

NE43 News



The Newsletter of Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

www.stocksfield.org

Newly refurbished station is officially opened

On 26th April, following the completion of the extension to the car park at the Station, we held an official opening celebration and an exhibition to illustrate the history of our line and station over the past 175 years.

Part of the exhibition was a display mounted by Year 4 children from Broomley School. This included depictions of trains from Rocket to 125 High Speed Trains and models of what the station might look like in the future, they even wrote stories to accompany the display.

Two children from Year 4, Frances Bird and Jake Armstrong, cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the car park and when the guests returned to the Community Centre the class performed a song based on a traditional folk song about working on the Railway.

As part of their project Year 4 also visited the Railway Museum in York. See their report inside this edition of **NE43 News**.



Melna's Silver Jubilee



So many parish councillors have come and gone since 1985, but only one has served continuously for 25 years, and has thus earned the appreciation of thousands of residents.

Melna Martin has a huge concern for people's well-being, which has motivated her to work on all sorts of schemes and projects which have benefited our community. In the late 1990's Melna served a two-year term as Chairman of the Council, but before and since then she has simply rolled up her sleeves and got on with the work, most recently being deeply involved in the social welfare aspects of the Parish Plan, and the Community Garden at Branch End.

Simultaneously, Melna identified the local need for high-quality professional care, and established 'Helping Hands Community Care', which she still runs jointly with her husband Bill from their base at Bywell. Whenever there is a job to be done, Melna's name appears on the list of volunteers, and due to her enthusiasm and commitment, everyone enjoys the work more than they'd expected. We very much hope that she will continue to serve for many years to come. Congratulations Melna, and thank you!

September Fun Run

Stocksfield has taken a firm grasp on the second Saturday in September for something big happening in the village. This year it is the first-ever Stocksfield FunRun, which will provide an entertaining challenge for runners (and walkers and pram-pushers!) of all ages on Saturday 11th September. Hopefully this will also raise some sponsorship money for PumpAid, a charity which helps to provide simple but life-saving water supplies to villages in parts of Africa.

The course for the main Run will start and finish at the Sportsfield, and take the runners 3¼ miles around the Merryshields area, amid beautiful and peaceful country. There will be lots of other things to do as well, including shorter races for children and sporting activities arranged by the Cricket Club and the Golf Club, similar to those at last year's Festival. The WI will provide home made cakes and cups of tea. There will be Wheelbirks Ice Cream, a barbecue, and a bouncy castle.

Like last year, this will be a good afternoon to meet friends and enjoy our facilities and our community. Make a note of the date, 11th September, and keep an eye open for further information and entry forms via the schools, clubs, shops, and public notice boards. For runners, the entry fee is £5 for an adult and £2 for a child.

Two new Traffic Signs

A new Vehicle Activated Traffic Sign (VATS) has been installed and is fully functional on New Ridley Road.

Following the accident earlier in the year that destroyed the VATS near Brumwell Court, a replacement has also been installed; this was paid for by insurance. The driver was prosecuted for the offence, but the court awarded the parish council just £100 in compensation.



Congratulations ...

To Councillor Peter Barrass and wife Hilary who had a baby boy, born on 12th

May. They have named him James. We can not remember a baby being born to a sitting councillor ever before!

Annual General Meeting

The Parish Council held its Annual General Meeting in May.

There are 11 serving councillors and 1 vacancy, which we expect to fill shortly. At this meeting the following officers were elected to serve for the coming year:

Chairman	Ian Hall
Vice Chairman	Melna Martin
Advisory Group Convenors:	
Finance & General Purposes	Ian Hall
Planning	Dave Porter
Transport & Highways	Pete Barrass
Footpaths & Environment	Norman Hooks
Parish Plan Action Group	Pete Duncan
Play Facilities Group	Diane Hinchcliffe
Sports Facilities Group	Julia Sayce

Your other parish councillors are: John Davidson, Helen Morris and Katharine Russell.

Second shooting in 5 years

Stocksfield resident Andrew Openshaw, 34, was found with shotgun wounds to the shoulder on New Ridley Road at 11.30 p.m. on Friday 28th May. He was taken to Newcastle General Hospital. Four people were arrested and subsequently bailed in connection with the shooting.

The police tell us that the victim was targeted, this was not a random shooting.

This is the second incident involving guns in Stocksfield in 5 years, John Scott was shot and killed by a Police marksman in Kimberley Gardens in July 2005.

Changes to our Bus Services

The new supplier of our bus services is **Go North East**. They take over from Arriva. This should have no effect on the services which are provided for Stocksfield:

602, 673 and X66.



If you do experience problems, please let a Parish Councillor or your County Councillor know; we will contact Go North East on your behalf.

Bywell Annual Arts Festival 26th - 27th June 2010

This annual event is only days away. Enjoy the showcase of artistic talent on display in the ancient Bywell churches of St. Peter's and St. Andrew's. An extensive exhibition of paintings and other craftworks by local artists and designers

The Arts Festival is open from 10.00am until 4.30pm on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th June. Admission is free. There is a preview evening on Friday 25th from 6.30pm.

Art Tour 2010

Bywell Festival and the Art Tour collide! This year the festival coincides with one of the dates of Art Tour 2010. 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.

Children's art competition

Children from Broomley and Whittonstall First Schools have been invited to enter an art competition as part of the Bywell Arts Festival. The subject this year is "Grandad". Entries will be on display during the festival in St Peter's Church.

Broomley First School Year 4 visit the Railway Museum in York:

A grand day out - by Alice Quigley

Our first job of the day was to get up very early. "I want you here by half past eight", exclaimed Mr Hammersley to the excited class. Just to be safe, I got up at six in the morning which is better than my usual time of half past eight. Everyone arrived on time and off we went to the station to catch the eight fifty five to Newcastle.

On the train we chatted to passengers and shared sweets whilst the teacher wasn't looking. After a quick platform hop at Newcastle we were on our way to York on a busy morning train full of businessmen and women.

Here is what we learned after we arrived at the National Railway Museum:

Stephenson's Rocket was the first passenger train in the world. It reached twenty five miles per hour, fast enough to decapitate the passengers, or so they thought back in 1829.

The Mallard, named after a duck, was one of the greatest trains of the steam age.



Another famous train, called the Flying Scotsman, was one of the biggest and fastest trains and is still talked about today.

Like any good school trip, lunch and the gift shop were next on the list. Money was flying out of our pockets and into the tills. Food was munched and crunched. After that, we realised the time. "Oh No!" screamed Mr H "We're going to be late!"

We raced back to the station just in time to catch the Inter City back to Newcastle. After another quick platform hop, finally we arrived back at the newly refurbished station, tired, full, poorer but knowing lots about the transport that changed our world for ever.

Year three pupils perform at SICA.

Broomley First School year 3 children are working with singer-songwriter Emily Portman in a series of music workshops. This culminated in a performance in concert at SICA on Thursday 27th May as part of The Hexham Gathering Folkworks events.

The PTA are funding these workshops. The children will also be performing their songs to members of the Methodist Coffee club who will join them for a concert in the school on June 16th. All the other children in school will be performing a range of songs old and new and serving refreshments to their visitors.

Dogs and Horses

From the children at SICA Playgroup to the residents of Stocksfield:

When we go for a walk with playgroup on the grass behind SICA we have to be careful because there is lots of dog poo and we might stand in it. We don't want to stand in it because it is stinky and it might stick on our shoes. Dog poo can make you poorly.

Please pick up your dogs poo in a bag and put it in the bin, then when we go for a walk the grown ups wont have to tell us to watch where we are going and we will be able to have more fun exploring in the grass and trees.

Thank you from the boys and girls at SICA Playgroup.

Dog owners, please remember that dogs are not allowed in play areas. It is your responsibility to pick it up, bag it, bin it.

The Parish Council has received complaints about horse droppings on pavements in Stocksfield. Please **do not** ride horses on pavements so that the footpaths can be kept clean and safe for pedestrians.

Vandalism increases at play areas

We are disappointed to have to report more damage has occurred in our play areas. Benches and seats at Kates Plain have been vandalised and broken. This has happened twice in recent weeks, most recently on 21st May. Both incidents have been reported to the police.



Money spent on repairs to vandalised equipment can not then be spent elsewhere. Repairs have already cost £85 but the most recent damage is more extensive and will cost more to repair.

Vandalism will not be tolerated; a close eye is being kept on our play areas and the police will be called if any further vandalism is observed. Culprits will be prosecuted and required to pay for repairs.

We have also received reports about disturbance and noise on this play area. This also needs to be stopped.

The bench at Birkdene has also been tipped over and the legs damaged. This seat will soon need to be replaced as the legs are rotten.

Spruce up Stocksfield

Many thanks to everyone who took part in this year's Spruce up Stocksfield Week, especially those residents who try to ensure that Stocksfield is always kept tidy.

