



THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

'In the Garden of England'

April '18 Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Sun	1st	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	2nd		
Tues	3rd	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		NSYC	7.30 - 9.30pm
Wed	4th		
Thurs	5th	Gardeners	8.00 - 10.00pm
Fri	6th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	7th	Private Booking	ALL DAY
Sun	8th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	9th	Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm
Tues	10th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Art Club	7.00 - 9.00pm
Wed	11th	W.I.	7.00 - 9.30pm
Thurs	12th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	13th	Daisy Foundation	9.45 - 12.45pm
		Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	14th	Private Booking	9.00 - 2.00pm
Sun	15th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
		Private Booking Comm Room	2.00 - 4.00pm
Mon	16th		
Tues	17th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		NSYC	7.30 - 9.30pm
Wed	18th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		Seniors Lunch Club The Harrow	12.30 - 2.00pm
		Sew & Chatter	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Parish Council	7.30 - 9.30pm
Thurs	19th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	20th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	21st		
Sun	22nd	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
		Cricket - Field	1.00 - 7.00pm
Mon	23rd	Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm
Tues	24th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Art Club	7.00 - 9.00pm
Wed	25th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thurs	26th	Bowls	7.00 - 9.30pm
Fri	27th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	28th	Gardeners Plant Sale	9.30 - 1.30pm
Sun	29th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	30th	Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm

THE HARROW INTERNET CAFÉ & IT SUPPORT

The idea for using the pub as a focal point for improved use of technology in a rural area was part of the submission for grants that helped us to buy the pub. Since it re-opened, The Harrow has been providing free Wi-fi access to the fast fibre broadband that has recently come to the village.

In addition, we have been given a grant of £600 by KCC Member Shellina Prendergast for the purchase of laptops. We have purchased three laptops and have been given an additional laptop and printer to use in the pub. This means we are ready to help people to make more and better use of technology for modern life. Take a look at our panel advert to see what our volunteers can offer. We can arrange weekday or Saturday slots to suit but we need you to get in touch and tell us what you want. Call Sara on 01795 842914 and let's get this ball rolling!

If you suffer irritatingly slow broadband speeds at home, you can use your own device in the pub at any time. Just ask a member of the staff for the access code.

Sara Kemsley

Cockett's Corner Ditty

Snow!

When the 'Beast from the East' doth blow
We have an unfair share of snow

Cause when this weather is coming
Both traffic and trains stop running

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Because you cannot go out!

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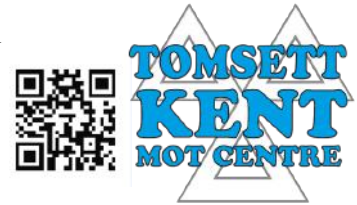
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Observer!**

St Mary Magdalene Church Stockbury



The services for April are as follows:

- 1 April – 6am Sunrise Service
- 8 April - 6pm Evensong
- 15 April – 6pm Sung Communion
- 22 April - 6pm Evensong
- 29 April - 6pm Sung Communion

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

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

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

Penny Stevens - PCC Secretary

Details of the range of services held within the benefice of the six parishes, to which Stockbury belongs, can be found on the parishes' website www.thesix.org.uk 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

Good Friday 30th March
10am to 12 noon; Confessions
3pm Solemn Liturgy
7.30pm Lenten Liturgy

Holy Saturday 31st March
8pm Blessing of the Fire
and lighting of the Paschal Candle;
followed by Scripture Readings and Mass

Easter Sunday 1st April 2018



Stockbury W.I.

At last, after the grey days of winter there are so many signs now that spring has definitely arrived and the lighter evenings are with us too.

We gathered for our March meeting and had a fun filled afternoon with Mick Bingham and John Cockett demonstrating to us that art can be made simpler with some handy tips for creating a lovely picture. We all got very messy but took home a colourful picture to prove to our loved ones that with a little tuition and a few tweaks everyone can produce a 'Master Piece'. Mick and John hold an art class in the Village Hall on a regular basis if anyone would like to join them. (See Hall Diary for dates)

I was browsing through old copies of the WI Magazine and came across an inspirational poem written by a WI member from Horsmonden, Hilary Ayshford, which was the winning entry for the 2017 Emmie Shipman Award.

