



THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

August 2020

Future of The Stockbury Observer

As some of you will know, The Observer has been printed for us by a fantastic firm, Denmaur Paper Media, for some years. The owner of the company is a former resident of the Parish and subsidised the costs of printing. We did not realise just how large a discount we were getting until the recent Covid19 outbreak when many companies reviewed their costs as markets declined.

A couple of months ago, the Parish Council found out what the cost of producing free hard copies of The Observer really is. Even if it is produced at cost price, printing 350 copies every month was costing the Denmaur thousands of pounds a year, whilst Stockbury was paying a few hundred; even without the economic problems brought about by the pandemic, expecting a company to subsidise the cost to that extent is unacceptable. Something had to happen.

As a Parish Council, we have looked at what the implications of paying the full cost would be and, as you might expect, have shopped around to see whether we can find a company which could print The Observer more cheaply. Unfortunately none could and the Parish does not have the funds to pay a commercial rate.

Short of finding a philanthropist willing to contribute over £4,000 a year, it looked for a while as if The Observer would have to move online and paper copies would become a thing of the past. Indeed, after this edition there may be a month or two when that is what happens, but we have some useful friends, a really committed editor and a cunning plan

We are looking to buy a printer which can cope with the volume and Fiona has kindly offered to do the printing collating, stapling etc (ably assisted by Geoff of course!). To help us out with the capital cost, our Kent County Councillor, Shellina Prendergast, has offered to donate some of her discretionary budget. With good luck and a following wind, we should be up and running again within a couple of months.

P.S. If anyone happens to own a business that supplies printers or can wangle a discount, we would love to hear from you!

Phil Woods
Chair
Stockbury Parish Council

The Stockbury Observer can be accessed via the temporary Parish website www.stockbury.org - Ed

Stockbury Covid-19 Support Group

At last we seem to be heading towards a more normal way of life with more shops and pubs gingerly opening their doors.

It has been noticeable that the support group of volunteers has been less needed as more people have felt able to return to getting their own shopping and prescriptions. Nonetheless, the group has made more than 200 deliveries of groceries and medicines from Rochester in the north to Hollingbourne in the south and east – west from Bapchild to Aylesford, an area of some 77 square miles. This averages 50 generous acts per month since the lockdown began and we have not quite finished yet.

If all goes to plan, we will stand down from the 1st August by which time it is anticipated that those who have been shielded will be able to venture out for themselves. However, we stand ready to spring back into action should there be another wave of coronavirus later in the year.

We are deeply grateful to our volunteers who have bravely gone about the business of bringing much needed supplies to the elderly, the sick and to key workers just needing a helping hand.

The Stockbury Covid-19 Support Team

Cockett's Corner Ditty

Gluttony

A fly strolled on the ceiling
Then experienced a starvation feeling
He swooped down on a plate
Ate too much cake
Then drowned in a cup of Darjeeling

Summertime

August starts the summer holiday
When families pack their bags to get away
And school teachers say 'hip hip hooray
No more school children for many a day'
When young, the days seem so very long
But marvel at how fast the weeks have gone
They dread having to remember
Schools starts again in September!

Tomsett Kent Vehicle Maintenance and MOT Centre

Repairs • MOTs • Hybrid • Electric
Servicing • Air Conditioning • Brakes



We MOT... Cars

Vans

Motorbikes

Motorhomes

Minibuses

Quads

Trikes

Three-Wheelers

Now offering
**HYBRID
&
ELECTRIC**
Servicing and Repair

MONDAY– FRIDAY 8am – 5pm SATURDAY 8am – 12 noon

01795 841 007

CHURCH LANE (NEXT TO THE CHURCH), STOCKBURY, ME9 7RD

WWW.TOMSETTKENT.COM



KENT WASTE

The Paddock
Detling Hill
Maidstone
Kent
ME143JG
01622 630705

LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL

DRAIN CLEANING, CESSPOOL EMPTYING, INTERCEPTOR
WASTE, OIL AND SLUDGE REMOVAL,
CAMERA SURVEYS, FORECOURT CLEANING, SEWAGE
TREATMENT PLANTS



STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

Mondays - Sittingbourne

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

Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne WW2 Memorials Project

Following the work that the Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne has carried out in the last few years telling the stories of the casualties of WW1, we have now turned our attention to WW2. We plan to investigate all those commemorated on the Swale memorials and with links to the area, in order to recognise the ultimate sacrifice made by the people from Sittingbourne and its surrounding parishes during the Second World War, 1939-1945.

I shall be researching the names of the men on the memorial at St Mary Magdalene Church, Stockbury, as well as the Australian pilot who died in Squirrel Wood after being shot down in 1944. We have been going through the wartime editions of the East Kent Gazette which have revealed some valuable background information. I am interested in any of the activities that took place in the area during the war, however trivial they may seem.

Can you help? If you have a story to tell, have some photographs, or have done some research on a family member I would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact me at jweeks@blueyonder.co.uk or on 07803 402656.

John Weeks
HRGS

St Mary Magdalene, Stockbury

There has been a church in Stockbury since Saxon times and it is fair to say that it has had its fair share of ups and downs. At present it is closed due to Coronavirus.

Last year a great deal of work was done on the fabric of the church itself. Unfortunately excellent though this work seems to be, its aftermath has added to the poor state of the churchyard itself. This rather lovely church which is surrounded by the graves of many Stockbury family members desperately needs a facelift for its setting.

The south boundary wall is crumbling due to ivy overgrowth, the wall between old and new burial grounds has partially fallen. There are weed trees among the graves and many of the graves themselves are overgrown.

Reverend Amanda Lane is keen that any work respects the surroundings, wildlife and the rural nature of the site. The charity GodsAcre will give advice and support and I have offered to help. My aim is to organise a working party which could spend a few hours carefully removing the ivy on the south boundary (without the wall falling down!) and dealing with the weed trees which dot the site. If we have enough people and sufficient enthusiasm to do more, I will develop a plan and also carry out an eco-survey over the next year in order to establish what needs to be preserved and or enhanced.

If you are interested in having a go at this project,

please contact me by e-mail or phone:-

077560 68739
p.spearman52@btinternet.com

Stockbury Village Hall

Good News!

Your committee has met and decided that from September it will be possible to re-open the hall to those who wish to use it. There will be some conditions to be met, but these are easy to follow and should be achievable for most hirers.

More Good News!!

- Our status as a business rated organisation with Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) meant that we could apply for a £10,000 grant which, we are pleased to report, was granted. This will certainly help to fill the gap left by lack of income and used for any repairs that might be needed in the future.
- When we do reopen, you will see some significant changes that have really improved your hall and these were carried out by people from our parish who all deserve a huge thank you from all of us. The improvements being :-
 - a. The 2 magnificent tubs of flowers outside the front door were planted by Keith Rich who ensures that they are watered regularly. Many thanks Keith
 - b. The stage floor covering has been replaced and the walls and ceiling painted black – a vast improvement and many thanks to Brian and Liz Lee
 - c. The wooden floor in the hall was in dire need of sanding and resealing and now looks like new. This took far longer than was imagined and many thanks to Dave Canham

We hope to see you soon and for more details, please contact: -

Mick Bingham - 01795 842480
or
Sue Porter – 01795 843715

Many thanks and stay safe.

Stockbury Village Hall Committee

Stockbury Village Playing Field Benches

In 2017 many of the benches on the playing field behind the Village Hall were replaced with new ones and people were offered the opportunity to sponsor a bench in memory of someone, or as a tribute, in return for a contribution to its cost. If there is enough interest, we may replace some more of the old benches and if you would like to commemorate a bench, then please contact one of us for details

Mick Bingham - 01795 842480
Chris Porter - 01795 843715



KAREN BRUNNING
Art Director/Manager

Tel: 07809 277666

Email: karenbrunning@gmail.com

TONI&GUY - A1 NVQ LEVEL 4 ASSESSOR

Over 25 years experience as a **TONI&GUY** franchisee

CUTTING & DRY STYLING

Ladies cut & blow dry	£45
Mens cut & blow dry	£35
Blow dry	£25

SUPER SERVICES

Bridal hair	FROM £65
Luxury hair treatments	£10
Hair extensions	by consultation
Wig cutting Specialist	by consultation

