

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER



Knight Fever!

As the nights are drawing in, the Stockcross Panto Players are busy rehearsing, getting ready to kick off the festive season in the Sutton Hall with a pantomime treat for you.

This year we'll be transporting you to Camelot where the evil Black Knight is planning to create chaos for King Arthur and his kingdom!

Will Merlin be able to weave his magic and avert disaster?

Can the Knights of the Round Table save the day, or are they really the Knights of the Least Able?

Will the unlikely trio of Justin the humble stable boy, Lester the court Jester and Dame Doris Dumpling succeed in their quest to save Princess Anna from the evil Black Knight?

Come and join us on **5th, 6th and 7th December** to find out! And enjoy lots of daft jokes, songs and general silliness from knights, wizards and mythical creatures.

Tickets are on sale now here: <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/panto2024knightfever>

or you can buy them in person from the Stockcross Village Shop from November.

We can't wait to see you in Camelot!

The Editor

Any contributions for the February edition 2025 of the Grapevine must reach me no later than Thursday the 16th January and before 3.30 pm.

Merry Christmas to all (have a great one!)

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

stockcrossgrapevine@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



**Village Hall
Chairman's
piece for
grapevine
October 20
2024**

Greetings to everyone!
As I write this missive to you in mid-October

I almost wish I had stayed in the sunny warmth of coastal New England. I was unprepared for the sheer muddy, dampness and ever-darkening days that are our Autumn so far this year.

The village hall has been busy with hirers during the last 3 months but the only planned community event, the North v South Rounders Match on the Rec, was – you guessed it – Rained Out!!

Weather again!

As the evenings get shorter and people adjust to the change in the year there is one very bright light in your future – The Stockcross Village Panto! Oh, yes there is !! The cast has been finalised, rehearsals well under way and the scenery beginning to take shape. Can't wait to see the costumes !! Find further details about this year's panto from the Panto directors in this issue of The Grapevine. But, oh what a Night it will be !! Actually, the show runs for 3 nights December 5th, 6th and 7th. Tickets are not yet on sale but please take note of the dates on your calendar method of choice.

I wish everyone a healthy Autumn and please take extra care on the roads in this darker time of the year.

Liz



Be Extraordinary – Become a Parish Councillor

Would you like to:

- Make a difference to local people?
- Give something back to your community?
- Help shape the future of your parish?

**"Ordinary
people doing
an amazing
job!!"**

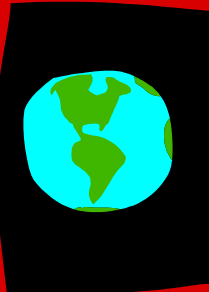
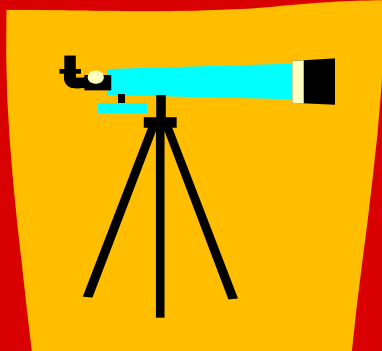


For more details contact the Clerk:

T: 07584 435656

E: clerk@speenpc.org.uk

ASTRONOMY ARTICLE NOVEMBER EDITION



November is a good month for picking out Constellations without waiting up too late. The zigzag M or W shape of Cassiopeia will be almost directly overhead and the cross shape of Cygnus below it to the left. Both Constellations are within the faint band of light made of millions of stars we see when looking towards the middle of our Milky Way galaxy. The night of November 18th will be the peak of the Leonids meteor shower. These meteors are usually a fairly low rate of around 15 per hour but occasionally have an extraordinary burts of maybe 3000 meteors per hour. Unfortunately the Moon is fairly full on that evening but if it's clear that night it's worth a look towards the horizon in the north east direction all evening. These meteors come from the dust and rubble left as comet Tempel-

Tuttle came close to the Sun. These particles heat up white hot as they meet the atmosphere of the Earth and look like streaks of light in the sky. Regarding planets Venus will be easy to spot just to the right of the Moon around 5pm on 5th November, Saturn will be a lovely sight just to the right of the Moon around the same time on 11th and Jupiter is also visible just below and to the right of the Moon around 8pm on 17th November.

