

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER

STOCKFEST 2013

For two weeks in August Stockcross will hold it's first village arts festival with events taking place at a variety of venues including the hall, St John's Church, Stockcross House, the two pubs, Deanwood Golf Club, Glebe and Rec. (A bit like HADCAF or Newbury Spring Festival)

The purpose of the fortnight is to create an atmosphere of excitement and fun around the village, promote Stockcross to a wider public and generate funds to help the church, hall and other local causes.

If you would like to help organise the programme of events and join the festival committee please contact Viv at vc.wilson@btinternet.com.

We would also love to hear from any of you who would like to take part in the festival as a performer or to run workshops or give talks or guided walks or anything else you can think of that we could include in the programme.

Alternatively if you would rather just like to offer ideas , have contacts with anyone who might wish to put on an event or can offer other venues please

Dick Whittington voted a success.

Mike Ralphson-Cook ,looking extremely embarrassed to be called up on stage at the end of the final performance of his first panto script . Full review inside.



FROM THE SUTTON HALL STOCKCROSS January 2013 No:84



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

Call Jay on 01488 608769 to book
or visit our website

www.suttonhallstockcross.org

or email

suttonhall642@btinternet.com

Plea from The Grapevine Editor

- To ensure inclusion please send in stories and pictures within the issue deadline.
- If possible please try and be brief so that more people can be included in each issue.

This paper version of events in the village is still useful for those without internet access and is also the archive for the future so please support it by submitting your news and reviews. Thankyou

Treasurers Report—(As reported at the AGM)

The submitted accounts cover the period 1st July 2011 to 30th June 2012. During the period the hall made an operating profit of £6627. After investments in Hall improvements the net loss for the year was £606

During the period the main income was derived from :

Hall Hire	£18727
Events	£ 4732
Grants	£ 2000

Hall bookings remained strong during the year with regular bookings every day of the week and a continuing stream of ad hoc bookings at weekends.

Event income improved this year with income being generated by the Pantomime, Sunday on the Glebe, the Harvest Supper, the Jumble Sale, open gardens and the quiz. The hall also funded various community events: children's' xmas party, xmas drinks party. A cinema evening was held which made a small loss and the jubilee events were run with a small net surplus although these were run as community events rather than fund raisers.

During the year the management committee adopted a more formalised approach to maintenance and improvements with a planned schedule being drawn up and worked to. A number of projects were identified and given the strong state of the hall's finances, both in terms of reserves and continuing trading, an ambitious programme of works was agreed which will continue into the next financial year. The combined cost of improvements and maintenance was £13532 and it is pleasing that this was virtually covered by the income generated in the year without major recourse to the Hall's reserves.

The principal works undertaken were

Improvements -- the car park extension, new fencing and hall garden, new hand dryers

Maintenance - replacement window frames for the fire escape, re-decoration, roof repairs, repointing

As reported last year our electricity costs increased and this is reflected in the results. Action taken by the management committee to adjust hire rates to meet this increased burden have been successful in mitigating the effects on the Hall's accounts

In conclusion another strong year financially for the Sutton Hall. Income remains strong generating a surplus which can be invested in a programme of continuous improvement. The Sutton Hall continues to meet its aims which are to provide a viable facility for the community of Stockcross

*M C Nevitt
Treasurer*

The current year's Co chairs, Siobhan & Sarah planting a tree in the Jubilee Wood on behalf of The Sutton Hall Management Committee.



Stockcross Rolling Photo Competition

Do you enjoy taking artistic photos of the people, events and locations around Stockcross ?

Do you like seeing other people's photos of the same ?

Do you use Facebook ?

If the answer to all of the above is YES, then you might be interested in a plan for a Stockcross Rolling Photo Competition

The idea is to create a dedicated Facebook Group and allow competitors to join the Group. Each member can upload up to 3 of their prize photographs into the Group and then each member in the Group can select to "Like" 3 photos uploaded by the other members (their competitors!). We count the number of "Likes" for each photo and the photos with the most "Likes" are the winners. Simple.

Photos can be uploaded at any time but the voting/Liking part happens just prior to the regular publication date of the Grapevine and the top 2 photos get published in each issue of the Grapevine.

So what's the point ?

We hope this will encourage people in and around Stockcross (i.e. Grapevine boundary) to take some artistic pictures out and about and to share them with others. We can also use the photos in the Stockcross Village Annual Review Slideshow and (depending on demand) also make them available as a Calendar etc. The prize for winning is merely(?) the admiration of your fellow snappers - it's not too serious but it might make you take that step to "get off auto" on your camera and give you an excuse to get outside and snap away at our photogenic Village and countryside. Although pictures of your partner/children/dog/stamp collection are always welcome, it's the artistic touch we are looking for - the winning photos should have a certain something about them; interesting use of perspective, lighting, colour, composition etc. - think outside the box.