The 'Drama in the Parlour' Radio Show from The Stocksfield Players.



Radio as you have never seen it before.

This unusual entertainment was written by one of the players, Alex Swan, and performed in the home of fellow player Helen Morris. For three nights in May her living room was transformed into the Drama in the Parlour Radio Theatre.

There was only room for an audience of thirty each night, they travelled from all over the north east and parked themselves on an assortment of chairs and sofas.

The entertainment was based on an old style radio variety show. Nine players lent their voices to a multitude

of characters in a series of comedic offerings interspersed with spoof adverts, song and sound effects. The show aimed to evoke the feel of an age that probably never was. An age when chaps were cheeky, japes were merry, radio actors wore evening dress and no one mentioned the north.

According to a survey completed by the audience during the interval 100% wrote that they want to return for future performances. Encouraged by the enthusiastic response there are now plans to perform more of these radio style parlour shows throughout the year.

Stocksfield Station painted



The finishing touches have now been applied to Stocksfield station. The platform area has not been forgotten. The footbridge, waiting areas and bike stores have now all been painted, in the corporate colours of Northern Rail.

A busy day for the new car park



Potholes

Our County or Parish Councillors are not able to survey all the roads in the parish regularly. If you notice a pothole, please report it to the County Council 0845 600 6400 or ask@northumberland.gov.uk Please give as much detail as possible as to the location of the problem, i.e. street, nearest house, post code. The more residents who report a hole the more likely it is to be filled quickly.

Repairs to the ford



Work has now started on the repairs to the Ford and should be completed by mid July.

Garden Share Scheme

The Parish Council is occasionally asked about the availability of allotments in Stocksfield.

We have no public land within the Parish that we are aware of that could be converted to allotments and therefore are unable to help those who make enquiries.

However, following a talk at the Plants & Gardens Society, we learned of a 'garden share' scheme being run by Transition Tynedale.

Transition Tynedale matches and introduces committed, enthusiastic growers with local garden owners who want to see their gardens being used more productively.

We have all seen gardens full of weeds or know someone who would like a supply of fresh vegetables but has no time to grow their own. This scheme matches the two, to the benefit of both - the gardener gets access to land and in return the owner receives a share of the harvest. **Sue Hick on 01434 345286**, evening is best, can tell you more.

Annual Parish Meeting

Around a dozen residents attended the Annual Parish Meeting on 26th April.

They heard the speakers, Charlene Kane and Paul Lyon of Northern Rail, give a brief presentation about the

service offered by Northern Rail. Ms Kane and Mr Lyon took questions from the floor.

Following the presentation there was an opportunity for residents to question the Parish Council on its work and finances over the preceding 12 months.

Annual Parish Accounts

The Parish Council's audited accounts will be available for inspection between 1st and 28th June. Any

resident wishing to inspect these accounts for the year ending 31st March 2010 should ring the Chairman to make an appointment. Please call Ian Hall on **01661 843049**.

Councillor resigns

Steve Gleadhill has resigned as a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council is very appreciative of his contribution to the work of the Council over the past three years.

We are particularly grateful for his work in compiling the Parish Plan and for sharing with councillors his knowledge of the workings of local government.

We wish him well in the future.

Do you remember - Elsie and Robert?

The Parish Council and the Local History Society have been contacted by Craig Taylor who is researching his family tree.

Craig visited Stocksfield in April with his 80 year old father. They are looking for information about Craig's great aunt and uncle who lived in Oakfield, Meadowfield Road in the 1940's and 50's. Their names were Florence Elsie Taylor and Robert Taylor; they were brother and sister. It is believed that Robert was wounded in the First World War and was in

poor health. Elsie, as she was known, for a time after the War gave classes in leatherwork at Broomley School. Craig's father and uncle lived with Elsie and Robert for a time during the War.

Craig has been unable to find out when Elsie and Robert left Stocksfield or even when they died. The last record he has is that Elsie was still in the phone book in 1956.

If you are able to help Craig with his research please contact him direct by e-mail at: craigtaylor@attitudematters.org

Football Club apply for charter

The Football Club is continuing to grow with over 150 children and adults playing and training for Stocksfield F.C.

The club now has teams from Under 7's up to Seniors and is continuing to host Saturday soccer for 4 to 7 year olds, which is held from 10.00 a.m. until 11.00 a.m.

