

## Planning the future of Broomley and Stocksfield

# NE43 news

Issue 54 Spring 2015

### New Ridley, what's in a name?

It may be true to say that the decision to grant planning permission for the development of 16 houses at New Ridley did not meet with unanimous local approval but the building work is due to commence this year. The precise date is still not known due to a delay in re-routing the overhead electricity cables, although a section of hedgerow will be taken out to allow access and suitable visibility splays.

Two Castles Housing Association have approached the Parish Council for suggestions about the name of the new housing. The Parish Council will make a proposal but wants to ensure that local residents have their say.

Shirley Hall, who lives in New Ridley, has researched much of the history of the village. One of the oldest names to be associated with the village is the Stobart family. 'The Cottage' is the oldest of the existing houses in the village and it is likely that it was once in the ownership of the Stobarts. Charles Stobart owned much of the land around the village and lived at the Dr Syntax for many years. The field to the west of the Grove was known as Stobart's field, some say there are those around who are old enough to remember! One suggestion is that the name of the new houses should reflect this existing name. If you have any ideas or want to support this suggestion, the Parish Council would love to know. Please contact the clerk with your suggestions and the rationale as soon as possible and before the end of April.



### Local Lad's ATLANTIC ROW

The Scout Group sends a very big thank you to everyone who contributed to Stephen Harpin's epic row across the Atlantic Ocean, in aid of the Scout Hut Fund, which to date has raised the magnificent sum of £10,091, with a number of very generous donations. It proved to be a tough challenge due to the atrocious weather, beginning with the sea sickness – simultaneously rowing and throwing up over the side and coping with the 40 foot waves. They slept, in shifts, in coffin-like bays under the rowers, acting as ballast to ensure that the boat remained upright! The lack of air, coupled with the intense heat, made it feel like sleeping in an oven. The other great difficulty was that it was incredibly painful to sit and row with pressure sores washed with salt water!

The pace was relentless and the only respite they allowed themselves was a 30-minute swim on Christmas Day. On five of the days, in spite of rowing frantically, they finished closer to the start than they were at the beginning of the day, which made it impossible to break the world record. However, the Ocean Rowing Society confirmed that they were within the fastest 15 crossings and broke the 24-hour distance-speed world record, rowing 103 nautical miles (119.56 miles) in one day. The boat, the Toby Wallace, is now the most successful ocean-rowing vessel in history with four under 40 day crossings!

Despite the challenges and problems with the weather, Stephen, pictured on the left with his crew, says that he has had the experience of a lifetime, including seeing the boat surrounded by dolphins diving and jumping - and that it was amazing being in the sea at night with wonderful sunsets and sunrises.

The timing of the adventure immediately before Christmas when everyone was very busy and cash limited, may have resulted in delay contributing and then mislaying the sponsorship form. If this is the case, the on-line Virgin site remains open and the link is:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/atlantic-challenge> - or Philippa, Stephen's mother, will be grateful to receive gifts through her letter box at 25, Cade Hill Rd, but please include the following information: full name; home address and postcode; amount; date given; and whether you are 'gift aiding'.

**Thank you for all the interest in Stephen's adventure and for your support.**

### Ask the Police and Crime Commissioner

*At the annual Parish Meeting*

Vera Baird, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, will be addressing the Annual Parish Meeting this year about the issues that face policing locally and across Northumbria. She will be accompanied by the Chief Constable of Northumbria Police, Sue Sim. It all starts at 7.30pm on Monday 20th April at the Community Centre.

The Parish Council are delighted that Ms Baird has accepted the invitation to speak at the meeting and there will be an opportunity for those present to ask questions. There is no doubt that these are challenging times for all our public services. However the proposed closure of Prudhoe Police Station and the removal of the local base for response officers come at a time when the perceptions of crime within Stocksfield are increasing, irrespective of its reported level.

The meeting is also an opportunity to hear about the work of the Parish Council during the last twelve months. The annual reports, accounts and provisional budget will be available on the Council's website during week commencing 6 April 2015.

### Community Defibrillators

Most will have seen the news that the Parish's two Community Public Access Defibrillators (PAD) have been fitted and are now operational with the Ambulance Service. They are located at the Cricket Club (on the front of the pavilion facing west) and at the Golf Club (on the front of the clubhouse facing the road). The cabinets are green and a green light above them illuminates after dusk to identify their location.

If someone is not breathing normally and is not moving or responding to you after an accident, the most important thing to do is to call 999 for an ambulance. Then, if you can, start CPR (or cardiopulmonary resuscitation) straight away. The ambulance service will, if necessary, tell you the location of the closest PAD and give you a code to open the cabinet. Do not stop CPR to get the PAD - send someone else. If there is nobody else, keep doing CPR. The PADs are automatic and you just need to follow the instructions.

There has been a familiarisation session at the Cricket Club and further sessions will be



arranged. Details will appear on the Parish Council's website.

The PADs have been acquired by working with the Stephen Carey Fund and with the assistance of generous donations from local residents, Tynedale Lions and Cllr Anne Dale. The Parish Council's Chair, Maggi Hunt, pictured above with the PAD at the Cricket Club, said, "We're proud to be one of the first places in Tynedale to have community public access defibrillators. We're very grateful to those residents who so generously gave a donation, and to the two clubs for allowing the cabinets to be sited there."

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

## CLOSURE of Stocksfield Playgroup

Stocksfield Playgroup has operated at the Community Centre since 1968, and for many years was run independently of the Community Association, by a committee of parents. At some point, when it became difficult to find parents able and willing to run Playgroup, responsibility was transferred to the then SICA Management Committee. This was a most unusual development since the Community Association's role is to provide facilities not organise regular weekly activities. However, in reality Playgroup was managed by its leaders whose salaries were paid by the Community Association. A rota of parents willing to stay and support the leaders continued to operate – though persuading parents to go on the rota became more difficult as very often parents were working.

Playgroup in those days took children just before they were three until they went to Broomley First School so that numbers were always high – and there was often a waiting list to start. This changed significantly when Broomley Pre-school opened, and in order to remain open Playgroup admitted children from age two years. This had a major impact on costs, as the adult/child ratio for children below 3 years is 1:4; at 3 years or over it becomes 1:8. By this time Playgroup was 'Ofsted Registered' and even those parents willing to join a rota could not be counted in the adult/child ratio.

Other costs increased as, for example, IT equipment became essential and charges for CRB (now DBS) checks and specialist insurance had to be met. Ofsted rules on management have resulted in at least one member of the Community Association board becoming trained

in Early Years procedures which includes staff appraisal, and regularly updating policies and procedures.

Despite these challenges the Community Association board – all of whom are volunteers whose primary role is maintaining and improving the Community Centre- has continued to meet the changing challenges of supporting Playgroup. Playgroup is certainly better managed than it was when it was rated 'Good' at its last Ofsted inspection. The two leaders provide outstanding education and care in ideal surroundings, but with alternative all-day provision elsewhere in the village and all children over 3 years of age catered for at Broomley Pre-school, it is clear there is insufficient local demand to support a Playgroup of this type.

Given the disastrous state of its finances the board had little alternative but to close Playgroup, though it did consider trying to continue until the end of the school year because of concerns for the small number of families affected by closure. However, the fact that our Playgroup leader will be leaving at the end of this term made this impossible as it would be irresponsible to attempt to appoint a new leader given the numbers attending and the precarious state of Playgroup's finances.

**So, sadly, Stocksfield Playgroup's final session will be on Thursday 26th March 2015. It has functioned for almost 47 years and the Community Association board can understand and sympathise with concerns within the community at its closure. The committed leaders and volunteers have tried really hard to maintain this facility, and it is worth bearing in mind that all but one of the other 'Sections' operating back in 1968 are long since gone. Unfortunately, Stocksfield Playgroup's demise is very obviously the result of changing child care needs.**

## Free energy advice and 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](http://www.britishgas.co.uk/business/energyefficiencyfund)

## Blooming Stocksfield – It's Your Neighbourhood

Northumbria in Bloom may not seem the obvious competition for the village to enter. "It's too spread out with no obvious centre", many will say. But Northumbria in Bloom covers a wide range of categories and not all are competitive. 'It's Your Neighbourhood' is open to community groups of any size who are developing projects using plants to improve their area. It could be groups of residents, a conservation group, scouts or guides. Entry is free and more information can be found at [www.northumbriainbloom.co.uk](http://www.northumbriainbloom.co.uk).

## healthwatch Northumberland

Healthwatch Northumberland is an independent health and social care consumer champion working for the people of Northumberland. It monitors health and social care services across the County, including hospitals, GPs, dentists, opticians and care homes. If you have used health and social care services in Northumberland in the last 12 months, Healthwatch Northumberland want to hear about your experiences. Information will be used to influence services across the county.

Healthwatch Northumberland also provides information and signposting to other services and runs a dedicated advocacy service (ICAN) to support those who complain against the NHS.

To make any comments, whether compliments or concerns, please call 03332 408 468, write to: Healthwatch Northumberland, Adapt (North East), Burn Lane, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3HN or email: [info@healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk)

**If you would like to become involved with Healthwatch Northumberland you can sign up as a supporter to receive the quarterly newsletter and occasional bulletins, or you can become a volunteer.**

## New Toddler Group

The Community Centre is playing host to a 'Toddler Group' which meets every Wednesday between 9.30am and 11.30am during term time only. Run by two local residents, Louise Carr and Jennifer Carroll, parents are welcome to come along and join in the play with babies and children up to three years of age. Bring a book or CD for story time and enjoy the friendly atmosphere. Sessions are just £2.

## Branch End Play Area Regeneration Group

This relatively small group is presently looking at playground equipment for the play area and also outdoor sports and fitness equipment which could be suitable for adult use. We would like the advice of residents who are keen on sports and fitness to help us decide which is the most appropriate and inspirational equipment for the park. If you have ideas please contact Anne Dale on 01434 673326 or [Anne.Dale@Northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Anne.Dale@Northumberland.gov.uk)

## NORTHUMBERLAND County Show

The County Show will take place on Monday, 25th May, 2015 at Bywell starting at 9 a.m. Amongst other things, the Broomley Bees project will be exhibiting in the County Council's marquee and there will be more information on the Tour of Britain cycle race.

## New Grant Award Policy

The Parish Council has agreed a new policy that governs the awards of grants from 1 April onwards. In summary, the process differs between grant applications up to £500 and those over £500. If you are considering applying for a grant in the financial year 2015/16 which exceeds £500, you must apply before 31 May 2015. Grant applications up to £500 during 2015 must be made either by 31 May or by 30 September 2015.

For the financial year 2016/17, grant applications over £500 must be made before 1 October 2015 in order that the Parish Council can consider the applications during its budget setting process. Full details of the new policy can be found on the Council's website, together with the application form which must be completed in all cases. The requirements that organisations must satisfy and the application form vary depending on the amount applied for. You can also find other existing Council policies published on the website.

## Eat for Charity

'Aston Greys' on Cadehill Road has a fine reputation, thanks to the hard work of Philippa Harpin and her reliable team, for delivering fine food and a wonderful experience in a very pleasant and relaxing environment. Each year they raise considerable sums for local causes. You will see adverts for the events planned for this summer in this newsletter. However, this attractive 'marquee venue', which seats 100 & includes all tableware, is available free-of-charge for fundraising & charitable events. Please take up this offer – come and see for yourself. Philippa can be contacted on 01661 842302.

## The Seam: Songs from the heart of the Mining Institute

The Live Tour of 'The Seam' comes to Stocksfield Community Centre on Friday 24th April starting at 7.30pm. Singer songwriter Gareth Davies-Jones performs new work from the stories and lives hidden within the Library at the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, Gareth's home for part of last year. The industries have a rich legacy in song but Gareth's work, described as 'masterful and thought-provoking', is a new approach to telling the story of the library collections through song. Supported and funded by the Arts Council, it is an inspiring evening of live acoustic music.

Tickets are available online at [www.wegotickets.com/event/301859](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/301859) or by phone on 0191 2332459.

## Stocksfield Brownies are looking for leaders

Despite healthy membership, both Stocksfield Brownie Packs have recently folded because, for a variety of reasons, their leaders have moved on to new challenges. If you think you could be part of the solution, have a look at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/home.aspx](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/home.aspx) and click Get Involved. Or call Carolyn Dowden, the Divisional Commissioner, on 07951 538852 for an informal chat.

## Bywell St. Peter's

All residents of Stocksfield, Tynedale & beyond are invited to a

'Sit down' Meal  
(& Stroll around the Garden)  
to be held in a marquee at

Aston Greys, 25, Cade Hill Road  
on Sunday, August 2, 2015 at 1.00pm.

### Menu

Meat, vegetarian quiche with extensive selection of salads, variety of home-made desserts, plus cheese & biscuits, coffee.

Tickets in advance in aid of maintenance & mission of Parish Church

Please phone Philippa Harpin,  
Tel: 01661 842302

£10 adults (includes free glass of wine)  
£5 (children under 16).

Donation Bar & Tombola

## 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**



12th September

The Festival Committee is once again working hard to deliver a mixture of activities, stalls, sideshows and refreshments, plus of course providing the opportunity to be entertained by a wide variety of live music. Stocksfield Festival tries to bring together the best elements of a Village Show with those of a Music Festival. Once again all those performing inside the 'Entertainment Marquee' will be local people – some of whom are performing for the first time and all of whom are giving their services freely. Entertainment will begin at 12 noon with a 'Celebrity Opening Ceremony' soon afterwards.

To round off the day the Festival moves to Stocksfield Community Centre in Mount View Terrace for a Ceilidh and Concert which will start at 7.30pm and end at around 10.30pm.

The committee hopes that all local businesses and organisations will support the Festival in some way. You could sell your wares; do some fundraising; publicise your business or organisation or perhaps you have some new ideas you would like to suggest to the Committee.

To get involved or to book a stall contact:

Karen on 01661844119 or by email: [karenkirkland50@btinternet.com](mailto:karenkirkland50@btinternet.com) or  
Norman on 01661844863 or email [njhooks21@talktalk.net](mailto:njhooks21@talktalk.net)

It goes without saying that the Festival can't take place without a lot of hard work. If you would like to help in any way over the Festival weekend (11th, 12th, 13th September) for example putting up marquees, car park supervision, manning the gates etc. then please get in touch. There really will be something for all ages, so book the date!

## Branch End Surgery in Partnership

The team at Branch End Surgery work in partnership with a wonderful organisation called 'Inter Care' which is a unique charity that recycles quality surplus medicines and donates aid to African Health Units.

Diane Bird, an Inter Care volunteer, recently contacted the surgery to thank them for the batch of unwanted medicines that had arrived in Africa. Inter Care has provided extra support to hospitals in Sierra Leone where the ebola virus has been ravaging communities. Diane said the medicines were 'a very useful and welcome consignment – everything is in date, on the list and just what we need'.

If you want to know more about the work of the incredible life saving work undertaken by the charity, visit their website: [www.intercare.org.uk](http://www.intercare.org.uk)

## Keeping Stocksfield Green and Pleasant

The Parish Council's Rights of Way and Environment Advisory Group has a long history of working in the parish in partnership with Northumberland County Council (NCC). Volunteers work to maintain various aspects of the environment, for example planted areas around the station and fish stocks in Stocksfield Burn.

On occasion there is a need to clear overgrown public footpaths and restricted byways that have succumbed to gorse and brambles. If you are able and willing to give up part of a day every now and again to help, please let the Parish Clerk know by email. We hope to let volunteers know of days when work is being undertaken so that anyone who can help, can turn up and assist, all under the watchful eye of NCC's Area Countryside Officer.



## The Junior Branch of Stocksfield Players doing 'Rhyme, Rhythm and Song'



Katy and James Nutt with Kate Hardy



James and Katy Nutt, Katherine Harrison,  
Sophie Brown and Luke Brown

## 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

Meets 1.45 pm at the Community Centre.

9th April

“Members’ Spring Flower Workshop”

7th May

“Members’ Tea Party”

## Plants & Gardens Society

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

More information is available from Val Guy on 843390.

21 April: Susie White -  
‘A Blank Canvas: Making a Garden from Scratch’

Susie will be providing a beautiful photographic show of the development of her private garden which she has created in Allendale over the last five years. Susie is a freelance garden writer, photographer and author. Previously she spent 23 years at Chesters Walled Garden on Hadrian’s Wall.

19 May: John Robson Grundy -  
‘Creating a wildflower lawn and a wild-life friendly garden’

John runs ‘Wilderness Tamed’ which specialises in creating gardens to benefit the gardener and wildlife. His experience consists of years of horticultural work, with conservation skills. Amongst the range of subjects he will be covering are: creating a wildflower lawn and reptile and amphibian conservation in ponds.

Saturday 23 May:  
Annual Plant Sale at Stocksfield  
Community Centre at 10.30am

## 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](http://www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk)

Next Parish Council Meetings in 2015:

- 13 April
- 20 April (Annual Parish Meeting)
- 11 May

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.



## 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!

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.

## Stocksfield Retired Men’s Association

Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of the month at 10.30am. Normally they are in Stocksfield Baptist Church Hall but those asterisked (\*) below will be held in the Methodist Church due to building work.

Members are asked to assemble at 9.30am. New members and visitors are always welcome (£2 per meeting).

More information from David Guy 843390.

\*2nd April: Mr John Patterson -  
‘Hull 375 RMS Mauretania’

16 April: Dr Martyn Johnson -  
‘Do-it-Yourself Dentistry’

7 May: Prof. John Derry -  
‘General Foch, Supreme Commander 1918’

21 May: Mr and Mrs John and Sheila Moreels -  
‘Nostalgic Views of the North’

4 June: Mr Dave Tanner  
‘Former Ex-RAF Pilot Experiences’

18 June:  
‘18th June Annual Day Outing’

## Stocksfield WI

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

1st April  
“Members’ Night – Beetles and wine”

6th May  
“Annual Meeting and Resolutions”

## Stocksfield Local History Society

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

8th April: Graeme Young on  
‘Archaeological Investigations at Bamburg Castle’

## Bywell St. Peter’s

Community venture to raise money for charities.

All residents in Stocksfield, Tynedale & further afield are invited to a Home-made Tea & Stroll around the Garden

Aston Greys, 25, Cade Hill Road  
Stocksfield, NE43 7PT

3rd Sundays in June, July and August  
3.00 - 6.00pm; last serving 5.15pm

Sunday June 21  
in aid of Mind

Sunday July 19  
in aid of Tynedale Hospice at Home

Sunday August 16  
in aid of Josie’s Dragonfly Trust

Tickets in advance:  
£5 adults, £3 (children under 16)

Tel: 01661 842302

or on the gate: £6 & £4

Do please come & put these dates in your diary.

Money back if this is not the best-value afternoon tea – ever!

## Churches Together

All the local churches will be organising their own Easter services to which everyone is welcome. But Churches Together in Stocksfield and Mickley invite all villagers to a joint event on Good Friday April 3rd, the Walk of Witness through the village. We begin at the Baptist Church Car Park at 10am, carry the cross down the Main Road and end with a short reflective service at 10.45am at the Methodist Church, followed by tea/coffee. All welcome.

10th-16th May, Christian Aid Week, volunteers for door to door collection are needed so please see your local church Christian Aid representative.

## Stocksfield Baptist Church

Stocksfield Baptist Church is currently undergoing some renovations and until the beginning of April will meet at 10.00am at St. John’s Stocksfield.

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](mailto:clerk@stocksfieldpc.org.uk)  
Website: [www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk](http://www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk)