

Our Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be celebrated in style in Stockcross. See the centre pages for full details of what's planned

- Jubilee - At a Glance*
- 27 May Open Gardens & Craft Fair
 - 30 May STOCC Jubilee Tea & Exhibition
 - 2 June Jubilee Tiara Ball
 - 2 & 3 June Scarecrow Competition
 - 4 June - Fun in the Field
 - Prize Draw

Interested in getting involved?
We couldn't run any village event without the help and enthusiasm of the Stockcross villagers. If you think you can help us once again, come and join us for a cup of tea and find out more at the village hall on
Saturday 5th May from 10.00am to mid-day.
Can't make the meeting? call Sarah on 01488 657296

Pre Jubilee Litter Pick
To help get the village looking its best for the Open Gardens and Jubilee celebrations, we hope to have a quick spring clean litter pick, on the evening of Wednesday the 23rd of May, meeting at the Sutton Hall at 6:30pm. All equipment will be provided, it would be great to spend an hour in the (hopefully) pleasant spring evening and maybe work up a bit of a thirst. Many thanks in advance, and for everyone who's supported the litter picks up to now. Mike & Claire
Ralphson-Cook 01488 608597



Jubilee Prize Draw

Top prizes including a Week in a Welsh Holiday Unit, ipod, Luxury Hamper plus many more.
Tickets £1 each, available from 1st May from the post office, at all the jubilee events and from Sutton Hall committee members.

Prizes will be drawn at 'Fun on the Field' on Monday 4th June

QUARTERLY ROUND UP

Message from the Co-chairs

I can't believe it was three months ago since Sarah and I were putting together our last message. We've had a great start to the year with the recreation ground being granted protected status under The Queen Elizabeth II Field designation and terrific plans being put in place for the Diamond Jubilee weekend. The committee have also put together an ambitious programme of improvements for the hall led enthusiastically by our treasurer Mark Nevitt, committee member Ron Cummings and Sarah. Many thanks to everyone who braved a very soggy Sunday morning a few weeks ago to help plant out the new Hawthorne plants around the village hall car park!

Hopefully next time we will be writing about what a fabulous time we all had celebrating the Jubilee in the village.

Best wishes

Sarah Russell (Tel: 01488 657296)

Siobhan Gardiner (Tel: 01488 608268)

www.suttonhallstockcross.org

Events at The Hall

The Jumble sale raised about £430 in February thanks to all who donated, helped and bought stuff. The money was used to help cover the cost of the first film club screening.

Sutton Hall Film Club 25th February

Thanks go to Gill Cresswell who organised the fledging film club's very first screening with welcome support from Dudley Smithers (Slough Film Society) who kindly provided the equipment, expertise and advice needed.

The film chosen was "The Help" the big screen version of Kathryn Stockett's bestseller. Set in Jackson, Mississippi in 1962 we enter a world where black maids raise white children, but aren't trusted not to steal the silver.

The evening was well received and we would love to show more films in the coming months. Please email your thoughts on how we could do better and suggestions for films you might like to see in the future to suttonhallfilmclub@hotmail.co.uk

Stockcross Village Scenes

I am very happy to report that my Photography Exhibition on the 3rd of March at the Lord Lyon, Stockcross was very successful. It resulted in the sale of 41 Prints, 6 Coffee table books and 91 cards as well as 48 cards ordered by Inklings in Hungerford. I would like to thank all the local businesses and everybody who supported my project and charity. The total raised for Help for Heroes was £1144.68

<http://www.bmycharity.com/AlexanderBeard>

All my photographs from the exhibition and more can be seen at <http://www.alexanderbeardimages.com>

Thank you
Alexander Beard

Grapevine Nature Notes

April 2012

Looking back over my notes for January I see that I did warn that in November it seemed as though spring had sprung. Well now we seem to have had summer in March, so what next.....autumn? The way things usually go I expect when this is read we shall be knee deep in snow. We do have some very odd weather sometimes.

