

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER

STOCKCROSS PANTO PLAYERS

**This year's production of
Snow White and the Seven Dwarves
is booked for performance on
1/2/3 Dec 2011**

Oooh, its time already to start planning. Always magical, always fun but we do need you to help make it happen!

Viv Wilson & Claire Ralphson Cooke have volunteered to co-produce and this year, Viv will also try and Direct.

So if you'd like to get to know your neighbours, or make new friends and acquaintances, please do come along and get involved. We'd love to see you! Whether you can sew in a straight line, are good with songs (current or past), or have a set of tools and a couple of hours to spare, let us know.

Any input from you could help make this years Panto an even more memorable one. Look forward to meeting you! For more details please contact Viv Wilson 01635 523963 vc.wilson@btinternet.com

Sheelagh

Sunday on the Glebe - full review page 7



**FROM THE SUTTON HALL
STOCKCROSS
July 2011 No:78**

Current Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour)			
	Small	Large	Both
Resident	Hall 5.50	Hall 8.00	Halls 11.00
Non resident	9.00	13.00	16.00

Call Jay on 01488 608769 to book
or visit our website

www.suttonhallstockcross.org

or email

suttonhall642@btinternet.com



Chairman's Report

Summer's here I think, well that's what I've been told. The hall is proving very popular for events such as Pilates, Yoga, and Zumba just to name a few.

The new cooker has now been installed ready for JS to see if she can really cook. At long last we have a flap installed in the bar of the small hall, making it easier to access the kitchen when the large hall is in use.

At the beginning of the year I filled a form in from the Greenham Trust, requesting to know what improvement projects we were involved with. I listed four and last week we were awarded £2000.00, so thank you Greenham Trust.

Planning has been applied for to extend the car park, as yet we haven't heard anything, but hopefully it will make things easier for the residents that live opposite.

A new twenty five year lease for the hall is being drawn up by the solicitors, securing the hall for future generations. Thank you to Jonathan Russell from the Sutton Estate for arranging this.

As I am writing this the stage is going up for Sunday on The Glebe, sorry to those involved that I haven't been able to help due to my ongoing ankle problem.

I think I have rambled on too much so that's it from the Marsh Benham Boy.

Brian G Palmer

Welcome to Stockcross.

Congratulations to Jay, our Hall caretaker, and partner Daniel on the birth of their son Wilfred who arrived on 1st July at 10.41pm and weighed 7lb 12oz.



 * **Open invitation to Cheese & Wine** *
 * **Followed by the AGM of** *
 * **The Sutton Hall Management Committee** *
 * **Wednesday October 12th** *
 * **at 7.30pm for 8pm** *
 * **At The Sutton Hall** *
 * **All are Welcome** *

Grapevine Nature Notes

I am writing this at the end of a perfectly wonderful summers day.... non stop blue sky and the temperature in the high 20s.

It has not all been like this!!

Having had lovely weather in early spring that had everything moving pretty fast, we then had no rain for weeks and weeks causing problems for birds feeding their young not to mention plants and crops in general suffering from drought..

Then came the rain.. And wind. And grey days one after the other, quite depressing really. At one point I was seriously considering murder because so many of the baby birds that did fledge in my garden were being taken by a breeding pair of magpies from Church Wood. It really was very upsetting to see so many half eaten bodies and not only small birds either, I saw two baby pigeons beheaded and the bones pecked clean. I was starting to have sympathy for that poor lady who trapped magpies and then killed them a couple of years ago. I believe she received serious hate mail at the time. Not surprisingly, the magpies have reared three healthy young this year.

Another sad scene was the finding of a most beautiful nest blown out of my holly tree by one of the gales. I am no expert on nests but am fairly sure it was that of a goldfinch especially as we have had so many of the type around this year. I just hope they had time - and energy - to rebuild.

However, it is not all gloom and doom. There have been a large number of baby blue tits and great tits following the adult birds in quite large flocks through the trees, not to mention blackbirds, wood peckers, and wrens, although I have not seen any baby mistle thrushes this year, sadly. Where are they? Talking of the wrens I cannot believe how much noise a group of baby wrens and the adults make. They may be one of the smallest of our birds but the continuous din from them as they leave the nest is just incredible.

Butterflies are beginning to spring into life now and it is so lovely to see them. Being on the edge of a wood I am lucky enough to see white admirals and speckled woods and then today, several superb scarlet tiger moths, quite unusual I believe.

Sitting in the garden it has been a joy to watch the swifts overhead but the awful thing is it will not be too long before they start to disappear for another year. Lets hope the Post Office provided them with a good home to rear their chicks again this year.

Janet Scull 01488 608324



Here is a picture of survivors in our garden. The chain saw just missed them. I'm pleased to tell you they all fledged and flew away leaving just the empty nest.

Roger & Viv Wilson.

OUT AND ABOUT

Lord Lyon Latest

Well, it has been a hectic few months at The Lord Lyon. We have embarked on some major work, refurbishing the upstairs to form 5 en suite rooms to let on a Bed and Breakfast basis. We will obviously have special rates for villagers; next time you have visitors staying why not put them up in the pub, and save yourselves the work and hassle of having them stay with you, please see Mark for special "village" rates. We plan to be up and running by mid September, if you would like a tour of the work just ask.

With the arrival of summer (sic) the garden has gone mad, we have some fantastic "heritage" vegetables in the kitchen now, look out for our purple carrots, our pinstripe aubergines and yellow patty courgettes just to name a few exiting things...the chickens are rewarding us with plenty of fabulous eggs and continue to entertain and amuse us. Tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers are nearly there, it's an exiting and yummy time....All can be viewed via our Beer Garden at the rear of the pub.

The smoker has really come into it's own in the last couple of months, we regularly have smoked chicken, always have smoked gammon ham and even subtle smoked garlic from the garden making it's way onto the menu.

The Landrover has been in regular use ferrying people to and from the pub, if you would like us to collect you and drop you home again after a meal please have a chat with Mark, we will happily do it when we can, and it's free, but at our discretion, so don't be rude about it....it is rickety, but reliable!



The Brewery tour last month was a great success and enjoyed by all those that came along, and a true testament to how comfortable the Landrover is, with gentle snores emanating from the back seat on the way home after many, many beer tastings! We will organise something similar soon, for anyone interested.

I gather the pumpkin growing is going well for those that have entered, I hope that there is no skulduggery going on, remember it's for a good cause, the school library, although I know an element of competitiveness should ensure some whoppers are grown....keep them watered.

Finally just a quick reminder to always remember to book, if you are planning on eating with us, we are busier and busier all the time, and it's disappointing for us, as well as yourselves if we can't accommodate you, although we will always do everything we can to fit you in. Bar stools, as ever are available on a first come, first served basis, and are in high demand at peak times, such as Sausage O'clock, 6pm everyday, when we have organic sausages on the bar, pop in for an award winning ale and a sausage!

Cheers!

Mark, FJ, Susan, Camilla, Jason, Dean and a whole team of part timers. www.lordlyon.co.uk

Village Open Gardens 2012

I have been asked to organise a village group opening for the National Garden Scheme (NGS) next year, they are trying to do lots of them to celebrate their 80th Anniversary and the Queen's Jubilee. There may be some others of you who would like to open as well as those from last year. Please ring me if interested on 01488 608810

Sue Vandyk

Speen Parish Council

Our Stockcross councillors continue to work hard on our behalf. The new playground at the Rec is proving popular
Councillors as at 21st June 2011

Dawn Brennan
201 Kersey Crescent, Speen, Newbury, RG14 1SW
Raymond Brennan
201, Kersey Crescent, Speen, Newbury, RG14 1SW
Grahame Foulkes
14 Manor Place, Speen, Newbury, RG14 1RB
Meg John (Chair)
Sexton's Cottage, Church Lane, Speen, Newbury, RG14 1SA
Antony Newell-Hart
5 Deanwood House, Stockcross, Newbury, RG20 8JP
Keith Phillips
Willow Gate, The Cricketers, Stockcross, Newbury, RG20 8LW
Ken Sullivan
The Scribblings, Stockcross, Newbury, RG20 8LH
Roy Tolcher
10 Speen Lane, Speen, Newbury, RG14 1RW
Lynda Tull (Vice Chair)
6, Lewendon Road, Speen, Newbury, RG14 1SP
Clerk: Ruth Jones
7 Horse Guards Way, Thatcham, Berkshire RG19 4PE
Tel: 07584435656 E-mail: clerk@speen.gov.uk

The council are also looking to co-opt more councillors.

Please contact the clerk if interested.

Dear Grapevine

I would like to thank everyone who phoned and sent get well cards during my recent stay in hospital and, on my return, offered help. To those who kept an eye on me and made me do as I was told...thanks.

Thank you for cutting my grass and hedges and looking after my garden for me, I very much appreciate it.

The Phantom cobbler hopes to be back in action soon, although I am actually quite enjoying the present time!!!

Cheers!

Mike Pike MBE

Welcome home to Charlie Goodenough who has also had a stay in hospital. and thanks to his next door neighbour for looking after his garden.

AROUND THE VILLAGE

Mick Scarlett 1942 – 2011

Mick lost a bravely fought battle on 9th May. He was a very popular man evidenced by standing room only at the chapel as his many friends came to show their respects.



Mick and Bidy moved into Thorn Cottage in September 2001 however their connection with Stockcross goes back to 1971 when they had one of their first dates in The Lord Lyon.

Mick loved this village, loved living here, loved being part of a community and he loved visiting the Rising Sun and The Lord Lyon and joining in the various village activities. He won first prize for tallest sunflower in 2004 and widest bloom in the 2005 competition. In 2009 he was runner up in the potato growing. Gardening was a favourite pastime and the garden at Thorn Cottage is beautiful and a testament to him.

He won most improved dancer at Strictly Come Stockcross in 2006 (his dancing skills, or lack of them being notorious!).

A keen sportsman, he played tennis at the village club and was also in the Stockcross Gentlemen's Eleven cricket team for the 2008 and 2009 charity matches against Imago plc.

He loved chatting to Viv and Roger in the pub on Friday evenings, sharing tales of their motoring exploits, he loved chatting to Ann across the fence and talking to Tim at the end of the garden too, when he and Angela were at the Post Office. He enjoyed the friendship and support of Nick and Ann, loved seeing Bob and Baggins walking past each day and chatting to Shirley as she tended her beautiful allotment.

He loved the pantomimes, the Harvest Supper, Stockcross House Open Gardens Day – he loved it all, in the quiet, understated way he had about everything. He was completely overwhelmed by the friendship and support people showed him when he was ill and Bidy knows that he would want to say 'thank you' to everyone for the kindness and friendship that she has been shown since he died.

Stockcross has lost a good friend.

Change of Head teacher at Stockcross CE Primary School

The Governors of Stockcross School are delighted to announce that Mrs Florence Rostron will take up the post of Executive Headteacher at the school from September 2011. Florence will take up this post alongside her existing role as Headteacher of Welford and Wickham CE Primary School. This follows Mr Nathan Hunt's decision to leave after 7 years to pursue new opportunities. We wish him well for the future and thank him for his contribution during this time.

An Executive Headship means Florence will lead both schools on an equal basis and we believe it offers Stockcross School a great opportunity to benefit from the leadership of an experienced Head who currently leads a school classed as outstanding by OFSTED.

The Governing Bodies of both schools see this agreement as an exciting opportunity to explore areas of collaboration and together with the support of all the staff and Governors, we are excited about building on the success of both schools.

Gavin C Jones
Chairman of Governors
Stockcross CE Primary School

Dear Grapevine

Please convey our sincerest thanks on behalf of the staff and governors of Stockcross School to the Village Hall Committee for their kind donation of 22 books for the new Library. The children really love their new library and I'm sure many of them now have a renewed interest in books.

Kay Double
Vice Chair Governors
Stockcross CE Primary School

All you knitters of Stockcross

Sarah, my daughter has recently purchased an online company specializing in a large range of unusual wools, needles, bags, accessories etc. associated with knitting, most are not usually available in the UK.

Why not look at her web site, www.Purlecence.co.uk. I feel sure there will be special prices for the Grapevine knitters.

