

STOCKBURY OBSERVER

AND SOUTH GREEN

'In the Garden of England'



Diary for April

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise shown

Tues	2 nd	Bowls	2-4pm
		NSYC	7.30-10.30 pm
Thur	4 th	Gardners	8-10 pm
Fri	5 th	Dancing Club	8 pm
Sun	7 th	Dog Club Field	10 am
		Bowls	3-5pm
Tues	9 th	Bowls	2-4 pm
Wed	10 th	WI	7.30pm
Thur	11 th	Bowls	7.30-9.30 pm
Fri	12 th	Dancing Club	8 pm
Sat	13 th	Private Booking	4-11.30pm
Sun	14 th	Dog Club Field	10 am
		Bowls	3-5pm
Tues	16 th	Bowls	3-5 pm
		NSYC	7.30-10.30 pm
Wed	17 th	Pilates	9.30-10.30 am
Thur	18 th	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm
Fri	19 th	Dancing Club	8 pm
Sat	20 th	WI Pie Lunch	11.45-3.30pm
Sun	21 st	Dog Club Field	10 am
		Bowls	3-5 pm
Tue	23 rd	Bowls	2-4pm
Wed	24 th	Pilates	9.30-10.30 am
Thur	25 th	Bowls	7.30-9.30 pm
Fri	26 th	Dancing Club	8 pm
Sun	28 th	Dog Club Field	10 am
		Bowls	3-5 pm
Tue	30 th	Bowls	2-4 pm

April 2013—Editor's notes



I promise this is the very last time (well, this year, anyway) I'm going to mention the Save Stockbury Church Fund Lottery. The good news is the target of tickets sold has been reached to ensure the Christmas prize bonus. The bad news is I didn't win a prize at the first draw for this year. But four lucky people will be glad they purchased tickets!

This month's edition has news of a few exciting forthcoming events. Why not check them out and make a note in your diaries.

Also this month:

Regulars: St Mary Magdelene and South Green Service dates; W.I.; Poet's Corner; Puzzle Corner; Cottage Gardeners; Not So Young Club

Features: Help our Hedgehogs part 2; Oil Security; Mobile Phone SOS; Massive Blunders part 2

Reports from: Community Bus; Church Lottery Winners

Notices & Dates: Library, Community Bus schedule; 2013 Stockbury Observer Deadline dates; Pie Lunch; Cricket Club fixtures; St. George's Day fete & festival; Parish Open Evening; Plant Sale; Book Club; Summer Fair; Village Clear Up; Sunflower Competition

Sue Gardner

Spring Ponderings by John Cockett



Has anyone seen our frogs of which I am so fond?
They usually come in February to our nice pond
Every year on seeing all the spawn I wonder whether
If that's what put me off tapioca pud for ever!
If in your garden our frogs have come to roam
Will you please tell the amphibians to hop it home!!

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

SERVICES AT SOUTH GREEN CHURCH

Services in April will be held at 10am each Sunday.
You will be made most welcome in our little church.

St Mary Magdalene



Change of time

Please note that the services in the church for April are at 6.00 pm and are planned as follows:-

- 7 April - 10.30 pm Sung Communion; joint service at Newington.
- 14 April – 6.00 pm Evensong
- 21 April – 6.00 pm Sung Communion
- 28 April – 6.00 pm Evensong

Details of the range of services held within the six parish cluster, 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 - 844241

From April to October St Mary Magdalene, Stockbury Church will once again be open 10am - 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays; at all other times the key will be available from the village shop, so please come and see the newly refurbished Church and experience the peace of our Church. We are keeping the Lady Chapel as a place of prayer, as we reflect on the life of Mary Magdalene

Penny Stevens, PCC secretary



Stockbury WI

Since the last report, seven of us plus one sister-in-law have taken a trip to London to see the production of

Carmen in the Round at The Royal Albert Hall. It was a wonderful performance and well worth braving the chill of the day to enjoy an outing together by train. We thank Judith for arranging the tickets etc.

Our March meeting was chaired by Julia, who guided us through the business with ease. The diaries were up-dated with many events for the coming months. The speaker was Amber from Stockbury who told us about her career in the beauty business. She brought samples of her products as examples of what she offers. We learned a few tips and all went home with goody bags of items to try at home.

Coach and car loads of West Kent members travelled to Tunbridge Wells to attend the County's Annual Meeting on 21st. March, many making a very early start to try and avoid the rush hour traffic. Four Stockbury ladies had offered to be stewards for the day not knowing what their jobs would be. Julia, however, had been asked if she'd be looking after the afternoon guest speaker. Imagine her delight at that as that person was Adam Henson of BBC's Countryfile. Her reward was a photograph with him as he signed books in the foyer. His talk later was exhilarating, amusing and most entertaining as we learned about life on his Cotswold Farm, which has grown to be the home to 50 different rare breeds of animal. These days, Adam is not there too often as he goes all over the country and the world researching and spreading the news of the farming industry.

The morning speaker was Ruth Bond, Chair of National W.I. who gave a superb talk. She told us about

meeting David Cameron, among others, to discuss dementia awareness, also how to make a cup of tea so many different ways! Then on another occasion pouring the tea was what Queen Elizabeth did for 32 members at that W.I. where the difference between fairy cakes and cup cakes was discussed. Another anecdote of our queen, Queen Elizabeth, who poured tea for 32 members at that W.I. where the difference between fairy cakes and cup cakes was discussed.

Ruth's talk included news of thirteen new W.I's being formed.

Mary Clarke gave a passionate talk on Denman College and its continuing place as the jewel in the W.I.'s crown. Musical entertainment was provided by the concert band from St. Michael's Preparatory School Otford and an enjoyable end to the morning.

Our meeting on 10th April is a Social evening with a quiz and final details for the Pie Lunch along more plans for future events to be discussed.

Bridget

STOCKBURY NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

A session of Bingo was held at the 19th February meeting. 42 members and guests arrived on the 5th March to celebrate our 48th Birthday. After a supper of fish & chips followed by gateaux we were entertained by 'The RaTS Revellers'.

The 19th March meeting welcomed a new member, Judith. The Birthday Party was discussed and everyone agreed it was a great success. Sissinghurst Castle won the vote for our birthday trip later in the year.

The AGM took place, Rosemary and myself are 'Still in Charge'.

A session of Horse Racing followed with members buying horses and placing bets and winning a few pence! All good fun!

Shirley Moss

April Sudoku (medium)

Solutions on page 12

						8	2	
		5	6	1	7			
9								5
7							1	
		6		8		9		
	9		2	3	4			7
5								3
			5	9	6	4		
	8	1						

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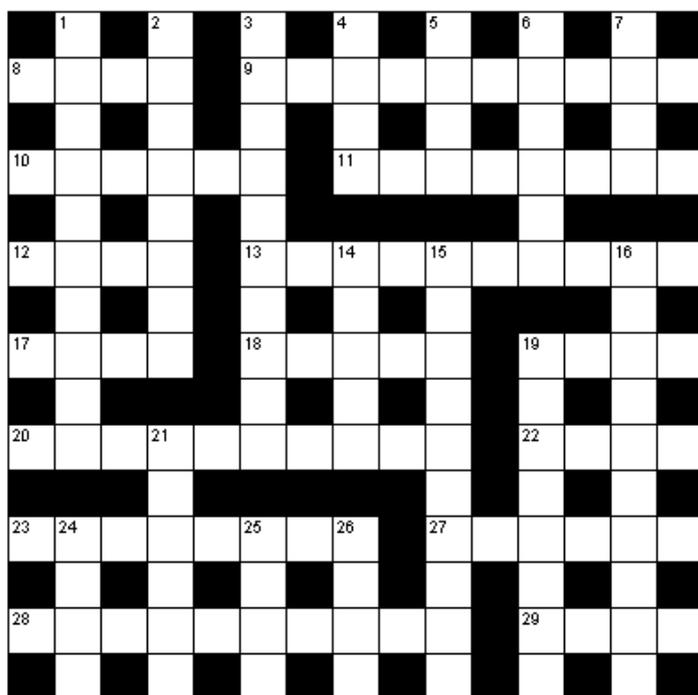
April Crossword

Solutions on page 12

Across

Down

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 8. Rude person (4) | 1. A change in religion (10) |
| 9. Work (10) | 2. Not quite a queen (8) |
| 10. Retaliate (6) | 3. Deviate (10) |
| 11. Confidently optimistic and cheerful (8) | 4. Gorillas and chimps (4) |
| 12. No charge (4) | 5. Threadbare (4) |
| 13. A hole in the ground (10) | 6. Quantity (6) |
| 17. Top part of aprons (4) | 7. Nameless (4) |
| 18. Beside (5) | 14. Selected (5) |
| 19. A romantic meeting (4) | 15. Not fruits (10) |
| 20. Betrothal (10) | 16. Dominated (10) |
| 22. Killed (4) | 19. Fated (8) |
| 23. Imaginary (8) | 21. Hold as true (6) |
| 27. It might cross a river (6) | 24. Adjoin (4) |
| 28. Beg (10) | 25. Be unsuccessful (4) |
| 29. Pitcher (4) | 26. An escape of water (4) |



To contact the editor: Email:
stockburyobserver@googlemail.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 4 for details. Please provide your articles sooner if possible please.

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.



Amber

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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 22nd 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

The Harrow Pub

Fish & Chips Night

Friday 6th April

from 6 pm till 9 pm (last booking)

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STOCKBURY OBSERVER DEADLINES

Please note the following 2013 deadlines which are the 3rd Friday of the month with the exception of August and November when it will be the 4th Friday. There is no need to leave sending your submission to the last minute as frequently happened in 2012. Many thanks for your consideration.

The Editor

April	19th	September	20th
May	17th	October	18th
June	21st	November	22nd
July	19th	December	20th
August	23rd		

STOCKBURY PARISH

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

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Sat—9.00 am—12.30 pm

Saturday Freighter Service Stockbury Village Hall

Next collection date:

13th April, 10:15—11:00 am.

For more information : [http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/
environment_and_planning/recycling_rubbish_and_waste/
Saturday_freighter_service.aspx](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/recycling_rubbish_and_waste/Saturday_freighter_service.aspx)



STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

We kick off this year's Days Out with a day in Canterbury on Wednesday 8th May, for no other reason except that I thought you might like to wander and browse around somewhere different for a change!

All the usual rules apply...the bus will start its journey from Stockbury Village Hall at 9.30am, picking up those who are not within easy reach of the Village Hall en route before making its way to Canterbury. The fare will be £5 return but if you have a valid National Bus Pass you can travel for free, just flash your pass at our driver as you get on the bus! Under 14's will need to be accompanied by an adult or older family member. We will leave Canterbury to return home at approximately 3 pm.

A minimum of 10 people will need to book for this trip to go.

If you would like to take us up on our offer of a day in historic Canterbury, please either send an email to communitybus-stockbury@hotmail.co.uk or call me on 07551-454702 to book your seats. I look forward to hearing from you.

Shall we go Vulcan watching in June...? Fiona x

Community Bus Weekly Schedule

Sponsored by



Mondays – Sittingbourne

**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

Mobile Library

The mobile library stops out front of Stockbury Village Hall every Thursday between 10.00 and 10.30 am.

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PIE LUNCH

Saturday 20th April
Stockbury Village Hall

11.45am to 1.15pm

or

1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

Adults £7.00 Children under 12yrs £4.00

INCLUDES A DESSERT, AND TEA OR COFFEE



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Mary Clarke: 01795 842991
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Brenda Mace: 01622 884746

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Saturday 4th May 2013

(Bank Holiday Weekend)

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STOCKBURY BOOK CLUB



I'm afraid our book club met just a little too late in February for us to include a piece in last month's Observer about the book we had been reading. The editor has kindly allowed us a little extra space this month, so I can write about two months' books. Two for the price of one this time!

Our February meeting was great and we achieved quite a lot!! We selected our next five books to read in the coming months and set dates ahead for our next four meetings! To quote J.M. Barrie - 'Oh the cleverness of us!'

We kicked off the meeting with Jan reading a poem from our selected poetry book 'Best-Loved Poems' edited by Neil Philip. Jan enlisted the help of Moira and Ann to read the quoted parts within the poem, which was 'The Skip' by James Fenton. The poem tells of a man who throws his life on a skip only to find later on that someone else had taken it and left theirs instead! One's man's junk is another man's treasure, after all! It was hilarious and if you've never liked poetry, you'll find you love this! I was so impressed with the reading, I thought we ought to start up a Stockbury amateur dramatics society!

February's Book Title: No-One Left To Tell, Author: Karen Rose. Our rating: 8/10

A thriller set in Maryland, USA, this book is an intricate tale of blackmail, secrets and murders, with the inevitable bit of romance thrown in. The main characters are a trainee private investigator and an attorney who, together, conspire to unravel the mystery left by the wife of a convicted murderer as she dies from a gunshot wound on the streets of Baltimore.

This was a very popular book with most of our members. Three out of nine of us, however, said we had struggled to read it and enjoy it. Those that did enjoy it commented that it was an 'easy-read' and a page-turner. As always, the book led to lively discussion which encompassed subjects such as homicide, gun laws and psychopathy. I hope everyone slept well that night!

March's Book Title: The Woman Who Went To Bed For A Year, Author: Sue Townsend. Our rating: 2/10

Book title suggestions are welcomed from each of our members for our group to read. This book was suggested by myself (Denise) as I had heard that it was very funny and a 'good read'. However, our group was unanimous in declaring it a flop (myself included!) and we commented that we have never been so united in our voting as we were on this one! We found it badly-written, dull, mildly humorous in one or two places, but otherwise a story that went nowhere and had nothing to say. Adrian Mole was better written' was one comment! I think we all agreed that it was a bad suggestion on my part!

Our meeting in March was lifted though by Brenda Bingham's lovely reading of our poem. She chose 'Loveliest of trees, the cherry now' by A. E. Housman. It was very uplifting to be reminded that spring IS on its way and soon we will see the blossom on the trees. Mmmm...I do hope my seasonal predictions are better than my book reading suggestions!

Denise Summer

STOCKBURY COTTAGE GARDENERS

As I look out of the window I realise I could save time and just substitute things to do and tips for April by re-using my March hints and tips! It seems as though we are set in a time warp with this weather. It is difficult enough trying to meet the wishes of our hon. Sec. let alone try to write these notes one month in advance, however, I have managed to come up with some great tips for this month.

THE GREENHOUSE

If you still have small seedlings stuck inside the greenhouse you may wish to help avoid any "damping off" by using a normal household fan set on LOW to just move air around the plants; all that is required is to move the air not blast them with a direct hurricane. This has another benefit inasmuch as it affects the cells in the plant building up strength and helping to keep them healthy.

I would also consider at this time of the year normally around the first Monday of this month starting to assist the seedlings and indeed older plants by playing some soft music. I always start with a radio left on for initially only a couple of hours so as not to overdo it, and gradually increase the time up to a maximum of 12 hours. I find the best channel to play that the plants are receptive to is definitely Classic FM, but they will respond to most other stations. One to avoid is any station playing rap music; it seems to stunt growth to some extent and you can never get them to respond properly afterwards.

ROSES

It would be a good idea to use some rose fertiliser, I always use a compound and rake it into the topsoil around their base, if you are lucky enough to have a supply of farmyard manure that would be better, but remember if you feed the roses you feed the weeds as well so make sure that they are weed free.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Last month I mentioned sowing parsnip and carrot seeds but I still think it is too cold unless you use a cloche to warm up the soil. I am sure we will start to get warm days soon, so be ready!!

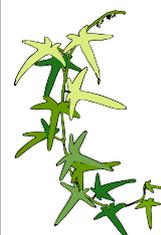
It is a good time to sow inside the following seeds: lettuce, courgettes, early pointed cabbage, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, sweetcorn, cucumbers, melons, leeks and any of the squash family such as butternut etc.

At the end of the month sow spring onions and beetroot directly into the garden as soon as it warms up.

Potatoes should also be chitting ready to plant out. Chitting is the name for the process that encourages tubers to sprout before planting.

As you can see this is one of the busiest months and this will show up any planning mistakes. If you miss any sowing dates (even I do) you will be sure to find someone selling vegetable plants at the plant sale on 4TH MAY to make up for any shortfalls.

Our next meeting is on 4th April and is a talk by Richard Moyse about the Ranscombe Farm Reserve (a nature reserve, working farm & country park occupying an area of 560 acres in Cuxton) called "survival of the weediest" at 8 pm. If you wish to come along and introduce yourself please feel free.



Chris Spree—Chairman



St. George's Day

Fete & Music Festival: 27 April 2013

- ◇ Live bands all-day
- ◇ Lots of family fun & entertainment
 - Tug-of-war competition
 - Bouncy castle
 - Punch & Judy
 - Coconut shy
 - Many stalls
 - Raffle
 - Tombola
 - Tea & cake tent
 - Full bar
 - Food court



...and much more ...

Like our Newington Fete & Festival [Facebook page](#) for full details



From noon to 9:00pm

at

**Newington Primary School, Sittingbourne,
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If you would like further information about the day, check out the Newington Parish Council website:

<http://www.newingtonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/default.cfm?pid=diary&eventid=8916>

If you're on Facebook send a friend request to Newington Fete-Festival

The Editor

Helping Our Hedgehogs 2013

Last month, I gave you some ideas on how to get rid of slugs in your garden, hedgehogs having voracious appetites for these gastropods.

Feeding hedgehogs in your garden

Obviously, gathering slugs at night by torchlight and trying to make them stick around in a dish on which the hedgehog can feed isn't going to work too well. But if there's food in your garden that hedgehogs like you're more likely to attract them in to help relieve you of this slimy pest. Your new prickly buddies will also eat ground beetles and caterpillars. During dry periods (hard to imagine after the winter we've had) these creepy-crawlies become much scarcer in gardens, (nobody told the caterpillars in my cabbages last year) so hedgehogs will benefit hugely from a shallow dish of water and supplementary feeding.

Hedgehogs will devour any combination of the following:

- Meat-based dog or cat food
- Unsalted chopped or crushed peanuts
- Sunflower hearts
- Dried meal worms
- Dried fruit

Place in a shallow dish and put in a sheltered area of your

garden around sunset. Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant so please do not give them milk!

To avoid the food you put out being eaten by pets or foxes, try making a feeding station that would make access difficult for anything larger than a hedgehog.

Did you know:

- Hedgehogs can run at speeds up to 2.5km per hour
- Hedgehogs live for an average of 2 years in the wild
- Male hedgehogs can travel several km a night to find food and mates
- Hedgehogs are born without spines (probably just as well!)

Why are they disappearing?

The reasons aren't clear but more intensive agriculture – with larger fields and the loss of hedgerows and permanent grassland – is likely to have played a role. The use of pesticides too will reduce the amount of prey available. Badgers are a natural predator of hedgehogs and hedgehogs actively avoid sites where badgers are present. When the habitat provides sufficient cover and good foraging opportunities, predation by badgers is not necessarily a problem for hedgehogs, but in poor habitats, it might have a big impact.

Source: <http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>

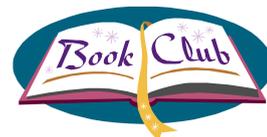
Sue Gardner

A New Book Club for Stockbury

Do you like reading? Would you like to join a book group where you can choose, read and discuss all aspects of the book in a friendly social group?

I recently moved to Stockbury and discovered the current village book club has no room for new members. Having run a book club in the past I would like to start a new one.

If you are interested please contact me, Mary Holliday via email: meh7779@aol.com



Stockbury Cricket Club

in association with

Hartlip CC



It still feels like winter, 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:

April 14	Friendly	Woodcombe	Away
April 21	Friendly	Milstead	Away
April 28	Friendly	Three Horseshoes	Away
May 5	Friendly	Belnor	Home
May 12	Friendly	Murston	Home
May 19	League	Linton Park XI	Away
May 26	Friendly	Eastchurch	Home

All matches to start at 2.00 pm prompt but please always check with our Captain, Tom Bulbrook 07780 440526

Stockbury Village

Summer FÊTE

Help!

Your Village Needs You

We are planning a fête this year
on Saturday 17th August.

Please help us - become involved!

This is your chance to have a say in which stalls, activities and entertainment we have at the fête, and become acquainted with other villagers, by helping us to plan, organise a stall or helping on the day.

Please find the time to call one of us and have a chat about the details.

Sue:	01795 843715	Treena:	01795 521266
Mick:	01795 842480	Lex:	01795 842741

Heating & Diesel Oil Security Advice

Oil tanks can contain many hundreds of pounds worth of oil and it makes sense to take a few precautions to protect them.

1. Your Rear Garden

This should have a secure boundary and any gates should be of sufficient height to make scaling them difficult. The traditional county hedge that many Stockbury residents have is great because they are quite thick and impenetrable. Consider the advantage of having gravel on your drive as the crunchy sound is a giveaway to someone walking onto your property. Time to fix any gaps or weak points.

2. Location Location

If the tank is close to the house, with one or more windows overlooking it then a thief will worry about the natural surveillance and increased chance of being spotted. If the tank is close to a road, path, drive or alleyway then it will be a far easier target especially if it's hidden behind the garage, shed or some other type of outbuilding. The thief will feel very safe as no one can see them.

3. A Switch In Time

Control switches that control the flow of oil should be turned off and isolate the electricity supply when not in use.

4. Locks

A good thief will come equipped with tools to attack your tank so it's worth spending a little more on good quality locks. Close shackle padlocks are the best as they offer most resistance to the most popular of burglar tools - the bolt cropper! Due to their design, close shackle padlocks have very little of the metal hoop (shackle) exposed and bolt croppers cannot get a good grip. Please don't leave any garden tools lying around as they may use them.

5. Oil Watch

Remote electronic oil level gauges are available which set off an alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full. These gauges can be located in the kitchen or perhaps a utility room to warn of any potential problem. You can also buy a little gadget that senses when the cap of your tank is being unscrewed and it sends your mobile a text message. Further information is available regarding products that are police approved.

6. Lights On

Security lights can have a very positive effect and make any property a much harder target for the thief. Low energy, dusk til' dawn lights positioned close to the tank should, in most cases, provide sufficient light to illuminate any suspicious activity. This type of light can be both effective and inexpensive. High powered lights can be used but care should be taken not to cause any nuisance to neighbours or road users.

7. Defensive Planting

Nature's way of helping to reduce crime. Most thieves will not want to force their way through or over a prickly hedge. The smallest trace of blood or ripped clothing could help the police identify the offender. These shrubs can, if planted around your tank, provide an effective and decorative thief proof barrier. My favourites are Barberry, Hedgehog Holly, Winter Sun, Firethorn and Japonica.

8. Fence Me in

Following on from the defensive planting tactics, fences and walls can also make life difficult for the thief. A wooden or metal fence, trellis or wall can give significant protection to the tank but it must be remembered that the oil tanker driver will need access to fill the tank! A metal grill or cage with a lockable access point across the top of this wall or fence can further improve security.

9. CCTV

The use of CCTV as a crime prevention and a crime detection tool has grown massively in recent years. It could play a part in the protection of oil tanks but before you spend lots of money on equipment make an assessment of your needs. Ask yourself:

- What do I hope to achieve by using CCTV?
- How much am I prepared to spend?
- Is there a reasonable level of light where the cameras will be operating or do I need to think about using cameras with low light capability? (most thefts take place at night)?
- What am I going to record the captured images on - digital recording is best?
- How am I going to provide the police with any evidence I may capture?

Conclusion

The information above is to highlight ways in which we can make it more difficult for a thief to steal heating oil and fuel. Nothing mentioned here will make it impossible for them achieve their goal but if some of the suggestions made are followed it just may make a difference. In the coming weeks, posters will be displayed around the village with further information on security products. I hope you found this article useful, if you have any questions or would like me to visit and help you assess your gardens security please call 07772226099.

PCSO Siobhán de Búrca-Ousby

MASSIVE BLUNDERS 2 by Ann Rich

Ref: British Battles website

Well here is another great mistake you have heard of but maybe do not know the circumstances surrounding it. I am writing of the orders which led to:

The Charge of the Light Brigade.

There are two pieces of background information you should know. The first is the situation on the ground; the theatre of war is the Crimea; the protagonists, British, French and Turkish militia against the Imperial Russian Army. In September of 1854 a small contingent of the armies opposing Russia had landed on the Crimean coast north of Sebastopol with the aim of capturing that important city. In the ensuing weeks they had dug in at Balaclava. The Russians had left a garrison to defend Sebastopol whilst the rest of the army re-grouped and increased their numbers.

It is also important to understand the leaders' characters in this debacle. The chain of command included, at the top, Lord Raglan, a 63 year old Waterloo veteran with a reputation for being a hard man (He had observed the amputation of his own arm years before.) and was a strict disciplinarian—he favoured flogging for misdemeanours. Then there was Captain Lewis Nolan of the 17th Lancers, who by all contemporary accounts was an excellent horseman but arrogant and a bit of a show off. He had written a book on cavalry tactics and his strategies in this field were not favoured by Lord Lucan who was attached to the Light Brigade. Finally there was the Earl of Cardigan, also a flamboyant individual with no war service and he too favoured flogging; he had a more charismatic personality and was popular with his men. However he did not like his brother in law, Lord Nolan and apparently the two rarely spoke.

Now you are probably going to need the map to follow the course of the battle.

On October 25th 1854 Russian infantry had beaten Turkish troops who were in charge of guns defending the important communication line to and from Balaclava - the ridge road. (A) Taking advantage of this small victory the Russian cavalry, now three thousand strong were making their way from the North Valley onto the Causeway Heights with the intention of retaking the British base at Balaclava. Meanwhile the 900 strong British Heavy Brigade, (B) (so-called because they had heavy armaments) was steadily moving east into the South Valley intending to make their way along the heights to join the Light Brigade, which were gathering below the Sapoune Ridge. (C) Because of the terrain at first neither contingent could see the other. As the Russians topped the Ridge of the Causeway Heights four squads peeled off to take a direct route to Balaclava (but were repelled by a regiment of Scottish Highlanders). (D) and the rest of the cavalry continued along the Causeway Heights only to be confronted by the Heavy Brigade. At this point (E) the two sides engaged in a fierce battle with the Heavy Brigade gaining the advantage and very quickly the Russians began to retreat back along the Heights in disarray. Meanwhile the Russian infantry was attempting to re position the captured Turkish cannon. (A)

This is where several successive mistakes were about to add up to the final enormous blunder of the Charge of the Light Brigade.

Error number 1 Lord Raglan had observed all the action taking place from his headquarters on the high Sapoune Ridge (F) but when Captain Morris of the Lancers approached him suggesting that his men should engage the fleeing cavalry as the Russians had not had time to re-group. He was refused permission to advance. Captain Nolan was also refused permission to attack the Russian flank.

Error number 2 Lord Raglan and his staff were more horrified in seeing the cannon in Russian hands as this, in their eyes would be a symbol of defeat to the British and, wanting to force

the enemy gunners on to the valley floor, he sent an urgent order to the cavalry to intercept proceedings. The message, crudely scrawled on a piece of paper was sent urgently via Captain Nolan a known fast and accomplished horseman, down the slopes to Lord Lucan. Nolan despised Lucan for his general lack of decisive action so that when he was asked by Lucan to be precise about Lord Raglan's orders to take the guns, he is quoted as saying, 'There is your enemy and there are your guns!' accompanying this with expansive gestures in the general direction of the North Valley.

Error number 3 From his vantage point Lord Lucan could not see the guns being moved up on the Causeway Heights and only knew that there was a gun battery at the eastern end of the Valley, one and a quarter miles away. Anxious to be part of the action he did not insist on a more detailed order and rode over to his commanding officer, Earl Cardigan and imparted the instructions to take the guns – at the end of the valley – immediately.

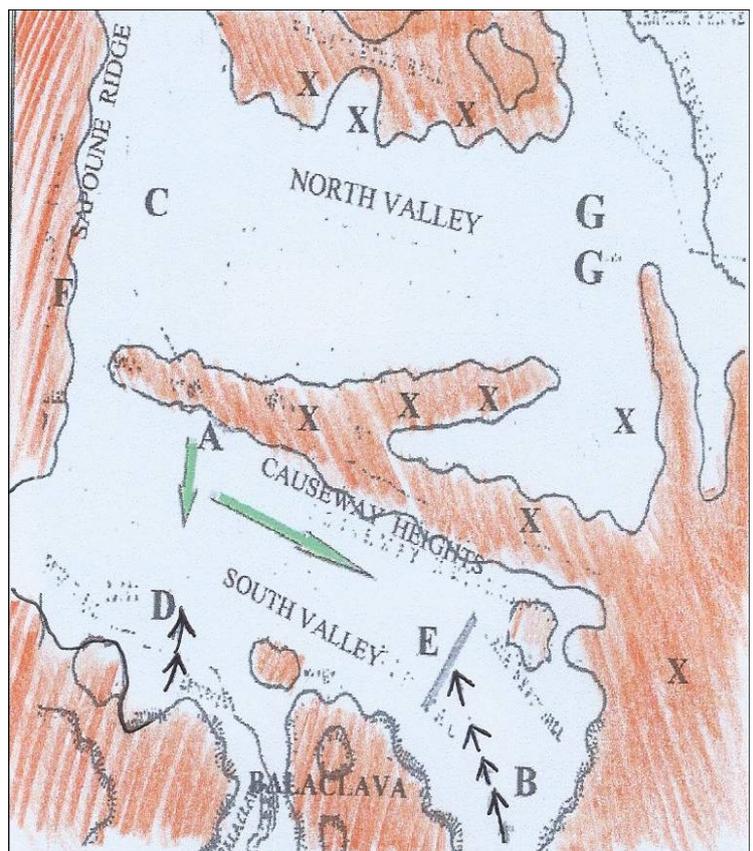
Even before any further action, the valley by this time was a death trap. The Turkish guns, now manned by the Russians were on the south side of the valley and enemy gun emplacements were already mounted on the north side. (X) At the eastern end were 8 guns facing the whole of the valley. (G)

Error number 4 Earl Cardigan gave the order for the Light Brigade to advance. **Error number 5** Half way down the valley it was obvious that the charge should never have started and it might have been possible for Cardigan to give the order to retreat, but he did not.

The rest of course is history. Captain Nolan who was at the head of the charge was the first to be killed. The Light Brigade did take the 8 gun battery but then had to retrace their steps with the guns from the hills trained on them all the way back. 673 men went into the valley; 247 were killed or wounded; 475 horses were killed and 42 wounded.

Cardigan, who gave the order to attack was blamed for the debacle. He in turn cited Lord Lucan who had not sought clarification of his orders. Lucan was sure that the dead Captain Nolan was at fault for his vague instructions despite the fact that he had actually seen the cannon in question. Lord Raglan who had not read the overall situation well was not blamed.

All of it was down to poor communication.



SAVE STOCKBURY CHURCH FUND

MONTHLY DRAW **Winning Tickets** **Saturday 9th March 2013**

1 st prize	Annabel White	Bredgar
2 nd prize	Peter Clarke	Stockbury
3 rd prize	Jonathan Daltrey	Stockbury
4 th prize	David & Sue Bromley	Stockbury

The number of tickets bought was 228 – 131 by people living in Stockbury. Well done and thank you for your support.

Prizes in the December draw will now be
£100 . £50 . £30 . £20 . £15

Tickets can still be bought – right up to
December

Tickets now cost £9

Under 16? **Living in** **Stockbury?**

Grow a sunflower and enter it at Stockbury Gardeners' Summer Show in August.

FREE! We'll give you the seed, compost, pots and help you to sow them*.

