



At this very moment the collared dove is doing the same thing in North America. In the 1970s a bird-breeders house in the Bahamas was burgled and a few birds released. The owner then decided to release the rest of his stock of some 50 birds. After a quick flight over to Florida the birds have colonised most of the lower 48 states except the north-east and have crept north into Canada and south into Central America.

So, what is so special about this bird that makes it so successful? The answer appears to be – absolutely nothing! They are highly sedentary and do not travel far although young birds disperse. They are not great fliers and did not make it across the Atlantic under their own steam. They feed normally on the ground on seeds and grain in fields, or your garden under the bird feeder. But the one thing they do well is breed with a long season from March to October, in a nest of a very simple cup of twigs that would not pass building regulations, laying one or two eggs. And they have continuous broods, one pair had 9 clutches in a year of which 5 were successful. It is estimated their annual output is 2 or 3 chicks per year, enough to give a population a healthy increase.

So, there is nothing special about the collared dove, except its “Worldwide Domination”, but perhaps that’s enough!
Steve McArragher (based on an article by Dominic Couzens)

MARDEN SOCIETY MEETINGS 2020

Date	Subject	Lecturer
Wed 22 nd Jan	Annual General Meeting	
Wed 26 th Feb	Back to our Rootes	Steve McArragher
Wed 25 th March	Margaret of Anjou	James Dickinson
Wed 22 nd April	History of Anaesthesia	John Dickenson
Wed 27 th May	Winston Churchill and Chartwell	Paul Laundry
Wed 24 th June	Summer Outing TBD	
Wed 23 rd Sept	Hopping in Kent and the Hartlake Disaster	Geoff Doel
Wed 28 th Oct	The Dambusters	Guy Bartlett
Wed 25 th Nov	Update on Wildlife around Marden	Ray Morris

The Parish Pump

THE JOURNAL OF THE MARDEN SOCIETY – NOVEMBER 2019

Our final speaker for 2019 will be **Wilf Lower on Wednesday 27th November** who will tell us “**Don’t Sneeze at the Microphone**”. A century ago, popular entertainment meant a night out at the Music Hall, but then along came records, radio and later, television – and popular entertainment changed forever. For many performers it was their road to fortune. but for others, it was a disaster. This light-hearted romp through the journey of entertainment from stage to TV will bring many nostalgic and fond memories.

The meeting will be in the **Vestry Hall at 7.30 p.m.**, with refreshments and raffle as usual. The programme for 2020 is shown on the back page.

THE HISTORY OF CANALS

Although canals had been constructed in Britain in Roman times, Chris Woodward’s history of canals began with Frank Egerton, 3rd Duke of Bridgewater, who is among those credited to be the first to open a canal, thus paving the way for the Industrial Revolution and the modern canal system we recognise today. The Duke commissioned the engineer James Brindley to build the canal as a suitable way of transporting coal from his mines to Manchester. The canal included an aqueduct over the River Irwell which was regarded as an engineering wonder. It was opened as the Bridgewater Canal in 1761 and immediately fulfilled all expectation. Previously, one tonne of coal had taken all day to be transported by road, with the canal 20 tonnes could be transported in 3 hours. Because of this the price of coal was almost halved.



After this many industrialists wanted canals and they sprang up all over the country. Josiah Wedgwood was able to use them to bring the clay to his factory and then transport his fragile goods to Manchester and Birmingham thereby minimising the previous heavy breakages. By 1820 the whole of the country was

connected, and it was possible to travel from Tonbridge to the Lake District by canal. With the popularity of the system many rival canal systems were formed. Tolls were levied and disputes occurred between rival companies over small stretches of water.

The canals were limited to a narrow width for reasons of economy and limited 18th century technology. The locks were similarly constrained, limited to 72' 7" in length and 7'6" wide. Although the locks were later widened, they were still narrow thus limiting the width of the boats, hence, "narrowboats". The same lack of engineering technology applied to the tunnels and they were similarly narrow. Horses were used to pull the boats along the towpath, but to manoeuvre boats through the tunnels 'legging' was used. The boatmen would 'walk' with their legs along the walls or ceilings of the tunnels to move the boat along. In some cases it could take 2 or 3 hours to navigate a tunnel.