The club is applying to become fully chartered under the F.A. Charter Standard Scheme. The scheme is a best practice guide that sets standards of coaching, administration and child protection. As a benchmark for quality, it will improve the playing experience for all. Achieving the Charter Standard Award shows that the club is well organised and safe for children.

This season has been successful with the Under 16s winning two cups, the Under 10s winning the 5 a side plate tournament and the Senior team gaining promotion into the Northern Alliance Premiership.

Volunteers are needed to help with the running of the club. Contact Philip Murray for details. Call **07865 508639** or e-mail philip.murray@harland.co.uk



Stocksfield United FC Under 16s National Association of Clubs for Young People - Cup Winners 2010 (3-2 v Ryton)

Rugby Club promoted - again

Prudhoe & Stocksfield RUFC is celebrating the end of a long hard season. In only their first season in the National leagues, Durham & Northumberland III, the club ends the year in an impressive second place.

After a sluggish start which saw them lose their first two games, the team found their feet and started playing the kind of rugby that many thought was beyond them. They began to win games regularly and climbed the table rapidly. At the end of the season, having lost only four games in total, they were second placed behind favourites Guisborough. This sealed promotion into Durham and Northumberland II. This is a remarkable achievement for everyone involved and sees the club looking forward to playing at its highest ever standard in its more than 25 year history.

The club is always looking for players, supporters and social members. Call Chris Russell on **07967 592838** or e-mail chrisrussell55@hotmail.com.

Golf Champions



Simon Martin and Chris Paisley representing Stocksfield Golf Club became Northumberland Foursomes Champions in April. Whilst this is not surprising for Chris as he represented

Great Britain in the Walker Cup recently, it was for Simon as his handicap of 6 made him far and away the highest handicapped player ever to win this event. This was recognised in the considerable publicity he received. Photo copyright - Richard Hannam www.rhannam.weebly.com

A summer of Tennis

The Tennis club will play its part in keeping your children fit and entertained during the school holidays, with a programme of organised activities each week. These will mainly be in the mornings, so that the club members can play in the afternoons! Details of the different dates, times and age groups can be obtained either at the Clubhouse, or by telephoning Club Coach Sarah on **07984 804299**.

Stocksfield Running Club

Stocksfield Striders is another village sporting club going from strength to strength. 20 runners of all abilities meet on a Tuesday night at 7.30 at the Cricket Club for a run.

In April a "Marathon Quiz" raised nearly £200 for two cancer charities, including £50 kindly donated by the Cricket Club.

Forthcoming events include a coastal run and barbecue around Craster in July, Sunday morning runs in various locations and many members running together in local races and fun runs

The club is organising a series of 7 daytime running sessions in Stocksfield, on a Wednesday morning at 9.30am, beginning on 9th June. For more information call Claire Collinson on **01661 843791**.

Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at SICA on:

Monday 5th July 2010 - 7.30 p.m.
There is NO meeting in August.

Hanging Baskets

This year the Hanging Baskets have been provided by the Parish Council. Thanks to Norman Hooks, Mike and Margaret Cummings for planting and caring for them and to Joyce Simpson who has allowed us the use her greenhouse to nurture them.

What's on at Stocksfield WI

Wednesday 7th July - 7.30 p.m.

Ian Hills - The Hunt for Grandad William
Meeting held at SICA.

What's happening at SICA

Friday 2nd July, 7.00 for 7.30pm.

SICA are showing the comedy film 'It's Complicated' with Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin. Certificate 15.

A new Boxercise class has started on **Tuesday mornings** in term time 10.45 to 11.30am. This new class complements the other classes at SICA, including Aerobics, Steps and Stability Balls, held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

This year's Scout Jumble sale will be held on Saturday 25th September. If you are having a sort out this summer, please keep your jumble for this event. Thank you.

SICA will be closed for all of August, but all activities will resume as usual in September.

Minsteracres Summer Fayre & Arts Festival. Sat 3 July - Sun 4 July

Minsteracres Retreat Centre near Slaley, DH8 9RT - just off the A68.

Traditional Summer Fayre Stalls, Craft Demonstrations, Tombola, Grand Prize Draw & Refreshments, Flower Exhibition, Games, Face painting & Live Entertainment.

Art Exhibition; Pictures in Oil and Water Colour, Modern and Traditional Sculpture, Pottery, Wood and Glass items on display.

All Exhibits for sale. Specially donated pieces for auction on Sunday.

Saturday 11am - 4pm. Sunday from 11.30am for art viewing. Auction at 3pm. Daily admission £1 adult - Children free

For information call Cecilia Port:
01434 673248

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.