

# NE43 News Issue 31 Summer 2009

The Newsletter of Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

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

## FIRST FESTIVAL FEVER

It's all systems go for Stocksfield's first festival on 12th September 2009 – a Festival celebrating community life, local business, arts, sport, craft, music and dance.

Taking pride of place on the Sportsfield will be the entertainment marquee featuring live performances by various award-winning local groups throughout the afternoon, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. The list includes a wide variety of instrumentalists, choirs, dancers and contemporary musicians.

In additional side tents there will be a range of entertainment from Punch and Judy and juggling to storytelling. We are hoping the event will have a real 'carnival' atmosphere.

Another of the main components of the Festival is the traditional village 'Show', where gardeners, cooks, photographers, flower arrangers and needleworkers can compete for (genuine) silver cups. There are 11 classes specifically for children, from pre-school age up to 16. The schedule of classes and the entry forms are already being distributed via our local schools and organisations, or you can pick one up at SICA or some of the local shops.

Not surprisingly, Stocksfield's sports enthusiasts will be well catered for, with a 5-a-side competition in the morning, and a variety of races and skills competitions in the afternoon, provided by the Football, Tennis, Netball and Golf Clubs and Stocksfield Striders. The organisers say they will be giving you 'a chance to try your skills, have a laugh and maybe challenge family and friends', sounds good.

There is also a competitive opportunity for anyone with literary talent. The Committee is inviting entries for a poetry competition; the theme is simply 'Stocksfield' and is open to all age groups. Poems should be delivered or sent to SICA - Mount View Terrace, Stocksfield, NE43 7HL - by Monday 17th August. Please mark your envelope Stocksfield Festival, and make sure you include your name and address, and if you are under 16 your age. The winner will be given VIP treatment at the Festival.

For something different, why not make a scarecrow? Or dress up as one?! There will be two separate scarecrow contests; one for the manufactured sort, the other for 'fancy dress' scarecrows, which can be made by groups or individuals of any age. Some of the Festival Committee feel they are already beginning to look like scarecrows!

Register your entries for the first competition at the Sportsfield by 12 noon to allow time for judging; for the second please consult the timetable on the day.

Coconut shies and candyfloss and all sorts of other attractions and activities are organised. Local businesses and organisations will display their wares. We can assure you there will be something for everyone to enjoy!

To whet your appetite in the week leading up to the Festival, there will be a range of evening events at participating local pubs and Sports clubs. On the Tuesday the Feathers Inn at Hedley-on-the-Hill will host an 'Ask the Chef' evening. Residents can put their local knowledge to the test in a 'Stocksfield Quiz' at the Bluebell on Wednesday and both the Cricket and Golf Clubs will hold events too. The Committee is very grateful to them all for joining in with the Festival spirit. To round things off, there will be a Ceilidh at SICA on the Saturday evening with the well-known local band, Border Crossing.

Now it's up to you to come and enjoy yourselves - and we have just two requests. First, **please walk** to the Sportsfield if you possibly can, as the available parking will all be needed for disabled visitors or for performers, traders etc. coming and going. Secondly, please don't think it is too late to

get involved. If you want to have a stall, please call **Julia Sayce on 01661 843523** as soon as possible. We would also greatly appreciate offers of help on Friday evening in putting up tents and bunting etc., on Saturday in stewarding, and on Sunday in dismantling everything.

Programmes will be on sale from mid July and will each have a 'lucky number' on them, which will automatically enter the buyer into a prize draw. We will be selling these door to door in the weeks leading up to the festival but they can also be purchased from local shops at the cost of £1. A programme is all you need to gain entry to the Sportsfields.

So please flip your calendar to September now and **highlight the 12th!** We look forward to sharing the celebrations with you. For additional festival news and updates please visit [stocksfield.org](http://stocksfield.org).



A Ceilidh at SICA



### Broomley First School - officially outstanding!

Broomley First School had a recent visit from OFSTED, the school inspectors. As a result the school has been rated as 'outstanding'. This demonstrates that the hard work put in by Head Teacher Sheila Coulson and her team has been justly rewarded. Congratulations to the school, the staff, the governors and of course all the children.

## Stocksfield Hall extension approved

Northumberland County Council Planning Department has approved the application for an extension to Stocksfield Hall. The new buildings will be used as office space for IHC Engineering Business, a Tynedale based but Dutch owned company, who already occupy one of the larger business units at Stocksfield Hall.

The company is expanding and needs new premises; it currently employs 185 staff. There is no indication yet when work on the extension may be started. The Engineering Business also have offices in Riding Mill, and a riverside construction facility on Tyneside.

## New vehicle-activated traffic sign



When the two speed signs were installed on the Main Road last July, a third pole was also erected at the southern end of New Ridley Road. Being solar-powered, the signs are detachable, and the plan had been to rotate the two signs between the three sites. The Parish Council has now decided to invest in a third sign for the New Ridley Road, and hope that this will be installed during the early summer.

## Take a seat

At the Parish Council meeting on 1st June, it was agreed that the seat near the Tennis Courts and the one in the garden at Branch End should be replaced. Both these seats have been in situ for very many years and are showing their age. The seats will be paid for from the Beacon Fund grant given to the Parish Council by the former Tynedale Council.

Enquiries are also to be made about placing a seat on the top of the Round Hill somewhere near the dog's grave. This will also be paid for from the Beacon Fund grant.

## New Ridley to the Fords

You may already know that the road from the far end of New Ridley village down to the fords is closed for the foreseeable future; it has been temporarily classified as a bridleway.

The Parish Council is concerned about safety on the road between Old Ridley and the fords, and may discuss 'Quiet Lane' status for this road with the County Council.

## Father Tom Emmett has died



It was not long ago that NE43 News reported the retirement of Father Tom Emmett as Vicar of Bywell and Priest-in-charge of Mickley: November 2007. Sadly, he has been in increasing pain since then, and died on 11th May.

The funeral service at Bywell St. Peter's was, unsurprisingly, 'standing room only' as friends from throughout Newcastle Diocese joined the local parishioners in giving thanks for his life and ministry.

## Railway masts in Tynedale

Network Rail are in the process of installing a new telecommunications system nationwide which uses technology similar to mobile phones. The system allows signalling information to be sent to trains to enable the driver to communicate with other trains or the signal man. The system relies on a series of radio masts.

Initially Network Rail proposed installing 29m (100ft) high lattice masts, many of them in unsuitable locations. Following lobbying from STORM29, a pressure group on which the Parish Council was represented, Network Rail have reconsidered their proposals. The new masts are visually more acceptable 15m mono-poles and are in locations agreed with Parish Councils.

The Stocksfield mast will be sited close to the Broomley Woods car park (at the junction of the B6309 and A695) at the side of the railway line. Although the location is not ideal, taking the Tyne valley as a whole the new mast locations are a great improvement. Installation is well underway with the foundations in place and the radio equipment cabin installed. It is likely that the mast will be erected in the next few weeks.

## Computers for schools



Local Land Agent, Laura Benson, of Land Factor Limited at Bywell recognised the importance of support for local schools by local businesses and has started a work collection of Tesco Vouchers for Schools.

All staff at the land management company have been collecting vouchers and a sizeable number have been donated to Broomley Pre-School / First School. As the saying goes ... Every Little Helps!

## WHAT'S ON

### St Peter's Bywell:

**Saturday 27th June 2009 - 7.30 p.m.**

As part of the Bywell Arts Festival: Prudhoe Community High School in Concert. Tickets Adult £6.00 Children £3.

Further information and tickets from Rev. Bill Rigby - 01661 842272.

### Stocksfield WI:

**Wednesday 1st July 2009**

Nora Phipps - A Taste of Yoga.

**Wednesday 5th August 2009**

President's Evening.

**Wednesday 2nd September 2009**

Members' Night - "On with the Show".

Meetings are held in the Richardson Room at SICA and start at 7.30 p.m. New members and visitors are always welcome. Further information from Ros Whitehouse - 01661 842352.

### Stocksfield South of Tyne Flower Club

**Thursday 3rd September 2009**

Christine Ogle - Today I went Shopping.

Meetings are held at SICA at 1.45 p.m.

Contact Mrs. M Chrisp - 0191 413 2483.

### Stocksfield Local History Society

**Wednesday 9th September 2009 - 7.30 p.m.**

Stan Beckensall - Northumberland from the air.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September to March at SICA. New members are always welcome.

### St John's Stocksfield:

**Saturday 19th September 2009 10-Noon.**

A Coffee Morning is to be held in St John's Church Hall, Meadowfield Road. Cake Stall, Bring & Buy. All welcome.

All proceeds to St George's Mickley.

### Mobile Library Service:

If you use the Mobile Library you will know that the service has been reduced by the County Council. Instead of the previous two week rota the mobile library will visit every three weeks.

