



# THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

*May 2023*



## **Coronation Weekend Events**

### **Coronation Day**

**Saturday 6th May**

6-8pm BBQ @ The Harrow  
8-11pm Live Music with Chicory Tip

### **The Big Lunch**

**Sunday 7th May**

Tractor Ride the Village

The Big Lunch

Includes:

Coronation Cake Competition  
Tea & Scones in The Harrow  
Games on the Village Green & The Harrow garden  
Hamper Raffle

### **The Big Help Out & Legacy Day**

**Monday 8th May**

10.30-12.30pm Sponsor a Stockbury Orchard Tree

Treasure Hunt

Celebration & Toast to King Charles III

@ Stockbury Church 3.30pm

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**07551 454702**

# Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!

Come all ye **Lords, Ladies, Freeman, and Villeins** of the Parish of Stockbury, hear ye this:

In celebration of the crowning of our new king, King Charles III, on the 6th May, in the year of our Lord 2023, 3 days of celebrations have been decreed.

You are cordially invited to join us for said celebratory events:

Our celebrations will commence on Saturday evening with a BBQ at The Harrow pub between 6pm and 8pm; tickets for the BBQ will be available from the bar for a minimum donation of £5 per person. The BBQ will consist a choice of either beef or pig on a trencher with salad, other tastes will be catered for. This will be followed by live music from the ever-popular Chicory (Son of My Father) Tip where you can make merry until the first owl hoots (or Sarah calls 'last orders').

Our village landlady will not unlock and unbolt the hostelry doors until 3pm on Coronation Day.

Our bountiful Sunday celebrations will begin with the opportunity to traverse ye olde village on a lavishly furnished trailer pulled by a many horse powered pulling machine starting from The Green. This will be free of charge but we are unable to accommodate children under 5, children between the ages of 5 and 12 must be accompanied by an adult. (This is entirely due to Health & Safety and insurance reasons). Any person found flaunting these local feudal laws will be publicly pilloried on The Green.

Following this, our popular local hostelry, The Harrow, will be hosting 'The Big Lunch'; this will consist of a buffet style banquet. Tickets will be available in advance for a minimum contribution of £5 per head over the bar, a limited number of tickets may still be available on the day. You are therefore encouraged to purchase your tickets in advance. If, however this is not to your taste then you are invited to join us on The Green with your own fare and refreshments.

As part of 'The Big Lunch' we invite you to participate in our Coronation Cake Competition. There will be a main prize for the best coronation themed decorated creation and a secondary prize for the most flavoursome entry. Entry forms should be obtained from Sarah at The Harrow in advance. (Completed entry forms will aid in allergen identification and staging requirements). All entries must be received by 11am at The Harrow, ready for judging. All cakes will then be available for consumption after judging as part of the buffet lunch, where the victor will be proclaimed to great fanfare.

Children's activities and games will be freely available but parental supervision must be maintained at all times. (Please see previous reference to pillory and The Green!) For the adults there will be an opportunity to partake in Pétanque, Smite and Jenga.

Tickets for the Coronation Hamper Raffle are available now and throughout the celebrations from The Harrow and will be drawn (not hung and quartered too!) on the Monday at 2.30pm.

In the event of flood, some activities may move to the Village Hall.

Our festivities will continue into the Monday with the Sponsor a Stockbury Orchard Tree event at Stockbury Community Orchard. For this event, you are encouraged to sponsor an orchard tree by purchasing in advance a personalised metal plaque for a minimum donation of £5 which can then be placed on the guard of your chosen orchard tree. (This may help stave off famine in the future, and thus prevent the villeins revolting). A sponsorship form can be found on the back of The Observer or obtained from The Harrow. It would be helpful if completed sponsorship forms are returned with their donation as soon as possible to enable your plaque to be prepared in advance. Plaques will then be available for collection and installation on the tree guard at the orchard on the day, or from The Harrow at a later date. There will also be an opportunity on the day to purchase a plaque at the orchard but as engraving time will be limited on the morning, we strongly recommend purchasing your plaque in advance.

Running alongside, there will be a tantalising Treasure Hunt set by one of our Village Elders'. This will be focused around our beautiful village and will require you to solve clues in order to lead you 'home'; the victorious team will be presented with their prize at The Harrow. Luncheon can be purchased between 12 and 2.30 pm where drinks will also be available.

Cont'd over ...

# 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 6th May  
Chicory Tip**

**Mexican Night  
27th May**



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*



### M2 junction 5 Stockbury interchange improvement scheme

On Monday 24 April, we closed the section of Maidstone Road that links to the Stockbury roundabout, south of Wormdale Hill. While we're working on the new link to Oad Street there will be no access to the roundabout from Maidstone Road.

We're currently due to open the new link on Monday 19 June 2023.

To access to properties and businesses on Chestnut Street and Maidstone Road, please use the Key Street roundabout.

### Replacement bus service with Kent Karrier

This closure means the Arriva 334 bus service now operates on the A249 between Key Street and the Stockbury Roundabout, rather than using Chestnut Street and Maidstone Road.

We've been working with Kent County Council to provide free travel via their Kent Karrier community shopper bus for anyone who needs it in the area previously covered by the 334. You can find out more and sign up for this service via the Kent Karrier website.

For details of all upcoming closures, check our webpage:  
[nationalhighways.co.uk/M2-j5](http://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](http://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](mailto:m2j5@nationalhighways.co.uk)



## Oyez! Oyez!. Oyez!

Following a relaxed, convivial luncheon and drinks with likeminded lords, ladies, and villeins, there will be a short service of thanksgiving at our ancient and glorious Stockbury Church at 3.30pm, finishing with a toast to our new King and bringing our celebrations to a close.

We do hope you will come and join in.

## God Save The King!

### The Harrow

There is a busy month ahead for us, this May, with plenty for you to enjoy and get involved with.

We have a visit from the **Boughton Monchelsea Morris** who are bringing with them their friends **Wild Women of Kent Morris** to welcome in the month of May in the traditional ways of old, and chase away the cold dreary days of winter - we can but hope! They will be performing outside of The Harrow on **Thursday 4th** from 8pm. Miss out on this fun and vibrant evening at your peril! It's always a fabulous and traditional evening, and maybe you can join in with the dancing too!

There is also much going on in and around the pub on the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend. We will be holding a BBQ on the evening of the coronation from 6pm until 8pm, for a minimum donation of £5 per head (please get your BBQ tickets from the bar) followed by **live music** from **Chicory Tip** at 8pm.

**Please be aware that on Coronation Day, Saturday 6th, we will not be opening until 3pm.**

On the Sunday, the 7th, we are hosting the 'Big Lunch' event. There will be children's activities, a cake competition and a buffet available for a minimum donation of £5 per person and a chance to play Smite/Jenga/Pétanque. For more details of the coronation weekend events, please see the 'Oyez' article on the previous page.

Our full schedule of events for May is as follows:

- **2nd - Thai Night** - from 6pm - eat in or takeaway available. *Booking is advised if eating in.*
- **3rd - Tractor Club Lunch** - 12.30pm.
- **4th - Boughton Monchelsea Morris** - 8pm
- **5th - Fish'n'Chip Night** - from 5pm - eat in or takeaway available *Booking is advised if eating in.*
- **6th - Live Music with Chicory Tip**- 8.00pm start
- **10th - Games Night** - 8pm start.
- **16th - Quiz Night** - please book your quiz table beforehand - 8pm start.
- **25th - Ladies 'wot' Lunch** - Not just for the ladies! - 12.30pm.
- **27th - Mexican Night** - please book ahead.

Our guest beers this month are:

- **Canterbury Ales Spring Pale Ale 3.9%**
- **Canterbury Ales King's Pale Ale 3.9%**

Please note that due to us opening on the Monday of the long Bank Holiday weekend, we **will not** be **open** at all on **Tuesday 9th May** and will reopen as normal on Wednesday 10th.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the month.

### Parish Assembly

The annual Parish Assembly will take place in the Village Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 17th May, and we would welcome representatives of the village clubs and societies to attend and give an update on their organisations.

Please come along and feel free to raise and discuss any issues you feel that the Parish Council should be concentrating on and to receive an update from the Council on what we are doing.