There are more details to be sorted out but I just wanted to give you some prior notice so that you can start snapping away and as soon as I have a suitable Facebook Group setup, I shall post out more details/rules/regulations etc.

I am aware that not everyone in the Village is able to or chooses to use Facebook so after the first run of the competition, I shall look to see if we can extend it to those who are able to email photos to a dedicated email account, subject to interest.

Richard Crouch

AT YOUR LEISURE

Tennis Club

The 2012 season was an exceptionally good one for the tennis club, with long-awaited refurbishment to the courts and surrounds.

2013 will see further work done on the surface of the courts, to keep them in top condition. Fund-raising is underway to meet the cost of this. Look out for information about the AGM in the Spring and the start of the new season.



Thank you to those who participated in our Christmas cake raffle. We raised £45. The cake, made by Penny Webb, was won by The Lord Lyon and was on the bar on Christmas Day for all to enjoy.

Pilates

Pilates classes are now a regular event on Wednesday mornings in Stockcross and Friday mornings in Peasmore. There are also evening sessions in Drayton and Didcot.

There are a few places still available.



New Year, De-Clutter

It's the new year again and a time when we all have great intentions for improving our lives. We make resolutions and set goals, but often, after a few weeks, we can fall back into our old routines and the resolutions get lost. This year I found I had the urge to clear out my home around the new year. The desire for a fresh start had made me want to clear out the old, in a material way. You might think that that only distracted me from my goals, but in fact the opposite happened. As I was throwing away stuff I've had for years and somehow never even thought of going through before, other things in my life were changing too. Old attitudes, beliefs and behaviours have also changed. By freeing myself of my material clutter, I've freed myself from some of the clutter of my mind too. What a result! So if you feel a desire for a fresh start and a fresh approach to an area of your life, start by going through your drawers and cupboards.

Ros Kitson is a holistic therapist and de-cluttering expert.

You can read her blog at www.roskitson.co.uk or follow her on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/roskitsonholistictherapy>.

Ros is offering Grapevine readers £33 (20+13) off a de-cluttering session (usually £100 per ½ a day) if booked before the end of January. Please quote GRAPEVINE

Dog First Aid Course, Sutton Hall, Sat 20th April.

Run by veterinary professionals, 2 hour course containing canine accident and emergency situations. Cost will be £25 to £30 per head, including course booklet and certificate.

For more details and to book places please contact Louise Burgess, 01488 608390 lou.petpics@googlemail.com

Kettlebell Training

A Kettlebell is a cast iron weight with a handle that has been used in training for hundreds of years but has gained recent popularity because of the versatile benefits and a reputation of being the ultimate fat burning work out. Amongst other benefits it improves muscle tone, flexibility, functional strength, stamina, speed and power.

What makes it very different to any other type of training is that all these benefits are gained by using just one piece of equipment. It is an ideal home workout once you have learned the technique through a professional kettlebell instructor such as Berkshire Fitness Kettlebell specialist. www.berkshirefitness.co.uk

Your local class takes place on Wednesdays 6.10pm at The Sutton Hall. First class is FREE! For any enquiries please contact us on berkshirefitness@gmail.com or tel Henna on 07825259612



Wednesday 30 January
2 – 4pm at The Sutton Hall

“Organic Cider Making”

A talk by Tim Wale owner & maker of Tutts Clump Cider.

Cost £4 inc tea (& samples!)

Wednesday 27 February

Visit to Leapfrog Ceramics at Thatcham

www.leapfrogceramics.co.uk

Berkshire's leading paint your own pottery studio. Choose an item of pottery create a design and paint it.

Tea & snack provided.
Cost £1 plus payment for the pottery item of your choice
(Pottery prices start from £4.95 subject to availability)

By car share leaving from The Sutton Hall at 1.45pm
Booking essential.
Phone Viv or Jane by 20 Feb

Wednesday 27 March
2 – 4pm in the large hall

Great Gardens of the South of England A slide show by Dr Sievers

Dr Sievers is well known to Stockcross for his annual slide shows that raised so much for charity. This event will also be raising money for his chosen charity..

