



# THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

*'In the Garden of England'*

## April '18 Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Tues	1st	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Internet Café The Harrow	2.00pm - 4.00pm
		NSYC	7.30 - 9.30pm
Wed	2nd	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thurs	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	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Art Club	7.00 - 9.00pm
Wed	9th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		W.I.	7.30 - 9.30pm
Thurs	10th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	11th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	12th		
Sun	13th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	14th		
Tues	15th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		NSYC	7.30 - 9.30pm
Wed	16th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		Craft & Chatter	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Parish Council	7.30 - 9.30pm
Thurs	17th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	18th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	19th	Church Fun Quiz	7.00 - 11.00pm
Sun	20th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	21st		
Tues	22nd	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Art Club	7.00 - 9.00pm
Wed	23rd	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thurs	24th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	25th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	26th		
Sun	27th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	28th		
Tues	29th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	30th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thurs	31st	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm

## STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

Did you realise what a great service is available for the villages of Stockbury, South Green, Yelsted and Hartlip from your Community Bus?

- Transport to and from the centre of popular shopping destinations on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday every week.
- Pick up and drop off at convenient local points or from your door if need be.
- Inexpensive for most and FREE for bus pass holders.
- No need to worry about parking.
- Flexibility on timing and drop off points.
- Time for you to shop, have a coffee and even maybe lunch.

This is a really valuable local asset but is currently underused and we need to see more passengers. Perhaps you have suggestions that might make your minibus a more appealing proposition for you? These might include but are not limited to

- Alternative destinations
- Alternative timings

Alternative destination points could include: -  
**Monday** - Sittingbourne Retail Park for M&S Food, Dunelm, Bunnings and Curry's PC World or drop off at any or all the supermarkets in town.

**Tuesday** - Notcutt's, St Peter's Wharf Retail Park for Asda Living, TK Maxx, The Range, Hobbycraft and Cotton Traders.

**Thursday** - Rainham town centre, Tesco or Dobbies

In addition, you might know of other people living within our villages who would benefit from using the service but are not doing so at present. If so, please tell them of the valuable and friendly service which we provide.

Even if you only want to use your minibus occasionally, that is absolutely fine. You can phone to book a seat for any or all of the three days that we run that you wish to use it.

Help us to ensure the continuing success of this fantastic facility.

Please call with suggestions or to book a ride on **07751 454702**. Please let us know when you call where you would like to be dropped off.

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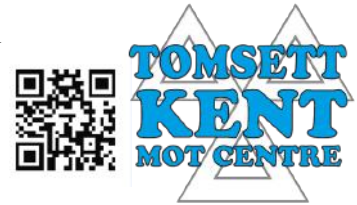
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Council



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Diary



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Businesses



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

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**Stockbury  
Observer!**

# St Mary Magdalene Church Stockbury



The services for May are as follows:

- 6 May – 6pm Sung Communion
- 13 May - 10am joint Benefice Service at Newington. **No service at Stockbury.**
- 20 May - Whitsunday, 6pm Sung Communion
- 27 May - 6pm Evensong

The church will now be open on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm and on Sundays from 10am to 6pm until the end of September. Please do visit this historic and peaceful church which has been in Stockbury for over a thousand years.

**\*Please note the time change for the summer months.**

Anyone wishing to visit the church can obtain the key from the village shop.

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



## Stockbury W.I.

We met up for our first evening meeting of the year and were treated to a informative and witty talk by Peter Batty on an 'Armchair Tour of The City of London' and we learnt many fascinating facts about our capital city.

Five members attended the West Kent Federation AGM held in Tunbridge Wells. Many topics were discussed including events being organised to celebrate our 100 year anniversary.

The morning speaker, Baroness Floella Benjamin spoke about the work she has been involved in with children and her fight to get a Children's Minister.

After lunch they heard from the Kent Resilience Forum. This is the group that pulls together different services eg. The Salvation Army, Samaritans, Red Cross, 4x4 drivers and others to be called upon when acts of terrorism occur, floods, snow and any other time when people need help. The Women's Institute are members of this group and are often called upon to make sandwiches, tea and generally look after people.

Hilary Haworth then took to the stage to speak about plastics and the problems being caused by them.

The day ended with the "Women in Harmony Choir".