SPC

### The Country Eye App



For anyone wishing to report road issues such as potholes, flooding, missing or damaged signs etc., then the Country Eye phone app is a quick and easy way to do so.

It is available for both iPhone and Android devices and once downloaded can be used to take a photo of the problem that needs reporting. This photo, along with the GPS location details can then be uploaded with just a couple of clicks. The Country Eye team then pass the information to the relevant KCC team for review and scheduling of the required works.

SPC

### **Boughton Monchelsea Morris**

With friends—

**Wild Women of Kent Morris**

**AT THE HARROW  
STOCKBURY**

**Thursday**

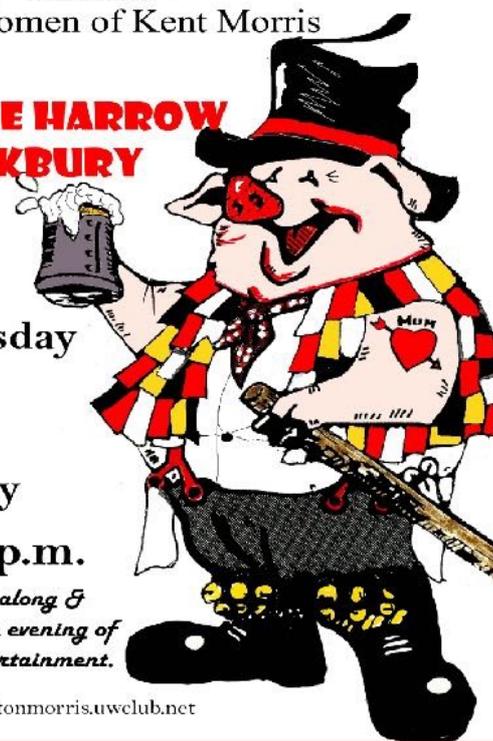
**4th**

**May**

**8.00 p.m.**

*Please come along &  
join us for an evening of  
music & entertainment.*

[www.boughtonmorris.uwclub.net](http://www.boughtonmorris.uwclub.net)



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**At The Herb Garden**

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To see a full price list, learn more about the Salon and its offers or to book an appointment See the following:

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 07725 403697

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- 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

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**Treatments**

Hybrid Lash Extensions  
£35  
Russian Volume Lash Extension  
£40

*Polly Kingsford-Field*  
*Stockbury, Kent*

Email: [pollykf@btinternet.com](mailto:pollykf@btinternet.com)

## Update on the Demise of the 332 Bus Route

**The Background** - It's old news now that Kent County Council withdrew the subsidy for the 332 that served as the school bus from Stockbury and the surrounding area to most of the Sittingbourne schools, resulting in the operator binning the route. This means that, in simple terms, any child attending what KCC deem to be their 'nearest appropriate school' and living far enough away will have school transport provided. If the child attends any other school, it is down to the parents to get them there. As I said, this is the simplistic view, as some in the village have found. The cancellation of the 332 has left at least 6 children with no means of getting to school and others with difficult journeys. (We can't take them ourselves as we may be working, caring for others in the family, could be posted away on military service, working shifts for the NHS ...)

A big thank you to all those that helped lobbying KCC to retain the 332, with some very valid / reasoned arguments, but there is no point dwelling on it - we lost the bus. What's done is done and we need to move on ...

### ***So What has Been Happening Since the 332 was***

***Binned?*** - Some of the parents have got together and formed the School Transport Club so that we could obtain a KCC Community Transport Grant to fund a private means of getting the children to school. As part of this, we asked various taxi / private hire companies in the area for prices and availability and had Catley Cars lined up to operate the service. The grant application is proving a little more tricky than anticipated, but we are still hopeful and in the interim KCC have been funding Catley Cars directly. The service has been running very well and once secured, it is hoped that this grant will be ongoing.

So if anyone out there has a child that will be starting Secondary School in September and will, in all likelihood have KCC home to school transport refused, it might be worth your getting in touch to see if the School Transport Club can help. The more of us there are, the stronger the voice we have. As the saying goes 'together we are stronger'.

Dave Canham  
07767 635885

## **Lent Lunch**

A big thank you to those, who despite a very rainy day, came to support the Lent Lunch held by the Church in the Village Hall. Around twenty people enjoyed soup and a ploughman's as well as having a good chat.