To compete with the railways a 'flyboat' system was introduced whereby the boats were operative night and day, with a 3-man rota system introduced, whereby 2 men worked and one man rested. At first the boats were only operated by boatmen who lived on board while their families lived in cottages on the banks. Gradually, however, to save costs whole families moved into cramped conditions on the boat and lived together. The traditional barge paintings and decorations featuring roses and castles started to appear whereby all goods and chattels were highly decorated.



With the end of WWI the canals fell into decline. More freight was carried on the railways, but, in particular, with many men discharged from the army with driving skills, more goods started to be transported by road with a door to door service.

Although some freight is still carried by canal, mostly they are now used for leisure and people can enjoy the beautiful countryside, the wildlife, the birds and the tranquillity of moving at 4mph.

Barbara Dubois

PLANNING NEWS

The MBC Local Plan was adopted in October 2017 and sets the framework for development up to 2031. However in July they began a review of the plan to extend its scope until at least 2037 and possibly further. The initial comment period for this review has now closed, and hopefully some members will have commented (not an easy task if you are not familiar with planning language) after we were all prompted by the Marden Planning Opposition Group. A further consultation on preferred approaches for the Local Plan Review is scheduled for February 2020.

Also the Marden Neighbourhood Plan has been independently examined by a professional Chartered Town Planner. He has found that, subject to some minor changes, the plan meets the "Basic Conditions and other Legal Requirements" and should proceed to Referendum, which is the next stage of the approval process. He Summarises:

"It is clear that the Marden Neighbourhood Plan is the product of much hard work undertaken since 2012 by the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and by the many individuals and stakeholders who have contributed to the preparation and development of the Plan. There is no doubt in my view that the Plan reflects the aspirations and objectives of the Marden community for their future development up to 2031. The output is a Plan which should help guide the area's development over that period, making a positive contribution to informing decision-making on planning applications by Maidstone Borough Council."

Meanwhile the MBC "Call for Sites" for potential development has now closed and they have said that over 300 applications have been received. This will include the Countryside Homes application for a 2000 home Garden Village in Marden. However in September MBC announced a proposal for a 5000 home Garden Village near Lenham including a new station and motorway junction. We shall have to wait and see what effect this will have on the Countryside Homes proposal, MBC are due to release more information about their Call for Sites "in the Autumn", i.e. any time now!

Steve McArragher

SCARECROW SAFARI



The last weekend in September saw the first Marden Scarecrow Safari. Organised by Marden in Bloom, 39 scarecrows were made and displayed around the village. Groups and Societies who took part included the Church, W.I., Cubs and Beavers, History Group, Living Memories, School, Parish Council, Walking Group, Stanley's Garage and local farmers. The list is extensive and includes plenty of villagers. Our scarecrow was entitled "**Society Belle of Marden**" and stood proudly in front of the library.

Saturday proved to be a bright and sunny day and the village was buzzing. In the afternoon when Mo and I meandered down to Southon's Field to vote for our favourite, there were families everywhere, laughing, taking photographs, following the Safari map and shepherding their children along. It seemed like a festival atmosphere.

Overnight heavy rain meant that when Mo and I met to reclaim our scarecrows Sunday morning we expected them to be sodden. We were not expecting to find them lying flat on the grass, vandalised and broken. This also happened to one of Stanley's scarecrows who was beheaded, it seems that any left out on Saturday night had also been treated to the unwelcome attentions of some of the ***** youths of our village.

When committee members gathered at Mo's house to dream up and build a scarecrow, we had no idea how much fun it would be. Imagine this - 5 people who had never built one before. Lessons have been learnt! Many, many thanks to Marden In Bloom.

Diane Fisher

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE THE COLLARED DOVE?

Co-coo coo, co-coo coo, how many times have I heard this in the spring and thought "a cuckoo?" but no, just another boring collared dove. Well boring they may be, but they certainly are successful, and you could never call them endangered! The story of their spread across the world from India via Turkey and the Balkans is remarkable. Between 1912 and 1974 they swept west across Europe reaching Norway, Spain and Portugal and everywhere in between. In Britain the first male arrived in the year of the Queen's coronation, 1952, although they were not officially accepted until 1955 when several birds arrived in West Runton in Norfolk. By 1966 they had been seen in every English county and the population was doubling every year. By 1970 they had colonised all of Scotland. The current British population is estimated at just under a million pairs. You might think this is a remarkable achievement, but it ain't over yet.