

Planning the future of Broomley and Stocksfield

NE43 news

Issue 53 Winter 2014

With best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous year in 2015 from Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

Affordable Homes for Local People

From shabby derelict shack to modern warm homes – what a difference a few months make!

The first new affordable homes to be built in Stocksfield for many years are close to completion. The collaborative project between Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA) and the social housing provider ISOS originated from the identification by the Parish Council of a need for more affordable housing in the village. A Housing Needs survey revealed considerable opposition to building on green belt land, but a huge level of support across the village for building affordable homes on brown field sites.

With financial support from the Homes and Communities Agency, two bungalows and four flats are being built in Guessburn, next to the Scout hut, with a single bungalow on the site of the former public toilet at Branch End. A local lettings policy is in place which means that local

people or those with a demonstrable link to the village will have priority when they are let.

SCATA chairman and Parish Councillor Pete Duncan said, "It has taken SCATA a long time to get to this stage, but all the hard voluntary effort is now paying off. The new affordable homes at Guessburn have come out of the ground very quickly and are being built to a high standard, in a location that has been waste ground for many years. The bungalows and flats will make a very important contribution to meeting housing need in the village, and we are looking forward to seeing the first tenants in place early in the New Year."

Information about the application process will be distributed as soon as it becomes available. You can keep up to date with this and progress on the build by visiting the SCATA website at <http://www.scatastocksfield.co.uk/>



Community Speed Watch

Speeding is a concern for many people; Community Speed Watch is one way of helping to address this concern. This volunteer-led scheme has been rolled out across Northumbria Police area. It aims to respond to the concerns of residents by making motorists aware that communities will not tolerate speeding. By taking positive action, local people work together to meet the scheme's main objectives - reducing speed to prevent collisions, improving the quality of life for people in the area and raising public awareness of inappropriate speed.

Trained volunteers from the community work in problem areas using measuring equipment to record the speed of passing vehicles. Details are noted of any vehicles found to be speeding and, in conjunction with the neighbourhood policing team, letters are sent to motorists about their speed. When the same driver is identified as speeding in the area a number of times, officers will make contact with the driver and action may be taken.

Over the past six months volunteers in the areas of Mickley, Stocksfield, Broomley and Riding Mill have monitored over 3500 vehicles of which 500 were found to be speeding. 450 warning letters have been sent to motorists and four home visits conducted.

For more information about the scheme and how to become involved, go to the Northumbria Police website and follow links to Volunteering and Community Speed Watch.

100 Years on - Stocksfield Remembers



NEW Arrivals

Nick Spencer has been appointed as the new Parish Clerk after the retirement of Margaret Williams. Nick took over at the beginning of September. He has lived in Stocksfield for nine years and has previously worked in the public sector for 35 years.

Two new councillors have also joined the Parish Council and attended their first meeting in their new role in October. Dennis Parke has lived in the North East for nearly 3 years, having previously lived in Willaston on the Wirral, Cheshire where he worked for Unilever for over 30 years. He has two daughters who have both attended Newcastle University (one of the reasons he moved to the North East). Julia Robson has lived in Stocksfield for the past seven years with her husband. She has always lived in the North East, attending Northumbria University, but grew up in Stocksfield. She loved it so much she returned to raise her young daughter here. Julia wants her daughter to be brought up in the same way she was raised in the village.

Keep 'em peeled

Following a request from a resident at the Annual Parish Meeting earlier this year, local residents joined the Chair of the Parish Council and the neighbourhood policing team to explore the development of neighbourhood watch (NHW) within Stocksfield. Sergeant Mick Stephenson gave an overview of NHW – based on the concept of good neighbours, who are encouraged to join together to keep watch on each other's homes and report suspicious people or events to the police. He said NHW schemes, which are usually based around a few streets, can often be a catalyst to generating or enhancing a sense of community.

Each scheme must have a volunteer co-ordinator who needs access to the internet and who is the most important part of the scheme. They pass information from the police to scheme members and organise regular meetings. Residents need to be committed and prepared to take an active role in their scheme. If you are interested in setting up a scheme in your neighbourhood, please inform the Parish Clerk.

NHW is no replacement for good old fashioned crime prevention. Remember to lock your doors and windows, even if you are in. Don't leave ladders around on view and be cautious about any caller to your house. The police will never criticise anyone who calls them about a suspicious person, even if it turns out they are genuine.

Stocksfield Scorpions STING



The Stocksfield Scorpions under 9s football team are pictured receiving medals at the Rutherford Tournament in Gateshead earlier in the year. Seven members of the team attend Broomley First School, and the team won the tournament, beating teams from Gateshead, Sunderland and Newcastle.

The tournament was used as a fund raising event for three sick children in Gateshead and the Stocksfield boys raised over £200 for their cause. Goals from Sam Storey and Finlay Richardson gave Stocksfield a 2-0 win in the final and the Trophy. They all did Stocksfield proud.

Stocksfield Festival 2015

Planning for the fourth Stocksfield Festival began in early December when the Festival Committee met to sort out some important issues - who should be asked to open the Festival, and the date, which is Saturday 13 September.

New members are always very welcome to the Committee as they bring fresh ideas to improve the Festival. If you are interested in helping make the 2015 Festival the best one so far, come along to the next meeting on Monday 12 January 2015 at 7.30pm in Stocksfield Cricket Club. You can also be involved without being on the Committee as lots of volunteers are needed for jobs on Festival Day – and in the week before. Please contact Norman Hooks on 844863 or Karen Kirkland on 844119 for more information.

Stocksfield FC grows its Mini Soccer and Junior Sections

Stocksfield FC's junior numbers have grown for the fifth year running, due in no small part to the dedicated hard work of many volunteers. The club now runs 11 teams from U7s to U13s. It was rocked earlier in the season by the resignation of both the Northern Alliance Saturday senior team and NEYDL U17s, but, despite this loss of older players, the club continues on its path of offering a fun and safe environment for its junior sections so that there will be a full list of teams up to U18s in five years time.

To support this growth, the club has a further five qualified coaches, and has also welcomed Richard Stokoe as child welfare officer. The ultimate vision is to build a community focused club which provides opportunities for all players, regardless of age or ability, and so increases the number of players who develop a lifelong passion for football.

Secretary Phil Murray is delighted with progress. "Our updated vision isn't about winning cups and leagues; it's about building better players and volunteers. Ultimately, we want to develop all-round football players across a range of ages in a fun community environment. That's why we get up on cold and wet mornings to travel across the North East with our teams, and it makes me very proud to be part of it."

The club is always looking for new players to enter the successful U6s Saturday soccer programme run by Phil, so if you are interested please make contact via the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StocksfieldFootballClub>

Stocksfield FUN RUN

This year's Stocksfield fun run was a great success and saw 70 runners of all ages taking part. Sunderland footballer Lee Cattermole started the race and stayed to hand out medals and goody bags to the finishers. Stocksfield's Joseph Grey (pictured with Lee) was the overall winner. The race was organised by local running club the Stocksfield Striders with help from the festival committee. Over £200 was made on the day which was donated to Tynedale Hospice at Home.



The Striders meet at the cricket club every Tuesday at 7.30pm, and are always welcoming to new faces. A new 10 week beginners course costing £15 starts in January, contact Sally Hails on 07794703513 for more details.

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 or from the public information page of the website: <http://www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk/publicinfo.php> and forward it to the County Council's Environment Enforcement Officer.

Change of Date for:

Stocksfield Players Production

"ROCK-A-BYE, SAILOR" A Comedy

by Philip King and Falkland L. Cary

This comedy revolves around a christening and the ensuing mayhem!

NOW TAKING PLACE

On: March 26th, 27th and 28th
At: Stocksfield Community Centre
Starting at: 7:30pm
Tickets: £8 per person

Available from:
Branch End News 01661 8242215
Stocksfield Community Centre 01661 8242346
and all cast members.

Contact Karen on 01661 844119 for further information or if you would like to help with the production in any way.



Photo credit: Hexham Courant

Dedicated to PEACE

The Peace Garden at Branch End Play Area has now been formally dedicated and marked by a plaque commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. In a special short service attended by dozens of local people, Rev. Bill Rigby dedicated the garden for the benefit of our community and to further the work of peace locally, nationally and across the world.

Flanked by soldiers of 39 Regiment The Royal Artillery, bugler Neil Cockling played the Last Post which was followed by a minute's silence. Broomley First School's Broomley Bellows then treated the crowd to a performance of two songs, one of which, "A Special Place", was chosen by the children as a reference to the garden. The service ended with handshakes as a sign of peace, followed by refreshments served by 1st Stocksfield Guides at the Baptist Church.

The Peace Garden was created by Alan Verheyden and Parish Handyman Martin Stewart on behalf of the Parish Council. We hope that it will provide a focus for quiet reflection for many years to come.

FRASER for ENGLAND!



Stocksfield should be immensely proud of our very own Fraser Forster becoming the first footballer from Tynedale to play for England.

The giant keeper is currently at Premiership side Southampton, where he hopes to enhance his bid to challenge Manchester City custodian Joe Hart for a regular place in the England team.

26 year old Fraser began his professional career with Newcastle United, before ending up at Norwich City, where they secured promotion to the Premiership. He also won a player of the year award after keeping a record number of clean sheets.

His career really took off with a move to Celtic, playing in the Champions League against Barcelona. After two home and away games against them, the Spanish media labelled him 'La Gran Muralla' – the great wall. 6ft 7" Fraser is the proud possessor of a Lionel Messi shirt after swopping tops with arguably the world's greatest player.

This is a far cry from his days turning out for Stocksfield Under 12s in front of the proverbial one man and his dog (especially soul destroying when the dog decided to give it a miss). Fancy a youngster from our village going on to represent his country and be worth a transfer fee of £10 million!

Stocksfield Golf Club - Work underway with Inspired Facilities Grant

Following its award of £50k from Sport England, Stocksfield Golf Club is making good progress with its Clubhouse upgrade. Work has been completed in the kitchen area, on the heating and electricity systems and on replacing the entrance doors. These improvements will help the Club save money on its energy bills in the future. The outstanding development is the creation of a room for the benefit of members and the local community. One idea being considered is to include the option of office space for rental by local businesses. If you are interested in this for your own use, please contact the Secretary, Roger Jones on 01661 843041.

Free advice & funding for small businesses

The British Gas Energy Efficiency Fund is designed to help small businesses manage their energy costs in the long-term, by providing free expert advice and energy efficiency measures. The fund provides eligible businesses with a free on-site energy survey plus fully funded installations of energy saving measures valued at up to £6,000 per business, helping them to save money on their energy bill.

You can find out more and register your interest on the website –

www.britishgas.co.uk/business/energyefficiencyfund

Benchmark to Success

Earlier this year, Stocksfield Writer Rachel Cochrane recorded her latest drama *Benchmark* at Fuse Media Centre, Prudhoe. Inspired by the 'In Loving Memory' plaques found on benches, this online radio play stars local actor Kate Foster, Theo Hornsey and Pat Buckle and the Stocksfield Players including Luke Brown from their junior group. The credits were read by local voice-over artist Helen J Aitken.

Radio play *Benchmark* is now available to hear and is also the inspiration for a national writing competition to raise money for Willow Burn Hospice in Lanchester. It's easy to enter, so why not have a go, even if you have never written creatively before?

To listen to the *Benchmark* radio play, visit rachelcochrane.com and click on 'Listen Up' then 'Audio Library'.

For further details of the *Benchmark* writing competition visit rachelcochrane.com and click on 'Get Writing!' then 'Current Writing Competition'.



From L to R Rachel Cochrane, Pat Buckle, Luke Brown and Kate Foster.

Vacancy - Please enquire within

If you have ever thought about doing your bit for the community, why not represent your community as a parish councillor? If you want more information, then please contact the Parish Clerk on **01661 844667**.

A YEAR OF SUCCESS for Stocksfield Cricket Club

Stocksfield Cricket Club celebrated a season of success this year. The 1st XI conquered all, winning the Northumberland Cricket League Premier Division title, the Wm Birkett 'League' Cup and the Northumberland Indoor Cricket Championship.

Not to be outdone, the women's teams won their Indoor Championship, the Northumberland Women's Premier League and the Division 1 title. At junior level the club sides won the West Tyne Junior (U18) cup and the U15 Northumberland Junior and U15 West Tyne Leagues.

The success of the club's policy on developing junior players can be seen in the 1st XI, where



Stocksfield 1st XI 2014

Scout Post

Here again for the 13th year!

Please use the Christmas card delivery service for cards sent to anyone with an NE43 post code. Post boxes will be in both Post Offices from 1 December until noon on Friday 19 December. A minimum donation of 20p per card is requested. Tax payers are asked to use the green envelopes to 'gift aid' their donation, otherwise just put your money into the box with your cards. The boxes are emptied regularly to enable weekly deliveries so cards don't hang around in our sorting office! Any queries to Philippa Harpin, tel 842302.

website facelift

Many of you will have seen the new look to the website and will have noticed the change to its name – www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk. Your browsers will be routed to the new site automatically so you shouldn't have to change anything. The email address for the Clerk has changed (it's now clerk@stocksfieldpc.org.uk) but the old email address will continue to work for some time. The Chair of the Parish Council also has a new email address (chair@stocksfieldpc.org.uk) and other councillors will have similar email addresses in due course. Developments and news will be on the website and you can keep up to date with news through Facebook too.

Carers' information

Inside this edition of NE43 News you will find a folded leaflet that contains help and advice aimed at those who care for others, perhaps a friend or relative. The leaflet has been put together with the help of Carers Northumberland, a local charity dedicated to improving the lives of carers, and staff at Branch End Surgery. We will continue to work together to help those who care for others. The information will also be available on the Parish Council's website: <http://www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk/publicinfo.php>

nine of the team have come through the junior level. Several of the women and junior players gained honours this year, representing various County sides.

In addition to the annual festivals, Stocksfield Cricket Ground also hosted several Women's and Juniors' County games plus three days of 'International A' cricket in August, when Northern Universities hosted Guernsey.

Looking ahead, the club has accepted an invitation to be promoted into the Northumberland and Tyneside Cricket League in 2015 and looks forward to the challenges this will bring. Off the pitch plans have been drawn up to develop the clubhouse and car park facilities, so 2015 will be a busy year of fundraising and applications.



Northern Universities v Guernsey

Gullies

Anne Dale is working with the County Council to ensure that all gullies are free of debris and working properly. Please let her know if you have any concerns or wish to raise any issues. The County Council have asked if residents could help by cutting back their hedges if they cover up any gullies, thus making them more accessible.

Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy: Full Draft Plan

The County Council's consultation on the Core Strategy: Full Draft Plan will begin on 12 December and end on 11 February 2015. Over that period of time there will be opportunities to view the document and discuss it with County Council officers at workshops throughout the area. The consultation document will also be on the Council's website for you to view. Please do take the opportunity to respond to the consultation and if you would like to discuss it, please contact Anne Dale on 01434 673326 or by email Anne.Dale@Northumberland.gov.uk.

Community messaging

The local neighbourhood policing team operate a community messaging system that provides information about recent crime and specific crime reduction advice. Messages are sent by email. If you want to receive them you will find an electronic form on the public information page on the Parish Council's website: <http://www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk/publicinfo.php> which can be downloaded and forwarded to the neighbourhood policing team by email or by post.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND IS HERE (MOSTLY)

First the good news. In September and October six of the seven fibre optic broadband cabinets served by the Stocksfield telephone exchange went live and are now accepting orders from customers. These are cabinets 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. You can find out which cabinet you are connected to at <https://www.btwholesale.com/adslchecker> If you are connected to one of these cabinets you are potentially able to take advantage of superfast broadband. The maximum speeds available are 80 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, though the actual speed will depend, as always, on the distance of the property from the cabinet.

Sadly, fibre Cabinet 2 on Meadowfield Road still requires surveys and other checks regarding its location and so is still very early in the process. The latest information is that this cabinet will not be completed before summer 2015.

For up-to-date details about the Stocksfield exchange see <http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk/stocksfield/>

KEY FACTS

- The upgrade to superfast broadband doesn't happen automatically; you need to order a fibre broadband package. See <http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk/upgrade/>
- You don't have to get it from BT, other suppliers are available. <https://www.cable.co.uk/northumberland/> shows some of the deals available.
- It doesn't necessarily cost more to upgrade and you may find you are able to pay a similar price for superfast broadband as you are currently paying for regular broadband.
- For more details on superfast broadband see <http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk/about/faqs/> If the cabinet you are connected to has been upgraded but your property is too far from the cabinet to be able to order superfast broadband:
- iNorthumberland has attracted additional funding from Northumberland County Council and Central Government for a further phase of the roll out. The Council is currently evaluating the best way to spend this funding and more details will be made available in due course.
- Alternatives to fibre exist. For example, Newton and parts of Bywell are served by a wireless superfast network provided by Wildcard. Satellite broadband is also available. For more details see <http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk/satellite/>

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

BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets in the Community Centre at 7.30 p.m. The agenda and minutes of the meetings are posted on the notice boards and on the website www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk

Next Parish Council Meetings in 2015:
5 January • 2 February • 2 March • 13 April

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 where residents have the opportunity to raise issues of concern.

 *The Junior Branch of the Stocksfield Players will be performing their production of:* 

“RHYME, RHYTHM and SONG”

On: Friday 23rd January and Saturday 24th January 2014
At: Stocksfield Community Centre
Starting at: 6:30pm
Tickets: £6 for an adult £4 for OAP and under 16s.
Tickets available from:
Branch End News 01661 8242215
Joy Pusey 01434 682547

Come along and be thoroughly entertained by this talented group of children!!

News from the Hill

In Hedley on the Hill, the Feathers Inn Leek Club recently put on another fine show- the 52nd- with many excellent examples of vegetables and show leeks. The winner of the best pair and the best leek in show was Bridget Smith, and Pearl Green was the winner of the best collection of vegetables. Both winners are long standing supporters of the club.

The Leek Club is not just a vegetable growing club, but the main focus of village events and activities. Supported by the Feathers Inn, several events are held in the pub and other local venues to encourage community participation in and around the village.

Future events include:

- **Christmas dominoes on Monday 22 December with special prizes**
- **The Leek Club Raffle and Quiz at The Feathers Inn on Sunday 28th December (quiz beginning at 7.30pm and draw at 9pm)**
- **Domino Ladder – 8.45pm on last Monday of month between Sept and April (you don't need to play to enjoy the night)**
- **Bar Olympics on Saturday 10th January – tickets £5 with supper (tickets from Jeff Douglas 07718901715 or any member)**

The Feathers Inn also hosts free to attend events such as a Knit and Natter group on alternate Mondays and a Folk night on the 1st Sunday of the month with all players welcome.

Hedley on the Hill Parish Council meets on the second Monday of the month. The agenda includes time for members of the public to speak, so any issues can be raised then.



Bridget Smith with her winning leeks.

Hedley on the Hill Women's Institute meets at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month at Stocksfield Community Centre. Further information on the WI is available from the President, Bridget Smith, on 01661843867.

New Ridley Village Wine & Drinks Evening Get Together

The villagers of New Ridley have started a monthly Wine and Drinks Evening Get Together. The aim is for people of New Ridley and the surrounding areas to catch up with village folk and meet new people. The first get together was in September and 60 people attended. Villagers meet on the last Sunday of every month at The Doctor Syntax pub at 6.30pm and everyone is welcome.

Stocksfield Local History Society

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

14th Jan: Speaker Brian Tilley on '150 Years of the Hexham Courant'

11th Feb: Speaker George Nairn on 'History of Pickford's Heavy Haulage from Packhorse days to 1900's'

11th March: Speaker Ken Hutchinson on 'Seaton Delaval Hall: The good, the bad and the beauty'

8th April: Speaker Graeme Young on 'Archaeological Investigations at Bamburgh Castle'

Plants & Gardens Society

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

More information is available from Val Guy on 843390.

20 January: 'Plants to go wild for' - Janet Beakes

17 February: 'Spotting the wild plant communities of Stocksfield' - Dave Mitchell

17 March: '30 Plants you didn't know that you needed until now' - Bob Sanderson from 'Cath's Garden Plants' in Cumbria.

Churches Together

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity falls on 18th - 25th January 2015. Prayer leaflets will be distributed for individuals to use at home, but, in a united act of worship, during that week united evening services will take place at 6pm on both Sundays. Look out for further details of venues in church magazines and Stocksfield Community Association News (SCAN). On Saturday 24th January, Churches Together will hold a united coffee morning at the Methodist Church in Mount View Terrace from 10am-12 noon. The proceeds will all go to charity, and everyone is welcome at these events.

The United Lent Course 2015 runs from 23 February for five weeks, with a choice of Tuesday afternoons or Thursday evenings, and a choice of church venues. Further details will appear in Church magazines, newsletters and SCAN. The series will be based on the film 'Chocolat', which will be shown in the Methodist Church on Friday January 30th, in preparation for the course. All residents are very welcome to the film showing, whether or not you intend to attend the Lent Course.

Contact the Parish Council at:

Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council, at Stocksfield Community Centre, Mount View Terrace, Stocksfield NE43 7HL. Telephone: 01661 844667
Email: clerk@stocksfieldpc.org.uk
Website: www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk