



# THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

March 2020

## Village Hall Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Sun	1st	Dog Club - Field	10.00 -11.00am
Mon	2nd		
Tues	3rd	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		NSYC	7.30 - 9.30pm
Wed	4th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thurs	5th	Gardeners	8.00 - 10.00pm
Fri	6th	Zumba	9.30 - 10.30am
		Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	7th		
Sun	8th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 -11.00am
Mon	9th		
Tues	10th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	11th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		WI	2.00 - 4.00pm
Thurs	12th		
Fri	13th	Zumba	9.30 - 10.30am
		Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	14th	Private Booking	6.00 - 11.30pm
Sun	15th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 -11.00am
Mon	16th	Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm
Tues	17th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		NSYC	7.30 - 9.30pm
Wed	18th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		Craft & Chatter	1.30 - 3.30pm
		Parish Council	7.30 - 9.30pm
Thurs	19th		
Fri	20th	Zumba	9.30 - 10.30am
		Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	21st	Private Booking	11.00 - 5.00pm
Sun	22nd	Dog Club - Field	10.00 -11.00am
Mon	23rd		
Tues	24th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	25th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thurs	26th		
Fri	27th	Zumba	9.30 - 10.30am
		Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	28th		
Sun	29th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 -11.00am
Mon	30th		
Tues	31st	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm

## Update

### Stockbury Roundabout

Now that the Public Inquiry has been postponed until 28<sup>th</sup> April, we have a little “breathing space” to continue our discussions with Highways England and Kent County Council and to refine the Parish Council’s submission to the Inspector.

Despite some initial confusion (Highways England and the Department for Transport were both unable to tell us what was going on), we have now established that the delay to the Inquiry was caused by Highways England slightly amending their plans and having to consult on the changes.

Highways England have asked us to sign up to a “statement of common ground” in which we set out the things on which we agree and those where we have differences of opinion. Having considered their draft carefully, we have now amended it and await their response.

The Parish Council will be meeting (will have met by the time you read this) with Kent County Council on 28<sup>th</sup> February to hear how their plans to help keep us safe are getting on and hopefully, to agree a common approach in further discussions with Highways England.

On 6<sup>th</sup> March, we will be meeting with Highways England and Kent County Council in a final effort to come to an amicable solution to the problems that the overall scheme will cause for Stockbury if it goes ahead without modification. As ever, we remain hopeful that we can find a way through, but are not optimistic given that Highways England has consistently refused to acknowledge there is a problem over the last 2 years.

In the meantime, Stockbury has come under fire from a few individuals on social media and from a neighbouring MP in the press. The line being spun is that we are a bunch of NIMBYs getting in the way of further developments in Swale and perpetuating the traffic misery around the Stockbury Roundabout. In an effort to put the record straight, our consistent line is that we welcome the intention to resolve the problems caused by the current roundabout (we are victims too!), but not at the cost of the lives, businesses and community of the people of Stockbury. All we are asking for is that the scheme is amended to ensure that a community which has existed for over 1000 years continues to thrive safely.

Phil Woods  
Chair  
Stockbury Parish Council

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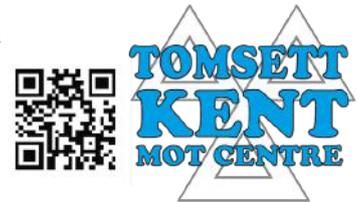
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# St Mary Magdalene Church Stockbury



The services in March are as follows:

8th March - 3pm Holy Communion

15th March - No Service

22nd March - 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

**ROAD  
AHEAD  
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## Temporary Road Closure Chalky Road, Stockbury 3rd March, 2020

Chalky Road will be closed from the junction with South Street Road to outside 'Valley View' to the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site.

The alternative route for any through traffic is via South Street Road, Church Lane, Church Hill, A249 Sittingbourne Road and vice versa.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while connection works are undertaken by BT.

**Stockbury  
W.I.**



We started our afternoon with lunch at the Harrow Public House. With Edo and Mike's kind permission we stayed in the bar area to have a game of 'Call my Bluff', much to the amusement of other diners, who were invited to join in. Our host for the game, Sue Gibson and her helpers, Carol, Ann and Joy, provided us all with a hilarious and often raunchy version of this well known game, which we all enjoyed very much.

We are now making plans to hold our fund raising 'Pie Lunch' event on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall between 12.30-2.30pm. We welcome you to come along and enjoy a 2 course meal, prepared and served by us. Tickets are £8.50 per adult and £5 each for children under 12. Please reserve your place early as this is a very popular event and we have a limited amount of tickets available. You can obtain tickets from our Secretary, Pat Fothergill on phone number 01622 734093.

