

NE43 News

Issue 33
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The Newsletter of Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

www.stocksfield.org

Improvements to the Station Car Park

At long last, we can report that this project is coming to fruition.

Work on the parking area on the north side of the station will be completed before the end of March 2010. This area will not have marked parking bays, but the edge of the road will be clearly marked and the road markings themselves will be refreshed. There will be adequate drainage, so barring floods of biblical proportions, it should be possible to get from the parking area onto the platform without getting wet feet.

Work on the south side car park extension will also be completed before the end of March 2010. This work will take 4-6 weeks and once completed will provide us with additional disabled parking bays and extra marked car parking spaces. All being well the car park will be lit by double-headed lights which will be located on the platform.

The Parish Council is very grateful for the support been given by officers from the County Council, Network Rail and Northern Rail throughout this project.



On Cloud Nine in Stocksfield

Ebchester based balloon flight company Cloud Nine Balloons, landed in Stocksfield in mid September. Having taken off from Ebchester on one of their 'Champagne Flights' the balloon came down in the large field opposite Broomley First School.

"It's difficult to know exactly where the wind will take you," said Joanne Johnson of Cloud Nine "and we knew there were nesting birds on the other side of the Tyne, so decided to land in Stocksfield." Cloud Nine quickly deflated the balloon, loaded it onto their trailer and drove off, but not before Allendale Estates arrived to see what was going on and to discuss a landing fee.

Keep Fit group faces closure

The Friday 'Keep Fit' group has been running at the Community Centre for a number of years now. This year numbers have declined to the point where SICA is subsidising the running costs and may not be able to do so for too much longer.

SICA Chairman Norman Hooks said "It's possible that some residents are unaware of its existence, but new members are needed now. They will be made very welcome." The group meets every Friday morning, from 9.30 to 10.30 a.m. There is a crèche available for those with young children. Please contact the SICA office on **01661 842346** for more information.

Remembrance Sunday service attended by three generations.



Around 200 people met at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. The Service was lead by Philippa Harpin. The Parish Council wreath was laid by former district councillor Joe Bennington. Joe, a Stocksfield resident, joined the Royal Navy at 17 and was torpedoed when at sea when he was just 18 years old. His medals include the D Day Landing Medal (6th June 1944) and the European Theatre of War Medal.

Wreaths were also laid by the Scouts, representatives from the Police and from 39 Regiment, The Welsh Gunners. The

Last Post was played by Andrea de Vere.

Following the service residents gathered at the Community Centre for refreshments provided by the Brownies and to view the exhibition mounted by the Stocksfield Local History Society.

The Exhibition was based on the History Society's recent project to research the people named on the First World War Memorial. This exhibition created a lot of interest and if you missed it, it will be repeated at SICA on **Wednesday 9th December at 7.30 p.m.**



Best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year from Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council.

Speeding in New Ridley Village

Residents in New Ridley have been telling the Parish Council that they have concerns about the speed of traffic driving through the village. The Parish Council and County Councillor Anne Dale have persuaded the County Highways to paint a 30 mph roundel on the road at the southern end of the village.

An additional Vehicle Activated Speed Sign is planned for New Ridley Road, and should have been installed by now. There is a problem with the proximity of the sign to overhead power cables. The Parish Council is working with the installation company to resolve this problem.



Philippa Harpin to retire



The 1st Stocksfield Scout Group is a particularly strong group for a village the size of Stocksfield; it has over sixty young members, and they hope that the interest in Scouting will continue.

Philippa Harpin the Cub Scout Leader and her assistant, Jim Davidson, are retiring at the end of next summer. The scouts are very grateful for their hard work and dedication, and especially to Philippa who holds a county, if not national, record as one of the oldest serving members.

A new leader has already been identified, but they need to recruit assistant leaders throughout the group at Beaver, Cub Scout and Scout level. Being a scout leader is very rewarding in terms of personal development and working with young people, and does not take up too much time. Without volunteers the scouts are unable to function. If you are interested please contact **Paddy Gascoigne**, the Group Scout Leader on **01661 843405**.

