



THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

February 2023

Hall Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Wed	1st	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		Private Booking	3.30-5.00pm
Thurs	2nd		
Fri	3rd	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	4th		
Sun	5th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	6th		
Tues	7th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	8th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		Parish Council	2.00-4.00pm
Thurs	9th	Gardeners	7.30-9.30pm
Fri	10th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	11th		
Sun	12th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
		Comtee Rm Bkng	12.30-2.30pm
Mon	13th		
Tues	14th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	15th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		Parish Council	7.30-9.30pm
Thurs	16th		
Fri	17th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	18th		
Sun	19th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	20th		
Tues	21st	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	22nd	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
Thurs	23rd		
Fri	24th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	25th		
Sun	26th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	27th		
Tues	28th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm

Calling All Volunteers Stockbury Community Orchard Needs You!

Traditional orchards are in rapid decline. Ours is a mature and neglected one that needs a lot more tender loving care.

The good news is we have received a grant from KCC Kent Downs AONB to bring it back to rude health. The bad news is we need volunteers to help us plant and secure 129 new trees!

**WILL YOU HELP US?
BRING YOUR SHOVEL AND DIG FOR VICTORY
WEEKEND 4th – 5th FEBRUARY
MEET BY THE GATE at 10:30 (OR AFTER)**



The Community Orchard

'Our' orchard is rich in flora and fauna - not just old cherry trees. It was planted in the 1940's, with further ad-hoc planting since. It is our intention to revitalise the orchard with new root stock to replace the dead cherries, and to also add some diversity by planting apple, greengage and even apricot trees.

Planting and staking the new trees is our top priority. However, the aim is to continue having a healthy orchard for future generations. So we will also be planting new hedgerows, mending the fences and, most importantly, pruning! We plan to introduce a training programme covering pruning, grafting, hedge laying - maybe even scything and wildflower meadow management. But first, let's plant the stuff!

Come and join us. It will be hard work followed by wind-down drinks at The Harrow.



Enquiries: jmax.arscott@gmail.com

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STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

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

Stockbury Carols on The Green

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who turned out on a cold and damp December night to support The Salvation Army Carols on the Green. The collection raised in excess of £200 and a large amount of food and other items were also kindly donated.

I would like to thank Doris and MB Farms, Stockbury Parish Council and Barry Nixon for sponsoring the event. Without their support we would not have been able to arrange and enjoy the evening.

I would also like to thank Tesco Sheerness for donating a hamper for the raffle and giving us a discount on mince pies etc.

I would also like to thank Diane McAuley, Joyce Trice, Heather Tomsett and Irene Milton who worked hard in the kitchen making hot drinks for us all, as well as serving mince pies and sausages rolls, which went down well on such a very cold night.

Thanks to Irene Milton for choosing the carols and reading us a Christmas story, along with Charlie (granddaughter of Jacqui Green). Lynne Nixon and Leanne Earl for doing the shopping and feeding The Salvation Army Band members, and setting up the hall for the evening; Barry Nixon for comparing the evening for us.

Also, thank you to all of you who helped clear away the tables and chairs at the end of the evening, it was very much appreciated.

The Salvation Army have already been booked for Christmas this year, on the 8th December.

The ladies who normally host this event would now like to hand the organisation over to somebody else. Ideally, it would need a group of about six people on the evening, to put out the table and chairs, serve refreshments and to clear away afterwards. It will require someone to undertake the shopping for the provisions, and to prepare a buffet for The Salvation Army Band. Sponsors will also need to be sought to fund the evening. If anyone is interested in taking this on, then please contact me on (01622) 736331 or drop me an e-mail at rosemary.ballard@outlook.com and I will be happy to discuss this with you, and perhaps arrange a meeting with interested parties.

I wish you all a belated Happy and Healthy New Year!
Ann Ballard

Stockbury Book Club

As there was no January Stockbury Observer, we have two book reports this month.

I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up For Education and was Shot by the Taliban

By Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb

We read the abridged version of Malala's account of how her life was drastically changed; the Taliban invaded the area of Pakistan where she lived and went to school. She was bought up in the peaceful and beautiful Swat valley in Northern Pakistan but the Taliban decided to ban the education of girls which led to her having to leave school. She fought against this ruling but paid the price for her opposition. Malala was shot in the head and faced many

operations together with leaving her beloved Pakistan and moving to England. She continued to campaign for the education of girls and her work led to her being awarded The Nobel Peace Prize; the youngest ever winner.

