



THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

May 2022

Hall Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Sun	1st		
Mon	2nd		
Tues	3rd	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	4th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
Thurs	5th	Gardeners	8.00-10.00pm
Fri	6th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	7th		
Sun	8th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	9th		
Tues	10th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	11th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		Parish Council	2.00 - 4.00pm
Thurs	12th		
Fri	13th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
		Caravan Club - Field	All Day
		Caravan Club	8.00-11.00pm
Sat	14th	Caravan Club - Field	All Day
Sun	15th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
		Caravan Club - Field	All Day
Mon	16th		
Tues	17th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	18th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		Private Booking	12.00-4.00pm
		Parish Council	7.00-9.30pm
Thurs	19th		
Fri	20th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	21st		
Sun	22nd	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	23rd		
Tues	24th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	25th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
Thurs	26th		
Fri	27th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	28th	Private Booking	12.00-10.00pm
Sun	29th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	30th		
Tues	31st	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm

Village Hall & Playing Field URGENT

An article was placed in the March Observer to see if anyone would be interested to join the Village Hall Committee. So far there has been no interest.

Some members of the Committee have served for over twenty-five years and have decided to resign their position on or before the 31st March 2023.

There are only four meetings a year, just to keep the hall and field properly maintained. If anyone is interested but wants to know more, ask any Committee member who will be only too pleased to help.

If there are insufficient members to fill the positions vacated on the 31st March 2023, then the Hall will have to be **closed**, which we are sure that *nobody* wants to happen.

The Hall and field are governed by a Charitable Trust, which was set up when the Hall was built and not MBC which is a common misconception throughout the village.

Village Hall Committee

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA MORRIS

With our friends ~
MAENADS

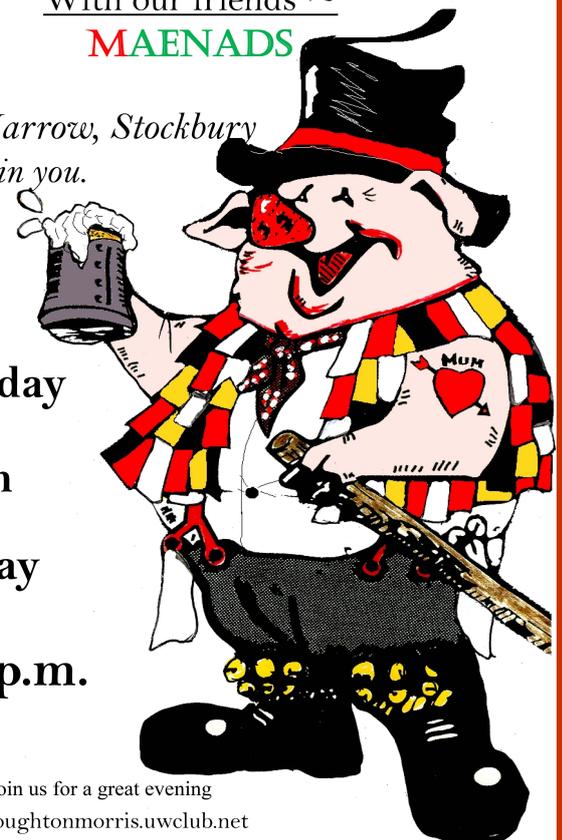
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to entertain you.

Thursday

5th

May

8.00 p.m.



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STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

Tuesdays - Maidstone

Thursdays - Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (Savacentre)

Pickups from 9:30 a.m. close to where you live. Give us a try!

07551 454702

Report It!!

Potholes and fly tipping are two of the three most common subjects that people approach Parish Councillors about (the other is planning but that is for another Observer edition ...).

The key to getting both dealt with is reporting it to the appropriate Council. We have all driven over a pothole or spotted some fly tipping and assumed that someone else must have already reported it. They may well have done but your additional report will move the problem up the priority list for either Kent County Council (potholes) or Maidstone Borough Council (fly tipping) to deal with. On the other hand, it may be subject to the "someone, everyone, no-one" approach:

- Someone should report it
- Everyone could report it
- No-one does report it

Reporting using the online tools provided by both councils could not be easier. Just Google "Kent potholes" or "Maidstone fly tipping" and, hey presto! you are through to their online reporting page.

Describing exactly where the problem is used to be a bit hit and miss (who knows the postcode associated with that bit of road?) but now both sites use What3Words. This is a really simple app for your smartphone which will give a unique 3 words that describe a 3 metre square anywhere in the world. As an example, Stockbury Village Green is 'sharpness.guises.juggle'. It is quick to download and free!

As Patrik Garten has often reminded us, numbers count. The more people report each problem, the faster it will be dealt with.

SPC

The April Observer

So who got caught out then? Come on, let's be honest now ... !

Who was taken in by our April Fools in our April edition? Yes, multiple 'Fools' to try and catch you out!

Please be assured, there will be **NO** wind turbine on the Village Green **OR** solar farm in the Cherry Orchard or along the A249.

Many thanks to our Observer pranksters!

Ed

April Church Draw Winners

CONGRATULATIONS!

1st £30 - Lorna Kerr (16)

2nd £20 - Sue Town (239)

3rd £10 - Miss P.J. Seymour (176)

Parish Assembly

The annual Parish Assembly will take place in the Village Hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday 18th May.

The Parish Council is obliged to host an assembly for all Parishioners every year; the purpose is to enable people from across the Parish to come together and exchange news / views with each other. In these days of social media this is a bit of an anachronism but like many things has never been updated by Parliament to reflect the 21st century. Given that Parliament has yet to repeal the law that says MPs may not wear armour in the Chamber, we may have to wait a few years until they get round to Parish Councils!

We would therefore like to use the Assembly for you to come and raise / discuss any issues you feel that the Parish Council should be concentrating on and to update you on what we are doing.

We would be particularly interested in your views about the A249 and whether we should pursue campaigning for a bridge but the "agenda" is up to you.

SPC

Temporary Road Closure

South Lees Lane, South Green

9th May, 2022

It will be necessary to close part of South Lees Lane, South Green from 9th May 2022, between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30, with an estimated completion by 10th May 2022.

South Lees Lane, South Green will be closed between the junctions with Rumstead Lane and Old Forge Lane, to the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site.

The alternative route is South Lees Lane, Hazel Street, South Green and vice versa.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while fibre connection works are undertaken by Openreach.

For the most up to date information on these works please visit: <https://one.network/?tm=128334116>

STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

As the trip to **Faversham Market** and **Macknade's** in March had to be cancelled due to Covid-19, we will making another attempt to run the trip on **Friday 20th May**. We will assume that all those who booked for the March trip will still want to go in May. If the 20th May is not convenient then please call the bus phone.

There are a couple of spare seats for this trip, so if anybody else would also like to go to Faversham then please call:

07551 454702

Coronation Photos

The Hartlip & Stockbury Forum are planning to print a special Platinum Jubilee edition. Although they have details of events that occurred within Stockbury in 1952/3 they are lacking photographs. Consequently, if any readers have photos of events that took place in the village as part of the Queen's Coronation celebrations that wouldn't mind sharing, then please contact Geoff Moody on 07711 162051

THE HARROW PUB

FREE HOUSE - COMMUNITY OWNED

A quiet village pub in the heart of Stockbury. Serving fresh home-cooked food.

Small functions catered for.

Open from -

Monday - Closed

Tuesday - Sunday

11am

Kitchen open from -

Tuesday 5pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday - Saturday

12pm - 3pm and 5pm - 8:30pm

Sunday

12pm - 4pm

EVENTS

Fish'n'chip shop night on the 1st Friday of every month

Games night on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Quiz night on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Coffee and cake morning on the last Friday of the month

Morris Dancing

5th May 8pm

Live Music With

Beau Keats

13th May

mixed pairs darts

tournament

2nd May 2pm



01795 843222



theharrowpubstockbury



The Harrow PubStockbury



contact@theharrowstockbury.co.uk



M2 junction 5 Stockbury interchange improvement scheme

We have now started our works to widen Oad Street, to allow for the new road layout at junction 5. To do this, we have closed Oad Street between Woodgate Lane and the A249.

The road will initially be closed from 25 April for six weeks, we'll then reopen it for the summer, before closing it again in the autumn. Advanced notice will be provided ahead of the re-closure.

For drivers who would normally use Oad Street to access the A249 southbound, follow the diversion via the A2 to Key Street roundabout, where you can join the A249. For drivers wishing to access Oad Street from the A249, please use the A2 and Borden Lane. This will add approximately 10-15 minutes on top of the usual journey time.

We would like to thank everyone for your patience while we carry out our improvements.



We're carrying out improvements to help reduce congestion at and on the **M2 junction 5 Stockbury interchange**, and enhance the flow of traffic, bringing real benefits to the drivers who use this junction daily.

To find out more, please visit our website: nationalhighways.co.uk/m2-j5 or scan the QR code. You can also call us on **0300 123 5000** or email m2j5@nationalhighways.co.uk





Stockbury Platinum Jubilee

Celebrations 2nd-5th June 2022

Stockbury will be celebrating HM Queen Elizabeth's 70 years on the throne with the following village events over the long bank holiday weekend 2-5th June. And, as it's very firmly a 50s theme, feel free to dress up in 50s finery if you'd like to do so, with children in fancy dress of any sort they wish!

We are putting together a collection of coronation memorabilia to display in The Harrow during this special weekend. If you would like to help with this and have anything we can include we would love to hear from you. For example, do you have any coronation memorabilia to loan for the display, or photos of the coronation day or personal photos or memories to share with us of HM during her 70 year reign, such as trips to the palace for garden parties or to collect an award, meeting her on visits to Kent etc. If so please get in touch to discuss.

In order to make appropriate catering arrangements it would be helpful to know if you think you will be coming, how many of you and to what events? It would be helpful if you could drop us an email to let us know, no obligation and of course you may change your plans, but it would be appreciated to have an idea of numbers.

And if you can help out over that weekend, or during the previous week with the preparations, please get in touch. Donations of flowers for the festival at the church are most welcome on the 1st June.

Order of Events (may be subject to change!)

Thursday June 2nd – 4th

Flower Festival in Stockbury Church, open 10.30am – 4pm

Thursday June 2nd

7pm-8.45pm - Town Crier Proclamation on the Green followed by complimentary canapés/finger buffet in The Harrow, with a display of coronation memorabilia and local memories of the coronation/meeting Her Majesty. All welcome.

8.45pm-9pm - Short walk to the church (there is limited parking at the church for those that need it).

9pm-9.30pm - Stockbury Church - join friends and neighbours for a toast to HM the Queen and enjoy the beautiful Flower Festival.

9.40pm - At the Beacon (next to the church) Bugler to announce beacon lighting.

9.45 pm - Beacon lit as part of a national chain of beacons across the UK.

10pm - Walk back to The Harrow

Saturday June 4th

2-3pm - Village Hall - Viewing of auction items (see separate auction article).

3pm-5pm - Auction on Village Green – Grab your spot on the Green with a glass of something cold to watch (and bid!) for items, all proceeds to The Harrow Community Pub.

5pm-8pm - Hog Roast and a Vegetarian/Vegan alternative at The Harrow (but feel free to bring your own nibbles).

8pm-12am - Live 50s music with Mike Steve Duo at The Harrow

Sunday June 5th

Stockbury Jubilee Lunch

12pm onwards - Bring your own picnic/chairs/blankets family and friends for a picnic on the Green with background 50s music and sample some Jubilee tarts and cakes made especially for the occasion.

12pm-1.30pm - A **Quick Cricket** game for children on the field, organised by Stockbury Cricket Club.

1.30pm - Grab a jug of Pimms and come and support Stockbury Cricket team in a home match.

3pm - Children's Fancy Dress competition.

Any enquiries to southernanne@gmail.com

Polly's Beautique At The Herb Garden

Surrounded by fields my Salon will offer you a peaceful and private treatment allowing you to relax, enjoy and be beautiful...

To see a full price list, learn more about the Salon and its offers or to book an appointment See the following:

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The Herb Garden

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 07725 403697

Price List:

- Gel Polish nails - £20
 - Builder Gel with Gel Polish - £25
 - Gel Polish toes - £15
 - Gel Extensions with Gel Polish - £30
 - Gel Extension Infills with Gel Polish - £25
 - Waxing - prices from £7 for Eyebrows to £25 for Full Leg
 - Range of Facials (Inc. Microdermabrasion, Dermaplaning etc) prices from £20 - £75
 - Full Body Massage - £40
 - Back and Shoulder Massage - £20
 - Wash and Blow dry from £15
 - Eyelash and Eyebrow Tinting from £5
 - Lash Lift and Tint - £25
 - MICROBLADING - Eyebrow Tattooing
- Enquire for Prices

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SATURDAY, JUBILEE WEEKEND

Ditch the tele; record your favourite programmes and come out with your family and friends! Join us for a pleasant, relaxed afternoon AND evening at The Harrow, Stockbury.

This is what's happening:

From **12noon 'til 2.30pm**. the usual Harrow food service. Remember our auction? (Find a taster of auction LOTS below.) From **2.00pm. until 3.00pm**. you could wander over to the Village Hall and view our LOTS. See what you fancy - items for all pockets! Then at **3.00pm**, Andy, our auctioneer will begin the bidding. Sometime later in the afternoon, if you're feeling peckish MB Farms famous **Hog Roast** will be available in the Harrow Garden. We're not finished yet! Catch your breath because Sarah has organised a live band - the **MIKE STEVE DUO** who will entertain everyone from **8.00pm** with 50s / 60s music. There is an additional request ... If you can ... dress up in 50s gear!

3.00pm SATURDAY JUNE 4th on the VILLAGE GREEN

JUST a **TASTER** of our wide range of **AUCTION LOTS**

STAR ITEMS Luxury 1 night stay in a Shepherd's Hut / All-inclusive dinner for 6
Fantastic Doll's House & Interiors / Twinkling Swarovski Crystal Locomotive

HELP @ HOME The Village Handyman for a day / A gardener for a whole day

SPORTY? How about a new cross-trainer / bike

ITEMS for **PRESENTS** or a **TREAT** or just for **FUN**
Large terrarium / Swarovski crystal owl / a teddy bear or two / cases of wine

& MUCH, MUCH MORE!

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!

CATALOGUE OF ITEMS in detail available early MAY. On the day we will take card or cash payments. Should you intend to bid please ask for a number card. If you are away on auction day we can take closed bids. Just place your bid in a sealed envelope with your name and contact number. On the envelope write the LOT number and item for which you are bidding, then give the envelope to Sarah in The Harrow.

Closing date for closed bids is Wednesday June 1st

ALL proceeds from the auction go towards much needed new equipment for The Harrow

Thank You

Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

It is the plan to have a Flower Festival in Stockbury Church from the 2nd to the 4th of June with viewing between 10.30am - 4pm during those days.

We are asking that anyone who would wish to put flowers in the church to do so and if you can produce lovely arrangements great! But if like me, you can only put flowers in a vase that is also great as the aim is to fill the church with flowers.

Flowers can be brought to the church between 10am and 4pm on Wednesday 1st June. If the time is not convenient for you please ring me.

On the 2nd June we will also gather in the church at 9pm to give thanks and drink a toast to the Queen. Following this we will walk to the Beacon for the 9.45pm lighting ceremony.

Irene Milton
01795-844642



Musicians Wanted

A shout out to any local amateur (or professional) buglers or pipers hiding your lights under bushels in Stockbury.

It would be good to have some reserve musicians in case of unforeseen problems on the Jubilee weekend in June. So, if you think you may be interested, please get in touch for details.

All enquiries to southernanne@gmail.com



CHICKENSTOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL

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JULY 2022



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- Triage
- True Strays
- Tom Malachowski
- Danama
- Blake Sonnet
- Lucy Blu
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- Jet Black Bees
- Cara Dillon
- CJ
- Shannon Turner band
- The Jives
- Anthony John Clarke
- Sally Ironmonger and Brian Carter
- Bamboozle
- Tom Jaworski
- Beans on Toast
- The Undercover Hippy
- Edward II
- Mr Tea and the Minions
- Rob Bartlitz

TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS OR TO GET MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.CHICKENSTOCKFESTIVAL.CO.UK



CALLING
ALL
GAMERS!



Following its previous success, we are re-establishing a traditional games evening at The Harrow Pub on the second Tuesday of every month.

This is a great opportunity to play old favourites and to learn some new games.

Come along for an evening of traditional fun in the gloomy depths of winter and beyond.

We aim to start about 8 pm and would love to see anyone interested and you are welcome to bring any games with you.



Calling the “Ladies” of Stockbury:

Come and join like-minded ladies for a lovely lunch and a catch up

At

The Harrow Pub on the last Thursday of the month

at about 12.30pm

Please book your place directly with The Harrow on

01795 -823222

We would love you to join us

Who Gives a Cr@p? Urgent Update!

The Big Plastic Count – UK’s largest ever plastic waste survey to shed light on our broken recycling system.

On Tuesday, 29th March registration opened for The Big Plastic Count – the UK’s largest-ever investigation into household plastic waste – taking place 16-22 May 2022.

The Big Plastic Count is a collaboration between Greenpeace UK and non-profit organisation Everyday Plastic and is encouraging individuals, households, schools, community groups and businesses across the UK to count their plastic packaging waste, record the different types they throw away and enter their results into the campaign website.

The Big Plastic Count will uncover the truth about how much plastic packaging waste households throw away and how much of it is really recycled – new evidence that will be vital for pressuring the government and supermarkets to tackle the root cause of the plastic crisis.

Greenpeace UK and Everyday Plastic will use the results of The Big Plastic Count to push the UK government to introduce stricter policies to reduce plastic waste. These include setting a target to reduce the UK’s single-use plastic by 50% by 2025, banning all plastic waste exports and implementing an all-in Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for recycling and reuse.

So, will you give a crap and sign up today? I have.

<https://thebigplasticcount.com>

Jackie Smith

Stockbury Book Club

This month’s book was **This Must Be The Place** by Maggie O’Farrell

As a young woman, despite having no acting experience, Claudette is cast in a leading role in an art house film; the film is written and directed by Timou, a young Swede. They marry and she becomes a glamorous film star. At the peak of her career she “disappears” to live a bohemian lifestyle in a isolated derelict house in rural Ireland with their son, who has significant speech difficulties. Happenstance brings her into contact with Daniel a visiting American linguistic professor, whom she persuades to help her son. He is divorced and his children live exclusively with his wife. They marry, have children, divorce and then latterly rekindle their relationship. Looks like an easy read!

As the saying goes “looks can be deceiving”. So can books, which was certainly the case with this novel. Everyone found it a challenging read. The chapters were akin to short stories about episodes in Daniel, Claudette’s and their family members lives told by different narrators covering various strands/events. Whilst these were often deftly crafted with good descriptions of places and their atmosphere as well as providing insights into the relationship, feelings and emotions of the people involved, they created a confusing picture. It wasn’t clear who the narrator was and their relevance to the “story”. You needed to get about half way through the novel to get used to the writing style, the threads then started to come together and it began to make any sense!

So how did we rate the book? As the football adage goes “it’s a game of two halves” This month’s read was like that. Half of us completed it. You had to get past the first half to do this. Half of us attended the review meeting. Half of the attendees had completed the book.

Somewhat surprisingly the novel achieved a score of 6 (range 3-7.5). Those who finished it were glad they persisted to the end. It is though clearly not a book to pick up if you are feeling a bit fuzzy headed, best to leave it until your head clears.

In summary as one member put it “I think I could go back to the beginning to read again now I understand better the way the book is written”

Next month’s read is Mercury Falling by Robert Eddic.

Alan Cooke

Stockbury Gardeners

Our Plant Sale held in the village on Saturday 23rd April was the first sale since 2019 and it was a huge success.

The vegetable stand hit record sales and the flowers nearly sold out; a big thanks to all the people that came from the village and from places as far away as Faversham,



Chatham, Doddington, and Maidstone to support us. The cake and food counter was manned and supplied by Wendy Gibson, and Nicky Bonner, they deserve due praise for the quality of the food, fresh cake!!!! sausage rolls and of course service with a smile.

Help came from, Ken, Carol, Di, Andy, Abi, Jill and Rod our “haulier” who arranged the purchase and collection of the wonderful bedding plants. Di Spree who grew perennial plants and collected some of the vegetable plants from Thanet.

It should be mentioned that there was a great deal of interest from potential new members wishing to join the society.

Our next event will be the hanging basket workshop on the 5th May, for members and non-members alike. If you bring an empty basket and liner, possibly two if we have enough plants to go around, we will supply free materials, the only cost is for the plants that you use. It’s normally a great evening and results in a pub visit afterwards.

As we are now environmentally more astute, cutting down on chemicals and poisons etc., I for one am doing my bit!! Sowing trays of broad beans, me zero, mice 48. Sowing sunflower seeds, me zero, mice 36, similarly courgette seeds, me zero mice 48!! Well, I am keeping the mice fed and then I suppose they then feed the food chain above them, owls, buzzards, etc., better off now eating meat produce!!

Chris Spree

THE HARROW

Another busy month has flown by, filled with all the much loved regular monthly events - Fish'n'Chip, Games and Quiz Nights, Ladies 'Wot' Lunch and Coffee Morning; complimented by a very busy live music evening with Emily Jayne which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Easter Sunday was an extremely busy Sunday lunch service too - we were so fully booked, we couldn't squeeze any more diners into the pub!

However, the one disappointment during April was our Open Mic Night. We were encouraged to try something a bit different by the community, something that had not been done in The Harrow before but the turn out was such a disappointment with only a dozen attendees, none of which were brave enough to take the mic to entertain the limited crowd. Not to be deterred though, Sarah quickly changed tack-ticks and spun the evening into a Sing-a-long, kicking off with the very well known and loved Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen, which everybody (surely!) knows the lyrics to. Sarah's quick thinking turned the evening round and it was enjoyed by all.

For you in May:

- **2nd May - Mixed Pairs Darts Tournament** - 2pm start. We are hoping to turn this into an annual Harrow tournament with the winners receiving an engraved shield with their names on.
- **4th May - Tractor Club Lunch** - 12.30pm
- **5th May - Boughton Monchelsea Morris** - 8pm start. Come and enjoy the traditional spectacle of the Morris Dance outside The Harrow, continuing inside, as the Morris dancers chase away the darkness of winter and welcome the warmth and fertility of summer.
- **6th May - Fish'n'n'Chip Night** - Please pre-book your table or your takeaway for this popular evening.
- **10th May - Games Night** - 8pm. Traditional card and board games and those that your Granny taught you! Come and have a go at Cribbage, Dominoes ... and many more!
- **13th May - Live Music with Beau Keats** - 8.30 start. Enjoy the evening with a mixture of Jazz, Swing and Motown and let Beau whisk the trials of the week away.
- **17th May - Quiz Night** - 8pm start. Get swatting! Maybe this is the month you'll win the coveted trophy!
- **26th May - Ladies 'Wot' Lunch** - 12.30. A relaxed lunchtime atmosphere enjoyed by many, accompanied by good food and possibly a drink or two! Please book.
- **27th May - Coffee & Cake Morning** - 10.30 - 12.00pm - Say no more than 'homemade cake' and I'll be there! Hopefully see you there too!

Patrik Says ...

Funny thing: the leader of the Liberal Party apologised to me after a committee meeting ... why? ... Because he agreed with me twice in one day!

Sometimes the right decision is just right, regardless of party colour and on that note I am pleased to announce that the Planning Committee threw out the speculative application to build 1700 homes near Detling Aerodrome, the so-called 'Binbury Park'.

A development like this cannot be pushed through the back door. Maidstone has a valid Local Plan, which is

reviewed every five years; this plan is our tool to fight off unplanned and/or unwanted development. The right decision was taken by the members of the Planning Committee. Thank you.

This application has been on the table ever since I was elected, maybe even before. Not to include this development into the Local Plan was a cross-party political decision. However, by law, Maidstone has to consider speculative applications. The application was validated in 2018 and has been around, like an annoying fly, ever since. It feels strange to experience a great relief. And to be perfectly honest, it was a wonderful proposal with many very good features but it was likely in the wrong place and certainly it would have been morally wrong to push it through the back door, bypassing the Local Plan. The decision by the Planning Committee is proof that democracy works and that Maidstone's councillors can be trusted ... I would say such nice things about politicians, wouldn't I?!

Local Plan Review

The Secretary of State has appointed Inspector David Spencer, BA(Hons), DipTP MRTPI to carry out the independent examination of the Maidstone Local Plan Review. He will determine if it has been prepared in accordance with the relevant legal requirements and that it is 'sound' - i.e. positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Prior to the hearing sessions of the examination the Inspector does not have direct contact with either the Council or anyone who has an interest in the Examination. He is currently appraising the Local Plan Review and evidence base together with the representations received at the Regulation 19 stage. All the information on the examination is posted on the examination web pages which will be updated regularly.

