

# NE43 News



Issue 37  
Winter 2010

The Newsletter of Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

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

## Fun Run proves a great success

The first Stocksfield Fun Run, held on Saturday 11th September, attracted around 150 runners to the Parish Sportsfield for a run of about 3 miles. The new marquee, purchased by Stocksfield Festival Committee, made its first public appearance and was well used by many residents enjoying teas provided by Stocksfield WI. Other attractions included a barbecue, bouncy castle and slide, sweet stall, various 'sports challenges' and of course Wheelbirks ice cream!

The run itself was quite a muddy affair following very heavy overnight rain but, as with the Festival the year before, the weather was very good during the event.



All the runners were presented with a commemorative medal by Brendan Foster, who also set the runners on their way.

The organisers would like to thank both the runners and the many residents and friends who came along to support them. Their contributions means that a splendid total of £955.80 was sent to the charity 'Pump Aid'.

## Stocksfield Festival is Back in 2011!

Stocksfield Festival will return by popular demand on Saturday 10th September 2011. Please make a note of the date in your diaries, particularly if you are planning another event in the village about this time.

The first meeting of the organising committee will be on Monday 31st January 2011 at 7.30 p.m. in the Richardson Room at SICA. Not all of the existing committee will be available next year so this meeting is open to all residents. New volunteers bring in new ideas so if you are interested in making this second Village Festival as good as the first one, do please come along to this meeting.

## Parish Council launches Business Forum

October saw the launch of a brand new Business Forum for the village. This will bring together a wide range of local employers to look at ways in which business and the community can work more closely together in the future.

A survey for the 2008 Parish Plan identified nearly 50 local businesses, employing well over 300 people and that number has now increased.

Ten local businesses have joined the Forum so far. They include IHC Engineering Business (by some way the largest local employer), the Stencil Library, Wheelbirks Farm, Social Regeneration Consultants, 2B Graphics, Branch End Surgery, Stocksfield Cricket Club, Helping Hands, Winn Dental Ceramics and Oaks Hair studio.

The Forum will meet on a regular basis and the founder members are keen to extend an invitation to any business in the Parish to join them. A strong Business Forum could have a major role in helping

our community deliver the Parish Plan vision.

If you run a local business and are interested in joining the Forum, please call or email Pete Duncan: 01661 843643 or [peteduncan@socialregeneration.co.uk](mailto:peteduncan@socialregeneration.co.uk)

## Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council - General Maintenance Work

Tenders are invited for contracts, renewable on a triennial basis, to carry out work for the Parish Council including litter control, grass cutting and the maintenance of footpaths, playgrounds and planted areas.

- Final date for receipt of tenders: 15th February 2011.
- Starting date: 1st April 2011.
- Full details are available by writing to: Parish Clerk, Mrs. M. Williams, 205 New Ridley Road, Stocksfield, NE43 7QD.  
email: [margaretbpc@talk21.com](mailto:margaretbpc@talk21.com)

## Large crowd gathers for Remembrance Service



This year's Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial saw the highest attendance for many years. Stocksfield resident and former RAF Airman Dennis Wellings, pictured above, laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

Wreaths were also laid by Dr Tony Trapp on behalf of the Queen, Jack Musgrove of the 39th Regiment Royal Artillery,

Jack is also a Stocksfield resident, and by Prudhoe Police, Stocksfield Scouts, Brownies and Rainbows.

The service was lead by Rev. Bill Rigby with many villagers taking part, including some of Stocksfield youngest residents.

Thanks go to the Brownies who provided the refreshments afterwards at SICA.

*With best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous year in 2011 from Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council.*

## It's time for Scout Post.

Stocksfield Scouts are hoping you will once again use their Christmas card delivery service, for cards sent to anyone with an NE43 post code. Post boxes will be in both post offices from **Wednesday 1st December** and the last time for posting will be 12 noon on **Monday 20th December**. They ask for a minimum donation of just 15p per card - Royal Mail charge 32p. Tax payers are asked to use the green envelopes to Gift Aid their donation. If you are not Gift

Aiding please **don't** use these envelopes just place the money into the box with your cards. The boxes are emptied daily and cards are delivered at least once a week. If you have any queries, please contact **Philippa Harpin**, on **01661 842302**.

