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Stockbury Roundabout Update

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who came along for the “dignified demo” on Saturday 20th. Partik Garten joined us but unfortunately Helen Whately was called elsewhere and Shellina Predergast was moving house (note to self re timing!). We managed to get a short piece on South East Today, The Kent Messenger sent a photographer and Mick Bingham took some great photos for The Downs Mail. The aim was to get publicity which keeps the pressure up on Highways England to come up with a solution to the problem they will cause for the Parish; we can definitely mark that one down as a success.



Thanks are also due to everyone who has put in a response to the Highways England / Department for Transport consultation. Whether you were supporting the scheme or asking for changes is not the issue, the main point is that you responded. As Patrick Garten often reminds us, numbers matter!

The slight problem with a monthly Observer is that a lot happens in between issues, so the next bit may be out of date before you read it (“as it happens” news can be found on the Stockbury Parish Council Facebook page www.facebook.com/stockburypc).

On the positive side, Helen Whately, Shellina Predergast and Kent County Council are working hard to find a solution which will work for Stockbury. During a telephone conference on the 19th, KCC informed us that they were doing some work on how a bridge might be funded and built and Helen Whately reiterated that she would support us through thick and thin. If anyone is interested in the details of RIS 1 and 2 funding, MRN funds etc, please feel free to contact me.

The main problem is that Highways England continue to deny that they have any responsibility for mitigating the problems that the proposed flyover will cause for residents and businesses in the Parish. The problem for them is that, unless Helen supports their scheme, the Department for Transport (DfT) may insist that it goes to a planning enquiry. If that happens, it will delay the works they have planned (and already let contracts for) and the delay may compromise their funding. This would be hugely embarrassing for the Department for Transport and could lead to a delay of several years.

The next steps are likely to rely on politics and negotiation (sounds familiar?). If all goes well, by the time you read this there will have been further conversations with Helen Whately and KCC, and we will have a collective strategy for moving things on. We are up against the combined might of an arm of the DfT, some major property developers who have considerable influence, big business and the MP for Swale. No-one underestimates the difficulties of protecting Stockbury but please be assured that we will do everything we can.

Phil Woods
Stockbury Parish Council



KAREN BRUNNING
Art Director/Manager

Tel: 07809 277666

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St Mary Magdalene Church Stockbury



The services in August are as follows:

4 August - 6pm Holy Communion.

11 August - 6pm BCP Evensong

18 August -- 6pm Holy Communion.

25 August - 6pm BCP Evensong.

Penny Stevens - PCC Secretary

There are a range of services held within the benefice of the Six Parishes, to which Stockbury belongs and can be found on the parishes' website – www.thesix.org.uk or contact The Rev'd Liz Cox

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

St Augustine's RC, Deanwood Drive, Rainham

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

July Church Draw Winners

CONGRATULATIONS!

1st - Joseph Martin
£40 (87)

2nd - Brenda Bingham
£20 (264)

3rd - Hannah Martin
£10 (5)

Nextdoor Stockbury



Postcards from the Nextdoor website have been sent to addresses in Stockbury at my request. I discovered Nextdoor whilst at a relative's home in Essex. I saw it had a lot of local information and appeared a quick and easy way to contact neighbours, so I thought it would be a good idea to try it out in Stockbury.

I initially sent out a dozen or so emails (via Nextdoor) to see if there was sufficient interest and since the response was largely positive, the postcards were sent out. Please disregard them if it is not something you wish to join.

Currently, 95 neighbours have joined Nextdoor Stockbury. Adjoining neighbourhoods, including Hartlip, Borden, Parkwood, Tunstall etc can be seen in the news feed but you can turn those off if you wish to and only view Stockbury posts, or you may want to see posts from some other neighbourhoods eg Hartlip and Chestnut St.

The main aim of Nextdoor is communication and exchange of information within the community. Another aim is to promote local business, (but not so that it fills up the newsfeed with adverts!). If you own a local business you can set up a business profile under the appropriate category.

People can post information, ask for advice, recommendations or suggestions etc, eg needing a gardener, plumber etc and personal recommendations or advice are welcomed in replies. When clicking 'Reply' to a post there is the option to send a private message, so you don't have to publish phone numbers/email addresses publicly.

