

NE43 News

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The Newsletter of Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

www.stocksfield.org

Stocksfield Festival is back!



We hope you have marked **Saturday 10th September** on your calendar, and are looking forward to the best free music of the year, and to meeting a lot of neighbours. Will you grow the best tomatoes, design the winning scarecrow, laugh at the puppet show, and admire stalls full of handcrafted delights? The committee is working hard to make sure the entertainments, the show, the refreshments and all the activities are even better than in 2009, but it's unlikely they can produce better weather! The schedules listing the competitive classes for the Show will be available in the local shops in June, and will also be distributed from Broomley First School and various other organisations. Make sure you get one in good time!

Can you help? Once again, programmes are to be sold from door-to-door round the village. If you would be willing to call on a few neighbours and sell them the chance of winning a £50 prize for a lucky-number programme, please contact Julia Sayce on **01661 843523**. If you could spare some time on Friday 9th to help put up tents, or an hour on the day itself to help with the car parking, please contact David Walker, **01661 843508**.

Car parking (£2 charge) will again be limited, so walking to the Sportsfield is a better option. Last minute information will be in the Festival Edition of **NE43 News** at the beginning of September. Survivors will enjoy a ceilidh at SICA in the evening - tickets available from late July.

Annual Parish Meeting 2011 – Focus on Young People

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th April, when our main focus of the evening was on young people. We heard about all of the sporting activities that are currently available to young residents, such as cricket, football, rugby, netball, tennis, golf, badminton and running - over 16s only at present - and found out more about the Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and the newly re-opened Guides.

In the questions and discussion session that followed, Helen Morris invited interested young people and adults to join Stocksfield Players, our resident amateur dramatics group. Chris Pentney talked about the musical activities that Folkworks - based at The Sage, Gateshead - have organised in the village, and told us that Stocksfield Stompers, the local young people's fiddle band, would welcome new members. The new Senior Area Youth Worker, Ashley Brown, described the kind of support that he and his colleagues can offer to young people's groups in the area. The young people who attended the meeting came up with suggestions for two new groups that they would like to see - a snooker club, and a cycling club. Parish Councillors also talked about the possibility of organising free taster sessions in, for example, Zumba or modern dance.

Following the main discussion item, those present were offered the opportunity to comment on and ask questions about the reports from the Parish Council, the Parish Council draft accounts for 2010/11, and a report from County Councillor Anne Dale. They were also updated on the proposal to set up a Community Development Trust in Stocksfield, and informed that the Parish Council was exploring the possibility of nominating both Branch End Play Area and the Sportsfields for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.

The Parish Council is now working on the ideas that came up during the meeting, and looking at ways of consulting more Stocksfield young people about the activities they would like in the village. If you want to join any of the groups mentioned in this article, or simply require more information, please contact Margaret Williams, Parish Clerk - **01661 843114**.

Stocksfield's Got Talent!! - We Just Need To Find It!!

Can you sing? Would you like to perform in the hit musical Annie? If you are a girl aged between seven and fifteen, you could be chosen to sing and act in this latest Stocksfield Players' production in November.

Auditions will be held at SICA in early July. Just come along and sing a piece from one of your favourite songs, and maybe read or recite a short extract from a book. The mood will be relaxed. It's easy to arrange. Email: joy@pusey.entads1.com or call Joy on **01434 682547**.

We value help from boys too! Or from adults who can recommend a young person. We'd also like help with make-up, set building, scene changes etc. We need musicians too, especially a pianist. We welcome people of ALL ages, including



older teenagers and young adults to work on stage or behind the scenes. We would certainly welcome some actors/singers in their 20s or 30s. Contact us now, or we'll see you in July. Don't hold back!

Scouts Jumble Sale

The Scouts are holding a jumble sale at 2 p.m. on **Saturday 25th June** at the Community Centre. Refreshments will be available. Jumble will be collected from the end of your drive/gateway from 6 p.m. on Friday 24th June. If it is not collected, this will be due to a shortage of volunteers, and the Scouts would appreciate it if the Jumble could be brought to the Community centre on the Saturday morning.

Branch End Patient Reference Group

This year, the Department of Health wants to ensure that patients are more involved in decisions about the range and quality of services provided by their GP surgery. Branch End Surgery has agreed to set up their very own PRG (Patient Reference Group). The surgery needs to work with as many different patients as possible and make sure that the group is a fair representation of their entire patient population. They wish to seek views from their patients through the use of local practice surveys. The views of their patients are to be published on their website. www.branchendsurgery.co.uk

The team at the Surgery hopes to develop their PRG to reach the broadest cross section of our community. They want to gain feedback from a representative cross section of patients and will make every effort to engage with any underrepresented groups.

