

No. 11
18 February 2025

THE Grapevine

SUPPLEMENT

Inside this special edition of the Grapevine (Supplement) we've got news about the Post office/ shop, plus Cheese and Wine Evening and other goodies... all waiting for you to eyeball and if it tickles your fancy, participate... Join our village get together and meet your neighbours and enjoy their company.

As a member of Sutton Hall committee (along with others)—including editing this wonderful magazine—we are here to make your village life that bit more special and enjoyable.



Stockcross Post Office



THE SHOP: A Priority for the Sutton Estate

Around 70 people who attended an open discussion on 12 February in the Sutton Hall were relieved and encouraged to hear James Ingestre, local manager of Sutton Estates, state that the Estate's first priority is reinstating and improving the shop, both with respect to the layout and the offering.

James presented three op-

tions for the Estate:

1. Find a tenant for the shop, definitely with previous experience.
2. Offer it as a community-run operation – James quoted examples where this has been a great success, with the community appointing a manager, and others which had been a total nightmare. A show of hands suggested there would be some difficulty finding sufficient volunteers to help run the shop, cp our experience in running the Sutton Hall!

3.

Change the use and build a bungalow – James said this was definitely not a preferred option and it is certainly not that of the attendees.

Work has already begun on clearing vegetation, to make the site more attractive.

Topics covered included:

- The Estate removing walls at the rear of the shop to give it greater depth and installing proper, attractive shelving.
- The Estate moving the house kitchen from its current location at the rear of the shop into the main body of the house to facilitate separating the house from the shop.
- James reported that in spite of the very low rent on the house (£700) many of the prospective shop tenants (none of whom were otherwise suitable – no reasons given, nor asked for at the meeting) were not attracted to renting the house as they already had their own properties.
- James said permission would be sought for parking down the left side of the shop. There is already a driveway for parking several cars.
- Making the shop attractive not just to give residents an alternative to going down to the local corner stores or supermarkets but also to attract passing trade as well as residents of Newbury to use it, as many did when we had the post office.
- Ideas from the floor included offering newspapers, a delicatessen, Sutton Estate

produce (James concurred), coffee shop, small meeting facility, a bar of some sort, on-line delivery hub, get the post office back(!)

- James would welcome a tenant applying for a licenced premises for evening opening.
- Although a very long shot, James said it would still be worth seeing whether / how they might be able to get the PO reinstated.

James acknowledged the huge support for the shop and admitted he was surprised by the large attendance.

In conclusion:

1. The estate's priority is to reestablish the shop
2. The estate remains open to suggestions and ideas
3. The estate will advertise for a new tenant when they are further along with proposals before they can go out to the market.
4. James and his team will prepare a plan to present to the Sutton board whose approval for the considerable financial investment will be required. James hopes to share the plans with residents either via email/link followed up by another meeting in the Sutton Hall.

James thinks it will be at least six months before the shop could reopen.

The evening ended with an impromptu round of applause for James.



Stockcross Cheese and Wine Tasting



The next wine tasting will be on Friday 14th March starting at 8pm in Stockcross Village Hall. On that occasion we will be sampling 5 different red wines, or 5 different white wines if you prefer, all from the Spanish and Portugal regions (150ml of each wine). In

addition there will be tasting notes, lots of cheese, biscuits, crisps, chocolate and other nibbles as usual.

Tickets can be purchased on jumblebee using the following address

[https://
www.jumblebee.co.uk/wine2025](https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/wine2025)



Tickets are limited and are only available in advance, not on the door. Any profit made by this event will be used to help maintain Stockcross Village Hall and Stockcross Church clock.

I do hope you and your friends and family will be able to join me and enjoy the event !

With very best wishes

Tony Hersh

Questions or suggestions to
tonyhersh@hotmail.com



Pictures from the last wine tasting evening we had at the village hall.





Heartfelt Harmony

**New choir starting at the Sutton Hall, Stockcross on
Wednesday evenings 7.30pm until 9pm.**

**Weekly from 26th February to 2nd April
2025 we meet in term times.**

Songs will be taught by ear so no need to read music. There will be simple songs in 3 or 4 part harmony and rounds, often with a nature theme which can be learnt in one session and longer songs to build up over a few weeks with words provided. We will sing songs to ground, uplift, inspire and connect us from the Natural Voice network repertoire and from sources near and far, all in wonderful a capella harmony. First session free for anyone new to this style of singing.

Contact Tessa Hall
Singingtheworld@gmail.com
07909775661





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

Upcoming meetings 2025:

Wednesday 12th February - 2pm
Hungerford in the 1950's and 1960's
by Dr. Hugh Pihlens

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Wednesday 12th March - 2pm
Waterloo - A Near RunThing
by Sue Ellis

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All Welcome: Members: free Guest: £5.00

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At our recent AGM we decided to keep the annual subscription the same as previous years.
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 or our Facebook page:
Stockcross and Surroundings History Association.

Angela Tyler

STOCKCROSS TWO O'CLOCK CROWD events at The Sutton Hall

Stockcross Two O'clock Crowd - providing a meeting place at The Sutton Hall.

STOCC continues to meet at The Sutton Hall on the last Wednesday of each month from 2 - 4pm. For only £3 per person per session you can enjoy a talk by a professional speaker on a wide variety of popular topics and we also have 'Catch-up with Cake' social afternoons once in a while so we can simply enjoy each other's company. Cost of refreshments are included in the price which is great value.

Who is STOCC for? We are not a club with membership fees, people come from Stockcross and neighbouring villages as well as Newbury when it's suits them. We are not especially a retirement group - we are not 'ageist' - and our events are suitable for men as well as women.

If you haven't already been along, how about giving it a try without commitment.

Jane Batt 01488 608762 for more details

COMING UP

January 31st An illustrated talk by Jenny Mallin on part of her family's history in India.

February 26th A talk by Angela Tyler on The First Richard Sutton of Benham Valence.

March 26th A talk: Thirty Years in the Hampshire Constabulary (part 3) by Jackie Dimmock

April 30th 'Catch-up with Cake'

Sing With Kennet Opera

New Members Welcome!

Do you love to sing? Are you looking to let your voice out and not just in the shower? If you're looking for a fun, friendly group that brings opera to life on stage, join Kennet Opera in Newbury!

We are a welcoming amateur opera company, meeting every Wednesday to rehearse, connect, and prepare for exciting performances. We stage a full opera production each year, complete with costumes, staging, and an enthusiastic audience, along with concerts throughout the year. Whether you've sung before or are keen to gain more experience, we'd love to have you join us!

Why Join?

- **Welcoming & Fun Environment:** All newcomers are welcome
- **Exciting Performances:** Sing on stage in full costume in our annual production and concerts.
- **Accessible:** Reading music is a plus, but not essential – we're here to support you!
- **Weekly Rehearsals:** Meet every Wednesday at 7:30pm until around 10:00pm to rehearse, laugh, and make music together.

Curious? Come along to a rehearsal or get in touch at kennetopera@gmail.com. We'd love to meet you and share the joy of singing!

We rehearse at:

Majendie Hall
St Mary's Church
Speen
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 1SA

(The hall is WITHIN the church building.)





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 (2nd 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

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.