

THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

May 2020



At the time of writing this, we are beginning Week 5 of the lockdown. We have 42 volunteers, vetted, badged and ready for action. We have already made over 50 shopping deliveries to people who are stuck at home and who do not have other means of getting essentials. These have largely been on behalf of our own Farm Shop run by MB Farms. The staff and family are doing an amazing job of keeping up stocks and getting food and grocery boxes out to elderly residents and key workers.

The Core Team, established by the Parish Council to provide help and support, has set up shared resources that we can access from home to co-ordinate requests and actions. We have published information on a special website: <https://stockburyvolunteer.wixsite.com/covid-19>

We are also using Facebook, Nextdoor and other parish portals to give people essential information and updates. Our dedicated contact details are:

The Stockbury Community Bus phone: 07551 454702

Email: stockburyvolunteers@outlook.com

We are connected into Maidstone Borough Council, Swale and KCC care organisations and other delivery hubs to be able to help vulnerable people if required. We have been awarded a £750 grant through Patrik Garten's community fund to support our activity if needed and have the option to establish a Food Bank/Exchange in the Village Hall should it be required.

In short, we are all very ready to provide the help and support that people may need. We have started some 'keeping in touch' phone calls with the residents that we know will be missing the contact that the community normally provides. If you know of people near you who might appreciate a friendly call or some other help, do encourage them to get in touch.

The Core Team of Jackie, Tracey, Sara, Amanda, Julian and Anne is enormously grateful to all our volunteers, who stand ready to help where needed.

Stay safe and well.

The Stockbury Covid-19 Support Team



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Tuesdays - Maidstone

Thursdays - Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (Savacentre)

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07551 454702



75th Anniversary Victory in Europe Day 8th May, 2020

Despite all VE Day celebrations and commemorations having been cancelled, it is still important that we remember those who served, whether in uniform or within the community and particularly those that lost their lives during WW2. Part of the planned VE Day Celebrations was for there to be a display providing details of each casualty associated with the village. Hopefully by the 75th anniversary of VJ Day (mid August) the current restrictions will have been relaxed and a joint VE/VJ Day event can be organised.

In the meantime, the following provides a little background to each of the local casualties.

There are six servicemen listed upon the Stockbury War Memorial relating to the Second World War, however, recent research indicates that this maybe incorrect. The servicemen listed on the War Memorial all lost their lives whilst serving abroad but also, there were at least four casualties either within the village or which involved local residents whom should not be forgotten either.

War Memorial

George Ovenden originally from Guildford Surrey, was living in Tunbridge Wells at the outbreak of the war and working as a chauffeur. He had previously served in the Royal Navy and re-enlisted; at some point during 1940/41 he moved with his wife and mother to Hove Cottages, Stockbury. George was serving as a Stoker Petty Officer aboard HMS Calcutta in the Mediterranean and was killed on the 1st June 1941 when it was attacked and sunk by a German bomber, approximately 190km northwest of Alexandria, Egypt.

Albert Ezra was born in Biddenden in 1908 but by the time that the 1939 Register (a type of census used for identifying people who maybe called or those requiring ration books etc) was compiled, Albert was living in South Street and employed as a Roadman. By 1942 Albert was serving in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve as part of 38 Squadron. During 1942 this squadron was based at Shallufa, Egypt flying Wellington Bombers. On many occasions they were tasked with laying parachute mines in occupied harbours and it is during one of these missions to Tobruk on the 6th July 1942, that Albert's aircraft was lost.

Charles Staines one of ten children to Charles & Florence Staines, Charles grew up in Stockbury and attended Stockbury School along with his siblings. In March 1940, Charles along with 3 of his brothers, a sister and his parents featured in the following article that was published in the Daily Mirror:

SONS MEET -PARTED 7 YEARS

TWAS a Hap - Hap - Happy Day for Mr and Mrs Charles Staines, of No.6 Council Houses, Stockbury, near Sittingbourne, Kent, yesterday. By a remarkable coincidence their four eldest sons, who have all been in the Services since they left the village school, came home on leave together for the first time in seven years, while their eldest daughter managed to get a short leave from the Red Cross hospital in the London area where she is working. Three of the Staines' boys have visited the four corners of the world since they said good-bye to the village schoolmaster. Twice Round World

Robert, the eldest, who is married and whose wife and family live in the village, is in the R.A.M.C. Charles (in the Navy) has recently returned from New Zealand. Ted, a quartermaster in the Merchant Navy, has made two complete trips around the world although he is only twenty-three, and Jack, also in the Navy, has been on the China station.





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Stockbury Neighbourhood Watch

We are a Police registered Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Neighbourhood Watch is a way for communities to help themselves stay safe. We are volunteers who work in partnership with the police to:

- -Distribute safety advice
- -Help make sure that elderly and vulnerable residents are not targets to criminals
- -Gather information to help police tackle local problems
- -Alert residents when there is a particular crime problem in the area

Our aim is to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the anxieties of becoming a victim of crime.

Please be vigilant and report suspicious characters or incidents to the police and also to your co-ordinator (details below).

Co-ordinators will cascade any information from the police or neighbours to members.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Emergency : 999

(crime in progress/life threatening)

Non-Emergency : 101

Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (*Co-ordinator*)
(01622) 736331

Alternatively you may e-mail the Co-ordinator at:

stockbury-neighbourhood@outlook.com

Any ideas and views would be greatly welcomed at the above mentioned e-mail address.

If you know of any other residents who would like to receive information from Stockbury Neighbourhood Watch, then please ask them to either contact the Co-ordinator on the above telephone number or e-mail their details to the above mentioned e-mail address.

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Cont'd VE Day ...

If local residents have any additional details regarding those who served or of village life during the war years and would like these included in any future articles regarding the Second World War then please get in touch.

Although currently much of the world is finding life hard in lockdown due to the Corona Virus pandemic, we must put this into context with the hardships and extreme dangers experienced during the war years of 1939-45. We must realise that although the loss of life from Covid is regrettable and the interruption to our daily life and routines unavoidable, what we are experiencing 'now' really isn't quite so overwhelming as daily life then.

I must extend my thanks to those who have assisted in researching this article; namely Marianne White and both Stephen Palmer and John Weeks from The Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne and not forgetting my ever-patient wife.

Stay home, stay safe.

Geoff Moody



Stockbury Gardeners

Who would have thought that we would have a loo roll shortage, never mind a paint shortage!! But a seed and vegetable plant shortage!!?

With the current situation, (I am not even mentioning the 'V' word) people have time on their hands and are at home turning to "grow your own" as a stop gap should there be a vegetable shortage? Or perhaps now the realisation that we rely on imported food is hitting home; or it could just be the 'Dig for Victory'? Who knows? What it means is an influx of people growing healthy food. Let us all hope that it might just increase our membership to the Stockbury Gardeners!

This month we were to have had speaking our very own Nicky Bonner,;Nicky having competed at county level and a very experienced flower arranger was to have put on a demonstration of her skills. This will now be taking place later in the year.

Another item on our agenda to have been cancelled is the vegetable and plant sale which was to have coincided with the VE Day celebrations in the village. As a result, our Chairman has arranged with growers in Thanet to supply (only vegetable) plants to Stockbury. Anyone wishing to take advantage should contact the Chairman ASAP. There is a safe method of collecting the plants which will be emailed with the arrival times etc. always remembering of course the guidance given by the government.

My apologies go out to Mike and Edo at The Harrow, some of you probably noted that the April 1st issue included them in our spoof. One thing that has happened though, is that as the closure of the pub occurred, they have been producing takeaway food and drinks for the locals. This food is excellent, proving very popular, and is one way of keeping in touch albeit being 2M apart on picking up the food. Guys well done, we love you and keep safe, this thing cannot go on forever.

What to do this month:

- Be ready to plant out outdoor veg. not forgetting to harden off young tender plants, that means gradually introducing them to outside elements, not just the cold, but they will have been behind glass and strong sunlight can initially burn them up.

- Frost can still be an issue, so watch out, especially at the Stockbury elevation, we are colder than both Sittingbourne and Maidstone.
- Asparagus season is here, its "the King of Vegetables". Stockbury soil does not support good growth of these tasty spears so, if you buy any please purchase only English grown produce. I know MB farm shop will have some in this month.
- Sow lettuce on a regular basis and you will be able to cut one whenever you wish throughout the year.
- If you manage to find seeds, keep sowing. May is the month to sow most veg seeds.

Future meetings of the Gardeners will depend upon guidance from our leaders, so once we know what is happening, we will re-schedule and have a get together and celebrate.



The picture shows what can be done with an old disused and re-assembled greenhouse, some old double-glazed windows, two sets of old second hand French doors, some wood, the side of a storage container, and some discounted tiles from Wickes. Growing in the hydroponic pots are tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines and chillies. Picture taken 19th April 2020, so see what you can do when you are in lockdown!!

Chris Spree

THE HARROW

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Patrik Says

Dear Residents,

I hope that you are well. I am aware that local communities have set up self-help groups and I am staying in contact with their key members. If there is anything I can assist with, please let me know.

I do not want to overload you with information but there have been some important local updates; I'll try to keep this short, please refer to the links for more information.

LOCAL INFORMATION

<https://www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/other-services/covid-19>

Our Council led Community Hub has been set-up in response to the Government introduction of 'shielding' and the call to create a network for the most vulnerable people in our community.

It is offering help to those people who don't have a support system in place and assisting people with serious medical conditions who have been told to remain indoors for 12 weeks due to Coronavirus. As of 16 April the Community Hub had delivered 346 parcels and taken calls or received web forms from more than 1,000 residents. The Maidstone Borough Council Community Hub has a specific focus on providing access to food, medicines and other supplies and is open Monday to Thursday between 8.30am and 5pm and Friday 8.30am and 4.30pm.

CONTACT POINT

If you or a friend / neighbour needs support :

Kent County Council has now launched a 24/7 phone line for residents across Kent. There will be no 'wrong door' and residents can come to either Maidstone direct or via KCC.

Maidstone Hub:

Freephone **0300 303 1650** Open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday

https://my.maidstone.gov.uk/service/Asking_For_Support_Form

KCC - Kent Together

Freephone – **03000 419292** (24 hour service)

www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether

First point of contact for reporting welfare and social care needs.

HOT SITES

Please *only* contact your GP by phone if you are unwell. *Do not* visit the surgery without prior appointment. If your GP is concerned that you may have Corona symptoms (s)he'll refer you directly to one of the two Hot Sites which have now been set up to accommodate the needs of patients who have COVID19 or symptoms.

The hot sites in the borough are at Maidstone Leisure Centre and Headcorn Aerodrome.

BUSSINESS GRANTS

Maidstone Borough Council is urging all local businesses that qualify for the government grants for help during the Corona virus Pandemic, to apply now.

Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors with a rateable value over £15,000 and under £51,000 will receive a cash grant of £25,000. Around 425 businesses in Maidstone qualify for the grant.

Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors with a rateable value of £15,000 or under will receive a cash payment of £10,000.

All businesses in receipt of small business rates relief and rural rate relief – regardless of sector – will be eligible for a cash payment of £10,000. Around 1,800 businesses in the borough qualify for these £10,000 grants.

MBC have now paid out more than £9.7 million to small businesses that qualify for the government grants. In total £28 million is due to be awarded to local businesses. 775 businesses should receive their money within the next few days.

Of the 2,200 eligible businesses, there have been 1260 claims so far. Therefore at least 940 businesses are yet to claim, we urge them to apply using our online form as soon as they can.

For more information on the Grants Scheme please visit: Any business that believes they qualify and has not yet received a letter, please complete the form: https://my.maidstone.gov.uk/service/Contact_Us_Business_Support

Cont'd ...



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Sat 25th July **SHOW OF HANDS**
Rachel Laven - Old Time Sailors - The Homing
Sally Ironmonger & Brian Carter - Dangerous Daydream
Smokin' Pilchards - The Hardy Perennials - Yve Mary B

Sun 26th July **HAYSEED DIXIE**
Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman - Morganway - Richard Digance
Matt Black - The Jackson Line - Malcolm MacWatt
Jenny Lascelles Band - Luna Traktors - Jet Black Bees

Weekend Tickets £65 - Camping £15
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WE DAY CELEBRATION

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TOWN HALL, STOCKBURY,
FRIDAY 8TH MAY & SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2020

FRIDAY 8TH MAY **SATURDAY 9TH MAY**


36 Royal Engineer Regiment Military Wives Choir
Performing on the Village Green from 7.00pm

Followed by an Elvis tribute with the sensational Scott Elvis at 9.00pm in the Harrow




@theboombboxuk
Dance the Night Away with the Boombbox UK Disco from 8.00pm

FREE ENTRY!

Patrik cont'd

BENEFIT REASSESSMENTS

In order to provide reassurance to vulnerable people about the continuity of their benefits payments during the current pandemic, the Department for Work and Pensions have temporarily suspended all benefit reassessments for the next three months. You can read full details of the announcement here: <https://bit.ly/3aBGkM2>

MOT's

If your car's MOT falls due after 01 April, you'll get an automatic 6 months extension, eg. my MOT was due on the 11 April, so it is now due 11 October.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Council and Committee meetings are currently suspended. The IT team and Democratic Services are currently working on plans to allow for meetings to be held by Skype, as permitted by recent emergency legislation. We hope to be able to hold the first meeting on 29 April. The intention is that a meeting of the Planning Committee will follow and then other Committees.

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

Work on the Local Plan Review has continued throughout this period of lockdown. The technical work needed to deliver the timetable is currently on track.

This has included assessment of garden community propositions put forward through the call for sites – as we work towards making recommendations for the council's preferred spatial distribution of development including housing and employment. Public consultation on this topic is planned to commence in October 2020.

NEW SUPERMARKET OFFERS

From 17 April Aldi have started a service where vulnerable and elderly people are able to order a £25 food parcel. The food parcel includes:

- Teas, Coffee and Snacks
- Personal care products such as anti-bacterial soap and toilet roll
- Cupboard essentials such as soups, pastas, rice and sauces

Home delivery is **FREE**. There is currently not a parcel suitable for vegetarians but there is a possibility that this will be produced in the future.

Morrison's also offers an essential items box. The contact number is **0345-6116111, option 5** then **just hold for an operator**. Orders placed from Monday to Thursday are delivered the next day. This is not the general home delivery number for Morrison's but a service specific to elderly and vulnerable people. The operator will walk through the options (payment is made by contactless payment at the door at time of delivery).

And finally - DOMESTIC ABUSE

1 in 4 women and **1 in 5** men in the UK are victims of domestic abuse in their lifetime. Since the start of lock-down the number of people who lost their life to either their partner, ex-partner or by taking their own lives as a result of domestic abuse has tripled.

Not all abuse is physical, control and coercion are far more common forms of abuse, focussing on areas such as financial control, isolation, behaviour control.

If you or anyone you know needs support and advice please don't hesitate to contact the following agencies and call 999 in an emergency:

Choices Domestic Abuse Services: 0800 917 9948

National Domestic Violence Helpline – 0808 2000 247

The Men's Advice Line, for male domestic abuse survivors – 0808 801 0327

The Mix, free information and support for under 25s in the UK – 0808 808 4994

National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline – 0800 999 5428

Samaritans (24/7 service) – 116 123

PATRIK GARTEN

MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward (Conservative)

Email: patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk

Village Hall

Stockbury Village Hall will be closed and all club events are cancelled until further notice.

Hall & Playing Field Committee

St Mary Magdalene Church Stockbury

St Mary Magdalene will sadly be closed until further notice, however we will be praying for your village each day and hope to mark these times with the ringing of bells.

Rev'd Julian Staniforth



Stockbury Book Club

In the ten or so years of this Book Club, we have missed the odd meeting for usually reasons of sickness or bad weather but in the certain knowledge that life was not going to get back to normal for a while, it was decided it would be opportune to try a virtual meeting. But what methods of 'meeting' to choose. With a 30 year difference in age span, this was a subject of some discussion! In deference to our modern day 'technical expert' we went with WhatsApp video calls and after a couple of trial runs, we managed a successful - if somewhat different meeting- no biscuits or wine either!

Our book this month was Blood Orange by Harriet Tyce. The plot concerns Criminal Barrister Alison, married to a Psychotherapist called Carl who is quite controlling. They also have a young daughter. Alison is also having an affair with Patrick, a solicitor colleague and they both represent a woman charged with murdering her husband. I hope you get the general idea! Add into that Alisons problems with alcohol and you can see many of the successful ingredients for a novel.

As ever there was a fair cross section of views about the book but everyone agreed it was a successful page turner. Some felt it was a well crafted novel with well defined characters whilst others found whilst they enjoyed the book, they did not like any of the characters at all!

The author has clearly written a successful plot but one that left the group with a fair few mixed feelings about both the characters and some elements of the plot. However, I think we would all agree that if you want a book that will keep you riveted whilst in lockdown - it's worth a read!

The group gave it an overall score of 7.5.

Moira Cooke

Cockett's Corner Ditty

In May when the weather outlook is in doubt
Ne'er cast a clout until theres another drought

Flowers and trees are waking again
Helped on by sunshine and some April rain

If finding Morris Men and Maypoles a bore
It's Cecil Sharp who has a lot to answer for!



Observer Deadline!

If you would like to advertise or have item included in next months Observer, we must receive it no later than

MONDAY 25th MAY

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stockburyobserver@gmail.com

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If you would like to take out an ad, please email stockburyobserver@gmail.com The editor will confirm receipt and an invoice will be sent along with details of how to pay.

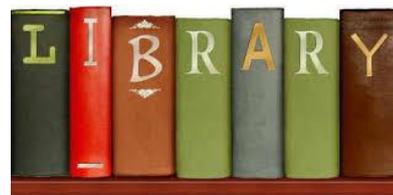
If you are a new customer, please also attach your ad, preferable in MS Word or Powerpoint. Please bear inmind when designing your ad that large solid blocks of colour may not look so good in the black and white paper edition of The Observer, despite looking good for our online edition.

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 meeting will be approved at the following meeting and will then be published on www.stockbury.org.uk within 5 days of the meeting at which they are approved.



**Unfortunately the library
service is suspended until
further notice**

Useful Contact Information

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Rev'd Julian Staniforth	01795 - 227329.
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Cricket Club	Roger Milton - rogerandirene@btinternet.com	01795 844642
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	Jeff Hall	01795 843296
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
Not So Young Club	Rosemary Leonard	01634 232672
Parish Council Clerk	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Petanque Club	Tina Jacobs	07743 910185
Photographic Club	Tim Arnold - timarnold@btinternet.com	01795 843049
Police	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	999 101
Police Community Support Officers for Stockbury	Daniel Genn daniel.genn@kent.pnn.police.uk	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 - 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	stockburypub@gmail.com	01795 843222
WI	Pat Fothergill	01622 734093

STAY HOME!



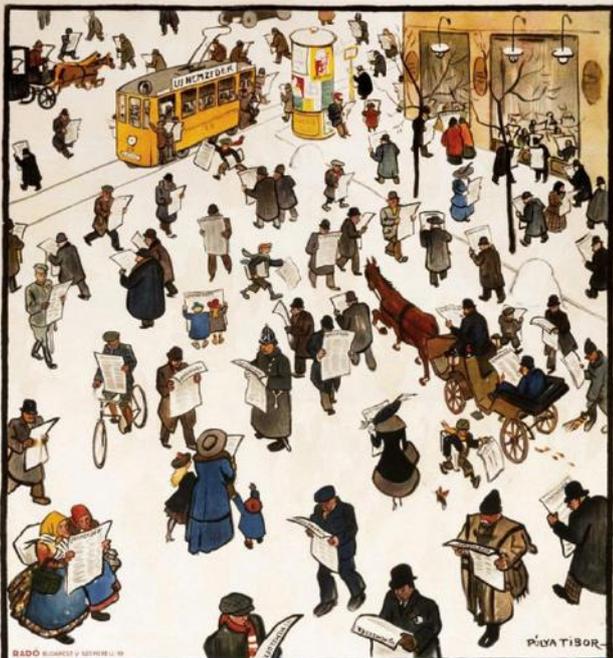
HELP SLOW THE SPREAD OF
CORONAVIRUS

Don't Hoard Food!



Be patriotic—Think about
your fellow neighbours!

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Washington, D. C.



**AVOID CROWDS
PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING**



**DON'T FORGET
TO CHECK ON LOVED ONES.**

BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM  Call by Number. It's Twice as Fast.