

## THE SALE OF A WIFE

On Thursday last, the following iniquitous scene was witnessed in Maidstone Market.

"A man (formerly of Marden) named William Payne, sold his wife and two children to a person named James Laddams, of Marden, for ten shillings. The woman was led in to the market with a halter round her neck, and thus exposed for sale, and after the purchase had been completed, the man and woman returned to an adjacent inn and indulged themselves with a hearty dinner.

Immediately after this nefarious transfer had been concluded, the wife coolly addressed her husband -

"Well after this, I hope you will not molest me anymore, nor attempt to come near me"

To which her husband replied: "No not as long as I live".

On returning to Marden, by which time all parties were far from sober, an altercation took place about the husband's furniture, which his successor declared was included in the bargain. A fight ensued, which ended in Payne being stabbed in the face with a knife, though not seriously."

Five weeks later it was reported in the "Maidstone Journal"

"It will be remembered, a few weeks back a disgraceful scene took place at Maidstone market, a person from Marden bringing his wife thither with a halter for sale. Last Saturday morning, this man was met about four o'clock on his road home. Soon after his arrival, the neighbours were alarmed, and when they came to his assistance, found he had bled to death.

On Tuesday last, an inquest was held on the body, at the Unicorn Inn, Marden, before W.T.Neve Esq. Aneurysm of the aorta, it appeared, caused his death. Verdict : "Death by visitation of God".

**Ref: Maidstone Journal June 1847.**

**Editor: Robert Hardy published his, "The Mayor of Casterbridge" in 1886! Is this what gave him the idea?**

**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)**

### NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday 26 November at 8 pm. Marden Memorial Hall**

**Edith Davis**

**"In the steps of the ancient Greeks"**

**An illustrated talk about a Cruise in 2004**

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

November 2014

## BEST OF KENT

What an eloquent speaker we had in Kevin Reynolds talking on The Best of Kent – plus wonderful photos, some with the real 'wow' factor. He has climbed mountains all over the world and seen spectacular views – but guess what – the landscape view from his home at **Crockham Hill** is the centre of his universe. Basically Kev is a walker and this is how he has viewed our county. "Leave the road and use your five senses," were his instructions.

We have 20,000 historic buildings listed in Kent. **Luddesdown Court** is a house that has been inhabited for longer than anywhere else in Great Britain. The flora and fauna are wonderfully diverse. Trees range from the beech woods to orchards. As Dickens said, via Jingle in Pickwick Papers, "Kent, sir – everybody knows Kent – apples, cherries, hops and women." **Octavia Hill**, co-founder of the National Trust, was also a resident of Crockham Hill. This organisation started by gathering land to provide green spaces for town dwellers, only later did it acquire marvellous houses for us to visit. Churchill bought **Chartwell** because of its fantastic view, yet it is only 25 miles from Hyde Park Corner. **Knole** has its deer park; **Ightham Mote** has, of course, its moat, as does Scotney with its quarry now planted with rhododendrons. Yet areas like Horsmonden were once our 'Black Country', with the iron industry and hammer ponds shattering the peace of the countryside.



I'd never thought of church having spiders' legs (well only amongst the beams), but these are all the footpaths leading to the churches. Great houses are peopled with history – **Hever** with Ann Boleyn, **Penshurst** with the Sidney family and **Leeds Castle** with Catherine of Aragon. Further back in time much of Kent was covered in impenetrable forests.

Tonbridge Castle was built to protect the river crossing, as was Rochester Castle. Our footpaths wander beside rivers, locks and mediaeval bridges. What greater highways do we have than the **North Downs Way**, including the **Pilgrims' Way**? Today the footpath even goes across the motorway bridge at Rochester.

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Then we haven't even mentioned our **Heritage Coast** and if you haven't walked the **Elham Valley Way** then you should make this a priority, (Walking Group take note.) Kev just made us feel proud of Kent in these days of uncertainty about the future of Marden, and we greatly anticipate his return.

*Pictures - Bridge across the Medway at Teston. Ightham Mote Octavia Hill*

*EUNICE DOSWELL*

## SO WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The planning system is always changing. Recently new legislation has been introduced which is designed to give local people a greater say in local decision making. You may have heard of the Localism Act which came into effect in November 2011. This was designed to give greater powers to local councils, parishes and neighbourhoods - to give power to local people to help them shape the growth of their communities.

Marden Parish, being located in the South East of England, faces great pressures for development. We need houses, we need jobs, we need schools, doctors and roads, the Parish needs many things. This Neighbourhood Plan attempts to set out the aspirations of the people of Marden: the things Marden needs to continue to thrive.

In May 2011 public meetings were held to ask local people to get involved: to gather together the views of local residents and businesses to create a forward looking plan. This plan has been achieved through the hard work of the steering group and all those who have got involved.

The Plan has been created using local volunteer labour and could not exist without the support of the Parish Council and all those who have contributed. This document will be vital in safeguarding Marden's future as a thriving, sustainable community.

**A VISION FOR MARDEN - "That beautiful land of ours, with its canopy of sky, the air that blows upon it, the sun that warms it, the rain and dew that moisten it". (Garden Cities of Tomorrow, Ebenezer Howard, 1898).**

This plan aims to ensure that Marden will continue to be a thriving parish, to maintain its individual character, heritage and community spirit.

The plan aims to balance the existing and future needs of residents and businesses to fulfil Marden's function as rural service centre by managing the expansion of housing provision, employment, education and recreation opportunities whilst retaining and enhancing the natural beauty and biodiversity of the surrounding rural area.

## MARDEN VINEYARD (H H) AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2014

### Cellar Door Sales:

Plans are afoot to sell direct from the winery. We have begun the process of applying for a winery license; once this is approved Club Members who visit the vineyard will be able to buy direct. Members will be kept up to date with progress and we plan to have a members Free Open Day to celebrate the (hopefully) positive outcome.

### Harvest Forecast:

All looks set fair or the best harvest since 2009. Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier are ripening superbly with not a trace of mildew or botrytis. As an organic grower we do not have the luxury of declaring chemical warfare on the various diseases to which grapes are prone. Careful canopy management and low yield seems to be working a treat. Expect to start harvest first weekend of October.

### New Listings:

Herbert Hall Brut and Brut Rose will soon be available at London's famous Café Royal. Now available by the glass at Wild Honey in Mayfair.

### Gin, Cider and Wine:

Many thanks to Liz Stanley for organising a tasting and party for members of the Marden Business Forum at the winery. Great local support and wonderful to meet new people from the area - many of whom did not know of our existence. Among the guests were Anno Distillery and Turner's Cider. Three Marden based artisan drinks companies under one roof.

### Twitter:

We are building quite a following among Twitter users. It is becoming a great way to keep people informed day-to-day. If you are on Twitter follow us: @englishvigneron.

### 2012 Vintage on the way:

We have begun degorging samples of the 2012 vintage Brut and Brut Rose. A difficult year and one, which set some challenges in the winery. But with help from my mentor and friend Peter Morgan we have produced a delicious wine.

**Win a bottle of HH Brut:** It looks like we could have a bumper crop this year. We have made a forecast for the number of tonnes we expect to pick. Members are invited to send in their own best estimate to two decimal places (e.g.: 10.24 tonnes, 20.53 tonnes, or whatever you think it might be) A free bottle and a private tasting with friends and/or family to the closest. Email your answers to [nmh@herberthall.co.uk](mailto:nmh@herberthall.co.uk). In the event of a draw we'll give more than one prize.



*NICHOLAS HALL*

*Birds and humans are the only creatures on earth who regularly walk in the upright position. Ninety per cent of all extinctions on earth have been birds.*