

THE Grapevine

NEWSLETTER

As you will see by this picture, Tony Hersh is showing Steve Carter how one drinks a perfect glass of wine.

My turn next.

Our host and organiser for the Wine Tasting evening, Tony Hersh

On Friday the 14th March (2025) Tony Hersh, with the support of Sutton Hall committee, organised a Wine and Cheese tasting evening.

It was a fun & educational event - as all the previous ones had been - that there has been calls to continue this event. The Hall was packed out and tickets had all gone within weeks of being put on sale.

On Page 23 there are more pictures of the Village Hall's successful event. If you didn't make this one then look out for the next one: it will be advertised in the Grapevine, Stockcross Village Facebook page and all good retailers (and if they aren't advertising this fantastic event then they aren't good retailers). Stockcross is where life begins!!!!

The Editor

Any contributions for the **August edition 2025** of the Grapevine must reach me no later than **Thursday the 17th July and before 3.30 pm.**

Have a great summer!

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



HAPPY SPRING!!

The greening and colouring of our outdoor world has made a good start. The constant wet weather of a few weeks ago laid the groundwork for the endless sun of March to work its

early miracle. Lifts spirits...

Since I last wrote many of us enjoyed another Tony Hersh Wine Tasting Extravaganza. Once

again Tony selected a variety of wines for us to match to the notes and descriptions in a

quiz. Once again, I tried but failed to get them right (I blame the wine, the lovely cheeses and snacks and the great company). Concluding the night was a well-supported raffle.

These wine tasting evenings are great fun and very good fundraising events for the Hall.

The Hall Committee has been busy planning a few events as well. First is the VE Day

Luncheon at the Hall celebrating the 80 th anniversary. This will be on Monday 5 th of May.

There will be decorations, a display by SASHA of life in the village during the war, vintage

vehicles, music of the 40's and attendees are encouraged to wear outfits from that era – be

it as a land girl, soldier, spy, medic, farmer, Lumber Jill, cleric... All wishing to attend must

buy a ticket so seating and tables can be laid out beforehand. Bring your luncheon, plates

and cutlery. The Hall will supply a glass of bubbles with which to toast the occasion and will

run a bar to raise funds for the hall.

You see mention of raising funds for the hall a couple of times in this missive. Our normal

running and repair costs are usually met through our hiring to groups plus the Panto, wine

tastings and, until recently, running Pop Inn events. But with no pub in the village and the

fact that villagers want a place to gather together, a subgroup of our hall committee has

begun working on designs/plans/funding for a revamp of the small hall to make it look less a

classroom and more a cosy, inviting area for small gatherings, meetings, clubs and classes

and village get-togethers. Funding is being sought from charitable organisations but there

may be a need to raise funds in support of this.

Hanig forewarned you of future fundraising there are two other events coming up (non-fund

raising). First is a Pub Crawl. We are planning to re-enact last year's pub crawl – Hare & amp;

Hounds, Deanwood Golf Course, Vineyard and then back to the Sutton Hall. The date is

June 20 th . We need to know numbers attending so we can notify the venues. Tickets (\$5 per

person) will be available on Jumblebee. The ticket entitles walkers to a drink and a sausage

roll at the end of the walk at the hall. The other event is the Stockcross Rounder's Match – a

fiercely funny, hotly contested annual match. Never seen it or played rounders myself.

Maybe this year

Liz

S&SHA Stockcross & Surroundings History Association

Our monthly meetings are held at 2pm in The Sutton Hall
on the 2nd Wednesday of the month

Upcoming Meetings 2025

Wednesday 14th May

Sir Richard Vincent Sutton

26.04.1891 - 29.11.1918



Sixth Baronet of Norwood Park and Benham Valence had a short but well documented life recorded in his private papers, letters from his school days and his time in the army. Extracts from these form the basis of this talk about a young man from Stockcross who sadly lost his life right at the end of WW1 in 1918. Angela Tyler has produced a fascinating talk which will be a fitting tribute to a brave and honourable young man.