Ron Cummings



Stuart and Nicola Bagley offer a warm welcome as they strive to preserve the “Traditional Pub Fayre” in what is one of Berkshire’s “Good Old Country Pubs”! Having grown up in the pub trade and worked in a variety of settings including pubs, hotels and country Inns, the couple understand the importance of traditional pub values; creating a friendly and relaxed atmosphere where visitors can enjoy good beer, good food and good company.

Stuart, a Michelin Trained Chef, started his career in the kitchens of Martin Blunos, a two Michelin Starred Chef at Restaurant Lettonie. He went on to work with a further six Michelin Starred Chefs, before taking the helm in his own kitchen at the Rising Sun. So join him for some wholesome traditional ‘Pub Grub’ including; Toad in the Hole, Traditional Ploughman’s and award winning “Beer Battered” Fish ‘n’ Chips.

The Rising Sun offers a variety of eating out options including: Lunchtime “Little Appetites” Menu offering a smaller portion, priced at just £6.95 for two courses, or £8.95 for three: Sandwiches & Jacket Potatoes; evening meals. Join Friends and Family for “Happy Hour” as they serve 2 courses for £12.00 or 2 main courses for £15.00. Monday to Friday 5.30pm until 6.30pm. There’s a choice of two roasts for Sunday lunch! Roast Chicken is a favourite and takes pride of place on the menu each week, but others rotate weekly, giving diners something different to choose from. All roasts are served with a variety of seasonal vegetables and traditional accompaniments for just £7.95. However if you’re planning a night in or have just stopped off while passing we can help you to enjoy your evening in the comfort of your own home with our “Take-away” service.

The pub serves the full range of West Berkshire Brewery’s awarding winning ales. There’s also a chance to sample the brewery’s “Beer of the Month”. As well as guest Ales. Also available: In 2 pint cartons and in 9 polypins your take-away can be collected at the bar. Larger 18 and 36 pint polypins can be ordered in advanced as can a 72 pint firkin for those special occasions, but please note, that a deposit is required with your order.

Situated to the rear of the pub is an enclosed Beer garden, ideal for those lazy days of summer. It’s open all year round and The Rising Sun is, weather permitting, going to host a number of barbecues, fun days, and even a Beer Festival at the end of August. Children, Cyclists, Walkers, Ramblers with ‘Muddy Boots’, and well behaved Dogs on Leads are all welcome at The Rising Sun, but for the comfort of other users we do ask that those under the age of 16 leave the bar from 9pm. Our visitors are welcome to use the car park during their visit. You’ll find it situated to the rear of the pub.

Larger groups are also encouraged to take advantage of the Rising Sun’s pre-ordering service as we are keen to ensure a fast and efficient service, enabling you to sit back and relax!

Quiz night

Test your knowledge in one of The Rising Sun’s quiz nights on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 8pm. Entry is £1.00 per person with prizes for the winning and losing team. Any proceeds will be donated Berkshire Air Ambulance

Theme nights

The 3rd Thursday of each month is dedicated to one of Stuart’s “tasty” theme nights as he tantalises your taste buds with some international cuisine featuring: Chinese, Indian, Mexican, Thai, French, Spanish and Caribbean dishes.

Open Mic Talent Nights If you have a talent and would like to showcase your skills, book a slot at The Rising Sun’s “Open Mic Talent Nights”. They are staged on the Last Saturday of the month from 7.30pm, and for those who are not so talented, or just like a good night out, it’s an opportunity to show some appreciation for our future stars! To find out more call: 01488 608 131 or pop in for a pint and ask at the bar.

Acoustic Sounds

The sound of music is bound to get your toes tapping every Sunday Evening as a variety of locals and people from further afield meet up and play some soothing sounds with something for everyone.

So once more, Stuart and Nicola Bagley would like to welcome all Customers, new and old back to the “Good Old Times” at The Rising Sun Stockcross.

Hope to See You All Soon.

Golf Society

Are you a budding Rory Mc Ilroy or someone who just enjoys a game of golf?

If you are interested in golf why not join the The Rising Sun (Stockcross) Golf Society, please give me a call, you will be most welcome. We meet 8 times a year, monthly during the summer, playing various golf courses in the area and beyond, we have been going for over 25 years, with over 40 members, on a typical society day we will have approximately 25 golfers playing, ranging from 8 to 28 handicap, so whatever your handicap you will certainly not feel out of place, you do not have to be a member of a golf club, I’m not

Ron Cummings 01488 608124 roan@washerman.fsnet.co.uk

QUARTERLY ROUND UP

Stockcross Two O'clock Crowd invite you to join them on two special outings

This summer you could join us on two trips with historical themes; to the Museum of Rural life in Reading at the end of August and to Bletchley Park, home of British codebreaking activities during WW2, in September. Both trips need to be booked so don't delay as places are limited. Details are on the advert for STOCC.

In April we had a tea party themed to the forthcoming royal wedding which was royally laid out by Viv who also set us a Royal Wedding Quiz. Despite there being so much coverage on TV, we were surprised how little some of us (especially me) knew about it all. A selection of our own design ideas for the style of Kate's dress was displayed – some of which had similarities to the bride's dress though not one looked the same. Well done everyone for coming up with the designs, it was fun to do.

Several of us joined the Kintbury KEWI coach outing to Greenwich in May where we were able to 'do our own thing' in an area rich in history including The Royal Observatory which had fantastic views over the City and Docklands, The Painted Hall and the National Maritime Museum.



We also visited Newington Nurseries in Oxfordshire where we had a brief talk about orchids and their care by Chelsea Gold Medallist Stephen Hendry. It was a beautifully sunny June afternoon to enjoy the gardens with fascinating sculptures followed by tea and cakes. All the cars headed back to Stockcross laden with carefully packed orchids and other purchases. Thanks to Pat and Ian for arranging it all.

Jane Batt

Wombling Around the Village

The litter pick went ahead on 17th April as planned. Chairs, mattresses and general junk were found. Thanks to all those who litter and make this annual event so enjoyable! Added request please pick up your dog's poo.

Glastonbury 2011



Stockcross were well represented at Pilton Farm. A "Stock Camp" was set up and we all partied through the mud and sunshine. And what do you know?

Amongst 175000 revelers, our camp met up with the Drewes as we all waited for the Kaiser Chiefs to take the stage. Peace and Love xx



New People at the Post Office

Originally from Zimbabwe but more recently Newbury, Stuart and Heather Gilmour and their sons Ryan and Brandon took over at the shop in April and have received the usual Stockcross warm welcome from the villagers. One immediate change has been an extension to opening times and the stocking of newspapers. Next time your passing drop in and say hello.



Shop & Cafe Opening Times

Mon - Fri 7am to 6pm Sat 7am to 12.30pm

Post Office Opening Times

Mon to Fri 9am to 5.30pm Sat 9am to 12.30pm

Bed & Breakfast Enquiries Tel 01488 658141

www.stockcrosspostoffice.co.uk

QUARTERLY ROUND UP

Royal Wedding Tea Party



Stockcross went to town for William & Kate's celebrations in April. Bunting covered the centre of the village and on the day itself over 150 people turned up at the village hall to enjoy one big Tea party. It was manic! Thanks to Niki Varley for the beautiful wedding cake and to David Nevitt who went on and did a solo performance on vocals and guitar after his mate couldn't do the gig. (David has since been accepted into the Guildford School of Contemporary Music so maybe the practice helped him out). Well done to the ladies and children who joined in the fancy dress competitions, you all looked super. Anouska Vandyk kindly made a photographic record of the day which we hope can be made available in the near future. Now then next year is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee so we can really push the boat out!



More Success for Stockcross PUMAS

On Saturday 21st May, Elliot Crouch and Harvey Brown attended the English PUMAS Martial Arts Championships held in Swindon. Ages ranged from 4 and upwards and included all skill ranges from white belt up to black belt. Elliot and Harvey represented Newbury Little PUMAS in the high-kicking and patterns competitions. Elliot won the high-kicking competition for 6 year olds and received a cup. Harvey received a well deserved medal for competing in both competitions. Well done to both of them and good luck in your next grading this month and future Championships.