It always amazes me that our wildlife goes on much as it always has and, thank goodness, on the whole survives. One of the most unusual events it seems to me, is the date on which for instance, I hear a chiff chaff....almost the same every year. The sight of the brimstone and orange tip butterflies varies just a little with current weather, but the bird migration seems as steady as a rock.

The frogs started their mating calls at much the same time as last year and I must relate a tale that might cause distress to



those of a nervous disposition so you may or may not wish to read on! Very early on in the season I had a male frog that I think must have drowned his chosen female but would he let her go - no he would not. Despite being

dragged out of the water and left some way from the pond, he still dragged her bloated body back to the water. In the end they had to be fished out and she was forcibly removed from his very tight grasp. Happily there were other females in the pond and I now have a healthy mass of tadpoles that will be the next generation.

I have the benefit of a very good bird spotter in the village who is always on the lookout for the new and unusual. She has reported a sighting of flycatchers which would be very good news indeed as I have not seen many of these lovely birds over the last years.

The dawn chorus has been one of the best ever I wonder if it is because the weather which has been so glorious has made them all sing their hearts out or is it because we have been able to have more windows open? There is a flurry of nesting going on and the early breeding hedge sparrow (or dunnock) have young already. I just hope they all avoid the magpies this year.

Janet Scull

Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour) Effective from 1st November 2011

| | Small Hall | Large Hall | Both Halls |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Resident | 6.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 |
| Non resident | 9.50 | 14.00 | 17.00 |

Call Jay on 01488 608769 to book
or visit our website
www.suttonhallstockcross.org

OUT AND ABOUT

Stockcross Two O'clock Crowd



Thank you to all those who came and enjoyed Tony Stratford's very professional and hilarious look at life (and deaths) in the Tower of London through the centuries. It was a treat – you may have seen him arriving in his wonderful Beefeater's uniform. Afterwards he answered questions about his own experiences of living and working there. It was so colourfully described it made me want to visit! We feel a trip coming on....

Following on the theme of executions, 'Lettice and Lovage' at the Watermill theatre was very much enjoyed by 16 of us in March. It was a tremendous performance by Selina Cadell, who played Lettice. The effects of the lovage liqueur proved to be disastrous but hysterically funny for the audience. It was a good choice for a play after our talk about The Tower! The cream tea afterwards went down well too.

Our speaker in April will be Caroline Goodfellow, who was curator at the Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green which is part of the V&A. She will be showing slides and has suggested we might like to bring along any interesting toys for discussion. It promises to be another enthralling afternoon

We are holding a Queen's Jubilee Tea Party on the Wednesday before the Jubilee weekend in the main hall and all are invited. It will be free of charge, we just ask that you bring a plate of food. You can see the "60 years of Stockcross" Exhibition and we hope to be entertained by children from Stockcross School. So come and meet your friends and neighbours and we can celebrate this special event together.

May we also ask that, if you have any unwanted jewellery you can donate for our stall at the Village Open Gardens Day, that you bring it along to the meetings or drop it in to Jane at Orchard End (next to the shop).

Future STOCC events will include a tour of the Sutton Estates and a summer coach trip. See the hall notice board for updates!



Wednesday 25 April

2 – 4pm at The Sutton Hall
Talk on Historical Toys
 with slideshow by Caroline Goodfellow, former curator at the Museum of Childhood
Bring any interesting toys for discussion
 Cost £4 inc tea

Tuesday 15 May

KEWI Outing to Oxford
 Coach leaves Stockcross, Sutton Hall at 9.15 am.
 A Blue Badge Guide will take us on a walking tour finishing around lunchtime (optional).
 £12.00 for KEWI/STOCC members
Details and booking forms from Jane
book by 8 May

Wednesday 30 May

2 – 4.30pm in the large hall
JUBILEE TEA PARTY
 Free of charge – please bring a small plate of food

ALL WELCOME – BRING A FRIEND AND HELP US KEEP THIS GROUP GOING

Volunteers Wanted

Panda Club Baby & Toddler Group meet every Monday (term time) between 9.45 & 11.45 a.m. in Boxford Village Hall and we are looking for volunteers to help out. If you are interested then please contact Wendy at the Preschool on 01488 657273 or wendy@teddybearspreschool.com