The members who attended had a thoroughly good but long day and were please to arrive home safely.

Our next gathering will be the Annual General Meeting, held in the Village Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

It is with great sadness we report the death of a much loved friend and former Member of Stockbury WI, Maureen Mannering; she will be sadly missed and our thoughts go to her family and loved ones.

Rest in Peace

Heather Tomsett

## April Church Draw Winners

**CONGRATULATIONS!**







The Harrow Pub Ltd  
The Street ,  
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Kent ME9 7UH

The newly-refurbished, community-owned pub can help with a number of IT frustrations you may have:

- ⇒ Fed up with your super-slow, rural broadband? We offer fast fibre to use free-of-charge. Bring your own device and get those jobs done over a cup of coffee or a pint.
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For more information, call Sara on 01795 842914 and leave your name and a contact number



## 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>



## STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

Mondays - Sittingbourne

Tuesdays - Maidstone

Thursdays - Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (Savacentre)

Pickups from 9:30 a.m. close to where you live. Give us a try!

Call 07551 454702



**KAREN BRUNNING**  
Art Director/Manager

Tel: 07809 277666  
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Tint Regrowth	£35/£40	
Pieces and Gloss	£50	
Perm	£55	

**Based in Stockbury/Home visits available**



## Patrik Says ....

Dear Residents

It is still Purdah.... Never mind, I have some (non-political) news for you:

Great uproar sounded through the village a few weeks ago because some very unauthorised development happened in Plum Tree Lane at Cherry Trees Farm.

### **Did I not say in the past that local government works by statistics?**

My point was proven when more than a dozen complaints were lodged on the council's website. Before the week was out an enforcement officer slapped a temporary stop notice on the culprit.

Unlike planning breaches, contraventions against a stop notice are a criminal offence.

Today I read that a planning application has been filed. It looks like the problem will hover about the village like a bad dragon for a while, with appeals and the like. Good to know however, that MBC is with the people of Stockbury this time.

Just to give you a clear picture, a young family own the front part of the site and have permission. However, the owner sold off the field to a young gentleman who in turn has sold it on to an Irish Gypsy family. The original owner went away for a weekend and when he came back they had done the work. He is devastated and I would hate the locals to think that he is responsible.

### **Going back to my first point: Like all government departments, the police works on statistics too !**

Please report **ALL** incidents to police, however minor. Suspicious behaviour should be reported to 101 or 01622 690690. 101 costs £0.15 per call and experience shows that the local number sometimes gets answered faster.

Obviously, crime in progress must be reported on 999.

Theft and other crime which is not urgent can be reported online

**[www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/kent-police-online-reporting/](http://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/kent-police-online-reporting/)**

If you do not report crime we will slip down in the force's list of priority areas, as their statistics show no crime. In other words, if you shout loudest you'll get the best service.

### **And while I am in my ranting mode about statistics:**

The same goes for fly-tipping. Please report **ALL** fly-tipping and littering to Maidstone:

**[www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/do-it-online/report-it](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/do-it-online/report-it)**

Recently the IT department made improvements to the map. You must mark the point on the road, not next to it. If necessary, please zoom in.

Any problems with the software or reported tips not being removed within 3 days please contact me, preferably also email me the report's reference number.

The online reporting will be automatically transferred to the operators' vans. Even if you would report it by phone, the call-handler would use the same online system like you. Therefore it will be best if you use the online reporting facility yourself - if possible.

If there are several tips in the vicinity, please file a report for each one individually! As I said, Local Government works by numbers. Plus, your report will also be forwarded to the Environment Agency for national statistics !

### **And while I probably bored you stiff by now about online reporting and statistics, just two more things:**

There is a neat little app for your mobile phone, called "Country Eye". This allows you to report all of the above and more (like potholes!) all at a touch of a button, provided you have mobile coverage - but that's another story.....

Lastly, I already mentioned it last month: the Kent Downs Management Plan is currently being reviewed. Please get involved and feed into the revision of the plan - it is only a 10min survey. [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RCJVRDC](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RCJVRDC)

There is so much more I wanted to say but again, I ran out of page space. (Ed, how about a bi-weekly Observer?) (No harm in dreaming Patrik! - Ed) For now I am looking forward to next month's edition; leaving you with a very, very last urgent one:

The Longton Woods panning enquiry will start on 01 May in Maidstone Town Hall and is scheduled to last three days.

PATRIK GARTEN  
MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward,  
including Stockbury



### **Temporary Road Closure - 11 June for up to 1 day**

South Green Lane, Sittingbourne – A249 Sittingbourne Road to Rumstead Road. Alternative routes via:

#### **NORTHBOUND**

Rumstead Lane, A249 Sittingbourne Road (Westbound), U turn via Church Hill and Honeycrock Hill, A249 Sittingbourne Road (Eastbound), Stockbury Roundabout and A249 Sittingbourne Road (Westbound).

#### **SOUTHBOUND**

A249 Sittingbourne Road (Westbound) and Rumstead Road.

The closure is to enable carriageway micro-surfacing to be carried out by KCC Highways.



# Stockbury Neighbourhood Watch

## Oil Boiler Specialists

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:

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.

- 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

All design and installs in-house this will allow you to gain the MCS payment from the government to cover the cost of installation.

I will still be the best oil technician I can be for you all and keep your oil boilers running at their best

Our aim is to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the anxieties of becoming a victim of crime.

Give me a call or email

Please be vigilant and report suspicious characters or incidents to the police and also to your co-ordinator (details below).



Mark Viccars

Chestnut Plumbing



Registered Business

07894067151

01795 842291

chestnutplumbing@yahoo.co.uk

Co-ordinators will cascade any information from the police or neighbours to members.

### CONTACT NUMBERS:

OFTEC & HETAS Registered and Certified

Emergency : 999  
(crime in progress/life threatening)

Non-Emergency : 101

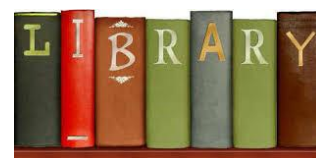
Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (Co-ordinator)  
(01622) 736331

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

10th & 24th May '18

At the Village Hall

### the physiotherapy centre

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





# Stockbury Gardeners

# Stockbury Easter Egg Hunt

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 6 rows of brassica seedlings planted out all in perfect straight rows, marathon calabrese, winter brussel sprouts, red cabbage, 3 varieties of cauliflower all watered in and perfect. Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 28 degrees and bright sun hot enough to fry an egg on concrete. Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April, telephone call to pals and garden centre Dobbies, "my veg has fried can you help with replacements?".....enough said.

As a point you should always harden off seedlings before planting out by slowly introducing them to the elements.

Tips this month.

- Watch out for supermarkets selling cut and come again lettuce, if you carefully pull the seedlings because that is what they are, apart you will find that there are probably hundreds of different varieties of possible lettuce that you can plant out and grow.
- For cordon grown tomatoes pinch out side growths, these are the growths appearing in the crook of the stem and large leaves, simply remove them.
- With the early onset of the great orange ball in the sky, it's a reminder to shade any plants in the greenhouse.
- Its time to sow outside now, spring onions, carrots, potatoes, leeks, parsnips, herbs, in fact most vegetables still in your seed store can be sown by now, except for basil.
- Roses need feeding and watch for blackspot and mildew.
- Cut your lawn but the first cuts should not be too short, rather best done in stages. A well-manicured lawn and straight edges gives the best impression for visitors.

This month the gardeners have their annual hanging basket workshop on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, members (still time to join for this year!!) should bring up to a maximum of 2 baskets and liners, we supply the compost, ingredients, and plants, you just need to pay for these.

May the 6<sup>th</sup> sees Upchurch Garden Society having their annual plant sale in the paddock at 9am.

I know it seems improbable, but it can still happen .....a frost, so beware!

Right - a keen gardener spotted in Stockbury improving his soil by building and filling a raised bed.



With Easter early this year it came as a bit of surprise to some people but this didn't stop the first Stockbury Orchard Easter Egg Hunt being a great success.

Despite the downpour that occurred the previous Friday, the skies were clear for the set up and start of the hunt. The Easter Bunny set off the event hopping between the trees helping children find a treasure trail of eggs to exchange for chocolate and it was lovely to see lots of local families in attendance who didn't mind a spot of rain and joined in with traditional English gusto!

There was also face painting, teas and coffees and cakes for sale to entertain the grown-ups.

