



# THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

*'In the Garden of England'*

## February '19 Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Fri	1st	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	2nd		
Sun	3rd	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	4th	Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm
Tues	5th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		NSYC	7.30 - 9.30pm
Wed	6th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thurs	7th	Bowls	7.00 - 9.00pm
		Gardeners	8.00 - 10.00pm
Fri	8th	Private Booking	4.30 - 6.30pm
		Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	9th		
Sun	10th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	11th		
Tues	12th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm
Wed	13th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		W.I.	2.00 - 4.00pm
Thurs	14th	Bowls	7.00 - 9.00pm
Fri	15th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	16th	Private Booking	1.00 - 12.00am
Sun	17th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	18th	Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm
Tues	19th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		NSYC	7.30 - 9.30pm
Wed	20th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		Sew & Chatter	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Parish Council	7.30 - 9.30pm
Thurs	21st	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	22nd	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	23rd		
Sun	24th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	25th		
Tues	26th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	27th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thurs	28th	Bowls	7.00 - 9.00pm

## A249 Buses and Bus Stops

With *immediate effect*, Arriva have ceased to serve a series of bus stops on the A249 between Stockbury and the Showground. The decision has been taken on Health and Safety grounds.

The stops affected are served by the Arriva services 333 and 334 which operate between Maidstone and Sittingbourne / Isle of Sheppey.

The bus stops which will now no longer be used by these services are:

**Maidstone bound** - Stockbury Valley, Bimbury Corner and Kent County Showground.

**Sittingbourne bound** - Highland Garage, South Street, Stockbury Valley and Stockbury Roundabout.

(Ed - Good job Stockbury Parish has its very own parish bus service to Maidstone on a Tuesday then! And what an excellent job all the volunteer guys and gals do too)



## Kennel Barn Road, Stockbury Urgent Road Closure

Kent County Council gives notice that Kennel Barn Road, Stockbury will be closed to through traffic, on or after 11 February 2019 for up to 5 Days.

The road will be closed between Deans Bottom, Bredgar and Church Lane, Stockbury.

The alternative route is via Church Lane, Pett Road and onto Deans Bottom Road.

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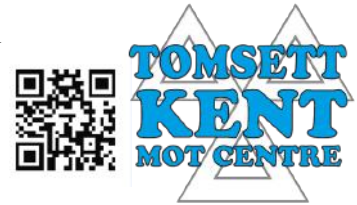
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**[www.stockbury.org.uk](http://www.stockbury.org.uk)**

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# St Mary Magdalene Church Stockbury



The services in February are as follows:

- 3 February - No Service
- 10 February - 3pm House Communion  
at Pendle House, Stockbury
- 17 February - No Service
- 24 February - 3pm House Communion  
at the home of Rev Liz Cox  
36, Windsor Drive, Sittingbourne.

Penny Stevens - PCC Secretary

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

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

## St Augustine's RC, Deanwood Drive Rainham

Mass Times  
Weekdays 9.30 am  
Saturday 10.00 am and 6.00 pm  
Sunday 9.30 am and 11.00 am

## Cockett's Corner Ditty

### Musings

I have six lodgers and thats a fact  
A rabbit, three peafowl, a queen and tom cat

It's great having animals in your home  
You are sure to never feel alone

But at times they drive me up the wall  
I am always at their beck and call!

Please do not laugh when I confide in you  
They are little friends I enjoy talking too!

# News from Stockbury Church

The Church is now closed – we celebrated our last service tonight until the summer and friends came to help us clear out all the soft furnishings. We will be closed until at least the end of July.

At the moment we are concentrating on the restoration work and installing the toilet. If we are lucky and there is enough money in the budget we may be able to stretch to a very small kitchenette too. For the moment the congregation will meet in each other's homes and after Easter, when the weather is warmer and the evenings lighter we will move to Hartlip Church until we come home again.

We hope to open the Church for one day, possibly in May, for people to come and see the progress of the work and understand the architecture. Our Architect will be there as will the stonemasons. Other than this the Church is off limits and must not be entered; the key has been removed from the shop for the time being.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us so far, both physically and financially and we look forward to the re-opening as soon as possible.

While the restoration work is in progress we are continuing to fundraise in the hope of reaching (or exceeding) our Restoration Fund target and with that in mind, its that time of year to enter the Church Draw for the coming year. Please see the entry form attached to the back of The Observer for details. A £10 entry will guarantee you are entered into all 10 draws for the year.

## STOCKBURY CHURCH MONTHLY DRAW

*Supporting the Stockbury Church Fund*

### ACT NOW!

Before Friday 8 March:

- **complete** an application form (available from Angela Brown at the MB Farms post office or see the back of The Observer)
- **pay** the £10\* per ticket by either cash or cheque to:
  - Angela in the post office or
  - Emma Charlesworth, 10 Hempstead Lane, Bapchild, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 9BH.
- **NB:** Cheques should be made payable to Stockbury Church PCC.

*\*£10 guarantees you entry for 10 monthly draws*

*First draw will be on Saturday 9 March, and then the second Saturday of every month until December.*

## AWARD WINNING M B Farms

Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

### Post Office Hours

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

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

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

### National Lottery Now Available

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



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- ☑ Use your own phone, tablet, laptop anytime for fast broadband speeds
- ☑ Get tutored help using our laptops or your kit
- ☑ Sessions now running on 1st Tuesday and 4th Thursday of the month 2pm-4pm
- ☑ Other support and times can be considered.

For more information,  
call Sara on 01795 842914



## STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

Mondays - Sittingbourne

Tuesdays - Maidstone

Thursdays - Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (Savacentre)

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Pieces and Gloss	£50
Perm	£55

**Based in Stockbury/Home visits available**



## Patrik Says ....

Dear Residents

### **BUDGET TOURISTS TRAMPLE DOWN THE AONB !**

Budget tourists, who come to the North Downs for walking holidays, disturb communities without bringing a monetary benefit to the Borough ! - A valid point ?

If you look at major tourist cities like Rome, you may notice that modern tourism does indeed stifle the natural community. When I visited the Coliseum in 1984, you could count the visitors on the fingers of twenty hands. I returned recently and it was so packed that I assumed it was cup-final day.

Modern tourism certainly has its downsides, which, on a few specific individual occasions, need further consideration. On the whole however, tourism is a valuable economic asset which brings not only monetary advantages. Kent is neither Rome nor the Coliseum.

Tourism is a form of international contact and international understanding. In my view, it is an undervalued feature that can provide many, not only monetary, benefits to Maidstone and beyond.

In the forthcoming months MBC will discuss its Tourism Destination Management Plan. I will seek to embrace responsible tourism for Maidstone and I am assured the support of my political group.

### **JUDICIAL REVIEW**

You probably heard about the judicial review between Liberal led Coalition run Maidstone (MBC) and Conservative administered Kent County Council (KCC). The pleadings are in the public domain.

In order to be granted planning permission, a developer paid a so-called Section 106 (S106) contribution. This is a payment to offset the negative effects of a development on the surrounding area and infrastructure.

MBC's local plan seeks to promote modal shift, the shift from car use to other forms of transport. The authority likes to see the A274 widened for a peak time bus lane. The S106 money was to be spent on that.

However, KCC is the Highways Authority. They are totally opposed to the bus lane idea. As far as KCC is concerned, the bus lane will never ever happen.

KCC therefore took the decision to use some of this money on a feasibility study for a Leeds / Langley relief road. Such a study is the required first step on a very long journey to possibly build this very much-needed relief road.

MBC has challenged KCC's handling of the process by means of a Judicial Review.

There are good legal arguments on both sides; but when

two parties fight in court, the lawyers laugh all the way to the bank!

I and my party group believe that resorting to legal challenges is wasteful use of taxpayers' money and that this matter should be resolved by the respective parties getting together.

### **COUNCIL TAX**

Which leads me (fluently) to the next subject: tax increases. As it stands, the Council's leadership will be considering whether to increase the Council Tax to the maximum permitted 3%.

Throughout all committee stages, I voted against all budget proposals, which seek any increases of fees or taxes. I will continue to do so this year.