Topic of The Month

There have been around one million asteroids identified, most are rocky or icy objects ranging in size from about one metre to almost 1000 kilometres and orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter. However one particular asteroid called Psyche, first spotted 170 years ago, has been generating special interest recently. Psyche is bigger than most asteroids at 2442 kilometres diameter and seems to be made mostly of iron and nickel. Craters produced when it's been hit by other objects create deep pockets with a razor sharp metal rim. Astronomers are excited because it's thought that objects like Psyche might be the starting point for creating rocky planets like Earth which has an iron-nickel core that generates the magnetic field around our planet that is vital for our survival. It's of such interest that NASA built and launched a space probe called Psyche which will go into orbit around the asteroid in August 2029 (it's over 300 million kilometres from Earth so the probe takes a long time to reach it!). The probe will take detailed measurements and high resolution images of the asteroid and characterise its shape, composition, magnetic field and mass distribution to hopefully give us more information of its origin and whether huge lumps of iron rich objects like this might indeed be the building blocks of rocky planets.

NewburyAstro welcomes everyone to their monthly Astronomy meeting and Beginners meeting (£2 for adults, free for under 18s) and also to star gazing and other events. See newburyastro.org.uk for details. Questions ; tonyhersh@hotmail.com

STOCKCROSS TWO O'CLOCK CROWD events at The Sutton Hall

These talks and social events are open to all - no membership required so do join us when you can.

Cost is only £3 per person which includes refreshments

Wednesday October 30th at 2pm

This month we will be having one of our Catch -up with Cake afternoons so do come along for a relaxing couple of hours with your neighbours and friends.

Wednesday 27th November at 2pm

An entertaining talk on 'Christmas Birds' by Ailsa Claybourne. This will be our last meeting before Christmas so expect some festive food for tea!

December - no meeting

Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 2pm

An Illustrated talk by Jenny Mallin - topic to be confirmed



The BT Openreach operatives spotted in the village last week told me that they were laying fibre through the village as part of the initiative to

make fibre-to-door available to the more remote locations. They claim they are ahead of schedule! Apparently we are to expect a blanket announcement from each of our separate suppliers next year announcing that they are offering a fibre-to-door roll-out from April 2025. No doubt it won't be without additional charge.



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.

Village News



CHURCH CLOCK RESTORATION PROJECT

The clock in St John's church in Stockcross was installed in 1845 but hasn't worked for many years. A small group of Villagers are trying to raise funds to have the clock repaired and maintained and we need your help !

We have had a church clock repair specialist assess the clock (see photo !) and they have quoted around £2500 for the repair and then around £500 per year for the maintenance, so we are hoping to raise at least £5000 to get the repair done and maintain the clock in good working order for several years to come. We will be able to set the clock to only strike during daylight hours and it would be wonderful if this beautiful Village asset could work once again

We have planned some Village events next year and the money raised by those events will go towards the restoration. There will be a wine tasting event, a concert in the Church given by Kennet Opera and some raffles. Please look out for more information about those events over the next few months.

In the meantime some of the money previously raised in the Pimms and Hymns event and by Stockfest will be donated to the project. We have also been awarded a match funding grant by The Greenham Trust which means that all donations to the project until March 2025 will be doubled so that will be a huge help and we are absolutely delighted and grateful to The Greenham Trust for their grant.

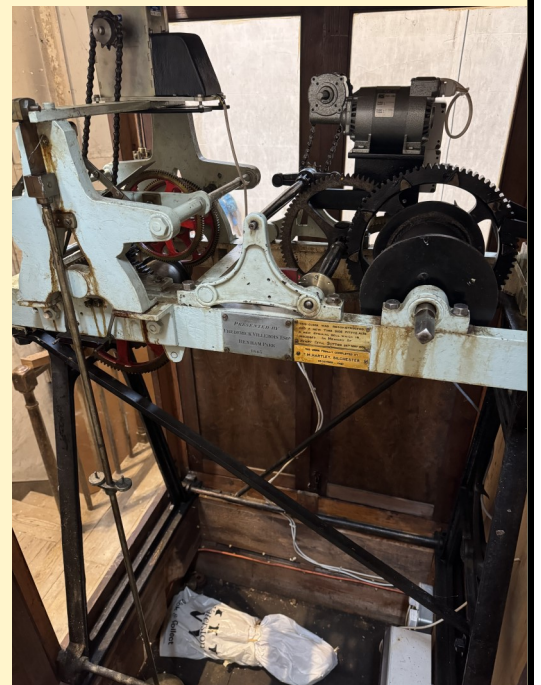
We are asking everyone to consider making a small donation to this project to help get our Village clock working again. If you would like to donate, please go to www.thegoodexchange.com and then search for Stockcross Church Clock Restoration project. There you will find a link to make a donation. Your donation can include gift aid which allows us to claim an additional tax refund from HMRC for any donation you make without any additional cost to donors, so please also click the box to add gift aid to your donation.



Thank you and we are very much hoping we will raise enough to complete the repair and maintain our Village clock !

Tony Hersh, Edward and Primose Wilson

Questions or suggestions to tonyhersh@hotmail.com



Village news and events



STOCKCROSS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN MORNINGS

**LOOKING FOR A SCHOOL
PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025?**

**LOOK NO FURTHER THAN OUR
WONDERFUL, VILLAGE SCHOOL**

**STOCKCROSS' HIDDEN GEM
AND HEART OF THE
COMMUNITY**

OPEN MORNING DATES 2024/25:

**Thursday 11 July 2024
Thursday 26 September 2024
Monday 14 October 2024
Tuesday 19 November 2024
Wednesday 11 December 2024
Friday 10 January 2025**

To book a place on one of our open mornings, please book on our website or contact the office

9:15am -9:30am arrival for tea, coffee and biscuits and to informally meet the senior leadership team

9:30am - presentation from Mrs Lagares, the executive headteacher followed by a tour from our friendly children

**THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET
STAFF, SEE LEARNING IN ACTION AND
MOST IMPORTANTLY, SEE OUR CURRENT
RECEPTION CHILDREN LEARNING**

"I'm so pleased we chose Stockcross school for our daughter. We feel she is treated as an individual rather than just a number"

"I have to mention the amazing staff, after nearly 8 years as a parent at Stockcross, it's the staff that make the environment so welcoming and nurturing"

"Stockcross School is the epitome of 'small but mighty'. At its core is a team of dedicated staff who truly care about their profession, and this is clearly evident in the day to day running of the school. It is a happy place for children to be, with a key emphasis on kindness which filters throughout every part of the school"

If you are unable to attend our open mornings, we are always happy to provide a bespoke tour for prospective families. Please contact the school office to arrange your visit.



stockcrossprimaryschool.org

01488 608356

office@stockcross.w-berks.sch.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Harvest Supper: this event will be dropped from the calendar, unless we can find someone who would like to organise it.

Panto 2024: dates fixed for 5 + 6 + 7 December.

[Village Hall Christmas Drinks](#): Saturday 21 December at 6.30 pm.

COMING EVENTS



Looking for family sports to do this summer, look no further than Stockcross Tennis Club

Two hard courts with club house .

ONLY £90 for a family membership for the whole year . £60 for an adult and £30 for a junior. Please contact Euan 07449 500122

Church Services

10th November - 10.55am - Act of Remembrance and Parish Communion
 24th November - 11.00am - Parish Communion
 8th December - 11.00am - Parish Communion
 15th December - 6.00pm - Carol Service
 24th December - 5.00pm - Crib Service
 25th December - 11.00am - Christmas Family Communion
 12th January - 11.00am - Parish Communion
 26th January - 11.00am - Parish Communion

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

Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour)
From 1st August 2024 (time booked must be sufficient to include set up cleaning afterwards)
Minimum hire 2 hours

	Small Hall	Large Hall	Both Hall
Resident	11.5	15.75	20
Non resident	17	23	27.5

Call Jay on 01488 608769 to book or visit our website

www.suttonhallstockcross.org

or email

suttonhall642@btinternet.com

Mobile Library visits to Stockcross

Village Hall 9.30 to 10.00 am

Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
5th	17th	28th