Our next meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. Please feel free to come along and join us.

Heather Tomsett

## SPC - Here to Help

Although the Parish Council is spending a lot of time working on the plans for the Stockbury Roundabout and the forthcoming Public Inquiry, Councillors are still available to help with some of the other things that matter to everyone. Recent concerns brought to us have included anti-social behaviour and reporting planning breaches.

Whilst we would always encourage people to report things themselves, we recognise that there are circumstances where you might feel this would be difficult, particularly when there is a fear of intimidation. These are exceptional cases but if you are genuinely worried, the Parish Council can step in and help.

The first step is to make contact with one of the Councillors, either by telephone or email (or nab one of us in the shop / pub!). If we can help, you will be asked to give details of the problem and to share any evidence you might have. We will then take the issue up with the relevant authority on your behalf without revealing your identity if you have asked us not to. This is not a magic way of getting things to happen but it removes the "personal" element of reporting something.

## WW2 Memorabilia

If anyone in the parish has any WW2 artefacts, be it photos of relatives in uniform, ration books, clothing coupons, clothes themselves(!) 1940's recipes or cookery books, photos of the village ...stories ...toys ... anything WW2 related and would be kind enough to lend them to us for a VE Day celebration exhibition, please contact Geoff Moody on 01622 884551



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Art Director/Manager

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Email: karenbrunning@gmail.com

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# The Weather!

Because we live on an island and have a temperate climate (well we DID..... have a temperate climate), us British do tend to go on a bit about the weather. Of course now we have climate change comments and vagaries have turned into serious and meaningful discussions. BUT I'm not scribbling here to write about that. I wanted to kick in on the nostalgia front. After all we do love the white stuff, (in moderation). It covers so many garden sins!

Anyway I came across an article the other day about the most severe snowfalls we have had in the British Isles and thought some of you might like to go down memory lane. Actually I shall start a tad before that. Way back as early as 1309 the Thames froze over in the winter continuing to do so at intervals all the way to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There were often ice floes in the estuary, playing havoc with shipping. The 'Little Ice Age' was still hanging about over Europe and the ice was thick enough to allow fairs and stalls to be set up. Londoners enjoyed the Frost Fairs as they were called, shopping, drinking, playing games and skating, all in one place. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Tunbridge Wells recorded a temperature of -23°C! And at Christmas 1836, after a build-up of 2 months' snow an avalanche in Lewes destroyed a row of cottages and killed 8 people.

Enough of that history; let's think back to our lifetime experiences. In 1947 From January 23<sup>rd</sup> it snowed pretty well continuously for 55 days, not stopping until March. There were fuel shortages and public services were disrupted. When the thaw came there



Above, 1963 at Stockbury Church  
Below, 1987 the junction of Church Lane &  
The Street



Skip a few years and we come to the winter of 1962 / 3 when it snowed for 3 months and the River Medway froze as did parts of the sea, (a whole mile out from Herne Bay). The Navy used an ice-breaker vessel to keep Chatham Dockyard accessible and again it wasn't until March that the thaw came.

The next severe winter was in 1987 when Sheppey saw snowdrifts of 6 metres and the temperature plummeted to -18°C; Gurkhas were drafted in to drop supplies in by air to the Isle of Grain and outlying villages in Kent.

Fast forward a few decades to 2010 when heavy snow fell on December 1<sup>st</sup> stranding 400 lorries on the M25, cancelling football matches at Priestfield where there was a foot of snow on the pitch and shutting over 100 schools.

Of course the last time we experienced huge discomfort was in 2018 when the Beast from the East came to plague us. Siberia descended at the end of February and into March.

We still have time for a short burst of the white stuff this year. I'll leave you with that thought!

Ann Rich

## Stockbury Book Club



### Stoner by John Williams

John Williams, the American author, wrote this novel around 57 years ago and it tells the story of the life of a farmer's son who becomes a university professor.

Stoner was destined to gain a degree in agriculture but instead fell in love with English literature and followed a career as a teacher of this subject.

We read about how he is deprived of a happy marriage, how he becomes estranged from his daughter and how his career never fulfills its potential. Throughout his sad and often lonely life, Stoner remains passive and stoic, retreating into the life of literature although he does fulfill one dream in writing a book and he does have a brief, happy love affair.

