

Planning the future of Broomley and Stocksfield

NE43 news

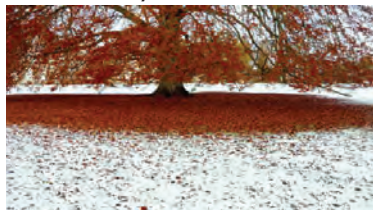
Issue 45 Winter 2012

With best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous year in 2013 from Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

Bywell

27th October

Check out the website for more of Gill Jones' beautiful pictures of Autumn at Bywell.



The Parish Council - looking forward



On 2 May 2013, Parish Councils in Northumberland will hold elections for the first time under the Northumberland Unitary Authority which came into existence six years ago. Here in Broomley & Stocksfield, if more than twelve candidates stand for election, residents will have the opportunity to elect the people they think will represent their interests for the next four years. For some time now, elections here have been uncontested due to the relatively low number of candidates. If twelve or fewer people stand for election, they are returned unopposed, and the shortfall in numbers on the Council is made up by co-opting Councillors to fill the places.

Stocksfield is a lovely place to live, and our quality of life is well worth safeguarding. As more responsibilities are transferred to Parish Councils from our cash-strapped County Council, and in the context of deregulated national planning policies, the need for a strong, active, well informed and representative Parish Council has never been greater.

Would you like to work with others to support the future development of Stocksfield and its surrounding settlements? Do you have skills and interests which would help the Parish Council's work? If you are interested in standing for election to Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council in May 2013, please contact the Parish Clerk for information. Alternatively, if you would like an informal discussion about the role of Parish Councillors, please telephone the Chairman, Maggi Hunt, on 842674.

Your Parish Council needs you!

Remembrance DAY

Once again our annual service of Remembrance at the War Memorial was very well attended. The service was led by the Vicar, Rev Bill Rigby and wreaths were laid by a Deputy Lieutenant of Northumberland, Dr Tony Trapp, on behalf of the Queen, representatives of the Army and other Uniformed Services, the Parish Council and the Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies.

After the service, refreshments were served in the Community Centre by the Guides and these were much appreciated. Thanks are also due to Alan and Lorraine Judd of the Stocksfield Local History Society who produced a slide show illustrating the recent project on those named on our War Memorial.

'Scout Post' – here again for the 11th year!

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 December 1st and the last time for posting will be 12 noon on December 21st. We ask for a minimum donation of 20p per card 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.

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 despite the terrible weather. Our thanks also go to the Parish Handyman who kept our tubs and planted areas looking fresh and colourful all summer and to those volunteers who created new beds in the Station Car Park.

BEWARE !

Residents should be aware that Northumberland County Council have 5 Civil Enforcement officers working in the area and they have already served quite a few Penalty Charge Notices (parking tickets) in Stocksfield.

The main areas where they have been issued (to date) are the bus stop bay at Birches Nook, Branch End and Station Approach.

Future Housing Developments in Stocksfield

Earlier in the autumn the Parish Council responded to the County Council Core Strategy consultation. In our response we said the Green Belt should be protected and that there is a need to safeguard the countryside from development. To re-affirm our position, the Parish Council totally supports retention of the Green Belt around Stocksfield and its settlements.

Should you wish to see the Parish Council's response to the Core Strategy Consultation please contact the Clerk.

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.

New Bus times from January

The Parish Council has been advised that from March Go North East will make changes to the 10 Service which will revert to two an hour. At the time of going to press we do not know the start date for the new timetable which should be available from February, nor can we advise residents of the new timings. For further information, we suggest you contact Go North East or ask the drivers for a new timetable.

Church Services in Stocksfield over the Christmas period.

Included with this issue is a Christmas Card detailing services in all the churches in the Parish over the Christmas period.



Early in the autumn construction started on a Fish Pass at the Lower (First) Ford – see page 2 for more pictures and information.

Stocksfield Burn

George Etherington & Norman Hooks
Electro-fishing September 2012 in the
Guessburn above the Fords. The fish
caught are identified, measured, recorded
and returned unharmed to the burn.



Attracting Pollinators



This summer Alan Verheyden created a trial bed with the object of testing planting to attract bees and other pollinators. He has now reported on the results of this trial as follows:

At the time of writing, in early November, the trial area of plants we created to attract bees, butterflies and pollinating insects on the edge of the road at Merryshields is only just starting to die down. Because of the poor growing season we have had, many of the plants that we grew from seed should have been in flower when there were lots of pollinating insects about.

The cold and wet Spring and early Summer this year has resulted in poor germination of the plants and a scarcity of pollinating insects.

Among the plants that we grew specially to attract pollinating insects were: cosmos, the 'bishop' range of open flowered dahlias, Bells of Ireland, perennial verbenas and the modern and colourful forms of 'Black Eyed Susans' which are climbing plants. Adjacent to the plot, in the kitchen garden, were nasturtiums and runner beans which are also excellent pollinator plants.

We will continue with the project next year and hope to improve the wild flowers in the roadside verge and add more colourful pollinator plants in the trial bed.

Stocksfield Lower Ford – Fish Passage Easement

Tyne Rivers Trust has long been aware of the concerns Stocksfield residents have about fish passage over the first (lower) ford structure near Old Ridley Hall. Stocksfield residents Norman Hooks and George Etherington have been pivotal in gathering information and communicating with relevant parties to gain the momentum needed to improve the ford structure for fish passage. Norman and George have also helped the Trust carry out electrofishing surveys in 2011 and 2012 which have been influential in

highlighting the barrier effect of the lower ford. In both years Salmon have been caught below the structure but not above.

Tyne Rivers Trust has now installed wooden baulks upon the sloping face of the existing ford structure in order to ease the migratory journey of fish species. The works are intended to slow the flow over the structure and to form a pool to allow fish to rest whilst attempting to access the structure.

Before the work started



The work is all but finished



During construction



The completed fish pass



Hoodsclose, Whittonstall, Surface Mine Proposals

The spectre of the opencast mine at Whittonstall looms ever larger – there is no room for complacency.

The previous edition of NE43 News included details of the proposed Hoodsclose development by UK Coal Ltd at Whittonstall. Such a mining operation would affect not only the village of Whittonstall but surrounding areas too, including Stocksfield.

As the Government is committed to decarbonise radically so as to enable it to achieve its climate change and renewables targets, it would seem to make little sense to dig up this dirty and environmentally damaging fossil fuel - especially as alternative sources of coal for power generation are available. These alternative supplies of energy are obtainable in ways that do not impact upon the lives of local people and do not blight and damage the environment and climate.

Professor Malcolm Newson of the Tyne Rivers Trust is just one of many who has voiced his opposition to the opencast. Speaking on the threat of environmental damage to the Lynn Burn (a tributary of Stocksfield Burn) which flows into the River Tyne at Bywell, he states categorically: 'Tyne Rivers Trust has, on the evidence provided, no option but to object to the application'.

It is expected that the planning application will be discussed by Northumberland County Council Central Planning Committee early in 2013.

To date, almost 350 letters of objection have been received by Northumberland County Council. Those opposed to the opencast mine who have not yet written are urged to do so as soon as possible. Letters should be addressed to: Central Planning Office, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF or via email: planning@northumberland.gov.uk. Alternatively, letters may be e-mailed via whittonstallactiongroup.co.uk or the Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council.

Join the Big Garden Birdwatch

26 - 27 January 2013

Do you like watching the birds in your garden? Then take part in the world's biggest wildlife survey – the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch.

This is the conservation charity's most important event of the year. It is when people across the country look out of their window and spend an hour of their weekend recording how many birds they see.

Last year, over half a million people counted more than nine million garden birds. The information from this survey helps the RSPB form a comprehensive picture of how well – or not so well - each species is doing.

Over the past three decades, participants have helped the RSPB discover that populations of house sparrows and starlings have declined while the numbers of blue tits and goldfinches in gardens have increased.

Doing the Big Garden Birdwatch not only helps the RSPB track the ups and downs of garden birds, but gives you the perfect excuse to sit down with a cup of tea and enjoy the wildlife in your garden.

Taking part is very simple. Over the weekend of the 26-27 January, spend one hour counting the largest number of each bird species you see at a time in your garden. Then give your results through our website www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch or by post.

You can get loads more information about the **Big Garden Birdwatch** and a free pack by going on our website or calling the hotline 0300 456 8330.



Community-Led Affordable Homes on the way

SCATA, the trading company of Stocksfield Community Association, is leading a pioneering housing project in the village which has been awarded a major Government grant of £364,000. Working in partnership with local housing association, Isos, the community-led development is expected to provide seven much-needed new homes for rent by local people – three two-bedroom bungalows for older people and four two-bedroom flats.

The Government is keen to see local communities take the lead in providing new homes for local people and this scheme is one of the first to be approved in the country. The seven homes, six on the site of the former Snooker Club at Guessburn and the seventh on the site of the former public toilets at Branch End have recently been the subject of a drop-in exhibition and public meeting in the village.

Whilst there is strong local support for the proposals, some residents who live close to the two sites have raised some important issues and the plans have already been amended in response. Planning applications are due to be submitted to Northumberland County Council in January 2013 and it is hoped that building work can start next June or July.

It's an exciting development for the village – the very first time that a genuinely community-led, non-profit housing scheme has been built here and the first affordable rented homes to be built in Stocksfield for more than two decades. The money used to purchase the Guessburn site will be recycled in the village to help provide expanded facilities at the Cricket Club. The Branch End site will be transferred at no cost to SCATA from the Parish Council. The project has the full support of the Parish Council, fits well with the Parish Plan and is also being supported by the County Council. It will put the village on the national housing map and meet a really pressing local need.

If you would like to know more, contact Norman Hooks at njhooks21@talktalk.net or Pete Duncan at p.duncan@which.net

THE BIG SING

Lead by Prudhoe Community Choir
9th December 2.30 p.m.
Stocksfield Community Centre
You are invited to a
Short Service of Carols & Readings
followed by refreshments.

All welcome

Stocksfield Cricket Club Christmas Market

Sunday 9th December 11am - 3pm

Stocksfield Cricket Club is excited to announce the date for its Christmas Market 2012. On Sunday 9th December between 11am – 3pm we will be opening our doors to members of the public to come and explore the many stalls on offer. We are delighted to be welcoming a variety of local businesses as well as a very special guest, none other than Father Christmas (12pm – 2pm).

The market will provide a fantastic opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts as well as sample local produce from a variety of stalls including arts and crafts, food and plants. As well as our stalls we will also be selling Christmas wreaths and tree's to help make your home the perfect setting for such a special day. To help you get in to the festive spirit we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies as well as food for the children.

What better way to spend an hour on your day of rest than to come and have a wander around the stalls or bring the kids to meet Father Christmas. Everyone at the club is hugely excited by this new adventure and we hope that you, the local community will join with us on what we are sure will be a fantastic occasion.

Tyne Valley Youth Theatre



Winter Wonderland Birthday Bash

2012 has been a fantastic year for Tyne Valley Youth Theatre with our membership continuing to grow each month drawing young people from Acomb to Ryton and everywhere in between. There have been more than 200 hours of theatre-related activities for over 60 young people, six public performances - including a film-making project with The Sage Gateshead and an intensive week of devising and two performances at Northern Stage as part of Newcastle Gateshead's *Juice* festival.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part or supported TVYT in the last year. Without so much support and such a fantastic group of young people to work with, TVYT would not have been so successful.

If you're interested in taking part in TVYT, want to join us to celebrate, or just fancy a nice evening out, come to *Winter Wonderland* – a showcase and fundraising performance, including special guests, to launch our exciting 2013 programme. Sunday 9th December. Riding Mill Parish Hall. Activities and buffet available from 5.00pm. Performance starts at 6pm. Tickets available on the door or by emailing TVYT@live.co.uk or calling 01661 843548.

Stocksfield Festival 2013



Stocksfield Festival, which was such a huge success in 2009 and 2011, is due to take place again on the first Saturday in September 2013. Several members of the committee who organised the first two Festivals are unable to contribute next year and we need to find replacements as soon as possible.

The Festival Committee usually starts planning the event from late January onwards with regular monthly meetings at the Community Centre. This year, because of the need to recruit new members onto the committee, our first meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 5th December at 7.30 pm** in the Richardson Room at the Community Centre. This will be an open meeting to which **anyone** interested in making next year's Stocksfield Festival at least as good as the first two is very welcome to attend. If you are reading this after 5th December and are interested in being involved with the Festival, please contact Norman Hooks on 844863 for more information.

Even if you feel you cannot commit yourself to being part of the committee please come along or contact Norman as there are lots of other jobs to do on the actual day – and in the week before.

STOCKSFIELD TODDLERS

Stocksfield Community Centre

Wednesdays 9.30am – 11.30am

Come with your little ones – newborns to school age.

Enjoy a cuppa and a chat with old friends and new

Toys, activities, crafts, story and song time

With a drink and snack for the children

£1.50 per week (First week free)

For more information contact

Beth 01661 842346

Parish Council Vacancies

Following the resignation of Alan Verheyden, due to pressure of other commitments, the Parish Council currently has a vacancy for one parish councillor, which we would like to fill in the next month or so.

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of each month (except August) and members are encouraged to join the advisory groups which look after specific areas of interest.

We are particularly looking for a volunteer who is interested, or has expertise, in the following area:

Environmental issues and footpaths

The Parish Council is also involved in the development and delivery of:

- children and young people's issues & facilities
- planning and environmental issues including the continued development of our parish as a pleasant and prosperous place in which to live
- local highways and transport issues
- local business issues

If you think that you can bring something to these areas (or any others) please do get in touch with the Chairman of the Parish Council, Maggi Hunt, on 842674 or the Clerk to the Parish Council 844667 or e-mail admin@baspc.plus.com for more information.



Fraser with members of Stocksfield Football Club at the Opening of the Multisports Area.

Congratulations to:

Fraser Forster, a former member of Stocksfield Football Club, who helped Celtic beat Barcelona recently and who has now been called up to the England team.

STOCKSFIELD GOLF CLUB ENTERS ITS CENTENARY YEAR AND NEEDS YOUR FEEDBACK!

In 2013 golf will have been played at New Ridley Road, Stocksfield for 100 years and Stocksfield Golf Club is already gearing up for a busy year. Offers (for new members) include a year's membership at only £191.30 to tie in with the year the Club started! However as with many other golf clubs in the county, it realises the concept of "traditional" golf club membership may be in decline - for a variety of reasons. With the future in mind they are keen to get feedback from the local community as to whether there is potential for using the Clubhouse for more general social use and not be perceived as a "closed shop" to non golfers. Please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/39KWB6B> follow the easy instructions and complete the on line survey. It will only take a couple of minutes and all responses are anonymous and in total confidence. If you don't have access to the internet a copy of the survey can be collected at the Golf Club. The Club would really welcome your feedback to help plan for the next 100 years!

For full details on our Centenary and Social Membership deals please contact Norma on 01661 843041 or email info@sgcgolf.co.uk

Ist Stocksfield Scouts

The Group goes from strength to strength with over 70 young people in either Beavers, Cubs or Scouts. It is one of the largest groups in the area. Our headquarters is next to the Tennis Club and we will be gifting some of our land for the affordable housing development on Guessburn. Our existing hut is no longer fit for purpose and subject to obtaining planning permission we intend to build a new hut next year. The Group is confident that it can obtain sufficient funds to construct the new premises but we will need help with its fitting out. We are therefore appealing for help from people with relevant skills or who can donate materials. If you can help or know someone who can please contact Paddy Gascoigne, the Group Scout Leader by e mail at StocksfieldScouts@gmail.com.

"New Ridley Village: a short local and family history"

by Shirley Hall includes tales of the Stobart family, herbalists at the Doctor Syntax during the 19th century available from Shirley at West House, New Ridley, or Doctor Syntax price £7.50

Exercise to Music with Mary Huggin

Stocksfield Community Centre

New members and visitors always welcome.

For more information ring Community Centre 01661 842346

Mondays 6.30 – 7.45 p.m.
Low Impact Aerobics/Body Toning

Tuesdays 6 – 7.00 p.m.
Step Aerobics

Thursdays 6.45 – 7.45 p.m.
Pilates Using Stability balls

Fridays 9.30 – 10.30 a.m.
Low Impact Aerobics/Legs, Bums & Tums

Stocksfield South of Tyne Flower Club

Thursdays 1.45 p.m. Community Centre.

New Members and visitors always welcome.

NEXT MEETING

10th January **Mr M Robinson**
"Flowers & Gardens in Lakeland with Music & Birdsong"

Stocksfield Local History Society

Meetings are held in the Community Centre - 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

New members and visitors always welcome.

9th January **Richard Young**
"Traditional farm buildings"

Plants & Gardens Society

Meetings are held in the Community Centre and start at 7.30pm. Visitors & new members welcome. More information from Val Guy 843390.

Tuesday 15th January **Gordon Port**
"Gardening for Bees and other bugs"

Stocksfield WI

Meetings are held in the Community Centre and start at 7.30pm.

New members and visitors always welcome.

9th January **Stewart Adamson**
"Ouseburn People 1830-1930"

Stocksfield Retired Men's Association

Meetings are held in the Baptist Church Hall on the first and third Thursday of the month at 10.30am. Members are asked to assemble for coffee at 9.30am. New members and visitors always welcome (£2 per meeting). More information from David Guy 843390.

3rd January **Malcolm Smith**
"William Armstrong"

17th January **Professor John Derry**
"Queen Victoria"

Broomley School will be holding their annual Carol Service at St Peter's Church, Bywell on Monday 17th December at 2.00 p.m.

Northumbrian Ranters

Stocksfield Stompers

On Friday 14th December a festive concert of traditional music, song and dance will be held at St. Peters Church, Bywell by the Northumbrian Ranters from 7.30 to 9.30pm.

Northumbrian Ranters is a group of young musicians aged 10-18 from Northumberland and the Scottish Borders who play music on fiddle, flute, cello, Northumbrian pipes and harp. They are touring America in the Spring of 2013 and this is one in a series of fundraising concerts. They will be supported at this concert by the local youth band Stocksfield Stompers.

Mulled wine and mince pies/ shortbread will add to the festive spirit

The tickets are priced at £5 Adult, £3 Concessions and children are free.

Tickets are available from Paul Oxnard, Tel 01661 844302 mobile 07745081858.

Mobile Library

Calling times & dates to the end of March

Hedley on the Hill to Broomley Village

Fridays:

7 December; 21 December; 4 January; 18 January; 1 February; 15 February; 1 March; 15 March; 29 March.

Stop	Arrive	Depart
Hedley on the Hill	9.40	10.20
Mickley	10.35	11.15
Branch End	11.20	11.40
Ladywell	11.45	12.05
Stocksfield, Dr Syntax Inn	13.20	14.00
Whittonstall Village	14.15	15.15
Wheelbirks	15.25	16.05
Broomley Village	16.15	16.35

Riding Mill, Dene Close to Guessburn, Middle Green

Saturdays:

15 December; 29 December; 12 January; 26 January; 9 February; 23 February; 9 March; 23 March.

Stop	Arrive	Depart
Riding Mill, Dene Close	9.15	9.35
Riding Mill, Millfield Road	9.40	10.20
Broomhaugh	10.25	10.45
Guessburn, Middle Green	10.50	11.50

Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

Next meetings;
Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Monday 7th January 2013
Monday 4th February

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