

# NE43 News Issue 27 Summer 2008

The Newsletter of Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

[www.stocksfield.org](http://www.stocksfield.org)

## Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Plan and YOU

The **Parish Plan Group** is now ready to ask you about your thoughts on the way our parish will develop over the next 5-15 years. As part of this consultation two **Action Planning Events** are being staged so that you can give us your opinions on a variety of issues we have identified so far. At the same time we would welcome your comments on any other topics you might wish to raise. These events will take place on:

**Thursday 24th July 2008, 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. at Stocksfield Baptist Church.**  
**Saturday 26th July 2008, 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Stocksfield Community Centre.**

Everyone is welcome at these events and the views of all, be they 5 or 95, will be noted. To make the creation of the Parish Plan a meaningful exercise and its final report a useful and practical document, we need YOUR input so do come along to one or other of the events. Among the issues which could affect the future of our parish are:

- *Where will future major housing developments take place*
- *Where and how many wind farms will be acceptable*
- *Possible closure of the First School*
- *Possible closure of shops and post offices*
- *Opportunities for a Stocksfield bypass or a new River Tyne crossing*
- *Housing provision for an ageing population*
- *Creation of a village focal point for Stocksfield*
- *Possible future development within Broomley and Hindley*
- *Provision of an Internet café or drop in centre for young people*
- *Changes in land use affecting our environment*
- *With the threat of climate change and decreasing oil resources do we need to plan for a more sustainable lifestyle by using our cars less and public transport more?*

If you want to have a say about the future development of your parish do come along to one of these events and make sure that the decision-makers know how you feel.

There will be interactive displays to introduce you to the Parish Plan so far, followed by workshops and general discussions based on our main theme subjects of Housing and Development, Sport and Leisure, Highways and Transport, Health and Social Care, Community Cohesion, Environment, Education and Young People.

We will publish the outcomes of these events and they will form the basis of a door-step questionnaire which will take place in the autumn.

If you will be away for these meetings in July but feel there is a matter you would like raised at the events, please send an email to the Parish Council or drop a note, marked Parish Plan,



through the Community Centre letter box in the entrance lobby. Please send your e-mails to: [margaretbspc@talk21.com](mailto:margaretbspc@talk21.com)

Stocksfield Community Centre (SICA) is located on Mount View Terrace opposite Stocksfield Station car park. The Baptist Church is located on the bend on the Main Road (A695) above Birches Nook.

### Branch End Surgery Patient Forum

The Surgery is very keen to set up a forum for our patients to meet with doctors and surgery staff and discuss ways of improving the care they provide.

This matter was discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 21st April. Anyone interested in joining the forum, please call **Sue Shone**, the Practice Manager, on **01661 842626**.

# POST OFFICES UNDER THREAT OF CLOSURE

The Parish Council is planning to hold a public meeting to discuss this contentious issue on **Wednesday 9th July, 7.30 p.m. at SICA**. We will not know, until the announcement from the Post Office on 1st July, if either of our post offices is under threat. Should it transpire that neither of our post offices is threatened with closure then the meeting will NOT be held.



Please watch the parish noticeboards, our website [www.stocksfield.org](http://www.stocksfield.org), and the local press for further information.

If either Stocksfield or Branch End is listed for closure, we will need evidence to defend it. So we particularly want to hear from those individuals and businesses who regularly use the post offices to access their bank accounts, withdraw cash, post mail of nonstandard size or weight, and tax vehicles. If you would miss it, **let us know why!**

## War Memorial Damage



The Parish Council has now received quotations for the repair to the War Memorial and it is expected that the cost will be around £2500. The chosen contractor will be given instructions to go ahead with the repair in the next few weeks.

The Parish Council will fund the cost of this repair, however if you feel you would like to make a contribution towards the cost then please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council. The replacement plaque will be bronze as was the original.

## Congratulations go to .....

Stocksfield's Matt Henderson, aged 15, who won two gold medals at the Sheffield Open Fencing Tournament, in the cadet and junior categories, and a silver in the men's open epee. Matt now has his sights on qualifying for the cadet world championship in the spring of 2009.



**Saturday 12th July  
12.30 to 6 p.m.  
A free Festival for  
young people - Hexham  
Parks**

At the heart of the action Team Extreme will be performing on the skate park and getting everyone involved in jamming, competitions and

coaching. This is a spectacle for everyone to enjoy and for skateboarding, bmx and inline fans it's just the place to show off your skills and have fun.

There will also be a great programme of live bands on the Sele, Hang Trapeze Act and stilt workshops, Terpsichore Dance show, a graffiti wall, plus a full programme of acoustic acts and more.

Selefest is for 8-25 year olds and is an alcohol free zone. If you're under 13 please take a parent or guardian with you.

More on Tynedale Council's website [www.tynedale.gov.uk](http://www.tynedale.gov.uk)

## Stocksfield Post box - too full

Concerns have been raised that the post box at Stocksfield is often full and that customers are understandably reluctant to post their mail on these occasions.

