

FROM THE SUTTON HALL
STOCKCROSS
August No: 118

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER



**John Palmer & John “The Log” Richards
Who both died in May this year RIP**

The Editor

Hi Grapevine readers our first hard copy since the lockdown. Enjoy!

Any contributions for the November 2021 edition of the Grapevine must reach me no later than **Friday 15h October 2021 and before 3.30 pm**. Until then, enjoy the joys of Stockcross life. And be safe!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Greetings to all in the restriction-free England!

Now we each must make their own assessment of risk and safety. For my household not much has changed. We still socialising outdoors

(helped by long sunny evenings) and are taking masks everywhere, using them almost as often as before. Still cautious.

With the easing of restrictions through the Spring the use of Hall is slowly returning to something like normal. But we will proceed cautiously and continue to update our procedures consistent with advice.

But the committee hasn't been idle. During the early months of 2021 (another lockdown zoom meeting!) the Hall committee drew up a list of potential physical/structural improvements for the Hall. At the top of our list is the

heating system. The aim is to modernise the heating system and its controls to reduce electricity use. Heating costs have always been a significant cost for the Hall. Our aim is to invest in this way to reduce the overall running costs for the Hall. The project research is well advanced. We will look for grants for energy efficiency upgrades and we hope to move forward with this prior to the winter heating season. It is our hope that this project will enable us to improve the financial viability of Sutton Hall for the community.

Don't forget the rounders match on the Rec on Saturday September 4th. More details soon! Apparently it's a tradition – residents from the North side of Ermin Street v residents of South side.

It is vacation/staycation time for many of us. I wish you all a pleasant break. At least the UK is a green (and pleasant) country!!

Take care all.
Liz Newell-Hart

**SUTTON HALL COMMITTEE MEETS
2ND TUESDAY EVERY MONTH AT
8.00PM SMALL HALL – PLEASE
COME**



**E MAIL –
CHRISTINE.RICKARDS@YAHOO.COM
OR RING ON 07787825459**

Stockcross Village Events



S&SHA recently held their AGM where a full Co-Chairman's report was circulated. Nothing much has happened during the past 18 months because of COVID.

Meetings and visits needed to be cancelled although our website and Facebook Page continued to be updated. It highlighted the problems that SASHA has had, in common with many other clubs but now with the easing of lockdown SASHA's committee are determined to encourage members and guests back to their monthly meetings.

It was proposed to change SASHA meetings from the evening of the last Monday in the month to **the afternoon of the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm**. The disadvantages of this would be that working members would not be able to attend without taking leave. The advantages, in winter members would not have to drive or walk in the dark or slippery weather and by changing to a daytime meeting we would hope to encourage more members/guests. Another day could be arranged for any special speakers or any outings. This change was overwhelmingly agreed by the members. Meetings will commence in September, please see poster.

Thanks were given to the Sutton Hall for their continuing support.

If anyone is interested in our local history checkout our website: www.stockcrosshistory.org.uk and/or our Facebook Page or contact me.

Angela Tyler. ange.sunflower@gmail.com.

Monthly Meeting Programme

Wednesday 8th September at 2pm.
Sarah Summerville. - The History of Shaw House.

Wednesday 13th October at 2pm.
Nick Young. - Newbury in the Cold War Era.
(This is about what was happening in Newbury at that time)

Wednesday 10th November 2pm.
David Peacock - Jack of Newbury

Wednesday 12th December 2pm
Christmas Social.

Guest welcome £5.00.

Any further information please contact:
Angela Tyler: ange.sunflower@gmail.com



Stockcross Two O'clock Crowd

We are about to hold our first meeting since the end of lockdown on 28th July – a talk on 'The Milestones in the History of Western Art' by returning popular speaker Robert Kidner. Our scheduled meeting in June had to be cancelled sadly.

On Wednesday 25th August at 2pm Action for River Kennet will be giving a talk: 'Caring for the River Kennet from water voles to yellow fish'.

The speaker for the 29th September meeting is not yet confirmed.

We are still very aware that we must keep as safe as possible from Covid and request masks still be worn indoors, to keep socially distanced and the hall will be well ventilated.

Thank you to our regular supporters and helpers, we hope you can join us. Cost £2 per person includes refreshments – all welcome. For enquiries call Jane on 0777 1511317 or 01488 608762



On Saturday 30th October 2021 at 12 noon, Alistair Davis, the organist of Stockcross Church, will be giving an organ recital at the

Church in aid of church funds. During the lockdown the Church had to be closed and this has resulted in a substantial loss of income and the recital is therefore to raise funds for the church. The recital will last for about 45 minutes and admission is free. There will be a retiring collection and all proceeds will go to Stockcross Church.

John Palmer & John Richards RIP



John Palmer 3rd September 1938 to 5th May 2021

John was quite a character – always ready to offer an opinion, provide advice whether solicited or not and always looking for opportunities to “take the mickey”.

John grew up with his parents Louisa & Gilbert Palmer, brother Brian, Mike Pike and latterly his cousin Tony all sharing the same house in Marsh Benham.

After finishing his schooling in Lambourn, having previously been a pupil at Stockcross primary where he was already demonstrating some entrepreneurial acumen by providing the American service men stationed nearby with refreshments during their PT sessions, at a small cost of course. He also assisted his Mum & Dad who were bakers at the Red House by delivering bread throughout the village.

John started his working life at R J Hewitt in Newbury as an apprentice electrician and having completed his training and associated studies remained in the employment of Hewitt's for 22 years this business latterly becoming the Lighting Centre, before making the courageous decision at the time to become a self-employed electrical contractor and starting his own company in 1972. The fact that John became self-employed also provided him the ability to combine two of his greatest pleasures – nattering to people and golf. As an important member of the Lighting Centre's events

team, he would spend much of the summer resident at various PGA golf tournaments all over the country. During his time on site at these tournaments' John and his partner Hilary who would often accompany him for the weekend met many people who subsequently became good friends. It wasn't just the company of family and friends that John enjoyed, he was a great animal lover also, from an early age until only a few years ago John would be seen with a series of loyal dogs by his side. He also managed to return home from The Forest of Arden golf course one year with a stray kitten found on the 17th green which he went onto name Debbie. Debbie remained in John's care for many years.

John and Hilary never lost the link with Stockcross. They were both keen benefactors of local business, namely the Rising Sun. Many evenings were spent in the village hostelry discussing “old times” with friends and family. This tradition of meeting up to have a good old chat continued in John's latter years when he used to meet with his cronies at the Camp Hopson restaurant virtually on a daily basis.

Golf was not the only sport that John participated in, although if it was a fine Saturday and he wasn't working he would undoubtedly be found most of the time at Newbury and Crookham golf course.

He also played cricket for Newbury alongside his friend Derek Shailes and enjoyed the company of many friends whilst playing snooker and billiards to a high standard in the local Leckhampstead league. Horse racing was another of John's sporting interests with involvement ranging from being an armchair enthusiast with a hotline to the local turf accountant through to purchasing a part share in a lovely racehorse called Foreign Legion. His love of Reading football club also instigated a family tradition of other family members lending their support to this local football club. In later life, after retiring, John managed to combine his love of racing with another joy of both making and saving some extra cash. By accepting a position of race-day steward at Newbury Racecourse he was able to attend meetings without paying entrance, get paid for doing so and natter to like minded individuals at the same time.



John was extremely proud of the time spent with the Royal Berkshire Regiment whilst on National Service. Having completed his basic training during 1960, he married Madeleine the same year. The couple were stationed in Malta where many lifelong friendships were nurtured. He also spent tours of duty in Canada and British Guiana before returning to live in married quarters in Thruxton and Tidworth before settling once again in Newbury following his demobilization in 1963, living in their first house together in Russell Road here both Paul and Clare were born. John would often be seen sporting his Sunday best blazer complete with regimental badge worn with pride on the breast pocket.

John lived his life the way he wanted to, only really experiencing true sadness when his beloved partner Hilary passed away in 2007, Hilary's children Alison and Richard remained supportive during his later years providing him with help and support until the very end. John will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all. Families are comforted by the fact that he is once again by Hilary.

By Brian Palmer

John Richards (“John the Log”) died May 2021



My father grew up in Wiltshire around Avebury & Marlborough and as a boy, according to his stories, roamed freely on the Wessex Downs. This instilled in him a lifelong love and knowledge of nature and wild-life. As happened in those days he left school at 14, and subsequently spent his whole life, until earlier this year, working with and on the land. In the family tradition as the nephew of Sir Gordon Richards horses were in his blood, his father and his Uncle Cliff were also successful jockeys. Dad was one of the last to work with cart-horses when ploughing and harvesting. At an early age, his search for agricultural work brought him over the border to

West Berkshire

and he found employment with Sir Richard Sutton's Settled Estates, in whose houses - several between Clapton and Peewit Cottage at Hoe Benham - he and my mother lived for more than fifty years! For the last forty, Dad enjoyed being self-employed as a much-valued, hard-working gardener, and took pride in looking after a number of interesting gardens around the Hungerford area. There was nothing he couldn't turn his hand to and this included supplying firewood to many households wearing his 'John The Log' hat!



My parents loved Stockcross and were pleased to join in fund-raising events in the village and for St John's where, in the churchyard, Dad spent many hours every week mowing, strimming and hedge-cutting, especially after Mum died and was buried there. During these last few years, my father has found great solace and companionship in the church, attending services in Stockcross as well as at a number of other churches in the parish every week without fail. With his passionate belief in the afterlife he approached the possibility of his death very calmly. Dad was a real character, who will though be sorely missed, with his cheeky, shy smile and ponytail, not only by his multitude of fond grandchildren and great grandchildren, but by his many good friends around the village.

By Lyn Richards

Stockcross Village shop/ Post Office

STOCKCROSS VILLAGE STORES & POST OFFICE



We are delighted to announce the opening of our new Garden Café which, together with our outside tables and chairs, gives more space for those wishing to eat in and is furnished with a new line of quality artificial plants for sale.



Our delicious afternoon Cream Teas are on the menu again. We are also introducing a speciality Cheese Ploughman's including our flavoured Truckle Cheddars and Baron Bigod that we stock in the shop, served with the popular Tracklements range of pickles & chutneys that we sell.

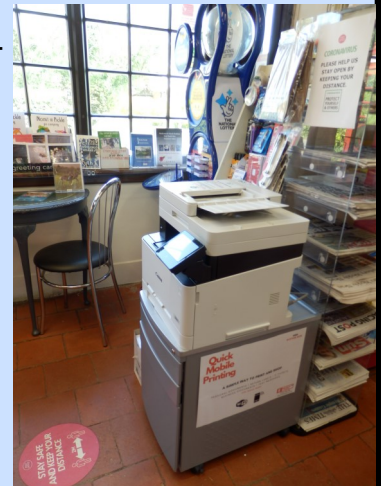
ENJOY OUR NEW GARDEN CAFÉ



CREAM TEA - £2.50

SCONE, JAM, CLOTTED CREAM & POT OF TEA
(SERVED UNTIL 4.30PM)

We now offer a copier/printing service where you can print directly from your mobile or USB stick, any PDF/JPEG/TIFF document or photocopy and scan documents too. Mobile printing and Colour copies/printing are 50p each, Black & white copies/printing are 15p each and Scanning is 5p a copy.



We look forward to seeing you!
With best wishes,
Deborah & Sally.



CHEESE PLOUGHMAN'S - £3.60

BAGUETTE, CHEDDAR/BRIE OR STILTON & BUTTER



SERVED WITH TRACKLEMENTS
PERFECT PLOUGHMAN'S PICKLE OR
APRICOT & GINGER CHUTNEY



ADD A SPECIALITY CHEESE



CHILLI & LIME



CARAMELISED
ONION



TRUFFLE



FLAVOURED CHEDDAR + 80P

BARON BIGOD + £1.20

(SERVED UNTIL 3.30PM)

Sutton Hall Photo Competition



April winner

Thank you to everyone who has entered the Sutton Hall Photo Competition. We have really enjoyed seeing all the entries and the standard has been very high.

The Committee would also like to thank our team of judges, Jane Batt, Harry Darlington and Angela Tyler who have had the task of choosing a winner every month. To see all the entries and the lucky winners, please visit the Sutton Hall website and visit the Events section <https://suttonhallstockcross.org/photography-competition/>

It is not too late for you to

get involved. The category for July is 'Holiday' and for August is 'Gardens'. It really easy to enter and the funds raised will go towards the running costs of the Sutton Hall which like many businesses has been hit by epidemic. Not only will your photo be featured on our website, in the Autumn we will select 12 of the best photographs and produce a calendar for 2022.

How To Enter

You may submit as many photographs as you wish at £2 per photograph. Photos must be in Hi Resolution.



February winner



May winner

Please send your photographs to suttonhall-comp@gmail.com with your name, payment reference and which category you are in (Adult or Under 16).

Please remit payment using reference 'photo your name'. (for example: photomnevitt) to :

Sutton Hall

Account number 02958398

Sort code 30-95-89

Good luck!

COMING EVENTS

Regular Events

Daily Billiards at village hall
Weekly
Monday Yoga at village Hall 7pm
Tuesday Yoga at Village Hall 6 pm
Hall Toffs Bridge at Village
 1.30pm
Wednesday Pilates Village Hall 10.15
 & 11.15 pm
Friday Toffs Bridge at Village
Hall 1.30pm

Monthly

2nd Tuesday Hall Committee meeting
Last Monday S&SHA 7.30pm Sutton
Hall
Last Wednesday STOC

TENNIS CLUB



Chairman's
report

The tennis
club has in-
creased its
membership

this year and New members are
very welcome to join this
very social tennis club where fam-
ilies are made welcome and mem-
bers/guests practice secession are
held every Sunday morning from
10.30am

Please ring 01488 491712 for fur-
ther details.(Euan's home number)

Anthony

Church Services

August

8th Eucharist 11 am
22nd Eucharist 11 am

September

12th Eucharist 11 am
26th Eucharist 11 am

**For further dates check
Noticeboard**



Mobile Library visits
to Stockcross

Village Hall **10.00 to 10.20 am**

July 21	August 21	September 21
8th 29th	19th	9th 30th

SUTTON HALL, STOCKCROSS

Become A Friend Of The Sutton Hall

We're looking for volunteers who can help with
running events. This might be setting up the Pop
Inn, doing a shift behind the bar or distributing
leaflets.

If you can spare a hour or two to help the Committee
so we can run more frequent events, please get in
touch.

suttonhall642@btinternet.com



Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour)
From 1st January 2019 (all books from 16/10/17 to
01/01/18 to be at new rates)
Minimum hire 2 hours

	Small	Large	Both
	Hall	Hall	Hall
Resident	8.5	11.5	14.5
Non resident	12	17.00	20

Call Jay on 01488 608769 to book
or visit our website
www.suttonhallstockcross.org
or email
suttonhall642@btinternet.com

**Please be warned: because of the Virus check the Sut-
ton Hall Website for further information**