

Planning the
future of Broomley
and Stocksfield

Issue 73 June 2023

NE43news

Stocksfield Parish Council Chair's Annual Report May 2022 – April 2023

After being co-opted on to the Parish Council in September 2021, I was surprised and delighted to be asked by my fellow councillors to take over as Chair in May 2022, following Maggi Hunt's retirement.

I have done my best to maintain the high standards set by my predecessor, and hope that as a Council we have done much to maintain the quality of life here in Stocksfield.

The Council has continued to meet on first Tuesday evening of each month in the main hall at the Community Centre where we have maintained social distancing for members, and the public. From the April 2023 meeting we have reverted to meeting on the first Monday in the Richardson Room.

Meetings of the Advisory Groups have taken place remotely until April 2023 since when we have reverted to face-to-face meetings.

Minutes of Council Meetings, all policy documents, and a monthly financial report are all published on our website and are posted on the Council's notice boards.

Councillors Lindsey Joy and Jack Lapping both resigned from the Council mid-2022 and despite strenuous efforts we have been unable to secure replacements. Out of a potential complement of 12 members we currently have 8 active councillors.

The Council continues to implement and develop a Climate Change Action Plan, and all our activities are underpinned by this ethos.

In November 2022 we held our annual Remembrance Day Parade at the War Memorial. As always, this was a well-attended event bringing together many generations of residents. Thanks are due to Councillor Tim Hills for providing the

PA system, and to Parish Clerk Nick Spencer who managed the event. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the Lord Lieutenant's Office (Fiona Lees-Millais), the Parish Council, The County Council, various guiding and scouting organisations, and the local police. Unfortunately, the Army Battalion from Albemarle Barracks had been deployed on active service shortly before the event and could not attend this year. The Service was ably led by Reader Jane Agar in her first duty since being licenced. Closure of the A695 was well managed by staff from Northumberland County Council, and finally thanks must go to the Guides who provided tea, coffee, and biscuits in the Community Centre after the Service.

The environs of the village are wonderfully maintained by our Ground Services Contractor Martin Stewart and his team. They look after the floral displays and planters, both children's play areas, the magnificent Christmas Tree displays, and the many tasks required throughout the year in terms of maintenance.

We have a network of defibrillators under the Stewardship of the Parish Clerk, and this network covers almost every house in the village.

We have published two editions of NE43 NEWS delivered to every house in the village keeping residents up to date with happenings in their area.

We have also made grants and donations to many local organisations.

There were two Royal events which evoked extremes of joy and sadness: In June we celebrated HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee with activities throughout the village, but we were saddened by her death in September.

The day-to-day work of the Council has been managed by our Parish Clerk, Nick Spencer. I am personally grateful for the help and advice he has given me in my time on the Council and I am sure my fellow Councillors echo those thanks. Nick retired on 31 May, but with untaken leave, his last day in post was 5 May, and we send him our best wishes for a long and happy retirement. We are fortunate to have Lucy Guthrie joining us as our Parish Clerk from 24 April giving her a short handover period with Nick.

Finally, my thanks to my fellow councillors for their help and support during this past 12 months.

John Harrison, May 2023

ANNUAL AUDIT

Each year the Council's accounts and financial arrangements are subject to an audit by an independent auditor who reports their findings to the Council. The accounts for 2022/23 have been examined and reported to the June meeting of the Council where members were satisfied that no action needs to be taken as a consequence of the report.

The Council also submits an annual report (known as the Annual Governance and Accountability Return) to external auditors and the outcome of this assessment will be known later in the year. Information provided to the external auditors will be available on the Council's website and on the main notice board opposite the railway station car park. The rights of residents to examine the accounting records, to question the external auditor and to make objections to audit will also be explained.

Have you ever thought of being a Parish Councillor?

VACANCIES

Exciting opportunity to make a difference in your community!

It is a great time to get involved! Stocksfield Parish Council currently has vacancies for new members to join our team and share your skills and enthusiasm with the community. We are looking for members who have a passion for our community and are willing to help by creating or supporting local projects and initiatives.

Why do we have Parish Councils?

Parish Councils are an essential part of the structure of local democracy and have a vital role in acting on behalf of the communities they represent. They:

- give views, on behalf of the community, on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish
- undertake projects and schemes that benefit local residents
- work in partnership with other local organisations and public bodies to achieve benefits for the parish
- alert relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken
- help the other tiers of local government keep in touch with their local communities.

What does Stocksfield Parish Council do for me?

