

The Grapevine Newsletter

Issued by The Sutton Hall, Stockcross

April 2013

Number 85



What's On Diary

April

20th Dog First Aid Course

20th Ball at the hall

24th STOCC - visit to Open Gardens at Rooknest Lambourn Woodlands

26th Plant Fair Rookwood House 10 - 4

27th Plant Fair Rookwood House 10 - 4

May

4th Film Night 7.30pm

22nd STOCC -visit to Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre-

June

15th School Fete 1 - 3pm

27th STOCC -Coach Trip

Regular Events Sutton hall unless stated otherwise

Daily Billiards

Weekly

Mon Yoga 7pm

Tues Precious Seeds 9.30am
Baby & toddler group
Toffs Bridge 1.30pm
Yoga 6pm

Weds Coffee morning
Newdale Court 10.30am
Pilates 11.15 & 12.15
Kettle Ball 6.10pm

Thurs Bridge Club Lord Lyon from 7.30pm

Fri Coffee morning
Newdale Court 10.30am
Toffs Bridge 1.30pm

Sun Tennis at Rec morning
Folk at Rising Sun 8pm

Monthly

1st Wednesday
Quiz at Rising Sun 8pm

2nd Monday
Knitwits at Lord Lyon 8pm

2nd Tuesday
Village Hall Committee meeting 8pm

Mobile Library Visits

Village Hall 1.50 to 2.35pm
Bayford House 2.40 to 3.40pm

Apr 29	May 20	Jun 10
Jul 1	Jul 22	Aug 12

Church Services at St John's Stockcross All at 11am

April

28th CW Holy Communion

May

5th Family Service

12th CW Holy Communion

26th CW Holy Communion

June

2nd Family Service

9th CW Holy Communion

23rd CW Holy Communion

July

7th Family Service

14th CW Holy Communion

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Get Ready to Be Inspired
August 10th -25th



2 weeks
40 events
9 venues
1 village

Ball in The Hall

at The Sutton hall

Saturday 20th April 7.30pm

£7.50 per ticket

Includes

Champagne upon arrival and
Entry into raffle with superb prizes

Bar open to Midnight
Music to suit all tastes

Tickets from the village shop

Update on Hall Improvements

The Sutton Hall has a good reputation as an event venue and is very well used, so it is important that we keep on top of the maintenance. By now all of the windows have been double glazed, this will help keep the hall warmer and reduce the condensation which has caused dampness. One of the next jobs is to replace the door on the snooker/billiards room, which is in a poor state of repair.

In March the area under the stage was boarded out making it level with the floor of the hall. By using trolleys that we can load up and roll in and out it has created much needed storage space. A big thank you goes

to Nigel Rickard's for carrying out this long overdue improvement.

The garden area to the rear of the hall will be planted up with flowering shrubs against the fencing. This will create a very nice area for hall users to sit out during the hot summer days. (Remember those?) Hopefully it will also stop people going out the front for a cigarette!

General maintenance of the hall will always be ongoing to keep up the high standard that we have set ourselves. The two entrances to the car park have been renewed, there

are new curtains, replaced skirting boards and we have to keep on top of the decorating which gets marked due to the usage the hall gets. We are also addressing a damp problem in the cottage.

Finally we have some very good comments from not only visitors to the hall but the neighbours opposite, regarding the larger car parking area, I see very few cars parked on the road now. Thanks go to all your committee for their time and effort

Ron Cummings

Hall Maintenance Sub Committee

A Winning Team

'Well Done' to my husband Alan and our 3 Alaskan Malamutes, Ruby, Monty and Hudson? Our sleddog racing season has just finished and they have just won the 3-4 dog Championship of the Alaskan Malamute Working Association. It consisted of 7 stages of races of 3-4 miles in the Forest of Dean, Kings Forest Thetford and Bracknell Forest. I've attached a picture of them with their lovely trophy.