This novel has many positive reviews but our group did not, in general, agree with these. We thought that the prose was stilted, that there were few descriptions and that the characters simply did not develop. Stoner annoyed some of us because he was so passive, especially in the face of his wife's behaviour and this prevented us from wanting to read to the end.

This is a "sad story about a sad man" and was not really enjoyed by our group. We gave it a score of 5.

Next month we will be reading a new title by Tom Bradby, "Secret Service".

Jan Butterfill



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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](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.

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# Stockbury Gardeners

Storm Desmond, Storm Freda, what the heck does it matter, we had a storm, I am sorry but when I was kid we had rain, I used to cycle to school each day I used to get wet, trust me we had storms but we did not have such advanced warnings and our problem is now that we have too many of them. Am I a little slow here, could it be global warming? So now we cannot have wood fires and stoves, no coal fires after 2021; I can tell you now, if you live in a village where you have neither, fast broadband, main drainage, mains gas, decent digital radio, no bus service, poor intermittent power supplies, what could you possibly wish for with wood and coal being banned? There you go rant over!!

Now, this is supposed to be about gardening so here it is. I do vegetables, roses, box hedges, fruit, so I write about them but those of you who like flowers come along to our meetings this year as there are a couple of programmes if you do not "Do" veg and fruit, Steve Harmer will be giving talks on bumblebees, the restoration of Quex Park and walled garden; our own Nikki Bonner will be speaking on flower arranging, "Orchids For Beginners", plus on 5<sup>th</sup> November, "The Secret Life of the Mole", that is not forgetting the BBQ at our chairman's house.

After the above rant here is another!!! So I ran out of compost, nothing wrong with that, simple really MB Farms had not had our order for the super compost that they supply us from Humax, so Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January off I toddled to Wickes, picked up several bags of general purpose compost and some sterilised topsoil. I duly mixed 75/25 ratio and into which I tossed some leek seeds. A few days in a controlled environment and the seeds appeared to be doing OK, 13 days to be precise. Roll on another 2 weeks and something overnight pushed a load of soil up and over the side of the seed trays and threw out some of the seedlings. Mice was my first thought! NO! It was a whole field of mushrooms and to beat that, weeds as well!!!

This month make sure that you have an automatic opener in your greenhouse as you can expect in March some really hot days; I have one but some days she goes shopping so be careful! Seriously, I have had 30 degrees registered in January so be careful, it is also an idea to ready a heater if you want to look after germinating seeds. Cucumbers can be sown this month, together with brassica (cabbage family) lettuce, tomatoes, peas, | Swiss chard, parsnips, carrot, fennel, herbs, rocket is also a great early cropper, fast as its name!

I have been experimenting with grafting tomatoes and aubergine, it's easy to do but just sounds complicated. I sow a crop of desired strain of tomato, then at the same time sow a crop of rootstock to graft onto. These seeds can be found online, however the reason for carrying out grafting onto a disease resistant and vigorous rootstock is to guarantee quality and quantity.

Once the seedlings are both about 75/90 mm high, with a clean new razor blade, cut carefully the tops off of the rootstock (estamino) and discard; then remove the tops from the desired stock and drop through a special neoprene tube placed over the rootstock stump. Do not leave too many leaves, then cover with black plastic for about a week and then remove the black plastic, only allowing partial light for the next two weeks until once again resuming full light conditions.

Please do come to our meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March at 8 pm, all are welcome. We have Steve Harmer presenting a talk on the history of Sissinghurst Gardens.

## The Harrow Pétanque Club

Here we go again!

After a successful 2019 Kent League summer season for The Percherons, where they finished second in their division and potentially gained promotion for the coming Kent summer season (its all very complicated!) and The Shires ended the season mid table, the new summer pétanque league season starts soon and we invite anyone who would like to give pétanque a try, to come to one of our open sessions. Age or experience are immaterial as coaching and equipment will be provided; the whole family can come along!

Taster sessions will take place between 6.45 and 7.45pm on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. You are welcome to stay and watch a winter league match too, starting at 8.00pm on both of those Wednesdays if you so wish.

Wrap up warmly if you're coming along as pétanque is played outside in all weathers!

Come along and support this community sport at The Harrow which is under new management.

For more information call Mike Capelin on 07715-276132



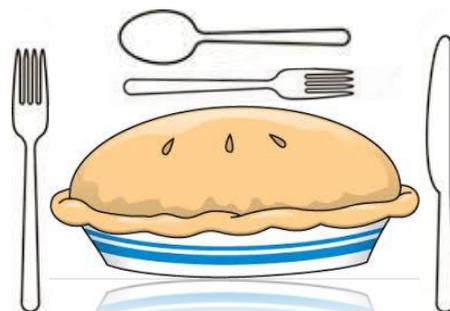
## Stockbury WI Pie Lunch

**Saturday 25th April**

**Stockbury Village Hall**

**12.30 - 2.30pm**

**Adults £8.50 Children under 12 yrs £5**



**Includes Desert & Tea or Coffee  
Everyone Is Welcome To Join Us**

For details and tickets please ring  
Pat Fothergill on 01622 734093

# THE HARROW PUB

THE STREET  
STOCKBURY, ME9 7UH

**Friday 13th March**

Fish & Chip Night - £10 pp

**Sunday 22nd March**

**Mother's Day**

Treat that special lady of the family and book for Sunday lunch @ The Harrow  
Add a bottle of Prosecco and tulips for an extra £15.

**Wednesday 25th March**

**Games Night at The Harrow**

Bring along the family, your competitive side and your favourite game from 6pm.  
Lasagna or vegetarian pasta dish just £5pp

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OR

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OR

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# Stockbury & Hartlip CC

## Pre Season Report



Our inaugural season went about as well as could have been expected given that we were struggling for players all season. We played 11 games of which we managed to draw 5, however we are still looking for our first win.

We did have some good performances from individual batsmen but overall our bowling left a lot to be desired.

Club caps were presented to Ted Ratcliffe for his 123 not out, Joe Martin 116 not out, Oscar Ratcliffe 62 and 61 and Jon Brignall 50 and 61.

Unfortunately none of these players are available this season and as they were four of our 5 younger players the average age of our squad this year is likely to increase to 55+.

Trophies were awarded to ... Paul White the Batting Award for his consistent batting performances, Keith Mariner the Bowling Award for his figures of 3 for 28 against Davington, Michael Kinney the Fielding Award for his great catch whilst injured and the Clubman of the Year Award was presented to Damian Doran for his unbounded enthusiasm for the game of cricket.

We currently have 19 fixtures confirmed for this season and any gaps will be hopefully filled via the fixture bureau.

We welcomed three new players to the squad last year, Enrique Page, Charlie Hamilton and Dave Wellard but we still need more players as us old folk are liable to get a few injuries throughout the season and we could do with more new blood.

Previous experience as a player is less important than wanting to play a great game on a Sunday afternoon with a delicious tea thrown in for the measly sum of £12.

If you would like to play or are interested in umpiring on a regular basis please contact either **Roger Milton** on **01795-844642** or Paul White on **01795-843732**.

## Organ Donation Law in England is Changing

From 20 May 2020, organ donation in England will move from an 'opt in' to an 'opt out' system. You may also hear it referred to as 'Max & Keira's Law'

This means that all adults in England will be considered to have agreed to be an organ donor when they die unless they have recorded a decision not to donate or are in one of the excluded groups.

You still have a choice if you want to be an organ donor or not when you die but you need to record your decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register and its advised you also tell your family and friends what you have decided.

THANK  
YOU



Working together with  
the Down's Syndrome  
Community in Kent to  
raise expectations and  
realise potential

A big thank you to all of those that contributed to the 21 Together collection tin that is on the bar in The Harrow. It was recently emptied and had a princely sum of £66.62. Thank you so much, all those odd bits of shrapnel add up and make a big difference, helping local children with Down's Syndrome.

Whilst I'm at it, all those Amazon users out there, please make sure you use the Smile version, <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/gp/charity/homepage> (or just put 'Amazon Smile' into your favourite internet search thingy) where you can nominate 21 Together or any other registered charity of your choice. Every time you spend with them through the Smile site, they will donate 0.5% to your chosen charity. Half a percent may not sound like much but in the same way the odd pennies in the collection tin add up, so does Smile.

Thank you,  
Dave Canham

## STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

### Calling All Passengers

### Amendment! Amendment! Amendment!

Hello All!

A quick update is required. I have heard from one or two people regarding our first trip this year in March, that is to say it would appear we are up for a garden centre visit **BUT NOT** the same one as last year i.e. Bybrook Barn!!

So, based on opinion I have chosen Canterbury Chartham Garden Centre which is just outside on the A28. Still earmarked for **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** and you still need to contact me direct so I can decide whether it's on or not.