#### Week 2 - Mondays

Guessburn Tennis Courts 09.40

Guessburn Middle Green 10.10

Hall Farm Close 11.10

#### Week 3 - Tuesdays

Branch End 09.45

Ladywell 10.25

Dr Syntax 10.40

#### Week 3 - Thursdays

Jubilee Buildings 09.45

Broomley Village 10.10

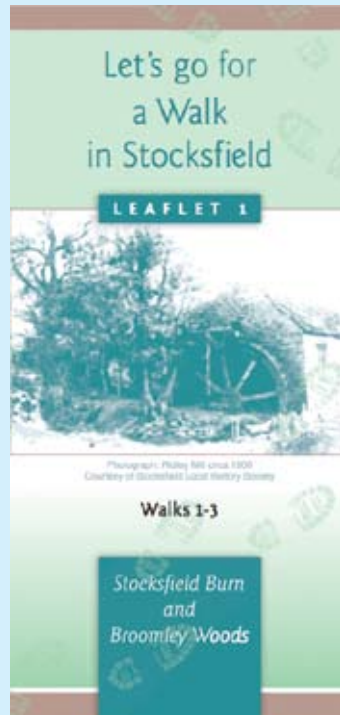
More information from the Library Supervisor - 01661 823594. A review of the new system will take place in October.



## New Walks Leaflet

This month the Parish Council's Rights of Way Group has published the first of three new walks leaflets. These are available in our local shops, clubs and pub and the Community Centre and also on line at stocksfield.org. The three walks described in the new leaflet all start at the Community Woodland Car Park on the B6309 and each follows a circular route which takes you back to the car park.

If you would like a copy of the leaflet and cannot find one in the shops, please contact the Clerk who will be happy to send you one. Publication of this leaflet has been supported from the prize money obtained by winning the Calor Village of the year for Northumberland.



## Calor Village of the Year

Following the visit of the judges in March we have now heard that we have not been successful in winning the regional title which means that we will not go forward to the national finals.

Obviously this is a disappointing result, but we feel that the effort in compiling the entry was not wasted as it made us consider what we have in Stocksfield. This exercise, combined with the development of the Parish Plan, has proved very useful.

We are very grateful to everyone who supported us in this project. Perhaps we will have another try in the future, and congratulations to the winners, the Cumbrian village of Kirby Stephen.



## Branch End Play Area

The new entrance ramp into the Branch End field has been welcomed by both young and old, and the Parish Council is delighted to tick off one more step of the development programme. Now we can concentrate on planting the long-awaited Community Garden. Planters are being designed to make the most of the slope, and to be accessible to volunteer gardeners of all ages and abilities. We hope they may also discourage cycling in inappropriate places! Shrubs and plants, and also seats and picnic tables will all be added over the next few months as the funding progresses; if anyone would like to 'sponsor' a seat or a planter, please contact either the Clerk or **Cllr Melna Martin on 01661 844040**. Meanwhile do visit the Branch End field and enjoy the work done so far.

## Parking

The Parish Council is concerned about cars being parked on the pavements, in particular at the Sportsfield, Branch End Play Area and at Birches Nook. Space should be left on the pavement for pedestrians, including those with pushchairs and mobility scooters, to pass comfortably and safely.

## Bonfires

We've had some complaints about bonfires being lit during the day. As a courtesy to your neighbours, please consider the wind direction and where the smoke is likely to go before lighting a fire.

## Bywell Arts Festival

### 10th Annual Arts Festival

St Peter's & St Andrew's Churches. Bywell, Stocksfield

Featuring works by local artists

Grand Raffle, Stalls, Refreshments

Free Entry and ample free parking

26th June - 7-9 Preview Evening with pay bar

27th & 28th June 10-4.30 Exhibition and Sale

## Stocksfield has a 'River Watch' Group

Following a well attended meeting on the 18th March, led by staff from the Tyne Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency, a River Watch group has now been formed within the parish. Its objectives will be to monitor water quality in Stocksfield Burn - and possibly the Smithy Burn - as well as controlling invasive plant species along their banks.

Three members of the newly formed group attended a full days training workshop in April. Training was provided by staff from the Environment Agency and Tyne Rivers Trust. The aim of the course was to enable local people to identify river invertebrates, mainly the river fly larvae, which are key indicator species for determining water quality. Fired with enthusiasm, just two days after the course, the 3 participants put their new-found skills to the test and carried out sampling in Stocksfield Burn in the area between the Scout Hut and Tennis courts. The results were very pleasing - indicating high quality, pollution-free water. Further tests carried out at the end of May indicated significant changes in the populations of river fly larvae. The results have been sent to the Tyne Rivers Trust who pass them on to the Environment Agency. There is a commonly held belief that the Environment Agency maintains such 'water quality' records. In fact these results will be the first ever recorded for Stocksfield Burn.

It is essential this monitoring is carried out regularly and this is to be done monthly with the help of Stocksfield Cub Scouts - this may come as news to the cubs but they will surely enjoy kicking up the stones on the river bed and collecting the 'samples' they disturb in a net. Parents please note 'wellies' are essential! Each month the results will be forwarded to the Tyne Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency. Should water quality deteriorate Environment Agency staff will then carry out investigations to locate the cause.

Two other members of the group, using digital thermometers, have begun monitoring water temperatures at two points along Stocksfield Burn. The air temperature is recorded at the same time and it is hoped the data collected will prove useful in establishing the effect temperature changes, which affect oxygen levels in the water, have on life within our burn.

The work begun last summer to control Himalayan Balsam will continue, it's likely to take at least three years to eradicate this plant from our water courses. If you're interested in joining this group, please contact **Norman Hooks on 01661 844863**.

## Parish Plan

At the Annual Parish Meeting in April, the Parish Plan Group gave a presentation on the final draft of the Plan prior to its publication. Those residents who were present at the meeting were invited to let Councillors have their final thoughts on the Plan, so that any necessary amendments could be made. We hope to publish the plan in late summer, in print and on the website. After publication the Parish Council will set up a new working group to monitor progress of the priorities for action highlighted by the Plan.



## Summer arrives in Stocksfield, not that you'd know from the weather!

### Stocksfield Football Club

Congratulations to Stocksfield Football Club's senior team, who have had another highly successful season, and are now promoted to the Premier Division of the Northern Football Alliance. Several of the players are the same young men who give hours of their time to coaching the junior teams, and their achievement will certainly give further encouragement to the up-and-coming footballers. We wish them all every success for next season.



### Tennis Coaching

Tennis Coaching is on offer at Stocksfield Club every week during the school holidays, with groups for players from as young as 4 years old up to adults. For the first time there will be an adult class from 7 - 9 p.m. on a Friday evening, for any level of play. All courses are on a come-and-go basis with payment by the day, but a discount if a child is booked in for a full week. Leaflets giving full details are available at the Club, or contact the Coach **Sarah Stevenson on 07984 804299**.

### Stocksfield Local History Society

The Society is undertaking a project to research the people listed on our War Memorial. The Society is particularly keen to find out what their connection to Stocksfield was and where they fought and died. We would like to hear from anyone who has information about any of the people listed on the War Memorial - perhaps you have been researching your family history and one of your forebears is named. For further information please contact **Andrew Palmer c/o SICA on 01661 842346**.



### Singer Katie Doherty visits Broomley First School



As part of the annual Hexham Gathering, held on 21st May, award winning singer songwriter Katie Doherty made a number of visits to Broomley First School. Part funded by the School's PTA, Katie worked closely with all of the pupils of Year 3 in a 'Folkworks' project where the children composed their own song about 'The Dreaded Giant Snail'.

Folkworks, based at the Sage Gateshead, is the folk music development agency for the North of England. Katie can often be seen performing at various North East venues.

### Branch End Play Area - a bit of trivia

Parish Council Records show that in 1921 it was "recommended that a recreation ground be got at Branch End for the children". Three landowners were approached who all refused to discuss it, and nothing further was done. It was around 40 years before the play area at Branch End was first developed.

### 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.**

At the Annual General meeting of the Parish Council in May the following were elected:

Chairman:	Ian Hall
Vice Chairman:	Melna Martin
<i>Convenors of Advisory Groups:</i>	
Finance & General Purposes:	Ian Hall
Parish Plan Action Group:	Steve Gleadhill
Footpaths Gardens & Environment:	Norman Hooks
Planning:	Dave Porter
Transport & Highways:	John Davison
Sports Facilities:	Julia Sayce
Play Facilities:	Diane Hinchcliffe

More details on the website: **stocksfield.org**

### A card fit for a Queen

Ros Whitehouse, President of Stocksfield WI, was asked by the National Federation of WIs to make this year's birthday card for the Queen. The card was beautifully beaded and can be seen at: **www.thewi.org.uk/newsandevents** A letter of thanks was sent on behalf of the Queen to NFWI.

### Blood Donor Session:

**Friday 4th September 14:30-19:00 at SICA**

### Northumberland County Council

The new contact number is: **0845 600 6400**

**E-mail: ask@northumberland.gov.uk**

Our local Customer Contact Centre is: Hadrian House, Market Street, Hexham, NE46 3NH.