COLOUR SERVICES

Highlights full head	FROM £55
Highlights half head	£45
Highlights T Section	£35
Additional Toner	£10
Tint virgin hair	£45
Tint Regrowth	£35/£40
Pieces and Gloss	£50
Perm	£55

Based in Stockbury/Home visits available

AWARD WINNING M B Farms

Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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>



SPRINGBANK
CONTRACTORS LTD

Established Stockbury Based Building Company

Providing a full construction service from minor domestic work to new build projects

Our highly skilled team have many years experience in

Brickwork, Plastering, Decorating

Electrical & Plumbing

Kitchen & Bathroom Design and Installation

Landscaping, Groundworks & Demolition

Call Us Now on 01795 842482

For a FREE Quotation

Springbank Contractors Ltd can also assist in securing planning consent and site development for own use or resale

Ideas can be discussed with our Chartered Surveyor

Contact us at

info@springbankltd.co.uk



Stockbury Book Club



Due to the hiatus of The Observer, we have 3 books reports to bring you - Ed

May Meeting

Stockbury Book Club held its second and very successful virtual meeting in order to discuss this month's book "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien. Described as a "... definitive account of what it was like being on the ground in Vietnam." but also as "... a work of fiction. Except for a few details regarding the author's own life..."

Initially there seemed to be a general consensus that as readers started the book they were unsure if they would finish it but that on further examination all became more engaged. A couple of members of the group felt that they needed to digest it in bite size pieces and found some resonance with the odd state we currently find ourselves in.

There was a common theme in the interpretation of the book that although stated to be a work of fiction it definitely didn't feel like it. Comments included:

- "The book leaves you in no doubt how war leads to the depths of human suffering, the brutalisation of men and underlines the futility of conflict."
- "Was it fact or was it fiction - it didn't matter - it all seemed real!"
- "I know the author said it was part fiction and part autobiography but I read it as an autobiography. How could you make up some of those terrible events?"
- "His ability and/or capacity to evoke the vividness of what he had experienced and the enduring nature of how long these experiences had stayed with him, really resonated with me."

The book is written in chapter form with each chapter being a different recollection or event some of which relate to others, some not and told at differing times in the author's life. It included accounts of lives post conflict and the difficulties experienced in returning to some sort of normal.

There were discussions about the broader impact of the book which was described as quite bleak in places but was felt to be necessarily so due to the material. Other statements were:

- "It wasn't war story, a factual account, a post conflict political and social impact analysis, a personal memoir. It was all of these and more rolled into one told in an engaging, informative, thought provoking and readable way."
- "I was fascinated by the list of what the soldiers took with them. It made me think what is the thing that always goes with you?"
- "We will not forget this book in a hurry."

All agreed that they were glad they had read the book and it had quite an impact on everyone; 5 of our members scored it a 9 with the other scores giving an overall mark of 8.5.

June Meeting

The Corner Shop in Cockleberry Bay by Nicola May

Rosa Larkin inherits a derelict corner shop in a sleepy Devon village. At the time she is down on her luck, so with selling the property on her mind she decides to accept the legacy. However the anonymous benefactor has stipulated this little shop may only be passed on to someone who deserves it and is not to be sold. Regardless of this, Rosa travels to Devon leaving the comparative security of the flat share in London and her friend Josh. Having sampled the village life where everyone knows everyone's business she decides to try her hand at being a shop owner, setting up a pet friendly business; along the way there are many twists and turns of the plot and relationships.

Generally the club agreed this was no great literary work but it would appear the lockdown had influenced a number of us on the level of appreciation of this light-hearted predictable story. There was a sense that this easy read took one's mind off the pandemic and its restrictions.

However there was criticism of the simple, juvenile and sometimes crude style of writing. The sexual morals of the main character were questionable and maybe not to everyone's taste. This was juxtapositioned with the feel good rather predictable plot, although the minor characters relationships with each other were somewhat surprising. Whilst the storyline is comparatively complex, the characters are certainly not.

You can see where this is heading! Scoring was all over the place ... a lot of halves appeared but the average came out at 5/10 and a few members said they might be tempted to read the sequel.

July Meeting

July is often the month of our Summer BBQ but of course that did not happen this year. So instead of having to cope with the vagaries of the British weather, we now pretty frequently have to deal with the limitations of Stockbury



Oil Boiler Specialists

A big thank you to all my loyal customers. I have been doing a lot of training and re-educating 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



Registered Business

Give me a call or email

Mark Viccars

Chestnut Plumbing
07894-067151



Personal Fitness Trainer

Peter Foster

07931 515290

fitnessadviser@aol.com

YMCA Qualified
Member of Fitness Professionals
Full Liability Insurance



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.

the physiotherapy centre

01795 435060

The Coach House 39b High Street Sittingbourne Kent ME10 4AW

Are you fed up with taking Pain killers?

Are you being told its 'just your age' ?

Has stretching or 'working through it' not helped?

Are you trying to avoid surgery?

Come and chat to see how we can help you

Or call 01795 435060 and one of our Physiotherapists will call you back.

Recognised by all insurance companies...Self-pay welcome...
Referral not necessary unless your insurance company requires it...
Evening and weekend appointments available...

01795 435060 or Email: info@thephysiotherapycentre.co.uk
Find us on our website: www.thephysiotherapycentre.co.uk



Book Club cont'd ...

Broadbands. We have become used to faces disappearing and re appearing and sometimes talking to blank spaces on the screen where someone's face should be. In a perverse kind of way – it does seem to concentrate the mind and make our meetings more focused. It is usually a case of making sure everyone has had a chance to say what they want to, before their face disappears for a few minutes.

Despite all this we continue regardless and this month reviewed our reading of Michelle Obama's autobiography entitled Becoming. Lots of people know she was the first lady of colour to occupy the White House and some know she had qualified as a Lawyer but I for one knew very little about her early life in Chicago and for that matter the early years of her marriage to Barrack, before they entered the White House.

I found this book quite absorbing and easy to read, but as ever we did not all share that opinion. Nearly everyone found it interesting – if sometimes a bit slick. One comment being that she “seemed to succeed at everything she did”. To counter that another view was that she was very driven and portrayed very well, the impact Barrack had had on her life. Another member felt she had left a legacy in terms of what she had achieved in the White House and how successfully she developed the role of First Lady. I for one found her impressive!

We gave it a score of 8.5

Jackie Smith
Ann Rich
Maira Cooke



Stockbury Gardeners

As this is the last issue of a “paper ” Gardeners report I have included a few photographs of the years gardening to use up the last of the printers colour inks up! As you are by now aware that we are sadly to replace The Observer with a digital online version, it's a shame but they say its progress.

I can cite a similar example, when a well known water company from the south east but shall remain nameless, who put all of the engineering plans and records onto microfiche, hence an annual saving of x pounds for the shareholders. Then the next move was to smaller premises and guess what ... yes, the records were lost.

I really hope that does not happen, I rather like the village and its history, without paper we could all lose our heritage, especially if we put our faith and trust in one Chinese telecom company. Of course these are my views and you do not have to repeat them.

(Chris, you could always be the mysterious benefactor who bank rolls us. No? - Ed)

So where were we ? Ah yes, gardening. We have had plenty of time with all of the CV-19 going on and lockdown. If you are lucky enough to have a garden or allotment you are lucky, I for one have made the best during lockdown to tend the garden. My wife also, she has a magnificent show of flowers where she could, if allowed legally, to exhibit at the County Show and other competitions. Sadly all these are all cancelled, a case of all dressed up and nowhere to go!

The Gardeners have been staying away from the Village Hall, as it is quite rightly closed and no society shows as a result. We DO however have an opportunity to gather in our Chairman's garden on the 6th August for a social distancing BBQ; we, I believe, are allowed up to 30 people at a single gathering. As such we normally gather around 25 members at a normal hall meeting, so we could be doing something legal! Rather seriously though, it will be members only and well policed. You need to advise the secretary if you are able to make it.

The pictures show a previous years gooseberry entry into the Kent Show, some red onions ready to slice and put into a salad ... 😊 and I found that someone had left a mug in my polytunnel last week.

