

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER

Summer in Stockcross

After a busy spring we are now heading for the summer season of BBQ and garden parties.

This year we have decided to re-launch a Sunflower growing competition to be judged at the end of August and to initiate a photographic competition for all those budding David Baileys in the village. See inside for details.

If we get enough entries a display of the photos and a prize giving will take place at the Hall in the autumn.

The annual concert on the Glebe will hopefully go ahead on Sunday August 3rd but at the moment this is still being finalised.

The Cricket match that was so successful last year between a splendid Stockcross eleven and Imago Micro Plc is also in the planning stage but we have a date and that is for Sunday 10th August and the match will take place on the Rec.

No doubt the church, school and Bayford House Nursing Home will all be having a variety of events going on that we can enjoy so let's hope the weather is on our side and we have plenty of sunshine.

Just to remind you all that it did snow in April, is this photo taken on April 8th at Wickham Heath.



FROM THE SUTTON HALL STOCKCROSS
June 2008 No: 66



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Current Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour)
1st September 2007

	Small Hall	Large Hall	Both Halls
Resident	4.00	6.00	8.50
Non resident	7.00	11.00	14.50

Call Mandy on 01488 608769 to Book

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Chairman's Report

At the May meeting The Committee gave a vote of thanks to Ken Sullivan and his team of helpers who provided us with a splendid afternoon's entertainment in celebration of St George. Ken was instrumental in ensuring we even have a village hall as some years ago plans were afoot to get rid of it. Ken, Ernie Preece & the late Ivor Scull gave a lot of their time and energy in creating The Sutton Hall charity and obtaining, in 1994, a 20 year lease from Sutton Estates that has allowed us continued use of this excellent community facility. Ken was chairman & vice chairman for some years and is currently a trustee of the hall. The sum of money raised by this recent effort was just over £2000 helped by the many generous gifts from local businesses and residents. Ken certainly hasn't lost his touch at fundraising and organising a brilliant day that all who came along thoroughly enjoyed.

Since Christmas we have had to have our 5 year electrical test and portable appliance test done and have completed a new fire risk assessment as required by legislation. Maintenance work has been highlighted from these reports and so the expenses keep coming, not least the last quarter's electricity bill which was around £2000! We continue to look at how to reduce outgoings but some things cannot be skimmed on.

Our proposed Store room is on hold at the moment until we can find someone to undertake the build at an affordable cost. Step forward any willing volunteers! Meanwhile we retain some capital for this and will be looking to apply for grants to help with that and other projects.

A new notice board has been put up in the large hall containing information to Hirers and who to contact if there is a problem. These were previously in the Kitchen and may not have been obvious.

Jackie Woods has started our website and the first efforts can be viewed at www.suttonhall.btik.com. This has been set up using free software provided by BT. This option however has its limitations and so the committee have decided to purchase a new domain name and move on to a more professional looking site which Jackie will continue with. Thanks Jackie.

We were sorry to lose Pauline and Colin Sayers and Jason Palmer from the committee who have all tendered their resignations since Christmas. All have offered to help out in the future when they can. We now have a committee of just 14 and so anyone who feels that they can offer their time (1 hour a month) and experience would be most welcome.

This summer we hope to hold the cricket match on the Rec and a concert on the Glebe. Meanwhile grow a sunflower or take a photo and enter the village competitions.

Viv Wilson

Sunflower & Photographic Competition

Plant your own sunflower and enter the village competition to win a prize. Entry costs just £1. **Sunflowers will be judged at the beginning of September** when the official 'measurers' will visit all entrants. Prizes will be awarded in Junior (under 18) and Adult classes for the tallest, widest bloom, most flowers on one plant and happiest looking! The judges' decision will be final.

The photographic competition is also £1 to enter. The Theme of the Photo should be "Stockcross through the Year' Judges will award prizes to those who they feel have best captured that sentiment. The competition is split into Junior (under 18) and Adult classes. Please print your photograph and send it to Stockcross Photograph Competition, The Sutton Hall, Stockcross RG20 8LN. **All photographs must be received by September 6th.**

You can of course enter both competitions. Please complete the entry form below and return it together with your entry fees to The Chairman, The Sutton Hall, Stockcross RG20 8LN or drop it into the Village Shop

**Closing date for entry into both competitions
is 30th June 2008**

Sunflower & Photographic Competition Entry Form

Name

Address

Tel no

Age if under 18.....

