



**SPEAKERS LIST - 2015**



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WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY - Wilf Lower

*“Lost Empires”*

*The last days of Music Hall & Variety*

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WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH - Simon Ginnaw

*“Wildlife of Mote Park”*

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WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL - Chris McCooey

**“Despatches from the Home Front WW2”.**

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WEDNESDAY 27 MAY- Tom Whittle

*“The PLUTO Pipeline”*

*A section of this passes through Marden*

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WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER - Victoria Golding

*“ Kent’s Coronation Meadow”*

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OCTOBER - Brian Rance

*“Walking Through Kent and East Sussex”*

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WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER - Steve McArragher

*“Seashells in Bearsted”*

*The life of Sir Marcus Samuel*

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016**

**WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY**

# The Parish Pump

**THE JOURNAL OF THE MARDEN SOCIETY**      **January 2015**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2015**

Our AGM, followed by a cheese and wine social, will be held on January 28th at 8.00pm in the Old School Room of the Memorial Hall. We hope to see you there and if you feel you could spare the time to join the Committee, please speak to either myself or another member of the Committee.

Our 2015 programme is now complete (see back page) but it would be good to see greater numbers at our 7 meetings.

We are considering a change to our Meetings venues from the Memorial Hall to the Vestry Hall. This will be placed on the Agenda for Members to vote on.

The business will be followed by a Cheese and Wine Social

MAUREEN CLAYTON (*Chairman*)

## PLANNING UPDATES

The Marden Neighbourhood Plan draft document has been sent to Consultants for help in finalizing it for presentation to the Maidstone Borough Council. The whole procedure has been dogged by that fact the MBC has no Local Plan in place. This has meant working in the dark, as it were. The document itself is powerful evidence of the work of the volunteers who have been working for the community of our village. Marden is not the only victim of this indecisive planning farce. Acquaintances from Coxheath, Boughton Monchelsea and Loose have spoken of their troubles in trying to pin down the MBC planning system which seems to be non-existent. It has apparently decided to join with KCC on an integrated traffic system which surely should have been in place from the start. We can only hope for the best!

The MAP site in Goudhurst Road has now been officially opened under its name of Highwood Green and the Parish Council has named all the roads within it. With regard to naming the roads in the other sites, the Parish Council is considering inviting suitable names from the public.

## THE MARDEN MEDICAL CENTRE - ITS HISTORY

Whilst waiting for your appointment at the Medical Centre have you ever noticed the brass plaque on the wall. Better still, have you read it? The Marden Society donated it and it commemorates the building that stood on the site from 1924 until 1983 when the present building was opened. It was the Hop-pickers Hospital and it was given to the village, in 1924, by Mrs Spender of Chantry Place in whose grounds it stood. Below is an account, in a letter, of the improvements that were made to it in 1925.



“The Hospital, which is situate in the grounds Chantry Place, almost opposite the railway station, has been enlarged to better meet the exigencies of the large influx of hop-pickers which will shortly pour into the district. The additions consist of and in-patients ward, 24ft.by 16ft., a nurse's bedroom adjoining and an isolation ward apart from the main building. The outside structure is of wood with iron roof, and the internal walls are **pecially constructed of asbestos**. The work has been carried out by Mr F.H.U. Brooks of Staplehurst and the cost of the additions is about £500. Of this sum no less than £120 has already been received in the way of gratuitous contributions from brewers throughout the country, including many of the leading breweries of this County. The lady who is in charge of the hospital is Dr Ebdon, who rendered such excellent service in that capacity during the hop-picking season last year. The new premises were opened on Wednesday afternoon, when a sale of work at the Hospital was the means of raising quite a nice little sum for the funds. In addition to the hospital itself, there are in association with it five medical huts at Chainhurst, Hunton Bridge, Laddingford and Collier Street, there being two at the latter place. In connection with the medical work amongst the hop-pickers we would also mention that the Red Cross Society is helping.”

Before the building was finally demolished it was converted into bungalows that were occupied by among others, Ian Newton's family. He thinks that all was demolished by the late 1970s.

Another interesting fact was given to me by Dorothy Reed; as to how the Doctors' surgeries were organized before they moved to the Medical Centre. There were three to start with and they all practiced separately. Dr Ramsden's surgery was at Steppe House in Howland Road. If his small waiting-room was full it was quite a common sight to see people sitting on the wall outside which, as she said was not too bad if it was summer!..... Dr Ross had his surgery at Wentways, corner of Pattenden Lane and West End. (This house was owned by the Vaccination Officer for Marden in 1881!). Dr John Oakley when he came was given premises at The Cockpit for his surgery. So all areas of the village had a Doctor fairly nearby.

Even the Medical Centre as we know it has had changes and was extended recently.

EDITH DAVIS

## MARDEN AS SEEN THROUGH OTHER EYES

Sir Charles Iggulden's wrote a series, "Saunter through Kent with Pen and Pencil" around 1900. Here he is at Marden.

"Marshden, as we will call it then, was in the early ages a kind of backwoods settlement, its site being selected because of its being on rising ground. It was cut off from the more civilised part of the country by a stretch of morass, which spread itself on either side of the River Beult and its various feeders, across which morass a treacherous track led to the foot of Linton Hill and onwards to Coxheath to Maidstone. Only in dry weather could this track be traversed with safety and many belated traveller was lured on to doom by the dancing will-o'-the-wisp. But progressed commenced ..... and the marsh den blossomed forth into the village of Merdenne, and afterwards Marden.

Strolling from the railway station we turn right down a wide healthy-looking road, with modern houses of all sizes on either side. The most conspicuous buildings are two fine sets of schools and its is probable that in the whole of England finer accommodation for the little ones cannot be found.....



Not only is Marden rich in its possession of a fine Parish church but the Nonconformists can boast of several substantial chapels, the Congregationalists, the Baptists, the Wesleyans and Primitive Methodists each having their own place of worship. Taking he direction of old "Marden Town" ..... The road is wide and the footpaths are wider in proportion, not smooth as cement but glorying in an uneven, patternless collection of paving stones, not so easy to walk upon as those of modern towns but certainly more artistic and in harmony with the old time surroundings"

EUNICE DOSWELL

**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 25 FEBRUARY - Wilf Lower

*"Lost Empires:"*

*The last days of Music Hall & Variety*

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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  
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