



THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

July 2022

Hall Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Fri	1st	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
		Caravan Club Hall & Field	All Day
Sat	2nd	Caravan Club Hall & Field	All Day
Sun	3rd	Caravan Club Hall & Field	All Day
		Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	4th	Caravan Club Field	All Day
Tues	5th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	6th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
Thurs	7th	Gardeners	8.00-10.00pm
Fri	8th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	9th		
Sun	10th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	11th		
Tues	12th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	13th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		Parish Council	2.00-4.00pm
Thurs	14th		
Fri	15th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	16th	Private Booking	4.00-9.00pm
Sun	17th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
		Private Booking	2.00-5.00pm
Mon	18th		
Tues	19th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	20th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		Parish Council	7.30-9.30
Thurs	21st		
Fri	22nd	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	23rd		
Sun	24th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
		Cricket - Field	1.00-7.00pm
Mon	25th		
Tues	26th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	27th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
Thurs	28th		
Fri	29th	Zumba	9.30-10.30am
Sat	30th		
Sun	31st	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am

Rat Running and the Bridge

Many thanks to all of you who came along to the meeting in the Village Hall the other week. It is rare for so many people to come to an open meeting, so this obviously struck a chord. For those who were unable to attend, here is a brief summary:

Rat Running

We have experienced some dreadful problems with rat running in the Parish recently, particularly when the queue to the Stockbury Roundabout extends back to Bimbury Lane. We also have a persistent problem with people driving too fast in the lanes; this was tragically illustrated a few weeks ago when a young mother died in Yelsted Road.

The Parish Council has started working with Kent County Council in an effort to reduce both problems and we are pleased to say that KCC have taken it very seriously. As with all things, the first step is to gather evidence and you will have noticed that traffic counting strips have appeared at several junctions. These will provide KCC and the Parish Council with information on the numbers of vehicles using the lanes at different times of day and their speed. The information will be used to support a Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) which, once agreed with KCC, will be implemented. This sounds bureaucratic but it is the only way to ensure that things get done and should be relatively quick.

There are, however, some practical constraints. The lanes are subject to the national speed limit of 60 mph, so speed humps and similar are not practical unless we can get the speed limit reduced. We are advised that even if we could get a reduced speed limit (which is unlikely), the police will not enforce it.

In the short term, KCC will carry out a practical experiment. In the next few weeks, they will install temporary traffic lights in Aerodrome Approach; the idea behind this is that people trying to cut the queue to the Stockbury Roundabout will be unwilling to join a queue to get into the lanes. There is a small chance that this will just move the problem to Chalky Road but until it has been tried, we don't know.

We will keep you up to date via The Observer as things move on.

The Bridge

We have now exhausted the conventional routes for getting a bridge across the A249. I think everyone agreed that direct action like that used in the Jade's Crossing campaign is unlikely to gain us anything and will probably just succeed in losing any support we might have from KCC and our neighbouring Parishes / Boroughs.

cont'd ...

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Rat Running cont'd ...

One suggestion put forward was that if we encouraged the building of several thousand houses in and around Stockbury, the resulting income to fund infrastructure may raise enough funds to build a bridge. This would destroy the community but maybe people would think that is a price worth paying? If you think it is, please feel free to let the Parish Council know but we are assuming this is not something that many would support.

It looks like we will just have to sit back and wait for the inevitable to happen at the Church Hill junction. We know what will happen, National Highways know, Kent County Council knows but the Department for Transport chooses to ignore it.

SPC

Platinum Jubilee

Stockbury Parish Council would like to thank all of those who were involved in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. A huge effort went in to making it a splendid weekend, despite the weather forcing last minute changes of plan culminating in a bit of a damp squib picnic on the last day. But at least the children's Quick Cricket got off to a great start before the main match on the Sunday.

