

## Planning the future of Broomley and Stocksfield

# NE43 news

Issue 55 Summer 2015

## Community Speed Watch

Speeding vehicles remain a constant concern for many residents and the local neighbourhood policing team continues to work to address the issue by deploying speed camera vans and handheld devices in the area. The police have a wide range of responsibilities and in recognition of the fact that the community will not accept the dangers posed by speeding vehicles, trained volunteers also work alongside the police to record details of speeding vehicles using measuring equipment. A recent issue of NE43 News featured an article on Community Speed Watch - those found speeding are warned by letter and, if necessary, visited by police. Whilst these efforts to monitor speed of vehicles in critical areas will continue, we must all play our part - over 10% of vehicles found speeding in Stocksfield recently were being driven by Stocksfield residents and nearly 40% were from the surrounding areas.

Northumbria Police is currently looking to recruit more volunteers in Stocksfield to assist in Speed Watch. The message is clear - Stocksfield will not tolerate speeding vehicles: they are a danger to all road users and affect the quality of life of residents. If you want more information about volunteering, look at the Northumbria Police website and follow links to Volunteering and Community Speed Watch.

## Northumberland Health Walks

Walking in Northumberland [www.walkinginnorthumberland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginnorthumberland.co.uk) is a website packed with useful information for walkers.

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place. Walking in Northumberland (part of the Walking in England suite of websites ([www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)) - one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

**So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!**

## SCATA Bungalow at Branch End nearing completion



As most people now know, Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm's (SCATA) affordable housing scheme at Guessburn is now complete and fully occupied. The two bedroom bungalow at Branch End, on the site of the former public toilets, is still under construction, due to delays in re-routing electricity cables. It is expected to be completed later in the summer.

The bungalow, which is very close to all the local services at Branch End, will be rented to a couple who are over 55 years old and have a local connection to Stocksfield.

**If you are interested in applying for the tenancy or know of someone who might be, you or they need to register with Northumberland County Council's Homefinder Service. They can be contacted on 0845 600 6400 or for more information about the bungalow, tenancy conditions and rent you can talk to Isos on 0300 300 1505.**

## Police and Crime Commissioner in Stocksfield

Over 30 residents heard Vera Baird, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Northumbria, address the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 April and describe her role and the issues facing Northumbria Police. She explained the police priority setting process and the five existing priorities:

- Putting Victims at the heart of the Criminal Justice System
- Tackling Antisocial Behaviour
- Sexual and Domestic Abuse
- Cutting Crime
- Community Confidence

Ms Baird spoke about two additional areas of responsibility that had been given to PCCs - supporting victims and restorative justice. The significant budget reductions were highlighted and the commitment to retain front line staff. Close to home, this will eventually result in the closure of Prudhoe Police Station. Response officers are already based at Hexham with no reduction in response times but the new local base for neighbourhood officers has not been identified.

Accompanied by the local neighbourhood policing inspector, Julie Cole and the chief inspector for communities in Northumberland and North Tyneside, Nicola Musgrove, Ms Baird took a range of questions from the audience. The key message from the police is that, irrespective of police numbers, local residents know their area best. Local residents see when things out of the ordinary happen and the police encourage reports of suspicious activity. Residents should not be concerned about fears of wasting police time - it's important to make the call rather than regret it later.

As a result of the meeting, the Parish Council wants to look again at the potential for Neighbourhood Watch in Stocksfield and, if there is sufficient interest, will arrange a meeting of residents and police. If you want to arrange a scheme where you live, please get in touch with the Clerk. Neighbourhood Watch is not simply about erecting signs warning off potential offenders, it is about a network of active residents who put theory into practice by contacting the police when things out of the ordinary happen and circulating key information from the police to local people.



