

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER

CHILDREN WANTED FOR HUNGRY GIANT! *Oh yes they are!*

In response to tumultuous acclaim for last year's production of *Cinderella*, Stockcross Panto Players are now rehearsing to strut their stuff in this winter's lavish production of ***Jack and the Beanstalk*** on the Sutton Hall stage early in February. And we have the added benefit of a £500 grant from The Greenham Trust.

So you don't have to travel to Ambridge to find out whether the homunculus hungry giant has his kiddiewinks pie; or will he only get his just desserts? How will Jack win the girl of his dreams (*Ooh, Aah!*) and foil the wicked Squire (*Boo! Hiss!*), to save his Granny from eviction? Enjoy a reprise of that heavenly pair, Viv and Joan, aided and abetted by the transmogrified mice in riotous shenanigans with the village idiot and a mournful cow. Keith is directing and Jason (last year's producer) is in the background supporting our efforts.

Stockcross Panto Players includes everyone. Not just actors – we still need crowds for the chorus, painters, stage hands, seamstresses, recording technicians, publicity people and if there is anyone left standing – an audience!

Last year's production was an early sell-out with tickets changing hands on the black market for many times their face value well into February, which was very strange. (*Oh yes it was!*) So banish the winter blues with fun for all the family and get your tickets early.

You WILL enjoy it – Oh yes you will!

Stockcross Panto Players

Present

Jack and the Beanstalk

by Bob Heather

Thurs 5th Feb, Fri 6th Feb and Sat 7th Feb at 7pm

All tickets £6

Available from the Village Shop from

Tuesday 9th December

FROM THE SUTTON HALL STOCKCROSS

December 2008 No: 68



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Current Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour) 1st September 2008

	Small Hall	Large Hall	Both Halls
Resident	5.00	7.50	10.00
Non resident	8.00	12.00	15.00

Call Mandy on 01488 608769 to book or visit our website

www.suttonhallstockcross.org

or email

suttonhall642@btinternet.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Chairman's Report

Before I introduce my self properly, I would like to thank Viv Wilson for the excellent job she did as Chairman for the last two years and a very hard act to follow, so thanks V.F.W, you are a star. Jackie Woods is some one else, who has done a really outstanding job as our Treasurer, Jackie will be sadly missed, as she is moving to Thatcham, we all wish her all the very best in her new home. So we are looking for a new treasurer, is there anybody out there that's got some time to spare to take this job on? If so please give me a call.

Last, but not least, a big thank you to Peter Dawson, our secretary, who always seems to find time in his very busy life to be on hand whatever the situation.

Now, Brian Palmer, there's a name to remember. Not been called that very much in my 60 years in the parish of Stockcross, Village Craftsman, Mr Grumpy, maybe, and a few others, that we probably can't talk about.

Anyway my new title is Mr Chairman. Having served on the Hall committees for as long as I can remember it is probably my turn. Not being a local lad (I was born in Marsh Benham), I am very honoured to be your Chairman.

My Vice Chairman is Steve Kirby. Most people in Stockcross think he is the M.D. of The West Berkshire Brewery, so I won't spoil the myth, but a very useful chap to have on board for many reasons. And not forgetting the rest of the committee, old and new, thank you all.

I have now had my first meeting as Chairman and I think it went fairly well, didn't need to raise my voice to anybody. We have finally got three quotes for the new store room, so hopefully the work will commence shortly. We have a young lady called Ros Kitson to keep the new web sight updated so a big thanks to Ros. The Christmas drinks and drawing of the raffle will be at the Hall on Sunday 21st December 7pm, so hope to see you all there. Anyway, I think I've said enough so thank you all again.

Brian G Palmer

Treasurers Report for 12 months ended 30th June 2008

The submitted accounts cover the period 1st July 2007 to 30th June 2008.

During the year the Hall made a surplus of £10,859.57, with net assets of £18,496.20.

The surplus is primarily attributed to the bequest made by Lady Sutton of £10,000, received 12 October 2007.

All the fund raising events during the year realised £6,433.25 plus £2,491.07 from other donations. Donors were Vodafone £1,291 .07, Barclays Bank £750.00, Sutton Estates £250.00, Speen Parish Council £100.00 and Sony £100.00.

Two new events were added to the calendar this year, a Pantomime raising £1, 653.29 and St Georges Day Celebration raising £1,671 .82.

The hiring out of the halls, interest and rent for cottage, less expenses incurred, excluding hail improvements, resulted in a surplus of £37.87. The position appears to be back to 05/06, break even. Including electricity in hall hire charges has enabled this to be achieved.

