



## FRIENDS OF MARDEN'S HERITAGE: Charity No. 1160682

### NEWSLETTER - February 2017

#### Who We Are:

The Friends of Marden's Heritage (FOMH) organisation was set up in 2009 to raise funds to preserve the Heritage of Marden, specifically:

- To support the work of the Heritage Centre and History Group
- To conserve the fabric of the Church

Thus we support both the History Group and the Church, and the committee includes representatives of both the Heritage Centre and the Parochial Church Council, but are independent of them. FOMH is now accepted as a charity by HM Revenue & Customs for tax purposes. Our role is to organise fundraising events and promote membership of the Friends. The Heritage Centre has substantial running costs, and the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Parish Church needs constant maintenance.

#### Our Achievements so far:

To date we have organised over 30 events which have raised just over £30,000. These have included quizzes, book sales, band and choir concerts, Tombola at the Village Fetes, Hog roasts and our main annual events, the Big Musical Picnics. These are normally held every year in early June on Southons Field and are usually blessed with fine weather, as below in 2016. However for a number of reasons we have decided to have a year off in 2017, but will be back bigger and better than ever in 2018!



Of the money raised we have given £10,000 to the History Group, to cover running expenses and contribute to the installation of the air raid siren and phone box outside the Heritage Centre. The Church has received some £21,000 which has been used for the Tower restoration in 2012, and various other smaller items.

#### What's Next?

Looking to the future, we will continue to support the Heritage Centre as before. The next major project for the Church will be refurbishment of the windows. Two of the three windows on the South side have openers that are corroded and bowed, requiring removal and reconstructing whilst there is one other stained glass window that is bowed and others requiring minor glass repairs. The cost of this work is expected to be in the region of £29,000 of which we have £5000 in the kitty, so some way to go. In January we held the "**Famous Friends**" Quiz, which raised over £400, and next on 22<sup>nd</sup> April we have a joint concert with the "3Ts" by "**OPUS32**" in the Church. This is a young "Choir for all occasions" based in Sittingbourne who sing a wide range of popular and classical music. Later in the year we are planning another **Hog Roast, on 17<sup>th</sup> September**.

So if you value Marden's Heritage and would like to support us, please put these dates in your diary and come along. Further details will follow in due course in the Parish Newsletter and Parish Magazine. Better still why not join us? It only costs £10 per year, and members are entitled to free admission to the Musical Picnic. If you are interested in joining or would like any more information please contact:

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**If you are not already a member, may we introduce *The Marden Society*?**

The Society was formed 40 years ago in 1976, when a crop spraying airfield was proposed in the village. This was opposed by many local residents, so local farmers and business people formed the first Committee, whose original purpose was to protect the amenities of the village. This was successful at the time, as the opinions of local people had a bit more influence in those days (how times have changed!) so the airstrip was never built. Since then the Society has been involved in many village developments including the Village Design Statement and the recent proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

We now concentrate on providing 7 evening meetings a year, with speakers on a variety of topics, and a summer outing in June. We meet usually in the Vestry Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the 4th Monday of each month (except June, July and August). Admission is free and there is a raffle plus refreshments served afterwards. The History Group was originally part of the Marden Society, but is now independent although we still maintain very friendly relations. There is also an affiliated Walking Group which organises a range of walks every month. Further details including our programmes are available on the Society's website at <http://mardensociety.org.uk/>

Membership costs just £5 a year and members also receive a bi-monthly newsletter - *The Parish Pump* - with a wide selection of articles of local interest. Our programme of talks for 2017 is below. However due to recent problems with the floor of the Vestry Hall, the first three meetings this year will be in the Village Club in Albion Road.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
<b>Wed 22 Feb</b>	<b>Village Club</b>	<b>My Life as a Tillergirl</b>	<b>Jackie Simmonds</b>
<b>Wed 22 March</b>	<b>Village Club</b>	<b>The Wars of the Roses</b>	<b>Keith Beckford</b>
<b>Wed 26 April</b>	<b>Village Club</b>	<b>A Walk in the Clouds</b>	<b>Kevin Reynolds</b>
<b>Wed 24 May</b>	<b>Vestry Hall</b>	<b>The Wealden Iron Industry from the Iron Age to the Early 19th Century</b>	<b>Jeremy Hodgkinson</b>
<b>Wed 28 June</b>	<b>Summer Outing</b>	<b>Little Mill Farm; Afternoon Wildlife walk and cream tea</b>	<b>Peter Hall</b>
<b>Wed 27 Sept</b>	<b>Vestry Hall</b>	<b>Teston and the Anti Slavery Movement.</b>	<b>Dawn Page</b>
<b>Wed 25 Oct</b>	<b>Vestry Hall</b>	<b>Ordnance Survey Ancient and Modern</b>	<b>Colin Brown</b>
<b>Wed 22 Nov</b>	<b>Vestry Hall</b>	<b>What is Fracking? The debate about Shale Gas - and will we see drill rigs in Marden?</b>	<b>Peter Kershaw</b>

Please contact Mo Clayton on 01622 831529 ([tillergirl2913@gmail.com](mailto:tillergirl2913@gmail.com)) or Steve McArragher on 01622 831007 ([steve.mcarragher@btinternet.com](mailto:steve.mcarragher@btinternet.com)) if you are interested in joining or would like to know more.