

# NE43 News

Issue 34  
Spring 2010

The Newsletter of Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

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

## Broomley and Stocksfield Local information card

Contains information on local authority and public services available locally, also names and contact numbers of local organisations.

Our thanks go to Tynedale Lions and to many local businesses who have sponsored the production of this information card.



Issue: SPRING 2010

Please leave on these premises.



BROOMLEY AND STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL  
Click to the Parish Council - Mrs Margaret Williams  
205 New Ridley Road, Stocksfield, NE43 7JQ

Phone & Fax: 01661 843114

email: [enquiries@sb821.com](mailto:enquiries@sb821.com)

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council produce this card so that every household may have information on local services and organisations. All information was correct at the time of going to press, but can quickly go out of date. Please visit our website where the information is continually updated.

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

## New Parish Information card

Enclosed with this issue of **NE43 News** is the new edition of the Information Card. Obviously it is only as up-to-date as we could make it on the day of publication.

For totally up-to-date information, please see [stocksfield.org](http://stocksfield.org).

We are very grateful to Tynedale Lions and to many local businesses who have generously contributed towards the cost of producing this edition of the Information Card.

## Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Community Centre, Stocksfield on Monday, 26th April 2010, at 7.30 p.m.

The main speaker will be Charlene Kane, Head of Stations & External Relations - Northern Rail North East.

There will also be an opportunity to bring up matters of concern with the Parish Council and with your County Councillor. All welcome.

A copy of the Annual Report of the Parish Council is enclosed with this issue of **NE43 News**. A more detailed report and draft accounts to the year end will be presented at the Parish Meeting.

## Accident destroys speed sign



Just as the new Vehicle Activated Traffic Sign is about to be installed on New Ridley Road, an existing sign near Brumwell Court has been destroyed. Shortly after 1 a.m. on Wednesday 3rd March a vehicle, driven by a 20 year old Mickley man, left the road, demolished the traffic sign and a fence, and ended up on its roof in the farmer's field. Police arrested the driver at the scene who was breathalysed and shown to be positive for excess alcohol.

It is hoped that a replacement sign can be ordered soon, the cost of the new sign and the work to put it in place will be covered by insurance.

## Vandalism

It is disappointing to report minor acts of vandalism about the village. At Branch End Play Area some of the decorative features of the play equipment have been taken off and are now lost.

In recent weeks, some of the street name plates have been lifted out of the ground and just left lying against the hedges.

Putting this sort of thing right costs money and means that planned projects are put at risk when unplanned repairs have to be undertaken.

## Recycling Batteries

Boots at Branch End now have a bucket in which you can place your used small batteries for recycling.

## Welcome to the new Station Car Park - and its exhibition.

The work to extend the size of the station car park, including the smaller parking area to the north of the station, is now complete. This has taken much longer than expected for a variety of reasons including heavy snow. Finally, both JMD Developments and Northumberland County Council Highways carried out the actual work on site very quickly. Thanks are due to members of the County Council's Transport Policy Team and the project manager at Northern Rail. This project has been made possible by a grant from the Department for Transport's Access for All, Small Schemes Funding.

We hope that the extended car park will be used primarily by rail users and that the extra spaces will encourage more people

to use train services from Stocksfield. Parking bays have not been marked out at the additional parking area on the other side of the station, near the east-bound platform, but sensible parking will allow a number of vehicles to park. More cycle lockers can be found on both platforms. Call 01670 533915 to hire a locker.

To commemorate the completion of the car park project, Stocksfield Local History Society and Broomley County First School will stage an exhibition on the history of our station and the Newcastle-Carlisle Railway, both of which celebrate their 175th anniversary this year.

The exhibition will be held on **Monday 26th April 2010, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., at SICA.**



More photographs inside

## Bywell Annual Arts Festival 26th - 27th June 2010

Once again the Bywell Arts Festival is being held in the Bywell churches of St.Peter's and St.Andrew's. The festival will be open from 10.00 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th June. Admission is free. There is a preview evening on Friday 25th from 6.30 p.m.

The award-winning Swing Band and Choir from Prudhoe Community High School will be performing a concert in St Peter's Church on Saturday at 7.30pm. Tickets for the concert will be on sale from the beginning of June, and are available from the Vicar, on 01661 842272.

### Art Tour 2010

This year the festival coincides with one of the dates of Art Tour 2010. The Art Tour is a nationwide event held over all weekends in June. Participating artists are available to show and discuss their art with interested visitors

Five art tour members will be exhibiting their work at The Stencil Library showroom at Stocksfield Hall. The walk from there to the Bywell event is short, flat and picturesque. A combination of art, refreshments and a stroll could be a lovely addition to your weekend.

## Planting day at Branch End



A group of children, and an adult or two, planting a "Primrose for Mum" in celebration of Mothers Day at the Branch End Play Area Community Garden.

### Drama In The Parlour.

**Wed 5th - Fri 7th May 2010 - 7.30 p.m.**

Something different! Some familiar faces from Stocksfield Players performing a self penned radio show in the Farmhouse at Stocksfield Hall. Tickets: **01661 844844.**

### Musical Christmas for first school



Children from Broomley First School entertaining Christmas Shoppers at the Hexham Christmas Market.

## Memorial Seat



As part of their outdoor curriculum the children from SICA Playgroup enjoyed a walk to the top of the round hill, whilst listening to birdsong and looking for dinosaur footprints. On arriving at the top the children were grateful to be able to take a rest on the recently installed seat, dedicated to Ruth Robson, as they shouted as loudly as they could to try and wake the dragon which the children are certain lives in Bywell Castle.

SICA playgroup takes children from the age of 2. To enquire about a place, or to put your child's name on the waiting list call Diane on 07857 894313.

## Charity Chippy

The Spinal Injuries Association is holding a fund raising 'Fish and Chip Supper' night on Friday 21st May 2010, to help raise awareness of spinal cord injury. If you can hold a fish and chip supper in your home or at work, please contact **Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229** or visit [www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk). They will provide you with a fund raising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes.

## Surgery update their website

Branch End Surgery has recently launched a new, improved, website. It's full of useful information about the practice, with contact numbers and opening times:

[www.branchendsurgery.co.uk](http://www.branchendsurgery.co.uk)

## Fewer Hanging Baskets this year



In recent years Tynedale District Council and the Parish Council have provided, and funded, up to 30 hanging baskets to shops and businesses in Stocksfield. This year, because of financial constraints, Northumberland County Council is unable to continue with this scheme and will charge for the baskets.

The Parish Council, at its March meeting, agreed that this year it would provide 15 hanging baskets and shops and businesses will be contacted in the next few weeks to see if they wish to take up this offer.

Of course businesses, and residents, are very welcome to supply their own hanging baskets.

## Spring clean - Can you help?

After one of the worst winters for some time our Parish is in need of "sprucing up" for the summer. Between **Saturday 17th April and Saturday 24th April**, the Parish Council is organising a Spruce up Stocksfield Week.

Can you litter pick a particularly untidy part of the village, sweep the area in front of your house or shop, clean a phone box or bus shelter, clean the street signs, clear litter from the grass verges and hedges or anything else that will improve our local environment?

The Parish Council can provide litter pickers, gloves and bin bags. These can be collected from the Community Centre between 9.30 a.m. and 10 a.m. on 17th April and full bags can be left in the wheelie bins at the Sportsfield Car Park. These large wheelie bins will be in place in the Sportsfield Car Park from 17th to 24th April. These can be used for dumped bulky items and litter, but NOT for any form of commercial, household or garden waste, liquids or white goods.

This year we hope to be able to co-ordinate our efforts so that different areas of the village can be targeted and efforts are not duplicated. Please ring the Clerk on 01661 843114 to nominate an area to be targeted.

**Please keep Stocksfield tidy.**

## The new station car parks during construction



## Dog Waste Bins

The Parish Council was recently asked to provide a dog waste bin for Guesburn.

The problem is that although dog waste is being bagged, the full bags are being left on trees and hedges. This practice is not acceptable and is not confined to Guesburn, or even to Stocksfield.

Since January concerns have been raised about other areas of the village where dog waste has not been picked up which can cause a hazard to pedestrians.

Dog owners are urged to use the bins where they are provided. Where no specific bin is provided, wrapped dog waste can be put in ordinary litter bins.

A new dog waste bin has now been erected in Guesburn. There are already five other dog waste bins in Stocksfield at:

- **Birkdene**
- **The Common - Meadowfield Road**
- **New Ridley**
- **Outside Branch End Play Area.**
- **The junction of Well Road and Batt House Road**

This year the total cost to the Parish Council for servicing these bins is £1,366 which is 2.5% of the 2009/10 Parish Council Precept.

Unfortunately the bin in New Ridley has been damaged - it appears that someone skidded into it in the bad weather - it will have to be replaced.

## Parish Council Precept

This is the amount of money that is requested by the Parish Council and is paid to the Council by the County Council.

**For 2010/2011 the precept is £56,032.**

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 26th April preliminary accounts for the year ending 31st March will be presented. If you would like to see more details on how we have spent your money in 2009 and propose to spend it in 2010, please contact the Clerk who will be happy to try to answer any queries.

## Don't waste it - use it

Most of our non-recyclable waste now goes to a new multi-million pound extension at the Tees Valley energy-from-waste (EfW) site. This means that the waste instead of going to landfill, is now being used to generate electricity at SITA's facility in the Tees Valley which will handle all of Northumberland's waste until 2035.

## Festival or fun Run?

The organisers of the very successful Stocksfield Festival, are planning an alternative activity to be held on 18th September 2010. This will be a 5km Fun Run, with shorter runs, sports activities on the Sportsfield, and other attractions. Funds raised from the Run will go to 'Pump Aid'. More details in the next issue of **NE43 News**. The Stocksfield Festival will be back in 2011.

## Stocksfield River Watch Group



A small and active group of residents is monitoring water quality in Stocksfield Burn once every month. They also record air and water temperatures at two locations along the burn. All the information collected is passed on to the Tyne Rivers Trust. It is now almost a year since this data collecting began and one thing is certain - the water quality in the burn is consistently good. Observations of wildlife along and in the burn indicate this, but it is good to be able to provide scientific evidence to the Environment Agency. It is reassuring to know that any sudden drop in our readings would now 'trigger' an immediate response by the Environment Agency to establish the causes.

This winter saw a large number of sea trout once again attempting to pass through

the Fords as they try to get to the upper reaches of the burn. They are of course attempting to find a suitable area of river bed in which to spawn. Both our fords, particularly the lower one, are serious obstacles to the passage of migratory fish and some residents will have seen exhausted sea trout floundering in shallow water just below this ford.

Together with angling experts from the Tyne Rivers Trust and encouraged by the landowner, River Watch members have investigated the spawning potential upstream from the Fords. As a result we understand that the Environment Agency and Northumberland County Council are looking at the possibility of easing these obstructions at the Fords.

These sea trout are spectacular fish, many similar in size to Atlantic salmon, and as the River Tyne is now the finest salmon river in England, the number attempting to spawn in our burn may increase. It would be good to give them a sporting chance of making it!

If you would like to know more about the activities of the River Watch Group, call **Norman Hooks on 01661 844863**.

## Winter in Stocksfield



6th January 2010. Some of the heaviest snowfall Stocksfield has seen in many years.



Photos by Dave Porter

## Tennis Coaching - this Easter



In the first week of the Easter holidays, Tuesday 6th to Friday 9th April, there will be a busy coaching programme at Stocksfield Tennis Club, with four sessions during the day for different ages and players' levels of experience. On the Friday evening there will be a session for adults from 7pm to 9pm, led by our enthusiastic new coach Adam Boba. Details are available at the Clubhouse or from Sarah, the Club Coach, on **07984 804299**. So don't wait for Wimbledon, start playing NOW!

Friday 16th April is a free open day running from 10.00am to 4.00pm. The Easter holidays will also see the first ever LTA-sanctioned junior tournament taking place at Stocksfield Tennis Club, from 11th to 15th April. Players from 8 to 18 will be taking part, and there are high hopes for the local players in the youngest age groups; they have done very well over the winter in the Northumberland and North Tyneside league. Entry forms for the tournament are available at the Club and on the LTA website, or from the club coach.

The Club is delighted to be hosting a match for Prudhoe Community High School on 21st April, and proud that all eight PCHS players have learned their tennis at Stocksfield Tennis Club.

New players are always welcome. The Club Secretary is Sue Applegarth, telephone **01661 844961**.

## Praise for all the family.

A lively and 'child-friendly' church service is held every third Sunday of the month, except August, in St John's Church, Meadowfield Road. Although the emphasis of the service is on families, it is equally welcoming for adults who enjoy informal, lively and yet reverent worship. The service starts at 10.30 a.m. and lasts for about 45 minutes.

They guarantee you will go home refreshed and uplifted! It's an ideal opportunity to attend a family service, have some fun, and take an active part in worship, as well as making new friends. Refreshments are served in the church hall afterwards.

For more information call Rev'd Bill Rigby 01661 842272, or Philippa Harpin 01661 842302. The next event is on Sunday 18th April.

## What's happening at SICA

**Friday 16th April** - there is a concert with Consett Citizen's Choir at 7.30pm, tickets from Anne Brown 0191 413 3100.

**Saturday 24th April** - Bywell St Peter's Church are holding a Jumble Sale at 2pm. Please leave jumble by your gate for collection on Friday 23rd April from 6pm.

**Friday 7th May** - the return of the Film Club with 'An Education'. Film starts 7.30pm, but come at 7pm to enjoy a glass of wine and a chat with friends beforehand.

**Saturday 8th May** - the Children's Film Club are showing 'UP' at 2.30pm.

**Friday 14th May** - Heartbeat - the Rock 'n' Roll band that closed Stocksfield Festival day on such a joyful note will be performing music from the 50's and 60's.

**Saturday 15th May** - Tynedale Spinners & Weavers are holding their annual Spinners Gathering 10am-4pm. Come along and enjoy their demonstrations and crafts for sale.

**Thursday 27th May** - sees the return of The Hexham Gathering, an evening of traditional and folk music, 7.30pm.

**Saturday 29th May** - 10am Stocksfield Plants & Gardens Plant sale. Come along and stock up with a wide range of plants grown by these skilled gardeners.

**Friday 11th June** - 10am Come along and enjoy coffee, cakes and a chat at Vision 21's coffee morning.

The Bridge Club, which meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays, and the Carpet Bowls Club which meets every Wednesday would love to see some new faces.

## Our Station - The Exhibition

**Monday 26th April 2010, 2 - 6 p.m.**

An exhibition on the history of our station and the Newcastle-Carlisle Railway, both of which celebrate their 175th anniversary this year. At SICA.

## 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.**

## WHAT'S ON IN STOCKSFIELD

### Stocksfield Coffee Club

**Wednesday 7th April 2010.**

Hilda Dixon - To New York by air and back on the QE2.

**Wednesday 21st April 2010.**

Anne Ruddick - My visit to Buckingham Palace to receive my MBE.

Meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month, at Stocksfield Methodist Church Hall, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

### South of Tyne Flower Club

**Friday 16th April 2010 at SICA.**

**Flowers and Music, our First Love** - A concert by Consett Citizens Choir. Tickets £5 from Ann Brown 0191 413 3100

### Stocksfield Plants & Gardens Society

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7.30 p.m. at SICA. Visitors welcome.

**Tuesday 20th April 2010.**

Max Adams - Trees in Your Garden - their natural history and culture.

**Tuesday 18th May 2010.**

Brigid Press - Hardy Northern Perennials.

**Saturday 29th May 2010 - 10 a.m.**

Annual Plant Sale at SICA. Choose from a wide range of herbaceous perennials and trees and shrubs, plus a selection of alpines, houseplants, fruit and vegetables. All plants are locally grown by members of the Society.

### Stocksfield Local History Society

**Wednesday 14th April - 7.30 p.m.**

Lead Mining at Killhope

Meeting held at SICA.

### Stocksfield WI

**Wednesday 7th April - 7.30 p.m.**

Alison Waggott - Greyhounds in Retirement.

Meeting held at SICA.

### Parish Council Meetings

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

**Monday 12th April 2010 - 7.30 p.m.**

**Monday 10th May 2010 - 7.30 p.m.**

**Monday 12th June 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 30th April 2010 - 2.30 p.m. - 7 p.m.**