

THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

'In the Garden of England'

August '17 Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

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

The Harrow – Update

An amazing amount of work has now been done to the inside of The Harrow by a fantastic group of volunteers – many thanks to everyone for all your efforts. If anyone can spare the time, there are still plenty of jobs to do, just come in during the day and you will see the list pinned to the inglenook. We are now finalising the electrical work and starting with plastering and plumbing. Any skills in these areas is much appreciated.



We still plan to open the pub again early next month, so watch out for further details. Ahead of this, it may be possible to open on one or more Fridays, if we have made sufficient progress. Shareholders will be informed by e mail and notices will be put outside the pub.

Chris Porter 01795 843715

stockburypub@gmail.com

www.theharrowstockbury.co.uk

www.facebook.com/stockburycommunitypub

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Events



Diary



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**Stockbury
Observer!**

St Mary Magdalene Church

Stockbury



The services in August are as follows:-

6th August – 6pm Sung Communion
13th August – 6pm Evensong
20th August - 6pm Sung Communion
27th August - 6pm Evensong.

The church will now be open every Saturday from 10am until 4pm and every Sunday from 10am to 6pm until the end of September. Please do take this opportunity to enjoy the peace and beauty of our lovely historic church.

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 or contact the Rev'd Liz Cox

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

St Augustine's RC, Deanwood Drive Rainham

Mass Times
Weekdays 9.30 a.m
Saturday 10.00 a.m and 6.00 p.m
Sunday 9.30 a.m and 11.00 a.m

July Church Draw Winners

1st - Robin Brown (£40)
2nd - Emma RH Charlesworth (£20)
3rd - A Parks (£10)

RUBBISH!

It has been a while since I wrote anything for The Observer which is probably a blessed relief for most readers. So why is the miserable old b*****d writing this time? Unfortunately, it is the same old theme: rubbish! That is not to say that exciting and positive things are not happening in the Parish (think pub?), but rubbish seems to be a perennial theme.

Summer has its benefits: warm lazy evenings with a glass of something cool, wildflowers out in abundance, even the odd outdoor meal. Unfortunately it also means that people drive around with their car windows open and jettison whatever items they feel disinclined to take home with them. It also brings another seasonal problem: a plethora of improvised signs, arrows etc directing people to houses (what exactly is a GIGYA????), or the sweating lumps of humanity running or bicycling ahead of them.

The signs should be a relatively easy matter to deal with as most are put up by people who live in the Parish or have a connection with it. The simple solution is for those who put them up to a) remember where they put them and b) take them down after whatever event they relate to. Simple? Apparently not for some.....

Litter is a more intractable problem. There are still lots of people who regularly pick the litter from their adopted stretch of road, for which I am sure we are all grateful but the volume can be overwhelming. Honeycrook Hill, Hill Green Road and Bimbury Lane / Yelsted Road seem to be the "hotspots". All these are treated as through routes by people from outside Stockbury, but I suspect that there are a few local people who add to the problem. We can keep clearing up after them, but this cannot be a long term solution. Somehow we need to tackle the problem at source.

Question: has anyone ever seen someone throwing litter from their car / van / lorry? I suspect the answer is almost universally "no". If you did see it, would you know what to do?

Thanks to Patrik Garten, our Maidstone Borough Councillor, we now have a few signs warning people that CCTV is in operation specifically to catch fly tippers and those who think it is ok to throw cans, bottles, fast food wrappers etc from their cars. This might help, but is equally likely to move the problem on.

A simpler solution might just be observation. If people know they might be caught, they tend not to break the law (yes, even throwing that cigarette end out of the car is against the law!). We are all affected by the problem, so perhaps we could all be part of the solution? A Stockbury Litter Watch could well be the answer.....anyone up for trying it?

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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!



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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.

Stockbury Gardeners



It was congratulations all round for members of the Stockbury Gardeners at the Kent Show. They won the top award which drew entries from all over Kent, walking off with the Society Award and The Silver Trophy that went with it. Also in the other flower and vegetable classes members took home some 11 other first prizes and several other places, not a bad showing for our members.

Also in the trophies at the show was John Chapman from Chatham who keeps his bees in Stockbury and won the top prize for the best tasting honey in the county, as a village we certainly have a high profile.



The picture shows Nicky Bonner, Di Spree and our Chairman, Chris Spree, receiving the award from Lady Kingsdown.

It looks as though the heatwave has broken and we are now back to the normal British summer, however do not forget to water your plants. If you do mulch them with some sort of compost, always water first, there is no point in mulching dry ground as the whole point of mulching is to retain moisture.

You should be harvesting a whole lot of vegetables by now but do not forget that once you have a gap there is always the opportunity to sow a "catch crop", by that I mean a quick growing row of something such as spinach or rocket, the foodies rave about it and M&S load their sandwiches with rocket together with cheese or meat!! Rocket always puts up a good show of fast instant salad leaves, really tasty as well. Another quick crop worth trying is pak choi, if you sow it now you can eat the thinning's in a few weeks and the whole crop holds up well into the hard frosts of winter.

For those of you with hanging baskets and annuals in the garden, do not forget to dead head the plants once the flowers individually die, this will ensure that the plants continue to produce flowers right up until the first frosts.

In the garden centres keep a look out for cold stored seed potatoes, they are being sold as Christmas new potatoes. I have never grown them but will try this year by keeping them in the cold, they are chitted now and grown under cover in grow bags, I think as they are in grow bags you could move them around the garden now to the best spot and when the inevitable cold weather threatens, take them inside the greenhouse. You could if you wish, even take them to the pub with you! While on the subject of the pub, the project is making massive progress and it will be opening soon; there is a vast amount of work to do though, a lot of volunteers are working very hard to achieve the opening date.

If you wish to save some money and are prepared to invest in some of next years seeds, garden centres are clearing out old seeds and selling them at half price, there are some that are not worth buying as the shelf life is very short, however I found F1 cucumber seeds at half price with a shelf life of 4 years, so keep your eyes peeled.

This month Upchurch Society has invited Stockbury Gardeners to a farm walk in Upchurch on 2nd August, where specially bred apricots are grown under contract for Marks and Spencer.

This month at Stockbury on 3rd August, there is a forum on showing vegetables and flowers, starting at 8 pm.

I must go now as today I promised to build a hibernation hotel for the butterfly's.

Chris Spree

Ed- Lucky butterflies!



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.

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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

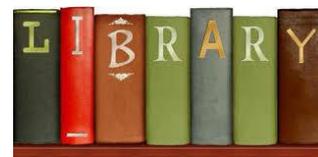
Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (*Co-ordinator*)
(01622) 736331

Alternatively you may e-mail the Co-ordinator at:

stockbury-neighbourhood@outlook.com

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 Book Club



Stockbury W.I.

This month was our annual BBQ and as well as that, we were celebrating a rather important birthday for two of our members and as has been the case now for a few years, the weather was kind to us. With good food and good company, it was a lovely evening.



We had read 'Us' by David Nicholls. This book tells the story of Douglas, Connie and their son Albie. Whether you take to a book often depends on whether or not you like the characters and/or the plot. In this case with an introverted and sometimes pedantic scientist and a somewhat more expressive, carefree and vivacious wife, it is hardly surprising that Albie has difficulty with his parents! Connie wants a divorce but wants a trip to Europe as a finalé to their marriage. Douglas who is desperate to hang on to his marriage plans the trip in meticulous detail. Albie, who at 17 is totally adolescent and intent on doing the opposite of what his father wants, causes a fair amount of chaos and heartache. What goes wrong with the trip is a large part of the book.

Most people in the group enjoyed the book and found it an easy and enjoyable read. They liked the way the characters were drawn and the way descriptions of Douglas and Connie's earlier lives, informed other parts of the plot that were based on what was happening now. Amusingly and as is always the way, some found the characters irritating and others not. The ending however met with everyone's approval – a rare event! We gave it an overall score of 8.

Next month we read 'The Mitford Girls' by Mary S. Lovell.

Moira Cooke

Thank you to all who came along to the Village Hall to support the NSY Produce Fair at the beginning of July. The W.I. cooked and served bacon and sausage rolls for those who came to buy the seasonal produce and plants.

Several members attended the District AGM held in Hollingbourne. We had a very good evening with lots of cake, tea, and a very interesting talk on Planets and the Solar System. We also heard reports from other W.I. groups of the events and activities which they have enjoyed throughout the last year. We came away with many inspirational ideas to apply to our own group in the coming months.

Upon leaving after the meeting, our journey was unfortunately delayed for sometime by an inconsiderate local resident who had parked his car awkwardly across the exit of the Village Hall and then disappeared into the night. Some of us managed to squeeze through the gap with guidance from others, a lot of crossed fingers and breathing in!!! Many of the ladies in bigger cars were trapped in the car park until the Police tracked down the owner of the offending car. As we were leaving we heard talk of opening up the hall again and having another cup of tea whilst they waited!!!

We entertained members from Westwell W.I. with a very interesting and comical talk from Glyn Bareham, which he titled 'Every picture Tells a Story', followed by a delicious supper, including strawberries and cream.

Our next meeting in the Village Hall will be on 13th September at 7.30 pm, please come and join us.

Lastly, does anyone have any photographs of the Carols on the Green event from last December that we can have a look at please? If so, can you contact our Secretary, Brenda Mace on 01622 884746. Thank you.

Heather Tomsett

Cockett's Corner Ditty

Traffic Warning!

When you see someone at speed
Just hope that they are not on weed!

Driving fast is not real cool
Just because you're late for school

A hairdryer pointing down the lane
Looks like a speed camera in the rain!



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Quiz Night

in aid of

Remus Horse Sanctuary

Saturday 12th August

Stockbury Village Hall

7.30 Start

Tables of 6 or 8

£5 per head

Bring your own booze and snacks

Yummy cake, tea and coffee
available on the night

To book a table ring

Alison on 01622 884600

or

Jayne on 07946 218242

Stockbury Not So Young Club

On the 15th of July the Stockbury NSY Club had its annual outing and this year we went to Quex Park near Margate.



We hired the Stockbury Community Bus which was driven by Fiona, as the person who was going to do it for us had to drop out, so she very kindly stepped in for us. We would like to say a very big thank you to her for saving the day.

We had a lovely time walking round the gardens, museum and the house. There is so much there i.e. little craft places where you can see people making things, there's a Jungle Gym for the kids, a farm shop and loads more; in fact there was so much that we didn't get a chance to see everything but I can highly recommend the little cafe by the house and museum. The food was lovely, it was that nice that we even had to have an afternoon cream tea! Well not all of us did but the ones that did thoroughly enjoyed it.

Don't forget we meet the first and third Tuesdays at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. You don't have to be of a certain age to come along, there is quite a wide variation of ages, so why not come along and enjoy yourselves.

Judith Sanford

Labrador Rescue Kent & Borders

A reunion was held on Sunday 2nd July on the playing field at the rear of the Village Hall. Visitors were able to sit and watch the Golden Retriever Display Team take part in agility and scurry exercises and a dog show. There were also various stalls to browse, a silent auction, tombola and a raffle.

The charity raised an amazing £2,340 on the day, which was incredible.

Thank you to everybody who came along.

Mick Bingham

STOCKBURY HALLOWEEN & FIREWORK PARTY

After much deliberation and discussion, the Committee have decided that sadly there will be no Halloween & Firework Party for 2017.

We didn't come to this decision easily, especially after all the overwhelming support and help that you gave us last year in our hour of need, when we found ourselves in trying circumstance at the eleventh hour and know it will disappoint all who look forward to this annual village event.

We know how much this event is loved and looked forward to and are truly sorry to have to disappoint you.

Thank you all for your loyal support over the last six years, which has made our little village firework event into the big success it has become.

We do hope to return in the future, so watch this space!

Stockbury Halloween & Firework Committee

Stockbury Parish Website

As some of you may have noticed, the village website has been updated and redesigned making it more user and mobile-friendly. It still contains all the key information from the previous website including parish council and contact information, with sections for the CommunityBus, The Observer, Village Hall and Community Orchard. The website now also has a village gallery page to exhibit your pictures of village life. These can be submitted via the website.

With the new website being constantly updated, if you are a local club or business and would like information on the website updated or advertised please email stockburyparishcouncil@gmail.com

It is now live so log-on and take a look around for yourself. The web address is the same as before, www.stockbury.org.uk

A big thank you to Gavin Mace for the hard work put in to make it a modern website for the whole village.

STOCKBURY PARISH SHORT SHORTS

provided by our very own Roving Reporters

There are no 'Parish Shorts' this month

That's it for this month!



Letters

Drawing & Painting Group

It is hoped to form a drawing and painting group that would meet every fortnight so that those interested, who already draw or paint could develop their skills and for those that say they cannot draw, others will help you to paint and draw.

Anyone interested can ring me on 01795 842480 or on **bingdog_73@hotmail.co.uk**

Mick Bingham

Observer Deadline!

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

Friday 25th August, 2017

Please email your contributions to **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** 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** within 5 days of the meeting at which they are approved.

STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

Wednesday 12th July saw the latest 'Day Trip' of the Stockbury Community Bus and a first for Kevin, our newest volunteer driver recruit.

We had very nearly a full bus with 15 passengers heading down to Cliftonville, just outside Margate for a Strawberry Cream Tea at The Walpole Bay Hotel.

We set off around midday and slowly made our way out of the village through Sittingbourne, Teynham, Ospringe and Faversham, deliberately avoiding the motorway. Yes you've guessed it, the prettier route, before heading down to the coast via the A299.

We arrived a little before 2pm and paused along Westgate Sea Front to watch the waves and take in the sea air before finally arriving at the Walpole Bay Hotel for our afternoon visit. We were met by the staff and shown to our reserved seating which was a long decorated table capable of seating all of our party. An introduction to and a brief history of the hotel by the owner Mrs Jane Bishop followed, who gave us an amusing and informative albeit potted history of the surroundings which ended with an invitation to wander freely around the hotel looking for and taking in all that she had said.



The Strawberry Cream Tea was enjoyed by all who indulged and the group then split up to wander around the hotel as invited or walk outside to take in more of the sea air. We left the hotel at around 4:15pm and this time took the motorway to return to the village having enjoyed our afternoon cream tea and jaunt to the coast.

All in all a good time had by all, complete with a small quiz provided to complete on the journey.

We discussed our next trip, which will probably be early in September - so watch this space for details!!!!

Kevin Masters



Stockbury Dog Club



The Dog Club has been in existence since April 1993, when I was asked to start a small training group. Over the years the group has grown larger and has now developed into a club, with the average numbers of dogs in training usually being over 25, sometimes 30. The trainers are all volunteers and give their time for free.

When it began all those years ago, I insisted that all monies collected would go to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, later changing it to local animal charities. So far the club has raised over £30,00 and lots of local animal charities have been given donations.

If you are interested in bringing your new dog for training, you will be most welcome. Our training donation/fee is just £4.00 per hour. Our training venue is the playing field behind Stockbury Village Hall and we meet there each Sunday morning from 10am to 11am.

Mick Bingham

STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

Calling All Passengers!!

Fancy a trip to Hastings Old Town??

Following on from our successful trip to The Walpole Bay Hotel, how about a wander of Hastings Old Town on **Wednesday 13th September?**

We'll take the scenic route past Camber, through Rye and into Hastings and be there in time for a fish and chip lunch with plenty of time to spare to do your own thing. The Amusement Arcades, The Sea Life Centre and Fish and Chip Shops are right on the sea front so not too far to walk for a paddle or a swim for those brave enough!! And not forgetting the "Road Trip Quiz"!

We'll leave the village at 9.30am and start for home about 4pm.

National Bus Passes are valid for this trip for those who have them and for those with out, the fare will be £7.50 return, payable on the day.

Why not join us for another great day out!!

So are you coming??
Contact Fiona now on 07551 454702

Our usual T's&C's apply.

Useful Contact Information

Cricket Club	Tom Bulbrook - th.bul2@yahoo.com	07780 440526
Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Revd Liz Cox - elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com	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	stockburygardeners@live.com	
Golf Society	Jeff Hall	01795 843296
Hall Bookings	Sue Porter	01795 843715
Maidstone BC Councillor	Patrik Garten - patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk	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	Mick Bingham	01795 842480
Photographic Club	Tim Arnold - timarnold@btinternet.com	01795 843049
Police	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	999 101
Police Community Support Officers for Stockbury	Ryan Waring - 5872@kent.pnn.police.uk Dave Rowley - 59079@kent.pnn.police.uk	07969 584213 07772 226097
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	Tony or Angela Russell	01795 842738
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
Stockbury Observer - Editor	stockburyobserver@gmail.com	
WI	Brenda Mace	01622 884746