

# NE43 News

Issue 28  
Autumn 2008

The Newsletter of Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

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

## Calor Village of the Year - we win!!

The Parish Council and the Community Association submitted a joint entry to the Northumberland round of the Calor Village of the Year competition. We were shortlisted, met with the judges and gave them a brief tour of Broomley & Stocksfield to show off what we have. We are pleased to say that Stocksfield has been awarded the title of **Northumberland Village of the Year 2008**. We will now submit an entry to the national competition.

For winning, we will be presented with a plaque and a cheque for £400, at SICA on Wednesday 5th November. Watch out for news of our progress in the regional round of the competition.

## More spaces for station car park?

The Parish Council is in discussion with Network Rail, Northern Rail and the County Council about increasing the number of spaces at the Stocksfield Station Car Park. Ian Jopling, of Northumberland County Council, attended the September Parish Council meeting. As a result of his input, we intend to apply for government funding to substantially improve the layout of the whole of the station car park area.

If we are successful, work on the improvements could start next year. This could also include additional parking spaces on the eastbound side of the station on the B6309.

## War Memorial to be re-dedicated Remembrance Sunday, 9th November

Following the theft of the War Memorial plaque, we are hoping that repairs will have been completed by the end of September. The Parish Council is planning to re-dedicate the War Memorial at the Remembrance Day Ceremony on 9th November.



As usual Remembrance Day will be marked by a short service at the War Memorial at 10.55 a.m. This year, it will be followed by the re-dedication of the new plaque, which will resemble the original plaque as closely as possible.

Full details of our plans will be published nearer the time; please watch out for more news on our website, [www.stocksfield.org](http://www.stocksfield.org) or in the local press.

If a member of your family is currently serving with HM Forces and you, or they, would like to be at the War Memorial on this special occasion, please let us know. All Stocksfield residents will be welcome to attend.

## Vehicle activated speed signs

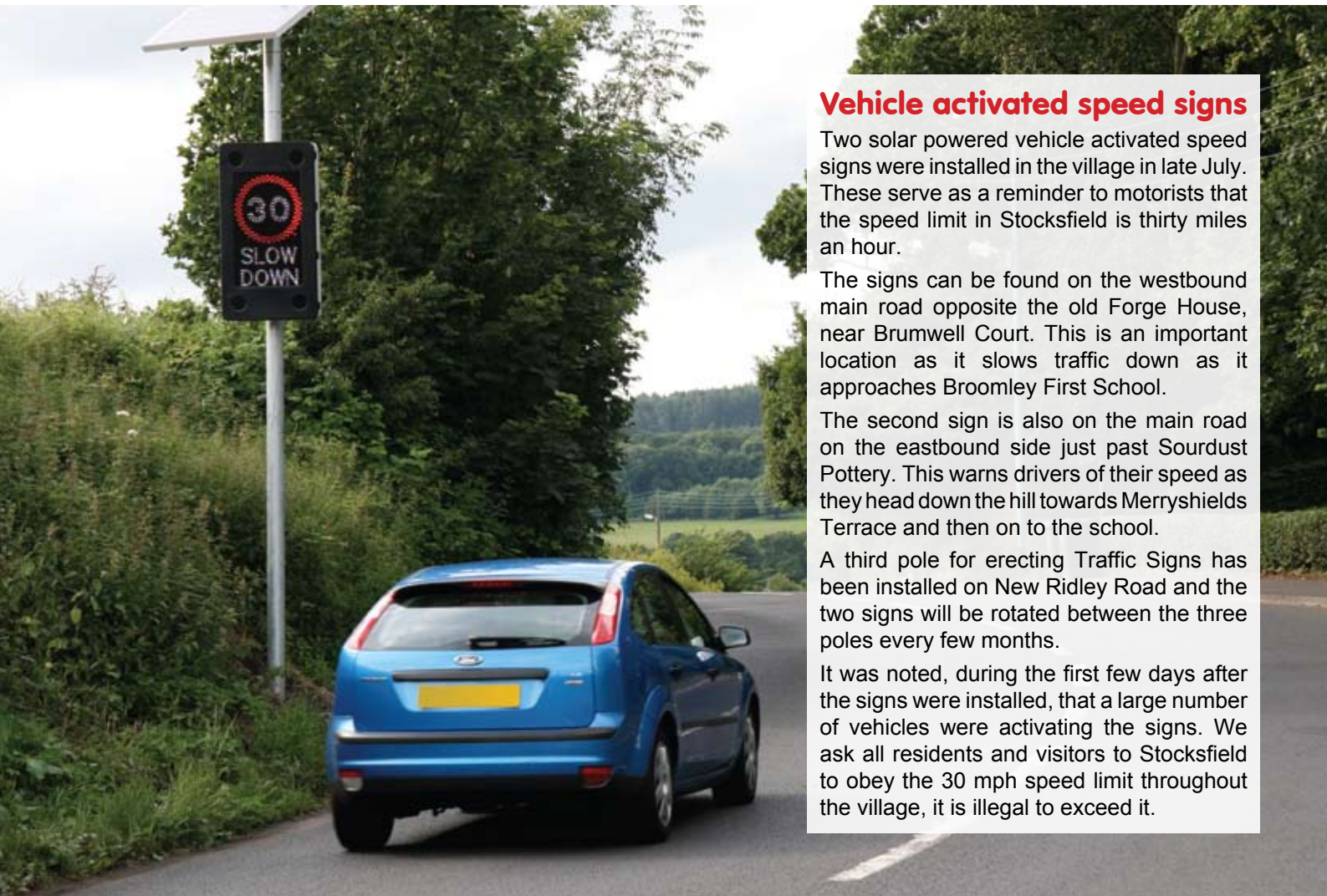
Two solar powered vehicle activated speed signs were installed in the village in late July. These serve as a reminder to motorists that the speed limit in Stocksfield is thirty miles an hour.

