

Planning the future of Broomley and Stocksfield

NE43 news

Best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful & Prosperous 2017 - Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

SPEED remains THE ISSUE



Many years after first being suggested by some of its residents, New Ridley now has new signs at each entrance.

The signs and distinctive white gateways have been funded and installed by the County Council. A small area beside each gateway has now been planted by the Parish Council, whose groundsman is pictured working at the western entrance. The Parish Council will maintain the verges between the gateways and the commencement of the 30mph speed limit. It is grateful to Andrew Conley, who lives and works in New Ridley, for levelling some of the verge free of charge.

The Parish Council has also cut back undergrowth and some trees along the verge on the north side of New Ridley Road and is maintaining this area to provide greater access for the many residents of Stocksfield who use the circular walk around the fords. It is hoped that this, together with the new gateways, will have an impact on the speed of vehicles entering New Ridley by giving drivers a greater impression of entering a residential area.

The Parish Council recently considered the installation of a vehicle activated traffic calming sign (VATCS) near the western entrance to New Ridley, the maintenance costs of which would have to be provided by the Parish Council. Letters were sent to 59 houses in New Ridley seeking views of residents. Of the 15 households that responded, eight were in favour of the sign and seven were opposed. Having considered the results of the consultation, councillors were not convinced that a VATCS device was the most effective traffic calming measure and decided not to support its introduction. Whilst many believe that such devices are a valuable road safety tool, the evidence based research within the UK is less conclusive and anecdotal evidence suggests that a significant percentage of drivers blatantly ignore the four existing signs within the village.

The County Council is now monitoring traffic speeds at various locations throughout Stocksfield. The Parish Council recognises the problem of speeding vehicles through the village and alternative traffic calming proposals will be considered in conjunction with the County Council.

Lest We Forget



At 11am on Sunday 13 November, traffic was halted on the A695 and the area around the war memorial in the village fell silent as the couple of hundred gathered for the annual Remembrance Service reflected on the many who have given their lives for the sake of their country. The silence was broken two minutes later only by the bugler, young Samuel Bratton, sounding Reveille. Residents of the village had joined officers from N Battery (The Eagle Troop) 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (pictured), the Deputy Lord Lieutenant (Dr Tony Trapp), parish councillors and representatives of the local scouting and guiding groups in the service led by lay minister Robert Peers. The weather was kind and enabled many to return to the community centre dry to sample the teas, coffees and biscuits served by the Guides. The Parish Council is very grateful to those who helped and Stocksfield Guides would also like to thank everyone who came along for tea and coffee where £121 was raised in donations for the Royal British Legion. They were grateful too for all who helped clear up the hall afterwards.

Broomley First: Polli:Nators and Award Winners

Recently the children in Year 3 at Broomley First School helped to develop the grounds around their school by planting 60 hedge trees along the side of the cricket club footpath. The children, who are seen at work on the sports fields, are involved in a Polli:Nation project, with a focus on providing sustainable habitats for pollinating insects. Known locally as Broomley Bees, the children have already created a bee friendly garden at the school.

In November, Broomley Bees, as part of a group of local schools involving Broomley First School, Ovingham First and Middle Schools and Prudhoe High School, won a national competition for their work in protecting bees and the environment. The Bees' Needs Champion Award was presented by Defra Minister Lord Gardiner at Kew Gardens in London. Broomley pupil Evie Agar (pictured in yellow) joined a group of four other pupils, two teachers and beekeepers Jilly Halliday and Kate Agar who travelled to London to collect the award.

Jilly said, 'Winning this national award is knockout. The Polli:Nation team has worked incredibly hard



with the children, trying to squeeze it into their busy schooldays and harness their great enthusiasm. It's brilliant to have won. But what's even better is knowing that lots of young people are much more aware of bees and environmental issues because of our work'. As explained by Kate, the genesis of the project was Broomley First School where children were first introduced to beekeeping and they took their interest with them when they moved on to Ovingham Middle School. It started small and has grown across other schools as pupils move from school to school. If you want to know more about Broomley Bees, check out their website: www.broomleybeeproject.org





Is it really worth reporting?

Have you ever been in the position where you see something that's not right but then thought to yourself, 'What is the point of reporting it, nothing will happen?' If so, then next time think again. In August one of our residents was walking in Broomley Woods near where the Smithy Burn enters the woods. He saw a very dark smelly sludge in the burn and noticed that a pipe appeared to be discharging this sludge into the burn (pictured). Fortunately at that time the sludge was confined to a small area but any heavy rain would have spread it down the burn and into the Tyne. The Parish Council was notified and, in turn, the matter was reported to the Environment Agency (EA) who promised to send an inspector and report back on what they found.

