



# THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

*'In the Garden of England'*

## January '18 Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Mon	1st		
Tues	2nd		
Wed	3rd		
Thurs	4th		
Fri	5th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30pm
Sat	6th		
Sun	7th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	8th		
Tues	9th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
		Art Club - Comm Room	7.00-9.00pm
Wed	10th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		WI	2.00-4.00pm
Thurs	11th	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm
Fri	12th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30pm
Sat	13th		
Sun	14th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	15th	Bowls	7.00-10.00pm
Tues	16th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	17th	Pilates	10.00-11.00am
		Sew & Chatter	1.30-3.30pm
		Parish Council	7.30-9.30pm
Thurs	18th	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm
Fri	19th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30pm
Sat	20th		
Sun	21st	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	22nd		
Tues	23rd	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
		Art Club - Comm Room	7.00-9.00pm
Wed	24th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
Thurs	25th	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm
Fri	26th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30pm
Sat	27th	Private Booking	10.00-2.00pm
Sun	28th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	29th		
Tues	30th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	31st	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		Quiz - The Harrow	8.00-10.30pm

## English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS)

### Bus Pass Renewals Please read

The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS - also known as the older persons bus pass) is a statutory national scheme providing free bus travel for individuals of a pensionable age or some pass holders who qualify on the basis of disability. There are approximately 290,000 pass holders across the County.

Passes are issued with a 5 year expiry and as a consequence, every 5 years KCC experiences a significant peak in renewals which needs to be managed. In March 2018, 195,000 passes currently in circulation expire.

An approach of 'intelligent auto-renewals' whereby the majority of existing pass holders, if using their pass recently, will automatically be sent a new pass in advance of their current one expiring i.e. the pass holder does not need to reapply.

However, it has been identified that a significant proportion of passes have not been used in the last year and so these will not be automatically renewed. It should be clearly understood that this is in no way the removal of a right to hold a pass but KCC will be seeking confirmation from the pass holder that they still wish to be issued with one. These pass holders will be written to and advised of their continued right to hold a pass together with instructions as to how to renew.

Letters will be sent out throughout January, February and the first week of March and all automatically renewed or renewals applied for on time will be sent to pass holders before the expiry of current passes on March 31st.

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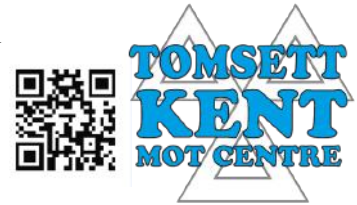
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Parish

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Stockbury Parish Website



Council



Events



Diary



Local  
Businesses



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Info



Observer

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# St Mary Magdalene Church

## Stockbury



The services in January are as follows:

- 7 January – 3.pm: Sung Communion
- 14 January - no service
- 21 January – 3.pm Sung Communion
- 28 January - no service

Please note - if there is severe weather e.g snow, services may be cancelled. If in doubt, check with Liz Cox.

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

## December Church Draw Winners

### CONGRATULATIONS!

1st - Caroline Kirkcaldy (£50) (63)

2nd - Tony Kerr (£30) (17)

3rd - Sarah Austin (£15) (46)

## CHURCH FUN QUIZ

18<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Once again, there was plenty of laughter throughout the evening. 7 teams entered and congratulations go to Colin Prior's winning team. There was a splendid raffle, thanks to everyone who donated and also the popular Heads and Tails game.

Thank you to Stuart and Emma Charlesworth, who organised the quiz and their little helper Rebekah AND also to Rev. Liz Cox, Sue, Colin, Frank, Penny and everyone who helped set up for the evening and clear away afterwards.

Your support is much appreciated for making this a lively Fun Quiz and raising funds for St.Mary Magdalene Church.

Brenda Mace

On behalf of Stockbury PCC

## Christmas Fayre Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Stockbury Village Hall.

The hall looked splendid with the Christmas decorations and a beautifully decorated Christmas tree twinkling away. There were 17 various stalls with lots of Christmas gifts available to purchase.

Thank you for taking the time to visit and for supporting this event. It means a lot to the smaller clubs and the Church at Stockbury to raise much needed funds.

Special thanks to Rosemary who set up the tables and chairs, to Julie for her help and to all who cleared away afterwards.

After paying for the hire of the hall, the stallholders agreed a donation of £35 would be made to the Village Hall.

BM

## Cockett's Corner Ditty

When you listen to the news  
It makes you want to take to booze!

We only hear about disaster  
And nothing with a hint of laughter

In the country old ones cus  
The council wants to scrap their bus!

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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. Why not give us a try!

# FANCY DRESS COSTUMES

# FOR SALE



We have a large collection of X-hire costumes for adults and children in a wide range of themes.

Packet Costumes & Accessories also available to buy at bargain prices!

For all enquiries call Wendy on 01795 841775



## Patrik Says .....

### Planning!!

Where did the last four weeks go? I did not have many local issues to deal with, so what to write about? Maybe something for the gardener? Do you like to watch grass grow? Then you must be a regular web cast viewer of Full Council meetings!

If that's so, you had a rude awakening on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November. A really heated debate was to be watched!

You may remember that in April the Planning Committee decided against an application regarding Woodcut Farm / Junction 8 Business Park. The officers invoked the Planning Referrals Committee, a committee of three members, in the hope to overrule the 13 member Planning Committee's decision. Thankfully they failed.

The Maidstone Constitution allows for such an action, if the officers think that the Planning Committee's decision cannot be upheld upon appeal and will therefore cost the Council a bomb in legal fees.

This referral caused a lot of upset all around, and you may have read about it in the local press. As a result of this bitter experience, the Democracy Committee proposed, at Full Council, a change of constitution:

Any planning referral should be heard by all members at Full Council, so that all elected Councillors will take joint political responsibility for any highly controversial and possibly costly decision by the Planning Committee.

A wise proposal, you may think. Unfortunately the leading Liberal Party did not think so and hijacked a simple and sensible idea. At Full Council they amended the Democracy Committee's proposal, so that any planning referral will now go to the 15 member Policy and Resources Committee, which is heavily dominated by the Liberals and their supporting friends. A very un-liberal decision!

What does this mean in practice?

What a lot of people do not realise is that the elected politicians on the Planning Committee (as well as those on the Licensing Committee) are not carrying out a political function at all!

The decision-making procedure at Planning Committee is very much guided by legal rationale and laws, rather than political will. The Planning Committee fulfils a quasi-judicial function (being an elected legal judge) and NOT a political one.

– I know, you are surprised, aren't you?

So, if a planning application becomes so outrageous that members of the Planning Committee simply cannot agree with the legal rationale, because they fear the wrath of the electorate, then they may come to a decision, which may be brave but very likely to be successfully appealed in the courts.

If such a decision should be taken, then you can rest assured that their decision will be referred to the Policy & Resources Committee, whose brief is to guard the Borough's finances.

Oh yes, I forgot to mention, there was a by-election recently which we Conservatives lost. The Liberals are now the strongest force on the Council. In Maidstone the difference between Liberals and Conservatives is that the former are the townies and we are the urbanites.

Roll on 2018 ! Does this mean that the rurals get concreted over while "outrageous" urban planning applications will be fended off ?

Happy New Year!

PATRIK GARTEN  
MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward, including Stockbury



## Oil Boiler Specialists

A big thank you to all my loyal customers. I have been doing a lot of training and readying my company for the new RHI launch and to this effect we can now offer you biomass boilers (log, pellet and woodchip) and thermal Solar panels.

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## Stockbury Neighbourhood Watch

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

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

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

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

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

### CONTACT NUMBERS:

Emergency : 999  
(crime in progress/life threatening)

Non-Emergency : 101

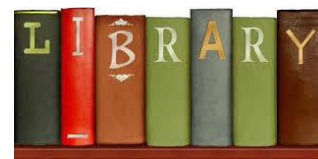
Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (*Co-ordinator*)  
(01622) 736331

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

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

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

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



*Mobile Library Dates*

**4th and 18th January '18**

**At the Village Hall**

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

## CAROLS ON THE GREEN 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017

On a cold, wintry evening over 100 villagers braved the icy weather to sing traditional carols with music by the Salvation Army Band. Reverend Liz Cox opened the evening with a welcoming prayer. After six Carols were played, everyone went into Village Hall for hot drinks and refreshments provided by the Stockbury W.I. members and a surprise visit from Father Christmas and his Elves added sparkle for the children.

A nativity scene was narrated by Irene Milton with help from the children plus one adult (a certain Doctor), who dressed as angels, shepherds, kings, Mary & Joseph with a baby Jesus; they sang 'Away In A Manger'. There then followed more Carols, a reading, and solos from the S.A. Band. At the end of the evening Rev. Liz Cox closed with a prayer and Brenda Mace thanked the Salvation Army, giving them the collection taken on Village Green of over £200 and thanked everyone involved with the evening.



Very many thanks go to :

- The Salvation Army Band.
- Stockbury Gardeners for setting up tables after their meeting.
- Rod and Chris for sorting the lighting on the Green and outside the village hall.
- Father Christmas and his team of Elves for finding time in their busy schedule to visit for a chat and give out gifts to the children.
- MB Farms for sponsorship.
- Fiona who helped with the collection on the Village Green and Pat who stepped in to help in the kitchen.
- All who donated goods for Salvation Army parcel scheme.
- All who helped clear up at the end of the evening.

Also, to our AMAZING Stockbury W.I. ladies who worked so hard throughout the day and evening and for providing the refreshments for this traditional village community event.

W.I. members Ann, Brenda B, Brenda M, Heather, Irene, Joyce, Mary, Sheila and Wendy  
Wish you all a Peaceful New Year.

Our meetings take place at Stockbury Village Hall at 2pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the month and you are very welcome to join us.



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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 4.00pm**

We would like to thank everybody for joining us throughout the festive period and hope that all have enjoyed our festive menu. A special thank you to those that helped with the wonderful decorations too!

Our January calendar is as follows:

Friday 5th January - Fish & Chip Friday

Tuesday 9th January Pie & a Pint Lunch,  
**We will not be serving dinner on this evening**

Wednesday 17th -Senior Citizen Lunch Club

Wednesday 31st January - Quiz Night hosted by Ann Rich  
Quiz will be £2.00 per head with maximum team sizes of 6.

### Opening Hours

Monday - Closed for now

Tuesday - Thursday 12.00-23.00

Friday & Saturday 12.00-12.00am

Sunday 11.30-21.00pm

**Phone: 01795 843222**



# STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

So Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December saw our long awaited trip to the Canterbury Christmas Market, not the largest around but consisting of 60 or so cabins offering all the usual festive goodies.

We picked up as usual from 0930 leaving the village just after 10am with 9 passengers, our number a little depleted for various reasons. The traffic was busy as you would expect for the time of year as we made our way through Sittingbourne, Teynham and Faversham etc, making our way to Canterbury. This of course gave our passengers time for the 'Festive Christmas Quiz'!!!

We arrived a little after 11 as planned in the busy bus station area close to the Christmas Market where everybody made their way for 4 hours of Christmas shopping in and around the cabins and shops of Canterbury!

The consensus was to leave at 3pm to return home, which we did, this time returning via the motorway arriving back in the village by 430pm and yes everybody did well with the quiz!

All in all a good time had and we left the passengers giving thought to where to go next. If you have any ideas please let Fiona know.

Kevin would like to thank everybody who has participated in our trips this year and is looking forward to seeing you all in 2018.



It was a busy month for our bus passengers, as the following week a group of 10 gathered at The Barnyard in Upchurch for more festive fun in the form of a delicious Christmas Lunch complete with Christmas crackers, funny hats and bad jokes! Some even dusted off their Christmas jumpers and in some cases, earrings too to really embrace the festive spirit in style!!

And so to a new year with more shopping and day trips to look forward to and enjoy! Don't forget to let Fiona have your ideas for getting out and about, anything and everything will be considered.

From all of us at SCB HQ, we wish you all a peaceful and joyous 2018.

Kevin Masters  
Fiona Moody



## People of Stockbury!

Do you fancy activating  
Those little grey cells again?

Then join The Harrow Quiz Night

**Wednesday 31st January**  
8pm prompt

£2.00 a head / tables of 6



Village Easter Egg Hunt  
For Children of All Ages  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March  
Stockbury Orchard



More information coming soon  
Anyone interested in volunteering/helping  
Contact Jamie 07863 969783



# Stockbury Gardeners

Did any of you manage to visit The Harrow over the festive period? What a fantastic atmosphere it now has, log fires and friendly staff, fantastic food and an extensive range of drinks. For those of you that did visit I hope that you managed to enjoy the decorations placed in the windows, these were provided by Lex and Jackie from the Gardener's Society, a fantastic show of what can be done with some garden material and a bit of thought and a lot of skill, well done to both. Oh, and of course Samuel, Ellie and the staff at the pub.

The Gardeners do not meet in Stockbury in January but there is no excuse for putting up your feet, there are dozens of jobs to carry out now but what is required is good planning as well.

Its too late to plant trees and shrubs with the ground too cold at the moment, but be patient and wait until the end of February to do that and even then, no later than the end of March for best results, That is because after that you will need to constantly water especially if we have a dry spring.

Seeds can be purchased and an evening browsing through the various seed catalogues will pay dividends, there is not much difference between the common suppliers of veg and flower seeds, as they all purchase them from China!!! Try looking at specialist suppliers, one of which is Franchi Seeds, they have an online shop, however if you go to our village shop, you will find a rack of seed packets twice the size of the "gang of five" as I call them and the contents are also at least three times as much. I find germination (success rate) very good as well.

Keep an eye on the next issue of The Observer to find out what is happening at our meetings for 2018 and for those of you who wish to renew your membership its £10 for the year. For those that are interested, for that annual fee we have 11 meetings, at least 4/5 visiting speakers presenting talks on a vast range of topics. There are benefits too of massive discounts at garden centres, reduced entry and some free admissions to RHS Gardens and various shows and competitions in our village hall. We are affiliated to the National Vegetable Society and the Kent Federation of Horticultural Societies. WOW!! is that not a good enough reason to join us?

Have a happy New Year and do not forget to keep on feeding our feathered friends.

ED - cue cute robin!!!



Oops! Sorry Chris,



Guess this is what you meant! - Ed

Chris Spree

# 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.

## FOR SALE

### Trevor J James TRX10 silver-plated flute.

“As new” condition still in original plastic sleeves, with hard and soft cases. Available as ambition not matched by ability. Perfect for beginners/intermediate use. Tutor included.

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### Sonata alto saxophone.

E-flat. Excellent student model in perfect condition in gold lacquer with all accessories and hard case.

Plays beautifully.

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### “A Touch of Frost” DVD Complete collection.

ITV detective series with David Jason. Series 1-15 on 29 DVDs. Boxed – played once.

Asking £30.

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## Observer Deadline!

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

**Friday 26th January, 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 6th 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.

**DOES YOUR BUS PASS EXPIRE IN MARCH 2018?**



**DON'T WORRY - YOU DON'T NEED TO DO ANYTHING!**

195,000 English National Concessionary Travel Scheme passes in Kent will expire on 31 March 2018 and cannot be used on buses after that date.

**DON'T WORRY - WE'LL BE IN TOUCH**

If you have used your bus pass on a Kent bus in the past year, we will send you your new bus pass by the middle of March 2018.

If you haven't been able to use your bus pass in the past year, you will receive a letter from us during January or February 2018 explaining how you can renew your bus pass if you still want it.

**MOVED HOUSE?**

If you have moved house since getting your current bus pass and you haven't told us, make sure you let us know so that your new bus pass arrives at the right place.

## Useful Contact Information

Cricket Club	Tom Bulbrook - <a href="mailto:th.bul2@yahoo.com">th.bul2@yahoo.com</a>	07780 440526
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
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
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
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
Stockbury Observer - Editor	<a href="mailto:stockburyobserver@gmail.com">stockburyobserver@gmail.com</a>	
The Harrow Public House	<a href="mailto:stockburypub@gmail.com">stockburypub@gmail.com</a>	01795 843222
WI	Brenda Mace	01622 884746