

NEWS FROM HERBERT HALL - THE MARDEN WINEMAKER

Rescued by a sunny September, 2015 yielded the best crop yet at the Marden Vineyard. We picked 19 tonnes of grapes which will make about 15,000 bottles of Herbert Hall Sparkling Wine. Of these 2,500 will be pink and the rest sparkling white. For the first time we shall also be making a barrel-fermented Blanc de Blancs (a white sparkling wine made from white grapes only - it often surprises people that white sparklers are frequently made from a blend of white and red grapes) in a limited edition of just 1000 bottles. This is a special project initiated and led by my co-winemaker Kirsty Smith who was the first winner of our Rising Star Award in 2014 and is now working full time at the winery.

2015 was an eventful year for Herbert Hall. We have been asked to showcase our Marden wines and talk about the future of English Sparkling wine at events across the country. Next month we shall be at a Spectator Magazine Lunch in London and In March we take our wines to a tasting in Edinburgh. We have consolidated our relationship with Harrods who now take both of our wines and will be promoting our Brut Rosé during the summer. Their buyer Edward Gerard chose it as one of his four favourite sparkling wines for Christmas.

We are also building our wine club (CLUB HH) which allows members 20% discount on wines, free tours of the winery and vineyard, invitations to winery events and use of our winery garden bar from the Spring. We are very keen for local people to visit and take advantage of this so if you are interested please visit our website at www.herberthall.com and click on the CLUB link or email us at nmh@herberthall.co.uk. Looking ahead we are making plans to develop the bar at the winery so people can drop by for coffee, drinks, snacks or wine-tasting. Please do feel welcome to come and find us and as we move ahead we hope it will be a great place for local people to meet and socialise.

Increasingly Marden is an exciting and creative village. Nowhere is this more evident than in the emergence of the 'Marden Drinks Quartet', four producers within a two mile radius. As well as Herbert Hall Winery Marden has the superb Turner's Cider (Underlyn Lane - all produced from local apples), the Anno Distillery in Pattenden Lane making top quality Gin and Vodka and finally the 12 Bar Brewery (also in Pattenden Lane) which is attracting huge praise for its artisan beers.

If you would like to visit the Marden Winery we are just a short walk across the fields from the centre of the village. Call first (07956 163 519). You are always welcome.

Nick Hall (Winemaker)



The Parish Pump

THE JOURNAL OF THE MARDEN SOCIETY - February 2016

PRESIDENT PEGGY SKELTON

It is with regret that we report the death on 24th January of our President Peggy Skelton. Peggy was a founder member of the Marden Society and always took a keen interest in our affairs. Together with Phil Highwood she wrote the book 'Marden - A Wealden Village' with illustrations by Phil's husband Bob.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 27 January 2016

The AGM in January was attended by 29 members. Chairman Mo thanked the Committee for their support over the last year. She reported that Rob Spain has resigned as Treasurer as he has moved away from Marden, and Mike Lockett has agreed to take over. Pamela Tomkinson and Aileen Hill have also resigned for health reasons, and Carol Hogg has agreed to take over as Membership Secretary. Mo also thanked Eunice Doswell who has stepped down from writing up meeting reports after many years. The remaining members of the committee were elected en-bloc, and Barbara Dubois has also agreed to join us.

Rob reported that income was up due largely to sales of Walks Guides, as was expenditure by almost the same amount, due mainly to the increased cost of hiring the Vestry Hall. Our Net Income was up by £167 leaving total funds at £2,358. Carol reported that total membership now stands at 89, up slightly from last year. Some members were lost with the move to the Vestry Hall, but more gained largely as a result of the summer Medway Trip.

Reports were presented by the History Group (Eunice), Footpaths and Walking Groups (Catherine), also on the Village Neighbourhood Plan and Housing developments (Steve, see over). Finally a vote was taken on a proposal to make our meetings earlier by starting at 7.30 p.m. This was carried by 13 for to 3 against.

NEXT MEETINGS: PLEASE NOTE: ALL MEETINGS ARE NOW HELD AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE VESTRY HALL.

February 24th TONY FARNHAM: "Finding a Family". Tony was adopted as a child and this is his story of tracing his birth parents.

March 30th IMOGEN CORRIGAN: "The Vikings are Coming". Their conquest, their art and culture, and much more about these feared warriors.