*So are You coming?  
Have you got any more ideas?  
Will look forward to catching up as soon*

Kevin Masters  
Mobile: 07901 511018  
email: [kevinmasters1@aol.com](mailto:kevinmasters1@aol.com)

## Cockett's Corner Ditty

After all the rainy months, a sunny day  
Persuaded me to put my gumboots right away  
Even those who suffered much from flooding  
Will start to see their flora a-budding

The month of March is really not too late  
To offer your help for VE Day celebrations  
Spare a little time beforehand if you may  
Or even just assistance on the day!

Ed - VE Day is Friday 8th May, 2020, see you there!



# 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](http://www.elliottinstall.o.uk)**

**Email: [info@elliottinstall.co.uk](mailto:info@elliottinstall.co.uk)**



**CALLING ALL TRAD**  
**-GAMERS!**



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.





## Patrik Says ....

Dear Residents

A busy start to the year and much to report:

### **Garden Bins**

The garden bins will continue to be emptied fortnightly for an annual charge of £40 or £36 for a smaller bin.

From **1 March 2020** the annual paper or electronic invoices will be replaced with an annual reminder email or text message with a link to the online payment portal. When a customer's next renewal is due, they will receive a final invoice via post or email (depending on their existing preferences) with a link to the new payment portal. Customers who have no other option than to pay by cash for the service can continue to do so and will be provided with an invoice which can be paid at a Pay Point.

### **Some Great News - Fly-Tipper Prosecuted**

A Maidstone fly-tipper is to complete a 12-month Community Order after Maidstone Borough Council's Waste Crime Team prosecuted him for fly-tipping on a private driveway. Mr Paul Earwaker was prosecuted for depositing a large amount of household waste in May 2019.

Mr Earwaker committed the offence in the middle of the day while the homeowner was inside the property. The incident was caught on the homeowner's CCTV and when they realised what had happened, they reported to the Waste Crime Team who later seized the offender's vehicle and interviewed him about the offence.

In court the defendant pleaded guilty to the offence of illegally depositing waste and was handed a 12-month community order where he will have to complete 80 hours of unpaid work, undertake mandatory rehabilitation activities and pay costs of £1,310.

Maidstone Borough Councils Waste Crime Manager Jamie Duffy said: 'Maidstone will not stand for any act of fly tipping within the Borough, we take the approach to seize fly-tippers' vehicles and can sell or destroy the vehicle where possible.'

### **Not So Great News**

#### **Off-Street Parking Charges Will Go Up**

At Committee I voted with the Conservative Group to stop this proposal, which will harm our local business and hurt rural residents who have no other option but to come to Maidstone by car. Unfortunately we lost this vote.

### **Planning Enforcement**

There are currently two levels of priority, depending on severity. If irreparable damage is being caused and works are in progress, an officer will visit the site within two working days of receiving a report. In all other cases offending sites will be visited within 10 working days.

I previously proposed a 24/7 – 365 triage officer to follow any report immediately but there is currently not enough money for such a proposal. It would require at least

another full-time officer position. Currently I am one of a handful of lone voices calling for further strengthening of the planning enforcement team, amid rumours circulating in the corridors of Maidstone House that cuts to planning services are being considered – watch this space.

### **Authority-Monitoring-Report-2018-19**

By law Maidstone is required to produce this report. If you are spending extended times in an airport lounge or the like and you would like to learn everything there is to know about Maidstone, you could do much worse than having a browse through this very interesting document. Seriously recommended and paid for by your taxes:

[http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/321798/Authority-Monitoring-Report-2018-19.pdf](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/321798/Authority-Monitoring-Report-2018-19.pdf)

### **MBC Awarded Funds To Help Rough Sleepers**

The MBC Outreach Service has been awarded £375,750 by the Government to help rough sleepers across the borough.

After receiving initial funding as part of the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) in September 2018, the MBC team has been leading the way on a number of projects preventing rough sleeping and homelessness. The funds are part of a Central Government grant of £112 million which is to be shared between local authorities to help tackle rough sleeping.

Since 2018 the MBC Outreach Team has worked with 178 people to support them away from the streets into positive outcomes through a variety of ways, including social housing stock, private rent solutions, supported housing, housing first and temporary accommodation. 128 individuals were resettled.

The most recent MBC street-count, which took place in January 2020, showed that there were zero people rough-sleeping in the town centre. The local Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter only had six occupants at the time, some of whom were not local people to the borough. While I did not participate at the recent count, I personally took part at previous counts and I am confident that these numbers are as accurate as can be.

