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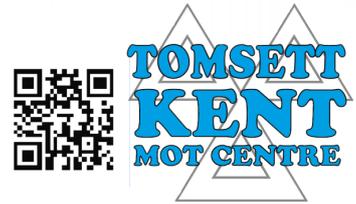
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**Stockbury  
Observer!**

# St Mary Magdalene Church



The services for January are as follows:

6 January – Epiphany 3pm Sung Communion

13 January - 3pm Sung Communion

20 January – 4pm Prayers and PCC meeting at  
36 Windsor Drive, Sittingbourne.

27 January - 3pm service  
The Blessing and Closing the Church

## Good News

At last the works are commencing at the beginning of February, so the church will be closed after the service on 27 January. The works are expected to continue until the end of July. A Heritage Day will be held in May for villagers to see what is being undertaken and to talk to the various craftsmen.

The PCC is very grateful for all the fund raising efforts that have enabled these works to be paid for.

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

Penny Stevens - PCC Secretary

## St Augustine's RC, Deanwood Drive, Rainham

Mass Times  
Weekdays 9.30 am  
Saturday 10.00 am and 6.00 pm  
Sunday 9.30 am and 11.00 am

## December Church Draw Winners

### CONGRATULATIONS!

1st - Dorothy Stamatakis

£50 (181)

2nd - Claire Adams

£30 (216)

3rd - Stockbury NSYC

£15 (40)

# Stockbury Church Update

I hope you all had a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

By the time you read this Christmas will be a memory and we shall be staring a new year which will be a time of big changes at the Church. After many delays we are now in a position to start the work at the beginning of February. We do not yet have quite all the money we need but we will continue to fund raise.

The work is due to take 6 months, so we hope to re-open at the end of July. By then we shall have a toilet, possibly a kitchen depending on the funds, the porch will have been refurbished, various pointing and drainage will have been done and we will be able to ring the bells once again.

During the work the Church will be closed and we shall be meeting elsewhere, details of which will be published. The builders know that if it is needed for a funeral they will have to open for it. There are no weddings booked until the end of the year and I advise anyone thinking of having their child baptised to put it off until the autumn. Anyone visiting the graves in the Churchyard please take care around the scaffolding and all the other things which will be around.

The Church itself is out of bounds but we will be opening for an information day in May when the builders and architect will be on hand to explain various details of what they are doing. Watch for further details.

I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.



## CALLING ALL TRAD

### -GAMERS!



We are running a traditional games evening at The Harrow Pub on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 with a view to establishing interest in making it a regular occurrence on the last Tuesday evening of the month.

So far we have run two evenings playing cribbage and are now keen to open this up to more people who may want to play a variety of games.

Suggestions have been card games, board games, Backgammon, Dominoes, Trivial Pursuits but always open to more ideas.

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

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



## AWARD WINNING M B Farms

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National Lottery Now Available

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



The Harrow Pub  
Internet Café

- Use your own phone, tablet, laptop anytime for fast broadband speeds
- Get tutored help using our laptops or your kit
- Sessions now running on 1st Tuesday and 4th Thursday of the month 2pm—4pm
- Other support and times can be considered.

For more information,  
call Sara on 01795 842914



## 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??

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**Based in Stockbury/Home visits available**



# Stockbury Gardeners

Here we go again, another year starting in the garden.

How many of you keep a garden diary? It does work. Making notes on sowing dates and commenting on varieties grown really helps, I can find that each year I can adjust sowing dates to suit weather conditions. Last year I grew parsnips, on the seed packets it said "sow in February" but I know now that parsnips sown in Stockbury do not germinate in February, they just rot in the ground unless you help by covering with a cloth. So a small delay in sowing would have helped!! Oh no, the "Beast from the East" arrived and delayed the sowing even longer the result was late to mature parsnips, that was noted in the diary.

Onion seeds should be emerging in the seed trays ready to transplant to small pots, still keep in a greenhouse though.

Chilli and peppers will need to be sown early in the season as they require a long growth period, sowing at the end of January, you will however require a warm bench or the use of an airing cupboard to germinate the seeds. Place the seeds in a pot of compost lightly covering them with vermiculite, once germinated place all individual seeds into a very small pot. Keep them in the light and keep them warm as they do not like rapid changes of light and warmth. I have had great successes with seeds taken from chillies and peppers, purchased from the supermarket, taking seeds from the fruits and sowing directly without drying them out, after all nature does not bother drying out its seeds!

Prune apples and pears now but not espaliers and cordons as the summer is best for them.

Time now to clean old pots, I have some 10" plastic pots that are over 20 years old and still I use them, real recycling in action!! On the subject of old pots, don't forget any stored outside between the garage and shed need turning over to expose the slug and snail hotels underneath, that way you will feed the thrush and blackbird population. I have my robin following me around again this year, feeding from my hand.

Keep feeding the wild birds, they have come to rely on us now that we have destroyed most of their habitat. Do not burn rubbish piles without first checking for hibernating hedgehogs either.

Most of my family being "long lived", my Grandmother aged nearly 80 sent my Great Grandmother aged 101 and residing in the Isle of Wight some tulip bulbs through the post. Some 6 weeks later my Grandmother received a letter of thanks back saying "thank you for the shallots they were lovely"!!!!

If you struggle with vegetable identification or even bad eyesight, it does not stop you from visiting Stockbury Gardeners to try and avoid the above happening. We meet next on the 7<sup>th</sup> February at 8 pm in the Village Hall.



See picture of our onion tasting at the last meeting. 5 distinct varieties to try.

Have a great gardening year for 2019.

Chris Spree



## Stockbury Book Club

We met early this month but it did not seem to harm our Christmas spirit although it was tinged with some regret because Brenda Mace was not able to join us.

After mulled wine and good food we set to and dealt with reviewing the book we had read that month. We read *The Ice Twins* by S.K. Tremayne. Although an easy read, most people found it a book with quite a few boring parts. It concerned a family from London who were relocating to a Scottish Island; they had identical twin daughters – except one had died in mysterious circumstances about a year before. As the story developed it seemed to veer between being a psychological thriller, a ghost story or one about family relationships. The extensive amount of scenery description made me wonder if maybe I was reading a tourist guide too!

The comment which made me smile the most was the one which alluded to the fact that the author appeared to have chosen a location and invented a story around it!

Despite all that we gave it an overall score of 7 – so maybe it wasn't so bad!

The Christmas meeting is always our film night and this year we had decided to watch a comedy – unrelated to any book we had read, we chose 'Mama Mia – Here We Go Again' – it made us laugh but for all the wrong reasons! Suffice to say it was a poor successor to its predecessor.

Despite the film being a disappointment we all had a lovely evening and thanks again everyone for the lovely food you all brought.

We meet in January to read 'All The Light We Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr.

Moira Cooke



# Stockbury Neighbourhood Watch

## Oil Boiler Specialists

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:

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.

- 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

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

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

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

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Emergency : 999  
(crime in progress/life threatening)

Non-Emergency : 101

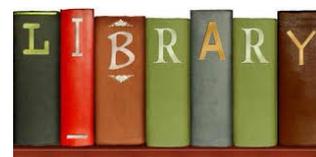
Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (*Co-ordinator*)  
(01622) 736331

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*

**3rd, 17th and 31st January '19**

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



## Temporary Road Closures

Because of carriageway renewal and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on **A249 Detling Hill, Detling, A229 Blue Bell Hill, Lord Lees and Taddington Woods Roundabouts, Aylesford**, between **7 January 2019 and 31 March 2019** or until the works have been completed.

**A249 SITTINGBOURNE ROAD/DETLING HILL, DETLING/SITTINGBOURNE ROAD, THURNHAM & STOCKBURY** – southbound and northbound closures between M20 junction 7 and M2 junction 5 for 30 nights between 20.00hrs and 06.00hrs

The alternative route is via M20, A229 Blue Bell Hill, Bluebell Hill Slip North Off, Lord Lees Roundabout, Taddington Wood Roundabout, M2 and vice versa.

Alternative route for non-motorway traffic is via A249 Bearsted Road, Sittingbourne Road, Andrew Broughton Way, A20 Ashford Road, A249 Wat Tyler Way, Mote Road, Knight rider Street, A229 Mill Street, Bishops Way, Fairmeadow, Royal Engineers Road, Running Horse Roundabout, A229 Blue Bell Hill/ Maidstone Road/ City Way, A2 New Road/ Chatham Hill/ Watling Street/ London Road/ High Street/ Moor Street/ London Road/ Hartlip Hill/ High Street/ Keycol Hill, A249 Maidstone Road and vice versa.

**A229 BLUE BELL HILL** – southbound and northbound closures between M20 junction 6 and the Medway boundary for 30 nights between 20.00hrs and 06.00hrs.

The alternative route is via M20, A249 Sittingbourne Road/ Detling Road/ Sittingbourne Road, M2 and vice versa.

Alternative route for non-motorway traffic to be A229 Running Horse Roundabout/ Royal Engineers Road/ Fairmeadow/ Bishops Way/ Palace Avenue/ Lower Stone Street, A249 Mote Road/ Wat Tyler Way/ Sittingbourne Road/ Bearsted Road, A249 Detling Hill/ Sittingbourne Road/ Detling Hill/ Maidstone Road, A2 Keycol Hill/ High Street/ Hartlip Hill/ London Road/ Moor Street/ High Street/ London Road/ Watling Street/ Chatham Hill/ New Road, A229 City Way/ Maidstone Road and vice versa.

**LORD LEES ROUNDABOUT** - for 10 nights between 20.00hrs and 06.00hrs.

The alternative route for A229 Lord Lees is via A229 Blue Bell Hill/ Maidstone Road/ Tiger Moth Roundabout/ Maidstone Road, Bridgewood Roundabout, A2045 Walderslade Woods and vice versa.

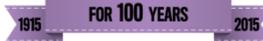
**TADDINGTON WOODS ROUNDABOUT** including the link roads - for 10 nights between 20.00hrs and 06.00hrs.

The alternative route for A229 Taddington Woods Westbound diversion via M2, A278 Hoath Way, A2 Watling Street/ Chatham Hill/ New Road/ London Road,

A229 City Way/ Maidstone Road, A2045 Walderslade Woods and vice versa.

The alternative route for A229 Taddington Woods Eastbound diversion via M2, A249 Stockbury Roundabout/ Sittingbourne Road/ Detling Hill/ Sittingbourne Road, M20, A229 Chatham Road and vice versa.

Non-motorway traffic via Blue Bell Hill Slip Link Bridge, Lord Lees Roundabout, Bridgewood Roundabout, A2045 Walderslade Woods Road and vice versa.



## Stockbury W.I.

A very BIG thank you to all who came to join in our annual WI Carols On The Green with the Salvation Army Band and afterwards in the Village Hall for more entertainment and refreshments. We enjoyed a short Nativity play which Irene organised with parents and children dressing up and taking part in the story of Christmas. We also had children from the audience bravely singing on stage, which all went into making it a very special evening. Even Father Christmas and his helpers arrived from Lapland to put in an appearance and handed out gifts to the children at what is a very busy time of the year for him



Many thanks must also go to – The Salvation Army Band, Rod Gibson and his team for sorting out electrics and all who helped setting up tables etc., MB Farms for sponsorship, to everyone who very kindly contributed to the food boxes and Fiona for her tasty gingerbread Christmas trees and angels which went down a treat with the children and adults alike!. Last but not least thanks goes to Stockbury WI ladies, Ann, Pat, Joyce, Brenda, Irene, Di, Wendy, Rose and Heather who devoted a lot of time and effort to provide this traditional Village Community event. Thank you also to the Rev Liz Cox for opening and closing the proceedings



Much love goes to our dear friend and member Brenda Mace who would normally do much of the organising for this event but could not share the evening with us due to illness.

You are very welcome to come and join us at our meetings which are at 2pm on the second Wednesday of the month.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Heather Tomsett

# THE HARROW AT STOCKBURY

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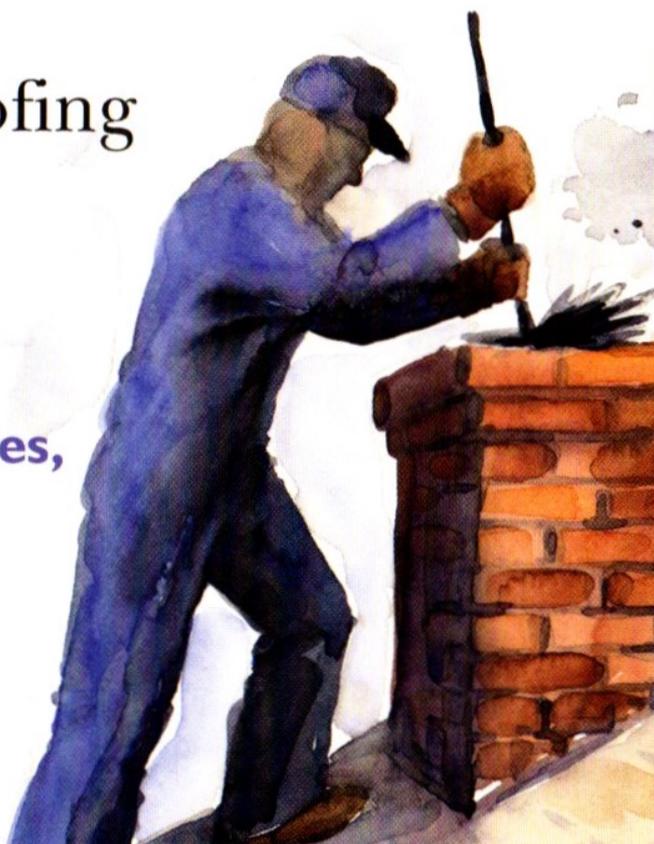
Monday - Closed for now  
Tuesday - Thursday 12.00-23.00  
Friday & Saturday 12.00-12.00am  
Sunday 11.30-21.00pm

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## Patrik Says ....

Dear Residents

This month I am pleased to pronounce two big hurrahs:

- 1) **Days will get longer and owners of solar panels will soon start to produce electricity again!** Yes, I know, they also work in December but in fairness, the electricity they generate at the moment is laughable. A six panel array produces less than three hot cups of tea per day. However, if you are intending to install solar panels and receive money for your produced electricity (there will be lots in the summer), you'll have to pull your socks up, the so called 'Feed-In Tariff' is only available to installations which are completed before 31 March 2019. On a positive note, solar panel have never been as cheap as they are right now.
- 2) **Second Hurrah:** Maidstone's new Strategic Plan has been approved! Finally! We dwindled the key points down to four! It almost reads like the 2012 Conservative Manifesto :-). NB: we are still the opposition party.

As I write, the MBC website has not been updated yet, but the plan can be found at:

<https://meetings.maidstone.gov.uk/documents/g2993/Public%20reports%20pack%2012th-Dec-2018%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=10>  
at page 186 (pdf)

### HOUSING

In 2004 MBC took the decision to relinquish all its housing stock and to contract out the provision of housing; that's why most affordable housing is being provided by Golding Homes these days.

The Community and Housing Committee recently took an initial step to reintroduce Council ownership of some housing. It is envisaged to secure £15m pa total over a 5 year period, to acquire new housing stock. This would be a co-investment between the Council and a Registered Provider, each providing funding of £7.5m per annum.

The target will be to achieve a 50% market share of the S106 affordable housing market in Maidstone.

A programme of engagement with Parish Councils will be commenced to gauge the appetite for bringing forward rural exception sites for affordable housing. These would be extra sites for affordable housing, which are not yet marked as development land in the local plan.

It is early days yet and the resolution will have to pass the Policy & Resources Committee, which hold the

financial responsibility as well as Full Council. However there seems strong support for this idea on both sides of the political spectrum.

**I am rather sceptical, for now, and, so far, I voted against this proposal.**

**I appreciate that this is a difficult issue and I very much welcome your comments.**

I am your representative and I will take all opinions forward which reflect my ward's community.

At the committee, I voted against this proposal because, this plan would reverse the 2004 council decision. While the local authority has a statutory duty to ensure adequate housing, currently the provision thereof is entirely in the hands of independent providers. The recent decision means that MBC will reassume the additional burden and cost of becoming a housing provider. Possible failures of commercial partners in this venture would negatively reflect on the Council and tarnish its reputation.

MBC's involvement would only apply to new developments. MBC's responsibility would no longer be clearly defined and confusion in the public perception may occur, in which shortcomings of independent housing providers (eg Golding) may inadvertently also reflect on Maidstone's reputation.

I would much rather prefer the promotion of Co-Op housing schemes within the borough, where residents are in charge of their housing. Co-Ops are generally more efficient than any scheme by large providers whether independent or Local Authority owned.

PATRIK GARTEN  
MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward

Email: [patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk)  
Phone: [01622-807907](tel:01622-807907)

### Did You Know ... ?

A single cloud can weigh more than 1 million pounds in weight.

You cannot snore and dream at the same time.

Men are 6 times more likely to be struck by lightning than women.

A human will eat on average in their lifetime 70 assorted insects and 10 spiders while sleeping.

One in every five adults believe that aliens are hiding in our planet disguised as humans.

### Cockett's Corner Ditty

Everybody take a warning  
It's a fault of Global Warming

That's why our daily weather  
Is getting rather wetter

It's surely not surprising  
The sea level keeps rising

Please don't raise a hullabaloo  
There's nothing we can do!

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# January '19 Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

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

## Observer Deadline!

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

**Monday 28th January, 2019**

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 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](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.

## 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](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.

## Useful Contact Information

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Revd Liz Cox <a href="mailto:revlizcox@outlook.com">revlizcox@outlook.com</a>	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	<a href="mailto:stockburygardeners@live.com">stockburygardeners@live.com</a>	
Golf Society	Jeff Hall	01795 843296
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	Daniel Genn <a href="mailto:daniel.genn@kent.pnn.police.uk">daniel.genn@kent.pnn.police.uk</a>	101
Public Footpaths & Bridleway	Reporting issues with. - <a href="mailto:westprow@kent.gov.uk">westprow@kent.gov.uk</a>	03000 417171
Roads, Potholes, etc	(manned 24hrs) - <a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem">www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem</a>	03000 418181
RSPCA		0300 1234999
Short Mat Bowls	Tony or Angela Russell	01795 842738
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
Stockbury Observer - Editor	<a href="mailto:stockburyobserver@gmail.com">stockburyobserver@gmail.com</a>	
The Harrow Public House	<a href="mailto:stockburypub@gmail.com">stockburypub@gmail.com</a>	01795 843222
WI	Pat Fothergill	01622 734093