

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER

[The Rising Sun](#) Up For Sale

On 14 October the owner of *The Rising Sun* informed West Berks Council (WBC) of their intention to place *The Rising Sun* on the open market.

In August 2018 WBC registered *The Rising Sun* as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) at the instigation of Speen Parish Council (SPC). This expires in August 2023.



However, with this notice from the owner there is now a six week moratorium, until Wednesday 24th November, for someone to express interest in acquiring *The Rising Sun* as a pub. They would then have a six-month period in which to complete a deal, during which time the owner would be unable to sell to anyone else.

Potential developers might be prepared to pay a premium in anticipation of obtaining planning permission for housing and sit on it until the ACV expires. But such a developer might face problems in cleaning the site; it was once a garage, selling petrol and garaging and servicing Stockcross Coaches when owned by the Dromgoole family. There was a large inspection pit, an underground petrol storage tank and, more recently, an underground domestic heating gas tank which as far as is known have not been removed.

Further information can be obtained from Jean Lindsell our Parish Clerk on 07584435656

clerk@speenpc.org.uk. **YOU HAVE UNTIL WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER!**

Keith Phillips

The Editor

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

Any contributions for the February 2022 edition of the Grapevine must reach me no later than **Friday the 21st January 2022 and before 3.30 pm.** HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND HAVE A GREAT NEW YEAR!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Village Hall Chairman's piece for grapevine October 2021

Hello again everyone, welcome to Autumn. This time of year is the respite before leaf raking will take over many of our diminishing daylight hours. It surprises

me every year when it is suddenly dark at 7AM. Torchlit dog walking once more.

The Village Rounders event made a comeback in early September, entertaining players and spectators alike. No one has told me which side won but congratulations. Re-match next year??

The Village Hall has been quite busy since September. Most classes – yoga, art, dance,



etc.- have resumed, as has bridge. And village clubs have returned to in-person meetings at the Hall. Plus, last Friday evening The POP INN returned with a "bring your own food/ takeaway" get together. It was great to see and chat with so many people from the village.

Tables were generously spaced and table service available for those who wished. A really great evening!

Coming up in November at the Hall is a Telescope and Star Gazing Evening on the 10th (hope for a clear night) and a Cheese and White tasting event on the 12th. Don't forget to mark your calendar for December 19th for the Village Christmas Drinks event.

It is nearly time to turn back the clocks – Oh NO it isn't – Oh YES it is!!

Unfortunately, that is as close to Stockcross Panto we will get in 2021. The Stockcross Panto Players have decided to wait until 2022 to put on the next Panto. It was a difficult decision but, with so many children involved in Stockcross Pantos and COVID present in our local schools, it seemed too big a risk. We will miss it.

All that remains for me is to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season and an excellent, healthy and happy 2022!!



Photos taken in the summer while we were having our Village hall meeting (wine optional).

Stockcross Village Events



September was our first members meeting for sometime and it was nice to catch up with friends and look through old photos and articles in

our archive.

At our October meeting Dr Nick Young gave an interesting talk on 'Newbury in the Cold War' and how it affected the local area between 1947 and 1991.

The 1951 census area of Newbury, Thatcham and surrounding villages gave the population as between 23 and 24,000 although by 1991 it had risen to 68,000 for Newbury and Thatcham alone. We looked at maps showing the urban expansion around the two towns over that time which was enlightening.

Dr Young also touched on the subject of Greenham Common which had greatly changed over that time by the building of the runways to accommodate the new huge planes and eventually the Cruise Missiles.

The subject of the Peace Camp etc would make a whole other talk.

Monthly Meeting Programme

Wednesday 10th November 2pm.

David Peacock - Jack O'Newbury

"Jack of Newbury" or John Winchcombe, also known as John Smallwood was a leading English clothier from Newbury. When Tudor cloth-making was booming, and woollen cloth dominated English exports, John Winchcombe was producing for export on an industrial scale. He was also a leading clothier in other ways.

Wednesday 8th December 2pm.

Christmas Social.

Wednesday 12th January 2022. 2pm

A.G.M.

All meetings are held at The Sutton Hall, Stockcross.

Guests Welcome £5.00.

If you would like any further information please check out our website:

www.stockcrosshistory.org.uk

Angela Tyler



Stockcross Two O'clock Crowd



Stockcross Two O'clock Crowd

Post lockdown, we were able to restart our monthly meetings at the village hall in July and were pleased to welcome back Robert Kidner who gave us another of his fascinating art history talks on paintings that changed art history.

Kathryn, Robert's daughter was on hand to help and the very pleasant afternoon made us relieved to be back to normal.

Our August speaker had to reschedule and Tony Hersh very kindly stepped in at short notice with an illustrated talk on the latest exciting discoveries in astronomy. Despite some mind boggling scientific details of distances etc, Tony kept us engrossed and it produced some interesting questions afterwards. Thank you again Tony, I hope you will come again!

The recent September meeting - a talk 'Behind the Scenes at Welford Park' was an insight to the incredibly busy and varied life of Deborah Puxley and her husband. What amazing energy you must need to manage their hugely popular snowdrop season in aid of Red Cross - Deborah certainly has that in spades. The Puxley's work for the county of Berkshire in the role of Lord Lieutenant included helping the Queen and Prince Philip celebrate the Queen's birthday in Windsor and Deborah's memories of Prince Philip on that day were both amusing and moving. Welford Park hosted The Bake Off to a huge production crew plus nervous competitors for several years until covid struck and to hear about it was the icing on the cake for us. Deborah seems well able to look after anyone regardless of status and age and she also volunteers for a charity helping disadvantaged women in Reading. It was a very jolly afternoon and we were able to look at her various photographs and memorabilia whilst having our tea.

Coming up 24th November: The Nabobs of West Berkshire. **15th December:** Christmas entertainment and tea. All welcome.

Jane Batt

Village news

Phone Box

Book Exchange



Now that our parish council has refurbished the telephone kiosk outside the shop and installed some sturdy shelving perhaps it's time to turn it into a book exchange.

Simply place any unwanted books on a shelf. If you're not the first to do so have a browse of what is already there and maybe take one home to enjoy and return it when you have finished. Maybe you could write a comment to put inside the book when you return it. At a later date it might be amusing to read what others have commented.

What's not to like? Who's going to be the first?

Keith Phillips (Cllr)

Rounders match – Sat 4th Sept

The return of the old North-v- South Rounders match was a very welcome bit of light relief for players and spectators alike.



The weather was good, the turn out was excellent and

The North's unbroken long winning streak was there for the taking.

Played out on The Rec in the usual position near the Mason Pavilion it was The North that won the toss and opened the batting, notching up a very respectable 59 points on the score board. The North's captain was John Mingo who managed a personal score of 3, perhaps being slightly more used to wearing panto heels and dresses rather than trainers and running shorts.

After a well deserved half time tea The South's captain David Seaton brought his team out to start knocking the

ball around the park. Slowly but surely the points accumulated and both captains knew it was going to be close. Then in a final show of defiance it



was The South's secret weapon - Steve "The Hammer" Brown who took the batting position and gave an absolute first class demonstration of how the game should be played. But was it enough?

After an initial count by the scoreboard operator the numbers were crunched a 2nd and 3rd time just to be sure.

At last, after all these years - The South had not lost!

But alas neither had they won.

Would you believe it? 59 points each, it was a draw.

Well done to both teams, all spectators and the Sutton Hall organisers. Much fun had by all.

For the South - there is always the next time ...

Photos by Stewart Gardiner





Acting Executive Head Teacher's Update

Thank you, Glenn, for inviting us to share our news with the local community via the Grapevine.

This is the first time I have written a submission to the magazine since I took on the role of Acting Executive Head Teacher for Stockcross Primary and Welford & Wickham Primary. I have a long history with Stockcross having taught here some years ago and my three children came here too.

The school is thriving and it is wonderful to be back after the turbulence of the last couple of academic years. We have one hundred pupils across seven year groups, aged 4 to 11 and if you haven't heard them out on the field at lunchtimes I'll be surprised!

As always we were sad to say good-bye to our Year 6 children in July. They went on to St Barts, Park House, Trinity, Abingdon and St Gabriels and are settling in beautifully. Keep in touch guys!



This term twelve new children joined us in Reception and three into other year groups. It never fails to surprise me how fast new children adjust to our setting and quickly become confident little people racing around on the playground!

Our Harvest Festival at St John's Church was a wonderful occasion and showed us how much we have missed visits to church and particularly singing. An enormous amount of produce was donated by parents to the West Berks Food Bank in addition to the 70 kilos that was donated in July as part of a house challenge.



Sport has already kicked off this term with a fantastic second place secured at the Bradfield College Primary Schools Netball Tournament. Despite having a young and inexperienced team they saw off the competition and are looking forward to the next event at Thorngrove.

This term we launched Scouts within the school which now takes place, as part of the curriculum, every Friday afternoon. Support from Newbury Scouts has been incredible and both the staff and children are enjoying the activities and challenges.

Covid will unfortunately continue to be part of our lives whether in the form of positive cases, mask wearing, or affected events. We continue to follow guidance, take precautions and just hope that we can remain open.



Best wishes,
Lynne Valentine
Acting Executive Head Teacher
office@stockcross.w-berks.sch.uk

POP IN PUB AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STOCKCROSS (FRIDAY 21ST OCT)



PHOTOS BY SARAH CHING

Stockcross Village shop/ Post Office

STOCKCROSS VILLAGE STORES & POST OFFICE

This Christmas we are focusing on our English suppliers. We will be selling the popular Walter's Turkeys again, available to order (get your orders in early as there is a limited supply this year). Also available to order is our special Ham and why not spoil yourself with one of our delicious handmade pies or quiches to make festive catering a little easier!

We will be stocking our very popular, award winning, English Truckle Cheeses and Baron Bigod. Our prize winning English Sparkling wine! A challenge to French Champagne. We also have in stock our delicious Pates; Track-

lements Chutneys; Fine Cheese savoury biscuits and other Deli products, including the indulgent Truffle Hunter range, together with the delicious Summerdown mint range of chocolates and tea.

Our Showroom in the room behind the front shop continues to stock many gifts including soaps, hand creams, candles and photo frames, perfect for Christmas. In addition, we have some stunning and distinctive designer lights and mirrors, all at very reasonable prices. We are selling Charity Christmas cards again this year, together with the Newbury Cancer Care Calendar and the fabulous "A Man for all Seasons" book.

We are delighted this year, to introduce some lovely English Jewellery, alongside our exclusive Jewellery from Paris & Lisbon. Some beautiful artworks from local artists Charlotte Bampfylde and Sandra Curl, wonderful pottery pieces from the ever popular Hilary Reem; delightful hand painted glass, book-marks and pictures by Kath Carter and stunning wood turned bowls from Derek Prout.

We continue to stock all the necessary basic provisions for every day, including a wider range of pharmacy products and our wonderful fresh bread from Priors Court Bakery, a huge favourite with everyone!

Our Garden Café continues to be a great success, giving more space for all to enjoy some semi-alfresco dining.

Deborah & Sally look forward to welcoming you to a more relaxed shopping experience, with easy free parking and a diverse range of gifts and

goodies for all budgets!

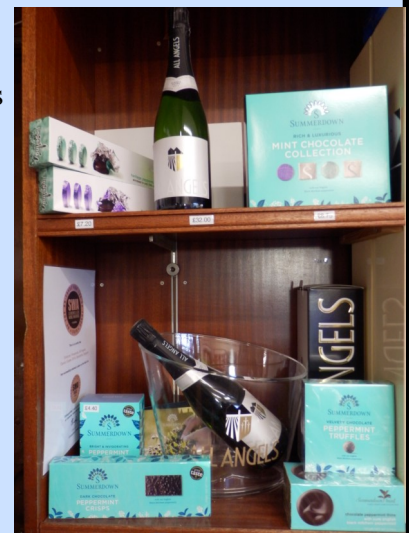
CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR 2021

We will be closed on the following dates:

Friday 24th Christmas Eve at 12 noon to Tuesday 28th December 2020 (inclusive)

and Saturday 1st January to Monday 3rd January 2021 (inclusive)

With best wishes,
Deborah & Sally.



FOLLOW THE STARS!



ARLINGTON ARTS
15 DECEMBER, 7.30 pm

★ **Handel's MESSIAH**
Chorus and solo highlights from the great oratorio

★ **Our favourite Christmas...**
★ **CAROLS, SONGS and READINGS**
★ *PS: ready to sing?*

Tickets £15/10 from Arlington Arts
at Mary Hare School, Snelsmore Common, Newbury RG14 3BQ
boxoffice@arlingtonarts.co.uk, 01635 244 246
arlingtonarts.com

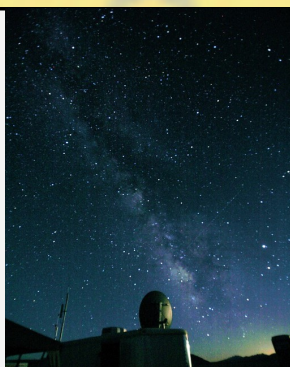


Telescope and Star Gazing Evening Beginners Astronomy Evenings

We are delighted to announce that Newbury Astronomical Society will start holding their Astronomy meetings for people with no previous knowledge of Astronomy in Stockcross Village Hall on the third Wednesday of every month at 7.00pm starting in January. Everyone of all ages are welcome to come along and you don't have to be a member of NAS to attend. Cost is £2 per meeting paid when you arrive and hot drinks and doughnuts are included in the interval! Each month there are a several short presentations on a variety of themes to give people more knowledge about astronomy such as stars, planets and what you can see in the sky each month.

NAS is also holding an event on Wednesday 10th November in the Village Hall which will be a practical workshop session starting at 7.30pm when there will be lots of telescopes available and a presentation on the pros and cons of the different types of telescopes available. If it's clear we will also have observing so you can look through the telescopes at whatever stars and planets happen to be in the sky that evening. It will be a perfect event if you are thinking of buying a telescope for Christmas or if you want to learn more about the constellations in the night sky and look through some telescopes. Again everyone is invited of all ages and it costs just £2 per person.

No pre booking is needed for any of these events so just note the dates in your diary and come along!



Cheese and Wine Tasting

The Village Hall Committee is delighted to announce another evening of sampling some superb cheeses and white wines starting at 8pm sharp on Friday 12th November in the Village Hall.



The plan this time is to meet in person in the Village Hall and we will have tables and chairs out. All the cheeses, wines, cheese biscuits and other nibbles will be provided and this time Tony and Kathy Hersh will be introducing you to generous quantities of 5 special cheeses and 5 white wines for you to sample.

Like the previous cheese and wines evenings we are using this event to raise money for Sutton Hall. Tickets must be bought in advance and the deadline for purchasing tickets is Friday 5th November. However we would like people to sign up as soon as possible to ensure we have enough people coming to make the event viable. To join this event please send an email to tonyhersh@hotmail.com and make a payment of a minimum of £25 per person either via bank transfer to :

Sutton Hall
Account number : 02958398
Sort Code : 30-95-89

Using a reference "WINE and your surname"
Or post a cheque payable to Sutton Hall through the letterbox of Wenlock House, Stockcross (near the bus shelter in the village).

Bingo Night

Thurs 18th Nov 4.30pm
Stockcross Village Hall
Eyes Down at 5pm!

Entry £5
includes Hot Dog & Game Cards

BAR & TUCK SHOP

ALL PROCEEDS TO
STOCKCROSS PTFA REGISTERED CHARITY #1105137

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
2nd Wednesday	S&SHA 7.30pm Sutton Hall
Last Wednesday	STOCC

Post office/ Shop

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR 2021

We will be closed on the following dates:
Friday 24th Christmas Eve at 12 noon to Tuesday 28th December 2020 (inclusive) and Saturday 1st January to Monday 3rd January 2021 (inclusive)

Church Services

Sorry, no dates.

Check notice board or go online.

Mobile Library visits to Stockcross

Village Hall **10.00 to 10.20 am**

Nov 21	Dec 21	January 22
11th	2nd 23rd	13th

Treasurers Report

The accounts cover the 12 month period to 30th June 2021
 The hall was closed due to government restrictions for the majority of the financial year and when open was trading on a very much reduced basis as many customers were unable to use the facility due to the government restrictive rules .

Total income was £30,980 split between :
 Hiring fees £4,909 (£17,101 the previous year)
 Events £ 708 (£2,962 the previous year)
 Donations £5,973 (£50 the previous year)
 Interest £82 (£57 the previous year)
 Grants £19,308 (£10,000 the previous year)

The grant income comprised various government business support grants that were payable to closed businesses. We also received a grant from Speen PC to build & launch a new website .

Donations comprised a £5000 donation from a villager plus receipts from Amazon Smile & others

The usual events the hall runs were cancelled but the hall benefited from two zoom wine tastings run by Tony Hersh and the photo competition which has been running through 2021
 The hall running expenses were £15,784 (£21,152 the previous year) . The lower expenses reflect the reduced electricity and consumables costs caused by the lack of use

Hall improvements including covid reopening costs at £2890 were £7499 with the opportunity being taken while closed to undertake various fire safety works and also construct a new secure storage cupboard for the Pop Inn stock. 20 new lightweight chairs suitable for garden use were purchased following feedback at the last AGM .

The hall continues to be a high quality and popular venue with most of our regular users indicating they wish to return once government restrictions are eased & confidence builds. I anticipate continued reduced trading through the year picking up in the second and third quarters . The hall has accumulated substantial reserves which will allow it to weather the continued storm for some to come .

Given the reserve situation the committee are exploring investing in new 'green' heating systems which will substantially reduce running costs . Green business grant funding will assist with this project . A refurbishment of the kitchen is also planned in due course .

M C Nevitt
 Treasurer



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 Sutton Hall Website for further information