

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER



Sigal Davies

Two anonymous people (below) popped into the village shop and were captured (not made prisoners, but photographed) by **Sigal Davies**, enjoying her wonderful dining hospitality. Yes, if you pop into the Village shop, you could also sample the wonderful variety of drinks (hot or cold), her delicious cakes, rolls (various fillings) and much more. Eat in (or outside), or just take away... but please pop in, and you will be made welcome... as those two nameless wanderers were. As you can see by the smiles on their faces... wonders never seems to amaze them!.

Turn to **page 6** and have a look at other wonders the village Shop can offer you (the photos show only a small sample of items)... and don't forget Christmas, as Sigal will be glad to order turkeys, bread and much more.



The Editor

Any contributions for the **February edition 2024** of the Grapevine must reach me no later than **Thursday the 18th January 2024 and before 3.30 pm.**

Have a Good Christmas!

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



AS I write this to you Summer has disappeared and been replaced by early sunsets, warmer jackets and leaves to rake. We hope for frosty mornings and sunny, settled Autumn days – but we will take whatever comes and hope for the best!

The second half of Summer has been a quiet one for the Village Hall. We again closed for a few days in August to complete the repaint of the hall and see to a few repairs and maintenance jobs. In September our regular group and class hirers have returned. Unfortunately, the annual North v South Rounders Match was called off - because of the wet conditions and the Harvest Supper, though well organised by Angela Tyler, was called off as it coincided with so many of the usual supporters being away that it was in danger of being the "Harvest Snack".

Halloween is on its way. There will be a Halloween themed Pop INN on October 27th. Costumes are encouraged – especially as there will be prizes for best childrens costumes. There will be spooky meal choices on offer from The Five Bells and trick or treat envelopes. This is the final Pop Inn. The village hall committee has done a tremendous job organising and running this series of pub nights. But we are discussing holding one or two other type events during 2024. As mentioned previously, the hall committee is open to proposals from others to run Pub nights or other social nights at the Hall. Enquiries please to Mark Nevitt (suttonhalltreasurer@hotmail.co.uk / 0748484 5414) or Liz Newell-Hart (lnewell.hart@gmail.com / 07831147920).

Elsewhere in this Grapevine you will find details of a 2024 Wine and Cheese Tasting Night organised by our neighbourhood wine aficionado Tony Hersh. These are always interesting and good fun. Do come.

The Sutton Village Hall Annual General Meeting will be held at the hall on Friday November 3rd. It's an opportunity to recap

our 2022/2023 year, ask questions, share ideas and enjoy cheese and wine or soft drink with the committee and other villagers at the start of your weekend.

Early December is PANTO season!! The Stockcross Panto Players will perform their version of Hans Christian Anderson's Tinderbox. The plot barely makes sense, the costumes will be outrageous, the casting accidental and I've no idea about the songs or dances yet – so basically, it'll be a cracker!!! Tickets will be on sale soon!! And yes, there will be a Pub!!

The Hall Committee invites you all to the annual Village Hall Christmas Drinks on Saturday, December 23rd. Please Join us from 6PM for free drinks, a bit of food and mince pies. We hope to have a bit of entertainment as well. (Please note: this is on the Saturday before Christmas. Hope to see you there!)
Liz

The hall accounts for the year ended 30/6/23 have been prepared and signed off. **They will be presented in full at the AGM on November 3rd but here is a summary.**

At a trading level the hall returned a surplus of £9,594 before hall improvements . The committee decided to continue to reinvest in the hall using funds built up in the previous financial years hence the overall loss of £7411 for the year . The loss was financed from reserves without impacting on the agreed minimum reserve requirement of £20,000 . This brings the total investment in the hall over the last two years to £36,000

Total income was £34,682 (prior year £32,596) split between :

Hiring fees & rent	£25,883	(£23,320 the previous year)
Events	£3,429	(£1,416 the previous year)
Donations	£403	(£419 the previous year)
Interest	£442	(£111 the previous year)
Grants	£4525	(£7,330 the previous year)

Event income was boosted by the return of the Pantomime which, including the Pop Inn income from the bar, substantially enhanced revenue . The hall was able to subsidise the costs of a Christmas party and coronation celebrations for villagers .

