that it will produce excellent sparkling wines.

2012: WAITING FOR SUMMER

No frost this year so potentially a large crop. But miserable weather conditions have slowed everything down in the vineyard. The constant rain has meant we have to be extra careful to keep any disease out of the vineyard – so far everything looks good but we could do with some sunshine. I have never known a drought like it.

NICHOLAS HALL

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday 28 September
Albert Granville

"RAISING THE MARY ROSE"

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May. And they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married. (Facts about the 1500s)