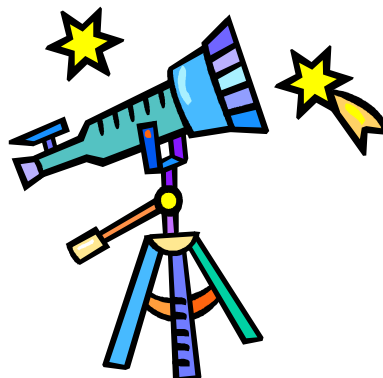
Louise Burgess



Learn New Stuff!

Interested in Stargazing?

I have been attending a fascinating GCSE Astronomy Course with a superb teacher that is taught in one hour lessons on Monday nights at Park House School during term time. The course starts again in September and if anyone would like to attend and perhaps get a lift each week from me please e mail me at tonyhersh@hotmail.com



Stockcross Tennis Club AGM took place on March 19th. The new season is due to start at the beginning of April. New members should contact Felicity Merchant at felicitymerchant@hotmail.com or phone 01488 608672. Membership forms will be sent out by email. Junior Tennis Coaching will start on Friday April 19th at 4pm.

Fair for Plantaholics plus Lectures by Royal Gardener April 26th & 27th at Rookwood House

David Howard, the Queen's and Prince of Wales' former Head Gardener, will give lectures on Organic gardening and his life as a Royal gardener at a 2 day Specialist Plant Fair at Rookwood House, Stockcross.

David has also restored the Victorian walled vegetable gardens at Avebury Manor for BBC TV.

Specialist growers and nurseries will be showing off their most desirable plants of the new season and there will be a variety of stalls offering everything from growing tips to plant supports, labels, garden photography,

climbers, hardy plants, seeds and even Queen bees and Honey bees.

There will be a plant creche and parking. Refreshments and light lunches will be served.

Open 10 am-4pm admission is £5 with complimentary access to Rookwood's beautiful gardens. **Lecture:** £25.00 (£40 for 2).

The event is in support of the **NSPCC** and the **British Red Cross** and is sponsored by Dick Lovett, Hungerford BMW and Knight Frank.



Specialist Spring
PLANT FAIR

**Fri 26th & Sat 27th
April 2013
10am - 4pm**

Over 25 Exhibitors
Lectures by
David Howard
Former Head Gardener to
HRH Prince of Wales

Main Sponsors:  

Supporting:  

ADMISSION: £5 LECTURE & Admission: £25
Tickets for lectures to be reserved in advance
www.rookwoodhouse.co.uk
Rookwood House, Stockcross, Newbury RG20 8JX
01488 608676

Daphne Foster

7th January 1934 to 26th January 2013



Daphne was born in Eastbury, christened in Eastbury Church and attended the local school. Daphne then went to school in Lambourn (which she would proudly tell you was a "HIGH SCHOOL" because it was on a hill). Whilst there she enjoyed sport and earned a certificate for jumping a 5 bar gate. It was also here that she first met John her future husband. On finishing school Daphne went to work at the Devonia Bakery in Newbury, she left there to work in Elliot's Furniture Factory. John went into the Army to complete his National Service, but they were reunited when he was "de mobbed" and after a courtship that lasted 3 years they married in 1957 in Newbury.

They went on to have Paul and Carol. Their first home was at Wickham Heath, but they latter moved to Stockcross where they have

remained in the same house for over 50 years. Daphne worked for Paddy and Pearl Drumgoole at the Rising Sun, cleaning both the pub and the fleet of coaches for over 28 years, she enjoyed this time enormously and had many a good story to tell!

Daphne became renowned for her garden and its colourful flowers, she would much rather be outside than in! She was also very proficient at many handicrafts and made a wide variety of items which she would sell at various events in Stockcross. She was also famous for her Christmas Grotto which featured many decorations that she had made herself, in fact people came from many miles to view this and it was another source of immense pride and enjoyment to her.

Daphne was a very proud Grandmother of Georgina. They were a familiar sight around the village with Daphne pushing her "Little Poppet" in the pram and later the push chair. Daphne enjoyed her holidays and spent a good number of these at Highcliffe and in later years she enjoyed trips to Belgium, Jersey and Disneyland Paris even going on many of the rides.

