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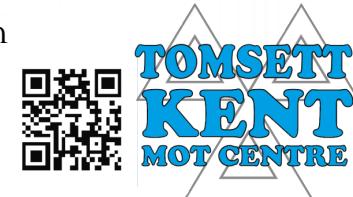
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Welcome To The Stockbury Parish Website

Council Events Diary Observer Local Businesses Village Info

Visit Us At

www.stockbury.org.uk

You get more with the online

**Stockbury
Observer!**

St Mary Magdalene Church



The services for November are as follows:

4 November – 3pm Sung Communion

11 November – 11am; Act of Remembrance at the Memorial followed by a church service

18 November - 3pm Sung Communion

25 November – 3pm Evensong

Please Note

The weekly services are now at 3.0pm - apart from 11 November.

The works are now delayed until further notice.

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.thexix.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

October Church Draw Winners

CONGRATULATIONS!

1st - Wendy Cathcart
£40 (119)

2nd - Sheila Roper
£20 (114)

3rd - Shirley Moss
£10 (39)

Armistice

In a few days we will gather at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month to commemorate the fallen of all those who have died in battle since the first world war. This year much has been made of Armistice Day as it will be 100 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the "war to end all wars". Sadly, since then there have been many other wars and although as a nation we are not at war at the moment, there is conflict in many places all over our world.

There are now no veterans left from the conflict of the first war and less and less every year from the second war but at the Festival of Remembrance every year more petals are added to mark the fallen. Why remember, is it sheer English sentimentality? Is it national pride? I am sure that once this year's events are over there will be calls to stop the glorification of war as even those who mourn the lost have passed on.

I spent some time in Rochester Cathedral yesterday, which was being decorated, as Stockbury will be, with poppies knitted by the local WI. There were nets and strings everywhere as observed by my youngest granddaughter, it was very poignant. Visual reminders like this bring home more than anything else the massive numbers who gave their lives for our freedom.

In a world where violence and violent rhetoric seem the norm, where nations set themselves against each other, remembrance and an awareness of those horrors is in my opinion essential. Unless we keep these alive in our minds as well as giving thanks for the sacrifices given for us, we run the danger of travelling the same roads again.

At the service in Church I will be leading a pledge for us to strive for peace. If we and the leaders of the nations keep to this pledge, we will be honouring the sacrifices of those in the past in the best way we can.

We Will Remember.

Rev'd Liz Cox

Cockett's Corner Ditty

Sunday the twenty first came and went
It really was a great event

A good supply of tea and cake
With lively music to keep you awake

It really was a good turnout
With lots of people in and about

I hope the stallholders did quite well
With arts and crafts they bought to sell

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Based in Stockbury/Home visits available

Remembrance Day November 11th 2018

100th Anniversary WW1 1918-2018

Stockbury Remembrance commemorations for the 11th November 2018

11am - Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial and a Service of Remembrance at Stockbury Church; starts at 11am, all are welcome.

7pm - Stockbury Beacon of Light, one of a national chain of 1000 beacons, will be lit outside the church. Please arrive by 6.30pm; all are welcome.

- 6.30pm please gather at the beacon next to Stockbury Church.
- For the safety of those walking there will be no parking at the church, or on Church Lane, please park in the Village Hall car park and walk to the church.
- Those unable to walk can be taken in the Community Bus to the church and back; please ring Fiona on 01622 884551 to arrange.
- Please bring torches or lanterns, if possible, for the walk to/from the church
- 6.45pm a tribute to those killed and injured in the Great War will begin.
- 6.55pm The Last Post will be played, followed by the reading of the exhortation, then a two minute silence, ended by the Reveille.
- 7pm the beacon will be lit.
- 7.05pm bells will ring out for peace after which the road will be blocked so people can safely walk back to the village in a torch lit procession.
- 7.30pm simple refreshments of bread and cheese are served in The Harrow; all are welcome.
- For catering purposes could you please let Anne or Fiona know if you will be joining us at The Harrow after the beacon has been lit.

We still need volunteers to help on the day, so if you are able to help please contact us.

All are welcome to both the church service, to the lighting of the beacon and afterwards to The Harrow. We hope to see as many people as possible to mark the centenary and to remember the fallen.

**Anne Southern - 01795 842850
Fiona Moody - 01622 884551**

Please leave a message if calls are not answered.



Stockbury Gardeners

“1914 the war to end all wars”. That was what was expected, “it will be over by Christmas” they said.