We're here to support the people of Stocksfield parish through the provision and improvement of services and facilities, for example we:

- own and manage the sports fields and multisports area for the benefit of all users
- own and manage the Kates Plain and Branch End Play Areas and outdoor gym
- have introduced new schemes to benefit residents, such as the defibrillators located through the parish, which we also maintain and manage
- produce and distribute NE43 News magazine twice a year, keeping residents connected with community news and events
- maintain the public seats, footpaths and gardens of the Parish
- award grants that benefit residents of the Parish
- support community events such as Remembrance Day Service.

Will it take up all my time?!

No! All of our members are volunteers with a passion for the community. The Parish Council meets once a month (except in August) to run through parish business and make decisions. It is supported by its Clerk

who delivers much of the day to day business for the council such as preparing the paperwork and agenda for each meeting, acting as responsible financial officer and providing advice to the members as necessary. For those who are interested in specific issues, we have advisory groups for Communications, Planning, Rights of Way & Environment and General Governance which members are welcome to join.

How can I find out more?

If you'd like to find out more about being a Parish Councillor, please contact our Parish Clerk Lucy Guthrie at clerk@stocksfieldpc.org.uk Lucy can also put you in touch with current Parish Councillors if you would like an informal chat about the role.

Please note: There are currently four vacancies for councillors which are able to be filled by co-option. The Council's co-option policy is on its website. In order to apply, you must be at least 18 years of age and qualify by meeting one of the following criteria:

- you are on the register of electors
- you are an owner or tenant of land or property within the Council's area
- your main or only place of work during the preceding 12 months has been in the Council's area; or
- you have resided in the Council's area for at least 12 months or within three miles of it.

Village Halls Heritage Event

Stocksfield Community Association has been taking part in the Northumberland Village Halls Heritage Project, and an exhibition of our findings will be displayed on

Tuesday 11th July at 7.30pm

**Stocksfield Community Centre,
Mount View Terrace**

The community centre has played a part in the lives of Stocksfield residents since around 1902. We hope the event will be of interest to anyone who is interested in the history of the village, and will include the following:

A short talk on the history of the building by Andrew Palmer of the Stocksfield Local History Society

A display of photographs and other items of interest

Excerpts from oral histories - memories of residents who played a part in Stocksfield Community Association - formerly Stocksfield Institute Community Association (SICA) - from the 1950s to the present day

1902 architect's plans of the building - the present day building has evolved over the last century

It is hoped that the exhibition, which will initially be in the hall, can be moved to the Richardson Room, where it will remain on display for several days.



WE NEED YOUR HELP! COMMUNITY SHED BUILD

Broomley First School PTA are planning a community build this summer to put together a shed on the school yard for the children to store play equipment. If anyone is able to help out with this,

please contact
broomley.school.pta@gmail.com

*Any help will be really appreciated.
Thank you!*



Stocksfield Flood Wardens Needed

The Parish Council and the Environment Agency are calling on local people to play their part in Stocksfield by registering to volunteer as a Flood Warden.

Flood Wardens are the eyes and ears on the ground, they act as a link between the Environment Agency and communities at risk - getting vital information out to local residents.

The community has a flood contingency plan in the form of the Stocksfield Community Flood Plan, but needs new people to volunteer their time to ensure that the plan can be used effectively in the event of a flood. This is not a time consuming role, only requiring your support when flooding is possible and to ensure the plan remains up to date.

Flood Warden Groups exist throughout the country and help ensure the Environment Agency's flood warning messages reach the local community and are acted upon. North East Wardens have a direct line through to the Environment Agency's Area Incident Room in Newcastle.

Outside of a flood event, they can help raise awareness of flooding issues in the local community, encourage people to register to receive free flood warnings and provide information to partners about vulnerable people or properties in the flood plain.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact:

clerk@stocksfieldpc.org.uk or Colin Hall (Flood Resilience Engagement Officer) at northeast_engagement@environment-agency.gov.uk

Hindley Cemetery

The Council has made annual grants to Hindley St Margaret's Burial Board in recent years which have supported the running of the cemetery, and is pleased to have made a grant this year in continuation of this support.



Increasing Flood Resilience

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IN A FLOOD?

FLOOD ALERT PREPARE

Pack medicines & insurance docs. Visit the flood warning information service

FLOOD WARNING ACT

Move family, pets & belongings to safety. Turn off gas, water & electricity

SEVERE FLOOD WARNING SURVIVE

Immediate danger? Call 999. Follow emergency services' advice

The Environment Agency and Northumberland County Council are urging people to think about how they can reduce their risk of flooding. Flooding is no longer only an issue for communities living near to rivers or the sea, as surface water flooding can now pose as much risk.