The signs can be found on the westbound main road opposite the old Forge House, near Brumwell Court. This is an important location as it slows traffic down as it approaches Broomley First School.

The second sign is also on the main road on the eastbound side just past Sourdust Pottery. This warns drivers of their speed as they head down the hill towards Merryshields Terrace and then on to the school.

A third pole for erecting Traffic Signs has been installed on New Ridley Road and the two signs will be rotated between the three poles every few months.

It was noted, during the first few days after the signs were installed, that a large number of vehicles were activating the signs. We ask all residents and visitors to Stocksfield to obey the 30 mph speed limit throughout the village, it is illegal to exceed it.



## Next step - Your doorstep - Stocksfield Parish Plan.



**Two successful parish plan events** were held on July 24th and 26th at the Baptist Church and at SICA. Participants were asked to fill in a questionnaire about their views on some

the key issues, and were asked to indicate their priorities for action within our 8 themes of **Community Spirit, Environment, Health, Traffic and Public Transport, Housing and New Development, Education, Sports and Leisure, and Young People**. We also asked for the 3 things they liked most about the village and the 3 things they wanted to change.

Analysis of your responses is not yet complete, but early indications show that residents really enjoy the village life here - both its rural setting with open spaces and footpaths, and the people in the village. Amenities and services, such as the school, shops, community centre, sports facilities, scouts and guides groups, post offices, the work of the churches and GP practice were also highly regarded.

However, it is clear that we also need to address various issues that are causing residents some concern. For example, more foot and cycle paths would enhance our rural environment still further, as well as providing healthy exercise. It was also felt that the village is physically fragmented, and that a "village heart" would be welcome.

**We will be calling on 250 homes in September and asking for your views**

As part of keeping our village identity, there was very strong support for restoring the Village Show. Heavy traffic, speeding, parking at the railway station, lack of a range of local shops, sheltered accommodation for older people, and the need to support the efforts of our volunteers and local groups were just some of the other issues raised.

The events were just the beginning! Apart from analysing the information, we want to get more local views from those who could not attend the events. With this in mind, we will be calling on 250 homes within the village and asking for their views on the issues highlighted above. We are planning to do this during the week of September 29th.

