



THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

November 2022

Hall Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Tues	1st	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	2nd	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
Thurs	3rd	Gardeners	8.00-10.00pm
Fri	4th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	5th		
Sun	6th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	7th		
Tues	8th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	9th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		Parish Council	2.00-4.00pm
Thurs	10th		
Fri	11th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	12th	Private Booking	5.00-11.30pm
Sun	13th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	14th		
Tues	15th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	16th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		Parish Council	7.30-9.30pm
Thurs	17th		
Fri	18th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	19th		
Sun	20th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
		Christmas Fair	12.00-3.00pm
Mon	21st		
Tues	22nd	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	23rd	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
Thurs	24th		
Fri	25th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	26th		
Sun	27th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	28th		
Tues	29th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	30th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am

Sittingbourne Food Bank

As most of you know, the pressure on household budgets has become severe and the Food Bank in Sittingbourne now has far more people on its books who just cannot afford everyday food as well as not having enough supplies to meet their needs. It is planned that we set up a collection point in the entrance hall to The Harrow which will be taken to the Food Bank on a regular basis. The types of food stuffs and toiletries they are looking for are as follows: -

Canned Food	Tinned Meats
Dried Food	Tinned Vegetables
Soups	Tinned Fruit
Pasta	Long-life Juice
Pasta Sauce	Shower Gel
Rice	Shampoo
Purees	Toothpaste
Chocolate & Sweets	

Any item above, however small, or any other non-perishable donation will be gratefully received. Please bring along whatever you can.

Many thanks

Chris Porter
01795 843715

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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

An Open Letter to Cllr Roger Gough Leader of Kent County Council

Dear Cllr Gough,

Despite extensive lobbying by the people of Stockbury and elsewhere, I was disappointed to read that the full Council meeting, held last week, had endorsed your decision to withdraw the subsidy from the 332 bus route. As people have left you and your fellow Councillors in no doubt, this will cause significant harm to current residents of Stockbury and their children and will compromise the future of the Parish as a viable community.

Until yesterday, I could see some merit in your argument that KCC is short of funds and that, as a discretionary service, school transport had to go in order to prop up statutory services.

Yesterday, you proudly announced in a news report on BBC South East News that KCC would increase the payments to people who are housing refugees from Ukraine to a level over and above that set by Government. May I remind you that there is no statutory obligation to do this; the additional payment is therefore by definition discretionary.

Whilst it is laudable that KCC shows support for those who have taken in refugees, it seems inconsistent that you should cut one discretionary service in favour of another.

Phil Woods

Stockbury Carols on The Green

This year's Carols on the Green will be held on 9th December 2022, as usual with The Salvation Army, at 7pm outside The Harrow; continuing from 7.30pm in the Village Hall for more singing and refreshments.

As usual, there will be a collection of non-perishable food and a raffle.

All proceeds will go to The Salvation Army.

All are welcome.

Stockbury Book Club

The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman

Reading a book by an author who writes fantasy novels (with no less than Terry Pratchett in the past), was quite a step in to uncharted territory for Stockbury Book club. Most of us had not read any before and again most of us had not read a book with so many illustrations woven into the plot.

The plot centres around a man returning to his childhood area, to attend his father's funeral. Seemingly on a whim, he is drawn to a farmhouse he remembers that he visited as a child. Doing this seems to trigger a series of flashbacks that take up the entire book; these involve some dark themes but are all rather ambiguous and rather dissatisfying from the reader's experience.

Needless to say, the book got a mixed reception to say the least! Some people didn't engage with it at all, others tried, but came away somewhat puzzled by what on earth was the point of it all and certainly didn't enjoy it! A couple of us found the illustrations helpful in trying to work out whether we had got 'hold of the right end of the stick' and enhanced

the experience of reading the book. Our one member who has read fantasy previously didn't rate it very highly as a novel but was quite impressed with the nature and extent of the illustrations. They did comment that being open minded toward fantasy plots was perhaps a necessary pre requisite to enjoying such books.

We gave it an overall score of 5.

What was however, quite an interesting result of reviewing this book, is that it prompted a lot of discussion about the effect of 'stepping outside' our comfort zone and what other genres would challenge us to do just that.

Moiria Cooke

Church Draw October Winners

CONGRATULATIONS!

1st £30 - Wendy Cathcart (120)

2nd £20 - Betty Town (71)

3rd £10 - Penny Stevens (122)

Stockbury Gardeners

Has anyone in the village noticed the demise of garden birds? I hope that it's not just me. I have seen several dead and noticed a complete devastation and lack of garden/songbirds in the area around South Street. The only exception is the robin and a few rarely seen wrens. I sincerely hope that they have not succumbed to the bird flu.

I will be asking for any information /observations at our next Gardeners meeting on the 3rd November, when we will also be entertained by our guest speaker Chris Stewart on 'The Secret Life of the Mole'

We are shortly putting together our final programme for 2023 and already we have some speakers and trips away lined up but please suggest anything that is of interest to you when you arrive at the hall next week to be considered.

We do still have a special evening to go this year as our December meeting will be held at The Harrow which includes a finger buffet for members. There will be a small charge for this, however anyone wishing to find out more about the Gardeners will **be treated to a beer/drink from the Chairman**, on the proviso that they sign up for a 2023 membership!

This is the time of year when you should all be studying the seed catalogues and planning what you are doing in the garden next year. Something that I will be doing is starting seeds off later in the season to save electricity given the current crisis.

Growing your own vegetables and fruit can in fact save a great deal of money, that is if you have the space. One thing that some people desire is an "allotment" to be able to grow fruit and veg, however they do not exist in Stockbury. Surrounding villages do in fact have this luxury but any enquiry to obtain one is met with the proverbial "there is a waiting list". The Chairman would

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 3pm

Wednesday - Sunday

11am

Kitchen open from -

Wednesday - Saturday

12pm-2.30pm and 5pm-8:30pm

Sunday

12pm-4pm

Live Music 3rd Dec

Emily Jayne

Thai Night

Tue 6th Dec

6pm-9pm



01795 843222



theharrowpubstockbury



The Harrow PubStockbury



contact@theharrowstockbury.co.uk

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 every Friday



**Wi-Fi
FREE**



M2 junction 5 Stockbury interchange improvement scheme

A249 weekend closures

As part of our preparation work for the new carriageways at the Stockbury junction, we're installing drainage on the A249. To keep everyone safe and carry out as much work as possible, we need to close the A249 north of the M2, between the Stockbury roundabout and Bobbing.

We know having additional closures on the A249 while the slip roads are shut is not ideal, but we need to do this work to move onto the next phase of construction and keep our project on track.

Our weekend closures of the A249 continue until Monday 19 December 2022. You can find out more about what is closed and when on our project webpage.

Maidstone Road closure

We'll be closing Maidstone Road between the Stockbury roundabout and Wormdale Hill from 5am Saturday 29 October to 5pm Sunday 30 October while we install a new drainage pipe across the width of the carriageway.

We would like to thank residents, businesses and commuters for your ongoing patience while we deliver our improvements.

You can find out more about these closures, including the mapped diversion routes on our project webpage: nationalhighways.co.uk/M2-j5



We're carrying out improvements to help reduce congestion at the junction, and enhance the flow of traffic. This will provide a safer and more integrated network for everyone and bring 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



be happy to receive comments on this and indeed, should there be enough interest, enquire with the Parish Council to see if under the regulations they should assist the village.
Chris Spree

The Harrow

Good news on The Harrow's search for a chef!

Following very positive reviews from diners at the pub for a trial evening of a potential new chef, we are delighted to say that Stefan has cut the mustard and been offered and accepted the offer to join The Harrow as a permanent full-time chef and we welcome him to the team.

Stefan is very enthusiastic and has already started working in the kitchen. He and manager Sarah are currently creating a new 'everyday' menu for the pub which you will soon be available to order from, as well as a Christmas menu; so you are able to now book your festive season parties and celebrations for December.

Now that Stefan has joined the team, we're also pleased to say that the pub will be **open for food service both lunchtimes and evenings from Wednesday to Sunday**. Is there anything better than a hearty warming meal in front of our crackling wood-burners with a glass of something good? (No! - Ed)

Coming up for you during November:

- **2nd - Tractor Club - 12.30pm**
- **4th - Fish'n'Chip Friday** Please book your table in advance - takeaway available.
- **8th - Games Night - 8pm start**
- **15th - Quiz Night - 8pm start** Please book your quiz tables in advance for this very popular evening. Max of 6 per team.
- **22nd - Thai Night** (Fully Booked)
- **24th - Ladies that Lunch - 12.30pm**

Also, don't forget that the pub is open every morning from Wednesday to Sunday from 10.30am and serves a range of tea and coffee all day and that **every** Friday is coffee and cake morning!

Our guest beers the month will be:

Ghost Ship is an English pale ale style beer brewed by Adnam's in Southwold, Suffolk and inspired by tales of old smuggling ships along the Suffolk coast.

It is a 4.5% pale ale full of citrus and biscuit aromas with a spookily hoppy bite! Hauntingly good!