Email Practice Manager, Sue Shone at sue.shone@gp-a84047.nhs.uk if you would like to be part of this new initiative.

Parking problems persist at Sportsfield

In the last edition of **NE43 News** we reminded readers that parking cars on pavements causes serious problems for the disabled and those with pushchairs. It is also an offence, but one frequently committed on the Main Road near the Sportsfields. We want to warn readers that the Police may soon issue fixed penalty notices to those obstructing the pavement in this area. The road is wide enough for parking.

We are working to provide additional spaces on the Sportsfields, but in the meantime please park - and ask visiting teams to park - on the road, not the pavement.

Pollution hazard for Stocksfield rivers

Officers from the Environment Agency recently carried out an inspection of the river and stream banks in Stocksfield. They discovered that waste and refuse material had been left on the banks of Stocksfield Burn.

This can cause a number of problems. Garden waste may wash into the watercourse and increase both the risk of flooding to properties bordering the burn and reduce oxygen levels in the water. Persistent tipping of waste onto the river bank may also kill off the vegetation that helps hold the banks in place, which may result in erosion.

It is illegal to leave goods or refuse on river banks and the Environment Agency is closely monitoring the situation; offenders run the risk of being fined or even receiving a custodial sentence.

Blockages or refuse on the river bank can be reported to the Environment Agency by calling the 24 hour Incident Hotline on **0800 80 70 60**.

**Bywell Arts Festival. Preview evening: Friday 24th June, 7 - 9 p.m.
Exhibition: Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th June, 10 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.**

The Bywell Arts Festival is an annual showcase of artistic talent displayed in the ancient Bywell churches of St.Peter's and St.Andrew's. An extensive exhibition of around 200 paintings and other craftworks by local artists and designers, the Bywell Arts Festival is a popular event for art lovers, with other attractions on offer to entertain the whole family. Free admission to the festival.

Refreshments, a raffle, tombola, a range of embroidery and handicrafts, a second hand book stall and for gardeners there are some very reasonably priced locally grown plants for sale.

Music is always a part of the festival with The Valley Girls performing on Friday evening from 7.30. On Sunday 26th at 1 p.m. enjoy the Stocksfield Stompers.

On Saturday at 7.30 p.m., musicians from Prudhoe Community High School will be performing a wide range of music from many different styles. Tickets £6 adults and £3 children, are available from Stocksfield Central Store.

Art Tour Stocksfield

Artists in Stocksfield and the surrounding area will open their studios on weekends from 11th June until July 3rd as part of the Art Tour 2011. Join in workshops, commission art or just watch the artists at work. Brochures and maps can be collected from the Stencil Library, SICA and from local business. Visit www.artistsnetwork.org.



Stocksfield artist Michael Chippendale



Burnside Development

Residents were concerned recently about the proposed development at Burnside, when the owner lodged an appeal against the County Council's refusal of planning permission for 4 new houses and a new access road.

The Parish Council had objected to the application on the grounds of flood risk, over development, and the nature of the proposed new road, and these objections were explained to the Inspector conducting the appeal hearing. We now hear that the appeal has been withdrawn; the owner is of course entitled to submit a new planning application.

The weight of public opposition to the earlier plan only became apparent at a late stage, so we would like to remind residents that the Parish Council always welcomes residents' views about planning applications as soon as they are advertised, which is usually on nearby lamp posts, fences, etc. Plans can be seen on the County Council website, or at Hadrian House in Hexham.

Summer Garden Party

Saturday 2nd July 2011 from 7.00 p.m.

At Bywell Castle by kind permission of Viscount & Lady Allendale.

Music in the marquee, cold buffet & bar.

Tickets: £15 available from the Community Centre.

All profits towards the cost of replacing the Mary Clayton Room roof.

Why am I paying more to the Parish Council this year?

If you have looked at the small print, you may have noticed that this year the Parish Council set a considerably increased 'precept', that portion of your Council Tax which the County hands directly to the Parish Council for local expenditure. This was mainly because during last Autumn, parishes had been led to believe that from April 2011 they would have to pay for some additional services, such as litter-clearing, grass cutting, and the maintenance of bus shelters. This was still the position when we had to notify the County Council of the funds we would require for the next financial year, so we increased our budget to provide for this.

However, there was such disarray throughout Northumberland that the County Council eventually agreed to continue providing services at the

2010-11 level throughout the current year. Discussions during May with the County Council have been helpful, and it now seems that our costs will not rise as steeply as we feared. The Parish Council would like to reassure all residents that your money will NOT be wasted in any way, and any surplus will be carried forward for 2012-2013.

Like government at all levels, we are held accountable for achieving best value for those who elect us. The Parish Council's accounts are always available for inspection, both on the website and by arrangement with the Clerk; residents are also welcome to come to the monthly meeting and ask questions. The accounts for 2010-11 have now been checked by the internal auditor and are available for inspection.

Broomley School at Ford Castle

A group of 40 pupils from Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools had an exciting time staying in the beautiful Ford Castle in north Northumberland on a residential outdoor activity break. During the visit they explored Holy Island, took a boat trip out to The Farne Islands and visited the Honey Farm as well as experiencing lots of problem solving activities and exploring round the castle and grounds. Despite lots of stories about the castle's ghosts, none actually materialised but a visit to the castle's dungeon did raise some goose bumps!



The children during their visit to the Farne Islands.

A Vision for Stocksfield

The Development Trust Steering group has decided to look again at the various projects identified in the Stocksfield Parish Plan which was written in 2009. The group wants to review the plan with perhaps further consultation with residents.

As a first step the group took part in a 'Visioning Session' run by advisers from Social Enterprise Northumberland. The Steering Group were asked to come up with ideas for the creation of a new

village centre, together with a structure for implementing the scheme. They were also asked for ideas for other activities, possibly smaller or more easily achieved, which the Steering Group could then investigate.

A full report on this session has been produced and will provide the basis for further discussion. The steering group has no monopoly on good ideas and would be very pleased to hear from any resident with ideas for improving our village. Please call Pete Duncan, **01661 843643**.

Stocksfield River Watch Group

The River Watch group had an outdoor meeting on Tuesday 24th May when the four members who carry out monthly 'River fly data collection' provided a demonstration for the rest of the group. This was done on Stocksfield Burn.

Following this they moved upstream to identify patches of Himalayan balsam which need removing and to locate the

farthest point upstream where the balsam is growing. A series of 'Balsam Bashing' evenings are now planned for the next two months so that we can prevent this invasive plant taking over the banks of Stocksfield Burn.

More volunteers for the River Watch Group would be very welcome. Norman Hooks can give you more information on **01661 844863**.

Briefly:

Hedge Cutting

It is coming up to that time again! Can we urge residents to cut their hedges back hard, so that the pavements and footpaths are left wide enough for pedestrians, parents with buggies, and those with electric scooters or wheelchairs to use the pavements in safety and comfort.

Flooding on Ridley Mill Road

We thought that this problem had been solved, but the rain of the second week of May proved that sewage was still leaking onto Ridley Mill Road. The Parish Council is again in discussion with the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water and is pressing for an urgent solution to the problem.

Keep Stocksfield Tidy

Many thanks to those of you took part in our Spring Clean week, and specially to the Cubs and Scouts for their litter pick in May; they collected seven bags of rubbish in one evening.

Hanging Baskets

The Parish Council has provided 24 hanging baskets this year. We are particularly grateful to those volunteers who planted and cared for them before they were distributed, and to those who will care for them over the summer.

Parish Office

The Parish Council has agreed to set up a dedicated parish office, which will be located at the Community Centre from September. The Parish Office will provide a 'home' for the parish clerk, create space for small meetings, and give more storage space for all the files and documents that have to be kept for many years.

Bonfires

We occasionally get complaints about bonfires. Please could you think about the impact on your neighbours when siting and lighting bonfires, bearing in mind the wind direction and the fact that smoke and ash can spoil other residents' enjoyment of their gardens. Thank you.

Litter Picking Group

Alan Verheyden is setting up a group to meet and pick up litter in "hot spots" on a regular basis. If you are interested in joining this group which will meet about once a month or if you know of a place where there is a particular problem, please contact Alan direct - **01661 842037**.

Under 18 cycle club

Would you be interested in an under 18s cycle club in Stocksfield to go on local rides and longer trips such as the coast to coast? Please call the Parish Clerk **01661 843114**.

Hoodsclouse Opencast Proposal

The Whittonstall Action Group has launched a website. It can be found at www.whittonstallactiongroup.co.uk. Email: info@whittonstallactiongroup.co.uk.



Fly Tipping

Over the past months there have been at least **seven** incidences of fly tipping in the parish. Two of these have been on the lane from the B6309 to Broomley. In the latest incident 458 tyres were left and had to be removed by the County Council. The police are investigating and intend to find and prosecute the offenders.

If you see suspicious vehicles which you think might be involved in fly tipping, please take the registration number and report it to the police.

Stocksfield Cricket Club

Stocksfield Cricket Club's season has started with a bang after two of their teams won prestigious tournaments over the early May Bank Holiday. The U13 squad was invited to field a team in the Sedbergh School six a side tournament for the first time and emerged winners! Teams from Cheshire, Yorkshire, Cumbria, Durham and Northumberland took part with the Stocksfield team defeating all in their way including the strong Sedbergh School side in the final. Two of the club's young U13 stars have also featured strongly in U13 County games with Sam Mannion scoring a century against Cumbria and James Doneathy taking 7 wickets against Cleveland, both games resulting in a win.

The same weekend the Stocksfield Ladies team started their season in great fashion by winning the Northumberland Women's 8 a-side tournament at Morpeth.

The efforts put in by the club and their ground staff have also been rewarded as the club have been asked to host a Division of the Women's National 20/20 competition on the 2nd and 3rd August. Northumberland, Durham, Cumbria and Gloucestershire will all compete at the SCC, a first for any northern club.

Stocksfield Football Club

This season has been the most successful in terms of the number of teams, players and awards for the club. They now have 10 teams from Under 8s up to senior league, and over 160 players playing under the Stocksfield banner in leagues throughout the North East.

In addition, Saturday Soccer continues to grow with over 30 children from 4 to 8 years enjoying fun sessions at the Sportsfield. The number and quality of coaches and volunteers also continues to grow with 7 of these currently undertaking their FA Level 1 coaching badge at Stocksfield.

Successes this year include:

- ✓ Many teams finishing in their highest league position ever.
- ✓ Teams reaching their first ever cup finals.
- ✓ Under 13s winning the league and, possibly, a cup final too.
- ✓ Under 17s winning the West Tynedale cup in their final season as a team.
- ✓ Saturday seniors winning the Northumberland Charity Cup.

The club is still searching for sponsors for the various teams next year, if you are interested call Phil Murray **07866 508639**.

Being Safe on the Internet



Do you know what your children or grandchildren are doing on their computers or mobile phones? How many people have access to intimate details about your family? Who is looking at your private family photographs? These were some of the uncomfortable questions posed by Bryan Wade, Senior Assistant Headteacher at Prudhoe Community High

School, during an interesting and thought-provoking talk on e-safety on 18th May at SICA. Using well chosen true stories, Bryan talked about the potential pitfalls of social networking sites.

Once thought of as an issue for teenagers, e-safety increasingly applies to younger children and adults, due to the increased use of smartphones.

If you would like Bryan to give the talk again in Stocksfield, call him direct on **01661 832486**.

At the Community Centre

Saturday 25th June - 10.00 a.m.

Coffee Morning.

Saturday 25th June - 2.00 p.m.

Stocksfield Scout Jumble Sale.

Please note: The Community Centre will be closed during August for annual maintenance.

admin@sica.org.uk - 01661 842346

Search for new Beaver leader

Paddy Gascoigne is retiring as the Beaver Leader but will remain as Group Scout Leader. The Group is keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in running the Beavers from September. If no one comes forward it is likely that Beavers will fold. Full support and training will be provided and expenses met. Please call Paddy for full details **01661 843405**.

Annual General Meeting

The Parish Council held its Annual General Meeting on 9th May, and the following officers were elected:

Chairman Julia Sayce

Vice Chairman Maggi Hunt

The Convenors of the Advisory Groups for 2011-12 are:

Planning Ian Hall

Transport & Highways Alan Verheyden

Footpaths & Environment Norman Hooks

Sports Facilities Pete Duncan

Play Facilities Diane Hinchcliffe

Parish plan Action Group Pete Duncan

Finance & General Purposes. Julia Sayce

Your other Parish Councillors are: Peter Barrass, John Davison, Melna Martin, Helen Morris, and Keith Woods. Full details of which advisory groups councillors are members of are on the website: **stocksfield.org**

Next Parish Council Meeting Monday 4th July 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

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: Mon to Thurs 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Off peak: All other times.

10% Discount for block bookings.