If they do call at your house, we would be very grateful if you could spare a few minutes to answer the questionnaire.

Given the uncertainty over the new Unitary Authority structure, and how this may affect our village, it is vital that we present a clear vision of what we want for the future of Stocksfield. Once we have analysed the information from the events and doorstep questionnaire, we will be drafting a plan, which we will be published on the website in October or November and in the next edition of NE43 News. It will also be available on DVD.

Please help us to get your views and to make sure that Stocksfield can make the strongest case when looking to get resources and new services from the County Council and other organisations. If you have any queries regarding the plan, please call **Steve Gleadhill on 01661 842531**.

### We want your news!

**NE43 News** is published four times a year and is distributed to every house and business in Stocksfield. Additional copies are available in the Post Offices, Branch End surgery and at SICA, and we want your news!

If you are in business and have launched a new product or service, have won an award, or just have some news, send it to us and we will try to include it. Teams, clubs, organisations, we want your news too.

In fact anyone who has anything they want to share with the people of Stocksfield, let us know! Please e-mail your news to: [margaretbspc@talk21.com](mailto:margaretbspc@talk21.com)

### Extended opening hours for Surgery



From the end of September, Branch End Surgery will be offering extended opening hours. The practice will be offering pre-bookable appointments from as early as 7 a.m. and evening appointments up to 8 p.m. on some days.

The extended hours will provide better access for patients who work during the day. Patients will be advised of days and times when they call for to make an appointment. Details of the extended opening hours will be found in the surgery, on their website: [www.branchendsurgery.co.uk](http://www.branchendsurgery.co.uk) and ours [www.stocksfield.org](http://www.stocksfield.org)

### Stocksfield Players

The Stocksfield Players have recently begun rehearsals for this year's production, *Sow Tears, Reap Joy*. It is an original drama by BBC writer and Stocksfield Player Alex Swan.

The play will be showing at **SICA from 20th - 22nd November**.

Don't miss this - put the date in your diary now!

If you would like to help backstage or front of house please call **Jodie on 01661 844872**.

### Success for Stocksfield Netball teams

**Stocksfield Junior Netball Club** had an amazing season with the Club winning U11, U13 and U15 Northumberland Junior Leagues. All teams were undefeated all season beating teams from Hexham, Astley, Wansbeck, Morpeth, Prudhoe, Concordia, Berwick, Blyth, Morpeth and Bedlington.

**The Ladies team** also won the Northumberland League and finished 2nd in the Tyne and Wear League.

**The U16 Team** was asked to represent Northumberland in the Regional Netball Finals.

The Club trains at Broomley First School on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 noon and training starts again on Saturday 13th September.

The club is always looking for new members. Anyone interested in playing Netball and joining the club should contact **Deb Goodwin on 01661 844325** or come down to the Broomley First school on a Saturday Morning.

### Stocksfield Post Offices to remain open

You may have heard the announcement in July that neither of our Post Offices was threatened with closure. However, the Post Office did say that should one Post Office be saved from closure, then another would be closed elsewhere.

That consultation process is now also complete and our Post Offices in Stocksfield are still unaffected, and will remain open.

## A new Vicar for Stocksfield



**The Rev. Bill Rigby** has been appointed as the Vicar of Bywell St Peter's and St George's Mickley. Bill, and his wife Helen, are now settling into the Vicarage in Meadowfield Road. They are no strangers to the North East, both growing up in Gateshead before going to university. They have fond memories of living in Tynedale, Bill was Vicar at St John Lee, near Hexham, and the family has also lived in Newcastle, Durham, Great Malvern, and in Morpeth.

Rev. Bill said "We are really looking forward to living and working with you in Broomley & Stocksfield and Mickley. I hope that you will make yourselves known to us as we move into Stocksfield and seek to find our bearings."

Bill and Helen have been married for 30 years, and have two children, Paul and Jane, who went to QEHS in Hexham. They are both happily married and live locally. Paul and Claire and Jane and Edward have one son each. Monty will be one in September and Fraser one in October.