Wednesday 11th June - Members Meeting

A chance to listen to more of our Audio Recordings

Wednesday 9th July -

Building Hitler's Empire: Forced and Slave Labour in the Third Reich

by Mirek Gosneyon

his great-grandfather's experience of forced labour in WW11

In 1942, the Nazis declared a 'total war' economy. They forced millions to serve their war machine, building the largest slave system in European history. Hundreds of thousands of Czechs were among them, including village mechanic Miroslav Jerabek. Discover one of the worst human rights abuses in history.

Member: Free.

Guests: £5.00.

Membership is £15 for an individual & £25 for a joint membership. If you would like to renew your membership or join please email our secretary Irene at: hanburyirene@yahoo.co.uk.

To find at more about S&SHA visit our website: www.stockcrosshistory.org.

KENNET OPERA COMING TO STOCKCROSS !



Kennet Opera is an extremely professional sounding amateur company who have been giving live performances of music and operas since 1994. Originally formed by a group of friends who wanted to perform the music they loved in and around Newbury this talented group has been bringing opera and concert song

to Newbury, West Berkshire and places nearby for 30 years.



Booking has just opened for a special charity Spring concert Kennet Opera are performing in St John's church in Stockcross to raise funds towards the repair and maintenance of St John's Church Stockcross which is desperately needed.

Everyone is invited to attend this special performance on Saturday 14th June at 7.30pm. The concert will include a mix of choruses, solos and ensembles including choruses from Carmen, Macbeth and Dido and Aeneas plus a foretaste, Cavalleria Rusticana, with the Easter Hymn, among lots of others. There will also be a bar and raffle and all money raised will be used to help pay for some urgent repairs needed for the church. We would really love as many people as possible to attend to enjoy the performance and so we can raise as much money as possible for our loved village church.

Tickets are £15 and should be booked well in advance using the following website

<https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/springconcert>



Celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day! With us/ friends and villagers.

You can come as you like or in historical dress (optional) — your choice. Whatever, your village would like to see you on the 5th May



TICKET ONLY EVENT * £2 pp**

Tickets only available on line - just click the link:-

<https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/stockcrossveday>

Limited number of places so book them today!

STOCKCROSS TWO O'CLOCK CROWD

In order to create some social afternoons available for all we will be having the occasional 'Catch-up with Cake' session, sometimes with a theme. For example, this April's meeting on the 30th will have the topic of libraries, audio books and tapes. Sadly the wonderful library bus will no longer be doing its rounds but there are other possibilities on offer.

On Wednesday 28th May Nick Young will be teasing us with 'Newbury versus Thatcham'. He will be comparing the histories of these two towns and asking which we think has the more fascinating past!

On Wednesday 25th June we will be visiting The Base at Greenham to see the wonderful 'Wildlife Photography of the Year' exhibition. This is an international competition which takes place each year and the superb winning photographs are displayed all over the world. It truly is worth seeing. We will either meet there or car-share from the Sutton Hall at 2pm. There will be an entry charge. Refreshments are available to buy from the lovely Honesty Cafe in the building. Details will be available nearer the time.

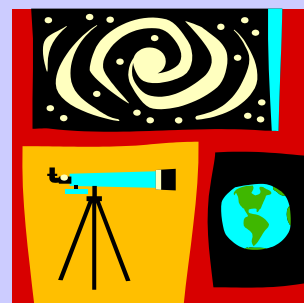
On July 30th we will have an Arty Crafty Afternoon in the hall. Bring your craft project or photos to show and demonstrate if you like! Details nearer the time.

No meeting in August as the hall will be closed for its annual upkeep.

Do join us if you can and if you have any questions or suggestions you can contact me on 07771511317. Jane Batt

Astronomy of The Month : Dark Skies

We take it for granted that skies in the countryside will be dark and the stars will be beautiful and visible on dark nights. Unfortunately there is increasing amounts of light pollution at night that is negatively affecting astronomers views of the night sky and negatively affecting animals. Evidence summarised by Darksky.org details recent findings that light pollution affects nocturnal animals. Predators can't use darkness to hunt, amphibians are confused by the light and it affects their reproduction and even hatching turtles have been seen scrambling towards human made lights at night rather than towards the ocean. Artificial lights can make birds migrate too early and then miss ideal conditions for nesting, foraging and other behaviours. Many insects are drawn towards bright lights at night and there is even evidence that too much light at night increases the risk of obesity, depression and some cancers in humans. The Commission for Dark Skies (CfDS) was set up by concerned members of the British Astronomical Association in 1989 to raise awareness of the problem and campaign for switching off of floodlights and street lighting at night. There are lots of simple things individuals and councils can do from closing curtains at night to illuminating streets with street lights that direct the light only downwards. There is a free dark sky event happening in Hampstead Marshall Village Hall from 10.30am on Saturday 10th May open to everyone being run by CfDS. There will be a series of talks throughout the day related to this subject including by myself, exhibition stands and if it's clear, a chance to look through telescopes at the night sky that evening. More details on the Newbury Astronomy website www.newburyastro.org.uk





Tony Hersh (the organiser of the Wine tasting Evening) and Sutton Hall Committee would like to thank everybody for making our Wine Tasting event a fantastic evening.

Nobody walked home in a straight line, but walked with merriment in ones hearts and love in the air. All money raised will be used towards the upkeep of the village hall and St John's church clock.



Village News



ENGLEFIELD
HOUSE OPEN
GARDEN

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY 26TH MAY 2025

raising funds for

**HOME
START**
West Berkshire



Join Us to
**Celebrate the 80th
Anniversary of VE Day!**

Monday 5th May | Stockcross Village Hall
Doors open at 1:00 PM

Step back in time and celebrate with us as we honour this historic day!

What's On:

1:00 PM - Doors Open
Vintage vehicles on display outside the Village Hall
Complimentary glass of bubbles for the official VE Day toast
Bring your own food cutlery and crockery/paper plates
The bar will be open to purchase refreshments

1:30 PM - Formal Toast
Sit down to lunch

2:00 PM - Vintage Jeeps Arrive
More photo opportunities with these iconic wartime vehicles

3:00 PM - "Songs That Won the War"
Enjoy a live performance by saxophonist Lorna Mountford
Sing along to classic wartime tunes as we close her set

All Afternoon
Explore a fascinating display of Stockcross history, courtesy of SASHA, the local historical society

Come in Historical Dress!
Why not enter the spirit of the day and wear your best 1940s attire?

Get Your Tickets Today & Support Our Village!
WWW.JUMBLEEE.CO.UK/STOCKCROSSVEDAY



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

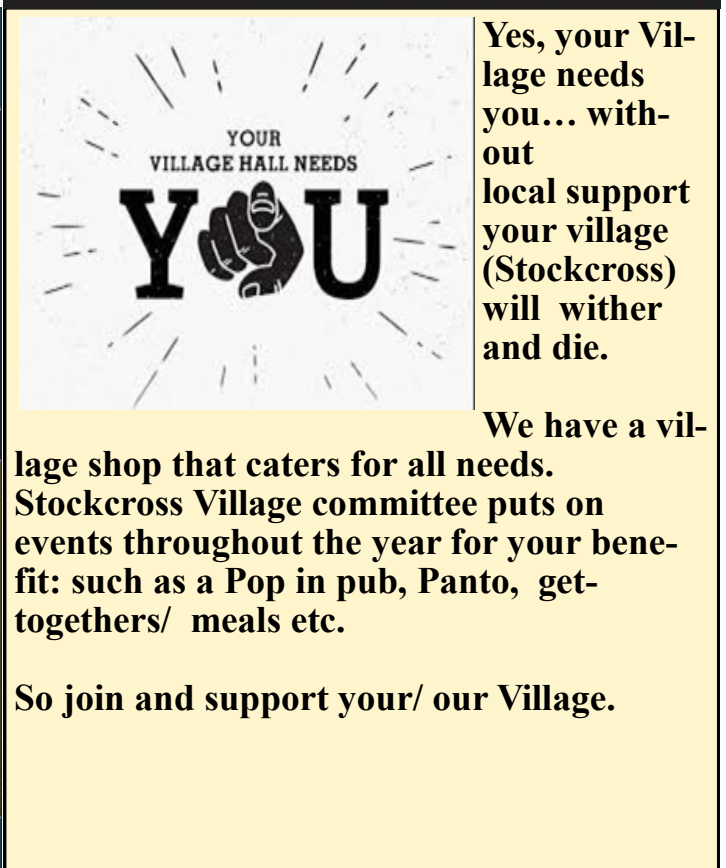
Pub Crawl
Friday 20th June
(Timings TBC)

We plan to visit a number of local pubs and end up back at the Sutton Hall
More details to be announced nearer the time

Rounders On The Rec
Sunday 13th July 2pm
North V South of the B400

A fun match for adults and children alike. Both players and spectators welcome
More details to be announced nearer the time

ALL EVENTS AT THE SUTTON HALL
DETAILS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF PRINT



**YOUR
VILLAGE HALL NEEDS
YOU**

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 and events

DEANWOOD PARK 30th Anniversary Celebration Event for The Pearl Cup Friday 13th June 2025

Founded in 1995 by Allan Snook, Deanwood now celebrates 30 years in typical style with a fun day open to all. We are inviting current members, ex members and "friends" of the club to join us for a 10 hole tournament. 9 holes on the course you all know and 1 hole in The Bunker on a virtual course.

Everyone will be mixed in groups of 4 but you will be able to state a preferred time of day and one other player you wish to be paired with.

The cost is £20.00 for Members (5 Day & Prem) & £30.00 for Guests (& Flexi Members) which includes competition entry, sandwiches & chips for lunch and free entry to the Summer Party that will start from lunchtime on the patio.

The Charity for 2025 is West Berkshire Community Hospital League of Friends and this event was the brain child of Deanwood Member Mary Murphy, who is also kindly sponsoring this event for us.

Let's all do what we can for this really worthy cause!

- ◊ Prizes for the top 3 places
- ◊ Other spot prizes
- ◊ Grand Raffle/Tombola inc £200 bottle of wine
- ◊ Putting competition & more...

SUMMER PARTY



WITH SION WHALEY & FRIENDS

Renowned local musician Sion will be performing alongside several other local musicians throughout the afternoon & evening.

From early afternoon we will have a "pay as you go" BBQ operating outside and encourage all our members & friends to join us and celebrate 30 years of memories.

The driving range will close as we get into the evening so there will be loads of room for all to enjoy the summer evening.

ENTRY FORM

Name:
Handicap:
Email:
Phone:
Preferred tee time (circle any preference - optional)
Early am / Late am / Early pm / Late pm
One preferred playing partner (optional)
Name:
Are you likely to attend the Summer Party?
Yes/No

OPEN MORNINGS 2025/6

STOCKCROSS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

9.15am Welcome and presentation from our Executive Headteacher followed by a tour of the school with our children.

Wed 9/7/25
Wed 24/9/25
Mon 13/10/25
Wed 19/11/25
Thurs 11/12/25
Tues 13/1/26

**BOOK NOW VIA THE
OFFICE OR ONLINE.**
Bespoke times also available to suit you

office@stockcross.w-berks.sch.uk
Stockcrossprimaryschool.org



The latest on the shop....

We've instructed a local architect to prepare some sketches of both the interior and exterior layout of the shop with the aim to open up the floor space and to create off street parking for customers. We need to have a measured survey and topographical survey first which is due to be undertaken imminently.

Kind Regards,

James (Sutton Hall Estate)

UPCOMING EVENTS

AGM – October: Wednesday 8 October.

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

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

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	Large	Both
	Hall	Hall	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

Road Chaos for the Village of Stockcross

From Monday 28 April, a section of Bath Road - from the A34 southbound roundabout to the east of Speen Lane - will be closed for approximately six weeks (until Sunday 8 June) while essential mains services are installed for the new Lapwing Green development that [David Wilson Homes](#) are managing.