



Diary for April

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise shown

Tues	1st	Bowls	2.00-4.00 pm
		NSYC	7.30-9.30 pm
Wed	2nd	Pilates	9.30-10.30 pm
		Lent Lunch	12.00-2.00 pm
Thur	3rd	Gardeners	8.00-10.00 pm
Fri	4th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30 pm
Sun	6th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00 am
Tues	8th	Bowls	2.00-4.00 pm
Wed	9th	Pilates	9.30-10.30 pm
		WI	2.00-4.00 pm
Thur	10th	Bowls	6.30-9.30 pm
Fri	11th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30 pm
Sun	13th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00 am
		Bowls	3.00-5.00 pm
Tues	15th	Bowls	2.00-4.00 pm
		NSYC	7.30-9.30 pm
Wed	16th	Pilates	9.30-10.30 am
		WI	1.00-3.00 pm
		Parish Council	7.00-9.30 pm
Thur	17th	Bowls	6.30-9.30 pm
Fri	18th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30 pm
Sun	20th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00 am
Tue	22nd	Bowls	2.00-4.00 pm
Wed	23rd	Pilates	9.30-10.30 am
		Hall Com. Meeting	4.15-5.15 pm
Thur	24th	Bowls	6.30-9.30 pm
Fri	25th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30 pm
Sat	26th	WI Pie Lunch	11.45-3.30 pm
Sun	27th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00 am
		Bowls	3.00-5.00 pm
Tues	29th	Bowls	7.30-9.30 pm
Wed	30th	Pilates	9.30-10.30 am

Stockbury Parish Council Minutes

The minutes for a 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 were approved

April 2014—Editor's notes



Welcome to this slightly mischievous bumper April edition. During April we will be celebrating Easter of course, so let's hope after the bizarre wet winter weather and extraordinary mild March temperatures that we don't take a step back to having too many frosty mornings. We don't want those Easter bunnies to freeze their socks off!

Sadly, we have lost another parishioner, Ann Gooding, who died in early March. Her passing was not entirely unexpected as she had been very ill for a few months but we send our condolences to her family.

There are no Rural Ramblings this month as I have been overwhelmed with other submissions, which is lovely and has saved me a job of having to fill a gap! Thank you!

Oh, and have a happy Easter, if you celebrate it!

Sue Gardner

Also this month:

Regulars: St Mary Magdelene and South Green Churches Service dates; W.I.; Poet's Corner; Cottage Gardeners; NSY Club; Book Club

Reports from: Church Fun Quiz; Craft and Chatter Group; Robert Canis Photography talk; Affordable Housing

Letters and Obituaries;

Notices & Dates: Cherry Orchard event; Draw results; Lent Lunch; Pie Lunch; Parish Plan; Freighter information; Deadline dates 2014; Community Bus schedule; Library; Kent Highways; South East Water disruption notification; BWAG news; Parish Open Evening; Police Contact Point; Cricket fixture dates; Footpath request



Spring is Hopping

by John Cockett

The annual visiting frogs have gone
Leaving us with lots of spawn
And chickens are run off their legs
Busy laying chocolate eggs!
Gardeners do not find it funny
Looking for the Easter bunny
They would rather break it's neck
Before the garden is a wreck!

St Mary Magdalene Church Stockbury



The services in April are as follows:-

6 April	6.00 pm	Sung Communion
13 April	6.00 pm	Palm Sunday Evensong
15 April		Holy Tuesday: 7.30 pm Holy Communion
18 April		Good Friday: 2.30 pm Way of the Cross service
20 April		Easter Day: 6.00 am Sunrise and Holy Communion service
27 April	6.00 pm	Evensong.

The church will be open from 5 April from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm every Saturday and Sunday until the end of September. You are invited to visit and enjoy the peace of this special building.

Details of the range of services held within the benefice of the six parishes, to which Stockbury belongs, can also be found on the parishes' website – www.thesix.org.uk. or contact The Revd Liz Cox .

For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals please contact The Revd Elizabeth Cox – tel: 01795 435184

Penny Stevens—PCC secretary

Not So Young Club

On the 4th March we celebrated our 49th Birthday. Forty members and guests enjoyed a Fish and Chip supper. Our guest speaker, Paul Harris from Radio Kent, kept us amused with his memories of show biz 'digs', he had stayed in.

The 18th March was our A.G.M.. All the officers were re-elected, from Rosemary the Chairperson, to John the sweeper! The evening continued with a bingo session. Two new members joined us making our membership total now thirty-one.

Shirley Moss

SOUTH GREEN CHURCH

A service will be held at 10am each Sunday during April.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors to our services.

M B Farms Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday 8.00 am—5.00 pm
Sunday 8.00 am—3.00 pm

National Lottery now available

Find us now on Facebook!

Post Office hours

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 9.00 am—5.00 pm
Wednesday 9.00 am—4.00 pm
Saturday 9.00 am—12.30 pm

Mobile Library

The mobile library stops out the front of Stockbury Village Hall every Thursday between 10.00 and 10.20 am.



Stockbury WI

On March 12th Celia Hamilton Jones introduced us to how Pilates can help our posture, level of fitness, and well-being in our everyday lives.

For 45 minutes we willingly stood, stretched and did the most amazing actions (on mats) ON THE FLOOR WITH OUR BODIES, ARMS AND LEGS! Albeit some of us were muddled to which leg went up to compliment the opposite arm coming down! We all had to admit that at the end of the session we felt refreshed and rejuvenated!

