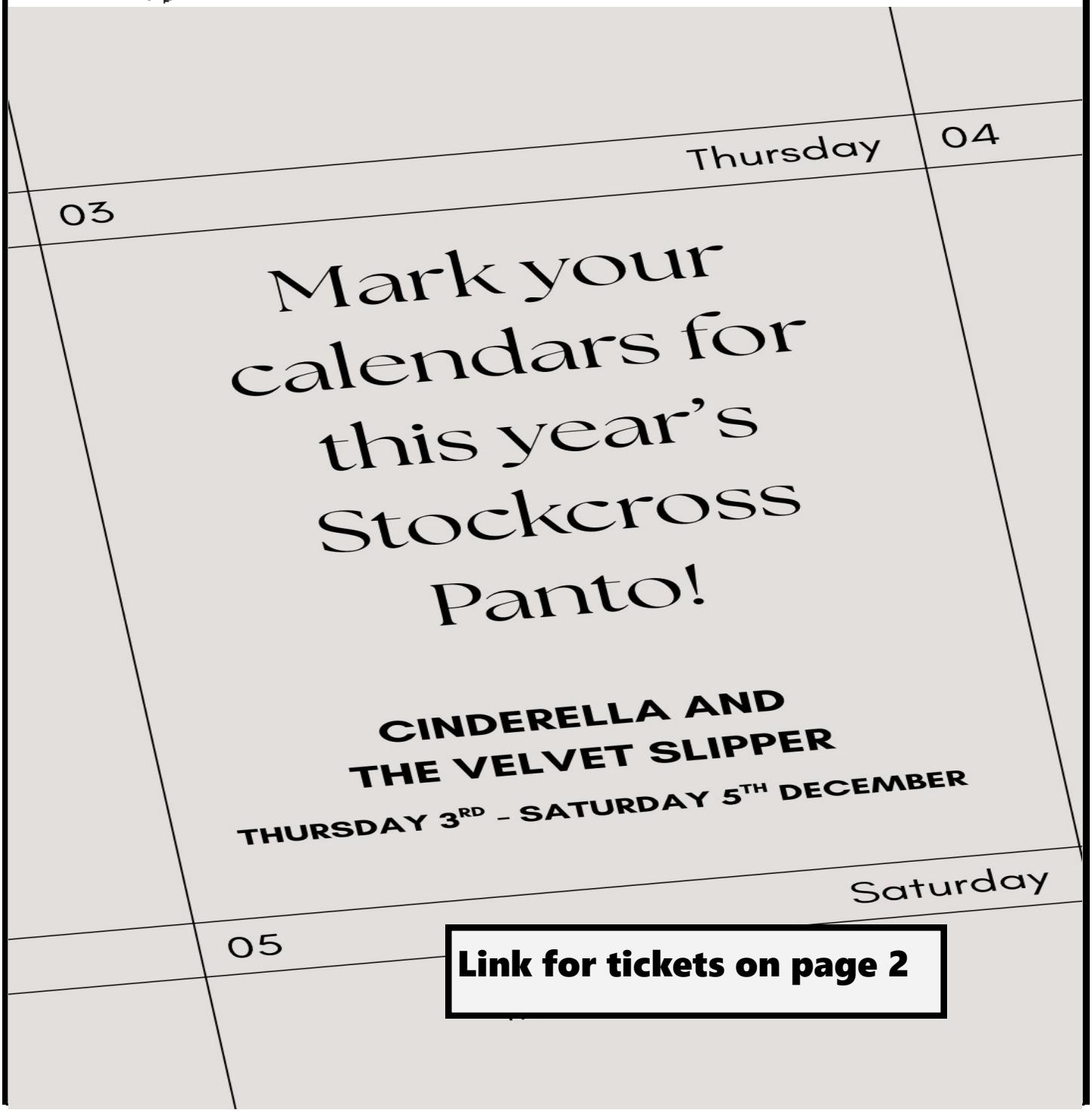
FROM THE SUTTON HALL
STOCKCROSS
November 2026 No: 139

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER



Link for tickets on page 2

STOCKCROSS PLAYERS PRESENT

Cinderella and the Velvet Slipper!

After 30 years of ruling the kingdom of Stockcross, King Charming has had enough and is off to the seaside. In his place he has appointed the self-involved Prince Charming to take his place, which would be a disaster for everyone. With the help of her witchy-godmother, Toggles, can Cinderella save the day and restore order? Join us to find out!

There are three performances (Thursday to Saturday) - please be sure to select correct ticket for the day you wish to attend.

Here is the link to purchase panto tickets.

https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/stockcrosspanto26

THE Grapevine NEWSLETTER

The Editor

Any contributions for the **February edition 2027** for the Grapevine must reach me no later than **Thursday the 14th January 2027 and before 3.30 pm**.

MERRY XMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

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 the Grapevine.

After a hot, dry Summer it is nice to live in milder times! I know that my lawn and shrubs are benefitting from the cooler and occasionally damp weather of late October. But, as much as I like October weather, I am missing the long hours of evening light. Which reminds me - please when walking, running, horse riding, cycling or checking out something amiss along the roadside remember to wear reflective and fluorescent coats, vests, etc. Fluorescence only works in dim ambient lighting conditions; not at all in full darkness. Good Hi Viz gear combines both so you get fluorescence working to make you visible at dusk, dawn and dingy weather - when vehicles may not use headlamps - and in darkness when retroreflective materials will bounce headlamp photons back to the driver of each vehicle to make you stand out. BE SAFE BE SEEN

Enough of the safety lecture. Sorry, but I couldn't help myself –but, I see so many racing cyclists madly speeding up and down the B4000, many wearing black! Madness!

I hope you all have been enjoying the monthly Pop Inns at the Hall. We have had some great weather making it possible for many to mix and mingle outdoors as well as in. We have been experimenting with having food trucks at the Pop Inns and those attending seem to have enjoyed this addition. We will try to continue this, though it may be harder to get them in the winter months as fewer work year-round.

Pop Inns are scheduled through the rest of 2026 for the last Friday of the month - apart from December. Dates for Pop Inns are also booked for all of 2027. It is only with the help of people from the Stockcross area that we can run these regular Pop Inns. If anyone reading this wants to help please give your details to anyone working at a Pop Inn or to someone in the Village Hall Committee.

Future Events:

- The Village Hall's Annual General Meeting will be held on November 20, 2026 at 8 PM. Doors open at 7:30. It is an opportunity to review Sutton Hall's 2025/2026 year and to meet informally with the committee and with neighbours to chat and share a drink.
- PANTO is back for 3 nights in early December!! There is more information on dates from the Panto team within this Grapevine. And, yes, there will be a raffle!!
- Christmas Drinks at Sutton Hall will be held on Sunday 20, 2026. Ho Ho Ho and all that!!

In fact, this is the last Grapevine of 2026. And, though it is too early for this I do wish all who are reading this and your friends and families a wonderful Christmas season and a healthy and happy 2027. Let's all of us hope and work for Peace on Earth.

Defibrillator change of position at the Village Hall.



S&SHA and Social Afternoons at the Sutton Hall

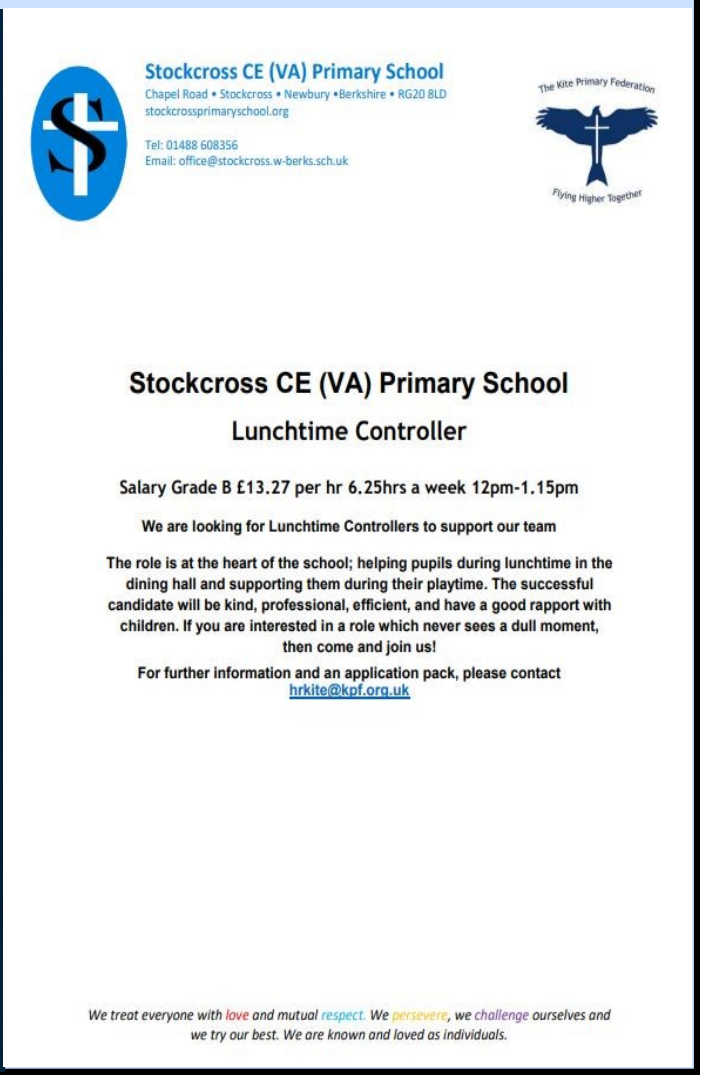
A well attended meeting in September for this local history and social group was very encouraging for the team who organise these events. We had an excellent talk about the 'outrageous' Lady Craven of Sutton Valence and Angela's talk about Sir Richard Sutton this month fitted in nicely with this particularly local topic.
Please note change of plan for the November meeting - see below
Do join us for more events - list below. All are welcome and no need to book. The cost is generally £3 cash on the day and includes refreshments. For updates see the village noticeboard outside the shop.

