

FROM THE SUTTON HALL
STOCKCROSS
August 2026 No: 138

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER

Curious about the Stockcross Panto?



Join us for a Panto Taster Session and the opportunity to audition for this year's Panto at 10am on Sat 5th Sept, in the Sutton Hall, Stockcross.
(Refreshments will be provided)

We'll share our plans for this year and run a few fun games and exercises to get you in the mood.

Come and meet the team in a relaxed, informal environment, find out about the many ways you can get involved!

All welcome - panto regulars, new-comers and friends.

Want to join in but can't make this date?

Get in touch:

floss.fearon@googlemail.com

lucyandharrydarlington2020@gmail.com,

gracemingo@icloud.com

The Editor

Any contributions for the **November edition 2026** for the Grapevine must reach me no later than **Thursday the 15th October 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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Wow – has Summer shown up this year!!

Lots of Sun, plenty of heat, almost no rain. **So Hot** that we “called time” on the Pub Crawl in late June and postponed the July rounders

match to the September 13th alternate date. Now that I have written to you about the summer heat wave, it will probably rain most of August! My apologies, but the trees, lawn and flowers would love that! (Sorry)

There have been two well-attended Pop Inns since my last grapevine missive. I was lucky enough to go to the June Pop Inn which coincided with one of the loveliest, warm and

pleasant evenings of June. That night the Pop Inn became “The Pop Inn or Out” - your choice! The outdoor seating came into full use and lots of people (some with their dogs) enjoyed a friendly “mix and mingle” out front.

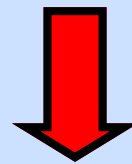
Pop Inns are scheduled through the rest of 2026 for the last Friday of the month - apart from December when the Panto returns! There will be more in this Grapevine on how to get involved the Stockcross Panto – whether it be to act, to help, to paint scenery, to find or make props, etc. It's a lot of fun to be part of Panto - whether helping, acting or making scenery and props.

And a date has been set for the Village Hall's Annual General Meeting – November 20, 2026. This is a chance to review Sutton Hall's 2025/2026 year and to meet informally with the committee and with neighbours to chat and share a drink.

I wish everyone an excellent Summer!!

Liz

Defibrillator change of position at the Village Hall.



S&SHA and Catch-up events this Autumn

The newly combined social and S&SHA history group seems to be working nicely. Make a note of the dates and come along and meet old friends and new at The Sutton Hall. Cost £3 pp includes refreshments.

9 September 2pm

'The Magnificent Lady Craven' - a talk about the scandalous Georgian socialite, traveller and owner of our local estate Benham Park.

By Dr Helen Lockhart

14 October 2pm

As requested, Angela Tyler will be repeating her excellent talk: 'The First Sir Richard Sutton'. Come and hear about the short and brave life of this admirable young man.

11 November from 2 - 3pm in the Church then refreshments in the Sutton Hall afterwards.

Primrose Wilson will give us a guided tour of St John's Church detailing the beautiful 20th century Gothic Revival designs of Sir John Ninian Comper.

9 December at 2pm

Christmas Tea.

More details of each event will be posted nearer the time. See the notice board outside the shop, the village Facebook page or call Jane on 07771511317

THE APOLLO BIG BAND



The band held a small celebration after rehearsal on January 15th to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its very first rehearsal on 18th Jan 2001. We decided that 2026 would be our celebratory year and so we invited past members of the band to an evening of memories on 17th July where we played many of the tunes that we had grown to love in our early days and many of which we still use. Adam Winslet joined us. Adam sang with us when we were setting up Apollo and it was great to invite him back. We recall past members like Andy Lowe who was our first long term musical director (MD) who joined us in late

2001. He had a great deal of experience and was an inveterate showman. He soon found a few gigs for the new band and persuaded us to hire Newbury Corn Exchange the following year; a daunting task for a new band. It was a great success thanks to his enthusiasm, and we had both singers, including Adam, and several dancers. This set the stage in a manner of speaking because eventually we hired the Corn Exchange for 20 annual concerts.

Our next MD was Mike Lock, an ex-military musician, superb trumpet player, storyteller and comedian. Mike not only raised Apollo's standards but also introduced Baz King to the band. Baz was an experienced and highly respected trumpet player, rightly proud of having played the bugle at Winston Churchill's funeral at St Paul's Cathedral in 1965, which was broadcast around the world. Stationed high in the cathedral dome, Baz played the Last Post as part of the ceremony. He retired from Apollo aged 92 and became a Chelsea Pensioner. His honours continued: for two years, he carried the Chelsea Pensioners' wreath during the Remembrance Day march past the Cenotaph and was seen on television around the world. Sadly, Baz passed away earlier this year at the grand age of 94.



Looking ahead our annual big show this year will be at the Arlington Arts Theatre on Sunday 18th October. We will have a London West End Singer with us. Emily Apps is a singer, Musical Theatre Actress and Cabaret Artist. We are already preparing for this great evening of entertainment and we hope to see you there.

Finally, the band would like to thank Sutton Hall for its support over 25 years. Yes, another anniversary! We started rehearsal in the Sutton Hall in 2001. You've done us proud.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Friday 28th August
Friday 25th September
Friday 30th October
Friday 27th November



The bar opens at 6pm.

**THE RESCHEDULED ROUND-
ERS MATCH – NORTH V
SOUTH – IS SUNDAY 13TH SEP-
TEMBER, 2PM**



COMMUNITY SPIRIT!!



The Pop Inn runs on community spirit, and we do need help to keep it running. If you'd like to help out at any event, even for a couple of hours, we'd be delighted to have you involved. Please speak to one of the committee for more details.

St John's Church

I have been in contact with the diocese who are wondering if it's viable to keep Stockcross church open in view of the small number of attendees and lack of support. Please do note the dates of services listed in this Grapevine and come along if you are free. If you have an hour or two each month to volunteer to help clean and maintain the church that would help us enormously too and feel free to drop me an email. There are some fundraising events being planned for the church in the coming months and please do support those too. Let's use rather than lose this lovely village asset !

Tony Hersh

tonyhersh@hotmail.com



SPEEDING THROUGH STOCKCROSS

For many years I've been pursuing the Highways Agency regarding traffic slowing measures through Stockcross and I would welcome thoughts from residents. The Highways Agency agreed to painting of lines on the B4000 through Stockcross and to repaint the white gates at each end of the village next year because there is evidence these slow drivers. Unfortunately we can't have physical barriers to reduce speeding, like traffic lights, humps or chicanes without proper street lighting along the B4000 which is prohibitively expensive. My feeling is to take up their suggestion to replace the existing speed indicator signs with the new speed indicator signs that show the speed and a happy or angry face. It's not definite that this request will be funded but I attended a Parish Council meeting in June to discuss it and they are happy to support our request. I'm also happy to take up the suggestion of trying to get permanent speed cameras for both ends of the village if people are supportive of this idea.

I would welcome your thoughts

Tony Hersh

tonyhersh@hotmail.com

Here is the latest correspondence from the Highways Agency :

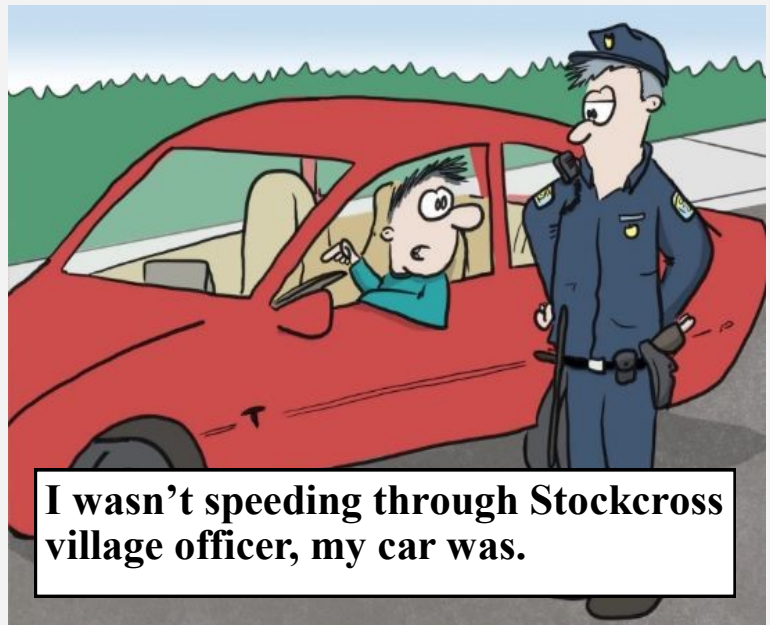
Hi Tony,

File Ref: TM44

Targeted streetlights (required to illuminate traffic lights, humps or chicanes) – I've discussed this with the Principal Engineer in our Team. We would not consider any form of bespoke, low level street lighting systems as not only would it cost more to design and manufacture, but also to maintain as and when parts need replacing. It is also possible that lower/shorter columns would be vulnerable to vandalism. Any street lighting system would therefore need to be a minimum of 3 full size columns, at least 183m apart so in reality probably illuminate much more than just the traffic calming feature.

Speed enforcement cameras – Can only be installed by the Police so it would be for them to decide if this location is suitable for permanent or temporary speed enforcement cameras.

Speed Indication Device – There are already 2 x school flashing signs, and 2 x vehicle activated (30mph SLOW DOWN) signs in Stockcross (granted, few currently work!). Chances are, drivers will or have already become complacent to the 30mph SLOW DOWN signs. Seeing as they need replacing/repairing anyway, now could be the time to switch them for a new Speed Indication Device showing the speed and a happy or angry emoji. This isn't something we would do or consider without the Parish Councils agreement (and possibly even funding) so they would need to be on board.



Church Services

NEWS FROM STOCKCROSS CHURCH
JULY 2026 PLEASE PUT THE FOLLOWING DATES IN YOUR DIARIES: 23RD AUGUST: On 23rd August there is a Morning Prayer service in the church at 11am. Everyone is welcome! Afterwards there will be an opportunity to view an exhibition by Louise Gunnerson in the church, guided tours of the church, bric a brac and 2nd hand book stalls. There will also be a display of classic cars in the church grounds. Visitors will have an opportunity to see what has been undertaken to enhance our village church in the past few years and plans for the next stages of necessary work. Stockcross House gardens are open to the public on the same day, 23rd August, so you will be able to enjoy a delightful day out 12th SEPTEMBER: Stockcross church will be open from 11am to 4pm to facilitate the annual Ride and Stride programme. Ride and Stride is an annual nationwide sponsored event where participants walk, cycle or ride between historic churches to raise funds for their preservation. There will be refreshments and guided tours of Stockcross church. 3rd OCTOBER: A fund raising concert in the church at 7pm by Cholsey and Wallingford band, featuring music from films and musicals. The band are very generously not making a charge for the concert so all proceeds will go towards much needed conservation work to the church. Tickets cost £10 per person with no charge for those under 16. There will be exciting raffle prizes and a bar. Watch out for explanatory publicity posters like this one. Tickets will be available on line and at the door.

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 13.15	Annagent13@gmail.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 13.15	Annagent13@gmail.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

11th NOVEMBER: Stockcross church will be promoting an event in association with Stockcross and Area History Association, in the Sutton Hall Watch out for detailed information. Hugo Willis, who has recently moved to Stockcross village, will be giving an illustrated talk on his experiences of serving in the British Army during the war in Afghanistan. As we all know, this war resulted in grievous loss of life. Hugo's talk will provide us with an opportunity to remember all those who gave up their lives for this country in so many conflicts.

Looking for a space to run a class or group?

We've got regular availability at the Sutton Hall on:

Tuesday mornings - 9am to 12pm

Friday mornings - 9am to 1pm

The venue is perfect for fitness classes, baby groups, clubs or community activities.

Resident of Stockcross get a preferential booking rate. If you're interested, please send an enquiry via <https://suttonhallstockcross.org/enquiries/>

Hall Hire Rates (£ per hour)
From 1st August 2026 (time booked must be sufficient to include set up cleaning afterwards)
Minimum hire 2 hours

	Small	Large	Both
	Hall	Hall	Hall
Resident	12	16.5	21
Non resident	18	24	29

Call Jay on 01488 608769 to book
or visit our website

www.suttonhallstockcross.org

or email

suttonhall642@btinternet.com