



THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

October 2020

The Stockbury Roundabout Update

After the postponement of the Inquiry earlier this year, the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Planning Inspectorate have now re-scheduled it. The Inquiry will now commence on **9th November at 10:00** and will last approximately 10 days. More details will be available after the “virtual” Pre-Inquiry Meeting (PIM) to be held on 29th September; unfortunately just one day after the deadline for this article. Details of proceedings will be summarised on the Parish Council Facebook page and electronic copies of any documents that emerge from it will be made available via Sherrie Babington, our Parish Clerk.

The PIM will be held online via Microsoft Teams and is basically the Planning Inspector’s chance to lay out the rules for the conduct of the Inquiry proper, including the submission of evidence, timings and etiquette.

We do not know yet whether the Inquiry will be held online or at a physical venue; discussions are still taking place between the DfT and the Planning Inspectorate to determine whether a physical Inquiry would be feasible under the current COVID restrictions or, indeed, safe! Even if they find a way of holding the Inquiry physically, attendance will be strictly limited and may not allow for people to attend as observers. Observation is likely to be restricted to an online broadcast.

Bearing in mind the parlous state of internet connection in some parts of the Parish and the fact that some of us are less than fully competent with these things (I include myself in that group), the DfT is also looking at how they might provide viewing facilities in the Village Hall or another suitable venue. This would enable people to view proceedings together with suitable social distancing, cleaning arrangements etc.

All the above is less than ideal but the DfT seems to be doing its collective best to find a practical way of enabling the Inquiry to take place in very difficult national circumstances.

The view of the Parish Council remains the same: we will support the need for the roundabout to be re-modelled but put the case that it should only go ahead once the current scheme has been upgraded to include a safe route of access to, and egress from, the village as an integral part of the scheme.

Phil Woods
Chair
SPC

Our Local Hero

Congratulations Roger!

Stockbury & Hartlip Cricket Club is delighted to congratulate Roger Milton on receiving this year’s Raise the Bat Award for Kent. This award recognises the efforts of the unsung heroes whose work is vital to so many grass roots clubs.

After the club withdrew from the KVCL a couple of years ago due to younger players moving away, Roger was determined that cricket should continue in Stockbury. He stepped in as captain and fixture secretary arranging friendly matches and recruiting players, many of whom were new to the game. Last season, he took over production and distribution of the fixture book generating revenue from advertisers and sponsors.

Roger re-started the club in 2008 taking over as groundsman a few years later when the then groundsman moved away, including maintenance of the village hall car park and the children’s playground within his duties. Ironically, whilst undertaking this extended role earlier this year, he fell fracturing his hip. Although unable to play since recovering from surgery, he still managed to produce this season’s fixture book as well as continuing his maintenance work through most of the lockdown period and preparing pitches since matches re-started, despite still walking with the aid of a crutch.

Roger is vital to the club. Without his passion for the game (until his injury he was a keen member of the Kent over 70s team), indomitable enthusiasm, determination and hard work the club would cease to exist.

Glen Martin



**MacMillan CoffeeMorning
@ The Harrow
25th September**

Many thanks to all those who supported the coffee morning which raised a magnificent £421.50 and was a very enjoyable morning. Particular thanks are due to:

- Edo/Mike and all the staff at The Harrow for letting us use the pub and for the excellent service provided
- Irene and Wendy for all their help with the raffle and money collection.
- Wendy and Jess for scones/cakes – We are all expecting that Jess will become a future star of The Great British Bake Off in the near future!

Sue Porter

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Stockbury Village Hall

The hall is now open for Pilates on Wednesdays at 9.30am and Zumba on Fridays at 9.30am. If anyone is interested in hiring the hall for anything else, please contact one of us for more details.

Mick Bingham - 01795-842480
Sue Porter - 01795-843715

St Mary Magdalene, Stockbury



Now that we have had the final inspection by the architect of the recent works, we are opening the church every Sunday from 10am to 5pm.

This will be for private prayer and the government's advice on social distancing will need to be followed. Also, a register will need to be kept of all those entering the church. Hand gel will be provided but there will no access to the toilet area.

The clergy are looking into when the services at Stockbury can resume within the rules set by the Diocese, however until then, services are taking place at other churches of The Six. Please refer to the website for details of times and locations. You are most welcome to attend.

For baptisms, weddings and funerals please contact The Revd Julian Staniforth - tel. 01795 - 227329.

Penny Stevens
PCC secretary

September Church Draw Winners

CONGRATULATIONS!

1st - Linda Nicholas
£40 (192)

2nd - Charlotte Dryhurst
£20 (250)

3rd - Anne Breiner



Stockbury & Hartlip CC

Our third game of the season against Sturry ran true to form as with Joe having removed their opener for a duck, their next three batsmen took advantage of some indifferent bowling and it was left to our later bowlers to keep them quiet. Joe bowled a good spell to finish with 2 for 32, our oldest bowler Geoff (a septuagenarian) got 3 wickets for 20, Henry Collister had 2 for 35 and A Pout 2 for 18. They finished on 202 and we ran them close with a quick 32 including 8 extras with only Jon Brignall offering resistance with 19.