During the year there was a change to our invoicing system. All bookings made are now being invoiced at the end of the month the booking was made. This has produced two benefits:

1. Payments being received in advance.
2. We are now working on one set of hire charges. Before this, if a booking was made a couple of months ahead and the hire charge increased, then we had to charge the old rate. We still charge the old rate, but there is no longer the confusion over what was agreed.

During the year the following hail improvements have been carried out:

1. Painting both inside and outside	£3,000.00	
2. Replacement of stage curtains		1,814.12
3. Architects plans for store room	986.50	
4. New door locks		102.00
5. Electrical Safety Certificate		2,155.00
6. New microwave		45.00

Total expenditure **£8,102.62**

Once again the fund raising activities have provided us with the money to carry out further improvements to The Sutton Hall.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has given me his or her help during the year

Jackie Woods
Treasurer.

OUT AND ABOUT

Blink and you'll miss it: Tour of Britain Cyclists hurtle through Stockcross...

Villagers and schoolchildren lined Ermin Street on Monday 8th of September to cheer on the 95 riders – amongst them Olympians and Tour de France winners - competing in the Tour of Britain 2008, the fifth tour since the fixture returned to the British Cycling Calendar in 2004.

Early entertainment was provided by police motorcyclists 'tag-teaming' to create a rolling road-block which delighted younger spectators - especially the pupils of Stockcross School who, wearing bright red hats and waving flags, cheered every passing vehicle. Their enthusiastic support was met with flashing lights and intermittent siren bursts from the out-riders whilst the rest of us waited, with rising excitement and not a little impatience, for the real action...

And waited...

And waited...

Until finally, heralded by a stream of support vehicles loaded with spare bikes, the cyclists arrived, entering the village en masse and rounding the bend just past the Rising Sun in a spectacular whirring mass of spinning wheels and flashing spokes...



And then, rather disappointingly, they were gone.

It seems that the real action took place during the final fast and furious sprint through Newbury itself, where a spectacular crash on the cobblestones left around a dozen riders in sight of the finish line. The stage was won by Australian Matthew Goss, but the widely accepted hero of the day was Team GB Olympian Ian Stannard. After starting in his home town of Milton Keynes, Ian led the gruelling 145km race for much of the way before sprinting to the finish line in Park Way in 4th place.



picture courtesy of Mike Merchant

What a performance at the Post Office!!!!

Excellent, superb, better than actors. That was the comment from a film crew making an advert for a well known pallet company, starring our pretty feathered girls with Monsieur Cock strutting his stuff. Were they trying to upstage each other hoping to get the lead role in this year's panto?

We await the arrival of the golden egg.

Management Committee for Sutton Hall 2008/9

Brian Palmer	Chairman
Steve Kirby	Vice Chairman
Vacant after Nov.	Treasurer
Peter Dawson	Secretary
Others:	
Linda Mason	Ernie Preece
Angela Painting	Viv Wilson
Duncan Price	Denise Lewington
Roger Thomas	Sarah Ching
Sue Vandyk	Bob John
Biddy Scarlet	David or Jane Seaton
Shirley Turner	Jean Wallis
Jamie Leigh	
Caretaker:	Mandy Street
Trustees:	Jonathan Russell:
Keith Phillips:	Rev Nigel Sands; Ken Sullivan
Grapevine:	Viv Wilson
	Gillem Sandys-Lumsdaine
	Ros Kitson
Website:	

G Cresswell

COMING EVENTS

Held in the Sutton Hall unless otherwise stated

Dec

- 7 Children's Christmas party
3pm – 5.30pm £2.50
- 21 Christmas Raffle Draw &
Drinks 7pm
- 24 Phoenix Brass Band at Lord
Lyon 7.30pm

Jan

- 28 STOCC 2 – 4pm £2
- 31 Grow a Potato & coffee
10am -11am

Feb

- 5 Jack and the Beanstalk 7pm
- 6 Jack and the Beanstalk 7pm
- 7 Jack and the Beanstalk 7pm
- 14 Jumble Sale 1.30pm
- 25 STOCC 2 – 4pm £2



Thursday 18 December
STOCC Christmas Lunch
At The Lord Lyon, Stockcross
£14.95 for 3 courses
Booking forms from Jane

Wednesday 28 January
Tea in the small hall
£2 from 2:00 – 4:00pm

Wednesday 25 February
Tea in the small hall
£2 from 2:00 – 4:00pm

March – to be arranged

ALL WELCOME

Call Jane: 01488 608762
for further information

Children's Christmas Party
Sunday 7th December
3pm – 5.30pm Sutton Hall
Face painting,
Christmas crafts,
magic show, Balloon Art,
Festive tea and Special
Guest: Father Christmas



Tickets £2.50 per child from
Stockcross Post Office.
Also please bring a small gift, value
up to £5, wrapped and clearly
labelled with your child's name.
For more info contact
Gill Cresswell on 01488 608212 or
e mail gilly@cresswell-online.co.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

Dec

- 14 11.00am Holy Communion
- 21 6.00pm Carol Service
- 24 5.00pm Blessing of the Crib
- 25 11.00am Holy Communion
- 28 11.00am Holy Communion

Jan

- 11 11.00am Holy communion
- 18 10.00am United Benefice
Morning prayer at Wickham
- 25 11.00am Morning Prayer

Feb

- 8 11.00am Holy communion
- 15 10.00am United Benefice
Morning prayer at Boxford

Regular Weekly Events

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>
Mondays	8.30pm	Quiz Night
Tuesdays	6.30-8pm	Yoga
Thursdays	7.30-10.45pm	Bridge Club
Sundays	from 8.30am	Tennis Club
Sundays	Evenings	Folk club
Daily		Snooker & Billiards Club
		Lord Lyon
		Sutton Hall
		Lor
		The Rec
		Rising Sun
		Sutton Hall

If you would like an event included in the listings please contact Grapevine on 01635 523963 or
e-mail vc.wilson@btinternet.com

Stockcross village Store & Post Office

It's now time to order your Christmas Fare

FRESH LOCAL TURKEYS

HAMS – WHOLE, HALF & SLICED

BREAD & MINCE PIES

MILK & CREAM

Mon – Fri 8am – 6pm Saturday 9am – 12.30pm

Post Office opening hours

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 9am – 5.30pm

Weds & sat 9am – 12.30pm

Tel: 01488 657602

Next Grapevine due out 1st March. Last date for submitting items for inclusion 15th February

Photo Competition

Adult section winner Angela Tyler
Junior section winner Stephen Blackmore
Highly recommended Keith Phillips & Kim Blackmore



Angela Tyler's winning entry

Photo competition - 2009

This September's successful photo competition inspired a few of us to use the wonderful pictures to make a Stockcross calendar. However, too late to think and plan it for a 2009 calendar, and not to compete with the recipe book coming this year, we are aiming towards a 2010 Stockcross photo calendar. With that purpose, I would like to invite everybody to participate in the **2009 Photo competition** to take place in the autumn 2009

Theme: Stockcross during the year.

Winners: One 1st price : the picture chosen to be on the front of the Calendar

Twelve 2nd prices: the 12 pictures chosen to represent each month through the year.

So we need photos from every month of the year, photos of Stockcross as you see it.

If you have any questions regarding participation or want to help, please contact me:

annekirstine@yahoo.com or Ph: 01488608357

NB: only photos which are available electronically as JPEG or TIFF format and a size in the region of 1Mb to 2 Mb can be entered. The photos will be printed in A5 size horizontal (landscape) on the top half of an A4 calendar page

News from The Rising Sun.

The recent Beer Festival was a great success, with 16 different beers on offer, apart from our regular West Berkshire brews. The visit by the AJS & Matchless Owners Club, for their Alternative Rally was, in spite of the weather, a huge achievement. Over 100 motorcyclists attended, nearly all of them camping on the Glebe by arrangement with Sue and Edward Vandyk. When you don't fancy cooking, we now do take-home meals. As we head towards Christmas, bring in your copy of The Grapevine for a free glass of wine with every full meal ordered (adults only).

Still some spaces left on Christmas Day for lunch, and office or family gatherings through December, please phone or see our website for more details. www.therisingsun-stockcross.co.uk When you realise that you haven't bought your Christmas cards in time, remember that we have some stocks of the local Air Ambulance charity cards.

Merry Christmas Joan & Keith

The Rising Sun at Stockcross

01488 608131

HOT MEALS TO TAKE AWAY

From 12.00 to 2.00p.m and 6.00 to 8.00 p.m.

£5.00 PER PORTION

Cod & Chips (Haddock & Chips £6.00)

Sausage & Chips

'Butcher's Dog' Pork Sausages with different flavours

Pie of the Day & Chips

Could be Corned Beef & Onion /

Chicken / Beef in Ale or Guinness /

Pork & Cider

BEERS TO TAKE HOME

From 1 pint to 36 pints – West Berkshire Beers or Cider or lagers

SPECIAL MEAL DEAL

2 MEALS & 2 PINTS FOR £15.00 (not Haddock)

www.therisingsun-stockcross.co.uk



**Get Festive and come along to
Stockcross Christmas Get together & Christmas Raffle Draw
The Sutton Hall Sunday 21st December 7pm**

**Enjoy a drink and a chat with the neighbours
Draw will take place at 7.30pm**

AROUND THE VILLAGE

Stockcross Two O'clock Crowd - still strong after six years!

At the end of September a large group of STOCcIes gathered at the hall after the summer break. This was an informal get-together for tea, enabling us to catch up with each other's news and discuss events and outings for the coming year.

In October Lisa, from Streetcare, came to talk to us about recycling and answer any questions we had. Yes, we did have a few! Most of us found the present system annoying, confusing and frustrating. We learned that there are not enough recycling plants in the UK to adequately deal with all our plastics. So now we know what and why we can only put certain items in each of the containers. As you can imagine, several of us already had steaming issues to raise, but you would be surprised how enjoyable it all was! It was just as well they sent such a charming young woman to face us all. After the brief talk, Lisa took down individual comments and problems some of us wanted sorted out. Thanks to Daphne for organising this event. Suggestions for other speakers are always welcome.

In November, as well as our normal meeting, we will be joining the Kintbury KEWIs on their coach trip to Cardiff for sightseeing and Christmas shopping - no doubt with some eating and drinking involved too! This November will be the start of our seventh year and we are justifiably proud that it is still going strong. We are not a closed club: anyone can come to any event and we are not sexist or ageist! If you haven't been before, come and try us out. To find out what is coming up over the next three months, see the Events page.

THE LORD LYON
at Stockcross, Newbury, RG20 8LL
Tel: 01488 608366

CHRISTMAS DINNER MENU
3-courses = £22.95pp
(One Free Place for every Ten People)

CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU
3-courses = £14.95pp

CHRISTMAS OFFICE CRUNCH LUNCH
3-courses = £9.95pp
(Soup of the Day/Traditional Roast Turkey/
Christmas Pudding)

Book early to avoid disappointment.

CHRISTMAS EVE
Join us for traditional Christmas Carol
and Mince Pies
with PHOENIX BRASS BAND from 7.30pm.
Don't forget our traditional Christmas Sunday Lunches.
Fresh Seafood always available

SORRY FULL UP CHRISTMAS DAY

Jim and Eunice Greenwood

Stockcross couple Jim and Eunice Greenwood of 23 Chapel Road celebrated their Golden wedding on the 6th September. They were married at Stockcross church and their reception 50 years ago was held at the Lord Lyon Stockcross.



Jim and Eunice celebrated their anniversary with a party at the Hilton hotel, Greenham with family and friends. They requested no presents but donations were made to The Thames Valley Basket Ball Team, of which their grandson, Matthew, is a member.



DO YOU NEED A BABYSITTER?

My name is Sophie Wernham, I'm 15 years old, I live in the village and I go to St Barts in Newbury.

I'm especially looking for babysitting jobs however I am prepared to do other odd jobs too. My telephone number is 01488 608674



Village Hall Achieves Hallmark

The Management Committee are pleased to announce that, in August, the Sutton Hall was

awarded its Hallmark level 1 certificate. Hallmark is a quality standards scheme for village halls set up by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) to encourage improvement and gain recognition for obtaining good standards of management. Level 1 assesses whether the Hall is complying with the requirements of its charitable status and we are delighted that we passed with flying colours.

Denise Lewington and Brian Palmer were presented with our award at the annual village hall conference, held in Cold Ash in October and it is now on display. The judges recommended that we immediately apply for level 2 and after that level 3, the highest award as they were so impressed when they visited. We can now use the Hall mark logo on all correspondence and, in the future, this may benefit us financially via reduced insurance premiums and other benefits that may become available in the future.

Sunflower results

Tallest & widest bloom – Junior section	Georgina Arnold
Adult section	Nigel Batt
Happiest Looking	Elliot Crouch
Best display seen from road	Mike Pike
Grumpiest looking (no flower!)	Pearl Dromgoole
Saddest Looking	Luggage the dog.



Georgina Arnold next to her winning sunflower

Congratulations to the winners of the various competitions that ran in the village over the summer. The prize winners were acknowledged at a coffee morning held at the hall in September. Dr Paul Sievers, an amateur photographer well known to Stockcross, judged the photo competition and spent a good hour deliberating and writing notes of encouragement and advice on most of the pictures. As usual Charlie Goodenough and his measuring stick ensured accuracy on the Sunflowers.

Those who had a go at the Treasure Hunt organised by Viv & Denise enjoyed it and the winners were a consortium of village youngsters who shared the chocolates!

Coffee and cakes were sold and the profit on the morning of £43.79 was given to the organisers of the children's Christmas party being held in the hall on December 7th.



Elliot Crouch checking his entry for the Junior Stockcross Sunflower competition. He was thrilled to receive a prize in the competition for the Happiest sunflower, an aspiring young gardener in the village

NOW GROW A POTATO!!

Come along to the village hall on Saturday 31st of January between 10am - 11am to enter the competition.

For £1 per entry you will be given a seed potato and a pot to grow it in and then your job is to grow the biggest potato by a certain date, which will be revealed when you enter.

You may enter as many times as you wish.

So get your green fingers ready and join us for a coffee and maybe some advice from Charlie Goodenough, who is chief judge and who suggested the idea.



USEFUL NUMBERS

Grapevine Editor: Viv Wilson		01635 523963
	Or e-mail: vc.wilson@btinternet.com	
The Sutton Hall:	Chairman Brian Palmer	01488 608295
	Or mobile:	07785927579
	Bookings Mandy Street	01488 608769
Stockcross Village Store & post office		01488 657602
The Rising Sun		01488 608131
The Lord Lyon		01488 608366
Deanwood Park Golf Course		01635 48772
Stockcross CE Aided Primary School		01488 608356
Stockcross Church Wardens Mike Pike		01488 608821
	Shirley Wernham	01488 608318
Speen Parish Council	e-mail: clerk@speen.gov.uk	
Stockcross Tennis Club:	Ian Young	01488 608263
	Nick Drewe	01488 608332
	Felicity Merchant	01488 608672
Stockcross Bridge Club	Lynne Phillips	01488 608249
Stockcross 2 O'clock Crowd: Jane Batt		01488 608762
Stockcross Billiards & Snooker Club:		
	Derek Shailes	01635 44904
	Phil Fry	01635 44134
Emergency numbers:		
Southern Electric		0845 770 8090
Thames Water		0645 200 800

Harvest Supper 2008

This year's supper was once again a feast thanks to the ladies of the village (and Brian).

Mervyn Penny was a brilliant choice for the entertainment. His funny stories of life in Stockcross as a lad and then the sing along at the end were very well received by all and his booklet "Saturdays Child – Early Days" were snapped up. At over 80 years of age he was an inspiration. Well done to Angela Tyler, Angela Painting and Alison John for once again taking on the organisation of the event and making it such a success.

More Photo Success

Her photos were highly recommended in this year's competition but better still we hear that Kim Blackmore has had a photograph that she took published in an American gardening magazine. Congratulations Kim.

Fashion or Fissure?

It seems that the new "must have" accessory at the Rising Sun is a set of crutches. First Brian, then Keith and now Ollie all are setting the trend. We believe Julie has a knee-op planned in efforts to expand this fashion to the Lord Lyon!

Keep (off) the Grass

Stockcross artist, Jean Wallis, has strong views about the loss of green public space, so it is not surprising that she chose this as the theme for her collection of paintings exhibited at The Corn Exchange this autumn. 'Green space is regarded in a multitude of ways – as somewhere to play, or tip litter, to build, or pick daisies. Here I treat my canvases and green paint with similar contrariness' she says in her statement.

Jean, a fine arts graduate, regularly participates in Newbury Open Studios from her studio at Elms Mill. Last year an exhibition with the group 'Remarks', wittily called "Grey Matters", which was held in her studio and it was this, which led to Jean being asked by the Corn Exchange to put on a solo exhibition.



Jean (pictured here on the right) had used matt and semi-matt black paint on her canvases with interesting effects, sometimes contrasting with bright greens and an occasional complimentary flash of red. The bold, often heavily textured canvases - some looking menacing others more light-hearted, were always intriguing. They looked stunning in the modern setting of the Corn Exchange's reception area.

It was nice to see several of the Stockcross glitterati at her preview. If you missed the exhibition you can see her work on her website: www.jeanwallis-artist.me.uk or look out for the Open Studio signs next May – I'm sure Jean will be pleased to see you!

Jane Batt