Joseph Pilates whilst living in England working as a circus performer and boxer, was placed in an internment camp at the outbreak of WW1. While there he began to develop the floor exercises that evolved into what we now know as the Pilates mat work. After the war he trained a number of students to apply his work to their own lives and then to become teachers of the Pilates method themselves.

Pilates exercises are designed to target muscles in the torso. When these core muscles are strengthened, they offer a form of support that lets the rest of the body move freely. This allows the body to be strengthened and stretched, and leads to better body mechanics and posture. Exercises are performed with concentrated movements and the breathing method that offers mental health benefits.

For more than 100 years, Pilates has been a favourite exercise programme for dancers, athletes and really anybody that wants a better posture and core strength.

Maureen Mannering
Stockbury WI

Reminder: April 26th 2014 is the annual Stockbury Pie Lunch (see the poster on page 4 for further details) Tickets are priced at £7 for adults and £4 for under-12s. Please contact Brenda Mace on 01622 884746

FUN QUIZ

There were 8 tables at the Fun Quiz on 1st March and congratulations go to "The Kindles" who were the winners. As usual Stuart Charlesworth was Quizmaster, helped by Emma, Louise and little Rebekah.

Thank you to Liz, Phil, Sue, Penny, Frank, and Colin for their help and to everyone who cleared tables and chairs away afterwards. Special thanks to Alan for his help at the end of the evening.

Once again, thank you all for your support in making this a really fun evening.

Brenda Mace
On behalf of Stockbury PCC

Vehicle Maintenance and MOT centre

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Got a question for Stockbury Parish Council? Send us an email to parishcouncil@stockbury.org.uk

Visit us on:

www.stockbury.org.uk

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on-line Stockbury Observer!

We're in Colour! More photos!

Available after the 1st of each
month



PIE LUNCH

26th APRIL 2014

at STOCKBURY VILLAGE HALL

11.45am to 1.15pm

or **1.30pm to 3.30pm**

ADULTS £7.00

CHILDREN UNDER 12yrs £4.00

INCLUDES A DESSERT & TEA or COFFEE

For tickets please telephone
Brenda Mace 01622 884746

EVERYONE
WELCOME TO JOIN US

LENT LUNCH

Proceeds to Christian Aid

at

STOCKBURY VILLAGE HALL

WEDNESDAY

2nd APRIL

12.00 - 2.00 pm

£3.50

Ploughman's, Soup, Jacket potatoes

Bring and Buy stall

Come along and enjoy the lunch

with friends

Parish Plan

Following the publication of the last Parish Plan in 2006, the Parish Council believes that we should seek views from all parishioners to update the plan. The consultation process will start during Quarter 2 this year with the aim of completing the plan by the end of the year.

Objective

To provide a vision of what the community wants to achieve with clearly defined activity plans for the next 5-10 years. The plan should be based on comprehensive consultation with the whole community and the plans should be realistic and achievable.

Proposed areas to be covered

Transport
Infrastructure and other developments
Playing Fields
Church
Housing
Village Hall
Required amenities
Footpaths
Communications

If there are any other areas you feel should be covered, please contact:

Chris Porter: 01795 843715

Chris Adams 01622 884276

Dear Editor,

I am hoping you may be able to insert a piece in your parish magazine for me. It is a plea for information.

My mother's family were Whiteheads who can be traced back to a Richard Whitehead of Stockbury (1739-1830).

Whilst any information on Whiteheads of Stockbury would be helpful, I am particularly looking for details about my grandfather Edward Charles Whitehead, his wife Mary Hadlow (married 1898) and his sons Leonard (1901-1986) and Percy (1899 -1970).

Len married Elizabeth Butler in 1930 and they lived together with Percy in Stockbury.

I understand that that my Auntie Bet (Elizabeth) was a member of Stockbury WI and was an assistant to local undertakers. She was also a supporter of your village cricket team.

Another aunt, Grace Pilbeam (nee Whitehead) lived with her husband Fred and son Freddie at what I think was a Maddocks farm – approached on foot from the Three Squirrels pub on the A249. The farmyard had a steam threshing engine in it - about 1950.

I am hoping that someone amongst your readership may be able to offer information – or point me in another direction of search. I can be reached by phone 01934 733373 or by email paul.passey@yahoo.com.

Paul Passey

FOOTPATH REQUEST

Our footpaths could be disappearing from the map! If they're not on the map, they could be lost forever.

If you know of a footpath either near you or one you use that is **not** on the current Ordnance Survey map, please contact our Footpath co-ordinator, Jim Davey or via StockburyObserver@gmail.com.

To access the current OS map, there is one in the village hall. Please contact Sue Porter on 01795 843715 for access.

THE HARROW PUBLIC HOUSE STOCKBURY

TELEPHONE: 01795 842546 or 07973 282818

EMAIL: theharrowstockbury@hotmail.co.uk



Roy and Di wish you a warm and hearty welcome to The Harrow, a 200 year old public house. We hope you enjoy your meal, if you do then please tell others, if you don't then please tell us!

Our Opening Times are:

Mon 11.00 am – 9.00 pm
Tues & Wed 11.00 am – 11.00 pm
Fri & Sat 11.00 am – 11.00 ish
Sun 12.00 pm – 9.00 pm

We carry a wide range of beers, wines and spirits many of which are not on show so please ask if you cannot see your favourite.

We pride ourselves on providing quality food, not fast food, using local producers whenever possible.

Please check out our Facebook page for updates and information.

FISH & CHIPS NIGHT IS BACK!

EVERY 3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
PLEASE BOOK NOW FOR THE 18TH APRIL
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Food is served every day
from 12.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Kip Thai Kitchen Authentic Thai Food at its best
here fortnightly on 9th & 23rd April from 6.30 pm
Book your table now at the Bar or contact us details above

**PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR OUR
SPECIALS BOARD
AND OTHER THEME NIGHTS**

**The Stockbury Observer has changed!
Goglemail is shorter, so we've got shorter
too!**



**To contact the editor from now on
please now Email us at:**

stockburyobserver@gmail.com

Google assures that all emails using the old address will still be delivered so the whole process should be seamless and painless! However, if you do not receive an acknowledgement from me within 48 hours, please re-send double-checking you have typed the new address correctly.

stockburyobserver@gmail.com

All stories, notices, letters, recipes, articles and pictures welcome.

All contributions must have a genuine name and contact details otherwise the article will not be considered for publication.

Please try to write your article as concisely as possible.

The Editor may have to change your layout etc. in order to fit the space onto the pages.

Deadline third Friday of the month, see page 14 for details. Please provide your articles sooner if possible.

Saturday Freighter Service Stockbury Village Hall



The next collection date will not be before 26th April but the actual day is not available at the time of writing

For more information : <http://www.maidstone.gov.uk>
and search for *Saturday Freighter Service Dates*

POLICE CONTACT POINT DATES

A Police Contact Point will be available outside the Stockbury Village Hall every fortnight. This is a chance to discuss local concerns with your PCSO.

You can also check meetings for your ward (and to ensure the meeting is still taking place) by entering your postcode into the Neighbourhood Search.

Note: meetings may be cancelled at short notice if officers have to deal with a serious incident.

Sunday 6 April 2014 12.00 pm - 1.00 pm
Sunday 20 April 2014 12.00 pm - 1.00 pm

Mike Cottell (1931 – 2014)

Sadly Mike died at the beginning of February this year after a long battle with sadness at the loss of his wife, Joan and eventually ill health.

Mike began his long life in Winchester where he was educated. Encouraged by his father to go into engineering he began his career with Hampshire County Council at the age of 16. For the next 10 years he studied hard and passed his exams with the Institution of Civil Engineers. Then his studies were interrupted by National Service and he joined the Royal Engineers and was sent to Malaya. There he developed a deep respect for the Gurkhas with whom he served; he was also recalled for the Suez Crisis in 1956.

About this time he met Joan and they were married in Winchester on June 1st 1957 and from then on they became inseparable. They started married life in a small flat in an old house called Salcey Lawn, in Northamptonshire. It was always a special place to them and when they moved to Stockbury they gave their new house the same name. However before that they moved on to Oxford where their two sons, Robert and Paul were born. Afterwards - still on the move - they went to Cheltenham and from thence to Bristol. Whilst there Mike worked on the M4 and he would take his sons on site, in his Land Rover, attempting to introduce them to the intricacies of bridge design, steel reinforcement, pouring concrete, cuttings and embankments. Since they were six and four years old at the time the huge earth movers were probably more to their liking! Oh and later in life neither of them became engineers.

In 1967 the family moved to East Suffolk where Mike became the Assistant County Surveyor. Here Mike and Joan immersed themselves in family life and a great time was had by all. Mike encouraged the boys to develop a vegetable patch; he built a landscaped train set with tunnels, stations and signal boxes and on a weekly basis joined in their fantasy world of Dr. Who. He wanted them to live life to the full making sure they participated in various sports, that they played musical instruments, joined the scouts, sang in choirs, and worked hard at their studies. For Mike there was no room for sitting back and doing nothing. He urged them always to use their talents.

After Suffolk came East Sussex where Mike became Deputy County Surveyor and then they moved on to Northants where he was the County Surveyor. Finally he came south to Kent, again as County Surveyor. His valued contribution to Civil Engineering was recognised in 1988 when he was

awarded the OBE and also in 1992 when he became the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Mike and Joan loved their new home in Stockbury; here Mike's sense of fun appeared to emerge again and, encouraged by Joan, he immersed himself in much of community life. He dressed up - quite a lot - ; once as a dwarf in the Christmas panto (Snow White in the 1990s), also often when attending themed dinners in the village hall; his favourite appeared to be when he (and Joan) dressed and acted like a badly behaved child at 'Back to Skool'. However in contrast, memorably immaculate in his DJ he compared some of our entertaining reviews, delivering one liners between scene changes and was rewarded equally by groans or laughter which he acknowledged with typical good humour. Privately he hosted most admirably, many a dinner party and with charm and courtesy put his guests at ease.

His sporting interests were satisfied by attending Stockbury Golf Society meets and often on a summer Sunday afternoon he and Joan, with their picnic box, would sit watching our local cricket team battling it out, exchanging cricket chat and laughing in the sunshine.

On the more sober side he served on the Stockbury Parish Council for a few years, offering valued opinions and advice.

We will remember him for his warm and caring personality and our sincere condolences are extended to his loving family. He will be missed.



Joan and Mike Cottell

Ann Rich

The Cherry Orchard

No - not the play by Anton Chekhov but the Stockbury Cherry Orchard!

We need volunteers to help plant a new wildlife hedge around the orchard at 10.00 am on Sunday 27th of April

There will be a vintage tractor to dig the slip trench and hopefully lots of you lovely volunteers to drop in the saplings and heel them in. There will be refreshments on the day to keep your energy up and hopefully the weather will be kind to us.

Volunteers have already worked on replanting the orchard with saplings of traditionally large cherry trees and some of them were taught how to graft scions (twigs) from the old dying trees onto the new root stock, thus hopefully preserving the original cherry fruits. A new rustic style fence has been erected round two sides of the orchard and now we need to plant native hedging along the other two sides. There will be Dog roses, Crab apples, Dogwoods, Rowan trees, Elder, Hawthorn, Hazel and Wild Cherry. This will provide ample food for the wildlife, as well as looking gorgeous and supplying berries and nuts for us to gather. During the next few years the orchard will be under planted with wild flowers and will become a lovely place for us to bring our friends, our children and grandchildren.

Farms in Kent grew many traditionally large productive fruit trees, and even now new orchards are being planted but not with the larger traditional trees. The cost of harvesting fruit from high up in the canopy has become too expensive.

Stockbury had so many cherry trees! Even the phone exchange was called Cherry Trees! Those of you that have lived in Stockbury for more than 20 years will still remember the orchard at its finest.

In the spring the tall trees were smothered in blossom. Sheep and their lambs would graze in the shade of the huge white canopies. A curved picker's ladder lay in the long grass, left from the previous harvest. Bullfinches, dunnocks, and starlings would flock to feast on the delicate pink buds. There was a constant murmur of bees, from the hives at the back of the orchard, busy pollinating the flowers and collecting their reward, the nectar.

At night if you were lucky you could catch sight of the ghostly form of a barn owl silently hunting for field mice, bank voles and shrews. Or hear the 'towit' and answering 'tewoo' of a pair of tawny owls. Pipistrelle bats on leather wings circled above the trees and along the hedges catching insects at dusk. Then in June/July

the pickers would arrive. Shouting and whistling they tried to drive away the blackbirds and starlings that were eager to take a share of the bounty. The cherries were big. Some were purple black with wine coloured flesh that stained your fingers. Others were shiny maroon with slight streaks in the skin and a pinkish flesh. Also there were harlequin red and yellow ones that were tart if you picked them too early.

In the autumn the trees looked as if they were on fire as the setting sun shone through the coloured leaves and on winter mornings the sheep disappeared into the mist. The trees stood still and bare in the frosty grass or bowed down under a blanket of snow.

Well, a romantic view perhaps? These memories dim with time and the old orchards will soon become just a collection of faded black and white pictures unless we do something about it. We can either sleep walk into forgetfulness, or in the 21st Century realise that it is important to preserve things that have little monetary value and have been discarded as being of no further use. They give us a wealth of pleasure, history and culture to bank for ourselves and future generations.

The Kent Orchards for Everyone Project is running the rejuvenation of the few remaining traditional Kentish Downland orchards in celebration of the rich heritage of the Garden of England. The orchards will be used to learn about the flora and fauna of the area, bee management, grafting, hedge laying and identifying fungi and many other interesting activities. There will be events in the orchard such as group picnics, a celebration of the blossom, as in the Japanese Festival of Hanami, the annual Halloween party, a Cherry Fair and other events. An owl box will be erected to encourage them to return, as well as bat boxes, solitary bee houses and insect boxes.

The local volunteers are the key to the success of this activity. The Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership, the Kent Downs AONB Unit, the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership, the Northwest Kent Countryside Partnership and the Medway Swale Estuary Partnership, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, KCC and the local parish councils are all helping to enable this project to go ahead, so all we need is YOU!

Please come along and help at 10.00am on Sunday 27th of April



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]

through the Heritage Lottery Fund



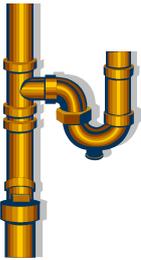
Letter to the Editor

1st April 2014



Some Parishioners may remember our original proposal to install gas and mains drainage in Stockbury. We are pleased to say that after many years of negotiation with the Maidstone planning department we have now been granted permission to continue. In addition, we have incorporated many new innovative additions to the system that have been developed over this period. We are Stockpipe LLP, an incorporated wholly-owned subsidiary of Piping UK plc, and this letter is to reacquaint parishioners with our plans.

Our unique Combined Gas & Drainage System (CGDS) will be utilised. The gas you receive will be a 50/50 mix of North Sea gas and greenhouse gas, ie sympathetically ecological with the minimum of hot air. A six storey red plastic clad steel framed pumping station (PS) will be constructed at the foot of Church Hill, across from the advertising hoardings.



CGDS uses one 400mm diameter pipe **only** to both deliver gas **and** to take away effluent. This pipe will run above ground, at a height of 2 metres, up from the PS to The Street T-junction, where it will divert under the parish roads as a ring main.

Each parish property will be served from this ring main by two underground pipes, one at 12mm diameter for the gas, the other 150mm diameter for drainage/effluent. You will select whether you want gas or have a need for drainage. You will be provided with

a **free** CD for downloading onto your computer to enable you to do this. If you do not use a computer, then be not concerned. We will provide you with, again **free** of charge, appropriate spanners and instructions, to enable you to simply make the changeover.

Training courses will be made available at our Aberdeen Counselling Centre (ACC) for those both with and without computer access. These 3 day courses, with accommodation, will also be **free** but travel costs are excluded. Pensioners may prefer to travel in pairs using their Maidstone bus passes (but remember that these passes **CANNOT** be used on long distance coaches, only local bus services, so will require much changing - allow 3 long days each way).

Pipe Automatic Internal Neutralisation (PAIN) is standard equipment, so don't worry about your gas smelling a bit odd. It won't. It will smell rather pleasantly of greenhouses. And don't worry about those niggly restrictions about what you can put down the loo. With a 400mm pipe going down the hill you can safely flush away the neighbour's cat.

We are a friendly, socially aware company, strong on sustainable development, and we really welcome feedback. A consultation portal will, naturally, soon be available on line.

Ivor Nalogi - Director of Communications, Stockpipe LLP

ivor.nalogi@stockpipe.net

Trees, hedges, shrubs and grass verges

Sources: http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport/highway_maintenance/trees_hedges_and_verges.aspx



<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/roads-and-transport/roads-and-pavements/highway-tree-policy.pdf>

Kent Highway Services is responsible for maintaining and developing the highway network in Kent and ensuring the safety of its users. As part of Kent County Council it has a wider role in managing and enhancing the environment and, as part of its commitment to safety and to the environment, it aims to sustain a balanced and healthy highway tree population. These roles can, on occasion, lead to conflict; largely as a result of misunderstanding the necessity of essential tree safety maintenance, the motives behind the work, or in some cases the delay in carrying out works.

We look after vegetation - trees, hedges, shrubs and grass verges - and also deal with weeds on roads and pavements to keep them safe.

How you can help

If you would like to look after the area outside your home or property, and encourage your neighbours and community to do the same, read our guide to how you can help.

Vegetation on or from private land

We don't look after trees, hedges and shrubs on private land, including land that is next to roads and pavements. Most trees and hedges by roads are on land owned by private landowners, district councils, parish councils, housing

associations and homeowners.

It is the landowner's responsibility to look after these areas. They have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent or reduce as far as possible, the risk of injury or damage that could be caused to anyone else.

Examples are:

- overhanging branches reducing the width or blocking the view of the road
- overhanging branches that reduce the height or clearance of the road for tall vehicles such as double deck school buses
- a damaged or diseased tree that is in danger of falling onto the road or pavement
- overgrown hedges obscuring road signs or street lights

If vegetation on private land is causing a problem to the road or pavement, we send a letter to the owner recommending they take action and arrange any work that is needed. If the owner doesn't do this, there are legal steps we can take to make sure it happens, but this is a last resort. We will then recover the costs from the landowner.

If you have trees and hedges by the edge of roads or pavements, we recommend you have them inspected regularly, preferably by a tree specialist, to check they are safe. Any work should be done by a competent and fully insured professional.

STOCKBURY COTTAGE GARDENERS April 2014



Whilst writing this I am listening to the probability of the temperature dipping to minus 3 degrees tonight! Quite possibly one of the coldest nights of the season? Ridiculous, as during the weekend of 15th March we reached a high of 19 degrees! A warning not to plant out tender plants yet. I always watch the trees, and when the trees start to shoot the danger of frost generally has passed.

The village is looking great this year with the daffodils in flower. If you look really closely at the green you can even find very small clumps of violets; as the old saying goes "*Violets at the start of APRIL makes young hearts flutter*".

On the subject of the village green, a new planning application has been submitted to re-open the old public house (Springfield and Street Foxes) which is also great news. Older residents may recall that the village once had two pubs and there was a healthy competition between them. I have heard that if there was a queue in one pub then one could simply cross the green and go into the other one. The landlord of the Harrow understandably is a little upset by the stance taken by the planners in Maidstone in recommending approval, but I for one can think of many advantages for the village. For instance, Shepherd Neame will not have the monopoly with beer sales; the village could then have two darts teams. Similarly, car parking will be improved as permission has been applied to have the lawns taken up and block paving put down. There will also be a room for gaming machines so really putting Stockbury on the map. Do not forget that this has to be passed by the parish council, so if you are in favour, please support the application.

I did promise last month that I would write a few lines on hanging baskets. If, like me, you take them down at the end of the season you may have been pleasantly surprised to find that some of the old plants have survived the winter this year. This is exceptional, so make the most of this. Old soil will need rejuvenating, but normally I completely replace old soil with good quality compost.

When starting with a new basket always purchase the best quality that you can find. If purchasing hanging chains separately, also check the quality. Some cheaper ones are designed to last a short time only. There is nothing worse than the wind bringing down your pride and joy. The next

item is to purchase a liner of the correct size. This is important; you could make your own from plastic but you will need to put drainage into the bottom. Baskets can be started off in the greenhouse and should only be put out after the danger of frost has passed.

When planting up the choice is endless but there are a lot of trailing bedding plants such as fuchsia, ivy, petunia, geranium, verbena. You can also plant small fruited varieties of tomatoes which will naturally trail. Irrigation systems are an option as the baskets should never be allowed to dry out. These systems can be set up quite easily with a timer, perfect for when you are away. If you are really interested enough, the Stockbury gardeners have a demonstration at the 1st May meeting showing the process from start to finish. Do come along.

MB farms have completed the order of Humax compost for Stockbury gardeners and we hope to make the same arrangement next year. A big thanks to them. Roses will be growing well by now and they will need spraying against black spot and mildew probably by the end of April. They will always benefit from some manure or feed and I sometimes spray with a solution of magnesium sulphate as it keeps the leaves really green.

The condition of the soil is important and many people never really consider this a reason for poor produce. The topic is vast in itself, but there are many reasonably priced kits available for the small gardener to test for the correct chemical balance. Also a PH meter is a must, as various different plants thrive on different acid levels - the PH level is the generic name for measuring the acidity or alkali levels. Put simply:

- Pure limestone or chalk will have a PH level of over 7
- Acid soils such as peat will display a PH level of below 7
- Thereby a soil with a level of 7 will be considered as being neutral
- Brassica plants love an alkaline soil, i.e. over 7. This can be increased by adding hydrated lime
- Ericaceous plants love acid soils below 7 and this can be achieved by adding sulphur to the soil

By careful research you can change your soil to suit your plants, resulting in happy plants!!

Next month I hope to have an article on horticulture from the Falklands Islands for you as well as other items.

Chris Spree—Chairman

CALLING ALL ADVERTISERS

It's never too late...to advertise in the **Stockbury Observer**

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

£85 for a half page

£55 for a quarter page

Our advertising year starts again in June but if you would like to take out an ad for the remaining months you still can.

Adverts for less than 12 months duration and smaller sized ads will be charged on a pro-rata basis on application. Please email: stockburyobserver@gmail.com to express your intent. 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, preferably in MS Word or Publisher. Please bear in mind when designing your ad that large solid blocks of colour may not look so good in black and white on the paper version, despite looking great on our website.

The Observer is delivered to every household in this parish plus there is our internet presence, so this is a great opportunity to promote **your business:**

The Editor

Stockbury Book Club March Meeting



This month Stockbury book club met to discuss *The Fever Tree* by Jennifer McVeigh. The beginning of the story is set in Victorian England, when Frances (raised in high society Britain) is left destitute following the death of her father. She accepts a proposal from a man she doesn't love and emigrates to South Africa amid a diamond mining bonanza, to avoid becoming a servant in an aunt's antagonistic household. Frances's future is uncertain as the writer takes us through experiences of poverty, a smallpox epidemic and a loveless marriage. This month we tried something a little different to begin our meeting. Moira presented us with three questions about the book to stimulate our discussion. We debated the naivety of Frances and whether her character changed throughout the book. We speculated on the relevance of the book today and finally we agreed that most of us liked this book, and it emerged with an average score out of ten of seven.

Our poem this month, chosen and read by myself, was also a little different. It was taken from a book called 'Poetry in Motion' edited by Donna Samworth and published by 'Young Writers'. It is a collection of poetry chosen from 40,000 young writers nationwide to promote the reading and writing of poetry in schools. This book contains poems from 11 - 18 year olds. The poem I chose was 'Only In A Year' by Tamana Darwish, aged 12 from Dormers Wells High School in Southall, which I always thought was Middlesex, but is apparently now West London! The poem, only two verses long, talks of the seasonal changes within a year, followed by the life changes that can occur within a year, the 'dilemmas we face' and 'the sacrifices we make'. I liked this poem because it reminds us that everything, even our troubles, are transitory... and bearing that in mind it gives strength to us in harder times.

We are reading Ken Follett's *Hornet Flight* for next month's meeting. It is a well known, popular book, so many readers here may have already read it. We look forward to reporting our findings next month!

Denise Summer

STOCKBURY CRAFT AND CHATTER GROUP

Thirteen ladies attended our first meeting sharing ideas about patchwork, gift ideas, knitting, and learning to crochet. Someone even learnt how to alter a pair of trousers.

Our next meeting in Stockbury Village Hall will be on Wednesday 16th April, 1pm - 3pm.

If you would like to join us, to learn a new craft, share a craft, or simply bring your own project along to do as you chatter, you would be very welcome.

Further information Julia 01634 373723. See you there. £1 per session. Tea and biscuits supplied.

Mrs Anne Gooding 17 April 1932 - 5th March 2014

Anne was known to everyone in Stockbury village as Anne, but her real name was Colleen and has a twin sister called Maureen, known to all as Sue.

Anne was born in Stockbury and lived there all her life. She loved Stockbury, living first at Enfield House, where her parents had a dairy farm. This was where her love for animals started and never ended. She met her husband William, known to all as Bill, at the Stockbury dance. After marrying Bill they made their home in South Street, Stockbury, Anne continued to work for her parents at the dairy, but when the opportunity came they moved into the heart of the village.

Bill and Anne loved Stockbury and actively joined in the activities it offered with great enthusiasm to raise money for the village church and hall.

They had two children, Neville and Wendy who were raised in the village and both attended the local primary school.

Anne loved her family and was extremely proud of her only grand-daughter Lucy.

Anne loved and lived a simple life and enjoyed the pleasures the village offered her, regularly attending fayres, fetes, flower festivals, N.S.Y. Club, lunches at the village hall and attending Stockbury Church.

Anne was diagnosed with cancer in late 2013 and due to her illness was unable to attend the church and the village activities but continued to enjoy her garden which she loved, especially the flowers.

She battled her illness with great determination and dignity, not giving into it. Sadly her condition worsened and she was admitted to hospital in January 2014.

She fell asleep on 5th March 2014.

Her funeral was held on Friday 21st March 2014, overseen by Liz Cox, who reflected on her life and personality during the service. She was buried in the church yard, joining her husband Bill, surrounded by beautiful flowers from family and friends.

After the funeral, family and friends attended the village hall to remember her. All were treated to a great spread provided by Betty Town and Pauline Adams.

The family would like to thank both Betty and Pauline for the refreshments they provided to all, and to everyone who sent flowers.

From Wendy Roberts
(daughter)



Affordable Housing - Stockbury

We now have two developments in the parish at Bull Lane and Buxton Meadows, both of which consist of rental properties for occupation by those with a local connection to the parish of Stockbury.

The Parish Council believes that it would be a good idea to keep a list of anyone who might be interested in renting one of these houses, if and when they become available in the future. This will enable the council to ensure that interested names are passed on to the relevant housing association at the appropriate time. If you are interested in putting your name down, please contact:

Sherrie Babington on 01634 867173

SOUTH EAST WATER

Telephone: 01634 276198

Water main replacements in A249 slip road at the Aerodrome Industrial Estate and Bimbury Lane, Detling

Following the work last year that was undertaken in both Bimbury Lane and the A249 lay-by slip road, South-East Water is preparing to undertake the second phase of work. This is necessary to secure the area's future water supplies, improve water pressure and reduce the number of bursts.

Starting on 21st April, a new pipeline will be laid from the A249 slip road/lay-by to the other side of the A249 carriageway using specialist directional drilling techniques to go under the road to minimize disruption to the A249.

Following this, the new pipeline will be connected to the existing network. During this time, there will be a period when Bimbury Lane will be closed again which is anticipated to be between 19th and 25th May.

Work will take place during normal office hours. However, some work may also take place at the weekends.

Residents and businesses along affected roads have been written to with details of how to contact South East Water if they have any concerns.

Information abridged by the Editor from a letter received by the Parish Clerk from South East Water dated 13 March 2014

Stockbury Cricket Club

in association with

Hartlip CC



It may still feel far too early, but the cricket season is only a couple of weeks away. The fixture list is now available so here are some dates for your diary. Please come and support our team!

April 13	Friendly	Woodcombe	Away**
April 20	Easter Sunday—no fixture		
April 27	Friendly	Rainham	Home**
May 4	Friendly	Belnor	Home
May 11	Friendly	Sherwood 2nd XI	Home
May 18	League	Meopham Sunday XI	Away
May 25	Friendly	Rainham	Away

All matches to start at 2 pm prompt except ** which start at 1.30 pm but please always check with our Captain, Tom Bulbrook 07780 440526

BWAG - News

BWAG & HRGS Presents 'Bredhurst's Ancestors - Mesolithic to Medieval' Wednesday 2nd April, 7.00 pm at Bredhurst Village Hall

Join Richard Emmett, Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne (HRGS), for a presentation about the ongoing Bredhurst Archaeological Dig. Richard will talk about the many artefacts found and the group's ongoing work.

Tickets £3.00 (includes Refreshments) or Free to BWAG & HRGS Members.

Bluebells and Cream Tea weekend Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th April



Walks start at 2pm each day

Join BWAG for its popular Bluebell & Cream Tea Weekend. Guided walks through Bredhurst Woods followed by cream teas - shorter and longer walks available.

Tickets £7.50 per person and must be purchased in advance - tickets will not be available on the day (children under 16 free).

For information and ticket purchase call Vanessa Jones on 07813 785940 or email bwag@vanessajones.plus.com

Volunteer Task Days

3rd Sunday Every Month (throughout the year),
10am - 2pm, rain or shine
Meet at Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst.

If you enjoy using Bredhurst Woods, please consider giving a few hours to help restore and maintain the site. Jobs vary throughout the year and may include light coppicing, ground clearance, fencing and litter picking. Please bring gloves and wear suitable clothing. Lunch and refreshments provided.

For more details please call/text Steve Wright (BWAG Trustee) on 07801 386264 or email stevewright50@btinternet.com

STOCKBURY CHURCH MONTHLY DRAW

The first draw for 2014 took place on **Saturday 8th March**

Congratulations to the winners:

1st prize - John & Sylvia Pay, Stockbury

2nd prize - Rita Blake, Yelsted

3rd prize - Clare Stevens, Newington

Subsequent draws will be on the second Saturday of every month until December.

Stockbury Church PCC

Stockbury Parish Open Evening

The parish council invites you to the
Annual Parish Meeting

- **Find out what the council has been doing**
- **Meet village clubs and see what they have to offer**

Wednesday 28th May

7.00-9.00pm

Stockbury Village Hall

Please come along and enjoy a social evening where you can find out more about what goes on and meet fellow villagers over a cup of tea or coffee

Community Bus Weekly Schedule

Sponsored by



Mondays – Sittingbourne

Tuesdays – Maidstone
incl. Lockmeadow Market

Thursdays – Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (Savacentre)

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(Continued from page 5)

Submitting to the Stockbury Observer (cont.)

All emails will be acknowledged.

Views expressed by contributors are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Editor or Parish Council. However, the Editor reserves the right to publish, shorten articles/letters or reduce the size of notices

Cameras at the ready!

Robert Canis is a British wildlife and nature photographer and lecturer, based in Kent. He spends many hours photographing nature on the North Kent Marshes. As well as hosting a range of photography workshops, he supplies a wide range of nature and wildlife stock photographs, some of which are prize-winners. He's also been on the telly and I'm sure some will recognise a few of his beautiful shots. He also accompanies small groups on nature photography trips, some local, some a little further afield.

As a sometime photographer, I decided to go along to his presentation hosted by BWAG at Bredhurst Village hall on 25th March. For only £5 I enjoyed a very entertaining 2 hours+ talk along with some spectacular photographs that illustrate this nature photographer's year.

Some of his prize-winning images were caught on film (well, actually all his photos are digital these days but you know what I mean!) purely by chance, by being in the right place at the right time. He said a few times

you should never put off doing something until tomorrow as it may not be there then. You can never rely on nature.

I don't think he actually said that the early bird catches the worm, and I really can't admit to being one (I suppose I am a "bird" – yes, I know it's not terribly pc but as it's me saying it about myself, I'm cool with that - but I'm definitely not an early one...or a worm!) I prefer to burn the midnight oil especially when I'm writing but Robert has certainly inspired me to get up early, before sunrise, especially if I am wanting to capture nature at its most interesting with some of the best light. I should have got up early today, if not to go out photographing hares, birds or catching the dew on dog violets, but certainly to finish creating the Observer and writing this report. I tell you, it's all go!

Did I mention Robert organises photography trips? When I chatted to him in the tea break I asked if he minded if I mentioned one of his April trips in our newsletter. He didn't mind! So here it is...though other trips are available!

Sue Gardner

Close-up photography & Bushcraft Day Somewhere in Mid-Kent (near Tenterden!)

Wednesday April 9th 2014 Places Left
Thursday April 10th
2014 Places Left

10am - 3.00pm

Price: £75

Group size: 8



Wood anemones, budding trees, emerging bluebell shoots, bird song, a nip in the air with sunlight streaming through gaps in the trees. These are all images I think of and recall when photographing at this time of the year....early spring.

This is a photography workshop with a difference. In collaboration with bushcraft and survival expert/teacher, Phil Brown of Badger Bushcraft, the day will be a combination of close-up/woodland photography and bushcraft insight.

Set in a 120 acre private ancient woodland near Tenterden, Kent, the day will start with welcome refreshments in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits. Phil will then take us on a short walk through the woodland pointing out vegetation suitable for fire-lighting and food as used and eaten by our ancestors. Both Phil and I will explain the importance of coppice management, pointing out the various tree and plant species and, perhaps, mammal tracks and bird song identification. Even after this short stroll, you are sure to never walk through a woodland with the same eyes, again!

I will then demonstrate on a flower or opening bud, how I go about shooting such a small subject. Lens selection, composition, iso and exposure will, amongst other aspects, all be covered. Once you are all working on your chosen subject matter I shall, in turn, see how you are getting on, offering help and advice on how to improve your image or technique.

By lunch time you are sure to have worked up an appetite and, upon returning to "base-camp," Phil will show you how to prepare and light a fire using the tradition steel and flint technique. Under Phil's expert guidance, you will each have the opportunity to try it first-hand which, I can assure you, is terrific fun! But, Phil and I like you to work for your food so, while we are preparing lunch, you will collect the wood and light the fire, as a group. No fire, no lunch. As if you needed a better incentive!

With plates on laps, tucking into a delicious lunch sat around an open fire in the middle of an English woodland in spring, this is sure to be an experience you will never forget!

Price includes: Refreshments and steak lunch with pudding. Vegetarian option available.

Fitness level: Very low. Level walking throughout.

Equipment required:

No specialised close-up equipment is needed. A Bridge or SLR with wide-angle and medium telephoto zoom will be sufficient. However, as wood anemones are small flowers, you will find a macro lens or close up filters/extension tubes very useful. A full list of what to bring will be supplied upon receipt of booking. Booking via www.robertcanis.com

courtesy of Robert Canis

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as the weather hasn't been good.

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Mark 07894067151 or Answer phone 01795 842291

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USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Cricket Club —Mike Lee	01795 842532
Church Matters —St Mary Magdelene Revd Liz Cox	01795 435184 elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com
South Green Methodist Church Steward—Freddie Davey	01795 842978
Community Bus —Booking line	07551 454702
Dancing Club —Sue Carey	01634 387478
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 01795 842741
Gardeners —Lex Levermore	stockburygardeners@live.com
Golf Society —Jeff Hall	01795 843296
Hall Bookings —Sue Porter	01795 843715
Maidstone BC Councillor Daphne Parvin	01622 673209 07967 224839 01795 842401
MB Farms stores and Post Office Neighbourhood Watch — Local co-ordinator—Tony Kerr	01795 844077
Not So Young Club —Shirley Moss	01795 842691
Kent Messenger correspondent Claire Adams foxgloveadams@aol.com	01795 841140
Parish Council - Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Pétanque Club —Mick Bingham	01795 842480
Photographic Club —Tim Arnold	01795 843049 timharnold@btinternet.com

Stockbury Observer Editor

Sue Gardner—Stockburyobserver@gmail.com

Police – Emergency only

999

Non-emergency

101

& ALL General enquiries

Police Community Support Officer for Stockbury

PCSO Siobhan De Búrca 07772 226099

Crimestoppers (confidential)

0800 555111

Public Footpaths & bridleway (problems with)

westprow@kent.gov.uk 0845 3450210

Roads, potholes etc (manned 24 hours)

Kent.highwayservices@kent.gov.uk 08458 247800

RSPCA 0300 1234999

Short Mat Bowls—Tony Russell 01795 842738

or Angela Russell 01795 842738

South East Water emergency 0845 6032603

W.I.- Brenda Mace 01622 884746



STOCKBURY OBSERVER DEADLINES

The following 2014 deadlines are generally the 3rd Friday of the month with the exception of May, August and October, when it will be the 4th Friday.

Please send your submission as soon as you can—no need to leave it to the last minute. Many thanks for your consideration:

April	18th	September	19th
May	23rd	October	24th
June	20th	November	21st
July	18th	December	19th
August	22nd		

The Editor