There were several highlights to the weekend. The beginning of the celebration was announced to great fanfare on Thursday evening by a proclamation from our Town Crier on the Village Green. This was followed by a delicious buffet in The Harrow. Later that evening everyone walked up to Stockbury Church for a toast to the Queen; the church, we are delighted to say, was absolutely packed with people, some even standing and looked stunning, candle lit and filled with beautiful scented flowers. The enthusiastic singing of 'I Vow to Thee My Country' and especially of 'God Save The Queen' at the end was particularly moving.



Afterwards, outside at the beacon the bugler played a piece commissioned for the occasion which heralded the beacon lighting.

Friday passed with lots of activity in preparation for the very successful (and hilarious at times) auction to benefit our pub. It had to be moved into the Village Hall because of the weather (well it is summer!) no small feat. A hog roast and live music in the pub filled the rest of the day and by Sunday everyone was ready for a more relaxed picnic on the Green. Some wimps retreated to the relative

warmth of the Village Hall, while others made of sterner stuff, toughed it out on the Green. Respect.

So, a very enjoyable and memorable weekend, attended by hundreds from the village and surrounding areas. The whole event was made possible by the goodwill and efforts of a large band of volunteers (you know who you are) but all that would have been for nothing without the support of

everyone who came along over the weekend to share in the celebrations.

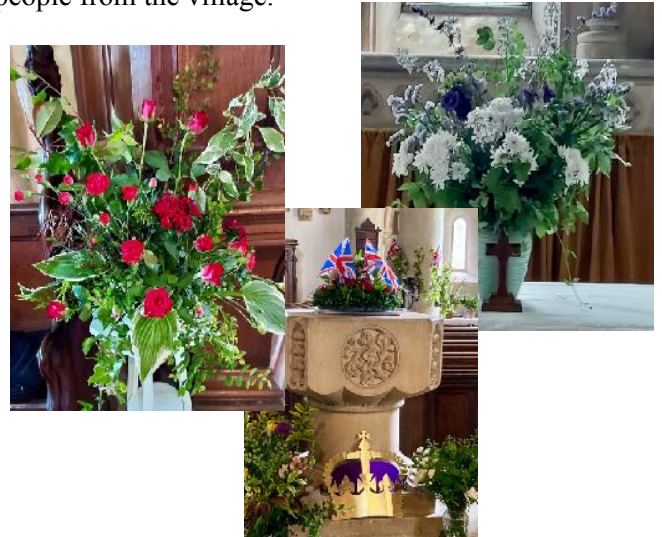
In the June Jubilee special edition of The Forum there is an article from the East Kent Gazette of 16th January 1953 about Stockbury's preparations for Coronation Day. The article describes Stockbury as an 'energetic village'. We think that 70 years on we haven't lost much of that energy. Thank you all.

SPC

Thursday 2nd June

What a day for Stockbury's lovely church!!

It was full of flowers that had been kindly donated by people from the village.



The evening also saw the Church so full for our Thanks Giving Service for the Queen that there was standing room only. We were even joined by a couple of dogs!

Reverend Julian took the service and we finished with a toast "to the Queen and the King she serves" led by Toastmaster Kevin Masters.

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all who brought flowers, Daniel Ballard who made the lovely crown with a special thank you to Caroline who spent most of the day arranging flowers for us.

Thanks also to all who attended the service and made it a joyous and memorable evening.

God Bless

Irene Milton

A Whimsical Evening at The Harrow, Stockbury

Friday 12th August, 2022
From 7.30pm

Everyone please come along and enjoy the
free entertainment

All performers please confirm you will be attending

Brendan
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Monday - Closed

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11am

Kitchen open from -

Tuesday 5pm-8.30pm

Wednesday - Saturday

12pm-3pm and 5pm-8:30pm

Sunday

12pm-4pm

EVENTS

Fish'n'chip shop night on the 1st Friday of every month

Games night on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Quiz night on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Coffee and cake morning on the last Friday of the month

- **Live Music- Saturday 16th July 8pm**
Bates Motel Band



01795 843222



thearrowpubstockbury



The Harrow PubStockbury



contact@thearrowstockbury.co.uk



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M2 junction 5 Stockbury interchange improvement scheme

Thank you to everyone for your patience during our recent closures of the A249 between the Bobbing and Stockbury roundabouts while we carried out drainage work. We were able to complete the work using a mixture of lane and full closures, minimising the amount of time the road was fully closed.