Sunday on the Glebe

Months of planning and hard work paid off under clear skies on Sunday July 10th as villagers paid homage to Jazz on the Glebe with this new event after a four year break. Stock 'n' Roll and a Dash of KT (our very own Mike & Anna) opened with beautiful vocals and a polished set, out-performing Lady Gaga with a brilliant cover-version of Poker Face. Next the raw, vibrant talent of Forever August, who are surely just waiting to be snapped up by a major record label, watched proudly by uncle John Mingo and star-struck cousin Grace. The fantastic Loopy delighted the crowd with their perfectly



balanced mix of funky covers and stylish original material, before the Regular Joes brought the crowd to their feet for a swinging finale. In between sets the crowds enjoyed a great selection of delicious local food and beers provided by Mark and his Lord Lyon team, and a fabulous samba drumming performance from the children, as well as some relaxing massage therapy and a wander around the craft stalls in the sunshine. A truly unforgettable day. Thanks are owed to Alex, Claire, Winston, Sarah, Mike and Richard, and their impressive army of willing helpers, to the Village Hall committee especially Mark Nevitt, Sutton Estates, Sue & Edward Vandyk and to the providers of the raffle prizes!



If you'd like to support Sunday on the Glebe further - and help bring it back next year - you can order a special edition 'friends of Sunday on the Glebe' t-shirt or hoodie. Please contact Claire on 01488 608597 or email to sundayontheglebe@gmail.com

What's On

JULY

18 Speen Parish Council meeting 7.30pm at The Sutton Hall. Guest speaker Arlene Kersley, Rural Housing Enabler for Berkshire

27 STOCC Tea at Bagnor 2pm -4pm £2

AUGUST

24 STOCC Visit to MERL by bus from Hall 1.30pm

SEPTEMBER

10 Harvest Supper 7.30pm at Village Hall

12 Speen Parish Council meeting at Speen Village Hall 7.30pm

28 STOCC Trip to Bletchley Park

OCTOBER

12 AGM Sutton Hall 7.30pm

15 Church Jumble Sale

22 Quiz Night Village Hall details TBA

Mobile Library visits to Stockcross

Village Hall 11.50 to 12.30
Bayford House 2.00 to 2.40

Jul	Aug	Sep
20	10 31	21

Regular Events

Daily Billiards at village hall

Weekly

Monday Pilates at Village Hall 6pm

Tuesday Yoga at Village Hall 6.30pm

Wednesday Zumba Village Hall 7.30pm

Thursday Bridge Club at Lord Lyon from 7.30pm

Friday Toffs Bridge at Village Hall 1.30pm

Sunday Tennis at Rec mornings

Sunday Accoustic Sounds at Rising 8pm

Monthly

2nd Mon Knit & a Pint at Lord Lyon 8pm -10pm

1st Weds Quiz at Rising Sun 8pm

2nd Tues Village Hall Committee Meeting at the hall

Last Sat Open Mic Rising Sun 7.30pm

HARVEST SUPPER Saturday 10th Sept -7.30pm **Do not miss this annual village get together**

We will be enjoying our usual high standard of homemade fare with a bit of entertainment thrown in. Tickets will be £3.00 for villagers and £7.50 for guests and will go on sale at The Shop in August.

Church Jumble Sale **Saturday 15th October 1pm**

Clear out your cupboards and then refill with other people's stuff at the annual Church Jumble. Also enjoy Tea, cakes, raffle and auction.

Church Services

July

17 6pm Taize Service at Peasemore followed by farewell party for Kate & Graham Stacey

24 11am Morning Prayer and presentation to Rev Kate

31 10am United Benefice at Chieveley

August

14 9.30am Holy communion

21 6pm Taize Service at Leckhampstead



Wednesday 27 July

2pm – 4pm

Afternoon Tea

at the Bagnor home of Viv Lovell
£2 including refreshments.
Car share from Sutton Hall

Wednesday 24 August

Afternoon visit to the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading
by Volunteer Bus 1.30pm from the Sutton Hall

A guided tour of main museum and also upper gallery that is not usually open to the public. There will be time to see the special Archers exhibition.
Cost: £3.50pp. (covers tea and biscuit and tour donation)

Please book with Viv

Wednesday 28 September

Full day coach trip to

Bletchley Park

A fully guided tour. Price includes coffee, lunch and teas. Cost: £30

Booking forms and details available from Jane

ALL WELCOME

Call Jane: 01488 608762 or Viv: 01635 523963