We all enjoyed the book, especially because it enlightened us about an area of Pakistan and its history, but realised that the longer, more detailed version would give us a greater insight. We admired teenage Malala's confidence and bravery which, we thought, was aided and influenced by her father's personality and career.

We gave the book a score of 7.

Round About the Christmas Tree: A Miscellany of Festive Stories

Edited by Becky Brown

Described by the "Goodreads.com" website as:

"... the perfect Christmas gift for book lovers as all facets of the festive season are represented here in one gorgeous volume. This anthology shows what an inspiration Christmas was for so many famous writers; whether it be a time for celebration, for family, or a chance to remember those in hardship. There are heart-warming stories from Charles Dickens and E. Nesbit, comic fun from G. K. Chesterton and Saki, touching whimsy from Hans Christian Anderson and even crimes to solve from Arthur Conan Doyle..." So, we all anticipated dipping in and out of some suitably cheerful festive stories to get us in the mood for the holidays ahead. Unfortunately, that was not what the majority of us experienced.

Two of our members were unwell and whilst one of these felt that their ailment may have impacted on their enjoyment of the book the other felt that their impaired concentration was the only reason they were able to read it. The infamous mustard story, as it has become known amongst us, left us speechless and has discouraged some to ever read Trollope again! (and I mean the author).

Discussion around the group did relate to individual stories which were quite enjoyed by different members. It was clear that some of the stories were light-hearted which was wanted and enjoyed, but others were certainly not. Comments followed about the stories being "of their time", "enjoyed the old-fashioned phraseology", and "an opportunity to read short stories from some very famous authors". They reminded one member of stories that might have been found in the "Women's Own" magazine, and another member compared one to a Brian Rix farce.

Needless to say, that the scores by most of the group were not very high and overall, the book achieved a generous 4/10.

We then spent some time selecting our next 6 books, availability allowing and will be reading in no particular order:

Klara and the Sun – Kazuo Ishiguro

Middlesex – Jeffrey Eugenides

Educated – Tara Westover

Who is Maud Dixon – Alexandra Andrews

City on Fire – Garth Risk Hallberg

Normal People – Sally Rooney

Jan Buterfill & Jackie Smith

THE HARROW PUB

FREE HOUSE - COMMUNITY OWNED

A quiet village pub in the heart of Stockbury. Serving fresh home-cooked food.

Small functions catered for.

Open from -

Monday - Closed

Tuesday 3pm

**Wednesday - Sunday
11am**

Kitchen open from -

Wednesday - Saturday

12pm-2.30pm and 5pm-8:30pm

Sunday

12pm-4pm

Live Music 25th Feb

Richie Phillips

Italian Night

18th Feb



01795 843222



theharrowpubstockbury



The Harrow PubStockbury



contact@theharrowstockbury.co.uk

EVENTS

Fish'n'chip shop night on the 1st Friday of every month

Games night on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Quiz night on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Coffee and cake morning every Friday



**Wi-Fi
FREE**



M2 junction 5 Stockbury interchange improvement scheme

A249 weekend closures

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we've been carrying out drainage and safety barrier work on the A249. We'll be continuing with these closures into the new year to allow us to complete work on the northbound carriageway. The **A249 northbound** between the Stockbury roundabout and Bobbing will be a fully closed at **weekends from Friday 13 January**, with the last closure finishing on **Monday 6 March**. During these closures, there will also be a lane closed on the **southbound carriageway**, with a lane remaining open.

Eastbound slip roads update

We're making good progress with the construction of the new eastbound (coastbound) slip roads. Unfortunately, due to the recent weather, we'll need to keep the slip roads closed for a little longer than we thought. We're now planning to reopen the slip roads by **Monday 30 January**, subject to weather conditions.

Westbound slip roads update

We understand there has been some rumours about us closing the westbound slip roads early next year for a solid block of time, as we have with the eastbound slips. This is not the case. We're able to complete most of our work on these slips away from the carriageway, and you may have seen this work has started.

For details of all upcoming closures, check our webpage:
nationalhighways.co.uk/M2-j5



We're carrying out improvements to help reduce congestion at the junction, and enhance the flow of traffic. This will provide a safer and more integrated network for everyone and bring real benefits to the drivers who use this junction daily.

To find out more, please visit our website: nationalhighways.co.uk/m2-j5 or scan the QR code. You can also call us on **0300 123 5000** or email m2j5@nationalhighways.co.uk



The Harrow

A belated Happy New Year and Chinese (Luna) New Year to you all!

We hope that you enjoyed your Christmas festivities with friends and family and are now looking forward to a great 2023, as are we!

Despite the prevalence of flu and a smattering of Covid, the pub hosted a multitude of well attended events over the Christmas and New Year period and the Christmas Dinner menu proved very popular with you all too. What great feedback and personal reviews! It is fabulous to hear all your positive comments in person but we would also dearly love you to leave your reviews for The Harrow, Stockbury on Trip Adviser too if you are able to.

After a quiet first week, January has started off well too, with completely sold out Chinese New Year and Burns Night events. We extended our Chinese New Year menu into the weekend, it proved so popular with you all.

We have a couple of special evenings planned for you during February too, starting with our **Valentine's Day** special menu which we will be serving during the evening on both **Saturday 11th and Tuesday 14th** for the romantic and loved up amongst you, followed by an **Italian** themed menu on **Saturday 18th**. Booking ahead for either of these evenings is encouraged to avoid disappointment. Telephone The Harrow on 01795-843222.

Our full events listing for February is as follows:

- **1st - Tractor Club Lunch** - 12.30pm.
- **3rd - Fish'n'Chip Night** - eat in or takeaway available *Booking is advised if eating in* - from 5pm.
- **11th & 14th - Valentine's Day Menu** - please book ahead. A £10 non refundable deposit is required per person.
- **15th - Games Night** - 8pm start.
- **18th - Italian Evening** - please book ahead.
- **21st - Quiz Night** - please book your quiz table beforehand - 8pm start.
- **23rd - Ladies 'wot' Lunch** - Not just for the ladies! - 12.30pm.
- **25th - Live Music with Richie Philips** - 8pm start.
- **28th - Thai Night** - eat in or takeaway available *Booking is advised if eating in* - from 6pm.

Our guest beers this month are:

- **Adnams Ghost Ship 4.5%**
- **Canterbury Ales Light Gold 3.6%**
- **Canterbury Ales Pardoners Ale 3.8%**

In the coming (and probably much colder) winter months, we would like to remind you that the pub is open from Tuesday to Sunday (from 10.30am on Wednesdays and Fridays) and during the daytime serves teas, coffees and soft drinks as well as beers and wines. The pub also serves light bite lunches and there are homemade cakes served with coffee (or tea!) on Friday mornings. All served in a friendly, warm and cosy atmosphere in front of our roaring log burners. What's not to like about that?!

We look forward to seeing you very soon.

Stolen!

One set of temporary traffic lights from Aerodrome Approach and one KCC salt bin along with a green recycling bin from Chalky Road.

Anybody with any useful information about these thefts, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Stockbury Gardeners

I hope that you are all coping with the cold weather. I know that I have a few horticultural losses as a direct result of the freezing temperature. In particular dahlias that we have been accustomed to leaving in the ground have been frozen, and these will need to be replaced. The cold reminds me of when I was at school, the weather was always cold because that was the winter!! Never the less, Mother packed us off to school dressed in woolly gloves, a knitted balaclava, and wait for it ...SHORTS!! Let's hope it warms up soon.

For those of you who are looking forward to the Gardeners 2023 programme, we have a number interesting speakers booked already, including the famous Rodney Gibson presenting an introduction to maintaining your garden implements. This will be in March, followed later in the year by BBC Radio Kent's own Jean Griffin. Other speakers are being arranged.

This month we have a change of the normal date and we are in the Village Hall on the 9th, 19:30 for 20:00 start. As there are a number of new members joining us this year, we have a presentation of trophies and then a Q&A session, so if you have any questions that you are dying to ask about all things growing come along.

I have been fortunate over the last weeks, to have been visiting seed suppliers in the UK. This was as a result of me being appointed by the NVS to head up their sponsorship team. The seed producers are major players in putting up the prize money for competition awards. I can say that the seed producers have a lot of things in common; for instance a couple of 'big names' have multiple companies owned by each one. Marshalls Seeds owns Unwins Seeds, who are in turn owned by Westland. D T Brown owns Fothergill Seeds and Johnsons Seeds. So as a result, there are some seed producers all purchasing seed from one source!!

If you have wondered whether you are receiving 'fresh' seeds I can assure you that none of the seeds that you acquire are fresh. They will be the previous seasons seeds, simply because they have to have been proven "viable", that is to have been batch sampled, to ensure that a certain number of seeds will germinate given the correct growing conditions. This is EU and UK rules.

Tasks for Now

It's not too late to prune top fruit, with the exception of stone fruit (cherry, plumb, peach), so hurry up, as this weather is holding back growth.

I am just about to split a couple of rhubarb crowns up and take indoors to force some pink stems, so easy to do. There are videos online on how to produce these sweet and tasty fruits.

Don't forget to feed the wild birds too!

Chris Spree

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 *@pollys_beautique*

 *07725 403697*

Price List:

- Gel Polish nails - £20
 - Builder Gel with Gel Polish - £25
 - Gel Polish toes - £15
 - Gel Extensions with Gel Polish - £30
 - Gel Extension Infills with Gel Polish - £25
 - Waxing - prices from £7 for Eyebrows to £25 for Full Leg
 - Range of Facials (Inc. Microdermabrasion, Dermaplaning etc) prices from £20 - £75
 - Full Body Massage - £40
 - Back and Shoulder Massage - £20
 - Wash and Blow dry from £15
 - Eyelash and Eyebrow Tinting from £5
 - Lash Lift and Tint - £25
 - MICROBLADING - Eyebrow Tattooing
- Enquire for Prices

New Salon Treatments

Hybrid Lash Extensions
£35
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£40

Polly Kingsford-Field
Stockbury, Kent

Email: pollykf@btinternet.com

Countryside Matters

A long while ago, do you remember the time at Junior School when every class had a nature table. Very good they were too, especially when the boys came into class with a matchbox concealing a creepy crawler, more to make the girls scream than for the teacher to identify! Anyway, I digress. What I want to say is that now we are back out traversing the lanes and enjoying our unique bit of countryside, I thought it appropriate to write about some of our native country creatures.

This month's subject is the little field vole, or if you are being totally accurate, *Microtus Agrestis*. It is grey-brown and has a rounded snout, less prominent eyes than a mouse and its ears are completely covered in fur. Overall it is about 100mm long, its tail representing roughly 40% of the length of its body. It doesn't weigh much either, 30 - 40gms, not much more than a fat letter! Amazingly remains of this creature have been found dating back to before the last ice age, around 9,000 years ago. They are, however, not to be found on the Isle of Man, the Isles of Scilly, Shetland, Lundy or Ireland.

Grass is this little creature's only food source and shredded grass leaves are used to make their nests, which are about 10cm in diameter and are often built at the base of grass tussocks or in underground burrows or perhaps under a sheet of discarded corrugated iron or similar material.

Voles are not very often seen but their runs may be detected in the grass where they feed and leave piles of shredded grass and leaves, evidence of their presence in the area. These small mammals communicate principally by sound and smell, sight being less important for an animal that spends most of its time underground.

The vole is host to a few parasites, carrying fleas and ticks. Its enemies include kestrels, owls, foxes and stoats. Breeding takes place during two thirds of the year and life expectancy for these small creatures is about twelve months, so population turnover is rapid! Mind you it is estimated that there are about 75 million of them in Britain ...!

Info from the Mammal Society

Ann Rich

CURIOUS!

Don't skip over this just because it looks weird; believe it or not you can read it!

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdgnieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Ccmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosnt mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig, huh?!

Patrik Says ...

It's along time ago since my last newsletter! Because there was no Stockbury Observer in January, my collection of news bits grew enormously!

Happy New Year and let's quickly recap what has happened since the last Editor deadline:

The Boundary Commission published its final report

Its findings are very disappointing, as they did not take heed of my concerns for the effective representation of voters in the sparsely-populated areas vs. the urban service centres. In doing so, the Commission ignored my recommendation, which was supported by a full Council vote.

The Commission did not deviate from their initial proposals to join North Downs with Harrietsham and Lenham to form a super-ward. However, they have now cut Stockbury from the North Downs Ward and attached it to a revised Boxley Downs Ward. Their latest report is final and will be laid before Parliament. The new boundaries will come into effect at the May 2024 elections.

Waste Collections

The cold spell in December hit waste collections very badly and quite a few brave, hard-working operatives were injured in the line of duty due to the icy conditions. The situation became a game of hit and miss, especially since many collection routes in the North Downs were affected by emergency road closures in Hollingbourne. My email inbox was crammed with complaints and I spent my Advent sorting all issues, and indeed, I believe that we succeeded to clear all backlogs before Christmas.

Garden waste collections unfortunately suffered, as their vehicles were utilised in the big catch-up. Garden waste is a non-statutory service which MBC does not have to provide by law. This service is covered by Civil Contract Law because residents pay an additional fee for it and you obviously did not receive the service which you paid for.

To keep things simple, MBC will not give you a monetary refund but will add extra free collections when your contract is due for renewal in April; this will make up for the missed collections. If you reported all missed collections via the website, things should be easy to compute and so will be the time when collections were suspended across the whole borough. If you think that lost collections are not correctly recalculated when you get your next bill in April please get in touch with me.

Mid Kent Waste Partnership Announces New Contractor

Three Kent councils have signed a new Waste and Recycling Contract with SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd. Ashford, Maidstone and Swale councils – which work together as the Mid Kent Waste Partnership, have awarded the eight-year contract to SUEZ after a detailed joint tender process. The new waste contract, which will begin in March 2024, will introduce new technology and industry improvements, whilst retaining large parts of the existing service.

The three partner councils have worked hard over the last two years to get this new contract in place. Suez provided a strong bid, showing enthusiasm to deliver the service and bringing their considerable industry experience to Mid Kent.

A new fleet of vehicles will be purchased including more smaller and narrow access vehicles. With it comes improved

Calling All Advertisers

Our annual rates for advertising in 12 editions are:

A whole page £400

A half page £200

A quarter page £120

Our advertising year starts in April 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 place an advert in The Observer, please email stockburyobserver@gmail.com The Editor will confirm receipt and an invoice will be sent along with details of how to pay.

If you are a new customer, please also attach your artwork, preferable in MS Word or as a PDF file.

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 meetings will be approved at the following meeting and will then be published on www.stockbury.org within 5 days of the meeting at which they are approved.

OBSERVER DEADLINE

MONDAY 20th February

Please email your contributions to

stockburyobserver@gmail.com

Mobile Library Dates

Thursday 9th & 23rd February, '23

9.10am - 9.40am

At the Village Hall

Church Draw December Winners

CONGRATULATIONS!

1st £50 - Shirley Frankham (69)

2nd £30 - Denise Gee (28)

3rd £15 - Clare Stevens (147)



Calling the "Ladies" of Stockbury:

Come and join like-minded ladies for a lovely lunch and a catch up

At

The Harrow Pub on the last Thursday of the month

at about 12.30pm

Please book your place directly with The Harrow on

01795 873222

We would love you to join us



CALLING

ALL

GAMERS!



Following its previous success, we are re-establishing a traditional games evening at The Harrow Pub on the second Tuesday of every month.

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

Come along for an evening of traditional fun in the gloomy depths of winter and beyond.

We aim to start about 8 pm and would love to see anyone interested and you are welcome to bring any games with you.



technology for vehicle tracking and the management of customer service requests, allowing the Waste Management Team to have full visibility of the service and to lower the services' carbon footprint.

The new contract will also offer the chance to increase recycling rates across the three boroughs, provide improved efficiency of the collection routes, lower emissions vehicles and better technology to keep our residents up to date. The new contract includes proposed improvements to the level of cleansing in rural and residential areas, as well as quicker response times to the removal of fly-tipping.

In short, we expect a huge improvement of service from March 2024. I accept that this will be little consolation for residents affected by missed bins for the next 14 months, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. Please continue to report missed bins via the MBC website:

https://self.maidstone.gov.uk/service/report_a_missed_bin_collection

Hollingbourne Road Closures

I have already mentioned above the effects of the emergency road closures. This was also an email inbox filler for me as the fire at The Dirty Habit pub was an event which took everybody by surprise. So it took a while for Engineers, Conservation Officers and Insurance Assessors to draw up a rescue and rebuild plan for the listed building, and available cranes for hire are as rare as gold dust. So after weeks of apparent still-standing, people were pleasantly surprised when the road reopened at the beginning of December. The still-standing was only apparent to the lay observer, there was a lot of work done in the background and I thank Maidstone's Conservation Officer for the sensible and speedy solutions at the time.

There will be the need to close the road again for a very short period in late spring. I was assured that the community will be given plenty of warning and that the closure will be as short as possible, and will commence once the specialist equipment is booked and in place. At the moment I cannot say how long this closure may be as we will have to rely upon the engineers' expertise but I hope it will be a case of days rather than weeks. The safety of the public and the site workers is obviously our main concern.

Local Plan

Levelling Up Secretary, Michael Gove has announced that compulsory house-building targets in the Government's Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill are to be scrapped after dozens of Conservative MPs threatened to vote against the Bill. Mr Gove said that under the revised plans, central targets will be 'advisory' and councils will be able to set lower targets where they can show 'genuine constraints' on building. Mr Gove is also understood to have agreed to higher infrastructure levies on green-field development, to stronger action against land banking by developers, and to consult on requiring planning permission before residential properties can be used as short-term lets. These are all sensible proposals and we will act upon them once they become law, hopefully soon. Many changes can happen in the land of Westminster Politics, and Local Authorities are well advised not to drop tools on account of Westminster proposals before they pass all hurdles of Parliament. For this reason we will continue and get on with the review of our Local Plan. Nothing would be more of a carte-blanche for developers than a Local Authority which finds itself without a Local Plan.

As I previously reported, the examination into Maidstone's Local Plan Review has been underway, and Stage 1 concluded at the end of November last year. Progression to Stage 2 in this process is dependent upon navigating Stage 1 successfully, and is by no means guaranteed – as we have seen with the many plans by other District Councils in the South East, which have stalled at this stage in the last few years.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have now received confirmation from the Government Inspector examining the plan, that our plan will progress to Stage 2 later this year.

Condensation-Damp-And-Mould

Golding Homes, Maidstone's biggest social housing supplier, started a Condensation-Damp-And-Mould campaign. They received 733 enquires from their customers which equates to about 10% of their homes. The figures are indeed concerning in that 10% of homes seem to be affected and only one of the reported cases in my Ward has been resolved to satisfaction so far. In September Golding's Board agreed additional funding to resolve Condensation-Damp-And-Mould cases. Customers are encouraged to report damp and mould problems here:

<https://www.goldinghomes.org.uk/condensation-damp-and-mould>

And finally ...

Motorists face double-digit rises in parking charges in a number of council areas as officials look for ways to boost their finances. Southend, York, Rutland, Thanet and the London Borough of Waltham Forest are among the local authorities that have announced they will increase parking fees by about 10% from April. In Cornwall, charges will rise by 29% at the most popular tourist spots. Jack Cousens, head of Roads Policy for the AA, warned: 'Residents could soon 'vote with their wheels' and decide it's easier to avoid the town centre and shop online.'

Hear! Hear! Come to Maidstone! A straw poll among colleagues in my party shows little appetite for any increases. Of course, there are always the other parties and greenly-tinted fringe groups of councillors whose anti-car doctrines will gamble with the livelihoods of our local traders ...

PATRIK GARTEN
MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward (Conservative)
Phone: [01622-807907](tel:01622-807907)

Useful Contact Information

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene		01795 227329
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Cricket Club	Enrique Damian	07522 691831 07967 890010
Crimestoppers	(Confidential)	0800 55511
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	Philip Painter	07850 190204
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
Parish Council Clerk	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Pétanque Club	Tina Jacobs	07743 910185
Photographic Club	Tim Arnold - timarnold@btinternet.com	01795 843049
Police	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	999 101
Police Community Support Officer for Stockbury		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	Janet Bracey - dd.fastmail.co.uk	
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
Stockbury Observer - Editor	stockburyobserver@gmail.com	
The Harrow Public House	contact@theharrowstockbury.co.uk	01795 843222