

# STOCKBURY OBSERVER

AND SOUTH GREEN

*'In the Garden of England'*

## Diary for July

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise shown.

## JULY 2015

**Regulars:** St Mary Magdalene Service dates; W.I. note; Poet's Corner; Gardeners; NSY Club;

**Reports/Articles:** Crime Report;

### Notices & Dates:

Deadline dates 2015; Community Bus schedule; Library; Book Club; Maidstone SO concerts ; etc.

### OBITUARY

**STOCKBURY WI** is sad to announce that **MABEL TOMPSETT** died at the age of 94. Mabel was a loyal, long serving member of Stockbury WI for 60 years until ill health prevented her attending meetings. She served as President and was Treasurer for many years. She was a superb cake baker, renowned for her birthday cakes, cheese scones and coffee & walnut tray bakes. She was part of the WI Drama Group and Choir and was a very active member. We have shared many happy times together.

Mabel moved to Stockbury with her family in 1938. During the war years Mabel was a Sergeant in the Royal Air Force. She had many postings throughout England; she was in Coventry manning the barrage balloons during the awful bombardment there. Mabel met Jack who was also in the R.A.F. they married and had a daughter Sheila and then 3 grandchildren, who she adored. Jack and Mabel were separated like many couples during the war years. They returned to Stockbury in 1949 living in Vale Cottages and were very much a part of the community in Stockbury. Mabel was a member of the Church PCC and also a member of the Church Young Wives. She organised Lent Lunches, Church Fetes and many other events.

Mabel will be sadly missed by us all and our thoughts are with her family. BM

**To contact the editor: Email:**  
**stockburyobserver@gmail.com**

**All stories, notices, letters, recipes, articles and pictures welcome.**  
**All contributions must have a genuine name and contact number or email**

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

### STOCKBURY OBSERVER DEADLINES

These are generally the 3rd Friday of the month. Please send your submission as soon as you can—no need to leave it to the last minute. Many thanks for your consideration:

**17th July 21st August**

Wed	1st	Pilates	9.30-10.30pm
Thur	2nd	Gardeners	8.00-10.00pm
Fri	3rd	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30 pm
Sun	5th	Dog Club Field	10.00-11.00 am
		Cricket Club Field	2.00-7.30pm
Tues	7th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
		NSYC	7.00-9.30pm
Wed	8th	Pilates	9.30-10.30pm
		WI	7.00-9.30pm
Thur	9th	Bowls	7.30-9.30 pm
Fri	10th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30 pm
Sun	12th	Dog Club Field	10.00-11.00 am
Tues	14th	Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	15th	Pilates	9.30-10.30 am
		Craft and Chatter	1.00-3.00pm
		Parish Council	7.30-9.30pm
Thur	16th	Bowls	7.00-10.00pm
Fri	17th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30 pm
Sat	18th	Church Charity Lunch	12.00-2.00pm
Sun	19th	Dog Club Field	10.00-11.00 am
		Cricket Club Field	2.00-7.30pm
Tue	21st	NSYC	7.30-9.30pm
		Bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Wed	22nd	Pilates	9.30-10.30 am
Thur	23rd	Bowls	7.30-9.30 pm
Fri	24th	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30 pm
Sun	26th	Dog Club Field	10.00-11.00 am
Tue	28th	Bowls	2.00-4.00 pm
Wed	29th	Pilates	9.30-10.30 am
Thur	30th	Bowls	7.30-9.30 pm
Fri	31st	Dancing Club	8.00-10.30 pm



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Got a question for Stockbury Parish Council? Send us an email to [parishcouncil@stockbury.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@stockbury.org.uk)



## St Mary Magdalene Church, Stockbury



The services in July are as follows:-

**5 July – 6.0pm Sung Communion**

**12 July – 6.0pm Evensong**

**19 July – 6.0pm Sung Communion**

**26 July – 6.0pm Patronal Festival Songs of Praise.**

The church is now open from 10.00am to 4.0pm 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, and can also be found on the parishes' website – [www.thesix.org.uk](http://www.thesix.org.uk). or contact The Revd Liz Cox .

For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals please contact The Revd Elizabeth Cox - tel. 01795 - 844241

**Penny Stevens**

**PCC secretary**

**St Augustine's RC Church**

**Deanwood Drive, Rainham Mass times are Saturday 10 am and 6 pm, Sunday 9.30 am and 11 am and week days 9.15 am every day and also 8 pm on Fridays.**

**Please come along enjoy the services.**

### **STOCKBURY CHURCH MONTHLY DRAW RESULTS**

£50 Dave and Sue Bromley ticket 28

£20 Ted and Eileen Sutton ticket 61

£10 Pauline Adams ticket 35

**Well done to Roger Milton** for doing a fantastic job on the back field grass and in the play area. This will encourage people to have more respect for the village.

Editor

## Stockbury Playing Field - Wooden Seats

As many of you will have seen, the seats on the playing field have deteriorated to such an extent that they need to be replaced. The Hall and Playing Fields Committee are asking if any parishioners would like to sponsor a seat as a memorial to their loved one.

**If so, please contact :-**

**Mick Bingham 01795 842480**

Expect the weather to be 'iffy' in July

It's something upon which we can rely

People getting grumpy in the heat

And children under every bodies feet

It could be quite a summer to remember

But mums and dads look forward to September

John Cockett

### COMPLAINT ABOUT VERGE CUTTER

I was saddened to see that someone had taken it upon themselves to cut the verges at the bottom of Church Hill and also down Honeycrook Hill seeing as these are designated Nature Reserve areas. June and July normally see an abundance of Pyramidal Orchids, to name one variety, on these verges, and the grass was cut when they would have been starting to emerge. Why not concentrate your energy in getting the village green and churchyard back to how they used to look, tidy, instead of desecrating something that should look spectacular for the few summer months we have.

**Angela Brown.**

### MORE USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

**Public Footpaths & bridleway (problems with)**

[westprow@kent.gov.uk](mailto:westprow@kent.gov.uk)

03000 41 71

71

**Roads, potholes etc (manned 24 hours)** 03000 41 81 81

[www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem)

**RSPCA**

0300 1234999

**Short Mat Bowls—Tony Russell**

01795 842738

or Angela Russell

01795 842738

**South East Water emergency**

**0333 000 0365**

**South East Water Leak line**

**0333 000 3330**



# The Harrow Public House STOCKBURY

Telephone: 01795 842546 or 07973 282818

Email: [theharrowstockbury@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:theharrowstockbury@hotmail.co.uk)

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

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### Post Office hours

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 9.00 am—5.00 pm

Wednesday 9.00a.m.—4.00p.m.

Saturday 9.00a.m.— 12.00 noon.



## Stockbury Gardeners July 2015

As promised I have short report from the visit to Chelsea in May, but first a report on our local Stockbury show in June.

Generally the number of entries were down on last year in both vegetable and flower classes. However the qualities of all classes were of a high standard according to the judge Phil Johnson. It was suggested that the show may be put back a week for next year in order for members to have a chance to enter.

The visit to Chelsea flower show on the 19<sup>th</sup> May attracted sadly a lot of rain, nothing new there then, however it did keep the dust down and the crowds disappeared earlier making the late stayers have an easy time, for those of you who have been to Chelsea will understand.

I have decided to write a little on the visit each month as there is so much to tell and ED. Will not allow too much space in the magazine. The first really interesting stand was displayed by the ecological society as mentioned last month, being interested in soil condition I spoke at length with one of the representatives and he explained the importance of all levels of "life" In the soil, from microbes and bacteria all the way up to the earth worms which we all associate with good soil. The whole ecosystem is based upon these different levels being present in the soil, all of them supporting the other in a system, if you remove one level, you will inadvertently remove all levels above it, it took some thinking about but it makes sense. So what we are doing in our compost heap by creating bacteria and ultimately feeding the worms and insects is not a bad thing provided that we return it to the ground.

One stand displayed by Morrice & Ann Innes had a display of over one hundred and twenty different potato varieties. These are not all available and on the market but are a private collection, due to the rules and regulations in the EU we are forbidden to sell them to each other, I understand that we are able to trade though by purchasing "slips" which are laboratory slices of the parent potato grown in a sterile medium of chemical gel. Sort of makes the previous paragraph look daft, (bring on the referendum)!

Next month I promise to inform you about the flowers at Chelsea and an interesting article about selecting a rose for a charity, now that's got you guessing?

Things to do and watch for in July:-

- Pinch out tips of broad beans to reduce blackfly although I never do , rely on the ladybirds helping me out.
- Similarly with runner beans use mild solution of

washing up liquid , again I rely on ladybirds. Take out side shoots of tomatoes and once flowers develop feed once a week with a good quality feed high in potash, do not let them dry out or you will develop blossom end rot, look on Google for pictures.

Spray roses for mildew and blackspot now and on a regular basis. Do not use special rose sprays which contain insecticide which kills insects as well , instead use mild solution of fairy liquid for greenfly if they are a problem.

Pinch out cucumber tips and train horizontal growth along wires

Dead head all annuals to extend and encourage fresh growth especially in hanging baskets

Mulch underneath hedges and roses with grass cuttings, do not use grass cuttings that have been sprayed with or treated with weed killer for mulching or composting.