MBC's share is a mere 14% of your whole Council-Tax bill. Any increase of MBC's share would only be a couple of quid each month. - But, it is your money!

I am not seeking the liberty to take your money at will, just because I can. Be it pennies or pounds.

MBC has far lesser problems than KCC or the police. County Councils up and down the country face black holes in their Social Services budgets. Education fails many of our children ..... and the highways: ..... well you live in the North Downs, do I need to elaborate?

Just because other Authorities MUST does **not** translate for me that Maidstone CAN.

I am convinced that Maidstone's precept does not need to increase this year in order to provide effective services.

**Unfortunately I am part of the current opposition at MBC.**

PATRIK GARTEN (Cons)  
MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward

Email: [patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk)

Phone: 01622-807907

(for back-copies of my Newsletters see:  
<https://www.stockbury.org.uk/observer>)



Kent County Council will be resurfacing on the **A249 Detling Hill, Detling, at various sections between the M20 J7 roundabout to Stockbury Roundabout.**

These road surface improvements are programmed to start on **Monday 4th February 2019** and should take **15 consecutive nights (including weekends)** to complete.

These work will be undertaken between the hours of **20.00 and 06.00** each night.

**The northbound A249 will be closed completely** and the diversion route will be via the M20 (London Bound) between junction 7 to junction 6, A229 Bluebell Hill (Northbound) from the M20 junction 6 to the M2 junction3 and the M2 (coast bound) between junction 3 to junction 5.  
KCC Highways



## 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

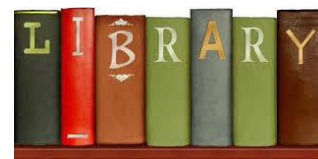
Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (*Co-ordinator*)  
(01622) 736331

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

**[stockbury-neighbourhood@outlook.com](mailto:stockbury-neighbourhood@outlook.com)**

Any ideas and views would be greatly welcomed at the above mentioned e-mail address.

If you know of any other residents who would like to receive information from Stockbury Neighbourhood Watch, then please ask them to either contact the Co-ordinator on the above telephone number or e-mail their details to the above mentioned e-mail address.



### *Mobile Library Dates*

**14 and 28th February '19**

**At the Village Hall**

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## Stockbury Gardeners

Always start a piece of work with “wit or weather”, is my motto, so here is a good example of both.

Who can spot what is unusual about the picture below?



The first person who spots it will win a free drink in The Harrow. The only clue is, both came from the garden this year and at the same time during January!!!

This month finish pruning apple and pears, renew any stakes that hold them up if found to be rotten. Seeds to sow in the greenhouse now are

cabbage, broccoli/calabrese. Celery, celeriac, chicory, tomatoes and cucumbers can also be sown.

Chrysanthemum cuttings can be taken now, they can be put into a mixture of sharp sand and a rich top soil mixture.

Keep an eye on daytime temperatures in the greenhouse as it can get pretty warm if we get a bright sun.

While I have your attention, we will be holding our annual hanging basket workshop, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, all are welcome. Bring up to 2 hanging baskets and liners per person and we supply the rest; all the plants are sold at a bargain prices. If you are not members you can join or renew your membership then.

It is worth shopping around some of the garden centres at the moment, as I found last week that Dobbie’s in Gillingham had seeds for sale at 50% discount. Wilco’s are always good for value in the garden department too, I always buy my hose connectors and hoses there.

Stockbury Gardeners meet this month at 8pm on the 7th. We will be discussing the new gardening calendar, and this year’s speakers and activities.

Keep warm and enjoy the gardening.

Chris Spree

## The Harrow Pétanque Club Season Report 2018/19



Our first Petanque Season since the Harrow reopened as a Community Pub has been hard work, entertaining and eventful. Following the purchase of The Harrow by the community we did though make a Herculean effort to refurbish the piste, including installing new lighting before the season began. This ran down to the wire and was completed the day before our first match!

