

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER

Village Open Gardens Day Sunday 27th June 2010

Ten of our neighbours have kindly agreed to let the public into their gardens this year. they are:

Bayford House
(Marie Basset; Gardener John Poynter)
Rookwood
RG20 8LB

Ron Cummings
Springfield Cottage
RG20 8LJ

Charlotte Digby
Rookwood Farm House
Rookwood Farm

Charlie Goodenough
29 Rookwood
RG20 8JX

Tony Hersh
Highfields
Glebe Lane
RG20 8LL

Pamella J. Horner
Bay Cottage
5 Wickham Road
RG20 8LE

Lynne Kirby
2 Benham Chase
RG20 8LQ

Angela Painting
83 Church Road
Stockcross

Janet Scull
Pump Cottage
Church Road
RG20 8LN

Susan Vandyk
Stockcross House
RG20 8LP

The gardens will be open from 12.30pm to 5pm

At **The Sutton Hall** there will be teas, book & plant stalls and from 2pm intervals of live music from Richard Cox-Smith.

St Johns Church will open from 2pm to 5.30pm there will be flower displays, an exhibition of church records, a church stall and at intervals of organ music by Alistair Davis.

Parking will be in the Glebe and entry to all gardens will be £3.50 for Adults (children free). All Proceeds to local charities.

**Volunteers and stock for stalls are needed
see page 2 for details.**

Let's hope for a warm, sunny day

**FROM THE SUTTON HALL
STOCKCROSS
June 2010 No:74**



**Current Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour)
1st September 2008**

	Small	Large	Both
Resident	Hall 5.00	Hall 7.50	Halls 10.00
Non resident	8.00	12.00	15.00

**Call Jay on 01488 608769 to book
or visit our website**

www.suttonhallstockcross.org

or email

suttonhall642@btinternet.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- Meat Raffle Winners
- Logo Competition
- Pete Allen Jazz Coming Soon

Chairman's Report

Looks like summer is coming late this year or have I missed it. Things seem to be going well at The Sutton Hall; the hall is becoming very popular with regular bookings.

Good news regarding grants, The Greenham Trust have just awarded us a grant to extend the stage which will be used for the pantomime or when we require a temporary stage in a different position. We can also use it outside.

Mark our treasurer has been working hard on the accounts; he has now audited last year's accounts and they have been passed by Bob Beecroft. Thank you Bob and Mark for all your help.

Some of you might have missed me driving round the village in my car - there again probably most of you haven't. I have just been to Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital in Oxford to have an operation to repair my ankle. Hopefully I will be able to throw away my crutches in a few months, fingers crossed. Thank you to everyone that have sent me get well cards they have been very much appreciated.

Only one more chairman's report to write before I have to hand the chair to some one else as my two years are nearly up. So if you are looking for a high flying job at 100k a year you will not find it here but in the meantime come to the AGM in October or get in touch with me or one of the committee.

Jay, Daniel and family are not only working hard at the hall to keep it clean and tidy, they are really getting their garden up together, it was a bit like a wilderness. Thank you and keep up the good work.

I was talking to some one last month who has lived in the village most of his life I won't name him for fear of getting sued. Anyway since he has sort of retired all he has to worry about now are the moles on the green, so if there are any mole exterminators out there please get in touch. At his age I don't want him camping out there trying to catch them.

Well I think that's enough from the one legged Marsh Benham Boy see you when I'm older.

Brian G Palmer

Monthly Meat Raffle

Thanks to everyone who has joined in and bought tickets for the monthly meat raffle the profits from which are going towards an over 60s Christmas dinner at the Hall. This initiative is thanks to Maureen Earley who makes the effort to go around the village each month knocking on doors - including, apparently, those of you who are vegetarians! The draw is held at lunchtime on the last Sunday of the month at The Rising Sun. The prizes are in the form of vouchers to spend at Griffins Butchers on the bridge in Newbury.

Monthly Meat Raffle Results

March 2010

£25 – Jamie Leigh

£15 - Kath Mason

£10 – Sue Smallbone

April 2010

£25 Cliff Ward

£15 Gill Cresswell

£10 Jane Batt

OPEN GARDENS HELP NEEDED

BOOKS: Please leave any books that you wish to donate outside your front door on the evening of **Friday 18th June** and we will collect them.

CAKES: We need cakes to sell. Please bring them to the hall on the morning of the event or ring Viv 01635 523963 to collect.

PLANTS: We still need plants to sell if you can offer some please contact Sue Vandyk 01488 608810 mobile 07880715512

HELPERS: If you can help out for an hour or two on the day either on teas, stalls or taking entrance money again please contact Sue or Viv.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Grapevine Editor: Viv Wilson	01635 523963
	Or e-mail: vc.wilson@btinternet.com
The Sutton Hall:	Chairman Brian Palmer 01488 608295
	Bookings Jay Chandler 01488 608769
	Or e-mail suttonhall642@btinternet.com
Stockcross Village Store & post office	01488 657602
The Rising Sun	01488 608131
The Lord Lyon	01488 608366
Deanwood Park Golf Course	01635 48772
Stockcross CE Aided Primary School	01488 608356
Stockcross Church Wardens Mike Pike	01488 608821
	Shirley Wernham 01488 608318
Speen Parish Council	e-mail: clerk@speen.gov.uk
Stockcross Tennis Club:	Sally Thomas 01488 608739
	Nick Drewe 01488 608332
Stockcross Bridge Club	Lynne Phillips 01488 608249
Stockcross 2 O'clock Crowd:	Jane Batt 01488 608762
Stockcross Billiards & Snooker Club:	
	Derek Shailes 01635 44904
	Phil Fry 01635 44134
Emergency numbers:	
Southern Electric	0845 770 8090
Thames Water	0645 200 800

AT YOUR LEISURE

Young Gymnast wins Gold!

Connor Hamilton Giles who lives in Stockcross entered the British Trials for the British Championships in Tumbling in Andover on 2nd May. He got Gold, which is a brilliant achievement. He works very hard regularly training 17 hours a week. Yasmin, his sister who has only been tumbling for two months entered the same competition but unfortunately didn't qualify on this occasion but has another chance at qualifying in Wakefield at the end of May. So we will have to wait to hear how she gets on. The British Championship takes place in July at Birmingham National Indoor Arena.

Due to Connors achievements at the Trials he was selected for the National Squad which will mean extra training weekends in Lilleshall throughout the year.



RETRO?

There seems to have been a sudden resurgence of interest in the 1970s and 1980s with various sections of the village donning way out gear, wigs and platform shoes and strutting their stuff on the dance floor locally and at Bognor to the sounds of Glam Rock and the New Romantics.

Whatever next? Oh yes, Glastonbury!

Stockcross Tennis Club- News for 2010 Season

The clocks have gone forward – the evenings are now beginning to draw out – and tennis has started again for the new season at Stockcross Tennis Club. In case you don't know the club is located at the far side of the Recreation Field.

At the recent AGM – held, of course, at the Rising Sun pub - we discussed some exciting plans for the future, a possible upgrade of the facilities in association with the Speen Parish Council plan to improve the Recreation Field in more general terms. This is a longer term plan and could include a third court, new fencing, improved clubhouse facilities, and possibly even floodlighting!

For the coming season, the Club will be putting out its normal men's team in the Newbury & District LTA League. Matches will be played on certain Tuesday evenings This is led this year by Mick Scarlett, but we could do with some more players from the village as many of our players come over from Newbury. There will also be group sessions that members and newcomers can join in with:

Tuesday evenings from 6.30 pm for the more energetic - the Tuesday night thrash! (on non-match nights)

Thursday evenings for those who want to play more casually and socially

Sunday morning the usual group that has been playing for years

Best tip is to phone or email other members/ players to ensure that there are others there that evening.

Players and visitors will notice that there has been some substantial improvement over at the tennis club - grass cutting and weed control, clubhouse refurbishment, new nets, etc. All in all the facility now looks much more appealing.

One of the club's aims is to increase membership, so we're taking the opportunity to ask if you know anyone who might be keen to join? Maybe this person is you! The annual fees represent excellent value for money. We could certainly do with some new members to keep the club active and buoyant. This includes youngsters – a great form of exercise to keep youngsters fit when there is not so much PE at schools. To use the courts you need to be a member, and be given the code to the numbered gate lock. But this is very easy to achieve – just phone one of the numbers below for further details. And if you just want to try us out, again please make contact and something can be arranged.

Nick Drewe, Treasurer and Vice Chairman

Contact points: Sally Thomas – Club Secretary 01488 608739 (sally@accompli.co.uk)
 Nick Drewe – Club Treasurer 01488 608332 (nicholasdrewe@yahoo.co.uk)
 Mick Scarlett – Men's Captain 01488 608460

COMING EVENTS

JUNE

- 2 **Quiz** Rising Sun 8.30pm
- 20 **Stockcross School Fete**
1pm - 3pm
- 25 **Bill Wiley Payton**
Rising Sun 8.30pm
- 27 **Open gardens**
12.30-5.30pm
- 30 **STOCC: Richens lunch**
12.30pm £12.50

JULY

- 7 **Quiz** Rising Sun 8.30pm
- 10 **Organs Recital** St John's
Church 7.30pm £6
- 17 **Pete Allen Jazz** 7.30pm at
the Sutton Hall
Tickets £10 from the shop
- 28 **STOCC: Charlie's Garden**
Party, Rookwood 2pm £2

AUGUST

- 4 **Quiz** Rising Sun 8.30pm
- 15 **Cricket Match & Tea**
on the Rec
- 25 **STOCC: Tea** at Viv Lovell's
Boxford 2pm £2

Mobile Library visits to Stockcross

Village Hall 1.15 to 1.55pm
Bayford House 2.00 to 2.40pm

Jun	Jul	Aug
16	7	TBA

Organ Recital with Alistair Davis & Rosemary Evans

St John's Church
Stockcross

Saturday July 10th
7.30pm £6

Church Services

JUNE

- 13 **CW Holy Communion**
9.30am
- 20 **CW Holy Communion**
11am
- 27 **Morning Prayer** 11am

Regular Weekly Events

	<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>
Mondays	7.45pm	Bridge Club	Rising Sun
Tuesdays	6.30-8pm	Yoga	Sutton Hall
Wednesdays	8pm - 11pm	Modern Jive Dance Class & social (adults only)	Sutton Hall
Thursdays	7.30pm	Bridge Club	Lord Lyon
Thursdays	From 6.30pm	Tennis Club	The Rec
Fridays	1.30pm	TOFFS Bridge	Sutton Hall
Sundays	from 8.30am	Tennis Club	The Rec
Sundays	Evenings	Open Mic music	Rising Sun
Daily		Snooker & Billiards Club	Sutton Hall

**If you would like an event included in the listings please contact
Grapevine on 01635 523963 or e-mail vc.wilson@btinternet.com**



Calling all budding artists Stockcross Village DESIGN COMPETITION

The Village Hall committee are busy re-designing the hall & community website and we are looking for a new drawing, painting or sketch of the Sutton Hall that we can use as a logo on the new website.

Open to all ages - choose any colour(s), any style and use any medium, but please keep your creations to A5 size because we will need to re-scale it for the website.

Please post your entries (with your name and contact details) to Sarah Russell at Sunflower Cottage, Ermin Street, Stockcross, by Sunday 1st August 2010

Entries will be displayed & the winner announced at Stockcross Village Cricket Match on Sunday 15th August. **Good luck!**

Grapevine Nature notes. May 2010

Oh, to be in Waitrose car park now that spring is here. (With apologies!) However it was there on April 24th that I first heard a very welcome flight of Swifts screaming overhead. Surely a sign of summer I thought. Well, not quite.....it is so dreadfully cold still and yesterday, 8th May I had the central heating on all day and the fire alight.

It seems ages ago that it was warm enough for the frogs to be active, the 16th March to be exact and that activity has produced masses of frog spawn and now hundreds of tadpoles. With any luck a few will survive.

I noted that I saw a Brimstone butterfly on 21st March and heard the Chiff-Chaff on the 25th. I have not heard a cuckoo in Church Wood, has anyone else heard it?


On the 3rd April I was awakened in the middle of the night by what I can only presume was a cat getting at the baby blackbirds but thankfully, one has survived. While feeding that one, the female was building again and one should note that it is the female that lays the eggs, feeds the young, and builds the nests. All the hard work, - sound familiar? Those from the new nest have just flown today 9th May and I am having a battle to keep cats, Jays, Magpies and Jackdaws away. These blackbirds have become my family over the last few weeks as I have been feeding soaked meal worms at least twice a day!!!

My other favourites, the Mistle Thrushes, built as usual in the yew tree near Holly House largely with moss from my lawn and there was plenty of that! I was actually washing my car round about the 18th April when a bundle of feathers bounced off the wet roof onto the gravel below. It turned out to be a baby Mistle thrush having a rather dramatic first flight. There were three of them scattered about the garden.....all needing protection as above! I saw one venturing into the green house so had to go and catch that A very full time job this nature watching!

**Coming this summer to Stockcross
Don't Miss these Events!**

**Just
PETE ALLEN**

*A Clarinade
of Music*



Saturday 17 July at 7.30 pm
At Stockcross Village Hall
Tickets: £10 to include barbecue supper at interval. Bar. Tickets available from Stockcross Post Office or from Linda Mason on 07919 990150.

STOCC
Stockcross Two O'Clock Crowd

Wednesday 30 June

Lunch at the Shooting Lodge on Sutton Estate
12.30pm £12.50 per person. Bring your own drinks
(limited numbers for this event so book early)

Wednesday 28th July

Charlie's Garden Party
2pm at Rookwood, cost £2

Wednesday 25th August

Tea at Viv Lovell's, Boxford
2pm cost £2

ANYONE WELCOME

Call Jane: 01488 608762 or Viv: 01635 523963

ANNUAL VILLAGE CRICKET MATCH

Stockcross Gentlemen's XI

vs

Imago Plc

On The Rec Sunday 15th August 2pm

Entrance Fee £1 which includes tea.

The usual splendid tea provided by the ladies of the village will be served at half time (about 3.30pm) other attractions TBA

AROUND THE VILLAGE

Peter Brendan John Wiggins R.I.P

March 4th 1949 – 10th March 2010

I first met Peter in the mid eighties when he moved in to the police house opposite to where I lived in Glebe Lane to take up the post of our new village constable. With Joyce, Josh and Clair he soon became a valued member of the community.

Peter was a very good organiser and soon had us all working on various events. He always had to go for that little bit more at the Village Fetes. We had the British Airways Pipe Band marching through the village and parachutists dropping into the Glebe field. I remember once we had more flowers than Hungerford garden centre when he got them to sponsor the beer tent and he always had to have some sort of band to finish the day.

One of Peter's great passions was gardening and he soon had the garden at the police house looking a pretty picture. Off duty he liked nothing better than going to the pub for a pint and, as he would say, to have the crack. When he was in the Rising Sun one evening he suggested we should have a pub holiday and within a few weeks he had organised a holiday in Spain for 22 of us. After that we used to have regular holidays abroad.

When Peter had a day off he came to help me install and take out the electrical installations at golf tournaments and racing. One occasion sticks in my mind when we were working at Aintree. One evening he took us down to the docks in Liverpool as it was where he sailed from when he joined the merchant navy at the age of fifteen. He took us to several pubs, one of which was supposed to have the old landlady in a coffin on one of the window sills, so she could keep an eye on how the pub was run. We weren't disappointed as the coffin was still there. The pub was full of very strange people, one of them dressed like Herr Flick from Hello Hello. We got talking to some very friendly young ladies and on the way back to the hotel Peter informed me of their occupation, story of my life - missed out again.

Peter longed to live in Ireland so when he retired his dream came true and he moved to a bungalow in a village called Skull.

Peter was the last policeman to serve at Stockcross, the house then went back to the estate.

Latterly he went to live in Thailand and sadly after a motor accident he died on the 10th March. There was a memorial service at St Johns Church on the 29th March, his ashes were then being taken back to his favourite place - Ireland. I am sure wherever Peter is he will still be having the crack.

BGP



Peter (L) & Bert (R) enjoying a pint at the Rising Sun

Herbert James Dredge

'Bert'

9th December 1919 - 28th March 2010

Bert had lived in Stockcross for many years having moved from Elcot. He worked at Low Heat in Hungerford cycling to and fro daily. During World War 2 he served in the army and was a Prisoner of War.

He was a keen bowler and a member of the Stockcross Bowling Club where he looked after the green right up until the club closed in 2003.

He loved his garden and also pruned the roses at the Churchyard.

In past times he enjoyed a game of darts with friend Mervyn and was in the darts team at the Prince of Wales, Kintbury.

More recently and until his last bout of illness he continued to join Mervyn for a pint most Friday nights at The Rising Sun.

His funeral was held at St John's Church on 14th April.

Church Exhibition

June 27th 2pm to 5.30pm

We are still looking for photographs and memorabilia relating to St John's Church and its associated societies. If you have pictures or memories that you are willing to share/lend relating to the Church please contact Viv Wilson 01635 523963 Jackie Caufield 01488 608295 or either of the churchwardens Mike Pike or Shirley Wernham.

Janey Hawkins has kindly agreed to be at the church on that day with indexes to the Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths that she has compiled from the Church registers

OUT AND ABOUT

Lord Lyon Latest

Thank you to everyone who has welcomed Susan, FJ and myself to the village with such warmth.

It has been a hectic couple of months since I took over the Lord Lyon, hurrying along the decorators, cleaning and scrubbing and getting in the stock in time for my self imposed, and nearly but not quite hit, deadline.

Since the first day we have all been made very welcome by everyone, although I haven't met as many people as Susan and FJ have by being hidden away in the kitchen, but I have managed the odd, very good pint, up the road at the Rising Sun and it's been a joy to get out and meet other people, as my only other change of scenery appears to be trips to Waitrose for the few things that I can't get from Tim and Angela. Maybe one day I will have time to explore the countryside more.

I am pleased that the new décor has been, almost universally, well received. I wanted to make a statement and draw a line in the sand as it were, and I think the wallpaper certainly does that.

I am very happy with the progression of the business and I have been heartened by all the positive feedback, thank you all; we look forward to welcoming you into the Lord Lyon again soon for a meal or a drink.

Once again thank you for welcoming us so warmly into your village.

Mark Genders
www.lordlyon.co.uk

Local Harpist

Felicity Merchant who lives in the village is a member of the Wessex Harpers who are an ensemble based in Berkshire and Hampshire. They are available to play at events as background music or for recitals. They play a mixture of traditional music and some classical and sometimes add in flute, fiddle and saxophone.

The Wessex Harpers perform regularly at Bayford House and at the Donnington care home, at Sunrise Senior Living homes in Maidenhead and Winchester and at Age Concern days at the Ambrose Allen Centre in Tadley. They have also played at a number of Garden parties and fetes.

Further details can be found from our website www.wessexharpers@spanglefish.com or from Felicity Merchant 01488 608672 and from Christine Weaver 01189 812759

Life at The Sun



Thank you to everyone who turned up and supported the St Georges Day celebrations, the singing was fantastic!

We are glad to report that thankfully Ernie's voice was not damaged for long and we managed to raise a glass or two and £160.00 for Help the Heroes so well done.

Many thanks to Mr Pike for all the flags that went up and to Bob John for his wonderful George & Dragon painting.

We gave the motorcycle club a good send off for their charity ride down to Westward Ho!

We also had the world famous Kent Duchaine back here, it was a fabulous night and we hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did..

Coming Up

Friday 25th June (8.30 pm)- Ben Wiley Payton traditional blues guitarist will be visiting all the way from Jackson Mississippi

July (date to be confirmed) North Drive - 5 piece blue grass / country band with amazing harmonies.

Quiz first Wednesday of every month.

Open mic night is going from strength to strength with some real talent coming out of the wood work - the 4th Wednesday of every month.

Ralph and Norman
XX

Grapevine Caption Competition - email your ideas by 20th June.





STOCKCROSS CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

New IT Suite

Smart new, robust, black, swivel chairs paid for by school with support from the PTFA and the after school Crocodile Club, complete the development of our IT suite. The company Entrust IT has worked with Stockcross CE Primary and one other school to develop new technology to enhance children's IT experience. The model developed at Stockcross will be used as the template for other schools.

We now have a consistently reliable IT suite that is constantly updated with the latest Microsoft Office programmes. This radically transforms the IT suite, increasing the versatility of the computers allowing them to become more powerfully integrated into the daily learning experiences of the children. A huge thanks to parents Paul Morgan, who has been a key player in this project, and to Stephen Uden for all his help.

New Kitchen

The school has managed to secure investment from the local authority to build a new kitchen at Stockcross CE Primary. This means that the school will be able to cook meals on site. The plans are for work to be done in the summer holidays with aim of the kitchen being open in the autumn. This is in addition to building plans to enhance the school building shared in previous newsletters. Watch this space for more information.

Fair Play

Congratulations to the netball team who won the Fair Play trophy at the county tournament on Tuesday. Both teams played extremely well with the Year Four/Five team coming in fourth place. Thanks go to Lynne Barton, Jackie Ansell and Sarah Ching and to parents for their support.

Beat It

As Grapevine goes to print the PTFA will be organising the 70s and 80s disco with top DJ Jonny Saunders from the Chris Evans Breakfast show. It looks to be a great night to be enjoyed by all.

Nathan Hunt headmaster



Laptop Courses Autumn 2010

Following the success of the starter courses we hope to run a course on e mail and the internet this autumn.

Anyone interested please contact Viv Wilson 01635 523963. Places are very limited so first come first served.

If there is anyone wanting the beginners course please also make contact. We need 6 people for them to run.

Meet the Expert event

"Rural Broadband in West Berkshire"

Thursday 1st July 6.30 – 8.30pm

Council Chamber, Council Offices,
Market Street, Newbury

If you would like more information
please contact Jo Naylor

on **01635 503019** or

jnaylor@westberks.gov.uk

by **18th June 2010**



Summer Fete
Saturday 19th June 2010
1pm - 3pm

STOCKCROSS SCHOOL

Enjoy live music, great food and lots
of fun activities:

**Thank you for your
support**

**PTFA - charity number
1105137**



Skittles Success

The mobile skittle alley proved a success when despite the glorious weather approximately 80 people turned up throughout the afternoon and evening to have a go.

Top score on the day came from Nick who just pipped Steve to the title by 2 points. Overall the 'B' Team beat the 'A' Team 798 points to 794. Don't ask me who was in which team I can't remember! VW