

# NE43 News

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The Newsletter of Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

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

## Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Community Centre, Stocksfield on Monday, 18th April 2011, at 7.30 p.m.

The main topic this year will focus on young people.

There is already a wide range of activities for young people aged 11 and over in Stocksfield - but could your Parish Council be doing more to enable an even greater number of young people to socialise and have fun in the village? This is the question we'll be asking at the Annual Parish Meeting. As well as hearing from some of the local groups already catering for young people in this age range, you'll have the opportunity to ask questions, put forward your own suggestions about what should be on offer, and make sure that Parish Councillors are aware of the kind of new activities we might promote and support.

If you're aged 11 - 18, if you're a parent or grandparent of young people in this age group, or if you have an interest in helping all Stocksfield residents to take part in and benefit from community activities, please come along to the meeting and give us your views and ideas.

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

## Parish Council Precept

As you may already know, Northumberland County Council had considerable difficulty in reaching a conclusion about its budget for 2011-2012. For several months this meant that financial discussions at the Parish Council were based on inadequate or unclear information. However, on the basis of the most recent news from the County about which services it would or would not continue to provide, the Parish Council finally agreed on 7th February to set a precept of £70,000.

Our calculations have taken into account



## Council back to full strength

Following resignations last year, the Parish Council has now co-opted two new councillors. We welcome **Keith Woods** and **Alan Verheyden**.

Keith (pictured above) is delighted to be the latest recruit to the Parish Council. He has lived in Stocksfield for twenty five years and has recently retired following a career in education, consultancy and management development throughout the country. Keith has been a governor of three local schools and is looking forward to working with the Parish Council.



Alan (pictured above) has lived in three areas of Stocksfield over the last forty years. He worked as a head teacher for twenty-five years in Northumberland and Durham and was involved in building and developing a pilot children's centre in Chester Le Street. Alan leads health walks in Stocksfield; he is librarian to the SAGE Cobwebs orchestra where he plays violin and is treasurer to Ryton Choral Society. A keen gardener, Alan manages an area of ancient woodland in Stocksfield.

Now retired, he is looking forward to helping to keep Stocksfield a pleasant place to live and work for all residents.



## Parking outside the Sportsfield

The Parish Council appreciates that parking at the Sportsfields is a problem, particularly on Saturday mornings. The Council is looking into ways of alleviating this problem. In the short term, we would urge users of the Sportsfields not to park on the pavement as this causes inconvenience for pedestrians, wheelchairs and pushchairs.

the likelihood that the Parish Council will soon have to take on responsibility for services which the County will no longer be able to provide. One example is the Youth Service, which has already been dramatically reduced and which we should perhaps augment locally - this will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

We are also thinking about day care for our older residents, and community transport. Another example is the cutting of grass in areas such as Birkdene and Hall Farm Close, which will probably have to be funded locally rather than by your Council Tax. With so much change taking

place at national and county level, there are many unknown factors about the next few years' programme. Funding for larger projects will certainly be more difficult to obtain and it seemed wise to continue saving for longer-term plans.

The increase in precept also reflects increased costs of the services we already provide, such as taking care of the sports fields, playgrounds, seats and footpaths. New three-year contracts for the maintenance of these start in April and are considerably higher than in previous years.

## Parish Council Accounts - now online

The Government has ordered that all councils publish details of expenditure over £500 online. The easiest way for our Parish Council to do this is to publish income and expenditure for the current month and for the year to date.

Please visit [stocksfield.org/accounts](http://stocksfield.org/accounts) to view these accounts. If you have any queries, please contact the Clerk. **01661 843114**.

## All change as SICA becomes SCA

Changes to the charitable status of the Community Association are now complete. The final stage of conversion to a 'Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee' occurred on 24th January when the Charity Commission confirmed the re-registration as a charity with a new charity number, 1139996.

On 13th December 2010 the charity was also registered at Companies House. The word 'Institute' has had to be removed from the name so it becomes simply Stocksfield Community Association.

The big transfer date, when all SICA's assets are formally transferred to the new company, will be Thursday 31st March 2011. Current members have already had their membership transferred to the new company and new members are of course always welcome. For more information, including details of subscription fees and room hire rates, please contact the manager at the Community Association office on **01661 842346** or email [admin@sica.org.uk](mailto:admin@sica.org.uk).

Please note that Stocksfield Community Association is not changing either its e-mail or website addresses and will continue to use 'SICA' as a trading name. It will no doubt take many years before this Community Association is known as anything other than 'SICA'!