Sadly Stocksfield no longer has a Girl Guide group, and so the thriving Brownies and Rainbows groups within the village can't move on into Guides. Would you be interested in revitalising the Guide group? If so please contact Paddy and he will forward your details on to the Guide Association. The Guides need you.

'Scout Post' is here again.

Stocksfield Scouts are once again offering their Christmas card delivery service for cards sent to NE43 postcodes. They would be grateful for your support; proceeds go to the new Scout Hut Fund. Post boxes can be found in both Stocksfield post offices, and the last time for posting will be 12 noon on Monday, December 21st. The Scouts ask for a minimum donation of 15p per card - which is half the Royal Mail price!

If you are a tax payer, please use the green envelopes to Gift Aid your donation, otherwise please just put the money into the box with your cards. The boxes are emptied daily and the scouts deliver at least once a week.

Any questions please to Philippa Harpin, 01661 842302.



New Parish Information card

The Parish council issues an information card to every house in the village, every two or three years. The card includes many useful phone numbers for contacts, services and business in the village, and we know that many people find it very useful.

We plan on issuing a new information card in Spring 2010. If you would like your business included, please contact the Parish Clerk margaretbspc@talk21.com or call **01661 843114**. We are hoping that businesses included will be able to make a contribution of £10 to help with the cost of producing the information card.

Stocksfield Players get their man

This year's production by the Stocksfield Players was **I'll Get My Man** by Philip King. The play was performed to packed houses at SICA from Thursday to Saturday 26 - 28th November.

I'll Get My Man is a comedy set in a vicarage in the early 1960s and includes all the elements of a classic farce - mistaken identity, secrets, romance, lust, insanity and of course a trouser-less vicar!

Excellent performances from all the cast, but particular mention should go to Marie Swan for her portrayal of Mrs Carter, Fiona Henderson making her debut as pop star Pixie, Helen Morris as the 60's widow and Alex Swan, every inch the TV star. This year for the first time tickets could be purchased on-line, and a number of residents used that facility. The Stocksfield Players are always looking for new members - if you are interested in getting involved call **Karen on 01661 844119**.



Award winning woodland

Tom & Hugh Richardson of Wheelbirks Estate have shared the Royal Forestry Society's Silviculture Award 2009 with the Hovingham Estate in York.

Better known locally for Jersey cows and ice cream, Wheelbirks' 100 acre woodland was largely planted 90 years ago, they say it gives 'added dimension to the landscape.'

Christmas Trees

Once again the Parish Council has provided two Christmas Trees for the Parish. These are located at Broomley School and the Dr Syntax. Thank you to the School and to Dennis at the pub for providing the tree lighting.



War Memorial 'Names' exhibition



Stocksfield Local History Society are holding an open evening at SICA on Wednesday 9th December, 7.30 p.m., to share its research into the background of the individuals whose names appear on the First World War Memorial. This is an opportunity to find out more about the people whose names are listed and perhaps tell the History Society more about them, and about others who are not listed. Refreshments will be available. Further details from **Rachel Cochrane 01661 844511**.

All change at Broomley First School



Broomley First School have just begun their Change School project with Creative Partnerships. They hope to make real change to their already excellent creative curriculum building on their year as a Creative Partnership Enquiry School.

The School also hope to encourage community involvement and are asking for skills, advice and materials which might enhance both the school's and the community's experience of the project.

If you have any skills, ideas or resources that you could share with them in Arts and Crafts or in the outdoor environment. Please contact **Headteacher Sheila Coulson or Suzanne Richardson on 01661 842271**.

'Claiming Dates' - avoid a clash

If you are planning an event, before fixing a date, please contact Beth at SICA on **01661 842346**. The SICA office hold the dates of all planned village events and can tell you which dates to go for, or to avoid.

New seats - and soon

A new seat has been ordered for siting on the Round Hill, in memory of Ruth Robson. A replacement seat has also been ordered for Branch End, near the garden by the pedestrian crossing. Both seats, which are made of recycled materials, have been delivered and will be installed before Christmas.

Dog Waste Bins

There are a number of dedicated bins in the village for the disposal of dog waste. If the bins are full and appear to have not been emptied for sometime please advise the Clerk - 01661 843114. Where dog bins are not found it is quite acceptable to use ordinary litter bins for the disposal of suitably wrapped dog waste.

Stocksfield Festival - What a great day it was!



Our first festival in nearly 20 years, held on Saturday 12th September, was a big success. There was clearly a lot of enthusiasm for the traditional Show, with entries far exceeding expectations; the local organisations put on a great display of their wide-ranging activities. Many thanks to everyone who contributed.

Would you like to see this being an annual event? The Festival Group will meet in January to discuss what happens next. If you want to have your say, call Festival Chairman **Ray Thompson** on **01661 843332**.



There are many more photos on the website, stocksfield.org

What's new at SICA?

Stocksfield Community Centre is now running two Film Clubs, for adults and children. The next films will be shown in January. On Friday 15th at 7.00 p.m., **Casino Royale**, Daniel Craig's first outing as James Bond, and at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday 16th for the children, **Ice Age Dawn of the Dinosaurs**.

A Bridge club has started at SICA. The members have a wide range of ability, from complete beginner to very able. Guidance is given to beginners and everyone is able to enjoy a game each week. The club meets at 7.00 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month.

The Carpet Bowls Club at SICA is looking for new members. Games are played each Wednesday afternoon between 1.30 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. and any new members will be made most welcome.

Forthcoming events:

On Friday 22nd January the band **Heartbeat** is visiting SICA. You may have enjoyed their music at the Stocksfield Festival when they played 50's and 60's rock during the afternoon.

On Saturday 6th February, SICA presents **The TG Collective**, a group of six talented musicians who together play a wide range of British flamenco, gypsy, contemporary, classical & jazz. www.tgcollective.com

On Saturday 20th February **Professor Popup's Puppet Theatre** will give a performance of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. Further information on all these events and tickets, where appropriate, from Beth at SICA - **01661 842346**.

Fancy an afternoon out?

St John's Church, Meadowfield Road, have a new monthly event, called 'Afternoon Out'. The first was held on 21st October, and those who turned up for it had an enjoyable couple of hours. The next will be held on 16th December, and then on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, at St John's Church Hall from 2pm to 4pm.

They are offering good company, games for those who want them, tea or coffee and biscuits and soothing background music. There will be a bric-a-brac table at each meeting, and you are asked to bring along anything you think will sell! If you would enjoy an afternoon out like this you would be very welcome.

There is a small charge of £1 for refreshments and towards the cost of heating of the hall. For information please contact **Elizabeth Lowdon 01661 842377**.

Branch End Community Garden



A lot of work has been done recently at the Community Garden at Branch End Play area. This is now taking shape. Thanks go to Egger for their donation of bark for the paths.

Future plans include completing the Sensory Planters, creating a picnic area,

Trouble at Mill!

For some time now raw sewage has, on occasions, been overflowing from a sewer pipe crossing Stocksfield Burn. This pipe is close to a point where Ridley Mill Road crosses Stocksfield Burn. Recent incidents have been reported to the Environment Agency who have required Northumbrian Water to investigate the cause and correct the problem.

In very exceptional circumstances the release of sewage into water courses is permitted when the alternative might be the possibility of sewage flooding homes. However these small scale escapes appear to occur every time it rains heavily.

Stocksfield River Watch would be grateful if anyone who notices sewage escaping through the inspection covers, could inform Norman Hooks on **01661 844863** or call the Environment Agency's Emergency Hotline on **0800 80 70 60**.

planting a shrub bank beside the entrance and installing benches for sitting and enjoying the garden and view across the Tyne Valley.

The project is jointly organised by Stocksfield Churches, the Parish Council and the Plants and Gardens Society.

Eventually they would like to develop a wildflower bank along the inside of the roadside hedge.

To progress the garden, they need to involve as many local people as possible. On Saturday 13th March 2010, they are holding a Primrose planting day starting at 10 a.m. Call **Melna Martin for details 01661 844040**.

Tennis Club gains 'Clubmark'



Congratulations to Stocksfield Tennis Club on qualifying recently for 'Clubmark', the national quality standard for sports clubs. Stocksfield is the first tennis club in the Tyne Valley to achieve this status.

Clubmark gives a guarantee to the public that issues of child protection and safety are taken seriously, in addition to providing an effective coaching programme. We are fortunate that now both the Cricket and Tennis Clubs have put all the necessary systems in place, and provide such excellent sports facilities for both adults and children.

Membership open at Golf Club

Stocksfield Golf Club is hoping to attract new members with a special offer. An annual membership taken out now, would be valid until the end of March 2011. Included in the price of £495 are 2 free rounds of golf at each of 5 local courses. For details, call **Norma** at Stocksfield Golf Club on **01661 843041**.

Lights and roads and water

Call Northumberland County Council to report faults with street lighting, pot holes or damage to road surfaces: **0845 600 6400** or e-mail: ask@northumberland.gov.uk. For street lighting faults, you will need to know the location of the light and its reference number, it's on the pole.

For water leaks call the Leakline freephone number: **0800 393 084**.

WHAT'S ON IN STOCKSFIELD

A Christmas Soirée

Saturday 12th December 2009 - 7.30 p.m.
Stocksfield Methodist Church Vision 21 presents an evening of Seasonal Music with entertainment by Minsteracres Rubato and friends, to be held at SICA. Tickets from Yvonne - 01661 842083.

Churches Together in Stocksfield

Sunday 13th December 2009 - 3.30 p.m.
Community Carol Service and Tea at SICA.

St John's Church, Stocksfield

Sunday 20th December 2009 - 3.30 p.m.
Christingle Service. All welcome.

Stocksfield Craft Club

Meets on the first Monday of the month at the Methodist Church Hall, Mount View Terrace, Stocksfield. 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Bring your own projects: Patchwork, Embroidery, Card making, Knitting, etc. Share your expertise or get advice from others. Suggested donation £1.50 per session, including tea or coffee. Contact: Pauline 01661 842502.

Parish Council Meetings

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be held on:

Monday 4th January 2010 - 7.30 p.m.

Monday 1st February 2010 - 7.30 p.m.

Monday 1st March 2010 - 7.30 p.m.

Meetings are held at SICA. Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

Blood donor session - at SICA

Friday 8th January 2009 - 2.30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Stocksfield Local History Society

Wednesday 13th January 2010 - 7.30 p.m.
Geoff Coates - Tale of Three Castles, Norham, Dunstanburgh & Alnwick.

Wednesday 10th February 2010 - 7.30 p.m.
Andrew Palmer - Whiskey Jack - A Tale of Murder & Moonshine.

Wednesday 10th March 2010 - 7.30 p.m.
John Moreels - Nostalgic Views of the North East - Glass slides which have been unearthed in Newcastle.

Wednesday 14th April 2010 - 7.30 p.m.
Mike Rutter - Life & times of St Cuthbert, politics & religion in the 7th Century.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at SICA. Non-members are welcome to attend meetings but are charged £2.00.

Stocksfield Community Garden

Saturday 13th March 2010 - 10 a.m. - Noon
Branch End Play Area Planting day, everyone welcome. More details from Melna Martin 01661 844040

Stocksfield W.I.

Wednesday 6th January 2009 - 7.30 p.m.
Ian & Chris Hill - Lords of the Arctic.

Wednesday 3rd February 2009 - 7.30 p.m.
Caroline Westgate - My Life of Crime.

Wednesday 3rd March 2009 - 7.30 p.m.
Geoff Hughes - Songs & Stories of Northumbria.

Wednesday 7th April 2009 - 7.30 p.m.
Alison Waggott - Greyhounds in Retirement.

Meetings are at SICA. Visitors and new members always welcome. Further information from Ros Whitehouse - 01661 842352.

Cloud Nine deflate their balloon.

Multi Use Games Area

01661 842902

Available 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily
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.

10% Discount available for block bookings.