

# THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

April 2020



## Stockbury Covid-19 Support – Needs You!

At the request of Stockbury Parish Council, a small team has come together to co-ordinate help within the parish through the coming weeks and months. We need volunteers to help our neighbours at this time. You may be able to help with deliveries and collections for those most vulnerable in our parish or you may be happy to make phone calls from your home to ensure they don't feel alone at this time.

If you are able to volunteer, please either email **<u>stockburyvolunteers@outlook.com</u>** or call 07551 454702 (the Stockbury Community Bus number) and we will get back to you.

If we all try and help where and when we can, we will get through this and be a stronger village for it!

Thank you, in advance, for your help!

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## Parish Council Update

#### **Pandemic Response**

The Parish Council, in conjunction with parishioners and the Church, are putting together a plan to support the physical and emotional needs of older and vulnerable people during the crisis arising from the pandemic. You can read about what is being planned in the article from the committee co-ordinating our response and keep up to date on a new Facebook page : Stockbury Pandemic

## M2 Junction 5

At the time or writing, we do not know whether the Inquiry will be going ahead as planned. As the Government is advising against public meetings during the pandemic, we expect it to be delayed again but a decision will not be made by the Inspector until sometime during week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> March. That being said, the deadline for submission of evidence and notice that you want to speak at the Inquiry remains 6<sup>th</sup> April.

As usual, any update will be posted on the Stockbury PC Facebook page

#### **Parish Council Meetings**

In light of Government advice, the Parish Council will not be meeting in public until further notice. I know that we are rarely overwhelmed with attendees but we felt it important that we should follow advice. The Council's day to day business will be conducted by the Chair and 2 other Councillors but please rest assured that important decisions will not be made without consultation. If you have items that you want us to discuss, or there is something that you feel should have Parish Council input, please contact any of the Parish Councillors by email or telephone.

A final note: please stay safe and keep looking out for people who need help in this difficult time. Stockbury has a reputation for being a strong community and I am sure that if we all work together we can get through this.

Phil Woods Chair Stockbury Parish Council



COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a virus called coronavirus.

# Stay at home to stop coronavirus spreading

Everyone must stay at home to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

This includes people of all ages – even if you do not have any symptoms or other health conditions.

You can only leave your home:

- to shop for basic essentials only when you really need to
- to do one form of exercise a day such as a run, walk or cycle, alone or with other people you live with
- for any medical need for example, to visit a pharmacy or deliver essential supplies to a vulnerable person
- to travel to and from work but only where this is absolutely necessary

#### What to do if you have Coronavirus Symptoms

Continue to stay at home if you have either:

• a high temperature - this means that if you feel hot to

touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

• a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

To protect others **do not** go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Stay at home and consult the NHS online help facility Please only call the 111 NHS coronavirus helpline if you cannot get help online.

## Who is at high risk?

You **may** be at risk of coronavirus if you:

- have had an organ transplant
- are having certain types of cancer treatment
- · have blood or bone marrow cancer, such as leukaemia
- have a severe lung condition, such as cystic fibrosis or severe asthma
- have a condition that makes you more likely to get infections
- are taking a medicine that weakens your immune system
- are pregnant and have a serious heart condition

## Advice for people at high risk

If you are at high risk of getting seriously ill from coronavirus, there are extra things you should to to avoid catching it. These include:

- not leaving your home you should not go shopping, visit family or friends, attend gatherings
- avoid close contact with others in your home as much as possible.

#### For more information please visit <u>www.nhs.uk</u>



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## St Mary Magdalene Church Stockbury



#### WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

What a week! Whoever would have expected this just a few days ago. We live in unprecedented, turbulent times when many are anxious about the present never mind the future following the various Government announcements during the week. You will be aware that following the letter issued by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020, <u>all</u> Church of England public worship services are currently suspended. The Methodist Church, which has congregations in this area, has taken similar steps.

#### BUT WE ARE STILL HERE FOR YOU

As the church community in your village community (C of E & Methodists together) we are engaging where we can to work with others in the village community, with the parish councils so that <u>together</u> we help and support everyone where we can, looking out especially for the most vulnerable in our communities. As voucher holders for the Sittingbourne Foodbank we can liaise to arrange for parcels to be provided so that no-one need go without the essentials. We would like to encourage generosity in providing some essentials for the Foodbank if possible.

The church building in your village will sadly be closed during the coming weeks, however we will be praying for your village community each day at set times as follows:

- Monday to Friday: at 12 noon & 5pm
- Sundays: 10.30am. We invite everyone to light a candle/place a light in the window each Sunday evening @ 7pm starting this Mothering Sunday

We hope to mark these times of prayer by ringing of one of the church bells. One of our ministers will be in each church of The Six at that time to pray. We invite you to pause and join in wherever you are, praying as you can at those times; we will be encouraging everyone in our congregations to do so.

We are aware that many may be worried and struggling in some way during this period. Do not struggle alone. There are many who can help and listen. Do ask. If you wish for help from our churches, do contact me in the first instance. I can then put you in touch with others in the communities who can and are willing to help. "The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not (cannot) overcome this light". These words from John's Gospel remind us of God's promise that no matter what life brings the Lord says "I am with you". In the midst of the storms the Lord Jesus met his panicked disciples and said "It is I, do not be afraid. Where is your faith?" In the midst of this particular storm engulfing our individual lives, our nation and our world at this time may we hear the Lord's promise "I am with you". Peace be with you.

> Sometimes only in the darkest moments of life as the storms gather and rage and everything is shaken, do we see the light that has been present all along, shining brightly.

A prayer for our six villages

Lord Jesus we thank you for the light of your presence in our midst for your love which casts our all fear. We pray that you will carry us through these stormy uncertain times praying especially for all those who are vulnerable in our villages at this time praying for all those coming together from different groups to serve our communities for all those working in our healthcare system for all those working hard to provide for what we need. As many feel caught in a dark tunnel of anxiety and fear may we each be your lights helping others find the way through.

In the power of the Spirit and in your name we pray. Amen!.

Every blessing

Julian

Rev Julian Staniforth Rector & Priest-in-Charge of The Six benefice Upchurch with Uplift, Hartlip, Lower Halstow, Newington, Iwade and Stockbury t: 01795 227329/e: julian.staniforth@gmail.com

## **March Church Draw Winners**

#### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

1st - Joe Waters £40 (60)

2nd - Brenda Bingham £20 (264)

**3rd - Alan Hampton** £15 (258)



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 Coordinator on the above telephone number or e-mail their details to the above mentioned e-mail address.

#### the **physiotherapy** centre

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Well, here we go, more bad news about the virus on the TV, so my task here is to try and forget the issues and cheer you all up. Well sort of! The third week in March and the rain has stopped; finally we are able to mobilise with some gusto into the garden, after three days of March wind the ground is capped off like concrete, it will need a tremendous mount of work to get the soil into condition for growing plants. Its as if all of the flint and chalk has risen to the surface, (remember we are in Stockbury!), so, it's going to be a hard dig to break up the soil and introduce some fibre into it. I will use old compost from last years pots, compost from the heap and some chicken manure or pellets; they can be purchased from any good garden centre. I am afraid it's a time thing. Best to get it right and not rush it.

As we are by command of Boris to stay at home, even the village pub is closed, we should have time for the garden or allotment to do all the things we always promised ourselves that we would do but never achieved!! like .....

- · Washing up pots.
- Cleaning the glass in the greenhouse.
- Indeed, painting the greenhouse!
- · Jet washing the paths.
- Joining the Stockbury Gardeners.
- Sowing and growing those varieties that we always wanted to grow.
- Reading the manual on how to service the mower and strimmer!!

About the pub, Mike and Edo were asking if I could grow some Italian vegetable seeds from Franchi's (Italian seed importer) in order that they could serve authentic Italian dishes occasionally on the menu. So see, Italian chef, cooking Italian food grown in Stockbury, served by an Italian landlord ... you get the picture? This is all great stuff until the corona virus!!

The Harrow is now planning on a takeaway service for their fine food, as they have a pizza oven now, Edo has also purchased a Vespa to carry out a delivery service. Please call 01795 843222 for placing orders.

Unfortunately, they are experiencing a shortage of spaghetti, this caused by panic buying. It was suggested by the pub CBS Committee that it just might be possible for the Stockbury Gardeners to assist, by growing local spaghetti from young imported saplings from Italy, it is late to plant the young trees however there is a good chance of a reasonable small crop this year at the end of the summer, so anybody that feels that they could help please contact Chris Porter, who will help with the distribution of the saplings.

Unfortunately, all of our gardener's meetings are cancelled until further notice. I hope with the help of our Secretary we will be able to email bits and pieces of interest to members. So this year it looks like its Monty Don on Fridays, good old BBC! I took this picture earlier of our dog looking after my last bottle of beer.

(Ed - a valuable commodity, hope you didn't drink it Chris!)

Chris Spree





#### Secret Service by Tom Bradby

"From the British journalist and best selling author, comes a fresh from the headlines thriller that follows senior MI6 agent Kate Henderson as she races to to unmask a Russian mole in the UK government."

This was our book for February which all members read to the end (something that doesn't always happen!) The reviews from the group settled into 2 camps, those that had never read his work before who enjoyed it, finding it a page turner and those who had previously read his work, felt it was not as good as some of his others and had aspects of having been there before. This book is the first of a trilogy, perhaps this explains the comment of 'dragging it out' and why some felt there was room to expand the characters.

Many of the group will still go on to read the rest of the trilogy when available and/or some of his other work. The group gave it a score of 7.

Next month we are reading Blood Orange by Harriet Tryce.

## Stockbury VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 8<sup>th</sup> May

As most of you will have realised by now, Stockbury Parish Council has had to take the decision to postpone the planned events on the VE Day Anniversary because of the Covid-19 situation.

It has been **postponed to August**, to coincide with the celebration of VJ Day so we hope that the crisis has passed by then and restrictions on mass gatherings will have been lifted but will make the decision nearer the time.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be involved, we will keep you updated but I'm sure we'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when ...

Stay safe, don't take any risks.

Anne Southern

# **THE HARROW**

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# Village Hall

#### Stockbury Village Hall will be closed and all club events are cancelled until further notice. Hall & Playing Field Committee

## **From The Harrow**

A message to all of our customers and community ...

Last night, myself, Michele, Laura and Luke had a lovely evening to mark the final night of opening as we know it for the foreseeable future.

We want to thank everyone for the support you have given us and that you are still giving us during this uncertain time and the unprecedented times we are currently all facing in the village, the community and as a family.

We want everyone to know that nobody in the community will be left alone and that we will do our part to ensure that our community will overcome all this.

From today "The Garden Take-Away" is available and can be ordered for take-away or delivery. Please see our ad for details.

"Embracing distance today will make us stronger tomorrow"

Thanks, we love you Edo & Mike



With great regret, Stockbury WI has made the decision to postpone our Pie Lunch event which is due to take place in April, due to the current situation with Coronavirus.

Also, we have cancelled our monthly meetings in the Village Hall for the foreseeable future. We will be contacting each other by email and telephone to discuss WI matters and to keep up with any information about future events.

I hope this situation will not last for too long.

We hope you all stay safe from the virus and don't forget to do as Boris says "KEEP WASHING YOUR HANDS".

Heather Tomsett

## **Cockett's Corner Ditty**

I've had it running round my head all day A famous poet once was heard to say 'Oh, to be in England now that April's here With freezing rain and hailstones in your hair!'

All you can hope for if you're really brave Is sunshine, blue skies and a long heatwave But when the end of summer is near You'll look back on another soggy year!

#### Short Mat Bowls - A Celebration!

There cannot be a better advert for the truly great benefits of short mat bowling. Last month the club presented a combined 'retirement' gift to Pam and Lew Gransden, long-standing members of the club. They have been skilled, stalwart members for 26 years and at their now advanced age (we never disclose ladies and gents true ages) they decided, reluctantly to take home their woods for good. This gentle sport however has kept them supple and agile for the past decades as well as introducing them to new friendships. The fun they have had and the quiet rivalry they have shared has continued to make them young at heart and happy in their retirement. During the past quarter century they have represented the Club in the Short Mat Bowls League in the singles and doubles sections; no mean feat ! They also made their mark in the team section playing for the SPITFIRES.

We wish them well and hope they visit from time to time for a few bowling ends, or just to watch the rest of us and catch up on news.



Above Pam and Lew with their gifts and Pam doing what she does do well!