<https://localplan.maidstone.gov.uk/home/local-plan-review-examination>

Further information on the examination process can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/examining-local-plans-procedural-practice>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/taking-part-in-local-plan-examinations>

Walking Festival

The tourism team at Maidstone Borough Council has launched the Heart of Kent Walking Festival with hikers coming from far and wide to take part in the first (test) walk. The festival is being organised by a collaboration of partners from organisations around Maidstone and will take place from 30 September and will run until 2 October 2022 www.heartofkentwalkingfestival.org

The Arts

MBC has launched a new website dedicated to the arts, providing lots of information about what is available in the borough. It includes a fantastic directory of local arts, cultural clubs and organisations with contact details for everything from painting lessons and dance groups to choirs, along with those offering online sessions. It is free for groups to register and appear on the directory. Details are on the website. <https://arts.maidstone.gov.uk>

cont'd ...

Patrik Says cont'd ...

Biodegradable Packaging a Costly Advertising Con?

The Government has said that compostable and biodegradable packaging should be put in the black bin because there is little evidence that it is good for compost and it can contaminate recycling. New rules will say that "do not recycle" labels must be added to all compostable and biodegradable packaging. "Compostable packaging materials are not widely targeted, collected or processed as part of normal council waste services in the UK because many of these types of packaging do not perform as advertised when treated in real-world conditions at industrial composting facilities," commented Jacob Hayler, the executive director of the Environmental Services Association which represents the waste industry.

And Finally ...

A keen gardener and reader of my last newsletter wondered about the term 'sling-weed' and googled it to no avail. I may know many things but botany is not my forte, so I used the term 'sling-weed' to describe the weed's activities rather than its name. The weed I referred to grows happily on the ground spreading its roots widely and strives when it finds a tree. It 'slings' around its stem and throttles the tree dead.

PATRIK GARTEN

MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward (Conservative)
Phone: 01622-807907

Gillingham FC v Plymouth FC or Highwaymen Upset a Stockburyite!

We planned to take four disabled clients to the football match between Gillingham and Plymouth on Saturday 19th February 2022 and I would be taking three, including one in a wheelchair, myself. Two more care workers and a fourth client were to meet us at the Preistfield ground. I expected a hectic day but luckily, I had the prospect of sitting by my log fire tucking into Roquefort, French bread and one or two glasses of port on my return home.

The Highway Authority had notified Stockburyites of a planned closure of the A249 between Stockbury and Maidstone as part of its road revision scheme and the Met Office reported storm conditions. In Stockbury trees were falling and hedgerows collapsing. Not deterred, I was firmly committed to take my clients safely to watch the match.

I had arranged the timetable to pick up my clients at 12.30 in Maidstone, at 1pm in Upper Halling for the wheelchair client and 1.30pm in Walderslade, with the aim to be at McDonalds by 2pm. I started out through the village lanes, hoping not to be blocked by fallen trees or any other obstacles due to the weather conditions and was pleased to find none had blocked my way. The only things holding me up were the three-way roadworks traffic lights at Maidstone Road, Wigmore. The red light against me stayed on, and on and on; I started to think there must have been a serious fault with the timing of the red light as I waited there and queued for well over five minutes, time I could barely afford in my schedule. I continued down the Maidstone Road through Boxley to reach my first client in Maidstone. Combined with the delay at the traffic lights, and extra traffic in the lanes, surely this was due to the Highway Authority advising the A249 had been closed,

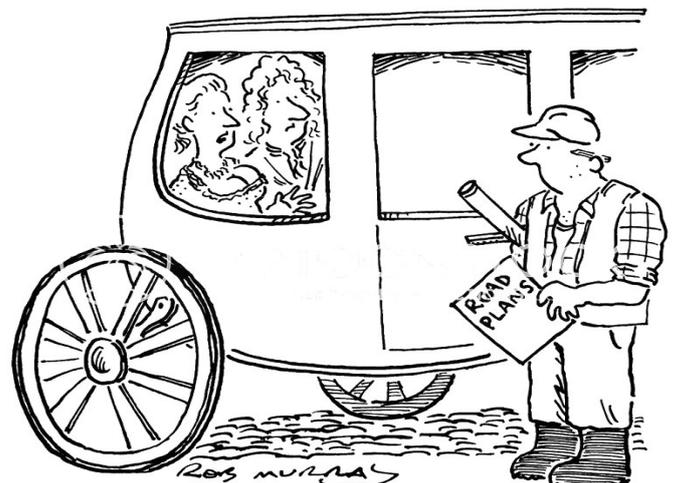
so we, the usual A249 drivers, were forced to use the back lanes instead. The time lost amounted to a total of fifteen minutes as I proceeded to Upper Halling on the M2. I decided to drive a bit faster than I normally do. I reached my second client 12 minutes late. I then picked up my final client at Walderslade, it is fortunate none of my clients lived on country lanes but on safe secondary and main roads. Though there were high winds on the Medway Bridge, I was very cautious slowing down to cross it. Due to all the highway delays, I was well past my scheduled time to reach McDonalds, buy the lunch and park my car in time to eat our food and walk to the football ground. I trusted in God and his providence and St Simon Stock, and was fortunate to receive a very speedy service from the McDonalds staff. I drove to our usual, specially reserved parking space, right on top of the ground. We had our McDonalds meals and enjoyed them after all that frustrating driving. I pushed my wheelchair client and my two walking clients walked each side of me safely to the ground, meeting up with my other care workers and fourth client.

