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# NEWS

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Minicom number 393806

(textphone only for people with hearing difficulties)  
or write to us or call in to see us at:

The Benefit Office, 16 Church Road, Stockton on Tees. TS18 1TX

# Stockton NEWS

Stockton News is published by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and distributed to every household in the Borough free of charge. It aims to provide news and information about the Council, its partner organisations, and local community groups and businesses. Every effort is made to ensure that all information is accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication. Your views and comments are welcome.

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Stockton News is produced by Stockton Council's Communications Section and designed by Bridge Design Group. Pictures courtesy of the Evening Gazette.

# Fund helps children to realise their ambitions



Children across the Borough can look forward to a brighter future thanks to the Government's Children's Fund.

Up to £2.1 million of additional funding will help young people to realise their ambitions by growing up healthy, in safety, and successful at school over the next three years. The Fund will offer new opportunities and better preventative services to hundreds of local children.

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**“The money will be targeted at children aged between 5 and 13, along with their families.”**

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“The money will be targeted at children aged between 5 and 13, along with their families,” said Programme manager Jim Beall. “It will support and encourage many who currently face problems to realise their potential and ambitions. “The Fund will target those most at risk of becoming excluded from society through poverty and disadvantage, focusing on north and central Stockton where the need is greatest. “But across the Borough, children will benefit - for example, children with disabilities, young carers and young people from ethnic minority communities.” Although no specific projects have yet been chosen, the Fund will help

children to grow up healthy, confident and emotionally secure, living in a safe place and staying out of trouble, having succeeded at school with the opportunity to realise their ambitions. It will prevent existing problems from worsening and help resolve complex and long-standing difficulties. Communities, professionals and young people will all be consulted on what services are needed. To improve accessibility to services and co-ordination between organisations providing them, a new Stockton-on-Tees Children's Fund Partnership is developing a Children's Fund Plan. The partnership includes representatives of Social Services, health and education services - including local schools - police, local voluntary organisations, parents, carers, faith and ethnic groups, community partnerships and other local partnerships such as Safer Stockton and Early Years. To find out more about the Children's Fund, please contact Jim Beall, tel (01642) 393318, e-mail: jim.beall@stockton.gov.uk

- The Local Network supports the main Children's Fund. Local voluntary or community groups may qualify for Local Network grants up to £7,000 if their project focuses on young people up to 19 years who face disadvantage and poverty. For advice on applying to the Local Network fund, please contact Stockton Borough Voluntary Development Agency, tel: (01642) 355292, or for an application pack, please contact the Cleveland Community Foundation, on (01642) 314200.

# Celebrating success

Eighty nine members of Stockton Council's Social Services staff have received NVQ Care Awards.

The awards range from level two to five and, in the last 18 months, more than a sixth of the workforce has obtained a qualification. In home-care, half of the workforce have an award and a further 25% are working towards them, well above the national take up in the sector, which is less than 2%.



Mrs Edith Gillings with Care Assistant Vivienne Lyons who achieved NVQ II in Direct Care

This year the department is working closely with the independent sector who are working alongside social service employees to achieve NVQ awards.

Also celebrating were five Social Workers who are among the first in the country to qualify for the new advanced Post Qualifying Award in Child Care.

Stockton piloted the award in partnership with York and Teesside Universities.

Following the presentation, Ann Baxter said: “Learning is crucial to effective service delivery. People can rest assured that the quality of service they receive is measured by national standards.”

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# Recycle your Christmas tree

The Council and Peter Barratt's Garden Centre are working in partnership to recycle your real Christmas tree. Once Christmas is over simply take your Christmas tree back to be recycled at Peter Barratt's on Yarm Road. Do this from 2nd-13th January between 9am and 4.30pm, and you will receive a free coffee and scone in their new restaurant. For more information please contact the Recycling Helpline on (01642) 391194.

# New centre makes the most of waste

There is somewhere new to take your unwanted household waste, as the old Portrack Civic Amenity Site near the former incinerator site closes its gates after 25 years.

In its place is a new, state-of-the-art Household Waste Centre at Haverton Hill, just two miles away. With a mountain of Christmas packing and other waste to face at this time of year, the move to the new, safe and conveniently located site must be good news.

The new centre incorporates the latest techniques to separate different types of waste, recovering and recycling as much of it as possible.

The aim is to re-use as many materials as possible, sending the minimum amount to landfill sites and incineration.

The new site is on Haverton Hill Road, near the waste-to-energy incinerator and only a short distance from the A19. Specialist waste company SITA will manage the centre on behalf of Stockton and Middlesbrough Councils. In addition to household waste, which can be deposited free of charge, the Centre also accepts limited quantities of non-hazardous waste from small businesses, such as builders and horticulturalists. Business users must set up an account with SITA before they can use the facility and book in when they arrive.

The Centre can recycle glass, paper, cardboard, books, textiles, cans, plastic bottles, paint, oil and batteries. It will also accept household metals, wood, garden waste, soil, rubble, chemicals, asbestos, electrical appliances and gas bottles. Tyres cannot be accepted. Another advantage for users is the longer opening hours - it will open daily at the following times:

**Winter:**  
8am - 6pm from  
1st November - 31st March

**Summer:**  
8am - 7pm from  
1st April - 31st October

For more information on the new Household Waste Centre, please call (01642) 202300.

Stockton Council is soon to begin consulting on future uses for the old Portrack waste site. The Council proposes landscaping to encourage wildlife over the next few years. To discourage fly-tippers, the Council and the Environment Agency are installing closed circuit tv cameras at the Portrack site. Lee Tweddell, the Council's Waste Management Officer said: "We will not tolerate fly tipping. It is a crime and we'll be using the cameras to record fly tippers. We will prosecute those we catch."

## Community businesses learning together

Enterprising Clarences and Portrack residents are helping to support each other as they put together plans to set up businesses in their communities.

Two cafes, a provisions store, a hairdresser and an artist/sculptor are amongst the community businesses meeting regularly to share ideas and discuss the practicalities of getting up and running.

Top of the agenda for most of them is the support available to help them take the first crucial steps.

Community businesses, run by local people on a not-for-profit basis, have only recently been able to benefit from a wide range of support, including Business Link's Start Right in Business Service.

Stockton Council's Business Development Team has provided intensive support for everyone involved in the businesses, aided by European Regional Development Funding. Business Link developed a cluster of people with similar aims who can give each other practical assistance and moral support.

For more information about Business Link, call (01642) 806666 or e-mail: [info@tees.businesslink.co.uk](mailto:info@tees.businesslink.co.uk)

## Go to the market, win a turkey

Stockton's annual turkey give-away is happening once again this year! All you have to do to be entered in the free prize draw is make a purchase from Stockton, Billingham or Thornaby markets. You will then receive a voucher which goes into the draw. Two draws have already taken place and the final will be on 15th December. The Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Terry Bean, will be making the presentation of turkey vouchers to the lucky winners on December 15th outside Stockton Town Hall.

For last minute shoppers - there will be full markets on Christmas Eve in Billingham Town Centre and Stockton High Street.

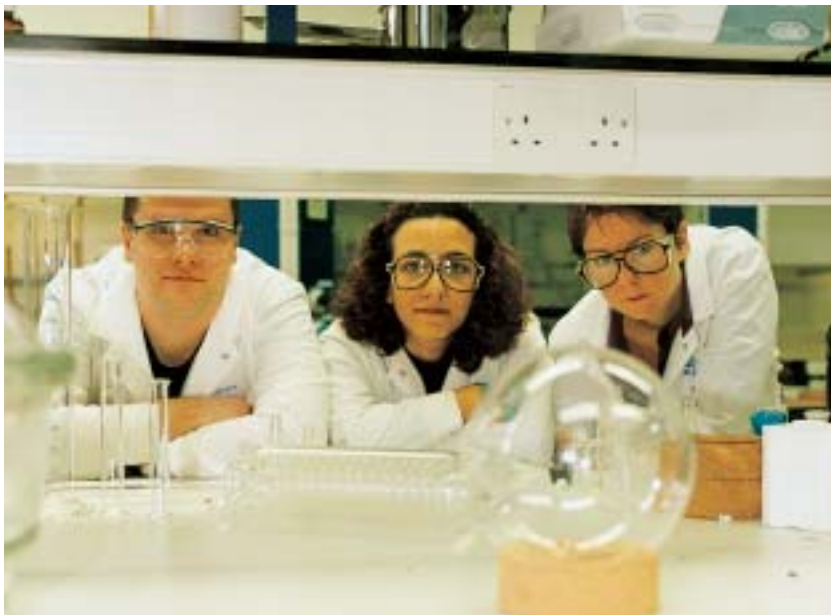


# International brains work locally

Stockton based company Synetix is attracting the best science brains from around the world, with recent starters coming from positions in Ireland, America and Germany.

Pictured are PhD graduates Andreas Seger (left), Laleh Jafarpour (centre) and Michelle Groarke, will work as part of a new team that will deliver the next phase of development for Synetix's Chiral Technologies programme by taking part in a project that has recently been licensed from Yale University in the USA.

Synetix is one of the world leaders in the field of catalysis, the science that speeds up processes that produce many of life's essentials such as fuels, medicines, food clothes, paints, agrochemicals, packaging and inks.



## tfm stars help deliver "No Messing" message to youngsters

Stars from tfm, Gregg Upwards, Producer AI and Lindarella joined forces with the Tidy Britain Group in Stockton for the launch of the North Eastern Region's Youth Litter Campaign.

The launch took place during a Litter Roadshow entitled "Are You Doing Your Bit?", which was organised by Stockton Council, DEFRA (Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and the Tidy Britain Group and was attended by youngsters from a number of the Borough's Secondary Schools.

The campaign itself was already supported in the national arena by a whole host of celebrities, including Atomic Kitten, Hear'Say and S Club 7. Simon Dale, Assistant Director of Housing and Contract Services, said: "We were delighted that the Tidy Britain Group chose Stockton for the North East launch of this high-profile campaign.

"The Council's Care For Your Area drive to clean up the Borough has placed the issue of litter at the top of the local agenda and we are already working hard to ensure that the "No Messing" message gets across to all

our residents, young and old alike. "This was an ideal platform to involve young people in our campaign to keep our streets clean and we hope that it will ensure that everyone does their bit".

Gregg Upwards, tfm's breakfast presenter, said: "It is always great to take part in events involving young people, especially those that will help keep the region tidy."



## Ingleby Barwick schools progress

As Stockton News went to print, negotiations with potential private sector partners to build two new schools in Ingleby Barwick were at an advanced stage.

The project is a partnership between Stockton Council and the Diocese of York, together with a private sector partner who will design, build, finance and operate a 600 place Church of England voluntary aided secondary school for 11 - 16 year olds.

As with other C of E schools, teachers will be employed by a Board of Trustees, with support services offered by Stockton school.

The plans also include a 210 place local education authority primary school. The two schools will be built on adjacent sites off Blair Avenue in Ingleby Barwick. Facilities, including a library, sports hall and playing fields, will be available for use by the local community.

The anticipated opening date for both schools is September 2003.

Once agreement had been reached with the private sector partner, a public meeting will be organised early in the New Year.

Details of the date, time and venue will be announced locally nearer the time.

# Bag it for a better Borough

Youngsters at St Mark's Elm Tree CE Primary School were asked to do their bit for "Bag for Life" week, an initiative organised by environmental group Going For Green, to encourage people to use the same plastic bag throughout the year, rather than using carrier bag after carrier bag.



The green message was delivered by Sue Barker-Schneider, Stockton Council's Litter Education Officer, during a visit to the school as part of the Council's Tidy Schools Award scheme, which promotes litter responsibility awareness through educational packages tailored to meet individual schools' requirements. Pupils at St Mark's Elm Tree were given a "Bag for Life" following a special assembly at the school. And it was hoped that they would take their bags home and pass on news of the initiative to their parents. Helen Douglas, Regional Communications Officer for Going For Green, explained that "Bag For Life" week was part of Going For Green's Waste Theme Month to raise awareness of waste issues and to encourage everyone to realise that they have a personal responsibility to reduce the amount of waste produced.

## How we work



The Council has published a new series of leaflets to explain how its structure works, give general information about its new decision-making process, and to introduce elected Councillors. Copies are available from most Council Offices, or by calling the Council's Public Relations Unit on (01642) 393024.

# Conyers student's exam success

Scores of students across Stockton Borough celebrated GCSE success this summer. But one Conyers pupil, David Harrison, had an extra reason to be thrilled with his results.

David suffers from Aspergers' Syndrome. This is an autistic spectrum disorder which means sufferers experience difficulties with communication and social relationships and can get fixated on one particular task.

In the past, those children who were recognised as having Aspergers' Syndrome would, more often than not, have attended a special school but more and more youngsters are now being taught in mainstream classrooms.

David was one of the first of those pupils and this summer he gained ten and a half GCSEs, with an A in Maths, Chemistry and Physics and an A\* in Biology.

Andy Lawton, Learning Support Co-ordinator at Conyers School, said:

"David's progress has been fantastic, he has exceeded all our hopes."

Throughout his schooling, David received support from two teaching assistants, Winnie McPhillips and Liz Gaughan.

Mr Lawton added: "They were superb. I can't sing their praises highly enough. It has been wonderful to see them working with David to help him towards his fabulous achievements."



David, who received the Sir Maurice Sutherland Award for Endeavour in recognition of his outstanding efforts, is now in the Sixth Form at Conyers School where he is studying for AS levels in Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

He said: "Since Aspergers' Syndrome was not widely known and it is not obvious, many people treated me as though I was a fool or badly behaved. In spite of this, I have managed to be academically successful."

"I accredit this success to a number of things: my parents urging me on; the efforts of school staff to develop my personal perseverance and improve my patience and skills in social interaction; a conscientious effort to fulfil my potential, and a good deal of prayer."



The latest River Tees crossing came a step nearer completion recently when the main girders of the South Stockton Link Road bridge were lifted into place. The bridge is part of the £30 million road which will link Ingleby Barwick with the A66 and Stockton Town Centre. The first section, valued at £10 million, is being constructed for Stockton Council by Birse Construction and is due to open in spring next year. The 460 tonne girders were fabricated in Darlington by Cleveland Bridge.

# Extra £1.6m for school improvements

**Pupils and staff across Stockton Borough are set to reap the rewards of a massive Government funds boost, after the unexpected allocation of an additional £1,665,000 for maintenance improvements to school buildings.**

The money, to be spent over the next three years, was handed out in recognition of the depth and quality of information submitted by the Council in an Asset Management Plan for school buildings.

The purpose of the Plan is to develop a strategic approach to investment in maintaining and improving school buildings.

In order to compile it, Council surveyors visited every school in the Borough and school staff were asked to assess the suitability of their own buildings for the use they are required for.

Now all the hard work has paid off with this unexpected cash boost from the Government.

Stanley Bradford, the Council's Director of Education, Leisure and Cultural Services, said: "This is very good news for our schools as it will allow us to carry out a wide range of maintenance improvements to our schools. The work will include new windows, roofs and heating systems, and this in addition to work we have already planned.

"Everyone who has been involved in the preparation of the Asset Management Plan deserves a huge amount of credit, because it's their hard work that has secured this extra funding. The improvements it will allow will make a tremendous difference to pupils and staff in schools across the Borough and I'm sure that schools will join me in congratulating and thanking all those who prepared the Plan."

The extra funding, together with the cash already allocated by the Council for maintenance, means that £1.4m will be spent on improvements during the current year, rising to £2.9m in 2002/3 and £3.5m in 2003/4.

# No barriers to learning

**Alan Brown, 54, has developed superb computing skills despite being deaf and blind.**

Alan - a regular user of the Open Technology and UK Online Centres in Stockton Central Library - is the regional winner of the Library Association and Leardirect E-Learning Community Prize.



He began using computers only 18 months ago and has since developed his skills to the extent that he has started a chess column in Deafblind UK's quarterly magazine 'Rainbow' to introduce other deaf-blind people to the game.

Alan has other physical disabilities and treatment during his youth interrupted his formal education. Returning to learning has had a major impact on his life. He said; "Because of my disabilities I did not think that I would ever be able to use a computer. It took me a long time but eventually I learned basic word processing skills and gained the confidence to operate a computer successfully.

"I am now able to read and reply to my own correspondence for the first time in my life. I am also in communication with people from all over the country in print, large print, Braille and by e-mail. My relatives in Australia were amazed to receive an e-mail from me!

"I have achieved a degree of independence that I would not have believed possible. This is thanks to Stockton Library and the facilities made available through their partnership with Stockton Blind Peoples' Voice.

"The written word has been given back to me and I intend to take full advantage of the opportunity that has been presented to me through the Ann Kallagher Suite in the Open Technology Centre at Stockton Library."



Stockton was doubly dazzled on 5 November when the town's annual fireworks display took place together with the switching on of the Christmas lights.

# Young gun Richard

**Richard Webb, Assistant Director (Operations) at Stockton Council's Social Services Department has really put the Borough on the map.**

The 30-year-old was recently named in a special feature by the Guardian newspaper as one of the country's top young movers and shakers in the public sector.

His inclusion in the list shows the remarkable strides he has made in his career since starting as an NHS management trainee in Newcastle. Now, in his role in the management team of the Social Services Department, Richard has a wide and varied range of responsibilities include integrated mental health services, drugs/Drug Action Team, services for older people and people with physical disabilities, First Contact, asylum support and welfare rights.

"I have a longstanding interest in, and commitment to, community care – if we want to make a real difference to people's wellbeing it's about working with them where they live to help them address their own health and social problems," said Richard, who has been in the post for the past 18 months.

Although he does not have a background in nursing or social work, Richard started his career with what he describes as an extensive "Cook's tour" of the NHS.



**"I have a longstanding interest in, and commitment to, community care."**

He added: "I think the days that I spent at the outset of my career, rolling up my sleeves and shadowing front-line staff, from doctors to therapists to kitchen staff, has been invaluable in equipping me to understand how everyone plays a vital role in delivering public services." Richard was the first General Manager of the Integrated Learning Disability service in Stockton before moving to

his current position.

He has always strived to bridge the gap between health and social care and he believes the motivation for joint working between Health and Social Services is to overcome obstacles that prevent people getting the services they need.

Richard, along with other colleagues across the public sector, is actively engaged in a broad range of policy initiatives including delivering the National Service Frameworks for Older People and Mental Health and National Drugs Strategy.

He sees these developments not only as an opportunity to challenge how services can be improved but also to build on the positive work undertaken on a day to day basis by frontline staff.

He believes it is the staff in the frontline who are the ones worthy of praise.

"Many Social Care staff, take home care workers for example, are the unsung heroes of the welfare state.

"What we need to do is ensure that their contribution is recognised and their values nurtured as we move into new ways of organising and delivering services," added Richard.

"The article in the Guardian newspaper was really positive for Stockton Council and for the area in general but there are lots of good managers and staff in the public sector and this was as much about them as it was about me."

## Community Wardens

**The Safer Stockton Partnership, led jointly by Stockton Council and Cleveland Police, has made another successful bid for cash which will fund more community wardens to patrol Stockton's streets.**

The first team of wardens began work earlier this year, mainly in the Mandale and Victoria Estate areas of Thornaby and the Hardwick Estate in Stockton. Working closely with the police, they carry out high visibility foot patrols to deter crime and anti-social behaviour and residents of these areas are finding their presence a reassurance.

Now, the Partnership is in line for a further £211,000 over the next two years. This will fund two new schemes in Central Stockton (including the Parkfield, Portrack and Tilery, Newtown and Norton Grange areas) and in Norton and the Grange and St Aidan's areas of Billingham.

## Champion for disabled

**Trisha Dodson's commitment to the Stockton-on-Tees Speech After Stroke group has earned her the accolade of community champion.**

Her tireless work and dedication saw her nominated for the inaugural Evening Gazette Community Champions Award.

At a special dinner and ceremony at Middlesbrough's Thistle Hotel, Trisha was awarded the Champion for Disabled Award.

The Stockton Speech After Stroke group was formed 24 years ago and is now a registered charity.

Trisha manages and co-ordinates fundraising, volunteers, transport, outings, physiotherapy, aromatherapy and educational programmes to aid and stimulate the rehabilitation of stroke victims.



## One stop shop

There's no need to be left behind the times when there's a full range of ICT advice, training and consultancy services available to small and medium businesses, right here on our doorstep.

e-TeesValley is a partnership between Stockton Council and the University of Durham Stockton Campus and is able to provide a one-stop e-shop for small and medium sized businesses. Based at Thornaby Town Hall on Mandale Road, Thornaby, the e-TeesValley highly-motivated team of IT professionals includes web site and graphic designers. They can provide a top quality service at the front edge of latest technology - and all at very competitive rates.

For more information on the services available at e-TeesValley, please call (01642) 802099, fax (01642) 868484 or e-mail: [enquiries@teesvalley.com](mailto:enquiries@teesvalley.com)

## Open University opens doors...

The doors of Stockton Town Hall were opened to students from the Open University in October when the Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Terry Bean, himself an OU BA (Hons) graduate, extended an invitation to other OU graduates and their families from the Stockton area to join him.



John Shipley, Regional Director for the OU in the North, and Alumni Association Director Sue Ball were among the visitors. Councillor Bean, a strong advocate of the OU, said: "The Open University is a tremendous opportunity for anyone - with or without qualifications - to access university education, it is an opportunity I would strongly recommend people to grasp." For further details of OU courses, call the Open University Teesside Resource Centre, on (01642) 816227 or visit their website on [www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk)

## Top teacher

Barbara Robinson, a teacher at Blakeston Community School, is delighted at winning a top award.

At the Teaching Awards Ceremony held at London's Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, in October, Barbara scooped the Lloyds TSB Award for Working with Parents and the Community. Being a good teacher is only part of what it takes to become an award winner. First, teachers need to be nominated - and that's where the public comes in. Anyone can make a nomination so, if your child's life has been touched by the work of a remarkable teacher, visit [www.teachingawards.com](http://www.teachingawards.com) to

nominate online and ensure that teachers get the recognition they deserve.

Carol Smillie hosted the event, which was attended by the Education and Skills minister Estelle Morris MP. Celebrity guests included Michael Parkinson, Joanna Lumley and Sol Campbell, who presented the awards to the nation's most inspirational teachers.

All the teachers up for a national award had already been selected from thousands of local nominations and had been crowned area winners at a series of regional events held across England, Wales and Northern Ireland this summer.



## Veteran search...

The Trustees of the former County of Durham Regiment Royal Artillery (Territorials) together with the Imperial War Museum want to record the memories of surviving war veterans who served in the following units during the 1939-45 war.

### From Teesside:

54th SL Reg RA (The DLI)(TA);  
55th SL Reg RA (The DLI)(TA);  
113th LAA Reg (The DLI)(TA);  
85th(Tees)AA Reg RA(TA);  
511th (Durham) Coast Reg RA (TA);  
526th (Durham) Coast Reg RA(TA).

### Other regiments were:

47th (DLI)SA Reg RA(TA);  
112th LAA Reg RA(The DLI)(TA)  
63rd (Northumberland) AAREg RA(TA);  
74th (Northumbrian) Field Reg RA(TA); 87th AA Reg RA(TA);  
125th (Northumbrian) Anti-tank Reg (RA(TA)).

Recordings will be at the homes of the veterans, so there is no travelling involved and it is all very informal. Please call Ted Kemp on (01642) 554280 or John Heron on (01642) 870481.

# Age is no barrier to learning

The Borough's older residents are taking advantage of a national organisation aimed at self-help learning.

U3A - the University of the Third Age - is a national group that helps older people continue their studies without having to pass exams. The 220 members of the Stockton branch hold daytime classes at various local venues. According to committee member Ron Atkinson, more and more people are making use of the University. He said: "The group appeals to people aged over 50 who are motivated to continue learning without the need to tie themselves to rigid exam systems. "Whether your tastes are for outdoor pursuits such as walking, social activities like scrabble or country dancing, or learning subjects such as languages and art appreciation, the University of the Third Age has something to offer." Other classes include genealogy, choral singing, gardening, keep fit, painting and snooker.

Local people are invited to the U3A fortnightly Thursday coffee mornings at the United Reformed Church, Alma Street in Stockton (10am - 12noon) and the Stockton U3A branch also runs monthly business meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at Stockton Central Library (2pm).

You can also find out more by visiting the U3A website at [www.icu3astockton.co.uk](http://www.icu3astockton.co.uk)



# Refuse collections to change



The latest phase of a refuse collection reorganisation began on the 3rd December.

Following the successful introduction of the new four-day-week refuse collections earlier in the year, collections in the Borough will be organised into four zones, which may mean that some residents will have a change in their collection day. Those affected will be notified - please look out for the stickers that will be placed on your bins which also give details of the arrangements for Christmas, New Year and Easter collections, along with a reminder to have your refuse available by 7am on collection day.

If you would like confirmation of your collection day, or any other information about refuse collection, please contact the Customer Services Team on (01642) 391959 or e-mail: [customer.services@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@stockton.gov.uk)

# Taking the service to the people

Clifton House is the first of what is expected to be several community-based facilities in the Stockton area. It provides a local base for two community mental health teams together with custom-built accommodation for integrated health and social care day services, outpatients and a local Assertive Outreach Team.

Located on Teesdale South, the centre is run by Stockton Integrated Mental



Health Service, which is a partnership between Tees & North East Yorkshire NHS Trust and Stockton Council Social Services. The premises are specifically designed to house services previously based at local day centres, clinics and the University Hospital of North Tees. The four-storey accommodation has a ground floor outpatients suite with interview and consulting rooms. The first floor is home to adult day services with therapy rooms, smaller interview rooms and a fully equipped lounge for Assessment for Daily Living. There's also a kitchen and large staff room. The top two floors house two of the area's mental health teams, social workers, psychiatric nurses, occupational therapists, consultants and medical secretaries. Richard Webb, Assistant Director of Social Services, said: "This is the first of several exciting new developments we are planning across the Borough. They will mean that people are able to access "one stop shop" services near to their homes, to help them with their mental health needs."

# Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we report the death of two people who have provided valued service to the area over the years.

Freeman of the Borough and former Stockton Councillor Eileen Jackson, MBE, died last month. Mrs Jackson had been involved with local government since 1954 and was deputy leader of the Conservative group of Councillors for more than 20 years. A magistrate, school governor and tireless voluntary worker, Mrs Jackson was awarded the MBE in 1986. She was made a Freeman of the Borough in 1991.

Mr Denis King, Town Clerk to Thornaby Town Council for over four years, died in October.

## Stockton turns out for Chief's meeting

The public of Stockton turned out in force to attend the Chief Constable's Open Meeting at Stockton Library on the 13th September.

Approximately 80 members of the public, together with the local media and Police representatives, attended this year's meeting to state their views on the policing of Stockton. This was an excellent turn out. This year's panel consisted of Chief Constable Barry Shaw, Chief Superintendent Kevin Pitt (Stockton's District Commander), Ken Walker (Chair of Cleveland Police Authority) and Mike Batty (Head of Stockton Community Safety and Security Centre). Councillor Bob Gibson chaired the meeting.

Chief Superintendent Pitt started off the evening with an overview of the work being carried out by Stockton Police to reduce crime, supply of drugs and anti-social behaviour. He gave details on how Stockton Police responds to the thousands of incidents that get reported every year

and due to limited resources, how we have to prioritise our attendance depending on the types of incidents and how serious they are. He praised the work done by Neighbourhood Watch across the District and highlighted the work of the various partners that work in conjunction with Stockton Police, especially the Local Authority. He praised the efforts of all the staff who work for Cleveland Police in Stockton.

The question and answer session proved to be very lively with some probing questions in relation to anti-social behaviour, drugs, visibility of the Community Police Officers, speeding tickets, response to incidents, staffing levels, Operation Lancet and Police pensions! Although all the questions were not directly related to policing in Stockton, which is really what the meeting was aimed at, all the panel members gave detailed answers and none of the issues were avoided.

The meeting concluded with panel members making themselves available to answer questions on a one-to-one basis with members of the audience.

## International visitors come to Stockton Police

Stockton Police recently paid host to four International Police Commanders who are presently in the UK as part of a Commanders Course at the Police Staff College at Bramshill, Hampshire.

Superintendent Gilbert Mathumo from Botswana, Lt Colonel Jean Al Haber from Lebanon, Superintendent Rennie Richardson from Royal Anguilla and Asst. Superintendent Harold Evans from the Royal Bahamas Police joined Stockton officers for a week to look at how we police compared to their home countries. They were able to observe the massive Police operations involved in making the bonfire celebrations in Stockton such a safe success. They were particularly impressed with the co-operation between the Police and local authority.

They also accompanied officers on patrol and sat in on briefings, crime tasking meetings and spoke freely to officers about the policing challenges in Stockton. All the visitors enjoyed their visit to Stockton and learned a lot about our style of policing. However, they were not very impressed with the weather, especially when compared to the current temperatures in the Bahamas. Indeed, until his visit to Stockton, Supt. Harold Evans from the Bahamas hadn't seen snow since 1976! Needless to say, he left his shorts in his suitcase!

## Domestic violence update DOVES Team

Stockton Police are fully committed to reducing incidents of domestic violence across Stockton District.

As part of our commitment, we have joined forces with the NSPCC, Social Services, Women's Aid and other voluntary agencies to form the multi-agency domestic violence team called the DOVES (Domestic Violence Empowerment and Support).

The team is based at the Corner House in Dovecot Street in Stockton and brings together all the expertise of the various agencies to offer advice, support and positive action to help all victims of domestic violence. We appreciate that domestic violence affects all sections of society and we also appreciate that it is unacceptable. The DOVES Team can help victims to realise that they can make positive life changing choices and that they do not have to suffer domestic violence in silence.

**If you would like further details on the DOVES Team and the support that they can offer, please contact them on 01642 415365 to arrange a visit. It could be the best thing you ever do.**

(In the event of an emergency – and you require urgent Police attendance – please dial 999.)

## Charity work updates

Sgt. John Coates, PC Steve Gray and PC Caron Dawson completed a 96 mile sponsored walk along the West Highland Way in September and raised over £4,000 for the North of England Children's Cancer Research Appeal. Celia Legg and John Stenhouse accompanied them.



Sgt. John Coates, PC Steve Gray and PC Caron Dawson having completed the West Highland Way

The trek lasted five days and although they all had sore feet by the end of it, they all agreed it had been well worth it.

PC John Bickerstaff recently organised a BBQ and fundraising night on behalf of 'D' shift at Stockton Police Station which raised over £200 towards new equipment for the North Tees Maternity Ward. Everyone had a great night and the proceeds went to a



Photo shows John Bickerstaff presenting the cheque to Lynne Parnaby, Senior Midwifery Sister at NTGH.

really worthwhile cause.

PC Barry Dixon continues his fundraising efforts (as featured in the last edition of Stockton News). Don't forget, if you want to clear the toy cupboard out before all the new toys arrive at Christmas, contact Barry at Stockton Office so he can sell them at car boot sales to raise funds for the Children's Trust and The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association.

Barry can be contacted at Stockton Police Office via (01642) 302226.

# Room for activity

**Community groups and schools visiting Preston Hall Museum can now benefit from a new learning resource room.**

The facility opened recently and it offers themed activity packs, such as Victorian Clothing and traditional toys and games.

It can be pre-booked by groups which support learning.

Younger children are catered for with special packs and all activities are designed to complement the National Curriculum. Located on the ground floor of the museum, the room is accessible to all.

Schools are already taking advantage of the facility, giving young pupils the opportunity to touch and handle the collection pieces. Using the resource room as a base, they then visit the rest of the Museum.

Muriel King, Museums Officer for Stockton Council, said: "The new resource room is designed to be welcoming and flexible to ensure that groups using the Museum have an extra-special visit.

"We also hope that, in the near future, the resource room will be available to families at the weekends so that more visitors can get some hands on learning about the past."

Schools or educational groups wishing to use the Resource Room can call Gill Gilbert, the audience development officer for Stockton Council's Museums Service on (01642) 397590.



# Smart awards to honour youngsters

**The achievements of young people too often go unnoticed – but, in Stockton at least, that's all set to change.**

A group of youngsters from across the Borough is working with the Mayor, Councillor Terry Bean, and Stockton Youth Service to create a series of awards which will recognise the good work done by young people.

Called the SMART Awards, the scheme will be launched later this month when nomination forms will be sent out to libraries, sports complexes, youth centres and elsewhere.

Pauline Driscoll, Principal Youth Officer at Stockton Council, said: "This is another example of how young people are getting firmly involved and making positive contributions in the community.

"The SMART Awards will be a wonderful opportunity to champion the efforts of the young people across the Borough and recognise their achievements."

There will be ten categories - educational achievement, educational effort, sport, volunteering, community work, the arts, teamwork, bravery to overcome a challenge, achievement by a special needs person, and an exceptional award to a child of Primary school age.

The winners will be announced early in Spring 2002 and the team behind SMART plan that the awards will become an annual event.

Radio station 96.6 Tfm has agreed to help promote the awards and tv celebrities have been approached to endorse the scheme.

# "Step-ping" out in Stockton

**Top pop idols Steps backed Stockton Council's campaign to get youngsters walking to school.**

The Council joined forces with Century FM to secure the exclusive backing of chart-topping band Steps during International Walk to School Week to encourage parents and children across the Borough to ditch their cars for short journeys to school.

Road Safety officers invited every school in the Borough to sign up for the event. Participating schools were then entered into a draw to win one of two sets of tickets to see Steps in concert at Newcastle's Telewest Arena. These were snapped up by Jessica Chaney, eight, of Frederick Nattrass Primary School and six-year-old Jordan Garbutt from Oakdene Primary School. They were among 4,100 children from 33 schools who signed up to walk to school, far exceeding all expectations.



Peter Fleming, of Stockton Council's Road Safety Team, said: "The involvement of Steps was a great coup for Stockton and we were delighted that they chose to recognise and exclusively back our campaign. The interest has been tremendous, with the Steps supporting giving it extra-special appeal.

"We're not anti-car - the campaign was aimed at parents and children who live within walking distance of school and all that we ask is for people to think before they jump into their cars to drive to school.

"If those who live within walking distance left their cars at home, or others parked further away from the schools, it would reduce congestion and allow them to spend a little time teaching children road safety skills."

# Have yourselves a safe little Christmas

Christmas is traditionally a time for people to eat, drink and be merry - and that's how it should be if some timely advice from Stockton Council's Trading Standards service is followed.



The tips below can help Stockton News readers stay safe this Christmas and avoid the many pitfalls which could lead to misery or even tragedy.

- **Christmas Trees and Lights:** Fix trees in a secure base - a bucket of damp earth or sand - and place away from doors and fires. Make sure artificial trees are non-flammable. Tree lights should conform to EN60598 safety standards, which should be stated on the box. Check the flex before use and disconnect from the mains before replacing bulbs.
- **Christmas Decorations:** Keep small baubles and Christmas tree figures out of the reach of small children, who could be tempted to put them in their mouths.
- **Don't Drink and Drive:** Make sure you know what you're drinking. Low alcohol drinks are NOT the same as no alcohol drinks - they can still put you over the drink/drive limit. Never drink alcoholic drinks to your

limit and then switch to low alcohol, whether they are wine or beers. No alcohol drinks are the safest option.

- **Cigarettes:** If you must smoke over Christmas remember to provide plenty of ashtrays - especially during those Christmas parties. Always check that cigarettes are out before you go to bed.
- **Food:** Always cook your turkey thoroughly. It's better to have it slightly overcooked than under. Never refreeze food which has been cooked after defrosting. And, if you buy a frozen turkey, make sure it is fully defrosted before cooking it.
- **Toys:** When buying toys, make sure that they are suitable for the age of the child - the packaging should give details. Check for CE marks, or preferably the lion mark, and dispose of all packaging safely. If you have any concerns about the safety of any toy or other item you have bought, please call Trading Standards on (01642) 391180.

# Mark three

Staff at Stockton Council's Taxation Division have again made the mark when it comes to providing a service.

The Finance Department team has been granted the prestigious Charter Mark for excellence in public service delivery.

It is the third time they have been granted the Charter Mark after originally gaining it in 1995 and then again in 1998.

Now they have again impressed the inspectors with the service they provide.

In awarding the Charter Mark, the Cabinet Office praised the Division's commitment to providing information to all, including those with special needs.

Staff in the taxation division, which is responsible for the collection of council tax and business rates, were also praised for being both courteous and helpful by both users and partners of the service.

Bob Patterson, Director of Finance, was delighted to see the staff gain the Charter Mark for a third time.

"The team in the Taxation Division do a wonderful job and it is great to see their hard work and efforts recognised by the Charter Mark assessors.

"To gain the Charter Mark for a third time just shows the continuing high standards they achieve.

"It must be remembered that Charter Mark assessors test the service from the taxpayers' perspective and it is the positive response from our 78,000 customers which continues to drive



**Awarded for excellence**

service improvement."

- Stockton Council's Land Charges service has also been awarded a Charter Mark for the first time for its excellent service. The service, which deals with land searches for people buying a house, was featured in the autumn edition of Stockton News.

# Environmental improvements “Round-About” the Borough

Residents of Stockton Borough may have noticed a few changes to the landscape in recent weeks.

For Stockton now has two newly transformed roundabouts, with more to come in the very near future. The roundabout at the Horse and Jockey Pub, on the junction of the A177 Durham Road, near Savacentre, has been given a new look to commemorate the work of the Stockton Warm Zone.

Sponsored by gas pipeline company Transco, the Council's partner in the Government-led Warm Zone initiative, the roundabout now boasts a spectacular sculpture, made largely from recycled materials, forming the centrepiece of the artwork.

This will serve as a permanent reminder of the ambitious targets of the Warm Zone project, to remove 10,000 homes in the Borough from fuel poverty within three years.

Meanwhile, the roundabout which joins Church Road to Riverside Road in Stockton Town Centre is now home to a “striking” new landmark.

A sculpture of a match - marking the innovation of John Walker, a former Stockton chemist who invented the friction match - has taken pride of place on the roundabout, which has been sponsored by Arriva/Peugeot.

The revamp, which was designed to enhance the environment, also reminds the people of Stockton of their unique and pioneering heritage. It means that each roundabout from B&Q on Portrack Lane up to the Riverside has now been “spruced up” with the help of sponsorship. Stockton recently scooped the accolade of Most Improved Entry in this year's Northumbria in Bloom

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**This will serve as a permanent reminder of the ambitious targets of the Warm Zone project.**

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Awards. Competition judges said that the town had portrayed “a new image” in recent years. Particularly praised were new landscaped areas, floral baskets and roundabouts. And the improvement work won't end there. To recognise the Borough's diverse history, the Council is also developing roundabout schemes in other areas, notably around the history of Thornaby's Five Lamps and the Folklore Festival in Billingham. Consultation on these roundabout plans will begin soon.

## Stockton schools' Sportsmark success

Four secondary schools in Stockton have gained the prestigious Sportsmark or Sportsmark Gold awards.

Blakeston, Stockton, Conyers, Yarm, Northfield, Billingham and the Norton School have all been recognised for excellence in Physical Education.

Sportsmark is the only formal, national recognition by sports agency Sport England. It is awarded to schools which have effective policies and practices in physical education, offer a good out-of-school-hours programme and have established positive club links.

Sportsmark Gold was awarded to Blakeston and Northfield - a great achievement as there were only 47 across the whole country.

This takes the total of schools in Stockton with Sportsmark award to five, with another three schools expected to submit applications this month.

World record holding Paralympic athlete Tanni Grey-Thompson presented the youngsters with their awards at a ceremony held in Bishop Auckland.

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## Keeping in touch at the touch of a button



A Group of Nigerians living and training in Stockton are keeping in touch with family and friends back home thanks to the Open Technology and UK Online Centre in Stockton Central Library. The 30 strong group arrived in Stockton this summer for ten months of training in Plant Operations and Maintenance. Teesside Training Enterprise introduced them to the Technology Centre in Central Library where the unlimited access to the Internet has enabled them to keep in touch with people back home.



# Getting the balance right

Replacing departing employees costs UK businesses billions of pounds in lost profits each year.



Studies show that replacing workers costs over a third of their annual salary. And, although people leave work for many reasons, one of the most common is that of childcare provision.

Work Life Balance is a way of addressing this. Allowing employees to balance their work commitment with the needs of their home life, can make all the difference to both employer and worker, improving profitability and employee satisfaction. The Stockton-on-Tees Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership can help employers

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**Allowing employees to balance their work commitment with the needs of their home life can make all the difference to both employer and worker.**

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develop new policies to do just this. When Cleveland Police and Holme House Prison recently reviewed shift patterns and working arrangements, both considered family responsibilities and childcare problems to be important factors. They decided that the review was an opportunity to achieve this and, with the help of Partnership Development Officers Judy Walker and Janet Marriott, successfully applied for Government Challenge Fund grants worth £45,000 to each organisation. The money is now helping both the police and the prison to develop ways of working which balance the needs of work and home.

# Plan finds a new use for your rubbish

Recycling and a reduction in the waste produced in the Tees Valley are at the heart of a new strategy to manage the area's waste over the coming decade.

The average home produces around one tonne of waste each year. And although the £60 it costs to collect and dispose of this waste is less than in most European countries, over four fifths of it is "landfilled" - ploughed into holes in the ground. It's a situation both the Government and local councils accept cannot continue, in part because of a shortage of suitable sites for landfill, and partly because so much waste could be re-used.

So the Government has set tough new recycling targets - 10 per cent of waste must be recycled by 2003/4, rising to 18 per cent by 2005/6 and over 30 per cent after 2010. This means that, in the next two years, we all need to more than double the amount of waste we recycle - and more than triple it within four years. The latest plan for recycling forms just part of the comprehensive joint waste management strategy for the area. Carefully compiled by Stockton, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland Councils, this sets out how

they will implement the requirements of the Government's Waste Strategy 2000, which is the first ever national waste plan.

It is the first time that the four Tees Valley authorities have worked together to produce such a waste strategy, which considers ways to minimise waste, reduce landfilling, cut pollution and make waste facilities more widely available and accessible. Andrew Craig, Waste Management Development Officer for the four Councils, said:

"Now that we have drawn up the strategy, we want to know what the community thinks about it.

"Few people consider what happens after the bin wagon's weekly visit - but disposing of waste is something that affects everyone. Recycling should be something we all think about before we throw anything into our household bins."

Information leaflets about the strategy invite residents to comment on the strategy and copies are available from most Council offices.

For more detailed information, or to make your views known, please contact Andrew Craig on (01642) 391129, fax (01642) 391154 or e-mail [andrew.craig@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.craig@stockton.gov.uk)



Andrew Craig gives some recycling tips to Council worker Dawn Welsh



Take the road to

# Safety

The responsibility for improving road safety across Stockton Borough falls upon us all.

**Motorists, cyclists and pedestrians all have their part to play and Stockton Council has launched a Government backed campaign to raise awareness of residents to road safety issues.**

Traditional road safety engineering projects such as traffic calming, road safety schemes and improved pedestrian and cyclist facilities are being supplemented by a Borough-wide assessment of safety standards outside schools.

A detailed analysis of accident information is also being gathered to identify measures that can be applied across the whole area.

"The safer roads campaign focuses on the level of casualties on our roads, in particular child casualties," said Mike Robinson, Stockton Council's Assistant Director for Engineering and Transportation.

Current figures show that on average around 88 people are killed or seriously injured on the Borough's roads each year, including 18 children. Now, new targets have been set. Instead of reducing those killed or seriously injured by 11 per cent, the aim is now for a 16 per cent fall in casualties. And Stockton Council has doubled its target for reducing child casualties - instead of a planned 11 per cent reduction, the target is to

achieve 22 per cent less accidents over the next three years.

Several road safety campaigns have been launched across Stockton in a bid to educate adults and children to the issues surrounding safety on the region's roads.

These have included a Walk to School Week which was supported by 33 of the Borough's schools.

Projects to increase drivers' awareness of schools are also being looked into and measures are being sought to

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**"The safer roads campaign focuses on the level of casualties on our roads, in particular child casualties."**

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highlight road users to the presence of schools and encourage them to cut their speed and be aware of the high number of children that will be in the area, especially at peak school times. Other initiatives have included cycle helmet safety, car safety seat and child seatbelt promotion, a summer drink drive campaign and advanced motorcycle training.

Many of the initiatives have been put into action through Stockton Council and a host of other agencies, particularly Cleveland Police.

Other projects are in the pipeline, including providing high visibility materials to all newspaper girls and boys. These include flashing lights which can be attached to clothing or bags.

"We are also planning advanced driver courses in conjunction with motoring organisations to improve driving standards and there's a two day pre-driver seminar aimed at 16 to 18 year-olds to help them make a safe start to their motoring lives," added Mike Robinson.

Young children are also being targeted and encouraged to be road safety aware.

Wide scale pedal cycle training via local schools is being launched, along with practical pedestrian training for pupils aged six to ten years.

All these schemes will increase youngsters' awareness of road safety issues and there will be practical advice on how to recognise and deal with potentially dangerous situations. Mike Robinson summed up: "At the end of these projects we not only anticipate the significant reductions in casualties that we are hoping for, but we are also hoping that the residents of Stockton will have a raised awareness of road safety issues.

"By working together like this we can not only achieve, but surpass, our targets and make Stockton's safer roads campaign a great success."

Find out about

# fosterin

**Jill from Stockton became a foster carer six and a half years ago and during that time she has given a loving home to 36 children.**

Some youngsters have spent just one night with Jill while others have been with her for as long as two years. Many people are not aware of what sort of person can become a foster carer. In fact foster carers come from all walks of life - just like the children who need the foster care.

When Jill first started to foster she was single and had always wanted to become a foster carer but thought being unmarried would prevent her from being considered.

"I rang up and found out that I could be considered and I went from there. I attended group preparation meetings and had a home study assessment before being approved for one foster child," said Jill.

That process took around six months and Jill's first foster child was a four-year-old who stayed with her for ten weeks.

Since then, Jill has met and married her husband Mick who is delighted to be a foster carer - in fact in the past six and a half years they have had just three weeks without a foster child and that was when they went on their honeymoon.

Jill's 14-year-old son and Mick's 19-year-old daughter love having other children around. Jill says her son is 'very good' with all the foster children and enjoys having them in the house. Mick's daughter is a regular visitor to the house and also enjoys the children.

For a whole variety of reasons, there are around 160 children and young people in Stockton being looked after by foster carers.

Many of these children will eventually return to their families. In other cases,

Placement Team at Stockton Council. She said: "Foster carers come from all walks of life - no special qualifications are necessary.

"However, you must like children and young people and be willing to work as part of a team. This team will include the child's family and Social Workers. It may also include teachers, health visitors and anyone else who is involved with the child and their family."

Jill believes the rewards of being a foster carer are immeasurable and she

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**"Being a foster carer is not always an easy task but there will always be support from the Social Services Department."**

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a decision may be made to find them a permanent new family, possibly through adoption.

Children in foster care will usually have regular contact with their natural families and their parents will continue to have responsibilities towards them throughout the time the youngster is in foster care. Jackie Ward is Manager of the Child

says the support she and Mick have been given has made a great difference.

"Our supervising social workers have been brilliant and so supportive which means a great deal," said Jill. A supervising social worker is there to offer advice, guidance and support and will highlight any training and development needs. They will,



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alongside the foster carer, tackle any difficulties and will 'link' the carer into the working of the Social Services Department.

Jan, from Thornaby, echoes Jill's praise for her supervising social worker - she and her husband Brian have been fostering for 15 years. All the youngsters who have been in their care have stayed for a year or more and they have two children of their own who are now aged 18 and 23 years.

"Being a foster carer is so rewarding - it is upsetting when a child who has been with you for more than a year leaves you, but it means there is a happy ending," said Jan.

"We have kept in touch with almost all of the children we have fostered because they have wanted to and their letters or Christmas cards are wonderful.

"The support we have had from our supervising social worker has been invaluable and they visit on a regular basis and are always there to help." Foster carers are needed throughout Stockton Borough.

Marital status is irrelevant - carers can be married, single, divorced or in a partnership with someone.

Carers must be over the age of 26 years although there is not an upper age limit.

Disability does not prevent someone becoming a foster carer, although the person must be able to meet the needs of a child in placement and the demands of being a foster carer.

"Being a foster carer is not always an easy task but there will always be support from the Social Services Department," added Jackie Ward. While many children who come into foster care eventually return home or move on to adoptive families, there are some who need to be fostered long-term, until they reach adulthood. Most of the young people who need long-term fostering have suffered trauma in their early years and therefore may have behavioural or emotional problems.

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**Anyone who would like to find out more about becoming a foster carer can call the Child Placement Team in Social Services on (01642) 397212 during office hours.**

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Christmas carols bring

# Festive

Stockton town centre will come alive to the sounds of Christmas at a civic carol concert on December 14th.



**This year's festive event will feature a wonderful mixture of traditional carols and sounds from around the globe.**

And for the first time ever, the carol concert will be held outdoors with visitors being able to join in the singing and music in Stockton's own winter wonderland.

An impressive line up of bands and choirs will lead the Christmas singing and give the concert a real festive feel. The event is being held in association with the churches of Stockton-on-Tees and BBC Radio Cleveland which will be recording the concert for broadcast on Christmas Day.

The Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Terry Bean, will attend the concert which will be held in Church Road Plaza on December 14th 2001.

Artists to perform at the concert will not just be from around the region, but across the globe, bringing home sounds from around the world.

A touch of the Caribbean will be brought to the streets of Stockton thanks to Huntcliff Comprehensive

School Steel Band which will provide a Calypso feel to the concert, while Golden Empire Peruvian Band will play traditional Peruvian carols. The Zimbabwean Gospel Singers will also be performing at the concert.

Providing a more traditional sound will be Tees Valley Youth Brass Band, the Tees Valley Youth Choir, Stockton Junior Voices, Stockton Male Voice Choir and the Baptist Tabernacle Church Youth Band.

Geraint Williams, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's town centre manager, said: "This year the concert will celebrate a wide range of cultures and, although it will focus mainly on traditional Christmas carols, there will also be music from overseas.

"The civic carol concert will be aimed at celebrating Christmas in a way that people from different cultures will enjoy and we want people of all different faiths to come along and join in the festive fun.

"This year's event will be extra special as it is the first one that we have held outdoors and we hope the public will enjoy the performances.

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**“The civic carol concert will be aimed at celebrating Christmas in a way that people from different cultures will enjoy.”**

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# ve Fun

“We are looking forward to seeing a large number of people at the concert and hope everyone will be in fine voice when it comes to joining in with the carols.”

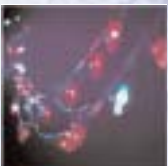
During the concert a nativity pageant will take place and the civic carol concert will end with a spectacular fireworks display - all geared towards the Christmas theme.

The concert is scheduled to take place on Friday, December 14th from 5-7pm. BBC TV Look North will broadcast their news live from Stockton at 6.30pm.

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**No tickets are needed and the carol concert is free of charge.**

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The village of Norton is steeped in history with architecture spanning centuries gracing the High Street and beyond.

The Georgian High Street, with many 18th and 19th Century houses and shops, is one of several conservation areas within the Borough and remains one of the area's most picturesque spots.

Norton Green is overlooked by the 11th Century St Mary's Church, which casts a gleaming watery reflection across the village pond. The ancient Parish of Norton pre-dates its neighbour in Stockton by several hundred years.



# In and a



The fascinating history of Norton was the attraction for a group of archaeology experts who unearthed one of the largest and richest Saxon cemeteries in the North of England there.

This story of the village's past is now being told at Norton Branch Library, near the Post Office on Norton High Street.

The burial ground was rediscovered back in 1982, after schoolchildren playing beside Mill Lane unearthed human bones and jewellery from a shallow grave.

Excavations by Cleveland County Archaeology Section (now Tees Archaeology) later revealed that this was part of a much larger cemetery dating from the 6th Century AD. History buffs can find out more about the cemetery site at the Library's exhibition, which is open to the public. Another unique piece of history was uncovered more recently, by modern apprentice bricklayers with Stockton

Council's Training and Employment Services while they were working on the new Stockton Emmanuel Christian Centre in Norton.

Beneath the flooring they came across a deep well, believed to be around 200 years old, which was originally used to supply water for brewing. The site has certainly seen its fair share of uses in the past. Formerly a brewery, it became a cinema in the 1930s.

Since then, it has also been a nightclub with many names such as Henry Africa's and Black Cats.

However, it will probably be most remembered as the renowned Fiesta, which was a venue famous for attracting the big names in show business. Cliff Richard and the late and much-loved comedian Tommy Cooper both took to the stage there along with Shirley Bassey. In fact, a personal pink dressing room was specially built for Miss Bassey.

Stockton Council's Training and

Employment Services were delighted that its young apprentices were commissioned to work on the site. As well as covering and sealing the well, they are also building a special tank which will be used for baptisms. Neil Weldon, Lead Training Officer for the Council, said: "We were very surprised to discover this well. You can never tell what lies beneath buildings but we believe this well to date from the early 1800s - it is filling up from a natural spring which lies underneath. "The team is working hard towards a Level Two bricklaying qualification and at present all are in line to gain full time employment with their present placement providers." Work on the site is due to be completed next year, with the church due to open at Easter 2002.



# around Norton

The modern day Norton continues to attract businesses and visitors making it one of the Borough's busiest villages yet it still retains a character and charm of its own.

make an informal visit during Norton Library's opening hours. Visiting times are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, between 10am and 7pm, and Tuesday and Saturday, between 10am



**"We were very surprised to discover this well. You can never tell what lies beneath buildings but we believe this well to date from the early 1800s."**

Unusual and interesting shops nestle along the High Street attracting shoppers looking for something that little bit different. Diners are treated to a selection of fine restaurants and there is a choice of pubs to indulge in a glass or two of real ale or wine.

- If you want to find out more about the Saxon burial ground, you can

and 12.30pm, closed Sundays. The exhibition is open to school visits but any group leaders are asked to inform Library staff before bringing any large parties to view the exhibition.

To find out more, or to inform staff of a planned visit, please call (01642) 397592.



The best place to be

# educated

A commitment to make Stockton 'the best possible place in which to be educated' has seen Stockton Council's senior officers praised in a report published by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED).

The inspectors found education bosses provide 'effective leadership and management' and recognised the leadership of elected members.

Stanley Bradford, Stockton Council's Director of Education, Leisure and Cultural Services, said: "Reviews by OFSTED are widely acknowledged as rigorous, so it is very pleasing that our education services have come out so well.

"This report and the praise it contains is a credit to everyone involved - the Council's Education Department, the teachers and support staff and, of course, the pupils themselves.

"Stockton Council has prioritised education and these very positive results are the product of our commitment and investment of the past few years."

The OFSTED report highlighted the following strengths:

- Provision of data on pupil attainment.
- Support to schools for raising standards of literacy and numeracy.
- Support for the development of information and communication technology within the primary school curriculum.
- Support for early years.
- Support for pupils with special educational needs.
- Support and training for child protection.
- Corporate planning.
- Partnership with other agencies and groups.

Mike Tomlinson, Chief Inspector of Schools, said: "Stockton-on-Tees local education authority is an effective organisation, with officers and members demonstrating good leadership. The LEA is well placed to respond to the recommendations in this report."

The report found just three areas

**"The inspection report highlights the positive partnership between schools and the LEA. It supports further raising of standards for all our pupils."**

where it felt the LEA could continue to work on improvements. These were aspects of challenge and support to schools, support for ethnic minority children and aspects of support for provision of education otherwise than at school.

Inspectors made special mention of the good relationship and high level of trust between the education authority and schools in the Borough.

David Reach, Headteacher at Billingham Campus School, reiterated this saying: "The Local Education Authority has rightly been praised for its work in raising standards of education across the authority in the recent OFSTED report.

"The City Learning Centre at Billingham Campus will help raise standards still further across the whole of Stockton."

In Thornaby, Gillian Dorman-Smith,

headteacher of Mandale Mill Primary School, said: "The inspection report highlights the positive partnership between schools and the LEA. It supports further raising of standards for all our pupils."

Mr Bradford added: "This is an extremely positive report which recognises everyone's efforts in continuing to raise the standards within our schools, and I congratulate all those who have contributed to this success.

"Because the report is from a completely independent and impartial body, parents can be confident about the education of their children within the Borough. What we must do now is build on all of our good work to ensure that Stockton continues to improve."



# In the seat of democracy Arc

For one youngster, pictured below, an open day at Stockton Town Hall was an opportunity to try out the "hot seat", from which the Mayor chairs Council meetings.

More than 200 visitors attended the open day, held as one of several events in Stockton to mark Local Democracy Week in October.

Many of the visitors were greeted by the Mayor, Councillor Terry Bean, during their tour of the historic building, where they were also able to take in displays of information on many Council services.

Local Democracy Week was a great opportunity for people to find out about how local government works, how they can voice their opinions and how decisions are made.

Other local activities included a Conference for Older People, at which representatives from day centres, the Elder Citizens Panel and other local



groups discussed the issues they face. Later in the week, teams from eight local secondary schools took on the task of running a mythical local authority for the day in a management game. After a day of tackling some awkward problems to tight deadlines, the youngsters had to present their solutions to Councillors and journalists.

In a close run contest, Our Lady and St Bede RC Comprehensive School (also pictured) were awarded the winner's trophy, £100 worth of vouchers for Staples, which also donated a scanner.

## Stockton News available in Urdu

An audio cassette version of this edition of Stockton News is being produced on a trial basis for Urdu speakers. These will be available free from local Mosques, the International Family Centre in Stockton, and the Five Lamps Centre in Thornaby, or by writing to: the Public Relations Unit, Stockton Council, PO Box 117, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1YD.

اردو میں سٹاکٹن خبریں

اردو بولنے والوں کیلئے سٹاکٹن خبروں کی یہ اشاعت آڈیو کیسٹ کی صورت میں تجرباتی طور پر پیش کی گئی ہے۔ یہ مفت حاصل کی جا سکتی ہیں مقامی مساجد، انٹرنیشنل فیملی سٹریٹاکٹن اور فائیو لامپس سنٹر ٹھکانہ بی، یا اس پتے پر لکھ کر:-

پبلک ریلیشنز یونٹ، سٹاکٹن کونسل، POBox 117 میونسپل بلڈنگز، چرچ روڈ، سٹاکٹن۔ آن۔ ٹیس  
TS181YD

Stockton's arts venue, Arc, closed last month following the Arc Trust's decision to go into voluntary liquidation.

The decision came after the Arts Council failed to come up with a recovery package that would have allowed payment to creditors and the continued operation of the venue until the end of the year. The trust had hoped to receive an injection of funds that would have allowed it to meet all its outstanding obligations and restructure for the future.

John B. Taylor & Co of Yarm has been appointed as receiver.

The closure of Arc came after three year's work to establish itself, and at a time when the business was beginning to be turned around.

A Council spokesman said "With its busiest ever month in October when 8,000 people used the facility, it's clear that its closure will disappoint thousands of local people. However, the key partners are determined to ensure that the building remains available for community arts activity in the future."

The Council and Northern Arts had previously supported Arc with financial assistance and will now work together in an effort to establish a viable arts performance venue for Teesside.

## Great news for 'Stockton News'

The Team behind "Stockton News" has celebrated its success after carrying off a prestigious North East award.



The magazine was recently relaunched in a new style that so impressed judges it won a Silver Award at the Institute of Public Relations' regional Cream Awards. The

team held their breath as the award was announced by BBC presenter Ann Luchars, in a sparkling ceremony at Newcastle's Gosforth Park Hotel last month.

Stockton News is published four times a year and delivered to residents and businesses across the Borough.

# A DAY IN THE LIFE

**Kathy Winspear**  
Tourism and Promotions  
Officer

**Kathy Winspear is the woman behind promoting the Borough of Stockton to the rest of the country and the world at large.**

The Tourism and Promotions Officer for Stockton Council has been in the post for the past four years. During that time Kathy and her team have worked hard to promote the area to visitors, both from other areas of the United Kingdom and, increasingly, from overseas. Although Stockton may not automatically spring to mind as a popular tourist destination, day and overnight visitors to the area spend an estimated £89 million in the Borough each year.

Even more astonishing is the fact that tourism also plays a major part in supporting around 3,200 jobs here. One of the most rewarding parts of the job for Kathy is seeing people's perceptions change when they do come to Stockton, and to the Tees Valley as a whole.

"A pre-conceived idea about what the area is like is one of the hardest things to change," said Kathy. "But when visitors do come here and see the area for themselves, most of them are more than pleasantly surprised. That's one of the things that makes this job so worthwhile."

The redevelopment of the Riverside area has played a great part in attracting visitors to the Borough. This year, the World Canoe Marathon Championships attracted tens of thousands of people and really helped put the area on the world stage. Kathy, with Tourism Promotions Assistant Julie Marsden, often works with other local authority tourism officers from the Tees Valley to put the area in the spotlight. They attend exhibitions, conferences



and roadshows to promote Stockton and raise awareness of the whole area.

"We also work closely with partners including the many accommodation and attraction providers in the area, P&O North Sea Ferries, tour operators and journalists in Holland and Germany to bring in the overseas market," added Kathy.

"We have been particularly successful in attracting motorcyclists and classic car enthusiasts from the continent to

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**"When visitors do come here and see the area for themselves, most of them are more than pleasantly surprised. That's one of the things that makes this job so worthwhile."**

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stay in the region. We have produced a number of itineraries and packages, which enable visitors to discover the region's diversity and attractions." The annual Stockton-on-Tees Visitor Guide shows all the attractions in the area and lists accommodation, where to eat, events, maps of the area and useful contact numbers for people visiting the area.

Over 40,000 copies of the free guide are printed and distributed to every Tourist Information Centre in England, as well as to hotels and attractions within a 100-mile radius of Stockton. Naturally, the guide is also available from Stockton's own Tourist

Information Centre in the Green Dragon Museum.

European Funding has been secured for three years to produce the visitor guides and to attend exhibitions and roadshows aimed at consumers and the travel trade and to promote and market the area generally.

This year the Tourism Management Institute held its annual conference at Hotel Tall Trees, near Yarm, and more than 100 tourism professionals and destination managers from across the UK attended the event in October.

As one of the organisers, Kathy said that managing the event had been hard work but it had been a real privilege to host. "It was the first time this annual event had been held this far North and to attract all those industry professionals was wonderful," she said.

"Most of the delegates reported that they had appreciated the hospitality and the variety of topical issues covered."

The attendance of the Minister for Tourism, Kim Howells MP, at the event was the icing on the cake.

The Tourism service at Stockton Council continues to work at promoting the Borough and the wider region to both domestic and foreign markets.

One of the most lucrative markets for the area is currently the business sector.

"Some of the hotels in the region host business conferences and Stockton continues to be economically strong in that area," said Kathy.

"We will continue to promote the Borough of Stockton and to carry on changing people's perceptions of the area – because when they do come they realise just how much Stockton, and Tees Valley, has to offer."

# River users celebrate watersports centre opening

Sports Minister Richard Caborn visited Stockton in November to open the area's latest watersports facility.

The £1.5 million River Tees Watersports Centre is on the north bank of the River Tees, downstream of the Princess of Wales Bridge. The new home for a range of local water sports clubs, it combines first-class boat storage, training and social space and includes provision for disabled access and participation.

The Minister was treated to an impressive river display by boat clubs based at the Centre, including junior rowers and University crews, dragon boat racers, water skiers and British Champion Jet Ski Freestyle Rider Keith Rimmer.

Professor Roy Boyne, Chair of the Tees River Users Trust which manages the centre, said: "This is one of the most forward-looking water recreation projects in the UK and it is testament to what can be achieved in co-operation and partnership.

**"This is one of the most forward-looking water recreation projects in the UK."**

"Clubs with diverse interests representing over 300 members have driven the project bound by their enthusiasm for securing much-needed facilities to match the quality of the river. Over the coming months we hope to encourage people from the wider community to get involved". The Centre will increase participation on the non-tidal stretch of water upstream of the Tees Barrage, where a 1,000 metre straight can be used for a variety of competitive activities including water and jet ski-ing and as a multi-lane rowing, dragonboating



Sports Minister Richard Caborn

and canoeing course.

The Tees recently hosted the World Canoe Marathon Championships and the new complex cements the river's place as a centre of watersporting excellence, giving existing river users the facilities to help them improve and opening new opportunities to other local people.

A £960,000 Sport England award covered 65 per cent of the construction costs, with the balance raised by the Trust from sources which included Stockton Council, British Waterways, English Partnerships and the proposed users.

English Partnerships are currently working with Stockton Council and the University of Durham to redevelop derelict land between the Princess of Wales Bridge and the Tees Barrage. The Centre forms the first completed building of this development, which will be known as Northbank.

For information on the clubs based at the River Tees Watersports Centre, please contact Sean Rose, Centre Manager, on (01642) 628940.



# Hospital plans to be reviewed

**Stockton Council has welcomed news of an independently chaired review of plans to reorganise hospital services in the area.**

The proposals, by the North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Trust, would see arthroplasty (hip and knee replacement) operations concentrated at Hartlepool and cancer surgery focused on Stockton.

Stockton Council Chief Executive George Garlick, said: "We welcome a full, independently chaired examination of the proposals and feel that this will assure the community that all views will be taken into account."

The panel will include representatives of the North Tees Primary Care Trust, Stockton Council, North Tees Community Health Council, Tees Health Authority and other organisations.

It will consider how access to and outcomes of arthroplasty and cancer surgery can be improved. The panel will publish its findings before the end of February.

The recommendations will not be binding and local NHS bodies must then decide what, if any, changes to services they wish to make. The Community Health Councils have the right to ask that formal consultation be undertaken.



# Pick of the crop



**Mandale Mill Primary School pupil Stacey Bolam is the real pick of the crop after scooping a special award.**

The ten-year-old won the North-East award for running the school's fruit company for the past twelve months. She was presented with a Tesco Our Schools Award 2001 after winning the regional heat.

Her business sense won her the Every Little Helps Award, which recognises a special contribution to school life. Stacey helps sort out the fruit at school which is sold at break time and to the lower school.

Jane Brown, Stacey's class teacher, said: "The company has been going for a few years but it was not being used too much.

"Stacey has revitalised it since she took it over - now all the children are lining up.

"She just got on with it, she didn't need a teacher to tell her what to do - we're all very proud of her."

# Grant helps prepare a vision for Hardwick

**A vision for the future of Hardwick and neighbouring areas of north west Stockton is to be developed in partnership with local groups and organisations, following the award of a £60,000 grant from the regeneration partnership Stockton Renaissance.**

The first stage will be to identify needs and expectations across the area, before developing a range of proposals for the future. The vision will be based on a number of public consultation exercises that have already taken place across the area, with a share of the grant used to consult organisations that represent

and work with local people. Groups with an interest in the long term future of Hardwick will be encouraged to take part, such as the Hardwick Community Partnership, Stockton Council, ward councillors, housing associations, shopping centre owners, the health authority and local voluntary organisations.

Once their views on the way forward are known, a strategy for the future will be prepared.

Regeneration officer Jeremy Sherlock said: "This is an opportunity to develop significant improvements for housing and other services. The most exciting element will be the shared vision for the long-term development

of Hardwick."

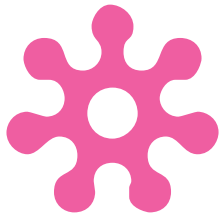
The form that the vision might take will depend heavily on the views of those taking part in the exercise and on the opportunities for regeneration that this may open.

Work has already started on making Hardwick a place for the future and selective clearing has started with the demolition of some empty, difficult to let properties.

The consultancy is due to get underway before the end of the year and is scheduled for completion next spring. Once the results are known, the next phase will be the task of preparing strategies taking in all the views expressed.

# good morning stockton

People in thousands of homes across the North East get up in the morning with Gregg Upwards and the rest of the 96.6 tfm breakfast crew.



**96.6 tfm**

**Gregg and his partners in crime - Lindarella and Producer AI - are well known voices as their not so dulcet tones filter over the region's airwaves from their Thornaby studio between 6 and 10 every weekday morning.**

And the breakfast crew have been there every step of the way as 96.6 tfm have again and again brought pop's biggest names to Stockton. Around 100,000 people gathered at the Riverside this summer for the spectacular Feel the Noise - Live! concert that saw former Spice Girl and pop babe Geri Halliwell headline other great acts in one of the North East's biggest ever free music events.

Gregg Upwards was on stage for the concert and introduced a scantily dressed Geri to the screaming fans.

"The atmosphere that day was unforgettable and getting Geri Halliwell to perform was a real coup for Stockton," he said.

"I think the day Geri Halliwell came to Stockton will remain in people's minds for a long time - looking out from the stage to the sea of people was amazing."

Pop sensations Hear'Say have also visited the tfm studio in Teesdale along with

former Neighbours star and pop beauty Natalie Imbruglia.

"Attracting the biggest showbiz names to Stockton is great and what the tfm listeners and young people in the region want from their radio station," said Gregg.

Youngsters love to tune into Gregg Upwards in the Morning to hear the latest chart music and cheeky banter between Gregg, Producer AI and Lindarella.

Twice a week - on Mondays and Fridays - pupils have the chance to grab themselves a Cool Ride to School in one of tfm's three Cool Cruiser Vehicles.

The tfm roadshow entertained almost 100,000 November 5th revellers down at Stockton's Riverside and they were also on hand when the town's Christmas lights were switched on the same evening.

"Being involved in local events is what we are all about at tfm and meeting the listeners at these different events is great fun. They feel they know us having heard us in their homes five days a week," said Gregg.

When it comes to championing young people across Tees Valley, tfm are there. The radio station runs the Sweet nights at Tall Trees, near Yarm, which are aimed

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**"Attracting the biggest showbiz names to Stockton is great and what the tfm listeners and young people in the region want from their radio station."**

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The state of the art Cruisers are kitted out with a DVD player and Playstation giving young people the ultimate ride to the school gates, making them the envy of their classmates.

During school holidays youngsters can still travel in style with a car ride to Splash - Stockton's newest leisure facility in a Cool Ride to the Pool.

Local company, Dutton Forshaw, of Stockton, provide the branded vehicles.

"The Cool Ride to School has been incredibly popular and it is great fun for the youngsters to turn up to school in one of the hottest vehicles around," added Gregg.

The Gregg Upwards in the Morning crew recently created fireworks at the Bonfire Night celebrations in Stockton Town Centre.

at 11 to 16 year-olds and provide a fantastic evening of music, dance and entertainment, away from the dangers of drugs and drink.

"The Sweet nights are incredibly popular with under 16s as they are aimed specifically at them, and parents know that it is a safe and very well supervised environment for their children," said Gregg.

"We are running a special Sweet Christmas Eve night from 6 until 9.30pm and we expect it to be a great night for 11 to 16 year-olds."

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**You can tune into Gregg Upwards in the Morning at 96.6 tfm every weekday morning from 6-10am.**

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## Stockton online for everyone

Stockton online (SOL) is the innovative community based network that provides free and open access to I.T. throughout Stockton, Thornaby and Billingham.



There are 11 sites throughout the Borough and a further seven are about to be opened.

SOL provides everyone with the opportunity to learn how to use the internet. Free childcare is available to members. There is also provision to assist those with learning difficulties or disabilities. No-one is excluded, whatever their culture, background, or status.

Stockton: The International Family Centre Dovecot Street, The Forge, Kiora Hall, Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre, The Willows and The Richard Hind Centre. Coming soon: Elm Tree Community Centre, Hardwick Community Centre, the International Family Centre (Skinner Street), North Tees Hospital, Oaktree Primary School and Stockton Parish Church.

Billingham: Billingham Causeway Adult Education Centre and coming soon to Low Grange Community Centre.

Thornaby: Five Lamps Organisation Eldon Street and South Thornaby Community Centre.

## Council Stakes Claim to Home Improvement Cash

Stockton Council and the Homes for the Future tenants group have together submitted a bid to scoop a massive £52.5m of Government housing cash.

The Council is aiming to be one of the first in the country to join the new programme of funding for Arms Length Housing Management companies.

Under the Arms Length Management scheme, a new company - made up of tenants, Councillors and private sector representatives - would take over the day-to-day management role for the Council's housing.

This means that the Council's role as a landlord would be separated from its strategic function and the new organisation - or Arms Length Housing Management Company - would take over responsibility for the running and maintenance of Council homes.

The first Councils to be selected to take part in the programme will be able to access their share of a slice of extra Government cash - £160m in 2002/2003 and a further £300m in 2003/2004. Stockton would earmark its share to fund much-needed repairs to homes across the Borough.

If Stockton gets a provisional place on the new programme, it is Council tenants who will have the final say on how they want their homes to be run in the future. The Council will only progress the Arms Length Company if the majority of tenants are in favour of this approach.

Views will be sought in the New Year



and, between now and then, tenants can expect to receive more information on the benefits that the Arms Length option could bring. As Stockton News went to print, the Council was still waiting to hear whether it had a place on the provisional programme. It was also in the process of appointing a Shadow Board, which would be responsible for the overall management and performance of an Arms Length Company and for delivering day-to-day housing landlord services and improvements.

A competition is currently being run to name the new company. If you have a name you would like to suggest for consideration, please write to the Customer Services Team, Housing & Contract Services Department, Stockton Council, 16 Church Road, STOCKTON-ON-TEES TS18 1TX, before Monday 17th December.

## Customers feel the "Benefits" of E-Government



**Sending information by e-mail is making life easier for benefits claimants, thanks to a new partnership between Stockton Council, the Benefits Agency, Stockton and District Advice and Information Service and Hartlepool Citizens' Advice Bureau.**

Under the partnership project, personal computers and electronic scanners have been installed at several public buildings. Customers can take their evidence to the most convenient office, from where it is electronically

scanned and e-mailed direct to the Stockton Benefits Agency Office. Stockton Council Housing Centres at Thornaby and Billingham Town Centres and Roseworth, Stockton and District Advice and Information Service and Hartlepool Citizens' Advice Bureau all offer the scanning service. The service, which started last month, will initially be piloted for three months and, if successful, could be expanded nationally.

**To find out more, call Julie Hill on (01642) 398631 or Craig Etherington on (01642) 393780.**

# Stockton's new shopping complex opens for business

Coronation Street star Stephen Beckett, alias hunky Dr Matt Ramsden, set pulses racing in Stockton Town Centre when he turned out for the opening of the £43m Wellington Square shopping complex.

Hundreds of onlookers gathered to see the TV heart-throb join the Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Terry Bean, to cut the ribbon that opened the centre, which boasts 45 shop units and 800



Actor Stephen Beckett - alias Coronation Street's Dr Matt Ramsden - joins Stockton Mayor Councillor Terry Bean in opening the £43m Wellington Square shopping centre.

parking spaces. But the ceremony was simply the start of a fun-packed programme of entertainment lined up by centre management to celebrate the opening of the complex.

Radio presenter Goffy and the Breakfast Show kept crowds amused with the Century FM Roadshow and the Phoenix New Orleans Jazz Band filled the malls with live music. However, the family fun didn't end as the opening day itself drew to a close. For the first few days of trading, Wellington Square became an arena for a variety of entertainment including a unicyclist, jugglers and stilt walkers.

And many of the tenants lined up in-store entertainment and discounts, with Debenhams welcoming its new 10,000 sq. ft extension with a spectacular opening event of its own and Marks and Spencer celebrating its

Centenary Year.

Rob Gildersleeve, Centre Manager at Wellington Square, said: "Wellington Square is set to revitalise Stockton's retail offer as well as enhance the town centre as a whole.

"The Wellington Square Development Company has worked extremely hard to bring this investment to Stockton and the centre looks absolutely amazing. "The centre will play a major part in the regeneration of Stockton, as well as providing an attractive shopping environment, and I'm confident that it

will prove to be a major asset to the town and attract people from throughout the area."

The centre was developed by the Wellington Square Development Company in partnership with Stockton Council.

- The Stockton branch of Marks and Spencer celebrated 100 years of trading in the town in October with four days of festivities. Memories were stirred by displays of merchandise from a century ago, together with staff uniforms from bygone days. Other in-store events included a reunion of retired staff, children's entertainment and fashion shows of the latest Autumn looks. The celebrations coincided with the opening of the new Wellington Square shopping centre, which links into the recently refurbished Marks and Spencer Store.

## Minister gets a warm welcome in Stockton

**Lord Falconer, Minister for Housing, Planning and Regeneration, paid a visit to Stockton Borough to see the difference the Government-led Warm Zone initiative is making to residents' lives.**

Stockton, together with its partner, gas pipeline company Transco, is one of just five authorities in the country to be piloting the programme, which aims to reduce fuel poverty in the Borough by 80 per cent within three years.

The Warm Zone effect is already being felt by many residents who have received crucial advice and assistance to help them heat their homes this winter. The partnership is currently working in the Mile House, Portrack and Tilery, Stainsby and Whitton Wards and will be rolled out across the whole of the Borough over the next

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**"Our target for the Warm Zone is very ambitious but work is now well underway."**

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Lord Falconer (left) meets Warm Zone director Beccy Brown, Thornaby resident Sheila Procter and Warm Zone surveying supervisor Dave Foster.

three years.

Beccy Brown, Stockton Warm Zone Director, said: "Our target for the Warm Zone is very ambitious but work is now well underway.

"Already more than 2,500 homes have been visited and from these, 250 homes have benefited from a range of measures from Central Heating to loft insulation and draft proofing to energy saving advice. We expect to have completed work on the 1000th home by early December."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND

# TELL THEM WHAT YOU THINK

A review of local government electoral arrangements for this area has just begun. Its aim is to make sure that, where possible, every Councillor represents the same number of electors. It will also take into account the interests and identities of local communities in the area.

To do this, the review will look at:

- The number of Councillors on the Council
- The number of Councillors in each Ward
- The boundaries and names of Wards
- The electoral arrangements of Parish and Town Councils

During the first stage of the review the Local Government Commission for England would like your suggestions for any change to these arrangements. The Commission will then publish its draft recommendations.

This will be a consultation document and it will be made available on the Commission's website and at Stockton Council's Municipal Buildings.

The Local Government Commission for England is keen to ensure that your views count. To make sure they do, please write to them at the address shown with your suggestions by **7th January, 2002**. The Commission cannot consider changes to the external boundaries of the District, or Parish or create new Parishes.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's submission to the Commission is now available for inspection. It can be viewed up until 6th January, 2002 (Monday - Friday between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm) at the Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees. Should you require further information please contact David Godfrey on 01642 393939.

Review Manager  
(Stockton-on-Tees),  
Local Government Commission  
for England, Dolphyn Court,  
10/11 Great Turnstile, London,  
WC1V 7JU.

Telephone 020 7430 8400  
Fax 020 7404 6142  
E-mail [reviews@lcge.gov.uk](mailto:reviews@lcge.gov.uk)  
Website [www.lgce.gov.uk](http://www.lgce.gov.uk)



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

# Register of Electors

## Is your name included?

The Electoral Register was published on 1st December. Copies can be viewed at the main Municipal Buildings, Central and Local Libraries and the Electoral Registration Office.



### Check Now

Unless your name is included on the Register of Electors you will not be able to vote at elections. All households should by now have been canvassed by Electoral Registration Staff. If for any reason you have not signed or completed a registration form, contact the Electoral Registration Officer (address below)

If your Birthday is between 1st December 2001 and 30th November 2002, you are entitled to be registered.

**Remember, the register relates to where you are living on 15th October 2001, and if your name does not appear on the Register, then you may need to submit a Voter Registration Form.**

The closing date for applications for the next rolling registration is 12th December, coming into effect from 2nd January 2002.

### Why not vote from home?

Did you know that anyone on the Electoral Register can vote by post?  
If you would like details on how to vote by post or proxy please contact:

#### The Electoral Registration Officer

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council  
Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees. TS18 1LD

Telephone: 393939 Ext. 3080/3081



## Remember

**If you don't register...neither will your views**

**Failure to appear on the register may affect any credit applications  
e.g. - Interest Free credit, loans, mortgages and bank accounts.**



# STOCKTON BUSINESS CENTRE

- 24 hours access and security
- Free parking
- Fully equipped resource centre
- Free business advice and counselling
- Meeting and conference rooms
- Easy in – Easy out



**Call 01642 606066 for further information**

Stockton Business Centre, 70 Brunswick Street, Stockton-on-Tees  
 Email: [Enquiries@StocktonBusinessCentre.org](mailto:Enquiries@StocktonBusinessCentre.org)  
[www.StocktonBusinessCentre.org](http://www.StocktonBusinessCentre.org)



## Helping your child to reach for the stars

Whether you're going back to work, or looking for more free time, discover what makes Thornaby Childrens Nursery the home from home your child will always love. Welcoming children from 3 months to 5 years of age. Inspected by OFSTED.



462 Thornaby Road. Tel 01642 750113



**"I remember thinking that at my age, I'd never find work again."**

If you're over 50 and want to get back to work, New Deal can give you the help you need and up to £60 on top of weekly wage.

**0845 606 2626**

[www.newdeal.gov.uk](http://www.newdeal.gov.uk) ITV Teletex p.382

*new deal*

Roy Broom  
Invoicing Secretary



## we deliver an extra ingredient, experience

Wiltshire Farm Foods have been delivering frozen ready meals to the people of Teesside for over six years, offering a caring and reliable service. Wiltshire Farm Foods are the original and the best, delivering the very finest frozen ready meals direct to your home every week. We offer a delicious range of over 150 complete dishes, with many catering for special diets. Prices start from as little as £2.00 for a main course and dessert, with delivery absolutely FREE. Why not try our special trial pack for just £5.00!

For further information call us on 01642 643999 or for your free full colour brochure FREEPHONE 0800 773 773.



New Christmas brochures and festive menu packs available now!

## Thornaby Adult Education Service

Are you in the driving seat?  
If not, why not?

Enrol on our new European Computer  
Driving Licence Course

(The latest computer qualification)

Course starts: Tuesday 8th January 2002 from 6-9pm for 24 weeks  
At Eggescliffe School, Eggescliffe, Yarm

Other new courses starting in January:

Computers and CLAIT: St Patricks Secondary School, Thornaby, Monday 7-9pm

Computers and CLAIT: Ian Ramsey School, Thornaby, Tuesday 6.30-8.30pm

Computers and CLAIT: South Thornaby Community Centre, Monday 5-7pm

Computers and CLAIT: Eggescliffe Comp. Eggescliffe, Wednesday 6.30-8.30pm

Desk Top Publishing: Ian Ramsey School, Stockton: Monday 7-9pm

To enrol or for more information on any of the above  
courses, please telephone: 01 642 393535

Please note the office will be closed from Thursday 20th December  
until Monday 7th January 2002

For new students, we are also offering a number of Championing  
in womens learning courses. Tel: 01 642 393575 for more information



a  
e



A service provided by Stockton Council

# Think about fostering

We are looking for foster carers for  
some of the children in our care.

We need people from all backgrounds and age groups  
who are able to offer a genuine commitment to children  
and young people. You will need patience, understanding  
and an ability to work in partnership to solve problems.

We have children who need looking after for a few days  
right through to a number of years.

You will receive an allowance, which will not affect any  
benefits you receive. Training and support are provided.

If you have ever considered fostering, or would  
simply like to know more, please contact the Child  
Placement Team on (01642) 397212

Give a Child a Chance



HOW SINGING  
DANCE &  
DRAMA  
CREATE  
A MANY-SIDED  
CHILD.



Here's a creative leisure activity that  
helps rising 4-16 year olds to grow.

Stagecoach in Yarm and Darlington teaches the skills they  
need to act, sing and dance. Before long they begin to stand  
better, move more freely and clearly, grow more poised, self  
confident and self assured.

For details and a prospectus for the new term in  
January ring: 01325 337667 (24hrs)

www.stagecoach.co.uk



FIVE TIMES AWARD WINNING



in partnership  
with



## SELF-EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS

Tuesday & Thursday Evenings  
6.00pm to 8.30pm

at the

City Centre Training Offices  
74-76 Skinner Street, Stockton

FREE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE  
BOROUGH OF STOCKTON-ON-TEES

- Learn business skills •
- Talk to the experts •

If you are employed, unemployed or already have started a  
business we would like to help!

TO RESERVE A PLACE TELEPHONE LYNSEY ON  
01429 862333

# Don't Get By - Get on!

Do you sometimes struggle with spelling or punctuation? Or perhaps your mind is blank when you are faced with maths? If so, **Stockton Adult Education Service** can help. There are millions of people in the UK who face these difficulties every day.

We offer small classes in local community venues, to give you a chance to work at your own pace and brush up your skills.

**So, if a fear of maths or english is holding you back at work or in your everyday life contact Julie Walker, Basic Skills Co-ordinator on (01642) 393536.**



## Retail Training



Residents of Stockton Borough have benefited from the two retail courses held earlier this year.

Both courses were funded through Stockton Borough Council Adult Education Service and have been hailed as a new way forward for training. Working in partnership with The Five Lamps Organisation, Jobslink, Employment Service, Stockton & Billingham College and Debenhams the partnership organised and

delivered a short retail focused event that was successful in helping 21 of the 25 partnerships secure employment.

For more information about retail training opportunities or your nearest Jobslink Office ring June Kneafsey or Sue Heslop on: (01642) 601044



**Care Call is the** effective emergency response service, at the touch of a button.

It gives very quick contact to Stockton Council's state-of-the-art Security Centre, whose highly trained officers will then respond by phone or in person.

### Who uses Care Call?

**Thousands of people**, including young people with parents away or on holiday; mums with young families; elderly people living alone; single, vulnerable people; students... and many more.

Relatives and friends enjoy real peace of mind, knowing their loved ones have help on hand, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Call us today on **01642 634775 / 634768** for details of the package options available.



# What's On

December 2001 / January 2002

## Sat December 8th

**Christmas Family Fun Day**  
12 noon - 4 pm  
Craft Event at Preston Park and meet Father Christmas  
Charge applies to this event  
Tel. 01642 788907 for further details.

## Sun December 9th

**Recycle Christmas**  
1 pm - 3 pm  
Make Seasonal Decorations  
At Castle Eden Walkway  
Charge applies £1.  
Tel. 01740 630011 to book for this event.

## 14th December 2002

Fri 5pm-7pm Church Road Plaza.  
Open Air Festive Concert with Choirs and bands bringing christmas sounds from around the world and firework finale. Free

## 15th December - 19th January 2002

**focus@gallery - Green Dragon Museum.**  
Open Mon-Sat 9am-5pm. Admission free.  
Stockton Camera Club

## 15th December - 26th January 2002

**Billingham Art Gallery:** Cleveland Art Society

## Sun December 16th

**Tree Dressing**  
2 pm - 4 pm  
Celebrate Midwinter Solstice at Cowpen Bewley  
Tel. 01642 415225 for further details.

## Sun December 16th

**It's a Jungle Out There**  
10am - 12noon and 1pm - 3pm  
Craft session with Jungle Book Characters at Castle Eden Walkway.  
Tel. 01740 630011 to book  
Charge of £1.50 applies.

## Sun December 23rd

**Winter Solstice**  
2 pm start  
A walk in the Woods of Coatham Stobb.  
Tel. 01642 788907 for further details.

## Sun January 6th

**Winter Wander**  
10 am - 3 pm  
9 mile walk from Billingham Beck.  
Suitable for adults and children over 8.  
Bring a packed lunch, boots and waterproofs.  
Tel. 01642 397609 for more details.

## Thurs. January 10th

**Didgeridoo Workshop**  
6 pm - 9 pm  
Didgeridoo playing at Cowpen Bewley.  
Booking is essential and cost is £6 per person.  
Tel. 01642 415225  
Numbers are limited for this event.

## Sun January 13th

**Yarm - Picton - Worsall Loop**  
10.30 am start  
7 mile circulars walk. Bring a packed lunch.  
Meet 10.30am in the car park of Yarm Railway Station.  
Tel. 01740 788907

## Sun January 20th

**Norton Archaeology**  
1.30 pm  
Explore the medieval village of Norton with Tees Archaeology.  
Meet 1.30 at the village pond.  
Tel. 01429 523455

## 26th - 2nd March

**Flying High:**  
Teesside's history & archaeology from the air.

## Stockton Council Christmas & New Year Opening

**OPENING hours of many Stockton Council offices and services will be restricted over the Christmas and New Year period.**



**STOCKTON-ON-TEES**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL  
*Local services for local people*

Most offices will be open to the public until 1pm on both December 24th and December 31st and will be closed on December 25th and 26th and on January 1st.

Some offices will also be closed on December 27th and remain closed until the morning of January 2nd.

- Housing Centres and offices (telephone service available until 4pm on 24th December)
- Council Tax payment offices in Billingham, Stockton and Thornaby
- Cashiers office at Municipal Buildings, Stockton
- Kingsway House, Billingham (including Council Tax and other Finance and Highways services based there) will be closed to the public from 1pm on Christmas Eve and will not re-open again until January 2nd at 8.30am.

