

Planning the future of Broomley and Stocksfield

NE43 news

With best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous year in 2016 from Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

Stocksfield REMEMBERS



Stocksfield resident Arthur Barker is no ordinary centenarian – if there is such a thing. Arthur was born during the second year of the First World War in Mickleover, then just a village outside Derby. He signed up for the RAF at the age of 22 in 1936 and later was put in charge of the first Spitfire to be assigned to the RAF. He worked night and day keeping 66 Squadron's Spitfires in the air over Britain where they often flew over 500 hours continuously. He later served in Africa, Aden, Abyssinia and India (where he met Gandhi) before he left the RAF in 1946.

So it was fitting that in the year marking the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, Arthur (pictured with his daughter) laid the first wreath at Stocksfield's Remembrance Service on behalf of the Parish Council. He joined the Deputy Lieutenant, Dr Tony Trapp, Army officers from Albemarle Barracks, Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies, and residents of Stocksfield in a short service led by Philippa Harpin.

After the service many made their way back to the Community Centre for refreshments. The Parish Council would like to thank Fiona Forsythe and the Guides who served the usual array of teas and biscuits and collected £128 for the Royal British Legion from those who attended.



PROTECTING the ELDERLY and Vulnerable

Elderly and vulnerable adults do not have a monopoly on being victims of crime or abuse but there are specific challenges for those seeking to help them and prevent them from becoming victims in the first place. The agencies and voluntary bodies across Northumberland are working together to combat cold calling and exploitation. It is impossible to compartmentalise this activity but this edition of NE43 News contains three short items that give advice across a range of 'safeguarding' issues and identify where further information can be found. If you are affected by any of the issues, don't suffer in silence – use the information here to do something about it or tell a trusted friend. Just as importantly, if you suspect abuse don't ignore it.

Do You Know a Vulnerable or Elderly Neighbour?

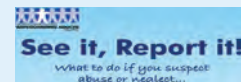


Whether scams are in the form of letter, email, telephone or cold caller at the house, they are all crimes that are costing victims money – scam mail alone costs UK consumers around £3.5 billion a year.

Elderly people are more vulnerable than most to becoming victims of financial scams as their mental ability to assess risk can often decline in keeping with other age-related brain changes. So the onus falls upon their friends, families and neighbours to be extra vigilant. The last week of November saw an elderly resident of Pegswood fall to unscrupulous tradesmen who charged and received a significant sum of money for a small piece of guttering work. Please take a few minutes to think about your neighbours. If you think one of them may be vulnerable to this type of exploitation, then please spend some time with them to explain how they should react. Offer to be there for them if they have any doubts.

Think Jessica (<http://www.thinkjessica.com>) is a charity working to help prevent exploitation by post or telephone and gives advice about preventing scams whilst 'trueCall' (<http://www.truecall.co.uk>) is a commercially available device that intercepts and screens calls. Trading Standards services for the County Council can also be found on the council webpages at:

www.northumberland.tradingstandards.uk/cons5.htm where there are leaflets about how to report issues, your rights as a consumer and how to tackle fraud. By working together we can help to protect those within our community who are most vulnerable.



What is abuse?

When someone hurts an 'adult at risk', does something that makes them feel frightened or unhappy, or doesn't look after them properly. The person being abused may be scared to speak out or to stop the abuse. It might be happening to you or someone you know.

What do we mean by 'adult at risk'?

Someone who is more likely to be harmed or abused because they rely on others for some kind of social care or health support. This can make them more vulnerable. People who experience abuse or neglect are often old and frail and have poor physical health. People who have poor mental health, dementia or a learning disability are often harmed too.

There are different types of abuse:

Abuse can be verbal, physical, by neglect, sexual or discriminatory. More information about what is meant by the types of abuse can be found here:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Care/Support/Safeguarding.aspx#informationonsafeguardingadultsforthegeneralpublic>.

Under 'Other useful contacts' section there are links to many sources of real help and advice.

See it, Report it!

