

FROM THE SUTTON HALL  
STOCKCROSS  
August 2022 No: 122



# THE Grapevine

## NEWSLETTER

### **INDEPENDENCE DAY MEETING FOR *RISING SUN***

Savetherisingsun.org has been invited to apply for a government match-funding grant from the Community Ownership Fund administered by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The grant would contribute to half the purchase price, up to £50k refurbishment costs and £50k start-up costs. This was the good news presented on 4th July to members of the community who came to The Sutton Hall to learn about The Way Forward for The Rising Sun. The DLUHC also tells us "you have a high chance of being found eligible for the Fund". This was in addition to the equally good news that our offer of £400k, subject to community support, had been accepted by the Hayward family.

A lively discussion was held during the meeting whose attendees included members of Speen Parish Council and Lynne Docherty one of our ward councillors on, and leader of West Berks Council. Lynne expressed significant support and made useful suggestions during the discussions that carried on into the "Pop-Up Bar" afterwards.

Perhaps more than the 30 people present would have come to the meeting had it been stressed beforehand that no-one was going to be asked for money that evening. We emphasised that the presentation was not a financial promotion. An essential message from the meeting was that The Rising Sun would not be owned by any individual or small group.

It is now the task of the board of savetherisingsun.org Ltd to apply for the grant by 19th August when the application window closes. The submission will include a business plan and evidence of how the grant will be matched. At the moment this is uncertain, as there are still many unknowns as to what will be acceptable to the DLUHC. However, we are encouraged not just by the invitation letter to apply but that during the first phase of the COF (this is the second phase) several pubs were awarded grants. We remain open to ideas and suggestions – just let us know via the contact details below.

**Hard copies of the presentation have been distributed around the community and digital copies sent to the approximately 70 members of savetherisingsun.org. If you would like to give us your support and keep up to date with progress then please become a member by emailing [info@savetherisingsun.org](mailto:info@savetherisingsun.org) or write to The Directors, savetherisingsun.org Ltd, The Coach House, Stockcross House, RG20 8LP for an application form. Your potential liability would be no more than £1. More information about the structure of the company can be found on [www.savetherisingsun.org](http://www.savetherisingsun.org).**

It is vital we have as many members as possible to ensure we secure this very significant grant.  
Directors, savetherisingsun.org Ltd

## The Editor

Any contributions for the **November 2022** edition of the Grapevine must reach me no later than **Fri-day the 14th October 2022 and before 3.30 pm.**

If somebody would like a PDF file/ email copy of the Grapevine and regular updates then please email me (Glenn) at :

**stockcrossgrapevine@gmail.com**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



### Village Hall Chairman's piece for Grapevine July 2022

Greetings to what is shaping up to be a Mediterranean Summer! Dead grass is so not what we expect of England in the July!! But the long nights are cool so far and I, for one, do not plan on getting air conditioning -yet.

It was great to see the many, many friends and neighbours in our village enjoy a Jubilee Luncheon together. Flags and bunting everywhere – sparkles, red, white and blue everything with a dash of purple. Congratulations to Alison John who won the Jubilee Pudding competition. It was the most complicated recipe - so three cheers to all who entered. All six entries looked great, so we judges had to sample all of them (multiple times). I am now convinced that I have eaten enough trifle for a lifetime!

Many villagers also enjoyed the Apollo Band concert during the Jubilee weekend and a month later The MIGZ and Open Mike Project at our Solstice Party. Both were terrific and the bar proceeds from Jubilee Luncheon, Apollo Band and Solstice Party will help our application for matching funding for the new hearing loop.

Elsewhere in this grapevine Sutton Hall's treasurer, Mark, gives a great summary of the financial situation, the improvement projects completed and ongoing for the Hall. Sutton Hall is a great asset to our village and the surrounding area. We are so glad that the community use it and help in so many ways to keep it in such good shape.

Be sure to mark your calendars for future events – the North/ South Rounders Match on 3 September, a Pop Inn on 30 September, Harvest Supper on 8 October, Sutton Hall AGM 26

October, Apollo Band 4 November and Wine Tasting 11 November.

AND – we are putting on a Panto in early December – OH YES WE ARE!!!!!! But we need your help. See the article from Stockcross Panto Players in this issue of The Grapevine!!

Please volunteer to help in the production and/or audition for a part in the panto. It's fun and funny.

Have a wonderful and safe Summer. See you all soon!

Liz Newell-Hart

## Hall financial update

We have just finished the 2021/22 financial year and I am pleased to report that trading has returned to more normal levels with a surplus being made from trading rather than business support grants from the government ! We have been helped that to date we have not been impacted by electricity increases although that challenge is ahead of us in 2023.

The positive trading position has allowed us to let the various village community groups continue to use the hall free of charge , retain the heavy discounts for villagers who wish to hire the hall and maintain the low hiring rates which haven't been reviewed for some years . Regrettably the hiring rates will doubtless have to be increased into 2023 to help with power costs but we cross that bridge when we get to it and know the extent of the challenge .

Over the last couple of years the hall has built up considerable financial reserves through the receipt of government business support grants , generous donations and large running cost savings due to being closed in the lockdowns . As we headed out of the pandemic led restrictions the committee decided to reinvest substantially in the hall. The new kitchen is complete , in August we are having a new heating system installed & a new hearing loop put in. Over the Christmas period we plan a complete redecoration .

Full facts & figures will be presented at the AGM - come along if only for the cheese & wine ! October 26th, 7.30 for 8pm in the small hall.

Mark



## STOCKCROSS TWO O'CLOCK CROWD

As I write this Djokovic and Norrie are playing their semi-final match on a very hot centre court and we are hoping the weather will stay nice for our 27th July Afternoon Tea when Patrick Cogswell will be playing his guitar for us – hopefully in the Sutton Hall's shady garden but in the hall if wet. We have had some very enjoyable events over the last three months.

'A Funny Way to Make a Living' was the title of Lynda Warren's talk to us at the end of May and very amusing it was. Lynda and her husband have had various jobs in the tv and theatre worlds which included finding and setting up locations for filming adverts, information films and a series for a Welsh TV channel. Lynda tells her story well and had us in fits over some of their experiences. It seems that even having a father with scruffy hair and a beard came in handy!

Robert Kidner returned to STOCC to give another of his art history talks in June. This time the subject was 'Art and the Night' which including paintings of moonlit scenes as well as divine light in religious paintings. It was an intriguing afternoon and the images brought forth many questions and comments.

Our meetings are open to all so come and join us even if you can only manage it occasionally. Cost of £3 includes refreshments unless otherwise stated and we offer a variety of events. Check the village notice board outside the shop for more details. Jane Batt 07771 511317

### **WEDNESDAY 31 AUGUST 2PM**

**A visit to My Apple Juice in The Cider Barn at Hungerford Park Farm, Hungerford RG17 0RT. Demonstration and tastings. More details nearer the time. Either meet there at 2pm or leave from The Sutton Hall car park at 1.45. Cost £3.**

### **WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2PM**

**'The History of the Shrievelty and the life of a modern High Sheriff' A talk by Dr Christina Hill Williams. Cost £3**

### **WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2PM**

**STOCC's Twentieth Birthday Tea and Fun Quiz. Make up a team or join one on the day. Cost £3**

### **WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER**

**'Penguins in the Snow'. Decorating a cake for Christmas – a demonstration by Penny Webb. Cost £3.**

**No meeting in December**





## Stockcross CE (Aided) Primary School

Chapel Road Stockcross Newbury Berkshire RG20 8LD

Telephone: 01488 608356

e-mail: [office@stockcross.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@stockcross.w-berks.sch.uk) [www.stockcrossschool.co.uk](http://www.stockcrossschool.co.uk)

Acting Executive Head Teacher Mrs Lynne Valentine



# STAFF VACANCY

## Lunchtime Controller

- **September 19th start**
- **Scale B: approx. £9.50 per hour**
- **Part-time: 6.25 hours per week (12pm-1.15pm every day), term-time only**

Stockcross Primary is a small, friendly village school, rated Good by Ofsted, at the heart of a thriving community where children feel happy, safe and are keen to learn. The school is part of the Kite Primary Federation and has one hundred pupils.

A Lunchtime Controller position is available to begin in September 2022.

The role is at the heart of the school, helping pupils during lunchtime in the dining hall and supporting them during their playtime. The successful candidate will be kind, professional, efficient, and have a good rapport with children. If you are interested in a role which never sees a dull moment, then come and join us!

Visits are encouraged. For further information, to arrange an appointment or to obtain an application pack, please contact the School Office on 01488 608356 or email [hrrkite@kpf.org.uk](mailto:hrrkite@kpf.org.uk)

Date of issue: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022; closing date: 19<sup>th</sup> August.

Interviews: 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

*The school is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This position requires an enhanced Disclosure & Barring (DBS) check which will be sought from the successful candidate.*

Dear all

The Village Hall Management Committee are planning another cheese and wine tasting event in the village hall on Friday 11th November.



This time we are sampling 125ml of each of 5 delicious red wines from South Africa and the same volume of my favourite Port. In addition there will be 5 different cheeses to try, biscuits for cheese and, of course, chocolate to go with the Port.

The cost will be the same as previous cheese and wine evenings £25 per person but this time we need to be sure at least 30 people will commit to coming to make it viable.

**So I am asking you to email me before the end of August and let me know how many tickets you would like and I'll come back to you nearer the time to ask for payment.**

Please email [tonyhersh@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyhersh@hotmail.com)



Many thanks and looking forward to seeing you there

Tony Hersh



# Village news/ events

## **STOCKCROSS PANTO LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN CAST AND CREW**

We are looking forward to the welcome return of the Stockcross village pantomime after a three year hiatus. Oh yes we are!

The Stockcross Panto Players are a welcoming, friendly and fun-loving group of local adults and children who come together each year to put on a pantomime over three nights in December in the Sutton Hall.

The panto is a hugely popular fixture in the Stockcross Christmas calendar and our shows are often completely sold out. We are looking for new cast members for 2022, and new helpers behind the scenes. You do not need to have any acting experience to join in the panto. Children age 5+ are welcome to get involved. Or, if you would like to help with set-making, props, costume or make up, we are looking for more people to join our friendly backstage team too.

If you're interested, or just want to find out more, come along to an open read-through session on Sunday 4th September at 5pm in the Sutton Hall. We look forward to seeing you! If you want any further information, please contact Jane on 07808 739459.

If you can't get involved, but would like to come and see the panto, the performance dates are 1st, 2nd and 3rd December.

The Stockcross Panto Players  
Thanks,

Jane



## **B4000 PAVEMENT UPDATE**

28<sup>th</sup> On June Speen Parish Councillors Alan Booth, Anthony Newell-Hart and Keith Phillips held an on-site meeting with Neil Stacey and David Wildish of West Berks Highways. It appears that the Department for Transport, who have awarded the £280,000 for the footpath are expecting the pavement to be wide enough to facilitate pedestrians and cyclists. This is perhaps a requirement more appropriate for an urban rather than rural environment. We believe this is unlikely to be attractive, nor indeed feasible for the racing cyclists who tear up and down the B4000 but would be so for more leisurely cyclists. We all agreed that by far the primary need is for pedestrians.

The route will be along the north side verge, to enable easy access from residential and business properties along the route and to minimise the need to cross the carriageway. It will be mostly adjacent to the carriageway, and be protected by a concrete kerb.

The next stage is for WB Highways to determine the timescale with the DfT. The work will be undertaken in sections and is not expected to begin until late autumn at the earliest.

Keith Phillips July 2022

# S & SHA

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## Stockcross and Surroundings History Association

Our history group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Sutton Hall.

Our meeting on 10th August, David Peacock, a knowledgeable local historian, will hold a 'Question and Answer' session. Members and Guest Welcome.

Details of forthcoming speakers will be posted on our website:

[www.stockcrosshistory.org.uk](http://www.stockcrosshistory.org.uk) and on our Facebook page.

For further information or details of membership please email:

[Info@stockcrosshistory.org.uk](mailto:Info@stockcrosshistory.org.uk).

### Other events to look out for in Stockcross:

- On the 30 September the Pop Inn is returning by popular demand (further details will follow).
- Following Covid the committee will be reinstating the Harvest Festival this year. It will be on Saturday 8 October. Save this date and put it in your calendars and book a table with your friends/family. More information will be leafleted nearer the date.
- Rounders on the Rec on Saturday 3rd September.
- Sutton Hall AGM on Wednesday 26th October.
- On Sunday 18th December Village Hall Drinks Party.

## COMING EVENTS

### Regular Events

**Daily** Billiards at village hall  
([stockcrosssnookerclub@gmail.com](mailto:stockcrosssnookerclub@gmail.com))  
**Weekly**  
**Monday** Yoga at village Hall 7pm  
**Tuesday** Yoga at Village Hall 6 pm  
Toffs Bridge at Village Hall  
**Wednesday** Pilates Village Hall 10.15 & 11.15 pm  
**Friday** Toffs Bridge at Village Hall  
**Hall** 1.30pm

### Monthly

2nd Tuesday Hall Committee meeting  
2nd Wednesday S&SHA 2 pm Sutton Hall  
Last Wednesday STOCC

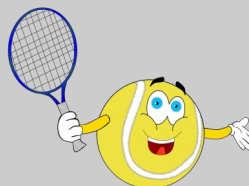
## Tennis club

With the summer holidays coming up and the two courts looking great why not join up and have some fun.

New coaching courses to be arranged for all ages

New members welcome. Annual Fees are £75 for a family membership, £50 for single and £25 for juniors. If interested, contact Membership Secretary on 07449 500122.

Regards  
Anthony



## Church Services

### August 22

14th Eucharist 11 am  
28th Eucharist 11 am

### Sept. 22

11th Eucharist 11 am  
25th Eucharist 11 am

### Oct. 22

Harvest Festival service at St John's is at 6pm on October 2nd in addition to the normal services that month

9th Eucharist 11 am  
23rd Eucharist 11 am

For further dates  
check Noticeboard



**Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour)**  
From 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.suttonhallstockcross.org)  
or email  
[suttonhall642@btinternet.com](mailto:suttonhall642@btinternet.com)

**Please be warned: because of the Virus check the Sutton Hall Website for further information**

Mobile Library visits  
to Stockcross

Village Hall 10.00 to 10.20 am

Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
11th	1st 22nd	Unknown