It is pleasing that our strong trading allowed various village community groups to continue using the hall free of charge plus continuing the heavily discounted rates to village residents

The hall running expenses (excluding hall improvements) were £25,085 (£18,232 the previous year) . Hall improvements this year comprised the new heating system, new hearing loop, major redecoration, enhancements to the electricity installation & some minor other improvements

M C Nevitt
Treasurer

Upcoming meetings:

Wednesday 8th November 2pm
The Canal and WW11 Defences.

By Dr Hugh Pihlens -

Hugh is the founder of Hungerford Virtual Museum which details local history online. He is also the archivist for Hungerford Historical Association and is leader of the Friends of Littlecote Roman Villa.

.....

Wednesday 14th December 2pm
Christmas Social

Come and join us for tea, mince pies, nibbles and a chance to look through all our old photos.

.....

All Welcome: **Guest: £5.00/meeting**

.....

Wednesday 10th January 2024 - 2pm
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

.....

To find at more about S&SHA visit our website:
www.stockcrosshistory.org or our Facebook page:
Stockcross and Surroundings History Association.

Angela Tyler

ANNE CUMMINGS

Anne is making the most of her stay in the care home, meeting her new friend, Blossom, the miniature Shetland pony, and enjoying the food, lots of different entertainment going every day to keep the mind active. Ron Cummings



As you can see by the photos, Anne is enjoying herself and the company of her new friend (the lovely Pony, Blossom.)



**WE ALL SEND OUR
LOVE TO ANNE,
GLENN (EDITOR)**

ASTRONOMY ARTICLE JULY EDITION

July is a good time to spot Cassiopeia, named after the vain queen Cassiopeia in Greek mythology, who boasted about her unrivaled beauty. If you start from Ursa Major (The Plough, Saucepan or Great Bear) and follow the two stars furthest from bottom right of the “handle” of the saucepan to the top right corner you will come to the Pole star and about the same distance again see the distinctive W shape of Cassiopeia. The constellation hosts some of the most luminous stars known, including the yellow giant stars Rho Cassiopeiae and V509 Cassiopeiae and white giant 6 Cassiopeiae. Fourteen star systems in this Constellation have been found to have planets orbiting them and one star —HR 8832— has at least seven planets going round it.

Planets in our Solar System are difficult to spot in a lightish sky this month but Saturn will be visible just above the Moon around 4am on 7th July and Jupiter just to the right of the Moon at the same time on 12th of the month.

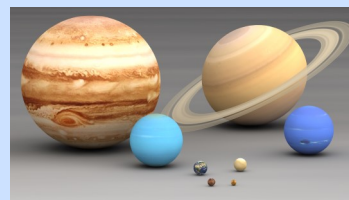
Topic of The Month : Our Sun

It's midsummer so this month we have a special edition of the Astronomy section all about the Sun.

The Sun's power output is surprisingly small at 276 watts per cubic meter. That's less than five 60W light bulbs ! But the Sun is so bright because it contains so many cubic meters : it's volume is the equivalent of 10,000 Earth's.

The source of the Sun's power is a process called nuclear fusion.

The Sun is mainly made of hydrogen but towards its core gravity is so strong from the huge volume of material that the pressure is 100 billion times the pressure on Earth and 15.7 million degrees centigrade. At that pressure the core is eight times denser than gold and hydrogen can't exist like we understand it on Earth but is split up into its constituent parts of protons, neutrons and electrons. It's protons, those absolutely tiny particles so small that there are over 100 million in the size of a full stop which allows the Sun to shine.



Protons are positively charged so don't usually bind together but there are so many of them in the Sun that under such extreme conditions a tiny proportion are forced together every second to form deuterium. The deuterium combines with another proton to form helium 3 and releases energy in the form of a gamma ray, which is the energy we eventually experience as heat and light. However the core of the Sun is so dense that the gamma ray almost constantly hits other sub atomic particles and is deflected and it takes on average 170,000 years for the gamma ray to make it out to the surface of the Sun and show up as light. So the warm sunshine you feel at the moment was actually made in the Sun all those years ago.

Each and every second the Sun uses 620 million tonnes of hydrogen (about the mass of the Great Pyramids of Giza) and converts it into 616 million tonnes of helium. The 4 million tonnes of 'missing' material has been converted into sunshine. Our Sun has still got enough hydrogen left to continue shining like we see it for at least another 4 billion years. When all the hydrogen in the core has been converted to helium the star is approaching the end of its life and some very exciting things can happen depending how big the star is. That will need to be a discussion for another article !

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

STOCKCROSS TWO O'CLOCK CROWD

Winter is around the corner and the opportunity to meet friends at a local venue will be especially welcome. For only £3 per person, you can hear a talk or be entertained and enjoy some light refreshments – a bargain. Especially when Penny Webb brings along her delicious homemade cakes for which we have been very thankful. Add the dates to your diary and come along to the Sutton Hall

Our September meeting was an amusing talk by Lynda Warren about her experiences in finding and setting up locations and props - and often supplying animals and people too - for tv dramas in Wales. Lynda is a professional speaker, as are many of our guest speakers, and can always be relied on to entertain. Her description of the lengths she had to go to in making one breed of sheep look like another was particularly hilarious.

Our October meeting will also have taken place - an illustrated talk by Jenny Mallin about discovering her Great-grandmother's cookery book from Madras and how such a discovery revealed what was happening in their lives from the days of the Raj in India since it was started by her 3x Great-grandmother.

We hope you can join us for some of these future events! Jane Batt

FUTURE EVENTS

November 29th at 2pm: 'Travels in Verse' by Mike Braid. Plus some Christmassy nibbles!
No meeting in December

January 31st at 2pm: The History of Stockcross Post Office from 1861 to the Present Time – an Illustrated talk by Angela Tyler. Angela has presented this talk to S&SHA, our local history group and it was so interesting and professional I thought it would be lovely to provide an opportunity for more people to enjoy it. The talk starts with the story of the origins of the Post Office and Angela has researched names of former tenants adding further findings recently so do come along.

February 28th at 2pm: Victoria Roseblade on the Latest Scams to Look Out For. We had a similar talk a few years ago but, as these things change, we thought it would help to get updated.

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR FROM STOCKCROSS AND A NEW CLERK

We have a new Speen Parish Councillor from within the Stockcross Village Envelope: Charlotte Winton has become a new member and Keith Phillips has retired after 18 years. The other good news is that we have two more potential councillors from this side of the A34, hopefully joining at the next full council meeting on 22nd November.

We also have a new Parish Clerk as Becki Hannington replaces Jean Siddall. Jean has been seven years in the role and is a very hard act to follow, Thank you Jean for all your hard work behind the scenes and welcome to Becki.

See <https://www.speenpc.org.uk/default.aspx> for more information about your parish council.

Keith Phillips

Village Panto

Boos and ahhs needed soon ... oh yes they are !

The village hall is being transformed once again into a magical place for this year's panto which will be performed by the Stockcross Panto Players on **Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th December**. Tickets are already available online from www.jumblebee.co.uk/panto-2023 or you can buy them in person in the Post Office in November.

Our audience complete our show and we can't wait to see you!

Sutton Hall Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Sutton Hall will be held at the hall on November 3rd at 8.00pm

Please join the committee for complimentary cheese & wine from 7.30pm
All welcome, we promise no one will be press ganged onto the committee!
(But anyone wishing to join will be most welcome)

Please come and hear about *your hall* and have your say!

M C Nevitt
Treasurer
5/10/23

Village Store (under new management)

Aston bakery is a local quality organic bake house, We invited people to order through us and collect their bread, at the moment once a week. People are welcome to the shop or call me to hear about the range.



Events and information



I think that walking is the best exercise one can get.

We do not go far or fast.

About 3 miles at a pace of about 20min/mile.

So the above route takes about an hour.

I will be running a walking group from Sutton (Village) the 1st Saturday of the month, unless it clashes with anything else.

In which case I will give notification on the village Facebook page. All welcome

Best Wishes, Carl Smith



**Stockcross C.E. (V.A.)
Primary School**



2023/24

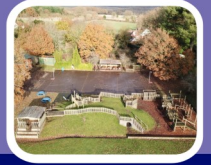
OPEN DAYS

Take a tour

Meet our passionate team

Explore our beautiful grounds

Call to book: 01488 608356



Why choose our school?

- ★ Joining Stockcross means becoming part of a close-knit community of passionate staff, families & governors.
- ★ With just 15 places in reception, staff are able to get to know, support and nurture each individual child.
- ★ We provide a stimulating and enriching curriculum, including our Scouting initiative on Friday afternoons and extra-curricular music & sports clubs.
- ★ Wrap around care includes access to: Breakfast club (at our partner school) Ofsted Outstanding after-school "Croc Club"

Open Days 9.30-11am

- Thursday 28th September
- Monday 13th November
- Thursday 11th January 2024

How to find us:

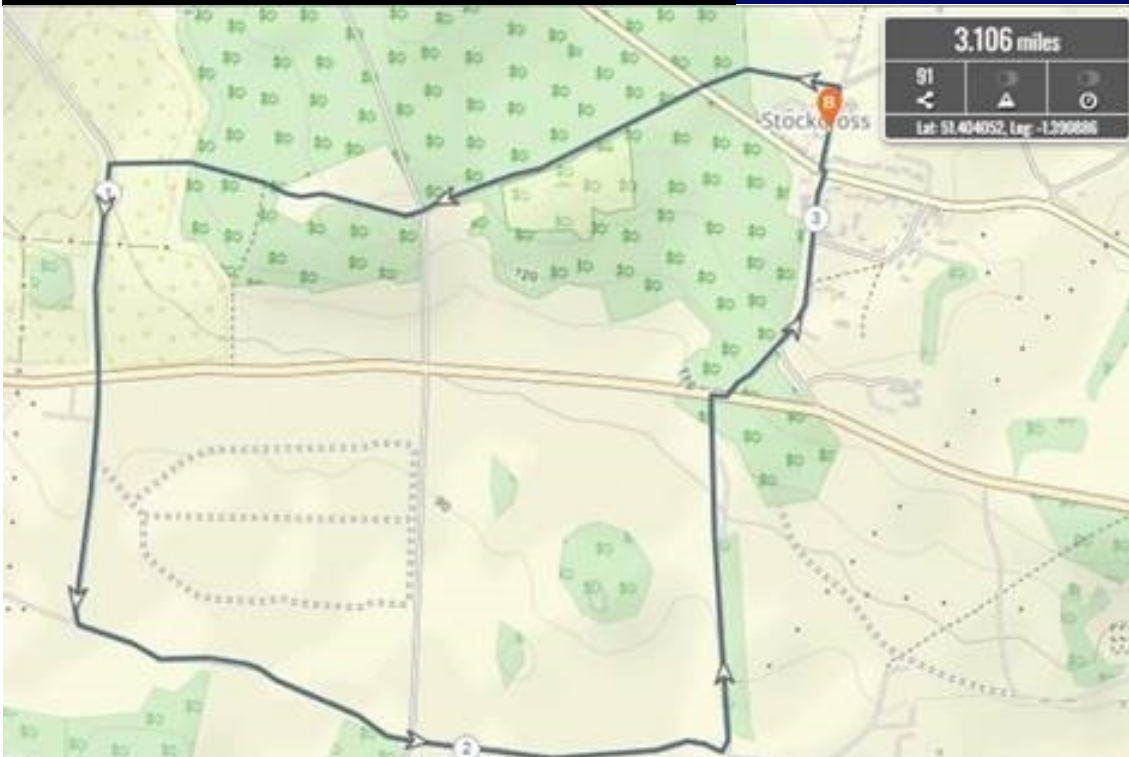
We're situated in the beautiful village of Stockcross, less than 10 minutes from Newbury and Hungerford.

Address: Chapel Road, Stockcross, RG20 8LD.

Website: www.stockcrossprimaryschool.org

Email: office@stockcross.w-berks.sch.uk

Proudly part of the Kite Primary Federation "Flying High Together"



Carl Smith's walking route. Please join, it looks fun, and of course, the exercise you will get will be good for you... Plus, I would enjoy good company and probably meet new friends.



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.

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**



2011 Jeff Hamon

COMING EVENTS



VILLAGE SHOP NEWS

(OPENING HOURS)

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



Regular activities at Sutton Hall, Stockcross

Daily

Snooker & Billiards – stockcrosssnookerclub@gmail.com

Weekly

Monday Evening	Dance	Cheek2cheekdance@hotmail.co.uk
Tuesday Evening	Hatha Yoga flow 6.45-8.00	Beth Trotter 07790 015762 www.beyoga.co.uk
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 Hespinosa1111@gmail.com
Thursday Morning	Life drawing classes	arranmiles@googlemail.com
Friday Morning	Baby Ballerina	www.babyballerinas-newbury.co.uk Sharon Moore 07770825191
Friday Afternoon	TOFFS bridge 13.30	Brian.hill83@ntlworld.com
Saturday morning	Baby Ballerina	As above

Monthly

2nd 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

Church Services

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

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 Hall	Large Hall	Both 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

Mobile Library visits to Stockcross

Village Hall 9.30 to 10.00 am

Nov.	Dec.	January
14th		16th
Triple issue	Nil	