There are several categories - 'For Sale & Free' 'Crime and Safety', 'Lost and Found' and 'General', with the ability to publish posts for 'Urgent' and 'Events'. There is also a facility for creating groups so that messages of no interest outside that group can be communicated easily.

Minimal personal information is required to join, a name and a verifiable local address is required and although your real name must be used in posts, you do not have to publish your full address.

I don't know whether it will be useful for Stockbury but I think it's worth giving it a try.

If you have any particular queries, please don't hesitate to ask.

Anne Southern
southernanne@ymail.com.



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-GAMERS!



Following it's initial success The Harrow Pub is continuing to host games evenings on the last Tuesday of every month at about 8pm.

This is a great opportunity to play old favourites and to learn new games.

Come along for a sociable evening of fun and feel free to bring any games with you.



Stockbury Neighbourhood Watch

We are a Police registered Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Neighbourhood Watch is a way for communities to help themselves stay safe. We are volunteers who work in partnership with the police to:

- Distribute safety advice
- Help make sure that elderly and vulnerable residents are not targets to criminals
- Gather information to help police tackle local problems
- Alert residents when there is a particular crime problem in the area

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

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

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

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Emergency : 999
(crime in progress/life threatening)
Non-Emergency : 101
Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (*Co-ordinator*)
(01622) 736331

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

stockbury-neighbourhood@outlook.com

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

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



Patrik Says

Dear Residents

While I prepare to have a few weeks of rest after another exciting year in local politics, I've decided to give my community some homework over the summer. The English summer will, in all likelihood, provide you with ample opportunities of boredom and we don't want that ... do we??

First and foremost, the Maidstone Borough Local Plan Review has been prepared for informal public consultation. The consultation document considers the themes and key issues that the Local Plan Review will need to address.

The Local Plan is the authority's main instrument to shape the Borough for the decades to come. May I urge you to put all your opinions on paper (or computer screen). We need to hear all those grievances which you always bend my ear over: the distribution of yet another rush of new housing developments, the lack of affordable housing, the lack of infrastructure, the stupidity of "modal change ... keep your opinions coming and if you have something nice to say we want to hear it too!

The Local Plan Review and supporting documents can be viewed and downloaded from the council's website www.maidstone.gov.uk/localplanreview

Because people don't fancy surveys during the summer, (I wonder why?) we have extended the deadline. I personally made sure that you have an extra rainy weekend of 28/29 September to complete your response. But don't take my word for it that it will rain at the end of September.

The **deadline is 5pm on Monday 30th September**. Use your first opportunity to respond, the future of the Borough is in your hands !!!!!

And if, after that, you developed a taste for surveys, here is another one: Matthew Scott, the Police & Crime Commissioner wants to set the priorities for the Chief Constable and hold the Force to account on issues relating to crime and antisocial behaviour. You can complete his survey at www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/haveyoursay

What happened recently in Maidstone?

The **Park & Ride Scheme** has changed (again). You can read all about it at: <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/maidstone-parkandride>

Longton Woods: A planning application has been filed for the war-games activities on this site next to the A249. Although this site is just outside my ward, I would be keen to hear from you, if you are affected by this.

Upper Stone Street is probably the most polluted street in Maidstone, besides the M20. MBC commissioned a Low Emission Zone Feasibility Study; the findings are that pollution levels are on the decline because of improving car-technologies and all available additional

options would only bring forward the natural decline of pollution by one year. This includes a road charging scheme in the region of £5 million pound investment. Rest assured, we decided not to toll Maidstone's roads. There is however a very simple cost effective solution to improve the situation rather quickly: to make Upper Stone Street a no-stopping Red Route. – Three guesses whose idea that was? (Pat on my back!). The Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Committee tasked MBC officers to enter conversations with KCC, the Highways Authority, to see if this can be pursued expeditiously.

#kentdownsaonb Check this out, it raises awareness of the AONB and contributors feel part of a community caring for the landscape which we all appreciate and call our home. As my response to the **LOCAL PLAN REVIEW CONSULTATION** I will make sure that Kent's AONB principles will be translated into sound policies for MBC. And with that little reminder about this most important consultation, my summer newsletter has come full circle.