A hastily arranged fixture against Woodcombe produced a far better batting performance but we were chasing a high total of 257. Damian removed both their high scorers (105 and 83) and finished with 3 for 98; Henry once again bowled well to get his wicket and Joe bowled a tight spell without any luck. Jon asked if he could open the batting and immediately regretted it as he was out for 1, however Joe finished 73 not out and with contributions from Oscar 46, Paul 43 and Henry 26 we managed to post a good score of 218 without managing to win.

Our match at Downe was played on an indifferent pitch and an atrocious outfield. The pitch did not seem to affect their batsmen with one reaching 105 and two others of 76 not out and 52 not out. However I am reliably informed that we dropped 8 catches with 6 of them off of Damian's spin bowling. (he was not a happy bunny). Our innings proved what a bad strip it was, with only Paul reaching a score with 22 and we stumbled to 79 all out. The day was spoilt when we were charged £30 for the pleasure of playing on their "pitch" which is something that all the other teams we played said was bad form. We will not be playing them next year!!!

Old Gravesendians visited us next and it was a very close game. We actually batted first because we had a relatively strong batting side and to a degree that proved to be the case, with Oscar leading the way with 72. Joe 39, Andy Murphy 38, Paul 16 and Mark 14 all weighed in to produce a total of 200. Their Captain and opener carried his bat for 89 in their reply and others contributed to a run chase that succeeded in the penultimate over thus denying us our first win. Wickets were obtained by Joe, Colby Barnes, Andy Murphy and Damian with 1 each.

L.A.P.D. were our guests again and as they beat us last year courtesy of a 90 plus from Andrew Mowatt (an ex Stockbury player) we were eager to remove him cheaply when they batted first. Unfortunately he managed to reach 85 before we managed it but luckily only one other batsman gave him any help. They finished on 154 with Kieth Mariner getting 2 wickets (he bagged 3 last year) Andy Murphy 2, Henry 1 and a first wicket (at last) for Enrique Page. Our reply was steady with Oscar getting 54 and Paul 64 not out as we crept to 155 and our first win.

Davington were entertained next and remembering last year when we managed to force a draw in the gloom they decided to put us in first. Unfortunately their strategy



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... cont'd S&HCC

worked too well as only the skipper, Paul, made a game of it with 41 not out in a total of 78. They managed to knock them off in 13 overs but did lose two wickets to Luke Collins.

We were unable to raise a team for our fixture against Westfield near Hastings so had to rely on Lenham playing badly in our final match. Unfortunately they did not oblige and their centurion from last year made his way to 95 before being removed by Keith. Their number four finished on 77 not out with Andrew Mowatt (guest) Christopher Apps (guest) and Enrique bagging one wicket each in their total of 254.

Our reply flattered to deceive as we were briefly up with the run rate when Andrew smote the first ball for 4 but only added 1 before being bowled and was followed swiftly by Jon in the same over. Only Enrique batted well getting 17 which was 15 more than he had scored all season. We finished on 56 but were one man short again so who knows what we would have achieved with a full team!!!

Everyone who has played for us or against us has really enjoyed their selves so overall it was a successful season.

Roger Milton

Stockbury Book Club



Where The Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

At our first “socially distanced” face to face meeting since lockdown we discussed “Where the Crawdads Sing”, a debut novel by Delia Owens.

The story follows two timelines that slowly intertwine. The first timeline describes the life and adventures of a young girl named Kya as she grows up isolated in the marsh of North Carolina from 1952–1969. The second timeline follows a murder investigation of Chase Andrews, a local celebrity of Barkley Cove, a fictional coastal town of North Carolina.

Descriptions and comments included “ a fascinating book with plausible characterisation”, “magical and poetic language against a backdrop of deprivation”, “enjoyed the characters development which were very believable as were the background characters as well”.

One member said that she enjoyed the descriptions so much that she would not like to see it as a film as it could spoil her reading of the book (one is being filmed).

Another member was fascinated because of the way the early life of the protagonist was described in the face of the grinding poverty and because of interest in having visited the area written about.

Other comments related to specific occurrences in the book which had particular resonance with members of the club but which I will not articulate here as I would not

club but which I will not articulate here as I would not wish to spoil the book for anyone wishing to read it. The book “kept me gripped and surprised right until the end”.

This was a book that everyone in Stockbury Book Club enjoyed and rated highly. All scored this book 9/10. We are looking forward to seeing Hartlip book club’s comments on the same title.

Next months book is After The Fire by John Pilkington.