People can harm others deliberately and sometimes even without meaning to. But all abuse is wrong and needs to be stopped. If you can't make the call, tell someone you trust, and they can report it for you. If there is immediate danger call 999 straight away before calling Adult Services. If you have a concern about a child, use the weblink below to find out the contact details.

What will happen next?

Working together and with others, we will find out as much as possible about what has happened. We will do everything we can to help stop the abuse. This is called safeguarding.

www.northumberland.gov.uk/safe



MoneyGoRound Project

If you are aged 55 or over, live or work in Northumberland and in need of some informal and practical advice and assistance with any aspect of managing your money, then please get in touch with the team at DAWN Advice who are working with Age UK Northumberland. They can provide advice and guidance, including how to recognise common financial scams. The service is independently funded by Comic Relief so completely free provided you qualify. Email david.taggart@dawnadvice.org.uk or telephone 01670 501285 for more information. Sessions can be individual or to groups and, amongst other things, empower older people to deal with suspicious contact in a more confident way.



- Lock all windows and doors – even if you're at home
- Keep keys and valuables away from doors and windows
- Don't let cold callers into your house

- Look out for suspicious activity and
- Report it to the police using 101 or, if a crime is in progress, dial 999.

Parish Councillor Vacancies

What has the Parish Council ever done for us? Ever heard that asked? Well there are significant areas of activity that depend upon the Parish Council – the two play areas, the facilities at the sports fields and maintenance of many footpaths, verges, hedgerows and village 'gateways' to name but a few. This year the Council has refurbished one of the items of play equipment at Branch End Play Area (BEPA) at a cost of just over £1,200 – something that would otherwise have needed replacement at a cost in excess of £10,000. It has replaced four decayed timber seats around the Parish, replaced a section of footpath at BEPA and installed two new picnic tables at BEPA, one of which is accessible by wheelchair users. In January a new bus shelter is to be installed at Branch End for westbound bus users. And the Council has so far awarded over £6,000 to local groups and organisations. But none of this can happen without Parish Councillors and the higher the number of vacancies, the greater the chance that the Council will be unable to make decisions about spending. If you are interested in being co-opted onto the Parish Council, then please contact the Chair or the Clerk. There are three vacancies at the moment.



If you are wanting to improve your fitness in the New Year, Stocksfield Striders running club are recruiting for a "couch to 5k" beginners course. Starting on the 12th of January the course will run for 10 weeks at a cost of £15. Previous years have proved to be popular so book early.

The Striders are a mixed ability friendly group and always welcome new members. We meet at Stocksfield Cricket Club on Tuesday nights at 7.30pm for a run and Thursday nights at 7pm on the Prudhoe industrial estate for a more structured training session. Just turn up on the night or email Striders-enquiries@googlegroups.com for more details or to register for the beginners course. See the club's website at: <http://stocksfieldstriders.btck.co.uk/>

Council's Grant Policy

The Parish Council has reviewed its Grant Award Policy and made some minor adjustments to the interim policy that previously existed. If your group or organisation is interested in a grant for up to £500, then the application must be received before 1 March 2016. The full grant policy and application form can be found on the Council's website under 'Policy Documents' which is listed under 'The Parish Council' menu heading.



Shops in Stocksfield Project

The History Society is currently researching a project on Shops in Stocksfield. We hope that residents will be able to help with this. We are looking for information on the history of shops and their exact sites, who owned them, what they sold, etc. We are also looking for photographs of the shops and their staff to add to the project and the History Society archives. If you can help please get in touch either by email (margaretspsc@talk21.com), or by post. Letters and photographs can be left at/sent to Margaret Williams, 205 New Ridley Road. If you are using the post, please clearly mark your envelope "SLHS Shops Project". Photographs will be scanned and then returned to you. Alternatively, contact Margaret Williams, Ruth Forster or Laraine Judd at the next History Society meeting.

