



# *Stock & Bradley* **Chronicle**

*July 2020.*

*Worcestershire*

## **Stock and Bradley Chronicle Survey 2020**

1. Where do you live? (Please circle your answer or write in answer "C")

A. Bradley Green

B. Stock Green

C. Other .....

2. How long have you lived in that area?

.....

What age range do you belong to? (Please circle your answer)

1. Under 20yrs

2. 20 – 29yrs

3. 30 – 49yrs

4. 50 – 69yrs

5. 70 – 90yrs

4. How do you rate the Chronicle with the publishing of Information of local activities and events 1 being the Lowest & 5 being the highest

(Please circle your answer) 1 2 3 4 5

5. How do you rate the Chronicle with publishing Articles of General Interest? 1 being the Lowest & 5 being the highest

(Please circle your answer) 1 2 3 4 5

6. How do you rate the Chronicle with publishing Information and reports from various societies? 1 being the Lowest & 5 being the highest.

(Please circle your answer) 1 2 3 4 5

7. How do you rate the general content of the Chronicle? 1 being the Lowest & 5 being the highest. (Please circle your answer) 1 2 3 4 5

8. What would you like to see in the Chronicle that is not there at present?

.....  
.....

9. What could we do to improve the Chronicle?

.....  
.....

10. Would you be prepared to write an article of your choosing for the Chronicle? (Please circle your answer)

Yes No Maybe

11. Should the Chronicle continue to be published? (Please circle your answer)

Yes No

Survey can also be completed online at :

<https://stockandbradleyvillagehall.co.uk/survey/>

Please post completed surveys to:

Jan Bates, White Cottage, Earls Common Road, Stock Green B96 6SZ

# Editorial

July 2020

The world is all upside down, the weather isn't helping and Covid has made us re-examine our values, but this attack on monuments in an attempt to re-write history is mindless. Without Churchill's input and the sacrifice of our young men and women commemorated at the Cenotaph we would probably be all speaking German and we wouldn't have the freedom that we now enjoy. That freedom must not be thrown away on the demand of a small minority. The teaching of history in schools is so important for our young people to be able to reach a balanced view of why and where we are today.

I may seem to be having a rant but when you watch the weather forecast for Scotland and see the level of rain they are receiving I do wonder that we are not able to pump water from Scotland to other parts of the country. The experts say it is not possible and yet oil can be pumped from Russia to the UK, a much greater distance. Where are our engineers?

In April we put out a questionnaire about the Chronicle but as this coincided with the lockdown we received only a very small response so it is being reproduced again this month so each one of us can complete the form either on line or by sending it to me. Details on the form.

The Covid lockdown is gradually easing and life is slowly returning to a more recognisable state. I think many of us will be so happy to be able to have a change of scenery even if it isn't the grand holiday we had planned, but then there are many beautiful places within the UK which are well worth visiting. These places are often overlooked for venues abroad but Britain has more variety of scenery than many other countries. When we can, get out there and enjoy them.

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**The CHRONICLE** is on line, search **Stock and Bradley Parish Council** and look for **Publications** and is sent by email to contributors - if you would like to receive the emailed version please send your details to **sbchronicle@gmail.com**

Many articles in the Chronicle are contributed by members of the public. They remain the responsibility of the writers and neither the production team nor the publishers can be held responsible for the views and assertions contained therein.

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# Church Services at Bradley Green

## NO SERVICES FOR THE TIME BEING



Dear Friends,

After the driest spring on record we now move on to a wet June... and this looks like the new pattern with our summer maximum becoming more extreme.(did you know that the UK always did have more rain in summer than winter?) Those wonderful sunny summers of our childhood days are just a trick of our memories, I'm sorry to say. It rained plenty most years (expect 1976!)

In fact we trick ourselves rather a lot. It's one way we survive!

We tell ourselves that most people agree with us about.... take your pick: politics, tastes in music, the state of society, wallpaper, our personal rights, computers and the internet... or whatever.

We have to believe we're "normal" or we would start to feel a bit alien from our society and culture.

In reality, of course, there is a vast choice of views "out there" and it is unlikely that we will be in the majority in many areas of life.