Mobile Library visits to Stockcross

Village Hall 11.50 to 12.30
 Bayford House 2.00 to 2.40

| Apr | May | Jun |
|-----|---------|-----|
| 18 | 9 30 | 20 |

Church Services

- April**
 22 **Holy Communion 11am**
 29 **United Benefice Communion at Boxford**
May
 6 **Family Service 11am**
 13 **CW Holy communion 11am**

Daphne Rutterford 1931 - 2012

On March 4, 2012, Daphne passed away peacefully at her daughters home in Wickham, Berkshire after a brave fight with cancer, aged 81 years. Beloved wife of Ken, much loved mother of Linda, Clifford, Bob and Alan. Loving nan to Emma, David, Justine, Jason, Beth and Jack and great nan to Leela, Hector and Lola. She was a regular worshipper at St John's Church, where her funeral was held. She will be missed, very much, by all her family and friends.



Celebrate the Jubilee in Stockcross

Whether you like gardening, cream tea, egg & spoon, tug of war or dancing to the early hours - we think you'll find something fun to do during the Stockcross Jubilee celebrations. There's something for everyone ...

NGS Open Gardens & Craft Fair, Sunday 27 May, 1pm - 6pm

To get you in the mood for the Jubilee, why not spend a few hours enjoying some of our stunning Stockcross gardens.

With your £5 combined ticket (children go free) see Highfields; Pump Cottage; Rookwood Farmhouse; Springfield Cottage and Stockcross House. craft fair at the hall, plant stall, see the Jubilee Exhibition "60 years of Stockcross", visit St John's Church with flowers and more stalls and then treat yourself to an ice cream or tea & cake.

Proceeds from open gardens/plant stall/teas go to NGS charities including MacMillan/Marie Curie/Help the Hospices with a share going to St John's Church and Friends of West Berkshire Hospital.

STOCC Jubilee Tea - Wednesday 30 May 2pm - 4.30pm

Join us for a good old fashioned jubilee tea and a toast to Her Majesty. Free Entry, just bring a small plate of food. It will also be another chance to see the Jubilee Exhibition.

Later in the afternoon we hope to be joined by children from Stockcross School who will give a short entertainment.

Jubilee Scarecrow Competition - 2nd & 3rd June

Why not make a jubilee scarecrow and place it in prime position in your garden during the jubilee weekend?

Entry forms available from the post office - fee £1.00 per household (closing date for entries Friday 25th May). Scarecrows should be in-situ from mid-day on Saturday 2nd June for the whole weekend. Winners (judged by popular vote) will be announced at 'Fun on the Field' on 4th June and a list of scarecrows will be available from the post office and village pubs for £1.00 from the Monday before.



Jubilee Tiara Ball - Saturday 2 June, from 8pm

Following last year's success - the village ball is back with the fantastic, talented Blue Note Mitch & the Red Hot Jacks. They're promising swing, jazz, jive and much, much more. So pull out your tiaras, gorgeous dresses and don your DJ's for a fun-filled night tapping your feet and singing along, or busting your moves on the village hall dance floor. A light buffet and two bars will keep you refreshed.

Tickets £22.50, available from Stockcross Post Office, Sarah Russell (07540 267509) or Siobhan Gardiner (07889 015611)

Fun in the Field - Monday 4 June, from 12.30pm, free entry

To round off our jubilee celebrations we would like everyone to join us for a fantastic village field day on the Rec. There will be something for everyone and you're guaranteed to have lots of fun!

We'll be kicking off the afternoon with a mini dog show - featuring fun categories like waggiest tail and best sausage finder. Then our four legged friends can go home for a well earned rest, and the fun races will begin ...

junior and senior welly wanging,
fancy dress and water relays,
carry a wife
skipping and hoolahoop
three legs and a bean bag
north v south Tug-o-War and Knit-a-Thon
... to name just a few

A BBQ, bar and jazz Band will entertain and refresh you throughout the afternoon.