The next meetings of the History Society will be held at the Methodist Church on Mount View Terrace on:

13 Jan Father Jeroen Hoogland
The History of Minsteracres

10 Feb Richard Young
Northumberland's involvement in the 1715 uprising and the Earl of Derwentwater's execution

9 Mar Dr J A (Tony) Hellen
The historic ports of Northumberland from Tyne to Tweed

13 Apr Anthony Atkinson
Admiral, Lord Collingwood - Hero of Trafalgar
Meetings start at 7.30pm and visitors are always welcome.

ROW the AMAZON

Not content with rowing across the Atlantic, ex-Scout and past resident of Stocksfield Stephen Harpin is now planning to row the navigable length of the Amazon River – a total distance of 3,342 km (2,077 miles) – from Nauta in Peru to Macapá in Brazil. Part of a five person crew, their boat "the Bishop" left in November and has already reached Brazil. The team hope to complete the journey in approximately 30 days. They will face very challenging conditions: intense sun, heat and very high levels of humidity. Each day they'll have to ensure they can find clean drinking water to avoid dehydration and debilitating sickness. On the water they'll have to dodge fallen trees and the enormous river barge convoys – day and night. Navigating the remote upper reaches of the Peruvian Amazon, the dense forests of Colombia, and the busy shipping lanes of Brazil will demand immense stamina, a very high degree of committed training and above all strength of mind and teamwork. Each member of the team is raising money for charity. Stephen is raising funds for the new Scout Hut. You can follow his progress at: www.1ststocksfieldscouts.org.uk/2015/10/amazon-row/ and sponsor his journey via www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/rowtheamazon.



Fraser's £100k Legacy



As many of you will already have seen from the press coverage – both the Hexham Courant and BBC Look North, Stocksfield Football Club is to benefit from a slice of the transfer fee paid when their ex-player, Fraser Forster (pictured), moved

from Celtic to Southampton – around £100,000 of it! Fraser joined his local club at Stocksfield when he was eight and played until he signed for Newcastle United at the age of 15.

It took the club months to track down the paperwork needed to prove Fraser, who has three England caps, played for the club as a youth. Much of it was eventually found in an attic belonging to one of the coaches.

Secretary and coach Phil Murray said: "It's unbelievable, we're so excited thinking how a small club in rural Northumberland has managed to get hold of this - we're absolutely delighted."

"We've got some exciting plans. We would love to improve the facilities here," he said.

"It's amazing how many of the kids want to be goalkeepers now - everyone looks up to him, everybody talks about him, whenever people say they are from Stocksfield they talk about Fraser - it's absolutely fantastic."

Phil will be working with the club committee in the coming months to establish a plan to utilise the funds in the best way.

Save your energy

Community Action Northumberland (CAN) is working with British Gas and National Energy Action on the Community Action Partnership.

As part of the project Christine Nicholls from CAN will be distributing FREE Smart Energy Monitors donated by British Gas (value £45) along with information and support on maximising income and improving energy efficiency, as well as including information on support services.

Christine will be attending a series of events in the area at which she will be giving out the monitors. She is also looking for community leaders to undertake a brief induction and deliver the monitors directly to their own communities.

For further information please contact Christine Nicholls at christinenicholls@ca-north.org.uk or 01289 304141 and leave a message.

Executive Members Wanted!

The 1st Stocksfield Scout Group are looking for a new Treasurer and a new Chair for the Group Executive Committee. No experience of Scouting is required. You will join a group of individuals who play a vital role in ensuring a quality programme is delivered in Stocksfield. The Executive meets once every three months. If you think you could help or just want to find out more, please contact the Group Scout Leader - Dr Malcolm Murray on 01661 842146 or by email at malcolm.murray@gmail.com

Any good with a camera?

The Parish Council is looking to refresh the images it uses on its website and Facebook page. The one thing we know is that there are many keen photographers in the village who will undoubtedly have some interesting shots of the Parish in all seasons. Whether they are landscapes or action shots, if you have any images that would look good on the website please consider sending them to the Parish Council's Clerk – the email address is at the bottom of the last page.

Carers Northumberland

Are you an unpaid carer? Do you spend time looking after someone who depends on you because of illness (physical or mental), disability, frailty or substance misuse? If so then you are one of many such people across Northumberland and Carers Northumberland is here to support you.

You don't need to be living with the person you care for or related to them. It might be that you provide care for each other – what we can do is help you look after your needs so you can stay fit and healthy and be able to carry on caring for as long as you want or are able to. We know just how isolating caring can be and how hard it is to put your own needs first.

Carers Northumberland is a charity that covers the whole of the Northumberland area. We can provide practical advice on money issues, benefits, access to breaks and social care support and have an Information line available every weekday. We also have a number of carer groups across the area where you can meet with other carers, have a coffee and a chat or listen to a talk. We offer trips out too and events such as relaxation days or skills workshops.

If groups aren't for you or are just too hard to get to we can offer one to one advice and support either face to face or via the telephone. We provide a quarterly newsletter for everyone registered with us and regular e-news for those with internet access. Registering also gives you access to our Carers Emergency Card Scheme which can give you peace of mind that the person you are caring for will not be left alone if you find yourself unable to be with them.

If you would like to register with us or would just like to know more please ring our Information line: 01670 320025 or have a look at our website www.carersnorthumberland.org.uk. We are also more than happy to come and talk to local groups about our work and what we can offer.

Let's Kill SPEED

The issue of speeding vehicles in Stocksfield is a continual complaint from residents, particularly on the A695 between Aspen Bank and the Railway Station and on New Ridley Road along a significant part of its length. The Parish Council recognises this and has included the issue within its submission to the County Council's Local Transport Plan. The Parish Council is pursuing the installation of 'gateways' at both ends of New Ridley village through the County Council. It is working with the police to target speed detection devices to the area and to this end promotes the use of Community Speed Watch. Unfortunately there are only a few volunteers who have come forward to offer support to the police in this way so their deployment is less frequent than is needed. If you are interested in helping, look at the Northumbria Police website and follow links to Volunteering and Community Speed Watch.

Telephone kiosks

After consulting the County and Parish Councils last year, BT has decided to remove the two telephone kiosks on New Ridley Road, one opposite the Dr Syntax and the other near Apperley Road. The date for their removal is not finalised but the level of use of both boxes was so low, neither of the Councils could justify a case to argue for their retention. Public telephone facilities will still be available in the village at Birches Nook.



In debt? – get advice that won't cost you a penny!

Debt can often be a difficult thing to admit to but we know it causes untold misery to many people and their families. There are numerous causes for this problem and we know that once people tackle the issue they can feel much better about their predicament.

Here at Citizens Advice, we offer people help to face the problem and work together to look at options and solutions. These can range from help with budgeting, ensuring you are in receipt of all the benefits you may be entitled to, help to prioritise what payments are important, help to negotiate with creditors, consider options like bankruptcy or Debt Relief Orders.

The advice we give is free, independent, confidential and impartial. All CABs across the county have specialist workers who can give you the best advice. Contact your nearest CAB now, don't delay - the debts won't go away.

You can call Northumberland Advice line on 03444 111 444 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm to speak confidentially about the matter or find your nearest CAB at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Local offices where you can drop in:

Hexham Office

The Community Centre
Gilesgate
Hexham NE46 3NP

Drop-in sessions

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10.00am to 2.00pm

Prudhoe Office

The Spetchells Centre
Front Street, Prudhoe
NE42 5AA

Drop-in sessions

Tuesday and Thursday
10.00am to 2.00pm

Council Freezes Precept

At its monthly meeting on 7 December, the Parish Council set its annual budget and agreed that the precept would remain unchanged in 2016/17 at £76,270. Details of how the budget is planned to be spent next year can be found on the Parish Council's website.

It's Christmas ...soon!

The two Christmas trees purchased by the Parish Council were erected and decorated earlier in December. The Parish Council would like to thank Broomley First School and the Dr Syntax for hosting the trees.