That's quite an uncomfortable truth, and it is this way because we increasingly live in fragmented society.

The Covid-19 epidemic may have brought us together to some extent, but reading some of the "discussion" on local social media I am sorry but the cracks in society haven't suddenly gone away.

We will go back to how we were as soon as we can.

That isn't pessimism, just realism.

So here's a summer resolution or five....

1 maybe I have misremembered what happened years ago

2 maybe my opinion is wrong, and in any case is no more sincerely held than the opposite opinion is held by others

3 maybe I don't have to be right all the time... or even any of the time!

4 maybe I don't have to fight every fight and win every argument!

5 maybe I need to keep my own counsel and let the world go by a bit more.

After all the world just about managed OK before I came into it... it'll probably do just fine after I'm gone!

I'm as guilty as anyone for slipping in to a combative mood when I read things that "press my buttons".... so these 5 resolutions are first of all for me!

So, if you get the pun... keep cool this summer!

Best wishes,

Wyn





## Gardens Open in July for the National Garden Scheme.

At the moment there are only two gardens open in Worcestershire, The Dell House and White Cottage Garden in Stock Green. More gardens may open in the future.

The scheme works well. Go to the NGS website to book the garden you wish to visit. You choose the time you wish to visit, book your visit and pay online.

White Cottage allows an hour for the visit and 12 people max in a slot, then there is a half hour break before the next group. It gives an opportunity to talk to visitors which is not always possible on a normal open day. White Cottage Garden and Nursery is open most days from 10.30- 4.30 pm.

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Cider Mill House  
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# STOCK AND BRADLEY GARDENING CLUB

Garden Club cancelled until further notice

If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 01527 821156.



## ***The Meadow at Meadow Farm - Part 2***

Rob Cole

In the last issue of The Chronicle I gave a brief outline of the meadow which forms a part of Meadow Farm and promised to describe some of the flowers, butterflies and birds which make this meadow their home.

With the help of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, we have identified 10 grass species, 13 tree and shrub species and 34 wild flower species. Whilst there are no rarities, the combined flora is typical of that found on old unimproved grassland on a heavy clay soil. Yellow Rattle occurs naturally in places and helps to control the vigour of the grasses, being semi parasitic. The most valuable flowering plants are those which provide feeding stations for the many butterflies which occupy the meadow year after year. For me, the most important is Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) which begins to flower in mid June just as the Meadow Brown, Ringlet, and Marbled White butterflies begin to emerge. They can readily be found settled on the purple flower heads as they feed. The caterpillars of all three feed on grass, so our ten different grass species offer a wide choice. Other permanent residents are Small Skipper, Hedge Brown, Wall Brown, Small Blue, Holly Blue, Brown Argus and Speckled Wood and a walk around the meadow on a warm July day is just a magical experience as they rise and flutter. Our rarest resident is the Brown Hairstreak butterfly, and I was fortunate enough to take a photograph of a newly emerged female on the first day of August 2016. In total, I have photographed 23 different species of butterfly in the meadow over the years.

I am no ornithologist, but the two small woodland areas we planted have attracted a small range of common birds which feed on the caterpillars and insects which live on the tree and shrub species, and the fruits which appear in late summer and Autumn. The red clusters of berries on the *Viburnum opulus* are always the last to be taken, often lasting until January. Buzzards can often be seen circling overhead looking for voles or mice, and once, amazingly, a Kingfisher flew into a branch on the edge of the wood just in front of me.

We have seen deer in the meadow, both Muntjac and Roe Deer, as well as foxes and rabbits, all of which occasionally cause damage in our adjacent nursery, especially in the winter and spring. We have found some evidence of badgers, but have never seen one. Moles make their presence felt regularly with their molehills, but so far have not proved too much of a nuisance

Although our meadow is fairly small at only one and a quarter acres, it gives us great pleasure to be custodians of this little field and its many inhabitants and visitors.

VILLAGE HALL bookings contact  
Rachel Cresswell on 07854 483684

## Village Hall Committee

Chairman Mel Bates,

Vice chairman

Treasurer Stella Wallis

Caretaker Rachel Cresswell

Jan Bates, Karen Devereaux

Barry Newton, Liz Farquharson

and Wendy Ralphs



## Stock and Bradley Village Hall

### "100+ Club" 2020/2021

#### Rules

1. The Annual subscription to the Club will be **£15**, payable in advance.
2. No monies received by the Club will be refunded.
3. A draw for ONE prize of **£30**, ONE prize of **£20** and ONE prize of **£15** will be held monthly for ELEVEN months from August 2020 until June 2021, inclusive.
4. There will be an Annual Social Event in July 2021 at which the final Main Draw will take place with ELEVEN cash prizes as follows

**1 @ £100, 2 @ £50, 3 @ £25 and 5 @ £10**

5. ONLY FULLY PAID UP MEMBERS will be eligible to take part in the Prize Draws.
6. Each Member will be allocated a NUMBER and will be notified accordingly. This Number cannot be changed.
7. A Member may have more than one Number.
8. Winners of the Monthly Draw are eligible for all subsequent draws.
9. Members can only win ONE prize in the Final Annual Main Draw.
10. In the case of any dispute over the interpretation of the Rules, the decision of the Promoter is final.

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## Stock and Bradley Village Hall

### '100+ Club' 2020/2021

For new and existing members of the Stock & Bradley 100+ Club

This club has members throughout the two villages and beyond. Through an annual subscription of £15 per person the maintenance and refurbishment of the Village Hall is supported. The club is now a major contributor to raising funds to maintain this valuable facility.

We are inviting you to either re-join the club or become a new member and be entered into our monthly and annual draw for 2020/2021. Details about the monthly and annual draw is attached.

In a change to previous renewal membership and in an effort to reduce form filling and unnecessary bureaucracy we are asking members to sign up using this dedicated email address below. Please provide your name, address and telephone number and existing club number (if you have one). Any details provided are kept for the sole purpose of running the club.

**Email :** [stockandbradley100club@gmail.com](mailto:stockandbradley100club@gmail.com)

On receipt of your email a copy of the club details and request for monies will be sent out. Once the subscription is received a final confirmation will be returned to you. Closing date for entry will be 22nd July 2020.

Your support would be much appreciated and greatly benefit the Village Hall. Thank you.

Barry Newton – 100+Club Organiser

Ashcroft, Earls Common Road, Stock Green

Tel: 01386 793812



## FLYING THE FLAG

Stella Wallis 01386 793350





## **STOCK AND BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Report of the Chairman for the year  
2019/2020

### **Speeding in the parish**

We had discussions with the Police, District Councillor Mrs A Steel, the County Highways department and the Safer Road Partnership, we are in regular contact with the police and have arranged with them to organise regular speed checks within the parish. The Parish Councillors would like to thank PC Edmunds for making Stock & Bradley a regular village for his speed checks.

District Councillor Mrs A Steel has reported that speeding is an issue in every parish.

A new "state of the art" Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) has been purchased and was erected in April and has been moved periodically between Stock & Bradley Green. PC Edmonds was very impressed by the VAS as it recorded exactly the same speed as his speed gun and commented that he believed that it was "a major contributor in reducing the overall speeding through the village" and was the "most advanced he had seen".

The Parish Council are now in the process of ordering a second VAS for the village, this means that Stock & Bradley will each have a VAS permanently situated in their 30 mph area; we are also ordering two more posts which will enable both the VAS's to be moved to different positions as well.

The Parish Council Lengthsman Scheme

This has proved to be very successful and we have renewed the contract for another year.

### **Planning.**

We received:

- 16 Applications
- 5 Approvals
- 1 Withdrawals
- 3 Refusals
- 1 Appeals

The Parish Council became heavily involved last summer in objecting to a proposal to open dog boarding kennels at a property in Middle Road, Stock Green. We funded our own noise report and eventually the application was turned down by the District Council.

### **Councillors**

Cllr Mr M Hadley was elected Chairman and Cllr Mrs S Wallis Vice Chair for the coming year.

### **Reports**

We received various reports from County and District Councillors

### **Flooding in Stock Green**

Due to the nature of the environment there is no guaranteed way to prevent future flooding, however, the Environment Agency have cleared the Stock Green Brook and have undertaken to de-silt in future years. Many thanks to Reg Hughes for liaising with John Evans from the Environment Agency.

### **Training**

The Councillors and the Clerk attended several County Council and Worcestershire CALC, educational and awareness seminars and meetings

### **Accounts**

The accounts were approved by the external auditors PKF Littlejohn LLP. The Budget for 2020/21 was approved and it was agreed to maintain the Precept at £6,500 for the 6th year.

### **Village litter pick**

The Council organised its annual event this year, many thanks to all those who took the time to support this worthwhile activity – it was a record turnout and the whole village was covered, the Parish Council also owns 10 pickers, tabards and gloves should anyone wish to start an impromptu litter pick.

### **High Speed Broadband**

Highspeed Broadband has been installed in Bradley Green by bringing fibre to the green box outside the old Red Lion. We are in the process of using the Gigabit

Voucher Scheme to bring "fibre-to-the-door" for Stock Green, via Airband, implementation is planned mid-June 2020.

### **New ways of sharing information in the village**

The council regularly updates its web site to improve communications with the residents which contain Agendas, Minutes, Accounts and other information such as the Chronicle Magazine of the Parish Council.

### **Bulk oil purchasing consortium.**

The Parish has supported the Oil Club which is organised by District Cllr Mrs Audrey Steel

### **Defibrillators**

The two defibs sited at the Village Hall and the Phone Box in Stock Green have been regularly maintained, but not used.

### **Hanbury part of Earls Common Road in Stock Green**

A long standing objective of the Parish Council failed to be realised when the twenty or so residents who live at the western end of Stock Green voted to remain in Hanbury Parish rather than join Stock & Bradley.

### **Donations and gifts**

Over the past year the council have given the following:

Stock & Bradley Chronicle  
£300

Via a donation from Chairman WCC Mr Peter Tomlinson.

Hanbury Horse Show £250

PCC Churchyard Maint  
£600

Cllr Mr M Hadley, Chairman

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## Footpath Officers Report 2019-2020

At the beginning of Lockdown Worcestershire Countryside Services informed all footpath officers that they should no longer tend the rights of way. With all the spring grown this has resulted in many gates, stiles and footpaths becoming overgrown and difficult to access. Once we get the green light, we will begin to rectify this, but it will take some time so please be patient. Do feel free to engage in a little snipping yourself when out for a walk.

Previous to this we had a very productive period.

A big willow tree that had fallen across the bridge on Bridle Way 572 {by the Hanbury border} was cleared.

A new gate was ordered and delivered to the Parish Charity Chairperson for installation where Path 550 joins Church Lane {by Cider Mill Lane}.

Another gate was obtained for Path 531 behind The Old Rectory, Church Lane.

New posts were installed, and the gate rehung on Path 549 at Fields Farm.

A post has been ordered for Path 556 {from the church yard into Old Church Farm} which Mark has volunteered to install.

The replacement and renewal of the signposts which had been removed from our jurisdiction has still not materialised for the third year running.

We experienced two more serious events which I handed over to the Countryside Services as we are instructed to avoid any possible confrontation. Firstly a new fence had been erected along Bridleway 559 from Church Lane to Upper Bean Hall which made it dangerous for passing horses. Secondly a dispute had developed between the landowner and a local resident about access to a stile for his dogs on Path 517.

As usual I would like to thank all your footpath officers, Kate and Roger Pask, Barbara and Brian Palmer, James McPherson and Anna and Michael Butcher, for their continued dedication to keeping our 19 km of rights of way in good condition for the enjoyment of walkers and riders. If you have any concerns or queries do feel free to contact me.

Margaret E Fish

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# Rush Farm



July 2020

In almost all respects this has been a good week on the farm. The 'only fly in the ointment' so to speak has been the reappearance of 'New Forest Eye' amongst our young stock. In all other respects both sheep, lambs and

cattle seem well and contented. As stated before, in agreement with our HLS agreement, and our wish to make best use of the pastures, animals never stay long on any particular field. All this was made easier by the new fencing and gating of fields that groups of fields were occupied at the same time. So it was that the flock and the young stock were moved at the weekend.

A big event on Friday was the shearing of the ewes in the barn, and so on Thursday evening the family were out with Milly driving the flock across two fields into the barn. The lambs are not normally sheared as the amount of wool that would be obtained is not worth the effort, but Lleyen sheep are not bred primarily for their wool. In writing this I am very conscious that two years ago we agreed that we needed a new ram and still have to act on that decision- the key reasons were partly financial but also uncertainty what breed of ram to go for.

Happily the drought has somewhat lifted, and though we watched the clouds gather around us, we did not have the substantial rain that was forecast- but we did have some. Fears that we might be about to have that combination of warm humid weather which can encourage fly strike have receded.

You may remember under the contract a number of fields have been reseeded, and for those fields between mid-May and the end of July there must be a continuous period of six weeks when they are not grazed. This is to allow wildflowers to set seed. Nor are we allowed to cut for hay or haylage before 30<sup>th</sup> June. Managing this is not simple but thank heavens our Natural England advised us to keep a number of fields out of the scheme.

In the vegetable garden, while the raspberries and loganberries are a long way from being ready to eat, we have enjoyed some excellent strawberries- there is no doubt sunshine and warmth plays a major part in determining size and sweetness. Otherwise the broad beans are starting to form pods, and the black fly have arrived. Hopefully with so many fledglings to feed nature will limit their spread.

In the flower garden we are in an in between period when blooms of some plants are fading and have to be cut off while others like aquilegia, valerian, perennial sweet peas and poppies now show a mixture of flowers and seed heads. Aside from the roses and clematis, many plants and bushes are merely showing what will eventually be berries.

Speaking as a very amateur naturalist, it has been a good week. The field adjacent to the house has seen meadow brown butterflies in profusion. For the first time this year I have both heard and seen one of the pair of ravens based at Feckenham Moor. Even more exciting, on one dog walk I heard a nightjar. In Zambia these were commonly seen and heard- indeed they were a real hazard as they had the habit of roosting on the warm laterite roads after nightfall and hitting one was fatal for the bird and damaging to the car.

While most wild flowers have reached the seed setting stage, there are still some to be seen. Apart from the red campion and cow parsley, agrimony and potentilla are showing in the verges of the drive. There is also plenty of white clover to be seen in the fields as well as some red.

While the hedges and trees are long past their flowering period, nonetheless, if time is given to observation it is not only an architectural effect that one becomes aware of, but also just what a range of colours are called green! And what a variety of birds can be heard and seen.

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## **Birthdays in July**

This month there are so many birthdays to choose from instead of taking one in detail I decided to give the characteristics of people born in July. Looking through the lists of so called 'celebrities' you only have to be an actor or television personality to be famous, there are fewer people listed who have made a contribution to the lives of the general populace.

People born in July are fun-loving and are always cheerful. Usually, they take pride in all the things they do and are very independent by nature. Born under the influence of the zodiac sign, Cancer, these people can often be moody and sensitive. For them family comes first and they possess a strong sense of empathy towards others. Protecting their loved ones and maintaining healthy relationships with others is very vital for them. It would break their heart to let go of people they are very closely associated with. However, they can be cynical and at times sarcastic which can be hazardous for their relationships. Though they make a lot of friends they like to spend time alone. Controlled by the moon, these individuals love to take care and nurture their family members. When it comes to lifestyle or dressing sense, they can be highly eccentric and always strive to be perfect. They make great friends and can be easily hurt. Though they are quick to forgive, they do not forget as quickly. Both at work and at home they are very organized and are gifted with exceptional managerial skills which make them good leaders or managers.

Here are just a few of this month's birthdays, see how you think they fit the above description.

Nelson Mandela, Princess Diana, The Dalai Lama, Kate Bush, John Glenn, Carl Jung, Yul Brynner, Henry Ford, Malala Yousafzai, George Bush Senior and Helen Mirren.

Country Correspondent



## **To Wuhan city came a bat**

(In which an un-named virus sat)  
This bat – and many others too  
Was destined for a Chinese stew  
Yes, in the land of Xi Jinping  
They make their stews from anything  
That's anything of any size  
That swims or crawls or walks or flies  
Sometimes they put the whole thing in  
Sometimes it's just a hacked-off fin  
And if it's scarce or very rare  
Then frankly they just couldn't care  
In fact, if rare they'll just pay more  
For wing or head or spleen or paw  
And this is why we'll soon be left  
With forests, swamps and seas bereft  
Bereft of all those special beasts  
That ended up as special feasts  
But let's just focus on that bat  
The one in which the virus sat  
Cos when that bat to market came  
The virus chose to get a name  
And this it did without a plan  
But just by trying 'plat de man'  
For after all, while bats are fine  
There aren't a lot on which to dine  
In contrast men are everywhere  
A world-sized meal of tempting fare  
And so our Covid got its name  
And China, lots of well-earned blame  
Cos if its folks had stuck to food  
That once had clucked or once had  
moored  
- And hadn't flown around at night  
With claws to grip and teeth to bite  
- Then viral problems would have stayed  
Where all those bats, their roosts had  
made  
And then, of course, the Chinese hid  
The news that Wuhan had Covid

By doing this they guaranteed  
That on us too the blight would feed  
At first it fed on very few  
And life went on as life will do  
But then it found that those at sea  
And those that lived in Lombardy  
Would make a tasty starter for  
A feast involving many more  
The deaths they rose in Spain and  
France  
Which meant we Brits had not a chance  
We'd kept the Nazi hordes at bay  
But with this chap there was no way  
So, Reaper Grim, he scythed away  
With more poor sods cut down each  
day  
Until our Boris made a choice  
Announced with scowl and sombre  
voice  
'We're stuffed, my friends' he sternly  
said  
'I think we all should stay in bed'  
And if not bed, then in our house  
- With kids and cat and dog and spouse  
And so we learnt to shop online  
And how, at home, to drink and dine  
- And then a new vocabulary  
Of viral loads and PPE  
And all the while we didn't earn  
And all that grew was our concern  
For how the hell we'd ever get  
Beyond this plague and free of debt  
And as for our economy  
Well, think of butter gone to ghee  
All melted down until it flows  
And down the plughole quickly goes  
In fact, the only source of joy  
Was Mr trump, the constant boy  
The boy who thinks that Covid's fake  
(But chloroquine is what to take)

The world of gloom was often lit  
 By all his hair and all his shit  
 But let's get real and give a thought  
 To what this plague has with it brought  
 A weakened West that can't resist  
 The march by those who won't desist  
 Who won't desist in what they want  
 A world where they are out in front  
 A world where China's number one  
 And freedom's banned along with fun  
 (Just ask that guy called Mr Fong  
 Who once had both in 'free' Hong  
 Kong)  
 So, what to do to meet this threat  
 And not end up as China's 'pet'?  
 Well, how about (though not enough)  
 A quarantine of Chinese stuff  
 To make quite sure it's Covid-free  
 For fifty months it's kept at sea  
 And meanwhile we would source  
 elsewhere  
 And anywhere but 'over there'  
 And yes, of course, it would make sense  
 To think about some recompense  
 Some recompense for what we've lost  
 For all the dosh the plague has cost  
 So, lawyers all, come do your best  
 And take their shirt and then their vest  
 Three trillion quid would be OK

But four or five would make my day  
 And if they sought to trim the bill  
 Remember what first made us ill  
 Yes, bats in stews and bats in soups  
 And this is where this poem loops  
 Cos what we need is habits changed  
 A view of wildlife rearranged  
 So, if they want to pay us less  
 (And make amends for our distress)  
 Then let them promise that from now  
 That what they eat is normal chow  
 That sharks and bats are left alone  
 That scoffing snakes becomes unknown  
 That bears are left with all their bile  
 That cooking cubs goes out of style  
 They might still rule the roost quite soon  
 (And even grab the bloody moon)  
 But if their habits are revamped  
 And wildlife eating out is stamped  
 Then finally our world would be  
 A better place for beasts – and me

And for you. I've not forgot  
 It's just I've spied a pickup slot!

DF

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## **STOCK GREEN BAPTIST CHAPEL** **NO SERVICES FOR THE TIME BEING**





48 High Street  
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A traditional freehouse village pub  
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