## Thank you!

Due to pressure of work Katharine Russell has resigned as a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council is very appreciative of her contribution to the work of the Council over the past two years.

Dave Porter has also resigned as a Parish Councillor. Dave's contribution to the work of the Parish Council, and in particular the Planning Committee, over the past five years has been invaluable. We hope Dave will continue to compile and edit NE43 News and stocksfield.org.

## So we need new Councillors!

As we wish both Katharine and Dave well in the future, we need to find two new Councillors. The Parish Council works hard to ensure that Stocksfield remains a great place to live and work, and we need your help with that. If you are interested in taking on this exciting and rewarding task!, please contact our Clerk to find out more. Call Margaret Williams on **01661 843114** or email: [margaretspsc@talk21.com](mailto:margaretspsc@talk21.com). Thank you.

## Merryshields to Eltringham - a step closer

A right of way over this footpath had already been accepted, now a government inspector has accepted the evidence provided for a second right of way, through a small railway arch, linking the riverside path to the existing public footpath.

The next step will be for the County Council to make an order adding these paths as public rights of way. Prudhoe Pathforce who submitted this claim, with the Parish Council's support, wish to thank the many Stocksfield residents whose excellent witness statements have contributed to this result.

## Christmas tree

This year the Parish Council has provided one Christmas Tree, which is outside the Dr Syntax Pub. Thank you again to Dennis at the pub for providing the lighting. There are also Christmas lights on a tree outside Broomley First School.

## Drama in the Parlour returns - it's a great night out!



There can hardly be a more intimate setting for an evening of theatre than the front room at Stocksfield Hall, home to Helen Morris of the Stocksfield Players. 'Drama in the Parlour' was staged in May this year, when the Players first occupied the parlour at Helen's heavily stencilled home. It proved to be so successful that version two played to packed houses, of 33 seats, in October.

The action takes place in a radio studio of the 1950s; the audience is there for a 'live' performance. Brilliantly written by Alex Swan the players all gave excellent and very funny performances, particular mentions to Marie Swan for superb over-the-top acting during 'Thrust Titan and the Snalien Invasion', Alex Swan for the excellent Detective Randy Gonzalez and Helen Morris for a wide variety of characters, especially Aunty Beryl.

The players are now considering taking 'Drama in the Parlour' to other venues, perhaps even as far as the Edinburgh Fringe.

Version three, again to be seen at Stocksfield Hall, is now in the planning stages. The likely date being next March. Miss it at your peril.

## Annual Production.

Perhaps as an indication of the versatility of the The Stocksfield Players, they have just completed their annual production at SICA. This year they performed 'Pack of Lies', the drama by Hugh Whitmore based on the story of Helen and Peter Kroger who, in 1961, were found guilty of spying for the Russians, and were sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment. - *Dave Porter*.

## Broomley School's year two head for the woods

As part of their regular Forest School work, Year 2 children have been busy film making in Hindley Woods by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Lapping. During their Literacy work, the children wrote their own scripts and produced and directed some fantastic short films set in the woodlands.



## It's an age thing!

Broomley School's beautiful Victorian building showed her age recently and had to close for three days due to an unstable corridor ceiling. The repair work was completed during half term and the new ceiling looks very smart.

## Names taken for SICA playgroup

The popular playgroup for children from the age of 2, held at SICA, is taking names for their next intake in January. The group gives young children their first taste of independence in a safe, friendly, welcoming environment. They offer a range of activities to suit each child and work closely with Broomley First School, to ensure a smooth transition into school. If you would like your youngster's name on the list, please call the playgroup on **07857 894313**. It is also possible to put younger children on the waiting list, as they will then be offered places first.



## Sportsfield parking

Parish Councillors continue to be concerned about parking outside the Sportsfield at busy times.

We appreciate that drivers believe that it is better to park on the pavement than on the road, but this is not true. Parking on the pavement means that pedestrians, particularly those with motobility scooters and buggies, are unable to use the pavement. It is also against the law.

Please do not park your vehicles on the pavement. Some additional parking is available on the Eastern Sportsfield, or in the station car park.

## New Methodist Minister



With the retirement of Rev Maureen Lloyd, Stocksfield has a new Methodist Minister. Rev Jane Cook, born in Darlington, comes straight from college to this, her first ministerial appointment, having spent some 20 years

as a civil servant. Jane is also the Minister for Wylam and lives at the Manse there. We offer Jane a very warm welcome.

## The end for Carpet Bowls?

Stocksfield Carpet Bowls Club met for the last time at the end of September. The club, who have played at the Community Centre every Wednesday for over 25 years, have suffered from declining membership in recent years and may well have closed last year, however alterations at Riding Mill Parish Hall temporarily brought Riding Mill members to Stocksfield.

SICA Management Committee would be very sorry to have to dispose of all the equipment, including two high quality mats. Previous attempts to recruit new members have failed

SICA is now offering the opportunity of free, 'taster evenings' - where both those with some experience of the game and absolute beginners can try out this form of bowls with some instruction provided. If you are interested, please call the SICA office on **01661 844863**, or e-mail: [admin@sica.org.uk](mailto:admin@sica.org.uk)

## Ridley Mill Road - Sewage escapes.

Regular users of Ridley Mill Road will be well aware of the on-going problem of sewage escapes near the point where the main sewer pipe crosses Stocksfield Burn. Heavy rainfall causes discharges from the collecting chambers either side of this pipe and small scale remedial work by Northumbrian Water has only made matters worse. The Environment Agency is fully aware of the problem and has had

## First with Quiet Lanes?

'Quiet Lane' status can be placed on roads by the county council. A 'Quiet Lane' is an existing road that is normally a minor rural road, often without a pedestrian footpath, that carries a large number of walkers, cyclists or horse riders, as well as vehicles. A 'Quiet Lane' would have signs warning motorists that the road is shared with other users, to encourage drivers to slow down and be aware that there may be others using the road.

The Rights of Way and Environment Group, which has been in existence for many years, is made up of residents with an interest in maintaining the network of public footpaths. The group has asked the Parish Council to apply for 'Quiet Lane' status for a number of roads in Stocksfield, mainly the roads around the fords. These roads form a clear network of lanes linking residential areas to numerous public and permissive footpaths. They also form part of the 'Health Walk' routes so that sometimes more than 20 pedestrians could be using a short section of lane with no footpath.



This road leading down to the fords could become a 'Quiet Lane'.

Currently there are no 'Quiet Lanes' in Northumberland, so Stocksfield could become the first village in the county to achieve 'Quiet Lane' status.

The ROW & Environment Group usually meets four times a year. If you are interested in becoming involved, come to their next meeting which will be held at SICA on **24th January 2011 at 7.30 p.m.**

discussions with Northumbrian Water about providing a permanent solution.

It now appears that there may be a design problem in the overflow system upstream from the point where the sewer pipe crosses the burn. This system is designed to allow 'permitted overflow' during and following periods of heavy rain. A reservoir tank holds the combined sewage and surface water. By the time an overflow occurs, sewage will have been diluted to such an extent by surface water that its

## New equipment at Branch End



Installation of the new equipment

The swings and the tyre swing at Branch End Play Area have reached the end of their useful life and have been replaced.

We are grateful for the financial support received from County Councillor Anne Dale, the County Council Community Chest and the Housing Benefit Fund which has enabled us to replace this equipment.

Following a request from one of our younger residents, Anne Dale is hoping to provide a basket ball goal for Branch End Play Area.

## Safer junction on New Ridley Road



Double yellow lines have now been installed at the junction of New Ridley Road and Painshawfield Road. The Parish Council has been pressing for these for many years in an effort to improve the safety of this junction. Now with the help and support of County Councillor Anne Dale they have been installed.

## A seat for Sylvia



The recently installed seat at the second ford has been dedicated to the memory of Sylvia Steele. Sylvia and her husband John, from Cullercoats, were frequent visitors to Stocksfield and loved our countryside and the fords area. We are very grateful to John for his generous donation of the seat.

discharge into the burn will not be harmful to the environment. As the system is not working correctly, Northumbrian Water are investigating to find the cause.

Although the Environment Agency is fully aware of this situation every incident of raw sewage escapes should still be reported to them, either directly on their Emergency Hotline - **0800 807060** or by contacting Councillor Norman Hooks on **01661 844863**.





Steam galore!

Not one but **two** steam locomotives have passed through Stocksfield station in recent months. No. 6233, The Duchess of Sutherland, 'The Citadel Express', left, was seen on Saturday 18th September. On Friday 19th November an enthusiastic crowd greeted 60163 Tornado. Tornado is a brand new steam locomotive, built in Darlington, the first locomotive to be built in this country since 1960.

## Stocksfield Football Club on their bikes.

Congratulations to the members of Stocksfield Football Club who completed a Coast to Coast bike ride with proceeds from sponsorship going to Tynedale Hospice at Home. The total raised was a fantastic £750 with £100 of that from Thompson's Earthworks in Prudhoe. Nine cyclists, together with 2 helpers, started off in Whitehaven at 1030 a.m. on the Saturday and arrived in Tynemouth about 4 p.m. on the Sunday. Training varied, some cyclists had trained hard for months, others just



chanced their luck.

The ride was one of the hardest journeys that any of them had done. There were tears, arguments and tantrums all the way but they all agreed that it had been one most satisfying things they had ever done.

## A bit cold for Tennis

Not surprisingly our youngsters play a lot of indoor tennis at this time of year. Under 8 and 9's of all abilities are welcome to play indoors on Saturdays at Prudhoe High School; call Club Coach Sarah Stevenson on **07984 804299**. Outdoor groups start again at the end of January at the Club. Club member Daniel Senior recently retained the Sunderland Open under-8s title for the second year.

Adult members are braving the elements and making the most of the floodlighting throughout the winter, and new members are always welcome; contact the Club Secretary, Sue Applegarth, on **01661 844961**.

## The History of Stocksfield Golf Club

The Golf Club will be celebrating the centenary of its founding in 2013 and is looking for any photographs, anecdotes, stories etc which might be included in a book that is being compiled by Bill Martin.

If you have any information please contact **Bill Martin** on **01661 844040**.

## Multi Use Games Area 01661 842902

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

## Post Office Opening Hours

### Stocksfield Post Office, Station Approach

Monday to Friday - 8.00 to 6.00.

Saturday - 9.00 to 2.00.

### Branch End Post Office, Alexander Terrace

Monday to Wednesday & Friday:

9.00 to 12.30 and 1.30. to 5.30.

Thursday & Saturday - 9.00 to 12.30

## Stocksfield Local History Society

Meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. at SICA. All welcome.

### Wednesday 12th January 2011.

Jean McKay - Drama and Entertainment in Medieval and Tudor Newcastle.

### Wednesday 9th February 2011.

M. Rutter - Life and Times of St. Cuthbert, Politics and Religion in Northumbria.

### Wednesday 9th March 2011.

John Charlton - Slavery and the North East of England Part 2.

### Wednesday 13th March 2011.

Mr. Pettit - The Gretna Green Rail Crash in 1915.

## Stocksfield WI

### Wednesday 5th January 2011.

Andrew Palmer - Whisky Jack - A Tale of Murder & Moonshine.

### Wednesday 2nd February 2011.

Ingrid Kilner - A Year Behind the Veil (Iraq).

### Wednesday 2nd March 2011.

Catherine Hart - Hats for all Occasions.

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

New members and visitors welcome.

## Blood Donor Session at SICA

Friday 24th December 10.00 a.m.

## Next Parish Council Meetings

Monday 10th January 2011

Monday 7th February 2011

All meetings are held at SICA and start at 7.30 p.m. Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

## Prudhoe & District U3A

Monday 31st January 2011 10.30 a.m.

Liesbeth Blandford - Children under Occupation.

Monday 28th February 2011, 10.30 a.m.

Michael Stott - Optical Illusions.

Meetings are held at St Mary Magdalene Parish Hall, Front Street, Prudhoe at 10.30 a.m.