Cost £4 inc tea

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

Call Viv: 01635 523963
Or Jane: 01488 608762

QUARTERLY ROUND UP

Kick Up The 80's : Village Quiz Night 2012

For one night in October, Stockcross went Back To The Future and indulged itself in unashamed nostalgia, eye-liner and day-glo colours, with an 80's Quiz Night. In keeping with the 80s decade, for a few hours at least, (IN)XS was the new black and it was simply not possible to be over-dressed ; extra quiz points were awarded for those Dressed To Kill but judging on the basis of the creativity and effort displayed, little or no coercion to dress up appeared to be necessary !



Kraftwerk, a Mullet, and Michael Jackson..

For the record, the top three teams were :-

Winners : Universally Challenged : 96.5 points

Simple Minds : 94 points

Stockspeen Campers : 93 points

Winners of Team Fancy Dress competition : Ghostbusters

80's-themed raffle included prizes generously donated by The Rising Sun and The Lord Lyon and all together the night raised £438

Thanks come from the organisers to all those who donated time and effort, Julie & Karen for laying on a great curry at halftime and especially to all those who made the night what it was with their amazing costumes.

Richard and Julia Crouch

Children's Christmas Party

On Saturday 15th December, the Children's Christmas party was held in the Sutton Hall. 32 children and grandchildren from the village attended and were entertained with party games, a festive tea and then a traditional puppet show. The puppets were most entertaining and included a giraffe with a remarkable extending neck and a crocodile with a very loud 'snap'! After the entertainment we were very lucky to have Father Christmas take time out of his busy schedule to come along and deliver gifts to all the children. Much fun was had by all

Film Night

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel was shown at the hall in November. The second of our film nights. Thanks to David Seaton and Gill Cresswell for organising. The next cinema evening should be in the Spring look out for more information on facebook and village notice boards.

The night was hosted/compered by the Stockcross Village People (Richard, Stewart and Adrian) who delivered rounds all with an 80's theme, including questions about well-known icons from that decade including the Sinclair C5, Fame, Levi 501 Jeans and Live Aid - yes all heady stuff ! For a spot prize, there was an Exploding Rubik Cube "Cube-Off" which was won by Dell Boy in what appeared to be a time of about 15 seconds - very impressive and clearly a sign of a mis-spent youth.

Highlights included an impromptu crowd-rendition of "We will (we will) Rock You !", lead by Freddie Mercury, a music round (Stand and) Delivered by Adam Ant, a sit-in protest calling for "Maggie Out!" and not forgetting 3 monster-size Rubik cubes suspended from the ceiling all adding to the atmosphere.

The star-studded guest-list included various New Romantics, Madonna, Adam Ant, Richard Gere, Tom Cruise, Twister, Scouse Git, Flash Gordon,



NB

If you missed Stockcross Pantomime Players in Dick Whittington in December and would like a copy of the double box set Dvd it is on sale at £2.50 from Richard & Julia Crouch 01488 608603

QUARTERLY ROUND UP

Dick Whittington—a Villager's View

In the darkening autumnal days, bands of village children could be seen regularly guided to the Village Hall followed by groups of their elders. This pattern of behaviour in the local population had been recognised in previous years as the beginning of rehearsals for the Stockcross Village Pantomime.

Rumours of the title of this year's production began to circulate as far back as January and even without a local Stan James, the money quickly settled on Dick Whittington. The script was written by Stockcross's own storyteller and playwright, Mike Ralphson and related very much to village life, people and events. A superb achievement.

The small band of gifted scenery makers and painters began their tasks under the creative eye of Jane Batt, fitting their activities around the regular bookings in the hall. Images of a distant London as seen from Highgate Hill began to appear, together with the moveable props of buildings, desert islands and a ship's hold.

Stuart and Heather organised the sale of tickets from the Post Office to find they were quickly snapped up for all three performances, and those making late demands were left disappointed. A complete sell out!

The stars of the show began taking their roles earnestly under the capable and enthusiastic direction of Viv Wilson ably supported by Claire Ralphson-Cook and benefitting from the creative skills of Anna Gillings. Sheelagh and Georgia Brown imaginatively directed the choreography and Sheelagh designed the enthralling character make ups. The costume makers, Mary West and Christine Grover, were spending long evenings at their sewing machines creating outfits as good as any from the Houses of Haute Couture. The technical wizards, Mike and Sarah Russell, began organising the sound effects and music. Their collective endeavours and strained vocal chords were seen being soothed in the local hostelry afterwards. We were assured all would be well on the night!

And so it was. All three performances were greeted with sincere praise. King Rat, Keith Phillips, drew on his vast thespian experience to fine tune the stage work and in so doing kept his young rats and the audience in awe. Indeed the large cast included many children and recognition should go to their mum's who put in hours of extra work with them to help produce a final result that delighted the audiences each night. The commitment required from all the cast to learn lines, songs and dances over the ten weeks of rehearsals should not be underestimated. Mention must also be made of the many faceless helpers working behind the scenes.

