



# THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

*'In the Garden of England'*

## February '18 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
Mon	5th		
Tues	6th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
		NSYC	7.00-9.30pm
Wed	7th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		W.I.	2.00-4.00pm
Thurs	8th	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm
Fri	9th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30pm
Sat	10th		
Sun	11th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	12th		
Tues	13th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
		Art Club - Comm Room	7.00-9.00pm
Wed	14th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		W.I.	2.00-4.00pm
Thurs	15th	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm
Fri	16th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30pm
Sat	17th		
Sun	18th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	19th		
Tues	20th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
		NSYC	7.30-9.30pm
Wed	21st	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
		Sew & Chatter	1.30-3.30pm
		Parish Council	7.30-9.30pm
Thurs	22nd	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm
Fri	23rd	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30pm
Sat	24th		
Sun	25th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00am
Mon	26th		
Tues	27th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
		Art Club - Comm Room	7.00-9.00pm
Wed	28th	Pilates	9.30-10.30am

## THE HARROW PUB SAVE AWARD

You may have already heard that we had some great news at the end of December. Every year CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) runs a national competition called the Pub Save Award, which goes to the group whose campaigning efforts have successfully led to the saving of a pub which would otherwise probably have closed.

We needed to show how: -

- We gathered evidence and information relevant to the campaign
- We engaged with the community and with pub users
- We achieved publicity for our aims

And finally, to demonstrate the success we achieved.

There were 12 entries across the UK and **WE WON!!**



This is a great testament to this community and all the enthusiasm and commitment put in by many people to make The Harrow a pub in which many of us have ownership and which will be at the heart of the village for many years and hopefully generations to come.

We were also extremely lucky to find a great landlord in Sam Pendry who is doing an excellent job in making our pub a place which is a pleasure to visit.

The award also presented an opportunity to showcase Stockbury and The Harrow on local radio, TV and newspapers as a thriving community.

Chris Porter 01795 843715  
stockburypub@gmail.com

[www.facebook.com/stockburycommunitypub](http://www.facebook.com/stockburycommunitypub)

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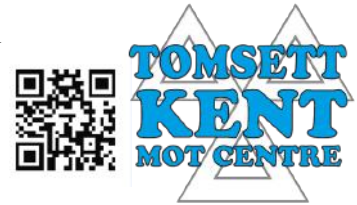
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Parish

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Council



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Diary



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Businesses



Village  
Info



Observer

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

**You get more with the online**

**Stockbury  
Observer!**

# St Mary Magdalene Church

## Stockbury



The services in February are as follows:

4th Feb - 3.00pm Communion

18th Feb - 3.00pm Communion

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



## Policing News

Detectives from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate have arrested a man from Stockbury on suspicion of theft of a car and handling stolen goods.

The officers executed a search warrant at an address in the village on Wednesday 3rd January where they seized eight vehicles and arrested the 44-year-old man.

He was subsequently released under investigation.

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

1915 FOR 100 YEARS 2015

## Stockbury W.I.

We started the New Year with a belated Christmas meal, which we all enjoyed very much. We raised a glass to those who were unable to join us due to illness and hope they are back to good health for our next meeting.

I was very pleased to hear on the news that the frozen food company Iceland are preparing to replace their plastic packaging with the alternative of paper and wood pulp packaging to help keep the oceans free from the toxic waste that is damaging our world. Hopefully other companies will follow suit.

We will be having a programme meeting at Diane's home to plan our speakers, outings and events for the forthcoming year. A chance to hear from members as to how we would like our gatherings to be constructed (also to eat Di's wonderful cake selections).

Our next meeting will be the 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday of THE STOCKBURY WI. I am sure there will be more cake to be consumed, (oh what a chore)!!

Our speaker will be Lorna Bailey who will be giving us an interesting insight on how the charities deal with and distribute all of the donations given to them by kind members of the public that fill a shoebox with important items for the refugees in Serbia to help their daily lives a little more bearable.

Please feel free to join us at 2pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> February, at Stockbury Village Hall

Heather Tomsett

## Cockett's Corner Ditty

**A.O.N.B.**  
**(What it Means)**

The natives think it will be a pity  
To end up living in 'Bimbury City'

Things will not be the same  
If they do that to our lane

It is up to every local  
To make objections really vocal

The title that is often cited  
Is really An Old Nature Blighted

## **Graham Seymour Electrical**

### **To All My Friends And Customers**

I wish to advise you that after a career in electronics, IT design and over the past 7 years providing electrical services for the local community, I am now retiring.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your custom, your trust and the friendships that have been made.

I hope these friendships will continue.

Graham Seymour

## **AWARD WINNING M B Farms**

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

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

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

### **Post Office Hours**

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

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

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

### **National Lottery Now Available**

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



## **STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS**

Mondays - Sittingbourne

Tuesdays - Maidstone

Thursdays - Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (Savacentre)

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

# **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 .....

### Parking in Maidstone!!

The trouble with January is, that not much interesting happens, at least not interesting enough for me to have another monthly rant.... or maybe? .... YES!! Here is a subject which will steer emotions:

#### **Parking!**

Maidstone Borough currently provides over 4,900 car parking spaces in town. That is council owned parking spaces, not counting the private ones, e.g. Fremlin.

Why does the Council charge for parking? Because parking is a valuable service which the Council provides, it is therefore only just to charge for it. – Mmh?... Not my words but I can see some sense in this reasoning.

Across the party political spectrum in Maidstone, it is widely agreed that the Council's parking charges follow roughly the private sector's market valuation of this service; meaning to say that if private parking costs X, then MBC will charge approximately the same or slightly less for their spaces.

Ideally, town planners want as many people as possible in the Town-Centre, which is good for the economy, but as few cars as absolutely necessary because they are bad for the environment. In order to square this circle, we politicians try to play with parking charges; the higher the charges, the lower the amount of cars used. At least this is the theory!

#### **Until 2031 MBC plan to increase their parking charges by 50%.**

“Oh shock horror !” I hear you scream. - Taking 13 years' inflation into account and the value which people place on convenience, this 50% increase is expected to only reduce the demand by less than 200 spaces A rather small impact on the town's economy.

In 2015 in Cardigan (Wales) all four ticket machines were vandalised and their council could not afford to repair the machines for three months. Result for the people of Cardigan! Without any parking restrictions in place, people were flocking back to the town centre. Store-owners claim that their sales went up by between 20% and 50% during that time! That is indeed some food for thought. But how can we rid the town of that awful motor-car and still bring happily spending consumers to the shops?

Do I hear anybody mention “Park & Ride”?

Oh what a wonderful idea, one which Maidstone was keen to implement, as one of the very first authorities in the country, many years ago. And since then, a quarter of a million pounds of your taxes were spent year after year on subsidising 900 P&R parking places.

I would not mind trading off my convenience of in-town parking for free P&R. But hold on, the £250,000 does not offer free parking. The cost of subsidised Parking and (Bus) Riding is only marginally lesser than in-town parking and I have to wait for a bus.

Free buses may be abused by people who do not even park, while charging a non-subsidised fee for a P&R bus may make it uneconomical for a car with more than 1 or 2 passengers. Ergo: – charge for Parking and charge for Riding: P&R

Officers did suggest a package to make P&R more attractive by increasing the bus frequency or extending the service time. Unfortunately this would require doubling the subsidy.

This idea, one would assume, took off like a lead balloon. - Not at all! The Liberals (with some help of their Independent friends) embraced the idea, at least the latter part of it, to extend the bus service times.

That is over £400,000 of your council tax to subsidise 900 Pay & Park & Pay again & Ride spaces. (P&R)

Me thinks then, if MBC has so much spare cash to play with, how about building a multi storey car park with 900 FREE spaces in the town centre? At a subsidy of £400k per annum, this car park would be paid for in 13 years' time.

- Ah, silly me, it is stated policy in the Local Plan to reduce traffic in the town centre.
- How could I forget?

I am out of ideas (and page space too!). If you have any magic ideas, you may want to contact Maidstone's Parking Manager – or talk to your Councillor!

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

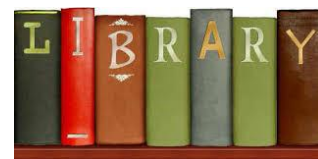
Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (*Co-ordinator*)  
(01622) 736331

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*

**1st and 15th February '18**

**At the Village Hall**



# Stockbury Gardeners

A quick note to say thanks to drug growers and dealers, NOT for the drugs however but the cost of grow lamps and associated apparatus has enabled the cost of this equipment to be reduced to make the equipment much more affordable to us vegetable and plant growers!!! Insulated bubble wrap, thermometers, heated benches, reflective foil, fans and lamp timers, these all help us get seedlings growing earlier than we would normally and extend our cropping season.

The days are getting longer the birds are pairing up, albeit very early, so its time to get going in the garden.

- Scrub all the old pots and seed trays, use mild washing up liquid.
- Make sure all the glass in the greenhouse is clean.
- Temperatures can reach 30 plus degrees in February so keep an eye on the forecast, and decide before leaving for work, “heating on or off”, you could also consider an electric fan to circulate the air to try and avoid plants “damping off”

Turn over old rubbish that you have in between the garage and the shed and greenhouse, this will expose once again snails for the thrush's and blackbirds. Keep on feeding the birds and out of interest note down how many of each variety, its amazing how the populations change with a little help from humans. Habitat can also be created, there is always space for more bird boxes and shelves can be put up near the top of open lean to's and place old bits of wood to fill the shelves you will find wrens and robins will nest there, quite close to humans. When clearing out old rubbish in the wood stores and sheds be aware that butterflies can be hibernating so try not to disturb them.

This month sow the following:

- If you have a lot of patience Asparagus seed can be sown or 1-year crowns planted, expect a harvest 2 /3 year on but treat the King of vegetables as a 20-year investment.
- Broad beans can be sown in an old gutter inside a warm greenhouse, and then moved out side after hardening off and planted in the ground.
- Early sowing of carrots can be made and half of the row could be covered with a cloche to spread the season.
- Shallots can be started in pots if you did not plant earlier in the garden, so you can catch up.
- Tomatoes can be sown in a greenhouse.
- Chillies and sweet pepper need to be sown early in February, I find them hard to germinate but a good trick is to place a small seed tray inside a polythene sandwich zip loc bag. Simply use a half size seed tray dampen the general-purpose compost and drop seeds on the surface, cover with Vermiculite (do not water vermiculite). When seedlings germinate after about 20 days on a warm windowsill, prick out into small pots.
- Not too soon to sow any brassica seeds, cauliflower, cabbage. broccoli, brussel sprouts etc.
- Sweet peas should have been sown in November but February is still OK.
- Nearly forgot to say about leek seeds - sow now, see picture!!

*(They're very impressive Chris! - Ed)*

If you do nothing else this month, join us at the Gardeners meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> February at 8 pm.



Chris Spree



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

### **February's Events**

Tuesday 6th Pie & a Pint

Feb 14th Valentine's Day Dinner - 4 courses and a glass of bubbly, £60 per couple

Friday 16th live music - Filthy Gorgeous

Wednesday 21st Senior Citizen Lunch Club

March 2nd will be the next Fish & Chip Night too!

### **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 Cherry Orchard

## Little Owl

We were recently approached by a student from Canterbury University, Charlie Russell, who is carrying out a study of Little Owls in Kent, a species which has suffered a 65% population decline nationwide in the last 25 years.

This project aims to support the Little Owls in Kent, providing them suitable nesting boxes to bolster their population within the county. As part of the project, Little Owls in this scheme will be monitored, alongside the land they live on, to help identify the cause/s for their decline. The project will raise awareness of the Little Owl amongst the public as well as working with orchards and other agricultural areas to encourage sustainable practices for their benefit in our county.

Fortunately Charlie heard of us and has now put up 2 Little Owl boxes in the Cherry Orchard on Church Lane. The boxes are about 40 cm cubed, painted black and in 2 of the old trees

### Identification

The little owl is about 22 cm tall with a wing span of 56 cm, mottled brown and white underparts and upperparts with a narrow brownish face, pale yellow eyes and dark irises. The overall impression in flight of a smallish brown bird. Its call is a falsetto “kee-ew” quite short in length and then repeated.

If you see or hear a little owl in the orchard and especially if you see one in a nesting box, please let me know.



Chris Porter 01795 843715



## Stockbury Book Club

During December amidst our usual Christmas festivities, we reviewed **“Truly, Madly, Guilty”** by *Liane Moriarty*.

This Australian author may already be familiar to some of you as she has written several very popular novels.

The plot centres on three couples, one of whom hosts a BBQ and much of the plot unfolds from that. An unexplained death and a collapsing marriage give some depth to the plot but most people found the first half of the book was pretty tedious and you spend all the time waiting for something to happen! However I am pleased and relieved to report that it did improve substantially and became quite a page turner, with lots of anticipation making you want to get to the end.

Personally I think it would make a good holiday read – but that time of year feels something of a long time off at the moment.

However, book reviewing always takes last place on our Christmas get together. Mulled wine, good food and company always puts us in a good mood for our film viewing, which this year was “A Street Cat Named Bob”. As you may remember we read the book earlier in the year and its about a homeless drug addict who

is ‘adopted’ by a cat who he names Bob. True to the book, it was a very enjoyable film.

The title of our January read was **Moon Tiger** by Penelope Lively. This is a fairly short book which was written in 1987 and which won the Booker Prize that year.

The central character is Claudia, an elderly historian who imagines that she is going to write a history of the world. The story she tells however focuses on aspects of her own life history and memories.

She was a strong, independent and brave woman and we learn about her relationships with her mother, brother and daughter but the part we all really enjoyed was when she relates her experiences in Egypt during World War II. Claudia was a war journalist and the book has some wonderful visual phrases which convey the atmosphere of the desert and the war which raged there.

The general comment was that it took a while to get into the story but after the first 30 pages or so we were all hooked and wanted to read on. The language is quite complex and we needed to concentrate but it was well worth the effort.

We gave this book a high score of 8.5 out of 10.

Next month we are reading a crime novel, **The Dry** by Jane Harper.

Moira Cooke  
Jan Butterfill

# XB

## Hairdressing

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Highlights T Section	£35
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Tint virgin hair	£45
Tint Regrowth	£35/£40
Pieces and Gloss	£50
Perm	£55

Children under 16yrs 50% off

### Stockbury Easter Egg Hunt

Stockbury Village Orchard

From 10am

Saturday 31st March

(Easter Weekend)

Join us for the first Stockbury Village Easter Egg Hunt  
Your little bunnies will be able to hop around the orchard looking for brightly  
coloured eggs to exchange for ones made of chocolate from our very own  
Easter Bunny.



With face-painting, tea and coffee for the grown-ups and a raffle this  
will be a fun morning for the whole family.

No Ticket Necessary - pay on the gate!  
For more information find us on facebook  
[www.facebook.com/StockburyEggHunt/](http://www.facebook.com/StockburyEggHunt/)

## A DATE FOR EVERYONE'S DIARY

(And time to start creating!)

### STOCKBURY ARTS FAIR & MUSIC

Sunday October 21st

IN THE VILLAGE HALL



There are many talented people out there  
and we would love to see your original,  
creative work on display here in Stockbury.  
If you would like to show your wares at our  
Arts Fair then please ring

Penny on 01795 842914

or

Ann on 07718 070807

For Further Details

# 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

### Substantial Extending Table



5ft > 8ft  
£150 O.N.O  
Call 01795 843129

## Observer Deadline!

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

**Monday 19th February, 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

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Revd Liz Cox - <a href="mailto:elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com">elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com</a>	01795 435184
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Cricket Club	Tom Bulbrook - <a href="mailto:th.bul2@yahoo.com">th.bul2@yahoo.com</a>	07780 440526
Crimestoppers	(Confidential)	0800 55511
Dancing Club	Brian Crisp	01634 231886
Dog Club	Mick Bingham	01795 842480
Electricity Problems		0800 7838866
Environment Agency	Incident Hotline	0800 807060
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Hall Bookings	Sue Porter	01795 843715
Kent County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast <a href="mailto:shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk">shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk</a>	
Maidstone BC Councillor	Patrik Garten - <a href="mailto:patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk">patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk</a>	01622 807907
MB Farms Stores & Post Office		01795 842401
Member of Parliament Faversham & Mid Kent Ward	Helen Whately - <a href="mailto:helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk">helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk</a>	
Neighbourhood Watch	Ann Ballard	01622 736331
Not So Young Club	Rosemary Leonard	01634 232672
Parish Council	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Petanque Club	Tina Jacobs	07743 910185
Photographic Club	Tim Arnold - <a href="mailto:timarnold@btinternet.com">timarnold@btinternet.com</a>	01795 843049
Police	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	999 101
Police Community Support Officers for Stockbury	Ryan Waring - <a href="mailto:5872@kent.pnn.police.uk">5872@kent.pnn.police.uk</a> Dave Rowley - <a href="mailto:59079@kent.pnn.police.uk">59079@kent.pnn.police.uk</a>	07969 584213 07772 226097
Public Footpaths & Bridleway	Reporting issues with. - <a href="mailto:westprow@kent.gov.uk">westprow@kent.gov.uk</a>	03000 417171
Roads, Potholes, etc	(manned 24hrs) - <a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem">www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/ report-a-problem</a>	03000 418181
RSPCA		0300 1234999
Short Mat Bowls	Tony or Angela Russell	01795 842738
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
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