



THE Grapevine

NEWSLETTER

A Vision for Stockcross Recreation Ground

We reported in the last edition of The Grapevine that The Parish Council was to receive a £50,000 grant to build a new play facility on Stockcross Recreation Ground.

We are very disappointed to report that as part of The Government cutbacks, the grants have been frozen and it is unlikely that this project will proceed. We would like to thank all the children who contributed ideas.

Alternative funding is being pursued and we hope it may be possible to at least improve the play area in the not too distant future.

Taking a broader view, in spite of government funding being withdrawn, we are trying to develop a long-term plan for improvement of the Recreation Ground for the benefit of all the Stockcross community. So in addition to the children's playground improvements, with the help of the Parish Council, the Tennis Club, AFC Newbury footballers and the nascent Stockcross Cricket Team, it is hoped that funds can be raised to make significant improvements to the various playing surfaces (tennis courts to be also suitable for five-a-side, an all-weather cricket strip and a better football playing surface). This "vision" also includes raising sufficient funding to provide a "pavilion" to serve all the clubs.

But all this will take time and much effort from many volunteers ...

Keith Phillips and Ken Sullivan

Stockcross Panto Players 2010

The Ice Queen & The Wizard will be performed at The Sutton Hall over three nights **2nd 3rd and 4th December**. Rehearsals will start in earnest in September after successful castings in August.

Tickets go on sale in mid to late October priced at £6 and will no doubt sell quickly so don't miss out!

FROM THE SUTTON HALL STOCKCROSS September 2010 No:75

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

	Small	Large	Both	
		Hall	Hall	Halls
Resident		5.00	7.50	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

LAP TOP COURSES SUTTON HALL

A 9 week course about internet & e mail access will be held on Monday afternoons 2 - 4pm beginning on 4th October. Cost for over 60s is £50.40. It needs at least 6 people to register to enable the course to run. Please contact Viv on 01635 523963 if you want to sign up.

**Open invitation to Cheese & Wine
Followed by the AGM of
The Sutton Hall
Management Committee
Wednesday October 13th
at 7.30pm for 8pm
At The Sutton Hall**

Chairman's Report

Another three months gone by and I have spent most of that hopping about on one leg. I know how Long John Silver felt now. At least I didn't have a parrot on my shoulder or did I? Any way I think I'm on the mend now.

The new stage extension has arrived for the Village Hall, looks very good. Those of you who have been to the pantomime will have seen that we have to extend the stage. In the past we have had to beg or hire the stage, this year we will have our own. We managed to obtain a grant from The Greenham Trust for the stage so thank you very much.

This should be my last chairman's report that I have to write. I've enjoyed been chairman but it's time for some one else to take over. Thanks to all the committee for their support over the last two years

Special thanks to Steve for being Vice Chairman and Mark for taking on the Treasurers job.

Don't forget to come to the A G M on October 13th 7.30pm. The hall is always looking for new members so put the date in your dairy and join us for cheese and wine.

In July Jackie and I went on our annual visit to Norbury in Staffordshire to stay with Chris & Nick Crockford, some of you will remember them living in the village. Whilst there we went to Newport Agricultural Show, it always reminds me of when I was a boy going to the Newbury show when it was at Elcot Park and the farm animals were the main attraction.

Well I don't seem to have any more to say which is unusual for me, so that's it from the Marsh Benham Boy he's run out of ink.

Brian G Palmer.

Stockcross Two O'clock Crowd

The last few months we didn't touch base at the Hall as we were invited out to garden parties at Lynn's in May, Charlie's in July and Viv Lovell's in August. All three fantastic gardens and delightful times had by all and our sincere thanks to the hosts who made us so welcome.

Not only that, in June we had a delicious roast lunch at Richens thanks to The Sutton Estate and especially to Julie Smith and her helpers who laid on a super meal in an idyllic setting! Please may we go again? If you are now feeling envious of the nice time we are having – don't be – it's up to you to come along as all are welcome. Our next meeting is at the Hall on 29th September – see you there!

Help make Stockcross Cleaner & Greener

Do you hate litter and fly tipping of waste in and around the village? If so then the annual Stockcross Spring-Clean litter pick will this year, to guard against unforced errors like scheduling it for Mothers Day, be happening on Sunday the 12th of September.

Everyone welcome to meet up at the Village Hall at 10am for a couple of hours or whatever you can spare to tend to the pavements and hedgerows.

Gloves, litter grabbers, black bags, etc will all be provided courtesy of West Berks Council. Prizes for the oddest find! Look forward to seeing those with Wombling tendencies who can make it.