Bill was ordained 20 years ago, before that he taught mathematics in secondary high schools. Helen has worked full time since Bill became a curate. The third member of their current household is Genta, their Golden Retriever.

The Rev. Bill Rigby was inducted and installed as Vicar of Bywell and Mickley on 9th September.

## September in the rain



Following the heavy rains of August, when September arrived it just got wetter! The flash flooding on Saturday 6th September affected all of Stocksfield, especially the low lying parts of the village. Pictured above is Stocksfield Burn in full flood.

## Prudhoe Community Choir

Join in singing songs from West-End shows and other popular vocal arrangements for mixed male and female voices. All ages are welcome, and there is no need to audition. Wednesday evenings 7.45pm - 9.45pm at Stocksfield Baptist Church. £15 per term. New term commencing September 10th 2008 is free to new members. Contact **Catherine Edge 01661 835738**.

## What's on over the coming few months?

Below are the autumn programmes for a few of our clubs and societies - please see the Information Card and Website for further details of what activities are available in and around Stocksfield. If you have ideas for a new club or society which you would like to start, do let us know.

### Stocksfield WI

The WI meets at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre. Contact Beryl Newton - 01661 842255. Visitors and new members always welcome.

- 1st October: Memories of a Glasgow Childhood & Time in Prison - Robert Douglas
- 5th November: Victorian Dresses - Gabby Sutton
- 3rd December: Tales of Magic - Cheryl Johnson, followed by our Christmas Meal.

### Stocksfield Local History Society

The History Society meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Community Centre. Meetings start at 7.30 p.m. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Contact Dennis Harding 01661 843170.

- 8th October: AGM and Historic Corbridge - David Waugh
- 12th November: Landscape & Capability Brown - Prof. John Cannon
- 10th December: The development of the Tyneside Riverside from the 19th Century to Today - Freda Thompson

### Stocksfield Retired Men's Association

Meetings are held in the Baptist Church Hall on the first and third Thursday of the month at 10.30 a.m. A fee of £1 is payable at each meeting. Contact Ian Newton - 01661 843898.

- 2nd October: What the hell is a virus? - Prof. Richard Madeley
- 16th October: Taliban country, Pakistan & Afghanistan - David Archer
- 6th November: Punishment - Patrick Eavis
- 20th November: A China experience - Raymond Rourke
- 4th December: Songs & Stories of Northumbria - Geoff Hughes
- 10th December: AGM, Carol Service & Christmas lunch - please note this is a Wednesday
- 18th December: No Meeting

### Stocksfield South of Tyne Flower Club

Meetings are held on 1st Thursday of the month in the Community Centre at 1.45 p.m. Contact Mrs M Chrisp - 0191 413 2483. New members are always welcome.

- 2nd October: Floral Concepts - Irene Parker AD
- 6th November: Cavalcade of Flowers - Marjorie Moore AD
- 21st November: Open Meeting 7 p.m. Christmas Charisma - David Ryland

### Stocksfield Plants and Gardens Society

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month in the Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

- 21st October: My Garden Changes - Heather Russell
- 24th October: Inter-Society Quiz - hosted by Snods Edge
- 18th November: Seed Collecting in China and the Howick Arboretum - Robert Jamieson
- 9th December: AGM and Members' Evening

## What's on at SICA (Community Centre)

Regular weekly activities, starting in September

### **Mondays:**

Hatha Yoga	9.45 - 11.00
Pre-School Group	9.10 - 11.40
Badminton	2.00 - 3.30
Karate	5.00 - 6.00
Keep fit Aerobics	6.45 - 7.45
Badminton	8.00 - 10.00

### **Tuesdays:**

Pre-School	9.10 - 11.40
Computer Club	9.30 - 11.30
Youth Club	7.15 - 9.00

### **Wednesdays:**

Parent & Toddlers	10.00 - 11.30
Carpet Bowls	1.30 - 4.00

### **Thursdays:**

Pre-School	9.10 - 11.40
Bums & Tums	6.45 - 7.45
Badminton	8.00 - 10.00

### **Fridays:**

Workout for Women - with Creche	9.30 - 10.30
Tickle & Bounce	10.30 - 1.30

### **Saturdays:**

Dance Group for Children	10.00 - 11.30
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### **Also at SICA:**

