



Diary for June

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise shown

Sun	1st	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00 am
		Bowls	3.00-5.00 pm
		Cricket - Field	1.00-7.00 pm
Tues	3rd	Bowls	2.00-4.00 pm
		NSYC	7.30-9.30 pm
Wed	4th	Pilates	9.30-10.30 pm
Thur	5th	Gardeners	8.00-10.00 pm
Fri	6th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30 pm
		Caravan Club on Field Fri-Sun	
Sun	8th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00 am
		Bowls	3.00-5.00 pm
Tues	10th	Bowls	2.00-4.00 pm
Wed	11th	Pilates	9.30-10.30 pm
		W I	7.30-9.30 pm
Thur	12th	Bowls	6.30-9.30 pm
Fri	13th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30 pm
Sat	14th	Dog Club	12.30-5.30 pm
Sun	15th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00 am
		Bowls	3.00-5.00 pm
		Cricket - Field	1.00-7.00 pm
Tues	17th	Bowls	2.00-4.00 pm
Wed	18th	Pilates	9.30-10.30 am
		W I	1.00-3.00 pm
		Parish Council	7.00-9.30 pm
Thur	19th	Bowls	6.30-9.30 pm
Fri	20th	Gardeners	7.00-9.00 pm
Sat	21st	Sweet Pea & Rose Show	2.00-4.00 pm
Sun	22nd	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00 am
		Bowls	3.00-5.00 pm
Tue	24th	Bowls	2.00-4.00 pm
Wed	25th	Pilates	9.30-10.30 am
Thur	26th	Bowls	6.30-9.30 pm
Fri	27th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30 pm
Sun	29th	Dog Club - Field	10.00-11.00 am
		Bowls	3.00-5.00 pm

June 2014—Editor's notes

I was glad of the late deadline in May as I've been very busy in my garden. The slugs have been very busy munching my much-cared-for seedlings and I wish my throwing arm was good enough to chuck them onto the playing field. No point putting them over my neighbour's fence— dear neighbours, I said I wouldn't! Apparently, their homing instincts are very strong, so I welcome any other ideas on how to eliminate them!

My Rural Ramblings discusses local theft, potholes and being involved in our community (no, not volunteering, though there are also 3 non-related requests for volunteer help elsewhere in this issue).

Enjoy June and hope it's a 'flaming' one!

Sue Gardner

Also this month:

Regulars: St Mary Magdelene and South Green Churches Service dates; (no W.I. report); Poet's Corner; Gardeners; NSY Club; Rural Ramblings
Reports from: Cherry Orchard; Summer insects
Letters: Various subjects

Notices & Dates: Draw results; A249 cross-overs; Freighter information; Deadline dates 2014; Community Bus schedule; Library; Cricket fixture dates; Murder Mystery evening (July); Volunteering opportunities; Sweet Pea & Rose date & entry form; Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society; Art Gallery Exhibition (Nov)

Rose and Peas!

by John Cockett

Once upon a rare blue moon
 We could have had a flaming June
 One thing on which you can rely
 The following month will be July!
 Watch out for really heavy rain
 The sign it's summertime again
 The thundery downpours everyone knows
 Ruins exhibits grown for the Sweet Pea show!



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

St Mary Magdalene Church Stockbury



The services in June are as follows:-

- 1 June – 6.00 pm Sung Communion
- 8 June – Pentecost; 10.30am open air service at Newington
- 15 June – 6.00 pm Sung Communion
- 22 June – 6.00 pm Evensong
- 29 June – 10.30 am; open air service at Hartlip

The church is now open 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

SOUTH GREEN CHURCH

Services will be held at the usual time of 10am on each of the first four Sundays in June. Following the Anniversary Service on 22nd June the church will close.

It is sad that after 126 years the church has to close. Although we have been well supported by members from Sittingbourne, only one member still lives locally. We shall miss our local church and the friendships we have enjoyed over the years.

Freddie

Mobile Library

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

STOCKBURY CHURCH MONTHLY DRAW

The draw for 2014 took place on **Saturday 10th May**
Congratulations to the winners:

- 1st prize - Sean White
- 2nd prize - Sophie Radcliffe, Hartlip
- 3rd prize - Tony Sellens, Stockbury

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

Stockbury Church PCC

HALLOWEEN FIREWORK PARTY SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2014

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH THIS EVENT
PLEASE CONTACT

DAVE TOMSETT 07798 633636
FIONA MOODY 01622 884551



Stockbury WI

There will be a talk by David Westphal on Wednesday 11th June starting at 8 pm. The subject is cheese (and some to taste)!

This is an Open evening, please feel free to bring family members and friends - all welcome.

There is no report this month for May as it was our AGM. More next month!

Maureen Mannering

Not So Young Club

Unfortunately our speaker booked for the 15th April meeting had to cancel but will be coming later in the year. A lively discussion took place with a few jokes from Dave. Menus were chosen for our meal at the 'Fruiterers Arms' in June.

Hanging Baskets was the theme for the 20th May. Thanks to Paul who gave a demonstration on how to plant one. Many members brought baskets along and 'had a go'. The hall looked like 'The Chelsea Flower Show!' and all the plants were supplied by Paul and Judith.

Shirley Moss

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

Saturday Freighter Service Stockbury Village Hall



The next collection date is not available at the time of printing but will **not** be before 28th June

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

A249 Cross-overs

Kent Showground season is in full swing so please be aware the cross-overs on the A249 will be closed during major Show days. Please plan your journey accordingly.



Stockbury Village Hall

Many thanks to Chris and Di Spree from all in Stockbury for filling the 2 tubs outside the village hall with such a lovely display of flowers. Based on previous years, this will provide a really attractive feature throughout the Summer and Autumn

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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

You get more with the
on-line Stockbury Observer!

We're in Colour! More photos!

Available after the 1st of each
month

STOCKBURY COTTAGE GARDENERS June 2014

By now you should all be enjoying the new growths of roses, flowers and vegetables. The season according to the weather experts and Mother Nature herself is at least 2 or 3 weeks ahead of the norm.

I am sitting in my greenhouse, newly designated as such, typing this newsletter.

It has only become necessary to buy a new greenhouse because of lack of space over the last few weeks. I made the decision that 2 greenhouses would probably be in the best interest in keeping the peace, and I will advise you on how we get on. I am sure our male readers understand (*I'm sure I don't know what you mean! Ed*)

For those of you who managed to visit our plant sale last month you would have seen and had chance to wonder at the quality of the vegetable and flower plants. Top quality and value: good reasons to join the Stockbury Gardeners.

During that event we even managed to recruit 4 new members so we will welcome them at our next meeting on 5th June. Starting at 8 pm the speaker is Malcolm Withnall giving a presentation on modern garden vegetable production. We also welcome non-members, so if you have been considering joining, please do come along.

Last month, I reported on the first part of my visit to the Falklands where I met the owner of its only garden centre. I managed to speak with Nikki Buxton despite her being quite reluctant to speak with me - I think she thought I was a journalist from England writing for one of the Sunday magazines!! In fact, her reluctance was due to embarrassment as she thought their Falklands Horticultural Society with a mere 40 members out of the 1900 population would not be of interest. When I explained that Stockbury only has 25 members (*from a population of less than 1000: Ed*) she finally opened up with some information.

The weather dictates everything in the Falklands, being further south than the southern tip of Australia. These photos were taken in Stanley, the biggest and capital town. Notice the greenhouse is sited in the rear garden of the house built in an area where it can get most benefit from facing north!!! (*see last month's report*). All poly-tunnels and greenhouses are sited in a hollow or dip in the ground so as to deflect the strong prevailing winds. Poly-tunnels also have a "strapping arrangement" over the top to prevent lifting in high winds.

Nikki informed me that the society has only one show per year in March which includes vegetables, flowers and produce. Very few trees grow due to the high and very cold winds but I did manage to find a garden in Stanley where native plants were preserved (*see other picture*). The government house is the only place where mature trees were preserved.

Tips for this month:

- Pinch out side-shoots of tomatoes and start to feed them once the first set of fruit has set.
- Cucumbers benefit from damper conditions than tomatoes so if you have them in the same greenhouse

this could be an issue.

- Peppers and chillies once in flower will need feeding with tomato feed. When the days are really hot, damp down the floor and plants with water. This has the effect of raising the humidity and cooling down the house. You can purchase a humidity meter from garden centres quite reasonably priced.
- Weeding and hoeing between rows of vegetables is mandatory. Hoe on really hot days at midday to let the offending weeds dry off and die on the ground.
- Thin vegetables out now to allow light in to the plants.
- Roses will need foliar feed; also regular spraying for mildew and blackspot (I have been caught out this year)

I have mentioned previously, for you Ebayers, if you search "Popular Encyclopaedia of Gardening" it comes in 3 volumes and can be bought for around a few pounds (be prepared to pay around £10 postage). Published around 1958, I still find my copy is a really big help in problem solving in the garden.

Have a good growing season.

Chris Spree—Chairman



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.

See us on Facebook or shepherdname.co.uk/pubs/sittingbourne/harrow

Food is served every day from 12.00 pm – 8.00 pm

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Book your table now at the Bar or contact us details above

The Stockbury Observer has changed!

Googlemail is shorter, so we've got shorter too!

To contact the editor from now on
please now Email:



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 10 for details. Please provide your articles sooner if possible.

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

STOCKBURY CRICKET CLUB

In association with Hartlip CC

Murder Mystery Evening

By the Three Towns Theatre Company

Saturday 12th July 7.00 pm

Stockbury Village Hall

Tickets £5 per person

Snacks provided

Licensed Bar

For tickets, call

Keith Rich 07780 870725
Chris Porter 01795 843715

HORNET FLIGHT by KEN FOLLETT April's Report



For various reasons our Book Club numbers were a little depleted when we met this month (April) but we soldiered on and discovered that our chosen author and his writing were much loved, if on this occasion with a few reservations.

Some of you may know Ken Follett's work; perhaps *The Pillars of Fire*, or maybe *Whiteout*? However we all agreed that this particular novel, *Hornet Flight*, was a 'page turner' and it caught our imaginations.

It is a WWII espionage story concerning the pursuance of information about a German experimental radar station in Denmark. In the fight against Nazism the characters become involved with the Underground Organisation in order to save British aircraft from constant attack. Their investigations lead them into escalating dangerous situations and they have to utilise any means possible to escape the Nazis and pass their findings on to the British government. This of course is where the *Hornet Moth* biplane comes in...exciting stuff!

Whilst the attention to detail, particularly about the aircraft, was excellent there were minor concerns. Perhaps the characters were a little lightly drawn in this instance and the technical details about the *Hornet* were a bit tedious for some – however no one felt that overall this detracted from a rip roaring, atmospheric story, competently delivered. In fact out of ten the majority gave it eight.

Ann Rich

==+==+==

May's Report

We met this month to discuss 'The Red House' by Mark Haddon. The discussion didn't take very long as all but one member of book club thought it was dire! Haddon wrote *A Spot of Bother* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog In the Night-Time*, so we expected this book to be readable at least. This book was described on an Amazon review as an inconsequential tale of a dysfunctional family:

www.amazon.co.uk/review/R1KGQBQH55DA76/ref=cm_pr_viewpnt#R1KGQBQH55DA76

The reviewer goes on to say that the style was pretentious, there was a wealth of irrelevant and unnecessary detail and it was a humdrum tale wrapped up in artiness. Stockbury book club members generally agreed with all of those statements! With one exception. Only Alan enjoyed reading it and gave it a 6 out of 10...the rest of us couldn't even give it 1 out of 10! A disaster!

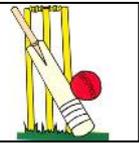
The evening was salvaged though by a reading of a poem called *The Wedding Hat*, by Brenda Mace, who then went on to tell us that a poem of her own writing had been published in the same book. Ann read out Brenda's poem, written 19 years ago about the welcoming of her granddaughter into the world.

Next month we read 'The Broken Man' by Josephine Cox...let's hope this one will be more to our liking!

Denise Summer



STOCKBURY Cricket Club
in association
with Hartlip CC



Fixtures for May and June Come along and support our team!

June 1st	League	Eastchurch 1st XI	Home
June 8th	League	Frittenden	Away
June 15th	League	Hunton Wanderers	Home
June 22nd	Friendly	Mote	Away
June 29th	League	Littlebourne	Away
July 6th	Friendly	Belnor	Away
July 13th	League	Kingsnorth CC	Home
July 20th	League	Borden Sunday XI	Away
July 27th	League	Harrietsham CC	Away

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

Dear Editor,

Martyn (Hook) would very much like to return to the jobs that he carried out for the parish council. He has practised his litter picking and grass mowing independently, demonstrating good safety awareness when crossing roads, with supervision from his therapists, and managed well.

We would like to ask if anyone would kindly volunteer to keep Martyn company for 30 minute sessions, once a week whilst he carries out his jobs around the village?

Martyn continues to have good and bad days with his mobility and struggles a little in the hot weather, though is very sensible in knowing when he is unable to do things. Martyn is very keen to get back to normal with the support of the community.

If you would like to help, please contact me, Tracey Simmons, Associate Practitioner, Medway Community Healthcare
01634 382870/9

Thanks

Community Bus

We are once again looking for volunteer drivers, as our driver numbers are a little diminished at present with the unexpected departure of Jan to greener pastures.

If you would like to help keep this vital village lifeline on the road, can drive, spare a few hours each month and are between the ages of 25 and 70, why not join our band of merry men and me?

Before you initially take the bus and passengers out for a spin, we will send you on a compulsory one day KCC mini bus driving course, paid for by us, where you will experience what it is like to drive a mini bus under the guidance of a KCC appointed driving instructor and learn how to make your passengers travelling experience a happy one!

If you think you would be interested in joining us or would like further information, please either send an email to communitybus-stockbury@hotmail.co.uk or ring 07551 454702.

Days Out details coming soon!

Fiona x

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Community Bus Weekly Schedule

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Tuesdays – Maidstone
incl. Lockmeadow Market

Thursdays – Hempstead Valley Shopping
Centre (Savacentre)

Pick ups from 9.30 a.m.
close to where you live

Call 07551-454702 to book your seat

Stockbury Cottage Gardeners' Association

60th Annual

Sweet Pea & Rose Show



Saturday 21st June 2014

2pm - 4pm

Stockbury Memorial Hall

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

This is an **important date** to put in your diary...particularly for those of you who are creative, as you have only six months to produce some fabulous wares to exhibit (and sell) at the **Art Gallery Exhibition** and sale in **STOCKBURY VILLAGE HALL** on the above date. There are so many talented people in this parish that it would be a shame not to have a stall to show off your skills.

Christmas will be just around the corner, so it would be an ideal opportunity for original work to be attractive to gift hunters! Please consider joining us.

For further details contact

Ann on 07718 07 08 07



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 fifth, consecutive year:

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

Our advertising year starts this month and all existing advertisers have been or will shortly be emailed to renew their subscriptions. If you would like to take out an ad for the next year, please contact me as soon as possible.

Adverts for less than 12 months duration and smaller sized ads will be charged on a pro-rata basis on application. If you

would like to continue running your ad for next year, from the July 2014 issue, 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

Dear Editor,
 I don't know about you, but I am fed up with the speed of the Broadband to my house. 0.68 Mg at it's best with an average of just under 0.3Mg. The helpful people at BT (not) sent out an OpenReach engineer today to check my line (just to keep me quiet I think!) The very nice man from Openreach (and he was) said that due to the distance to our nearest exchange at Wormshill, and the fact it is over-head cabling, means we will never get more than 0.68mg download speed...

BUT...

He did say if enough people express an interest in having the cabinet upgraded to fibre optic then OpenReach will consider the upgrade sooner than their planned sometime in the future, which could possibly be years.

Obviously the initial outlay to OpenReach is considerable, but if enough people log on and register the want for this service it will be considered. To register your interest go to:

www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/expression-gen.aspx

Hopefully enough local people will register their interest, as if we were to get faster broadband, it will be a benefit to many, now and in the future.

Resident of Pett Lane
(name and address provided to the Editor)

Stockbury Cherry Orchard

Our challenge: to plant 1,400 hedgerow plants donated by Trees to Treasure, add rabbit guards and give them cane supports, along with a new fence to protect them from being nibbled at by the resident orchard sheep and the odd rogue bunny.

On the last Sunday of April, our volunteer helpers: young, not so young and somewhere in between turned out armed with their kneel pads, trowels and enthusiasm, sustained with plenty of hot drinks and bacon rolls. We even saw a rare sighting of the lesser-spotted Parish Councillor! With a lot of the fencing and ground preparation work having been done on the Saturday by some big hearted, hard working fellows and a couple of false starts, along with a little guidance by Sally from the Mid Kent Downs Orchard Project we were soon busy

planting with each person finding their own niche on the planting conveyor belt.

A huge thank you to all of you who came along to help with the planting on the



Sunday and gave up their Tuesday evening. Also to John Goldfinch, Rod Gibson, Geoff Moody and Dave Tomsett who did all the fencing hard graft on both the Saturday and Sunday. Our thanks too, to Pippa Palmar from the Mid Kent

Downs Orchard Project who provided all the fencing materials as well as guidance and much needed help.

With your support and a lot of continuing work to come over the next few years, Stockbury will eventually have a traditional Kentish orchard the whole village will be proud of and be able to use and enjoy for years to come.

If you want to know more about the project, please contact Fiona Moody -

01622-884551 or Jill Brooks - 01795-844044

A Cherry Celebration is coming soon ...

Photos courtesy of Fiona Moody



Dear Editor,

The family of the late Roy Town would like to thank everybody who donated to save the Stockbury church fund. In total, the sum of £355 was raised towards the church. Many thanks.

Betty Town and family.

Sittingbourne and District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society

is holding its Annual Early Show
 on Sunday 21st September at Stockbury Village Hall

The show will be open free to the public from 2 pm when
 you can come in to admire the super exhibits of
 Chrysanthemums and Dahlias.

There will be light refreshments served and a tombola throughout the afternoon.

Prize-giving takes place at 3.15 pm and the public will have a chance of purchasing many of the show blooms when the show concludes at 4 pm.

Come and enjoy your afternoon with us, as you will be made most welcome.



Buxton Meadows

Most parishioners will be aware of the difficulties that the parish council had in achieving the development we now have. The council believes that we now have a first class asset to the parish in which local people are housed, which is exactly what we set out to do. However, the council felt the need to register its dissatisfaction with the way in which Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) handled the application as well as the allocation process, which meant that it took almost 7 years from the point at which we decided there was a housing need to the completion of the development. We therefore decided to send a letter to the leader of the council expressing our views and this is shown below for your information. This letter was also sent to all parishes within MBC and it is interesting to note that 3 have responded to say that they had very similar experiences with MBC

Sherrie Babington, Clerk to the parish council

Dear Councillor Garland,

Following the completion of 8 affordable houses in Stockbury at the end of 2013, I am writing to you, on behalf of the parish council, to express our dissatisfaction with Maidstone Borough Council's (MBC) lack of cooperation and persistent obstruction in helping us to provide much needed homes for those who could no longer afford to live in the parish. A summary of our thoughts is given below

Background

In 2006, following the publication of the Stockbury Parish Plan, the council decided to press ahead with a limited development of 8 houses which would be exclusively for the use of those with a local connection who could no longer afford to live in the parish. Such a need had already been established during the parish planning process

What happened

1. In order to avoid any conflict of interest, MBC's planning department was contacted and asked to come to the village to select sites which were likely to receive planning permission for such a development. A senior planner visited us and selected 3 possible sites. It should be noted that the parish council did not participate in this selection. Action for Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK), with whom we had been working, then contacted the landowners of all 3 sites and only one of them was prepared to sell. We then selected a housing association, English Rural (ER), who developed plans which were discussed with MBC's planning department and submitted for approval. At this point, the planning department changed its mind and recommended refusal of the submitted plans, claiming that the development was inappropriate in an AONB. This was in spite of the fact that they had chosen the site in the first place. MBC's planning committee rejected the application, English Rural appealed and planning permission was eventually granted. As you will imagine, an enormous amount of time and money, including public funds, was wasted during this extremely frustrating process

2. The homes were eventually built and those who had previously registered an interest with English Rural were

encouraged to apply to be put on the MBC housing register as a pre requisite to being considered for one of the houses.

3. Before that allocation process, ER and the parish council met with John Littlemore and Neil Coles to review the selection process. We were assured that this would be open and transparent and that those currently in rented property elsewhere, who had a local connection and a clear housing need would be considered for selection.

4. The selection process proceeded with much difficulty and a complete lack of transparency. Specifically:-

- a. Anyone living outside the borough of Maidstone was excluded from selection. This was never stated, but discussions with applicants about the patchy feedback they received left us in no doubt as to MBC's intentions.
- b. The response to those living in rented accommodation in urban areas was difficult to understand - one applicant was told that he was "lucky to have a roof over his head"
- c. There was a limited appreciation and empathy from the allocations team at all levels, of concerns about the allocation of rural local needs homes, and inconsistency of approach with generally accepted practice when undertaking such allocations. This being coupled with the unwillingness to make any meaningful changes that accommodated the concerns of the parish council
- d. Applicants who were rejected during the process experienced considerable difficulty obtaining a detailed written explanation of the reasons for rejection.

Conclusions

1. The overall conclusion that we have reached is that MBC's planning and housing departments are actively discouraging small developments of affordable homes in parishes around the borough and gave no indication throughout the process that they were working with us to achieve mutually agreed objectives. Instead of the partnership approach which ER has found in other areas in Kent, MBC appeared to adopt the role as adversary at various stages of the project, unwilling and unable to appreciate the valid concerns of others involved.

2. Stockbury parish council will actively publish its conclusions to all other parishes in Maidstone warning them of the inadvisability of such developments in partnership with MBC in view of the lack of cooperation they are likely to receive from the council. We would strongly recommend that they investigate external funding and develop their own allocation process in conjunction with their chosen housing association.

I should stress that English Rural were an excellent choice of partner in the development and worked very hard to help us achieve our stated objectives. They are a very successful housing association with more than 28 developments across Kent, comprising some 137 rented homes and 92 in shared ownership. Following the frustrations and difficulties around this development, the parish council are doubtful that any housing association that understand the ethos behind affordable rural housing would be willing to take on similar developments within the borough faced with MBC's policy and process as it currently stands

I look forward to your comments

Chris Porter
Stockbury Parish Council
01795 843715 07799001297

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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 —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 —Lex Levermore	01795 842741 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

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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 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:

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

The Editor

SWEET PEA & ROSE SHOW JUNIOR'S RECIPE

GINGERBREAD MEN/ANIMALS

METRIC	IMPERIAL
350g	12oz Plain Flour
5ml	1 level tsp Bicarbonate of Soda
10ml	2 level tsp Ground Ginger
100g	4oz Butter
175g	6oz Soft Light Brown Sugar
60ml	4 level tbsp Golden Syrup
1 Egg, Beaten	

Grease 3 or 4 baking sheets.

Sift flour, bicarbonate of soda and ginger and then rub in the butter with your fingertips.

Add the sugar and mix well.

Warm the golden syrup slightly, ask a grown-up to help you (*be careful, as syrup can get very **HOT** very quickly*) until it is easy to pour and stir into the flour

and butter mixture. Stir in the beaten egg until mixed thoroughly.

Tip the mixture onto a board and knead until the mixture is soft and smooth.

Roll out the mixture on a lightly floured surface to about 0.3cm (1/8 inch) thickness.

Using a cutter, cut out the shapes and lift them on to the baking sheets and keep well apart, as they will spread out. Gather together trimmings and roll out again.

Decorate using currants/bits of glace cherries as buttons or you could use them for eyes and mouth (*remember you will also be icing when they are cooked, so leave some things for later*).

Bake in the oven at 190°C/375°F/Gas Mark 5 for 10-15 minutes or until evenly coloured.

Carefully lift onto a cooling rack to cool completely.

When cold, you can decorate with the glace icing drawing buttons, faces, bow ties or any other details.

Rural Ramblings: Don't ask me!

by Sue Gardner

Having been the (volunteer) editor of the Stockbury Observer for nearly 4 years, I can't say I've become famous (or rich) in that time but I think more people know who I am because of this position. Sometimes, I'm sorry that I don't even know who they are! People approach me in the street to comment on the current issue or take pleasure in reporting a typo or where I may have cut off the final line of one of John Cockett's poems. I try not to do the latter too often!! (Sorry, John!)

As an unpaid, unofficial member of the press, I am lucky to have a day job that pays the bills. I am certainly not a "hack" with notebook in hand, keeping my nose to the ground looking for stories. I certainly wasn't "out there" a couple of months ago when there was an "incident" in The Street that pulled in quite a few police cars, ambulances and the Air Ambulance (though I did see them from my bedroom window). I was also not "out there" when there was a recent bedroom fire that was reported on South-East TV news. But for local news (not gossip) and quickly learning about what's going on in Stockbury I do try and turn up at the monthly Parish Council meetings. Shockingly, sometimes I am the only attendee but while I'm there I am privy to the vagaries of what's occurring in our parish. On these occasions my notebook is definitely in hand which helps me feel and look like a real member of the press, although I can't always read my notes afterwards covered with my doodlings!

If you've never been to a parish council meeting, you may want to consider coming along. Things of real importance can be discussed here and although everything is reported to parishioners via the minutes, issues only become known to our community once the minutes are approved at the next meeting, a month later.

This month, once more, I was the only representative of the parish and I know things you won't find out until the end of June. Ha!

So, to return for the point of this month's ramblings, a few weeks ago I was approached by a parishioner to ask if I would include a heart-felt plea in this month's issue: Steve Betts is well-known in Stockbury having lived and worked in this area all his life. Some people will know that he has recently undergone knee-replacement

surgery effectively grounding him for some weeks. Whilst still recuperating, his trailer, his workhorse, which was parked up for the duration, was stolen under cover of darkness. Without his trailer he can't work.

Now, call me naïve, but I really don't understand the mentality of someone who can take something that does not belong to them. Like the two consecutive break-ins to the property belonging to the family of their recently deceased loved-one.

I work in an office where my colleagues regularly help themselves to milk that somebody else bought without a second thought. Milk, trailers, homes; it's the same principle, except of course, in the case of milk, the police would never be called.

Whilst the police are aware of the theft of Steve's trailer and hopefully are looking out for it, Steve asked me, as editor, to ask you, the parishioners of Stockbury to also keep your eyes open for it. Once he's recovered from his surgery, and he is making great progress, he won't be able to work without it. If anyone knows anything, please contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

On the subject of reporting things, I am tired of catching my wheels in the numerous potholes that keep appearing, being filled then re-appearing days later. I even have a shortcut on my computer to the KCC potholes pages who claim to repair potholes within 28 days or 2 hours if it's an emergency: hurrumph!

<http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.KHSFaultsGIS.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx>

Whilst logging the latest batch of suspension-destroying-culprits, I noticed that nobody else had reported them. Surprising. If nobody reports them (except me?) Kent Highways won't know about them and won't know to repair them! I suggested at the parish council meeting that I would use my position as editor to remind everybody of where to go to report potholes and the like for the sake of our own safety (see above).

And now, as it's been raining, I need to get out in my garden for slug and snail patrol and hope I don't fall down any potholes on the way!

SWEET PEA & ROSE SHOW

JUNIOR'S SECTION

Stockbury Gardeners have a junior section at our show on Saturday 21st June, open to all children aged 16 or under. To enter, all you have to do is complete the entry form below and bring it to the Village Hall, along with your entry from 9:00am until 11:15am the day of the show.

Open to children aged 16 or under

<i>Class</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Prizes</i>		
		<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>
	Scary Monster <i>Using a Vegetable</i> (Under 8's)	£2	£1	50p
	Scary Monster <i>Using a Vegetable</i> (Age 8 & Over 8)	£2	£1	50p
	2 Gingerbread Men or Animals (Under 8's) <i>Recipe as Schedule</i>	£2	£1	50p
	2 Gingerbread Men or Animals (Age 8 & Over) <i>Recipe as Schedule</i>	£2	£1	50p

AGE PUT ON ENTRY BUT NO NAMES



SWEET PEA & ROSE SHOW

JUNIOR'S ENTRY FORM

Name:			
Address:			
Tel No:		Age:	
Class Numbers Entered:			

See previous page for Gingerbread recipe