

MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL: Quality Gold Criteria 2(c)

Council activities

Annual activities:

Marden at Christmas

Marden Parish Council holds the Marden at Christmas event on the 1st Saturday of December and involves the whole community. People gather at in a village square in the morning to join in with carol singing and morris dancing and hot drinks, mince pies and sausages provided and served by the Parish Councillors and employees. Village businesses and shops are encouraged to join in and many provide games for children, mulled wine, soup/hot food and hot drinks. MPC runs a craft fair the village hall and is open to small local businesses and organisations to have stalls to sell their produce, Father Christmas takes up residence in his grotto which is open to all children aged up to 11 who all receive an age appropriate present – this is a free event for everyone. This is well received by residents and visitors alike and has been run for the past 15+ years.

Annual Spring Clean

The Parish Council runs an annual Spring Clean in March each year encouraging everyone to help with a litter pick covering the whole parish (only 16+ are permitted to litter pick areas with no footway). This is a community event and is covered by MPC's insurance. Equipment is provided and hot drink and snacks are available.

Marden Summer Play Scheme

For two weeks during the summer holidays MPC runs an annual play scheme for children aged 5 to 12. This is a very popular activity and is always over prescribed to the point in 2023 we had to extend numbers from 48 to 64 per day. MPC employs staff to run the scheme, mainly teachers from the local primary school, and encourages children to do activities such as crafting, sports, games along with having visits from outside agencies such as police, animal events etc.

[Play Scheme 2023 - Marden Parish Council Marden, Tonbridge, Kent - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/play-scheme-2023)

Community Events:

Platinum Jubilee

In 2022 two successful events were held for the community: Beacon lighting which took place one evening and a large number of visitors attended to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee with the lighting of the village beacon – burgers and drinks were made available and people were welcome to bring along their own picnic.

Also to celebrate an afternoon fete was held with many village organisations and businesses having stalls selling produce, food and drink. Bands also played during the afternoon and in excess of 1000 people came through the gates to enjoy the celebrations.

Coronation

Although the weather wasn't kind to us in 2023 we were able to hold a celebration afternoon for King Charles III Coronation in the local village hall – many residents enjoyed crafting, face painting and other stall events along with enjoying a cup of tea and cake.

D-Day 6th June 2024

This year to celebrate the 80th anniversary of D-Day MPC will hold another beacon lighting event – again all the community will be invited to come along and bring a picnic.