Their generosity raised £130 which will be donated to the Christian Aid East Africa Appeal.

Sue Sellens

## **April Church Draw Winners**

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

**1st Brenda Bingham (110)**

**2nd Caroline Kirkcaldy (63)**

**3rd Denise Gee (24)**

## **STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS**

### **A Bus Trip for Concert-Goers!**

The Kemsing Singers, who performed in Stockbury last March, are giving a jolly concert on Saturday May 13th in Kemsing, which includes songs from musical shows, royal ceremonial pieces – a great mixed bag! The Community Bus will take people who are interested to Kemsing, leaving at 6:15pm and returning around 10:30pm. The concert tickets are £10 and the bus fare will be £6 for those without a Senior Bus Pass.

Please call Sara Kemsley on 07891 479975 to book and for more details.

### **Drivers Wanted**

If you are aged between 25-70, hold a Full UK Driving Licence (including category D1) and can spare 2 or 3 hours once or twice a month, then we would like to hear from you.

If you would be interested in driving the Community Bus then please contact Geoff on 07551 454702 or email [communitybus-stockbury@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:communitybus-stockbury@hotmail.co.uk)

Sara Kemsley

## **Countryside Matters**

### **Bats (part one)**

What do you know about bats?

For instance which of the following statements are true?

- BATS spend many hours grooming themselves and are very clean.
- BATS are not likely to attack people or pets.
- BAT droppings are neither unpleasant nor unhealthy as they consist of insect remains.
- BATS often choose to hang up in modern buildings.

They are all true, so the question is why are some people nervous of them? Perhaps we should try to understand them better and then our fears would disappear!

Bats, being nocturnal, are seen only dimly in the dusk and their wings are rather big; as a result the animals appear larger than they really are. They have a swooping motion whilst catching insects which might also make people feel uneasy.

However bats are just small, warm-blooded mammals with hair or fur on them, much like many of our pets and us come to that! Admittedly they are the only mammals that can fly. Like all mammals, a baby bat feeds from its mother's milk for a few weeks after it is born. Its wing has very similar bones to the hand and arm of a human, the difference being that there is skin stretched between the very long finger bones and the body to form the wing membrane.

There are 16 species of bat living in Britain, but the one you are most likely to see is a **pipistrelle**.

Ann Rich  
Reference The Bat Conservation Trust

## 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](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 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](http://www.stockbury.org) within 5 days of the meeting at which they are approved.



## 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.**



## OBSERVER DEADLINE

**MONDAY 22nd May**

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

## Mobile Library Dates

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May, '23

9.10am - 9.40am

**At the Village Hall**

## KING CHARLES III



## CORONATION 6th May 2023

## Stockbury Book Club

### Middlesex

by Jeffrey Eugenides:

*Middlesex* was published in 2002 and is a bestseller, with more than four million copies sold since its publication. Its characters and events are loosely based on aspects of Eugenides' life and observations of his Greek heritage. It is not an autobiography.

Primarily a coming-of-age story and family saga, the 21st century gender novel chronicles the effect of a mutated gene on three generations of a Greek family, causing momentous changes in the protagonist's life. The novel's main themes are nature versus nurture, rebirth, and the differing experiences of what society constructs as polar opposites—such as those found between men and women. It discusses the pursuit of the American Dream, explores gender identity, and contains many allusions to Greek mythology.

Well as usual the opinions of those in the book club varied enormously. Most found it a bit difficult to begin with but persevered and then opinions began to diverge!

One member said they couldn't understand what it was about but found the some of the exploration of the gender identity and intersex issues interesting.

Three of the group found it long winded and lacking in focus, got bored with the historical background, didn't want to get into the authors head and just felt the story didn't resonate with them, so gave up before finishing it.

Two members of the group completed the book and enjoyed the fact that it was different. Both liked the historical context in portraying its Greek immigrant drama and felt they had learned something from it. They enjoyed the descriptions and depiction of hometown Detroit and his social commentary on the immigrant experience and lifestyle as second-class citizens. Comment was also made about the sympathetic way the gender identity issues were handled in the book.

Varied opinions led to very varied scores with the overall total of 5/10.

Next month we will be reading *Educated* by Tara Westover.  
Jackie Smith

## Stockbury Gardeners

You have to have a wicked sense of humour and a fine imagination to picture 25 gardeners in our Village Hall, together filling hanging baskets with compost and throwing bedding plants into them! In some instances, forgetting to mix in water retaining gel, so having to remove and start again, it gets messy! So, when a band of intoxicated Morris Men arrive and decide that they wish to perform in the hall as well ... !!!

The Gardeners, once the hall was vacuumed, then followed the performers across the road to further advance the new friendship, by that I meant pub.

That was last year. So, this year in continuing the now traditional "compost throwing evening" we have decided to entice them, 'them' being the men dressed in tights, to perform for us once again.

If you have an empty dead hanging basket left over from last year, bring it along. Stockbury Gardeners supply plants

to buy, compost free of charge, (the last year of peat), gels and fertiliser. All are welcome. Thursday 4th May, 7:30 for 8:00pm.

By the time that you have read this we will have had our annual Plant Sale at the Hall, which was on the 29th April, selling vegetable, perennials, bedding, and unusual plants; if you read *The Observer* before the 29th, the Sale starts at 9:30am.

Coming up later in the season we will have a joint BBQ with Upchurch Gardeners, and Cobham Horticultural Society at the Chairman's garden. For those of you interested, there will be a guest celebrity from the BBC attending.

Chris Spree

## Patrik Says ...

It's been a quiet month at Maidstone House, still partially due to some elections being held in a third of our Wards. This is not to say that things don't happen in the background, although not always obvious even to insiders. I note a great achievement, which was announced in the press as theirs by one of Maidstone's MPs, although the footwork was done by the MBC Executive. Ah well, as long as we are all pulling together in the same direction for the good of Maidstone ...

### Councillor Declares Herself a Wo

Full Council meetings are usually as exciting as watching grass grow. A lot of it is ceremonial procedure and committee work being ratified. This month was not much different. We thanked many members who won't stand again in this year's election and remembered one of our longest serving members and former Mayor Dan Daly who sadly passed away. Then we proceeded to ratify a few constitutional amendments. A Borough's constitution is basically a rule-book of procedure and has a slightly different meaning to a Country's Constitution where you would find some wonderful things mentioned like Human Rights, free speech and equality.

You may remember that the Maidstone constitution was rewritten a year ago, when we moved from a committee to an executive system. So a few minor tweaks were needed to sort out the teething problems. A routine ratification you would imagine, as this was previously agreed by all parties in Committee; except some lefty councillors found it necessary to request an amendment and debate whether the position of Chairman should be referred to as 'Chair'; in a gender neutral manner.

Councillors mused about the Latin origin of the word Chairman, others quoted a former female Councillor and Mayor who once insisted that she was a Chairman and not a piece of furniture until Independent Councillor Fay Gooch got up and insisted that if the 'man' reference in the word 'chairman' should be abolished then the man reference in the word woman ought to be too: "I therefore declare myself a Wo!"

The 'chair-amendment' was lost, with a huge majority of members across the party spectrum voting against it.

### A National Showcase

At Full Council we also noted the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which also formed a Water Management Cycle Working Group during the year and of which I was a member. Our group's report makes interesting reading:

## 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	Gary Morris info@mail4sdc.uk	07825 792031
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

## Hall Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Mon	1st		
Tues	2nd	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	3rd	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thur	4th	Gardeners	8.00 - 10.00pm
Fri	5th	Zumba	9.30 - 10.30am
Sat	6th		
Sun	7th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	8th		
Tues	9th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	10th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		Parish Council	2.00 - 4.00pm
Thur	11th		
Fri	12th	Zumba	9.30 - 10.30am
Sat	13th		
Sun	14th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
		Cricket - Field	1.30 - 5.30pm
Mon	15th		
Tues	16th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	17th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		Parish Council	7.30 - 9.30pm
Thur	18th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	19th	Zumba	9.30 - 10.30am
Sat	20th		
Sun	21st	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	22nd		
Tues	23rd	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	24th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thur	25th		
Fri	26th	Zumba	9.30 - 10.30am
Sat	27th		
Sun	28th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	29th		
Tues	30th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	31st	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am

## WANTED!

Can **YOU** spare 30 minutes each month??