## NEW BRIDLEWAY at Hindley

A new bridleway has been established along the existing public footpath that connects New Ridley and Hindley, passing Redshawfoot and then crossing Stocksfield Burn. Whilst this means that cyclists and horse riders are now allowed to use the route alongside walkers, Northumberland County Council is looking at appropriate Diversion Orders near Hindley which are necessary to make the route fully accessible for horse riders. Users are asked to take care whilst this work continues. **For further information, please contact Tim Fish, the Area Countryside Officer at [tim.fish@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:tim.fish@northumberland.gov.uk) or on 01670 623023.**

## Stocksfield FC Grows



Stocksfield Under 12s with coaches Angus Glenwright and Danny Beatty.

Phil Murray, Stocksfield FC's secretary, would like to thank all the volunteers at the club as it continues to grow as a direct result of their help and support.

Phil says 'We have over 150 players at the club from 4 years old to our Sunday Senior team. We now have 20 qualified coaches and volunteers across 10 teams meaning we continue to provide a fun, safe and competitive environment for kids and adults to play in'.

For the second year running the club also ran the 'Ivor Gray Festival' for four age groups (under 7s, 8s, 9s and 10s) across four consecutive weekends. The winner's trophies were sponsored by the Parish Council. Phil said, 'Over 300 kids from Tynedale and the surrounding area were hosted over the four weekends and the work carried out by volunteers from Stocksfield was brilliant. We are very lucky to have had the support of families, friends and other local residents who made the weekends such a success'.

If your child is interested in joining the club, or if you would like to be a coach/volunteer yourself, Phil asks you to contact him on philip.murray@harland.co.uk

## Leading the Scouts



Whilst the numbers of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in Stocksfield keeps growing, this has not been matched by adult leaders. Carole Thirlaway (the current Beaver Leader) and Bob Hubbock (Scout Leader) are both retiring in July. If replacements are not found then these Sections will close. We desperately need new volunteers. Ideally we would like a group of people to come forward to share the fun, support each other and provide cover for illness/other commitments. No prior qualifications are required and full training is provided. Being a leader in Scouts is incredibly rewarding. It provides a great chance to have fun, meet people, see new places and make a positive contribution to the community. If you want to know more please contact any section leader or Dr Malcolm Murray (Group Scout Leader) on 01661 842146 (malcolm.murray@gmail.com). You could be one of the people in Stocksfield who can rise to Bear Gryll's challenge:

*"One of my big missions is to encourage people across the UK who have the time, enthusiasm and ability, whatever it is, to put something back into their communities. It's about a lot of people doing a little. I don't want to hear any more about kids who can't join because of a lack of leaders. We've got a brilliant, talented nation and I want some of that talent to be used to support young people."*



## fit Branch End gets 'FIT'

Fields in trust

The Parish Council is delighted to announce that Branch End Play Area has been designated as a 'Field in Trust' (FIT). Initially introduced to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee, the designation ensures the continued use as a recreation area and places restrictions on development there. Maggi Hunt, the Chair of the Parish Council said, "The award of the Fields in Trust status is important in underlining the Council's commitment to maintaining first class play facilities for all in the village".

The Community Garden at Branch End has been replanted with 'wildlife friendly' plants that will be attractive to both the eye and insects, including bees. The Parish Council would like to thank Val Guy, Denise Morphet and Cathy Carter for their work in the garden.

Two of the Parish Councillors are also involved in a small group that is looking at the potential to supplement the existing facilities, both play and keep fit equipment. If you have any views about the current equipment or on what you would like to see made available, please email Anne Dale (anne.dale@northumberland.gov.uk).

## BYWELL Arts Festival

Friday 26th - Sunday 28th June 2015

The ancient Bywell churches of St.Peter's and St.Andrew's once again provide the venue for this popular annual exhibition of paintings and other craftworks by local artists and designers. St Andrew's Church, now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, is rarely open to visitors and well worth a visit in its own right.

Well established as an exhibition for original works, the Festival last year introduced the sale of numbered prints, which proved to be very successful, so some of the artists will be offering prints for sale this year, creating a more affordable option and appeal to a wider range of buyers.