The profound effect on British and European life, was to be felt for years to come. Men were encouraged to join the Army, encouraged to do so by joining up with their pals and workmates; it was easier to enlist men from a known group of friends and so it was that men of suitable fighting age were drafted to the front line to fight.

You may be wondering why this is appearing as a gardening article but the effect on agriculture and people that worked the land was devastating during the Great War. I recall watching a programme twenty years ago, produced by the BBC and featuring Tim Smit; Tim you may recall was responsible for developing the Eden Project in Cornwall but before that the programme featured Tim and his team re-discovering “The Lost Gardens of Heligan”.

The Tremayne family lived at Heligan but saw all the garden staff sent to France. Most of them never returned. This was a pattern that occurred all over the country. The effect on the way of life for hundreds of thousands of families and employers was devastating. Sadly, Heligan was never to return to the wonderful grounds and gardens that it was ever again after the war, until Smit renovated them. Today the gardens are left and maintained in as close a representative condition possible, as a memorial to those that perished during that period.

After the end of the war, returning soldiers were left with no work and the depression loomed. so Government officials decided to allow ex-soldiers and spouses to settle on plots of land, called small holdings. Generally, they were about 10 acres in size and considered large enough to grow crops to feed a family and sell spare food to feed the population, which was finding it hard to feed itself.

Stockbury had allocations of these holdings on the old South Street Estate.

I am afraid that the space allocated by the Editor dictates that not much space is left for the diary, however, a few notes - The Gardeners meet on the 1st November at 8 pm; we will have Jean Griffin, BBC Radio Kent, presenter with us. She will be discussing “tales from the potting shed”. This is open to non members.

Seed catalogue's should be returned with your orders, we have attracted a very generous 40% discount from Franchi seeds.

Pictured right, my grandmother serving during WW1.



Left, the largest pumpkin grown in Kent this year.





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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

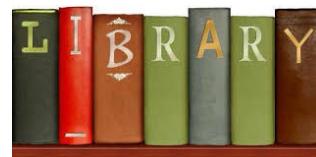
Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (*Co-ordinator*)
(01622) 736331

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.



Mobile Library Dates

8th and 22nd November '18

At the Village Hall

REMEMBRANCE BEACON

**SUNDAY
11TH NOVEMBER**



STOCKBURY CHURCH

6.45PM

LEST WE FORGET

11-11-1918

11-11-2018

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
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Sunday Lunch 12.00 to 4pm

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November Events

- Friday 2nd** - Fish & Chip Night
Saturday 3rd NO EVENING DINING Service
Tuesday 6th - Pie & a Pint Lunch
Saturday 10th -The Harrow vs The Hook & HatchetDarts Match & Landlords Birthday Bash - All Welcome (No evening dining except BBQ)
Sunday 11th - WW1 Beacon Memorial Supper
Friday 16th - Steak Night
Saturday 17th - Live Music with Scene Six
Wednesday 21st - The Harrow Lunch Club
Friday 23rd - Murder Mystery Night
Saturday 24th - NO EVENING DINING Service

Opening Hours

- Monday - Closed for now
Tuesday - Thursday 12.00-23.00
Friday & Saturday 12.00-12.00am
Sunday 11.30-21.00pm

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Saturday 1st December

1:30pm - 4pm

Stockbury Village Hall

£5 Entry Adults £2.50 Children

Under 5s Free

All proceeds go to Mind UK and raise vital funds to make sure no one experiences a mental health problem alone.



Raffle Refreshments Crafts

If you are interested in having your own stall or would like to volunteer to help please contact Jamie on 07863 969 783

CONSEQUENCES OF WAR 1916 STOCKBURY

Immediate relations of those men who went to war may well no longer be with us but the sacrifices and sorrows they endured should never be forgotten. The men in the trenches often never returned to their homes but if by some good fortune they did come back, they were frequently very changed. The horrors were never discussed and men retreated into their inner thoughts and fears. Personalities were altered and wives and children were bewildered by aggressive outbursts and melancholy behaviour. Families were victims of war as much as the soldiers who gave their lives in the conflict.

In Stockbury churchyard there is a memorial to those who died in the Great War. They are, G. Clark, S. Cole, C.W. Dennett, A.A. Davison, C. Friday, **N.E. Grigsby**, F. Lloyd, T. Spratt and G. Thomas.

I have chosen to try to piece together the life of **Norman Edward Grigsby** who was born at Pett Farm in 1885.

