

THE Grapevine

NEWSLETTER



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>

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 [to-nyhersh@hotmail.com](mailto:nyhersh@hotmail.com)





Village Shop : Future:

We would like to invite

anyone who is interested in the future of the Village Shop to an informal open discussion at the Sutton Hall on Wednesday, 12th February at 6pm.

The hope for the meeting is to discover people's views of the Village Shop, what the offering should be and how we can create a sustainable future for such an important community asset.

**From,
James Ingestre
| Benham Estate Manager & Director of Rural Property**

The Editor

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

Have a good 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 grapevine January 2025

Happy New Year all everyone! Hope you are well – lots of nasty colds last month.

Greetings in 2025. It has been alternately raining like crazy,

then freezing for what seems weeks! At least there is now a glimmer of light at 5PM - already! And I have seen daffs and nettles each showing some green already. Soon we will have forgotten the winter grey, the dimness of the low horizon sun and be moaning about nettles – or at least I will be!

In the last couple of months the village has enjoyed a couple of great village events.

First - the fantastic 2024 panto!! **KnightFever** – an Arthurian tale full of magical staffs and potions, mythical creatures, young love, bad jokes, spirited singing, dancing (some of which was good), outrageous costumes, unconventional wigs and beards (some of which did not fall off) and great fun for the

cast, crew and audience. All this nonsense is fun to do, provides a great opportunity for families and friends to be entertained and at the same time helps support our Village Hall. We owe our directors – Sarah Russell and Grace Mingo - huge thanks for persevering with the sometime unruly bunch of people who show up asking to be in panto. They had a vision of what they wanted from us and we tried hard to achieve it. Thanks go also to Claire Mingo for being our producer and the unseen prompt at our performances. Gill Cresswell created magical staffs and gave us the best dragon costume ever! The set painting for this panto was fit into nooks and crannies of time and space available by Sarah, Gill, Grace, Claire and John (and likely others I didn't see). Thank you all - cast, crew, props makers, sound and lighting techs, bar, ticket and raffle volunteers and our lovely audiences.

Later in December we held our annual Christmas Drinks for the village at the hall. We had a great turnout; Santa Claus made an appearance and a local children's face painting artist decorated the children (wish she did grownups too).

The hall is being well used by hirers and village groups. Some new exercise classes have recently been added and the committee is busy lining up village events to add to the diary. Also, we will be scoping out possible changes in the small hall to give it a cosier feel. Will keep you posted!!

Liz



Angela May Payne

Nee Palmer

26th February 1938 to 14th November 2024

Angela was born in Marsh Benham to Bill & Till Palmer

She became Coronation Queen at the age 15

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

**Kennet
Opera**

(The hall is WITHIN the church building.)



Kennet
Opera

Presents Gilbert and Sullivan's

Iolanthe

8th February '25 at 7:00 pm
9th February '25 at 2:30 pm
Shaw House, Newbury, RG14 2DR

Buy tickets at
Shaw House Box Office:
01635 279279
booking.westberks.gov.uk



Kennet Opera is a charity registered in England: 1110637
With generous support from Greenham Trust





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
.....

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

All Welcome: Members: free Guest: £5.00

.....
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

Upcoming events

Keep an eye out for future events; such as Panto, and Village Hall Christmas Drinks, (both in December). Then there will be VE Day Tea 10th May and in June we will be having —back by popular demand—a Pub-crawl: this should be on Friday 20th June.

For updates check out Stockcross Village's Facebook page

Knight Fever: A Round Table Riot!

The Stockcross Panto Players kicked off the festive season by giving King Arthur the full pantomime treatment at the village hall, and what a sword-swinging, laugh-inducing spectacle it was!

From the moment the curtain rose, the audience was thrust into a medieval

mash-up of magic, music, and mirth. The script was sharper than Excalibur itself, packed with puns that left us groaning and laughing in equal measure.

Our newest cast members, Alison Dewar, made a great impact as King Arthur, along with their supportive Queen Guinevere, Janette Sullivan.

This year we saw the return of Josie Appleton, as the beautiful Princess Anna, who enchanted our principal boy, Justin Thyme, played by the brilliant Grace Mingo. With the help of Jezz Dennison's Merlin and Carl

Smith's wonderous Lady of the Lake, Justin Thyme was able to save the day alongside Floss Fearon's Dame Doris the ever-downtrodden Lester the Jester, perfectly portrayed by Lucy Darlington. Together, they fought

across Liz Newell-Hart as she depicted multiple terrifying mythical creatures

Of course, no panto is complete without the villainous Black Knight, brought to life by John Mingo, and his trusty musical sidekick, Chardonay la Fay, played by Rachel Mullaly. Filled with wine puns and belting solos, these two caused havoc around Camelot.

Our wonderful chorus returned this year, with Esme Ward, Marretta Chandler and Roxy Bardyn providing wonderful dancing and cutting wit towards the rest of the cast.

Of course, the pantomime is much bigger than the cast you see on stage, from its incredible directors, and set builders, to the choreographers, lighting and sound, to the ticket checkers on the night. This production is a community effort and

truly 'takes a village' to bring it to life.

We want to thank everyone who supported the players. No pantomime would be complete without audience participation. The fourth wall was practically non-existent, with children and adults alike shouting, "It's behind you!"

We hope to see you again in 2025!



CHURCH CLOCK RESTORATION PROJECT

Stockcross Church Clock

I'm sure many Villagers have been pleased to hear the lovely bells from St John's Church sounding again each hour from 8am to 8pm every day !



The repairs to the clock cost over £2500 and this money was raised by generous donations and match funding from The Greenham Trust.

However our work isn't finished because we are now trying to raise money to pay for an annual service of the clock and keep it working for years to come.

Please consider giving a donation of any amount to this worthy cause ! We genuinely need your help to keep the clock working for years to come. To donate search online for The Good Exchange and then within that website search for the project called Stockcross's Church Clock Maintenance.



Many thanks

Tony Hersh

Questions or suggestions to

tonyhersh@hotmail.com



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





JOHN DOUGLAS FOSTER

John was born on the 27th of December 1933 at Cutting Hill, Shalbourne, the second son of George and Eunice Foster's five children - three boys & two girls. The family moved to Marsh Benham when John was seven years old.

John left Stockcross School in 1947 and went to Lambourn School for a year, this meaning he was one of the first children to remain at school until the age of 15. This is also where he met his future wife Daphne Scaplehorn. On leaving School he began work at Bradfords Farm until he was eighteen before then getting his 'call-up' papers for National Service. He did his training at Alder-

shot and was posted abroad to Benghazi for twenty-one months.

After he retired John decided to restore a tractor. He started with a Fordson, which was sold once he had got it up to a high standard. To follow this, he continued his restoration journey with a Nuffield and a Massey Furgeson 135 which he discovered in the stinging nettles on a campsite on Hayling Island. John, Daphne and Georgina would make numerous trips to see Patrick Edwards at his Clanfield farm machinery business to buy parts and paint. These two tractors were eventually sold and are now residing at Harwell.

John had lived a long and ful-filling life. He was dearly loved by his family and was greatly respected by his many neighbors, relatives and friends, particularly here in Stockcross, where he had lived for over sixty years - the first fifty of them being so happily together with Daphne. He will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

I would also like to thank all the people from the village who attended his funeral and over £ 800 pounds was raised to Newbury cancer care this was Dad's chosen charity that he liked to support he raised over £800 last year for his 90th birthday.

Thank you

Carol

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

9th February - 11.00am - Parish Communion
 23rd February - 11.00am - Parish Communion
 9th March - 11.00am - Parish Communion
 23rd March - 11.00am - Parish Communion
 13th April - 11.00am - Parish Communion
20th April - 11.00am - Family Communion for Easter Day

In addition to these Sunday service, there will be a host of services in the East Downland Benefice for Holy Week.
 Please note, no service on Sunday 27th April.

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 Hall	Large Hall	Both 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

Mobile Library visits to Stockcross

Village Hall 9.30 to 10.00 am

Feb	March	April
?	11th	?