**WHY** don't you join us ? It will keep you young for longer; you will extend your social life; and it doesn't cost a fortune.

**TWO FREE** trial sessions to get you started and if you enjoy the experience join us!

We meet on **Tuesday afternoons in Stockbury Village hall** from 2.00p.m. – 4.00pm and in the summer months there is an evening session starting at 7.00p.m.

Should you belong to another club or are just visiting Stockbury, you can always **come as a guest for £3.00 a session.** 

We look forward to meeting you

Ann Rich

Sorry to say we shall not be meeting until after the pandemic has eased, but we will keep you informed.



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www.chickenstockfestival.co.uk

STOCKBURY

SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 11 A.M. ONWARDS

11am Commemoration of the War Memorial followed by a "Brine", thare Street Party" 2pm Monis Dancers 3pm - Tract to the end of WWII

Tea & Coffee or Svided in the NAFFI (village hall) Cake Stall Prent Sale by Stockbury Gardeners Dog Obedience Demonstration Tractor Rides in the Orchard Raffle by the Not So Young Club Various other stalls

1940's dress encouraged!



# Patrik Says ....

#### Dear Residents,

Like every month, I compiled a list of all things Maidstone, to rant and rave about. However, we are experiencing strange times. Political spats, housing numbers and member's grants pale into insignificance these days. I will therefore concentrate on the one and obvious issue and hope that this information is still up to date when you read it.

I will send out regular updates via the Parish Council and on <u>https://nextdoor.co.uk</u> Please check up on those. Maidstone has a single point of contact for any enquiries concerning COVID-19 <u>covid19@maidstone.gov.uk</u>

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You are probably aware that we were to have elections in North Downs Ward, which are obviously cancelled now. This means that I will remain your Borough Councillor for another 12 months uncontested. I hope that not too many people were hoping to get rid of me this May. As such, I will continue to serve the community to the best of my abilities. **Please feel free to call on my assistance whenever needed.** 

Kent.County Council (KCC) will provide a single point of contact and triaging requests for support. Maidstone will be setting up local arrangements for referrals to our housing and inclusion officers and others and coordinating with the local voluntary and community sector.

In addition the government is making changes impacting on discharge of people from hospital to create capacity for COVID19 patients. This is likely to increase demand for our hospital to home service as well as care homes, community bed facilities and social services. As things stand today – we are managing to respond to demands on this.

Maidstone Borough Council is continuing service delivery to the residents and businesses of the borough and, where needed, activating business continuity plans to ensure this is achieved. We are also setting up new services and arrangements particularly to support vulnerable people in the community and businesses who are experiencing significant economic challenges.

Maidstone is fortunate to have an excellent ICT service, which enables extensive home working; it was tried and tested as part of our Brexit preparations last year. Some of our services cannot be delivered in this way and so we are working closely with service managers across the authority to ensure that our high priority services continue to be provided uninterrupted.

Essentially we strive to do as much "business as usual" and the Authority continues to send out Council Tax statements and invoices for rent and services in the usual way. Where possible we have highlighted what people should do if they are unable to pay. The Government is about to provide a grant to support households which are in receipt of Council Tax support; as I write, we are still awaiting details. Financial enforcement services including debt collection, Council Tax and benefits fraud will continue to operate, although some pragmatic operational steps will be taken.

Maidstone will continue to give high priority to our housing advice, homelessness support and rough sleeping outreach and support services. The Link in King Street however will be closed for face to face customers. We have put alternative arrangements in place for the most vulnerable of our customers – including a free phone service for people seeking homelessness advice. The DWP (Department of Work & Pensions) will remain open, as they have seen an increase in the number of people needing support.

We are working with Kent County Council and the other 11 district councils to set up a structured system covering the whole county – and drawing on local voluntary and community sector expertise and resources in order to provide access to food, medicines and other supplies in the first instance.

We will receive details of people needing support via the NHS and then signpost/connect them to a network of organisations to provide support. We are working with other public sector organisations including the Kent Fire and Rescue Service and key organisations including AgeUK, Involve Kent and the Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB). We are linking with local health care including GPs, pharmacy service and the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC).

AgeUK is to extend their paid for services to help all over 50's who are vulnerable and feel isolated. They offer:

- 2 course hot meals freshly cooked, delivery to your home Monday to Friday
- a shopping service for those who are not able to get out for their food supplies etc

If you know/hear of anyone who would benefit from this, please pass Age UK's details on. email **info@ageukmaidstone.org.uk** or call their office on **01622 753618**.

Following the Chancellor's announcements, the council is gearing up to passport funding to eligible businesses as quickly as possible. Amongst other things we are ensuring that all businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors will benefit immediately for the 100% business rates discount. There will be no need for businesses to apply for the relief. We will be sending revised bills during the course of the next week to those businesses that qualify. Further grants to eligible small businesses with properties of a rateable value up to £51,000 will receive them as soon as we are given the necessary guidance from the Government Department (BEIS).

All businesses in receipt of small business rates relief – regardless of sector – will be eligible for a cash payment of £10,000, in a similar way to that set out above. Whilst there is no need for small businesses to apply for the grant, MBC will be writing to advise those that qualify setting out what they need to do to.

We stand ready to implement any other business support measures announced by the government and have set up a dedicated e-mail address for businesses who need to seek advice of any kind. (<u>Covidbuisness@maidstone.gov.uk</u>) MBC are collaborating with a range of partners including

#### Cont's - Patrik Says ...

with the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

#### **Relaxing Parking Restrictions**

MBC has taken the decision to temporarily relax parking restrictions for resident parking bays with immediate effect until 1 July 2020 The increased number of people working from home is creating a number of exceptional circumstances and we are happy to review arrangements where necessary.

#### This morning, I said to my friend that birth-rates will be increasing dramatically in 9 months. She replied: "so will divorce rates". Please bear in mind that during social isolation, domestic abuse will become even more prevalent.

1 in 4 Women and 1 in 5 men in the UK are victims of domestic abuse in their lifetime. SIX women a week lose their life to either their partner, ex-partner or by taking their own lives as a result of Domestic Abuse. 28 men a year are killed by women.

Not all abuse is physical, control and coercion are far more common forms of abuse, focussing on areas such as financial control, isolation, behaviour control.

If you or anyone you know needs support and advice please don't hesitate to contact the following agencies and call 999 in an emergency:

Choices Domestic Abuse Services: - 0800 917 9948 National Domestic Violence Helpline – 0808 2000 247 The Men's Advice Line, for male domestic abuse survivors – 0808 801 0327

The Mix, free information and support for under 25s in the UK  $-\,0808\,\,808\,\,4994$ 

National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline – 0800 999 5428 Samaritans (24/7 service) – 116 123

PATRIK GARTEN MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward (Conservative)

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



# **Observer Deadline!**

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## **MONDAY 20th APRIL**

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Our annual rates for advertising are very reasonable and have remained unchanged for the 9th consecutive year :

 $\pounds 85$  for a half page or  $\pounds 55$  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 <u>stockburyobserver@gmail.com</u> 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 inmind 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 <u>www.stockbury.org.uk</u> within 5 days of the meeting at which they are approved.



Mobile Library Dates

9th March 2020 At the Village Hall 9.10 - 9.40am

Unfortunately the library service will be suspended from 21st March until further notice

## **Useful Contact Information**

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Rev'd Julian Staniforth	01795 - 227329.
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Cricket Club	Roger Milton - rogerandirene@btinternet.com	01795 844642
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
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
Not So Young Club	Rosemary Leonard	01634 232672
Parish Council Clerk	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Petanque Club	Tina Jacobs	07743 910185
Photographic Club	Tim Arnold - timarnold@btinternet.com	01795 843049
Police	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	999 101
Police Community Support Officers for Stockbury	Daniel Genn daniel.genn@kent.pnn.police.uk	101
Public Footpaths & Bridleway	Reporting issues with westprow@kent.gov.uk	03000 417171
Roads, Potholes, etc	(manned 24hrs) - <u>www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/</u> <u>report-a-problem</u>	03000 418181
RSPCA		0300 1234999
Short Mat Bowls	Ann Rich - ann.stockbury@btinternet.com	07718 070807
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
Stockbury Observer - Editor	stockburyobserver@gmail.com	
The Harrow Public House	stockburypub@gmail.com	01795 843222
WI	Pat Fothergill	01622 734093