### **And finally**

Last month I reported about a Conservative Councillors' sponsored letter to the Secretary of State. In that Maidstone asks to be given some breathing space and that the required housing numbers should not be increased before the current Local Plan ends in 2031. Indeed, the Leaders of each of our five political groups are signatories to this letter, as well as Maidstone & The Weald's MP Helen Grant. By the time the Observer went to press, I wrongly assumed that our MP and the Leader of Kent County Council were also signatories to this letter. Very unfortunate that they declined to support Maidstone's Councillors.

PATRIK GARTEN

MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward (Conservative)

Email: [patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk)

Phone: 01622-807907

(for back-copies of my Newsletters see: <https://www.stockbury.org.uk/observer>)

# Observer Deadline!

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

**MONDAY 23rd March**

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 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](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.

# 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 buyer and vendor.

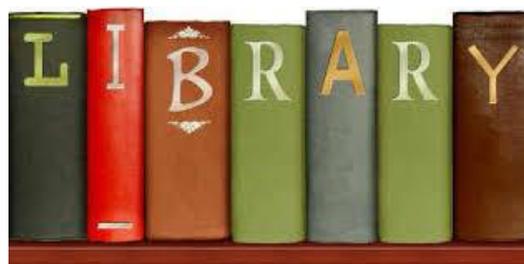
## FOR SALE

Panasonic 46" Plasma flat screen TV, model TH-46PZ80B excellent condition, includes original remote control and instruction book  
**£25**

TV stand, smoked glass and chrome  
110cm (w),  
40cm (d),  
52cm (h),  
very good condition  
**£10**



Contact David - 07719 575890



## Mobile Library Dates

12th & 26th

March 2020

At the Village Hall

9.10 - 9.40am



# STOCKBURY

SATURDAY  
8<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**VE DAY** 11 A.M. ONWARDS

75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

11am Commemoration at the War Memorial followed by a "Bring & Share Street Party"  
2pm Morris Dancers  
3pm - Toast to the end of WWII

Games on the field  
Tea & Coffee provided in the NAFFI (village hall)  
Cake Stall  
Plant Sale by Stockbury Gardeners  
Dog Obedience Demonstration  
Tractor Rides in the Orchard  
Raffle by the Not So Young Club  
Various other stalls

1940's dress encouraged!

Stockbury Village  
V E Day Celebrations  
Your Village Needs YOU!



Our V E day Celebrations on Friday 8th May need volunteers for:

- Setting up and clearing away on the day
- Marshalls to support road safety
- Running tea and coffee in the hall
- Preparing some food/salads for sharing platters
- Currently qualified first aiders
- Organising games for the adults

Please contact Anne Southern at [southernanne@gmail.com](mailto:southernanne@gmail.com)  
Or phone: 01795-842850 to offer your support

## Stockbury Village VE Day Celebrations - Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

### Village Field



From 12.30 PM Children's games

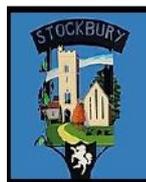
Dog club demonstration

Plant stall

Cake stall

NSY raffle

Others tbc



### Village Green

Peoples bring & share lunch from 1.30 PM

&

Toast to the end of war at 3 PM



Morris Dancing Demonstration 2 PM

### The Memorial



Short ceremony of Remembrance at 11 AM



### The Orchard

Tractor Club with rides

& Lams from 10 AM



### Village Hall



War Memorabilia Exhibition

Teas & Coffee

To be used for the lunch if raining



### The Harrow Pub

Opens 12.30 PM

Jacket Potatoes

## Useful Contact Information

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Rev'd Julian Staniforth	01795 - 227329.
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Cricket Club	Roger Milton - <a href="mailto:rogerandirene@btinternet.com">rogerandirene@btinternet.com</a>	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	<a href="mailto:stockburygardeners@live.com">stockburygardeners@live.com</a>	
Golf Society	Jeff Hall	01795 843296
Hall Bookings	Sue Porter	01795 843715
Kent County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast <a href="mailto:shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk">shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk</a>	
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
Member of Parliament Faversham & Mid Kent Ward	Helen Whately - <a href="mailto:helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk">helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk</a>	
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 - <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	Daniel Genn <a href="mailto:daniel.genn@kent.pnn.police.uk">daniel.genn@kent.pnn.police.uk</a>	101
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	Ann Rich - <a href="mailto:ann.stockbury@btinternet.com">ann.stockbury@btinternet.com</a>	07718 070807
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
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