Mike & Claire Ralphson-Cook

Let's Get Quizzical !"

Q : What fantastic automobile is also the name of a ribald song sung by WW1 Allied soldiers ?

A : Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Banish the Winter Blues by pitting your wits against friends and neighbours in the Stockcross Village Quiz Night on Friday 22nd October. Tickets £5 per person including Ploughman's buffet. (see Advert on page 4)

Winning team receives a trophy, bottle of bubbly and the all important bragging rights !

Rounds will include music, sport, pictures & local knowledge. All Proceeds from the evening go towards the village children's Christmas party being held at the hall on Sunday 19th December. (Time TBA)

Hope you can join us on what should be a fun evening.

Richard Crouch

Meat Raffle Results

Maureen is still raising money each month for the over 60s Christmas Dinner taking place at the hall. Winners are also displayed on the hall notice board each month.

May

1st Anne Drewe
2nd Ian Lay
3rd Simon Hunt

June

1st Pearl Foster
2nd Merv Rumble
3rd Viv Lovell

July

1st Rob & Ceccy
2nd Nigel Rickard
3rd Cliff & Lizzie

Pete Allen Jazz 17th July

This event was cancelled due to lack of ticket sales.

OUT AND ABOUT

Golden Wedding



Then and Now Ron & Anne Cummings

We would like to say a very big thank you to everybody for the cards and best wishes for our 50th Wedding Anniversary. It proves how lucky we are to live in a village like Stockcross. Many of you, well the more nosey amongst you, have been asking for a little more detail on how we met, where we got married, etc. Well, I can exclusively reveal that we met on a blind date. Anne lived in Bray and I lived near the White Waltham airfield. After 4 years of "courting", we got married in St James Church, Barkham, near Wokingham, where one of my favourite cheeses, Barkham Blue, comes from. I was 22 at the time doing my National Service in Aldershot. I had a Lambretta and a living out pass. Not bad eh?

Our first home was a detached bungalow in the Finchampstead area. It cost the vast sum of £4500 and we had a £37 a month mortgage. Well it did have a large garden! Over the next 15 years we virtually doubled the size of it, but wanted to leave when the fields a few yards away where Sarah kept her horse, were going to be developed. We moved to a house near Bramley, Basingstoke, which had its own paddock and we stayed there until we retired.

On our retirement, we decided that we didn't need a 6 bedroom house with 2 acres, so we started to look to downsize, back to a village environment. After a lot of searching we found the lovely village of Stockcross and bought The Old Laundry. We spent 4 months completely gutting the inside and changing it from a 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom house to a 5 bedroom with 3 bathrooms. It was a lovely home, but after a few years of putting up with the nosey and noisy neighbours (joking!), we really did down size. We moved just a driver and a pitching wedge away (or a 5 iron for Monty), to Springfield Cottage and I'm afraid to say folks, but we're here to stay.

Anne and I hope we have put back into Stockcross as much pleasure as we have taken out by living in such a nice, friendly village. We would thoroughly recommend other "newcomers" like us to get involved in village life.

Stockcross Church

The Rector John Toogood and Churchwardens, Mike Pike and Shirley Wernham would like to thank everyone who were involved in the organising of the successful Open Gardens and Church Day in June. Thank you to all the people who helped in the Church in anyway, but special thanks to Viv Wilson and Jackie Caufield who arranged the exhibition of the Church Records, spending many hours researching everything and putting on such an interesting display. Well done, very much appreciated.



Church stalwarts manning their stall during Church Open Day.

Our annual concert by resident organist Alistair Davis and his colleague Rosemary Evans raised a record £301 for church funds in July. Thank you Alistair for organising it.

Our next fundraiser is the Jumble Sale on 9th October at the Sutton Hall.

"Upstairs, Downstairs"

A display at the Church open day put together by Shirley Wernham on behalf of Pearl Dromgoole who had previously entered the same display in a WI competition some years ago.



Welcome Home!

Our thoughts and best wishes go to Daphne Tucker, Jean Wallis and Millie Spence all of whom have spent time in hospital recently but who are all now home in Stockcross.

Dates For Your Diary

September

12 **Litter Pick** Meet 10am at the Sutton Hall

29 **STOCC** -see advert

October

2 **Harvest Supper** details TBA

7 **STOCC** - see advert

9 **Church Jumble** 2pm

13 **AGM** Sutton Hall 7.30pm

22 **Quiz** 8pm see advert

27 **STOCC** - see advert

31 **Harp Music** see advert

November

24 **STOCC** - see advert

Church Services

September

12 Holy communion 9.30am

19 Holy Communion 11am

26 Morning Prayer 11am

October

3 Harvest Festival 6pm

10 Holy Communion 9.30am

17 Holy Communion 11am

24 Morning Prayer 11am

November

14 Remembrance Day 10.55am

21 Morning Prayer 11am

28 Holy communion 11am



Wednesday 29 September
2pm – 4pm at the Sutton Hall
Afternoon Tea and event planning
£2 including refreshments

Thursday 7 October
Day trip to Denbies Wine Estate Dorking 9.15 – 5.30
Organised by KEWI group, cost £21 inc coach
Booking forms from Jane

Wednesday 27 October
To Be Arranged

Wednesday 24 November
2pm – 4pm at the Sutton Hall
Afternoon Tea 'plus!'
£2 including refreshments

December
Christmas Lunch To be arranged

ALL WELCOME

Call Jane: 01488 608762 or
Viv: 01635 523963

Mobile Library visits to Stockcross
Village Hall 1.15 to 1.55pm
Bayford House 2.00 to 2.40pm

The Library is currently running a reduced service. The next date advertised is 8th September. Contact the Library or the WBC website for future visits.

Regular Weekly Events

	<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>
Mondays	6.15pm	Pilate's	Sutton Hall
Tuesdays	6.30-8pm	Yoga	Sutton Hall
Thursdays	7.30-10.45pm	Bridge Club	Lord Lyon
Sundays	from 8.30am	Tennis Club	The Rec
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

Stockcross Village
Quiz Night
Friday 22nd October
Sutton Hall, Stockcross
8pm - Quiz starts 8.30 pm

Tickets cost £5 per person, including a ploughmans buffet.
Bring your own drinks (and glasses)

Raffle

The winning team will receive the Stockcross Quiz Team Trophy AND a bottle of bubbly!

So get your team together - tickets on sale from Stockcross Post Office



HARPS
IN THE SUTTON HALL
SUNDAY OCTOBER 31st
2.30pm

Everyone is welcome to come and join us for an afternoon of informal harp music
Free admission - refreshments provided

STOCKCROSS OPEN GARDENS

We were blessed with glorious Summer weather for our Open Gardens afternoon on Sunday 27 June 2010 and despite being in competition with, amongst other events England attempting to play football, we attracted about 200 visitors.

Many thanks to Viv for organising the Teas and live music in the Hall and thank you also to those who provided the cakes. I know from personal experience how delicious they were – I was obliged to eat several slices to keep me going through the afternoon! Thank you to Shirley and Mike and others involved for all their hard work ensuring the Church looked immaculate and for organising the Organ music.



“A Farmer’s Garden” Charlie Goodenough offered cold drinks in his garden which were very welcome on what was the hottest day of the year. Ice creams on sale at the Hersch’s also proved popular



Anoushka Vandyk looked after the Plant Stall and although she knows absolutely nothing about plants she was very good at selling, even offering BOGOFs when the need arose. We had a large number of plants donated from the village as well as plants supplied and donated by a friend of Janets, Sarah Porter.

Linda not only organised the Book Stall she also distributed the leaflets and collected the books as well as manning the Stall all afternoon. Thank you Linda.



A special thank you to Ron who not only opened his lovely garden but also very kindly sorted out and arranged all our many printing requirements including the Map designed by Jane Batt.

Thanks also to Speen Parish Council for their grant of £200 to help cover the set up costs.

The biggest thank you must go to our garden openers who all worked extremely hard in very trying temperatures to ensure their gardens looked wonderful – they certainly all succeeded. Everyone involved seemed to enjoy the afternoon and there were many comments from visitors about the high standard of the gardens. We raised £1,200 for distribution to our three charities; The Sutton Hall, St. John’s Church and The West Berkshire Community Hospital League of Friends – all in all a very successful afternoon’s work!

Thank you to everyone involved.

Sue Vandyk

AROUND THE VILLAGE

Willow Gate has the FITs

From 1st April this year householders generating solar electricity are paid 31.4p for every unit they produce. When they don't use it, it goes into the grid and they are paid 34.4p per unit, more than twice what we pay SSE per unit. Indications are that the return will be around 8% - tax-free - and it's index-linked for 25 years!

So Keith and Lynne Phillips have gone ahead with an installation which, with their existing solar powered hot water system, must make Willow Gate in The Cricketers one of the greenest houses in the village. Keith says *"We've relied on solar power for hot water almost exclusively since May and now we've had the photovoltaic panels installed we're delighted to know we're getting paid handsomely for generating electricity and helping the environment too!"*

All this is possible under the Government's Feed-in Tariff Scheme (FITs) see www.ofgem.gov.uk for more information or contact Keith (01488 608 249) for a consumer's explanation.



Talking Electric

On a trip to the New Forest Show Denise Lewington was approached by the EON sales rep who wanted to know the current supplier of Denise's gas and electricity.

Denise promptly answered "We don't have electricity in Stockcross" Her mum and the lady from EON started to laugh and daughter Chelsea had to clarify "She means we don't have gas!"

It seems on that occasion the lights were on but no one was home!!

Tricia Thomas

We were very sad to hear of the recent death of Tricia Thomas.



Tricia, with her husband Roger, moved to Stockcross in 2001 but before that they had lived in Bristol, Hampshire, Sussex, France, Putney, and on a canal boat in Newbury. They were very happy years – Tricia would say they "jogged along, quite happy, liking the same things".

Tricia worked hard throughout her life and would turn her hand to anything. She was very proud of the fact that she had worked at BAC and been on the tarmac at Filton when they did the Concorde test flights. She'd held various secretarial and administrative roles, and she and her first husband had run their own businesses.

In 2007 she was diagnosed with breast cancer and, more recently, she had another setback with a tumour on her kidney that turned out to be benign. All through this, she kept her sense of humour. She simply saw the cancer as a "damned inconvenience" and that it was stopping them going on their annual travels to France. Tricia's aim was to be strong enough so that she and Roger could return to their beloved France in their caravan – which they were able to do. She was probably one of the few people to cook a full roast dinner in a caravan and they spent many good times with their circle of caravanning friends.

In August, at the end of a lovely holiday in Pembrokeshire with Roger and daughter Kate and her family, Tricia tragically suffered a massive stroke.

No matter what she was going through, Tricia remained a kind, caring and loving person. She had a wicked sense of humour and showed tremendous strength and resilience. She was most appreciative of the support she received from her friends in Stockcross. Her funeral – a Celebration of Tricia's Life - took place at Aust near Bristol on 17 August with Rev Nigel Sands officiating. She will be very much missed by all who knew her.

AT YOUR LEISURE

The Lord Lyon

The pub is going from strength to strength and getting busier all the time, thank you for your support and custom.



Staff from Lord Lyon taking a break at the cricket whilst the landlord took up the bat!

We will start having some more local game on the menu over the coming months, together with more of the lovely autumnal produce as it becomes available.

Our Sunday lunches and weekends are very busy now and booking is strongly advised, especially as the weather gets colder and everyone will be inside.

Trying to think about Christmas and New Year in August is never an easy task, but the evenings are drawing in and the days are getting colder, and it is still only August!!

On New Years Eve we will be hosting the wedding celebrations for David Standing and Carol Andrews, the pub will be closed for this private event, although David and Carol have expressed a wish that the pub should open normally for the village from 9pm with a cash bar as usual. Any question on timings and content please ask in the pub nearer the time.

On Christmas Day we will be open for a celebratory Traditional Christmas Lunch at 2pm, strictly bookings only menu and prices to be confirmed, please ask in the pub for details. The bar will be open for drinks between 12 and 1.30.

We will post details of our Christmas Party menu in the pub during November so please remember us for your seasonal gatherings.

Any feedback is always welcome, as are suggestions for the menu, as we change it daily we can sometimes run out of ideas, so let us know what you would like to see on it.

Mark, Susan and FJ

(Editor - Richard & Bob please note the new fencing at the front of the pub for use as handrail as and when required!!)

Last Grapevine we reported that Connor Hamilton Giles and his sister Yasmin had both qualified for the National finals of the British Trampoline, Tumbling and DMT Championships held in Birmingham in July. Connor achieved 3rd place in the 13-14yrs boys tumbling and Yasmin came 4th in the 9-10yrs girls tumbling. Absolutely brilliant! Well Done

A Letter to The Grapevine

Dear Stockcross

We would like to say thank you for making us so welcome when we first arrived in the village. We very quickly felt "part of it all" and we also feel we made some real friends rather than just customers.

We truly enjoyed our time at the Rising Sun and are very sad that it had to come to an end so soon; we had planned to be in it for the long haul. Unfortunately we just couldn't make ends meet and through circumstances that we felt beyond our control we were forced to 'hang up the apron' as they say.

We are so pleased that we had the opportunity to be part of your lives. We will always remember the sing a longs at Christmas and St George's Day (thanks again to Bob for the brilliant painting!), the conker tournament complete with school uniforms, the fantastic panto, Ernie's tremendous singing, Mr Baggins, quiz night (complete with our very own pub singers), open mic night, the beer festival and all the great music nights we held.

We must extend an extra special thank you to Mike Pike MBE. We cannot begin to put into words our gratitude, or even start to mention the amount of help he gave us from day one and do not hesitate to say that without his continued support and involvement we wouldn't have achieved so much.

Sorry we did not get to say goodbye to everyone personally and only hope you understand. We hope in our time there that we gave everyone a pub they were proud to call their local.

With warm regards

Glen & Kelly

4 woofs a lick and a howl Ralph, Eddie, Syd and Norman!

NB The Rising sun is currently closed for refurbishment. Signs outside the pub indicate that it will re open in as soon as possible.

Gushmurwurzle Goes Missing.



Do you remember the Gnome Liberation Front and their scathing attack on what they felt was Shirley Turner's poor treatment of her Gnome, Goshmurwurzle? Well looks like they have liberated him as he has vanished. If anyone hears anything at all please let us know as we are concerned for his safety. Thank you.

Picture shows him in happier times after having a small part in last year's panto

Nature Notes August 2010

I have just looked at my notes of last year and think I could almost save some work and reproduce what I then wrote! I find that extraordinary as this year has been so different mainly due to the fact that we have actually had some hot weather. It made the preparation for the open gardens something of a nightmare, but brought out a wonderful crowd of people to view the gardens. I do believe that the lovely June made us think we were in for a good summer...well, where has it all gone? I gather July has become one of the cloudiest on record and for this part of the country one of the driest. I have not seen much sign of any problems with the wild life. I know I have had to top up my pond with tap water, something I really try to avoid. And still we have not had what I would call significant rain. Despite all that, the frogs have bred well as have the newts and to some extent the dragon flies, although I have not seen many of my usual hawk dragonflies yet, a little early perhaps.

I was very worried about a family of blue tits that were nesting in the top of an ornamental pump in my garden, the opening was so very small but the adults kept up an enormous number of flights every day to feed what was probably quite a large brood. Watching them was magical. The only trouble was that being made of iron and being in the sun things became rather hot and smelly. At one point I was very worried that the babies would not be able to get out at all but, of course, when I was away for a few days all but one did. Sadly there was no way I could perform a rescue bid and could only let time take its course. As the garden is now full of bright, new blue tits and great tits there has been a successful hatching of all our favourites.

I have been delighted to see the wonderful dark green fritillary butterfly back in my garden along with white admiral and 'the browns' hedge and meadow. Early in the year I had what I am sure was a very unusual blue butterfly but it was gone before I could identify it. Pleased to say I do have the holly blue.

Watering a pot of heuchera the other day I found a pair of brown eyes peering at me and discovered a lovely toad had made its home in amongst the roots, I rather hope it is picking off the vine weevils as they emerge as, because of said toad I did not feel I could water with vine weevil killer.

So, on a lovely summer's evening at five o'clock I am about to make a cup of tea, turn the lights on and put the heating on. Anyone else doing the same?

Janet Scull.

01488 608324

lvor@ivorscull.wanadoo.co.uk

Stop Press

I have just had a family lunch and we have spent most of that time watching a sparrow hawk plucking and then eating a pigeon that it caught on my lawn. It took quite a time - most entertaining!



Annual Charity Cricket Match



Once again Stockcross Gentlemen's XI took to the field against Imago Plc and once again the Gentlemen were victorious. Our regular scorers and umpires did a sterling job, totally unbiased!

Thanks to Linda & Monty for the use of their house and all those who helped to man stalls during the afternoon and provide the magnificent tea. Around £600 was raised for The Sutton Hall, £111 of which has already been seconded to the children's Christmas Party Fund.

More Cricket News



Meanwhile a Stockcross six-side team captained by Graham Smith and including four members of the Gentlemen's XI won The Downgate Charity Cricket Tournament in aid of the Air Ambulance organised by Landlord David Yates and held in Hungerford at the beginning of August.

The Trophy is safely stored with R Wilson, team promoter!



Stockcross seem to have lots of cricketing talent. Simon Wood also organised a team that ran out winners in a match earlier this summer. He and team member Paul Richards took it easy on the boundary to watch the Gentlemen's XI.

At this rate we will definitely be needing that all weather pitch!