



Re-dedication of Stocksfield War Memorial

At this year's Remembrance Day Service at Stocksfield War Memorial, held on 9th November, the plaque recording the names of those who fell in the First World War was re-dedicated. The plaque, stolen earlier in the year, has now been replaced. This new plaque has been made possible through a grant from the War Memorials Trust and the generosity of individuals who were moved by the theft. The balance of the cost has been made up by the Parish Council.

The service, attended by around 200 people, was conducted by the Rev. Bill Rigby, the new Vicar of Bywell & Mickley. Among those present were representatives of the 3/9 Royal Artillery from Albermarle Barracks, the Parish Council, members of the Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies in Stocksfield and local residents.

This year the Parish Council wreath was laid by Mr Bill Walker whose cousin, Kenneth Walker, is one of those named on the War Memorial. After the service many of those present went to SICA to enjoy refreshments served by the Guides and Brownies.



Keep dogs out of play areas

The Parish Council has received complaints that residents are exercising their dogs on children's play areas. Obviously dogs are banned from these areas as dog faeces can carry disease. Please do not take your dog onto Branch End Play Area, Kates Plain, or either of the Sportsfields. Thank you.



With best wishes for a very Happy Christmas
and a Peaceful and Prosperous year in 2009
from Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council.

Flooding

Over the past few weeks, the Parish Council has been discussing the problems which caused the flooding on 6th September.

Of particular concern are blocked drains and gullies, and the Parish Council continues to put pressure on the County Council to get these cleared and, where necessary, repaired.

Second Ford

It will be some months before the ford can be repaired. Until that time it is closed and unusable; there is a deep hole which would seriously damage any vehicle attempting to drive through.

Discussions at the November Parish Council meeting suggested that the bed of Stocksfield Burn had silted up in recent years and that this in part meant that it was more prone to breaking its banks. It is therefore important that garden and other waste is not tipped into the burn.

Damage to the Footpath along Stocksfield Burn

The Parish Council has been in discussion with representatives from the Environment Agency, NCC Countryside Services and Milecastle Housing regarding the best way to repair the bank in the area behind the Tennis Club. A detailed analysis of the problems on this section of the burn has been received from the director of the Tyne Rivers Trust. This advice has been passed on to NCC Countryside Services and the Environment Agency. Engineers from NCC are currently working on creating a long term solution. NCC is also in discussion with Milecastle Housing over meeting the cost of what will inevitably be a very expensive repair. It is hoped that repair work will start soon.

Large Stocksfield Hall extension planned

The Engineering Business, which currently employs 160 staff, has outgrown its existing offices in Riding Mill. With approximately 75 staff already working in Stocksfield, they plan to relocate to Stocksfield Hall, and expand eventually to 300 employees. In association with Allendale Estates, it will submit a planning application to add a second floor to part of the current building, and add additional two storey offices. A new car park capable of taking 260 cars is also planned; the current capacity is 100 cars.

These proposals were the subject of a consultation event at SICA on 17th November, and the topic was discussed at the Parish Council meeting in December. Councillors will make their recommendations in the best interests of Stocksfield when the formal planning application is received.

Residents will also be able to send their comments on these plans to Tynedale Council Planning Department (copy to the Parish Council please).





Scout Post is back!

Stocksfield Scouts are raising funds for a new Scout hut. They would be grateful for your support in using the Christmas card delivery service for cards sent to NE43 post codes. Post boxes are in both post offices now; the last time for posting will be 4pm on Monday 22nd December. They ask for a minimum donation of 12p per card and are grateful if tax payers would use the green envelopes to gift aid their donation. If you are not gift aiding please just throw the money into the box with your cards. The boxes are emptied daily and cards are delivered at least once a week. More from Philippa Harpin, 01661 842302.

Warden Mary retires



After many years as Warden of the Stocksfield Institute Community Association, Mary McArthur has decided to retire, and will be leaving the Community Centre at the end of December. Mary will be greatly missed by all who use the Centre and we wish her well in her retirement. If you need to contact the Community Centre in the New Year, please continue to call **01661 842346**, and they will get back to you. SICA have advertised Mary's post, if you would like to help administer this vibrant, go-ahead community centre, please call them in the next few days.

Stocksfield Methodist Church is seeking to renew both its spiritual calling and its earthly premises. Known around the village as the church that 'does a good coffee morning' they want to reach out and offer more to the community. They want to equip the premises and members for the 21st Century, and are calling the project 'Vision 21'.

The alterations to the premises will include providing access to all, improving toilet facilities, making the worship area flexible, replacing outdated heating and hot water systems, and improving electrics and lighting.

The FUNd raising efforts start in 2009 and have the emphasis on fun before funds. They do have to raise a large amount of cash but would rather have your fellowship.

Three dates for your diary:

Sun 18th January: 10.30 a.m. Covenant Service.

Sat 7th February: 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Coffee morning / Gift Day and at 7.30 p.m., a concert by Ravenswood Singers at SICA.

Sat 14th March: 3.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. Sponsored Hymn Sing.

More information from **Sue Applegarth 01661 844961**, or **www.stocksfieldmethodists.org**

Christmas Trees



Once again the Parish Council has provided two Christmas Trees for the Parish. These are located at Broomley School and outside the Dr Syntax Pub, and we are grateful to them for their support in lighting these trees.

Stocksfield Churches Together

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be 'Reconcile my People'. 18th January an Ecumenical Service will be held in the Methodist Church, Mount View Terrace. Call 01661 852143. 18th-25th a week of 24/7 Prayer in the Baptist Church. Call 01661 843710.

Calor Village of the Year - winners



Stocksfield is presented with a winner's plaque as Northumberland Calor Village of the Year. The Duke of Northumberland and Chris O'Bea of Calor, present Margaret Williams and Norman Hooks with the plaque. Also pictured are, Julia Sayce (Parish Council) and Michael Richardson (SICA). The entry for the National Competition has now been completed and despatched. Many thanks to all of you who made a contribution to this entry. We understand that it will be many months before we know how we have progressed in this competition.

Stocksfield Community Garden

Now that the Branch End play equipment has been installed, and the new tarmac path which leads down to it has been completed, the Stocksfield Community Sensory Garden is the next addition to the regeneration scheme for the Branch End play area site.

A planning group comprising representatives from local churches, the Parish Council and the Plants and Gardens Society is forging ahead with plans to create the garden in 2009.

The first phase will be to create a willow tunnel next to the play area for children to play in. Then in the spring a programme of planting, which will be carried out in phases over the next year or so, will begin.

The plan involves flowers, trees and shrubs which will engage all five senses of touch, taste, sight, sound and smell. There will also be a wild flower bank and an area of shrubs designed to attract birds and butterflies. Children from Broomley First school will be helping in the design and the planting.

We would like as many people from Stocksfield and beyond to help with this project. There are several ways in which you can get involved:

- Digging, planting and creating the various features of the garden. The first work day is scheduled for Saturday 10th January 2009, when the willow tunnel will be planted.
- Donating plants for the garden - we have a list!
- Sponsoring a plant (£5-£20) or helping with fund-raising - we have scheduled a 'Recycle your unwanted Christmas Presents' event on Saturday 14th February from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon at the Baptist Church Hall.
- Helping with maintenance once the garden is finished.

All offers of help, please to Rev. Paul Revill on 01661 843710.

Travelling Puppet Show

Freehand Puppet Theatre will put on a performance of 'Little Red ... you know Who' on Saturday 14th February, 2.30 p.m., at SICA. The 1 hour show is suitable for 3 - 7 year olds. All profits from this event will go towards providing additional equipment for the children in SICA Playgroup.

Dog waste bin

A larger bin has been provided at Birkdene which means that we have a spare bin. The Parish Council would welcome suggestions from dog walkers and residents as to where this spare bin might be best located. Suggestions should be made to the Clerk of the Parish Council by 12th January please.

Two new Parish Councillors



Two Stocksfield residents have recently joined the Parish Council; we now have eleven councillors. Pete Duncan lives in Painshawfield Road and is much involved with the Football Club. Katharine Russell lives in Welton Close. We still have one vacancy on the Parish Council, so if you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please contact the Clerk, Margaret Williams, on 01661 843114 for more information. Your Parish needs you!

Parish Plan Update

The Parish Plan organising group would like to thank everyone who took the time to answer the questionnaires during our doorstep inquiry last month. The interviewer said he had never had such an enthusiastic response!

The doorstep inquiry was very important, as it gave us a lot of information about what residents feel are the key local issues. While we cannot give a full account just yet, here are some of the main priorities:

- Most people are in favour of some new housing and development in the village, particularly if it is well designed and affordable, but there is less support for developing the larger sites which have been put forward.
- A footpath along the south bank of the River Tyne
- A nature reserve at the former Merryshields Quarry
- A neighbourhood warden or community police officer
- A return of the Village Show
- If the existing school continues in its current form, ensuring it could cope with future demand and new technology. If a new school is proposed, including an indoor sports hall in its design, for community use
- A running track at the sports fields
- Consulting young people about the type of facilities they want in the village
- Opening up the old station yard for extra parking space
- Developing the site next to the Branch End petrol station
- Better train and bus services in the evenings and at weekends
- A combination of lifetime homes and care homes for older and infirm people
- More adult learning opportunities in the village
- A bigger role for the Parish Council in developing land and projects for community benefit

33 residents also expressed an interest in volunteering to assist clubs and sports facilities.

All the information given in the doorstep inquiry, along with what we gathered from the events in July, will form the basis of the Parish Plan and the main issues we need to address over the next 10 to 15 years. We intend to present the draft plan to the Parish Council at its meeting on 5th January 2009, and will be holding a public "feedback event" for residents early in the New Year.

Once again, many thanks for your time and effort. If you have any queries, please contact **Steve Gleadhill on 01661 842531**.

Return of the Village Show?

At the recent Parish Plan Events one of the issues raised by residents was the desire to organise some kind of "whole village event".

The Management Committee of the Community Association (SICA) has been discussing this and come up with a few suggestions. Initial thoughts are that such an event could be spread over two weekends in late summer, with the first weekend encompassing a sports/games festival and the second weekend a more traditional flower/vegetable/craft show.

In 2009 the event might be part of SICA's golden jubilee celebration. However, creating such an event would be an enormous (and expensive) undertaking and would require the support of all organisations in Stocksfield and the active participation of a large number of residents.

We are now at the stage where we need to gauge what the public support for such an event might be and to this end plan to hold a **public meeting** at SICA on **Monday 12th January 2009 at 7.30 p.m.** It must be stressed that if there is insufficient interest and support for the idea then the proposal will go no further. If you have suggestions as to how such an event might be organised and what it might consist of do come along to the meeting or if you are unable to attend but would like to help contact SICA Chairman **Norman Hooks on 01661 842346**.

Anniversary for Stocksfield Health Walkers



After their regular Monday morning walk on 24th November, Stocksfield Health walkers met up in the Methodist Church Room for a '6th anniversary celebration'.

The walk to Old Ridley and the Fords had been very well supported; 19 walkers plus the 2 leaders started out at 10 a.m. They were joined at the end of their walk by a number of other people who have taken part in this 'Walk Your Way To Health' scheme over the past 6 years. Lots of party food was on offer including a birthday cake and the celebration lasted rather longer than the walk!

Anyone interested in coming along and enjoying an easy walk, lasting about 1 hour, should contact **Alison Carter on 01434 613227**, or just turn up at the station car park at 10 a.m. on any Monday morning.

Stocksfield Art Club

You may have already heard that Stocksfield Art Club has sadly closed after nearly 40 successful years. SICA is now wondering if there are any artists or budding artists who would be interested in re-starting this club. The members of the old club tended to be painters but a new club could encompass painters, sculptors, photographers or might just be a group of people interested in art appreciation. If you would like to start a new Art Club, please contact SICA Chairman Norman Hooks. Please call SICA on **01661 842346**, leave a message and he will get back to you.

Congratulations to:



Rosina Brown Bridal Gowns who beat off stiff competition to win the retail section of 2008 'Pride in Tynedale' awards.

Rosina has run her successful Bridal Gown business in Stocksfield for 15 years; her daughter, Jackie Doran, runs Rosina's other shop within Robbs of Hexham. Congratulations to you both.

Sportsfield & MUGA Parking

Our Sportsfields and the new Multi Use Games Area are increasingly popular, particularly at weekends. As a result the car park can become full, with many people having to park on the main road. If you are doing so, please park on the road only, do not park your car partly on the pavement. This is hazardous for pedestrians and restricts the use of children's buggies and disability scooters. Please also leave plenty of space round the car park entrance, as it can be difficult to see traffic coming from the right if a car is parked too close to the entrance. If you are visting Branch End Play Area, for the same reasons, please park only on the road and not partly on the pavements. Thank you.

Extended Surgery Hours

Branch End Surgery is now offering pre-bookable appointments from as early as 7 a.m. on Mondays and Tuesday mornings and up to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays.

There are some things such as blood tests, breathing tests and ECGs which cannot be booked into these appointment times.

Further details can be found in the surgery and on the practice website:

www.branchendsurgery.co.uk

Next Blood Donor session:

Friday 2nd January 2009 - 2.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. at SICA.

Next Meetings:

Stocksfield WI:

7th January 2009, 7.30 p.m. - Aasifa Dance Group.

Stocksfield Local History Society:

14th January 2009, 7.30 p.m. - Andrew Birley - Vindolanda & Recent Excavations.

Meetings are held in the Community Centre - Visitors and new members always welcome.

Parish Council:

Monday 5th January 2009 - 7.30 p.m. In the Mary Clayton room at SICA. All welcome.



Multi Use Games Area

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.



Good Luck:

Nominated for the Tynedale Sports Council Awards:

Club of the Year - **Stocksfield Netball Club**

Sportswoman of the Year - **Lynn Marr** - Athlete

Young Player of the Year, Boy - **Matt Henderson** - epee

Need to tone up and get fit after Christmas?

Mary Huggin's Exercise to Music Classes are held in the Community Centre.

Mondays: 6.30 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. Aerobics, high or low, then body conditioning.

Tuesdays: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Step Class.

Thursdays: 6.45 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. Body Toning Class, with stability balls.

Fridays: 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. Workouts for women, with a crèche.

All ages and abilities welcome.