We supporters suffered the superior quality of the Plymouth team, who beat Gillingham 2-nil but I was consoled when there were no further problems taking my clients home.

Having had such a frustrating day due to the weather, Highway hold ups, traffic congestion and losing the match, I wanted to avoid the country lanes. So after delivering my final client home to Maidstone, I took a cheeky turn and went down the road off the Chiltern Hundreds roundabout leading to the supposedly closed A249 and found, to my great astonishment and relief, it was open and must have been all day. I say this because on a previous occasion the Highway Authority gave notice but did not close the A249. I confirmed later that the A249 remained open on the 19th of February, ALL DAY, by discussion with other Stockburyites in the Harrow Pub. To offset my great chagrin, that evening I had the consolation of sitting by my log fire tucking into Roquefort, French bread and two or three glasses of quality port.

The Highwaymen came riding
To upset a poor Stockburyite
And steal from him
His right of way!

Brendan Ferrill



“Oh no - a Highwayman!”

Domestic Abuse

If you or someone else is suffering from domestic abuse please visit a Domestic Abuse webpage for advice and more information:

www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/primaryservices/housing/tier-2-additional-areas/domestic-abuse

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

www.womensaid.org.uk

www.mensadviceline.org.uk

www.childline.org.uk

There are also helplines available if you would rather speak to someone:

- **Choices Domestic Abuse Services**
0800 917 9948
- **National Domestic Violence Helpline**
0808 2000 247
- **Refuge freephone National Domestic Abuse**
0808 2000 247
- **The Men's Advice Line for male domestic abuse survivors**
0808 808 4994
- **National LGBT+ Abuse Helpline**
0800 999 54428
- **Childline**
0800 1111

Housing helplines

There are helplines available if you need help with housing:

- Shelter -0808 800 4444
- Choices -0800 917 9948
- Victim Support -0808 168 9111

AWARD WINNING M B Farms

Monday to Saturday: 8:00am - 5:00pm.
Sunday: 8:00am - 3:00pm

Post Office Hours

Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri: 9:00am - 5:00pm
Wednesday: 9:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am - 12 noon

National Lottery Available

www.mbfarms.co.uk

Tel: 01795 842401

OBSERVER DEADLINE

MONDAY 23rd MAY

Please email your contributions to
stockburyobserver@gmail.com

Calling All Advertisers

Our annual rates for advertising in 12 editions are:

A whole page £400

A half page £200

A quarter page £120

Our advertising year starts in April and new adverts for less than 12 months duration will be charged on a pro-rata basis. Rates for ads smaller than a quarter page will be given on application.

If you would like to place an advert in The Observer, please email stockburyobserver@gmail.com. The Editor will confirm receipt and an invoice will be sent along with details of how to pay.

If you are a new customer, please also attach your artwork, preferable in MS Word or as a PDF file.

This is a great opportunity to promote your business as The Observer is delivered to every household within the Parish of Stockbury as well as having an online presence.

**It's never too late to advertise in
The Stockbury Observer!**

Stockbury Parish Council Minutes

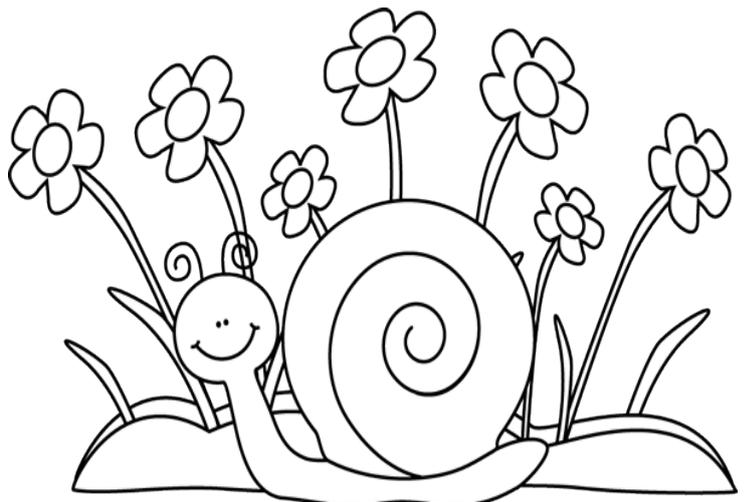
The minutes for our Parish Council meetings will be approved at the following meeting and will then be published on www.stockbury.org within 5 days of the meeting at which they are approved.