After The Fire by John Pilkington

Well, what an interesting meeting we had this month.

We met at socially acceptable distances and started with the usual chat checking on how everybody was before starting around the room, reviewing ‘After The Fire’ by John Pilkington”

The comments flowed, “not really interested”, “not impressed”, “ditto”, “boring, boring boring” Then we came to the member who had recommended the book, “fantastic, brilliant, loved it”; it was then we realised the rest of us had read a different book!!!!

The recommended book was “And After The Fire” by Lauren Belfore”. In our defence, if you look online there are at least 6 versions of books called “After The Fire”, we could have all read a different book! They majority view was not good for the John Pilkington version but we are going to read the originally recommended book in the future. This is the first time, since we started this group, that we have had a mix up.

After The Fire by John Pilkington was given an average score of 3.

This month we are reading “Papillon” by Henri Charrière’ when, with the new rule of 6, we will be back to online chats.

Jackie Smith
Bev Martin



Temporary Road Closures

Cox Street, Yelsted – 16th October 2020 between the hours of 09:30 and 16:30.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Yelsted Lane and White Hill Road while maintenance works are undertaken by BT.

Chalky Road, Stockbury – 26th October 2020 for up to 3 days between the hours of 08:00 and 17:00.

The road will be closed from between the junctions with South Street Road and Steps Hill Road while pole works are undertaken by BT.



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- -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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STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

Bus survey - What you have told us so far ...

In 2010, residents of Stockbury were asked to sign up to support the bid to get a community bus. These people became members and entitled to use the bus. In July this year, 85 of these original households were contacted by mail. (Those known to have moved away or died were removed). The purpose was to check and confirm details under new General Data Protection Regulations and to take the opportunity to survey opinion on the future use of the bus.

To date, only 17 households have not returned a form. These will be removed from the register in due course if nothing comes back. As a result, 53 households remain on the list with 100 residents positively disposed towards the bus services. The positive responses to using the bus are as follows:

Shopping in Sittingbourne	34	Shopping in Maidstone	47	Shopping in Hempstead Valley/Tesco	47	Day Trips	47
Evening Trips	43	Private Bookings	27	Village transport for events eg VE Day	18	Local club trips away	29
Harrow Lunch Club	23	Other lunch trips eg pubs, garden centres	41	Other ideas? Theatre, galleries, Kew, Bedgebury, lift to The Harrow or MB Farms, move Sittingbourne run to Friday for the market			

This suggests that significantly more use can be made of our bus once the current Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. That said, a local club booked the bus to make a safe, 'covid-secure' trip. The bus was thoroughly cleaned before and after at Tomsett's, the users were advised to wear masks and to limit the seating to keep a safe distance.

In order to revive and refresh the services, we desperately need more drivers and people willing to do some of the organisation. It is not that arduous and the trips themselves are always good fun.

If you can help in any way, or you want to be included as a new member to use the bus, please contact us on our designated email: communitybus-stockbury@hotmail.co.uk

If you have lost or forgotten to return the form, it is not too late to contact us on the same email address or get it to MB Farm shop, who kindly collected all the replies for us.



Stockbury Gardeners

This will be the first digital gardeners report in history; what's more, there is no news to report about the Stockbury Gardeners due to the continuing CV19 situation. What I can report is that as soon as we are able to reconvene our function as a society we will. A round up follows instead and please accept my apologies as it is all about our garden and activities.

All major shows were cancelled Chelsea, Hampton Court, etc. even the National Vegetable Society national show in Dundee was cancelled!! So, the fact that Stockbury cancelled its shows and meetings came as no surprise.

However Diana and I have just returned from what was the countries only Covid compliant vegetable show/competition. This incorporated the world giant vegetable competition and what became the National Vegetable Show. The best that we could muster was a second place with the onions and leeks. See picture.

On our return Di and myself called in at RHS Wisley for a couple of hours, of course obeying said guidelines from Boris and marvelled at the new work being carried out on the re-build of Wisley.

I am sure that there is no copyright on the diagram below, (as if I would care anyway?) but I photographed the chart indicating the use of green manures. If you have never heard of this technique of soil improvement it is worth a go. It fixes nitrogen from the air and improves humus in the soil and feeds microbes etc. it works if you sow the seeds which are fast growing in the late summer after crops have been removed. Once the seed heads of said seeds are forming in the flower head you terminate the life of what are essentially "annuals" by digging the plants into the soil. You must NOT allow seeds to form or you will have introduced a new weed into the garden. They do not tell you that on the packet though. So here I am waiting to be sued by the RHS!!!

Good luck to our editor with the new look electronic Observer and also our other contributors, keep it up we MUST stay connected until we get over this horror.



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Patrik Says

Dear Residents

Well, well, well ... we live in very strange times. When, only a year ago, I mused about the theory of a guaranteed minimum income, one could have thought that I had a spell of a Corbyn-esque attack. Twelve months on, the world is an entirely different place. National and international thinking is changing more rapidly than ever experienced in living memory for most of us. Ethical measures, born out of emergencies, make our national administration a very 'progressive Conservative Government'. Persistent furlough, imposed with taxpayers' money may well lead us into a guaranteed minimum wage society by default ... Besides philosophising about the 'maybes' of the future, one thing is clear, Central Government must push urgent solutions for the problems of the whole nation.

The problem is that one-size-fits-all solutions rarely bring fairness. While this nation clearly needs more housing and house-building will provide a much-needed boost to the economy, we cannot accommodate all the demand in the South-East. This puts local South Eastern politicians at loggerheads with our masters in Westminster, especially local Conservative members. We have the understanding and support of all but one Kent Conservative MP. The one who did not sign the joint petition is the one who, as a Minister of State, is now in the inner circles of Government.

As I explained before, local authorities are bound by a Central Government formula to provide housing numbers. You may have heard that the government wants to revamp the planning system, which is, in principle, not necessarily a bad idea. What causes local planners and politicians of all colours (!) massive headaches is the change of the housing numbers formula. Even worse, the change of formula may be brought in by government guidance, long before the new planning legislation passes parliament. In order to build 300,000 new homes annually, Boris cannot wait until the wheel of planning law has been reinvented.

Maidstone's Local Plan under the current formula requires 883 new houses to be built annually. Under the required current plan review we would have to increase the target by 40% to 1214 homes. However, if the proposed new government formula kicks in, before we reach final public consultation point (Reg. 19), this figure could potentially be 1569 new houses per year, an increase of almost 80%.

Throughout August, MBC officers and members were frantically juggling figures and scenarios on how to accelerate our Local Plan Review, in order to avoid those devastating increases of housing numbers. All local politicians of all parties know that most Maidstone residents do not want any more new housing estates over and above our really local needs.

So how could we speed up the Plan Review? The Strategic Infrastructure Committee (SIC) had two sessions in September. As a member of that committee I said that we live in strange times indeed. For instance, Government had to suspend Parliament last year in order to achieve the democratic will of the people (Brexit), so would we have to suspend a time-consuming public consultation to fulfil the people's real democratic wishes of lower housing targets? I voted and had my votes included in the minutes, to dispense with what is known as Regulation 18b Public Consultation and go straight to Regulation 19 Consultation.

In VERY lay-man's terms, Reg 18 asks the public what we should do – we know it, to provide lower housing targets in any possible way – Reg 19 will then ask the public if you like what we came up with.

The SIC Committee saw strenuous debates around how quickly MBC should act and the risks involved regarding the proposed numbers. All committee members appeared united on the objective of acting quickly before higher numbers could be imposed.

The difference between the Conservative Group and the Liberals however, is how quickly to achieve this. My friends and I voted to dispense with Reg 18 and go straight to Reg 19. The Liberals were less bold, they are concerned that an inspector could later find that we did not consult with the public in the spirit of the law and thus invalidate our Plan. Therefore they opted for an abbreviated Reg 18b consultation. This will take longer, may well push us into the remit of higher housing numbers and, indeed, may be equally challenged as not sufficient because it was abbreviated. I called this move 'useless'.

Worst-case scenario is death. Whatever we do, we can't do worse than dying. In planning terms, worst-case scenario is higher housing numbers being imposed on us. So why not be bold and take the bravest option? I am not saying that going straight to Reg 19 is a silver bullet, I am merely saying that not doing so will expose us to such a risk that failure is almost certain.

On my 2016 election trail, I promised you I would feed back the good news and the bad, from the Town Hall; the Liberal sponsored decision was a fatal mistake in the eyes of your Ward Councillor.

I have no crystal ball but regular readers over the past years may have learned to appreciate the accuracy of my predictions. If we cannot guarantee low housing numbers in our local plan, then what's the point of having a Local Plan at all?

The good but extremely selfish, news is that only 12 (twelve!) of those 31,000 (thirty-one thousand!) homes may be built in my ward – for now we are getting away with it

PATRIK GARTEN
MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward (Conservative)

Email: patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk
Phone: 01622-807907



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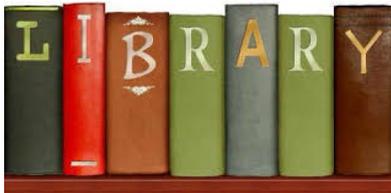


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9.10 - 9.40am

At the Village Hall

FOOD BANK

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Thank you

Observer Deadline!

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

MONDAY 26th October

Please email your contributions to
stockburyobserver@gmail.com

Cockett's Corner Ditty

Under the bridge where the ditch is
There lives a small coven of witches
They'll let you go by
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Useful Contact Information

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Hall Bookings	Sue Porter	01795 843715
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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