Santa's Sleigh is also on its way and will be coming to Stocksfield and Mickley from around 6pm on Friday 18th and Stocksfield on Saturday 19th December. This year Tynedale Lions will be assisted by Hexham and Stocksfield Scouts as they knock on doors. So do look out and listen for Rudolf and team. Further information on the routes can be found on www.tynedalelionsclub.org

Northumberland Wildlife Trust has a selection of Christmas events based at Northumberlandia at Cramlington and a full programme of events throughout the winter. For more information see their website: www.nwt.org.uk/whats-on

Meanwhile Parish Councilors wish all residents a safe and happy Christmas.

Whittonstall and Broomley First School Federation Democracy Day



On Wednesday 12 November, the whole school took part in a Democracy Day. The challenge set was 'how would you spend £100 to benefit the school?'

Our local councillor, Mrs Anne Dale, came into school for the day to help the children. They would like to thank her for her time and also for very generously donating £150 to enable the children's ideas to come to fruition. Each class came up with ideas which they developed and researched before presenting them to the whole school in assembly. The ideas they presented were:

- Reception – growing fruit and vegetables (apple trees, pumpkin patch and strawberry plants)
- Year 1 – bag of playtime fun (toys, games and equipment for break-time)
- Year 2 – pogo sticks for playtime
- Year 3 – class pets
- Year 4 – hedgehog hotel and weather station

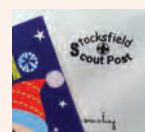
The school council, after listening carefully and asking thoughtful and inquisitive questions in their assembly, came to a final unanimous decision. The money will be spent on a hedgehog hotel, a weather station, an apple tree and strawberry plants. We will keep you posted on our progress.



DON'T ADVERTISE YOUR BELONGINGS TO THIEVES.



KEEP THEM OUT OF SIGHT
VERA BAIRD
NORTHUMBRIA POLICE
Proud to Protect



Scout Post 2015

Local residents can use Scout Post to have Christmas cards delivered to addresses in Broomley, Hedley, Mickley and Stocksfield (with a NE43 postcode). Cards should be placed into the special Scout Post boxes located in the two Post Offices in Stocksfield and we ask for a minimum donation of 20p per card. Collections start on the 1st of December, with the last day for posting Friday, December 18 at 12 noon.

The cards will be given a unique Stocksfield Scout Post stamp and then delivered by members of the Scout Group.



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

Meets in the Baptist Hall at 10.30am

New members and visitors are always welcome – more information from David Guy 01661 843390.

7 January
Beneath Flanders Fields – Mr Eric Wade

21 January
Teesdale/Weardale Mountain Rescue
– Mr Steve Owers

4 February
Yannan, south of the Clouds
– Mr David Newbegin

18 February
30 Years' Fire Humour – Mr Peter Weighill

3 March
Scottish Soldier – Wendy Stafford

7 April
Bismark – Mr John Gibson

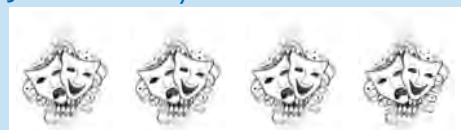
Stocksfield Baptist Church Services

Sunday 20 December (4pm)
Carols by Candlelight Family Service;
all welcome!

Thursday 24 December (11.30pm).
Christmas Eve reflective communion service;
all welcome!

Friday 25 December (10.30am)
Christmas Day family service; all welcome!

Stocksfield Junior Players Production



The Stocksfield Junior Players will be performing an
"Evening of Christmas Entertainment"

On: Friday 18th December
& Saturday 19th December
At: Stocksfield Community Centre
Starting at: 6:30pm

Tickets: £5 – adult / £2 – child

Tickets available from: Karen on 01661 844119
Joy on 01434 682547

Come along and see what the talented Juniors have been up to!

Churches Together

The Annual Charity Christmas Card Sale in November, organised by Churches Together, was an extremely well supported and enjoyable event. Importantly, many of the charities reported bumper takings this year, so many thanks to the village for their generosity, and to all the Churches Together folk for helping. Monies from refreshments go to pay for the hire of the Hall, so charities do not have to pay for their stall. Takings also go to hire the Community Centre for the Churches Together Big Sing, the popular community Carol Service that was held on 6 December. Anything left over will be given to charity or Christian Aid.

