

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER

Skittles Comes to Stockcross

Bring all the family to The Sutton Hall on Sunday 18th April for a game of skittles. A mobile Skittle Alley will be set up from 3pm to 8pm so that everyone can join in and have a go at knocking down those pins. Competition will be fierce and there will be prizes. Entry is just 50p per person. (children under 5 free)

Tea, coffee, squash and hotdogs will be available. Bring your own drinks if you want something stronger!



Picture courtesy of Newbury Mobile Skittle Alley
<http://www.skittlealley.co.uk/>

Skittles is a traditional, social, group activity for up to 50 persons at a time. It is a game which can be enjoyed by all ages without the need for great skill or physical ability. Quite simply good fun for all participants and watchers.

Have you ever wished you could get the children out from in front of the computer or television? This is something which encourages moderate competition but retains the 'fun element'

So come along on the 18th April and have some fun!

**FROM THE SUTTON HALL
 STOCKCROSS
 March 2010 No:73**



**Current Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour)
 As from 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

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Chairman's Report

Doesn't seem that long ago that I was writing my last report, time seems to fly when you are not doing a lot I don't know how I found time for work, probably some of you might say I never did.

Well the weather has been very entertaining over the last two and a half months and according to Ian Currie we are going to have some more. He is a weather man that we met last week, looks very much like Richard Stapleton so maybe he doesn't know what he's talking about either.

Mark now is fully in charge of the purse strings and that's a big weight of my mind. Thanks Mark. The village hall is still very busy with bookings; we now have a bridge club meeting regularly on a Friday. Jay has now completed her six month probation as caretaker and those of you that visit the hall will see that it's kept in good order, so thank you Jay and Daniel keep up the good work.

Unfortunately this month Roger Thomas one of our committee members has resigned. After my last report asking for new younger members to join the committee we have had two new young Mums join us, thanks very much I'm sure you will be an asset to the committee.



As many of you know I am a Marsh Benham Boy actually born at number 107. I thought this might be of interest to some of you. The medal above showing front and back view was my granddads. He was a member of the Stockcross and District Rifle Club. The medal shows he got 3rd in 1908. I think the range was behind the village hall in church wood.

Well I think that's it from the Marsh Benham Boy keep warm and I will see you in the summer.

Brian G Palmer

Jumble Sale



Our Jumble wasn't so good this year despite all the hard work by our usual team of volunteers. Both a lack of jumble and punters saw profits drop to £222. A healthy sum but the event definitely didn't have its usual buzz. The picture shows our valiant Chairman leading the troops to prepare for the rush.

So your next opportunity to bag a bargain or make some cash is at the Table Top Sale



The Sutton Hall
Saturday 13th March 2010
10am to 2pm

**Table Top
sale**



Book a table for just £5 and make some cash from those unwanted Christmas presents and unused items at the back of the cupboard.

*Raffle, Tea and coffee also available.
Come along and bag a bargain!*

**To book a table contact:
Angela Painting 01488 608582**

OUT AND ABOUT

Bayford House News

We are starting a "knitter Knatter" Club every Wednesday at 2:30pm - 4:00pm at Bayford House, no charge, tea/coffee and cake and having a chat and a knit, anyone is welcome to attend. We are currently knitting blankets, and we are aiming for all of our knitted items to be used to raise money for different charities.

We are also starting a monthly gardening club, and are looking for volunteers who might like to come along to this and help the residents. February 26th is the first one but if anyone is interested they can call me at the home.

A local group "The Wessex Harpers" are coming to play for us. They are a lovely local harping group and they come and play every other month, if anyone would like to hear them play please contact me for the dates and times. Local singer Julie Hunt will be here from 3:00pm on the 2nd March.

*Marie Bassett
Activities Coordinator*

Stockcross Bridge Club

Stockcross Bridge Club have extended their activities and now it is a 2 Pub 1 Club activity! We offer the opportunity to play bridge on Mondays at the Rising Sun at 7.45 pm, and Thursdays at the Lord Lyon at 7.30 pm. Maybe you have played Rubber Bridge with friends - why not try the more satisfying Duplicate Bridge? Friendly and sociable. If you are interested, e-mail Janey Hawkins at zojeh@btinternet.com, or ring her on 01488 608577.

Lap top course

There were mixed reviews of the course held at the hall in February but no lack of enthusiasm and a follow on course is running for those who wish to continue. Thanks to Mary Cruickshank from WBC who is the tutor.



Grapevine Nature Notes February 2010

This has been a long hard winterand it looks as though we are not out of the woods yet! As I write we are having flurries of that white stuff again and we have all had enough of it.

One good thing about snow, apart from the tobogganing, is that you can see what has been going on in your garden and elsewhere by the tracks left, and very interesting they can be. For instance, the rabbits are more numerous in Church Wood than I thought and the deer have been very grateful for the carrot peelings that I leave in the wood when it is so very cold.

Needless to say I almost need to take out a mortgage to feed the birds, but the numbers and varieties have made everything worth while and I am going to make no apologies for showing Geoff and Angela Painting's bird list, because it is just amazing. (They probably need a mortgage too) Here goes:

Wren, Starling, Jackdaw, Siskin, Chaffinch, Three different Thrushes, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Willow/ Marsh Tit, Long Tail Tit, Goldfinch, Blackbird, Robin, House Sparrow, Dunnock, Wood Pigeon, Collared Dove, Magpie, Reed Bunting, Pied Wagtail. I think that is just fantastic and for my garden I can add the Jay and ,much to my surprise, a male Black-cap. This must have over wintered here and I bet it is regretting the decision.

Despite all the cold it is wonderful to hear the spring calls of blue tits and chaffinches and especially the song thrush. I also see growing interest in my bird boxes. The black-birds have been stating their claim on territory and females too which is very encouraging.

By the time you read this let us hope that it is warmer and the wild life is really getting into the swim of spring activity. I have lost some frogs in the frozen pond but I hope there are enough survivors to produce the annual display of fighting, squirming heaps of them and the resultant tadpoles to keep us all amused.

Can we all listen out for the cuckoo and record the date.....let me know.

*Janet Scull 01488 608324
ivor@ivorscull.wanadoo.co.uk*

Baby Sitter (Stephanie Highton) CACHE level 2 diploma in childcare and education (Currently studying CACHE level 3 award, certificate, diploma in childcare and education) CRB clearance Paediatric first aid qualified. Local areas covered Flexible to your family's needs Rates negotiable Contact on; 01488 657321 (Please leave a message and I will return your call)

COMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 3 Quiz Rising Sun 8.30pm
13 Table Top Sale 10am - 2pm Village Hall
24 STOCC 1pm Tasting Quiz

APRIL

- 10 Lewis Cohen - Blues at The Rising Sun 8.30pm
18 Skittles at Village Hall 3pm. Entry 50p
22 Kiwi Trip to Vale of Evesham (See STOCC advert for details)
28 STOCC lunch at Richens 12.30pm £12.50

MAY

- 15 Kent Duchaine & Lead Bessie . Rising Sun 8.30pm
17 An Evening with Pete Allen. Jazz at The Sutton Hall details TBA
26 STOCC 2pm Village Hall

Mobile Library visits to Stockcross

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

Mar	Apr	May
3 / 24	14	5/ 26

Church Open Day 27th June 2010

To mount an exhibition about the church we need your help.

Do you have any photographs, memorabilia or stories about Stockcross church in the past?

Were you a member of the choir?
Did you attend the Sunday School?
Do you remember events or Clubs or groups run via the Church?

If so please contact
Mike Pike 608821 or
Shirley Wernham 01488 608318

Church Services

MARCH

- 14 Holy communion 9.30am
21 Holy Communion 11am
28 Matins 11am
28 Holy Week Morning Prayer 9.30am

APRIL

- 2 Good Friday Matins 11am
3 Easter Sunday Holy Communion 9.30am
11 Holy communion 9.30am
18 Holy Communion 11am
25 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
Thursdays	7.30pm	Bridge Club	Lord Lyon
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



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:	Ian Young 01488 608263
	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

Open Gardens 2010 What you Need to Know now!

On Sunday 27th June 12.30pm to 5.30pm Stockcross will be inviting visitors to view several private gardens within the village.

The church will be open and will hold a flower display, make it's parish Records available to view and have a local history exhibition.

At the village Hall members of the Newbury Symphony Orchestra will play as people are enjoying afternoon tea and cakes, there will be an exhibition of local artists and photographers work, together with stalls selling plants, produce and second-hand books.

As well as, we hope, being a pleasant afternoon we are raising funds for three different local charities The Friends of Newbury Hospital, St John's Church, Stockcross and The Sutton Hall.

Entrance to the gardens will cost £3.50 per person (children free) for which they will get a map showing the suggested route to find all the open gardens etc. Parking will be on the Glebe Field courtesy of Sue & Edward Vandyk. Sue is kindly co-ordinating the working party for the overall event.

To make the afternoon a success we are initially asking people to get involved by planning ahead. Nearer the date we will call for helpers on the actual day too.

Volunteer to :	Contact for more info or to volunteer
Start growing plants to be sold on the day or open your garden, we would like a couple more	Sue 01488 608 810 or Catherine 01488 608889
Make some cakes to sell with teas on the day. Ideally easily portioned sponges or fruit cakes or individual buns/scones.	Viv 01635 523963 or vc.wilson@btinternet.com
Submit art work and photography for display and if you wish, for sale. It can be any subject or medium but it will be helpful to know how much display space will be needed.	Jane 01488 608762

We would appreciate you contact us by 31st March to help with the planning of the event if you can Thank you.

What to Grow for the Plant Stall -suggested by Meri Mower head Gardener Stockcross House.

Quality rather than quantity is the by-word. Make sure pots are well filled and well labelled. Grow whatever you have in abundance and can easily divide for example:

- Alchemilla mollis
- Campanulas
- Geraniums
- Daisies

Don't worry if it is very common - buyers are often just starting out gardening. Divide in early spring and they will be well established in the pots.

Late Summer perennials - these will look fresh and ready to go:

- Helianthemums
- Penstemons
- Phlox

Bulbs/Corms - will sell well

- Dahlias
- Lilies
- Crocosmia

The end of June is a bit late for most annuals but if you plant them late buyers would welcome: Sweet peas, Nicotiana, Sunflowers, Vegetable plants

AROUND THE VILLAGE

Book Group

A few keen readers set up a book group towards the end of 2009 and are already ploughing on to book number four. Titles read to date are: "The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night" by Mark Haddon ; "I Capture the Castle" by Dodi Smith and "A Crime in the Neighborhood" by Suzanne Berne. Meetings are held at The Rising Sun. Thanks to Elaine Boardman who contacted Newbury Library and made all the arrangements.

The Library provide 10 copies of the chosen book each time so no outlay is necessary by individual members. Anyone interested in starting their own group can contact the library for details.

A New look at the Post Office

It's all looking and smelling quite different in the shop. New fridges and freezers, counters and units but the biggest change is the introduction of a coffee area. Lovely tables and chairs where you can meet friends and chat over a latte, espresso or if you prefer a pot of tea. Enjoy a piece of cake or a cheese and ham toasty. You can still post a package, collect your paper and pick up your pension. Buy eggs from our chickens, homemade marmalade, Stockcross honey, locally baked bread, West Berks beer and produce from our allotment. Come on in and see for yourselves. Our investment is for the village not just the shop. We need your support to survive.

Tim & Angela

Classic Cars Call into Stockcross

For all you petrol heads out there the news is that The West Berkshire Classic Car Club will be meeting on the 2nd Sunday of every month at The Rising Sun between 10am and 2pm.

Plus (plus 8 even) if you didn't see them, here is a snap of a row of Morgan Sports cars parked outside the pub recently whilst their owners enjoyed lunch.



Loads-a-Money coming to Stockcross!

As we go to press we are delighted to announce the award of a £50,000 grant from the West Berkshire Play builder Programme funded by the Government Department for Children, Schools & Families to provide play facilities for 8 – 13 year-olds. The money will enable us to improve significantly our existing playground on the Rec.

In order to obtain the best value for money your ideas and suggestions will be most welcome. Speen was awarded a similar grant last year; you can see their new playground currently under construction at the recreation ground adjacent to the junction of Station and Grove Roads.

For more information and to make your suggestions please contact either of our parish councillors managing the project in Stockcross:

Ken Sullivan

01488 608486; ken@nws-ltd.co.uk) or

Keith Phillips

0148608249 keithstockcross@hotmail.co.uk).

Please note that the grant is being provided specifically for 8 – 13 year-olds.

Rock legend gives Local Fan a Surprise Windfall

I am a great Paul Rodgers fan, he of Free, Bad Company and The Firm etc.. So when I saw he was doing a one off concert at Hammersmith I persuaded my 3 Little Piggie chums to come along and experience the great man sing live. Towards the end of the concert I had a tap on the shoulder and an envelope thrust into my hand with "For You" on it. Well, I thought I'd pulled, but no. It actually contained a signed letter from Paul and his wife Cynthia together with a £50 note. "a Random Act of Generosity to do a Random Act of Kindness for someone"

The letter has been framed but the £50 has been spent taking some other chums (and husband) to see the Hamsters playing at Arlington Arts in March. Hope that's what Paul meant!

VW



"Stockcross Wives" caught in a stake out of a recent STOCC meeting gleefully plotting vengeance on a local resident, note the formal dress required for such a meeting. Their broomsticks are garaged in the entranceway to the main hall just left out of picture.

Ed. - name and address of informant withheld to prevent retaliation

AT YOUR LEISURE

Life at The Sun

Christmas seems so long ago now, but we had a tremendous time here celebrating the festivities, Christmas Eve was excellent and turned out just as we hoped, lots of singing and celebrating so thanks to everyone who got involved. Especially thanks to Ernie & Will who ensured we all got in the spirit!

We also had a big response to the collection for the Dogs Trust so thank you very very much. They are always very grateful and we are happy to continue being a drop off point for anything you may have.



Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 3rd March - Quiz 8.30pm (and then every 1st Wednesday of the month.)

Saturday 20th March - The Newtowners are playing.

Wednesday 24th March (and continuing the 4th Wednesday of every month) - Open mic night from 8.30pm. We welcome all ages and abilities.

Thursday 25th March - Bacuma boys will be playing, a night of great music, they will also be appearing on the last Thursday of every month

10th April - Lewis Cohen - blues

15th May - Kent Duchaine & Lead Bessie, here's your chance to catch the Legend if you missed him at the beer festival.

Daily - Good value pub food, Real Ale and guest beers.
Glen & Kelly

Lord Lyon

The future of this pub is still uncertain but it has been open and serving Arkells ales and bar meals. Pool nights have been introduced too.

STOCC Stockcross Two O'Clock Crowd

Wednesday 24 March
at the earlier time of **1pm** at the Sutton Hall
Wine & Cheese Tasting & Competition
£5 including cheese, wine and bread

Thursday 22 April
Coach trip: with the Kinbury KEWIs. £12
Blossom Trail and Vale of Evesham
Leave Stockcross at 8.45am. Stow-on-the-Wold for coffee, Evesham for lunch via the Blossom Trail.
Leave Evesham at 3.30pm and back about 5.00pm

Wednesday 28 April
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)

ANYONE WELCOME

Call Jane: 01488 608762 or Viv: 01635 523963
for further information

STOCC: Stockcross Two O'clock Crowd

The January meeting gave us an opportunity to think up some exciting and varied events for the coming months and we are planning to get out a bit more now that we can look forward to brighter weather and longer days. Our varied programme of events for the next few months is advertised above and it would be lovely to see some new people joining in and new ideas – all are welcome. The contact numbers are there for any enquiries, there is no membership fee – you can just turn up and pay on the day unless it is something which needs to be booked. We are not ageist or sexist, we have lovely homemade teas and I would like to think we are friendly – give it a go!

JB

Monthly Meat Raffle

Maureen Early has kindly offered to run a village meat raffle. She will be calling door to door giving you the chance to buy a ticket (£1 each). Then once a month a draw will take place and the winners will receive Vouchers to spend at Griffins Butchers in Newbury.

You got to be in it to win it!!



STOCKCROSS CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Investors in People

Stockcross CE Primary is delighted to have had a successful Investors in People report. Investors in People is an award which recognises clear vision and planning, good teamwork and levels of communication and an environment where staff feel valued.

The Investors in People assessor concluded that Stockcross School “*performs at a very high level*” with “*very good staff morale*”. As one comment in the report phrased “*It is a lovely working atmosphere here with everyone working well together.*” A big well done to the staff team on achieving such a positive result.

Tournament Triumph

The rugby team performed superbly to lift the Hungerford Tournament trophy for Year 3/4 and finish as runners up for Year 5/6. Great play from the children, super coaching from Mrs Ansell, Mrs Sparkes and warm support from Mr Bisset and parents combined to make it a wining afternoon.

New Chair of Governors

We are pleased to announce Gavin Jones as our new Chair of Governors. Gavin, has a child at the school and has been a committed governor for a number of years. We look forward to the valuable contribution he will make to Stockcross CE Primary in his new role.

Gardening

As spring approaches we are looking forward to a team of volunteers who are going to give the Quiet Garden an instant makeover. A longer term project is also underway to develop our wooded conservation area. Valuable expertise being lent to us from the Thatcham branch of the RSPB in helping note existing species of wildlife and in creating a rich environment for birds.

Tea and Cake

Parents and staff enjoyed the opportunity to chat over a slice of cake and cup of tea after Achievers' Collective Worship. New children started school in January so it was a particularly useful time for parents of these children to get to know existing parents of the school.

*Nathan Hunt
Headmaster*



Children's Christmas Party at the Sutton Hall 2009

The pictures say it all.

Everyone was enthralled by the magical entertainer. We saw children, younger and older ones, mesmerised, with huge wonder and amusement on their faces... But best of all, they met Father Christmas.

Thank you to all who contributed, in more ways than one, in making this a success. Not least Father Christmas!

Siobhan Gardiner