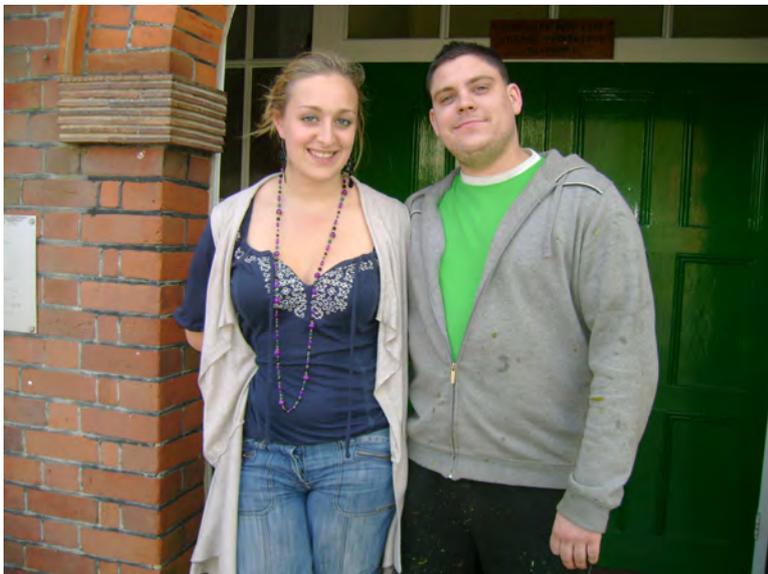


THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER

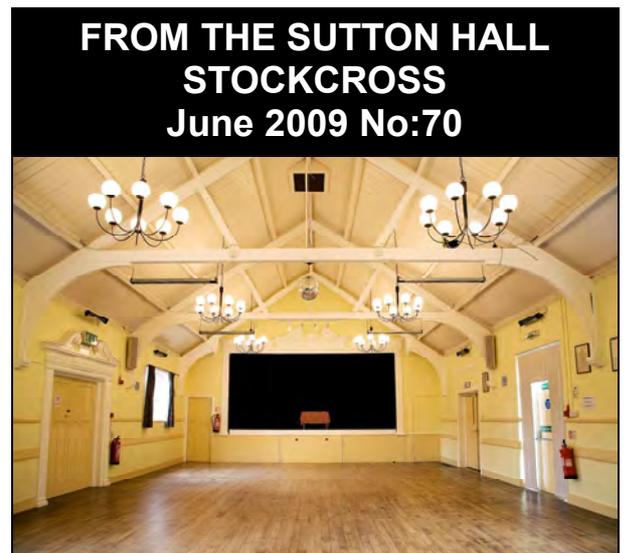
New Caretaker Moves In

Welcome to Jay Chandler who from the 1st June will be looking after our hall with help from partner Daniel. The two of them beat off around 40 other applicants for the job.



Jay comes from a family with long traditions of community service to the area. Her Grandfather was a committee member of Great Shefford and East Garston social clubs, her Great Grandmother was the hall caretaker at Woodland St Mary's and her Great Uncle was caretaker at Wickham village hall for more than 25 years. Her Grandparents lived in Stockcross and her father went to Stockcross School. She was a Stockcross Brownie and had her 13th birthday party at the Sutton Hall. So she has a lot of sentiment for the area.

Before taking this job she was a part time nursery assistant and also has a degree in Fashion and Textiles. Daniel is a self employed heating and ventilation engineer with a background in general building and is already getting stuck in to the overgrown garden and general tidy up of the outside of the hall. The committee are looking forward to working with the two of them and hope that they will both enjoy living in our village.



FROM THE SUTTON HALL
STOCKCROSS
June 2009 No:70

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

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

Call Jay on 01488 608769 to book
or visit our website

www.suttonhallstockcross.org

or email

suttonhall642@btinternet.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- Rev's Retirement
- A Saucy Teapot
-

Chairman's Report

Hello, Good Morning, Good Afternoon, then there's Hi, maybe it's because I am a sixty one year old grumpy old git, but I just can't get to grips with this term. So I will start with Hello Grapevine Readers.

The past three months have been just a bit hectic, what with sorting out applications for the new Caretaker for which we had in the region of forty five applications for the post with about thirty five returning their forms for sorting. We short listed seven and finally had six turn up to be interviewed. Angela, Denise and Steve were the welcoming committee with tea and a guided tour. Viv, Ernie and James were interviewing. Thank you all. All applicants were very close but there was one that was outstanding with a real passion for the position. Jay Chandler and her partner Daniel O'Flynn were appointed to start on 1st June. They have already been over and started on the window boxes and garden for which we thank them very much. We wish them good luck in this new venture.