Oad Street is now open. But don't forget we'll be closing it again in the autumn to continue with our work, we'll let you know more details closer to the time.

You can keep up to date with any upcoming closures on our webpage: nationalhighways.co.uk/m2-j5

Got a question about the scheme? Come and meet us at our monthly drop-in session.

Our team will be at Oad Street Food and Crafts between 10am and midday, and again from 5pm and 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month.

Don't worry if you can't make it, you can email us: m2j5@nationalhighways.co.uk or call 0300 123 5000, and one of the team will be happy to help.



We're carrying out improvements to help reduce congestion at the junction, and enhance the flow of traffic. This will provide a safer and more integrated network for everyone and bring real benefits to the drivers who use this junction daily.

To find out more, please visit our website: nationalhighways.co.uk/m2-j5 or scan the QR code. You can also call us on 0300 123 5000 or email m2j5@nationalhighways.co.uk



The Harrow

Last month was manic! Not that we're complaining, you understand! It was lovely to see our pub so busy and vibrant with a fantastic atmosphere over the whole of the Jubilee weekend and beyond; with everyone enjoying the Beacon Buffet prior to the church service and its lighting, the live music from The Three Hats, Father's Day, Fish'n'Chips and Games and Quiz Nights ... Long may it continue!

We must also say a huge thank you to Stockbury Parish Council for funding both the fantastic Beacon Buffet and the picnic desserts over the Jubilee weekend.



Coming up for you during July in your village pub:

- **1st July - Fish'n'Chip Night** - from 5pm
- **6th July - Tractor Club** - 12.30pm
- **12th July - Games Night** - Starts 8pm
- **14th July - Seniors' Lunch** - 12.30pm
- **16th July - Live Music** with The Bates Motel Band - a mixture of indie / rock / pop / punk Starts 8pm
- **19th July - Quiz Night** - Starts 8pm
- **28th - Ladies that Lunch** - 12.30pm
- **29th July - Coffee & Cake Morning** - 10.30-12.00pm

A future event for your diary:

**The Harrow Family Fun Day
Saturday 20th August**

You will be pleased to know that our village pub is now doing well and business is picking up. If you have not already seen the KentOnline review of The Harrow by "the Secret Drinker" you can find it by going to:

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/whats-on/news/secret-drinker-visits-the-local-saved-by-its-regulars-269138/>

This is a regular feature and the reviewer is often quite critical of the pubs that he visits, however, this was an excellent review and many congratulations to Sarah and all her staff who serve first class food and drinks with a ready smile.

If you haven't visited recently, please come in and you will receive a warm welcome!

We are always looking for new shareholders and this is a relatively inexpensive way to become part owner of your very own village pub. If you, or anyone you know is interested, please contact me for more details.

Chris Porter
01795 843715

Auction Saturday!

By the time you read this the Jubilee Weekend and the auction for The Harrow will be a distant memory, hopefully a very pleasant one. However I cannot let it pass without thanking the many people who made its success possible.

Thank you to the small tight-knit team who planned, advertised, cajoled, printed reams and transported for six months in order to bring the auction to you.

Thank you to our techie team who kept The Harrow website updated and whose visuals on the day brought the proceedings alive and made everything, for us, so simple and smooth running.

Thank you to the cheery volunteers (twisted arms!) who, on the day guided visitors, recorded sales and cleared the hall afterwards and to the trio who gallantly fed the masses in the chill of the late afternoon.

Thank you to The Harrow for tolerating all the advertising paraphernalia, for promoting the project to whoever crossed their path and supporting the whole idea in the first place!

But none of our efforts would have been of any use were it not for all of you, the parishioners, the visitors and our readers ... So

Thank you to everyone who donated such quality items for our auction (we sadly even had to decline some great offers; the auctioneer would have grown a beard before we came to the end of the sale of LOTs!) AND.....

Thank you to everyone who spent freely on Saturday June 4th 2022.

You have all been most generous.

As a result you will be pleased to learn you raised in total **£3,142** and this will enable The Harrow to purchase excellent, professional quality kitchen equipment.

Ann Rich

Seniors' Lunch at The Harrow

After a long, pandemic induced break, we are pleased to report the return of the previously very popular Senior's Lunch at The Harrow. The first of the monthly lunches will be held on the **14th July at 12.30pm**, Bastille Day, but we don't expect it will be a French theme, more good English country pub fayre.

We hope to welcome back as many of you as possible for lunch, for a catch up with old friends, some not seen for many months or even years and with the addition of a few new faces, perhaps make some new ones.

If you'd like to join for lunch, please ring the pub (tel 01795 843222) to make your booking and if you require transport to the pub, please let Sarah at The Harrow know at the time of booking.

The book swap in the pub has been restocked and now has the addition of film DVDs so please take the opportunity to pick up some new reading material, or a film you haven't seen or want to see again, while you're there.

All are welcome, we look forward to seeing you.

The Harrow
01795-843222

Polly's Beautique At The Herb Garden

Surrounded by fields my Salon will offer you a peaceful and private treatment allowing you to relax, enjoy and be beautiful...

To see a full price list, learn more about the Salon and its offers or to book an appointment See the following:



*Polly's Beautique at
The Herb Garden*



@pollys_beautique



07725 403697

Price List:

- Gel Polish nails - £20
- Builder Gel with Gel Polish - £25
- Gel Polish toes - £15
- Gel Extensions with Gel Polish - £30
- Gel Extension Infills with Gel Polish - £25
- Waxing - prices from £7 for Eyebrows to £25 for Full Leg
- Range of Facials (Inc. Microdermabrasion, Dermaplaning etc) prices from £20 - £75
- Full Body Massage - £40
- Back and Shoulder Massage - £20
- Wash and Blow dry from £15
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- Lash Lift and Tint - £25
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Stockbury, Kent*

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What the Parish Council Doesn't Do!

Although it was good to see so many people turn out to the meeting regarding the A249 and issues caused on local roads, it was a little disappointing to hear a number of people voice the opinion that, "The Parish Council do nothing". The following is just a brief summary of some of the issues and events the PC have been involved in over the past 6 months.

Road Specific

Monthly meetings with National Highways (NH, formerly called Highways England) & Graham, the contractor responsible for the ongoing A249 work, along with frequent email exchanges has:

- Discouraged NH/Graham from introducing narrow lanes on the northbound carriageway of A249 as this would further restrict the flow of traffic and consequently increase rat running.
- Resulted in the rewording and repositioning of many signs along the A249 to improve clarity and safety.
- Identified an issue with the "automated" emails that NH should be sending whenever an update was made to the project website. NH has addressed this and people should be receiving emails if they are signed up for notifications.
- Convinced NH to support The Stockbury Observer by purchasing a half page advert every month in order to provide updates to every local household.
- Acquired funding of a Dash-Cam for the Community Bus from NH.
- Ongoing conversations to encourage NH/Graham to support local Stockbury businesses
- Tours of the parish via mini bus with the NH/Graham team to point out roads unsuitable for some vehicles.

Parish Councillors along with a small number of local residents have spent more than 50 hours monitoring various road junctions within the parish in order to determine where the greatest impact caused by the rat running associated with A249 work is being experienced. Consequently, KCC Highways have installed a number of automated vehicle counters and speed recorders to monitor traffic in the most impacted lanes. Further equipment will be installed in alternate locations in the coming weeks.

Meetings with KCC Highways have also been arranged by the PC and multiple faults have been logged via the KCC Highways web site (<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel>) to address general highways issues. These include nearly 100 pot hole reports and such things as several damaged or missing road signs, fallen trees causing a hazard, worn road markings, fly tipping and empty salt bins. Reporting these issues to KCC Highways is not solely a Parish Council responsibility but can be undertaken by any concerned resident.

Other activities that the Parish Council have been involved in over the past few months includes such things as:

- Working with our MBC Councillor, Patrik Garten, to assist two local residents in making successful applications to be added to the MBC Housing Needs Register. A further 3 local families have been provided with advice on how to submit applications to the Register.
- Planning, financing and co-ordinating of Platinum Jubilee events within the parish.
- Responding directly to the KCC survey with regard to the potential withdrawal of funding for the school bus and

also corresponding with our local MP to bring pressure upon KCC to save this service.

- Reviewing multiple planning applications and making a presentation against the Binbury Park proposal. The PC have also written to the Planning Inspectorate to support a local planning application that MBC had previously refused.
- The PC continue to press the MBC Planning Dept to take enforcement action with regard to breaches of planning applications, following complaints from residents.
- Multiple fly tipping issues have been reported to MBC (https://self.maidstone.gov.uk/service/report_fly_tipping), most of which are cleared quickly but the PC often needs to encourage MBC to engage with land owners when this issue is not on public land.
- Reported antisocial behaviour within the parish and engaged with Kent Police in order to improve visibility of the police within the parish.
- Applied for and received a substantial donation for the Stockbury Community Bus.

The Parish Council obviously doesn't work in isolation as there are a small number of residents who also actively engage with the local service providers in order to address various parish concerns, particularly with regard to fly tipping, which in turn makes the parish a nicer place to live. The Parish Council are grateful for the active involvement of this small group of parishioners and we would always encourage others to follow their example.

As always, if there are issues that you believe the PC should be aware of, then please either contact the Parish Clerk (details on the back of The Observer) or one of the seven parish councillors (contact details on www.stockbury.org), alternatively, come along to the monthly meeting at the Village Hall.

Meetings are held in Stockbury Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm.

SPC

Broadband

Just a note to say "thank you" to the new owners of Matts Hill Farm, which is just outside the Parish. For reasons no-one can find out, they decided to switch off the power to the repeater that enabled some of us to use vFast's air fibre broadband. The company were able to reconnect most users via another repeater, but 5 households in Yelsted are now back to using BT's copper wire.

This highlighted a larger issue: some years ago, the Government promised super fast broadband to all households in the UK and gave Openreach (BT) £2 billion of our money to roll it out. It now transpires that Openreach would charge each household wanting a fibre connection around £6,000. This has been raised with Helen Whately who has been in contact with the relevant Minister asking for an explanation. I will let you all know what he/she says ...

Phil Woods

Thanks Muchly!

A quick line from me to everyone who kindly shared their photos of the Jubilee Weekend with me and allowed me to use some of them in this edition- THANK YOU 😊 - Ed



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JULY 2022



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- True Strays
- Tom Malachowski
- Danama
- Blake Sonnet
- Lucy Blu
- Gentlemen of Few
- Jet Black Bees
- Cara Dillon
- CJ
- Shannon Turner band
- The Jives
- Anthony John Clarke
- Sally Ironmonger and Brian Carter
- Bamboozle
- Tom Jaworski
- Beans on Toast
- The Undercover Hippy
- Edward II
- Mr Tea and the Minions
- Rob Bartlitz

TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS OR TO GET MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.CHICKENSTOCKFESTIVAL.CO.UK



CALLING
ALL
GAMERS!



Following its previous success, we are re-establishing a traditional games evening at The Harrow Pub on the second Tuesday of every month.

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

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

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



Calling the "Ladies" of Stockbury:

Come and join like-minded ladies for a lovely lunch and a catch up

At

The Harrow Pub on the last Thursday of the month
at about 12.30pm

Please book your place directly with The Harrow on
01795 843222

We would love you to join us

STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

We will be running a trip to the Cinque Port town of Rye on **Friday, July 15th**.

As many people know, Rye is a quaint little medieval town with lots to see and do.

It is steeped in history with a museum, the Ypres Tower, St Mary's Church and was home to literary figures like Lamb and E F Benson. There are also quirky and cute shops in the cobbled streets as well as the smugglers favourite, The Mermaid Inn to explore.

There's plenty of variety for lunch to suit all pockets and stomachs too!

We can visit Camber Sands for a paddle or walk in Rye Nature Reserve. Let's see what the weather is like and please ourselves.

The cost of this trip will be £10, for those passengers who have a National Bus Pass the concessionary fare will be just £5.

We will aim to leave Stockbury/Hartlip by 10am and will be returning by around 4:30pm.

Are you coming?

If you are interested in booking a seat for this trip, then please call Geoff on 07551 454702.

A Generous Donation

A few weeks ago we were contacted by the Chairman and Treasurer of the Meopham Welfare Committee advising that their Community Bus Service was in the process of being wound up due to their dwindling passenger numbers, a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic, which meant their bus service was no longer viable. Their Charter required that upon winding up, any remaining funds should be distributed to services run on a charitable or not for profit basis.

As we appeared to be the only organisation within the county providing a similar service, we were granted a significant part of their funds with other donations being made to The Kent Air Ambulance Service and a couple of local Kent hospices.

Whilst it's sad to see the demise of the Meopham service which had been running successfully since 1976, we are extremely grateful for their generous donation which will support in running The Stockbury Community Bus for many years to come.

To ensure the longevity of our village bus service, it would be beneficial to expand our customer base and for additional volunteer drivers to step forward. If you are interested in using The Stockbury Community Bus or wish to volunteer to be a driver please contact Geoff Moody on 07551 454702 or email communitybus-stockbury@hotmail.co.uk



Geoff Moody

Stockbury Book Club

The Fine Art of Invisible Detection by Robert Goddard

Kazuto Kodaka is a single, solo, old-fashioned private detective working above a shop. His secretary Umiko Wada, a widow, bridges the gap between him and the modern world of computers etc. A rich lady commissions him to find out the truth of her father's "suicide" in 1977 on a business trip to Europe; he is suspected of being a sokoia (gangster). She places an advertisement in a London evening paper of a photo of the translator (Peter Evans) her father engaged for the trip. She has had no response to this for 27 years and then suddenly receives one.

Ask yourselves is this a Sherlock Holmes or a Comoran Strike detective novel?

As Wada is fluent in English, Kodaka asks her to travel to London to find the mysterious letter writer, a significant change from dealing solely with administration. The case though is so dangerous that Kodaka was killed shortly after Wada left for London.

Peter Ellery (Evans) was a member of a group of four student CND protesters, along with Alison, Martin and Caro, who become aware of a secret government biological research facility in Cornwall. He and Alison break into the site, were detected and on escaping, Alison drowns and Peter is "lost a sea". Marty had driven them there but was drugged by Peter prior to the brake in. Caro was pregnant when this occurred and, unbeknown to Peter, he was the father.

It is a racing plot with a series of strands that twist, turn and overlap exposing Wada to mortal danger by her sokoia pursuers. This includes visiting Iceland to investigate a private property auction and killing her pursuer then miraculously escaping from a burning building. In Cambridge she escapes by putting a headscarf on and joining some Japanese tourists on a bus tour!

The story ends on a beach in Cornwall near to the government research facility where Alison's body was found, with a hostage exchange that goes off with a bang.

So, it was neither a Sherlock Holmes nor a Comoran Strike. It's a different type of detective novel. An example of "The Fine Art of Invisible Detection" – you will though need to read the novel to discover what this entails.

Overall, the group enjoyed the book more than they expected, despite the fact that some of Wada's escapes would have put James Bond to shame! The multicultural and varied geographic locations added interest and the final twist in the plot created the possibility of a sequel. As is often the case one of us didn't particularly like the novel and questioned its plausibility.

The overall rating was 7/10.

This month we are reading *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah.

Alan Cooke

Domestic Abuse

If you or someone else is suffering from domestic abuse please visit a Domestic Abuse webpage for advice and more information:

www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/primaryservices/housing/tier-2-additional-areas/domestic-abuse

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

www.womensaid.org.uk

www.mensadviceline.org.uk

www.childline.org.uk

There are also helplines available if you would rather speak to someone:

- **Choices Domestic Abuse Services**
0800 917 9948
- **National Domestic Violence Helpline**
0808 2000 247
- **Refuge freephone National Domestic Abuse**
0808 2000 247
- **The Men's Advice Line for male domestic abuse survivors**
0808 808 4994
- **National LGBT+ Abuse Helpline**
0800 999 54428
- **Childline**
0800 1111

Housing helplines

There are helplines available if you need help with housing:

- Shelter -0808 800 4444
- Choices -0800 917 9948
- Victim Support -0808 168 9111

AWARD WINNING M B Farms

Monday to Saturday: 8:00am - 5:00pm.
Sunday: 8:00am - 3:00pm

Post Office Hours

Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri: 9:00am - 5:00pm
Wednesday: 9:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am - 12 noon

National Lottery Available

www.mbfarms.co.uk

Tel: 01795 842401

OBSERVER DEADLINE

MONDAY 25th JULY

Please email your contributions to
stockburyobserver@gmail.com

Calling All Advertisers

Our annual rates for advertising in 12 editions are:

A whole page £400

A half page £200

A quarter page £120

Our advertising year starts in April 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 place an advert in The Observer, 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 artwork, preferable in MS Word or as a PDF file.

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

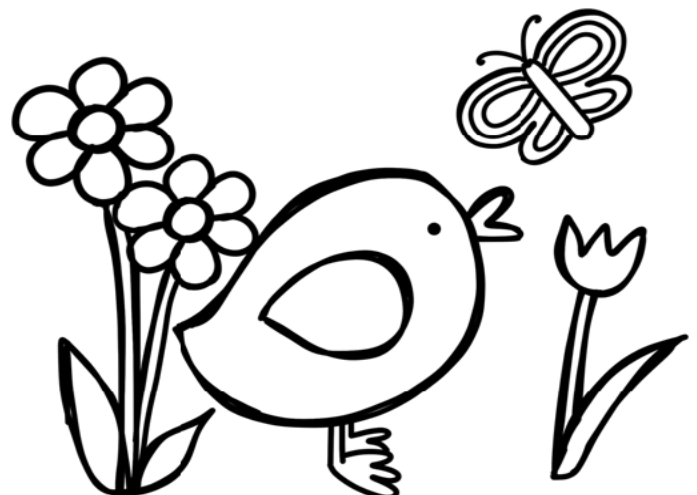
The minutes for our Parish Council meetings will be approved at the following meeting and will then be published on www.stockbury.org within 5 days of the meeting at which they are approved.

Mobile Library Dates

Thursday 7th & 21st July, '22

9.10am - 9.40am

At the Village Hall



Patrik Says ...

MBC Acquire First Site for Delivery of 1,000 Affordable Homes

Cllr David Burton's new executive leadership team has set out the ambition to acquire 1,000 houses under MBC ownership and control, which will be reserved for Maidstone people at affordable rents.

In a great first step to delivering the extra 1,000 affordable homes for Maidstone residents, MBC has just completed the purchase of the former Springfield Library site on Sandling Road.

Being able to provide affordable housing for local people is vital, that's why MBC are pursuing the acquisition of sites to build our own. The secondary benefit of this is that we will tackle sites that are not generally brought forward by the private sector, so we will also achieve regeneration and district improvements at the same time.

More affordable housing in Maidstone for local people is one of the top priorities for the Conservative Leadership Team. We will make sure that those who may not be able to afford to buy or rent privately have the opportunity to live in one of the 1,000 affordable homes we plan to provide.