Wife of Bath is a Canterbury Ales 3.9%, golden bitter. It is crisp and spicy with citrus hops with a long dry finish.

Kentish Best, again from the Canterbury Ales brewery; it is a 3.7% traditional best bitter with well-balanced hoppiness and honey malts.

As we know December is a very busy month for everybody, so a couple of advanced dates for your December diary are Saturday 3rd - we have live music by Emily Jayne and Tuesday 6th - is Thai Night, please ring the pub to reserve your table in advance, bookings are already being taken.

See you in the pub!

The Harrow Rejects Darts Team

The Harrow Rejects continue to go from strength to strength in the local Sittingbourne & District Open Darts League.

After gaining promotion from the 2nd Division just before the Coronavirus Pandemic struck, The Rejects had to wait for all restrictions to be lifted before commencing life in the 1st Division. After a consolidating first year in Division 1, The Rejects went all out to gain promotion to the Premier Division in 2021/22 by narrowly winning the 1st Division title on legs difference from Bunters. It was an incredible achievement for the local players, many of whom had never played competitive darts before.

The highest checkout of the season came from Tom Yeomans who checked out on 125.

After gaining promotion to the Premier Division in 2022 it was always going to be an incredibly tough first year competing against the 'big boys', many of whom play County and Super League Darts and one opponent is even a full time professional in the World's top 50 on the PDC circuit! However, The Rejects acquitted themselves really well and managed to compete in most of the matches and ended their first Premier League season winning 8 matches and finishing 8th.

Congratulations to John Evans who had a fantastic highest checkout of 160, which was the highest checkout of the season from any team and saw John walk away with the highest finish trophy on presentation night.

The 2022/23 Autumn/Winter Season has just begun and The Rejects got off to a great start by beating the Gore 5-4 after Phil Kneller won the deciding match 2-0.

The Harrow Rejects play league matches home and away every Thursday night as well as entering all the knockout cup competitions, so why not join them in The Harrow or in the minibus for away games and come and support your local darts hero's.

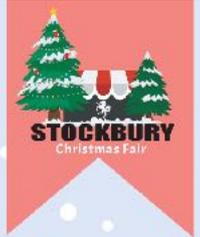
Nigel Sharp

Patrik Says ...

I have to watch my words very carefully this month but in a nutshell, while the world is collapsing around us, Maidstone Borough Council is standing strong and goes from strength to strength, thanks to our careful administration and hard working officers.

I already hear you gasp: you have problems with your bins, your neighbour is building a monstrosity in their garden and nobody is doing anything about it, the papers write about crimes in the town centre ... the list is endless.

It is the usual list, which is as old as MBC itself! In June we started a fantastic new initiative to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in the town-centre; we are currently renegotiating our bin contract and we are trying hard and partially succeed, to fill vacant positions in the planning department. And as we plug one hole another one opens up. This is the life and destiny of local government, nobody will ever be 100% satisfied but I assure you that we are working hard at Maidstone House.



Village Event

Stockbury Christmas Fair

Sunday 20th November

12:00 - 15:00



Stalls to include

Pottery

Jams, Chutneys and Cakes

Honey

Hats, Scarves and Accessories

Jewellery

Heirloom Teddy Bears

Bags

Handcrafted Items

Leather Goods

And a Christmas Raffle

£10 per pitch for sellers. Taking applications now for stall holders.

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Or

Go To Our Website Below

<http://www.stockburychristmasfair.co.uk/>

Free Entry! Come and join us for a mince pie and mulled wine



In the coming months we will have to address next year's budget. It's no secret that forces way beyond our control will make our decisions very difficult. Interest rates up, inflation, wage increases, increased costs, staff recruiting problems and most of all the worry of residents becoming homeless in the months to come.

We have an excellent track record tackling homelessness. Besides a die-hard handful of rough sleepers who, for whatever personal reasons, do not engage with the authority, nobody in Maidstone is without a roof over their head.

I sometimes sigh that everything in Maidstone seems average in national comparison with other authorities. Our homelessness reduction efforts are not, we are one of the top authorities in this field. A satisfaction for me, as your representative, to know that your council tax is being spent where it really matters.

Temporary accommodation is an increasing cost factor. We have simply not enough fit and suitable accommodation in Maidstone. Added problems are Ukrainian refugees who were kindly taken in by Maidstone families; this was always meant to be a short-term solution. A long-term solution needs to be found. The general asylum seeker issues, London's housing authorities trying to resettle their housing-problem out of borough, our own inherent local housing problems, the fact that people are living longer, the fact that there are more and more single person households ... All these problems - and more - put real pressure on Maidstone's housing supply, notwithstanding the cost of living crises and the possibility of more residents losing their homes over the coming months.

Fact is, that a lot of local people cannot afford to either rent or buy and we currently do not have sufficient housing stock for people on the waiting list.

Not only is it important to re-home families in suitable homes when they become homeless at no fault of their own but keeping people in temporary accommodation is not a cost-effective way to spend tax-payer's money.

That's why Maidstone's administration embarked on our Local Homes For Local People plan. Already we have started to create 1,000 extra affordable homes. Although it may not be possible to build what we want in the first instance, it is hoped that by building our own properties in the future we will have the opportunity to tailor developments to our resident's needs. In the meantime, if practical, we will purchase empty office blocks and redevelop them to rehouse our own residents rather than have 'out of area' placements thrust upon us in those buildings.

It's all work in progress!

Why am I writing all those good things about Maidstone Borough? Because it is good news in a world of chaos and drama.

MBC only receives approximately 12% of your council tax, the rest goes to the Police, Fire & Rescue and the very bulk to Kent County Council.

Like every year around this time and during the next months leading up to the budget, we will face some difficult decisions. Next year's budget for MBC, like everybody else, will be even harder because we live in a world of exceptional uncertainty. MBC has a good starting point: our Finance Director assures us that we are suitably equipped to weather the storm.

It doesn't really matter how well we are doing at Maidstone House or how well we manage our budget. At only 12% of the overall share, the bottom line of your council tax invoice next April won't be much affected by it but you may want to read the small-print.

For now I want you to know that we are doing our very best with our share of your council tax. We have an eager and competent political administration supported by hard working officers and 55 Councillors who care.

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

Kemsing Singers present
"Gabriel's Message"
Featuring Magnificat by John Rutter



10th December 2022 7.30pm
St Edith Hall, Kemsing TN15 6NA

In aid of Kent Air Ambulance
Tickets £10, U18 £5
Box Office 01959 523752
or on the door
www.kemsingsingers.com

Arranged and Conducted
by Sara Kemsley

Mobile Library Dates

Thursday 3rd & 17th November, '22

9.10am - 9.40am

At the Village Hall

OBSERVER DEADLINE

MONDAY 21st November

Please email your contributions to
stockburyobserver@gmail.com

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

 *Polly's Beautique at The Herb Garden*

 *@pollys_beautique*

 *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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£35

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Polly Kingsford-Field
Stockbury, Kent

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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.

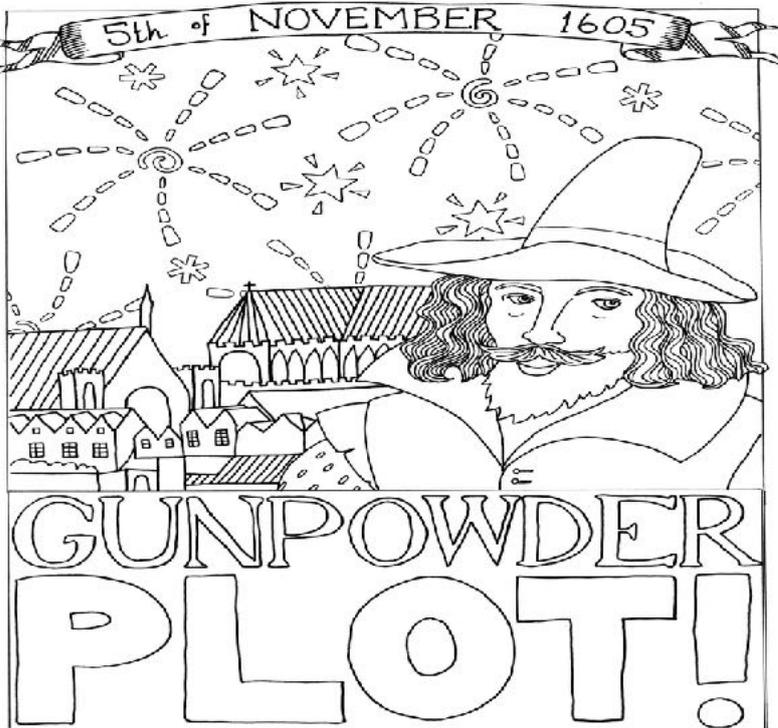
**It's never too late to advertise in
The Stockbury Observer!**

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.

Guy Fawkes & The Gunpowder Plot

Remember, remember the 5th of November
Gunpowder, treason and plot
I see no reason
Why gunpowder and treason
Should ever be forgot



**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 843222

We would love you to join us

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
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	Janet Bracey - dd.fastmail.co.uk	
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