Tennis club will also be open to have a knock around or to find out about membership

During the afternoon the Fields in Trust plaque will be officially unveiled, the prize draw and scarecrow competition winners announced and jubilee commemorative mugs given out to all the u16's in the village.

In the event of wet weather the 'fun in the field will relocate and become 'fun in the hall'

Further details contact Richard and Julia Crouch on 01488 608603 or uber.koob@gmail.com

Around The Village

Lord Lyon latest

With the early spring weather as unpredictable as ever, it's been a funny month or two... We have taken on a fantastic gardener who is happily bossing me about, and getting our garden into the best ever shape.

We are looking forward to the fruits of her labours, and they have been

Herculean, please feel free to have a wonder around the gardens, ask her advice or just have a chat.



Her name is Lynn and she is lovely and we are very proud of her results!

We are trying to keep up with the changing seasons and adapting our menus to the weather, which is proving difficult, we have salads on the menu one day and hearty winter stews the next... but at least it's keeping the chefs on their toes.

As many of you will already have heard we are in the process of expanding our enterprise to include the Five Bells at Wickham, at the time of going to press nothing is signed or sealed but we're 99% there... so it may still fall through but hopefully not!

We have some great items on the menu at the moment, from our fantastic home smoked baby back ribs, and huge 28 day aged t-bone steaks... we always offer at least 2 vegetarian main dishes and can happily cater for any allergies or special requests, just ask.



Our new bar is proving to be quite a popular spot for a few beers, with our four great ales, four ciders and three lagers, we have something for everyone, with a

different atmosphere to suit all. In either the bar or restaurant, the service will be excellent, the food great and the beers well kept.

We now welcome dogs on leads in the bar and we look forward to welcoming you.

Please check on the notice boards for our Jubilee celebrations, We are assisting and abetting in anything that we can, if you have an event and would like some help, or think we may be able to assist in any way, please just let us know!

As usual thank you for your support, and we look forward to welcoming you next time you are in.

Mark and the team.

News from The Rising Sun

I would like to thank all of our loyal customers for their support over the last 12 months, we have been made to feel so very welcome into this community by so many of you from this wonderful village, and surrounding area.

We have a few events planned over the coming months so here are a few Dates for your Diary:

On Saturday April 28th from 7.30pm we are holding a fancy dress 60's & 70's night, we have a live band called Ignition to entertain you, and have prizes for the Best Dressed Male and the Best Dressed Female.

On Saturday May 5th from 1pm we are holding a Darts Fun Day in aid of Help for Heroes. The events include; Darts Golf, Singles Knockout Tournament, 3's or 4's Competition and a raffle £1.00 per ticket. There is an entry fee of £5.00 per person with all proceeds going to Help for Heroes. Any raffle prizes will be gratefully received.

On Saturday May 19th from 8pm we have Joe Dooley's Skool of Rock to entertain you. Please come along and support some of our future local talent.

For the celebration of HRH Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee on Tuesday June 5th we will be entertained by The Bacuma Boy's, our very own Brewery Band they will be playing from 8/8.30pm. During the day we have arranged a bouncy castle to entertain the Children, and maybe face painting. Weather permitting we will have a Barbecue. Also for the children of the village we will be running a drawing competition, we would like to see your paintings of Queen Elizabeth II celebrating her Diamond Jubilee. All entries to arrive no later than 1st June 2012 to be displayed in The Rising Sun, a prize will be given to the Best picture on Jubilee Day.

On Sunday June 10th we are happy to announce that our Oliver "The Little Landlord" will be Christened at St Johns Church Stockcross, during the 11am Church Service, with light refreshments here at The Rising Sun, all are welcome to join us.

Nikky will be returning to work from her maternity leave on Tuesday April 24th for anyone wishing to banter with her once again she will be working weekday lunchtimes and weekend afternoons.