Well done Stockcross Panto Players, we eagerly await next year's Panto!

Bob John

STOCC

Jane & I have been very encouraged by the numbers that have been coming to our recent events. We had to de-camp to the large hall for the talk by Ian Gibb. His stories of life in charge of a P&O cruise liner were very entertaining and we now have insider knowledge on how to get an invite to the captain's table! In November some joined Kintbury KEWI on a trip to Bleinheim whilst the rest met for tea & quiz at the hall.



Angela Tyler organised this year's Christmas lunch at The Hare and Hounds at Speen where we enjoyed a delightful meal and were looked after very well by the staff.

In December some of us planted a tree on behalf of STOCC in the new Jubilee Wood.



Over the 10+ years that STOCC has been running several of our friends have become unwell and unable to join us; we send them all our very best wishes for 2013.

If you have read this far and not yet joined any of STOCC's activities, we post details of forthcoming events in the shop, on the Hall notice board and in the Grapevine. We are not a club for members only. We are not even bothered how old you are as we are here for you all so do try us out sometime. Our new programme is advertised elsewhere in The Grapevine. We kick off with a visit from Tim Wale of Tutt's Clump fame. I'm sure he'll bring some samples. *Viv Wilson*

AROUND THE VILLAGE

Lord Lyon Latest

It was lovely to see so many familiar faces on Christmas Day and over the whole festive period, thank you for your support. Now that we have a chance to settle back down, after a very, very busy Christmas period, things will hopefully get back into a normal routine again, giving us a chance to take stock and work on our seasonal daily changing menu, I know Kevin and Kristal are working on a designated vegetarian menu, to run alongside our daily menu, so watch out for that.

As many of you may have heard we have expanded our small group and are taking over the John O'Gaunt in Hungerford at the end of January. This will in no way affect the Lord Lyon which will continue to run under Susan and FJ's expert management, ably assisted by Gloria, and no doubt a few other helpers over the coming years. The Five Bells will continue, we are sure, to get busier and busier, especially with the introduction of a small brewhouse behind the pub, from which we will be selling beer in both the Five Bells and the John O'Gaunt, (and we are in discussions with Arkells, fingers crossed!) Our beers will also be available in 9 gallon kegs for functions in Stockcross Hall, private functions and to a few carefully selected local pubs. We look forward to seeing many of you in Hungerford and Wickham, two great free houses run with the same ethos as we have built our reputation at the Lord Lyon.

Back in Stockcross we will be preparing the vegetable garden for some spring planting, hopefully the weather will be kinder to us this year. We are using predominantly Vicars game for all our meat and think that you'll agree that the quality is second to none, and together with our homegrown vegetables and simple, unpretentious homecooked pub food, it is what keeps us as consistently the busiest pub in the area, and we look forward to your continued support and friendship.

Mark, Susan, FJ and the team

Good News from Banda Aceh

P3CA is the charity in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, which Stockcross chose to support following the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004. You may remember a massive £8000 was raised through an auction and dinner held in the hall.

The Appeal Fund closed in 2009 when the last of the donated money was distributed. However Wardah, our Indonesian contact, visited Banda Aceh recently and was happy to report that the charity is very popular with the disabled in Aceh and that the organisers are doing a good job in getting local government money to fund events for the disabled.

An Indian limb-making charity is involved from time to time and P3CA is the only one around arranging to fit prosthesis. This news has delighted Hugh Crawford, the former Chairman of the Appeal Fund. Hugh, a survivor of the tsunami and an amputee himself was resolved to help those who lost limbs.

Jane Batt

Holey Shmoly!



Viv & Roger Wilson had a bit of a shock when the terrace between their house and garage disappeared into a large hole. Evidently it's an old well that will need to be filled in and the terrace rebuilt. All should hopefully be fixed by February so that they can return home. Many thanks to The Five Bells, The Lord Lyon and Jane & Nigel Batt who have provided very comfortable temporary accommodation for the duration.

More Holes



Over the last couple of months the rest of the village also saw some large holes being dug whilst Thames Water replaced pipework that was in a bad condition. This replacement programme should lead to fewer bursts and leaks...so they say.

Did anyone else spot the mention in the Newbury Weekly News of the Foster's Christmas light display. It's certainly been an attraction in GLebe Lane for some years now.