NOVEMBER TALK - SIR MARCUS SAMUEL

Steve McArragher spoke on Marcus Samuel, the man who put 'shell' in Shell Petroleum. Born in 1853 in the East End of London to Jewish immigrants, Marcus Jnr was one of 11 children. Marcus Snr began trading with the Far East importing, among other commodities, sea shells to decorate Victorian boxes and trinkets. Joseph the eldest son took over on Marcus snr's death but was not successful and passed the company over to Marcus Jnr and his younger brother Sam.



Young Marcus travelled extensively in the Far East making business contacts. He had always had an interest in shipping, and looked to expand into the Oil business. Oil had been discovered in Pennsylvania, but only used at this point in lamps. Oil was also found in Baku (Russia) but trapped by the geography. Eventually a railway was built (funded by the Rothschilds) to transport it across the Caucasus Mountains. Marcus saw an opportunity to ship oil to the Far East via the new Suez Canal, but early tankers were dangerous and forbidden in the canal. New safe tankers were designed for Marcus, 11 by 1893 – each named after a sea-shell. He also sent a nephew Mark to build depots to store and distribute oil across Far East markets, always sold as Shell Oil.

By 1895 Marcus was rich, and wanted to become a country gentleman, so he bought Mote House in Maidstone. Here he could live the life he wanted, enjoying fishing, cricket and hunting. He was awarded a knighthood for refloating a British warship, stranded by the Suez Canal, and became Sir Marcus.



He needed more oil and approached the Royal Dutch Company who had found oil in Sumatra, but could not reach a deal. So he bought huge stocks, and found oil in Borneo, but then demand for oil and shipping slumped. Shell was being poorly managed as Sir Marcus became Lord Mayor of London and was more interested in Civic duties! Eventually Shell was forced to merge with Royal Dutch, who gained 60/40% control of the new company. Marcus `retired and bought a yacht`, but remained as chairman of Shell and its public face.

He tried to get the Royal Navy to fuel its ships with oil, supported by Lord Fisher of the Admiralty, but was disliked by Winston Churchill. Despite this when war broke out in 1914, Marcus announced that Shell would make no profit from the war, and Shell became the main supplier of petrol to the BEF, with its tankers at the Government's disposal. Shell also made most of the TNT explosive used by the British Army and Navy, using its oil from Borneo in a plant smuggled across the channel from Rotterdam. His eldest son Walter won

the Military Cross and survived to take over from Marcus, but his younger son and one son-in-law died in action, while another died as a result of injuries at the front.

In 1920 Marcus retired from the Shell Board. He became Lord Bearsted in 1921, and was later raised to the rank of Viscount. In 1927 his wife Fanny died first of a stroke, and then he died within 24 hours, unaware of Fanny's death in another room. *Mo Clayton*

HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Neighbourhood Plan has recently been resurrected after lying dormant for some time, and a revised and updated draft developed (version 13) which has been sent for layout and production as a formal document for submission to MBC.

Highwood Green: 110 homes. Nearing completion and the last phase of construction of houses to the north and west of the site is underway, to be finished by autumn 2016. Redrow are selling 66 houses with around 20 still available. The remaining 44 "affordable" homes have been transferred to Golding Homes and are being marketed separately.

Parsonage: 144 homes. Outline Planning Permission has been granted, and there was a major submission of new documents by the developer on 4th Jan 2016. They have applied to demolish two semi-detached properties on Goudhurst Road, to create access for the homes to be built behind the existing houses in Goudhurst Road. 87 of the homes will be for private sale, 57 "affordable" housing.

Stanley Farms: 85 homes. Outline planning permission has been granted, and application for full permission made on 11 Nov. The issue of relative access from Plain Road and Napoleon Drive has been resolved with a 50/50 split between them, and only emergency vehicles can cross between the two sections. There is a large area of open space with the two existing ponds between the new houses and the Playing Field to the north.

Howland Road North: 44 homes. Outline permission granted in June 2014, subject to submission of a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan for the site and the GCNewt Wildlife enhancement area. There appears to be an ecological survey underway as plastic barriers have been erected. No further documents submitted to MBC since Dec 2014.

Cricket & Hockey field: 124 homes. The new sports field and cricket pitch has been levelled and seeded. Outline planning permission for the development was granted in Dec 2015, but full permission has not yet been applied for. It is understood that construction of the clubhouse, hockey pitches, cricket pitch etc. will take place during 2016 so that MCHC can move there for the 2017 season. Then construction of the new houses on the old site will begin in 2017. 49 homes will be affordable, some shared ownership, the remainder for private sale. *Steve McArragher*