

Walk No.	Title	Distance
1	Circular walk starting and ending at the Unicorn.	2¾ miles/4½ km
2	Circular walk along the River Beult from the Stilebridge Inn.	4¾ miles/7½ km or 3½ miles/5½ km
3	Circular walk to Marden Meadow to view the flowers.	4½ miles/7 km
4	Marden Diamond Jubilee Walk	6 miles/9½ km
5	West End Wander	6½ miles/10½ km.
6	Circular walk to Turkey Farm	4 miles/6½ km or 2¼ miles/3½ km

The routes are currently undergoing final checks, and it is hoped to have them printed and ready before Christmas. They will be formally launched at the Marden Society AGM on January 23rd.
Steve McArragher

THE FIELDFARES ARE COMING.....

.....AND THE REDWINGS TOO



Now is the time when we can expect to see our winter thrushes coming to Britain from Scandinavia or Russia. Up to a million fieldfares and redwings cross the North Sea. They usually start to arrive in October, but are apparently a bit late this year probably due to the warm autumn.



Some have been seen in Kent but I have not seen any yet (1st week Nov). They have been noted since at least Chaucer's day – "Above all birds of winter, the frosty feldefares". Then they were trapped and eaten and were apparently delicious! Fortunately this no longer happens and we can just enjoy seeing them and hearing their "chack chack chack" call. Redwings are unusual in that they migrate at night and can be heard whistling overhead on clear nights.

Both species are handsome birds, the Fieldfare with its slate grey head and brown back with a typical thrush's spotted breast. Its name is old and believed to mean one who travels through fields. The Redwing's name is obvious with its red patch under the wings best seen when the birds are flying.

Mixed flocks (mainly Fieldfares) can usually be found around Marden in the orchards feeding on fallen apples which they clearly enjoy, though they are shy and difficult to approach. This changes when there is snow on the ground, as was the case in January when the "Beast from the East" roared in and we had both fieldfares and redwings eating in the garden from our feeders. But as soon as the snow went, so did the thrushes!

Most of the birds will return to Scandinavia in April, but a few do breed in this country, mainly in Scotland but some further south and a few have even been reported breeding in Kent. So winter is coming and so are the Fieldfares and Redwings – something to look forward to.

Our last talk this year will be on **28th November** when Simon Ginnaw will tell us about "**The History of Mote Park**". Owned by knights, royalty, and noblemen, Mote Park has seen a rich and diverse history. The Park has existed as an entity since the 13th century, and now spans 480 acres. Simon is a wildlife expert whose "patch" is Mote Park and gave us a superb talk about the birdlife there in March 2015. The meeting will be in the **Vestry Hall at 7.30**, with refreshments and raffle as usual.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF EDITH CAVELL

Melanie Gibson-Barton's talk on the 'Life and Times of Edith Cavell' fits within a suite of talks she gives about the history and culture of Belgium.

Edith Cavell, the oldest of four children, was born on December 4th 1865 in the village of Swardeston in Norfolk. Her father, the Rev. Frederick Cavell, was the local vicar, a position he held for 46 years. The vicarage where Edith grew up was built at her father's expense and nearly ruined him. However, although times could be hard at the vicarage, Edith's childhood appears to have been a relatively happy one. She developed a passion for ice-skating, loved nature and surrounded herself with flowers and animals. She was an accomplished artist and modelled her work on her favourite artist, Landseer. Sundays were gloomy and she described her father's sermons as 'long and dull'. Nevertheless, she saw the need for a Church Sunday School room and with the help of her sister raised £300 towards the cost. The Church met the remainder, a promise made to her and fulfilled by the Bishop of Norwich.



At first she was educated at home and then in her teens attended three boarding schools. At the last one, Laurel Court, in Peterborough, she developed a flair for the French language and learnt to become a pupil teacher. Upon leaving school she took several jobs as a governess and was recommended for a post in Brussels where she stayed for five years. During this time, she developed a romantic

attachment for a second cousin. Owing to a 'nervous condition' he felt he should not marry. Edith appears to have remained faithful to him for the rest of her life.

In 1895 Edith returned to Swardeston to help look after her sick father and decided to take up nursing. She was accepted for training at the London Hospital in April 1896. In 1897 she was seconded to Maidstone Hospital, which had an epidemic of typhoid fever, and there she received the Maidstone Medal for her work. This was the only medal she ever received from

her country. In 1898, after a period of private nursing, she moved back into front line nursing, working at St. Pancras and Shoreditch Infirmary and then on to Manchester.

In 1907 she moved to Brussels and became the Matron of a new training school for nurses. She rose to the responsibility and was soon providing nurses for hospitals, schools and kindergartens. By 1914 she was lecturing to nurses and doctors, caring for a morphine addict, a runaway girl and two dogs! She was at home in Norfolk when she heard the news of the German invasion of Brussels and immediately decided to return. Once there she despatched her Dutch and German nurses back home and impressed on the rest that their first duty was to care for the wounded, irrespective of nationality. Her clinic became a Red Cross hospital but when Brussels fell 60 English nurses were sent home, leaving only Edith and her assistant.

In the autumn of 1914 two British soldiers found their way to the clinic and she helped spirit them away to neutral Holland. Others followed, and some 200 allied soldiers were helped. She kept her activities from her nurses so as not to incriminate them, but in June 1915 two members of the escape route were arrested and five days later Edith was interned. Like George Washington, she could never tell a lie, so when interrogated she confessed to everything. She was charged with treason and sentenced to execution at dawn. Despite interventions from neutral America and Spain, the sentence was carried out at dawn on October 12th 1915.



Funeral Cortege of Edith Cavell

There followed an enormous outcry and the execution was used as propaganda by the allies who proclaimed her a martyr. This was contrary to her last wish to be remembered as a nurse who tried to do her duty. The execution was used to sway neutral opinion and eventually brought America into the war. Her body was initially buried near the rifle range where she was shot, but, after the war, arrangements were made for it to be transported back to England. The first part of her burial service was at Westminster Abbey and then she was laid to rest at a site known as Life's Green, outside Norwich Cathedral.

She is still a fascinating subject today and, apart from the large statue near Leicester Square there are tributes to her throughout the world. Several plays and films have also been produced about her life.

Barbara Dubois

MARDEN MYSTERY HISTORY TRAIL

Earlier this year I was asked to devise a trail around our village for primary school pupils to use as an activity during their school summer holiday. The aim was to enable them to look for artefacts, street furniture, signs and places of historical interest in their village whilst having fun and getting out from under Mum's feet. The Trail took the children from the car park east to High Street, Maidstone Road, Howland Road, Albion Road and west along Goudhurst Road. They found out about milestones, wife selling, turnpikes, mounting blocks, workhouses, things in and on the churches, blacksmiths, markets, the stocks and the siren among many others.

I launched the Marden Mystery History Trail at a full school assembly at the end of July. There were plenty of questions and it seemed to generate lots of interest. Over 30 Trails were printed off by Lucia, our librarian, on paper donated by KCC libraries. Although only 7 completed Trails were handed back to the library, lots more children, some with parents, were seen out with them.

In September I again addressed a school assembly to hand out certificates for completed ones as well as visiting the homes of Collier Street School pupils who had taken part and those who had moved on to secondary school. Thanks are due to Eunice and Juliet Doswell, Rob Spain, Lucia and Laura's grandchildren (who first tried it out for me). Any ideas for future activities will be warmly welcomed.

Diane Fisher

BOXLEY HANDBELLS DEMONSTRATION

Sadly our numbers were low for the October meeting, which was a presentation by Boxley Handbells, A shame as it was a good evening. Eight members of the company gave us some examples of how these handbells are used, with such old favourites as Strawberry Fair, Skyboat Song, Amazing Grace and many others. They also included several modern songs and some music hall songs, including AuraLee, better known as Love Me Tender, the original name being used to avoid copyright complications.

The original bells (dating back to the early 1700s) were found in Boxley Church (hence their name), rusted and grimed with age. The bells were sent to Whitechapel Foundry for cleaning and now the company have 30 handbells of different sizes, giving different musical notes.

Gloves are worn to protect the leather straps and the players' hands. The bells are made of bronze with some added zinc; this combination makes them tough and easy to vibrate. New bells are still made in the Whitechapel Foundry, and a full set of handbells is insured for £9,000. Bell plates are also used, which are cheaper and easier to use for youngsters or the infirm.

Eight of the audience were then given an opportunity to try their hand with the bells, which was great fun. An entertaining evening for all, thank you, Boxley Handbells.

Mo Clayton

NEW VILLAGE WALKS GUIDES

Back in 2006 the Walking Group published a series of guides titled "Six Walks Around Marden". These were followed a year or so later by the imaginatively titled "Six More Walks Around Marden". 250 copies of each set were printed and sold from the Library, Post office and other outlets. However all good things come to an end, and in 2016 we sold out of the guides, and needed to reprint them.

However quite a lot has changed in Marden over the last ten years, so we needed to revise all the routes. The new estates going up in the village affected quite a few routes, especially the Stanley's Field estate which has closed off paths KM281 and 283 which were used on several of the old routes. So we had to rethink some of the old routes and have come up with a new series of routes with the still imaginative title of "Six New Walks Around Marden". This includes some of the original routes with two completely new ones, and one (Marden Meadow) which has had to be completely revised. The full series of walks is shown below.