

23rd March 2019 Youth Club site

Councillors Burnham and Buller, with the help of staff member, Jean and resident Malcolm Buller, organised the first Clean-Up of the year. A huge thank you to the 75 residents who helped collect masses of litter from our village streets. With so much help every street within the 30 mph area was cleaned! Congratulations to the residents of Weavers Close as no rubbish was found there. However, our garage blocks around the village are mainly disgusting! We were delighted to have many enthusiastic young people helping either with their family or as part of the Scout Group. Two volunteers braved cleaning the Station area. After three hours' work, they have made a huge difference, but sadly there was still plenty of rubbish there. The Scouts and their leaders tackled Lodge Road. Councillor Lain Rose helped too for most of the morning and he tackled The Parade area. Borough Councillor Brice supported us too and said she would carry on litter-picking in Lodge Road. We would also like to thank some residents who worked on our rural lanes at their own risk as MBC will not insure people litter picking outside of the 30mph zone. One strange find in rural Marden Road was a small, green, rusty safe, without its door or contents. This has been reported!

The refreshments, ably dispensed by two members of the WI, were very welcome. We are grateful to the Youth Club Management for allowing us to use their building and the site for storing the many bags of rubbish. We also would like to thank MBC for the loan of the necessary equipment and for their prompt collection of all the rubbish. Thank you too to Mick and Jean in the Office who also worked hard on this event.

There was an excellent community spirit and some very useful networking went on. We hope you can see a difference in the village. The challenge is to educate people not to drop their litter in the first place especially those who throw it out of their vehicles as they drive through Staplehurst. Real success would be for Clean-Ups to be unnecessary. We know many residents also litter-pick on a regular basis in addition to our Clean-Ups. Thank you to them! We hope to see you in September when we will be doing this all over again.
next meeting September 2019

JOAN BULLER