26 September:	McMillan Coffee Morning
8 November:	Charity Card Sale
20-22 November:	Stocksfield Players



## Could you help a young person to move towards independence?

"Barnardos Supported Lodgings Scheme finds 'Supported Lodgings' for youngsters needing stability in their lives after leaving care or who are homeless.

The project needs a number of 'Lodgings Providers' for the scheme - single people, couples or families with children - to help them provide temporary accommodation for a young person aged 16 - 21.

Accommodation providers receive a fee from the project and the young person also makes a contribution from their income, the amount they can expect to receive in total will be around £140 per week. The financial rewards may seem small but this is an opportunity to make a big difference in a young person's life.

Barnardos offers support and training for the Lodgings providers as well as support groups. If you are interested in learning more about the scheme contact; Carol Preston, on **01670 714400**, or e-mail: [carol.preston@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:carol.preston@barnardos.org.uk)

## Grant Aid 2009/10

The Parish Council will soon be considering its budgets for 2009/10. Organisations wanting to be considered for support in the next financial year should submit application to the Clerk no later than 10th November 2008. We do not normally support running costs, but are able to help with set up costs, capital costs and support extraordinary expenditure. We do need to know what you wish to spend the grant on, and also have some indication of your financial situation. Applications should contain details of the project to be funded, together with a copy of the organisation's most recent accounts. Contact the Parish Clerk on **01661 843114** - [margaretspsc@talk21.com](mailto:margaretspsc@talk21.com)

## Parish Council Land Registration - September 2008

The Parish Council has agreed to Register a Caution with the Land Registry on two sites in Stocksfield, and this is notification of the start of this process. The Parish Council also agreed to Register its ownership of the Cricket Field with the Land Registry.

**The Parish Council, having previously attempted to establish ownership of the former Rifle & Snooker Club at Guessburn, is taking steps to Register a Caution on the site with the Land Registry.**

**The Parish Council is taking steps to Register a Caution on the site adjacent to 15 Branch End Terrace with the Land Registry.**

**The Parish Council is taking steps to Register its ownership of the land currently occupied by Stocksfield Cricket Club.**

Any queries about these registrations should be addressed to Mrs M Williams, Clerk to Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council, 205 New Ridley Road, Stocksfield, Northumberland, NE43 7QD.

## Great North Squirrel Quest 2008



The first Great North Squirrel Quest takes place 4th to 12th October and volunteers are being sought to report sightings of both reds and greys in the region.

Save our Squirrels will use information submitted by the public to build up a snapshot of squirrel populations in the North East to help with efforts to conserve the red squirrel in Northumberland.

Red squirrels are increasingly under threat from greys which compete for habitat. The grey can also carry the squirrelpox virus which can be transmitted to the red with deadly consequences.

Locals are being urged to get out into the countryside to carry out surveys, or to report sightings in their garden or neighbourhood.

Further details on how to take part can be obtained from **Save our Squirrels** at [www.saveoursquirrels.org.uk](http://www.saveoursquirrels.org.uk)

## SICA Parent, Baby & Toddler Group

This group meets on Wednesday mornings (in term time) from 10.00 - 11.30 a.m. They offer a welcoming, friendly place for parents, babies and toddlers to enjoy. Welcome/tea/coffee for parents, crafts, snack time with story and songs. Baby play area, soft play area and a wide range of toys. They would love to see more faces, just go along. All welcome.

## Next Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month in the Community Centre starting at 7.30 p.m.

**Monday 6th October - Monday 3rd November**  
**Monday 1st December - Monday 5th January 2009**

Residents are warmly invited to attend Parish Council meetings and Public Participation is always included on the agenda. The full Minutes of Parish Council Meetings are posted on the notice boards and on the Website.