*I wish to enter the Sunflower competition
and enclose my £1 entrance fee

*I wish to enter the Photographic competition
and enclose my £1 entrance fee

*Delete as appropriate

Stockcross Village Hall Recipe Book

Linda Mason is planning to produce a book of recipes towards the end of the year in aid of Hall funds. Please look out for a recipe entry form coming through your door, probably sometime in June/July. It is proposed that the Recipe book will be an A5 size (half of an A4) ring bound booklet and will contain recipes donated by local people who will pay £2 to have their recipe published. Recipes must be original and not taken from an existing cookbook! This should make a nice gift or stocking filler for Christmas.

Look What's Been Dug Up!

West Berkshire Museum was delighted to accept the two items pictured into their collection. Both the enamel sign and the stoneware bottle were found by Mick Scarlett when digging in his garden at Thorn Cottage and probably came from the shop in days gone by. The inscription on the bottle reads '4174 Slocock and Turner, Wine and Spirit Merchants Newbury' and does anyone remember smoking Blue Bell tobacco?



Boxford Masques

“KNIGHT & DAY” – 30 JULY to 3 AUGUST

We are very pleased to announce that funds have been secured to allow the 2008 Masque to go ahead.

For those readers new to the area, the Masques are a community theatre event held biannually. The plays were originally written by an Edwardian resident of Boxford, Charlotte Peake, and performed on the same natural amphitheatre on Hoar Hill by local amateur performers.

The Watermill Theatre joins with the Boxford Masques to produce adapted versions of these original plays, the new scripts are written by internationally acclaimed local author Geraldine McCaughrean, a keen supporter of this event.

Preparations are in full swing and the first special introductory rehearsal meeting will take place at Boxford Village Hall on Thursday, 5th June at 6.30pm.

Anyone wishing to perform/dance/sing should come along to the first reading of the script. No previous experience required, just enthusiasm, energy and a commitment to the Tuesday, Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoon rehearsal schedule from 5th June and the 6 performances.

Tickets are on sale from:

Watermill Theatre Box Office 01635 46044
On line www.watermill.org.uk or on the night, although performances sold early at the 2006 production!

Ticket holders, who wish to picnic at the site, are welcome from 5.30pm.

Village Litter Pick Spring 2008



Attendees:

Charlie Goodenough, Mike Ralphson, Keith Phillips, Ernie Preece, Ken Sulivan, Mick Scarlett, Roger Thomas, Jan Gill, Denise Lewington, Keith Lawrence

Thank you to everyone who turned up for the 2008 Village Litter Pick and everyone else who offered support! The morning was a great success – the sun shone, the sky was blue and an eager team of pickers turned out. After just two hours Ken took around 12 black sacks to the tip – mostly collected from the B4000 out towards Wickham. So it seems that actually we're quite a tidy village!

The strangest find of the day went to Charlie and Denise who found an old road sign up on Rockwood. We also turned up a car exhaust, a car bumper, a couple of used car batteries (bit of a theme here!) and a complete set of overalls!

The morning was rounded up by a drink or two in the pub – excellent!

We think it would be great to do this again in September – to put the village 'to bed' after the Summer. Perhaps we could even make it a bi-annual event? Thanks again

Mike and Claire

In March we were able to join Kintbury KEWIs outing to Windsor Castle for a special Royal Weddings exhibition and, in April, 18 of us went with Barnes Coaches' to see The Tutankhamun Exhibition at the O2 Dome. The exciting displays covered the discovery of the tomb and what life in Egypt was like as well as showing many fabulous artifacts. Later we enjoyed the wining and dining facilities at Covent Garden and a merry crowd returned home.

Our "Afternoon Tea Plus..." is on the last Wednesday of the month so do pop in, meet your neighbours and find out about future events.