We are looking for deliverers for The Stockbury Observer. Please contact the Editor for more details and if you are able to help.

stockburyobserver@gmail.com

[https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/council-and-democracy/primary-areas/your-councillors?sq\\_content\\_src=%2BdXJsPWh0dHBzJTNBjTJGJTJGbWVldGIuZ3MubWFpZHN0b25lLmdvdi51ayUyRmlITGlzdERvY3VtZW50cy5hc3B4JTNGQ0lkJTNEj5JTI2TUIkJTNEZG0NiUyNIZlciUzRDQmYWxsPTE%3D](https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/council-and-democracy/primary-areas/your-councillors?sq_content_src=%2BdXJsPWh0dHBzJTNBjTJGJTJGbWVldGIuZ3MubWFpZHN0b25lLmdvdi51ayUyRmlITGlzdERvY3VtZW50cy5hc3B4JTNGQ0lkJTNEj5JTI2TUIkJTNEZG0NiUyNIZlciUzRDQmYWxsPTE%3D) (Item 14)

My personal achievement, of which I am rather proud, was to have received very keen interest and assurances from both Southeast and Southern Water to use the planned Heathlands Garden Community, if it should go ahead, as a national showcase to demonstrate innovative and efficient water usage. Watch this space ...

### Sewage Overflow

I previously mentioned, we are in the process of drafting a Design and Sustainability Development Plan Document whereby we also seek local solutions to deal with surface/rain water. SUDS are local drainage systems that are considered to be environmentally beneficial, causing minimal or no long-term detrimental damage. Those solutions are not free from trouble though. Often the SuDs are not properly managed. This may be down to new developments being overseen by a property maintenance contractor, where often the commercial relationship between the home-owners and the maintenance company breaks down.

In the past surface water was being dealt with by the local sewers, which in most cases carry both sewage and relatively clean surface water. When sudden torrential rainfall happens, even or especially after a long period of draught, like last summer, too much water very suddenly enters the treatment system. The sewage treatment plants simply cannot deal with the vast sudden amount of clean surface water entering the sewage system. There are no storage buffers. This causes the release of untreated raw sewage into the rivers and the sea, a problem which gets regularly reported in the press these days. This article explains the problem very well:

<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/our-performance/storm-overflows/what-are-storm-overflows>

It requires a lot more work to avoid this happening.

### And Finally ...

... an example of very bad democracy: An Oxfordshire County Council spokesperson claimed that "too much technical detail can reduce response rates" at public consultations. Oxfordshire Council has been accused of 'hiding crucial figures' from residents during a consultation, which show its 'climate zones' scheme could actually increase traffic. Six traffic filters, described as 'bus-gates' will close off Oxford's arterial roads to cars in an attempt to relieve congestion and promote cycling in a trial starting next year. Conservative councillors have brought a motion to re-run the consultation and find the true scale of opposition.

PATRIK GARTEN

MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward (Conservative)

Phone: 01622-807907

### Drone Pictures

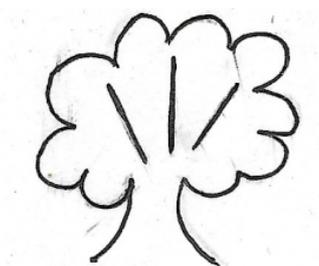
I have just seen the latest drone pictures of the Stockbury Roundabout published on KentOnline by National Highways to show "progress".

They made me weep.

They have killed our countryside. We need to be careful that they do not kill our village as well.

Phil Woods

# STOCKBURY COMMUNITY ORCHARD



## ADOPT A TREE

- >Buy a metal plaque<
- >Plaque will be engraved for you<
- >Attach the plaque to your chosen tree's guard<

**Minimum cash donation £5**

**(Proceeds will be used to develop and maintain the Orchard)**

The contact details provided below will be used to keep you informed of further activities in the Orchard and will only be shared with The Orchard Committee members.

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Name(s) to be engraved (20 characters maximum)

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your completed form along with your donation to:

7 The Street, Stockbury or at The Harrow