Wednesday 11th November THE PROPOSED MEETING AT STOCKCROSS CHURCH HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO SOMETIME NEXT YEAR. iNSTEAD, WE WILL MEET AT THE SUTTON HALL FOR A SOCIAL AFTERNOON WITH CAKE.

Wednesday 9th December there will be a special Christmas social afternoon - details nearer the time.

Wednesday 13th January: Philip Russell will give a talk about his adventures travelling back to the UK from Zambia in a converted ambulance.





APOLLO @STOCKCROSS

By the time this note appears in Grapevine the Apollo Big Band will have completed its BIG show for 2026 at the Arlington Arts theatre. Although, strictly speaking the band's Silver anniversary was in January this year but we decided to stretch the definition to cover the whole year. At Arlington Arts we were fortunate to have Emily Apps singing with us again as well as her brother Harry who has been performing in Phantom Of the Opera in London as well playing the part of Marius in Les Miserables.





It is such a great feeling to know that Apollo, based in Stockcross, is becoming recognised and able to attract first class artistes to perform with it.

The band has achieved a high standard, which we continue to build on. One motivation is to stage more shows at the village hall. Plans are already well advanced for performances on 6 November and 11 December this year, followed by five more in the first half of 2017.

We would love to welcome more villagers to our shows so please keep and eye on our website for details that's apollobigband.co.uk. The charge for tickets is always modest even though we have to hire visiting artistes as well as pay for the venue which helps support the hall. Of course, there are other necessary costs when running a band. We have recently undertaken an expensive refurbishment of our wooden music desks which are more than 20 years old effectively rebuilding and repainting them as well as adding new logos. As a consequence, members of the band rarely receive any expenses or contribution to petrol money. But that that is not important since we all love playing to a live audience.



A great Evening in Stockcross with the Apollo Big Band

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUTTON HALL
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Sutton Hall will be held at the hall on November 20th 2026 at 8.00pm Please join the committee for complimentary cheese & wine from 7.30pm

All welcome, we promise no one will be press ganged onto the committee!

(But anyone wishing to join will be most welcome)
Please come and hear about *your hall* and have your say!
M C Nevitt
Treasurer
12/9/26



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.

Also....

PANTO is back for 3 nights in early December!! There is more information on dates from the Panto team within this Grapevine. And, yes, there will be a raffle!!

Christmas Drinks at Sutton Hall will be held on Sunday 20, 2026. Merry Christmas and enjoy what your village has put together for you.

SHOP AND RISING SUN PLANNING APPLICATIONS

As many of you have no doubt seen on the Stockcross Facebook page, two planning applications have been submitted for significant sites in Stockcross, one for two detached houses on the site of The Rising Sun while the other, for the shop, for one disabled and nine standard parking spaces. They can be seen on the West Berkshire Website:

1 The Rising Sun 26/01949/FUL

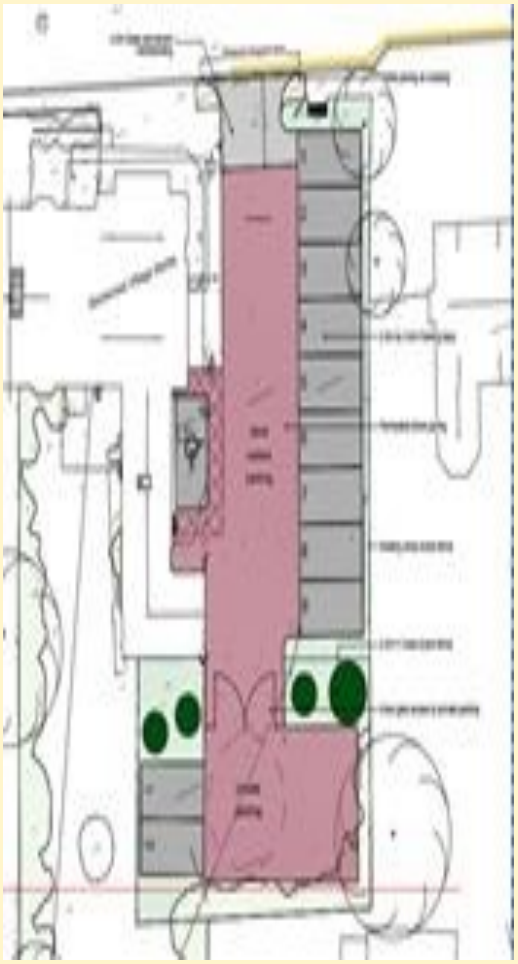
2 The Shop 26/01328/FUL

The website is painfully slow but does get you there in the end. Closing date for comment on both of them was 14th October. Neither application has appeared on the Parish Council Agenda as yet. The next PC meeting is on 11th November.

The Stockcross resident hoping to develop The Rising Sun wants to retain the character of the original building on the dwelling fronting Ermin Street; the second house is planned for the rear of the site with access onto Chapel Road. The West Berks website shows:



For the shop, it appears that Sutton Estate is hoping to obtain permission for parking on the site before proceeding with redeveloping the shop and cottage into two separate entities. The West Berks website shows:



SPEEDING THROUGH STOCKCROSS

UPDATE ON SPEEDING THROUGH STOCKCROSS

>
> I've been working trying to improve traffic slowing measures through Stockcross and have made some progress.
>
> By showing West Berkshire Council Highways Agency the speed data collected in the village, support from Stockcross School and evidence of recent accidents they have agreed to painting of special 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 which is prohibitively expensive.
>
> We have some old speed indicator signs at both ends of the village but I don't think they work anymore, they certainly don't seem very effective. I have been pushing West Berkshire Council Highways Agency to replace these old signs with new, bigger speed indicator signs that show the speed and a happy or angry face but Stockcross was a fairly low priority for them. At the same time I was discussing the situation with Speen Parish Council who recognised the urgency and have extremely generously agreed to fund the full cost of replacing these signs. So I'm delighted to announce that we will get new speed indicator signs at both ends of Stockcross in the next few months.
>
> The other strand of my work has been to contact Thames Valley Police (TVP) to see if we can make a case for them to install speed cameras along the B4000 including Stockcross, which would definitely slow traffic. To make this case I collected data from Wickham Heath and Wickham regarding speeding, accidents and other information, referenced our Primary Schools and in addition our local MP was kind enough to provide a letter of support. I combined this data with the evidence I have from Stockcross of speeding traffic and I submitted an application to TVP.
>
> Unfortunately, despite this amount of support, the Road Safety Group at TVP won't consider new speed cameras for the B4000 because of the cost involved and prioritisation versus other locations. So this is disappointing news because speed cameras would obviously be very effective at slowing traffic.
>
> If you have any questions or other suggestions please email me !
>
> Tony Hersh
> tonyhersh@hotmail.com

Speed Survey

I know Tony has written an update but I would like to add a short paragraph for the Wickham Heath residents. I sent a survey to them all and got a good response, so I'd like to give them an update. Could this go under Tony's update please??

To all Wickham Heath residents
I'd like to thank everyone in Wickham Heath who completed the speeding survey over the summer. Nine households surveyed returned forms, which is high for a survey of this kind. The detail people gave made a real difference to what we were able to submit. Your answers allowed us to put forward specific locations, dated incidents and first-hand accounts rather than general impressions. Thank you for taking the time, and for being willing to be named where you were.

Carol Standing

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 6.45-7.45pm	Beth Trotter 07790 015762 www.beyoga.co.uk
Tuesday Afternoon	TOFFS bridge 13.30	anguilla137@btinternet.com Graham Williams
Wednesday Morning	Gentle Hatha Yoga to ease & relax 9.45am-10.45am	Beth Trotter - As above
Thursday Morning	Life drawing classes	arranmiles@googlemail.com
Friday Afternoon	TOFFS bridge 13.30	anguilla137@btinternet.com Graham Williams

Monthly

2nd Tuesday of the month – hall committee meeting, small hall, 20.00

Second Wednesday afternoon of the month – SASHA & STOCC– contact Angela Tyler to confirm ange.sunflower@gmail.com

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 Hall	Large Hall	Both 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

Church Services

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

