

Planning the
future of Broomley
and Stocksfield

NE43news

Issue 72 December 2022



Queen Elizabeth II - a tribute



It has been a remarkable year in many ways for the Royal Family and it would be wrong to open this edition of NE43 News without paying tribute to Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. First, in June, the many celebrations marking the occasion of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee were seen across the county, including locally at Bywell Hall. A report of the day at Bywell with many photographs is featured on the following pages. Then in September the country and the world were stunned by the peaceful passing of the Queen at Balmoral. The Council recognises her life of service and dedication to the country and the impact her selflessness had across the globe. The Council wishes His Majesty King Charles III good health, great wisdom, and strength during his reign.

Council VACANCIES

The Parish Council has a number of vacancies for councillors which it is able to fill by co-option. Although the lowest tier of local government parish councils are closest to their communities and have an essential role in local democracy. The Council is responsible for delivering a number of local services such as providing and maintaining the play areas, sports facilities, defibrillator network and planted areas in the village. Meeting once a month (except for August) at Stocksfield Community Centre, councillors oversee the budget and influence, by way of commenting to other bodies, many issues and proposals that affect the village. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please get in touch with the Chair or Clerk for further information. Contact details for both can be found on the website together with the Council's co-option policy.

Grant FUNDING

Each year the Council sets aside funds to support local community groups and organisations to help expand and develop their activities. Application for grants of up to £500 are welcomed using the application forms on the Council's website where the full grant policy can be found: <https://www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk/other/244-grant-award-policy>. Applications need to be for a specific purpose rather than to pay for day-to-day running costs and individuals are not eligible to apply. Applicants need to be based or operating in the Civil Parish of Stocksfield. If you want advice about submitting an application, contact the Clerk.

Budget and precept 2023/24

The budget for the next financial year (2023/24) is likely to be discussed and agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 6 December 2022. Councillors will then need to decide how that will be funded and, specifically, how much of the budget income will be collected through the precept levied as part of council tax. The Council will obviously take into account the cost-of-living pressures facing all residents as well as its own rising costs. The Council's precept has been £99,006 for the past three years (since 2020/21) which has equated to an annual charge of just over £74 for a Band D house. Keep an eye on the Council's website for more information.



MERRY Christmas

By the time this newsletter is delivered to residents, three Christmas trees will have been erected in the village, all purchased by the Parish Council. In addition to the usual trees at Broomley First School and at the Dr Syntax at New Ridley, the Council has purchased a tree for the eastern entrance of Stocksfield which is being hosted by Branch End Service Station. The service station's owners (M&L Richardson and Sons Ltd) have also provided the Council with a donation of £300 towards the cost of new Christmas lighting for the additional tree for which the Council is extremely grateful.

Parish councillors hope that their residents all enjoy Christmas and send their best wishes to all for the New Year.

Remembrance Service 2022



On Sunday 13 November, Stocksfield remembered those who have, over many years and in many conflicts, given their lives for their country or been injured in service. This year the Service at the War Memorial was led by Reader Jane Algar, supported by Rev Dr Pat Moran. The Third Regiment of the Royal Horse Artillery which has supported remembrance services in the Tyne Valley for many years, was unable to be present having been deployed recently. The enthusiasm of Stocksfield's Scouting and Guiding organisations made up for the absence of the army. Deputy Lieutenant Mrs Fiona Lees-Millais was present and laid a wreath for the Lieutenancy on behalf of King Charles III, along with wreaths from the Parish Council, the County Council, Northumbria Police and the Guides. After the Service, many residents returned to the Community Centre where refreshments were served by Stocksfield Guides.



Tyne Rivers Trust's River Safari

We know that time spent in nature is a wonderful thing. Rivers are inspiring and our natural places are important for wildlife and for our own well-being.

We want to encourage people to observe and enjoy their local rivers so, with the assistance of funding from the Parish Council, we've created three walks around Stocksfield Burn, through our River Safari project.

The walks have highlighted points of interest – you can spot wildlife or invasive species, take a photo to monitor a specific site over time, learn about conservation work or just to take time to listen to the babbling water and relax.

You can find details of these walks on the Tyne Rivers Trust website <https://www.tyneriverstrust.org/river-safari-walks-around-stocksfield-burn/>.