Keep plants healthy by watering in hot dry weather.

Do not forget the next Stockbury gardeners meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July , there is a talk on organic gardening. If you are not a member you are always welcome to come along and join for half price this month, if you are a member put it in your diary. Meanwhile:-

Gardening is an exercise in optimism. Sometimes, it is a triumph of hope over experience.  
- Marina Schinz

How true , Good gardening

Chris Spree

### ANYONE NOT FOR TENNIS

This is a very long shot but if you have tickets for Wimbledon, would you be willing to sell them for a very god cause. One of our disability Clients has been waiting for two years to go and before that we just cued and cued and cued and got in to see the last match. We have done the lottery this year and last year to no avail so if someone in the area has changed their minds about going can we please buy your tickets. Ta very much

Ed



## Oil Boiler Specialists

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### **CALLING ALL ADVERTISERS**

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

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Our advertising year started in June and new adverts for less than 12 months duration will be charged on a pro-rata basis and prices on application for ads smaller than a quarter page. If you would like to take out an ad for the remainder of our advertising year, please email - [stockburyobserver@gmail.com](mailto: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, Powerpoint 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 web version.



## The Bat and Moth Walk in Stockbury

On a clear chilly evening on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, 20 local people met Pippa Palmar and bat and moth expert Simon Ginnaw for an evening of bat watching and moth trapping.

Two portable moth traps were set up in the orchard and Simon handed out bat detectors that enabled us to hear the echolocation calls of bats.

We set some detectors at 45Hz and some at 55HZ which are the ranges of the Common Pipistrelle and the Soprano Pipistrelle bat known to be located in the Stockbury area.

Initially we all walked up Church Lane, holding our bat detectors up and mystifying passing drivers. A little owl, sitting on the overhead wires, watched us as we neared the church.

We stood in the gathering gloom at the west end of the church. Suddenly the detectors began to chatter and a small bat zoomed past and curved round the church tower and over our heads. After a while, with little bat activity apparent in the churchyard we made our way down to a more sheltered location near the paddocks in Hill Green Road. Here there were several bats hunting and in the remaining light of the evening we watched as they circled and looped over our heads.

We then walked down to the orchard moth traps where, as expected only two active Swift moths, (with thermal underwear I suspect) were found due to the coldness of the night. Pippa and Simon were thanked and I think everyone went home, cold but pleased to have seen the bats.

Jill Brooks—Orchard Warden

### Stockbury Parish Council Minutes

*The minutes for our parish council meeting will be approved at the following meeting and will then be published on [www.stockbury.org.uk](http://www.stockbury.org.uk) within 5 days of the meeting at which they were approved*

### **Village sign.**

Thanks to everyone who has put forward their views on the forthcoming village sign. We have taken these comments on board and made some alterations to the proposed design. The photocopy on the back page of last month's Observer did not portray the design very well therefore to enable parishioner's to fully understand and visualise the 3d effect of the new sign a full scale model is being prepared which will be on display at MB Farms shortly. Please e-mail [parishcouncil@stockbury.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@stockbury.org.uk) or talk to any of the councillors with your views, we welcome comments to enable us to finalise the design before commissioning the final article.

Dave Tomsett

### **Book Club Report for June**

Having read one of her books before, we had high hopes for this Jojo Moyes novel, **The Ship of Brides**.

After a short introduction to one of the main characters the story begins in Australia at the end of the Second World War, where young women who have fallen in love with British servicemen and are either engaged or married, prepare to make the long journey to join them in England. A war torn aircraft carrier is to be their transport and the story unfolds round the cramped conditions on board. The captain, who is about to retire has the unenviable job of organising safe and secure accommodation for the 'brides'; he tries to keep the crew and the young women as far away from each other as possible and to assist in this task are a comparatively few marines and a number of introduced, extra, onboard rules adopted for the duration.

This appeared to be an unusual and little used perspective for a post war story which whet our appetites. Unfortunately for most of us this book did not live up to it's potential. Everyone agreed that it proved easy reading but sadly did not hold one's interest for very long periods. It was rather episodic and the characters were very lightly drawn and the onboard incidents tended to be quite predictable. As a result our average mark out of ten was five.

We felt that it might make a reasonable holiday read or even a mini radio series as the action came in small bursts.

*Ann Rich*



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## THE FOOD FAYRE



I awoke on May 30th to the sounds of many voices; earnest discussion; busy sounds; flapping canvas and a hum of efficient activity – unusual in the middle of the village comparatively early on a Saturday morning. Of course it was the preparations for the Food & Produce Fayre to be held in part on the village green; such a quintessential English Village activity !

It was a delight to see the variety of produce and such good quality items they were too. I don't remember all the stall holders' names (early dementia !) but suffice to say no one could be disappointed with the goods on show, the freshness very clear to see. There were huge strawberries glowing in their punnets, alongside rarely seen gooseberries (do you remember topping and tailing ?) and the seasons asparagus. Kent honey was available and the wonderful natural beeswax polish. Healthy plants decorative and useful were on offer provided by Stockbury Cottage Gardeners and also the Sprees.



There were wonderful olives and plenty of ice cream and it was difficult to resist the newly made cakes, or if you ventured into the village hall the fudges and sweets on one stall and the sloe gin on another !



And in the kitchen as ever were the stalwart ladies providing tea, cake and biscuits for weary shoppers and of those there were many because, fortunately the weather was kind, the sun shone all day and it was a pleasure to meet up with friends and neighbours to compare purchases and catch up on village news.



None of this of course could have happened without careful planning behind the scenes and the willing participation of the stall holders. Thanks should go to Chris Porter, Mick Bingham, Wendy Gibson and Rod Gibson for the forward planning and to the visiting eighteen stalls owners who took part.



This was a very pleasurable event and I for one hope that our common land, the Village Green, will be used again in this way.

*Ann Rich*



**Have you got pulling power?**

**Teams of 8-10 required**

**[Interested but can't make a team – contact us. Age 18+]**

# **Newington Festival Annual Tug-of-War**

Fresh Promotions

**Sat, July 18 (1pm)**

**on the village school field**

**for the Newington T-o-W Challenge Cup**

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**\*Pulling together to help DemelzaHouse Hospice\***





## Things that puzzle me



We had no speaker this month at our meeting but it gave us all a chance to have our own, held by us!. We discussed past and forthcoming events with enthusiasm and our usual sense of commitment and humour, Brenda delivered a masterpiece in verse of women becoming older and maybe not so curvy as in our youth! I will have printed for readers - soon!.

Barbara Mace our secretary gave us all an account of her beautiful day out at the Albert Hall to help celebrate the 100 years Anniversary of the WI.

The Queen, Princess Royal and the Countess Of Wessex joined the general meeting. The Queen has been associated with Sandringham WI since 1943. In her speech she said "In the century since the first WI groups were formed in North Wales, so much has changed for women in our society there has been significant economic and social change since 1915, Women have been granted the vote, British women have climbed Mount Everest and for the first time the country has elected its first female Prime Minister. The women's institute has been constant throughout, gathering women together, encouraging them to acquire new skills and nurturing unique talent." "Over the past 100 years the WI has continued to grow and evolve with its members to stay relevant and forward thinking. It can make a real difference to the lives of women of all ages and cultural backgrounds, in the spirit of friendship, cooperation and support".

The WI was formed in 1915 to rejuvenate rural communities and encourage women to become involved in producing food to help combat the German naval blockades during the First World War.

In recent years we have worked hard to shake off the jam and Jerusalem image to attract younger members. We can smile at the Calendar Girls - who appeared semi-nude in a fundraising calendar event. And recently the new TV drama, Home Fires gives a gritty and humorous account of the lives of the WI women at the beginning of the war. How many of us Ladies are sitting in our chairs saying "Oh my goodness she is so like so and so in our WI"!

Ladies please come along and join us at Stockbury Craft and Chatter, 3rd Wednesday in every month 1-3pm at Stockbury Village Hall. You can learn new skills, pass on yours and have a cup of tea and lively chatter!Maureen Mannering

Stockbury WI - As always please confirm that above has been received - Many thanks Maureen

W.I. CONTACT - Brenda Mace 01622 874746

Like most people, a lot of things puzzle me. Things like:

*What came before the Big Bang?*

*Is there alien life out there? (no, I am not referring to Hartlip!)*

*Why do so few people vote for the Monster Raving Loony Party?*

These are questions to which I doubt that any of us has a definitive answer and will probably remain in the realm of philosophy for a long time to come. It did strike me, however, that there are more down to earth puzzles to which fellow citizens might have answers, so I thought that I would write to the Stockbury Observer as a way of tapping into the collective wisdom of the people.....

### **Dog poo in bags**

I own dogs and walk them twice a day, usually in Queendown Warren. Like most dog owners, I carry a supply of plastic bags to pick up anything they leave and take it home or to the nearest bin for disposal. This seems a sensible way of ensuring that my dogs can be exercised and cause minimal offence.

My puzzle is that there are others who will go to the trouble of picking up their dog's poo in a plastic bag, knotting the bag neatly and then either dropping it by the path or hanging it from a nearby bush. I have asked many fellow dog owners why they think people do this. So far, none has an answer. Do you know what the logic behind this one is?

### **Bicycles**

I will admit that I am getting on a bit, so there may be a very simple answer to this one: why do bicycles not have bells anymore? As someone who walks in the lanes and rides a horse, I have lost count of the number of times that bicyclists have crept up on me with no prior warning of their presence. I gather that the bicycles at "Centre Parcs" are all fitted with bells, so they still exist.....**Notices.....**

Nearly every gate or post in the Parish is liberally adorned with notices advertising everything from lost dogs to fetes. These go up quickly, but are rarely taken down again. Any ideas about why they are left?

These are just a few things that you might be able to answer for me. I have no doubt that you will have some things that puzzle you. If you have answers, or questions, why not write to the Observer as well?

Phil Woods



## Crime Report May

Reference: No Doorstep Caller Stickers

Dear All Coordinators,

There are 'No Doorstep Caller' stickers available for those who wish to collect them from the following Police Station Front Counters:-

Folkestone, Margate, Dover, Deal, Ashford, Canterbury  
Tonbridge, Maidstone

The Front Counters are open from 0900hrs to 1700hrs,  
Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays)

If you suspect a crime is being committed, please call the following numbers:

<b>Police – Emergency only</b>	<b>999</b>
<b>Non-emergency</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>&amp; ALL General enquiries</b>	
<b>Crime stoppers (confidential)</b>	<b>0800 555111</b>
<b>NEW PCSO TOM MAYBANK -</b>	<b>0798917967</b>

### Community Bus

#### Weekly Schedule

**Mondays – Sittingbourne**

**Tuesdays – Maidstone**

incl. Lockmeadow Market

**Thursdays – Hempstead Valley Shopping**

Centre (Savacentre)

Pick ups from 9.30 am



### **Saturday Freighter Service**

#### **Stockbury Village Hall**

The next collection date is to be arranged

### **Mobile Library**

The mobile library stops out the front of  
Stockbury Village Hall every Thursday  
between

### **Potholes—manned 24 hours**

[www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem)

### USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Cricket Club—Mike Lee</b>	01795 842532
<b>Church Matters—St Mary Magdelene</b>	
Revd Liz Cox	01795 435184
	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com">elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Community Bus—Booking line</b>	07551 454702
<b>Dancing Club—Sue Carey</b>	01634 387478
<b>Dog Club—Mick Bingham</b>	01795 842480
<b>Electricity Problems</b>	<b>0800 7838866</b>
<b>Environment Agency—Incident hotline</b>	0800 807060
<b>Fly Tipping &amp; Waste Collection</b>	
<b>Including bulky items</b>	01622 602162
<b>Gardeners—Lex Levermore</b>	01795 842741
	<a href="mailto:stockburygardeners@live.com">stockburygardeners@live.com</a>
<b>Golf Society—Jeff Hall</b>	01795 843296
<b>Hall Bookings—Sue Porter</b>	01795 843715
<b>Maidstone BC Councillor Daphne Parvin</b>	01622 202357
	07967 224839
<b>MB Farms stores and Post Office</b>	01795 842401
<b>Neighbourhood Watch—</b>	
Local co-ordinator—Tony Kerr	01795 844077
<b>Not So Young Club—Shirley Moss</b>	01795 842691
<b>Kent Messenger correspondent Claire Adams</b>	01795 841140
	<a href="mailto:foxgloveadams@aol.com">foxgloveadams@aol.com</a>
<b>Parish Council - Sherrie Babington</b>	<b>01634 867173</b>
<b>Pétanque Club—Mick Bingham</b>	01795 842480
<b>Photographic Club—Tim Arnold</b>	01795 843049
	<a href="mailto:timharnold@btinternet.com">timharnold@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Stockbury Observer Editor</b>	<b>07944811668</b>
<b>WI Brenda Mace</b>	<b>01622 884746</b>
	Brendan Ferrill— <a href="mailto:Stockburyobserver@gmail.com">Stockburyobserver@gmail.com</a>
<b>Police – Emergency only</b>	<b>999</b>
<b>Non-emergency</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>&amp; ALL General enquiries</b>	
<b>Police Community Support Officer for Stockbury</b>	
PCSO 58782 Ryan Waring	07969 584213
	<a href="mailto:Ryan.waring@kent.pnn.police.uk">Ryan.waring@kent.pnn.police.uk</a>
<b>Crimestoppers (confidential)</b>	<b>0800 555111</b>

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

