

# THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER



## Pop Inn Pub grand opening.

In the life of Stockcross Village, we have had many pubs over the years (The Lord Lyon, Rising Sun, and the Cricketers), but one by one, they closed. The Rising Sun was the last to go (the building is still standing, but in disrepair). The Lord Lyon is now flats, while the Cricketers' land was turned into residential housing back in 1987. So...

...The Sutton Hall committee got together and created a Pop Inn Pub at Stockcross Village Hall for the residents of Stockcross, with many visitors from further afield. It was such a runaway success that the committee applied for grants to renovate the small hall (with new chairs, lights, signs, pictures, etc., creating a fabulous decor). Now, the small Village hall has been turned into a magnificent reproduction of a jolly, joyous pub.

On Friday, the 17<sup>th</sup> April, we had a grand opening to show off what we – the committee – had accomplished; the place was heaving with happy villagers and friends. The staff – all voluntary helpers from the Village – were inundated with orders all throughout the evening. It was a huge success. People toasted a new dawn in the life of Stockcross Village. Everybody left, a bit tipsy, but happy and content.

Joining us at the Pop Inn pub on that night were guest stars Lee Dillon MP (see picture above)

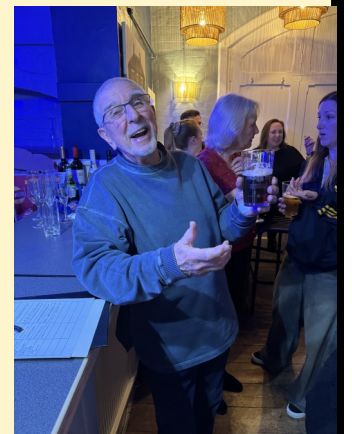
Along with the previous Pop Inn pubs, it was so successful that it will now become a regular feature in the Great Village of Stockcross.

To avoid missing future events, please check the Grapevine (see inside this magazine for new dates) and the Stockcross Facebook page.

Cheers!!!!

Editor, Glenn

**See page 4, 5 & 6 for more pictures  
and a quote from MP Lee Dillon.**



## The Editor

Any contributions for the **August edition 2026** for the Grapevine must reach me no later than **Thursday the 16th July 2026 and before 3.30 pm.**

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](mailto:stockcrossgrapevine@gmail.com)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



**S**pring is springing a bit now – and the longer hours of daylight -whether sunny or not- are much heartening. The plants and trees are getting dressed in buds, flowers and leaves and my garden

tools and clothes are satisfyingly dirty!!

By the time you read the first opening of the Pop Inn in its smartly reimaged form in the small hall will have been enjoyed by many of you. The idea was to improve the aesthetics of the small hall overall while being able to add the transformative pub look easily for Village Pop Inn occasions. A very diligent project team has worked hard over the last 6 months to make it all happen. But the idea

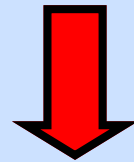
and the real champion for this project is Tony Hersh. Roughly 2 years ago he championed this idea, engaged the help of a designer to investigate what was “possible” and what it might cost. He and our treasurer sought and with time received the needed grant funding from several organisations including 3 that are local -Sutton Estate (SRSL), Speen Parish Council and a private local couple.


Wholehearted thanks go to Tony, Carol, Jane, Ellie, Peter and Janette for their ideas, time and work transforming the small hall. I think they have created a unique local gathering place/pub/club in Stockcross. Somewhere people can meet, enjoy a drink, chat with friends and neighbours - old and new. A cool place in Stockcross. The team’s work gives Stockcross the opportunity to “*create more community in the community!*”

Don’t forget the Annual Stockcross Pub Crawl in June and the Stockcross North/South Rounders match in July!! Have a great Spring!!

Liz

## Defibrillator change of position at the Village Hall.





## Fairy Tales, Fake Wigs & Full Village Fun, all pantomimes start with ‘Once upon a volunteer’...

Stockcross, it will soon be that magical time of year when laughter, boos, cheers and a bit of harmless silliness fill our village hall, but only if you help make it happen! After a fallow year, planning

is underway for this year’s Stockcross Village Pantomime, and we’re calling on villagers of all ages to step forward and be part of something truly special. Without community support, we cannot make this happen. Whether you’ve always dreamed of treading the boards or prefer working your magic behind the scenes, there’s a place for everyone.

**We’re looking for help across many areas front and back stage.** Firstly, actors (no experience required). If you’ve never acted before, don’t worry, pantomime is all about fun, teamwork and having a go! If you can shout “Oh no it isn’t!”, or pull a silly face, you’re already qualified. Heroes, villains, chorus members and possibly a suspiciously glamorous Dame are all waiting to be cast...

But the magic doesn’t stop on stage. We also need wonderful people to help behind the scenes: building and painting sets, designing and making costumes, sorting props, helping with lighting and sound, or keeping everything running smoothly backstage. Without sets and costumes, we’d just be shouting in the dark. So if you’re practical, creative, organised, or just enthusiastic, your skills will be hugely valued.

The Stockcross Panto is more than a show, it’s a village tradition that brings generations together, raises smiles, and creates memories that last long after the curtain comes down. **Quite simply, the panto cannot happen without village support.**

So if you have a little time this autumn, or just curiosity to try something new, please get in touch. You’ll meet great people, and be part of a fantastic community event.

Please make your interest known by emailing Floss Fearon at [floss.fearon@gmail.com](mailto:floss.fearon@gmail.com). Even if you’re unsure how you’d like to help, we’d love to hear from you.



**MP Lee Dillion chatting to bar staff**

A quote from our local MP, Lee Dillion. **“I think it is amazing. The place is absolutely jam packed, and when you’ve lost the Lord Lyon and other pubs, seeing it so packed, with so much energy, shows how important it is for small villages to have a space where people can come together. Pubs are the heart and soul of a village. The turnout tonight – over sixty people turned up – is amazing. And of course, all the staff who volunteered are brilliant... It has to be in perpetuity, not just the opening night. Well done, Stockcross.”**









**Open Farm Sunday**

Visit a farm & discover the world of farming!

**7th June 2026**

**The Benham Estate**  
**RG20 8LR**  
**10am - 3pm**

Please visit [www.trybooking.com/uk/GFAK](http://www.trybooking.com/uk/GFAK) for more information and to book your free entry ticket, or scan the QR Code



- Tractor and trailer rides
- Working machinery displays
- Local food, drink and countryside stalls
- Meet cattle, sheep, chickens, horses and more...
- Home-grown eggs, beef and lamb available from our farm shop
- Self-guided walks along the beautiful River Kennet



[www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org)  
 @Openfarmsunday  
 LEAFopenfarmsunday  
 openfarmsunday

Open Farm Sunday is managed by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming). Charity no. 1045781




**‘Ringing in the Changes’ at Stockcross CE Primary School**

As local residents and our own School community will probably have seen this month, we have required some essential roofing works to be completed to ensure we stay dry on the inside during more seasonal weather!

As part of this project, our clock tower has needed to have fairly substantial repairs, requiring the clock and bell to be removed while the tower is rebuilt. The clock has not worked for some time now, and the bell has been silent, but we are hoping that as part of the project we will be able to possibly have a fully working clock tower once again (some fantastic restoration work is already going on with both the clock face and the bell).

We couldn’t believe it, when the wonderful bell was fully inspected, to discover that it actually originates from 1795 which has led us to wonder ‘where was the bell, before it came to us?’

So, we are appealing for more information from anyone locally who might have some more history that they can shed so that we can piece together the history of our fabulous bell.

If anyone does have any information could they please email Sarah Begley on [sfinance@stockcross.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:sfinance@stockcross.w-berks.sch.uk), or pop into the school office if you would rather chat to us in person.

Many thanks,  
The team at Stockcross CE Primary School



**Farm to fork just became easier with running an allotment...**

**We have a number of allotments available for use in Stockcross.**

Please contact the Estate office for more details 01635 40036 or email [benham@srsi.co.uk](mailto:benham@srsi.co.uk)

**Three forthcoming events.**

The first is entitled Saving Our Churches- Repair , Maintenance, Adaption. This is on 15<sup>th</sup> June in St Lawrence’s church Hungerford at 7pm. This event is designed to provide guidance to everyone who wants to ensure that our churches continue to remain in use and contribute meaningfully to the community in which they are situated.

The second event is on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. It coincides with the usual opening of Stockcross House Gardens . There will be an art exhibition in Stockcross church and guided tours of the many interesting artifacts in the church.

The third event is a concert in Stockcross church on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, by Cholsey and Wallingford Concert Band. It will be a fun evening with a diverse selection of music from all eras. There will be the usual cash bar and raffle prizes. This is sure to be a very popular event. Tickets will be available soon so please watch out for more details.

# Village News

How quickly time flies and we will soon be halfway through 2026. Taking a look at the previous issue of Grapevine I thought it worth offering a couple of updates. The first rehearsal of Apollo was on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2001 and there was an accompanying photo from 2003. So 2026 is our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and it will be a pretty busy year. The “old” photo of the band was from 2003 and you could see that compared to today there is a lot less grey hair and better hairlines with some of the band members.



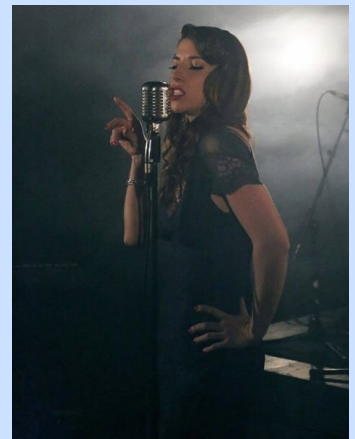
We had a small celebration at a local hostelry to mark the occasion.

PHOTO: A Celebration on Apollo’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This year we started with a couple of shows in the Sutton Hall including one with Amy Riannon Worth. Although Amy is on the professional circuit it was a pleasure to find that she is a very pleasant and friendly person as well as a talented singer and actress. The show was highly successful and earned an outstanding review in the Newbury Weekly News.