In addition to the visual art on display, there will be musical entertainment during the weekend, the highlight of which is the Saturday night concert in St Peter's Church with Prudhoe Community Choir and soloists. In what promises to be a very enjoyable concert, the varied programme will include favourites from shows such as Les Miserables and Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Wine and other refreshments will be available in the interval.

**Friday 26th June, 7 - 9pm:**

**Festival preview.** All welcome to enjoy a glass of wine and meet the artists, some of whom will be on hand to talk about their work.

**Saturday 27th June, 10am - 4.30pm:**

**Exhibition and sale open.**

**7.30pm: Concert by Prudhoe Community Choir.** Tickets £7 (adults) and £3 (children) from Michael Allan, tel 01661 843183 and from Stocksfield Central convenience store.

**Sunday 28th June, 11am - 4.30pm:**

**Exhibition and sale open.**

During the exhibition hours there are excellent refreshments available, including delicious cream teas, served in a marquee next to St Peter's church. There are also cakes and plants for sale and a variety of stalls. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the art and relax in this idyllic and peaceful rural setting.

*There is ample free parking and toilet facilities close to the churches.*

## STRIDE around ARRAN

Members of Stocksfield Striders Running Club recently returned from running around Arran. They joined forces with Run Arran, which organises running groups on the island, completing a relay run around the island of Arran whilst attracting interest from the local press and JogScotland. Great fun was had by all on this annual social event organised by the club. Many other social events are featured in their calendar so it's not always about running!

Now boasting a record 48 members, the club always welcomes new members of all abilities. This winter, the course for beginners was fully subscribed and the club hopes to repeat this in the Autumn. The club meets at Stocksfield Cricket Club on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm - just turn up or contact Sally Hails on 07794703513 for more information.



Danny Gilholme and Anna Halstead with members of Run Arran.



Richard Weymes, Howard Buckingham and Phillip Hindmarsh.

## The cutting 'edge' debate

It's that time of year when hedges and trees can grow out of control. Please don't let your hedge grow beyond the boundary of your land where it can obstruct a footpath, highway or other public area. Please be aware that the Parish Council will not undertake any work on privately owned hedges (that's not what the precept is for). Instead where landowners fail to keep hedges in check, Northumberland County Council will be informed to commence enforcement action.

## Defibrillator training

For those who are interested in finding out more about using one of the Public Access Defibrillators (PAD), the Parish Council is arranging a further familiarisation event which will be held at the Golf Club. The date, probably in August or September, is not known but will be published on the Council's website. So keep checking. Remember that PADs are available at locations across the country, from shopping centres to small villages so it may not be at home when the need to use one arises.

# LOVE Northumberland HATE LITTER!

Litter isn't a significant problem in most of the area but there is always room for improvement. Northumberland County Council's Litter Campaign launched in early May focuses on raising public awareness of the cost to the environment and to the Council. Remember that you can report offenders you see dropping litter by completing the form on the Parish Council's website [www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk/publicinfo.php](http://www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk/publicinfo.php) and forwarding it to the County Council's Environment Enforcement Officer. This includes litter thrown from vehicles, but you need to record as much information as possible to help the County Council to take action.



## New Ridley development

The new housing development at New Ridley will be known as Stobarts Field, reflecting the local name of the field on which the houses are to be built. The Parish Council considered a number of suggestions and recommended the name which dates back to the 19th Century. Two Castles Housing Association supported the proposal and Northumberland County Council has confirmed its adoption. It already has its own postcode. Whilst retaining one aspect of tradition, another falls by the wayside - apostrophes, it seems, are doomed.

## 100s taste history of Minsteracres as it launches future plans

Hundreds of people took the chance to visit Minsteracres at its recent open house event as the retreat centre near Consett launched plans to modernise its retreat house accommodation. Among the visitors were County Durham men who as teenagers joined hundreds of volunteers from the local steel and building industries to create the current guest building.