In his adult life he was a shepherd on the farm and early in his twenties he married Rachel and together they had a daughter, Hester. When war was declared he travelled to Sittingbourne and enlisted. He joined the London Regiment 18th Battalion (London Irish Rifles). Who knows whether this was because he had been used to handling guns on the farm or perhaps he had a good eye and he was allocated to the regiment by officers; at any rate he went to war leaving his 26 year old wife and a 5 year old daughter.

I wonder if it was possible that at some stage he came back to see them, perhaps in 1915 or early 1916. I know this was rare, unless a soldier was injured, so I guess it probably never happened. No doubt he wrote home, although his letters were perhaps short as I should think his education would have ceased at around 12 years old and he would have gone straight to work on the farm. I realise this is all conjecture but what is in no doubt life for his wife must have been hard and rather lonely at times. How did she manage I wonder? By going into service perhaps? Or maybe she was employed on the farm.

However at some point after October 2nd 1916 she would have received a telegram to say that her husband had been killed at the Somme on that day. He had no known grave and as we all know the battle of the Somme was one of the cruellest so he would never have been found. He was 31 years old. Rachel at 28 years old and with a small 7 year old daughter must have felt devastated. I wonder what she did next? I think the community at South Dean would have rallied round her in the early days but as time progressed, for a single mother life must have been hard. As for re-marriage, women of that generation had few prospects because all the young men had either been killed or were wounded; so many were lost.

CONSEQUENCES OF WAR 1916 FAVERSHAM

This is the story of a number of civilians and one in particular, whose surname happens also to be **Grigsby**. Firstly I must begin with a bit of background to my story.

Faversham has had a long connection with the manufacture of explosives way back in the 16th century but I'm going to pick up the threads in 1846 when the first high explosive gun cotton was invented. The following year the world's first factory was built at Faversham; basically at this stage the explosives were used in mines and in other industries such as quarrying. In 1873 a large factory was built at Uplees, North West of Oare and was responsible for the largest production of explosives in the country. Many years later in 1897 the factory was assigned to supply the War Office and in 1904 it was registered as the Patent Cotton Gunpowder Company.

When the First World War broke out in 1914 the company began to supply huge consignments of cordite, high explosives, shells, ship distress signals and sound signals to all the military. They continued to do this through all the first frenetic years of the war and by 1916 were working flat out to provide shells for the front where there was a huge crisis.

This is where the story really begins. The spring of 1916 was very wet and then in March on the 29th there was a snowstorm. Communications were disrupted and supplies to the factory began to build up and could not be housed in the huts. By March 31st the snow began to melt and the ground became sodden. Major Aston Cooper-Key, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives visited the site to oversee safety and to report on progress. He recognised that there was an excess of supplies present and that large quantities of TNT for shells and bombs were being packed into magazines or when buildings were full it was being stored in the open under tarpaulins. All in all the place was in a congested state, which he acknowledged. He thought this was only to be expected and stated that general conditions were satisfactory. He signed off and went home. However empty TNT bags were lying against a brick and timber building which contained 150 tonnes of high explosive.

On Sunday April 2nd guards and soldiers were making their rounds of the buildings when they saw sparks from a nearby chimney had landed between a TNT store and the boiler house and were starting to glow. They immediately put out the fire. Later that morning the same thing happened again; this time the sparks had reached the empty TNT bags and by noon the fire was taking hold. The manager, George Everts had gone home to lunch, but he returned and assembled some 40 men to tackle the blaze. At 12.30pm. the fire brigade arrived only to find that their hoses would not reach the hydrant and had to send for a longer one. The delay did not help as yet another store house caught fire and the contents too were alight. While some of the men were tackling the fire others were removing as many explosives as possible. There were men climbing on the roofs to pour buckets of water down on the flames and the whole area was in chaos as the fire's fury grew.

cont'd

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Consequences of War Cont'd ...

Suddenly there was a deadly explosion; black smoke erupted and the blast could be heard in London, windows were shattered in Essex and many heard it even as far away as Norwich and on the French coast. The result was devastation.

Men combed the drainage dykes for the injured and dying; others continued to fight the remaining fires, whilst many pulled timbers from around the site searching for survivors. In all 115 men and boy workers perished. The women in the workforce were not at the factory as they were not allowed to work on a Sunday.

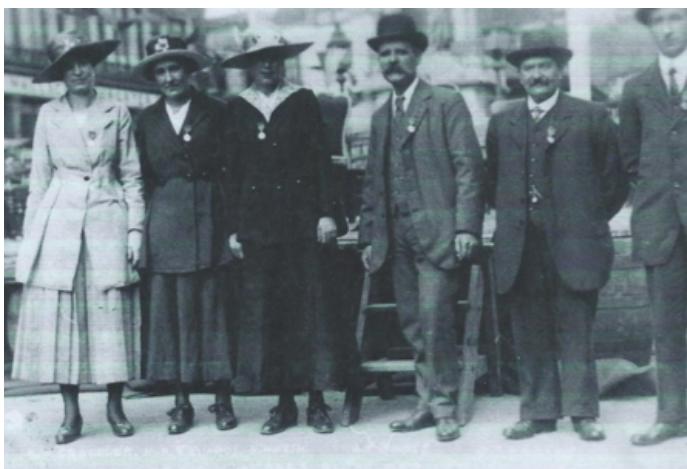
The sights that were presented to the people of Faversham must have remained with them for many years and a good number of families suffered personal loss and anguish in their bereavement. Indeed one of the ambulance drivers that day, after returning home to Doddington hanged himself such were the sights he had witnessed. It was hard to identify many individuals and everyone was buried in a mass grave.

I have related this story because **Frederick Thomas Grigsby**, was in charge of a battery of 12 Lancashire Boilers at the factory and he was one of the survivors who led his men to safety and then went back to tackle the fire. For his bravery he was one of a number of civilians to be awarded the O.B.E. which was publicly presented by members of the military at a ceremony in the centre of Maidstone on May 15th.1916.



Above Frederick Thomas Grigsby receiving his medal

And below, second from the right. He was forty two years old



His medal is on display in Faversham museum.

Ann Rich

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to all those who came along to the coffee morning on 5th October in The Harrow.

We managed to raise the excellent sum of £318.00 for this really worthy charity.

Our thanks also go to all those who made cakes and to our most helpful landlord Sam for hosting the event

Litter Heroes

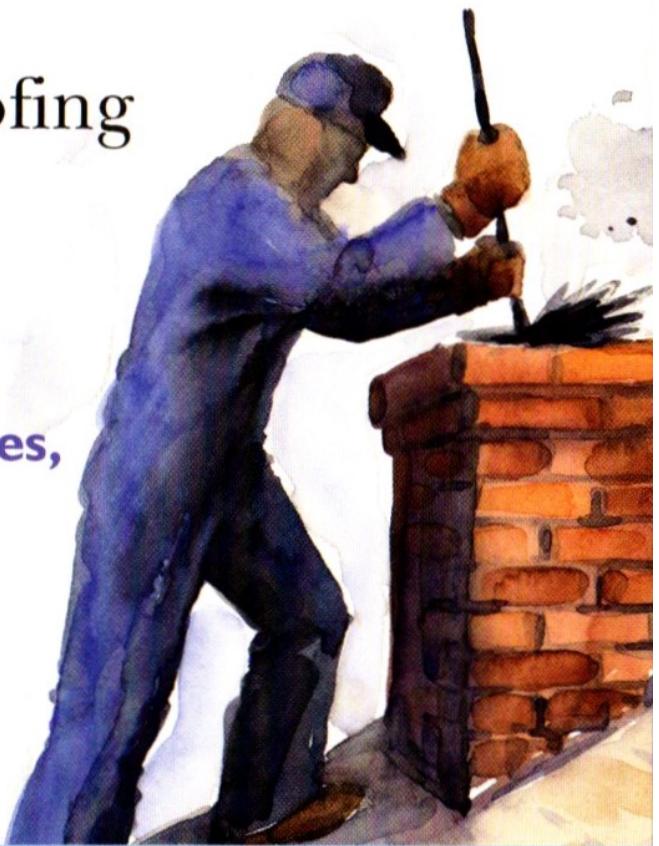
There was mention in the October edition of The Observer of those that use their car window as a bin, unfortunately with the rubbish going what the most of us would consider to be the wrong way...

What wasn't mentioned were those that clear up after these anti-social what-names. You may sometimes see them out with their black bags and litter pickers, trying to keep our village clean and tidy. Perhaps one day, their efforts won't be necessary, but in the meantime, we thank you.

Anon. (well said - Ed)

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Stockbury Book Club

As background to the book we read and poems we looked at here is a potted history of the two famous World War One poets who feature in our report.



Wilfred Owen was an English poet whose work was characterised by his anger at the cruelty and waste of war, which he experienced during service on the Western Front.

