

With best wishes for a very
*Happy Christmas and a
 Peaceful and Prosperous year
 in 2012*

from Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

NE43 news

Issue 41 Winter 2011

Olympic Torch comes to Stocksfield



The Olympic Torch is coming to Stocksfield! Ours is one of 20 fortunate communities in Northumberland where the torch will be carried on foot by a team of torch-bearers. The torch will arrive in a motor cavalcade from Prudhoe in the early afternoon of Saturday 16th June, after an overnight stop in Newcastle, and will be carried through the village before being taken in the motor convoy to Hexham, so do not miss this opportunity to see it. The names of the individual torch-bearers will not be known until January, but a few local residents have been nominated and we hope they are on the list.

Perhaps this is our pay-back for being the only major village in Tynedale without a bypass – enjoy it!

NEW Parish Councillors WANTED

We urgently need to find two new Parish Councillors as Norman Hooks and Diane Hinchcliffe have both resigned due to the pressure of their other commitments. Their contributions to the work of the Parish Council will be greatly missed and we wish them well for the future.

This leaves two vacancies which we need to fill as soon as possible. The Parish Council works hard to ensure that Stocksfield remains a great place to live and work, and we need your help with that. Next year promises to be very busy with lots of events and projects happening in the village. If you are interested in taking on this exciting and rewarding task, please contact the Clerk to find out more.

Call Margaret Williams on **01661 844667** or email admin@baspc.plus.com Thank you.

STOCKSFIELD SPORTSFIELD - RECYCLING AREA

The bins at the Recycling Area are for Recycling **Glass and Clothing** only

Please take away your plastic bags and cardboard boxes and dispose of them at home.

PLEASE KEEP THE AREA TIDY

Quarrying Raises Local Concerns



In July, SITA, the owners of Merryshields Quarry, made an application to Northumberland County Council's Planning Department to extend permission to extract sand and gravel at the quarry for a further 15 years. A number of worried residents contacted the Parish Council about this, and also raised their concerns with County Councillor Anne Dale.

Permission to quarry the site was originally granted in 1948, and has been extended a number of times since. The last time the permission was reviewed was in 1995. The Parish Council is not able to object to the application, as permission has already been granted, but the application for an extension gives Councillors the opportunity to comment on the proposal and suggest conditions that can be applied.

The Parish Council's response to the application, which was agreed at the September meeting,

points out the changes that have taken place in Stocksfield in the last 17 years, emphasising the growth in population, the increase in traffic on the A695, and the problems of localised flooding that have arisen in the area near the quarry. It goes on to detail a number of concerns about the impact of quarrying at the site, such as the effect on young children attending Broomley First School and the pre-school groups in the village, and the health and safety risks associated with dust, noise and the number of lorries entering and leaving the site, as well as the overall reduction in the quality of life of those who live nearby. Finally, it proposes a number of conditions that should be applied, including a requirement that the Parish Council be given three months written notice if SITA decide to start quarrying again, and a requirement that SITA consult with local residents on how best to protect the flora and fauna which have developed on the site in the years since sand and gravel were last extracted.

The Parish Council has also written to SITA requesting answers to a number of questions about their plans for the quarry.

Although it is likely that the extension to the existing permission will be granted, this does not necessarily mean that work will start again at the quarry. SITA's decision to extract sand and gravel will be a commercial one, dependent on the market. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Car Park Extension For Sportsfields Planned



The constant overcrowding at the Sportsfield car park and the resulting overflow onto the A695 pavement have led the Parish Council to draw up proposals for an extension which will accommodate an additional 30 cars. On the first Saturday in November there were more than 100 cars at the Sportsfield, and further provision is clearly required.

Located on an unused part of the sportsfield, the proposals envisage cars parked on a cellular concrete area which allows natural grass to grow through it. Access will be through the existing car park and recycling area. If approved by the County Council, fund raising will begin immediately and it is hoped that the work will be carried out by next spring/early summer.

Parish council confirms support for opencast action group

At its October meeting, the Parish Council received a presentation from the Whittonstall Action Group which is campaigning against the Hoodsclouse opencast mining proposals by UK Coal. Following a discussion, Parish Councillors agreed unanimously to offer their full support to the Action Group and write to Northumberland County Council to record our objections to this proposal.

All the parish councils in East Tynedale have now expressed their opposition to the plans. A decision on the planning application is expected early in 2012.

There is more information about the opencast proposals and the Action Group at www.whittonstallactiongroup.co.uk

If residents would like to send in individual objections, they can contact Frances Wilkinson, Interim Manager Central Planning Team, Planning Dept, Northumberland County Council, Morpeth, NE6 1 2EF or email frances.wilkinson@northumberland.gov.uk

Annie the Musical

Stocksfield Players' latest production was a resounding success with two teams of "orphans" performing on alternate nights. The cast included a host of enthusiastic and very talented youngsters, as well as some adult faces not seen previously on the Community Centre stage.



Now what would a little orphan be doing in a laundry trolley?

Two Annies (Isabelle Lovett and Amy Gaukroger) receive cuddles from Oliver (Ray Moore) and Grace (Nikki Buckley- Feiven)

Branch End Play Area

The large wooden climbing frame at Branch End Play Area is coming to the end of its life and the last inspection by RoSPA highlighted the fact that plans needed to be put in place to replace it. This is a well-used piece of equipment, enjoyed by children of all ages but it is starting to age. The Parish Council is hoping that a group of parents/grandparents/carers might come together to start planning what should replace this equipment and how the money should be raised. If you have ideas for fund-raising or a little time to spare to join such a group, please get in touch with the Clerk to the Parish Council.



Drama in the Parlour at Christmas

Drama in the Parlour is hosting a Victorian Christmas Special in the parlour at Stocksfield Hall from 14th to 17th December at 7.30pm.

Enjoy some new characters... endure some old ones.

*Expect riveting plot lines, famous guest stars, fabulous music, exquisite poetry, amazing sound effects... Tea and a mince pie**

* Only one of these claims is genuine.

Tickets £7. From Stocksfield Central, Boots and The Stencil Library.
Tel 01661 844844.

Dress up and dress warm.

Drama in the Parlour
The Farm House
Stocksfield Hall, NE43 7TN.

'Scout Post'

Here again and celebrating its 10th Birthday!

We would be grateful for your support in using the Christmas card delivery service for cards sent to anyone with an NE43 post code. Post boxes will be in both post offices from Thursday, December 1st and the last time for posting will be 12 noon on Monday, December 19th. We ask for a minimum donation of 15p per card (which is less than half the Royal Mail price!) and are grateful if tax payers would use the green envelopes to Gift Aid their donation. If you are **not Gift Aiding** please **don't use** these envelopes - just throw the money into the box with your cards. The boxes are emptied daily and as we deliver at least once a week your cards don't hang around in our sorting office!

If you have any queries, please contact Philippa Harpin, Tel: 842302.

Christmas Trees

This year, once again, we are providing a Christmas Tree at the Dr Syntax and the lights for a tree in the School grounds.

We are grateful to the Dr Syntax for once again hosting the tree at New Ridley.

Hanging Baskets

We are very grateful to those traders and organisations who offered to take Hanging Baskets this past summer. The baskets looked most attractive. Our thanks also go to the Parish Handyman who kept our tubs and planted areas looking fresh and colourful all summer.

TALKING TUESDAYS

Catch up with old friends
- meet new friends

Enjoy a two course lunch



Call in and see for yourself. Every Tuesday from 10am - 2pm, at Stocksfield Community Centre a "Social Gathering" takes place to complement the existing meals on wheels service. Activities of interest include Whist, Scrabble or... we are open to suggestions. For £2.00 you can take up an activity or just read a newspaper, have a chat, meet old friends and new over a hot drink. If you wish to include our "homemade lunch" the day will cost £5.00. Please remember Lunch must be pre-booked.

A warm welcome and a hot meal to brighten up a winter's day! If you wish to know more or to book a meal then please contact Norman or Christine Hooks 844863 (Stocksfield Community Association) or Melna Martin (Parish Council) 843839

Come & Join Us !!!



Make Stocksfield Sparkle next summer

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The crowd which attended the Stocksfield Festival proved that the Stocksfield neighbourhood really enjoys a party, and June 2012 offers us many reasons to hold another – or more than one! A bank holiday is planned for 2nd-5th June to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and later in June we have the Bywell Arts Festival, the Olympic Torch Relay and the first events of the inter village sports Festival.

How would you like to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee? Some initial suggestions have been made for the residents to consider, and the Parish Council would welcome your views. But please remember that anything we do will depend on voluntary effort, and partly on voluntary fund-raising.

Among the suggestions received so far are an Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration.

On the party front, there could be a music/drama/poetry festival with an open air picnic evening, or an afternoon Tea Dance with music from 1952 or from throughout the Queen's 60 year reign, and/or a Diamond Ball with everyone dressed in sparkle. We could arrange some dancing lessons before either of the dance events.

Could our residents produce 60 portraits of Queen Elizabeth, in tapestry, painting, marquetry or macaroni? A fun exhibition in response to 'The Queen Art and Image' exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. Could we assemble an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia, sound and visual clips, of Stocksfield through the past 60 years?

Would you support 'The Big Lunch' on June 3rd Sunday, a village party rather than separate street parties? (see <http://www.thebiglunch.com/about/jubilee-2012.php>.)



Face Painting at the 2011 Stocksfield Festival

Other ideas are that we could decorate the bus shelters, light a beacon, hold a Great Stocksfield Bake Off, run a bunting-making group or a planting group.

For a more lasting memorial should we consider planting a Diamond Jubilee Tree (in Branch End play area) with circular seat around it?

For most of us a Diamond Jubilee will be a once in a lifetime event, worthy of being marked in some special way. But it must be said again that for any village event to happen we need volunteers to help.

Please firstly tell us what you would like to see taking place for the Diamond Jubilee, and secondly let us know by phone or email if you are able to help us make Stocksfield sparkle next summer. You can contact the Parish Clerk 844667 or email admin@baspc.plus.com or Helen Morris at helen@stencil-library.com with your suggestions and **most importantly offers of help.**

Stocksfield Local History Society

Next Meeting: 11th January
when Richard Young will talk about Traditional Northumbrian Houses.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

Stocksfield Plants and Gardens Society

January 17th 2012

Marjorie Goodchild – 'The Story of Our Garden'

Marjorie will talk about the development of the garden she and her husband David have created since moving to the north-east over 30 years ago. Their garden holds the National Collection of herbaceous potentillas.

Meetings are held in the Community Centre and Start at 7.30pm

Stocksfield Retired Men's Association

5th January 2012

A virtual Santa and New Year – Dave Walker

19th January

The Spanish Tudor – Professor John Derry

Meetings are held in the Baptist Church Hall at 10.30am

Stocksfield WI

4th January 2012

The Pleasures of Gibside – Geoff Hughes

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Community Centre at 7.30pm

For information about what is on at the Community Centre, please check SCAN and the noticeboards.

Stocksfield Guides would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along to SICA for a cup of tea and coffee following the Act of Remembrance. Donations for the teas and coffee raised over £53 for the Royal British Legion.



Stocksfield Teenagers Do It For Josie

Two community-minded Stocksfield teenagers are looking for sponsorship for a trek in northern

Thailand next autumn, to support their work for Hexham-based charity Josie's Dragonfly Trust. Josie died of leukaemia, aged just 16, and wanted to raise money to help other children with cancer where treatment is no longer curative. Josie lived in Thailand, but returned to Tynedale with her parents, who set up the Trust after she died.

Helen Green, who lives in Guessburn, and Joss Duncan, a Painshawfield Road resident, have been volunteering for the charity for the past two years. They both recently completed the Great North Run, raising nearly £500 for Josie's, but their latest initiative presents a



rather different challenge. They have to raise nearly £3000 each to participate in the Thailand trek, which will provide money towards water pumps for remote hill top tribes, take 10 children with terminal cancer from a local orphanage on a memorable day trip and provide three £500 cash gifts from the charity to UK children with cancer.

Helen and Joss welcome all offers of sponsorship, however small. You can visit www.justgiving.com/Joss-Duncan or www.justgiving.com/Helen-Green3 to make a donation, or take a look at www.josiesdragonfly.org, where you can also see more details about the charity and the Thailand trek.

Sewage on Ridley Mill Road

After many months, it is hoped that this problem has been resolved. Staff from Northumbrian Water have been working around Ridley Mill Road for more than 2 weeks (up to the time of writing) and have removed more than two tonnes of grit and general rubbish from the water pipes. This, hopefully, means that the pipes will run clean and that the problem of sewage being forced up through the manholes will now have been eradicated.

Stocksfield Festival 2011



Stocksfield Stompers at this year's Stocksfield Festival

Once again we were fortunate with the weather for the Festival – at least in comparison with many other Tynedale village fairs this year, which have been a total wash-out. When some strong gusts of wind threatened the tents, it was good to see so many residents jump to the rescue and hold on to guy ropes and flying gazebos. Thank you all for your help.

The music was wonderful. One audience member said 'I would have happily paid £10 to hear those bands', so the committee obviously provided good value for money. The groups and choirs were all a delight, and Dr Rees's Scientific Magic Show will long be remembered by the children (of all ages). Congratulations to all those who won awards and cups in the Show or for their scarecrows. And thanks to the various local groups who put on sideshows or refreshments, or contributed in any way.

The feedback has been studied and filed away for the 2013 Festival. A request to include a Dog Show unfortunately has to be rejected straightaway. The field is a sportsfield, used by very young children for football and other games, and is in fact a dog-free area. In 2013 it will be made clearer in the programme that dogs should not be brought to the field.

A special thank you should go to the parents of children at Broomley School, who sold a great number of programmes in advance, thus ensuring the financial security of the Festival. It was appropriate that the Lucky Number prize of £50 was won by one of this hard-working group. Next time, the committee will probably move from consolidating the bank balance to setting a fund-raising target, so that money can be given to organisations in the village.

Contact the Parish Council at:

Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council,
at Stocksfield Community Centre,
Mount View Terrace, Stocksfield
NE43 7HL. Telephone: 01661 844667
E-mail: admin@baspc.plus.com
Website: www.stocksfield.org

A Summer of Sport and Celebration in East Tynedale - 2012

Is Saturday 8th September already marked on your next year's calendar? It is the date of the next Stocksfield Fun Run, which will offer a 10 kilometre option as well as the 5k, and should therefore be of interest to some more serious runners.

It is also the date of Stocksfield's part of the East Tynedale mini sports Festival, arranged to mark the Olympic Games being held in London. One of the events is to be a Tug-of-War competition, so you could perhaps start looking out for well-built friends who might form a team with you!



2010 Stocksfield Fun Run

The winners of the tug-of-war in Stocksfield will go on to compete against the winners of similar competitions held at Ovingham Goose Fair, Wylam Fair and in other local villages, for the honour of being the East Tynedale Tug-of-War champions 2012. There will also be children's races, a wellie-throwing competition, and some of the general fun and good food that you have come to associate with the Stocksfield Festival.

As part of the local 'cultural Olympics' there will be a photographic competition open to residents of East Tynedale with the theme 'In motion' – which does not mean it has to be sporty – so keen photographers, keep an eye open for people or things 'in motion' and look out for further information in the next issue of NE43 News.

The Christmas 'Big Sing'

Do join us at The Community Centre for an afternoon in preparation for Christmas. We meet at 2.30pm on Sunday 11th December to sing carols and hear readings. Prudhoe Community Choir will offer some Christmas songs and anthems. Refreshments will be served afterwards and a collection will be taken for the work of Christian Aid.

Churches Together in Stocksfield and Mickley wish everyone a peaceful and holy Christmas. Please come along to any of the services listed in the leaflet enclosed with this issue of NE43 News.



Looking for a fun way to get fit this winter? Then come and play tennis at Stocksfield Tennis Club

Winter membership now available.

Beginners & experienced players all welcome.

We have four floodlit all weather tennis courts and we play all through the winter!

If you haven't picked up a racquet for years why not start playing again. We have organised ladies, mens and mixed sessions right through until April.

If you have not played before and would like to learn, we run beginners coaching sessions every Friday night.

Find out more tel: Sue 01661 844961
email: sue@applegarth21.plus.com
text: 07714960987

Geesburn Stocksfield Northumberland NE43 7QP www.stocksfieldtennis.com

686 Bus – New Ridley to Branch End



Residents will be aware that the 686 service was withdrawn at short notice and without prior consultation with the Parish Council. The Parish Council has been in correspondence with the County Council expressing disappointment, dissatisfaction and frustration at the lack of consultation and the arbitrary way in which this

service was withdrawn in order to provide a better town service in Prudhoe.

Residents will also be aware that a trial "Dial a Ride" service by Adapt (North East) was introduced along New Ridley Road. This runs on Fridays only and can be pre-booked up to noon the day before. We can now confirm that this service will continue for the foreseeable future. Any residents who have previously registered with Adapt (North East) can use the service. For more information, please contact Adapt (North East) on 01434 606156.

In addition to the Adapt (North East) service, residents can also use the "getabout Northumberland" Car Scheme which is operated by the WRVS – for more information please call 01835 864789.

Information on all bus services operating in Stocksfield can be found on the County Council website.

Tyne Valley Youth Theatre

Are you aged between 8 and 21? Do you fancy being part of an exciting NEW Youth Theatre? Would you like to develop your acting, directing or backstage skills? No experience necessary. No auditions.

Then book a place now on our December Taster Workshops to see what a Youth Theatre is all about.



Tuesday 20th December

8-10yrs 10am - 12noon
11-13yrs 1pm - 3pm

Wednesday 21st December

14-16yrs 10am - 12noon
17-21yrs 1pm - 3pm
£5 only.

Full details can be found, and workshop bookings made on the TVYT website: www.tvyouththeatre.org