Residents' Survey

The 2022 Residents' Survey will be launching on Friday 1 July and will run until Monday 29 August. The Survey will ask residents what they really think about Maidstone and the results will impact all of MBC's services; from biodiversity to community safety, from financial inclusion to waste management and more. Please spare some time and participate:

<https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/council-and-democracy/primary-areas/consultations>

Road Works

Hardly a community meeting passes by without roadworks and the state of the roads being mentioned.

Firstly I must explain that the District Council (MBC) has NO highways responsibilities whatsoever. As such I have no legal powers to address your concerns. All highways matters fall in the remit of the County Council (KCC).

However, before pointing the finger at my KCC colleague Cllr Prendergast, I also must explain that the M2 Junction 5 improvement works are a national infrastructure project, which is being directed through National Highways (formerly the Highways Agency and later Highways England), which is a government-owned company charged with operating, maintaining and improving motorways and major 'A' roads in England. As such, KCC too has only limited influence here.

Also, as this is a National Highways endeavour, they are exempt from S106 contributions. S106 contributions are only applicable to house-building, as the developer's contribution to counteract the negative impacts of their housing development, often used to improve the road infrastructure. As the junction-works are a national infrastructure improvement, S106 contributions are not applicable.

All is not bad however. National Highways are in regular communication with Stockbury Parish Council to work with the community in order to alleviate the impact of the works on the community. You may find more information in The

Stockbury Observer for updates on the works. For specific enquiries please contact the Parish Council.

And Now for Some Entertainment ...

Wine Tasting

One Maidstone, the Business Improvement District for the town centre, is bringing a brand-new event into the area that will honour Maidstone's status as the County Town of the Garden of England.

In a celebration of Kentish viticulture, 25 local vineyards and wine producers will be showcasing their wares at an event on Saturday 16 July. Running from 10am to 5pm visitors will have the opportunity to sample their choice from up to one hundred different wines. Additionally, visitors can meet the growers and find out more about the horticultural practice involved and the process undertaken to create the wines on show. Exhibitors will include some of the most prestigious vineyards in the region including Chapel Down, Balfour Hush Heath Estate, Simpsons and Biddenden Vineyard, amongst others.

The event will be hosted in the historic Sessions House, the iconic County Hall building.

The Wine Weekend is a not-for-profit event and visitors can redeem the value of their £15 entry fee against sampling and purchasing with any of the exhibitors.

thewineweekend.co.uk Facebook and Instagram @thewineweekend

Family Fun Treasure Trail

The Heart of Kent Hospice will organise a free Treasure Trail on Sunday 3 July, starting at Lockmeadow Entertainment Centre.

<https://www.hokh.org/support-us/events/family-fun-treasure-trail/>

And Finally ...

Kent Community Rail will organise a Heritage Event at Hollingbourne Station on 6th August, 2022. Put this community event in your diary for a variety of heritage themed attractions and hopefully promoting some local businesses and groups.

We are very much hoping that the community station project might be ready to open by then. In any case there will be plenty of food and drink!

PATRIK GARTEN

MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward (Conservative)
Phone: 01622-807907



SPIRIT OF CARE

email: spiritofcare@btinternet.com

Phone: 07907884210

Local service seeking to recruit part-time workers or volunteers to support adults with learning disabilities to enjoy activities in the community. For example, to walk with a young man for about 4 hours on a Friday. To apply please phone or email Teresa.

Useful Contact Information

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene		01795 227329
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Cricket Club	Enrique Damian	07522 691831 07967 890010
Crimestoppers	(Confidential)	0800 55511
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	Philip Painter	07850 190204
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
Parish Council Clerk	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Pétanque Club	Tina Jacobs	07743 910185
Photographic Club	Tim Arnold - timarnold@btinternet.com	01795 843049
Police	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	999 101
Police Community Support Officer for Stockbury		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	Ann Rich - email: ann.stockbury@btinternet.com	07718 070807
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
Stockbury Observer - Editor	stockburyobserver@gmail.com	
The Harrow Public House	contact@theharrowstockbury.co.uk	01795 843222