Over ten years ago she had a successful hip replacement which gave her a new lease of

life; she organised several slide shows given by Dr Paul Sievers in the village hall and raised several thousands of pounds for the St Mary's Surgery Patient Care Fund. Daphne spent many hours mowing the church yard with John and always took great pride in how good it looked. Daphne's passing was a huge shock for everyone even her family. But she died very, very peacefully after a short illness, in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, with her devoted husband John, her daughter Carol and her sister Shirley by her side. It was a huge tribute to Daphne that 218 mourners attended her funeral at St Johns Church on Saturday 9th February, the service was led by the Rev Nigel Sands, Daphne's old friend Mike Pike MBE read the lesson and Georgina read a very moving poem. Daphne is now reunited with many of her old friends in the church yard just as she always said she would like to be.

Gardening Awards for Hanover Resident



Mr & Mrs Bryan Vockins who live at Hanover Green are keen gardeners and have had their efforts recognised. They won 2nd prize for their hanging basket from Gardens Answers National Magazine and runner up for their summer garden display in the Hanover Western Region Area. Congratulations.

Sorry you can't see the delightful colours here but The Grapevine is in colour on the hall website
www.suttonhallstockcross.org



If you want to know what's going on.....

You can keep up to date with all the work being done by our Parish Council by visiting their website
<http://www.speenpc.org.uk/>

A list of councillors and their contact details are displayed.

Minutes of meetings and reports from sub committees are all available to view and can make very interesting reading.

A list of planning applications and their status can be seen with full details on the West Berkshire Council main website.
<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18322>

You can also see how the precept monies are spent.

Reports from Neighbourhood Wardens and updates on what is happening with Speen, Shaw and Donnington Neighbourhood Action Group can also be found.

Some information is available on local notice boards.

You can also advertise local events and businesses on the website.

Did you know ? :

Marsh Benham recreation ground has been vastly improved thanks in large to work carried out by The Sutton Estates. New swings and a picnic bench have been installed.

The plans for the new pavilion at Stockcross Recreation ground have been submitted for approval and so you can go to the West Berkshire Council website and view the proposed floor plan and location.

A task group set up to investigate if land is available within the parish for a rural exception site was due to meet with Sutton Estates on 24th January and report back.

What is an exception site ?

An exception site is one that would not usually secure planning permission for housing, for example agricultural land next to but not within a local settlement area. A develop-

ment plan or Development Plan Document may allow for the development of small sites within rural areas solely for affordable housing, which would not otherwise be released for general market housing; this is a rural exceptions policy.

These are just some of the local issues that are currently being dealt with.

Members of the public can attend Parish Council meetings.
 Dates and venues for 2013 are:

Mon 13th May 7.30pm Speen Parish Hall
 Mon 15th July 7.30pm Sutton Hall
 Mon 23rd Sept 7.30pm Speen Parish Hall
 Mon 18th Nov 7.30pm Sutton Hall

The website also has information on becoming a Parish Councillor if you really want to get involved.



Tea & cake in January but then February found us painting pottery at Thatcham. The creative results surprised us all.

In March we welcomed Dr Sievers back to the village and were delighted that his Slide show raised £100 for his charities.

The event was held in memory of Daphne Foster. Many of you will remember her and John's annual Dr Siever's slide shows that raised many thousands of pounds for charity.

Lord Lyon Latest

Optimistic planting has started in The Lord Lyon gardens, but as it still seems snow is possible at any time we are a little tentative. I'm sure that the results will be worthwhile when we have our fantastic heritage vegetables back on the menu again this spring and over the summer, and remember that as ever we are always keen to swap your home-grown vegetables for beer or food, just come in and chat to us.



Our vegetarian menu has been going down very well, and not just with our vegetarian friends. Packed with flavour and using the finest ingredients we have produced a great tasting menu, available everyday.

Wednesday 24 April **Visit to Open Gardens at Rooksnest Lambourn Woodlands**

Car share from The Sutton Hall at 1pm (gardens open from 1pm – 4pm)
Entry £4.50 Home made teas available

Wednesday 22 May* **Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre**

*Note earlier date to avoid half term.
Car share from Sutton Hall 1.45pm or meet there at 2pm. Learn about the local flora and fauna, walk round lake or feed the ducks and enjoy the views.
Teas will be arranged for us.

Thursday 27 June **Coach trip to The Watts Gallery and Loseley Park near Guildford**

A trip organised by Kintbury KEWI group. Details available from Jane soon.

Wednesday 31 July **Garden Party at Bagnor**

We are warmly invited to revisit the lovely garden and home of Viv and Roy Lovell. Cost: £2

ALL WELCOME!
More details: Jane 01488 608762
or Viv 01635 523963

In addition to our vegetarian menu our daily changing menu means that we can use the best produce available and take advantage of local offers and availability, as well as matching weather conditions, so hopefully some light spring summer dishes will be available soon.

Our bed and breakfast has been busy over the last year and more and more of the village have been using us as overflow for their friends at the weekends, please have a chat with us, we will always offer a reduced rate for our locals.



Familiar faces at The Five Bells playing at one of the regular Sunday afternoon music sessions.

Susan and FJ have moved to their new home above The Five Bells, although they will continue to run The Lord Lyon with the able assistance of Gloria and Kevin and the team. We are currently recruiting to cover for the busy summer ahead, and if the start of the year is anything to go by, it will be a really busy one, if anyone wants a few part time shifts please contact Susan or FJ.

Our latest pub, The John O'Gaunt opened to great reviews in Hungerford, with Adam Wilding skilfully leading the kitchen, and a few familiar faces that we have been training at The Lord Lyon, please pop in and say hello if you are in Hungerford.

As ever thank you for your continued support, we are conscious of pricing structure and are always striving to offer the best value for money locally, with fabulous well cooked food, coupled with good portion sizes and great providence for everything we use. We look forward to welcoming you for our third year in Stockcross.

Stockcross Rolling Photo Competition Results

Midnight 1st April was the deadline for photo submissions and votes ("likes") for the first Stockcross Rolling Photo Competition, running from approximately the end of January to the end of March 2013.

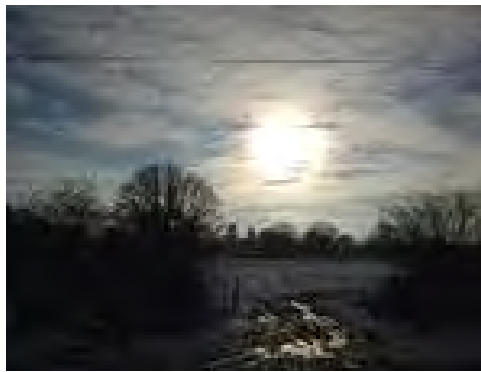
Based on the votes in the Facebook Group, the results were:

Winner: Gordon Pearce



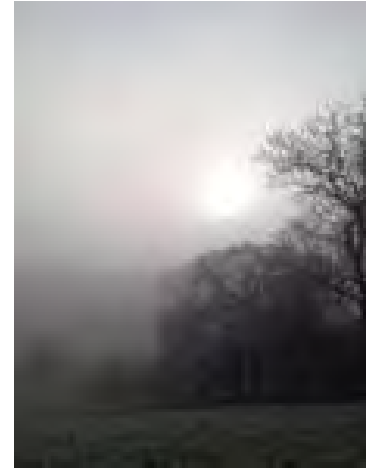
"Shaft of Light in Woods"

Runner Up: Gloria



"Cloud-obscured Sun over Stockcross"

3rd Equal: Claire Ralphson-Cook



"Misty Morning"

3rd Equal: Richard Crouch



"Jubilee Wood"

Highly commended: David Seaton for "Church Road Sepia" and "Graveyard."