Amy Riannon Worth

We have several shows planned later this year at the Sutton Hall starting on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May with the popular Kitty Mazinsky (please check the website for other dates at [apollobigband.co.uk/](http://apollobigband.co.uk/)) plus we have numerous other events and private bookings. In addition to Stockcross Apollo will be appearing at public events in the Bingham Hall, Cirencester (Lindy Hop) and dance at the Guildhall in Winchester. We are also putting on a show at Milestones living history museum, in Basingstoke on 27 June. Milestones is well worth a visit even if you don’t come to see Apollo.



We are excited for our annual highlight at Arlington Arts Theatre near Newbury on Sunday, 18 October, featuring two singers from London’s West End. So, keep an eye on our website for details.

During recent months we were sad to say goodbye to Diane Prince who played in the trombone section and was an occasional singer with Apollo. She has so many commitments that she had to leave us. Fortunately, we found a talented replacement trombonist in Nigel Howard and speaking of talent, I should mention Jed Roylance who not only plays trombone for Apollo but also writes and publishes big band arrangements. So along with pianist Cliff Rowley we have 2 arrangers in the band.

George Wicks



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We've got a great line-up of events planned this year — make sure you save the dates.

The Pop Inn runs on community spirit, so if you'd like to help out at any event, we'd be delighted to have you involved. Please speak to one of the committee.

FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY - POP INN

FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - PUB WALK, DETAILS TO FOLLOW

FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY - ROUNDERS MATCH

FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY - POP INN

FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER - POP INN

FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER - POP INN

FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOV - POP INN

MORE DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED NEARER THE TIME

## KENNET OPERA

About a year ago St John's church in Stockcross hosted a wonderful evening of opera favourites by our local company Kennet Opera. Kennet are back this Summer at three nearby venues and hope to welcome you again.

The venues are St Martin's church East Woodhay, 7pm 12 June; Shaw House, 6pm 13 June; and Brimpton village hall, 2.30 14th June

Choruses, solos, and ensembles combine to create an afternoon or evening that is entertaining and moving. It's perfect for dedicated opera lovers and curious first-timers alike.

Book tickets by <http://kennetopera.co.uk/next.html>, or pay at the door.

### Join us for a monthly catch-up in the afternoon

We've enjoyed the first few sessions combining two previous groups - S&SHA history group and STOCC and it's proving easier to organise which can only be a good thing for the village.

So do come and meet your friends and make new ones on the second Wednesday of each month from 2-4pm. Cost is only £3 and includes refreshments.

### What's happening?

We have sociable Catch-up with Cake sessions and a few S&SHA talks with local interest topics. In March Keith Abbott updated us on the Roman findings at the dig in Wickham and Angela Tyler's 'Stories Behind the Photo' in April was very entertaining.

### Coming up

May 13th Catch-up with Cake and we will have a plant and seedlings swap so please bring some along if you have any.

June 8th Speaker to be confirmed

July 8th Pot Luck Lunch. Bring a dish to share.

August no meeting as hall will be closed.

Our events are posted on the notice board outside the shop and also on the Stockcross Facebook page.

# COMING EVENTS

## Regular activities at Sutton Hall, Stockcross |

### Daily

Snooker & Billiards – [stockcrosssnookerclub@gmail.com](mailto:stockcrosssnookerclub@gmail.com)

### Weekly

Monday Evening	Dance	Cheek2cheekdance@hotmail.co.uk
Tuesday Evening	Hatha Yoga flow 6.45-8.00	Beth Trotter 07790 015762 <a href="http://www.beyoga.co.uk">www.beyoga.co.uk</a>
Tuesday Afternoon	TOFFS bridge 13.15	<a href="mailto:Annagent13@gmail.com">Annagent13@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:arranmiles@googlemail.com">arranmiles@googlemail.com</a>
Friday Morning	Baby Ballerina	<a href="http://www.babyballerinas-newbury.co.uk">www.babyballerinas-newbury.co.uk</a> Sharon Moore 07770825191
Friday Afternoon	TOFFS bridge 13.15	<a href="mailto:Annagent13@gmail.com">Annagent13@gmail.com</a>
Saturday morning	Baby Ballerina	As above

### Monthly

2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:ange.sunflower@gmail.com)



## Church Services

10th May - 11.00am - Parish Communion

24th May - 11.00am - Morning Service

31st May - 9.30am - United Benefice Service at All Saints', West Ilsley for Trinity Sunday

14th June - 11.00am - Parish Communion

28th June - 11.00am - Morning Service

12th July - 11.00am - Parish Communion

26th July - 11.00am - Morning Service



The Benham Estate has been considering plans to renovate the village shop, and part of this process involves submitting planning permission for a car park in the shop garden. Our hope is that a car park will reduce cars being parked on the road and make the shop more user friendly. As part of the planning application, we are required to undertake a Biodiversity assessment, the first survey has been completed but a second survey is required in the coming weeks, we need to allow the grass to be slightly longer for this assessment so the grass will not be cut again until mid-May. The Estate are also in conversations with a potential occupier for the shop and will keep the Stockcross residents updated as and when we have more information.

**Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour)**  
**From 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.suttonhallstockcross.org)

or email

[suttonhall642@btinternet.com](mailto:suttonhall642@btinternet.com)