*You must be with a responsible adult.

Where can I get the seeds?

At the Plant Sale in the Village Hall

When?

Saturday 4th May 2013
9.30am - 2.00pm



Dial 112 (emergency telephone number) **The secrets of using 112 on a mobile phone in an emergency/accident**

A Stockbury resident very kindly sent in a handy tip to share and a link to YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPZv_8dABfU&feature=youtu.be

After I watched the video, I was impressed at the claim: if you are in a remote location and need the emergency services you can dial 112 to connect to them. You have to register your phone number for it to work. A friend who works in communications explained how it works. I pretended I understood. Apparently, 112 is pre-programmed into every mobile phone Sim card (along with **all** world-wide emergency numbers) and even if you don't have a signal using your provider, it will search another provider. Dialling any emergency number also by-passes a password protected phone, and it will work with Pay as You Go phones with no credit. Some modern phones will also work with no Sim card in the phone. Using satellite technology you will get through.

I was always taught to check my sources, so reached for my favourite search engine!

After my research, I can report that there are plenty of sites which endorse the above but there are plenty more that say some or all the above do not work or even that it's a scam. I now don't know what to think. Most websites say that if you're on the underground you can't make a call.

Obviously you can't test this out, just as you wouldn't dream of doing a trial run using 999 but maybe it's something to bear in mind next time you need the emergency services and can't get a signal. Maybe, just maybe, it might save your life.

With thanks to the contributor of this tip, name and address supplied.
Sue Gardner

VILLAGE CLEAR UP

Several people have commented on the need for a litter clear up around the village and this will now be held on:-

Sunday 28th April
10.00 am-midday



Meet outside
the Village Hall

You will be provided with gloves, bags and pickers

The more there are
the more we can clean up, so

PLEASE COME ALONG AND
HELP

Please call Keith Rich
on 07720 870725

Pet Portraits

Created from your favourite photos

Choose from Oil paints, Pencils or
Coloured pencils



Call Amanda on 01795 842570 or
07926 919631

www.theportraitworkshop.com



OIL BOILER SPECIALISTS

Can I just advise all home owners in and around Stockbury that
Oil boilers only need to be serviced once a year.

This will be news to some of you I'm sure.

A service should comprise of changing the nozzle,
replacing the flexible oil line,
changing/cleaning any and all oil filters,
removing all the baffles and
cleaning the INSIDE of the boiler.

Once this has been done and the boiler is rebuilt it should be fired
up and the emissions tested with a gas analyzer and the settings
adjusted to give you the most efficient boiler you can have.

It is your oil - burn it wisely.

Changing the nozzle and vacuuming out the front is not a service,
it is a rip off!

Call us and we will be happy to talk to you about our service with
only friendly advice and no selling.

01795 842291 or 07894067151

OFTEC registered and certified

USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Cricket Club—Mike Lee	01795 842532
Church Matters—St Mary Magdelene	
Revd Liz Cox	01795 844241
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
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	01795 841140
foxgloveadams@aol.com	
Pétanque Club—Mick Bingham	01795 842480
Photographic Club—Tim Arnold	01795 843049
	timharnold@btinternet.com
Stockbury Observer Editor	
Sue Gardner—	Stockburyobserver@googlemail.com

Police – Emergency <u>only</u>	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)	0845 3450210
	westprow@kent.gov.uk

Roads, potholes etc (manned 24 hours)	
Kent.highwayservices@kent.gov.uk	08458 247800
RSPCA	0300 1234999
Short Mat Bowls—Sue Finnis	01795 844524
South East Water emergency	0845 6032603
South Green Rendezvous Club	
Ken Elgar	01795 424827
W.I.- Brenda Mace	01622 88 4746

Puzzle Solutions:

C	P	D	A	W	A	A	
B	O	O	R	E	M	P	L
N	I	G	E	R	O	O	
A	V	E	N	G	E	S	A
E	C	N					
F	R	E	E	X	C	A	V
S	S	R	H	E			
B	I	B	S	A	L	O	N
O				T	S	E	E
E	N	G	A	G	E	M	E
F	A	N	C	I	F	U	L
B	E	A	E	L	N	H	
S	U	P	P	L	I	C	A
T	T	L	K	S	D		

4	1	7	3	5	9	8	2	6
8	2	5	6	1	7	3	4	9
9	6	3	8	4	2	1	7	5
7	3	4	9	6	5	2	1	8
2	5	6	7	8	1	9	3	4
1	9	8	2	3	4	6	5	7
5	4	9	1	2	8	7	6	3
3	7	2	5	9	6	4	8	1
6	8	1	4	7	3	5	9	2