As the rain set in toward the end of the morning and families headed home with bundles of eggs, the raffle was called and those who didn't collect their prizes can still collect them from Jamie at Tomsett Kent MOT Centre. All the winners are listed below and were posted on the Stockbury Easter Egg Hunt Facebook Page.

Over £170 was raised this year- thank you all for attending! This will be split between the Stockbury Church (thanks to generous donations of refreshments) and the Stockbury Orchard Fund.

A big thank you to those who helped organise this event and made it special.

The success of this event has meant us crazy lot have agreed to do it again next year so watch this space!



Raffle Winners:

Yazsemin  
 Melissa  
 Chris Porter  
 Sarah  
 Lawrence 'The Postie' Laver  
 Karen and Mark  
 Charlotte and Laura  
 Gail Mace

Jamie Stone



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## **THE HARROW AT STOCKBURY**

**We are now Serving a Full Menu**

**Lunch and Dinner Tuesday to Saturday  
Sunday Lunch 12.00 to 4pm**

We are now serving our new and improved menu with a new range of seasonal and locally sourced dishes

### **May's Events**

Friday 4th - Fish & Chip Night

May 6th - First Harrow Sunday BBQ

Friday 11th - 3 Course Friday

Order 3 courses from main A La Carte Menu and get a complimentary bottle of wine

Saturday 19th - Live Music - Mystery Machine

### **Opening Hours**

Monday - Closed for now

Tuesday - Thursday 12.00-23.00



# STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

## CALLING ALL PASSENGERS!!

Hello All!

So here we are with number two on our list.

This time I fancy 'Teapot Island' just outside of Yalding, so again not too far to travel and this time we can combine it with a cream tea. Another family owned business since about 2003, boasting the biggest collection of ceramic teapots, with over 2,000 for sale. There is of course a gift shop, cafe and ample parking. So how about it?

I was thinking **Wednesday 13th June** - BUT as Fiona will be on her fantastic trip and Jamie will be looking after the normal bus duties - for this one you will need to call me direct on my mobile **07901 511018** and if I don't answer leave a message and I'll get back to you!!!

Free for concession holders or £5 per person for those without, but you **must add** £6.25 for the cream tea, payable as usual on the day and of course don't forget another quiz!!!!

We aim to leave the village at 10.30 and take a leisurely drive out to Yalding.

Why not join us for another good day out - 3 last year, hoping for 5 this year!!

**SO ARE YOU COMING??**

**Call Kevin NOW!!**

Where are we off to next?? Margate!! Details coming soon!

Kevin Masters

STOCKBURY FOOD & CRAFT FAIR  
30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018 10-2PM



First Ascot Luxury Jam

The NSY are doing the Refreshments

Eric Chauvel and his French Delicatessen

Ritoweg Farm

McCarthy's Country Store Markets

And so much more for everyone so please support us

Stockbury Church Preserves

Kates Korner Bags Home made Cushions

Fruit & Vegetables

And there will be some wonderful raffle prizes from local business!!!

## FUN QUIZ

*In aid of Stockbury Church*

Saturday

19<sup>th</sup> May 2018

at

Stockbury Village Hall

7.30pm start

£6.00 per person  
(bring own drinks)

Teams of 6 - 8 per table

Contact **Brenda Mace**  
**01622 884746**

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

**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 May, 2018**

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**

The minutes for our Parish Council meeting will be approved at the following meeting and will then be published on [www.stockbury.org.uk](http://www.stockbury.org.uk) within 5 days of the meeting at which they are approved.

**Free Small Ads**

We are trialling a "Small Ads" section for Stockbury Parish residents to sell, redundant or unwanted items in good condition. If you have any such items, please send the details to [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.

## Useful Contact Information

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Revd Liz Cox - <a href="mailto:elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com">elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com</a>	01795 435184
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Cricket Club	Tom Bulbrook - <a href="mailto:th.bul2@yahoo.com">th.bul2@yahoo.com</a>	07780 440526
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	Ryan Waring - <a href="mailto:5872@kent.pnn.police.uk">5872@kent.pnn.police.uk</a> Dave Rowley - <a href="mailto:59079@kent.pnn.police.uk">59079@kent.pnn.police.uk</a>	07969 584213 07772 226097
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	Tony or Angela Russell	01795 842738
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
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