

# THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER

Royal Wedding  
Village Tea Party

FROM THE SUTTON HALL  
STOCKCROSS  
April 2011 No:77

Everyone is invited to celebrate the marriage of Catherine Middleton to William Wales at a Village Tea Party on Friday 29th April 2pm at The Sutton Hall /Glebe.

Music, bunting, tableware, soft drinks, tea, coffee and a glass of fizz to toast the Royal couple will be provided by the Hall. Please feel free to bring your own alcohol. (although we may have access to some wedding ale too!)

We are asking every family/household coming along to bring a plate of food to go onto the table and create the giant tea for all to share.

Join in a Fancy wedding hat competition, old fashioned races for the children and maybe a few for the grown ups. Plans are still being finalised so watch out for poster/flyers coming soon.

*On the day we'd like to create a display of villagers' Wedding Photos . If you would like yours to be included please bring them along and we can make a huge collage of photos.*

**SUNDAY  
JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> 2011  
PARTY ON  
THE GLEBE!  
LIVE MUSIC**

**BRING YOUR FAMILY,  
FRIENDS & A PICNIC**

**DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED  
TICKETS ON SALE SOON**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF  
YOU'D LIKE TO GET INVOLVED,  
PLEASE CONTACT  
ALEXCRESSWELL@HOTMAIL.COM**



Current Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour)  
1<sup>st</sup> January 2011

	Small	Large	Both
Resident	5.50	8.00	11.00
Non resident	9.00	13.00	16.00

Call Jay on 01488 608769 to book  
or visit our website

[www.suttonhallstockcross.org](http://www.suttonhallstockcross.org)

or email

[suttonhall642@btinternet.com](mailto:suttonhall642@btinternet.com)

## Chairman's Report

It doesn't seem possible that Christmas was three months ago, the clocks have gone forward and the lighter evenings are on their way.

The Hall is still getting a good flow of bookings despite the college not having any classes this term.

Subject to us getting planning permission it's all system go for the new extension to the car park, hopefully it will make things better for residents of Church Road.

Due to prior engagements I didn't make it to the murder mystery or the masked ball but I've been informed that they were both a great success and enjoyed by every one. Thank you to everybody that was involved with these events.

The Royal Wedding is the next big event at the Sutton Hall, there will be a workshop being held early April to make bunting and hats look in this issue for more details.

I've just spent the last week in hospital having yet another operation on my ankle third time lucky I hope, back to walking on one leg again for another few weeks.

That's it from the Marsh Benham Boy I just going out to look for my parrot.

*Brian G Palmer*

### Work in Progress

Thank you to Speen Parish Council, especially to Keith Phillips and Ken Sullivan, from all the children and grandchildren of Stockcross for what promises to be an absolutely amazing new play area at the recreation ground.



### Litter Pick

The annual Litter Pick returns to its traditional Spring slot this year, just in time to get the hedgerows and byways looking their best before Easter and then the Royal Wedding celebrations. Everyone welcome, meeting outside the hall at **11am on Sunday 17th April**, all equipment, bags, gloves etc provided.

*Mike & Claire*

## Grapevine Nature Notes.

I had a telephone call from a dear 94 year old lady who lives in the village this morning to say she had seen a yellow butterfly and did I want to make a note of that. Yes I did and I am so grateful, it must have been a Brimstone as it is always one of the first to be seen, a sign that spring may be on the way. I try to keep some sort of record of the first sightings of these beautiful insects and I see that I saw one in my garden in 2005 on the 11<sup>th</sup> February. Did that indicate a good summer can anyone remember?



Geoff and Angela my other good source of bird information, have had about a dozen Reed Buntings feeding regularly as do I, we just wonder why there has been such an increase in these birds in the last couple of years. Not many reeds

in Stockcross. I have had all the usual and much loved regulars with perhaps more Chaffinches and Goldfinches than past years and, I think a Red Poll although I needed it to return to the bird feeder to be sure. It could, I suppose have been a Linnet. Whichever, it was a first in the garden and quite exciting. I find the antics of both Robin and Blackbird highly amusing as they try to copy Blue Tits and the like, feeding while hanging onto fat balls. At least they are learning and in a few years time we might find they are proficient at hanging -on rather than their normal ground feeding habit.

