

## MARDEN IN 1930

The Parish Magazine of January 1930 was a sizeable document, full of local news and announcements as well as including eight pages of advertisements. There was a new cover design, which the editor hoped would "add to the dignity and prestige already built up by our parish journal". We can only hope that together with today's Parish Magazine, the "Parish Pump" maintains this noble tradition today!

There were many reports of events held in the village such as the Mothers' Union meeting of December when a talk, or rather "a most original and delightful address", was given on the subject of "the various Christmas greetings in use - "Happy", "Jolly", "Peaceful" and so on." It is not recorded how long the talk lasted. Anyone seeking further entertainment and recreation could always attend the Missionary Sewing Meeting to be held on 22nd January. The Missionary sale held the previous month had raised the sum of over £23 and had included such money raisers as the Handkerchief Stall. The entertainment on this occasion had been provided by the music of the Honeybees, clearly a forerunner to Marden's current local bands.

The Women's Institute was much in evidence when in the report of the A.G.M. it was declared that Mrs. Chambers was re-elected president. In recognition of her services, she was presented with a gift, which apparently "took the form of a Pouffe". No comment. There had been a concert held in the village in aid of the Junior Imperial League. Marden was an extremely busy place for shoppers in the past as there were many local businesses to visit. Anyone wishing to purchase "Bespoke, Surgical and Anatomical" boots had only to go to see J. Cox at 1, Maidstone Road. There was some competition in this area of trade as R. Phippen and Son of Pattenden Lane claimed to be "The Depot for High-Class Footwear" and advertised "Farm and School Boots a Speciality. Finally, in case it is ever doubted that Marden has always been ahead of the times, evidence of Marden's special magic comes in the form of its local nursery then run by none other than Harry Potter!

JANE STEVENS

For detailed information about the village don't forget to visit the Society's very own website at [www.mardensociety.org.uk](http://www.mardensociety.org.uk)

### ADVANCE NOTICE

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH- *Rod le Gear.*

*"Underground Kent"*

*This interesting speaker is paying a third visit*

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

January 2013

## THE 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2013

### AGENDA

**The Chairman's Committee Report**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Membership Report**

**Affiliates' Reports**

**Election of Officers and Committee. Chairman - Secretary - Treasurer  
Membership Secretary - Six Committee Members**

**Any other Business.**

**Followed by a Cheese & Wine Social.**

**Members are warmly welcomed to attend this friendly gathering**

**Here are some facts about the 1500s**

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people.

So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave.

When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive.

So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell.

Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, "saved by the bell" or was "considered a dead ringer." And that's the truth.

Now, whoever said history was boring!!!

## The MAIDSTONE DINOSAUR

Have you ever wondered what a dinosaur is doing accompanying a lion and a white horse on the Maidstone coat of arms? Well our speaker Peter Golding, a geologist, told us why. In 1834 the first almost complete skeleton of a dinosaur was unearthed in a Maidstone quarry situated just south of Queen's Road. This came about because of the enthusiasm of Gideon Mantell who had been excavating in Sussex and William Bensted the quarry owner. His workers had exposed what they thought was an interesting block of wood in the ragstone. Mantell came rushing over and verified that the blocks of stone there contained the teeth and bones of a "terrible lizard" and it was not wood that had been discovered but bone.



*The images on the left are the Victorian interpretation of iguanodons to be seen in Crystal Palace park in south London and the other image is the more modern version.*

These relics were surrounded by marine fossils. Parts of dinosaurs had been found in Cuckfield with teeth similar to the South American iguana and these Maidstone teeth were

the same sort. So without really knowing what their dinosaur looked like it was decided to call it an Iguanodon. Over time the reconstructions have changed regarding its appearance. Bensted received £25 in exchange for the blocks of stone which then went to Mantell's museum in Brighton. Today a block of this bedrock layer 117 million years old, containing the jumble of bones and teeth can be seen in the Natural History Museum.

The Iguanodon, a herbivore from the cretaceous period, shown here in its modern interpretation, is distinctive for its five fingered hand with a flexible little finger and a spiked thumb. (This spike was originally thought to go on the nose!) It had 3 toes and was mainly four footed but could walk upright. Teeth were continually being replaced as it chewed so much. The creature which was 9 metres long and 5 metres tall, weighing 3 ½ tons and covered with granular skin like a toad could run at 24 kilometres per hour. So thus he takes his place on a coat of arms to commemorate his existence here in Maidstone.



EUNICE DOSWELL

### NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 27 February

Dr Roger Eltringham

**"Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide"**

The History of this Charity in developing countries

Did you know that Marden was given a Charter for a weekly market on Tuesdays in 1283 by Edward I to his mother, Queen Eleanor? And that The Farm Shop started life in about 1360 It was built as a Court House or Market Hall in the south-east end of the Market Place, where it still stands. It became the village lock-up. It has also been a butcher's shop.

## MARDEN NEEDS A NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a statement of how a community wants to develop over the next decade or so, and is part of the formal planning process.

Parish plans have been around for some time as the concept of 'community led planning' has evolved to give local residents and businesses a greater say in their Parishes' future. More recently, the idea has also spread from rural communities to neighbourhoods within towns and cities, which are not usually divided into parishes, so plans are now called "Neighbourhood Development Plans".

Preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan usually comprises three main steps:

Collecting factual information about the Parish today

Identifying the problems and opportunities facing the Parish

Developing and finalising proposals about the future of the Parish

In order to be effective, a neighbourhood plan needs to be based on evidence and must reflect the views of the whole community.

### Why does Marden need a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

Marden already has two important documents, which address aspects of a neighbourhood plan. These are:

*The Marden Design Statement*, produced in 2001, which went further than many other village design statements and was targeted at influencing the local planning authority (Maidstone Borough Council) and developers. It has been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance, which can be used when deciding planning applications but is in need of updating.

The *Community Action Plan*, produced in 2007, which concentrated on the actions that Parish organisations could take in the short term to address some of the problems and opportunities that had been identified. This achieved its initial goals, but could be reviewed to look further ahead and promote actions, which need input from outside bodies.

More recently, the Government has been developing its 'Big Society' agenda through the Localism Bill, which is designed to decentralise power to local communities. Although not finalised yet, these proposals are likely to mean that neighbourhood plans carry much more weight in the future. Having a Neighbourhood Development Plan in place would allow the residents and businesses of Marden to influence future developments including the type of housing, where developments could be situated, and other service issues including transport links, drains, education etc.

As all decisions on future developments will be made by Maidstone Borough Council, our Neighbourhood Development Plan is needed to be in place as soon as possible. Consequently a Steering Group has been set up to develop such a plan for Marden, and will be holding an Open Day in March. See - <http://marden-neighbourhood-plan.org.uk>