

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER

Stockcross Starts It's Summer Holiday Early

On Friday 30th June the Village Hall Committee held a Summer Holiday themed Pop Inn.

Stockcross villagers and friends gathered together to join in the fun. Part of the entertainment was the Summer Holiday Themed Tombola, where attendees tried their luck at winning a variety of prizes. From brightly coloured beach towels to beach toys, the tombola offered an assortment of summer-themed surprises.



A touch of creativity was added to the event with our 'best postcard home' competition. Writers invited to write a witty postcard back home. The winner, Jackie, impressed the judges with her imaginative and amusing story.

Winner Jackie Caulfield of the Post Card competition:
"Arrived safely, having a lovely time, weather is very hot. Writing this postcard from the NUDIST BEACH! Brian is the only one with his clothes on. He is now causing chaos as he has not gone swimming and Green Peace have arrived thinking that he is an endangered species! Oh, No! The TV cameras have just arrived!!!!"

The Pimms was a welcome addition to the bar menu although the traditional Good Old Boy was equally enjoyed.

As the sun set on this memorable evening, it was lovely to see so many from the village enjoying themselves and catching up with neighbours and friends

If you want to get involved in future events just check out the Grapevine, Stockcross Village Facebook page or subscribe to the PDF Village Grapevine magazine (details on next page under EDITOR).



The Editor

Any contributions for the **November 2023** edition of the Grapevine must reach me no later than **Thursday the 19th October 2023 and before 3.30 pm.**

Have a good summer!

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 Au- gust 2023

Summer greetings to everyone! What weather we have had over the last weeks – broiling June followed by wet and windy July! Who knows what August will bring. I realise I am taking the long daylight hours for granted – how I wish I could save some to use in November – Janu-

ary!!

Since my last missive Stockcross celebrated the coronation of King Charles III with a community luncheon at the Village Hall. I raised a cup of coffee at 8AM in the US so my timing would coincide with the toast made by many of you in the Hall. I enjoyed the photos of so many who attended this event. But it's a certainty that you had the better beverage for the toast!!

And at the end of June we held another Pop Inn – Summer Holiday Style. It was great to see so many Hawaiian shirts and sunglasses despite the rainy weather. The Tombola of summery items was fun to watch. I must say that I've never seen people so keen to win beach buckets, wild sunglasses and crab nets! A revelation.

There are no Village events planned in August as many of you will be off visiting relatives or going to exotic destinations. But add September 10th to your calendars for the annual North vs South Stockcross Rounders match!! Come to play or to watch

and support your side!

October will bring a Halloween Themed Pop Inn on the 27th. This will be the last Pop Inn organised and run by the Village Hall Committee. The Pop Inn was introduced in 2018 to provide an opportunity and a place for villagers to gather together while awaiting the reopening of The Rising Sun. Over these 5 years we have held over a dozen Pop Inns. We feel it's time for others to take over the reins. We'd be delighted for the Pop Inn or similar community social gatherings to continue at the Hall. Our model for the Pop Inn has been community led and reliant on 100% volunteer organisation and staffing. But we are open to considering other business models and encourage anyone interested in taking this forward to contact Liz Newell-Hart (lnewell.hart@gmail.com / 07831147920) or Mark Nevitt (suttonhalltreasurer@hotmail.co.uk / 0748484 5414). The committee will of course provide advice and help in getting things underway.

November features the Annual General Meeting for Sutton Hall in Stockcross from 7PM on Friday November 3rd. It's an opportunity to recap the 2022/2023 year for the Hall and share some cheese and wine or soft drink with the committee and other villagers at the start of your weekend.

Then in December we will have (drum roll) Panto!! The Stockcross Panto performance dates for the 2023 are December 7, 8 and 9. I can divulge very little else about this year's Panto – mainly because all decisions about script, cast, costumes, music, props, etc. have yet to be made!! Which means that everything is running on schedule!! See you there!

I hope you all have a wonderful Summer. Make the most of warmth and sunlight, friends and family.
Liz

START OF THE PAVEMENT MEANS END OF THE ROAD

As soon as the first sod is turned for the B4000 pavement (see separate article) I will hang up my councillor's hat after more than 14 years in the role. There will then be no-one on Speen Parish Council from within the Stockcross village envelope. Indeed, of the nine other current councillors only Alan Booth, who has played a major role in driving the Pavement Project, lives our side of the by-pass. Stockcross and the immediate surrounding area is a very different environment from the more urban side of the A34. The council really does need at least one person "on the ground" to represent our interests.