Furthermore I found it laughable on the front page of The Newbury Weekly News on Thursday April 5th 2012 that there is a beer shortage on the way! I can assure all Grapevine Readers that we will never have such problems here at The Rising Sun. The West Berkshire Brewery has just expanded, but NOT just expanded, actually doubled in size, and are now brewing more beer than ever, so if this beer shortage does ever occur feel free to come along to The Rising Sun for some Beers of Exceptional Character.

We have so far had two very successful beer tours to the new brewery, if anybody is interested in coming on a Brewery Tour, either pop in with your details, or email us at therisingsunatstockcross@yahoo.co.uk or email the brewery directly at info@wbbrew.co.uk.

Once more I would like to thank you all for your loyal support over the last 12 months, I hope you have all had a great Easter and look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Stui

Around The Village

Roger Thomas 1941 – 2012



Roger spent his early years in Bristol. In 1958 and became an Apprentice Pattern-maker in Bristol, having won "Apprentice of the year". He then moved "up" to the Drawing office – where he remained until he left in 1973 after which he held a variety of jobs. In 1965 he joined the VMCC (Vintage Motor Cycle Club) and remained a member until 2011. He married Judy in 1964, and had two daughters Helen and Caroline.

In 1990, Judy and Roger went their separate ways and Roger then met and married Tricia in 1991 when he then inherited another Daughter – Kate.

Roger and Tricia took on all sorts of challenges ... they lived in a caravan and worked in France – managing a Mobile Home site, they were a Housekeeper and Maintenance man for a huge estate for a Lord and Lady in Glynde, and held a couple of other similar roles in Putney and also as a Nanny/Housekeeper and Driver/Maintenance man for a plastic surgeon in Hook in Hampshire. They then bought and lived on a Narrow boat in Newbury - where it got so cold, that even in the summer there was ice on the inside! Latterly, they had a flat in Stockcross – next to the pub!

He had 5 Grandchildren ... Helen's children Sam, 21 and Annie, 19. Kate's son Tom, 18 and Caroline's children - Saxon 3 and Farrah 9 months, and was always interested to learn what they were up to offering wisdom and advice as necessary.

Roger was always on hand to ask about DIY, happy to help and take on all sorts of "jobs". He said "it was all in the preparation measure twice, cut once" ... although often jobs seemed to remain unfinished! In the summer of 2010 Tricia suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. This was very hard for Roger to come to terms with, and he moved back down to Bristol to live with Kate, Nigel and Tom. During the last 12 months, they kept him busy with little things and trips to look forward to and with just being a general part of their everyday life – he particularly enjoyed daily walks with Oscar, the dog. During the last year he enjoyed trips to France and Holland to visit friends and had holidays in Crete and other outings. He was very interested in the First World War, painstakingly researching what happened to his Grandfather who died on The Somme and visited the area many times.

Roger was a real gentle giant.... kind and thoughtful of others before himself. Even in St Peter's Hospice he kept his sense of humour and was always polite and thanked the nurses for their care. A couple of days before he passed away, he was sitting up in bed and said to Helen and Kate ... "I think tomorrow I will catalogue my Sunbeam bike spares ..." showing what was foremost in his mind!

Roger showed tremendous strength, character and humour and this does indeed sum up the man

Eulogy by Kate Croucher and Nick Drewe

Len Metcalfe 1925 - 2012

Len and his wife Win retired to Stockcross. He was a likeable and loveable member of the community and made a great impact on many people's lives. He supported the older residents and regularly undertook shopping and hospital visits for them. His great love was his garden which was full of colour in both winter and summer. He was adored by his children, grandchildren and great grandchild Sophie

(A full obituary appeared in the NWN 1st March 2012)

What a Team!

Danielle Reed and Freddie have just won the Winter Championships at Wellington Riding Centre.



Freddie is a 13'2 gelding dun. He is a new forest pony who loves jumping. They have been show jumping together since Danielle was 6 years old and they have become quite a team. This pair have won around £200 in the past 3 years.

Freddie is now for sale and Danielle is looking for someone who will love him as she does. If you are interested contact the Reeds on 01488 658340

Tennis Club News

Stockcross Tennis Club is looking forward to an exciting season this year with a new committee and plans for renovation of the courts and surroundings as well as opportunities for beginners and improvers. We are lucky to have courts in pleasant surroundings and at a subscription that is well below the average for West Berkshire.

