

## Planning the future of Broomley and Stocksfield

# NE43 news

50th Edition

Spring 2014

## Annual Parish Meeting to focus on Policing

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Community Centre, Stocksfield on Monday, 14th April 2014, at 7.30 p.m.

This year the main speaker will be Inspector David Simpson of Northumbria Police, who will tell us about the changes that are proposed for policing in Northumberland and the Tyne Valley.

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

## New Parish Councillor – Graham Young

Graham has recently moved to Stocksfield from Haydon Bridge where he was previously a parish councillor. He has a keen interest in the countryside and has worked in a number of environments, including running his own business, working as a bus and wagon driver and in sales and marketing and more recently working for the County Council.

## Contacting the County Council

### Local telephone numbers

The County Council now offers a choice of telephone numbers to customers wishing to call their contact centre.

They are offering these alternative numbers following a review of their telephone arrangements and assessment of the cost to customers of making calls to the Council.

Local line numbers may be cheaper for you to call, depending on the telephone service provider you use and the payment package you have in place. In particular, most mobile phone companies will offer free calls to local area code numbers as part of 'free minute' packages, but may charge for calls to 0845 numbers.

If you are unsure about the most cost effective way for you to contact the County Council, please ask your telephone service provider about their charges.

These additional telephone numbers are offered so that you have greater choice when contacting the Council's central contact centre. There are no changes to any other Council telephone numbers.

Alongside the existing **0845 600 6400** telephone number, you can now also use the following local number to get in touch with the County Council:

**01661 520005** (areas covered include: Belsay, Ponteland, Prudhoe, Stamfordham, Stocksfield and Wylam).

More information is available on the County Council website.

## Mini Soccer Festival Stocksfield Sportsfields

15th March, 22nd March and 29th March – 9.00 am – 12 noon



Stocksfield FC will be hosting an FA Charter Standard Clubs Mini-Soccer Festival at the Sportsfields on 15th March, 22nd March and 29th March.

Over 30 teams are entering the festival with over 300 children in attendance over the course of the three days. The festival is the first of its kind at the club and is expected to be a popular and successful event with every child going away with a memento of the day.

The festival is organised to promote the great work of the club's Patron Ivor Gray who has supported the club and Tynedale Football for over fifty years. Alongside his many awards, Ivor was recently nominated as part of the FA's 150 Grassroots Heroes Award which recognised his promotion of football in the county, part of this award entailed an FA presentation at Buckingham Palace which Ivor recently attended.

Ivor was secretary of the Tynedale Mini Soccer League until the beginning of this season. His dedication to running the league has seen a number of young players given the opportunity to hone their skills before entering the professional game. Notably, Celtic and England goalkeeper Fraser Forster started his career at Stocksfield Football Club, which fills Ivor with pride whenever the stopper's name is mentioned in passing.

Although Ivor has had the honour of being awarded an MBE, this award from within the sporting community is just as valued and undoubtedly deserved. Now in his eighties, Ivor has recently decided to take a step back from the duties he has served with such brilliance over the past fifty years, it is now time for someone else to try and reach the high standards he has set. Without all the hard work Ivor has put into football in the West Tyne region many boys and girls would not have been able to take part in a regular match, and the whole community owes him a massive vote of thanks.

The festival to celebrate Ivor's contribution will have age groups at U8, U9, U10, with fixtures being played in the spirit of fun and enjoyment for the players.

**The club is looking for volunteers to help run the event and anyone interested should contact Phil Murray on 07889 170567**

*Come and support our local teams – all welcome*

## Closure of Ovingham Bridge

- A message from Anne Dale

As you may be aware a temporary Road Closure Order for Ovingham Bridge has been made to allow for the refurbishment of the bridge to be undertaken. The footbridge will remain open.

The road bridge will close at the beginning of this May and should be re-opened by May 2015.

The County Council has been working with the school headteachers (Ovingham First and Middle and Prudhoe High) to finalise details of the school transport service during this period. Further discussions will take place and parents will be given detailed information as soon as possible. The Council is not aware at the present time of any concerns about transport of students from Stocksfield.

**I will be monitoring the effect of the road closure on the residents of Stocksfield and will be working closely with the County Council. Please do contact me on 01434 673326 or e.mail at Anne.Dale@Northumberland.gov.uk if you have issues concerning the bridge closure.**



The **A695** road at **Dilston Bridge** will be closed from Monday 10 March to July 2014. Pedestrians and cyclists will be able to continue using this route but vehicles will need to follow diversions.

## Spring Clean/Litter Pick in Stocksfield

This year the Parish Council is not organising a litter pick in the village but we would urge residents to look around them and tidy up around their own properties. If you would like some litter pickers we do have a few which we can lend out. Please contact the Parish Office.

It has been brought to the Parish Council's attention that litter is being dropped along the paths in the Community Woodland. Please be sure to pick up your litter when walking through these woods.

## Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

### 2014/15 Budget/precept

The Parish Council has requested a Precept of £73500 for 2014/15.

The budgeted expenditure for 2014/15 is £76535. The precept is unchanged this year.

## The Green Deal Cashback Scheme

The Green Deal Cashback Scheme is offered through the Department of Energy & Climate Change. Householders in England and Wales can claim cash back from Government on energy saving improvements like insulation, front doors, windows and boilers.

For free and impartial advice, call the Energy Saving Advice Service on 0300 123 1234 or visit [www.gov.uk/greendeal](http://www.gov.uk/greendeal)

**\*To find a Provider registered to offer Green Deal Cashback, go to <http://gdorb.decc.gov.uk/consumersearch> and use the advanced search feature.**



## Stocksfield Striders

Stocksfield Striders have celebrated their sixth anniversary with an annual awards ceremony and ceilidh. Ovingham's Jason Brooker was named as most improved runner with Stocksfield couple Catherine and Johnny Walker sharing the runner of the year award.