The caretaker's cottage has had to have lot of work on it to put it back into good repair estimating around £6000 to spend on decoration, carpets and other minor repairs. Back in February we had the flat roof on the bathroom re-felted. The new chair and table store cupboard is now up and running just waiting for a few minor points to be put right. This cost the hall £9810.00 but we managed to secure a grant for £3905.00 towards the building from vibrant village fund which is part of the Greenham Trust. A big vote of thanks to Professor James Leigh for filling all the forms in correctly to achieve this.

Maureen has come to our rescue by getting the hall back into pristine condition, the new floor polisher we purchased about four years ago which thought it had taken early retirement has now had the cobwebs blown off it and is back on the pay roll. Thank you Maureen from me and all the committee. Ernie after having a lesson from Denise on how to erect tables has made himself indispensable by opening and closing the hall and doing the job he has now been trained for. I don't know why he didn't apply for the job as caretaker? So thank you Ernie you've been a big help (no pun intended.) I am very grateful to Mark Nevitt who has offered to become our new treasurer, so thank you Mark I am looking forward to you taking over. I have now been banned from answering the phone, as our new temporary booking secretary has taken over. VFBW, there's no doubt about it you are a very valued member of the committee. I don't know what we would do without you, keep up the good work.

The Village Hall has been very busy with a range of different bookings, three different bands now practice there and we had several Family History gatherings. Children's parties are still very popular, and this month a gentleman booked the hall to see if his one man play can go on the road. Fingers crossed we might be seeing it at Stock-cross.

Last month sadly saw The Red House at Marsh Benham go into liquidation, another old pub bites the dust. I have great childhood memories of sitting on the steps of the bake house eating small cottage loaves still warm from the oven having been baked by my Dad. He was baking there till I was about five. Sadly he stopped baking when other bakers started delivering bread from Newbury I think they called it progress?

Anyway I think that's enough from me the Marsh Benham Boy.

Brian G Palmer
Chairman



Another great turn out for the litter pick - just the early arrivals pictured - despite the unforced error of scheduling it for Mother's Day! Thanks to everyone who pitched in, Brian for the refreshments and West Berks street care team for the loan of equipment. Highlights this time included a 12 year-old cheque which had passed through two banks, a near-complete Hoover, a step machine and a very posh looking folding play-pen / cot. A fair bit of what was collected was recycled this time both through the normal kerbside collection and directly at the Newtown Road centre. Hopefully things looked better for a while at least, and we look forward to Wombling out again in the Autumn

Mike & Claire

OUT AND ABOUT

Nature notes May 2009

At last the weather did improve - a little and slowly! We have had a long, rather cold spring and things did not grow well at first. All of a sudden it became a little warmer and wetter as I remember, and the grass grew and the trees came into glorious leaf. I still think of the old saying, 'If the ash is out before the oak all summer we shall have a splash, but if the oak is out before the ash we shall have a soak.' From my observation this year they seem to be out together - on the whole! We shall have to wait and see!



I was very sad not to see toads crossing Church Road this spring and would love to hear if anyone did see them or, indeed, if they have bred in the lake at Stockcross House. I had about forty frogs in my little pond and now have hundreds of tadpoles. They will be reduced I am sure by a large population of newts and, to my surprise, leaches.

I heard the Chiff Chaff in Church wood first on the 19th March and my beloved Blackcap with its superb song arrived at about the same time. The Brimstone was seen on the 16th March. Dunnocks have been displaying and nesting for ages and the young blackbirds are about to fly the nest in my neighbour's garden -if the cats will allow! Although the cuckoo has been heard for some time, not as far as I know in Stockcross.

Some of us may be lucky enough to see the elusive Nightjar in the woods. They are 'out' at dusk usually flying along the grassy rides in search of the moths and insects on which they live. The song is a distinctive churring sound, and they can sometimes be attracted to a white handkerchief waved gently about.

There is a wonderful show of Hedge Parsley where it has been allowed to grow along the roadsides and may I put in a plea for it to be allowed to do so and not cut down, unless in the need for visibility and safety.

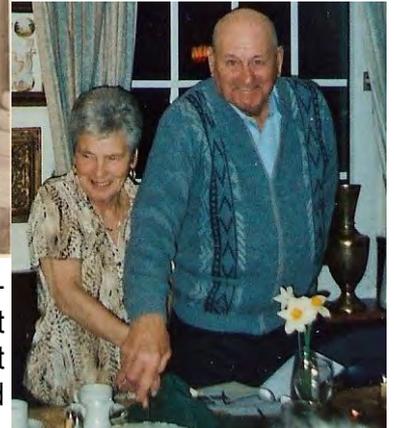
I wish this wonderful bright green of the trees and shrubs would last for ages, but I am sure that when I come to write these notes again, that wonderful freshness will have gone over for another year.

Janet Scull
ivor@ivorscull.wanadoo.co.uk

Stockcross couple Pearl and Les (Bill) Foster



of 76 Glebe Lane celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary on the 28th March. They were married at the Methodist church in Newbury, The reception was held at the brides home and afterwards they honeymooned in Bournemouth.



To celebrate their anniversary they had a Party at the Coach and Horse's at Midgham with Family and Friends

A Saucy Teapot



A teapot modelled on the infamous Lady Elizabeth Craven, socialite and one time resident of the Craven Cottage who later became the Margravine of Anspach and lived for a while at Benham Valence has sold at Bonham's' London showroom for £22,800. The teapot bears the legend 'Lady Craveing's Teapot', a pun on her name and various appetites. Since it first appeared for sale in 1875 it has been described as a likeness of Lady Craven herself. The choice of a teapot shape may in fact be a reference to Lady Craven's notorious tea parties at Craven Cottage between 1780-83. The teapot was even reputed to have belonged to King George IV, a one time friend of the Lady Craven, but there is no evidence surviving to support this.

COMING EVENTS

JUNE

- 4 **STOCC** trip to Abbey Gardens Malmesbury 1pm
- 6 Knitting Club 11am –1pm Rising Sun
- 24 **STOCC** Teas at the Hall 2pm £2

JULY

- 4 Knitting Club 11am –1pm Rising Sun
- 12 Organ Recital Stockcross Church 7.30pm
- 13 **Panto Players** meet 6.30pm Small Hall
- 29 **STOCC** Cream tea in Charlie Goodenough's garden 2pm £2.50

AUGUST

- 9 Cricket Match and Potato Growing Competition weigh in on the Rec 2pm
- 14/15 Beer & Blues festival Rising Sun
- 26 **STOCC** –tba

Mobile Library visits to Stockcross

Jun	Jul	Aug
3 24	15	TBC

Village Hall 1.15 to 1.55pm
Bayford House 2.00 to 2.40pm

STOCKCROSS PANTO PLAYERS
This year's production is booked for performance on 3/4/5 Dec 2009

Anyone wishing to be involved on stage or behind the scenes are invited to a meeting at
The Sutton Hall on
Monday July 13th
6.30pm

Both children and adults are invited to take part. If you can't make the meeting but still wish to be involved please contact
Viv Wilson 01635 523963
vc.wilson@btinternet.com **OR**
Keith Phillips 01488 608249
keithstockcross@hotmail.co.uk

Church Services

June

- 8 Holy communion 11am
29 Holy communion 11am

July

- 13 Holy communion 11am
27 morning prayer 11am

August

TBC

Regular Weekly Events

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



USEFUL NUMBERS

Grapevine Editor: Viv Wilson	01635 523963
Or e-mail: vc.wilson@btinternet.com	
The Sutton Hall: Chairman Brian Palmer	01488 608295
Bookings Jay Chandler	01488 608769
Or e-mail suttonhall642@btinternet.com	
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
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

Reminder
Photo competition 2009
For Stockcross charity calendar 2010

In the December edition of the Grapevine I encouraged all to take photos of Stockcross during the year and to enter them into the “**Stockcross photo competition 2009**” with the theme: “**Stockcross during the year**”. I hope you have taken some good pictures over the winter and are still going strong for the coming summer months. The winners will be published in the Stockcross Calendar 2010, which we plan to sell for charity. I will book the Village hall for a couple of hours in the last weekend of September. Exact time and arrangement will be confirmed in the Grapevine in the September edition.

Let's combine it with a treasure hunt like last year. It was great fun, and all ages enjoyed a good walk around the village. This year the treasure hunters could help judge the photos too!
Would any creative and imaginative people help me set up the treasure hunt and be part of the team that helps with the arrangements on in September?

If so, please contact me on
annekirstine@yahoo.com or Ph: 01488608357

If you have **questions regarding the photo competition**, feel free to contact me too.

<p style="text-align: center;">ANNUAL VILLAGE CRICKET MATCH</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Stockcross Gentlemen's XI vs Imago Plc On the Rec Sunday 9th August 2pm</p> <p>Entrance Fee £1 which includes tea. The usual splendid tea provided by the ladies of the village will be served at half time (about 3.30pm)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STOCKCROSS VILLAGE POTATO GROWING COMPETITION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICIAL WEIGH IN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">On the Rec Sunday 9th August from 2.30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All those who entered in January are invited to bring their potatoes STILL IN THE POTS to the REC to be weighed by Charlie Goodenough, Chief Judge</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Top prize will be given to the person whose potatoes weigh the most.</p>
<p>The Sutton Hall Summer Raffle</p> <p>Official Draw Will take place at 4pm Sunday 9th August on The Rec</p> <p>Tickets will be on sale from late June around the village.</p>	

Summer Organ Recital At Stockcross Church

Saturday 12th July 7.30pm

The annual organ recitals at Stockcross are greatly enjoyed by parishioners and other friends with a musical interest and local organist Rosemary Evans, along with our own Alistair Davis, have once again agreed to team up to provide another magical evening. Ticket information will be available nearer the date but enthusiasts are urged to book the date now!

AROUND THE VILLAGE

Stockcross Two O'Clock Crowd: some questions answered

Although we have been meeting for seven years, we are still asked 'who are you, what do you do?' STOCC is not a closed club - there is no annual membership fee. This is because we want to be available for anyone who wishes to join any one of our get-togethers and make use of the lovely facilities at the Sutton Hall for afternoon tea. Although we always enjoy the chance to meet for a chat, we occasionally have a visiting speaker, fun quiz or a demonstration and, in the summer, get invited out to tea in beautiful gardens in the village.

Regular meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month except December. We always do something special before Christmas and this year it will be a lunch since the last two proved so popular. We also go on coach outings which are shared with Kintbury KEWIs. Past trips have included London, Portsmouth and Cardiff for Christmas shopping and sightseeing, and summer trips to Gloucester, Hampton Court Palace and Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. STOCC will shortly be visiting the Abbey Gardens at Malmesbury.

We are not ageist or sexist and our numbers are fairly small and friendly. If you are interested in finding out more you can check out the dates on the village events calendar or the hall notice board. Come along, meet your neighbours and enjoy a lovely tea for only £2 - we will make you very welcome.

The Sutton Hall Website

More and more of our bookings are coming through online and so we now trying to enhance our website and soon hope to add a calendar so that everyone can view when the hall is available. Many thanks to Ros Kitson for organising this and for running our site.

Of course the old fashioned telephone system is still there if you need to discuss your requirements and a paper booking form with full terms and conditions remains available as required

We are still looking for small businesses to advertise on our site. It costs £10 per annum for a business card size advert. Please contact our Chairman if interested.

Don't forget The Grapevine can be viewed in colour at www.suttonhallstockcross.org

Rowing Success

Lifetime local Stockcross resident Will Preece is about to complete three years BA study at the University of Bristol.

Whilst at Bristol, Will has been seriously involved with the University's boat club and this year is the captain of the First Eight

To date, the First Eight were the winners of the Senior 3 Pennant and the Halladay Trophy in the Men's Head of the River Race (Chiswick to Putney 4½ miles). In addition, they were the winners of the Hammersmith Head (Senior 3 category) and the Varsity Boat Race at Bristol.



Earlier this month, Will was a member of the University Coxless Four which came 2nd in the British Universities Championships at Nottingham. This performance has resulted in the Coxless Four being chosen to represent GB Team at Poznan, Poland in September for the World Universities Rowing Championship.

The Lord Lyon

STOP!

TAKE AWAY FISH "N" CHIPS,

7 days per week 12.00-2.00pm

5.45- 9.00pm(7.00- 9.00 Sun)

All fish in our own light beer batter: Starring

Cod Fillet 8/10oz **£6.95**

Haddock fillet 8/10oz **£6.50**

Home breaded Plaice Fillet **£ 6.25**

Whole tail Scampi **£7.95**

All served with chips & mushy peas

Please call 01488 608366 to place your order now!!!

Order a drink while on the phone to be on the bar when you arrive

Please be patient while waiting, all fish will be cooked to order for your maximum enjoyment, hope to see you soon

Fast approaching Fathers' Day don't forget to book your tables.

AT YOUR LEISURE

Life in The Sun

Wow! What a great first twelve weeks. Nobody warned us about the villagers. Everyone has been very welcoming.



St Georges Day was a brilliant evening, flags a flying, beer swilling and a good old sing song. Very nearly didn't happen. Ollie cut his legs shaving them to put on his pink tights, it was touch and go whether to call for a vet or the air ambulance.

Looking forward to the sunny summer, August the 14th and 15th we're having a beer and blues festival with Kent Duchaine from the USA on the Friday evening (his mix of delta blues will get your big toe tapping in your boot). The Saturday evening Slow Burner, a great British blues/rock band with the sound of the Deep South. With 15 real ales, local musician and a BBQ. All welcome.

Glen & Kelly

End of an Era



After his last Communion service at St John's, friends gathered at the Sutton Hall on Sunday 24th May to say goodbye and thank you to Rev Nigel Sands for 30 years service to the Church and surrounding parishes. A splendid tea was followed by a short speech (in keeping with Nigel's sermons!) and presentation from Churchwardens Mike Pike and Shirley Wernham to Nigel and wife Dorothy on behalf of parishioners. (More in next Grapevine)



The Gardener's Hymn

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true,
Is when he made the goodies, He made the baddies too.

All things spray and swatable, disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.

The greenfly on the roses, the maggots in the peas,
Manure that fills our roses. He also gave us these.

The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens,
The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines.

The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds,
The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds.

The midges and mosquitos, the nettles and the weeds,
The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds.

The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardener's outlook, though green may be his thumbs

But still we gardeners labour, midst vegetables and flowers,
And pray what hits our neighbours, will somehow bypass ours.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Submitted by Angela Painting



STOCKCROSS CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Good News for Stockcross CE Primary School

We were delighted to discover that Stockcross CE Primary School was ranked among the 100 best schools in the country in a recent BBC table 'Best of the Best'. We feel this is a testimony to the dedication, commitment and creativity of staff, pupils, parents and governors to make the school a rich, dynamic and vibrant place.

We were also pleased with the outcome of a Local Authority routine inspection of our reception class. Inspectors commented on the very positive relationships between teacher and children, with the class teacher responding to 'children's interests and learning needs'. The inspection team concluded that opportunities for children were 'exciting' with children 'engaged, happy and independent.'

At the end of last term we celebrated Mrs O'Halloran's contribution to the school as Assistant Headteacher and Year Five/Six Class Teacher as she prepared to become Headteacher at Beedon CE Primary School. We thanked her for all her commitment to the children, her ideas and her work to develop the school. We look forward to learning how she gets on, knowing that she will bring lots of energy and enthusiasm to her new role.

Meanwhile Governors have appointed Mr Martyn Bisset, currently Upper School Leader of Loddon Primary School, a large 400 pupil primary in Wokingham LA, to be our new Deputy Headteacher. Mr Bisset will join us in September.

This term we say a sad farewell to Rev'd Sands. Nigel has served the school immensely in his time as rector of the United Benefices. He is currently undertaking his second stint at the school as Chair of Governors and maintains regular visits to the school to keep abreast of initiatives and developments and to take an interest in the education and well being of the pupils. We are extremely grateful for all that he has done and staff, pupils and governors will miss his friendly, caring manner and his active interest in the school.

Still to come this term are trips to Portsmouth, Sports Day, House Colours day, County tennis finals, athletics matches, camping expeditions, end of term concerts and of course our traditional Leavers' Service. We also invite you all to our Summer Fete, a super event, which is on the 20th June.

Nathan Hunt
Headteacher

Bus Time Story

I went out to the bus stop at the Chapel Road corner for the usual time of 10.08. As I stood there in the rain, I noticed that there was a new timetable up and this bus was now to be expected at 17 minutes past the hour. Reluctant to get any wetter than necessary, I returned home only to see the bus go past just as I reached my door, at the old time. On checking the timetable again, I was informed that the bus stop was designated Speen Lane, and that it would only take seven minutes to reach the bus station. After a brief word at the bus station office, the offending timetable was removed and the correct one substituted.

Felicity Merchant



Look out There's a Mole about!

An ugly looking concrete mole has mysteriously appeared at Shirley Turner's garden gate.

Is it the GLF offering support to Gushmurwuzle?

Treasurer Found

On a weekend of clearing out the caretakers cottage at the hall, we got very happy with a hammer! We got really excited when knocking a cupboard out when at first we thought we'd found yet more rubbish but actually it glistened in the light. Lost treasures consisting of numerous silver trays and toiletry bags left behind by Angela Painting when she retired as caretaker over 10 years ago were revealed and promptly repatriated with their owner, Angela, who left with the goodies under her arm and a smile on her face saying "I wondered where I'd left them!"

Denise & Sarah