AROUND THE VILLAGE

The Stockcross Jubilee Wood

As part of the celebrations that have taken place in 2012 to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee the Benham Estate have created a Jubilee Wood to commemorate that historic event. On 28th December the Estate invited all those in Stockcross, the Parish and in particular the children of Stockcross School to be part of this legacy and help plant a tree. The trees planted are native broad leaf trees mainly oak, beech, lime, cherry and birch together with woodland edge shrubs.

Although the field was very muddy the weather was kind on planting day and a good number turned up with spades at the ready and were ably assisted/instructed by Jonathan Russell and the Estates Forestry team. Mulled wine and mince pies were provided as welcome refreshment.



Jonathan Russell (left) and keen tree planters braving the mud!



Speen Parish Council is looking for a temporary worker to act as an admin assistant to the Acting Clerk for up to five hours per week during the Clerk's sickness absence (length unknown). The temporary worker is to be paid the hourly rate for Spinal Column Point 18 (currently £8.92 per hour). Expenses incurred by the temporary worker may be claimed upon provision of a receipt and put before the council for approval.

The admin assistant will be asked to undertake such tasks as:

1. Monitor the e-mails and either file in appropriate e-mail folder or forward to appropriate person for action;
2. Keep the SPC website up-to-date - Edge Impact should be able to provide training (at a charge to SPC of course);
3. Attend full council meetings and take and write up the minutes;
4. Keep notice boards up-to-date and put up notices of meetings at required statutory times;
5. Collect mail from the Clerk once a week for distribution or action as required;
6. Arrange for invoices to be paid and signatures obtained on cheques;
7. Keep the income & expenditure spreadsheet up-to-date.

This is not an exhaustive list, but does indicate the level of work involved. For further information or to apply please contact the Chair of Speen Parish Council, Meg John by email at meg.john@speenpc.org.uk.

Coming Events

All events at the Sutton Hall unless otherwise specified

30 STOCC 2pm
Tea & Talk £4
"Organic Cider Making"

FEBRUARY

2 Jumble Sale 12.30pm

27 STOCC
Trip to Leapfrog Ceramics
Meet at hall 1.45 for car share (see main advert)

MARCH

27 STOCC 2pm
Slide show & Tea £4
"Gardens of The South of England" by Dr Sievers (see main advert)

APRIL

20 Dog First Aid Course
01488 60390 for info

20 Bar & Bop Evening
Look out for more information nearer the time.

Mobile Library visits to Stockcross

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

FEB	MAR	APR
4	18	8
25		29

Regular Events

Daily Billiards at village hall

Weekly

Monday Yoga at village Hall 7pm

Tuesday **Baby & Toddler Group** village hall 9.30am (from 12th Feb)
Yoga at Village Hall 6 pm
Toffs Bridge at Village Hall 1.30pm

Wednesday Pilates Village Hall 11.15 & 12..15 pm
KettleBell Village Hall 6.10
Coffee morning at Newdale Court 10.30am

Thursday Bridge Club at Lord Lyon from 7.30pm

Friday Toffs Bridge at Village Hall 1.30pm
Coffee morning at Newdale Court 10.30am

Sunday Tennis at Rec mornings
Folk at Rising Sun 8pm

Monthly

1st Wednesday Quiz at Rising Sun 8pm

2nd Monday KnitWits at Lord Lyon 8pm -10pm

2nd Tuesday Village Hall Committee Meeting at the hall

Church Services

JANUARY

27 CW Holy communion 11am

FEBRUARY

3 Family Service 11am

10 CW Holy communion 11am

24 CW Holy Communion 11am

MARCH

3 Family Service 11am

10 Mothering Sunday Family Service 11am

24 Palm Sunday Service 11am

31 Easter Sunday Holy Communion 11am

APRIL

7 Family Service 11am

14 CW Holy Communion 11am

AND NEW TO THE HALL:



Baby and Toddler Group
Precious Seeds
at Stockcross village hall
Come join us every Tuesday 9.30 - 11.30 am from 12th February 2013

A fun and friendly group to stay chat and play. Come and join the fun. For all Babies and Children 0-5 years. £2.50 per family drop-in.

Come and play!

A great opportunity for parents/carers to socialise and children to develop their social skills. A healthy snack for the children and a drink for the grown ups is provided as well as a range of fun toys and activities.

Including:
Messy Play/craft table, baby area, Ride on's, home corner, books, cars, small world toys, mini trampoline, tunnels and ball pit, sensory play and much more!

JUMBLE SALE

2nd February 12.30pm

Entrance 30p

Teas, raffle & auction

Donations of jumble accepted at the village hall from 9am on the morning of the sale.

Any toy/equipment donations to the baby & Toddler group very welcome and much appreciated.

Contact Jay on 01488 608769

or

bluejayac18@aol.com