Overall 21 members have joined so far and a total of 38 photos were posted up into the competition. Thanks to you all for providing some excellent Stockcross scenes. You can join in the next round by joining the "Stockcross Rolling Photo" Facebook Group, where you will find instructions on when to submit your photos and how to vote.

Stockcross Telephone Box

The telephone box outside the Post Office received a fresh coat of paint in January and it has highlighted the need to clean the glass and the interior. The box was adopted by Speen Parish Council and the report from their Communications Working Party says that they "continue to recommend that the property is secure and an appropriate locking mechanism is in the process of being manufactured." Indeed the door can't be

opened from the outside.

They are also looking for ideas for its future use. Among ideas mooted by the Sutton Hall Management Committee are for its use as an information point or book swap. If anyone has any other suggestions please get in touch with a Hall Committee member or local parish councillor.

Or e mail clerk@speenpc.org.uk



Goodbye & Hello

Friends gathered to say cheerio to Martin Hasker who, following early retirement, has sold up and moved out of Stockcross after living in the village for 30+ years.

He plans to do some travelling and knowing he is a keen Formula One fan a visit to a Grand prix will probably be on the cards.

In true Geoff Boycott fashion his staunch defence of the wicket during

the 2010 Gentlemen's Eleven match against Imago may never be matched.

We wish him well.

And so welcome to Stockcross John and Cam Vickerage and their family who have now taken up residence at The Old Schoolhouse.



Here is Martin on car park duty for one of our Glebe events.

This photo captured a moment when local police responded to reports of youths causing trouble in the area.

Not often we get to see the full force of the law in Stockcross!

Anyone know what it was all about?



It's on the way

10th to 25th August

Where there's a Wills...

This antique packet of ciggies was found under the Sutton Hall stage whilst some maintenance work was being done.

Anyone claim it ... ?!
Only £1.99 on ebay so don't get excited !



Issued by The Sutton Hall, Stockcross

Jay Chandler - Bookings
The Sutton hall
Church Road
Stockcross
Berkshire RG20 8JT

Phone: 01488 608769
E-mail: suttonhall642@btinternet.com

Current Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour)

1st November 2011

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

We're On the web!

www.suttonhallstockcross.Org

Useful Contact Details

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	Siobhan Gardiner	01488 608268
Treasurer:	Mark Nevitt suttonhalltreasurer@hotmail.co.uk	
Stockcross Village Store & Post Office		01488 657602
The Rising Sun		01488 608131
The Lord Lyon		01488 608366
Deanwood Park Golf Club		01635 48772
Stockcross CE Aided Primary School		01488 608356
Stockcross Church Warden	Shirley Wernham	01488 608318
Speen Parish Council	e-mail: clerk@speen.gov.uk	
Stockcross Tennis Club:	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
Stockcross Knitwits	Claire Ralphson Cook : claire.rc@googlemail.com	
Stockcross Panto Players	Viv Wilson: vc.wilson@btinternet.com	

Final Word from the Chairs

After an exceptionally wet 2012 and freezing start to 2013, it's hard to believe this time last year we were worried about how we could keep the new hawthorne bushes watered with a looming threat of drought!

The planting of these little seedlings last year around the newly extended car park saw the start of our ambitious maintenance and improvement plan for the hall. Twelve months on we are very pleased with the progress made and extremely thankful to everyone who has got involved. Ron has



Siobhan & Sarah

given an update on what has been achieved and most recently the chairs have been given a spring clean..... all, just in time for a new full calendar of weddings, birthdays and other village celebrations plus of course all our regular bookings.

Hopefully the warmer months are finally on their way and you will be able to join us at one of the future hall events. This month we have the 'Ball in the Hall' to look forward, a film night in May and a whole of host of fun

things to look forward to during the summer months.

As ever we welcome your comments and ideas for future events. If you are new to the village or find you have some extra time on your hands and would like to get involved in the hall committee, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes, Sarah Russell (01488 657296) and Siobhan Gardiner (01488 608268).

Stockcross Village

We're on Facebook!