Moving On

The year has gone so quickly, the days and months have flown
And yet it seems a lifetime since you left me on my own
I miss not having someone here to share the things I do
It's very different being one and not one half of two

But now that I am by myself and facing empty years
I find that time, however long, is filled with hopes, not fears
No longer am I lover, nurse, companion, cook or wife
So now it's up to me to make the best of my new life

The chance to be Miss Universe has sadly passed me by
But who can say what glory days ahead of me may lie?
My youth is far behind me: I'm no spring chicken, it is true
My body may be sixty....., but in my head I'm twenty two

My greying hair no longer shines like rays of rising sun
If there are wrinkles on my face, I've earned them, every one
The passing years will take their toll in this there's no disgrace
When I look in the mirror now I see my mother's face

My knees and hips are stiff and I have trouble now with stairs
I've bingo wings, my bosoms sag, my chin is sprouting hairs
I've given up the battle to contain my growing girth
But I know there's still time to make my mark upon this earth

I'll never travel to the moon or win Olympic Gold
But there is plenty still to do before I get too old
I'll act and sing and learn to paint, even write a book – or two
I'll die regretting what I did, not what I didn't do.

I've left too many things to gather dust upon the shelf
And now I've none to answer to, I'm free to please myself
Life's too short to put things off until another day
So look out world, for here I come – at last I'm on my way

The WI launched a new campaign last year to tackle the epidemic of loneliness and this poem may give comfort and bring a smile to anyone who has lost someone close or is feeling lonely.

Our next meeting will be on 11th April at 7.30pm with Mr P. Batty giving the talk "Armchair Tour of the City of London".



The Harrow Pub Ltd
The Street ,
Stockbury,
Kent ME9 7UH

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

- ⇒ Fed up with your super-slow, rural broadband? We offer fast fibre to use free-of-charge. Bring your own device and get those jobs done over a cup of coffee or a pint.
- ⇒ Know what you want to do but get frustrated at how long it takes? Join a free support session and we will show you how to work smarter.
- ⇒ Have a technical problem or simply want to understand more about quick fixes? Our volunteers may well be able to help.
- ⇒ Just want to learn more? We can offer free support and guidance whatever your age or experience.

For more information, call Sara on 01795 842914 and leave your name and a contact number



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

Tuesdays - Maidstone

Thursdays - Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (Savacentre)

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Patrik Says

Dear Residents

Like almost every year, Maidstone will have some Borough Elections this May – not in the North Downs, I hasten to add!

Three years out of every four, some residents will be asked to the polls. Not only is this a costly way of administering local government but it also fails to assure a stable local government which would be able to plan ahead for more than next May.

I am treading on very thin ice saying this here: the mere support or criticism of the electoral system may be construed as a party-political statement which is VERBOTEN! - during Purdah.

Purdah? I hear you ask – no nothing religious but a publicity restriction that will apply after the Notice of Election is published: from now until after the next edition of The Observer.

During this time neither Council nor members are allowed to issue any publicity which appears designed to affect support for a candidate or political party or could otherwise be regarded as influencing voters.....

Boom goes my monthly rant, which I like to believe is enjoyed by the dear Stockbury Observer reader.....

I'll be back in June then, - bye bye!

Yours, Patrik

Very Thin Ice Territory:

- 1) correction regarding last month's article: At full council I did not raise the issue of the ANOB partnership, as initially planned. This was requested by the Partnership themselves in fear of unintended consequences. Enough said but the fight will continue.....
- 2) The Kent Downs Management Plan is currently being reviewed. Please get involved and feed into the revision of the plan - it is only a 10min survey. Please follow this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RCJVRDC>
- 3) Lots of issues happening around the Kent Medical site at Junction 7. There will be a full briefing for members while this magazine is being printed. I shall feed back next month.
- 4) Oh yes, it was decided by Full Council that the MBC element of the Council Tax goes up by 3%

- 5) A delegation of North Downs community representatives met with the Police & Crimes Commissioner, Matthew Scott. He was very sympathetic to our rural concerns and presented us with very practical solutions, which Kent Police is currently introducing. Over 400 new staff are being recruited; that is 200 extra staff when considering natural wastage. We will soon have a new PCSO for the village and (s)he will regularly visit Parish Council meetings; at least once every three months. An improvement over the past 6 or 8 months when we've had no visit. The most striking thing I remember is that new recruits will be asked about their desired career path from the very start. Being a village PCSO shall no longer be a foot in the door for a career in CID. Village PCSOs are supposed to be experts in their community and this expertise is valued and should be retained.



- 6) Purdah or not I shall continue to be at the end of the phone line or my email in-box and listen to your concerns and be ready to advocate on your behalf in the Halls of Power.

Happy ~~Purdah~~ Easter

PATRIK GARTEN
MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward,
including Stockbury



Stockbury Book Club

This month we have read 'All Missing Girls' by Megan Miranda.

It has been ten years since Nicolette left her rural hometown following the disappearance, without trace of her best friend, Corrine.

This book is unusual in that it is told backwards. This caused some of our group to loose where they were. Having read such a good book last time (The Dry) this did not have such a good story line. and some felt that the story became more unbelievable as it progressed. The end had mixed reviews varying from 'came together at the end' to 'not satisfied at the end'.

The average score was 5.6.

This month we are reading 'The Alchemist' by Paulo Coelho.

Happy reading.

Bev Martin



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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

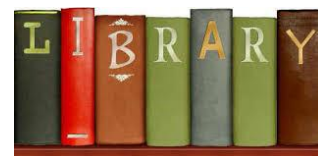
Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (*Co-ordinator*)
(01622) 736331

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

stockbury-neighbourhood@outlook.com

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.



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Stockbury Gardeners

STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

"CALLING ALL PASSENGERS"

Hello All, so here we are in a new year and I want to start where we left off by getting our trips under way early. To that end and following on from the success of the Christmas Market I think we could start with an early visit to Polehill Garden Centre just outside Sevenoaks. It is a family owned business with over 50 years of experience and is hugely successful; its in the style of Nottcutts just outside Maidstone with plenty for everyone.

It is only about 40 minutes drive away so we could leave mid morning, say 10:30 take the scenic route as always and arrive by 11:30 for a stay of about 4 hours or so for a good wander around, picking up all your garden needs and time to treat yourself to lunch in the restaurant.

So how about it? I was thinking Wednesday 25th April just after the Easter Holiday giving us time to walk the chocolate off!

Free for concession holders or £5:00 per person for those without, payable as usual on the day, and of course another quiz!!!!

Why not join us for another good day out – 3 last year, hoping for 4 this year!!

So are you coming?

Contact Fiona now 07551 454702

Kevin Masters

THE HARROW LUNCH CLUB

The Harrow Lunch Club is now well-established with 25 members already signed up.



It has now settled on the third Wednesday of each month at 12.30 with Sam Pendry and his team providing an excellent lunch with choices to suit all appetites at just £7.50 for two courses.

We currently provide transport by car for those who cannot easily get to The Harrow and will be using the Stockbury Community Bus as more people have the need.

The club is aimed at the over 70's who live in the area and who find that health, mobility or loss of confidence make it harder to get together.

If you want to sign up or find out more on behalf of someone you know, just ring Sara or Penny on 01795 842914.

19th March - I still have fleece covers over peach and pear blossom that were threatening to show. Who would believe that in direct contrast to last spring that we would have had such a cold period? Nature is a great leveller. So where is global warming when required?? It will make my gardening tips easy, for April, read last March's letter!



This March the temperature reached minus 19 °C, the coldest March for 85 years, no wonder wild life is confused. Whilst on a recent trip to Camber Sands I encountered this penguin who was trying to set up a colony. Wow! that was cold!

I hope those of you whom use the village pub have noticed the latest information board. Hanging on it is this year's schedule for the Stockbury Gardeners, please take time to browse through it, details of the years calendar for all to view, however feel free to take the information home but re-place the schedule before you leave.

For those of you that are interested, the robin is still following me around the garden, however now once he has fed from my hand he leaves me at high speed.....I rather feel he has other things on his mind at the moment, let's hope so!

In the large pond we had frogspawn on the 12th March but a few days later the water was frozen, I hope its all going to be OK.

In the greenhouse last week I had to open a few windows to cool it down, and in doing so disturbed a whole colony of lacewings hibernating in the frame, now that is a good sign.

- You should now be ready to prune roses.
- Sow peas and parsnips once the ground warms up
- Sow basil, beetroot, broccoli and calabrese
- Most brassica (cabbage family)
- Carrot, cauliflower celery, celeriac, French beans, and courgette
- Cucumbers indoors, pumpkin and squash family.
- Onions, salad plants - lettuce etc. tomatoes asap or buy in plants.

This year if you forget to plant anything, come along to the Stockbury Gardeners Plant Sale where you will find not just fruit and veg plants but bedding and various plants for the garden. All of these will be at very good prices28th April.

Chris Spree



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Friday & Saturday 12.00-12.00am

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Stockbury Short Mat Bowls Club

We are a friendly club who meet in the Memorial Hall every Tuesday at 2pm until 4pm. and every Thursday, except the first Thursday in the month, 7:30 pm to 9.30pm.

Short Mat Bowls is an indoor variation of lawn bowls and indoor bowls as seen on TV. As its name implies it is played on a short mat which can be 40 to 45 ft long. This means that it can be played in most village halls. It is an excellent and fun way to get gentle exercise and can be played by anyone regardless of age, gender or ability.

In Stockbury we have two 45ft mats. We play mostly for fun but we do have a team, "The Spitfires" in the Swale Winter League. In 1997 Stockbury was one of the founder members of this league, which includes numerous clubs throughout the Swale area. This year The Spitfires have come top in division 3.



In addition we play friendly matches against other local clubs on a home and away basis.

We are affiliated to Kent County Short Mat Bowls Association and through them to the English Short Mat Bowls Association. Any of our members are able to enter county competitions and if good enough, play for the county and even the country as short mat bowls is also played overseas.

You don't need any special equipment to start as the club has bowls you can use, the only requirement is flat soft soled shoes on the mat but you can play in stockinged feet to see if you like it first. The cost is £2.50 a session but the first three sessions are free, so come along and have a go, you will be very welcome. Just turn up 10 minutes before the start of any session or for more information call Tony or Angela on 01795 842738 or 07713 148947.

Our 'Local' has some Great Ideas for a Good Night Out !

It's rare that you can go to your local hostelry and have a gourmet tasting but *we* did on Saturday evening (March 24th). AND so did a lot of other people; the Harrow was packed with hungry friends, all just waiting to have their taste-buds teased.

Was the tasting any good? Yes as a matter of fact.... I should say, very good indeed. The flavours were subtle and the presentation excellent. Service was extremely professional, each table being served with precision and good humour. Once again we were reliably informed about the accompanying wines by front-of-house Nicky.

What a night! The professional expertise was of a high standard and each course was delicious and well thought through, from the amuse bouche (pea soup with a crunchy ham bonbon), the starter of asparagus, broad beans, morels and crumbled black pudding to the sea trout with fennel & orange; from the sorbet (sharp lemon, flavoured with cleansing basil), to the sous vide veal with white asparagus & golden raisins on to the deconstructed rhubarb and custard dessert (such textures !), coffee and petit fours.

The whole company enjoyed every succulent mouthful... thanks to the chef, Michael Jelley and his hard working team.

In a few months' time, when our taste-buds have recovered perhaps we could do it all over again !

Ann Rich



March Church Draw Winners

CONGRATULATIONS!

- 1st (£40) - John Leachman (102)
- 2nd (£20) - Sophie & Richard Ratcliffe (127)
- 3rd (£10) - Mike Wegg (54)

Have you renewed your tickets for 2018?

Its not too late to do so, or to increase the amount you have. If you have not got any, go buy some!!



KAREN BRUNNING

Art Director/Manager

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Email: karenbrunning@gmail.com

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We accept no responsibility for the quality of the items advertised for sale or the handling of payment between buyer and vendor.

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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

Monday 23rd April, 2018

Please email your contributions to
[**stockburyobserver@gmail.com**](mailto:stockburyobserver@gmail.com)

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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.

Useful Contact Information

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Revd Liz Cox - elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com	01795 435184
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Cricket Club	Tom Bulbrook - th.bul2@yahoo.com	07780 440526
Crimestoppers	(Confidential)	0800 55511
Dancing Club	Brian Crisp	01634 231886
Dog Club	Mick Bingham	01795 842480
Electricity Problems		0800 7838866
Environment Agency	Incident Hotline	0800 807060
Fly Tipping & Waste Collection	Including bulky items	01622 602162
Gardeners	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	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	Ryan Waring - 5872@kent.pnn.police.uk Dave Rowley - 59079@kent.pnn.police.uk	07969 584213 07772 226097
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	Tony or Angela Russell	01795 842738
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	Brenda Mace	01622 884746