### Emergency Social Services

Social Services offices will be open to the public until 4.30pm on both December 24th and December 31st and will be closed on December 25th and 26th and on January 1st.

At all other times, the Emergency Duty team can be contacted on (01642) 631123.

### Emergency Repairs to Council Houses

These can be reported to the Out of Hours Emergency Repairs number on 01642 674396.

### Leisure Centres

- Thornaby Pavilion, Thornaby Pool and Stockton Sports Centre will close at 4pm on 24th December and reopen at 9am on 2nd January.
- Billingham Forum will close on December 25th and 26th and January 1st; between December 27th and 31st, it will open 10am-5pm.
- Splash will close on December 25th and 26th and January 1st; between December 27th and 31st, it will open 9am-4pm.

### Museums, Art Gallery & Tourist Information Centre

These will be closed between December 25th and January 1st inclusive.

The **Care Call** and **Concierge Security Services** will provide a service throughout the holiday period.

Housing tenants are urged to stock up on enough heating tickets to get through the holiday period.

# Ward Surgeries

1st January, 2002 – 31st April, 2002

## BISHOPSGARTH WARD (STOCKTON) 6.30PM - 7.00PM

8th January Bishopsgarth School  
12th February Fairfield Infants School  
12th March Bishopsgarth School  
**COUNCILLORS** S. HALL TEL: 654895  
W. WOODHEAD TEL: 584409

## BLUE HALL WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM - 7.00PM

2nd January The Forge Community Centre  
16th January Norton United Reform Church  
30th January Frederick Nattrass School  
13th February The Forge Community Centre  
27th February Norton United Reform Church  
13th March Frederick Nattrass School  
**COUNCILLORS** M. FRANKLAND TEL: 552667  
MRS K. NELSON TEL: 397921

## CHARLTONS WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM - 7.30PM

14th January Clarences Enterprise & Training Centre  
11th February Cowpen Hall  
11th March Clarences Enterprise & Training Centre  
**COUNCILLORS** MRS A. McCOY TEL: 533554  
J. McCOY TEL: 533554

## EGGLESCLIFFE WARD 6.00PM - 7.00PM

15th January Egglecliffe Community Centre  
19th February Egglecliffe Parish Hall  
19th March Egglecliffe Community Centre  
**COUNCILLORS** J. ATKINSON TEL: 782292  
J. FLETCHER TEL: 786456

## ELM TREE WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM - 7.00PM

8th January Elm Tree Community Centre  
5th February As Above  
5th March As Above  
**COUNCILLOR** MRS S. FLETCHER TEL: 786456  
Email: sfletcher@cix.co.uk

## FAIRFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM - 7.00PM

16th January Fairfield Library  
20th February As Above  
13th March As Above  
**COUNCILLORS** MRS F. HAWKINS TEL: 863789  
MRS J. WADE TEL: 583549

## GLEBE WARD (STOCKTON)

7th January The Education Centre 2.30pm - 3.00pm  
15th January As Above, 6.30pm - 7.00pm  
4th February As Above, 2.30pm - 3.00pm  
19th February As Above, 6.30pm - 7.00pm  
11th March As Above, 2.30pm - 3.00pm  
19th March As Above, 6.30pm - 7.00pm  
**COUNCILLORS** MRS A. CAINS TEL: 555394  
R. CAINS TEL: 555394

## GRANGE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 5.30PM - 6.30PM

25th January Windlestone Road Housing Office  
22nd February As Above  
29th March As Above  
**COUNCILLORS** A. CUNNINGHAM TEL: 551251  
M. STOKER TEL: 648069

Email: Alexander.Cunningham@stockton.gov.uk  
Email: mickstoker@aol.com or mick@grangeward.co.uk

## GRANGEFIELD WARD (STOCKTON)

23rd January Oxbridge Primary School, 5.45pm - 6.45pm  
28th January Grays Road Institute, 10.00am - 11.30am  
11th February Grays Road Institute, 10am - 11.30am  
27th February Oxbridge Primary School, 5.45pm - 6.45pm  
18th March Grays Road Institute, 10.00am - 11.30am  
27th March Oxbridge Primary School, 5.45pm - 6.45pm  
**COUNCILLORS** T. BEAN TEL: 870110  
MRS E. JOHNSON TEL: 673952

## HARDWICK WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM - 7.00PM

4th January Hardwick Tomorrow Ltd, Enterprise & Initiative Centre  
11th January As Above  
18th January As Above  
25th January As Above  
1st February As Above  
8th February As Above  
15th February As Above  
22nd February As Above  
1st March As Above  
8th March As Above  
15th March As Above  
22nd March As Above  
**COUNCILLORS** P. ANDREW TEL: 782373  
W. NOBLE TEL: 602299

## HARTBURN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.45PM - 7.30PM

14th January Rosehill Infants School  
4th February Elmwood Community Centre  
4th March Rosehill Infants School  
**COUNCILLORS** K. LUPTON TEL: 589863  
S. SMAILES TEL: 581574

## INGLEBY BARWICK WARD 7.00PM - 8.00PM

8th January The Pathfinders PH, Maltby  
5th February Safeway, Ingleby Barwick  
5th March The Pathfinders PH, Maltby  
**COUNCILLOR** MRS J. BEAUMONT TEL: 785304

## MANDALE WARD (THORNABY) 12.00 NOON - 1.00PM

5th January The Mandale PH  
19th January Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre  
2nd February Kennedy House  
16th February The Mandale PH  
2nd March Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre  
16th March Kennedy House  
**COUNCILLORS** M. INGRAM TEL: 789372  
S. WALMSLEY TEL: 881886

## MARSH HOUSE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM - 7.30PM

14th January North Billingham Methodist Church  
11th February Low Grange Community Centre  
11th March North Billingham Methodist Church  
**COUNCILLOR** MRS L. APEDALE TEL: (01740) 645216

## MARSH HOUSE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM - 7.30PM

10th January North Billingham Methodist Church  
24th January Low Grange Community Centre  
14th February North Billingham Methodist Church  
28th February Low Grange Community Centre  
14th March North Billingham Methodist Church  
28th March Low Grange Community Centre  
**COUNCILLOR** G. FIELD TEL: 872885

## MILE HOUSE WARD (STOCKTON) 7.00PM - 8.00PM

17th January Salters Lane Community Centre  
19th February Kiara Hall Youth & Community Centre  
21st March Salters Lane Community Centre  
**COUNCILLORS** S. COLLIER TEL: 581380  
K. LEONARD TEL: 894191

## NEWTOWN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM - 7.00PM

4th January Newtown Community Centre  
18th January Appleton Road Community Centre  
1st February Newtown Community Centre  
15th February Appleton Road Community Centre  
1st March Newtown Community Centre  
15th March Appleton Road Community Centre  
29th March Newtown Community Centre  
**COUNCILLORS** P. BAKER TEL: 655607  
R. GIBSON TEL: 614482

## NORTHFIELD WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.00PM - 7.00PM

25th January Wolviston Court Community Centre  
22nd February As Above  
29th March As Above  
**COUNCILLORS** A. CLARK TEL: 531144  
M. WOMPHREY TEL: 555755

## NORTON WARD 6.00PM - 7.00PM

11th January Norton Library  
25th January Albany Resource Centre  
8th February St. Michael's Club Room  
22nd February Norton Library  
8th March Albany Resource Centre  
22nd March Norton Library  
**COUNCILLORS** R. COOK TEL: 890058  
S. NELSON TEL: 534417  
Email: Robert.Cook@stockton.gov.uk  
Email: Steve.Nelson@stockton.gov.uk

## PARKFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM - 7.00PM

3rd January Parkfield Community Centre  
10th January Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre  
17th January Parkfield Community Centre  
24th January Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre  
7th February Parkfield Community Centre  
14th February Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre  
21st February Parkfield Community Centre  
28th February Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre  
7th March Parkfield Community Centre  
14th March Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre  
21st March Parkfield Community Centre  
28th March Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre  
**COUNCILLORS** C. COOMBS TEL: 645759  
P. KIRTON TEL: 532076

## PORTRACK & TILERY WARD (STOCKTON) 5.00PM - 6.00PM

8th January Portrack Community Centre  
15th January The Community House, Cromwell Avenue  
22nd January Frank Wiseman Hall  
5th February Mill Lane Community Centre  
12th February Portrack Community Centre  
19th February The Community House, Cromwell Avenue  
26th February Frank Wiseman Hall  
5th March Mill Lane Community Centre  
12th March Portrack Community Centre  
19th March The Community House, Cromwell Avenue  
26th March Frank Wiseman Hall  
**COUNCILLORS** D. COLEMAN TEL: 673952  
K. SAINSBURY TEL: 605201

## PRESTON WARD 6.30PM - 7.30PM

4th January Trinity Methodist Church, Eaglescliffe  
18th January The Wilson Institute, Long Newton  
1st February Trinity Methodist Church, Eaglescliffe  
15th February The Wilson Institute, Long Newton  
1st March Trinity Methodist Church, Eaglescliffe  
15th March The Wilson Institute, Long Newton  
**COUNCILLOR** M. CHERRETT TEL: 783491

## ROSEWORTH WARD (STOCKTON) 5.15PM - 6.15PM

7th January Kiara Youth & Community Centre  
11th February Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre  
11th March Kiara Youth & Community Centre  
**COUNCILLORS** MRS W. HODGSON TEL: 614208  
MISS B. INMAN TEL: 582644

## STAINSBY WARD (THORNABY) 6.30PM - 7.30PM

17th January South Thornaby Community & Resource Centre  
21st February As Above  
21st March As Above  
**COUNCILLORS** B. BELLERBY TEL: 763459  
M. O' BRIEN TEL: 887353

## ST. AIDANS WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM - 7.30PM

23rd January Billingham Youth & Community Centre  
20th February As Above  
20th March As Above  
**COUNCILLORS** N. TEASDALE TEL: (07803) 745808  
B. WOODHOUSE TEL: 561899

## ST. CUTHBERT'S WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.00PM - 7.00PM

10th January Billingham Branch Library  
14th February As Above  
14th March As Above  
**COUNCILLORS** K. DOBINSON TEL: 564669  
MRS J. O' DONNELL TEL: 559717

## VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY) 6.15PM - 7.15PM

3rd January Queens Street Community Centre  
7th February As Above  
7th March As Above  
**COUNCILLOR** MRS A. NORTON TEL: 611902

## VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY) 2.00PM - 3.00PM

18th January Westbury Street Library  
22nd February As Above  
22nd March As Above  
**COUNCILLOR** A. HOBAN TEL: 633546

## VILLAGE WARD (THORNABY) 4.30PM - 5.30PM

7th January Thornaby Pavilion  
11th February As Above  
11th March As Above  
**COUNCILLOR** MRS E. CRAGGS TEL: 896378

## VILLAGE WARD (THORNABY) 11.00AM - 12.00 NOON

17th January Thornaby Central Library  
21st February As Above  
21st March As Above  
**COUNCILLOR** MRS J. KITCHEN TEL: 761855

## WHITTON WARD

8th January Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles, 7.00 - 7.30pm  
25th January Wolviston Court Community Centre, 6.00 - 7.00pm  
4th February The Chapel School Room, Carlton, 7.00 - 7.30pm  
5th February Manor House, Stillington, 6.30 - 7.00pm  
12th March Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles, 7.00 - 7.30pm  
29th March Wolviston Court Community Centre, 6.00 - 7.00pm  
**COUNCILLOR** F. SALT TEL: (01740) 630771

## WOLVISTON WARD (BILLINGHAM) 7.00PM - 8.00PM

10th January High Grange Community Centre  
14th February The Common Room, Wolviston High St  
14th March High Grange Community Centre  
**COUNCILLOR** MRS S. CORR TEL: (01740) 644339

## YARM WARD 6.00PM - 6.30PM

8th January Yarm Primary School  
12th February Levensdale Primary School  
12th March Layfield Primary School Comm. Centre  
**COUNCILLORS** B. JONES TEL: 576855  
MRS M. SIMPSON TEL: 750114

## MP's SURGERIES

Stockton South: Dari Taylor MP  
Tel: 01642 604546 for information

Stockton North: Frank Cook MP  
Tel: 01642 643288 for information

Home visits can be arranged where circumstances require them and adequate notice is given.

## Leisure Saver Card 2002

# Great Savings on Sports and Leisure Activities

in the  
Borough of Stockton-on-Tees

*Your passport to fitness & fun!*

**New Memberships available from  
1st January**



STOCKTON-ON-TEES  
BOROUGH COUNCIL  
*Local services for local people*



For more information about the Stockton Leisure Saver  
Scheme contact your local leisure centre:

Stockton Sports Centre: .....01642 607994  
Thornaby Pavilion: .....01642 760971  
Billingham Forum Leisure Complex: .....01642 551381  
Thornaby Swimming Pool: .....01642 616727  
Splash: .....01642 393900

Elected Members and Employees  
of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Wish Readers a  
Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy and Peaceful  
New Year