Stocksfield Striders pride themselves on being a friendly mixed-ability running group with over forty members. They meet at the Cricket Club every Tuesday at 7.30pm for a run, with a Thursday night training session starting at 7pm in Prudhoe. A new beginners group has recently started which has proved so popular that a second session has been added.

If you would like to join the Striders, just turn up or contact Sally Hails via our website [stocksfieldstriders.btck.co.uk](http://stocksfieldstriders.btck.co.uk)

## UK Coal's Controversial Opencast Application at Hoodslose, Whittonstall still stands - Decision Imminent

Many NE43 residents have been asking when a decision will be reached by NCC about the proposed opencast planning application by UK Coal. WAG, the Whittonstall Action Group continues to challenge the application to extract over two million tonnes of coal at Hoodslose, Whittonstall and is monitoring the situation closely. Over the past year the date of determination has been delayed largely as a result of UK Coal's decision to put forward repeated amendments to its initial application.

Following these delays, it is anticipated that the application will now be determined after Easter. This means there is still time for letters of objection to be submitted to Northumberland County Council. Please note that all earlier letters submitted remain valid.

**Coal is our heritage not our future.**

Whittonstall Action Group

## Stocksfield Playgroup

Ofsted reg. EY431331 – last rating 'Good'

There are spaces available on most days for children aged 2 years and over at Stocksfield Playgroup. Due to popular demand the sessions have been extended on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays so that children can either end the morning at 12.15pm or stay until 1.15pm and eat their lunch with their friends. The Thursday session remains 9.15am to 12.15pm.

For those of you who are new to the village Stocksfield Playgroup is held in its own suite of rooms at the Community Centre in Mount View Terrace, opposite the railway station. Prospective parents are welcome to come and see what goes on – just contact Diane on 07857894313 or the Community Centre office on 01661 842346 or email: [stocksfieldplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:stocksfieldplaygroup@gmail.com)

## Help to reveal 8 million stories

**Lives of the First World War** will bring material from museums, libraries, archives and family collections from across the world together in one place. The Imperial War Museum (IWM) needs your help to explore those documents, to link them together and to start telling the stories of those who served in uniform and worked on the home front.

Since its foundation in 1917, IWM has continued to ensure that people understand the impact of this global conflict and how it shaped the world we live in today. By the end of the centenary we will have built the permanent digital memorial to more than 8 million men and women from across Britain and the Commonwealth and saved their stories for future generations.

Sign up today and soon you will be invited to uncover millions of **Lives of the First World War**.

For more information visit:  
[www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org](http://www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org)



## Tyre Dumping & Fly Tipping

**Tyre Dumping has been a problem in previous years, and tends to be a winter problem, as tyres are dumped after dark making it difficult to either spot or identify the offenders.**

If you find tyre dumps, please immediately report them to the Clerk to the Parish Council, or to the County Council at [ask@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:ask@northumberland.gov.uk) or phone on 0845 6400 600. A note of the exact location of the tip is essential - a photo of the fly tipping is always helpful.

If you see suspicious vehicles which you think might be involved in tyre dumping or fly tipping, please take the registration number, make and colour of the vehicle and report them to the police on the non emergency number – 101.

## Micro Chipping Dogs

Compulsory microchipping of dogs was successfully introduced in Northern Ireland in 2012 and Wales and England are set to follow suit in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Dogs Trust has long campaigned for the introduction of compulsory microchipping. Microchipping is a simple and effective tool which helps to rapidly reunite lost or straying pets with their owners. This in turn reduces the number of healthy dogs unnecessarily put to sleep and saves money for Local Authorities by cutting kennelling costs.

Following the Government's announcement on compulsory microchipping last year, roaming teams of Dogs Trust representatives have been touring the country offering free microchipping for all dogs, whilst also taking the opportunity to educate the public on the benefits of this important aspect of dog welfare. To find out more about free microchipping events we are running locally, please visit

[www.chipmydog.org.uk](http://www.chipmydog.org.uk)

## Ripstop Theatre present

Sally and the Sunflower

Community Centre

23rd March

2.30 p.m.

Brought to you by Highlights, this show is suitable for families and children under 7 years old. It is an enchanting and inventive re-telling of Jack and the Beanstalk told with puppetry, everyday objects, shadows and projections.

Tickets, and further information available from Beth at the Community Centre 01661 842346



## A message from Branch End Surgery

Do you wish that we could remind you of when your next appointment is? Well now we can!

Just sign up for our free Text Reminder Service and we will send a SMS Text message to your mobile phone the day before your appointment is due. This means that you can let us know if you no longer need the appointment and we can give it to someone else who needs it. It's also a reminder if you had forgotten!

Just give us your mobile telephone number and we will set it up for you. It's very simple to begin using this service and it's free. We are hoping that by setting up this service that we reduce the number of 'Did Not Attend's' at the surgery.

Each month as many as 100 appointments are wasted due to patients not turning up for them and not letting us know about it in time to give it to someone else. It's such a waste and we hope this will help us tackle it.

## CLOTHING APPEAL

The People's Kitchen is desperately short of men's or women's warm clothing, including socks, scarves, gloves etc., sleeping bags and blankets. If you have anything that you can donate, please ring Pam Jewitt on 842281.

Thank you



## community flood plan



In recent months, in partnership with the Environment Agency, the Parish Council has been developing a Community Flood Plan. This is now complete and relates mainly to the area around Guessburn, Brumwell Court and Burnside, the Stocksfield Burn being classed as an area at high or very high risk of flooding. Properties in the Flood Plan Area will all receive copies of the plan, and necessary emergency equipment will be stored at a central point.

The flood wardens are:

Mike Parker (Lead Warden), Jim Roy and Ruth Forster, with Daphne Gilbert having specific responsibility for Burnside.

The Community Flood Plan will be published on the Parish Council's website.

### Environment Agency

If you are concerned that a river or burn could become blocked and flood, please report this immediately to the Environment Agency on tel: 0800 80 70 60, or via email to [ics@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:ics@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**The Floodline number is 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188 (24 hour service).**

## EXCITING NEWS – SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Parish Councillor, Paul Vickers writes; "You may have noticed new green boxes sprouting up on pavements around the village recently (for example, the one outside Boots, one on Main Road opposite Cade Hill Road, and one down towards the railway station). These are the cabinets that will provide the new fibre optic superfast broadband service. Thanks to some revised plans by BT the new service will start to be made available in some parts of the village several months earlier than the original schedule. This means a significant number of us should be able to upgrade this spring rather than in the autumn."

Details on which cabinets will go live and in what order will be provided nearer the time, but Paul is working with iNorthumberland on arranging a local publicity event to take place in April which will give residents the opportunity to find out full details of what will be available and when.

If you wish to ask any questions please feel free to contact Paul. Either leave him a message on 01661 312006 (he will call you back) or email him at [paul@paulvickers.com](mailto:paul@paulvickers.com). As always, he updates his blog site with news about our superfast broadband progress, see <http://blog.paulvickers.com>

## Hedges

Residents have raised concerns with the Parish Council that many of the pavements and roads in the area are becoming restricted because the hedges are not cut back far enough.

Property owners are urged to cut their hedges back to the original fence line so that pedestrians can walk comfortably and safely on the pavements and vehicles can use the whole width of the carriageway.

## Energy Project

At a recent meeting organised by the Parish Council, Alison Vipond, co-ordinator of the Newton and Bywell Energy Project, gave a presentation on how to save energy in the home. It was very interesting to hear her own experiences and practical suggestions as to how as individuals we might reduce our energy bills and also how as a community we might help others to do so.

Her suggestions for individuals included draught proofing, installing reflector panels behind radiators (particularly those situated below windows and on outside walls), increasing loft insulation and investigating cavity wall insulation.

As a community, before tackling large energy projects, she suggested that we could get together to help residents clear their lofts so that loft insulation can be installed, and training a group of volunteers to fit draught excluders for those unable to do this themselves.

The Parish Council is now looking at the suggestions made and considering how this project can be carried forward.

We will be including a page on our website which will contain lots of information and links to other organisations.

## Nuisance Phone calls

The Parish Council has raised concerns about nuisance phone calls with our MP, Guy Opperman. This problem now seems to be universal and Parliament is currently looking into how such calls might be regulated.

### Intruders

In recent weeks there has been an increase in the number of houses being targeted by burglars. A number of steps can be taken to deter intruders and make their lives more difficult, including:

- installing an intruder alarm system (remove hyphen) and making sure it is maintained and serviced
- installing security cameras
- making sure your home is well lit
- buying a safe
- putting tools in a locked secure shed
- making sure ladders are not left lying around
- considering a change to a pebble drive, which will make it difficult for an intruder to enter premises unheard

## Stocksfield Tennis Club opens its courts to all

Four floodlit tennis courts, a modern clubhouse, Ladies nights, Men's nights, Mixed nights, Junior and Mini sections, coaching for all ages, teams and social tennis.

Come down to Guessburn and see for yourself what Stocksfield Tennis Club has to offer at our **OPEN DAY** on **SATURDAY 26th APRIL**

**Watch the experts in action** - At 2pm there will be an exhibition match between former professional and Club member Daniel Jewitt, and Club Coach David Esther. (Inspire your young Andy Murrays and Heather Watsons!)

**Come and try it** – meet Club members, play a few games or just sit and watch. Families welcome. Refreshments available.

**Bargain membership offer** – special new member subscriptions available on the day.

**We look forward to seeing you.**

**For more information look on our website at [www.stocksfieldtennis.com](http://www.stocksfieldtennis.com)**

## Warm Up North

Warm Up North is a scheme targeted at helping households throughout the North East save energy and save money over a five year period (2013 – 2018). It will help thousands of people to improve the quality of their homes, making them more affordable and warmer.

Warm Up North, which is endorsed by nine North East councils, is offering 50 households in Northumberland a free no obligation custom Green Deal Assessment to find out how they could make their homes more energy efficient.

Available on a first-come first-served basis, the complimentary Green Deal assessments, which would usually cost £99 each, will offer homeowners expert impartial advice from a certified Green Deal Assessor along with tailored recommendations to help increase the energy efficiency of their home.

More information at [www.warmupnorth.com](http://www.warmupnorth.com) or telephone 0800 294 8073

## Northumberland Residents' Festival

### Our people, our places

### Top attractions take part in residents' weekend

Top attractions throughout Northumberland will be offering free entry and discounts to people living in the county during the annual Residents' Festival on 29 and 30 of March this year.

The festival known as 'Our People Our Places', aims to celebrate the fact that Northumberland is a fantastic place to live and to give something back to residents in the county.

Throughout the weekend, castles, gardens, stately homes and museums will be opening their doors free of charge or offering generous discounts to visitors from Northumberland.

The event is organised by Northumberland County Council in partnership with leading visitor attractions from across the county.

This year it is set to be the biggest and best yet with over thirty attractions in the line up. These include: Alnwick Garden, Bamburgh Castle, Chillingham Castle, Cragside, Corbridge Roman Town, Hexham Abbey, Housesteads Roman Fort, Kielder Water and Forest Park, Newbiggin Maritime Centre, Paxton House Gallery and Country Park, Wallington, Warkworth Castle and Woodhorn Museum.

New attractions this year include White House Farm Centre, Blyth Battery, Flodden 1513 Ecomuseum, Heatherslaw Cornmill and Seaton Delaval Hall. Northumberland Leisure Centres are offering a buy one swim, get one free over the festival weekend.

**Residents will need special vouchers to receive free or discounted entry to the attractions. These can also be downloaded from the council's website on [residentsfestival.northumberland.gov.uk](http://residentsfestival.northumberland.gov.uk)**

They are available in the residents festival leaflets that will soon be displayed in local libraries, county council offices, tourist information centres and sports centres. Cut out vouchers will also be placed in adverts in the local press.

## What does the Parish Council do?

Parish Councils are the most local tier of local government. They are granted powers by Parliament, including the authority to raise money through taxation (the precept), and the right to spend public money.

The role of Parish Councils is to represent the interests of their local community. They are responsible for improving the environment and quality of life in the area they cover. They can also deliver services to meet local needs.

Parish Councillors are required to abide by a code of conduct and to ensure that decision making and the management of public money are always transparent and above board.

Parish Council meetings are open to the public.

### Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

- is consulted about planning applications and makes comments on them
- responds on behalf of the community to consultations on matters affecting the local area
- manages the sports fields and the multi-use games area for the benefit of all users
- manages the two play areas, at Kate's Plain and Branch End
- hosts the Stocksfield website, [www.stocksfield.org](http://www.stocksfield.org)
- produces the Parish Plan and reviews it annually
- produces an Annual Report
- publishes the Parish Council newsletter, NE43 News, four times each year
- publishes leaflets describing the routes of walks around the Parish
- produces an Information Card every four years
- looks after the bus shelters, seats, footpaths and communal areas of the Parish
- supports Stocksfield Festival, Stocksfield Fun Run, local groups and voluntary organisations, community activities and new ventures through grants and other forms of assistance.

## The National Bat Helpline

Do you know someone with bats in their home, church or school? If so, you can do them a favour by passing on the National Bat Helpline number – 0845 1300 228.

The Helpline, which is run by the Bat Conservation Trust, provides help and information for people who find injured and grounded bats, as well as giving advice to people who may have bats in their buildings. The Trust are keen to work with roost holders and help them live alongside their bats! They can also offer volunteer roost visits in some cases, and can put Helpline callers in touch with a UK-wide network of bat carers.



The Silver Line is a charity set up by Esther Rantzen for the Silver Generation. It is a confidential, free helpline for older people, open 24/7. Callers can receive a regular call from a Silver Line Friend. Or they may like to join a Silver Circle and take part in a regular group call on subjects that interest them.

They offer information, friendship and advice. And more importantly they are there 24/7. So if you need information or simply a chat please call them on 0800 4 70 80 90, if calling from a mobile call 0300 4 70 80 90.

**Most of all they are there 24/7. For more information visit [www.thesilverline.org.uk](http://www.thesilverline.org.uk)**

**It is a wonderful service for those of us who feel lonely and vulnerable.**



## STOCKSFIELD PLAYERS

Listen very carefully I shall say this only once...!

*Those immortal words rang out as The Stocksfield Players presented their stage version of the hit TV comedy 'Allo 'Allo'.*

The well known plot revolved around the "priceless portrait of the fallen Madonna with the big boobies" with various interested parties (French, German, Italian) all attempting to lay claim to it. Throw in a few forgeries, some knockwurst sausages, the impending visit of Adolf Hitler, a liberal sprinkling of innuendo, and there you have it, the ingredients of a rip-roaring farce.

Splendidly launched with the familiar signature tune played live on accordion by young Abigail Rees sitting on the steps of Rene's cafe, the replica scene was brought to life by the artistic talents of Jill Cowley and David Walker.

Each member of the cast excelled in their portrayals and brought all the characters to life.

With strong support from everyone in the cast and played to full houses each night, this was another very good production from The Stocksfield Players.

Director Karen Kirkland and Producer Joy Pusey can be justifiably proud of their efforts, three great evenings filled with hilarity, laughter and energy.

*Watch out for details of future productions by Stocksfield Players.*

## Stocksfield Guides

Congratulations to Hannah Parker of 1st Stocksfield Guides on being awarded The Baden Powell Award last Autumn. The Baden Powell Award is the highest award in Guides, and girls have to complete a range of ten different challenges, including planning and running the weekly Guide meeting, and having an adventurous weekend away. Hannah, (15) is now a Young Leader with 1st Stocksfield Guides.

If you would like to find out more, have a look at [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

## Subsidised bus services

**USE THEM – WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE THEM**

Over the next year the County Council will be reviewing the current subsidised bus services that provide a service for residents in the more rural areas of the County.

The **613 bus** which provides a return service from Stocksfield to Hexham on Tuesday mornings is one of these subsidised services. This is a public service available to any resident or visitor and there are pick-up points in Stocksfield and the surrounding hinterland. I would like to ensure that this bus route is maintained and even improved on for the future. If you have any views please do let me know.

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind you of the A.D.A.P.T. bus service from New Ridley and along New Ridley Road to Prudhoe on a Friday morning. If you would like any further information on this service please contact A.D.A.P.T. on 01434 606156.

Anne Dale



## Calling all Pokémon trainers!

*The Stocksfield Pokémon Center is open for business.*

Stocksfield Pokémon Center is an officially recognised Play! Pokémon League, where you can meet new friends and earn cool rewards while you play Pokémon.

**We are located in the Stocksfield Community Centre.**

League sessions run from 5pm 'til 9pm on a Sunday, and cost just £2. All players of the video games, or trading card game are welcome.

**For more information about Play! Pokémon Leagues, go to [www.pokemon.com](http://www.pokemon.com)**

**For more information about the Stocksfield Pokémon center, search for Stocksfield Pokemon center on Facebook, or call or text Rowan on 07528469127**

## Lifespan

On 3rd April 2014 Lifespan will be holding their 7th Annual Charity Art Auction at the prestigious Biscuit Factory Gallery, Stoddart Street, Shieldfield, Newcastle upon Tyne.

There will be art work on offer from acclaimed artists like Jack Vettriano, Beryl Cook, Billy Childish, Alexander Miller, Keith Proctor, Sue Fenlon and Michael Ewart, as well as ceramics, glass and jewellery items.

Viewing commences at midday on Saturday 29th March 2014 and continues until the auction begins on Thursday 3rd April 2014 at 7.00pm when the first lot will be put under the hammer by BBC Look North presenter Jeff Brown.

**For more information please contact us at Lifespan 01434 673777 or [www.lifespanteam.org.uk](http://www.lifespanteam.org.uk)**



# Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

A Report for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at the Community Centre, Stocksfield  
Monday, 14th April 2014, 7.30 pm.

## Chairman's Annual Report

April 2013 - March 2014

*Once again, the Parish Council has had a busy year, working on a number of special projects, as well as carrying out regular supervision and maintenance of the facilities and general environment in the area for which we are responsible.*

Our annual review of the Parish Plan identified several specific initiatives which we were keen to develop, including the commissioning of a Housing Needs survey, in conjunction with Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA). We hoped that this would provide us with up-to-date information about the households currently existing in the village and their future needs, as well as gathering the views of residents about the housing development they would, and would not, like to see. With a response rate of 49%, the survey has given us invaluable, robust data on which to base our response to proposed housing development, and we are very grateful to everyone who took part.

The Parish Plan review also highlighted the need to consider the facilities available locally for vulnerable groups and individuals, with an emphasis on reducing isolation. Following useful meetings with health and social care providers, voluntary organisations, including Stocksfield Community Association, and local churches, we are in the process of compiling a leaflet aimed at carers who live in the village, supported by Carers Northumberland, and an Information Point has been established by the Alzheimers Society at Stocksfield Community Centre.

Our work this year has involved us in two further initiatives, both of which are very topical! In partnership with the Environment Agency, we have compiled a Community Flood Plan to help us tackle flash flooding quickly and efficiently. We are also in the process of establishing an Energy Saving Project intended to enable local residents to keep their houses warm as cheaply as possible. More details of these two developments can be found in this edition of NE43 News.

The former public toilets at Branch End were transferred from Northumberland County Council to the Parish Council during the year, and we are now almost at the end of the lengthy legal process of giving them to SCATA as part of their partnership project with Isos Housing which will provide seven affordable

homes in the village. An adjunct to this project will be an upgrading of the cricket pavilion, including the planned extension to the car park.

Last year's applications for Fields in Trust - Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields status for Branch End Play Area and the cricket field were both successful, which means that, in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the sites have been dedicated in perpetuity as public playing fields and recreation grounds for the benefit of local residents.

As well as working on this year's special projects, the Parish Council has continued to manage and monitor expenditure in line with the annual budget for 2013-2014, and has agreed a budget for 2014-2015 which does not entail an increase in the precept. We have also drawn up and reviewed a number of policies, in line with legal requirements and national guidelines.

We have considered a number of planning applications during the year, and are still awaiting a decision on the proposal to develop a surface mine at Hoodsclouse, Whittonstall, to which we objected. We have also taken an active part in the latest phase of consultation on the County Council's Local Plan - Core Strategy.

The Parish Council monitors highways maintenance and road safety across our area, and we try to respond promptly to concerns raised by residents. We have a good working relationship with appropriate County Council officers, and have recently established a system of quarterly visits from a senior Highways officer who is able to assess the situation locally and take steps to carry out necessary improvements.

We take seriously our responsibility to ensure that both of our play areas, at Kate's Plain and Branch End, are safe and in good condition. Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) inspections are carried out annually, and any necessary action resulting from them is taken promptly. During the year, we supported the Parish Handyman in undertaking training in Playground Inspection and Maintenance to enhance even further the quality of the two spaces. Next year, we plan to raise funds for the purchase of new play equipment for Branch End, and for adult fitness equipment which will be situated at both play areas.

The Parish Council has continued to work with the sports fields user groups to manage and

## Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2013
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes
4. Inspector David Simpson – the future of policing in Northumberland
5. Up-date from SCATA on proposed developments at Guessburn & Branch End.
7. Reports from:  
Parish Councillors and County Council
8. Financial Statement, including Budget for 2014-15
9. Any Other Business

*All residents of the Parish of Broomley & Stocksfield are invited to attend this meeting.*

maintain the cricket, football and rugby pitches and the floodlit multi-use games area on the main road through the village. These sports facilities are very well used by people of all ages, and the number of home teams increases every year. We have now instituted regular inspections of the facilities to ensure that maintenance and remedial work are carried out as quickly as possible.

The Rights of Way and Environment Group has worked hard throughout the year on a range of activities, including the installation of an interpretation panel near the lower ford, funded by the Tyne Rivers Trust. The Group is made up of local volunteers and two Parish Councillors, one of whom now acts as chairman. A fuller report of the Group's work can be found in this edition of NE43 News.

With the support of a website designer, we have during the year made substantial improvements to the Parish Council's website, [www.stocksfield.org](http://www.stocksfield.org), and are now in the process of bringing the content fully up-to-date. We also published a new local information card, and quarterly editions of this newsletter, NE43 News, which is delivered to everyone who lives in the area we cover.

**Finally, I would to thank all of my fellow Parish Councillors for their hard work and commitment on behalf of our community. I am particularly grateful to Vice Chairman, Anne Dale, and Parish Clerk, Margaret Williams, for their support.**

**Maggi Hunt**

# Annual Report: Rights of Way & Environment Group

Stocksfield River Watch group have continued their monthly monitoring of the water quality in Stocksfield burn. Water quality remains reassuringly high, confirmed by the increasing population of fish species identified and recorded by the 'Electro-fishing' sampling carried out again last August by Tyne Rivers Trust (TRT) staff, assisted by two volunteers from the River Watch group. The work of our river watch volunteers has led to the TRT funding an interpretation panel which has been placed close to the seat near the lower ford. In November a 'community event', involving adult volunteers demonstrating the monthly river fly data collection procedure to children from Broomley School, was organised to coincide with the installation of this interpretation panel. Both adults and children enjoyed this event which was well reported in the Hexham Courant.

The continued vigilance and hard work of some members of this group has resulted in Himalayan balsam being almost eradicated from much of Stocksfield burn. Further clearing will be needed next year in the Ridley Mill area and downstream of Stocksfield Hall but one look at the banks of

the Tyne around Bywell in late summer shows what would have happened in Stocksfield without the efforts of these dedicated volunteers.

Progress in improving the areas around the station car park has been affected by the thoughtless actions of Network Rail contractors carrying out major improvements to the station footbridge. The area around the entrance to the west-bound platform has been cleared and bulbs planted which hopefully will soon be flowering. Within the next few weeks the areas around the concrete bollards surrounding the car park, already treated with weed killer, will be levelled before gravel is laid.

Group members continue to work closely with the County Countryside Officer to maintain and improve the rights of way within the parish. This year we are very grateful to our Area Countryside Officer for providing a magnificent new footbridge across the Bellasis burn on the newly-approved riverside footpath from Merryshields to Eltringham. We are also grateful for the major improvements carried out by our County Council on the other right of way to Eltringham – part of a much-used Stocksfield Health Walk.

## How has the Parish Council spent your money in 2013/14?

(Full details will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting)

### Income April 2013 to 21-Feb 2014

VAT	4060
Precept	73500
Other Income	9122

### Expenditure April 2012 to Feb 2013

Staff Costs	13032
Admin	9449
Grants	600
Footpaths Gardens Environment	5877
Handyman	16364
Sports Facilities	7207
Children & Young Peoples Facilities	1670
Planning & Transport & Highways	16
Communications	2686
Community Development	10870
Special Projects	2577
Contingency	1954
VAT	4522
Transfer to Reserves Funds	0

### Additional Expected Expenditure to end March 2014

Other Costs	6500
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## How will the Parish Council spend your money in 2014/15

### Provisional Budget for 2014/15

<b>Income</b>	
Precept	73500
General	3645
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Staff Costs	13920
Admin	10350
Grants	
Environment & Footpaths	5240
Handyman	17500
Sports Facilities	10635
Children & Young Peoples Facilities	1750
Transport & Highways	720
Communication	4480
Community Development	8960
Special Projects	0
Contingency	2640

## Thanks

The Parish Council is grateful for the time, effort and commitment put in by residents, volunteers and contractors, in particular, the Parish Handyman, to making Broomley and Stocksfield a pleasant place in which to live and work, and whose efforts contribute to the protection of our environment and the well-being of all residents. We are particularly grateful to those who help council-led groups looking after the footpaths, environment, sportsfields, play areas and community garden.

## Report from County Councillor Anne Dale

It has been a busy and challenging year and the time seems to have flown. I was delighted to be re-elected as your County Councillor last May, it is a privilege to be able to continue to serve and work with you.

### BUDGET

The County Council has agreed its budget for the financial year 2014/15. It includes funding for the new Prudhoe High School, a new Hexham bus station, a new Fire Station at Hexham, repair of Ovingham Bridge, free parking in Hexham, highways infrastructure, education and a further investment of £600k for pothole repairs. There is a rise in Council tax of 1.99%. Over the next three years further savings/efficiencies of over £130m are required.

### PLANNING

A planning application for the provision of 22 affordable homes in New Ridley Village was refused last year. The developer has gone to Appeal and a further application has been made. The original application was refused on policy grounds and I believe that these policies are still relevant.

As the Core Strategy for the next 20 years emerges developers are taking the opportunity to put forward building sites. There is a housing need in Northumberland for 24,000 houses over the next 20 years. Allendale Estates have once again put forward the site opposite Broomley School. My initial view is that the proposed development is inappropriate. During the consultation period please do write to the council with your views on future development in Stocksfield.

### HIGHWAYS

I do apologise for the inconvenience that was caused by the closure of the B6309 however I was pleased to be able to access the funding immediately and the Council did everything to repair it as quickly as possible.

Please do contact me if you would like any further information or wish to discuss anything further.

## Your Parish Council 2013/14

### Chairman

Ms M Hunt 01661 842674

### Vice Chairman

Mrs Anne Dale 01434 673326

### Councillors

Mr John Davison 01661 842470

Mr Pete Duncan 01661 843643

Ms Cindy Jonas 01661 844662

Dr Mo Mansour 01661 843887

Mr Mike Parker 01661 842742

Mrs Kath Pollock 01661 844161

Mr Jim Roy 01661 843332

Prof. Ray Thompson 01661 312006

Dr Paul Vickers 07947 633947

Mr Graham Young 07947 633947

### County Councillor

Mrs Anne Dale 01434 673326



Councillor Ian Swithenbank and Andy Olive, environmental quality inspector testing the new Jetpatcher.

## Jetpatcher helps to clear backlog of potholes

Northumberland County Council is using the very latest in technology to combat the potholes affecting the county's roads.

Over recent years, severe winter weather has caused significant damage to the highway network. This has led to an increase in potholes in recent years.

Now local services staff are armed with two new allies in the fight against pothole defects – the Jetpatcher and the road mender vehicle. Known as the 'hot box', it keeps material warm for much longer, making it easier to spread on the road surface.

Following a successful trial, the council has bought two Jetpatching units – self-contained units that carry all the necessary equipment and materials to repair potholes.

The Jetpatcher has proven to be a cost effective alternative to conventional temporary repair fix methods, improving productivity by 60%.

Councillor Ian Swithenbank, policy board member for streetcare and environment visited the council's Bearl depot near Hexham to see a demonstration of the Jetpatcher unit in action.

He said: "Repairing potholes on the county's roads is a real challenge. We are moving from a reacting to a proactive approach to potholes repair.

"The Jetpatcher machines we use in the north and the west of the county and the road mending vehicle are helping to make much more long-lasting repairs. We have been able to make good improvements to our unclassified roads and some C roads."

Anyone can report a pothole online at [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

## New Ridley Development

The Parish Council and a number of local residents have received letters from the County Council advising that the developers have submitted an appeal against the Planning Committee's refusal to grant them permission to build 22 houses at New Ridley.

If you would like to make representations to the Planning Inspectorate, you must do so by 8 April 2014. You can do this in writing, sending three copies of your letter to:

The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol BS1 6PN

Or you can contact them via the Planning Portal, [www.planning.gov.uk/pcs](http://www.planning.gov.uk/pcs)

## SiCA Parent, Baby and Toddler Group

The group meets on Wednesday mornings (in term time) from 0930-11.30 a.m. in the Community Centre. They offer a welcoming, friendly place for parents, grandparents and carers, babies and toddlers to enjoy:

- Welcome, tea/coffee for parents, crafts
- Snack time with story and songs
- Baby play area, soft play area and a wide range of toys

For further details, contact the Community Centre Office – 01661 842346

## Stocksfield Health Walks

The Walks take place every Monday morning. Meet at the Station Car Park at 10.00 a.m. If you are interested in joining a walk, all you have to do is turn up wearing appropriate outdoor clothing and supportive footwear. The walks are led by trained volunteers and take about 1 hour. Contact the Health Walks Co-ordinator on 01434 613227 for further information.

## Community Garden, Branch End Play Area

Due to the wet winter very little has been achieved. November saw new plants in the planters - the ladies battling against the cold windy weather. The willow tunnel was next on the agenda. The constant rain put the brakes on activities but encouraged the willow to sprout tall – and there is now a willow forest! The Community Garden Group is now looking for some tall and agile assistants to help particularly with controlling the willow tunnel. If you can help, please contact Melna on 843839 day time or 844040 evenings.

## Dogs at Branch End Play Area

Following a suggestion by a resident, we have now installed some hooks on the roadside fence at Branch End Play Area to enable dog owners to tie their dogs up outside the play area.

Residents are reminded that dogs are not allowed in either of the play areas or on the sports fields.

## History of the Community Centre

In conjunction with members of the Community Association, the Local History Society is researching "The History of the Institute (SiCA)". Anyone who would like to be involved or can contribute information should contact Andrew Palmer or Norman Hooks via the Community Centre office.

## Stocksfield Cricket Club

The cricket season starts on Saturday 19th April with all four senior teams in action. The 1st XI is away at Corbridge while the 2nd XI entertain Matfen. The 3rds host Haltwhistle II and the 4ths travel to Mitford.

In preparation for then Sunday 6th April sees the annual Cricket Force day when the club prepares for the new season. All volunteers welcome. Meet at 10am.

The club has already started the season well with both the men and women's teams winning their respective Northumberland Indoor Leagues.

## WWI Commemoration

The Parish Council has discussed how we might mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. It has been agreed that a garden of some kind will be made and planted at Branch End Play Area.

The Parish Council would welcome ideas as to how this can be achieved and what sort of planting should be included.

The Parish Council would also welcome any contribution that residents might wish to make towards the cost of this project.

Please contact the Clerk if you would like to help in any way – 844667

## Japanese Knotweed



Ruth Foster and Alan Verheyden recently attended a three day training course run by the Tyne Rivers Trust to gain knowledge on

how to inject Japanese knotweed with pesticide. As members of the Rights of Way and Environment Group, they had heard that the Vicar of Bywell had reported the presence of knotweed in Bywell churchyard.

On arriving for the training, they were amazed to find that the three full days were going to be quite intensive, would lead to a fourth day for a theory and practical exam, and that, if they were successful, would result in a City and Guilds qualification to attack just about any weed on land or in ponds and rivers!

Ruth and Alan are now qualified and will be working under the supervision of personnel from the Tyne Rivers Trust to inject knotweed, not only in our local area but also further up the North Tyne during July and August.

If Japanese knotweed is left to grow unchecked, it can do serious damage to property by undermining foundations and cause a devaluation in the sale price of a house by up to 10%.

The plant was introduced into this country by the Victorians as a desirable garden plant. They liked its statuesque appearance, it can grow up to 2.5 m high, and has long white flowers.

The knotweed is injected with glyphosate pesticide in July and August but the science has not yet proved that this is a permanent solution to killing the plant. The rhizomes of the plant can penetrate up to 5m below ground and the only known permanent solution is to excavate to this depth and remove all the resultant soil!

## Northumbria Healthcare Trust

The main switchboard number for the Trust has changed from an 0844 number to 0344 811 8111 for calls to Hexham or Wansbeck Hospitals

The contact centre number has also changed to 0344 811 8118. This is the number patients can call to discuss their appointments after being referred by their GP.

Families and visitors can also still use the direct-dial local numbers for most hospital wards and departments which are available on the Trust website [www.northumbria.nhs.uk](http://www.northumbria.nhs.uk).

If you would like any further information please email: [foundation@northumbria.nhs.uk](mailto:foundation@northumbria.nhs.uk) or call 0191 203 1296



## Exercise to Music with Mary Huggin

Stocksfield Community Centre

For more information ring  
Community Centre 01661 842346

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

**Tuesdays** 6.00 – 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

1st Thursday of the month 1.45 p.m.  
Community Centre.

Next meetings:

3rd April

29th April 2.00pm

**Annual Jumble Sale**

- Community Centre

## Stocksfield Local History Society

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

Next meeting:

9th April **Greg Finch -**

The Lead Road to Blaydon including  
Stocksfield/Hedley & Apperley Bank

## Plants & Gardens Society

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

More information from Val Guy 843390.

Next meetings:

15th April **Penny Norton -**  
"Maintaining a Lutyens/Jekyll Garden"

20th May **Sophie Simpson -**  
"Designing a Garden"

## Stocksfield WI

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

Next meetings:

2nd April **Freda Thompson -**  
"History of the Grainger Market"

## Alzheimers Society

An Information Point has been established by  
the Alzheimers Society at the Community  
Centre, Stocksfield.

## Stocksfield Fun Run

In order not to clash with the Great North Run,  
this year's Fun Run will be held on the Sportsfields  
on Sunday 14th September. More details later.

## Northumbria Police

- Dates for your Diary

Saturday 22nd March 9am-10am  
**Police surgery.** Boots the Chemist,  
Branch End, Stocksfield

Wednesday 2nd April 1pm-3pm  
**Neighbourhood Engagement Day,**  
Stocksfield

## 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 April **Alan Fendley**  
"Naval Battle of Jutland"

17th April **Bernard Hope**  
"It really is a Wonderful Life"

1st May **Mike Smith**  
"How to be a Roman Emperor"

1th May **Eric Wade**  
"The Miracles of Minas San Jose"

All these organisations welcome  
new members and visitors.

## Churches Together in Stocksfield

Services & Events over the next  
few months

### EASTER, HOLY WEEK

**Tuesday 15th April**

- Taize Service at St John's Church

**Thursday 17th April**

- Stocksfield and Prudhoe Methodist Churches  
will have a united service at Prudhoe for  
Passover. Anglican Eucharist at St John's 7.30pm

**Good Friday 18th April - 10.00am**

- 'Walk of Witness' starting at Stocksfield Baptist  
Church and ending with a short service at the  
Methodist Church at 10.45am.

**Saturday 19th April**

- 'Easter Ever' ceremonies at St Peter's Bywell  
at 7.30pm

**Sunday 20th April**

- 6.00am daybreak service at Kiln Pit Hill  
organised by Snod's Edge Church. Contact  
David Wood to order breakfast (01207 255449)

**Sunday 20th April**

- Methodists are meeting at 6.30am at Vindolanda.

### PENTECOST

Sunday 8th June - Churches Together walk  
starting at St George's Church Mickley at 2pm  
and ending at the Methodist Church at approx.  
3.30pm, visiting other churches on the way.  
There will be a shared tea at Methodist Church.

### COUNTY SHOW

The Annual County Show will be held again at  
Bywell on May 26th. Following the example of  
the successful Olympics Gamesmakers, volunteers  
from Churches Together are needed to be  
'Showmakers' to welcome visitors and signpost  
them around the various activities and attractions  
at the Show.

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY CLUB

This will take place at the Baptist Church from  
July 21st to 25th. Rev Bill Rigby is leading this  
event and will be delighted to hear from Churches  
Together volunteers who may like to be  
involved, as he will need lots of helpers.

## DIARY DATES

### Stocksfield Plants & Gardens Society Annual Plant Sale

10.30 a.m. Saturday 24th May  
Community Centre Stocksfield

### NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY SHOW BYWELL SHOWGROUND

26th May

### Next Blood Donor Session

Stocksfield Community Centre  
27th June 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.

### Bywell St Peter's Arts Festival

Bywell Churches  
28th & 29th June

### Tuesday Club

Every Tuesday at the  
Community Centre  
from 10.00 a.m.

This friendly group enjoys a wide variety of social  
activities – scrabble, dominoes, whist, carpet bowls  
- or just come along for a chat.

The 'activities' are determined by those who  
come along! A hot, fresh cooked midday meal  
is served – at a cost of £5.

All are welcome – ladies and gentlemen – come  
and meet old friends and make new ones.

If you want more information or would like to  
book a meal then contact Melna Martin on  
01661 843839 or 844040 or Christine Hooks  
on 01661 844863. Meals must be booked in  
advance, preferably by the day before.

### Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday  
of the month in the Community Centre at  
7.30 p.m. There is no meeting in August.  
The agenda is posted on parish notice boards  
and the minutes of the meetings are posted  
on the notice boards and on the website  
[www.stocksfield.org](http://www.stocksfield.org)

#### NEXT MEETINGS:

Parish Council Meeting 7th April

Annual Parish Meeting 14th April

Parish Council AGM 12th May

Election of: Chairman, Vice Chairman

Parish Council Meeting 2nd June

Members of the public are welcome to attend  
any meeting of the Parish Council.

Public participation is always included as an  
item on the agenda.

#### 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](mailto:admin@baspc.plus.com)  
Website: [www.stocksfield.org](http://www.stocksfield.org)