True to their word, an inspector attended the same day and gathered evidence that showed a breach of environmental legislation. The fault was traced to Northumbria Water who rectified the matter but the EA regarded the breach as serious and are taking appropriate enforcement action. Whilst there is no reason to believe it may recur, the EA are keen to ensure that any future issues are quickly brought to their attention.

If you see anything that you think needs attention – damage or danger to the natural environment, pollution to water or land, dead fish or fish gasping for air are just some examples – please contact the EA on their 24 hour incident hotline: 0800 807060. It is worth it.

Tuesday Club Volunteers

Do you have a few hours a month to spare? The Tuesday Club is for older people, mostly those living alone, to get together socially, join in a variety of activities and enjoy a delicious cooked lunch. The Club meets every Tuesday at Stocksfield Community Centre from 10am until 2pm.

We are looking for new volunteers to join our friendly team either to cook lunch (Level 2 Food Hygiene training provided) or to help welcome our guests, serve lunch and generally be sociable!

If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact Christine Hooks on 01661 844863 or Jill Newton on 07788 808557.

Big Fish in a small pond?

After last edition's feature about the electro fishing in Stocksfield Burn, one resident contacted the Council after seeing an adult fish above the upper ford. If you see any salmon or trout above the lower ford, the Council's Rights of Way and Environment Advisory Group would love to hear from you. Please email the clerk who will pass it on.

Happy Christmas

The Parish Council, as in recent years, is celebrating Christmas by funding the two trees which are located at Broomley First School and the Dr Syntax pub. This edition of NE43 News has been delivered in Stocksfield by volunteers from Churches Together and includes their Christmas card showing services over the festive period. The Council would like to thank both the school and pub for hosting the trees and those residents who have pushed the newsletter through letterboxes. If you have an hour to spare a couple of times a year to help the Parish Council deliver its newsletter, then please get in touch with the Clerk.

IT Guru presses the shift key



Vince Tait has been helping out locals with all aspects of IT in the computer room at the community centre for the best part of 15 years. He is now moving away to be near his daughter and, as a going away present, the computer club members presented Vince and his wife Eileen with a framed print of his local - The Dr Syntax.

SCOUT Post

Just a reminder that Scout Post is under way. Boxes are in both Post Offices for all cards to addresses with a NE43 post code. We would appreciate a donation of 25p per card and remember that the last date for posting is Monday, December 19 at 12 noon. **As we celebrate Scout Post's 15th anniversary** we would like to thank residents who have supported us during this time. We have raised an average of £450 each year, which is a considerable contribution towards the new Scout hut - and you may have seen that phase 1 has been completed.

MUSIC for MEMORY and MIRTH

Perhaps yesterday is difficult to recall BUT yesteryear is easier. If you or someone you may know would like to learn more about this informal "sing-along" please contact:

Melna Martin 843839/844040 or
Drop into SICA, Richardson Room
on 3rd Tuesday of every month
between 2 pm and 3 pm
for a chat and a cup of tea.

No singing experience necessary!
Just come along and enjoy!!

Spotlight on your neighbourhood beat manager

Ruth (or PC 105 Coll to use her formal title) is a member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team working from Prudhoe Police station.



Ruth (pictured) has been a police officer for the past ten years and has experience of working in Newcastle City centre and the Tyne Valley. Her role as a Neighbourhood Beat Manager is to meet the needs of local communities, uphold the protection of life and property, maintain peace and encourage the reduction or prevention of crime through:-

- The identification of problems of crime, disorder and other quality of life issues experienced by all sections of the local community, particularly vulnerable groups.
- Involvement in problem solving initiatives aimed at addressing the underlying causes of many of these issues.
- Provision of a highly visible uniformed presence, aimed at reassuring the local community and reducing the fear of crime.

Ruth is keen to build close ties with the people who live and work in Stocksfield so please do get in touch if you have any policing issues you wish to bring to her attention. There will be a Saturday morning surgery held at Boots in Stocksfield, between 10 am and 11am, once every five weeks and dates will be sent out next year. However, she can also be contacted on 101, the non-emergency Northumbria Police number.

With the dark evenings and nights now upon us, Ruth asks all residents to lock doors, garages and vehicles and be vigilant of any suspicious activity within the community. Simple crime prevention measures can make a huge difference and help protect you from being a victim of crime.

- 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.





It's Winter - it must be the cricket update!

As the winter sets in Stocksfield Cricket Club can look back on a very successful season.

During the summer it continued to field 12 teams playing in 5 Leagues - from U11s up to senior men's and women's cricket. The men's 1st and 3rd teams both finished in the top half of their Leagues and the women's 1st team as runners up. However the main accolades go to the club's 2nd team (pictured) who won the West Tyne League Championship, the U18 team who won both the N&TSL Cup and League, the 3rd team who won the NTSL B Division Plate final and the midweek team who won the NEMWL Plate final.