Dates for early 2016:-

17 to 24 January - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. United services will take place on the Sundays at each end of this week, and special prayer booklets for the week will be distributed by the clergy.

Saturday 23 January from 10 to 12 noon, a United Coffee Morning with cake and gift stalls will be held at the Methodist Church in aid of the Syrian Refugees. Churches Together welcome all to attend this event.

Friday 4 March Women's World Day of Prayer, morning service at the Methodist Church. The focus this year is on Cuba.

Friday 4 to Sunday 6 March at the Baptist Church - Special weekend for Lent Week. "Walk through the Bible".

The key points about the weekend are:-

The Walk through the Bible team will be leading a Walk through the Bible Old Testament live event at Stocksfield Baptist Church (SBC) on the Friday and Saturday.

- Churches together in Stocksfield have agreed to support this as their LENT event in 2016 instead of running the normal style ecumenical course.
- There will be a social event on the Saturday night. This will be open to all.
- The Walk through the Bible team will lead the service at SBC on Sunday 6th March.

About Walk Through the Bible

Walk through the Bible are an ecumenical group who bring you the big picture of the Bible through one of their live events.

Their website is www.bible.org.uk

What they are delivering for us is:-

Walk Through The Old Testament Live Event – this is for 11 plus age range and will be held over 2 sessions:

Friday 4 March 7pm to 9.30pm

Saturday 5 March 9am to 1pm.

A parallel stream for under 11's will run on the Saturday morning. The event is all about bringing the Old Testament to life - making sense of it; learning memorable ways to recall key themes in each book; see how the land affects the story and be inspired to read the bible with fresh insights so you get the BIG PICTURE of the Bible.

The Cost is £15 per attendee which includes a full colour workbook to keep. (Children 11-16 can attend for free if they don't want their own workbook).

Walk Through The "Talk The Word" Service - Sunday 6 March at 10am.

Further information is available from Heather Gate 01661 836 567.

Stocksfield WI

Meetings held in the Community Centre at 7.30pm

6 Jan *From There to Here* – Jessie Reiser

3 Feb *A Glimpse of the Past* – Alan Brown

2 Mar *Fracking* – Dr Eric Wade

Stocksfield Plants and Gardens Society 2016 Programme

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm, in the Community Centre. Guests are welcome.

For further information, please contact Val Guy, Programme Secretary on 01661 843390.

19 January 2016:

Karen Phillips – 'Banishing the Winter Blues'

Karen will be telling us how to organise planting our garden for winter interest.

16 February: Simon Brough - Trees – Useful information for the gardener

Simon from Tyne Valley Woodlands will be sharing his expertise as a tree surgeon, talking about all aspects of tree cultivation that might be of interest to the gardener.

Saturday 5 March at 2.30pm:

Annual Inter-Society Lecture

– **Derry Watkins**

Derelict Hill Farm to Garden - transforming a windswept hillside to a plantsman's delight.

Tickets £7.50, available from Val Guy 01661 843390.

15 March: Trevor Jones

– **The Making of the Alnwick Garden**

Trevor has been Head Gardener at Alnwick Garden since February 2008. He will be talking about the creation of the garden and subsequent developments.

NEWS from the Hill

9 December - Hedley WI Xmas party with Xmas parcel competition.

22 December - Xmas dominos. £2-00 an end and prizes on the night.

Domino ladder on the last Monday of the month until April. Come along for good doms and chat, 8-30 start.

Contact chair or members for details.

27 December - Leek club Xmas quiz and raffle. Quiz at 7.30 with raffle at 9.00pm. Raffle Tickets available from leek club members and Feathers Inn staff.

Feathers Inn 'Knit and Natter':

Alternate Mondays, contact pub for details.

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

Next Parish Council Meetings in 2016:

Parish Council Meeting 4th January

Parish Council Meeting 1st February

Parish Council Meeting 7th March

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

Residents always have the opportunity to raise issues of concern during a public participation section at the start of the meeting.

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