At the Annual General Meeting held on March 1st in The Rising Sun it was agreed that for people joining this year, the annual subscription of £40 per adult or £60 for a family would be held for 3 years without an increase. People joining in 2013 may find that the rate has gone up,

Refurbishment is planned with a new perimeter fence, cleaning the court surface and groundworks around the pavilion. New court nets have already been purchased and will be up in time for the start of the season.

The committee is planning to arrange for coaching session, both for adults and children. Keep an eye open for information.

Contact: Felicity Merchant on 01488 608672 or email felicity-merchant@hotmail.com

Stop press! Tennis Club News! The new fence around the courts will be put up as soon as we can fix a date with the contractor. Additional court refurbishment will go ahead as soon as we have raised the necessary finance.



Could you help produce The Speen Parish Plan?

Every Parish has been invited to produce a plan of the facilities, requirements trends and opinions within the parish boundary so that council developments and decisions affecting our parish can take account of local preferences.

We are getting a team together of local people interested in helping to produce the plan - in particular anyone living in the outlying hamlets such as Marsh Benham, Bagnor, Woodspeen etc. who would be able to contribute extra local knowledge. It may be organising surveys, researching local history, sourcing information or delivering leaflets.

The more people we have to help to easier the job and the more fun it can be.

If you would like more information and/or think you would like to help then please contact:

Speen Parish Council Chairman

Meg John on 07887 870558 or email meg.john@me.com



Jubilee Exhibition - 60 years in Stockcross

Some of you may remember the exhibition put together for the Golden Jubilee in 2002.

Now 10 years on it is being updated for the Diamond Jubilee. I am on the look out for photographs and memorabilia relating to Stockcross and its people between 1952 and 2012 which can add to the story. I am especially looking for photos of the Silver & Golden Jubilee celebrations and any pictures of old/new buildings between those years. If you have anything that you would like to be used please contact me or Jackie Caufield. All photographs can be copied and then returned immediately if you wish.

Viv Wilson 01635 523963 Jackie Caufield 01488 608295

A SPECIALIST plant fair at a garden two years in the making has been announced to take place on Thursday 26th April.

Rookwood House in Stockcross is to present the unique fair featuring exhibits from, among others, multiple Chelsea Flower Show winners Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, and clematis specialist Marcus Dancer. The day will also have a large selection of obelisks, pots and other gardenalia for sale. Rookwood has been home to Rupert and Charlotte Digby and their family for over 25 years, who decided to take on the challenge and open the garden to the public. Refreshments and light lunches will be available. There will be parking and a plant crèche. Entry will be £3 per person, a percentage of which will go to charity. The garden opens from 10am to 3pm



Spring News from Stockcross C.E. Primary School

At the end of a busy Spring Term who knew school could be so much fun! We celebrated our African Family Learning week in style with children and parents dancing, drumming, cooking and producing wonderful artwork African style including batik, sunsets, sand art, textiles, patterned tiles and clay creations.

Visit our school website for a comprehensive slide show of all the activities we enjoyed. We also learned about the charity Tusk Trust, raising money in a cake sale, as well as identifying the many countries in Africa, their flags and their capital cities.

This was the final week of a busy term and children represented the school on many sports tournaments including Newbury Netball, Rugby and Football tournaments. The children did extremely well and thoroughly enjoyed taking part in these events.

"Adam in Eden" was a great success at The Anvil Theatre in Basingstoke in March. The children enjoyed singing at such a wonderful venue with the other primary schools and look forward to trying out steel pans for themselves during the summer term. The children have also sung in church for Mothering Sunday at Boxford and performed an Easter Passion Play as part of our end of term Easter service.

We are looking forward to an equally busy summer term with a whole school trip to London, a school production at Arlington Arts Centre in May and events with a sporting theme in the run up to the Olympics. As always if you would like to support the school in anyway, we would welcome members of the community into school.

Florence Rostron HeadTeacher