The impact of climate change now means that many areas are potentially at risk of flooding due to heavy downpours putting pressure on existing drainage.

Being flooded is absolutely devastating and any steps that can be taken towards better protecting your property, business and community can significantly lessen the impact. Some ways that you can increase your resilience to flooding are:



Check your flood risk from rivers, sea and surface water on the flood warning information service flood maps by visiting - <https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding> or scan the QR code.

Sign up to the Flood Warning Service to receive free flood warning messages by visiting - <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings> or scan the QR code.



Create a Personal Flood Plan and pack a grab bag with essentials - visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan or scan the QR code for advice.

Look to install flood protection products if required - visit <https://bluepages.org.uk/protecting-my-property/> or scan the QR code for further advice.



Make sure you have the right level of insurance cover needed - visit <https://www.floodre.co.uk/> or scan the QR code.

Regularly check for weather updates, by visiting - <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/> or scan the QR code.



Fly Tipping

Fly tipping or littering in and around rivers and watercourses can cause pollution, harm wildlife and can lead to blockages which can cause flooding. Report any fly tipping to <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Protection/Environment.aspx> or scan the QR code.

If you would like support with any of the areas highlighted, please contact - colin.hall@environment-agency.gov.uk

FLOOD

FIND OUT MORE

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.





CORONATION



The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla Saturday 6th May, 2023

by Chris Catnach and Anne Dale

Come rain or shine it was a weekend to remember.

A weekend of fun and celebration was all set to take place at the Stocksfield Cricket Club. The brilliant groundsmen were all hands on deck, the marquee was up ready with the bar, lighting, electricity all in place, decorations adorned the area, everything was ready for a weekend of fun and celebration beginning on Saturday.

BUT, then it rained and rained and rained! The marquee was flooded out, it was a mud bath! No place to have fun at all! But there was help down the road where SICA kindly opened their doors to help. Like a bolt of thunder the Stocksfield Cricket Club SOS team came to the rescue and everything was lifted from the marquee to SICA. It was an amazing feat of work which enabled the Childrens' disco to take place in the afternoon with food and drinks available.

It was lots of fun and the children enjoyed dancing to the music of the fabulous Mr. Disco Man, John Robson. At end of the Disco and like another bolt of thunder the SOS team lifted everything back to the Cricket Club for the evening event now taking place in the Club house.

A good crowd inside and on the patio settled in to an evening of live music from the Whistletesters. Playing a wide range of popular music the talented band soon had toes tapping and the dance floor in action. A good occasion to remember!

The entertainment for the children continued into Sunday but unfortunately the ground was so wet that the Family Cricket Festival had to be cancelled.

However the sun did shine! The youngsters were entertained by Full of Beans on the MUGA which was thoroughly enjoyed by them all.

8 year old Alice Liddle said:

'We had a brilliant time celebrating the King's Coronation. The disco and sports activities were great fun. I really enjoyed doing archery for the first time too'

Back at SICA in the meantime the procession of the Crowning of the King and Queen of Stocksfield took place with the young children and we were delighted that Sheila Coulson was able to come along to judge. I know that she found it very difficult and she said;

'It was a real pleasure to judge the Coronation Kings and Queens competition... but what a difficult task.

So many gorgeous kings, queens and princesses to choose from. Lovely smiles, great costumes and not to mention the King Charles' wellies which won me over'

Congratulations King Luciano and Queen Imogen!

This was followed by a creative afternoon of fun and mess for the younger children run by Becky Mack of Archventurers.

We would like to thank everyone for their help and support over the weekend.





G

PIE & PEAS & BINGO NIGHT

B

FRIDAY JULY 7TH

7.30PM ONWARDS, EYES DOWN FROM 8PM

Stocksfield Cricket Club

N

Come along for a fun night! Prizes will be awarded to the lucky bingo winners!

£10 per ticket
Proceeds to Broomley School PTA

Order tickets via survey link found here:
<https://forms.office.com/e/QEEHECsSCK> or via
PTA/Cricket Club

I



SCAN ME

THE RESTORATION STATION

Prudhoe & Stocksfield Churches

HOLIDAY CLUB 24 - 28 JULY

10:00 - 12:30
Prudhoe Methodist Church

Find us on Facebook 



FREE!!



UPDATE from County Councillor Anne Dale June 2023

It seems to be a long time since I last wrote in the NE43 news. In fact it was just before Christmas last year. It was great that the village went back into full Christmas mode again with parties, school nativity plays, carol singing around the doors and Carol services.

Last year we celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and then later mourned her sad death. At the beginning of June this year the village celebrated the coronation of our new King, Charles III and Queen Camilla. Thank you everyone who kindly helped and supported the weekend.

The work on the highways in the village has continued apace whether it be Northern Gas, Northumbrian Water, the County Council or the roll-out of full fibre broadband. The delivery of full fibre to households has been more difficult that was first envisaged as the original BT ducts in some sections have had to be renewed. It is being rolled out in sections and you will be contacted when they reach your section. The delivery of the contract has not been without its problems but the County Council and I work with the company to ensure work continues as quickly as possible. If you would like further information do contact me.

The County Council continues to face challenging times. I am sure that with the appointment of Dr. Helen Paterson as the new Chief Executive improvements will start to take place. Again the budget made further cuts to services despite a rise in Council tax. There is also a shortage of staff in some sectors such as Social Services which is putting a strain on the delivery of services. The maintenance of our highways continues to be a concern and more financial resources are required to help the staff to do the necessary work. I take an active part in Committee work including the independent Audit Committee. If you would like to discuss any of my work in more detail please do contact me.

I am always delighted to contribute to any capital projects in the village from my Members Small Scheme allowance – for example the tennis club and cricket club and there are other projects in hand too.

I would like to thank you for your help and support over the past year. If you have any concerns, please contact me on

01434 673326 or by e-mail on
Anne.Dale@Northumberland.gov.uk

Time to get walking again!

With summer well underway you may be thinking about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Northumberland
www.walkinginengland.co.uk

northumberland has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

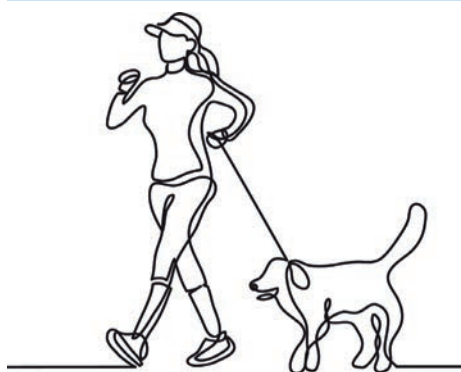
John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Northumberland (part of the Walking in England website) has

brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk



Friendly Fridays in Cafe 7nn

Friendly Fridays meets every week from 10.30 to 12 in Cafe 7nn at the Cricket Club. While open to everyone, those who come are in their seventies or older and most live on their own. Everyone receives a very warm welcome from Jackie and Lisa in the cafe and we all enjoy a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and maybe a freshly baked scone.

Friendly Fridays arose from the Dementia Friendly Communities of the Alzheimer's Society (the scheme closed this year). In 2017 a small committee organised events to raise awareness of dementia, the Quaker Meeting House became involved and offered their premises at Branch End and so Friendly Fridays began. We quickly found that people living on their own, whether or not they had dementia, welcomed somewhere local to go for company.

After Covid, the advantages of easy parking, freshly made tea, coffee and cakes and a larger room at Cafe 7nn made a change of venue desirable. We have met there for almost two years now. One or two who attend are living with dementia, but most just value the opportunity to get out of the house and meet people. There is no programme, we just enjoy the chat. It is all very relaxed and friendly.

If you haven't been, come and try it, you'd be most welcome. If you need someone to go with you that first time contact Edna on the number below.

07709 094633
or 01661 843081
e.leeson@talktalk.net

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Come along to Patricia Hodgson's garden at:

The Beacon, 10 Crabtree Road
NE43 7NX,
which will be open as part of the
National Garden Scheme on Sunday 2
July from 2 - 5.30pm.

Entry is £6 for adults, children are free.

Further details can be found on the
NGS website www.ngs.org.uk.
The gardens are also opened
by appointment.



Stocksfield Festival is back!

With a new date, coinciding with the summer bank holiday weekend, Stocksfield Festival is gearing up to take place on Saturday 26th August.

It will be in its usual place - the playing fields adjacent to the Stocksfield Cricket Club.

After a gap of four years (yes really, four years!) it should be a brilliant day and a chance for everyone to come together, meet up with friends and soak up the atmosphere. And all on your doorstep!

What's it all about?

The festival was launched in 2009 with the aim of bringing the community together and celebrating all that's special about Stocksfield and its surrounding areas. This year's festival will follow tradition and lots of local organisations have signed up, including Stocksfield Football Club and Tennis Club, Stocksfield Plants and Gardens Society as well as Broomley Grange and the Friends of Broomley Woods.

This year will also see a number of environmental groups taking part as well at Broomley First School PTA and Stocksfield Scouts.

Who will be there?

The festival will be open from 11 - 4pm and there'll be live music all day with a brilliant line up of local bands and musicians. As well entertainment there will be a bar, stalls selling crafts, food and other hand-made goods; an exciting array of food vendors as well as a refreshment marquee providing teas and coffees and a place to sit, chat and chill!

What is there for kids to do?

Children will be well catered for – with arts and crafts activities, storytelling, a bouncy castle and the chance to have a go at archery courtesy of the Tynedale Archers. Thanks to a grant from the Ballinger Trust and National Lottery, the committee have also been able to secure funding for a climbing wall and, for the first time at the Festival, a bungee trampoline!

Want to get involved?

A shout out to the Stocksfield Cricket Club for their help in arranging the day and also to Stocksfield Parish Council for a grant to help fund the marquees. However the festival can only happen with a gang of volunteers! So if you fancy helping out (setting up, stewarding on the day or clearing up afterwards) you can email Stocksfieldfestival@gmail.com or you can get in touch via Stocksfield Festival facebook page.

*So, put a date in your diaries, come along,
take part and have a great day out!*



Bywell Castle Garden

Open on Sunday 2 July 2023
12 NOON – 6pm

Food stands, teas, ices, plenty of seating & disabled access,
Bouncy castle, band playing during the day.

Dogs on leads are welcome

FREE ENTRY
– FREE PARKING

A Great Family Day Out - Everyone Welcome

Stocksfield Striders GRANT

Stocksfield Parish Council was pleased to make a grant to Stocksfield Striders in December 2022 towards the cost of a replacement changing tent for the club, pictured on its first outing! This is at the North East Cross Country Harrier League event at Alnwick, in March.

The ladies team gained promotion to Division 2 for next season which is great for a small club and everyone was very happy with the new tent.



Stocksfield Plants & Gardens Society

Summer 2023 Programme of events

Coach Trip

Thursday 6th July 8:30am-6:30pm

**HOLEHIRD GARDENS WINDERMERE
and CATHS GARDEN PLANTS**

Award winning 10 acre fellside garden managed by volunteers. Please bring a picnic.

NB access to garden from coach park is steep and not suitable for all. If you would like to share a taxi (included in price) please indicate when booking. More info at:

www.holehirdgardens.org.uk

www.cathsgardenplants.co.uk

Leaving Stocksfield station promptly at 8:30am and returning approximately 6:30pm

Cost £21 members/£28 non-members

Contact Helen Morris:
helen@stencil-library.com

For further details about any of our events please see our website:

www.stocksfieldplantsandgardens.co.uk

or contact Sue Sinclair on the group's email stocksfieldpg@gmail.com

Alternatively as a member of Stocksfield Community Association (£9 individual/£12 joint via www.stocksfieldca.org.uk) you can join the Society for a year's worth of events and activities for just £3 individual/£5 joint. Subscriptions run from January to December.



Garden visit Morpeth

Tuesday 18th July 2pm-5pm

**Garden Cottage, Bolam
Morpeth NE61 3UA**

Heather and John Russel are opening their glorious garden especially for SP&GS.

They have created the garden from scratch over 35 years, cultivating a 1.5 acre site within a 19th century walled garden. This is a stunning garden where passionate plantsmanship is combined with a strong sense of design.

Cost £5 Teas £3

Travel use own transport but contact Janice if you need a lift.

Contact Janice Grieveson to book or for more information 01661 842973 or

janice.grieveson@icloud.com



Stocksfield Parish Council

The Parish Council meets in the Richardson Room at the Community Centre at 7.00pm. The agenda for future meetings and the most recent approved minutes are posted on the notice boards and on the website (www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk).

Next Parish Council Meetings:

Monday 3 July 2023

Monday 4 September 2023

Monday 2 October 2023

Monday 6 November 2023

Monday 4 December 2023

Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting of the Parish Council. Residents always have an opportunity to raise issues of concern during a public participation section at the start of the meeting.

Contact the Parish Council at:

Stocksfield Parish Council,
Stocksfield Community Centre,
Mount View Terrace, Stocksfield
NE43 7HL.

T: 01661 844667

M: 07908 601619

email: clerk@stocksfieldpc.org.uk

Website: www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk