

NE43 News

Issue 30
Spring 2009

The Newsletter of Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

www.stocksfield.org

Annual Parish Meeting

to be held in the Community Centre,
Stocksfield on Monday, 20th April 2009,
7.30 p.m.

The final draft of the Parish Plan for Broomley
& Stocksfield will be launched at this meeting.
This is your chance to comment on the Plan.

There will also be an opportunity to bring up
matters of concern with the Parish Council.

All welcome.

Village Show Plus!

The possible return of the Village Show was aired in the winter edition of **NE43 News**. More people than expected came to the public meeting on 12th January, so an enthusiastic committee was formed and work is now going ahead to organise not just the traditional show, but also sports activities, music and various entertainments, all to take place on the same day.

The idea is that the village will be buzzing with activity and people will have all sorts of opportunities for meeting their neighbours, having fun, and finding out what our local organisations have to offer.

The date is **Saturday 12th September**, so keep it free!
The name is **Stocksfield Festival**.

Many of the organisations in the village have already been approached and have agreed to take part in the Festival. If you as an individual or a group would like to be involved and have not yet been contacted, please either get in touch with the chairman of the Festival committee, Ray Thompson, 01661 843332, or look at the Festival page on our website www.stocksfield.org, where you will find details of who is leading the various working groups. Let's make this **THE** community event of the year!

Calor Village of the Year

As you may recall, in 2008 we entered and won the Northumberland competition for the Calor Village of the Year. In November we completed and submitted our entry for the national competition and have now had a visit from the judges. The Parish Council and SICA would like to thank everyone who supported us with this entry. We do not expect to hear the outcome until the end of 2009.

Extension to Station Car Park



Excellent progress has been made this year regarding our plans to extend the station car park. The Parish Council secured the agreement and support of Northern Rail, Network Rail and Northumberland County Council for an extension of the existing car park and the creation of additional parking to the North of the station on the Bywell Road.

A detailed plan was drawn up by NCC Transport Policy Team and, with their support, the Parish Council submitted a grant application to the Department for Transport in late September. In February we learned our application had been successful; the grant will be made under a scheme to improve access to railway stations.

DfT will provide half the cost of this project which it has been estimated will cost around £90,000. The remaining costs will be met by Northumberland County Council and Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council. Already meetings have been held with County Council officials, representatives of Northern Rail and Network Rail to produce a timetable for the work to be carried out.

It is very important that there are no delays in getting started as it is a condition of the grant that all work is completed by March 2010.

Shock at death of Stocksfield friends

Residents were shocked to hear of the deaths of friends Ruth Robson and Heather Brierly, both of Ridley Mill, who were killed in a car accident near Cordoba in southern Spain on 3rd March. Their car was hit at an accident blackspot. Parish Council Chairman Ian Hall said "Both Heather and Ruth were active in the village. It is a tragedy and will affect many people." Ruth, a keen environmentalist, was joint secretary of SICA, a health walk leader and helped to deliver **NE43 News**. The Parish Council is deeply saddened by this tragedy and our thoughts are with Ruth and Heather's families.

Welcome Helen Morris!



The newest recruit to Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council is Helen Morris. We now have a full complement of twelve Parish Councillors. Helen is well known in the village. She lives and works at Stocksfield Hall, where she runs the internationally known Stencil Library; a unique business that sells decorating stencils worldwide. Stocksfield Hall, probably the most stencilled house in the world, is open for public viewing on ten occasions each year. Helen is also one of the mainstays of the Stocksfield Players.

Spruce up Stocksfield this spring

We will not be holding a formal Spring Clean this year but we urge residents to look around their own "patch" and see if they can pick up wind blown litter and tidy up Stocksfield.

Horses: Can we ask horse riders not to ride on the pavements, as horse droppings on the pavements are very unpleasant for pedestrians.

Re-cycling Area: When putting paper, etc. in the recycling containers, please take your bags away. We try to keep this site tidy, but plastic bags blow around and make the whole area messy.

Dogs: We have sited a dog bin near the Common on Meadowfield Road. A recent tour of the village by the Tynedale Dog Warden and one of our Parish Councillors, revealed that dog muck is once again becoming a problem. The warden will continue to patrol in the future. Dogs are being allowed to do their business on the green areas which are popular playing areas for children. Please pick up after your dog - if there is not a dog bin near by you can put the 'Poop Bag' in the ordinary waste bin.

The Parish Council has put Poop Bags in a number of shops around the village. If you have a dog please take and use them and help us to keep our roads, pavements, footpaths and green areas clean. It is an offence not to pick up after your dog and you can be fined.

Please keep Stocksfield tidy.

On yer bike

Are you a regular cyclist or perhaps you were and fancy getting back on your bike? If so you may be interested in joining a new group of fellow cyclists to go on evening and weekend rides.

The group would aim to cater for a range of ages and abilities. If you are interested please contact Peter Barrass on 01661 844727 or at peter.barrass@bigfoot.com.

Our new ICT Suite

By Pippa Southern Class 4 - Broomley First School

A few months ago we had an ICT suite built into our school and 23 laptops and computers installed. We have been going into the computer room for ICT lessons. We learn how to use a computer or laptops sensibly, properly and safely.

On Knowledge Box the teachers can give the pupils work to do on the computer by emailing Internet websites and instructions on the emailing system and the "to do" icon. We get a good education on the computers and love playing on games!



Bywell Arts Festival

The Tenth Annual Arts Festival will take place this year at Bywell Churches on 27th and 28th June. This year there will be an exhibition of art works, stalls and refreshments and a concert given by the students from Prudhoe Community High School. Check the local press, the next edition of **NE43 News** and posters for more details nearer the date.

End of an era

For the last 35 years Stocksfield has been fortunate in the Councillors that have represented it at both District and County level. April will see the introduction of the new unitary authority and in the future our representation at County level will be Cllr. Anne Dale. We were very fortunate in that Cllr. Dale represented our interests for a number of years at District Council level and we wish her every success in the arduous task that faces both her and her fellow County Councillors in the future.

Most recently, Stocksfield was also represented at District Council level by Cllr. Colin Argent and Cllr. Eileen Drew and benefited on many occasions from their local knowledge being used to help the Council make decisions.

The people of Stocksfield will always be in debt to those Councillors, both present and past, who gave unstintingly of their time and local knowledge to ensure that Stocksfield enjoyed to the full, sound representation at all levels of local government.



Anne Dale

Colin Argent

Eileen Drew

Branch End Willow Tunnel



On a frosty January morning a small group of volunteers built a willow tunnel at the Branch End play area, linking the end of the new footpath to the small wooded area in the corner of the play area. Guided by Ruth the team aged 3 to OAP learnt how to plant, plait and weave the willow to form the tunnel, windows and even stars.

The willow, which was sourced from a Northumberland farm, was incredibly flexible and very enjoyable to work with. Aimed at the under 10's, its height having been set at 'one five year old plus a bit', the tunnel's beauty should be appreciated by all ages in years to come. The tunnel is not expected to grow a great deal this year as its roots will only just be established. Growth in the following years should be more rapid but beware, a neglected willow tunnel can quickly turn into a double row of trees!

Children's tennis in full swing!



Children's tennis will be in full swing at Stocksfield Tennis Club during the school Easter holidays. 'Mini' tennis for 4 to 10 year olds will run from 9.30 to 11.00 three mornings each week, and coaching for players aged 10+ is on offer between 11.00 and 1.00 p.m. during the first week.

Details and prices of these sessions are available from the Club Coach, Sarah, on 07984 804299. On Friday 17th April there is a FREE Open Day for juniors from 10.00 to 4.00 p.m.; there will be all sorts of activities - just drop in and have a go. And there is an opportunity for adults to try the Club's facilities free of charge, on Saturday afternoon 18th April from 2.00 p.m. onwards.

Notes from the Rights of Ways & Environment Group

Following advice from the Tyne Rivers Trust a number of residents made considerable efforts during last summer to destroy areas of Himalayan balsam along Stocksfield Burn and between the Parish Playing Fields and Merryshields Farm. It is planned to continue this work during 2009 and hopefully, following appropriate training, to collect data on water quality in the burns flowing through the parish. Anyone wishing to become involved should contact the parish clerk for further details.

The long held wish to create a riverside path along the Tyne from Eltringham to Bywell Bridge appears to be threatened as a result of attempts to close access at Eltringham to the eastern end of this route. Prudhoe Pathforce are currently collecting written witness statements, many from residents of Mickley & Stocksfield, to claim a public right of way across the railway line at Eltringham, along the river bank crossing the Bellasis burn (our parish boundary) and continuing on to join the existing public footpath near Merryshields Farm.

Residents of Stocksfield who have walked this route over a number of years are invited to complete witness statement forms which are available from **Norman Hooks 01661 844863**. The Parish Council has agreed to give its full support to this claim.

Northumberland County Council

From 1st April 2009 there will be only one Council for Northumberland.

Phone: 0845 600 6400

Website: www.northumberland.gov.uk

e-mail: contactcentre@northumberland.gov.uk

Stocksfield Plants & Gardens Society

Meetings are held on Tuesdays at SICA at 7.30p.m.

Contact: Cathy Carter - 01661 842126.

Tuesday 21st April 2009:

Richard Thew - Ponds - their planting and maintenance.

Richard is a landscaper specialising in the installation of ponds and cascades. His wide-ranging talk will include planting, predators and plant propagation as well as planting to encourage wildlife.

Tuesday 19th May 2009:

Heather McFall - The Restoration of the Gardens at Trentham.

Heather is a qualified horticulturalist and landscape garden architect and was one of the gardening team involved in the restoration of the Italian Gardens at Trentham in Staffordshire. She will share with us her experiences of the project.

Saturday May 23rd at 10.30a.m.:

Annual Plant Sale at SICA.

Stocksfield South of Tyne Flower Club

Meetings are held on Thursdays at SICA at 1.45p.m.

Contact: Mrs M Chrisp - 0191 413 2483.

Thursday 2nd April 2009:

Linda Hopkins - Poetry in Motion.

Thursday 7th May 2009:

Pamela Alexander - Wood Glorious Wood.

Baptist Church Luncheon Club

Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month at 12 noon in the Baptist Church. Contact: Sheena Anderson - 01661 843162.

Anyone for ... Table Tennis?

SICA now owns two table tennis tables and the management committee would like to know if there is sufficient interest to form a table tennis club in the village. The main hall in the Community Centre would be available on three Tuesday evenings every month. Anyone interested should contact the SICA office 01661 842346 or e-mail admin@sica.org.uk

Need to dispose of your old computer?

SICA is operating a computer re-cycling scheme. If you need to dispose of your old computer or want to start using a computer without spending a lot of money this might be the scheme for you. Contact the SICA office 01661 842346 or e-mail admin@sica.org.uk.



Stocksfield in the snow
 Yes this is February 2009, in Stocksfield! It's a while since we had some proper snow!

Branch End Patients Forum

The Patients Forum is a group of people who responded to an advert asking for volunteers to form a Patients Group linked to Branch End Surgery. The Forum consists of two G.P. Practice Managers and ten patients, including Cllr Katharine Russell, who represents the Parish Council on the forum. The Forum held its inaugural meeting in June 2008, and now meets on a monthly basis.

The role of the Forum is:

- ◆ To act as a representative group that can be called upon to influence the local provision of Health and Social Care.
- ◆ To give practice staff and patients the opportunity to discuss topics of mutual interest in their practice.
- ◆ To provide the means for patients to make positive suggestions about the practice and their own healthcare.
- ◆ To improve communication between the service providers, the group and the wider population.
- ◆ To promote health education activities within the practice and to encourage a spirit of self help and support amongst patients to improve their health and well being.
- ◆ To involve patients from the wider population.

Over the past few months the Forum has been looking into a number of issues related to patients, including how to gain access to Care Services and Meals on Wheels. The Forum has also been involved in discussion relating to the Emergency Care Department at Hexham Hospital, and will be involved in further surgery or patient care consultations. Call Practice Manager Sue Shone on 01661 842626 or e-mail: patientforum@branchendsurgery.co.uk

Are you aware of your entitlement to free home insulation?

The current recommended depth of loft insulation is 11 inches, but you may have 4 inches or less, and could be entitled to have the addition installed for free or at a heavily subsidised rate. Installation is free if:

- ▶ Anyone in the household is over 60
- ▶ Anyone in the household is under 5
- ▶ Any occupant is on a disability or income related benefit
- ▶ The household is in fuel poverty.

To find out more, call the Northumberland Warm Zone on 01670 356642.

Sunday Afternoon Teas

Stocksfield Methodist Church opens its doors for afternoon tea on the second Sunday of every month. A small group attend regularly but more would be welcome. Join them for a relaxed chat over tea, scones and cake. Just turn up from 3.30pm. They look forward to seeing you. No tea on Easter Sunday though.

New Seat Installed

A new seat has been installed at the second ford. The original seat had been in place for many years and was starting to rot, then unfortunately, it was demolished, we think as the result of being hit by a vehicle skidding on the ice. The new seat is made of recycled materials and should last for many years.

Stocksfield Health Walks

Following the success of the regular Monday morning Health Walks an 'extra' walk is now to take place. This walk will be at a much slower pace and will not therefore go quite as far in the one hour as the normal two mile walk. All walks will start at the same time and place – 10.00am on Monday mornings at Stocksfield Station. If you are interested in either walk just turn up! For more information contact Alison Carter on 01434 613227

Multi Use Games Area



To book call Stocksfield Cricket Club.
01661 842902. MUGA Availability:
8 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day.
Minimum booking time = 1 hour.

Hourly prices:	Peak	Off Peak
Standard:	£18	£15
Associated teams:	£15	£12

Peak: Monday to Thursday - 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Off peak - all other times.

Ladies' Golf at Stocksfield Golf Club

Have you ever fancied golf but been afraid it would cost too much time and money?

Stocksfield Golf Club may have the answer, Café Golf. They offer a free lesson, a chat and a glass of wine, and if you enjoy it they have an introductory 6 month golf membership including a group golf lesson each month plus 6 vouchers for coffee or wine. The cost is £150 or £25 a month. Contact Norma on 01661 843041 or e-mail: cafegolf@sgcgolf.co.uk.

Need to call the Police?

In an emergency call: 999

To report all other crimes or incidents, or for information & advice:

03456 043 043 - Text: 07786 200814

For the deaf or hard of hearing:

Minicom: 01661 820915 - Text: 07786 200815