The retreat house at Minsteracres was converted from a former stable block by a workforce of tradesmen and labourers who gave up their spare time after shifts at steel mills and on building sites. That was nearly 50 years ago. Now the community is planning a £500,000 refurbishment of the retreat house to install a lift, add extra bathrooms and carry out further modernisation to cater for the growing numbers of people seeking the serenity Minsteracres provides.

Half a century ago, mini buses brought the volunteers to the site from St Patrick's in Consett after Sunday mass, some coming straight off night shifts. The men were often accompanied by their teenage sons.



12th September

This year's Festival will again include a mixture of activities, stalls, sideshows and food/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.

Inside this issue of NE43 News you will find separate details of the various classes of competition and how to enter. There will again be a competition for the best scarecrow - so start planning your entry now.

Entertainment will begin at 12noon - following an official opening by Colin Briggs from BBC Look North - and will end at approx.4.30pm.

## Hadrian's Wall Challenge

1st Stocksfield Scouts have planning permission for an exciting new hut on Guesburn but need additional funds before construction work can start. Over the summer all of the boys and girls will be walking sections of the Hadrian's Wall Path so that as a team they will have walked the whole 84 miles from coast to coast. Some of the parents are also walking the entire route, including Stocksfield mums Claire Collinson and Rachel Rees. Scouting is a hugely rewarding activity for the young people of the village and any donations would be gratefully received.

Admission, by programme: £2 per adult and £1 for children (Under-5s admitted free).

Please note that DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE PLAYING FIELDS under any circumstances.

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 about 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 01661 844119 or  
email: [karenkirkland50@btinternet.com](mailto:karenkirkland50@btinternet.com)

If you are able 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 contact: Norman on 01661 844863 or by email: [njchooks21@talktalk.net](mailto:njchooks21@talktalk.net).

There really will be something for all ages so book the date:

**SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER**

These can be made online at  
<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/HadriansWallChallenge>



Frank McDonald, 68, from Shotley Bridge, was inspired to become a joiner and eventually found his own business after helping his carpenter uncle on the building conversion.

Frank says, "My uncle Lawrence was a joiner by trade and a site agent and I came up here with him as a youngster. I worked on it right through from the beginning to the end. The labourers were mainly people from the Consett area, many from the building industry as well as steel works - bricklayers, pipe fitters, painters and decorators, general workmen.

"There was a big crowd of youngsters. We used to stay. It was fantastic. Coming up here helped me choose what I wanted to do as a trade. It got me in to being a joiner.

"Somebody was talking about the stairs in the retreat house just now. I helped to build them!"

Mark McNally from Ebchester was another visitor with memories of the 1960s, "I used to serve on the altar here as a child. My dad Jack McNally worked in the steel works as a labourer.

"If he worked night shift he finished at 6am. There was usually a mini bus to pick up the men and bring them back. The priests gave them breakfast and they worked for three or four hours and then had to get back to get some sleep before they started their next shifts.

"The steel works were a great source of labour. Working here was an extension of their faith for the men," he adds.

Another visitor Chris Hegarty remembers, "On many occasions my dad came up after working night shift at the steel works. On occasions as a young teenager I would come up here with him helping with odd jobs like pushing wheel barrows. Or we would spend time outdoors wandering about. The men would get their lunch and a bottle of beer with it."

Chris's wife Barbara adds, "My dad had a lot to do with the fund raising. He worked for the breweries. He was a bit of a cook - they had these great big summer fayres - and my dad was always involved in that.

"My sister got married here. We had her reception in the retreat house, even though it was still a building site - one part had been done but the other one hadn't."

Nuala O'Brien, communications manager at Minsteracres, says, "It was great to meet some of the people who helped with the original conversion back in the '60s. We're trying to collect their stories and pictures and contrast what they did back then to what we're doing now."

## Exercise to Music with Mary Huggin

Stocksfield Community Centre

For more information ring  
Community Centre 01661 842346

**Mondays** 6.30 - 7.45pm  
*Low Impact Aerobics/Body Toning*

**Tuesdays** 6.00 - 7.00pm  
*Step Aerobics*

**Thursdays** 6.45 - 7.45pm  
*Pilates Using Stability balls*

**Fridays** 9.30 - 10.30am  
*Low Impact Aerobics/Legs,  
Bums & Tums*

## Stocksfield Retired Men's Association

Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of the month at 10.30am in Stocksfield Baptist Church Hall.

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 July:** Mr Bill Bland - 'Coventry Cathedral'

**16th July:** Mr Malcolm Smith - 'How many pubs along Scotswood Road?'

**3rd Sept:** Mr Brian Little - 'Dig at Hauxley, near Amble, rescued from the sea'

**17 Sept:** Mr John Patterson - '274 - RMS Carpathia'

## NEWS from the Hill Feathers Inn Leek Club

Sunday 19 July from 2.30pm - The Annual Leek Club BBQ is a great community event with villagers, family and friends gathering for an afternoon together around the BBQs, catching up and meeting new people. Tickets available from the end of June.

12 and 13 September - The Annual Leek Show. Come and see a fantastic display of vegetables and flowers. There are some open categories for non-members and children's painting and vegetable monster entries. The show is open from 6pm on Saturday and 12 - 6pm on Sunday followed by an auction of the produce on display. Contact the Chairman for further details or watch out for the posters.

For further information contact the Chairman, Jeff Douglas on jeffd59@sky.com or 07718901715.

## Feathers Inn Pub

Knit & Natter sessions are on alternative Monday evenings. Enjoy a chance to chat with folk, be creative and share tips and advice. All welcome. The second Sunday Stargazing event will take place in August to observe the Meteor Shower. For more details contact the Feathers on 01661 843607.

## Hedley WI

8 July - all are welcome to join a visit to Crook Hall and enter the competition, 'a money saving tip'.

12 August - Sue Malloy is presenting a Cookery Demonstration at Cresswell House and the competition is three homemade biscuits'.

For more information contact Chairman Bridget Smith on 07810358201.

## 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!

## 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

## CHILDREN'S Holiday Club

mega  
makers!

Monday 20th - Friday 24th July 2015

10am - 12.30pm  
each day at Stocksfield Baptist Church

Stocksfield Churches are once again working together to run the popular holiday club for children in school years 1 - 6 during the first week of the school holidays. Children will meet inventors, Boffin and Brainwave, and discover their amazing Mega Machine! The programme includes games, crafts, drama, music, and Bible stories. To book, ring Barbara on 01661 599384.

## Your Council Needs You

Have you ever thought about representing your community as a Parish Councillor? There are two vacancies for councillors on the Parish Council. If you are interested in being co-opted onto the Council, please contact the Clerk or the Chair for more information.

## Minsteracres Summer Fayre

**Saturday 11 July, 11am - 4pm**

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

A fun day out in the beautiful setting of Minsteracres with lots of entertainment for the family. Many stalls including gift & bottle tombolas, cakes, plants, books, accessories & jewellery, toys; crafts & flowers; live music; children's games; cafés and a Grand Draw.

## The Tour of Britain

In preparation for the Tour of Britain's likely swift passage through the village on 10 September, a number of residents have kindly donated used, dilapidated or simply old bikes to local schools so they can be decorated for the Tour. Some bikes will present more of a challenge than others but we all look forward to seeing them all 'refreshed' on the roadside in September. For more information about the Tour on Tyneside, check out the news items on the Council's website.

## The Toddler Group

For new parents to the village, remember the Community Centre is playing host to a 'Toddler Group' which meets every Wednesday between 9.30am and 11.30am during term time only. The Group is run by two local residents, Louise Carr and Jennifer Carroll, and 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.

## Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

The Parish Council meets in the Community Centre at 7.30 pm. 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:

Parish Council Meeting	6th July
Parish Council Meeting	7th September
Parish Council Meeting	5th October

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.

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)