

THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

January 2020

January '20 Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Wed	1st		
Thurs	2nd		
Fri	3rd	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	4th		
Sun	5th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	6th		
Tues	7th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	8th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		WI	2.00 - 4.00pm
Thurs	9th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	10th	Zumba	9.30 - 10.30am
		Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	11th		
Sun	12th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	13th		
Tues	14th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	15th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		Craft & Chatter	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Tai Chi	5.00 - 5.45pm
		Parish Council	7.30 - 9.30pm
Thurs	16th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	17th	Zumba	9.30 - 10.30am
		Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	18th		
Sun	19th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	20th		
Tues	21st	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	22nd	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		Tai Chi	5.00 - 5.45pm
Thurs	23rd	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	24th	Zumba	9.30 - 10.30am
		Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	25th		
Sun	26th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	27th		
Tues	28th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	29th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		Tai Chi	5.00 - 5.45pm
Thurs	30th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	31st	Zumba	9.30 - 10.30am
		Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm

Stockbury Roundabout

The saga rumbles on

As many of you will know, the Inquiry has now been put back to 10th March for reasons unstated by the Department for Transport. Those of you who have lodged formal objections should by now have received an email informing you that there will be a pre-Inquiries meeting on 7th January in Bapchild at which the Inspector will arrange the timetable for the Inquiry itself. This appears to be just an administrative meeting which may be of interest to anyone who is "into" detail and process. It is not a chance to make representations and, whether anyone goes or not, will not affect anyone's right to put evidence to the Inquiry in March.

Meanwhile, we have been trying to find out what is happening down at Kent County Council. You may recall that they did not object to Highways England's plans and committed to working up a business plan for a bridge to be built by KCC. There was an initial flurry of activity in the summer, then it all went quiet. We have received no updates from them at all.

On 20th November, I wrote to the current Cabinet Member for Highways, Michael Payne, asking for a meeting to review progress on the KCC business plan, and to ensure that both the Parish Council and KCC were fully aware of each other's position in advance of the Inquiry. There was no response, not even an acknowledgement.

On 1st December, I wrote to Mr Payne again to remind him of the request. Again, there was no response or acknowledgement.

As far as I know, Mr Payne and his administrative staff are still in post and functioning but, for some reason, there seems to be a reluctance to meet with the Parish Council and let the people affected (you) know what is going on.

I will let people draw their own conclusions on this one. If I hear anything before the next edition of The Observer, I shall post it on the Parish Council Facebook page. In the meantime, you might like to write to Michael.payne@kent.gov.uk to ask about progress with the bridge plan and KCC's "line" for the Inquiry

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Chair
Stockbury Parish Council

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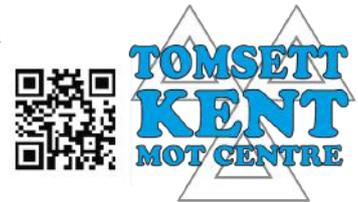
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Tuesdays - Maidstone

Thursdays - Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (Savacentre)

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

07551 454702

St Mary Magdalene Church Stockbury



The services in January are as follows:

5th January - Benefice Communion
at Newington - 10am

12th January - 3pm Holy Communion

19th January - NO SERVICE

26th January - 3pm Holy Communion

All Are Welcome

In the event of bad weather please contact Julian Staniforth.

For baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact The Rev'd Julian Staniforth - tel. 01795 - 227329.

Penny Stevens - PCC Secretary

St Augustine's RC, Deanwood Drive, Rainham

Mass Times
Weekdays 9.30 am
Saturday 10.00 am and 6.00 pm
Sunday 9.30 am and 11.00 am

December Church Draw Winners

CONGRATULATIONS!

1st - Chris Spree
£50 (238)

2nd - Sean White
£30 (21)

3rd - Stephanie Cox
£15 (25)

Stockbury W.I.



A very BIG thank you to all who came to join in our annual WI Carols on The Green event with the Salvation Army Band which was followed by more entertainment and refreshments afterwards in the Village Hall.. The night was cold but dry after so much recent rain and it was good to see and hear the sounds of the brass band and the singing of the brave souls who attended; old and young coming together to celebrate under the Christmas lights on The Green.



Irene organised a short Nativity play the hall with children and parents dressing up and performing the Christmas story.



Our thanks go to – The Salvation Army, Rod Gibson and his team for sorting out the electrics and setting up tables and many other jobs that need doing to make it a successful evening; MB Farms for their sponsorship and to everyone that very kindly contributed to the food boxes for the less fortunate.

Many thanks also go to Fiona and Jacqui's granddaughter Charlie for their help in collecting a fantastic £232.84 in donations on the night and again to Fiona for making so many delicious cakes for the evening.

Last but not least, thanks goes to all the WI ladies who devoted much time and effort into providing this traditional village community event.

(Here, here!! - Ed)

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Heather Tomsett



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Stockbury Gardeners

Why are you sitting down when you should be working off the Christmas excesses? Exercise is best taken in the garden or on the allotment.

January is a month when you have to make sure that all of the digging is done, this exposes all of the nasties that eat plant roots and bore into potatoes. You will also do the birds a big favour as they can feast on worms.

This month make sure that the wisteria has been pruned, remember August and December!!

Check over any stored dahlia tubers for rot, you need to keep them reasonably dry and frost free in a shed or greenhouse, a good dust with sulphur will help.

Pruning of apple and pears can be done now, with the exception of trained espaliers or cordons.

Cabbage and cauliflowers can be sown indoors at the end of the month. They can be transplanted in about 8 weeks into the garden.

Stockbury Gardeners do not meet in January, however when they meet in February, there is a presentation on how to grow show onions; so if there are and budding Medwyn Williams's out there come along and see how it can be done.

Earlier today prior to writing this, I was in the greenhouse sowing some chilli and pepper seeds. I have for a number of years not bothered to use the seed companies, choosing to buy supermarket fruits and letting them literally rot in the greenhouse. Once they reach a really "slimy" stage, I place them on a small tray of compost in a freezer bag and keep at 20 degrees plus until germinated. If you can manage to try this you will be amazed on the germination rate, its close to 100%. See picture.



Well there goes another year, so have a happy New Year and perhaps if you are feeling adventurous come and join us one Thursday evening.

Chris Spree

Stockbury Book Club



By now, anyone who reads this article in January, will know that our December meeting is film night.

This year we watched The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, the group having read the book a few years ago. It was a very easy and enjoyable watch but didn't seem to bear a lot of resemblance to the book!

Speaking of books, we reviewed the previous months read, which was The Lost Man by Jane Harper. Some may remember one of her previous books The Dry, held the title of the book we all most agreed on. This time it was slightly more variable but it still achieved a score of 8 overall. Essentially it was still quite gripping and atmospheric but felt by some to have characters that were two dimensional and almost predictable.

The occasions where we get together and share food and wine are always so enjoyable and this year was no exception, although our two poorly members were missed.

Moira Cooke

Vee's TAI CHI



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(SEATED OR STANDING)

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I will be holding a **free Taster Session** at 5pm Wednesday 15th Jan '20

Stockbury Village Hall
The Street
Sittingbourne
ME9 7UD

There's no need to book – just come along and see for yourself.

I will then start a **6 week TMW** course on Wednesday 22nd Jan '20 to Wednesday 26th Feb '20 from 5 to 5.45pm.

The cost is **£45** and places must be **pre-booked** as there are **limited places**. For more information please contact

Vena on

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Following it's initial success The Harrow Pub is continuing to host games evenings on the last Tuesday of every month at about 8pm.

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

Come along for a sociable evening of fun and feel free to bring any games with you.



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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Patrik Says

Dear Residents,

With the General Election and Christmas out of the way, maybe the Local and National Governments will get the chance to pull up their sleeves and get some actual work done in the New Year.

You gathered it, there is little to report from MBC this month, so I will take the opportunity to address BROADBAND – or rather the lack of it in wide parts of the North Downs.

Recently I attended the Wichling Parish AGM where complaints were plenty. Let me therefore share some alternative solutions.

First of all you could Google for “Satellite Internet”:

You would need a satellite dish similar of the ones which we use for television reception and a special router. The installation costs are quite prohibitive but service speeds of up to 20Mbps are available.

Satellite usage allowances tend to be quite low and can easily attract hefty excessive use charges when exceeding the limit. Most satellite internet service providers (ISPs) will also impose and apply a level of ‘traffic throttling’ that might reduce service speeds. Bad weather such as heavy rain, can also obstruct the line-of-sight between your dish and the orbiting satellite, which sometimes results in disrupted connectivity.

Satellite Internet has inherent delays, due to the distance between the dish and the satellite in the sky. This makes conference calls and Skype etc very difficult.

A resident in South Street did some extensive research recently. To get connected to V-Fast, a Wifi based service with a link station in Stockbury would cost about £1,500 due to the distance. Satellite installations start at similar installation costs.

I asked her whether she had ANY mobile phone reception at all anywhere on her land. There was literally only one place in the garden/house where a weak EE 4G signal could be detected. A company managed to fit an aerial on the garden fence and wired it into the house. This gives a download speed of circa 20mbps and an upload of around 25! They've even recorded a 30mbps download at times. It will also pick up 5g when that arrives so it will, to some extent, be future ready.

All she needs now is an EE unlimited data sim-card for about £34 per month.

4G aerials (as shown in the picture) start at just under £100 and can go up to £400; 4G routers are about the same. If the aerial location is too far from the house you may need a Wifi repeater too. Skilled DIYers can fit such technology



themselves, I fitted a similar system in my own loft.

This particular resident used a company to get it all installed. She reports how happy she is now: “*Superb company who have a real can do attitude and spent ages trying to find us a solution. What a difference this has made to our family. I can work, the girls can do their homework and we can watch Netflix!*” Unfortunately the overall installation bill was still in the region of £1500 in this case; I hear that it was a rather difficult job.

I will not publish the company’s details here but will be happy to forward upon request. There are several 4G specialists advertising on Google.

With such 4G installation, your land-line phone will become redundant.

KCC has a specialist Broadband Project Manager: George Chandler his details are:

Tel - 07841 315582, email - George.Chandler@kent.gov.uk

I hear that he is a very useful source of information.

Not long ago a resident invited me to the official opening of his new business premises. I am always glad to see striving business expanding or new ones starting up. Sustainable businesses are the back-bone of our economy and deserve all the support from local and national politicians.

MBC’s business development team publishes a monthly newsletter with useful information about forthcoming grants, opportunities, contacts and business workshops. You can sign up for this by registering at

<https://www.businessinmaidstone.co.uk/registration>

Last year at this point of my column I wished “*may 2019 bring us lots of health - and wise politicians, locally and especially nationally*” -- I hope that we all had a healthy year. May it continue and, where needed, improve in 2020.

As far as wise politicians are concerned

..... my election will be coming up in May.

Happy New Year!

PATRIK GARTEN

MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward (Conservative)

Email: patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk

Phone: 01622-807907

(for back-copies of my Newsletters see:

<https://www.stockbury.org.uk/observer>)



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Please email your contributions to
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Our annual rates for advertising are very reasonable and have remained unchanged for the 9th 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 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 within 5 days

Free Small Ads

The "Small Ads" section is for Stockbury Parish residents to sell redundant or unwanted items in good condition. If you have any such items, please send the details to the Editor at and they will be advertised for free in The Observer for **one month only**.

We accept no responsibility for the quality of the items advertised for sale or the handling of payment between



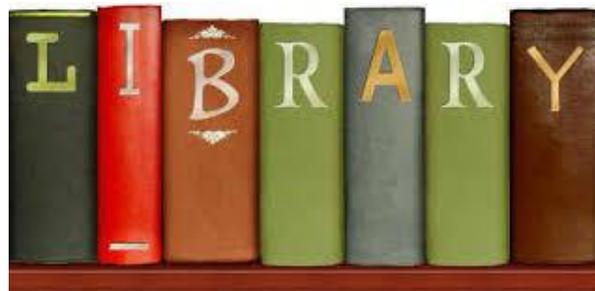
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January 2020

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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
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