Jane Batt

COMING EVENTS

Held in the Sutton Hall unless otherwise stated

June

- 5 **Boxford Masques.** First rehearsal meeting. Boxford Village Hall 6.30pm
- 8 **Stockcross House Garden Open** as part of the National Gardens Scheme 2-5.30pm Entrance £2.50 Children:free Plants sale
Teas served in the Pavilion.
- 25 **STOCC** – Tea 2pm

July

- 12 **Organ Recital** at St John's Church Stockcross 7.30pm
- 30 **STOCC** – See posters for further details
- 30 – 3 **August** Boxford Masques. Hoar Hill, Boxford

August

- 3 **Jazz on the Glebe** (To Be confirmed)
- 9 **Cricket on the Rec** (To Be confirmed)

Time of Our Lives Musical Theatre

The Theatre was again on top form in March with their current review "Cool Britannia". This event is still popular although ticket sales were down on previous years.



Wednesday 25th June

Tea in the small hall - £2. 2:00 – 4:00pm

For discussion: 'Open Gardens' bring leaflets, photos etc

Also plans for winter coach trip

Wednesday 30th July

To be arranged – see next Grapevine

August – no meeting but possible coach trip with Kintbury KEWIs call Jane for details

Wednesday 24th September

Tea in the small hall - £2 from 2:00 – 4:00pm

Bookings for winter coach trip

ALL WELCOME

Call Jane: 01488 608762

For further information

Stockcross House Garden

Open 2pm - 5.30pm

Sunday June 8th

Open as part of the National Garden Scheme.
Entrance £2.50 Children Free.
Plant sale.
Teas will be served in the Pavilion

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	Sutton Hall

If you would like an event included in the listings please contact Grapevine

CHURCH SERVICES

June

- 8 11.00am Holy Communion
- 15 10.00am United Benefice Morning prayer at Welford
- 29 11.00am Holy Communion

July

- 13 11.00am Holy communion
- 20 10.00am United Benefice Morning prayer at Great Shefford
- 27 11.00am Morning Prayer

August

- 10 11.00am Holy communion
- 24 11.00am Holy communion
- 31 11.00am Morning Prayer

Saturday July 12th 7.30pm

At

**Stockcross Church
Organ Recital with
Alistair Davis
&
Rosemary Davis**

Other Dates for your diary

Harvest Festival Oct 5th 6pm

Church Jumble Sale:

18th Oct 2pm in Sutton Hall

Next Grapevine due out 1st Sep Last date for submitting items for inclusion 15th Aug

Hurrah for St George Saturday 26th April

This could become an annual event it was so successful. On the Hall stage stood Dr Bob's fantastic painting of St George on his horse. Mike Pike was MC for the afternoon and opened the show by leading us all in a rousing chorus of "The St Georges Day Hymn", the words having been remembered by Mrs Pearl Dromgoole and sung (well almost!) to the tune of "Stand up Stand up for Jesus". The children's fancy dress competition saw some beautiful costumes and some lateral thinking by parents!

The moving horse, skittles, plate smashing, coconut shy and bouncy castle all saw action amid the typically English entertainment from Jonathan the Jester, The Kintbury Maids and the folk musicians. Refreshments came from teas, home made cakes, bar and hog roast all providing a welcome break to the bustle of the afternoon. The raffle, silent auction and tombola all did good business and the Church stalls raised a good sum of money for St John's. Well done to everyone who helped, donated, entered and spent. Hurrah for St George and three cheers for Ken Sullivan, organiser- in-chief.



2008 marks the 80th anniversary of the Leckhampstead & District Billiards League. At the annual presentation night held on Saturday 17th May at Fawley Club the numbers were swelled by players from the past and also some relations of those no longer with us. It was with great pride that the Stockcross team received the League Champions Shield for the 2007/2008 season following on from their success of a few seasons ago.

The club is always open to new members - details of which can be obtained from Tim Tyler at the village shop.

Stockcross Road Safety Group

Just a quick update: Tony Hersh, Ken Sullivan, Keith Phillips and myself met with Andrew Garratt, Chief Highways Engineer for West Berkshire, and his colleagues Glyn Davis and Cheryl Evans, on March 7th 2008. Also present was Geraldine Frampton, a school governor, who kindly agreed to represent Stockcross School.