And finally, a refreshing story about Planning Enforcement – maybe our Enforcement Officers will take note:

A millionaire who felled 11 protected trees to boost the value of his £1.4m home has been fined £170,000. David Matthews chopped down the 100-year-old specimens to increase the size of his back garden and the amount of light it received, even though they were subject to a preservation order made by **Poole BC**. This increased the value of his property in Wimborne, Dorset, by an estimated £137,500. Andy Dearing, Team Enforcement Manager at the council, said: "The Proceeds of Crime Order reflects the financial gain to Mr Matthews and the seriousness with which the court treats these offences."

PATRIK GARTEN (Cons)
MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward

Email: - patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk

Phone: 01622-807907

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

Cockett's Corner Ditty

Electric bills are coming through the door
And every time they seem to cost us more

Now that winter is drawing ever nearer
Expect everything to get much dearer

Please cheer up and do not fear
Things could get better in the new year

You're just full of good cheer this month John! 😊 - Ed



August Events

- Friday 2nd - Fish and Chip night
- Saturday 3rd - Rounders against Rose & Crown, back to the Harrow for a buffet and drinks after
- Tuesday 6th - Pie & Pint lunch
- Friday 16th - Fish & Chip night
- Wednesday 21st - OAP Lunch Club
- Saturday 24th - Steak night
- Thursday 29th - Ladies that Lunch
- Saturday 31st - The Harrow Anniversary Party, free glass of bubbles, live music from Karen Bizzel & buffet, help us celebrate 2 years!!

Summer Specials

**Happy Hour 5-7...

Tuesday-Friday

**Lunchtime Table d'Hôte..

£10 2 courses, £15 3 courses

Pub Opening

12-11 Tues-Friday

12-12 Saturday

12-8 Sunday

--business dependant

Kitchen Opening

Tues - Friday

12-2.30/6.30-9

Thursday

12-2.30/5.30-8

Sunday 12-30-3.30

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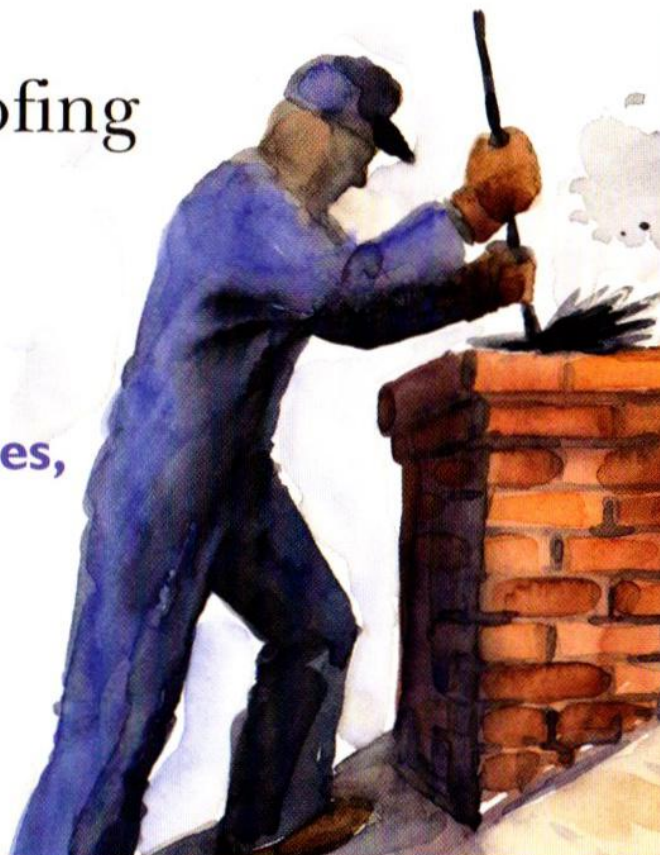
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Stockbury Gardeners

20th July was the national butterfly counting day whereby people are asked to report on types and numbers of winged items seen in the garden. I am rather sceptical with the results of these surveys as I ask, 'what if the solitary same individual flew over the rear gardens of numbers 1 to 450 Maidstone road and all the participants reported the same Adonis Blue butterfly?' Would the results show an increase in population of 4000% over the previous year?

I also reiterate the fact that we are all encouraged to provide nectar producing plants for the bees and butterfly's but NO habitat for reproduction and hibernation, think about that, it's a bit like feeding the poor but not allowing them a roof over their heads!!

I have to say that I have seen a good population of peacock and red admirals already this year, so fingers crossed we are expecting a better count this year.



I noted a cluster of caterpillars on the hawthorn hedge in July it seems that they are "social pear sawfly" the see picture left.

Red spider mite is a common pest in greenhouses and can be the end of many a good cucumber plant, however it can be discouraged from taking hold by regular spraying with water.

There is still time to sow lettuce for leaf use, beetroot as well. When potatoes are dug up, leave them on the surface for a few hours to dry off as they will store better in sacks.

This month the Gardeners are holding their meeting in the hall at 8 pm, with a presentation by Steve Edney from Salutation House (of TV fame). This is not to be missed as we will then be visiting Steve's garden in Sandwich on the 5th September.

Our next show is on the 17th August, which is open for viewing by all, from 2pm until 4.

I hope you continue enjoying the good weather.

Chris Spree



Stockbury Book Club

Americanah

by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

This novel is based around a love story of two Nigerian's Obinze and Ifemelu. Obinze (whose mother is a university professor) is obsessed about everything American. Ifemelu on the other hand comes from an impoverished background. Their relationship starts at university in Nigeria at a time when the country is under military control and in turmoil. The difficulties and complexities of life in this environment is vividly described.

Ifemelu manages, through gaining an academic scholarship, to go to America to study. As an African immigrant in America she has difficulty adjusting, although benefits from have an auntie who lives there. Although she has an academic scholarship she has to raise additional funds to cover her living expenses and in desperation finds herself drawn into a situation which shatters her relationship with Obinze. She has a number of relationships in America which are used to describe the problems of the American way of life through her eyes. Eventually she becomes very successful through writing a blog describing the issues around being an African immigrant in the states. Having adjusted to becoming an "American" she becomes disillusioned with that way of life because she has had to give up to much of her "African" culture and returns to Nigeria.

Obinze on the other hand endeavours to build a better life by entering the UK as an illegal immigrant. His experience is the antithesis of Ifemelu's as he has to live life "under the radar". He is eventually apprehended and deported back to Nigeria. On his return by "playing the system" he also becomes very successful as a property developer, marries and has a child. They meet again after Ifemelu's return and their relationship is rekindled.

That's the story but the book is about so much more. It is very multifaceted dealing with the differences in life across three continents, the difficulties of fitting in as an immigrant and the nature of race relations. In particular the contrast of being an African immigrant in America as opposed to an American African were enlightening.

We gave it a score of 6 ½, since it goes without saying people differed widely in their enjoyment of the book!

It was also the evening of our summer BBQ which was as ever, a really enjoyable evening – helped along by good food, wine and company

Alan & Moira Cooke

Kevin Masters

Toastmaster & Master of Ceremonies



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Sing with the Six

Sunday 14th July



“Can you sing?” asked Penny out of the blue one morning at pilates in the Village Hall. “Yes, a bit. Why?” I replied somewhat cagily, wondering what she was after. Penny then explained about the *Sing*

with “*The Six*” event to be held at St Mary’s Church, Newington This was to be the second time, last year’s event having been a huge success and great fun had by all.

Sara had placed a plea for “anyone with vocal cords” in *The Observer*, trying to drum up some support and get a group of “Stockburyites” together to join in with the singing this year. We didn’t need to worry, we were told, as we would be joined by a good number of the choir directed by Sara, The Kemsing Singers.

Last year they alone represented Stockbury, so Sara was keen to have some *actual* Stockbury residents singing too. So, I and nine others (all ladies, apart from the lone male, Ken - brave man!) responded to the call and we duly got together to learn and rehearse some songs to perform. We had six rehearsals, starting on 12th June, but it was very relaxed and it didn’t matter if you couldn’t make them all. It was quite a steep learning curve as we turned out to be quite a varied bunch, our experience of singing in public ranging from little or none, to a bit in the deep and distant past. None of that mattered; Sara expertly and patiently taught us exactly what we needed to know and in a matter of weeks we were ready for our final practice and our first experience of singing with the Kemsing Singers.

On the Sunday afternoon we all gathered at Sara and Penny’s house and enjoyed a lovely “bring and share” lunch in the sunshine in their beautiful garden. Some of us even lubricated our vocal cords with a glass or two of Dutch Courage ... After refreshments, all thirty-ish of us squeezed into Sara’s wonderful music room and after the customary warm-up, we sang our first song together. What a feeling! Suddenly, the small, modest sound of the ten of us was magnified and enriched by the twenty-odd members of Sara’s choir. Suddenly, there were so many more layers of sound with sopranos, altos, tenors, basses, and it felt really good to be a part of it, making that sound together.

Having had our quick run-through, we set off for Newington, ready for the event to start at 5pm. What a lovely church St Mary’s is and how nice to see it full of people, singers and their supporters all chatting away together waiting for the musical celebration to begin. There were choirs from “The Six” – Newington, Hartlip, Stockbury, Iwade, Upchurch and Lower Halstow, as well as groups of children from Lower Halstow, Newington and Hartlip schools. The choirs sang two songs each and the programme was intermingled with songs for everyone to sing together, making it a truly inclusive experience. The choice of music was really varied and

and there was some lovely singing from choirs of all shapes and sizes.

Our turn to sing came right near the end. Once we were all assembled on the little stage, Sara introduced us. She explained that, although the programme stated that the Kemsing Singers were representing Stockbury again, this year one third of the assembled choir were actually from Stockbury. She related to the audience how we had struggled to come up with a name for our combined choir and that as we were from both Stockbury and Kemsing, the only real choice was *The Stockings* and that she hoped we would “hold up!” Our first song was *The Green Leaves of Summer*, by Dmitri Tiomkin, written for the film, *The Alamo*. It’s a very pretty tune and in the film, it is heard just before the start of the battle and evokes the nostalgic memories of the narrator’s idyllic childhood. Our second song was the very upbeat *The Rhythm of Life*, by Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields from the musical, *Sweet Charity*. The arrangement was relatively complex, with multiple parts for the different voices, and it was the one we had needed to practise the most to get it right and make sure we were singing the right bit in the right place! It was such fun to sing and we were pleased with the effect. The audience certainly seemed to enjoy our rendition.

It was clear that a lot of hard work had been done behind the scenes to make the event happen. One of the organisers, Caroline White, commented afterwards, “There was a lovely, friendly and supportive atmosphere and uplifting singing.” How right she was! It was a privilege to be part of it, everyone listening to and supporting each other, with the children showing us all how it was done and even bringing a tear to a few eyes. The aim of the event was to bring people together and to enjoy singing together. That aim was certainly achieved in Newington that Sunday evening, not to mention the time spent before the event in each other’s company, rehearsing and getting to know new friends.



Music connects people.

It is said that music connects people and that is certainly true for all of us who took part, both choir members and their supporters. Thank you to Penny Spearman for encouraging me and others to take part in the first place and a special big thank you to Sara Kemsley for nurturing our little bunch of singers and making us fit to perform.

Looking forward to taking part again next year – hopefully we can recruit a few more “Stockburyites” to swell our numbers and make an even bigger sound ...

Karen Devaney



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Stockbury & Hartlip CC

Our proposed game for 23rd was yet again cancelled, this time by Horton Kirby who let us down midday on Friday, too late to get a replacement fixture!

I did however get a fixture for the 30th against Lenham away but still only managed to get 9 players. Lenham lent us a fielder who told me that T Curtis would try to hit us over the netting protecting some new houses and after an early wicket from Joe Martin the aforesaid Mr Curtis proceeded to hit us for 6 sixes in his score of 104 retiring not out. Their number 4 also scored 85 not out and they declared on 244.

All our bowlers had a hard time after Joe's wicket with Cyril getting one (caught very well by Michael Kinney who had just injured his shoulder bowling a spell of three balls) and the captain being gifted two 'rabbits' at the end but it still did not make his spell of 9 overs for 85 look any better.

It was now up to us to play for the draw and this time our big hitter Joe was unable to produce, contributing just 8 runs. Paul White played another steady innings but the man of the match Jon Brignall, stuck around for 50 including 11 fours. (Jon is not a lover of singles!!) We batted on to the end with the skipper out on the 4th ball of the penultimate over after being hit on his inside thigh by their fast bowler ... the bruise is now the size of a teaplate!! Damian managed to defend the remaining two balls and Cyril saw out the final over to gain a hard earned draw. We totalled 132 including 34 extras.

Bredgar became only the third club this season to fulfil their arranged fixture and once again we arrived with only nine men to play on a very interesting looking pitch. Bredgar lent us a fielder and also allowed their square leg umpire to field for us in his flip flops probably another first in the history of cricket.

Even with this assistance we were unable to keep their batsmen quiet and with scores of 91, 62 and 46 plus others, Bredgar amassed 240. The 'interesting' pitch did not help our bowlers and we only managed to remove 4 of their players. Damian got an opener with the help of a great catch from their fielder, Mark Webb got two and the captain was gifted another easy wicket ... he was 12 years old.

So yet again we were batting for the draw but unfortunately their bowlers were getting the ball to do interesting things on the interesting pitch and we tumbled like skittles. Jon Brignall helped himself to six fours before getting caught and Paul White was run out by Cyril whilst looking set for another long knock. Damian held out well before being stumped and only these three batted creditably. We also had the assistance of the two young Bredgar players J and E Loudon who batted 10 and 11 but they were unable to gain the draw, J Loudon having scored 19 not out for Bredgar also was 8 not out for us ... he is 10 years old!!! If only we could get some youngsters like him.

Having had a Sunday off so that we could watch the luckiest team in the world steal the World Cup, it was

back to business with an away game at Hollingbourne playing the Kent County Learning and Physically Disabled team. Their team included Andrew Mowatt who played for Stockbury for the past few seasons and is a good player so we knew it would not be easy. Once again raising a team was problematic and we finished up with eight after a late dropout and a no show. However they only had eight so it was an even match apart of course from the performances on field.

LAPD batted first and reached 162 with the help of a 90+ from the aforementioned Andrew Mowatt.

Wickets were hard to come by with only 1 wicket each from Tony, Mark and one of our guests from Bredgar, Andy Murphy, and a brilliant run out by the wicket keeper Paul (that's what he told me anyway).

Our reply followed its usual course with Oscar getting a good 61 including a 50 partnership with the skipper of the day, Paul, who yet again produced an innings of stickability. The only other contribution was from our other Bredgarian guest Ian Davis, who weighed in with 28. Tony was injured again but batted on gamely to no avail as we finished on 126. So we are still looking for our first win.

The LAPD manager said they really enjoyed the game and hopes for home and away fixtures for next season.

Our new recruits Keith Mariner and Brad Balkwell have yet to show us what they can do but I have high hopes that they will astound us in the future.

WE STILL NEED PLAYERS SO PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR SIBLINGS AND SPOUSES TO JOIN US.

I also would like to thank Martin Gansden for his gift of a new lawnmower for the Club and the Village Hall.

Roger Milton

STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

"CALLING ALL PASSENGERS!"

With number three day trip done with a very successful afternoon at The Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone for a most enjoyable lunch, followed by a short trip up the hill to the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-Le-Ferne, enjoyed by one and all, here we go again!

So where to this time??

Down to Brighton for a paddle! Lunch! Sea Life Centre! Walk on the pier! Whatever **you** choose to do on this trip, as once we're there, the time is your own.

We will start the pick up the at normal time of 09.30 and probably be out the village by 10, make our way via the motorway's to Brighton arriving there by 11.30 latest, I believe. We'll stay about 4 hours and aim to leave by 3.45pm and make our way back as we went with, of course, *the much loved quiz!!!!!!*

It is on **Wednesday 28th August** so get booked with Fiona asap As usual the trip will be free for concession holders and £5:00 per person for those without payable on the day.

So what are you waiting for???
Call Fiona NOW!!!

Observer Deadline!

