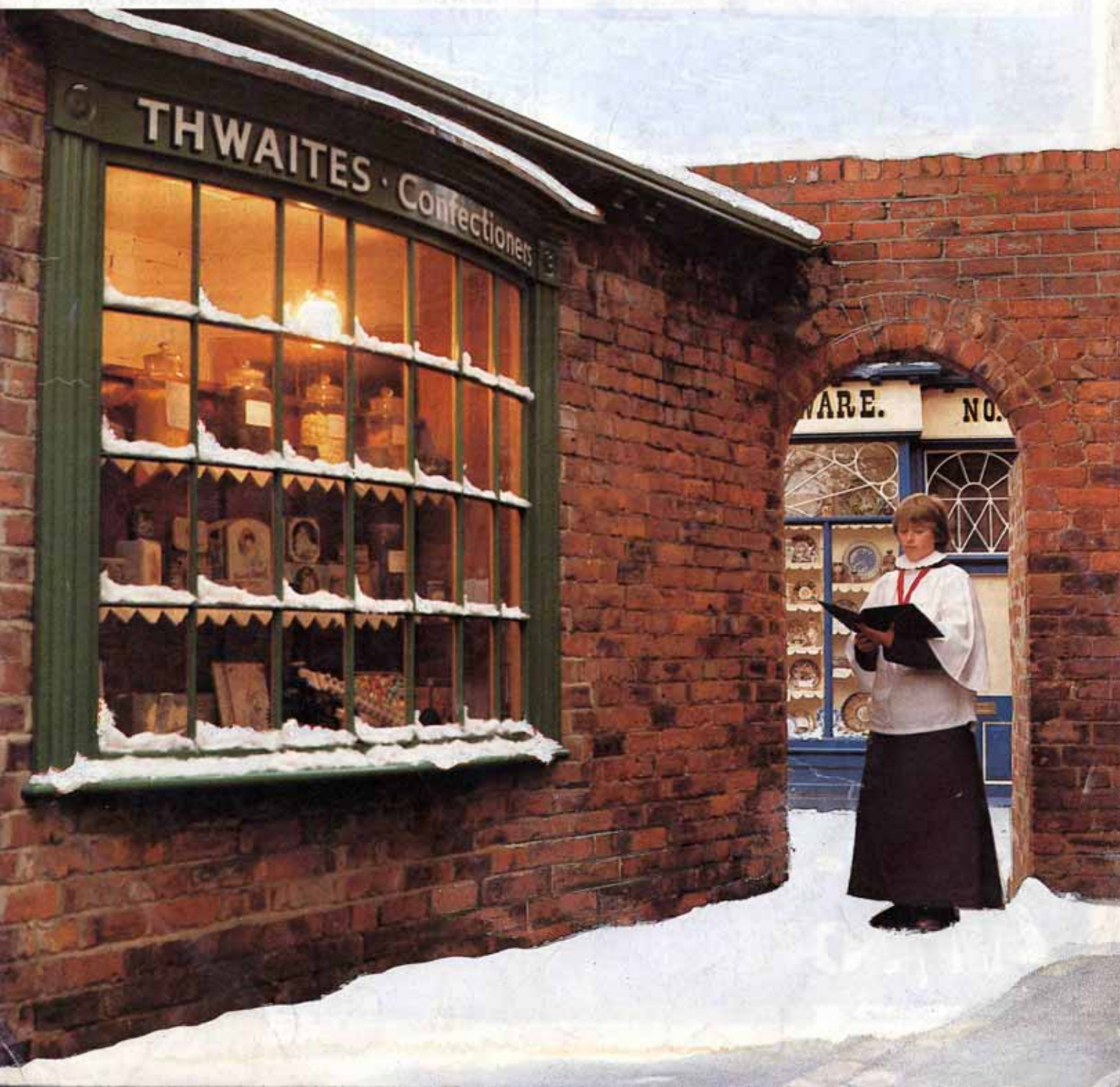


Stockton News

December, 1982



Distributed to 64,000 households in Stockton, Thornaby, Billingham, Norton, Eglescliffe, Yarm and surrounding areas.



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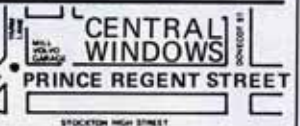
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PRESTON HALL

James Fenny, of Hartburn, a pupil of Ian Ramsey School and a chorister at St. Peter's Church, Stockton, pictured on the cover in seasonable surroundings in the "period street" at Preston Hall Museum.

From over 1,600 entrants for the National Chorister of the Year Award, James won a place among the 16 finalists in 1980 and again in 1981. The shop front in the photograph is also of particular interest; it originally belonged to Thwaites Confectioners, who were in business in Stockton High Street, just north of the Parish Church, between 1880 and 1894.

Preston Hall, on the bank of the River Tees at Preston-on-Tees, is now the North-east's most popular tourist attraction, drawing nearly 420,000 visitors a year. The Hall and park have close bonds with the Ropner family, which has strong associations with Stockton. Apart from the cobbled "street" with its displays by working craftsmen, the hall features, indoors, period rooms, many displays and exhibitions - and the famous painting, "The Dice Players," a masterpiece by George de la Tour.

Admission to Preston Hall is free. Opening hours: Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday: 2-6 p.m. For the disabled - toilets and access to ground floor and period street.

Preston Hall Park includes an adventure playground, picnic area, large grassed areas, walks through the park and along the scenic River Tees. There are toilets and there is a cafe run by Cleveland Northwood Catering (tel: 784392). Car parking - cars 20p, minibuses 50p a day, coaches £1.

This is the first edition of Stockton News, produced by Stockton-on-Tees Council and distributed to households throughout the Borough. Its aim is to provide a readable magazine with news of developments in the area, stories of local achievement and interest, information for future reference and explanations of issues which will add to and perhaps challenge the factual assumptions of current debates. There is increasing pressure on Councils from Whitehall and from the public to publicise their activities and to explain how they spend the

ratepayers' (and the taxpayers') money. Indeed, the Local Government Planning and Land Act, 1980, requires local authorities to publish information on how they are discharging their responsibilities. Stockton Council's annual report for 1981-2, which is mainly of a statistical nature, is now available and you can see a copy at the local library or by writing to the Treasurer, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton, when a copy will be sent free of charge. In addition, a Direct Labour Organisation report has been

produced and again copies may be obtained from the Treasurer. Stockton News, however, seeks to cover a broader spectrum, focusing attention particularly on the services that are provided by the Council and new developments. Future editions are planned on a quarterly basis and it is hoped everyone will find something of interest within its pages. Finally, as the festive season approaches. Council members and officers take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and Good Fortune in 1983.

UNEMPLOYED?

DID YOU KNOW...

Are you out of work? If so, did you know there are a number of concessions available to help you? For example, unemployed workers living within the Borough can

(1) Use the swimming baths at Stockton, Thornaby and The Forum, Billingham, for 20p per session between 12 noon and 1.30 p.m.