Mr Garratt agreed that speeding is a significant problem in the village, and was also able to witness first-hand the difficulties experienced by children and their parents trying to cross the road safely at the end of the school day. He and Mr Davis appeared quite concerned about the risks to pedestrians and agreed to arrange for a full assessment of road safety within the village to be completed in June.

In the meantime, our two new vehicle activated signs remain on order and are apparently expected any day now!

gilly@cresswell-online.co.uk

On Road Parking

Grapevine has received a couple of complaints that cars and vans in the village are being left partly on the road and partly on the pavement making it impossible on occasions for pedestrians, especially with push chairs and dogs to go past without walking out onto the busy B4000.

The request is that care be taken by residents and visitors when parking so that pavements, drives and walkways are kept passable and safe.

Thanks very much.

Look who's got new wheels-Mobile Millie



Local Man Runs for Charity

A very big THANK YOU to all those Stockcross residents who sponsored me to run the Shakespeare Marathon, in Stratford on Avon, on Sunday 27th April. I ran to support the Robert Sebbage appeal.

Robert Sebbage is a 15 year old boy with a rare bowel disease. The purpose of the appeal is to raise £40,000 to send Robert to the US for what is hoped to be revolutionary stem cell treatment to at least relieve some of the rather unpleasant symptoms of this disease. Robert lives locally and his father occasionally works at my son's school.

This was my first ever full marathon; the 26.2 miles took me 3 hour, 32 minutes and 29 seconds. Picture is of the last few painful yards. I would have been very pleased with this time but for two incidents. Firstly, at about 3 hours, I was overtaken by a chicken or rather a guy wearing a chicken suit! Secondly the person who finished just in front of me turned out to be 65 years old!

I made around £1,200 for the Robert Sebbage appeal, thank you again to those, who kindly sponsored me.

Peter Dawson

(Ed Note: The day before the run Peter and his family were hard at work on the Plate smashing stall raising funds for the village hall. See photo)



Rising Sun News

First of all a great big thank you to all the people who sponsored Keith in the Westward Ho! Reliability Run on 28th March. Over £400 was raised by him towards the AJS & Matchless Owners Club's chosen charity; the MS Centre at Milton Park, taking this year's total to well over £2,000. Lots going on at the pub during the summer, with folk club every Sunday, Morris Dancing about once a fortnight, Quiz night first Wednesdays, blues nights on the second Thursday, and Joe's Guitar School on various Friday or Saturday nights, come and see the stars of tomorrow here today. Bring along a Classic car, bike, anything on the first Sunday Lunchtime for all to enjoy.

Diary Dates

JUNE

- 4 Quiz Night
- 11 Morris Dancing with Kintbury Morris
- 12 Beggars Belief Blues Band
- 13 Joe's Guitar School
- 25 Kintbury Morris with guests Icknield Way Morris
- 29 Phil, Rita & Paul guesting at the Folk Club

JULY

- 2 Quiz Night
- 9 Kintbury Morris with guests Berkshire Bedlam
- 10 Blues Band
- 19 Joe's Guitar School

AUGUST

- 6 Quiz Night
- 11 Kennet Morris Men
- 14 Blues Band

Hope to see you

Keith & Joan

Births & Deaths

Richard & Tina Stapleton became Grandparents again on 20th February when Oliver James was born to their son Chris and his wife Maz. Weighing in at 9lb 9oz a new brother for Edward and another supporter for Reading FC.

On a sadder note, Peter Wiggins passed a way on 9th May 2008. Some will remember helping celebrate his 80th Birthday at the Sutton Hall last September. His son was village policeman for some years. Sympathy is extended to his family and friends.

Taster Evening

For Spiritual Direction/Accompaniment

Tuesday 17th June 7.30pm

At All Saint Church, Upper Bucklebury, Nr Thatcham

Have you ever wondered what a Spiritual Director, Soul Friend or Faith Accompanist is? Who are they? How are they trained and what could they do for you?

This ministry is offered by people of prayer who make a commitment to accept the other person as they are, and where they are, on their spiritual journey. The role is to listen and discern God's activity in the other person's life, but the remit is far, far wider. This is a sacred space into which anything or nothing can be brought, allowing the Holy Spirit to do His work.

Clergy and laity in training are asked to find a Spiritual Director, as are those training for the Church Army, and each Spiritual Director has their own director.

There are a growing number of people who want to learn more about how to pray, meditate or make a rule of life. Some people are at a transition in their lives or just want to seek to make more sense of their own faith journey. There were many enquiries after the 'Monastery' series on television, and people having done the Alpha course often like more time on a one to one basis to confirm their own path.

The taster evening will give people a chance to see whether this is something that would be of benefit to them, and there will be individual short taster sessions available. For those who may feel led to pursue this ministry there will be information about training courses available.

SPI-DIR is the acronym of the Diocese of Oxford's Ecumenical Spiritual Direction Group. Canon Keith Lamden is the Director, 01865 208251, or Diocesan Church House, 01865 208200, has a list of trained accompanists.

For more information about the evening ring Jane Booth on 01635 30343 or Anna Newton on 0118 9744113



Kintbury Morris and children doing Maypole Dance at the St George's Day Fete



SCHOOL REPORT

At the time of going to the printers, we regret we have not received the School Report for the past quarter.

Stockcross to Paris by Bike!

Charlotte and Rupert Digby are planning to cycle to Paris in aid of Sarah Greene's Crocus Fund for Breast Cancer Research. Sarah was the loveliest girl, who died of breast cancer in her early 40s after a 3 year battle with the disease. The fund raises money for a special unit at Guy's Hospital set up by Paul Ellis, Sarah's oncologist, to target her triple negative form of Breast cancer.

Charlotte and Rupert are asking you to sponsor their ride from Newbury to Portsmouth, which is 86km and far further than they have ever cycled before in a day. They are training hard and hope to be fit enough to make it all the way to Paris.

If you would like to sponsor them and help fight Breast cancer, you can send a cheque, made payable to 'Sarah Greene Crocus Fund' to them at Rookwood Farmhouse, Stockcross RG20 8JX or go on line to:
<http://breakthrough.tributefunds.com/fund/Charlotte+Digby's+bike+ride/showfund/>
and sponsor them by credit or debit card.

They would appreciate any help that you can give them to reach their target of £5000 by the day they set off on Thursday 26th June 2008.

Last Words

Jackie Caufield (Nee Saunders) is a keen genealogist and whilst looking at a Family History website was surprised to find another Jackie Saunders born the same year and in the same town as her. She immediately e-mailed to introduce herself, commenting on what a coincidence to find someone so close to home and born the same day with the same name. A few minutes later she received the e mail – she had registered her name twice on the same website!



Talking of birthdays on the same day, Georgie Hunt who was 18, and Brian Palmer who was 60, both celebrated theirs on May 9th, congratulations.



Think the Great Escape, think Colditz, think of Jack & Bailey the new canine inmates at Stable Cottage who, despite major efforts (and fences) by their owners regularly keep up the British POW tradition and continue in their efforts to escape only to be returned home. So far they haven't used a motorbike or tunnel to get out but you never know....

Poor old Mandy Street got very badly sunburnt during the hot spell in May. She suffered blisters and was in agony for days. So, as keen as we all are to see the sun – Beware!



Congratulations to Louise Sugden of Stockcross who has been selected to represent Great Britain at Basketball for the Beijing Paralympic Games taking place from 6 - 17 September. Good luck and please let us know all about it when you get back.



USEFUL NUMBERS

Grapevine Editor: Viv Wilson		01635 523963
	or e-mail: vc.wilson@btinternet.com	
The Sutton Hall:	Chairman Viv Wilson	01635 523963
	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
Tim Tyler	01488 657602
<u>Emergency numbers:</u>		
Southern Electric		0845 770 8090
Thames Water		0845 920 0800

STOCKCROSS VILLAGE STORE & POST OFFICE

Monday – Friday 8am – 6pm
Saturday 9am – 12.30pm

Post Office opening hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday &
Friday 9am – 5.30pm
Wednesday & Saturday
9am – 12.30pm.

Tel: 01488 657602

www.stockcrosspostoffice.co.uk