Wilfred Edward Salter Owen was born 18th March 1893 in Oswestry, Shropshire. After school he became a teaching assistant and in 1913 went to France for two years to work as a language tutor. He began writing poetry as a teenager.

In 1915 he returned to England to enlist in the army and was commissioned into the Manchester Regiment. After spending the remainder of the year training in England, he left for the western front early in January 1917. After experiencing heavy fighting, he was diagnosed with shellshock and was evacuated to England arriving at Craiglockhart War Hospital near Edinburgh in June. There he met the poet Siegfried Sassoon, who already had a reputation as a poet and shared Owen's views. Sassoon agreed to look over Owen's poems, gave him encouragement and introduced him to literary figures such as Robert Graves.

Reading Sassoon's poems and discussing his work with him revolutionised Owen's style and his conception of poetry. He returned to France in August 1918 and in October was awarded the Military Cross for bravery. On 4th November 1918 he was killed while attempting to lead his men across the Sambre Canal at Ors. The news of his death reached his parents on 11th November, Armistice Day.

Edited by Sassoon and published in 1920, Owen's single volume of poems contain some of the most poignant English poetry of World War One, including 'Dulce et Decorum Est' and 'Anthem for Doomed Youth'.



Siegfried Sassoon was born on 8th September 1886 in Kent. His father was part of a Jewish merchant family, originally from Iran and India and his mother part of the artistic Thorneycroft family. Sassoon studied at Cambridge University but left without a degree.

He then lived the life of a country gentleman, hunting and playing cricket while also publishing small volumes of poetry.

In May 1915, Sassoon was commissioned into the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and went to France. He impressed many with his bravery on the front line and was given the nickname 'Mad Jack' for his near-suicidal exploits. He was decorated twice. His brother Hamo was killed in November 1915 at Gallipoli.

In the summer of 1916, Sassoon was sent to England to

recover from a fever. He went back to the front, but was wounded in April 1917 and returned home. Meetings with several prominent pacifists, including Bertrand Russell, had reinforced his growing disillusionment with the war and in June 1917 he wrote a letter that was published in the Times in which he said that the war was being deliberately and unnecessarily prolonged by the government. As a decorated war hero and published poet, this caused public outrage. It was only his friend and fellow poet, Robert Graves, who prevented him from being court-martialled by convincing the authorities that Sassoon had shell-shock. He was sent to Craiglockhart War Hospital in Edinburgh for treatment where he met and greatly influenced, Wilfred Owen. Both men returned to the front where Owen was killed in 1918. Sassoon was posted to Palestine and then returned to France, where he was again wounded, spending the remainder of the war in England.

Many of his war poems were published in 'The Old Huntsman' (1917) and 'Counter-Attack' (1918)

After the war Sassoon spent a brief period as literary editor of the Daily Herald before going to the United States, travelling the length and breadth of the country on a speaking tour. He then started writing the near-autobiographical novel 'Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man' (1928). It was an immediate success, and was followed by others including 'Memoirs of an Infantry Officer' (1930) and 'Sherston's Progress' (1936). Sassoon had a number of homosexual affairs but in 1933 surprised many of his friends by marrying Hester Gatty. They had a son, George, but the marriage broke down after World War Two.

He continued to write both prose and poetry. In 1957 he was received into the Catholic Church. He died on 1 September 1967.

Book (and poetry) Report 100 years from the end of WWI

Such a complex subject – war; the morality of it; the social attitudes of the time; the decisions made by politicians; the military tactics; individual egos; the soldiers on the ground. Our thoughts will take a little time to relate. Please bear with us.

We chose to consider not only Regeneration by Pat Barker, (the first book of a trilogy) but we wanted to look at a few of the poems of people who witnessed the full horrors of the conflict to gauge the emotional impact of what they had seen.

Regeneration is a true story based on medical notes and historical fact involving in particular the poets Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon and incidentally Robert Graves who were all referred to the Scottish Craiglockhart War Hospital. They were there under the care of the army psychiatrist, William Rivers. It is not a book for the faint-hearted. The mixture of fact and assumption is both enlightening and heart-rending. Through the eyes of the author we meet men traumatised by war; see their guilt at wanting to remain cocooned in the Craiglockhart Hospital and yet torn apart by their desire to do the right thing and return to the front, (or in Sassoon's case to confront parliament's decisions). Balanced against this is the conflict in the minds of the medical staff who basically have a duty to 'cure' their charges and return them to the horrors that months before have led the men to be in the

QUIZ NIGHT

Fun Quiz
 (in aid of Stockbury Church)
**Saturday 17th November
 2018**
 at



Stockbury Village Hall
Starts 7.30pm
£6.00 per person
(Bring your own drinks)

Teams of 6-8 per table

Contact
Brenda Mace
01622 884746

Sittingbourne & District Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society

Sittingbourne & District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society are holding their Late Show on Sunday 11th November 2018 at Stockbury Village Hall from 2 to 4pm with show blooms to be sold to the public at the end of the show.

Refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon as well as a tombola to raise Society funds.

Members and exhibitors will be on hand to answer any questions and pass on their growing knowledge.

Come and enjoy the afternoon with us on 11th November 2018.

November '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
		Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Mon	5th		
Tues	6th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		NSYC	7.00 - 9.30pm
Wed	7th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
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
		Chrysanthemum Show	2.00 - 4.00pm
Mon	12th	Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm
Tues	13th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	14th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thurs	15th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	16th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	17th	Church Quiz	6.00 - 11.30pm
Sun	18th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	19th		
Tues	20th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	21st	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		Sew & Chatter	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Parish Council	7.30 - 9.30pm
Thurs	22nd	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	23rd	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	24th	Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm
Sun	25th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	26th	Private Booking	7.00 - 9.00pm
Tues	27th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		NSYC	7.00 - 9.00pm
Wed	28th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thurs	29th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	30th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm

Book Club Cont'd ...

the hospital in the first place. The story relates how this conundrum is faced by all the characters.

We found the writing very good. The subject matter led us in discussion from the mores of society in 1914-18 when heroism and daring do were at the forefront of civilian minds and only soldiers knew how far from the cosy truth the theatre of war was, to the harsh medical practices of the time and the emerging idea that expressing suppressed emotions could lead to some inner peace. Here we began to realise that perhaps the reason soldiers kept the ghastly details to themselves was to protect the precious inner sanctum of the family, where they could retreat to a safe place. I could go on telling you of our thoughts but it is for you to take from this book your own feelings on the consequences of war.

Our score this month is 7 ½ .

War Poems

We are not all fans of poetry I know but somehow tragic circumstances and deep emotion seem to lend themselves to the genre. It is a means by which great feeling can be concentrated into a small space and is all the more powerful for that. The interaction between the two poets, Owen and Sassoon, (as expressed in Regeneration) showing how they influenced each other's writing led us on to read their poems. So perhaps you would consider exploring some of the more well-known poems of Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon and a few others. We read Owen's Anthem for Doomed Youth and Strange Meeting and Sassoon's The Rear Guard, Everyone Sang and poignantly The Hero. Also we read Te Deum and Laurence Binyon's poem For the Fallen a verse of which will be very familiar to you.

*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

However, one last observation.... The poems we read reflected with authority the true feelings of soldiers, no doubt everywhere, written by men who knew too well the futility of war.

Ann Rich

my exhaust backfires!'

If this did make you smile, please pass it on to your bestest old bangers, so they can smile too.

Our September meeting began with a visit by Lisa Murphy, a representative from The Canterbury Dogs Trust and one of her six adopted dogs, Maisie, an elderly whippet who desperately needed a home after her owner had

sadly passed away. Lisa gave us a very informative insight into how the charity is run and how important it is to support such a good cause.

Thousands of dogs are abandoned or need rehoming due to their owners passing away or becoming ill and are unable to care for them. Some are just kicked out

because they don't fit into the owners lifestyle, after the initial excitement of having a puppy wears off and they realise the long term commitment of keeping a dog. She impressed upon us the importance of good behaviour training and also that regular exercise is necessary to keep your dog happy and content.

Brenda and Diane had an interesting outing to Bletchley Park, where they enjoyed the beautiful house and grounds and also saw the famous Enigma machine.

Pat and our new member Rose will be attending a ACWW Ploughmans Lunch this month and will be taking items of old jewellery, watches, coins etc., that we have donated for recycling for good causes.

Ann and Wendy are busily organising poppy displays for the Remembrance Service on the 11th November.

Dates for your diary **Saturday 8th December:** Stockbury Christmas Fair– Lots of stalls and fun for all. **Friday 14th December** Carols on the Green with the Salvation Army We will be collecting donations of non-perishable foods in boxes in the Hall for the Salvation Army to distribute over the Christmas period.

We welcomed our new member Rose to her first meeting with us.

Thank you to Frank, who is keeping us updated with news about Brenda's recovery in hospital.

Our Next Meeting will be on the 14th November at the new time of 2.00pm

Heather Tomsett



Let's start with a smile: Pat, our Secretary smiled when she found the following passage whilst sorting through some old WI documents and thought it would make US smile, it did, so I am passing it on, in the hope that it will make YOU SMILE:-

'If my body was a car, I would be trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps, dents scratches and my headlights are out of focus. My gearbox is seizing up and it takes me hours to reach maximum speed. I overheat for no reason and everytime I sneeze, cough or laugh, either my radiator leaks or

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 November, 2018

Please email your contributions to
stockburyobserver@gmail.com

Calling All Advertisers

Our annual rates for advertising are very reasonable and have remained unchanged for the 7th consecutive year :

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stockbury Parish Council Minutes

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

Free Small Ads

The "Small Ads" section is for Stockbury Parish residents to sell, redundant or unwanted items in good condition. If you have any such items, please send the details to the editor at stockburyobserver@gmail.com and they will be advertised for free in The Observer for **one month only**.

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

FOR SALE

Heavy, antique, oak-framed mirror
22" wide; 32 1/2" high.
£35 O.N.O.



Text or ring 07718 070807

THANK YOU!

On Sunday our hall was bursting with a variety of original, artistic artefacts. We were fortunate the weather was bright and many visitors came through the doors.

The successes of the day were due to the hard work of the stall holders who exhibited their wares. Thank you very much to them!

Also our sincere thanks should go to the musicians whose performances cheered the day and enhanced the arts experience.

And no one should forget the tireless work of the ladies who ministered to our needs, providing non-stop cups of coffee and tea and dispensing delicious cakes (many of which they had themselves baked). Our grateful thanks.

Finally thank you everyone who visited us. We hope you enjoyed your time browsing the stalls and sharing the music experience.

We were able to cover all our costs and even had a bit over, (mainly due to all you hungry and thirsty people out there!) This sum we have donated to another village project, the permanent structure for the beacon which includes an integral plaque.

Thank you again for your support.

Penny & Ann

“Binbury Park”

Three weeks ago, a planning application was finally submitted for the development of “Binbury Park” on land owned by John Mackleden at the top of Detling Hill. This would include 1,750 houses, a hotel, a school, a park and ride etc etc. The plans can be viewed online at Maidstone Council’s “planning portal”, although the Parish Council does have a hard copy of the full application if you do not have internet access (please ask one of the Parish Councillors). If enough people want to see it “in the flesh”, we would be happy to organise a display in the village hall. A word of caution: it fills two large cardboard boxes. Last week, amended plans were submitted to Maidstone Borough Council by the developer. They are available online, but we are yet to receive the hard copy.

Just to make life more fun, officers at Maidstone Council are going to ask the developers for more information!

What happens next is still not clear. There is a deadline for comments on the MBC website, but we understand that this has been extended to Christmas. What is clear is that Maidstone Council is not sure when they will actually make a decision. This is taken from a recent email received from the project officer involved:

“Dear Mr Woods, We have received amended plans, which are the subject of a re-consultation. Furthermore, I will be seeking additional information from the applicants in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment/Environmental Statement. Therefore, it is reasonable for me to conclude that a determination of this application will not occur for a considerable time, as this further information is required. I have no deadline as this is very much an ongoing situation.”

Needless to say, the Parish Council will be opposing the application vigorously. I would love to be able to share the basis of our objections with you but the developer has a history of reading comments made and altering their plans to suit; we therefore think it best to “keep our powder dry” until there is little or no chance of Quinn Estates coming up with ways around our comments.

As things are likely to move too fast to keep you up to date via the Stockbury Observer, there is a “blog” online that will be kept updated as things happen. It can be viewed at:

<https://binburypark.blogspot.com/>

Phil Woods



Patrik Says

Dear Residents

I just survived an interesting(-ly shocking) month of committees and workshops.

Like in my previous two newsletters, I shall continue writing about Maidstone’s new Strategic Plan, which is taking a lot of my time at the moment.

The Strategic Plan will essentially be the guide for officers to prioritise their efforts. The previously mentioned mental kite-flying exercise, which councillors had in August, is now been dwindled down to a three page document with eight key points, - - or, if our group has its way, even six headlines only.

I get the impression that our Group is slightly more proactive than the others in formulating our vision. Perhaps not surprising, when I hear that the other Groups get slightly lost or entangled in too much detail. The Strategic Plan is supposed to look at outcomes, how we can improve our Borough, rather than an action plan, which would inevitably seek to micro-manage officers.

Whether we end up with 8, 7 or even six key points is fairly irrelevant, considering that many issues are cross-cutting each other. I am sure that we will find an acceptable cross-party consensus soon. The questions, which may cause more debate, will be how much detail shall be placed under each headline. Liberal Cllr D. Mortimer for example, proposed that all visions shall be accompanied with the adjective “progressive”. One of our members countered (tongue in cheek) that “conservative” may be a better word. **The fun goes on...**

The Strategic Plan is expected to be ratified by Full Council in December.

I’ve been your councillor for over two years now. During my election campaign and every now and then, I hear talk about the great “**Maidstone conspiracies**”. I have news for you, to my knowledge, there is no such thing as conspiracy! It’s called incompetence:

There will be delays to the rebuild of the Mote Park Visitors Centre. All clever brains, expensive architects and consultants were hired to design a brand new centre with coffee shop and sports changing rooms. They came to us 55 councillors and showed off with their great designs – And we were suitably impressed. The project was given the green light.

Half way through the job, somebody suddenly scratched their head and asked where the facilities for the disabled are? (A statutory requirement). This had been completely overlooked in the original plans. The additional cost will be circa £80k.

Cont’d ...

Patrik Says cont'd

– Sorry, but your local member doesn't spot everything. I certainly will learn my personal lesson and will be even more critical in future.

I already had my first chance this month:

South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) administers government grants, which are allocated for seven key highways improvements, particularly along the A229. A verbal only report was presented by an MBC officer at a Strategic Planning and Sustainable Transportation Committee.

I asked for the progress in obtaining the envisaged **£10.35 million**, which we are expecting from SELEP.

We were told that no business case has been prepared yet. The deadline for presenting the business case is November 16. **I couldn't believe my ears !**

Same committee: We were asked to ratify a consultative letter to a neighbouring authority. In this letter we urged the other authority to refrain from Article 4 Directions. An Art. 4 direction is the cancellation of permitted development rights, meaning that a property owner must apply for planning permission, where (s)he normally would not have to.

– next agenda item: impose an Article 4 direction in Maidstone Town Centre! Do as we say, don't do as we do ?

We only approved our Local Plan 12 months ago. This motion would throw a whole bag of spanners into it. Actually, this proposal was quickly dismissed by all but one committee members. All but one Liberal member voted against it. – This should have been the end of it.

- Not in Maidstone!

The Liberals called-in the decision, to be reviewed by a special meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee. Such a special meeting incurs quite a significant cost to the Council, likely in excess of £1000. No new evidence was provided, however Cllr Clark (Lib) proposed that members should be given the opportunity to “take the right decision”

- Doesn't this remind you a bit of the recent Brexit debate ? -

The vote was much closer this time: all Liberal members voted for the Art 4 direction, even those, who opposed it first time around. Nonetheless the motion was narrowly defeated.....thanks to a particular independent councillor getting stuck in traffic.

Maybe we really don't need the £10.35 million road improvement after all?

And finally:

Maidstone secretly found a cunning new way to make money: The Public Protection Order, as ratified last year. Newly elected Councillor Purle pointed out that it states:

“... a person who fails without reasonable excuse to do anything that is prohibited by this order [...] is liable to a fine”

- you can't win!

PATRIK GARTEN
MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward
Email: patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk
Phone: 01622-807907

A Note from Ed

I just wanted to say **a big thank you** to all the contributors of this ‘Memorial’ edition of The Stockbury Observer. You have all gone way and beyond my expectations with your contributions.

When I approached you all during the summer with my ‘memorial idea’, I really had no ideal and didn't expect you to go all out as you have done so with your research and produce such compelling and interesting articles based on The Great War. I hope you are all proud with what we have collectively achieved - a Memorial Edition of The Observer to be proud of. If not, you should sincerely be just that.

You have certainly ‘done me proud’ 😊

To the distributors of this edition - sorry for the extra load!
 - it wont happen again anytime soon!

Ed

Useful Contact Information

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Revd Liz Cox revlizcox@outlook.com	01795 435184
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Cricket Club	Roger Milton	
Crimestoppers	(Confidential)	0800 555111
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	Daniel Genn daniel.genn@kent.pnn.police.uk	101
Public Footpaths & Bridleway	Reporting issues with. - westprow@kent.gov.uk	03000 417171
Roads, Potholes, etc	(manned 24hrs) - www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/ report-a-problem	03000 418181
RSPCA		0300 1234999
Short Mat Bowls	Tony or Angela Russell	01795 842738
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
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