(2) Get 50 per cent off normal rates for sports facilities at sports centres and The Forum (excluding the Forum baths) between 9 a.m. and 12 noon and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday (inclusive).

(3) Use facilities in the parks for half-price during the period when attendants are employed (Monday to Friday inclusive).

Cards entitling you to these concessions can be obtained from the Unemployed Workers' Centre, Thornaby Town Hall (near Victoria Bridge).

In addition, Cleveland Transit and United jointly operate Jobseeker reduced-fare tickets for those out of work. Leaflets explaining the scheme and application forms are available from a wide range of outlets including libraries and other public buildings.

Applications have to be authenticated at Employment Benefit offices (Stockton offices are at Bayheath House, Prince Regent Street, and Daryl House, Bridge Road), then taken to the Transit or United offices in the High Street, Stockton, or other Faresaver offices, where a ticket can be bought costing £1 to cover a fortnight, and £2 for a month. This ticket enables the holder to travel on any Transit or United bus at half the adult fare, rounded up to the nearest 5p. Tickets contain a photo card to aid identification. The Stockton Transit office has recently moved from the Town Hall to the Shambles in the High Street.

Falklands Campaigners

More than 60 men from the Borough of Stockton who served in the Falkland Islands campaign have received civic recognition at a series of receptions at the Town Hall given by the Mayor, Councillor Brian Hodgson. He presented each of them with a gilt medallion, a personal letter of thanks and a presentation card.

Pictured below at the first reception are some of the recipients with the Mayor and Mayoress and (extreme left) Major Edward Cooper, V.C., J.P., a veteran of the First World War, who told the servicemen and merchant seamen he had followed the campaign with great interest and admiration. Photograph by courtesy of "Evening Gazette".



Apprentice of the Year

Stockton Council's Apprentice of the Year Award for 1982 has gone to Donald Waites (below), 20, a fourth-year apprentice plumber in the Environmental Services Department.



He received a trophy (available for annual competition) and a £50 voucher for the purchase of tools from the Mayor, Councillor Brian Hodgson, at a presentation last month.

The "citation" said that Mr. Waites' attitude to work and the quality of the work he produced had been "of a constantly high standard". In his studies at Hartlepool College of Further Education, Donald has gained the City and Guilds of London Institute Advanced Certificate in Plumbing and also an Advanced Certificate leading to the Higher Technician Certificate in Building Engineering Services (Plumbing). Donald is among 24 craft apprentices employed by the Engineering and Environmental Services Departments. Congratulations also go to Mark Gavaghan, third-year apprentice electrician, and Peter Fawcett, third-year apprentice joiner, who were hard on Donald's heels for the award.



Published by:

Stockton Borough Council
Editorial and Advertising:
 Town Clerk, Municipal Buildings,
 Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1LD
 Tel. (0642) 62200

Photography:

Cleveland County Photographic
 Designed and Printed by:
 Thomas Hill (Print) Ltd., Cockton Hill,
 Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham.

RATES – AND YOUR POCKET

It is frequently claimed that rate demands have decimated industry impoverished the community created unemployment and fuelled inflation.

Councils, it is suggested, live in a cloistered world of their own, insulated from the realities of life, and do not appreciate the impact their rate demands can have on individuals and firms.

Local authorities, however, are only too aware of the problems afflicting their areas, particularly during the present recession. In the case of Stockton, for example, the latest available unemployment rate for the Borough is 18.3 per cent - and in parts of central Stockton one in three men is without a job. A total of 11,854 of Stockton's 62,873 householders were granted rate rebates during the year ended March, 1982, another indication of the difficulties many people are facing.

This article relates to Stockton Council, part of a public service that also includes Parish Councils, the

County Council, central government, statutory undertaking and nationalised industries.

Rates are a form of tax and taxation is a major cost of production and of living. It is virtually impossible to avoid paying rates - unless one prepared to move to another part of the Borough where the rateable value is lower for similar accommodation.

Working It Out

The rates you pay are calculated simply by multiplying the rateable value of your property by the rate levied. As an example, if the rateable value of your house is £200, the average for domestic households, and the district rate is 25p in the £, you will be paying 200 x 25p for the year for Borough Council services. On top of that, of course, comes the County and water rates calculated in the same way.

The rateable value of property has not altered since 1973 -but the rate levied, of course, have.

Present-day Stockton emerged from the local government reorganisation of 1974. In the first year (1974-5) the Council levied a rate for its own purposes of 22p in the £. The current rate (1982-3) is 25p - and that represents a cash increase of 14 per cent over an eight-year period. The Cleveland County Rate for the current year is 150p in the £. In that same period the Retail Price Index has risen 204 per cent, the rates levied by all local authorities by an average of 168 per cent and the Cleveland County and Stockton Borough Council combined rate by 127 per cent.

Rate Income

The money gathered in through the rates forms only part of the Council's income. From the attention focussed on rate levels in the Press recently, you could be forgiven for thinking it was the whole of a local authority's income, or at least the larger portion. Rates in fact represent about one-third of the Council's income. The rates on people's homes - "the domestic element" - contribute about 13 per cent of Stockton Council's total income and commerce and industry about five per cent each. Public utilities and others contribute the remaining 11%.

Central government grants account for 25 per cent. Rates and grants together provide about 60 per cent of the Council's income. The remaining 40 percent is found from rents for Council-owned property (not Council houses, which are separately dealt with through what is known as the Housing Revenue Account), fees, charges, interest, use of balances and recharges for services rendered. An accompanying table gives this in detail.

Manpower

The growth of local authority expenditure and manpower levels has been the subject of much attention by central government and by commentators. Councils are urged to compare their performances with each other by various indices. The most-popular is a calculation of cost, or the number of employees, per thousand population

These comparisons, however, can only be a rough guide and must be viewed with caution, as different authorities can have widely differing characteristics and problems. A heavily urbanised or industrialised area, for instance, may require a different pattern of services from a sparsely populated rural district. Stockton Council's annual report for 1981-2 shows that at the end of March the authority had 1,473 full-time workers (57 per cent of them in the manual grades) and 175 part-timers.

A comparison with the manpower levels of the 20 largest non-Metropolitan districts placed Stockton fourth in the ranking of authorities with the lowest number employees per thousand population. Locally, Stockton's ratio of 9.6 employees per thousand population compares with the average for all Cleveland districts, including Stockton, of 12.55.

Spending Comparisons

A comparison of the growth of Stockton's total revenue expenditure with that of all local authorities, central government, average earned income and retail prices produces some interesting results.

Average earned income from 1974-5 until July this year increased by 247 per cent, the "Retail Price Index by 204 percent, central government expenditure by 228 per cent, central government expenditure (when unemployment and other social payments are excluded) by 182 per cent, expenditure by local authorities by 176 per cent - and Stockton Borough Council expenditure by 94 per cent.

1983/84 Prospects

What of the future on the rates front? After considering the anticipated resource levels for 1983/84, Stockton Council has made allocations to its various Committees which indicate that there should be no increase in its rates for the financial year which begins next April. The estimate of the council's expenditure for 1983-4 will then match the Government's target for the borough, as it has in the current year.

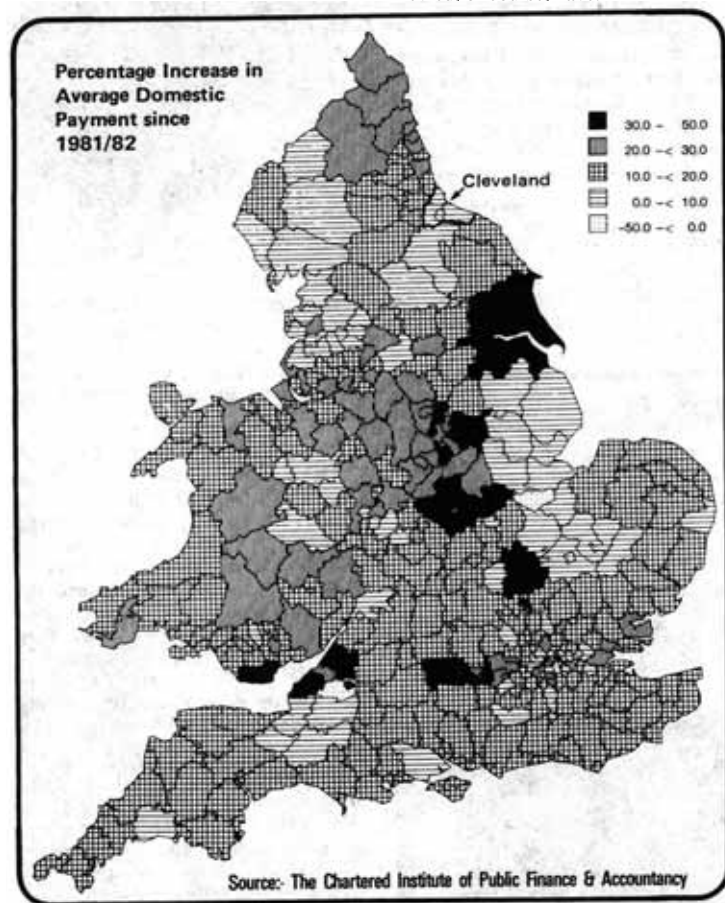
The breakdown below, based on estimated figures, shows where the council is getting its money from in the current financial year: -

INCOME

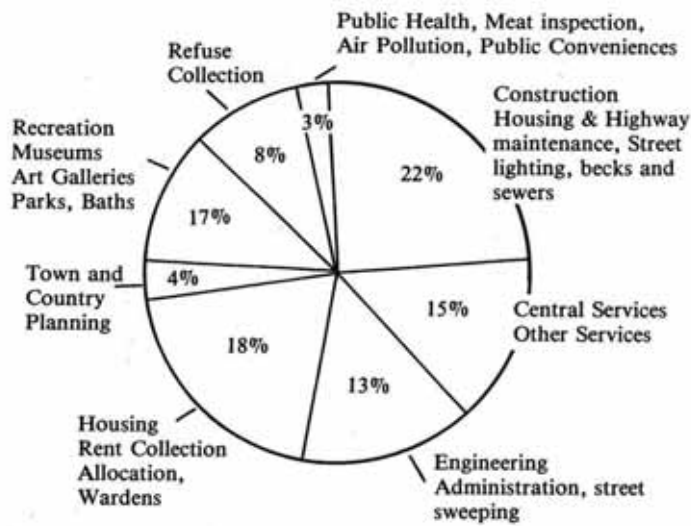
Government Grants	5,170,000	25 per cent
Rates	6,807,000	34 per cent
Fees and charges	2,467,000	12 per cent
External recharges	4,426,000	22 per cent
Interest on revenue balances	700,000	4 per cent
Use of balances in hand at end of March 1982	726,000	3 per cent
Total	£20,296,000	100 per cent

Stockton's Outstanding Debt at 31st March, 1982 £ 91,442,000
Insured value of Council Houses, town centres and industrial estates 360,472,000
Ratio of those assets to debts 4:1
Source: Annual Report 1981/82
A 1p rate raised £269,031 in 1981-2.

Rateable Value at 1st April 1982 was £27.3m.



How Stockton Council uses its Manpower



Source: Annual Report 1981/82

EXPENDITURE

The table below shows how that money is being spent

Category	£	Percentage
Environment - Public Health, Meat Inspection, Air Pollution, Pest Control, Street Sweeping, Refuse Collection, Highways Maintenance, Street Lighting, Becks and Sewers, Markets, Cemeteries and Public Conveniences	6,235,000	31 per cent
Housing - Environmental works on designated urban areas, improvement grants to private owners, interest on House purchase mortgages, rent allowances. (Council House Rents in Stockton are not subsidised from the Rates)	2,040,000	10 per cent
Leisure - Recreation. Parks. Baths. Museums and Art Galleries.	3,110,000	15 per cent
Planning - Industrial Development, Building and Development Control	1,090,000	5 per cent
Central Services - Town Clerk's, Architect's and Treasurer's Departments	1,966,000	10 per cent
Rate Rebates	1,450,000	7 per cent
Concessionary Fares	1,378,000	7 per cent
Other expenses	3,027,000	15 per cent
Source: Annual Budget 1982/83	£20,296,000	100 per cent

PENSIONERS' NEW LIFE LINE



Pensioner Mrs. Mary Buckton, of Tithe Barn Road, Hardwick, pulls a cord enabling her to speak to warden Mrs. Norma Cashman at the control console in High Newham Court. Eight mobile wardens will be involved during the trial period of the new scheme.

A new central warden call scheme, introduced initially on the Hardwick Estate at Stockton, will provide an extra "life line" for hundreds of elderly people.

This pilot scheme will give more than 400 aged persons on the estate a direct link with the warden service. At the pull of a cord or the press of a switch, tenants will be able to speak to a warden located in a central office.

The warden will have on call mobile wardens as well as all the social and health services. The system will provide a 24-hour service and will also support the existing warden call schemes when the warden is off duty or absent helping tenants.

This is the first stage of a scheme which, subject to funds being available, will gradually be extended

to provide a service to all the elderly living alone in the borough, whether in Council private accommodation.

At the present rate of finance however, the full plan will take many years to achieve. The first phase has cost the council nearly £100,000 and there will, of course, be the continuing cost of the additional wardens employed to look after the tenants.

The next phase is proposed to cover Roseworth and the villages to the north of Stockton. Further stages will give assistance to Billingham and Thornaby areas as money becomes available.

The call scheme is based on one of the most modern and reliable systems on the market.

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Business has blossomed for Mrs. Shirley Perkins, of Perky Garden and Florist Sundries, 32, Light Pipe Hall Road, since she moved into a single unit in October 1981. She became the first person to expand into a double unit four months ago.

How's This for Starters?

An important part of Stockton Borough Council's efforts to provide job opportunities and reduce unemployment has been the positive assistance given to small businesses to establish themselves and to expand. Approximately 150 "starter units" or workshops have been provided throughout the Borough with a potential of almost a thousand jobs.

The Council had the foresight to build ten starter units, each of 785 square feet, in Mary Street, Oxbridge, Stockton. Demand greatly exceeded the number available and a further phase of ten units, of the same size, and four more of 1,595 square feet, was developed nearby in Light Pipe Hall Road.

Having proved there was a demand for this type of accommodation the Council has actively encouraged the private sector to build further units -and has achieved great success in this direction.

Of the 150 provided, 24 are Council-owned, 50 have been put up by English Industrial Estates, and more than 75 have been provided by private developers. Some developers, delighted by the success of the venture, have undertaken additional schemes.

There is now a choice of developer and location; with three schemes in Billingham, six in Stockton and three in Thornaby. New or refurbished premises are available. There is a wide range of sizes, from as small as 250 square feet to 2,500 square feet. Varying dimensions, heights and facilities are available, including some units with offices. There is also a variety of lease and licensing arrangements and rental concessions.

The availability of these units is expected to reinforce the Borough's role as the main location of small businesses in Cleveland. Details of all these units can be obtained from Tony Foulser, the Council's Industrial Development Officer, at the Planning Department, Stockton Council, Tower Street, Stockton (telephone, Stockton 613921, extension 33).

Says Mrs. Perkins: "I thank the Council for having made a double unit available so quickly; the officers have been very helpful. Business has been so good I would have taken a larger unit, had one been built".

CHANGES ON THE BEAT

More "bobbies on the beat" and fewer panda cars are among the most important effects of changes in policing methods which were introduced in Cleveland County on December 5th, and a new feature will be police "surgeries" where members of the public can go along and discuss any problems with their local beat officer.

Although the previous system of beat policing by the use of panda cars, foot patrols and area constables will continue, the numbers of panda cars will be reduced and they will be based mainly in rural areas. Foot patrols will be correspondingly increased and concentrated in urban areas. "First response" vehicles will be introduced on the general principle that one of these vehicles will replace two panda cars. They will be double crewed and will provide 24-hour cover. They will be based in territorial divisions to provide a rapid response to urgent matters and to assist officers dealing with more major incidents. One effect of the reduction in mobile

patrols, coupled with the increase in the number of officers patrolling on foot, is that it will take longer for the police to respond to less serious incidents.

In future, all incidents will be assessed on a basis of priorities - and the more serious incidents only will be allocated for attention by mobile officers. Routine matters will, therefore, be dealt with in the main by a foot patrol officer which will mean that the previous early response to almost every incident by mobile patrols will no longer appertain.

New methods are also being introduced in an effort to improve police links with the community in which they serve. It is intended that

officers working area beats will make themselves available to members of the public at "surgeries" which will be held in local community buildings in their particular area.

These surgeries will be open for short periods on a regular basis and it is hoped that members of the public will take the opportunity to meet their local beat officer and discuss with him any problems they have.

Local liaison committees on a sub-divisional basis are also to be set up with a view to improving police liaison with representatives of the community on an informal basis. Certain changes have also been made in the divisional boundaries of the areas covered by Stockton Borough Council. Until now "D" Division has covered Stockton and Billingham sub-divisions, with Norton as part of Billingham, while Thornaby has been part of "E" Middlesbrough Division.

The changes will effectively make the police territorial divisions coterminous with Borough Council boundaries. "K" Division will cover the Stockton Borough. There are three sub-divisions - K1, Stockton (now to include the whole of Norton); K2, Billingham; and K3, Thornaby (which will incorporate the Yarm area).

Yarm, which has been under the independent command of a sergeant, will be made into a section under the command of an inspector.

Are You Covered?

A scheme was introduced by the Council in October 1981 to allow tenants to have insurance cover for their household contents for a low weekly charge.

In most areas the cost is 5p per week for each £1,000 insured and premiums are added to the rent. There has been a good response to the system, but unfortunately many people only realise the value of

insurance when it is too late. This was highlighted by the damage caused to tenants' belongings as the result of burst pipes during the last severe winter.

If you are interested in arranging insurance cover, proposal forms can be obtained from Area Housing Offices in Billingham and Thomaby Town Centres and at Church Road, Stockton



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STOCKTON RIVERSIDE



The opening of the new footbridge at Stockton marks the completion of another phase in the development of the town's river frontage.

The bridge will give quick, easy and safe access directly from the High Street via Silver Street over a dual carriageway to a riverside area which it was apparent in the early 1970s could be developed as an amenity of the town. The continuation of the Riverside walkway through to

Victoria Bridge will be a priority in negotiations with potential developers of the riverside area north of Bridge Street.

Earlier in the year the Council finished the landscaping of the riverside area made available by the demolition of the old warehouse which formerly stood there. With the footbridge completed further tree and shrub planting will be carried out.

The cost of the improvements including the construction of the new footbridge totals £157,000. The average household (Rateable Value £200) will pay less than 10p per year, for the duration of loan finance. The construction of the Riverside road itself was completed nine years ago by the former Teesside County Borough Council. Teesside had inherited the proposals from the

former Stockton Borough Council, which had envisaged an "east relief road" running from Bridge Road via Calverts Lane and Bishop Street to Church Road and ultimately via Maritime Road to link with the A19 north of the town centre.

Teesside re-routed the road alongside the Tees and during the construction works there were several interesting finds, including old wine cellars complete with cask racks buried beneath warehouses at the bottom of the former Castlegate; a kedje anchor recovered from the mud at the end of Castlegate; and the sandstone foundations of the original Stockton Castle near Tower Street.

The river has been the focus of the town's commerce for centuries. It remains a part of the character of Stockton with a future as a town centre amenity.



Billingham

Gets Its By-pass

The recent opening of the A 19 Billingham Diversion completes the "dualling" of the A 19 Trunk Road from the Thirsk by-pass in the south to the Sunderland by-pass in the north.

Apart from the final connection at Dishforth, the A19, together with the link to the A1 at Dishforth by way of the A168 and to the A1 north of Newcastle now presents a high standard of dual carriageway 75 miles long.

Work on the Billingham by-pass, which is 7.3 kilometres in length, began in June, 1979. The diversion begins at a point on the old A19 Fleet Bridge Road south of Rankler Gardens and links up with the existing road again about one mile north of the existing Wolviston interchange.

During the public inquiry in November, 1976, Stockton Borough Council made representations relating to noise, public rights of way and provision for pedestrians crossing the road which resulted in double glazing for frontage properties, landscaping, and a footbridge for pedestrians and other minor adjustments being provided.

Improvement Grants — Now!

If you are thinking of improving your home, you may be eligible for an Improvement Grant. Assistance is available in several ways....

Insulation grants: Provided your house is completely uninsulated, a grant of 66 per cent or £69, whichever is the smaller, is available for lagging pipes, water storage tanks and cylinders and insulating the roof. For the elderly and severely disabled on low income the grant could be 90 per cent.

Improvement grants for major home improvements are given at the Council's discretion to help owners bring older houses up to standard or to provide other houses by converting property. Generally the grant is 50 per cent of the approved expense but if the house is in a General Improvement Area the percentage rises to 65 and if in a Housing Action Area up to 75 per cent. In cases of hardship it can rise to 90 per cent of a maximum expense of £8,500.

Intermediate grants must be given by the Council if your house is without

certain basic amenities such as a bath or internal w.c. and may include for essential repairs and replacements. Grants will be available at 90 per cent of the approved expenses if you apply before April 1st, 1984.

Special grants are provided for standard sanitary amenities and means of escape in the case of fire for houses occupied by separate individuals or families who share common facilities.

Repair grants are available at the discretion of the Council for homes erected before 1919. Grants can amount to as much as 90 per cent of the maximum eligible cost of £4,000. **Registered Disabled Persons** can apply for grant aid to provide facilities to meet their special needs. For more detailed information and advice on any of these grants, contact the Building Control Section, Planning Department, Stockton Council, Tower Street, Stockton (near Swallow Hotel). Telephone 613921.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

You are invited to attend meetings of the Council to be held in the Town Hall, High Street, Stockton-on-Tees at 7.00 p.m. on the following dates:-

5th January, 1983,
16th February, 1983,
23rd March, 1983,
27th April, 1983.

You are also invited to attend Committee Meetings of the Council held in the Town Hall and a list of times and dates is displayed in the Municipal Buildings and on the notice board outside the Town Hall. Anyone wishing further information should contact the Municipal Buildings on Stockton 62200.

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North Thornaby &
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RANTERS' CORNER

Work is nearing completion on the conversion of a derelict four-storey building in historic Green Dragon yard, in central Stockton, to provide two new shops at ground level and six flats on the upper floors.

The building dates from between 1790 and 1810 and detailed records of 1813 indicate that the ground floor was at that time used for stabling horses and the floors above were partly used as a Calvinist meeting house.

During the Victorian era the building was heightened from three floors to four and was converted into a warehouse. It was generally used for warehousing until purchased by Stockton Council in 1979.

The present repairs and adaptations continue the Council's objective of retaining the old buildings in this area and encouraging adjoining owners to carry out similar exercises in restoration and conservation.

In recent years a former warehouse in the adjoining Theatre Yard has been turned into the Stockton Heritage Museum, the Georgian Theatre has been given a first-stage restoration and John Smith Breweries have restored the Green Dragon Inn.

The six flats in the new scheme are designed for single-person occupation with each unit containing a bed-sitting room, shower room and kitchenette.

The building will be known as Calvin House, to retain the area's link with the Non-Conformist movement for, in addition to the building's actual occupation by Calvinists, the north-west corner was always known as "Ranters' Corner" in Victorian times and the

Georgian Theatre was occupied for many years by the Salvation Army. Excavation works in connection with the conversion scheme produced two interesting finds - a circular brick-lined drinking well in Green Dragon yard and a water cistern, seven feet square and five feet deep, constructed for collecting surface rainwater and probably used for all kinds of washing purposes and for watering animals.

FACELIFT FOR THE HIGH STREET

The official opening, a few days ago, of the revamped Shambles, in Stockton High Street, brings a new lease of life - and a new role - to this 157-year-old building.

It also marks the first stage of a wider scheme which will give a facelift to the Market Cross area, to the Town Hall itself and to nearby Dovecot Street.

The conversion of The Shambles involved the improvement of the market area to provide 19 new stalls and the adaptation of the southern third of the building to provide accommodation for the staff of the County Registrar and Cleveland Transit, previously housed at ground-floor level in the Town Hall. The opportunity was also taken to carry out repair and restoration work to the building.

The name, "The Shambles", has become something of a misnomer since the meat traders - from whose stalls it is derived - moved into the Spencer Hall market building in 1973. The people of Stockton, however, will always associate this building with the long history of meat trading carried out on this site since the construction of the first Shambles in 1699.

This first building apparently featured three rows of pitched roofs over the trading area. It lasted until 1768 when it was agreed the building should be "taken down and rebuilt." The second Shambles stood some 57 years until it was demolished early in 1825.

The opening of the existing building followed the celebration dinner at the Town Hall the previous day to mark the opening for public use of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1825.

The transfer of butchers' stalls to Spencer Hall in 1973 signified the end of meat trading on The Shambles site after 274 years.

Among those present at the reopening of The Shambles was Mr. Malcolm Fordy, head of the Stockton building firm and President of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

The next phase of the overall improvement plan will see the end of car parking around the Market Cross, between The Shambles and the Town Hall which will become a pedestrian-only area - although it will continue to be used, as at present, for market stalls.

The Council has also agreed in principle to ban traffic from that section of Dovecot Street between the High Street and West Row and remodel it as a pedestrian precinct. Pavements along the High Street itself are to be improved. And there are proposals to refurbish the exterior of the Town Hall in time for its 250th Anniversary in 1985.

REWARD

A reward is offered to all businesses who advertise in this magazine, which is distributed to 64,000 Stockton homes. It will also be found in the reception areas of hotels, libraries and professional practices.

The attractive format of a magazine with a full colour glossy cover and a readable mix of news, local personalities, pictures, sport and information features, guarantees an advertising medium which is not a "One Day Wonder" to be thrown away after a day or two. There is a readership over 17 years of age in Stockton, Billingham, Thornaby, Eaglescliffe, Yarm and surrounding areas of 127,000. Circulations of local daily newspapers are between 81,535 and 95,223 and in the Borough the highest circulation is approx. 25,000 (National Advertising Bureau).

The cost of advertising is competitive and the option exists for a joint advert with Middlesbrough News, reaching a total of 122,000 households and a potential readership of at least 250,000.

Enquire further by writing to the Town Clerk, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, TS18 1LD, or by telephoning Mr. D.P. Godfrey on Stockton 62200.

WANTED

We are also seeking a freelance sales representative to sell advertising space in future editions of this magazine. If you have the personality and experience we shall be pleased to hear from you. A commission will be payable on all advertising revenue.

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STOCKTON 617626




RUBBISH!

The Cleansing Section of Stockton Borough Council has a comprehensive range of methods to dispose of your rubbish. These services are provided for householders who invariably produce waste other than domestic refuse, be it from the garden or "do-it-yourself" building jobs. For future information please telephone the numbers listed against each type of disposal facility.

Special Collection (Stockton 601817)

The Cleansing Section will remove bulky items of furniture and bagged garden refuse, up to 12 sacks, free of charge upon special request. (Do not expect the refuse collectors to remove other than domestic refuse). Normally it takes one week for collection.

Skip Hire (Stockton 69171)

For larger quantities of garden waste and DIY rubbish, skips can be hired from £12.65 inc. VAT depending on length of hire and number of emptyings.

Disposal Sites

(Stockton 601817 or 69171)
Householders can take their own rubbish to Portrack Incinerator or Seal Sands Tip where skips are sited for their use and are available over the week-end.

Disposal skips are also available for use by householders at Yarm Road Cleansing Depot from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. (When closed please do not dump rubbish at entrance gates). The Cleansing Section regularly place out "Tidy Up" skips on approved sites throughout the Borough following consultation with local community groups. It is essential that these skips are not overfilled or material placed on the ground when the skip has been removed.

Scrap Cars

On production of the Registration Document, scrap vehicles will be removed free of charge for residents within the Borough.
DO NOT DUMP IT — THERE IS NO NEED!



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5 YARM LANE,
STOCKTON

TELEPHONE: 66556

FORUM SHOWS

Pantomime, ballet, variety and drama are among the attractions lined up for your entertainment at The Forum Theatre, Billingham, over the coming months.

Norman Collier appears in "Jack and the Beanstalk" from December 20th to January 8th.

Matinees at 2.15 p.m. on 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st December, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 8th January.

Evenings at 7.30 p.m. on 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th December, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th January).

The Rod Hull and Emu show is on stage from January 10th to 15th (nightly at 7.30 p.m. Monday to Friday, Saturday at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.).

London City Ballet performs on January 26th, 27th and 28th (nightly at 7.30 p.m. matinee at 2.30 p.m. on Thul'sday, January 27th). Their programme includes Gods Go A Begging, Quod Libet, Harlequinade and The Sleeping Beauty Act III, Hobson's Choice, starring Stephanie Turner and Frank Middlemass, occupies the stage from February 7th to 12th (nightly at 7.30 p.m., Monday to Friday, and Saturday at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.).

There will be a one-night appearance by the Syd Lawrence Orchestra on Monday, March 28th at 7.30 p.m. and on Thursday, March 31st, the Eartha Kitt Show is presented at 6 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.



Rod Hull and Emu, who appear at the Forum Theatre, Billingham, next month, first met in 1969 when Emu was "hatched" on Rod's early morning television show in Australia. Rod was nearing the end of his ten-year sojourn "down under", having emigrated there in 1960 as an engineer from his home in Kent, secured a job as a lighting technician in a TV studio and graduated to the other side of the camera.

The pair returned to England in 1971, landed a television series on Thames TV- and have never looked back. They have appeared in television shows in various countries, innumerable Royal Variety Shows and cabarets and in many stage shows - including the London Palladium. Rod writes all his own material and is also in demand as a writer for other television shows. Perhaps his best remembered appearance on the screen was in the Michael Parkinson show.,



Norton bowls player Norma Shaw Stoops to conquer. After winning the World Singles Ladies'

Championship in Toronto last year - she holds the title for four years - Norma went on this year to carry off a bronze medal in the ladies' triples bowls event in the Commonwealth dames in Brisbane.

Norma, who lives at 18, Northumberland Grove, Norton, plays at Norton Bowls Club, Ropner Park and Teesside Indoor Bowls Club.

on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (5.30 - 9.30 p.m.) at Stockton Sports Centre and the Harold Wilson Ground, Thornaby, respectively, commencing Tuesday, 29th March, 1983.

Teams will compete for £300 in voucher prizes donated by Belsport of Stockton, as well as plaques, medals and team trophies. The competition will be divided into two categories (affiliated and unaffiliated) to enable not only the recognised football clubs and schools to participate, but also the self-organised local street and pub teams. Four age groups - minors, juniors, intermediates and seniors - within each category will allow players of all ages to take part in the competition.

Closing date for entries is Friday, 25th February, 1983.

Aerobatics

The North East Sports Aerobatics Championships will be held on Saturday 29th January, 1983 from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at Thornaby Pavilion.

This is an expanding sport and entries have been increasing each year. Some 150 competitors are expected to take part in tumbling and acrobatic agilities. School children from Durham, Northumberland and Cleveland compete to secure a place in the National Sports Aero Championships, which will be held in March, 1983.

Sauna & Steam

A wide range of remedial facilities is available at Stockton Baths. They include Turkish, steam and sauna baths (price £1.50), aerotone bath (85p), brine bath (80p), infrared heat treatment (60p), ultra-violet skin toner (60p) and solarium - sun bed (30 minutes for £1.50). Old age pensioners can have a sauna or Turkish bath for 50p between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Stockton Sports Centre

Activities at the Stockton Sports Centre include table tennis, judo, karate, five-a-side, gymnastics, -trampoline, athletics, weight training and general fitness (running track available); Yoga, cricket, soccer, squash, hockey, volleyball, badminton.

There are all-weather facilities for five-a-side and hockey. If you are interested in any of these activities, then please feel free to contact the Sports Centre (phone 607994).

Coaching courses are available in the following activities:

Squash on Thursdays (beginners) and Fridays (improvers)

Gymnastics on Mondays and Thursdays

Trampoline on Mondays and Tuesdays-

Ladies' keep fit on Mondays and Thursdays

The centre, which is normally open from 8.15 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. will close at 6 p.m. on 24th December and remain closed until 29th December. It will close at 6 p.m. on New Year's Eve (31st December) and re-open on 4th January.

Swimming

Members of the Stockton Swimming Development Scheme are taking part in two "swim meets" - the Cleveland County Championships on December 4th-5th and the Walthamstow short course meet in London on January 14th-16th, 1983. The scheme is now firmly established with over 115 swimmers training daily for competitive

swimming. In the Northumberland and Durham Team Championships held at Felling recently, Stockton Aquatic ASC were overall winners of the "top ten clubs," winning six gold, three silver and four bronze awards to end up with 67 points -seven more than their nearest rivals. In addition to the development programme, the scheme provides a daily programme of "learn to swim" lessons for beginners at the Stockton New Pool. Life-saving has also become a prominent feature in a widely based survival programme held each Thursday.

Ladies Keep Trim

"Try something new, keep trim, have fun" is the slogan for new afternoon sessions for ladies at Thornaby Pavilion. Held on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m., the sessions offer badminton, squash, table tennis or keep fit exercises. The cost - 40p for members, 65p for non-members. New popmobility classes - in other words, ladies' keep-fit to pop music - begin at Thornaby Pavilion in the first week in January. The classes will be held on Tuesday evenings (7.30-8.30 p.m. and 8.30-9.30 p.m., separate classes). For details, contact the Pavilion. Tel. 760971.

Forum

Facilities offered at The Forum, Billingham, include swimming and paddling pools, ice skating, squash and badminton, indoor bowls, children's play area, sauna, theatre, licensed bar and catering.

5 A-Side

The Belsport Outdoor Five-a-Side Football Competition will be staged

STOCKTON SPORT

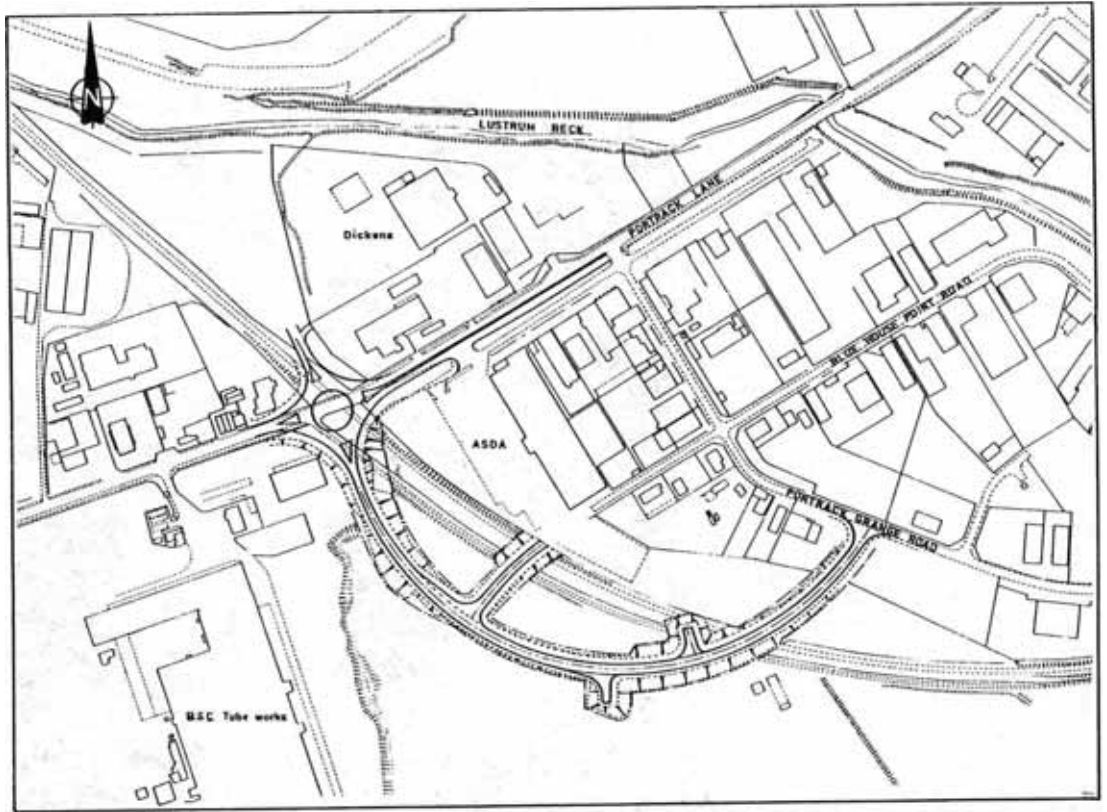


ROUNABOUT WILL EASE CONGESTION

Traffic congestion on busy Portrack Lane (A1046), Stockton, will be eased and large tracts of land opened up for industrial use by a £1.1 million roundabout scheme now under construction.

For many years Portrack Lane has served one of the major light industrial areas in the Borough and two major retail outlets - Asda and Dickens - which generate a great deal of traffic. The accesses to all three occur in one short stretch of the road, causing severe hold-ups. The Borough Council, in conjunction with Cleveland County Council, accepted the need to improve access to the industrial area while encouraging the retail firms to provide funds for the construction of rear entries to their properties. The new roads will also provide links for areas as yet undeveloped to the north and south of Portrack Lane. The scheme, which is being carried out by the County Direct Labour Organisation, got under way in February and the contract period is 84 weeks.

The work entails the construction of a new roundabout junction on Portrack Lane where it crosses the disused Billingham Beck Branch railway line. An access road to the north, named Holme House Road, will serve Dickens, the existing Freight Liner Depot and the development of the Holme House



A second access road to the south, referred to as Marston Road, is to serve Asda, land owned by the British Steel Corporation and

When the scheme is completed, right turns will be prohibited into and out of premises east of the proposed roundabout, up to and including Portrack Grange Road This length

of Portrack Lane will be divided into two six-metre-wide carriageways, but allowance is being made to widen the carriageways at some time in the future.

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LIMITED

Free Bus Passes

The concession to travel free upon all bus service routes in the Borough and main routes into Middlesbrough is proving to be extremely popular. Passes are renewed each March and during the year further issues are made to those people who become newly qualified. Currently about 20,000 passes are in use. People eligible for passes are men over 65 years, women over 60 years and those disabled people whom the Social Services Department consider could benefit from free travel. Passes for blind people are issued by the County Council. The passes can be used on all service routes operated in the area by Cleveland Transit, United and Trimdon Motor Services.

While the annual re-issue is

reasonably easy to deal with it has been found that some people are unaware that they can obtain a pass during the year if they qualify. For instance, if a man becomes 65 in September he can then have a pass and does not have to wait until the next April. As the first issue of a pass requires us to take a colour photograph an appointment must be made for the photographs of at least four applicants to be taken at one time. The appointments usually are made some three weeks ahead, so if you are shortly going to qualify let us know in advance so that the pass can be arranged for immediate use. The person to contact is Miss J. Robinson, General Office, Treasurer's Department, Municipal Buildings. Telephone No. 62200, Extension 273.

Ode to a Pedestrian

O God, who filled all heaven with stars
And then all earth with motor cars.
Make room within Thy cosmic plan
For me a poor pedestrian.
Spread Thou before me, I entreat,
A threadlike pathway for my feet;
And do Thou watch me lest I stray
From this. Thy straight and narrow way.

Give me an ear alert, acute,
For each swift car's peremptory hoot;
Teach me to judge its headlong pace
And dodge it with a nimble grace.
And if one day Thy watchful eye
Should be withdrawn, and I should die,
One boon I crave, upon my knees;
Exonerate the driver, please.

*— From Allan M. Laing's
'More Prayers and Graces'*



The festive season sees an increase in the use of poultry and a seasonal rise in the number of food poisoning outbreaks. The "delicate health" encountered during the holiday season, which is often dismissed as over-indulgence, is frequently a genuine case of food poisoning.

The germs most often responsible for outbreaks (Salmonella) are frequently present in poultry and its offal (giblets) when it arrives at your home or catering establishment. They cannot be seen with the naked eye and have no effect on the appearance, colour, smell or taste of the bird, but they can be harmful to you.

However, food poisoning can be avoided by good kitchen hygiene and by adopting the following precautions:-

- * Keep frozen poultry in the freezer until required and do not refreeze once thawed. Fresh birds should be kept in the refrigerator until required.
- * Thaw the frozen bird **completely** before cooking.
- * Remove the giblets from the inside of the bird and cook separately if required.

* Avoid stuffing the body cavity as this can adversely affect cooking and germ destruction.

* Cook at a high enough temperature and for a sufficient length of time to allow adequate heat penetration into the deepest muscle.

PART COOKING IS DANGEROUS AND SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

Remember: The Salmonella germs will not be destroyed if poultry are inadequately cooked and that large birds, stuffed birds and half-frozen birds will not allow adequate heat penetration. Spit roasted birds may allow proper cooking of the breast but not the legs.

* The meat should be served without delay after cooking and left-overs should be cooled quickly and refrigerated within 1½ hours.

* Re-heating left-overs can be dangerous. Heat rapidly to a sufficiently high temperature and maintain long enough to ensure any remaining germs are destroyed.

A GUIDE TO THAWING AND COOKING TIMES +

Oven Ready Weight	Approx. Thawing Time at Room Temp 21°C (70°F)	Approx. Cooking Times at 180°C (350°F) Gas Mark 4	
		Uncovered Birds	Foil Wrapped
5 lbs.	15 hrs.	2 hrs.	2½ hrs.
10 lbs.	18 hrs.	3 hrs.	3½ hrs.
15 lbs.	24 hrs.	4½ hrs.	4¾ hrs.

+ Recommended by the British Turkey Federation Ltd.

A bird can be considered to be properly thawed if there are no ice crystals left inside and the legs are flexible before cooking.

Poultry can be considered to be cooked when the juices run clear. If there is a pink tinge, cook for a further 15 minutes and re-test.

Remember:-

- * Separate raw poultry preparation from other kitchen activities.
- * Keep raw and cooked food separate at all times.
- * Use separate cutting boards and equipment for raw and cooked food.
- Wash your hands frequently and always after handling a raw bird.
- * Wash and sanitise all working surfaces and equipment as soon as preparation is finished.



If you require any further information, advice or a free copy of the leaflet "Poultry Preparation - a guide to Improved Hygiene" please contact the Environmental Services Department, Stockton Council, Cromer Lodge, 104 Yarm Lane, Stockton-on-Tees. Tel. Stockton 614241

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Christmas Gifts Galore

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Adventureland...



Children can create a magical world of make believe at Adventure/and, the soft play area at Thornaby Pavilion designed to entertain those under eight. They can "do their own thing" while one parent relaxes, watching, leaving the other parent free to go shopping.

Golden Eagle Hotel

TRENCHARD AVENUE, THORNABY

Christmas Disco Lunches

20 - 24th. December

4 COURSE LUNCH

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including
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* HATS *

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PHONE STOCKTON 766511 FOR BOOKINGS NOW

V.A.T. at 15%

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WARD

Bishopsgarth

6th December, 1982
10th January, 1983
14th February, 1983
6.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.

Blue Hall

14th December, 1982
18th January, 1983
15th February, 1983
7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Charltons (Billingham)

16th December, 1982
20th January, 1983
17th February, 1983
6.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.

Glebe

24th January, 1983
28th February, 1983
7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Elm Tree

7th December, 1982
11th January, 1983
8th February, 1983
6.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.

Grange

6th December, 1982
3rd January, 1983
7th February, 1983
6.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.

Hardwick

16th December, 1982
20th January, 1983
17th February, 1983
7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Harburn

6th December, 1982
3rd January, 1983
7th February, 1983
7.00 p.m. - 7.45 p.m.

Mandale (Thornaby)

16th December, 1982
20th January, 1983
17th February, 1983
7.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.

VENUE

Bishopsgarth School
Fairfield Junior School
Bishopsgarth School

Norton U.T.D. Reformed
Church (Hut at rear)
Norton Road

Cowpen Hall, Hereford Tce.
Port Clarence, Community Centre
Cowpen Hall, Hereford Tce.

Norton Glebe School
William Newton School

Elm Tree Community Centre

St. Columbus United Reformed
Church
Low Grange Community Centre
St. Columbus United Reformed
Church

Hardwick Community Centre

Elmwood Community Centre

Robert Atkinson Youth and
Community Centre
Room 7, Thornaby Pavilion
Robert Atkinson Youth and
Community Centre

Newtown

3rd December, 1982
28th January, 1983
25th February, 1983
7.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.

Norton

12th January, 1983
9th February, 1983
7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Portrack and Tilery

13th December, 1982
10th January, 1983
7th February, 1983
7.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.

Parkfield

14th December, 1982
11th January, 1983
8th February, 1983
7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Roseworth

10th January, 1983
7th February, 1983
5.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

St. Aidan's (Billingham)

18th December, 1982
22nd January, 1983
26th February, 1983
10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.

Stainsby (Thornaby)

17th January, 1983
6.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.

Victoria (Thornaby)

27th January, 1983
24th February, 1983
7.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.

Village (Thornaby)

17th December, 1982
25th February, 1983
7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Whitton

11th February, 1983
7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Wolviston

13th February, 1983
10th February, 1983
7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Leader's Room, Town Hall
High Street,
Stockton-on-Tees

Norton Green Community Centre
Norton Primary School

Leader's Room, Town Hall,
Stockton-on-Tees

Leader's Room, Town Hall,
Stockton-on-Tees

40 Dundee Avenue,
Stockton-on-Tees

Billingham Youth and
Community Centre,
The Causeway

St. Aidan's United Reformed
Church, Havilland Road

Thornaby Old Peoples
Welfare Hall, Peel
Street, Thornaby

Room 7, Thornaby Pavilion

Manor House, Stillington

Communal Room, High Street,
Wolviston

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MOVERS

Supplementary Benefits

Far-reaching changes in the way housing benefits are dealt with are being introduced under a new Act known as the Social Security and Housing Benefits Act, 1982. The first phase of the changeover began towards the end of November. It affects an estimated 5,000 Council tenants in Stockton who are receiving Supplementary Benefit and have been receiving their rent and rates in with their DHSS Giro cheque.

They will find that their Supplementary Benefit has been reduced by the total amount of their Council house rent and rates.

Instead, their rent and rates will automatically be credited to their gross rent account and the Council will recover the money from the Government. Those tenants affected will receive a notification from the Housing Division of the Council making it clear they have no rent to pay.

In April 1983 the second phase of the new scheme will be brought into operation and all the other people receiving help with their rent and rates as part of their Supplementary Benefits will be affected.

They include private sector tenants, housing association tenants, owner-occupiers who are having their mortgage interest met out of their Supplementary Benefit, Council tenants with non-dependants living

with them, and Council tenants who are receiving less than 100 per cent of their rent and rates out of their Supplementary Benefit. These people will be informed in due course by the DHSS of the changes. What it all means is that by next April all those who are on Supplementary Benefit will carry on receiving their money - less the amount which is to cover their rent and rates.

Santa comes to Stockton

From Monday 20th until Friday 24th December, Father Christmas will be in his "grotto" alongside the Christmas tree in John Walker Square, Stockton, to meet local children (under the age of 10 years) from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. each day. Each child who visits Santa will receive a small gift and Christmas Card **at no charge.**

On Saturday, 4th December, the Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Brian Hodgson, performed the annual ceremony of switching on the Christmas lights in John Walker Square. The ceremony included local musicians and choirs.



Emergency Services

Stockton Council

Highways 69171 (office hours)
607114 (after hours)

Housing 614021 (anytime)

Infectious diseases/ 614241 (office hours)

607114 (after-hours)

food poisoning

(N.B. There is no free after hours service for drain blockages).

North Eastern Electricity Board

766266 (anytime)

Northern Gas Board

Gas escapes 765946 (anytime)

Other urgent service

calls 769191 (anytime)

Northumbrian Water Authority

760216 (anytime)

Police

Cleveland Constabulary

Headquarters 248184

Billingham Sub-Divisional

Office 552107

Thornaby Sub-Divisional

Office 614070/65682

Stockton Divisional

Office 607114



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and
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TEL: 66612

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