In addition the 1st team won the Northumberland stage of the National Village Cup and the U15 took the U15 Indoor trophy pre-season.

Nine of the club's juniors successfully represented Northumberland (both boys and girls) as did eight of their women players in the ECB Women's County Championship.

Junior players made up over 50% of each and every selected senior team during the season reflecting the strong emphasis the club continues to place on developing young cricketers. All the club's coaches and team managers are volunteers and a further four members have applied to take coaching courses this year.

Unlike quite a few clubs playing at a similar standard the club does not have a professional and does not pay 'expenses', relying on bringing junior players through and encouraging players who want to play for a local club ('for local players').

Off the field, plans have been submitted to develop the clubhouse to accommodate the ever growing numbers wanting to play cricket and other sports for teams and organisations based there. There will be a strong emphasis on fund raising during 2017 to support the proposed development.

As well as the sport, a large number of social events took place including a very popular evening of 'Prosecco cricket' for local ladies' teams. (Photo shows groups from the Striders, WI, and WAGS).

Lastly, many will remember local lad Gareth Wade who played for Stocksfield. He has just signed for Northants and we wish him every success.



Check your website shortcut

If you have been a user of the Parish Council's website for a few years, you may need to check the link that is saved to your favourites (assuming you've got it saved). The old website (stocksfield.org) still redirects users to the current website www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk but in the near future the old domain name will be given up by the Parish Council. If you find your link fails, that could be the reason why.

Facebook or Marmite?

Whether you hate it or love it, social media is changing the way the world works and how we engage with each other. Well most of us. If you haven't 'liked' the Parish Council's Facebook page yet, why not have a look? It is updated with news, events and specific issues about which the Council would like views. It's just a click away... www.facebook.com/stocksfield



9th September 2017

Yes - 2017 is a **Festival Year** and next year's Stocksfield Festival will be the **Fifth**. Some preliminary planning has already been done including setting the date - which will be **Saturday 9th September 2017**.

Several long-serving members of the Festival Committee have now retired and although some new volunteers have been recruited, more members are always very welcome as they bring along new ideas to improve the Festival. If you are interested in helping make the 2017 Festival a success then just come along to the next meeting on **Thursday 12th January 2017 at 7.30pm in Stocksfield Cricket Club**. You can also get involved without being on the Committee as there are lots of volunteers needed for jobs on Festival Day - and in the week before.

Contact Norman Hooks on 844863 or Karen Kirkland on 844119 for more information.

WINTER QUIZ

Copies of this year's quiz can be obtained from the Community Centre Office, SCA Management Board members, Boots Chemist Branch End, Branch End Service Station, Branch End News, Stocksfield Central Post Office or Jean Robinson (842115).

Price: £1.00 - all proceeds to Stocksfield Community Association (SCA).
Closing date for entries: 31st January 2017

citizens
advice

Here's our Top 10...

Here at Citizens Advice, we have experience of helping people deal with their debt problems. We've come up with the following ten top tips to avoid a Christmas debt hangover.

1. Plan early for Christmas - be realistic and budget accordingly. Work out how much you are going to spend on each person - and stick to it.
2. Don't forget the everyday bills -remember that rent, the mortgage, utility bills, food bills and other existing debts still have to be paid - and the consequences can be severe if they're not.
3. Don't bank on an overdraft - if you do need more money, don't just run up an overdraft without talking to your bank first - it will work out much more expensive.
4. Keep things simple- if you can afford to pay for your goods outright by cash, cheque, or debit card, don't be persuaded to take out extended credit agreements.
5. Shop around - try as many different places as possible to find the best price. Buy what you want and not what other people say you need.
6. Buy safe to be safe - whatever the deal, whatever the temptation, don't buy from unauthorised traders and don't borrow from unauthorised lenders.
7. Read the small print - check for hidden extras in any credit agreement. Work out the total amount payable. Ensure that the monthly instalments are within your budget before signing.
8. Do your own credit checks - if you are going to use a credit card, shop around and compare terms.
9. Be organised - if you've borrowed money don't forget that it won't be long before you have to make a payment. Make sure you pay on time, even if it is only the minimum, or you will be faced with additional charges.
10. Start planning and saving for next Christmas - once Christmas is over, it's worth looking at what you did well and what you didn't.

Debt doesn't go away by itself. It can lead to serious consequences and ill health. If you do need debt advice now, call Northumberland Adviceline on 03444 111 444 or see our website for our opening hours:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/northumberland

We have specialist debt advisers in all offices across Northumberland to help you. The help is free, confidential and impartial.

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 Plants and Gardens Society 2016/17

Tuesday 13th December at 7.30 pm
- please note the December meeting is always
the second Tuesday in the month.

**AGM and members' Questions and
Answers**, followed by refreshments.

Tuesday 17th January 2017:
**Karen Phillips - Creating a
Cut Flower Garden**

Karen makes a welcome return visit to provide
information needed to start growing your own
cut flowers at home or on an allotment. Starting
from the basics of choosing a suitable site and
setting out the patch to the excitement of
choosing suitable flowers to grow and their
maintenance throughout the year.

Meets at Stocksfield Community Centre

www.stocksfieldplantsandgardens.co.uk

E mail: stocksfieldpg@gmail.com

For further information contact Val Guy,
Programme Secretary 01661 843390

Stocksfield Local History Society 2016 / 17

*Meetings are held at Stocksfield Methodist
Church at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm)*
Visitors - £2 per meeting.

Dec - no meeting

11th Jan 2017 Geoff Hughes

Famous People who made the North East great

8th Feb Rev. Michael Jackson
Durham Cathedral

8th Mar Michael Scott
Umfravilles and Prudhoe Castle

12th Apr Eleanor George
The Richardsons, Tanners & Leather Workers
- North Shields to Elswick.

The Stocksfield Players Junior Branch present: "Peter Pan"

On : Friday 10th March 2017

Saturday 11th March 2017

At: Stocksfield Community Centre

Starting time: 6.30pm

Tickets: £6 / £4

For further information call:

Joy: 01434 682 547 • Karen: 01661 844 119

Stocksfield Retired Men's Association

Meetings are held in the Baptist Church Hall on
the first and third Thursday of the month at
10.30am. Members are asked to assemble for
coffee from 9.30am.

A £2 contribution is payable at each meeting.

The Association is insured for Public Liability
Risks for the Thursday meetings, but there is no
insurance cover for outings.

Secretary: David Guy 01661 843390

PLEASE NOTE - DATES IN **BOLD** ARE LADIES DAYS

19 Jan Psychic Powers
Mr. Martin Disbray

**2 Feb The Secret Life of
Brandon Smythe**
Prof John McCabe

**16 Feb The War at the end of the World
and The Voyage of the Damned**
Mr. John Patterson

**2 March Athens, the World's First and
Last Democracy??**
Prof. Peter Jones

16 March The Changing Face of Policing
Mr. Mark Terry

6 April The Edwardian Light Musical Stage
Mr. John Gibson

Tynedale Hospice needs YOU!

Have you got
spare time on
your hands?
Do you want to
do something
that is satisfying
and rewarding
in your local

community? Then why not become a
Tynedale Hospice at Home volunteer?

Tynedale Hospice at Home provides high quality
palliative care to people with life limiting illnesses,
family and bereavement support, and patient
transport services to people in the Tynedale,
West Northumberland and Ponteland areas.

Volunteers are needed to help with a range of
fundraising activities to support the valuable
services it provides. No matter how much time
you have - whether it's just an hour a week or
the odd day here or there - we have a whole
range of opportunities available.

No special qualifications are needed - just
your enthusiasm and desire to support a
worthwhile cause.

To find out more please contact Cathy Bates:
General Office 01434 600388 or
cathy@tynedalehospice.com. To find out
more about Tynedale Hospice at Home visit
www.tynedalehospice.com

CONTACTS

For further information, please contact
Nicci Westgarth or Laura Elliott.

Phone: 01434 600388
nicci@tynedalehospice.com
laura@tynedalehospice.com



STOCKSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2016

Sunday 18th December
4.00 - 5.00pm

*Carols by Candlelight
plus refreshments*

*All welcome,
please invite friends and family!*

Venue Stocksfield Baptist Church
(NB: no morning service)

.....
Saturday 24th December
11.30pm - 12.00

*Christmas Eve Reflective
Communion service
All welcome!*

Venue Stocksfield Baptist Church

.....
Sunday 25th December
10.30 - 11.30am

*Christmas Day Celebration
All welcome!*

Venue Stocksfield Baptist Church

ST ELIZABETH'S CHURCH MINSTERACRES

December 11th, 3.30pm

Christmas by Candlelight

*Inviting choral singers everywhere to bring
their copies of the Green Oxford Carol book
and join an old fashioned celebration.*

£5 to include refreshment.

For details of Christmas services at
Minsteracres visit

www.minsteracres.org/st-elizabeth

Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

The Parish Council meets in the Community
Centre at 7.30pm. 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 2017:

Parish Council Meeting Monday 9th Jan

Parish Council Meeting Monday 6th Feb

Parish Council Meeting Monday 6th Mar

*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