

Planning the future of Broomley and Stocksfield

NE43 news

Chair's Annual Report 2018/19

In another eventful year, the Parish Council has completed a long-standing project, sought the views of residents, and effected a name change, as well as continuing to maintain and improve facilities in the area which we cover. We have done our best to ensure that our area remains a safe place to live, work and visit, and to deal with local problems whenever possible, often in partnership with local community organisations and other public bodies, such as Northumberland County Council, Northumbria Police and neighbouring Town and Parish Councils.

Last autumn saw the completion of the much anticipated extension to the car park at the sports fields, which provides 42 additional spaces. Thanks to the expertise and generosity of local resident, Nick Jones, who, working closely with the Council's Clerk, provided his services as a landscape surveyor without charge during the design, planning application and construction stages, the cost of the project was kept as low as possible.



As well as offering convenient parking for the sports fields and Broomley First School, the overspill car park will support Stocksfield Cricket Club's application for planning permission to extend and upgrade the clubhouse.

What is in a name?

Although this is the 66th edition of NE43 News, **Stocksfield Parish Council welcomes you to its first newsletter**. As reported in the December issue, and referred to in the Chair's annual report, Northumberland County Council formally changed the name of the Parish Council in January of this year. You may on occasions continue to see reference to the old name but legislation specifically allows for this so that, for example, contracts remain valid despite the change of name.

The Remembrance Service in November, marking the centenary of the end of the First World War, was conducted by Rev. Pat Moran, and attended by over 200 people, including officers of the 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (based at Albemarle Barracks) and young people from the local Scouts and Guides groups. In memory of her great uncle, who died in France in 1917 with the 55th Sqdn Royal Flying Corps, and her grandfather, who served in France with the XII Royal Lancers, Northumberland Fusiliers, local resident Daphne Threadgold-Reay very generously donated a commemorative bench to the village, and this now has pride of place next to the War Memorial, on which her great uncle's name appears.

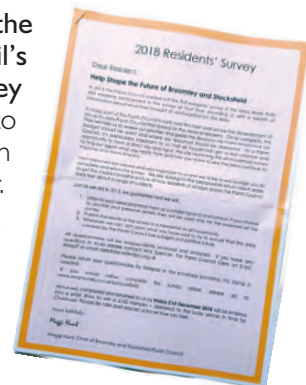


Photographs and personal stories of other local men whose names are listed on the War Memorial had been put together and displayed around the memorial by Laraine Judd of Stocksfield Local History Society, who was also responsible for a presentation on the same subject shown at Stocksfield Community

Centre after the service. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this genuine community event, including those local residents who knitted the poppies that were on display.

In December, the Parish Council's residents' survey

was delivered to every household in the area we cover. Designed to seek residents' views on what our priorities should be for the next five years and how we should allocate our resources during that period, the survey was carried out on our behalf by Eljay Research Ltd, an independent company. The survey was completed by around one household in every three, and has given us a robust baseline of information which will guide the plans we make for the future. Sincere thanks to everyone who responded at such a busy time of year.



continued →

Last Christmas may now seem a long time ago, but one abiding memory surely has to be the magical sight of the Christmas tree at Broomley First School with its coloured lights twinkling in the winter twilight. This is just one example of the high standard of work carried out by our Groundsman, whose attention to detail and commitment to our area make a significant contribution to the quality of our environment.

After seeking local residents' views in the June issue of NE43 News, the Parish Council made a formal request to Northumberland County Council to amend the Parish name to Stocksfield. The request was granted in January, and we are now in the process of reflecting this change wherever our name appears around the village and surrounding areas.



The speed and volume of traffic on the A695 and New Ridley Road have continued to be a key concern for Councillors and residents. Responsibility for highways lies with Northumberland County Council, so the role of the Parish Council is to ensure that residents' concerns are brought to the attention of our County Councillor and County Council officers, and to work in partnership with other relevant



organisations such as Northumbria Police. We are pleased that our efforts to encourage further enforcement of the speed limit on New Ridley Road have been successful, and we await additional information from Northumberland County Council about their proposals for speed restrictions on the A695 between Branch End and Stocksfield station.

In the past year, the Parish Council has given grants and donations worth over £2,000 to a number of local and County-wide groups, including Citizens Advice Northumberland, Tynedale Hospice at Home, Sport Tynedale, Tyne Rivers Trust and the North East War Memorials Project. The funding supports specific projects which benefit members of our community. The Parish Council also makes an annual financial contribution to the Parochial Church Council's Burial Board which looks after the cemetery at St Margaret's Church in Hindley.

The Parish Council's Advisory Groups have continued to play an important part in our work during the year by focusing in detail on specific aspects and making recommendations for action to the full Council. Particular thanks are due to the Rights of Way and Environment Advisory Group which, though chaired by a Parish Councillor, is largely made up of local residents who volunteer their time to monitor the health of the river and the burn, control invasive species and review our footpaths and rights of way. The Group has also recently established a Station Adoption Group in partnership with Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership and Northern Rail.

Council membership has remained stable throughout the year, but we still have three vacancies. If you have found this report interesting, and would like to make a direct contribution to the work that we do, why not apply to join us as a co-opted Councillor?

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Clerk, Nick Spencer, for his invaluable advice and consummate professionalism, to our Groundsman, Martin Stewart, for his enthusiasm and versatility, and to my fellow Parish Councillors for their support and teamwork during the last twelve months.

Maggi Hunt - April 2019



Residents' Survey - The Results

Over the course of December 2018, online, postal and face-to-face research with the Parish's residents was independently undertaken for Stocksfield Parish Council.

Almost 450 residents - around 1 in every 3 households - contributed to the research, giving the findings a robust, current and reliable framework from which to derive key messages and conclusions.

The survey shows an extremely high level of overall contentment with living in the Parish. Residents detail an area of beautiful countryside, with accompanying tranquillity and good transport links, whilst living alongside friendly neighbours.

Leaving aside this over-arching general contentment, there are undoubtedly still areas of suggested improvement. Residents would like to see certain issues effectively tackled - most frequently including the volume and speed of traffic in the Parish, improved public transport and re-surfaced and improved roads and footpaths.

They would also appreciate the addition of local eating and drinking facilities, giving the community a focal point at which to socialise in an informal setting. The addition of more independent shops would also be welcomed by a sizeable percentage of residents.

The NE43 newsletter is very well regarded, read and valued, and is undoubtedly the preferred choice for Council-resident communication.

In the context of the vast majority of residents confidently using the Internet within the Parish, the potential of a faster broadband service is enthusiastically greeted and encouraged.

Parish clubs and classes are attended by a healthy proportion of residents, and there is significant interest in the possibility of community events such as an annual summer fair, bonfire night and village competitions. Many residents feel that there is justification for the Parish Council to fund such events.

The principle of increasing the Parish Precept to fund additional works also receives a significant amount of support - with just 16% of residents opposed to this idea. Support is underpinned by the view that this enhances and adds to existing services, devolves some powers locally and essentially improves Parish life.

The Parish Council is commended for its work and performance by the vast majority of residents - all of whom appreciate the results of their labours and the voluntary time and commitment which they invest.

If you want to see the full survey results then check out the Council's website using the following link:

<https://stocksfieldpc.org.uk/news/newsitems/177-residents-survey-report>

Remembrance Service 2019

A695 to be closed

The annual Remembrance Service has been attracting increasing numbers of residents over the last few years and the Council is delighted at the level of support shown in the village. However, as a result of the increase, the Council has reviewed the arrangements for traffic management in conjunction with Northumberland County Council. In order to ensure the safety of those attending the service, the Councils have decided to close the A695 on Sunday 10 November 2019 between 10.30am and 11.30am. The agreed diversionary route will take westbound traffic along New Ridley Road to Apperley Dene, then on the B6309 and the unclassified road through Broomley onto the A68, before rejoining the A695 at Broomhaugh roundabout, and the same in reverse for eastbound traffic. The Councils will try to ensure that relevant operators of goods vehicles are made aware of the diversion so that drivers can adjust their journey time and route accordingly but inevitably there will be

additional traffic on the diversion route during the closure. No traffic will be allowed to use the A695 between the entrances to the railway station and sports fields car park during the closure. Access to the car parks for those attending the service and to residential side roads outside of the closed section of the A695 for residents will be maintained.

The Councils apologise for the impact this will have but hope that those residents affected will understand that the closure is for a short period and the decision has been taken simply on safety grounds so that Stocksfield can continue to honour those from our communities who gave their lives in previous conflicts.

If you have been put off attending the Service because of the proximity to the road, why not come along this year? Everyone is also welcome to enjoy tea and coffee which will be served afterwards in the Community Centre by Stocksfield Guides.



The Beacon Opens

As part of the National Garden Scheme, the Beacon at 10 Crabtree Road, Stocksfield, will be open to the public between 2pm and 6pm on Sunday 9 June 2019. This garden illustrates how to make a cottage garden on a steep site with loads of interest at different levels. It is planted with acers, roses and a variety of cottage garden and formal plants. Water runs gently through it and there are tranquil places to sit and talk or just reflect. Stunning colour and plant combinations prevail. Cream teas and plants are for sale. The garden can be opened for small groups of ten or more and the owner gives humorous talks to fundraise for the NSPCC - contact Patricia Hodgson on 01661 842518

Stocksfield Festival 13th July 2019 from 12 noon



This year's Festival is moving to July from its early September slot - so not too long to wait now! The Festival Committee is once again working hard to bring together the usual mixture of activities, stalls, and refreshments plus of course providing the opportunity to be entertained by a wide variety of live music. Once again all those performing inside the 'Entertainment Marquee' will be local people - some of whom are performing for the first time and all of whom are giving their services freely.

This year the only actual competition will be the Scarecrow Competition so it would be great to see lots of entries. Entries can be from individuals or groups.

This year local organisations have been approached to see if they would like a presence - as Stocksfield Festival is primarily for Stocksfield people! If your organisation has not received an invitation and would like to be involved then contact Norman on 01661 844863 or by email: njhooks13@gmail.com

It goes without saying that the Festival can't take place without a lot of hard work. If you would like to help in ANY WAY on the day of the Festival - for example by helping at the car park or collecting money at the entrance then contact Alan at: A.B.Verheyden@gmail.com

There really will be something for all ages so book the date:

SATURDAY 13th JULY 2019

What has the Parish Council ever done for us?

This newsletter has, over the years, included a number of articles which have tried to demonstrate the range of activities and services provided by the Parish Council. Resisting the temptation for 'pythonesque' humour afforded by the title, without residents who are prepared to be parish councillors, the simple day to day functions of the Council, simply could not occur. The Council has three current vacancies. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor by being co-opted on to the Council, please get in touch with the Chair or the Clerk for further information. You must be at least 18 years of age and qualify by meeting one of the following criteria:

- be on the register of electors
- be an owner or tenant of land or property in the Council's area
- your main or only place of work during the preceding 12 months has been in the Council's area
- you have resided in the area for at least 12 months or within 3 miles of it.

Stocksfield Burn is in good health

The monthly monitoring of river fly larvae in Stocksfield burn continues with results submitted direct to the Anglers Riverfly Monitoring Initiative website. Since December 2018 additional tests, directly testing water quality, have been carried out using a test kit supplied by the Tyne Rivers Trust (TRT) and paid for by Stocksfield Parish Council (cost £40). Water is now tested for oxygen content, pH and turbidity. Nitrate and nitrite levels are also tested and visual reports submitted on weather conditions, water levels, water temperature, presence of invasive species etc. Levels of both indicator species and water quality remain high.

A team of up to 7 volunteers is involved (and some are pictured) - all part of the TRT's "My Tyne: Adopt a Stream" scheme. If you want further information about the scheme or are interested in joining the group, please contact Norman Hooks on 01661 844863 or njhooks13@gmail.com



Funding for local groups

The Parish Council sets aside funds each year to make awards of grants to local groups and organisations which are based or work in Stocksfield and provide benefit to local people. Grants of up to £500 can be made during the financial year but applications for grants in excess of £500 must be made before October preceding the financial year in which the funds are needed. This allows the Council to take larger sums into account when setting its budget for the following year. Full details and application forms can be found on the Council's website under 'Policy Documents'. Normally the Council considers grant applications on two occasions during the year (in April and November) and there are deadlines for applications to be received. If you think you cannot meet the timescales or want advice about the Council's Grant Award Policy, then please contact the clerk - details are on the last page of the newsletter. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

Make Yourself Heard

In danger, need the police, but can't speak?

- 1 Dial 999
- 2 Listen to the questions from the 999 operator
- 3 Respond by coughing or tapping the handset if you can
- 4 If prompted, press **55**
This lets the 999 call operator know it's a genuine emergency and you'll be put through to the police.

Led by

IOPC

Independent
Office for
Police
Reform

Supported by

women's aid

NPPC



999 silent option

Every day the police nationally receive thousands of accidental or hoax 999 calls. Differentiating a caller who cannot speak but is in urgent need of police assistance can be a matter of life or death. Northumbria Police has been supporting a national campaign to raise awareness of a system that allows callers to alert police when in imminent danger when they are unable to speak.

Ringing 999 alone will not necessarily generate a police response. The Silent Solution system has been working in the UK for many years but its success depends on the public being aware of it. If you are in urgent need of police assistance and you dial 999 but, through fear of placing yourself or others in danger, you cannot speak, simply cough into or tap the handset. You can also follow the automated prompts that will follow and, when asked, press 55 on the keypad. This will identify to the call handler that you need the police urgently.

For further information, look at the **Northumbria Police website** (<https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/>) and search for 'make yourself heard'.

New Trustees Required

Citizens Advice Northumberland is currently seeking new trustees to join our board to further strengthen our reach and impact into the communities of Northumberland, which last year supported 16,627 people with 37,889 issues.

Who are Citizens Advice Northumberland?

We give people the knowledge and the confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are, and whatever their problem.

Life can be tough for everyone at times and the need for **free, confidential, independent advice** in the coming years will be more important than ever as we are set for a period of uncertainty, complexity and change.

2019 marks the 80th anniversary of our service and we're still reaching those in need of help 80 years on.

What are we looking for? We are currently seeking new trustees to join our board to further strengthen our reach and impact into the communities of Northumberland.

In this round of trustee recruitment, we particularly welcome applications from people with specialisms in fundraising; communications and press; legal services or political strategy or previous experience of governance and board-level management, such as experience of chairing meetings, committee work and leadership skills exercised through a period of change.

We would also encourage applications from individuals who would wish to hold an office within the charity as we will be looking to appoint a new Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer from within our number as the current incumbents' terms end over the course of 2019/20.

Further details of the role can be found at:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/support-us/volunteering/about-volunteering-with-citizens-advice/what-our-trustees-do/>

How to apply: For a full application pack or for any further information about the trustee roles, please contact: traceygillies@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk or 07384 218855

**citizens
advice**

Update from County Councillor Anne Dale

A consultation event on the initial proposals for the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit outside school at the beginning and the end of the school day will take place on Tuesday, 11 June between 2pm and 7pm at the Stocksfield Cricket Club. County Council officers will be in attendance to respond to your questions and hear your views. The 2 pm start is to give the opportunity for parents to attend before the end of the school day. If you are unable to attend and would like to have sight of the proposals please email:

Anne.Dale@Northumberland.gov.uk
I will forward a copy once it is available.

County Council officers will also be in attendance to discuss any broadband issues you may have. The highways work that has been taking place over the last two months by a private contractor has been carefully monitored by the County Council Street Works inspectors. All concerns have been taken up with the contractor. There have been concerns raised by residents on rogue traders calling at their doors. I have advice from the police so please contact me if you would like a copy. The police's main message was to advise residents to ring them on 101 if they feel at all intimidated.



"FRIENDS ON FRIDAYS" AT STOCKSFIELD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

"Friends on Fridays" is going from strength to strength. Open from 2.00pm to 6.00pm on the last Friday of each month, the Meeting House is welcoming more and more visitors. A new attraction is an invited speaker at each session. The speaker will begin their talk at 3.00pm. Recent sessions have included local Quaker history and Gateshead Council's first woman Councillor and a fascinating discussion on the topic of the UK's benefits system and what God might want us to do with it. Lined up for May and June are two region-based, published and prize winning Quaker poets: Judith Line from Alnwick and Peter Bennet from Whitley Bay. In July, we have singing with musician Roberta Ritson from Wylam. Invitations to potential speakers for the rest of 2019 are in the pipeline. The afternoon is free, everyone is welcome and tea, coffee and cake is on offer. And the opportunity to meet friends, make new friends and, of course, to meet some Quakers!

Children's Holiday Club

Monday 22nd - Friday 26th July 2019
10am - 12.30pm at Prudhoe

Methodist Church

Are your children or grandchildren moving into school years 1 - 6 from September 2019? Are you wondering how to keep them busy during long summer holidays? Stocksfield and Prudhoe Churches are working together to run our popular children's holiday club during the first week of the school holidays. New for this year we are running a free drop in café for parents and carers, and a toddler group for those with younger children, alongside the main club programme. It will be five mornings of non-stop fun, with games, crafts and construction, drama, music and Bible stories.

Bookings and more information at:
fb.com/PrudhoeStocksfieldHolidayClub

Update: Stocksfield Football Club

Another successful year for Stocksfield FC, both on and off the pitch, with the club growing its members for the 5th year in a row as well as seeing a range of league and cup successes.

The number of volunteers continues to grow and we have recruited two new child welfare officers (Carmen Ward and Nicky Hunter) to help us continue to drive the club forward over the coming years.

The academy sessions (in partnership with NUFC) have grown for a 3rd year in a row and we have a budding group of U7s ready to play matches next season.

Our ground is one of the best around thanks to the purchase of a new mower (in partnership with the cricket club) and the excellent marking completed by Oliver, Archie and Dave Wilson.

The U16s, U14s, U11s and U10s have all recorded league, cup or festival successes this year. The U16s is made up of a large spine of players who came through the academy sessions which is particularly pleasing.

We have a batch of young referees who are learning their trade with the club, organised perfectly by our referee coordinator Dave McMillan. Dave was also a pivotal part in getting all of our players and coaches kitted out in new training and match day gear. The feedback we have received on a Saturday morning from away teams and parents has been 'ten out of ten'.

Phil Murray, the club's secretary, sends a huge thank you to all players and volunteers at the club saying, 'We are all proud of being part of Stocksfield FC and we look forward to seeing you all next season'.



It's not just cricket

Stocksfield Cricket Club have started the season well with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams all featuring at the top of their respective Leagues. There are 14 teams playing at the club this summer from Under 9s upwards and including 2 women's teams and an U14 girls' squad.

Off the field the Clubhouse has Sky and BT sport shown on a large screen and numerous social events. Saturday evening street food (from 5.30pm) is proving popular as spectators enjoy a bite to eat while watching the closing overs of the cricket games. As advertised in this edition of the newsletter, the annual beer festival is on 12 July - admission by ticket only.

Stocksfield Cricket Club 3rd Annual

BEER FESTIVAL



Friday 12th July - 5.30pm to 11.30pm
12 REGIONAL CASK ALES

CIDER BAR - GIN BAR - PROSECCO
LARGE MARQUEE, STAGE,
FOOD STALLS

**2 SUPERB LIVE BANDS
THE FONTAINS & LIBERTY BELLE**

Admission by Ticket Only (£10)

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
from Clubhouse

(Includes glass & 3 beer tokens worth £4.50)
Tickets also available by emailing:
stocksc@talktalk.net

Bywell St. Peter's

Community ventures (held in a marquee) to raise money for charities. Everyone welcome to these special events - 2019.

Tables reserved for parties of 4 or more. Please phone Philippa Harpin, 01661 842302

Excellent food & enjoyable afternoons!
Tombola/Raffle

Home-made Tea and a Stroll around the Garden

Aston Greys 25 Cade Hill Road, Stocksfield NE43 7PT

3rd Sundays in June, July & August
3.00-6.00pm; last serving 5.00pm

Sunday, June 16 in aid of 'Smile For Life Children's Charity' & will include a Teddy Bear's picnic.

Sunday, July 21 in aid of 'Mind - in the North East'

Sunday, August 18 in aid of 'Macmillan Cancer Support'
Payment on day, £8 adults, £4 (children under 16)

Important notice This attractive marquee venue, seating 80, including all colour co-ordinated linen & tableware + glasses & cutlery, etc. is available free-of-charge for summer fundraising and charitable events. Please take up this offer; come & see for yourself.
Philippa Harpin. Tel: 01661 842302

Planning for the future

A group of Parish Councillors is working on the development of a Parish Council Plan, based on the findings of our recent Residents' Survey. The final draft will be presented to the full Council for approval early in the Autumn, and residents will be able to find out more and add their own comments at a consultation event towards the end of October 2019.

Details of the consultation will be available nearer the time, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Stocksfield Plants and Gardens Society

Meetings are at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Guests welcome.

Tuesday 15th October

Caroline Beck '**Northern Grit**'
Caroline will be describing how she recently started her cut flower business, Verde Flowers, near Durham. She will tell us about the perils of growing flowers commercially so far North.

Stocksfield Retired Men's Association

Meets at the Baptist Church Hall on the first and third Thursday of the month at 10.30am. Members are asked to assemble for coffee from 9.30am. A £2 contribution is payable at each meeting.

20 June **Annual Outing**

4 July **Peter Jorysz**
A passage to India

18 July **Steve Lipscombe**
Kielderhead Wildwood Project

5 Sept **A diverse police career**
John Watts

19 Sept **Nostalgic Views of the North 3**
John Moreels

3 Oct **A circular walk around Corbridge through chronological time**
David Waugh

18 Oct **A day as a forensic artist**
Norman Kirtlan

1 Nov **Roman jewellery**
Barbara Birley

15 Nov **The man who lost three kingdoms**
Prof John Dery

Exercise to Music with Mary Huggin

Stocksfield Community Centre

For more information 01661 842346

Mondays 6.30 - 7.45pm
Low Impact Aerobics /Body Toning

Tuesdays 6.00 - 7.00pm
Step Aerobics

Thursdays 6.45 - 7.45pm
Pilates using Stability Balls

Fridays 9.30 - 10.30am
Low Impact Aerobics/Legs, Bums & Tums

Tuesday 19th November

Debbie Crombie '**Gibside Estate, Progress and Plans**'

Debbie will be talking about the history of the Gibside estate and its historical design. She will also be describing plans for a new garden project which it is hoped to start this year.

Tuesday 10th December

AGM and Members' Evening
Christmas Floral Demonstration by Vivienne Bolton.

Churches Together in Stocksfield and Mickley

In place of the winter Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we are holding a United summer get together - a favourite Songs of Praise event, followed by shared afternoon tea. Proposed dates are Sat 10 August or Sunday 11 August, probably at the Baptist Church, Main Road. Please look out for further updated details from your various churches, in local media, and on Stocksfield Matters. All welcome.

Advance dates for diaries: Saturday 2 November at

Stocksfield Community Centre, from 10am - 12 noon. Churches Together's popular Coffee Morning and Annual Charity Christmas Card Sale, with stocking filler gifts. Stalls available free of charge to charities. Let Anne Davison know if you want to reserve a stall (Tel 01661 843400)

Sunday 8 December The Annual BIG SING, a joyful afternoon Community Carol Service at Stocksfield Community Centre, with Prudhoe Community Choir, and seasonal refreshments to follow. All welcome.

Stocksfield Parish Council

The Parish Council meets in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. The agenda and minutes of the meetings are posted on the notice boards and on the website (www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk).

Next Parish Council Meetings in 2019:

Monday 3rd June

Monday 1st July

Monday 2nd September

Monday 7th October

Monday 4th November

Monday 2nd December

Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting of the Parish Council. Residents always have the 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, at
Stocksfield Community Centre,
Mount View Terrace, Stocksfield
NE43 7HL. Telephone: 01661 844667
email: clerk@stocksfieldpc.org.uk
Website: www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk