

Planning the future of Broomley and Stocksfield

NE43 news

Issue 51 Summer 2014

Parish Council Annual General Meeting

At the AGM on 12th May Ms Maggi Hunt was elected as Chairman of the Parish Council and Mrs Anne Dale was elected as Vice Chairman.

Mr Pete Duncan was elected as convenor of the Sportsfield Management Group and Mr Jim Roy as Chairman of the Rights of Way & Environment Group.

Can you help? A vacancy has arisen for a new Parish Councillor

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 would like an informal discussion about the role of Parish Councillors, please telephone the Chairman, Maggi Hunt, on 01661 842674.

If you are interested in joining the Parish Council please contact the Clerk by 18th July.

Ivor Gray Festival



Stocksfield Football Club Scorpions, winners of the Under 8s section of the Ivor Gray Festival.

Held over three weekends at the end of March, the Ivor Gray Mini Soccer Festival was a great success. 75-100 children were involved plus a similar number of parents. Ivor presented the trophies, one of which was won by Stocksfield Under 8s.

The intention is to repeat the tournament next year, but to spread it out across the season to avoid excessive pitch wear.

Parking on the pavement

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints that cars are being parked on the pavement, particularly alongside the A695. This means that pedestrians, especially those with a visual impairment, people pushing buggies, and wheelchair or mobility scooter users, are often forced to move into the road in order to make progress.

We are aware that many local residents are careful not to park on the pavement on school days, but there is still a problem outside the sports fields on Saturday mornings.

Parking on the pavement is against the law, unless there is a sign which expressly allows it.

The Highway Code makes this clear, as follows: **Rule 244:** You **MUST NOT** park partially or wholly on the pavement in London, and should not do so elsewhere unless signs permit it. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments, and people with prams or pushchairs.

Please help us to ensure the safety of everyone in our community by parking considerately.

Scout Jumble Sale
Community Centre
Saturday 5th July

Please note change of date

First World War Commemoration



Construction of the Memorial Garden at Branch End Play Area has now started.

In due course, twelve "Peace" Hybrid Tea Roses will be planted to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

If you would like to make a contribution towards the cost of this garden, please contact the Clerk.

New Ridley Planning Application

Following a public meeting at the Dr Syntax in May, which was attended by over 40 residents of New Ridley and Stocksfield, the Parish Council submitted its objection to the proposal to the County Council. At the time of writing it is not known when this application will be considered by the West Area Planning Committee.

Supported Walks: West Northumberland Health Walks

West Northumberland Health Walks is starting a new series of supported walks for individuals and groups. The supported walks are for people with dementia, mental health issues or learning difficulties. All these groups can also join in the regular health walks, but the supported walks will have more leaders with more training. There will be two walks per week, a shorter/slower one and a longer/faster one, each with trained and insured leaders and back markers. All walks will begin on Fridays at 2pm throughout the summer and will take about an hour. Walkers will be asked to fill in (or have someone fill in for them) a health questionnaire before they can join the walk. There are toilet facilities at the start of every walk. If you would like more information, a leaflet and/or a health questionnaire, please contact Loraine Oliver on 01434 613227 or email: Loraine.oliver@northcountryleisure.org.uk

The walks are as follows:

June 27th - Meet at Stocksfield Station Car Park

July 4th 11th 18th 25th - Meet at the café in Tyne Riverside Country Park, Low Prudhoe

August 1st 8th 15th 22nd 29th - Meet at the Dyvels Pub near the Station in Corbridge

September 5th 12th 19th 26th - Meet at Stocksfield Station Car Park



Branch End Surgery and Patient Participation

The Branch End Patient Forum Group held its inaugural meeting in July 2008. At that time the group consisted of six eager patients. A chairperson and a secretary were appointed, and a Constitution was agreed as follows:

- to act as a representative group that can be called upon to influence the local provision of Health and Social Care
- to give Practice staff and patients the opportunity to discuss topics of mutual interest in their practice
- to provide the means for patients to make positive suggestions about the Practice and their own healthcare
- to improve communication between the service providers, the group and the wider population
- to promote health education activities within the Practice and to encourage a spirit of self help and support amongst patients to improve their health and well being
- to involve patients from the wider population

The group met monthly when it could, and actions were agreed and taken forward for a number of years, until the Department of Health began encouraging Practices to ensure that more of their patients were better involved in decisions about the range and quality of services provided, and, over time, commissioned by their Practice. Branch End Surgery at that point set about putting together a Patient Reference Group (PRG) which would run alongside, and then eventually form part of, the existing Patient Forum Group. The aim was to work with as many different patients as possible and to make sure that the group was a fair representation

of the entire patient population. The Practice sought views from patients through the use of local Practice surveys. The outcomes of the engagement and the views of patients were (and still are) published on the Practice website www.branchendsurgery.co.uk

The Surgery tried hard to develop the PRG in the most appropriate way in order to reach the broadest cross section of our community. This turned out to be a virtual group which was made up (and still is) of a diverse range of patients. The Practice made every effort to engage with any under-represented groups. Of the current virtual group, the youngest is 14 and the oldest is over 65. Last year, the Patient Forum disbanded, but the virtual PRG remained and is still going strong, helping devise patient questionnaires and agree priorities for the Practice over the coming year. This year, the Practice has introduced on-line repeat prescribing and Electronic Prescription Services, both ideas which have arisen through the good work with the PRG.

Now, in 2014, the Practice is still trying to ensure that specific care groups are reflected in the representative group wherever possible. Branch End Surgery continues to encourage patients to give their views about how the Practice is doing. They would like to be able to find out the opinions of as many patients as possible, and are asking again if patients are interested either in joining the 'virtual' PRG or in setting up another 'real' group like the Patient Forum.

Please leave your details at the surgery reception if you would like to be involved in Branch End Patient Participation.

Stocksfield Burn

Kick sampling continues to be carried out monthly on Stocksfield Burn. The water quality remains consistently good – so there is plenty of invertebrate food for fish, dippers etc.

The Tyne Rivers Trust celebrates its 10th anniversary this summer. A special event is planned for June and on 20th May all the River watch groups on the Tyne catchment got together at Hexham Community Centre to discuss plans for the future.

Controlling invasive plants

Through the Tyne Rivers Trust (TRT) Alan Verheyden and Ruth Forster have now completed the training for spraying Japanese knotweed (and other invasive plants) and are available to help the TRT when required.

The Rights of Way and Environment Group will continue removing balsam along the Stocksfield burn over the summer.

Hanging Baskets

Many thanks to Norman Hooks, Ruth Forster and Mike and Margaret Cummings who planted up the hanging baskets which are now adding colour to our buildings.

CLOSURE OF Ovingham BRIDGE

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 closed in June and should be re-opened by May 2015.

Are you interested in playing Rugby?

Prudhoe and Stocksfield Rugby Club is looking for new players. More information from pandsruafc@hotmail.com

Heritage Open Days

11th to 14th September

Details of places to visit available soon from Northumberland County Council.

National Gardens Scheme

Skara Brae, 20 Tynedale Gardens
Visitors welcome by appointment
Admission £3.00 Tel: 01661 843175

healthwatch Northumberland

Healthwatch Northumberland is your independent health and social care consumer champion. We monitor health and social care services across Northumberland, including hospitals, GPs, dentists, opticians and care homes. If you have used health and social care services in Northumberland in the last 12 months, we want to hear about your experiences. We will then use this information to influence services across the county.

As well as taking your comments on health and social care, we provide information and signposting and also run a dedicated advocacy service called (ICAN) to support you if you have an NHS complaint.

To contact us with any comments, compliments or concerns, please call: 03332 408 468

Write to us: Healthwatch Northumberland, Adapt (North East), Burn Lane, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3HN

Or email: info@healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk

If you would like to become involved with Healthwatch Northumberland you can sign up as a supporter – receive our quarterly newsletter and occasional bulletins – or join us as a volunteer.

Please see our website for details or contact us using the information above.

Donations to the Food Bank

For some time now donations to the Food Bank have been collected each Sunday at St Peter's Church, Bywell.

At the recent meeting of St Peter's Parochial Church Council concern was expressed at the possible misuse of the Food Bank service. It was explained that in order for an individual to collect a food parcel they will need to have been given a 'ticket'. The person will present the ticket at the local distribution centre, in our case Hexham. It is not possible simply to turn up and then be given a food parcel.

Each Food Bank is only for people in real need; for those who are in some kind of crisis and require temporary help in meeting their daily food needs. Tickets are given out by authorised individuals, such as the Citizen's Advice Service, a GP, or Social Services team members.

To find out how you can contribute locally to the Food Bank, please contact the Vicar on 842272 or Elaine Woods on 842684.

SCATA Developments

After months of delay it is expected that work on the developments at Branch End and Guessburn will start in June.

Station Garden

Alan Verheyden and other members of the Rights of Way and Environment Group have been developing a garden in the Station Car Park – by the time you read this there should be a colourful display of annual plants.

Many thanks are due to Alan and his colleagues.

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 Northumberland County Council 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.

It is anticipated that the application will now be determined in the summer.

Check local notice boards for further information.

Coal is our heritage not our future.

Whittonstall Action Group.

HEDGES

The hedge cutting season is rapidly approaching. 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.

The People's Kitchen

On behalf of the People's Kitchen I would like to thank everyone who has kindly donated blankets, sleeping bags, clothes, etc. It is much appreciated and I will continue to collect items. If you have anything that you can donate, please ring me on 842281.

Thank you once again.

Pam Jewitt

BROADBAND UPDATE

Unfortunately, just as we approach the end of the period in which we thought we were going to get super fast broadband, there has been another delay, and we're now looking at some time in August before the service goes live.

BT encountered problems with the fibre spine into the area between Hexham and Prudhoe. On top of this further problems have arisen which are outside BT's control and which were not expected when we the initial timescales were set.

It's disappointing to discover this at this point, but we'll just have to wait a little longer.

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

Stocksfield Golf Club has secured Olympic legacy funding from Sport England's Inspired Facilities fund.



Sport England has revealed that more than 1,300 local sports projects across the country have now received National Lottery funding through Inspired Facilities, part of its Olympic and Paralympic legacy programme.

The Club, which only last year celebrated its Centenary, will receive £49,965 of National Lottery funding to upgrade their Club house facilities. The improvements and modernisation are designed to make the Club more energy efficient and appealing for members and the local community including schools and businesses. They include new doors and windows, replacing the heating system, improving kitchen facilities and creating a multi-purpose "Community Lounge".

Club Secretary/Manager, Roger Jones said: "We are delighted to have secured this investment. Savings from energy efficiency and upgrading our premises will benefit members and help attract new users to the Club. The Clubhouse will become an integral part of making the best use of our facilities including the golf course. Being a smaller rural based Club this grant is invaluable to the sustainable future of the Club and we are proud to be associated with the 2012 Olympics' legacy through this Inspired Facilities funding."

Stocksfield Golf Club is one of well over 300 projects across England receiving lottery investment from the fourth round of the Inspired Facilities fund and one of more than 1,300 to benefit overall.

Cameras Roll at Bywell Church

A quiet corner of Bywell was thrown into the spotlight earlier in the spring, when filming took place at Bywell Church. Siobhan Schwartzberg returned to her roots to film an historical drama entitled 'The Cross'. Siobhan grew up in the North East before moving to London at the age of 12.

'The Cross' is based on folklore and is a tragic love story that follows the fortunes of nun Isabelle and monk William.

Filming also took place on Hadrian's Wall and at Brinkburn Priory.

Selected as a future filmmaker in 2012 by the British Film Industry, Siobhan (26) is one of four emerging film makers in the country to receive mentoring and support in the industry.



Parking at Hexham, North Tyneside and Wansbeck Hospitals

Northumbria Healthcare Trust has concluded talks with ParkingEye, the company which has provided parking management. The parking management contract has been brought to an end and the car parks at Wansbeck, Hexham and North Tyneside general hospitals now have pay and display systems in place with the following costs:

- Free 20 minute pick up / drop off period
- Up to 1 hour - £1.20
- 1 - 2 hours - £2.40
- 2 - 3 hours - £3.60
- 3 - 24 hours - £4.00

Patients and visitors should continue to pay for parking and carefully observe signage in hospital car parks which will explain how to do this.

With immediate effect, people can only pay for parking with cash at the payment machines and can no longer use pay by phone, text, app or website.

Disabled (blue) badge holders will continue to receive free parking however they no longer need to register. They must, however, display their blue badge in their car windscreen.

Discussions were held with ParkingEye after patients and visitors had raised a number of issues regarding the number plate recognition system which was installed in May 2013.

Anyone with queries about parking during office hours should call 0191 293 4353 or email: carparking@northumbria.nhs.uk. Out of office hours, contact security 0344 811 8111. Anyone who is already dealing with ParkingEye regarding an outstanding parking charge should continue to liaise with the company.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 - Section 14

As Amended by Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991 Temporary Road Closure C258 Lead Road Slayey

For your information the County Council intends making an Order under the above Act to prohibit the use by vehicular traffic on that section of the C258 Lead Road Stocksfield from its junction with the B6309 heading in a northerly direction for a length of 1170 metres in the County of Northumberland.

The Temporary Order is to be effective from the 14th of July 2014 until 15th of August 2014.

It is expected that the road will only be closed from the 14th of July 2014 until the 25th of July 2014 between the hours of 09:00am and 15:00pm daily during this period.

The alternative route for vehicular traffic will be via the B6309 the C273, the A68 and the A695 and Vice Versa.

Access will be maintained for residents.

The closure has been requested by Northumberland County Council in order to carry out tree trimming works.



Arts Festival

St Peter's and St Andrew's Bywell

*A weekend of Art Exhibitions,
Music & Refreshments*

Friday 27th June

Art Exhibition preview
7.00pm - 9.00pm
All Welcome

Saturday 28th June

Exhibition and sale
10.00am - 4.30pm
*Books, cakes, craft, plants,
raffle & refreshments*
All Welcome

Saturday 28th June 7.30pm

St Peter's Church Bywell
**Musical Concert by
Stocksfield Stompers & Friends**
Tickets Adults £7 Children £3
from Michael Allan 01661 843183
(or on the door)

Sunday 29th June

Exhibition and sale
11.00am - 4.30pm
*Books, cakes, craft, plants,
raffle & refreshments*
All Welcome

NEWS from Federation of Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools



Sport's Day

We are planning to hold our sport's day on Thursday 3 July 2014. The events will start in the morning after registration and all parents and carers are very welcome to stay and cheer on the children. We are hoping to offer parents a buffet lunch, like last year and prizes will be given out in the afternoon. This all depends on the British weather being kind so fingers crossed. A more detailed timetable of events will be sent home nearer the time.



Tony Blair

Tennis Tournament

On Friday 16 May, 8 of our year 3 children took part in the Tony Blair tennis tournament at Stocksfield Tennis Club. They played fantastically well, winning this group and progressing through to the second round. Huge congratulations to Sam, Alex, Johnny, Stan, Charlotte B, Lily, Maya and Sara.



YOGA Classes

– Tuesday Evenings
From 7.00pm To 8.30pm

A new Yoga class has started up on Tuesday evenings from 7.00pm to 8.30pm in term time. It is a very friendly group suitable for all ages and abilities and costs £7.00 per session. Please contact Jenny Channon on 0797 125 2205 for more information.

Litter THROWN from Vehicles

People who throw litter from their cars on to our roadsides and verges create a mess for someone else to clear up and a potential hazard to wildlife. Throwing litter, including cigarette ends, is an offence, and you can now report incidents to the Enforcement Officers of the County Council's Neighbourhood Services by completing a simple form. This could ultimately result in the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice to the offender.

If you see someone throwing litter from a car or other vehicle, please try to remember as many details as possible, including the date, time and location; the make, colour and registration number of the vehicle; a description of the offender; and the type of litter involved. You can then transfer this information to a reporting form, available from the Parish Clerk, and forward it to the County Council's Environment Enforcement Officer.

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.



'Landlubbers'

Children's Holiday Club

Monday 21st - Friday 25th July 2014
10.00am - 12.30pm each day
at Stocksfield Baptist Church

Stocksfield Churches are once again working together to run our popular holiday club for children in school years 1 – 6 during the first week of the school holidays. Based on a pirate theme, it will feature games, crafts, drama, music, and Bible stories.

To book, ring Barbara on 01661 843710

BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of the month in the Community Centre at 7.30pm 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).

Next meetings:
Community Centre at 7.30pm

Parish Council Meeting:

7th July

2nd September

There is no meeting in August

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.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday Club

Every Tuesday at the Community Centre
from 10.00am

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.

Minsteracres Summer Fayre

Minsteracres (DH8 9RT) is just off the A68, 5 miles south west of Stocksfield.

Saturday 12 July, 11.00am - 4.00pm

Many stalls: gift & bottle tombolas, cakes, plants, books, jewellery, toys; arts, crafts, flower exhibits; live music; children's games & cafés; Grand Draw.

RNLI



A lunch will be held
at Stocksfield House, Bywell Road
on 4th September at 12 noon

Tickets £17
(incl a glass of wine and raffle ticket)
Mrs A Hannam 01661 842386

Garden Party – Alfresco Lunch

(in aid of Bywell Church Funds)

Aston Greys, 25 Cade Hill Road

Sunday 10th August, 1.00pm

Tickets (£10 adults £5 children)
from Philippa Harpin 01661 842302

All Welcome

Home-made Tea – Garden Parties

(in aid of Tynedale Hospice, Josie Dragonfly Trust and Scout Hut Fund)

20th July and 17th August 3.00 - 5.00pm

Aston Greys, 25 Cade Hill Road

Tickets (£10 adults £5 children)
from Philippa Harpin 01661 842302

All Welcome

Claiming Dates:

Grand Jumble Sale

in aid of Bywell Church Funds

Saturday 27th September - Community Centre

Christmas Fair

in aid of Bywell Church Funds

Saturday 6th December - St John's Church, Hall

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