For some reason there have not been as many frogs in my pond but I seem to have just as much frog spawn. I managed to put some in a plastic container so that my grandchildren can watch them develop. It is mighty difficult to take a small amount of spawn without falling in head first, I had to hang on to both children causing much hilarity.

The children and I had a wonderful evening of the 26<sup>th</sup> February, which turned out to be surprisingly warm and damp, helping the toads cross Church Road by collecting them in a bucket. We just had to shut our ears to the awful squelch as the occasional car went past. There was a problem trying to get them through the fence to the pond (I fear at Stockcross House) as there did not seem any way we could get them through the netting fence so we put them in the wood. Not sure they appreciated that move, perhaps there could be a toad gate made!

I am probably in trouble too as my four year old grandson now thinks the name for toads is double decker! At last 'my' blackbird has begun to build in the ivy on the fence thankfully taking some of the mass of moss in my lawn. I could do with a squadron of blackbirds.

I am now hearing the Chiff Chaff in the wood which I find just amazing, within five days of my records for the past five years, how do they do it!

*Janet Scull*

### It must be the Stockcross Air

Happy birthday to Pearl Dromgoole who will be 90 in May and also to Mabel Nash who reaches her 100<sup>th</sup> year in 2011. They were neighbours for some years until Mabel moved down the road to Bayford House. Best wishes to them both.



# OUT AND ABOUT

## Top Dogs



Ruby and Monty are Alaskan Malamutes age 4 and 2 who in January competed in the country's biggest national sled dog rally at Aviemore in Scotland and won a trophy for fastest newcomer Malamute team, with my hubby Alan 'mushing'. I'm sure people have seen us walking them around the village, probably being noisy! ...and may be interested to know what their 'proper job' is. We train a few times a week at Greenham Common and Bracknell Forest and have been competing at rallies around the country for 2 winter seasons.



The races are between 3 and 4 miles usually but occasionally up to 10 mile treks. The 2 dogs pull one of us on our wheeled rig at speeds reaching over 20 miles an hour. Steering is by voice command only and although there are brakes they can just drag the whole rig so it can be quite exhilarating at times!

*Louise Burgess*

## New Addition

Tina and Richard Stapleton are thrilled to announce the arrival of their granddaughter Annabel Cecelia first child of Jo and Will Spriggs born on 8th March 2011 weighing in at 7lbs. Congratulations to all.

## Spring Cleaning

After the house had been shut up for several months over winter, it was a welcome chance to open the windows and have a proper good clean. With modern appliances and cleaning chemicals, we don't have that seasonal restriction on our housework, but spring still remains a good time to clear out the old and welcome in the new.

I recently gave a talk at STOCC about how our belief systems can hold us back. As we go through life, we update our beliefs with our life experiences. Sometimes these enable us to grow, but sometimes these are put in place to protect us from pain. But just in the same way that we often put boxes of clutter in the back of a cupboard never to be seen again, how often do we review our belief system to see if it still serves us.

For example, if you had a humiliating time at the school play when you were young, does that mean you will have a humiliating time if you took part in the Stockcross panto nowadays?

Often all it takes is a bit of self questioning to see where these beliefs are outdated and where we can replace them with new ones. Sometimes things go a bit deeper; I practise a holistic therapy called kinesiology, where I can help people with this on a 1-1 basis. See my website for more details. [www.roskitson.co.uk](http://www.roskitson.co.uk) And as for the boxes of clutter, when's the next table-top sale at the Sutton Hall?

*Ros Kitson*

## Morocco Challenge - Jessica Hersh

I am a 13 year old student of St Barts school etc raising money for a school World Challenge trip to Morocco in May

In February I held a raffle to raise money and it was very successful ; I raised over £100 so thank you so much for those of you who bought tickets and donated prizes.

Thanks to Tim and Angie for selling tickets for me  
Congratulations to all the winners !

**I am organising an Easter Egg Hunt to be held at 2pm on 23rd April in the grounds of Stockcross House,** courtesy of Mr & Mrs Vandyk, with chocolate Easter Egg prizes for the children in the village. \_Please do come along if you can. Cost per child not fixed, donations please on the day

If you have any jobs I can help you with around the house or garden, babysitting, looking after your pets and so on please ask for my help on 01488 658 454

Many thanks for your support

*Jessica Hersh*

# AROUND THE VILLAGE

## Richard Martin 1941 – 2011



Richard was born at Elcot but moved to Shepherd's Farm when his father became Head Gamekeeper for the Sutton Estates. He spent most of his young life in Stockcross and attended Welford & Wickham and Park House Schools. When he left school he worked for Stradlings Garage which was in Northbrook St and then

later joined Marks & Spencer where he worked for 26 years retiring aged 60 in 2001.

He was a keen sportsman and played cricket for Donnington and football for Stockcross. He was a founder member and Treasurer of the Rising Sun Golf Society and also a founder member of the Deanwood Golf Club. He was club Captain at Deanwood in 1997 and was always ready to help out with anything that needed doing for the club.

He spent many a happy hour in the Rising Sun in his youth and also worked behind the bar there, sharing Sunday evenings with Mr Pike! What a duo!

He cut the grass in Stockcross Churchyard for many years even after he left the village. Right up until his untimely death he remained a valued member of the volunteer maintenance team.

Despite or maybe because he had had a triple bypass operation about 20 years ago, he enjoyed life and the good things in it. That he will be missed by many was evidenced by the numbers of people who filled Stockcross Church to celebrate his life. He is buried in the Churchyard that he tended so well near to his parents and sister.

### St John's Church

It was with great shock that we heard of Richard's sudden death and our sympathy and thoughts go to his wife, Laura, family and friends. We are indebted to Richard for all his efforts and loyalty to the church over many years and finding someone with as much dedication is never easy however if you feel you can spare sometime to do some cutting and strimming during the season then we would very much appreciate it. We can provide all the machinery for the job.

Please contact churchwardens Mike Pike 01488 608821 or Shirley Wernham 01488 608318.

**NB** Mike Pike, who in 1970 offered to take on the PCC Treasurer's Job for one year has, 41 years later, finally found someone to take over. It's evidently for a 5 year period but as Mike can testify his year in the post was a long one! Meanwhile he is still churchwarden with plenty to do.

## Au Revoir but not Goodbye

After 17 years at the Post Office, its time for me to hang up my pinney and for Tim to put away his date stamp. Yes we are retiring and moving into our house in Stockcross.

When we first came here there were buses to Newbury only on Thursdays and Saturdays. The main supermarket in the town was Sainsburys in the Kennet Centre, most of the Sutton House's were occupied by either Sutton employees or retired employees. There were very few young children living in the village and there was no Newbury bypass. Pensions and family allowance were paid using a book, weights were in pounds and ounces and we had other Post Offices in the surrounding villages. Now we have several buses, several supermarkets, several less Post Offices and unfortunately a lot of the old characters of the village have passed away. But now we have many young families living in the village.



We have refurbished the shop twice and the Post Office has been computerised. It's been hard work but we survived the threats of closure and leave the business in very good shape for those that follow. For this we thank our loyal customers, including the many from other villages in the area, who know that without a village shop you lose the heart out of the village. Our thanks also go to Sir Richard Sutton's Estates for their continuing support of our vision.

We have many happy memories of our time here at the Post Office but our proudest moment was in July 2007 when, for our services to the community, we were invited by the Queen to the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

As we move on to pastures green (or in our case a green campervan) we are leaving Stockcross Village Store in the capable hands of Stuart and Heather Gilmour from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Please come and meet them, give them your support and be part of the next chapter in the story of Stockcross Post Office and Village Shop.

*Angela and Tim*



# QUARTERLY ROUND UP

## Music, Madness and some pretty impressive masks...!

After a lovely warm March afternoon, a good crowd of beautifully dressed and masked guests gathered for the first Stockcross Ball. With the Sutton Hall transformed with drapes and magical lighting, the scene was set for a special night and great fun was had by all.

A glass of fizz put everyone in the mood as they arrived and the bar staff and waiters continued to keep everyone refreshed and entertained



Through the night, our live band, Catch 22, played a great mix of tunes from the 60's onwards which kept the dance floor full from the off. Of course, it wouldn't have been the same without a display of air guitar (you know who you are) and a conga or two. Even a pair of crutches didn't stop some! Thank you to the Sutton Estate, Elcot Park, The Vineyard, Donnington Country Park, The Red House and Lord Lyon for their generous and very well received raffle prizes.

A huge thank you also to the many hands that supported the event and helped make it a fabulous success - we couldn't have done it without you! We hope this (spring) ball will become a permanent fixture on the Stockcross social calendar and look forward to seeing you all next year!

*Sarah & Siobhan*



*More photos available on the Stockcross Village Facebook page*

## There's Been A Murder!

The keen detectives amongst us enjoyed an evening of sleuthing at the village hall in February when Thames Players performed "A Deadly Game". Julie provided a curry to keep us going whilst we questioned the suspects. And who would have guessed that the Doctor did it? Thanks to Dr Bob for organising a new event that was well received.



# QUARTERLY ROUND UP

## Stockcross Two O'clock Crowd

Our February meeting was most enjoyable thanks to Lynn Kirby who gave us a fascinating informal talk about her experiences working at a leper colony in Malaya as it was then called, in the late 50s.

Lynn's husband was in the army based in Kuala Lumpur and she was asked to put her nursing knowledge to good use by helping with the administration of tests being run on patients suffering from leprosy at a time when a cure was still being sought. Lynn showed us photos of the large colony which had been a happy community in a lovely valley, in which life carried on fairly normally for most sufferers. She explained how the colony was run and showed photos of some of the buildings and people who worked and lived there. Lynn has recently been in contact with the author of a newly published book about the colony and this woman was one of the children taken away at birth to live outside the colony until, happily, her parents were well and able to look after her. Viv gave out copies of 'The Island' by Victoria Hislop which tells a fictitious story of a similar colony.

Another talk, in March, was on 'Kinesiology, a Holistic Therapy' by Ros Kitson, a practitioner who lives in Marsh Benham. Ros explained that many ailments are caused by stress and when the roots causes are understood, then the physical symptoms can be treated. Ros even had some of us volunteering our muscles for demonstrating negative and positive responses.

We have put together an excellent programme of events for the year with subjects which we hope will have great appeal. The list is available from Jane or Viv. Booking forms for the Greenwhich coach trip on 24 May are now also available.

Contact myself: 01488 608762 or Viv: 01635 523963 for details of all events.

*Jane Batt*

## Runner Has Balls for the Challenge.



Stuart March will be running the London Marathon dressed as Mr Testicles in aid of the Male Cancer Awareness Campaign. The suit has been worn across the world by various runners but it will be the first time it has been worn in London.

Stuart was brought up in Stockcross and attended Stockcross School, Shaw House and Newbury College. He now lives in Wiltshire but still returns to Stockcross to visit his family, Ken & Denise Sullivan.

Stuart is training hard and ran The Reading Half Marathon in March in the full Mr T outfit. Apart from his glasses steaming up, all went well.

Contact lenses have now been acquired, fingers crossed for London.

If any one would like to sponsor him

the site is - [www.justgiving.com/Mr-Testicles-runs-London](http://www.justgiving.com/Mr-Testicles-runs-London)



## Stockcross Ce School Opening Of The New Library On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Parents, staff, pupils and guests attended the School assembly prior to the event. The Chairman of Governors and the Archdeacon of Berkshire both made a speech. The Head teacher led the school in an act of collective worship giving thanks to God for the new buildings. He added that not only is the library itself exciting but the teamwork that has gone into its development has highlighted the strengths of the school. Children, staff and parents, through the PTFA, have worked together to design the layout and bought the furniture for the new library. He thanked also the Architects JBKS and Greenham Construction for their beautiful design and careful and considerate building.



Richard Benyon then addressed the gathering by saying that his responsibility in Government was for the Environment and therefore was very interested in the Quiet Garden at the school where children were able to reflect and enjoy nature. He also said his love was for poetry and books in general so to be able to open a Library was quite dear to his heart. He finished with a favourite poem which was very appropriate for the day.

The weather was perfect, the choir sang beautifully just before the ribbon was cut and the whole afternoon was a joy to witness. In all there were around 200 people attending including local councillors, PCC members, staff, governors, parents and friends and other local school and nursery representatives. Everyone also enjoyed tea and delicious cakes provided for by the PTFA after the ceremony.



# AROUND AND ABOUT

## Reflections on Village Life

Now that Baggins and I are in our early retirement you may have noticed us on our frequent strolls around the Village reflecting on the World in general or Stockcross in particular. In the twenty five years or so that my family have lived here we have seen many changes of people and events affecting Village life. Stockcross has been very kind to us and we trust other Villagers, old and new, share this feeling.

When the Boys arrived in their early teens they were already well acquainted with the local youngsters through playing rugby at Newbury. Under the watchful eye of Mike Pike they would travel back and forth to their schools in Newbury on the local bus and many enduring friendships were made. Mike should have been awarded a bar to his MBE for the ways he managed their youthful exuberance. It is wonderful to see these friends, boys and girls, visit their parents homes' at Christmas, and introduce their new family additions.

Much of Village life has centred on the Church, village pubs and Post Office. In our early experience little use was made of the Hall and there were frequent threats to its continued existence. Fortunately, a group headed by Ken Sullivan and Ernie Preece, aided by the late Ivor Scull, secured Lottery funding to totally update the "domestic " facilities and revitalise its pivotal role as the hub of life in the Village. In conjunction with an enlightened Parish Council this now extends beyond the Hall to the wider area. Today, the Village Hall Committee, chaired by Brian Palmer, oversees a thriving asset shared by the Village and the wider community.

It is gratifying to see new families moving to Stockcross and embrace all that is well in the Village, whether it be school, pub or Post Office. The Hall remains central and contributes actively to all our benefits. The recent Venetian Masked Ball was an ambitious, innovative entertainment, enthusiastically undertaken by our new members. This was a most happy evening enjoyed in the pomp of "posh dresses and black ties". Unfortunately, it was not supported by the wider circle. If you are new to the Village do not be shy. Come and join us. Remember, a hive like Stockcross offering such an enjoyable lifestyle, needs to be supported by all the bees, whether a Queen Bee or a Worker.

*Dr Bob*

## Jumble Sale Success

This year's Hall jumble went very well. We had a lot of good quality items donated for sale and no lack of enthusiastic buyers. Every stall was kept busy and the auction raised at least a third of the overall profit of approx £500. Thanks to all the usual helpers and those who came along to help for the first time and were overwhelmed by the madness of it all! It seems in these cash strapped days more people are on the look out for a bargain.

## The Rising Sun

Has re-opened after a brief closure with a new management team, Stuart and Nicola Bagley. Welcome to Stockcross. Next issue Grapevine hopes to receive the once regular "News from the Sun."

## Lord Lyon Latest

The summer is slowly arriving at last, our herbs, salads, carrots, tomatoes, courgettes, aubergines and other yummy bits and pieces for the menu have been planted. Egg production by the chickens has increased significantly, the daffodils are looking superb and the clematis is coming along nicely. Thanks to all who have provided gardening advice, assistance, trailers of manure and help in any form...it is not only appreciated but much needed.



On Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> April we have "Mynotts Wing" playing at the pub, from 4.30, a bluesy folk duo performing outside weather permitting, or in the pub should it prove to be inclement.

We are planning our Royal Wedding Celebrations for the weekend of the 29<sup>th</sup> with a Big Screen TV a special Menu and Richard Cox Smith playing in the afternoon to compliment other village celebrations.

We are holding a grow your own pumpkin competition in aid of the new Stockcross School Library. Charlie Goodenough and ourselves are growing pumpkin seeds to a small seedling, available for £1 each, you can then take them away, nurture them, talk to them, play music to them and name them if you wish, we will be providing prizes for the biggest, the most unusual and the funniest shape, judging to be held in September. Seedlings will be available the pub and the village hall from the 27<sup>th</sup> April.

Please remember to book to avoid disappointment when wanting to eat at the pub, especially if there are 15 of you arriving on a Saturday evening (you know who you are!!) we will always try to give preference to locals but sometimes we just don't have the room. We will have some lovely summery dishes on the menu as the days lengthen and warm up, plenty of salads and light dishes as well as our traditional hearty fare, where possible grown by us, where practicable locally reared, sometimes smoked by us in our fabulous new smoker, sometimes caught or shot by us, or our friends. Always prepared and cooked by us. We look forward to seeing you.

Please keep an eye on the blackboards and notices in the pub for future events, also our facebook page and the website [www.lordlyon.co.uk](http://www.lordlyon.co.uk) where we update the menu as often as we remember.

And finally congratulations to the whole team for the Community Pub of the Year Award and we look forward to being a part of the community for many years to come.

*Mark*

# What's On

## APRIL

- 17 **Village Litter Pick 11am**  
Meet outside Sutton Hall
- 17 **Mynott's Wing** Live music  
at The Lord Lyon 4pm
- 23 **Easter Egg Hunt 2pm**  
Stockcross House Garden
- 27 **STOCC**  
"A Wedding Toast"  
Sutton Hall 2pm -4pm £2
- 27 **NGS Garden Open  
Stockcross House**  
11am to 4pm £3.50. Teas
- 29 **Village Tea Party for  
Royal Wedding**  
2pm

## MAY

- 24 **STOCC** Coach Trip to  
Greenwich 9am
- 25 **NGS Garden Open  
Stockcross House**  
11am to 4pm £3.50. Teas

## JUNE

- 15 **NGS Garden Open  
Stockcross House**  
11am to 4pm £3.50. Teas
- 29 **STOCC** outing to Gardens  
in Oxfordshire

## JULY

- 2 **Stockcross School Fete**  
1pm to 3pm at school
- 6 **NGS Garden Open  
Stockcross House**  
11am to 4pm £3.50. Teas
- 10 **Party on The Glebe**
- 19 **Boxford Fete**  
1pm to 4pm at Boxford  
Recreation Ground

## Regular Events

- Daily** Billiards at village hall
- Weekly**
- Monday** Pilates at Village Hall 6pm
- Tuesday** Yoga at Village Hall 6.30pm
- Thursday** Bridge Club at  
Lord Lyon from 7.30pm
- Friday** Toffs Bridge at Village Hall  
1.30pm
- Sunday** Tennis at Rec mornings
- Sunday** Folk at Rising Sun 8pm
- Monthly**
- 2nd Monday** Kint & a Pint at Lord Lyon  
8pm -10pm
- 1st Weds** Quiz at Rising Sun 8.30pm
- 2nd Tuesday** Village Hall Committee  
Meeting at the hall

## Church Services

### April

- 17 **Holy Communion 11am**
- 22 **Good Friday  
Choral Matins 11am**
- 24 **Easter Day  
Holy Communion 9.30am**

### May

- 8 **Holy Communion 9.30am**
- 15 **Holy Communion 11am**
- 22 **Matins 11am**

### June

- 12 **Holy Communion 9.30am**
- 19 **Holy Communion 11am**
- 26 **Matins 11am**



**Summer Fete**  
Saturday 2nd July 2011  
1pm - 3pm

### STOCKCROSS SCHOOL

Enjoy Cream Teas, Bouncy Castle,  
Tombola, Gift Stalls, Raffle and lots  
of fun activities:

**Thank you for your support-**  
PTFA - charity number  
1105137

### Mobile Library visits to Stockcross

Village Hall 11.30 to 12.10  
Bayford House 1.20 to 2pm

Apr	May	Jun
27	18	8



**Wednesday 27 April**  
2pm – 4pm at the Sutton Hall  
A Wedding Toast  
An afternoon themed to the Royal  
Wedding

**Tuesday 24 May**  
Coach Trip to Greenwich  
leaves Sutton Hall at 9am.  
Booking forms now available from  
Jane

**Wednesday 29 June**  
Afternoon Outing  
to prize winning gardens in Oxford-  
shire  
Details from Pat Newton: 01635  
521775  
nearer the time

**ALL WELCOME**

Call Jane: 01488 608762 or Viv:  
01635 523963