

No. 10  
22nd Nov 2023

# THE Grapevine

**SUPPLEMENT**



*Merry  
Christmas  
& Happy  
New Year*



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO  
ALL THE READERS OF THE GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE, FROM THE  
GRAPEVINE EDITOR & STOCKCROSS  
VILLAGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.  
HAVE A GREAT ONE!!



Stockcross Panto Players present

# The Magic Tinderbox

By Peter Bond

**December 7th, 8th & 9th**  
**Sutton Hall, Church Road, Stockcross**

**Door and Bar opening 7pm**  
**Curtain up at 7:30pm**



**Tickets**  
**Thursday 7th - £7**  
**Friday 8th - £8**  
**Saturday 9th - £8**

**Available at**  
**Stockcross village store or**  
**[Jumblebee.co.uk/panto-2023](https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/panto-2023)**



**Ticket sales, raffle and bar in aid of village hall and future events**

★ FREE Event ! ★

Sutton Hall Committee would like to invite everyone  
in Stockcross and surrounding areas to their....

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Sat Dec 23rd 6.00 - 8:30pm**  
**Sutton Hall, Stockcross**

Programme for evening

Come and meet Santa at 6pm!

Free gift to all Children



We have the  
Barfield Handbell Ringers from  
6:30pm



Photo slide show to music  
at 7:15pm.

(Pictures taken from events during 2023)

Free hot dogs, mulled wine,  
mince pies - served  
throughout evening

ALL WELCOME !



# **COULD YOU BE PART OF OUR TEAM?**

## ***Maternity cover opportunity***

An opportunity has arisen for the role of caretaker to cover maternity absence from January 2024 .

Duties will include :

- Opening & closing the hall
- Greeting hirers
- Cleaning between bookings
- General good upkeep of the hall

This will be a paid position for the period of the current caretakers maternity leave & would suit someone in or near Stockcross.

## ***Clerk of Works***

We are looking for a clerk of works to help us maintain the hall. This would suit a practically minded person who can get to the hall as required.

Duties will include :

- Contacting suppliers from our approved list
- Briefing them on the specific tasks/repairs
- Ensuring they have access to the hall
- Confirming the work has done as agreed

This will be a paid position based on the hours worked

**For more details on either role please contact Mark  
Nevitt**

**suttonhalltreasurer@hotmail.co.uk**

## Astronomy Article December Edition



In the winter the northern hemisphere of Earth is tilted away from the Sun (which is why it is colder) and towards the Moon (so the Moon is highest in the sky and brighter). The famous Geminid meteor shower is definitely worth a look on the nights of 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December in the south around midnight originating above the Constellation of Orion. The Moon is about half lit on these nights so won't disrupt viewing too much. Often these meteors are bright and relatively slow moving across the sky and we can expect to see perhaps one every few minutes if we are lucky. Have a look at Betelgeuse, the reddish star in the top left shoulder of Orion. This star is a red giant 650 light years from Earth that dimmed suddenly last year making some Astronomers believe it was about to explode (go supernova). If it did it would suddenly

be visible day and night before fading away and it is certainly tipped as one of the most likely nearby stars to explode. However, very recent data shows that changes have slowed and the dimming may be caused by a massive release of dust into the star's atmosphere rather than its imminent explosion.

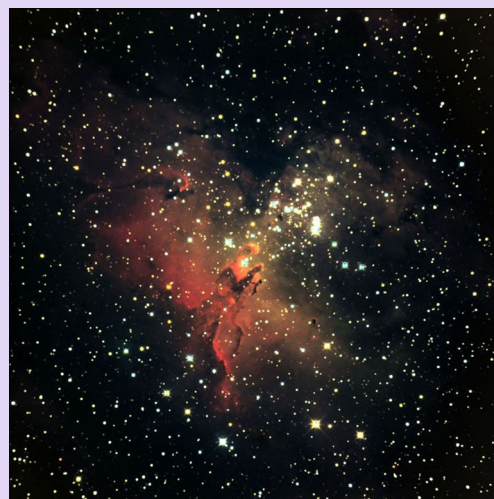
Regarding planets Saturn will be visible just to the right of the Moon on 18<sup>th</sup> December and Jupiter can be spotted just to the right of the Moon around 5pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> of December.

### Topic of The Month

Astronomers are adding knowledge to the question of how life started on Earth. A popular theory is that huge meteorites hitting Earth had a role because they have been shown previously to contain water and a variety of chemicals needed for life. However the problem until recently had been that the samples from meteorites might have been contaminated from the interaction of meteors with the Earth's atmosphere or surface. A report was published recently of a sample of a distant asteroid taken by Japan's Hayabusa2 spacecraft which was delivered to Earth in a sealed capsule so we can be sure it wasn't contaminated. Analysis found a surprising range of different chemicals and biologically important molecules in the sample including a variety of amino acids, amines and carboxylic acids which are found in proteins, vitamin B3 and Uracil, one of the four key nucleobases. Nucleobases are nitrogen containing compounds that make up RNA, which is a molecule present in all living cells and is similar to DNA. What is extraordinary is that so many complicated molecules can be formed on the surface of rocks exposed to the terrifically cold and high radiation environment of space. It seems quite possible given the vast numbers of pieces of asteroids and meteors hitting planets over billions of years that some will hit planets like Earth which have conditions to take these molecules and use them in the development of life. It might also mean that life on other planets could be similar to life on Earth if they developed from a similar starting point.

Find out more about Astronomy via Newbury Astronomical Society which hosts monthly meetings for both beginners and experienced astronomers. See [www.newburyastro.org.uk](http://www.newburyastro.org.uk).

Questions ; [tonyhersh@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyhersh@hotmail.com)





“CHRISTMAS IS  
THE SEASON  
FOR KINDLING  
THE FIRE OF  
HOSPITALITY.”



**May you all  
never be too  
grown up to  
search the  
skies on Christmas  
Eve.**



**Merry  
Christmas and a  
Happy New Year from  
the Grapevine. Have a  
good Christmas and a  
brilliant new**



**year;  
2024**



## Regular activities at Sutton Hall, Stockcross

### Daily

Snooker & Billiards – [stockcrosssnookerclub@gmail.com](mailto:stockcrosssnookerclub@gmail.com)

### Weekly

|                   |                                                  |                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday Evening    | Dance                                            | Cheek2cheekdance@hotmail.co.uk                                                                                     |
| Tuesday Evening   | Hatha Yoga flow 6.45-8.00                        | Beth Trotter 07790 015762<br><a href="http://www.beyoga.co.uk">www.beyoga.co.uk</a>                                |
| Tuesday Afternoon | TOFFS bridge 13.30                               | Brian.hill83@ntlworld.com                                                                                          |
| Wednesday Morning | Gentle Hatha Yoga to ease & relax 9.45am-10.45am | Beth Trotter - As above                                                                                            |
| Wednesday Evening | Tango Dance                                      | Justtango.co.uk<br>Hespinosa1111@gmail.com                                                                         |
| Thursday Morning  | Life drawing classes                             | arranmiles@googlemail.com                                                                                          |
| Friday Morning    | Baby Ballerina                                   | <a href="http://www.babyballerinas-newbury.co.uk">www.babyballerinas-newbury.co.uk</a><br>Sharon Moore 07770825191 |
| Friday Afternoon  | TOFFS bridge 13.30                               | Brian.hill83@ntlworld.com                                                                                          |
| Saturday morning  | Baby Ballerina                                   | As above                                                                                                           |

### Monthly

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month – hall committee meeting, small hall, 20.00

Last Wednesday afternoon of the month – STOCC. Jane\_batt@btinternet.com

Second Wednesday afternoon of the month – SASHA – contact Angela Tyler to confirm  
[ange.sunflower@gmail.com](mailto:ange.sunflower@gmail.com)

# **Cheese and Wine tasting returns !**



**Please put a placeholder in your calendars to come to another in our series of very successful and popular cheese and wine tasting events in Stockcross Village Hall on Friday 8th March 2024.**

**We will be sampling some delicious reds and white wines accompanied by a variety of cheeses and other foods.**

**More details will appear in the next edition of The Grapevine and on our Village Facebook group nearer the time.**

**Tony Hersh**





**Would** you like to be part of village life? If you have the community spirit (with or without alcohol), look no further than the Stockcross Sutton Hall committee.

We meet monthly (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday) to discuss, chat, laugh and be merry (lovely girl!)... all in the name of (and for) the village of Stockcross.

If you wish to be part of a magnificent (and good looking team), look no further than Stockcross.

In the past ( and present), we've run events such as Stockfest, Pop-in-Pubs, Harvest festivals, Rounders on the Rec, Christmas drinks parties, Panto, etc. (the list goes on). Be part of a team that has community spirit!!

If yes, then please contact me – Glenn – at [stockcrossgrapevine@gmail.com](mailto:stockcrossgrapevine@gmail.com)

If that is not your cup of tea... fair enough! However, you are amongst friends in Stockcross, so please – when you see something advertised – come along and join in. Without your support, such joys we offer could wither and die.

And please support your local village shop. It is there for your convenience.

**All the best, Glenn. Editor of the Grapevine and Sutton Hall committee member.**