Chris Spree



THE HARROW

WE ARE OPEN

AND FOLLOWING CURRENT GOVMNT COVID-19 REGULATIONS

PLEASE PHONE FOR OPENING HOURS AND DETAILS

TAKEAWAY MENU AVAILABLE

PHONE : 07983 306397 OR 07909 631057

EMAIL : contact@theharrowstockbury.co.uk
booking@theharrowstockbury.co.uk

TD ROOFING & DECORATING
THE COPPICE, STOCKBURY VALLEY
STOCKBURY ME9 7QN
01795 844801/07741 185775



Professional & Reliable Services

We are a family run company with 30 years in the roofing and decorating industry
Where quality is a must in materials and workmanship
Where all our customers come first from a small repair to a complete new roof

We cover all areas in and around Kent
We provide a free no obligation written quotation
For domestic and commercial customers

We Cover All Aspects of Roofing

New Roofs ❖ Strip/Re-Tile ❖ 3 Layer Felt Roofing ❖ Flat Roofs ❖ Lead Work Roofing Repairs ❖ Leak Tracing ❖ Steel Sheet Roofing
Poly-Carbonate Roofing ❖ Conservatory Roofs ❖ Storm Damage ❖ Moss Removal ❖ Chimney Repairs/Removal
UPVC Fascia, Sofitts, Cladding ❖ All Types of Guttering ❖ Repointing ❖ Lead Roofs ❖ Roof Reports ❖ Insurance Work

Decorating Services

All Types of Wood Shield Masonry Coating ❖ Masonry Coatings ❖ Wood Staining ❖ Gloss Coatings ❖ High Build Textured Coatings
Timber Fascia's, Sofitts Replaced/Repaired ❖ Timber Weather Boards/Cladding Replaced/Repaired

All work prepared and carried out to a high standard
Quality Brands and Materials used at all times

Fully Insured

Email: tdroofing@hotmail.co.uk
www.tdroofinganddecorating.co.uk



Patrik Says

Dear Residents,

While we are hopefully all enjoying our summer, albeit possibly not as expected, I presume that we are getting used to the 'new normal'.

For local authorities, this 'new normal' equates to staring into a financial abyss. There is already talk about a substantial hike in council tax next year and/or a substantial cut in services – not only in Maidstone I hasten to add.

Looking back over the past months, I am glad that my Ward in the North Downs grabbed what they could, when we could. No, I'm not talking about toilet paper! Days before funding was stopped, I managed to throw my whole annual member's grant at a local Covid self-help group in our ward and I am happy to have done my bit for at least two village halls, who each got a £10,000 Covid-business rates rebate, paid for by central government. Not all is bad in a crisis and a big thank you to Simon in Wormshill)

It is not very often that rural communities get their fair share in return for their taxes, so I am quite happy to have succeeded on my main election promise, which I gave you, four years ago.

The 'new normal' for me means a lot of online meetings, committees and even Full Council. I cannot help reiterating that online is no substitute for face to face meetings. Democracy needs to be seen to be done. Some councillors certainly do not help to enhance public confidence by having or preparing their dinner during important meetings ...

One theme, which keeps recurring, is the democratic accountability of elected councillors. Across the political spectrum, there is a fair amount of discontent and endless debates whether members should be permitted to see confidential papers or be permitted to sit on certain committee meetings or even be allowed to attend as visiting members. In principle, Maidstone's committee system should allow individual members more access and influence than under a cabinet system. In reality, however, a lot of power lies with officers whose interpretation of the rules is not always without critique, to put it politely. This situation is not new to online, we've been here long before but recent events certainly emphasise the need for reform.

Long-standing readers of this column may remember that MBC used to have a Planning Referrals Committee, whose task it was to review Planning Committee decisions, which, in the view of officers, may lead to costly appeals. Last time when this committee sat, almost three years ago, it caused so much of a stir that this committee of three members was abolished, in favour of a 15-member special meeting by the Policy & Resources Committee. P&R

is the committee which holds the council's purse strings. Other councils don't have such referrals committee, MBC does.

On Monday 20th I was member of such a special meeting, the first of its kind since the change of our constitution. Three times prior, the Planning Committee refused permission for a major housing development in Church Road, Otham. And although for the fourth time this application was refused, I cannot help reading the papers as: 'we don't like the way you voted, please do it again ...'

