

# THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

*'In the Garden of England'*

## November '17 Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Wed	1st	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
Thurs	2nd	Gardeners	8.00-10.00pm
		Bowls	7.30-9.30pm
Fri	3rd	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30pm
Sat	4th	Private Booking	5.00-11.45pm
Sun	5th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	6th		
Tues	7th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
		NSYC	7.30-9.30pm
Wed	8th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		W.I.	2.00-4.00pm
Thurs	9th	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm
Fri	10th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30pm
Sat	11th	Chrysanthemum Society	2.00-5.00pm
Sun	12th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
		Chrysanthemum Society Show	All Day
Mon	13th		
Tues	14th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	15th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		Craft & Chatter	2.00-4.00pm
		Parish Council	7.30-9.30pm
Thurs	16th	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm
Fri	17th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30pm
Sat	18th	PCC Fun Quiz	7.00-10.30pm
Sun	19th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	20th		
Tues	21st	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
		NSYC	7.30-9.30pm
Wed	22nd		
Thurs	23rd	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm
Fri	24th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30pm
Sat	25th		
Sun	26th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	27th		
Tues	28th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	29th		
Thurs	30th	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm

## THE HARROW

### Internet Café

An internet drop in session is to be held regularly at the pub starting in November. It's envisaged initially every two weeks, on a weekday or on a Saturday morning but this is subject to change and could be held more or less often due to its popularity and the availability of volunteers to run it.

Volunteers with laptops will be available at each session so that villagers without computers can come to the pub and access online services/offers that they would otherwise be unable to, or just contact friends and family. Help can also be given to teaching people how to use computers/tablets and we also have a printer.

Villagers without fast broadband (there are quite a few!) are also welcome to bring their own laptops to the sessions to use the fast broadband in the pub.

If anyone is interested in attending these sessions, or volunteering to hold a session we would love to hear from you and if anyone has a laptop to donate it would be most welcome.

Anyone interested in any aspect of the internet café should contact:

Anne Southern 01795 842850

### Senior Citizens Lunch Club

We are delighted to tell you about the new lunch club planned for The Harrow which will commence in November. The overall aim is to offer a social occasion for people to meet, have a really good meal and a drink. Those who might be interested will be:

Over 70 years old and or widowed

Those living alone

Those who would enjoy some company

Lunch will be £6.00 for one course with tea / coffee, £7.50 with dessert.

Transport will be provided for those who need it and the plan is to have the lunch club on a Tuesday.

If you would like to come along or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact:

Penny Spearman 01795 842914

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Observer!**

# St Mary Magdalene Church

## Stockbury



The services for September are as follows:-

5 November – 3.0pm: Sung Communion

12 November – 10.50am:  
Remembrance commencing at the  
War Memorial

19 November - 3.0pm  
Sung Communion

26 November - 3.0pm  
Evensong

### **Please note the time change**

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

There will be a Fun Quiz held in aid of the church on Saturday 18 November in the village hall starting at 7.30pm. Please contact Brenda Mace for tickets. on 01622-884746.

Penny Stevens - PCC Secretary

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

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

### **October Church Draw Winners**

#### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

1st - Betty Town (£40) (71)

2nd - Shirley Moss (£20) (39)

3rd - Penny Stevens (£10) (122)



Instead of our usual monthly meeting in the Village Hall, we decided to support The Harrow Public House and have lunch there. Most enjoyable it was too and I would recommend it whole heartedly.

The WI will be serving mince pies and sausage rolls at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, where there will be lots of seasonal stalls to buy your Christmas gifts and produce. Hope to see you there.

We are also making plans for the annual and well loved 'Carols on The Green' event, which this year will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December with the Salvation Army Band; so please make a note of the date in your diary.

Our next WI meeting will be in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at the earlier time of 2pm. We are having speaker Mr. Fred Lemont to give us a talk on the 'History of Greeting Cards', so please come along and join us.

Heather Tomsett

## **STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS**

### **Calling All Passengers**

So here we go again!  
Where to this time? I hear you ask!

With another success under our belt, it's time for our much discussed trip to the

### **Canterbury Christmas Market**

You will remember it was suggested and talked about earlier in the year so we are expecting plenty of interest.

The market is in Whitefriars Square from 28th November until Christmas Eve; we will be going on **Wednesday 6th December**. It doesn't open until 10am so there is no need to rush, we can gather together at our normal time of 9.30am and make our way out the village through Sittingbourne, Teynham and Faversham down the A2 and we'll be there by 11am. Then the time is your own to do as you wish until we leave for home at about 4pm.

The trip will be free for concession holders and £5:00 return per person for those without, payable as before on the day.

So what are you waiting for??

**Contact Fiona now!**  
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Our usual T's&C's apply

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

## Post Office Hours

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

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

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

## National Lottery Now Available

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



## STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

Mondays - Sittingbourne

Tuesdays - Maidstone

Thursdays - Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (Savacentre)

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



## Does your dog need a bath or haircut?

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M: 07807 929602

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



# The Local Plan

## Patrik Says .....

Dear Residents

Welcome to my second Councillor's News-Letter. I'm starting to enjoy writing these.

This month was marred by the forthcoming Local Plan. In a last ditch attempt, our MP Helen Whately called in the Plan to Sajid Javid, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

As a result, all work at MBC ground to a sudden halt. Many committee meetings were cancelled and for me, as a Councillor, it appeared that August was extended (usually there is very little work for us during August). The officers however were busy running around and trying hardest to organise the chaos. The Full Council Meeting of 27 September was cancelled and the Local Plan was held in limbo.

Helen's intention was well meaning, hoping to reduce the housing numbers and stopping the controversial Junction 8 development.

Shock & horror !! - when just days after call-in, Mr Javid announced his plans for even higher housing numbers nationally! - you can't win in local politics!

As it stands, while I am writing, next Wednesday 25 Oct, the Local Plan will come before a special meeting of the Full Council. - Did you notice something? Yes, the Borough's most important meeting for the next 15 years is held during school half term - Ooops! -- I, for one, won't be able to attend.

As this may be, the Plan will most likely be ratified with the votes of the Liberals and some Independents.

We Conservatives will have a free vote, and many of our rural councillors will vote against it, in loud and strong protest: The Plan will expand excessively many villages, most of all Lenham, contains many unsuitable rural development sites (Hollingbourne and Staplehurst are amongst them) and it will give a green light to a business park near Junction 8. Traffic and infrastructure improvements are minimal, if not even counter-productive.

On a positive note, the Plan has no serious implications for us in Stockbury nor the AONB. A proposed development near Bimbury Lane/Aerodrome will be kicked in the very tall grass for now, and the Plan gives MBC some powers to defeat inappropriate enlargements, which otherwise may be thrust upon us by developers.

The choice is between a rock and a hard place.....

If you are not too busy, drop by to the Parish Council meetings and I would be very pleased to meet you there.

There are rumours, that afterwards I can be found in our Harrow Pub. *(Are those rumours true, Patrik?) - Ed*

Patrik Garten



## Oil Boiler Specialists

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

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

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

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01795 842291

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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

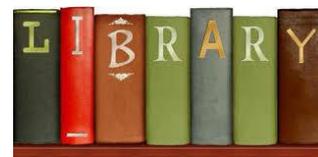
Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (*Co-ordinator*)  
(01622) 736331

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.



### Mobile Library Dates

**9th and 23rd November**

**At the Village Hall**

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## Stockbury Book Club

Over the past couple of months we've read 2 fairly short books; both were light reads and very entertaining.

The first was a biography by Jean Trumpington entitled "Coming up Trumps". Jean writes about her long and remarkable life in a witty, very opinionated style.

We enjoyed reading about her varied and colourful life, from when she studied art in Paris, became a land girl during World War II, was involved in Naval Intelligence at Bletchley and had some very happy years as a Headmaster's wife in Cambridge. She finally embarked on a political career and many of her tales feature well-known names.

We found it interesting to learn about the opinions of these people and we all enjoyed reading about her life when at Bletchley. We gave a score of 6 out of 10.

The second book was the very popular "A Street Cat Named Bob" by James Bowen. We gave it a score of 7 out of 10.

At the start, we read about how James, a busker in London, struggles to control his drug addiction and improve his life.

He tells us about how he found Bob, a stray ginger tom cat and how the relationship between them made a huge difference to his life. James takes on responsibility for caring for Bob, takes him busking with him and by the end of the book has managed to look forward in a positive way and make improvements in his life.

We thought that James's story gave us a thoughtful insight into the life of him and others who work on the streets as buskers or Big Issue sellers and we found the conclusion quite moving and positive. One comment was that the book gives a voice to someone who wouldn't normally be considered to be a writer. There is a sequel to this book, "The Further Adventures of Bob" which most of us would like to read and we plan to watch the film of Bob and James at Christmas.

Jan Butterfill



## STOCKBURY W.I

INVITE YOU TO  
**CAROLS ON THE GREEN**

WITH  
THE SALVATION ARMY BAND  
ON

FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017

7.00 TO 7.30pm

ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

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

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN TORCH OR  
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EVERYONE WELCOME

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



## Cockett's Corner Ditty

### The A249

If you need to waste sometime  
Try driving down the 249

The journey there will not be fun  
It would be quicker if you run

If road 'experts' get their way  
It could get much worse everyday

We have all filled out a questionnaire  
But might as well pull out our hair!



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# FUN QUIZ

*In aid of Stockbury Church*

*Saturday 18th November 2017*

*at Stockbury Village Hall*

*7.30 Start*

*£5.50 per person*

*(bring your own drinks)*

*Teams of 6-8 per table*

*Contact Brenda Mace    01622 884746*



# Stockbury Gardeners

I have just returned from a long walk with my dog's through Stockbury. Before settling down to write this piece I always try to focus on what's happening outside in the garden. The wind has just stopped blowing hard after "Hurricane Brian" and he has stripped a lot of still healthy leaves from the trees, it is lucky that we have not had a repeat of 1987. The Autumn has started to change the colour of the trees now and it's my favourite time of the year, looking at the assorted colours from brown to green and yellow and red. This year the berries are in abundance, pyracanthas is one example where the birds will be able to feed well into the winter.

I have seen reports that Red Admiral butterflies have made a healthy return this year, mainly due to the warm weather at the start of summer. That is good news, apparently they have been reported as increasing in numbers by around 75%.

This month the following can be carried out, don't think that because its nearly winter that you can put your feet up!! The following list is extensive so come on get stuck in.

- Collect seeds from seed heads and dry them for use next year.
- Prune roses to stop wind rock, take out wood which once removed will stop the wind damaging fine roots
- Prune shrubs that are overcrowded or out of shape.
- Maintain garden tools, clean with wire wool and oil blades
- Check for vine weevil in indoor pots and treat as required
- Take hardwood cuttings especially roses.
- Sow sweet peas now.

This month in the Gardeners we have a talk from Tom Hart Dyke, which was mentioned last month; he will be at the village hall at 8pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, we should be able to purchase his latest book as well. For those of you who may be at The Harrow that evening, Tom will be having supper prior to the meeting. All are welcome, the cost is £3.00 per person, members are free.

Seen in the chairman's car!!!  
(A new club member, Chris? - Ed)



"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies". – Gertrude Jekyll



## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 2nd December  
Stockbury Village Hall  
10.00 - 1.00pm

**FREE ENTRY**

*Christmas Cards & Paper, Crafts, Jewellery, Cosmetics, Honey Preserves, Cakes, Fresh Produce, Plants & Planters, Christmas Hamper Draw, Raffle Refreshments - Hot Mince Pies & Sausage Rolls*  
Contact Brenda Mace 01622 884746

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



# THE HARROW AT STOCKBURY

**We are now Serving a Full Menu**

**Lunch and Dinner  
Tuesday to Saturday**

**Sunday Lunch  
Only Between 12.00 and 4.00pm**

Friday 3rd will see the next Fish and Chip Friday at the Harrow.

On Saturday 18th November we have a seven course Gourmet Evening with guest chef Michael Jelley. The evening will consist of a seven course dinner with wine pairings included and will be £75 per head.

**Bookings are to be made directly with the pub for this event.**

We now have a Festive Menu printed and are taking bookings in December for lunch and dinner which will be 3 courses for £29 including coffee and mince pies.

We aim to start the Internet Café mornings within the next 2 weeks, which will be with Gavin.

Finally the Lunch Club will be up and running very soon with 1 course for £6.00 or 2 courses for £8.50 including tea or coffee.

**Due to a private event The Harrow will be closing early at 3pm on Sunday 26th November.**

## OPENING HOURS

Monday - Closed for now  
Tuesday - Thursday 12.00-23.00  
Friday & Saturday 12.00-12.00am  
Sunday 11.30-21.00pm

**Phone : 01795 843222**



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

IT'S CHRISTMAS  KEEP IT REAL 

## **STOCKBURY PARISH SHORT SHORTS**

provided by our very own Roving Reporters

- Following attendance at a Police Liaison meeting, the Parish Council was informed that PCSO's will no longer attend Parish Council meetings or presumably send any reports. The connection between them and the PC would appear to be discontinued. In view of this and general concern regarding any Police presence in Stockbury, a letter will be sent to the relevant Police representative asking for some dialogue on this matter.
- Concern was expressed on behalf of a resident about lorries parking for extended periods on Chalky Road. Considerable amounts of litter is being left behind.

A resident brought the PC's attention to a 'Quiet Lanes Project' being administered by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England. He asked the PC to consider adopting this in the Parish as his experience of this in other areas was that it had made some improvement to local lanes and had not cost much to implement. The PC agreed to consider the matter.

- Another resident (busy month!) raised the matter of the bus stop at the bottom of Honeycrook Hill. It would seem that an Arriva bus driver had informed one of her family members that buses would no longer be stopping there as it was considered too dangerous and difficult to exit the lay-by. The question was therefore asked – where is our nearest bus stop? Our MBC Councillor, Patrik Garten, agreed to take this up with Arriva, in an attempt to clarify and resolve the issue.

*That's it for this month folks!*

## **STOCKBURY CRICKET**

### **CLUB**

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PLAYERS!**

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## **Observer Deadline!**

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

**Friday 24th November, 2017**

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

## **Calling All Advertisers**

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

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

Our advertising year starts in June and new adverts for less than 12 months duration will be charged on a pro-rata basis. Rates for ads smaller than a quarter page will be given on application.

If you would like to take out an ad, please email [stockburyobserver@gmail.com](mailto:stockburyobserver@gmail.com) The editor will confirm receipt and an invoice will be sent along with details of how to pay.

If you are a new customer, please also attach your ad, preferable in MS Word or Powerpoint. Please bear in mind when designing your ad that large solid blocks of colour may not look so good in the black and white paper edition of The Observer, despite looking good for our online edition.

This is a great opportunity to promote your business as The Observer is delivered to every household within the Parish of Stockbury as well as having an online presence.

**It's never too late to advertise in  
The Stockbury Observer!**

## **Stockbury Parish Council Minutes**

The minutes for our Parish Council meeting will be approved at the following meeting and will then be published on [www.stockbury.org.uk](http://www.stockbury.org.uk) within 5 days of the meeting at which they are approved.

## Useful Contact Information

Cricket Club	Tom Bulbrook - <a href="mailto:th.bul2@yahoo.com">th.bul2@yahoo.com</a>	07780 440526
Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Revd Liz Cox - <a href="mailto:elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com">elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com</a>	01795 435184
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Crimestoppers	(Confidential)	0800 55511
Dancing Club	Brian Crisp	01634 231886
Dog Club	Mick Bingham	01795 842480
Electricity Problems		0800 7838866
Environment Agency	Incident Hotline	0800 807060
Fly Tipping & Waste Collection	Including bulky items	01622 602162
Gardeners	<a href="mailto:stockburygardeners@live.com">stockburygardeners@live.com</a>	
Golf Society	Jeff Hall	01795 843296
Hall Bookings	Sue Porter	01795 843715
Maidstone BC Councillor	Patrik Garten - <a href="mailto:patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk">patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk</a>	01622 807907
MB Farms Stores & Post Office		01795 842401
Neighbourhood Watch	Ann Ballard	01622 736331
Not So Young Club	Rosemary Leonard	01634 232672
Parish Council	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Petanque Club	Tina Jacobs	07743 910185
Photographic Club	Tim Arnold - <a href="mailto:timarnold@btinternet.com">timarnold@btinternet.com</a>	01795 843049
Police	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	999 101
Police Community Support Officers for Stockbury	Ryan Waring - <a href="mailto:5872@kent.pnn.police.uk">5872@kent.pnn.police.uk</a> Dave Rowley - <a href="mailto:59079@kent.pnn.police.uk">59079@kent.pnn.police.uk</a>	07969 584213 07772 226097
Public Footpaths & Bridleway	Reporting issues with. - <a href="mailto:westprow@kent.gov.uk">westprow@kent.gov.uk</a>	03000 417171
Roads, Potholes, etc	(manned 24hrs) - <a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem">www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem</a>	03000 418181
RSPCA		0300 1234999
Short Mat Bowls	Tony or Angela Russell	01795 842738
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
Stockbury Observer - Editor	<a href="mailto:stockburyobserver@gmail.com">stockburyobserver@gmail.com</a>	
The Harrow Public House	<a href="mailto:stockburypub@gmail.com">stockburypub@gmail.com</a>	01795 843222
WI	Brenda Mace	01622 884746