Joyce Simpson and Michael Richardson sign the documents to transfer SICA assets to the new company

## Broomley First School Celebrates Chinese New Year

Children marked the beginning of the 'Year of the Rabbit' with a range of activities that were planned by the Year 4 pupils for the whole school. Activities included stir fry cooking, Chinese art, lucky money envelopes, Chinese lantern design and construction and Chinese drama and music.

## Help needed - on wheels.

Can you spare a couple of hours each month to be part of a team of volunteers?

The Stocksfield Meals on Wheels WRVS Scheme team provide freshly cooked meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays from the kitchens at SICA. They need help with the cooking, (no expertise required) and with meals delivery, either on a regular once a month basis or as reserve back ups. If you can help, please call Ruth Askew, **01661 842301**.

## New play equipment at Branch End Play Area



Over the winter months two replacement pieces of equipment have been installed at Branch End Play Area. The popular tyre swing has been replaced by a more modern swing with a basket instead of an open tyre and the old swings have also been replaced.

The purchase of this equipment has been made possible by grants from the Community Chest, The Housing Developer Fund and County Councillor Anne Dale's Members' Local Improvement Scheme Fund. Through that fund, and following a request from a younger resident, Mrs Dale has also been able to provide a Basketball post at Branch End Play Area.



## Time for another tidy up - 16th - 23rd April 2011

After one of the worst winters for some time our Parish is in need of "sprucing up" for the summer. Between Saturday 16th April and Saturday 23rd April, the Parish Council is organising another Spruce up Stocksfield Week.

Once again we ask for your help in litter picking a particularly untidy part of the village, or generally cleaning up near where you live. This includes phone boxes, bus shelters, street signs, grass verges, hedges and pavements.

The Parish Council can provide some litter pickers, gloves and bin bags. These can be collected from the Community Centre between 9.30 a.m. and 10 a.m. on 16th April. Full bags should be left in the wheelie bins at the Sportsfield Car Park. Large wheelie bins will be provided from 16th to 23rd April, which can be used for bulky items and litter.

These bins should only be used as part of the village clean up, they can not be used for commercial waste, liquids, hazardous waste or similar. White Goods, and bulky household items should continue to be taken to the Prudhoe or Hexham Household Waste Recovery Centres.

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 offer your help and nominate an area to be targeted.

## Dog Waste

Once again, concerns have been raised by residents and councillors about the amount of dog waste that is not picked up. Worse still is that bags of dog waste are being hung on trees and hedges. Please take your bags home; they do not biodegrade and are unsightly and unhygienic.

Dog bins are provided throughout the village, with a new one recently installed near Ladywell on New Ridley Road. Where there is no specific bin for dog waste the bags can be put in ordinary litter bins.

## Best ever Scout Post

The Christmas 2010 Scout post was the most successful ever, raising the magnificent sum of £430.00. Thank you to you, the residents, who generously supported this endeavour and used the Scout Group to deliver your local Christmas cards.

Thanks also to all the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and in many cases their parents, without whose willing help in difficult weather conditions, this project would not have been possible. The Scouts are very grateful for all the support received.

**Listed:** The Parish Council has been notified that our War Memorial has been listed Grade II by English Heritage.



## Stocksfield Festival is back - 10th September 2011 - on the Sportsfields

Once again pride of place will go to the musicians performing in the main marquee, and Broomley School has kindly agreed to accommodate the Show and one or two other events. The committee is working hard to bring together an entertaining mix of activities, stalls and sideshows, and refreshments. Scarecrows will once again be welcome! And those who have the stamina can relax in the evening at a ceilidh at SICA.

The entertainment group would like to feature some local musicians at this year's event. If you are one, or would like to recommend someone, please email Helen Morris, [helen@stencil-library.com](mailto:helen@stencil-library.com), or call **01661 844844**, by 20th April please.

The committee hopes that local businesses and organisations will support the Festival in some way. You could sell your wares, do some fund-raising by means of a sideshow, simply publicise your organisation - or perhaps you have some new idea you would like to suggest. To get involved, or book a stall, please call Norman Hooks, **01661 844863** or Julia Sayce, **01661 843523** as soon as possible.

It goes without saying that the Festival can't take place without a lot of hard work. If you are interested in helping with the planning, please contact Julia Sayce, details above, and if you could help either with selling programmes beforehand or with jobs on the day, please get in touch. - it is YOUR festival.

## Bywell Arts Festival

**24th - 26th June 2011.**

Bywell Arts festival is back. The Festival is open from 10.00 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th June. Admission is free. There is a preview evening on Friday 24th from 6.30 p.m. On Saturday 25th a concert will be held in St Peter's Church at 7.30 p.m.

## Art Tour 2011

Many Stocksfield artists will be participating in Art Tour 2011 from 5th June to 3rd July. For details about open studios and workshops email: [helen@stencil-library.com](mailto:helen@stencil-library.com) **01661 844844**.

## Ridley Mill Road

Despite meetings between representatives of the Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water and the Parish Council, the problem of sewage overflowing onto Ridley Mill Road has still not been resolved, much less fixed. Residents are urged to continue to report problems in this area either directly to the Environment Agency, **0800 807060**, or by contacting Councillor Norman Hooks **01661 844863**.

## Drama In The Parlour - Three!

By public demand, after the success of the first two productions, Stocksfield Players are presenting **Drama in The Parlour 3**. Writer, and performer, Alex Swan has written another hilarious radio show from a bygone era.

This will be performed in the parlour at The Farmhouse, Stocksfield Hall - from Thursday March 31st to Saturday 2nd April - nightly at 7 p.m. Tickets £5 from the Stocksfield Post Office, Boots and The Stencil Library - **01661 844844**.

## Potholes

After a pretty terrible winter, the state of our roads is now clear, we have more potholes than ever! Any potholes you see that need repair should be reported to the County Council.

Email [ask@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:ask@northumberland.gov.uk) or call **0845 600 6400** giving as much detail of the location of the pothole as possible.



## Book your doctor's appointment - online.

Branch End Surgery now offers patients online appointments. To use this service, please call the practice, number below, for a username and password which will be sent out to you. Once set up, you can then book an appointment online.

The practice is looking to expand its patient list, and welcomes all patients from within the area.

You can now register online at the website [branchendsurgery.co.uk](http://branchendsurgery.co.uk) and click on 'how to register'.

Branch End Surgery also has a 'Patients Forum'. This is a group of patients who act as a 'critical friend' and help the practice achieve its plans for excellent patient care. For further information contact Practice Manager Sue Shone on **01661 842626** or email [sue.shone@gp-a84047.nhs.uk](mailto:sue.shone@gp-a84047.nhs.uk)

## Community Development Trust

Development Trusts are not for profit social enterprises, working exclusively for the benefit of their local communities.

The idea of setting up a Stocksfield Development Trust for the village came from the 2009 Parish Plan. Developing land and projects for community benefit was supported by 60% of residents interviewed during the plan-making process.

The main role of a Stocksfield Development Trust would be to deliver a significant part of the Parish Plan. This is likely to involve developing a possible new village centre at Branch End, co-ordinating the management of our community assets, delivering a range of community services and providing community development support and advice.

Supported by the Parish Council, a Steering Group of local residents and locally-based service providers, is now in place and is meeting regularly. Social Enterprise Northumberland is providing valuable advice. The Steering Group's job, over the next few months, is to explore the legal, governance and financial issues, visit other local community development trusts, develop a 3-5 year Business Plan, consult with the local community on the Business Plan proposals, finalise the legal framework, register with Companies House and the Charities Commission and set up appropriate financial and administrative systems. We will then need to hold a Launch event!

This is an exciting and challenging initiative for Stocksfield. If you would like to help us get it off the ground, call Pete Duncan **01661 843643**.

## A post card - from Stocksfield

An Exhibition of Jim Davidson's post cards of Stocksfield will be held in the St John's Church Hall, Meadowfield Road on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th April between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Many of the postcards are over 100 years old and depict images of Stocksfield in the early years of the 20th century. There will be an entrance fee of £2 and light refreshments will be available. All proceeds to Bywell St Peters' Church funds.

## New Entertainment website



Stocksfield writer Rachel Cochrane has launched a new spoken word entertainment website. Perhaps not surprisingly, many of Rachel's dramas are set in a fictional

Northumberland village and one or two may even involve a Parish Council (Any Other Business?) and a bored housewife getting up to mischief as she writes a weekly column for the local newspaper (Village Notes).

The site also features recordings of drama, short stories, poetry, book extracts and interviews from other North East writers and actors including performances by The Stocksfield Players. Content is free to listen online or download at: [listenupnorth.com](http://listenupnorth.com).

## More success for Football Club

Stocksfield Football Club has had another successful year with over 170 people playing for the club from Under 6's up to Senior level. The number of junior players has risen again for a 5th year running.

The requirement to become an FA charter standard club continues to put time and financial constraints on the club, who are seeking volunteers to act as coaches, fund raisers and team management.

Corporate sponsors are also needed to help with the purchase of new equipment and to enable the club to provide a fantastic service to the local community.

A big thanks go to all of those who are involved in the running and support of the football club. If you are interested in getting involved please call Phil Murray on **07866 508639**.

## Stocksfield FC under 17's



Stocksfield United FC Under 17's at the Tynedale Sports Awards in December 2010

Last season's two cup wins led to a nomination for the Tynedale Youth Team of the Year award; Stocksfield didn't quite make the top prize, but they did receive a Certificate of Merit.

Gareth Wade, Team Assistant Manager, was also joint winner of the Tynedale Young Sports Leader of the Year award.

## What's happening at SICA

**Saturday 26th March - 10.00 - Noon.**  
Table Top Sale and Coffee Morning.

**Friday 1st April - 7.30 p.m.**  
SICA Challenge quiz.

**Saturday 2nd April - 7.30 p.m.**  
The Ravenswood Singers.

**Friday 15th April - 2.00 - 7.30 p.m.**  
Blood Donor session

**Sunday 17th April - 2.30 p.m.**  
The Paper Washi Wish - Traditional Japanese storytelling, followed by a hands-on paper making experience. Suitable for younger audiences 3+

**Friday 6th May - 10 a.m.**  
Vision 21 Coffee Morning

**Thursday 26th May - 7.30 p.m.**  
Hexham Gathering.

**admin@sica.org.uk - 01661 842346**

## Tennis club most competitive

LTA statistics show that Stocksfield Tennis Club juniors are playing more competitive tennis than any other club in the county, regardless of the membership numbers, so there is no doubting their enthusiasm!

The club will welcome a new crop of youngsters this season, and are making the courts available for coaching during the Easter holidays to help them get started; for information about dates and times either pick up a leaflet at the Club, or contact Sarah on **07984 804299**.

The senior members are also looking forward to a busy season, with a lot of social tennis and opportunities for everyone from beginners up to get involved.

On Sunday 10th April the Club will be open to visitors from 12 noon to 4.30 p.m., so first-timers, families, 'rusty rackets' and experienced players will be welcome to come and meet some of the members and coaches. The courts have been renovated over the winter and are ready to be tested.

## Introductory day at Golf Club

Stocksfield Golf Club are holding a number of introductory events, aiming to boost membership of the club.

In May they have an 'Introductory Day' when you will be able to sample the golf course FREE. There are 2 other introductory events, Café Golf for Ladies and Starter for Ten for Gentlemen. A 'Royal Wedding Open' event is also planned.

For details of these and introductory membership offers call Norma on **01661 843041** or visit [sgcgolf.co.uk](http://sgcgolf.co.uk).

## Stocksfield WI

**Wednesday 6th April 2011.**

John Thompson - Conservation in the Farne Islands

**Wednesday 4th May 2011.**  
AGM.

Meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. at SICA. New members and visitors always welcome.

## Bywell St Peter's Spring Fair

**Saturday 2nd April 2011 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

To be held in the hall behind St John's Church in Meadowfield Road, Stocksfield.

## Community Garden (Branch End)

**Saturday 2nd April 2011 - 10.00 - Noon**

Mother's Day Planting. £1 will sponsor a plant for a loved one. Please join us.

## Rights of Way Environment Group

**Monday 11th April 2011 - 7.30 p.m. at SICA.**

New volunteers are always welcome. Please call Norman Hooks on 01661 844863 for details.

## Stocksfield Plants & Gardens Society

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

**Tuesday 19th April 2011.**

Don Charlton - My Way with Roses. Don has been National Rose Champion on more than ten occasions

**Tuesday 17th May 2011.**

Steve Lowe - Remarkable Trees. Steve is Head of Conservation for Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

**Saturday 28th May 2011 - 10.30 a.m.**  
Annual Plant Sale at SICA.

## Keep Fit at the Community Centre

Regular keep fit sessions are held at SICA, with more planned for after Easter.

Monday 6.30-7.45 p.m.  
Tuesday 6-7 p.m. - Step Class  
Thursday 6.45-7.45 p.m. - Stability Balls  
Friday 9.30-10.30 a.m. - Women's Keep Fit with crêche

Coming after Easter:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings - Boot Camp

Thursday mornings - Zumba

## Stocksfield Local History Society

Meetings held at SICA - 7.30 p.m.

**Wednesday 13th April 2011.**

Mr Pettit - The Gretna Green Rail Crash of 1915.

The History Society plans to have a booklet with the results of the research that was carried out on the War Memorial on display during the Coffee Morning at the Community Centre on 26th March.

## Next Parish Council Meetings

**Monday 4th April 2011**

**Monday 9th May 2011**

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

## Multi Use Games Area

**01661 842902**

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