Consultations

August, you may remember, is the time when I task you to have a look at current consultations. Close to my heart is the The Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2020-2025. I am MBC's elected representative on the Joint Advisory Committee of Kent Councils, where we reviewed the strategy for conserving and enhancing the Kent Downs Area of Natural Beauty (AONB). The Draft Plan is now available for public consultation giving you the chance to have your say before it is finalised, published and implemented. Your views will help us to conserve the landscape for future generations while ensuring that today's residents and visitors can all benefit from connection with the natural environment in an amazing landscape.

https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/kentdowns_aonb/consultationHome

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC), is inviting residents, businesses and stakeholders to have their say on the proposed new look Town Centre Bus Station. The Council has launched a consultation on the bus station refurbishment. Everyone who uses the bus station can tell us what they think about the proposal to improve it. The consultation will continue until 16th September 2020.

Full details of the proposed plan can be found on the Council website, <https://www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/council-and-democracy/additional-areas/have-your-say/tier-3-primary-areas/current-consultations>

Via the same link you can find two more current consultations:

- Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation about measures to reduce anti-social behaviour in the town centre, closing 7th August
- Local Plan Review – Scoping, Themes and Issues Public Consultation (Regulation 18) is asking for your views on the matters which the Local Plan Review should cover. Close at 5pm on Monday 30 September.

And before you get overwhelmed with these papers:

The Maidstone Leisure Centre has just reopened its doors. the gym, workout classes and lane swimming are open, while all other facilities will remain closed, including changing rooms, showers and lockers.

And finally:

Maidstone Borough Council's home website [maidstone.gov.uk](https://www.maidstone.gov.uk) has jumped up 137 places in the latest league table of council websites for accessibility and currently sits in 1st place.

PATRIK GARTEN

MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward (Conservative)

Email: patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk

Phone: [01622-807907](tel:01622-807907)



Elliott Kitchens & Bathrooms

Our showroom based in the High Street, Sittingbourne has over 16 settings of bathroom and kitchens with a vast selection of doors from traditional and contemporary designs. We provide a full service package which not only includes the supply and installation of your new kitchen or bathroom but also all of the associated plumbing and tiling, plastering, electrical installation, small building work and decoration.

Our highly skilled fitters and engineers will see to every detail of your installation from start to finish with each job supervised, you can relax and watch your new room take shape to your custom design. We are members of **Checkatrade** with an average rating of 9.82 out of 10 and also Kent County Council Trading Standards approved and British Institute of **KBB** installations member with all the relevant accreditation and insurances.

A family run business so our reputation is your guarantee.



Showroom 01795 522533

Workshop 01622 616117

Website: www.elliottinstall.o.uk

Email: info@elliottinstall.co.uk



Letters to The Editor

For anyone who uses our community park ...

Can I respectfully ask that owners of dogs who use the Stockbury park to **not** put your dog waste into the **green domestic** waste bins. Although thankfully you are responsible enough to pick it up, the correct bin for this waste is situated at the side of the village hall as you enter and leave the park.

Last week I emptied 2 bins full to the brim with dog waste, the one by the playground also had some in it. Maidstone Council do not empty these bins, it's up to the residence to work together to make sure our park is kept safe and tidy, the dog waste can create quite a smell when left in the sun and is unsafe around children's playgrounds.

After making some signs for each bin, I have found that people are still using one bin the same way and everyday since, the same eco friendly green bags, yellow bags and black bags are being dumped.

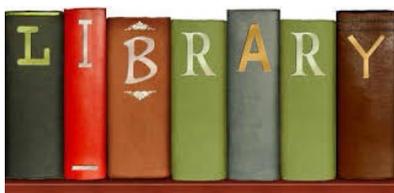
Thank you for your co-operation.

We would like to take the opportunity to say 'thank you' to our family, friends and neighbours for their support during the difficult and strange Covid-19 times we are all living through.

We have been overwhelmed by your kindness, generosity and support during this time.

We hope you are all keeping safe and well and look forward to better times ahead.

Wendy and Rodney Gibson



Unfortunately the library service is suspended until further notice



Stockbury & Hartlip CC

Well at long last the cricket season has started and we have in fact had two matches, both at home and governed by strict Covid-19 rules.

Everyone must turn up fully changed into their whites with their own packed tea and drink and personal hand sanitiser. Social distancing must be observed on the pitch and the ball is sanitised every 6 overs as are the fielders and umpires hands so we all feel safe.

Due to my accident (I fractured my thigh bone) the pitch had not received its usual loving care and was in a terrible state, however Paul, Oscar and Enrique pitched in and we did manage with a great deal of effort to produce a pretty good playing surface.

Hartley CC. let us down on Thursday so we had to arrange an emergency fixture and managed to obtain game with Chelsfield Village CC early on Saturday. Imagine our surprise when their team was comprised of only Pakistani players of varying ages. It transpired that they all live in either Orpington or Sidcup and are hoping to eventually produce a side comprising of members of only two families but meanwhile are keeping Chelsfield Sunday side alive. If only we could engender the same enthusiasm in our villages.

The game however followed its usual course with Chelsfield batting first and reaching 219 all out (the first time we have bowled a side out). Wickets were shared by Ted Ratcliffe 4 for 44, Andy Murphy 3 for 27, Daniel Higgins 1 for 45 and Andrew Mowatt 1 for 46 and 1 run out.

Our batting was unfortunately still in its usual groove with only John Brignall reaching a good score of 34 having been dropped a number of times. Andrew Mowatt, 24, Ted, 14, Oscar, 10 and Andy, 14 were the only other players to worry the scorers. So you could say we were soundly beaten but yet again our opposition enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of the game and expressed a desire for another fixture.

Our second game was at Home against the Kent LAPD team who had even more trouble than us in fielding a team. However, it did not matter in the end as the persistent drizzle eventually convinced everyone that it was too wet and dangerous to continue. Our two drowned rats of openers would have liked to continue as they were both doing well against some indifferent bowling with Oscar on 40 but in the end good sense prevailed.

So yet again we are working feverishly to get the rest of the square in playable condition but lack of rain is not helping. We also have excellent net facilities which are available for anyone in the village who wants to come along and hone their skills; they can use them at any time apart from match days and if you would like to face our bowling machine just ring and let me know.

As you all know by now we are always looking for new players of any ability so if you would like to give cricket a try please contact me.)

Roger Milton

STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

When the country began its lockdown in March, we of course had to suspend the use of our very own community bus but it has not lain totally idle. You may have seen it travelling around taking deliveries to those in need. We are now exploring the ways in which it will be possible to restart our regular use with passengers.

The Stockbury Gundog Society is hiring it at the end of July to test out our 'Covid-secure' measures and hopefully all will be well. Using the guidance from government and the Community Transport Association, we feel that we can limit the number of passengers to ensure the '1-metre plus' recommendations. The plus bit refers to the additional measures of disinfecting the bus before and after use, the wearing of face masks and social distancing while waiting and getting on and off the bus. The guidance also recommends not too much talking and no singing. Not sure how our regulars will view this last one!

We are also contacting all our 'members' to check the use and accuracy of our database following the introduction of the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Perhaps you do not remember signing up in 2010 to support the Parish in getting a bus for Stockbury but we do! Every household on our list will receive a letter, with the details we hold, asking whether you wish to remain in the 'supporters' club' and whether the details have changed. We have tried to reflect changes we know about if people have moved away or sadly died since 2010 and we can only apologise if our letter causes any inconvenience or upset. However, it is now unlawful to hold information without permission and so we have to ask.

We are also taking the opportunity to ask your opinions too. How can we make even more use of our wonderful and economical transport? What would it take to peel you out of your car occasionally and go a bit greener?

Anyone with 'D1' on their licence can drive the bus and it is easy to do so. If you are 75 or under, why not give it a go? Younger people without the D1 endorsement can drive with an appropriate qualification like a MIDAS certificate. The MIDAS training is easy and we can pay for you to do it.

So, let's make post-covid the age of volunteering, going green and enjoying ourselves.

Contact Us

Phone - 07551 - 454702

email - communitybus-stockbury@hotmail.co.uk

Observer Deadline!

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

MONDAY 24th August

Please email your contributions to
stockburyobserver@gmail.com

Useful Contact Information

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene		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