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

Monday 26th August

Please email your contributions to
stockburyobserver@gmail.com

Calling All Advertisers

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

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

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

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

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

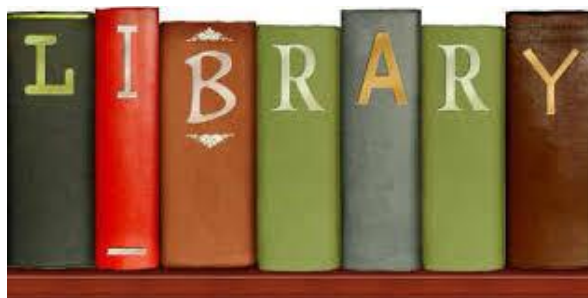
This is a great opportunity to promote your business as The Observer is delivered to every household within the Parish of Stockbury as well as having an online presence.

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

Stockbury Parish Council Minutes

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

Why Not Visit Us At
www.stockbury.org.uk



Mobile Library Dates

1st, 15th & 29th August '19

At the Village Hall

9.10 - 9.40am

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 and they will be advertised for free in The Observer for **one month only**.

We accept no responsibility for the quality of the items

August '19 Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Thurs	1st	Gardeners	8.00 - 10.00pm
Fri	2nd	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	3rd		
Sun	4th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
		Cricket - Field	1.00 - 7.30pm
Mon	5th	Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm
Tues	6th		
Wed	7th		
Thurs	8th		
Fri	9th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	10th		
Sun	11th		
Mon	12th		
Tues	13th	Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm
Wed	14th	WI	7.30 - 9.30pm
Thurs	15th		
Fri	16th	Gardeners	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	17th	Flower Show	2.00 - 4.00pm
Sun	18th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	19th	Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm
Tues	20th		
Wed	21st	Craft & Chatter	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Parish Council	7.30 - 9.30pm
Thurs	22nd		
Fri	23rd	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	24th		
Sun	25th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
		Cricket - Field	1.00 - 7.30pm
Mon	26th		
Tues	27th	Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm
Wed	28th		
Thurs	29th		
Fri	30th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
	31st		

Stockbury W.I.



On a lovely, sunny, and warm evening, we put all WI business aside and gathered with our friends and family's to be entertained by Rob T and his ukulele. He treated us to a wide variety of music and songs including old favourites from Elvis, Chas & Dave, Tom Jones, Neil Diamond and many others. Only one George Formby number though, (much to Joyce's relief!). We all clapped and sang along and laughed at his jokes too. Members put on an excellent buffet followed by cake, strawberries and cream. A great night was had by all.

WI Campaigns:- Two resolutions were passed at the 2019 Annual Meeting:

To lobby for more funding to save local bus services and the second one is calling for action to tackle the decline in the cervical screening programme.

Our next meeting will be in the Village Hall on Wednesday 11th September at 7.30pm Please come along and join us for a cookery demonstration.

Heather Tomsett

Highway Improvements Have your say!

Stockbury Parish Council is in the early stages of drafting a Highway Improvement Plan (HIP). Kent County Council is adopting a more pro-active approach to our roads, has changed its policy slightly on the implementation of 20 mph speed limits and traffic calming and welcomes HIPs from Parish Councils. This plan can only consider roads that are the responsibility of Kent Highways, *not* Highways England who are responsible for motorways and, for example, the proposed Stockbury flyover.

The purpose of a HIP is to consider priorities for road improvements, not matters that would be considered as maintenance. Examples could be to consider speed limits or road layouts to reduce the speed of vehicles, an improved junction or new crossing, environmental enhancements (road colour, build-outs, gateway treatments to a village or single track road) but not mending a broken drain or potholes.

A particular local issue appears to be the excessive speed of vehicles on country lanes which we feel could be addressed by a HIP, so we would like to know of any roads/lanes where this is a constant problem.

Please have your say, we cannot promise your suggestion will be implemented but we can produce a plan to be submitted to Kent Highways that shows our priorities.

Please email your suggestions to stockburyhip@gmail.com by 17th September 2019.

Useful Contact Information

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Revd Liz Cox revlizcox@outlook.com	01795 435184
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) - www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem	03000 418181
RSPCA		0300 1234999
Short Mat Bowls	Brenda Groves - quizqueen106@gmail.com	01634 388425
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