The role is not onerous. Much of the "heavy lifting" is done in committee or by working party. The establishment is 13 so there is room for four more without an election. Clearly, sharing the role will make the job much easier and help ensure that at least someone from Stockcross will be attending meetings.

So come on, what about it?! For more information, please contact me (keithstockcross@hotmail.co.uk; 07799 038968) or Jean Lindsell our Clerk (clerk@speenpc.org.uk) for more information.
Keith Phillips

S&SHA- UPCOMING MEETINGS

HELD IN THE SUTTON HALL ON WEDNESDAYS AT 2PM.

AUGUST - NO MEETING

13th September — Philip Smithers the West Berks Finds Liaison Officer to speak to us.

11th October — Talk by Clive Williams “Shire Hall through the Looking Glass”,

8th November — Dr Hugh Phlens, from the Hungerford Virtual Museum is giving us a talk on the Canal and WW2 defences.

13th December — Xmas Social.

ALL WELCOME - Members Free. Guests: £5.00.

Angela Tyler



Ever fancied being in the Panto but too afraid to ask?



Well now's your chance! Why not join us on **Saturday 2nd September at 4pm in the village hall** for a script read through and find out more?

Like any good project, planning for the village panto starts early. We're currently looking at scripts and will make a decision soon.

Anyone from the village and surrounding area is welcome – no previous experience needed though a sense of humour helps. Age and ability don't matter – all are welcome to have a go and there are many

ways to get involved in the production. From stage design and creation, make-up and costumes, to stage management, chaperoning, prompting and of course treading the boards if you want to have a go at acting. There is something for everyone, depending on what you'd like to try and the time you are able to commit.

After the read through acting parts will be cast quickly and rehearsals will begin on Sundays from early September with additional rehearsals on Tuesdays from October for some of the cast. Set production will also start in September and our three evening performances this year will be on **7th, 8th & 9th December.**

If you can't make the 2nd September but would like to be involved please get in touch with us. You can also find out more about the Stockcross Panto Players on the Sutton Hall website:

<https://suttonhallstockcross.org/stockcross-panto-players/>

Look forward to seeing you.

Sarah Russell sarahsa@rustyandsaz.com

Claire Mingo claire_mingo@hotmail.com

Jane Seaton janeaton@hotmail.co.uk





STOCKCROSS TWO O'CLOCK CROWD

Stockcross Two O'clock Crowd

In April Jackie Dimmock, who had worked in the Hampshire Constabulary for 30 years or more, regaled us with some stories of her earlier experiences with the police force. From describing the difficulties working in straight skirts in an emergency situation and passing long hours on the beat in the rain we learnt how different policing was in those times. Jackie was sent to the Isle of Wight initially which was, in itself, quite interesting to hear about. As uniform design changed and issue of police batons changed so did the force's attitude to women police officers. Jackie's unique presentation style as headlined through her quilting pieces was very much enjoyed and she will be coming back in 2024 to continue her story.

In June we had an art history talk from Robert Kidner on Animals in Art. Robert had selected a wonderful mix of paintings from Egyptian tombs to recent times and we had a good discussion during his talk. Robert donates his fees to his favourite charity which helps people and families living with Alzheimer's and dementia and this talk was his 99th. Oh how we wished we were his 100th, it would have been something to celebrate.

Our recent July meeting will have been a social tea – a chance for a catch up with friends and to hear more about future for STOCC.

Our upcoming meetings at The Sutton Hall from 2pm – 4pm are as follows:

On **Wednesday 30th August** the hall will be unavailable so we will be going out for the afternoon to see the open-air Summer Sculpture Exhibition on The Orangery Lawn at Shaw House. Entrance is free but possibly a small parking charge. Either meet us there or car-share from car park at the Sutton Hall, we will leave from 2pm so please be there beforehand – from 1.50pm. Teas are available in the Shaw House cafeteria.

Wednesday 27th September Lynda Warren will be returning to give a talk on Location Finding for TV – following on from her talk last year. This time it is about working on a sit-com in Wales. An experienced speaker, Lynda is always entertaining.

Future events to be arranged. Posters are displayed on the notice board outside the village shop.

We hope you can join us – we are not a club so there is no membership fee. People come from the neighbouring villages and Newbury too – all are welcome. Contact me if you want more information or come along. Cost of entry to each of these events (excluding Shaw House) is £3 pp and includes refreshments. All welcome, no need to book.

Jane Batt

Tel: 0777 1511317



The Kite Primary Federation

Lunchtime Controllers

Salary Grade B £10.50-£10.78per hr

The Kite Primary Federation is made up of two small, rural primary schools on the outskirts of Newbury in easy reach of the A34 and M4. Stockcross C. of E. Primary School and Welford and Wickham C. of E. Primary School were federated in 2020 with the current Executive Headteacher taking up post in September 2022.

We are looking for Lunchtime Controllers to support our team.

The role is at the heart of the schools; 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!

For further information and an application pack, please contact hrkite@kpf.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 29th August 2023, 12 noon.

Interviews: Monday 4th September 2023

The Kite Primary Federation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An Enhanced DBS Disclosure will be sought from the successful candidate.



The Kite Primary Federation

TEACHING ASSISTANTS (SEND SUPPORT)

The Kite Primary Federation is made up of two small, rural primary schools on the outskirts of Newbury in easy reach of the A34 and M4. Stockcross C. of E. Primary School and Welford and Wickham C. of E. Primary School were federated in 2020 with the current Executive Headteacher taking up post in September 2022.

Do you like to make a difference?

Are you kind, compassionate and reflective?

Do you have an understanding of SEND needs?

Then the Kite Primary Federation needs you!

We are looking for a full time teaching assistant to support individual pupils with SEN needs at Welford & Wickham Primary School.

30 hours a week. 8.45am – 3.15pm Monday – Friday
Job shares will be considered (am or pm) and hours are negotiable
Salary: Grade D (approx. £11.18-12.02 per hour)
Term time only
Post to start September 2023
This is initially a fixed term contract until end of summer 2024

For further information and an application pack, please contact hrkite@kpf.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 29th August 2023, 12 noon. Shortlisted candidates will be notified by 6pm on this date.

Interviews: Monday 4th September 2023

It is illegal to apply for this post if you are barred from working with children.

The Kite Primary Federation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An Enhanced DBS Disclosure will be sought from the successful candidate.

Harvest Supper

Saturday 30th September 7.00pm

Do come and join us at this years Harvest Supper. A chance to catch up with your friends and neighbours. We will be having our usual excellent fare, produced by our villagers and a bit of entertainment thrown in.

Please bring your own booze and glasses and yourselves.

Tickets: £5.00 on sale from the Shop.

I will also have some tickets available.

If you can make a pie, quiche, salad or pud it would be much appreciated, just let me know.

Angela Tyler, 07733330110
Sunflower Cottage.
ange.sunflower@gmail.com

Message from Stockcross Primary School PTFA:

Bag2School



Is it about time you had a sort through your wardrobes and cupboards? If so, we can help! Bag2School will be coming to the school to make a collection Thursday 28th September. All you need to do is fill a bag with

unwanted adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys as well as household linens. Please see [here](#) for a full list. The bags are weighed and the school receives a donation per kg. As well as raising much needed funds for the PTFA, it also helps the environment by diverting unwanted textiles away from landfill. Please make sure your bags are dropped outside the front of the school by 9am Thursday 28th September. If you would like any assistance to make your donation, please let us know. You can email stockcrossptfa@gmail.com or call the school office 01488 608356. Thank you for your support and have a lovely summer!

WANTED - CLERK OF WORKS

The village hall is very busy and is an old building. This generates a need for continuous maintenance both planned & responsive.

If you are local and enjoy being a 'handi-person' the committee would love to talk to you about overseeing planned works, organising responsive maintenance and undertaking minor works to support the caretaker, Treasurer & Chair.

You would not need to join the committee (although you would be welcome to do so !) but would be providing valuable support in running the hall.

If you are interested please contact Mark:
suttonhalltreasurer@hotmail.co.uk

Village Store (under new management)

Have you visited Stockcross Village store lately? If you haven't, then pop in and see the new items on sale, such as healthy and tasty new smoothies, ice coffee with caramel or vanilla shot,



vapes and top up phone cards and there are a lot more new good cakes too. Oh, I forgot to mention fresh vegetables and fruits, and of course the other household and food stuff to keep you going. So, pop in, and be greeted by Peter and Sigal, not forgetting their family... and their lovely dogs.



SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE STORE AND ALL THE AMENITIES THAT IT OFFERS YOU. WITHOUT YOUR BACKING, THERE WOULD BE NO COMMUNITY STORE.



Events and information



**FOR YOUR DIARY
EVERYONE WELCOME!**



Please join us at these forthcoming events.

All will be at The Sutton Hall, apart from the Rounders which is on the Rec



Rounders on the Rec - Sunday 10th September, 2pm

Harvest Supper - Saturday 30th September, 7pm



Halloween Pop Inn - Friday 27th October, 6.30pm

AGM - Friday 3rd November, 7.30pm cheese & wine, 8pm meeting



Stockcross Panto - 7th, 8th, 9th December

Village Drinks - Saturday 23rd December, 6pm



Please note some details might change. We will circulate updates nearer the time of each event so please look out for our posters and flyers, check the website or visit the Stockcross Village Facebook page.

New Councillors update for Stockcross community:

We, Antony Amirtharaj and Martha Vickers, are your new councillors for Stockcross. We are passionate about our village and committed to serve this community by listening to the people of our village in order to make progress. We want to hear your concerns and your ideas. We want to work with you to make our village a better place.

One of our top priorities is to finish the Stockcross to A4 shared path project. This project will create a safe and accessible foot-path between from the rest of Newbury/Speen through A4 to Stockcross village. The project is in design stage (Design shared for review) and we hope to get this commenced and completed as per the targeted timelines.

We also share the concern about the future of the Rising Sun pub. The pub is a beloved community asset, and we want to do everything we can to keep it open. We will be working with the pub's owners and the council to explore options for keeping the pub afloat.

Unfortunately, the post office had to close but we'll monitor demand for a new facility and will actively pursue the option of reopening the post office based on the demand.

We will be also doing regular surgeries focussed on Stockcross with the first surgery proposed on **22nd September Friday at the Post Office 12 to 2 PM** and we plan to conduct this surgery every three months.

These are just a few of the issues that we are passionate about. We want to work with you to address all of the issues that matter to you.

Councillor Antony Amirtharaj

Newbury Speen ward
West Berkshire District Council
Email: antony.amirtharaj1@westberks.gov.uk



17 July 2023

The Owner or Occupier
Properties adjoining B4000

Letter From
West Berkshire Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

Highway works – Stockcross Active Travel Path scheme

I write to inform you that West Berkshire Council intends to carry out works on the public Highway on the north side of the B4000 Ermin Street, between the A4 roundabout and the centre of Stockcross village, opposite Stockcross Post Office.

The purpose of the works is to construct a shared path, for use by pedestrians and cyclists, parallel to the B4000 between the village and the A4. This scheme will use funding assigned by the Government, for Active Travel.

The works will take place on the Highway and will involve:

- Reconstruction and widening of short existing sections of footway near to the A4 roundabout;
- Construction of a shared path for use by pedestrians and cyclists, parallel to the B4000 on its north side between the A4 roundabout and a point opposite Stockcross Post Office, including provision of marked crossings at the side turning that serves Rookwood, Chapel Lane and Snake Lane, and at other accesses;
- Alterations to the existing crossing immediately east of, Stockcross Post Office;
- Installation of raised kerbs at bus stops to assist with boarding and alighting from local buses, including at the main stops in Stockcross.

A set of plans showing the scheme is appended to this letter. Please note that this has been compressed to fit in the letter.



Environment
Council Offices
Market Street
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 5LD
Our Ref: Stockcross Active Travel
Please ask for: Customer Services
Telephone: 01635 551111
e-mail: acttravel@westberks.gov.uk

Higher-resolution plans are available to view online, at:
<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/41402/Cycleway-and-Footway-Improvement-Schemes> or by scanning this QR code using a QR code scanner on your smartphone:



The works will be undertaken by our term contractor Volker Highways and are anticipated to start in late summer 2023. Further details on programming will be provided shortly.

The Stockcross Active Travel Path scheme is a first step in creating an off-carriageway route for walking, wheeling and cycling, between Stockcross village and the quiet road called Speen Lane that connects onwards into Newbury.

The Council will shortly be starting design work on the next section of the route, crossing the A4 and A34 towards Speen Lane, in anticipation of further funding becoming available in the near future for that section.

Yours sincerely

Clive Tombs
Network Management Team

cc. Cllr Antony Amirtharaj
Cllr Martha Vickers
Speen Parish Council



Yes, your Village needs you... without local support your village (Stockcross) will wither and die.

We have a village shop that caters for all needs. Stockcross Village committee puts on events throughout the year for your benefit: such as a Pop in pub, Panto, get-togethers/meals etc. So join and support your/ our Village.

ASTRONOMY ARTICLE JUNE EDITION

BY TONY HERSH

June has the most daylight of any month and the longest day and shortest night. Although the days get shorter after midsummers day on 21st June, the thermal lag means the hottest days are still ahead of us. It's a good time to look out for the rarely seen Noctilucent clouds : long wispy clouds with a distinctive electric blue tint which are clouds being lit by the Sun while it's below the horizon. These clouds are the highest of all clouds at around 80km and often hundreds or thousands of miles away from the observer. The best time to look for them is towards the North, 90 mins to 2 hours after the sunset, close to the horizon

This month the Constellations are harder to pick out due to the lighter sky, but Cassiopeia will still be visible in the north east around 11pm. You will find it half way between the Pole star and the horizon as a distinctive zigzag of bright stars. In mythology Cassiopeia was a vain queen who was punished by Poseidon for her wicked ways and forced to wheel around the Pole star forever. Saturn will be visible just above the Moon if you get up early and look towards the South around 4am on 10th June. Jupiter will be very close to the left of the Moon at a similar time on 14th and both Mars and Venus are just below the Moon in the evening of 22nd June around 10pm.

Planets



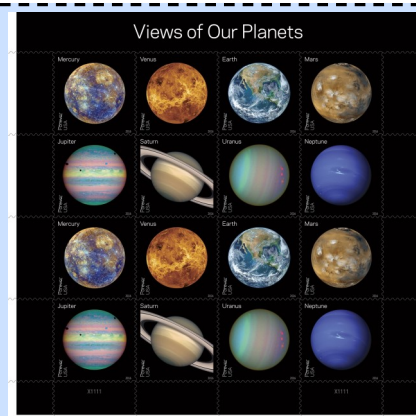
Topic of the Month : Invisible light

Today we take for granted that visible light is just a small part of the electromagnetic spectrum and that lots of other types of light exist which we can't see with our eyes, such as microwave, infrared, radio waves and x rays. But years ago nothing was known about invisible light. The breakthrough came in the 1790's when William Herschel was splitting light using a prism. He was measuring the temperature of each colour and found that they indeed had different temperatures. Red and orange were warmer than

other wavelengths. But his extraordinary discovery was when he put his thermometer in the darkness beyond the red end of the spectrum and found the temperature was the highest of all, even though his eyes were telling him nothing was there. This was infrared light but we now know the whole spectrum is huge. If the all the visible light we can see, from blue to red, was spread out on the floor like a rainbow of colours and was one metre long, just the infrared section of the spectrum would be three kilometres long ! There are a vast variety of invisible light waves out there. Infrared is especially useful for astronomers because it can be used to detect objects which aren't visible to our eyes. It's strange thinking that in space where it's hundreds of degrees below freezing dust and other objects are emitting light for the same reason as a red hot iron bar. Everything is glowing and that gives astronomers a mechanism to detect and study the universe.

Find out more about Astronomy via Newbury Astronomical Society which hosts monthly meetings for both beginners and experienced astronomers. See www.newburyastro.org.uk.

Questions ; tonyhersh@hotmail.com



COMING EVENTS

Regular Events

Daily Billiards at village hall
(stockcrosssnookerclub@gmail.com)

Weekly
Monday Yoga at village Hall 7pm
Tuesday Yoga at Village Hall 6 pm
 Toffs Bridge at Village Hall 1.30pm

Wednesday Pilates Village Hall 10.15 & 11.15 pm
Friday Toffs Bridge at Village Hall 1.30

Monthly

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



VILLAGE SHOP NEWS

(OPENING HOURS)

MON-FRIDAY 07:30-18:00 AND SATURDAY 08:00-16:00
 SUNDAY CLOSED.

New singers will be welcome to join us when Kennet Opera restarts after the summer break. We will be rehearsing Offenbach's "The Tales of Hoffman" which will be performed in Shaw House at the beginning of February 2024. Rehearsals start on Wednesday 6th September at the Majendie Hall, St Mary's Church, Speen at 7.30. For further information please see the website www.kennetopera.co.uk

Church Services

Services of Holy Communion at 11am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month



The summer holidays are upon us and if you're looking for some fun and reasonably priced sporting activities, look no further than the Stockcross Tennis Club. Great rates for family membership at £75 for the year. Two lovely courts

Hi All, the 2023/24 membership fees are due (as of 1 April). If you wish to renew, and I hope you do, please put your name as the reference on your bank transfer. Fees remain the same as last year (Family £75, Adult £50, Junior £20). The bank details are:

30 96 26
 37947460

Stockcross Tennis Club



30 96 26
 37947460

Mobile Library visits to Stockcross

Village Hall 9.30 to 10.00 am

August	Sept	October
1st 22nd	12th	3rd 24th

Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour)
 From 1st January 2023 (time booked must be sufficient to include set up cleaning afterwards)
 Minimum hire 2 hours

	Small	Large	Both
	Hall	Hall	Hall
Resident	11	15	19
Non resident	16	22	26

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