Mobile Library Dates

Thursday 5th & 19th May, '22

9.10am - 9.40am

At the Village Hall



Cooking with Zeina

First off, I would like to say I'm sorry for talking about baking last month but then writing a recipe that didn't actually include any baking ... Apologies ... I make mistakes sometimes ... I really don't do well with baking (unless it's a pie ... all my cakes collapse or die in some way or another). Anyway on to this month's recipe:

Labneh (Yoghurt Cheese) Balls

So in hotter countries, cheese-making developed as a less complicated process; ageing wasn't feasible in a desert or a hot tropical forest. It would drive me up the wall being without cheddar whenever we travelled away from home but this dish is now one of my all-time favourites. I remember quiet early mornings in a desert town, sat with the elders of a family I was visiting with, spreading Labneh onto bread and having a steaming hot cup of black cardamom infused tea.

So what goes into making this simple cheese? Yoghurt, salt and olive oil. You don't really need anything else but you can add more to it for extra flavour.

The Ingredients:

- 700ml whole milk yoghurt
- A generous pinch of salt (pink is best)
- Olive oil (use normal, not extra virgin because it's a fairly sharp cheese as it is, it doesn't need to be sharper) - possibly a whole bottle
- Dried thyme leaves

Method to the Madness

1. Set a cheesecloth in a mesh strainer over a large glass bowl. You need a bowl that is significantly larger than the strainer so that the liquid that will sit at the bottom won't touch the cheese.
2. Spoon the yoghurt into the lined strainer and sprinkle with the pink salt.
3. Pull the cheesecloth up around the yoghurt and tie a tight knot so liquid starts dripping into the bowl. I sometimes use a pencil to twist it tighter.
4. Place a small plate on top and then weigh it down with something heavy like a heavy can.
5. Leave this in the fridge for a day or two. The longer you wait, the thicker the cheese.
6. Take out the bowl and turn the labneh out of the bag. You can use the whey left at the bottom of the bowl for another project.
7. The cheese should be a doughy, easy to mould consistency. Take pieces of it and roll them (they see me rollin', they hatin'...) into neat little balls. Oil your hands with a little olive oil to make nice clean balls.
8. When all the Labneh balls have been rolled, fill a jar with them and top up with olive oil, enough to cover all of it and add the thyme.
9. Now for the fun ...

a) The Optional Ingredients:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Dried garlic granules | • Sesame seeds |
| • Red chilli flakes | • Rose petals |
| • Dried dill | • Lemon peel |
| • Cumin seeds | • Edible lavender |
| • Crushed pistachios | • Za'atar |
| • Dried parsley | • Dried mint |
| • Dried and crushed pomegranate seeds | • Dried coriander |
| • Crushed walnuts | • Sumac |
| • Nigella seeds | • Poppy seeds |

b) You can roll each of the balls into one of the above spices/herbs. You'll have a wonderful jar of jewels in your fridge - or on a large platter in the centre of your table for a party (I generally only make this when we're having guests). Each ball has a different colour and flavour. It's striking.

The oil is meant to preserve them but I've never had the labneh last more than a week and I've read nothing to suggest that floating dairy balls in olive oil will last for very long. The oil can be used for vinaigrettes and other cooking.

Serve with crispy pita bread or toast triangles. And tea. Always tea. If you're having a small dinner party, then you can serve this with my Israeli Orange chicken - if you've mislaid that copy of The Stockbury Observer, I can email you the recipe! My email is zeina.azad@gmail.com - just let me know.

(Back copies of The Stockbury Observer can be accessed via the parish website - www.stockbury.org - Ed

Love, Zeina

Useful Contact Information

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene		01795 227329
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Cricket Club	Enrique Damian	07522 691831 07967 890010
Crimestoppers	(Confidential)	0800 55511
Dancing Club	Brian Crisp	01634 231886
Dog Club	Mick Bingham	01795 842480
Electricity Problems		0800 7838866
Environment Agency	Incident Hotline	0800 807060
Fly Tipping & Waste Collection	Including bulky items	01622 602162
Gardeners	stockburygardeners@live.com	
Golf Society	Philip Painter	07850 190204
Hall Bookings	Sue Porter	01795 843715
Kent County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk	
Maidstone BC Councillor	Patrik Garten - patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk	01622 807907
MB Farms Stores & Post Office		01795 842401
Member of Parliament Faversham & Mid Kent Ward	Helen Whately - helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk	
Neighbourhood Watch	Ann Ballard	01622 736331
Parish Council Clerk	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Pétanque Club	Tina Jacobs	07743 910185
Photographic Club	Tim Arnold - timarnold@btinternet.com	01795 843049
Police	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	999 101
Police Community Support Officer for Stockbury		101
Public Footpaths & Bridleway	Reporting issues with. - westprow@kent.gov.uk	03000 417171
Roads, Potholes, etc	(manned 24hrs) - www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/ report-a-problem	03000 418181
RSPCA		0300 1234999
Short Mat Bowls	Ann Rich - email: ann.stockbury@btinternet.com	07718 070807
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
Stockbury Observer - Editor	stockburyobserver@gmail.com	
The Harrow Public House	contact@theharrowstockbury.co.uk	01795 843222