



# THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

*'In the Garden of England'*

## December '17 Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Fri	1st	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	2nd	Christmas Fayre	10.00 - 1.00pm
Sun	3rd	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
		Bowls	2.00 - 5.00pm
Mon	4th		
Tues	5th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	6th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30pm
Thurs	7th	Gardeners	8.00 - 10.00pm
Fri	8th	Carols on the Green	7.00 - 7.30pm
		Refreshments - Hall	7.30 - 9.00pm
Sat	9th		
Sun	10th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	11th		
Tues	12th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Art Group	7.00 - 9.00pm
Wed	13th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30pm
Thurs	14th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	15th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	16th		
Sun	17th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	18th		
Tues	19th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	20th	Parish Council	7.30 - 9.30pm
Thurs	21st	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	22nd	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	23rd	Private Booking	All Day
Sun	24th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	25th		
Tues	26th		
Wed	27th		
Thurs	28th		
Fri	29th		
Sat	30th		
Sun	31st		

## THE HARROW

### Harrow Lunch Club

We had our first 'Lunch Club' on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November in The Harrow Pub. Sixteen people attended and were really well looked after by landlord Samuel Pendry, who provided a selection of starters, mains and desserts at incredibly good value. Tracey served us with great good humour even when our failing memories or hearing meant that we had no idea what we had ordered when it arrived! Everybody enjoyed chatting and laughing with old friends and with people they had not met before.

This club was launched as part of our new pub's community service to older local people, who perhaps cannot get out that easily or are living on a pension that does not often stretch to treats, or who simply find they are losing touch with people as they get older. We are able to arrange transport for those who need it and Samuel is committed to providing quality meals to suit our pockets.

Everyone agreed that we want to do this again on a monthly basis, so if you want to join us or know someone who might, then call Sara or Penny on 01795 842914 and leave a name and contact phone number. We will do the rest!

Sara Kemsley

### Old Chaps at The Harrow

Join Rod Gibson at The Harrow for  
Old Chaps Pie and a Pint

1st Tuesday of each month

**Starting December 5th  
at 12.30**

Book in with Rod on 01795 841775

or

The Harrow on 01795 843222

# Vehicle Maintenance and MOT centre

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Stockbury Parish Website



Council



Events



Diary



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Businesses



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Observer

Visit Us At

[www.stockbury.org.uk](http://www.stockbury.org.uk)

You get more with the online

**Stockbury  
Observer!**

# St Mary Magdalene Church

## Stockbury



The services in December are as follows:

- 3 December – 3.pm: Sung Communion
- 10 December - no service
- 17 December – 3.pm Carol Service
- 24 December - no service
- 31 December - 10.30am
- Joint Benefice Service at Upchurch.

### **Christmas Services in the Benefice are as follows**

- 24 December - 11.30pm  
Midnight Communion  
at Newington and Lower Halstow
- 25 December - 10.am Communion  
at Lower Halstow, Newington and Upchurch  
10.30am Communion at Hartlip.

Anyone wishing to visit the church can obtain the key from the village shop.

Penny Stevens - PCC Secretary

Details of the range of services held within the benefice of the six parishes , to which Stockbury belongs, can be found on the parishes' website [www.thesix.org.uk](http://www.thesix.org.uk) or contact the Rev'd Liz Cox

For baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact The Rev'd Liz Cox on 01795 844241

### **St Augustine's RC, Deanwood Drive Rainham**

- 2nd Dec 6pm
- 3rd Dec 9.30 & 11am Readers & Ministers Service  
3.30pm
- 9th Dec 6pm
- 10th Dec 9.30am & 11am Penitential Service 3.30 pm
- 16th Dec 6pm,
- 17th Dec 9.30 & 11am Anointing of the Sick 3.30 pm
- 23rd Dec 6pm
- 24th Dec 9.30 & 11am  
6pm Children's Christmas Mass
- 25th Dec 9.30 & 11am
- Midnight Mass -Carols start at 11pm

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

1915 FOR 100 YEARS 2015

## Stockbury W.I

First of all, many apologies and thank you to those who came to join us for the talk 'History of Greeting Cards', which was sadly cancelled at short notice. However, our President Sheila stepped in to give us a very interesting and informative presentation on Iceland (no, not the frozen food shop!) Sheila has recently enjoyed a holiday there and shared her experiences and photo's with us.

We are busily planning for events over the Christmas period, the first of which is the **Christmas Fayre** on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** in the Village Hall from 10am-1pm. Come along and browse the stalls for cards, gifts and produce and maybe win something in the raffle.

The next date for your diary is **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** at 7pm for '**Carols on The Green**'. Come and enjoy the evening with us and the Salvation Army Band, singing your favourite Christmas carols and then its to the Village Hall for more enjoyment and refreshments. Don't forget to bring lanterns or touches with you on the evening.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL OUR  
BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE  
NEW YEAR

Heather Tomsett

### **STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS**

The last bus run of the year will be on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** and we will resume the service on **Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Thank you all for your support during 2017.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Fiona, Dave, Chris, Lawrence, Alan, Kevin, Peter & Glen

### **November Church Draw Winners**

#### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

- 1st - Wendy Cathcart (£40) (120)
- 2nd - Rose Hickmott (£20) (200)
- 3rd - Ann Levermore (£10) (196)

Tickets for Brendan's Play 'Appeased, Part 1' are on sale at MB Farm Shop

## Local Electrician

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Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## Post Office Hours

Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri: 9.00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

## National Lottery Now Available

Web: <http://www.mbfarms.co.uk>



## STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

Mondays - Sittingbourne

Tuesdays - Maidstone

Thursdays - Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (Savacentre)

Pickups from 9:30 a.m. close to where you live. Why not give us a try!



## Does your dog need a bath or haircut?

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M: 07807 929602

I am a very experienced dog groomer, in the business for 7 years. I recently moved into the area and am pleased to offer my van based dog grooming services, for all small to medium size breeds.



## Patrik Says .....

### What a Month!!

## WHAT A FEAST!!

The Harrow has never seen the like. On Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> we were treated to a top-class seven course tasting meal. Yes seven courses... but then the fish / meat was only matchbox size, (because it's a *tasting*..) and the glasses of wine were single small measures, mostly.



Dear Residents

What a month that was! I was never given such a full task list at any one Parish Council meeting as at last month's.

#### **Buses along the A249:**

Arriva recently conducted a risk assessments and immediately the whispers started about bus stop closures. The whispers were not without foundation as buses took it upon themselves not to stop, when requested.

My intervention with great help by the County Councillor Shellina Prendergast, a site visit with Parish Councillors and Arriva and the tireless work of some KCC officers bore some fruit: NO bus stop is to close imminently! (Hurrah! - Ed)

Further investigation will take place to make the bus stops not only safe for the buses but also for the bus users to access the stops. Arriva will be pleased to attend a Parish Council meeting to listen to the community's concerns.

#### **Next action point, mud on the lanes:**

I invited Lesley Jones, Maidstone's new Cleaning Manager to Stockbury for a site visit. and observed many lanes which are green and overgrown around the village centre. A KCC team with JCB diggers will soon sweep the encrusted dirt that has built up over the years and MBC will follow suit to brush the loose debris. There is even talk to patch some potholes and clean the roads more frequently. Watch this space!

(We can but hope! - Ed)

The Local Plan was finally passed and praised by MBC officers as it will give better certainty in making planning decisions. However developers are wasting no time to pursue their plans; another planning committee meeting will have to deal with Junction 8 (M20) / Woodcut Farm, before the month concludes.

Besides planning meetings and discussions about parish council funding, I was left with very little breathing space to defend the interests of the AONB. Of course I never miss an opportunity to mention Stockbury Parish, be it to complain about our plights or to show off what great successes this pro active community is able to achieve .... and I do not only talk about our pub, which is becoming increasingly famous even further a field.

Patrik Garten  
Maidstone Borough Councillor

Each course was beautifully presented and each element was perfectly complemented by subtle sauces and accompanied by specially chosen wines. It encouraged us to savour many flavours and appreciate new combinations of food in the convivial, pleasant atmosphere of The Harrow.



Nicki presented us faultlessly with information about each course's wine and our waitresses executed their services most competently. We were pampered and it all felt and tasted very good.



There is no doubt that the assembled company was most appreciative of this well planned and executed event. Michael Jelley and Sam our esteemed landlord excelled themselves in presenting this menu and we would like to congratulate them on providing a very successful, delicious and stylish evening meal.

Thank you to everyone and may we please have an encore in the not too distant future?

*Ann Rich*

The Next Gourmet Evening will be on Saturday March  
24th, 2018 - Ed



# Stockbury Neighbourhood Watch

## Oil Boiler Specialists

A big thank you to all my loyal customers. I have been doing a lot of training and readying my company for the new RHI launch and to this effect we can now offer you biomass boilers (log, pellet and woodchip) and thermal Solar panels.

All design and installs in-house this will allow you to gain the MCS payment from the government to cover the cost of installation.

I will still be the best oil technician I can be for you all and keep your oil boilers running at their best

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chestnutplumbing@yahoo.co.uk

OFTEC & HETAS Registered and Certified

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

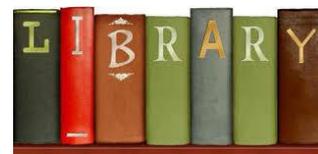
Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (*Co-ordinator*)  
(01622) 736331

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

**[stockbury-neighbourhood@outlook.com](mailto: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.



*Mobile Library Dates*

**7th and 21st December**

**At the Village Hall**

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[www.thephysiotherapycentre.co.uk](http://www.thephysiotherapycentre.co.uk)



## Stockbury Book Club



### **We Are Completely Beside Ourselves by Karen Joy Fowler**

This book made for an interesting review meeting. It had been recommended to me with the comment of “don’t read any reviews, read through the boring bit in the middle, there is a twist.” To give others the chance to do the same, I’m not going to tell you any more of the plot!

Some of the member comments were “could not bear it” “disjointed” “made you think” “give me a child until they are 7”.

This book gave us the biggest range of scores than from any other book we have read. The scores ranged from 2 to 8.5 giving us an average of 5.3. The book led on to further discussions including a news item about children being able to cross dress in the class room, Bake Off and Strictly Come Dancing. Always a good discussion at book club.

Our next book is “Truly, Madly, Guilty by Liane Moriarty.

Happy reading

Bev Martin



Chris and Sue Porter would like to wish all their friends in Stockbury a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Instead of sending Christmas cards, we will be making a donation to Demelza House Hospice.

*We shall not be sending Christmas cards this year but will be supporting our favoured charity, The Smile Train. To all our friends in Stockbury, greetings in this festive season. We hope you have great celebrations and we wish you good health and happiness in the coming New Year.*

*Keith & Ann Rich.*

## **STOCKBURY W.I**

**INVITE YOU TO  
CAROLS ON THE GREEN**

**WITH  
THE SALVATION ARMY BAND  
ON**

**FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017  
7.00 TO 7.30pm  
ON THE VILLAGE GREEN**

**FESTIVITIES CONTINUE IN THE  
VILLAGE HALL WITH CHRISTMAS  
CAROLS, REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN TORCH OR  
LANTERN**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

**SPONSORED BY M.B. FARMS**

**Donations of non-perishable foods for the  
Salvation Army Christmas Appeal  
would be appreciated**



## **Cockett's Corner Ditty**

Go down a lane on any day  
There is rubbish in the way

Our moral standards must be slipping  
When you see so much fly tipping

Teach the children to be good  
And not through rubbish in the wood

Would it not just be a bounty  
To clean up our lovely county!



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## FANCY DRESS COSTUMES FOR SALE



We have a large collection of X-hire costumes for adults and children in a wide range of themes.

Packet Costumes & Accessories also available to buy at bargain prices!

**For all enquiries call Wendy on 01795 841775**



# Stockbury Gardeners

Well the 26<sup>th</sup> of November was a panic day, the frost had finally arrived and after all of the preaching to get you all to prepare for the winter in the green house, it was me who was not ready! The day was spent cleaning the glass and disinfecting the heated sand bed ready for sowing onion seeds on the 7<sup>th</sup> December.; these will be for the 2.4 Kg Exhibition Classes. Bubble wrap was carefully cut and pinned to the inside of the wooden frame and the grow lamps were made ready and heaters tested. Phew, that was a busy day.

This month on the 7<sup>th</sup> our meeting is at 8pm and will be our Christmas party and presentation evening. Members are reminded to bring in your seed orders as we will send the baulk order off to get our whopping 50% discount from Thompson Morgan Seed Merchants.

Please also support the Christmas Fayre which is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, the Gardeners will be selling Christmas presents and fruit. If you are at a loss for presents to give, there will be some wicker baskets planted up with perennial plants. Fantastic value. Proceeds will go to the church.

Things to do with a leek:

- Braise and serve with hollandaise sauce
- Make leek and potato soup
- Fry and serve with melted cheese on top browned under the grill (😊 -Ed)

Or you can enter the vegetable shows with a set of three, you can eat them after though!!

While in the garden I am always followed by a couple of robins; today and I can only assume that the cold has made them more friendly as they have been following more closely. I have been tempting them with the odd pinch of bird feed and meal worms, they will almost take them from my hands now, its just a matter of time before they do, they also love porridge oats. Mmmm, so do I in the cold! Do not forget to feed the other birds, keep the feeders topped up and wash them every now and again.

I hope that you have all had a great year and do not forget that if you are thinking of coming to the gardeners meeting, we do not bite, we are a friendly bunch and welcome new members.

Have a very Merry Christmas

Chris Spree



## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

*Saturday 2nd December*

*Stockbury Village Hall*

*10.00 - 1.00pm*

**FREE ENTRY**

*Christmas Cards & Paper, Crafts, Jewellery, Cosmetics, Honey*

*Preserves, Cakes, Fresh Produce, Plants & Planters,*

*Christmas Hamper Draw, Raffle*

*Refreshments - Hot Mince Pies & Sausage Rolls*

*Contact Brenda Mace 01622 884746*

*Come and join us for a pleasant morning, you will be very welcome*



# THE HARROW AT STOCKBURY

## We are now Serving a Full Menu

### Lunch and Dinner Tuesday to Saturday Sunday Lunch 12.00 to 4.00pm

It's almost 3 months since The Harrow was reopened as a Community Pub and I would just like to thank everyone for the fantastic support you have given in this time. I know that there have been some service issues and other problems for which I am really sorry. As a new business in our area, I take these matters very seriously and I am pleased to tell you that they have now been resolved and I look forward to welcoming you again in the near future.

- We have a Festive Menu and are taking bookings in December for lunch and dinner which will be 3 courses for £29 including coffee and mince pies
- We aim to start the morning Internet Café soon
- The first Lunch Club was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November with 1 course for £6.00 or 2 courses for £7.50 including tea or coffee. Call Penny Spearman on 01795 842914 for more details
- We will be open on Christmas Day from 11.00am-2.00pm

Sam Pendry

### Opening Hours

Monday - Closed for now

Tuesday - Thursday 12.00-23.00

Friday & Saturday 12.00-12.00am

Sunday 11.30-21.00pm

**Phone: 01795 843222**



 **Kingswood**  
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**Email: [info@kingswoodchristmastrees.co.uk](mailto:info@kingswoodchristmastrees.co.uk)**  
**Tel: 01622 843780 Fax: 01622 843410**

[www.kingswoodchristmastrees.co.uk](http://www.kingswoodchristmastrees.co.uk)  
Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood, ME17 3NU

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**17/8/17**



**SUBSTANTIAL  
REWARD FOR THE  
RETURN  
OF A MUCH LOVED  
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## **Observer Deadline!**

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

**Friday 15th December, 2017**

Please email your contributions to  
**[stockburyobserver@gmail.com](mailto:stockburyobserver@gmail.com)**

## **Calling All Advertisers**

Our annual rates for advertising are very reasonable and have remained unchanged for the 6th consecutive year :

**£85 for a half page or £55 for a quarter page**

Our advertising year starts in June 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 take out an ad, please email [stockburyobserver@gmail.com](mailto: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 in mind 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](http://www.stockbury.org.uk) within 5 days of the meeting at which they are approved.

## Useful Contact Information

Cricket Club	Tom Bulbrook - <a href="mailto:th.bul2@yahoo.com">th.bul2@yahoo.com</a>	07780 440526
Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Revd Liz Cox - <a href="mailto:elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com">elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com</a>	01795 435184
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
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	<a href="mailto:stockburygardeners@live.com">stockburygardeners@live.com</a>	
Golf Society	Jeff Hall	01795 843296
Hall Bookings	Sue Porter	01795 843715
Maidstone BC Councillor	Patrik Garten - <a href="mailto:patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk">patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk</a>	01622 807907
MB Farms Stores & Post Office		01795 842401
Neighbourhood Watch	Ann Ballard	01622 736331
Not So Young Club	Rosemary Leonard	01634 232672
Parish Council	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Petanque Club	Tina Jacobs	07743 910185
Photographic Club	Tim Arnold - <a href="mailto:timarnold@btinternet.com">timarnold@btinternet.com</a>	01795 843049
Police	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	999 101
Police Community Support Officers for Stockbury	Ryan Waring - <a href="mailto:5872@kent.pnn.police.uk">5872@kent.pnn.police.uk</a> Dave Rowley - <a href="mailto:59079@kent.pnn.police.uk">59079@kent.pnn.police.uk</a>	07969 584213 07772 226097
Public Footpaths & Bridleway	Reporting issues with. - <a href="mailto:westprow@kent.gov.uk">westprow@kent.gov.uk</a>	03000 417171
Roads, Potholes, etc	(manned 24hrs) - <a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem">www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem</a>	03000 418181
RSPCA		0300 1234999
Short Mat Bowls	Tony or Angela Russell	01795 842738
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
Stockbury Observer - Editor	<a href="mailto:stockburyobserver@gmail.com">stockburyobserver@gmail.com</a>	
The Harrow Public House	<a href="mailto:stockburypub@gmail.com">stockburypub@gmail.com</a>	01795 843222
WI	Brenda Mace	01622 884746