The uncertainty over the fate of the Harrow though had its toll on the squad of players, with some of our better players opting to go to a larger club with teams competing in the higher divisions and others giving up playing altogether. As a consequence, although we started the season with a new piste, we struggled to have sufficient players to muster two teams. However having managed to recruit some new players we decided to continue with two teams, even though most of the new players were novices.

Our performance improved during the year as our new players gained experience. Unfortunately this was not sufficient to prevent both the summer season teams, The Shires and The Percherons, ending up in Division 7 at the end of the season, with The Percherons propping up the whole of the Kent Leagues!

However all is not lost as a team of hardy players (some may say foolhardy!) The Hafflingers, who compete in the Winter League, are set to come mid way in Division B. This division is made up of teams from clubs in higher divisions (some in division 2). So we are hopeful of improving our position during the coming summer season (the only way is up!).

We do though need some more players, so if you are interested please come along to our taster session, the date of which will be published in next months Observer. You do not need to be experienced, everyone is welcome.

P.S. Although we lost Aston (who joined us aged 12) to Lordswood, he has benefited from being in a bigger club and now represents Kent at County level and is heading towards the England team. Not bad for a small village pub club.

Alan Cooke

## The Harrow Pétanque Open Evening

Looking forward to the end of winter?

The long warm summer evenings?

Enjoy good company and gentle outdoor exercise?

Then why not join The Harrow Pétanque Team!

No Experience Necessary

All Ages Welcome

Look out for the taster session details in next months Observer

# THE HARROW AT STOCKBURY

**We are now Serving a Full Menu**

## February's Events

Friday 1st - Evening Fully Booked but Open for Drinking  
Tuesday 5th - Pie & a Pint  
Friday 8th - Fish & Chip Night  
Saturday 9th & 23rd - Breakfast Club - 8.30 - 10.30am  
Saturday 9th - Steak Night  
Thursday 14th, Friday 15th & Saturday 16th - Valentines Menu  
£75 per couple incl. a glass of Champagne  
Wednesday 20th - Seniors Lunch Club  
Saturday 23rd - Curry Night  
Tuesday 26th - Games Night

## Opening Hours

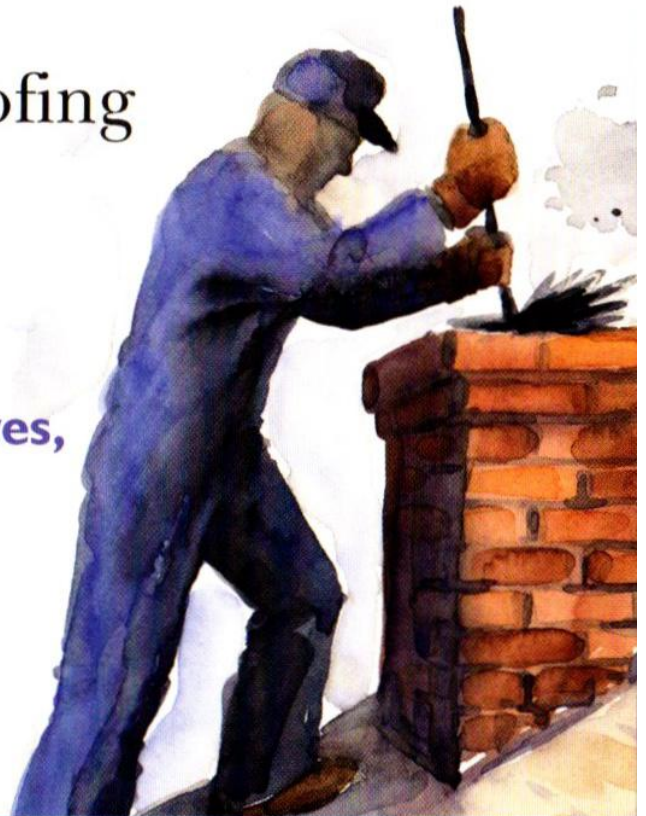
Monday - Closed for now  
Tuesday - Thursday 12.00-23.00  
Friday & Saturday 12.00-12.00am  
Sunday 11.30-21.00pm

**Phone: 01795 843222**

**We are currently looking for new Pétanque and Darts players to join our teams  
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## Stockbury Book Club

### All The Light We Cannot See

This is a book written by the American author Anthony Doerr and which won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and in the same year the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. With that pedigree we were expecting a high degree of satisfaction.

The novel is set in occupied France during World War II and centres around a blind French girl and a German boy, whose paths eventually cross.

In 1934 Marie Laure LeBlanc, a six year old daughter of a master locksmith is rapidly becoming blind. Her widowed father Daniel LeBlanc, who works at the Natural History Museum in Paris often takes her to his place of work. He is anxious to enrich her quality of life and foster her independence crafting a wooden to-scale model of their actual neighbourhood and supervises her in discovering it so that she can navigate the streets independently. Each birthday he produces increasingly intricate puzzles to develop her sense of touch and he also provides new novels in Braille for her to read.

We are also introduced to an eight year old (in 1934) German boy called Werner Pfennig an orphan who is a whizz at radio mechanics, building ever more sophisticated machines at first as a hobby and then later, in a more serious scenario, for the Nazi military elite.

Added into the mix is a priceless blue diamond which is believed to be housed in the Paris Natural History Museum. To hide it from the Nazis copies are made and distributed across the land to confuse the enemy. Daniel LeBlanc becomes involved in this deception. Will the enemy find the real one ?

Various other characters become part of the story on the way, among them Marie's elderly great uncle who works for the Resistance and on the other side a Nazi gemmologist.

Our group had very diverse views. Mostly it was agreed that the story had a slow start but once on its way became more interesting, particularly as it gave a view of the impact of WWII on young people and families. However though some enjoyed following various threads of the characters' lives as the action unfolded, others of us found the descriptions overly long, not adding to the progress of the story at all. In fact in some ways the language was quite stilted, delivered in short sentences in a rather staccato way. Maybe this represented the fractured lives of the participants ? And American idioms such as using 'sure' instead of yes and other words such as 'apartment houses' and 'think big' didn't sit well in this historic background.

Did the prize winning novel live up to its reputation ? Only you can judge. As for us, the scores we gave ranged from 3 to 9 and ended up with an average of 6 ½.

Ann Rich

## WALKING the DAWG

We all like to take our furry companions for a walk; it's good for them (and us). They have a great run around getting good exercise and at some point make a deposit. Let's face it that's part of the reason we took them out in the first place. However not everyone manages to remove said deposit.

Perhaps this is the time to remind everyone of the danger to public health this could cause. May I suggest you find a dictionary (a bit old fashioned perhaps) or go on line and look up

### TOXOCARIASIS

**WHY?** ..... Well this is a **NASTY** which lurks in small eggs, left by a round worm parasite in the excretions of dogs, cats and foxes. (We can't do much about the last two I know.) These eggs survive for three weeks or much longer if buried. Humans can catch the disease from handling contaminated soil and the most likely to be affected are young children when they play and then put their fingers in their mouths. Although adults too can be adversely affected much more serious side effects are possible in children. Please – go to the NHS site to investigate more.

However aside from all this no one wants to slip up on faeces and have the unpleasant job of removing the mess.

The playing field is **a public space**, so please **TAKE ENOUGH BAGS, PICK UP, TIE UP, and DEPOSIT IT IN THE BIN PROVIDED.**

Enjoy walking the Dawg !

*A LOCAL*

## Fly Tipping in Stockbury

As we all know, this continues to be a serious problem in our parish and this is just a reminder of the numbers to call to report it.

### Maidstone Borough Council

Call **01622 602162**. After a longish introduction, you are then given a series of options – option 1 is for fly tipping and you will then be put through to a person who will take the details. You will be encouraged to report the matter on line but their system does not work! However, MBC are efficient and the items are normally removed within 24hrs.

### Kent Count Council

If here is fly tipping which is on the highway, MBC will not remove it. You need to phone through to KCC Highways - **03000 418181**

If, as in the case of the fly tipping on Honeycrook Hill recently, the item is in danger of causing injury or an accident, then press 1 and you will be put through to someone who will deal with it quickly. Otherwise press 2.

It would help if everyone made a note of these numbers and phoned when necessary.



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**Workshop 01622 616117**  
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**Email: [info@elliottinstall.co.uk](mailto:info@elliottinstall.co.uk)**



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[www.tdroofinganddecorating.co.uk](http://www.tdroofinganddecorating.co.uk)

# The Harrow - The Past

I have just found the history section on your website and found the history of the pub very interesting.

My name is Lissa Brown and my parents, Norman and Pat ran the pub for 20 years from the early 60s to 1983.

There were 3 bars when they first took over the tenancy. The Public Bar was to the left with an off sales hatch where bottles could be returned and a few pence refunded on each bottle. Recycling before its time! The Snug was in the middle section and the Saloon Bar to the right of the central door. There was also a children's room off the Saloon Bar towards the back, this later became part of a bigger kitchen which was needed when we started serving hot food - when my parents did away with the separate bars and changed it to just one big space with more tables and chairs and gave it more a cosy country pub feel.

The local fox hunt used to meet regularly at the pub for a quick drink to calm the nerves before the hunting began. Horses and hounds in tow, the mess left was always quickly cleared by the keen gardeners in the village all hoping to grow prize winning roses for the fete held every year. No hunt was complete without the anti-hunt protesters who were always well behaved.

I have many photos taken during my parent's time at the pub when it was a Courage Barclay, then later changed to a Courage (Eastern) pub and called The Harrow Inn.



One photo shows the middle door in use and inside the heavy curtain can be seen that separated The Snug and Public Bar. Also, there is no toilet extension built on the right-hand side either, only the outside ladies loo building and the gents which was at the front of this, in the corner next the garage/stable block where my sister did keep her horse for a few years.



I'm not sure anyone would dress up like a black and white minstrel today for a New Year's Eve party but in the seventies, no one seemed to care.

My father Norman was very active right up until the time he died aged 72. He was running a very busy pub at that age, opening 365 days a year. The pub had a very busy lunchtime trade with local business men having meetings over long lunches.; weekends and evenings, it was more villagers and couples in the bar.

The only time he didn't open was Christmas Day night when I had both my parents at the same time to myself for the evening! Once a year not bad! My brother was also allowed to hold a private party in the bar with all his hippy friends which was very noisy.

Even though my father was 72, he wasn't ready to retire and loved being the landlord and part of the tight knit community of Stockbury, so much so it was the death of him in the end! Having been in hospital for a hernia operation my father discharged himself the day after his operation, as he wanted to get back to his pub quickly as possible. That night in the bar just after closing he died from a heart attack brought on by a blood clot he had in his leg which the hospital wasn't aware of.

In 1982/83 the brewery thought it wasn't right that my mother carried on the tenancy as landlady, even though she helped turn it into a thriving business over the 20 years they were there. It just wasn't their policy to let a woman run a pub on her own, so she was made to leave a year after he died. Due to all the stress etc. of my father dying, the battle to stay at the pub and finally having to find somewhere to move to, her cancer returned, and she died 6 months after we left.

My mother always said the pub was haunted and she saw a little girl at the end of her bed (bedroom front right), in the cellar and in the bar on a few occasions. She also felt very uneasy in the cellar like she was being watched. My dad put it down to the gin! You can't have a pub these days without a good old-fashioned ghost story attached to it, so if The Harrow does indeed have a ghost, it could well be my father still not ready to leave!!!!

The Harrow holds both good and bad memories for me growing up but ultimately both my parents died because of The Harrow, it was their life and I lost them both by the time I was only 15 years old.

Best wishes to all shareholders and customers of The Harrow.

Lissa

(Many thanks to Lissa for sharing her precious memories and photos with us, very interesting - Ed)



## CALLING ALL TRAD

### -GAMERS!



We are running a further traditional games evening at  
The Harrow Pub on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019

We remain keen to open this up to more people who  
may want to play a  
variety of games.

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

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



## Did you Know ...?

To produce a single pound of honey, a single bee would  
have to visit 2 million flowers.

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

No word in the English language rhymes with month,  
orange, silver or purple

A sneeze travels out your mouth at over 100 mph!

It's possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.

You are about 1 centimetre taller in the morning than in the  
evening!

A mole can dig a tunnel that is 300 feet long in only one  
night.

A hard boiled egg will spin but a soft-boiled egg will not.

The word "gorilla" is derived from a Greek word meaning,  
"A tribe of hairy women."

Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin!

For every human on Earth there are 1.6 million ants.

There are 60,000 miles of blood vessels in the human body.

Cats have 32 muscles in each of their ears.

A "jiffy" is the scientific name for 1/100th of a second.

## Observer Deadline!

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

**Monday 25th February, 2019**

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

## Calling All Advertisers

Our annual rates for advertising are very reasonable  
and have remained unchanged for the 7th consecutive  
year :

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Stockbury Parish Council Minutes**

## Free Small Ads

The "Small Ads" section is for Stockbury Parish  
residents to sell redundant or unwanted items in good  
condition. If you have any such items, please send the  
details to the Editor at [stockburyobserver@gmail.com](mailto:stockburyobserver@gmail.com)  
and they will be advertised for free in The Observer for  
**one month only.**

We accept no responsibility for the quality of the items  
advertised for sale or the handling of payment between  
buyer and vendor.

We started our first meeting of 2019 with a special treat of freshly cooked fish and chips from Marino's in Sittingbourne, which were delicious!!

We eventually got down to business and discussed the NFWI 2019 Resolutions shortlist being put forward and took votes on the ones we will be supporting this year.

We wish Joyce, Brenda and Di good luck when they attend Denman courses in the early part of March. We look forward to hearing all about their trip and see any items which they have produced during their courses.

We received a very nice letter from Maureen Ivory at the Sittingbourne Salvation Army, thanking Stockbury for their kind donations towards their Christmas Appeal. She went on to say how much the band enjoy coming to Stockbury to join in and be part of the Carol Service and that they are looking forward to coming back again this year.

The amount raised on the evening was £188.39 and went towards toys and food parcels for those in need.

Our next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. Our Speaker will be Fred Lemont on the history of greetings cards. We will also be celebrating our 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Heather Tomsett

## STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS **CALLING ALL PASSENGERS!!**

Hello All! It's been a while so here I am with my thoughts on our trips for last year.

We started out in April with a visit to Polehill Garden Centre which I believe although not a full bus was enjoyed by all who went with reasonable weather and a good start to the year.

Next in June you could find us on Teapot Island home to several thousand ceramic teapots covering most types, shapes and colours, you name them they were there somewhere! And the day came complete with a cream tea; another success with slightly increased numbers.

August saw us going '*darn to Margite*' to the musical accompaniment of Chas & Dave and even more passengers but unfortunately we picked probably the worst day weather wise and got somewhat wet! It was a good job the Turner Contemporary was on hand which prevented the day being a total wash out – *but did it dampen our spirits? Not at all!* – another successful but damp day.

September followed, this time, on a Thursday. We visited the Kentish Lady (no not one of our own) this one was the rather nice pleasure trip boat moored in Maidstone and on our three hour cruise took us along

the river hearing all about the interesting sites from the water's edge courtesy of the Captain; this was complete with fish / chips or sausage / chips and a free drink for lunch on a very nice day. There were twelve of us as numbers had to be booked but again another successful outing.

There was another trip planned for October to Chartwell House which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

December and there we were, ten in total going to the Panto! '*Oh yes we were*'!! It was Dick Whittington in Chatham starring Ray Quinn and Joe Tracini (son of Joe Pasquale), a first for the village but not the last I think as it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The following week should have seen us in Canterbury for the Christmas Market but with the bus being involved in an accident earlier that week, we sadly had to cancel. It was a great shame but thankfully there were no personal injuries caused by the accident and that's most important.

So there we have it, 7 trips planned and 5 carried out during 2018 and I personally would like this to continue if it's what people want.

What do we have in mind for 2019?, I hear you say!

Well ....

Having had the opportunity to catch up with Fiona and some of the regulars, I've put an itinerary together, it is not set in concrete but would give everyone an outline of the year and what we hope to achieve. It is based on the trips or outings being as close to the fourth Wednesday of whichever month we choose. This should avoid clashing with other village arrangements and tell you which dates to aim for.

- April - Wednesday 24th - Bybrook Garden Centre, Ashford
- May - Wednesday 22nd - Canterbury  
(we don't have to wait until Christmas!)
- June- Wednesday 26th - Hotel Burstin, Folkestone  
(to include lunch if possible)
- July - No trip planned during school and holiday period
- August - Wednesday 28th - Brighton
- September - Wednesday 25th - Capel le Ferne  
Military Museum
- October - Wednesday 23rd - Shopping and/or cinema trip  
(perhaps Bluewater?)
- November - No trip planned
- December - Date to be advised - Panto 2019
- December - Date to be advised - Canterbury  
Christmas Market

Don't forget to check The Observer each month for confirmed trip details.

If you have any other thoughts please make them known – probably to Fiona (she's the grown-up) but you can always get a message to me on my mobile.

***So there you are  
Are You Coming??  
Will look forward to catching up***

Kevin Masters

## Useful Contact Information

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Revd Liz Cox <a href="mailto:revlizcox@outlook.com">revlizcox@outlook.com</a>	01795 435184
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Cricket Club		
Crimestoppers	(Confidential)	0800 55511
Dancing Club	Brian Crisp	01634 231886
Dog Club	Mick Bingham	01795 842480
Electricity Problems		0800 7838866
Environment Agency	Incident Hotline	0800 807060
Fly Tipping & Waste Collection	Including bulky items	01622 602162
Gardeners	<a href="mailto:stockburygardeners@live.com">stockburygardeners@live.com</a>	
Golf Society	Jeff Hall	01795 843296
Hall Bookings	Sue Porter	01795 843715
Kent County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast <a href="mailto:shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk">shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk</a>	
Maidstone BC Councillor	Patrik Garten - <a href="mailto:patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk">patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk</a>	01622 807907
MB Farms Stores & Post Office		01795 842401
Member of Parliament Faversham & Mid Kent Ward	Helen Whately - <a href="mailto:helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk">helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk</a>	
Neighbourhood Watch	Ann Ballard	01622 736331
Not So Young Club	Rosemary Leonard	01634 232672
Parish Council	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Petanque Club	Tina Jacobs	07743 910185
Photographic Club	Tim Arnold - <a href="mailto:timarnold@btinternet.com">timarnold@btinternet.com</a>	01795 843049
Police	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	999 101
Police Community Support Officers for Stockbury	Daniel Genn <a href="mailto:daniel.genn@kent.pnn.police.uk">daniel.genn@kent.pnn.police.uk</a>	101
Public Footpaths & Bridleway	Reporting issues with. - <a href="mailto:westprow@kent.gov.uk">westprow@kent.gov.uk</a>	03000 417171
Roads, Potholes, etc	(manned 24hrs) - <a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem">www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem</a>	03000 418181
RSPCA		0300 1234999
Short Mat Bowls	John Lovell	01795 844319
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
Stockbury Observer - Editor	<a href="mailto:stockburyobserver@gmail.com">stockburyobserver@gmail.com</a>	
The Harrow Public House	<a href="mailto:stockburypub@gmail.com">stockburypub@gmail.com</a>	01795 843222
WI	Pat Fothergill	01622 734093

TO BE RETURNED TO YOU  
(after numbers have been allocated by the organisers)

## STOCKBURY CHURCH MONTHLY DRAW APPLICATION FORM

Do you want this form showing your draw number(s) to be:

a) posted back to you or b) left at MB Farms Post office for you to collect (delete as appropriate)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

..... POST CODE.....

TEL NO: ..... EMAIL:.....

NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED..... NUMBERED (leave blank).....

PAYMENT ENCLOSED (£10 EACH)..... CASH / CHEQUE (Cheques to Stockbury Church PCC)

DATE..... SIGNED.....

Please return entry form & payment to either Angela Brown at MB Farms Post Office or Emma Charlesworth, 10 Hempstead Lane, Bapchild, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 9BH

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