We have taken this matter up with Royal Mail. In the meantime should this happen again, it would probably be useful to make a note of the date, day and time that you are trying to post the mail. If you're not happy, you can call the Customer Services Department at Royal Mail on 08457 740 740.

## Watch your speed!

The Parish Council, with the help of former County Councillor Ray Thompson, is installing Vehicle Activated Traffic Signs at two points on the A695. These signs will be moved around the village from time to time. The legal speed limit in Stocksfield is 30 MPH, if you exceed that limit, you will activate these signs.

Our children walk and bike around the parish and, in places, the pavements are narrow or non-existent. Please watch out for pedestrians and bikers on the roadway.

## Congestion at Bus Stops

Following complaints by bus drivers that they are missing passengers at Birches Nook Eastbound and Branch End Bus Stops, because of parked cars, the County Council is to refresh the existing bus stop road markings.

This work will be undertaken in conjunction with work to reinstate the highway road markings. If you park near bus stops, please leave room for the bus to pull right into the bus stop and also try to ensure that the driver can clearly see if passengers are waiting to board.

## Sheep Worrying

There have been reports recently of sheep worrying by dogs, at least two lambs have been killed by a walker's dog which was off the lead while walking a local footpath through a field. Please be sure that you have full control of your dog when walking paths which cross fields containing livestock.

We have also had reports of dog walkers not being fully in control of over-exuberant dogs. Please be aware that dogs should be kept under control at all times. Thank you.

## Fly Tipping

With the reopening of the Prudhoe Household Waste Recovery Centre on 23rd June, the Parish Council hopes that incidents of fly tipping in the village will

stop. If you cannot get rid of your waste in your bins, please either take it to the tip at Prudhoe, or Hexham, or ring Tynedale Council and ask them to arrange for it to be collected. The Recycling Area at the Sportsfield Car Park is not a tip,

no waste should be left there. If the recycling skips are full, please advise the Parish Clerk who will arrange for them to be emptied and please do not leave your waste beside the full skips. Thank you.

**Keep Stocksfield Tidy!**

# Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council 2008 - 2009

At its Annual General Meeting on 12th May the Parish Council elected the following to office for the next 12 months. If you have concerns about a particular issue you could contact the relevant councillors direct.

**Chairman: Ian Hall. Vice Chairman: Melna Martin.**

**Advisory Group Convenors:**

**Parish Plan: Steve Gleadhill.**

**Footpaths & Environment: Norman Hooks.**

**Planning: Dave Porter.**

**Transport & Highways: John Davison.**

**Play Facilities: Diane Hinchcliffe.**

**Sports Facilities: Julia Sayce.**

The Parish Council also has representatives on various bodies both within the parish and outside it including:

Hindley St Margaret's Burial Board, the Rail User Group, The Eastern Parishes Forum, Community Action Northumberland, Prudhoe Community High School Liaison Group, and the SCA Community Consultation Forum.

The Parish Council will also be sending a representatives to the newly formed Branch End Surgery Patients Forum.

A full list of the Parish Council Advisory Groups is on the Parish Council website [www.stocksfield.org](http://www.stocksfield.org).

Finally, the Parish Council says good-bye to Barbara Gravenor. Over many years Barbara has given sterling service to the community and we wish her and James well in their new home in Richmond, North Yorkshire.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION



Following the recent County Council elections, Anne Dale has been elected as our County Councillor. She will serve as County Councillor for the next 12 months during the transition to a Unitary Authority and from next spring as our representative on the Unitary Authority. We wish her well in her new role.

Mrs Dale, together with Eileen Drew and Colin Argent will continue as District Councillors until Tynedale Council is disbanded under local government reorganisation in 2009.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to County Councillor Ray Thompson for all his efforts on our behalf and his support for the projects that we have undertaken in Broomley & Stocksfield in the past few years and to wish him well in the future.

The Parish Council will continue to take an active part in the consultations for the way forward to the new Unitary Authority for Northumberland and in particular in the setting up of the Belonging Communities Forum.

## BALSAM BASHING!



On 6th May, members of the Rights of Way & Environment group met with Ceri Gibson of the Tyne Rivers Trust about eradicating Himalayan Balsam from the banks of Stocksfield Burn. Ceri gave advice on identifying the balsam while it is still in its seedling stage. Starting as far upstream as possible, we walked the footpath to Old Ridley, and began working back downstream removing any balsam we found. The plants were still quite small so we probably missed a few but regular walkers on this path intend to continue the 'eradication programme' before any seeds form.

A second evening of 'balsam bashing' in early June attacked the extensive area of balsam around the Belliasis Burn, which can be accessed from the footpath to Eltringham. Further activities with the Tyne Rivers Trust are planned including a talk, in late September, about the work of the Trust. For more details contact the Parish Clerk, Margaret Williams, or Councillor Norman Hooks.

**Chairman:**

Ian Hall . . . . . 01661 843049

**Vice Chairman:**

Melna Martin. . . . . 01661 844040

**Councillors:**

Peter Barrass . . . . . 01661 844727

John Davison . . . . . 01661 842470

Steve Gleadhill . . . . . 01661 842531

Diane Hinchcliffe . . . . . 01661 843991

Norman Hooks . . . . . 01661 844863

Dave Porter . . . . . 01661 844855

Julia Sayce . . . . . 01661 843523

**District Councillors**

Colin Argent . . . . . 01661 842284

Anne Dale . . . . . 01434 673326

Eileen Drew . . . . . 01661 842159

**County Councillor**

Anne Dale . . . . . 01434 673326

## 3 NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS WANTED

Are you interested in influencing what goes on in our Parish? Have you time to give for the benefit of the Community?

The Parish Council is looking for 3 new Parish Councillors. If you think that you have something to contribute to the life of our community, please get in touch with us, don't wait to be asked!

The Parish Council meets every month (except August) and councillors also meet to discuss areas of particular interest such as footpaths, transport, planning. Important matters for consideration over the next few months include:

- Proposals for windfarm developments
- Proposals to close post offices in Tynedale
- Belonging Communities and local government re-organisation.

For further information on what is going on in our Parish please check out the website: [www.stocksfield.org](http://www.stocksfield.org)

## NE43 NEWS

Please let us have your comments and contributions for future issues.

Larger print versions of this newsletter are available from the Clerk on request.

Parish Council Clerk: Margaret Williams

Telephone / Fax: 01661 843114

E-mail: [margaretbpc@talk21.com](mailto:margaretbpc@talk21.com)

Webmaster: [dave@radiopages.co.uk](mailto:dave@radiopages.co.uk)

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## Multi Use Games Area

Since opening last month, the Multi Use Games Area is now being well-used. Bookings are taken at Stocksfield Cricket Club.

01661 842902 (club) or 01661 842836.

MUGA Availability - 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day.

Minimum booking time = 1 hour.

Prices (per hour)	Peak	Off Peak
Standard:	£18	£15
Associated teams:	£15	£12

**Peak times are Monday to Thursday - 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Off peak - all other times.**

**10 % Discount available for block bookings.**

**Block Bookings = 10 or more sessions when paid in advance.**

**Special daytime rates for community groups & schools.**

**Changing Facilities:** Changing facilities are available evenings and weekends or by prior arrangement (check when booking) for £3 per session.

**Emergency:** In the event of an emergency a telephone and first aid equipment are available in the Cricket Clubhouse.



### SICA Playgroup Open Evening

SICA Playgroup would like to invite all parents of children born between 1st September 2005 and 31st August 2006 to an open evening in the playgroup rooms on **Tuesday 8th July** between 6 and 7pm, where you will be able to meet the staff and learn about the Playgroup environment. All welcome.

Please feel free to bring children as the room will be set up for a typical playgroup session.

### Tidy play areas

On a recent visit to **Branch End Play Area** it was discovered that one of the litter bins was overflowing and contained at least three used nappies. To make matters worse birds had pulled the nappies out of the bin.

Parents and carers, if it is essential that nappies are changed while visiting the play area, please take the used nappy home with you, or wrap it and put it in one of the closed wheelie bins, not the litter bins. Thank you.

### ARTS FESTIVAL BYWELL CHURCHES

28th June to 29th June  
10 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

#### Art Exhibition

Featuring works by local artists, a photo competition and a children's art exhibition  
Free admission - Grand Raffle, Stalls, Refreshments

#### Music at Bywell

27th June 8.00 p.m.  
A concert presented by

#### Vivace

28th June 7.30 p.m.  
A Concert presented by

#### Werca's Folk

Tickets £5 for each concert from:  
01661 843330, 844302 or 842465

### Grand Auction Night at SICA Friday 4th July

For Broomley First School

Doors open at 6.30 p.m. for browsing

Food from 7.00 p.m. Auction starts at 8.00 p.m.

**Broomley First School** are raising money for a new computer classroom, to be used by the young people of the village through school, Mid Tyne Kids Club, pre-school, playgroup and other youth groups. They would really appreciate your support at the auction, but adults only please!

A huge range of items will be auctioned including: A week's holiday in Ireland, a track day at Croft Circuit, a signed and framed Falcons Shirt, vouchers for local restaurants, hotels and shops, wine, perfumes and many more.

**Tickets £2.50 including pie and pea supper available from the school. Call: 01661 842271.**

### Branch End Play Area Regeneration Phase 2

The facility is all but complete, but the design and construction of the new access has taken longer than expected, and caused delays to the installation of the Sensory Garden. We hope that this will now be completed during the summer.

### Next Blood Donor Sessions:

Stocksfield Community Centre:

**19th September 14.30 - 19.00**

Prudhoe, West Wylam Community Centre:

**14th July - 14.30 - 19.00**

**22nd September - 14.30 - 19.00**

**There's a whole lot more about Stocksfield on our website: [www.stocksfield.org](http://www.stocksfield.org)**