We'd love to see your photos and updates of your river safaris; you can email us on info@tyneriverstrust.org

Each walk starts in Stocksfield Woodland Car Park and takes you over the hill towards the top of Stocksfield Burn. Depending on the length you wish to walk you can either follow the burn and then turn back towards the hill after the tennis courts or continue down to the fish passes and fords across the road. If you want to explore further, our longest walk of 3.5 miles takes you up to Broomley and back towards the car park through the woods. These are beautiful walks exploring the rivers and woods around Stocksfield. You can download or print each map with walking directions from the website above.



BIRDS & BEES

You may have noticed a distinct lack of swallows and house martins over Stocksfield this summer, and perhaps wondered why?

Insects are their sole food source, taken on the wing, and we know that insects are in serious decline everywhere. By planting wild flowers we can provide food for bees, butterflies, moths and flies, which will in turn pollinate the flowers.

If you are interested in becoming involved with planting for pollinating insects in Stocksfield please contact denise@morphet.org.uk.

HEDGEROWS

Regular readers of NE43 News could be forgiven for skipping this item – it's all too predictable. Every year there are complaints from residents about hedgerows and tree branches growing across roads and pavements. Sometimes roadways are narrowed so that it is difficult for cars to pass and all too often pavements have become obstructed so that pedestrians need to use the road. Even the odd bramble during the hours of darkness can cause injury to someone out walking. Those with disabilities or children and the elderly are at particular risk.

Please be considerate to other residents. Where hedgerows on boundaries are adjacent to public spaces, please keep them trimmed back to the edge of your property and make sure that low hanging tree branches are suitably cut back.

Stocksfield Tuesday Club on BBC News



Stocksfield Tuesday Club is one of Community Action Northumberland's (CAN) Warm Hubs and has been for over seven years. Through the scheme, groups across the county offer warm food in a warm place to anyone who wants to come along. There are now about 30 such places most operating in village halls or community centres – though at least one meets in a village church. Not all open every week, and most don't offer a hot, freshly cooked midday meal; we think our Tuesday Club may be the only one in the county which does both.

When we were asked by Christine Nicholls (CAN) if we were willing to let the BBC film "A Warm Hub in action", we agreed, thinking that it would be for a regional programme – Look North had covered us delivering meals out in the snow a few years ago. What we didn't know was that BBC Breakfast was promoting how communities might deal with the huge rise in gas and electricity charges – and 'warm spaces' and 'warm hubs' were suddenly news.

So, on Tuesday 4 October the team of three, including one cameraman, arrived - not from Newcastle but from London. They were with us for over two hours and, apart from filming and interviewing some of those attending and volunteers, they also launched a drone to take aerial views of Mount View Terrace and the Community Centre. The lead presenter, Ellie Price, asked a lot of questions about the Warm Hub scheme in Northumberland and

specific questions about Tuesday Club, including how we started and advice for anyone wanting to set up something similar. I think Ellie was surprised to find we had been part of the warm hub scheme for seven years and actually started eleven years ago when the 'Meals on Wheels' service ended. Some of our members said all the right things about having somewhere warm to go to although, as almost all those who attend live alone, the chance to sit round big tables eating a meal with friends is the most important factor. Some had already enjoyed a pre-lunch of carpet bowls in the hall or Scrabble or cards in the Richardson Room. Scrabble and cards invariably carry on after the meal.

Then the BBC team went off by taxi to Newcastle to catch the train to London after telling us their report would be on the BBC Breakfast programme the following Monday. It was aired at 7.15am but shown again on the national news at 1pm and 6pm. As a result, some members and volunteers had phone calls from relatives and friends from all over the country.

Stocksfield has a long tradition of providing this sort of support; older residents will remember an over-60s Club and a 'Meals on Wheels' Service which operated for over 40 years, only ending in 2011 when it was replaced by what is now Tuesday Club. All those who currently benefit from Tuesday Club would agree that the key to its success is the commitment of so many volunteers, including teams of cooks, servers, deliverers (of meals to those unable to attend) and, not least, volunteers who come in just to wash up. We even have one volunteer who collects people who have no other means of getting to the Community Centre. It's clear that these volunteers enjoy their work, and the Annual Christmas Dinner at Stocksfield Golf Club will again be an opportunity for everyone, volunteers included, to get together.

If you want to be part of this, either enjoying a meal in good company or volunteering in one of the ways mentioned above, then contact either Christine Hooks on 01661 844863 or Jill Newton on 07788 808557.

Christine Hooks, Tuesday Club



SCOUT POST now in its 21st Year

Scout post boxes will be in Stocksfield Central, The Village Store, SPAR, Boots Chemists and the Scout Hut on

Guessburn from 1-21 December to send cards to any address within the NE43 postcode area. We ask for a kind donation of around 35p per card, please drop your donation in cash into the post box along with your cards. This is a significant saving against 68p or 95p

Royal Mail prices. Your money will provide a much needed contribution to complete the kitchen in the new Scout hut (yes, we're still trying to source funding for this!). Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be out delivering your cards each week during December, so why not send some Christmas cheer with a card to your friends and family in the village and for a small donation we'll do the hard work and deliver it for you.

If you have any queries, please get in touch with us on

scoutpost@1ststocksfieldscouts.org.uk
or catch us on our delivery rounds.

Thank you for all your support, we hope you have a very merry Christmas!

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB

Anyone for a spot of lunch or volunteering?

The Tuesday Club meets every week at Stocksfield Community Centre and is for locals to get together over a delicious home-cooked hot lunch served at 12 noon. Carpet bowls and the occasional outing are also on offer.

If you would like to meet new people in a relaxed and friendly setting, then please do get in touch.

We are also always looking for new volunteers – to help 'front of house' serving lunches and to assist in the kitchen.

If you are interested in coming along or would like to find out more about volunteering, please contact: Christine Hooks Tel: 01661 844863 or Jill Newton Tel: 07788 808557.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

5th June 2022, Bywell Hall

In June this year the country and the village celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It was a joyous occasion and a time to reflect. We were delighted that Allendale Estates welcomed us again to their beautiful surroundings at Bywell Hall for these celebrations as they had in 2012 for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Organisation for the event began in October 2021 to ensure that everything was in place ready for the picnic lunch whatever the weather! We wanted to ensure that there was something for all ages to enjoy and take part in and which we would all remember as something special in years to come. Sponsorship and funding were found, marquees booked, the Disco, children's and musical entertainment, decorations, food providers and even the right number of portaloos that were required by the local authority!

Following a service at St. Peter's Church the celebrations began. Not one drop of rain fell all day. Maybe it could have been a little brighter but who could complain? People wheeled in their picnics and spread their fares.

The celebrations began with the National Anthem followed by a toast to the Queen by Wenty Beaumont and the presentation of a bouquet to his wife, Vanessa. Then the music started, and the event was underway.

Words cannot express the joy captured in Alice's photographs. Thank you everyone for helping to make this a special occasion.

Margaret Williams and Anne Dale.





DON'T BE SCAMMED

- Do you know someone who is vulnerable to scams?



Scams Awareness

Our Scams Awareness talks and one-to-one support can help you:

- recognise a scam so you can protect yourself from fraudsters
- guide you through what to do if you think you've been targeted.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

Our trusted team provides confidential and practical support including free call blockers to reduce the number of nuisance calls.



Home



Financial



Technology



01670 784 800



scams@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk

Age UK Northumberland, The Round House, Lintonville Parkway, Ashington, NE63 9JZ
Registered charity no 1072394

Sarah Cooper is Age UK Northumberland's 'Scams Specialist' and she is running a Scams Awareness and Support Programme over the next 18 months. The programme provides practical advice and support, free of charge, to help older people identify potential scams, learn what to do if they are faced with someone trying to scam them and of course support if they have suffered from a scam.

We all know someone who has been scammed - sophisticated scams have been on the rise during the pandemic with criminals devising even more ways to target those they believe to be vulnerable. This means it's even more vital to support those that may be at greater risk. Scams can have a devastating effect on older victims and that is why we have launched this important programme to help keep older people in Northumberland as safe as possible.

The Scams Awareness and Support Programme offers two levels of support: Group Scams awareness sessions- delivered to older people and their trusted others, and one-to-one support - our advice and support is free of charge, treated in the strictest of confidence and individualised to fit the customer's needs.

The team is happy to make home visits or meet at a local community venue. Individuals can self-refer, or a professional can make a client approved referral to the Programme which can

also access and install free call blocker units for customers struggling with phone scams or for those who are more at risk through reduced cognitive functioning.

Importantly - if you know someone who might benefit from this support please don't hesitate to get in touch:

To find out more about Age UK Northumberland's Scams Prevention and Support Programme and what it does, please visit:

www.ageuk.org.uk/northumberland/

or contact Sarah Cooper, Project Lead - Scams Awareness and Support Programme 01670 784 800 option 2 or email info@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk

Interested in some non-strenuous exercise in a warm, friendly place?

A small group of people who play carpet bowls at Stocksfield Community Centre on Tuesday mornings from 10.30 - 11.30 would welcome more players.

Carpet bowls is gentle exercise, and you would be joining a group who play for fun in a warm, friendly space. If you would like to try this out just come along - you can get a warm drink while you watch before you give it a go yourself. If you want more details first, then contact Karen on 844119 or Christine on 844863.

There is no charge for this... yes, it really is FREE.

Winter Quiz 2022 - 2023

Copies of this year's quiz can be obtained from the Centre Office, SCA Management Board Members, Boots Chemist Branch End, Branch End Service Station, Stocksfield Village Store, Stocksfield Cricket Club, or Jean Robinson (01661 842115).

Price: £2.00

All proceeds to Stocksfield Community Association (SCA)

Closing date for entries:
31st January 2023

Report from County Councillor **Anne Dale**

As we look forward to Christmas and the New Year, we will recall the memories of this year. The lingering on of Covid at the beginning of the year, the celebrations for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in June, and her sad passing on 8 September. Each of us will have our own special memories of the year.

What seems to be a 'norm' now is the continuous work on the highways whether it be Northern Gas, Northumbrian Water, the County Council or the roll-out of full fibre broadband. It seems to have been relentless but hopefully the work will be finished early next year. The delivery of the full fibre to households will be undertaken in area blocks throughout the village and you will be informed as to when work will commence in your particular block. If you have not yet signed up please do so if you wish to be included in the roll out. If you would like further information do contact me.

As you will have seen in the news the County Council has had a challenging year and as we move into next year further cuts to services will be required to ensure a balanced budget for 2023/24. The Government has yet to provide any indication of funding. For those in financial need please do contact me and I will help you to engage with the relevant people or agency.

In the new year we will begin the updating of the history of the village from 2000. If anyone is interested in taking part, please let me know.

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 email on anne.dale@northumberland.gov.uk

May I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Are you passionate about the **Health & Wellbeing** of your community?

Are you a patient of;
Branch End Surgery,
Burn Brae Medical Group,
Corbridge Medical Group,
Prudhoe Medical Group,
Sele Medical Group or
White Medical Group?

Join the West Northumberland Primary Care Network (PCN) Patient Group and get your voice heard!

What is the West Northumberland PCN Patient Group?

West Northumberland PCN Patient Group is a group of patients, carers and practice staff established to provide a patient perspective of services provided within the PCN.

The PCN aims to provide high quality, integrated person-centred care in a proactive and cost-effective way. Working alongside our local partners and practices, we will make the best use of resources to ensure a sustainable health service for our local community.

What does the Patient Group do?

Patient Group members support the PCN in its aim, and feed ideas in (as well as help disseminate information out) which is crucial to everything we are trying to achieve as a PCN.

Collectively the group supports the PCN in its purpose by providing a patient orientated view on changes to services proposed by the PCN and by suggesting improvements to services based on patient experience.

How can I take part?

There are two types of membership; a Core Group and a Virtual Group. Our Core Patient Group meets every month, in person at alternating venues. For those unable to attend but still keen to be involved, we have a Virtual Patient Group in place. Virtual Group members participate mainly via email and/or social media, and attend our Quarterly Patient Group meetings online via Teams, together with our Core Group members.

We welcome all members from any gender, age or ethnicity and value all opinions and input.

If you would like to join our PCN Virtual Group, or have any questions, please email nencib-nor.westnorthumberlandpcn@nhs.net or visit our Facebook page.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

in Stocksfield
and Mickley

Thanks to all who supported our Annual Charity Christmas Card Sale on November 5th. It seemed as popular as ever and we were delighted with the turn-out, and the lovely community atmosphere. Thanks to your generosity £1400 was raised for worthwhile causes and local charities, an excellent result, especially in these hard times.

Facebook Advent Calendar

The churches will be offering seasonal, inspirational and encouraging posts each day of Advent, throughout December. Search for 'Stocksfield Advent Calendar' on Facebook or Stocksfield Matters, from Dec 1st- 24th.

The Christmas Journey comes to Stocksfield

Sunday 11 December 3-4.30pm at Stocksfield Community Centre.

Visitors are invited to go on a journey, "Looking for a special baby born to be king", during which they meet shepherds, Wise Men, Simeon and Anna, and finally Mary, Joseph - and the baby! There will be costumes, scenery, simple crafts and refreshments.

This is a fun and exciting way for parents/grandparents to bring their children along and get involved in the real story of Christmas but adults are also welcome to come and enjoy this special event, whether or not you have children to invite.

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**

Stocksfield Plants & Gardens Society Programme 2022/2023

We have a great programme of interesting speakers over the winter and spring seasons to provide inspiration and advice.

All talks start at 7:30pm at Stocksfield Community Centre except for the two Zoom presentations in January and February.

Winter Talks

Tuesday 13 December

Richard Barnes

Inspiration

Richard has over 30 years' experience as a Chartered landscape architect and garden designer.

Tuesday 17 January

Sue Fisher

Gardening in a Changing Climate (This is a Zoom presentation hosted by Stocksfield Garden Society)

Sue's talk considers how gardeners can deal with the challenges of climate change, covering topics such as plant selection, pest problems and gardening techniques.

NB as this is a Zoom presentation you will need to book via club email to receive the link.

Tuesday 9 February

Simon Gulliver

The Secret Live of Trees

(This is a Zoom presentation hosted by
Corbridge Garden Society)

Simon is the Gardens and Parks Consultant at National Trust West Midlands and specialises in historical, environmental, and conservation aspects of horticulture.

NB as this is a Zoom presentation you will need to book via club email to receive the link.

Spring Talks

Tuesday 20 March Simon Thompson
Owner of Northern Ark Nursery

Simon and his wife Tracy run Northern Ark, a small nursery specialising in an unusual range of truly hardy perennials, with an emphasis on sustainability, growing peat free, reducing plant miles and ensuring their plants are fully acclimatised to local area.

Tuesday 18 April

Kate Norris

Northumbrian Flowers Demonstration and Talk

Kate owns Northumbrian Flowers and is a florist and flower farmer, growing British scented flowers organically to use in her work. Kate specialises in wedding and funeral arrangements and runs workshops and courses all year round.

Tuesday 15 May

Brian and Kathy Pike

Rising Stars, Spectacular Sea Hollies

The history of sea hollies is as fascinating as the plants themselves, from prehistoric shoes to a Tudor version of Viagra. Brian and Kathy introduce some of their favourite sea hollies and share their findings on how best to grow them. Brian and Kathy's collection of over 30 different species of eryngium was awarded National Plant Collection status in 2020.

Look out in the next issue for the dates of our very popular
Garden Gate Pop Up Plant Sales
and Garden Visits.

We welcome visitors
to all our events (£3).

For details of any of the above,
please see our website:
www.stocksfieldplantsandgardens.co.uk

or contact Sue Sinclair on
stocksfieldpg@gmail.com

Alternatively, as a member of Stocksfield Community Association (£9 individual or £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 or £5 joint. Subscriptions run from January to December.



Stocksfield Local History Society 2022-2023 Programme

11 January 2023

Ian McArdle - **The Victoria Tunnel**

8 February 2023

Bob Pullen -

A brief history of Wylam

8 March 2023

Mel Wall - **The D-Day Dodgers**

12 April 2023

Gordon Scorer - **Bobby Shafto,
Alice in Wonderland and
the River Team**

Our meetings are held at 7:30pm at the Methodist Church Mount View Terrace on the second Wednesday of the month running from September to April with no meeting in December. For more information, contact Karen on 843242.

NEXT Meetings of 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:

Tuesday 6 December 2022

Tuesday 3 January 2023

Tuesday 7 February 2023

Tuesday 7 March 2023

Tuesday 4 April 2023

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings of the Parish Council which are currently being held in the hall of the Community Centre. The first section of the meeting is set aside for members of the public to raise issues that concern them.

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

www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk