

FROM THE SUTTON HALL
STOCKCROSS
February 2021 No: 116
E-edition & Limited hard copies

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER

Lucy & Harry's wedding day



On the 18th October Lucy and Harry got married at St. John's Church , Stockcross, at 3pm. They both moved into the village on 3rd March 2018 and have fully integrated themselves into village life. Lucy is on the Sutton Hall Village committee, and also is involved in Stockcross' seasonal Pantomime. Harry also works on the Pantomime (behind the scenes). We would all like to wish Lucy & Harry all the best for the future.



There are more pictures on page 7 of their happy day.

The Editor

Hi Grapevine readers & Happy New year to all

Any contributions for the May 2021 edition of the Grapevine, must reach me no later than Friday 21st April 2021 and before 3.30 pm. Until then, stay safe, take care and all the best.

If you would like to receive your future edition through your In-box, then you can; and it will also be in colour. In the E-edition/ PDF file it could also have extra pages if we cannot fit everything into the 8 page hard copy.

If you would like an E-edition copy, then please contact me at my email address (below):

stockcrossgrapvine@gmail.com

Glenn (Editor)



It is all we can do really – obey restrictions because they make sense in order to protect ourselves and those around us. We are very lucky in this area that we have:

open spaces to watch as seasons change
lots of fresh air to breathe
plenty of room to stay separated from each other while still saying hello
home delivery of almost anything
and conferencing via Zoom, TEAMS, etc. to work and party safely

The Village Hall has, sadly, been closed since late October. It is impossible to predict when case levels will be low enough and vaccination levels high enough to begin using the Hall again. Spring is our hope. But your Hall committee has not been idle. We have been reviewing our policies and procedures; our risk assessments and financial planning; our maintenance and health and safety compliance. What FUN (not)! This work had a purpose the result of which is that Sutton Village Hall Charity has been awarded Level 1 Hallmark status. The Hallmark programme is a quality standard scheme for the management of community village halls. The Level 1 that has been awarded confirms that the hall is being managed in a compliance with the requirements of its charitable status. Mark Nevitt deserves the praise for this – he has done nearly all of the work.

In Mark's treasurer's report you will see that the Hall has qualified for some grants. These help us keep vital utilities on during the cold months to protect the Hall without drastically draining our reserves. We will keep applying for every grant we know of to stay on an even keel financially which will allow us to quickly re-open and run events when we are allowed.

However, we think it is time to reengage with the villagers and hopefully raise a little money for the Hall. We are delighted to announce the 2021 Sutton Village Hall Photo Competition. The details for the monthly competition are within the Grapevine and can also be found on the Village Hall website. Enter as many photos as you want – you may be a winner and help the Hall at the same time. We also have an under 16s class so the whole family can enter!! We are also cooking up another fundraiser for later in the year! More about this in the next issue of the Grapevine!!

My wish is for you all during these colder days is to stay well, be kind to one another and take the vaccine when offered.

Liz Newell-Hart



Happy New Year everyone.

When I wrote the Grapevine piece in October to introduce myself as the new Village Hall chairman the world and our little part of it was a different place. There was no hint of Lockdown 2, no

warning about Tier 4, New Variant wasn't in our thoughts, large family gatherings at Christmas were being organised and January was bringing vaccination and freedom to all! I want to commend everyone in area for their adaptability to the changing situation.

S&SHA

Stockcross and Surroundings
History Association

Stockcross and Surroundings History Association

Unfortunately due to Covid and lockdown it's been nearly a year since S&SHA was able to hold monthly meetings and it will probably be another few months before we will all be able to meet-up again.

We have postponed our AGM for the time being but will keep you all informed of the revised date when available.

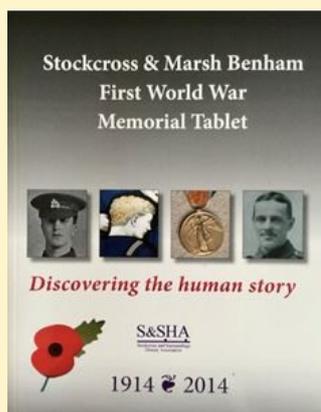
Our annual subscription, normally payable in January, is currently suspended due to so many meetings being missed. The subject will be discussed at the AGM.

You can find out more about our group on our website:

www.stockcrosshistory.org.uk or our Facebook page.

In the meantime, if you would like to read the interesting stories of past villagers who fought but sadly lost their lives in WW1 we still have copies of our book for sale. Priced at £5.00, you can pick up a copy from either Stockcross PO or knock my door Sunflower Cottage (2 doors from the Rising Sun). All the monies will be donated to our local church.

Keep Safe and hope to see you all soon.
Angela Tyler



Once again, the hall is closed due to government restrictions and has been since mid-December when West Berkshire moved to Tier 4 and then into Lockdown 3 .

For the current financial year starting July 1 the hall has only been able to trade for 2.5 months out of 6 and even when open revenues have been a fraction of the norm. The period of closure included the Christmas season when significant revenues are usually generated . At the half year the hall had a deficit of just under £10,000 . This has been funded by grants received so at the time of writing our reserves remain intact.

On a positive note, the hall will receive government funding for closed businesses which will cover the monthly running costs - currently tracking at £750-£1200 per month just to stay closed ! The committee have continued with the halls maintenance and improvement programme taking advantage of the closure to complete some essential works and also create secure storage for the Pop Inn stocks - one day.....

I would like to record a note of thanks to our local councillor, Lynne Doherty who has been very supportive in assisting with the grant applications and also awarding a member's recovery grant to the hall .

The new web site has now gone live with improved functionality for smart phone users - already proving its worth with bookings being received for functions later in the year . Our thanks to the Parish council and support of the Stockcross councillors Anthony Newell-Hart & Keith Phillips - the Parish Council awarded a grant for 50% of the costs of developing this .

Here's to a magnificent Pop Inn night when Boris gives us the green light !

Mark



Village Post Office & Shop news

STOCKCROSS VILLAGE STORES & POST OFFICE



As the 3rd Lockdown continues, Deborah and Sally are glad to be able to remain open as a key service. We are still providing our Order & Collect service. You can pick up an order form in store or print off the one below. No minimum order!

We continue to stock all the necessary provisions for every day, including a good range of pharmacy products. Our Ham and wonderful fresh Bread from Priors Court Bakery are still a huge favourite with everyone,

together with our English Cheeses and Sparkling wine! We also have in stock our delicious Pates, Tracklement Chutneys, Fine Cheese Company Savoury biscuits, and other Deli products, including the indulgent Truffle Hunter range.

Our Showroom in the room behind the front shop continues to stock many gifts including Soaps, Hand creams, Candles, Photo frames and exclusive Jewellery, perfect for Birthday's and special occasions, or that little treat. In addition, we have some stunning and distinctive Designer Lights and Mirrors, all at very reasonable prices.



Sadly this year, due to Covid 19 and Lockdown, Welford Park has been unable to open for their incredible display of snowdrops and we have just taken delivery of their full range of snowdrop products for the shop, so please do pop in and have a look when you are here buying your essentials.

We are also delighted to introduce some new local suppliers of beautiful, handcrafted items included painted glass and silk by Kath Carter, gorgeous wood turned bowls from Derek Prout and delicate Pottery from Hilary Reem.

Our range of greetings cards for all occasions, including Valentines coming up soon, now includes a local range of photocards from Karen Bennett and Country Living Photography. There will be some yummy chocolate items coming up for Easter too! We look forward to seeing you soon.

We will be closed for EASTER from:
Friday 2nd to Monday 5th April (inclusive)
With best wishes,
Deborah & Sally.





ORDER & COLLECT FORM

ORDER IN STORE OR EMAIL: INFO@STOCKCROSSVILLAGESTORES.CO.UK

MONDAY-FRIDAY BEFORE 10AM - COLLECT AFTER 10AM NEXT DAY
BEFORE 3PM - COLLECT AFTER 10AM - 2 DAYS (CLOSED SUNDAY)

Name: _____ Tel no: _____

Email: _____

Order Day: _____ Collect: _____

Fruit & Veg	Dairy	Ambient - subject to stock (max 1 ea.)
Apples - Braeburn	Skimmed milk (1 litre)	Flour:
Bananas	Full cream milk (1 litre)	Wessex Bread Flour
Broccoli /kg	Semi-skimmed milk (1 litre)	Self raising flour
Califlower	Double cream (c.280ml)	Plain flour
Carrots /kg	Crème fraiche (c.200ml)	Pasta (500g) :
Celery	Tins Greek Yogurts 175g :	Spaghetti
Courgettes	Blackcurrant	Fusilli
Cucumber	Raspberry	Penne
Leeks /kg	Vanilla	Rice
Lemons	Butter (salted)	Cereal
Lettuce - Iceberg	Butter (unsalted)	
Mushrooms - Button/kg	Eggs - 6 Free range	Biscuits
Onions - white		
Oranges - easy peelers	Bread	Cakes
Oranges - medium	Small white	
Parsnips	Small wholemeal	Tinned - Soup/Veg/Fruit
Potatoes (Old)/kg	Large white sliced	
Potatoes New	Large malthouse sliced	
Red Onions		
Swede		Toilet Rolls
Tomatoes		Paracetamol/Panadol
OTHER - please specify		

Stockcross News



Stockcross Photography Competition

The Sutton Hall Management committee are delighted to launch a new photography competition. Launching on 22nd January, the competition will run until the end of 2021. Each month will have a different theme and you are welcome to enter as many times as you wish. We will have 2 categories; Adults and Under 16s.

Our team of judges, Jane Batt, Harry Darlington and Angela Tyler will pick a winner every month. The lucky photographer will win £5. All entries will feature on the Sutton Hall website.

In the Autumn we will select 12 of the best photographs and produce a calendar for 2022. Funds raised will go towards the running costs of the Sutton Hall. The Hall, like many businesses, has been hit by the Covid epidemic and urgently needs funds to cover its overheads until it is possible to open for business.

The themes for the first quarter are:

January – Lockdown,
February – Love,
March – Flora & Fauna,
April – Pets

Photos for January will be accepted to 14th Feb. After that the theme will run for the calendar month

How To Enter

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

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

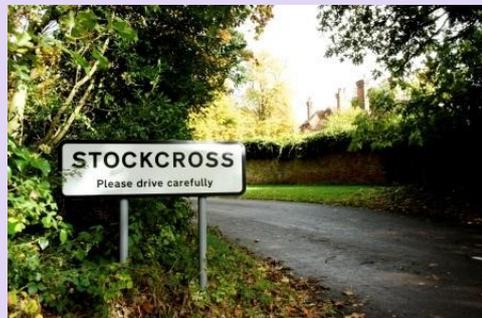
Please remit payment using reference 'photo your name'. (for example: photomnevitt) to : Sutton Hall

Account number 02958398
Sort code 30-95-89

Electronic payments are preferred but if that is not possible please send a cheque payable to Sutton Hall to M Nevitt, Wenlock House, Stockcross, RG20 8LH

If your picture wins Mark Nevitt will be in touch to arrange payment of the prize
Details will also be on the Sutton Hall website.

We look forward to receiving all your entries!
Good luck.



We welcome
Andy, Britney
and their son
Arlo (4
months) to the
village following

their move into Pinewood. They have relocated from Chiswick and we wish them the very best for their future in Stockcross

If you are new to the village and would like to introduce yourself, could you please send me your photo and some information (it doesn't have to be too detailed). My email address is: stockcrossgrapevine@gmail.com Glenn (Editor)



Lucy & Harry's wedding photos





Acting Head Teacher's Update

Our Spring Term started on a positive note with all children back in school after Christmas on Monday 4th January only to close at the end of the day due to the national lockdown!

Since then we have re-opened on a very limited basis to pupils identified by a specific set of criteria from the government which is principally to facilitate frontline workers.

For all the pupils now at home the work hasn't stopped! Our home learning system is called Class Dojo and all children use this on computers at home to do their daily work. Lessons from teachers are video clips supported by worksheets and we use lots of resources from external providers such as BBC Bitesize and Oak Academy too.

We are always keen to hear about other resources and recommendations that our pupils could use so if you have any suggestions please email the School Office.

Whilst the children seem to be thriving at home, I'm not sure the same can be said for their parents! I don't doubt for a second that some days are better than others. Battles for bandwidth, the provision of endless snacks and increasing cabin fever seem to be the main issues.

I have enormous respect for all parents, whether at work or at home, who have been thrown back into a situation that they had hoped to avoid and are now having to make the best of. My advice is to reduce pressure wherever possible, accept that TV/screen time will be far greater than usual and make

time for yourselves as well as your children. I know it is easier said than done.

We await information from the government as to when schools will re-open and how mass testing may take place amongst staff and pupils. Vaccinations seem a long way off but there is light at the end of the tunnel.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to two groups of people. The first is the staff at Stockcross Primary who have risen to every challenge put their way. They are simply brilliant. The second is to all those people that have phoned or email with offers of help and support. The generosity of villagers and parents has been overwhelming, thank you so much.

Best wishes,

Neal Murray
Acting Headteacher
office@stockcross.w-berks.sch.uk



COMING EVENTS



TENNIS CLUB

Tennis Club News

For the past season we have been allowed to play tennis intermittently between lockdowns. When permitted it has been a good resource for the village, with several families enjoying the courts.

During the past year the committee has finalised a new lease with the parish council, taken out a new insurance policy, and had the courts cleaned and other maintenance. As soon as restrictions are lifted, the courts can be used again.

We were not able to hold an AGM last year. The present committee were looking to stand down. We have all put in several years of service and have a number of other commitments. Nor are we getting any younger. It would be a pity if the courts were to remain closed if there is no one to take on the management, but at some point the current committee will no longer be able to continue.

Felicity Merchant
Tennis Club Secretary

Support Sutton Hall

Shop at smile.amazon.co.uk and we'll donate to your favourite charitable organisation, at no cost to you.

[Start shopping](#) [Pick a different charity](#)

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases.



Hi everyone, the hall has been invited to participate in the Amazon smile programme. This means that the hall will receive a donation from Amazon every time someone makes a purchase through smile.amazon.co.uk (this has the same product range and prices as the main amazon website) When making a purchase just select Sutton Hall from the list of charities and make your purchase as usual . Please see the link below

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1071688-0>

So, if you are shopping on Amazon please do it through [Smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) - you will be helping the hall .

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

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

suttonhall642@btinternet.com

