

NEWS

Stockton Council's Award Winning Community Magazine - Winter 2002



Digital 1,2,3 Media

Here's an opportunity for community groups in Stockton to make their voice heard and celebrate their achievements. In conjunction with UK Online and the New Opportunities Fund, Stockton Adult Education Service is bringing the latest hi-tech digital cameras, computers and production software to Stockton.

Community groups will have the chance to build their skills in performing arts, story scripting, IT and video production to produce 1, 2 or 3 minute short movies, or build virtual worlds for display on CD or even online.

Groups will be able to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Internet to promote their activities and community work. If groups don't have a web site and would like one, there'll also be the opportunity to build a website using the latest in web design tools and graphics software. In partnership with local training provider Archon 2000 and the University of Teesside, groups will also be able to host their web-



sites on a new "web-server" where people from all over the world will be able to see the work that goes on in Stockton.

If you are a member of a community group that you think would be interested, please contact Chris on 01642 393575 for more information.



Low income?

You may be entitled to Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit

Pick up a Claim Form at any Stockton Housing Office or for discreet, friendly advice.

Ring our Helpline

Stockton 393829



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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Vote and post



Dispelling the myth



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

Hard work adds up to success

Trainees can now undertake a new qualification in Accountancy available at Stockton Council's Training and Employment Services.

Cheryl Simmons (pictured) recently joined TES as a part time Accounting Training Officer and she has developed this new vocational area.

She recently succeeded in gaining her first success with a learner achieving the OCR Accounting NVQ Level II.

Carleton Hudson (pictured) achieved the TES's first Accountancy NVQ Level II and the feedback from the external verifier was very positive about his portfolio.



Youngsters benefit from cuddly toy donation

A generous donation of five cuddly toys has already been of benefit to local children.

The toys, two tigers, two dogs and an elephant, were given to Yarm Town Council during Yarm Fair by the Northern Section of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.

The Council decided it would like local children to benefit from the toys so two have now been given to PATCH in Yarm, two to the Butterwick Hospice Trust and one to the children's ward at the University Hospital of North Tees.

Matchday mascot is Matthew

Schoolboy Matthew Roscoe had a dream come true when he was chosen to be the Matchday Mascot for the Boro.

Eight-year-old Matthew, of St Therese of Lisieux Primary School, was one of the 4,000 pupils who signed up for the Walk to School Week, run by Stockton Council's Road Safety Team. Matthew was chosen from the children in the Year Four and under category, who were offered the prize of being a Matchday Mascot at the match with Manchester City on November 23.

As well as leading his team out, Matthew was given a full Boro strip, tickets for his family and a chance to have his picture taken with the players.

The winning class for the Year Five/Six prize was Year Six at Holy Trinity Church of England Junior School. The class was given a Matchday Experience with Boro including football coaching and then watching the team play Manchester City.

Boro star Franck Queudrue kicked off the Walk to School Week in September

during a visit to Whinstone Primary School in Ingleby Barwick, where he unveiled a new cycle path and walkway and storage for up to 30 bicycles. It is hoped the new facilities will encourage pupils to cycle or walk to school and reduce the number of cars at the school gate.



CCTV upgrade for businesses

Companies on the Cowpen Industrial Estate will now have the added security of an up-graded CCTV system.

The new system was officially unveiled by Barry Shaw, Chief Constable of Cleveland Police.

The upgrade cost £30,000 and includes the latest in IT recording technology and cameras.

It was part funded by Stockton Council through its Business Grants Scheme and was carried out by Visual Security

Systems of Thornaby who installed the original cameras 12 years ago and have maintained the scheme annually ever since.

All vehicles entering the Cowpen Lane Industrial Estate are monitored by cameras and their registration numbers identified.

The Octar Unit that is connected to the system simultaneously records the images from every camera on the estate and stores those images on a hard drive for a minimum period of seven days.



Pictured, left to right are: Mike Devereux, Chairman of Cowpen Industrial Associations, Barry Shaw, Chief Constable of Cleveland Police, and Ashwin Lal of Visual Security Systems.

Shaping the future

A year after its closure, the ARC facility in Stockton is set to be brought back to life and we want readers of Stockton News to help to shape its future.

A new, independent company has been established to run the £10 million arts centre and it recently secured the support of Stockton Council for its outline plans. Now the challenge is to define exactly how it will work.

The Arts Council of England, Northern Arts and Stockton Council have been working with a core of board members and advisors to explore what mix of activities and partnerships might make a dynamic, exciting and economically - viable use of the building. The emerging vision combines the highest quality theatre, dance and music, with opportunities for people to join in and learn, on a formal or informal basis.

Doors could open early in the New Year, with the future evolving gradually as groups and individuals get involved and help to shape what goes on. There are lots of options available within the five different performance

spaces, with the potential for different activities at different times of the day and on different days of the week.

If you have ideas about what should go on in the building, or if you would like to be involved in some way, you can send your ideas and your contact

details to us and we will pass them on to the new company. You can post suggestions to:

Reuben Kench, Strategic Arts Advisor, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton.

Or e-mail

stocktonartscentre@stockton.gov.uk



Double Charter Mark success



The hard work and commitment of staff in Stockton Council's Adult Education Centre has been rewarded with a Charter Mark.

And the Library Service is also celebrating after retaining its Charter Mark for a further three years.

The Adult Education Service reviewed the way in which it worked and brought about positive changes in areas it felt needed improvement.

Adult Education Officer, John Harris, said: "We decided certain things had to change because we were not good enough in some sectors.

"We were delighted to be awarded the Charter Mark as it reflects the hard work that goes on in Adult Education to encourage people from all walks of life to consider lifelong learning."

The Service tightened up its complaints procedures, so action taken following a complaint was fed back to students and more information for students about their rights, and what to expect from Adult Education, was easily accessible.

The Charter Mark inspection concluded the department provided a highly user focused service working in partnership with local communities, responsive to their needs and that it was a forward-looking and innovative service.

Stockton's Library Service is also celebrating after being told the news that it has retained its Charter Mark for excellence in customer service for a further three years.

The Library Service first achieved Charter Mark success in 1999 and since then has improved and developed the services it provides.

The Charter Mark assessment said the service had a high level of user satisfaction and the assessor was particularly impressed with the work with the visually impaired, the services provided to local prisons and the range of mobile services.

The feedback report highlighted areas for improvement including reviewing the quantity of performance information made available to users and expanding representation on the Library Customer Panel.

Anyone interested in being on the Customer Panel, whether you are a library user or not, can contact Emma Shields, Community Libraries Officer, on (01642) 393996.

Commonwealth Games mat comes to Stockton



An Olympic wrestling mat, which was used at this year's Commonwealth Games in Manchester, has been brought to Stockton Sports Centre.

The 12 metre square mat was used for training by wrestlers competing at the Games and is in near-perfect condition.

It was bought by Stockton Council after Stockton Sports Centre's assistant managers, Adrian Price and Barbara Rennison, went to Manchester to view it, together with Olympic wrestling referee, Dave Sudron.

Dave, who runs wrestling classes at the

sports centre on Talbot Street, Tilery, acted as a referee at the Commonwealth Games and has now been invited to train the next generation of referees.

Meanwhile the centre will be hosting the prestigious British Junior Open Olympic Wrestling Championships in May next year.

Dave Sudron runs Olympic wrestling classes at the centre for juniors and seniors on Wednesdays and Sundays. The centre also runs judo classes for juniors on Tuesdays and Saturdays. To find out more, please call (01642) 607994.

New shuttle service on the way

A new and important bus shuttle link, between Stockton High Street and Thornaby Train Station, via Teesdale, is set to start in January 2003, thanks to Stockton Council's successful Urban Bus Challenge bid for a massive £262,500.

The Council identified a need to improve access by public transport to the Teesdale area through working with Teesdale Business Association and other organisations in the area.

The University of Durham has developed a travel plan and in particular, has supported bus services between its sites in Stockton and Durham City. This new service will provide an additional link for staff and students needing to travel to the High Street.

The bus will be a low floor wheelchair accessible vehicle to ensure access for all and will run every 15 minutes Monday to Friday from 7.45am to 6.15pm.

Developer named for Thornaby regeneration

Thornfield Properties Plc has been selected as the Council's preferred developer for regenerating Thornaby Town Centre.

The company specialises in retail-led regeneration development and is undertaking comprehensive schemes in major towns and cities throughout the United Kingdom.

Lionel Danby is Stockton Council's Project Manager and will be working with Thornfield to steer the project towards completion.

He said: "I am delighted that a decision has been made for the appointment of a preferred bidder and am looking forward to the project development moving forward to enable Thornaby to benefit from a new and vibrant town centre development at the earliest feasible date."

Peter Young, Development Director for Thornfield, said: "Our proposals are for a comprehensive refurbishment and new development which will meet the needs of modern retailers and create a good range of tenant mix for the town.

"The refurbishment of the Town Square, new mall and associated community facilities will greatly enhance the public common areas and provide an improved environment and shopping and recreational experience."



Lots going on in libraries

In the lead up to Christmas there are all sorts of events and activities taking place in the Stockton Borough's libraries.

You can pick up a Christmas activity pack containing colouring sheets, word searches and crafts to keep children busy at any of the community libraries.

Or you can trace your family tree in the new local history suite in the Reference Library based at Stockton Central Library.

As well as being welcoming and attractive, the suite includes microfiche and microfilm readers along with two PCs dedicated to family and local history resources. This is an ideal way to search the new 1901 census information, which is now available on the Internet. Vouchers to search the census website make ideal Christmas gifts at only £5.00 each. To book a session, or to find out more, simply call the Reference Library on (01642)

393994 or e-mail them on reference.library@stockton.gov.uk During December there is an exhibition giving hints and tips on how to wrap your presents and tackling those odd shaped gifts.

The results of the Christmas quiz will be announced on Saturday 21 December when the lucky winner will

receive a Marks and Spencer gift voucher.

Come along to the Books and Banter Club on Wednesday 18 December between 10.30am and 12 noon when a warming cup of coffee, some mince pies and carols sung by the children of Tilery Primary School, are sure to get you into the Christmas spirit.



Library users tracing a family tree

Norton (Teesside) Sports complex

Tel: 01642 361974

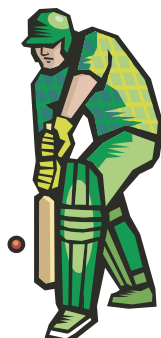
Norton Sports and Social Club

Tel: 01642 554031

A major multi-sport complex in the North East
Station Road, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, TS20 1PE

Football : Cricket : Squash : Rugby : Bowls : Tennis : Hockey : Silver Band

We offer top sports for everyone - together with top social club facilities - come along and join us.



The gifted and talented need you

A national academy that nurtures and develops the talent of the country's brightest pupils needs parents, schools and Local Education Authorities (LEAs) to get involved in exciting new opportunities to help the brightest kids throughout England to reach their full potential.

Its work benefits the top five per cent most able 11 to 16 year-olds in the country and it is appealing for anyone who spots these youngsters to get in touch with them.

Academy Director, Deborah Eyre, said: "Any child with potential should get the opportunity to shine and achieve great things. Some youngsters, particularly in deprived areas, haven't had those opportunities before, but we are committed to working with parents, schools and LEAs to reach as many gifted children as possible, whatever their background."

The Academy, based at the University of Warwick, provides masterclasses, weekend and summer schools and helps teachers to develop those who are at the top of the class.

Call 07247 6523523 for details.



A day to remember

More than 150 people took part in Indian canoeing, kayaking, bell boating and sailing at the Castlegate Quay Water Sports Centre, Stockton, when staff from the Learning Opportunities for Community Adult Learners Project teamed up with Sure Start and Write To Read, to provide a relaxed and enjoyable day for all.

The SRB6 Local Project is working out in the community within Stockton providing courses for adults to increase their employability, enhance qualifications and to offer courses just for fun.

Parents taking part were able to leave smaller children in the crèche provided by Sure Start, and after their session on

the water they were invited to a buffet provided by the Write to Read Project.

If you would like to know more about courses running in your area, please contact Kathy, Chris or Jackie, on (01642) 605683.



Council recognises volunteers in sport

The Council has recognised the valued work of several people who have given their time voluntarily for more than 20 years to help with coaching in the Borough's leisure centres.

They have given their time to help with a variety of sports including swimming and athletics.

The Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Jean O'Donnell, presented framed certificates to Tommy Criston, John Thompson, Norman Jamieson, Bill Hudson, Alma Colin, Margaret Wiseman, Audrey Thompson, Dessa Taylor and Carole Hudson and said: "This is one small way we can show our appreciation to those people who have given their time and enthusiasm voluntarily to sport in Stockton.

"They are a shining example to the whole community by dedicating their time and expertise to supporting and helping youngsters in sport."

Vote and post

Residents across Stockton Borough may not have to make a trip to the polling station next May when they go to put the cross in the box during the District and Parish Council elections.

Stockton Council has applied to be one of around 50 local authorities to pilot all-postal voting for the 2003 Council elections.

This will mean the 139,000 electoral population in Stockton Borough can vote without having to make the traditional trip to the polling station. An all postal vote is expected to increase turn-out and make the process easier and more convenient for the voter.

David Godfrey, Stockton Council's Assistant Director (Administration), said: "I am confident we will be accepted onto the pilot scheme and that the voters of Stockton Borough

will be at the forefront of this programme."

If Stockton Council does get the green light, all ballot papers will be hand delivered to houses on Sunday 13 April ahead of the 1 May elections.

"Having them hand delivered on a Sunday means residents will know when to expect them and being a Sunday there will be no other post or unwanted mail dropping through letterboxes so the clearly labelled envelope will be highly visible," added David.

The envelope will be pre-stamped so there will be no cost to the voter. Inside the envelope will be a ballot paper, clear instructions, a questionnaire and a return envelope.

An emergency hotline will be set up for people to call if they have any queries or concerns about fraud. It will be manned by election specialists and

there will also be an e-mail address and information on the Stockton Council website.

"All ballot papers will be sent out on 13 April which not only gives people time to fill them in, but also gives them the opportunity to call us if, for some reason, they do not receive one, lose it or have any questions," said David.

Ballot papers can be sent to residents who will be out of the area (including abroad) in the run up to the elections, but still want to be able to vote personally.

This eliminates the need for them to nominate a proxy to cast a vote by post on their behalf.

A special template will be provided for the blind and visually impaired and if they need assistance, they can contact Stockton Council and an officer will visit them to offer help.



A DAY IN THE LIFE

Khalid Azam

Stockton is no different to other towns and cities across the country in that drug abuse is a growing issue.

In a bid to tackle substance misuse, the Government established 150 Drug Action Teams (DATs) nationwide and Stockton's DAT was set up in autumn 2000.

Khalid Azam is the person responsible for commissioning the services around the Government's ten-year strategy 'Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain'.

Khalid has been in the post of DAT Business Manager for one and a half years and knows the extent of the problem facing Stockton when it comes to substance misuse.

There are currently around 800 people in treatment for substance misuse in Stockton and there are now a number of services and projects funded by, or supported by, Stockton DAT to help drug users, their families and the wider community.

Khalid Azam, said: "Drugs are not just a local problem, but a regional, national and international issue. The ten-year strategy puts a framework around it to help DATs tackle substance misuse from a local angle."

Stockton's DAT has been reviewed by the Home Office and was praised for its innovative management and recently the Director General, Organised Crime, Drugs, International Group, Home Office, Stephen Boys Smith, made a visit to Stockton to meet Khalid and visit some of the services provided to drug users.



"Stockton DAT has been highlighted as one of the better performing DATs and is seen as an area of good practice regarding its involvement of user and community representatives," added Khalid, who has worked for Stockton Council for 14 years and was the Children in Need Team Manager before taking up the post in the Drug Action Team.

"He wanted to know what we have achieved over the past 18 months and talked to us about the way forward."

During the visit Mr Boys Smith dropped in at Fulcrum, the Personal Medical Service based in Lawson Street, Stockton, where there is a designated GP and practice nurse for people receiving treatment for substance misuse.

He also visited Hooked, the Young Persons Community Drugs Project, at the Cornerhouse in Stockton.

The DAT steering group has more than 20 members representing statutory and voluntary agencies, health, probation service, education, housing, social services, PANIC and the police.

"We consult with the community and let them know what we are doing about the drugs issue and what is available treatment wise," said Khalid.

"The fact that Teesside has some of the cheapest heroin in the country

reveals the extent of the problem we are facing."

The DAT has also established an arrest referral programme where anyone arrested on a drug related incident is seen by a worker and the opportunity for drug treatment is discussed.

The Education, Training and Care project is a day centre which offers a structured programme of counselling, information and training on employment and care issues for those in stabilised treatment.

Another recent initiative is the Intensive Tenancy Support Team which offers people intensive support to remain in treatment.

"We are hoping to send around 45 people for treatment in residential rehabilitation and in-patient detoxification this year," said Khalid.

"These settings are for the more chronic users who are finding it difficult to stay off drugs in their own community.

"I believe the DAT has made progress since it was established and we are making a difference in providing more services.

"There is still a long way to go and we have set ourselves high standards which we are striving towards."

New location for Tourist Information Centre

Stockton's Tourist Information Centre (TIC) has moved from its location at Green Dragon Museum to a brand new facility at Stockton Central Library employing four staff – one full-time and three part-time.

The new TIC is fully on-line to offer a quick and comprehensive service to users and opening hours are Monday to Saturday from 9.30am until 5pm.

The Centre provides improved disabled access and is generally in a higher profile position for both local people and visitors to the Borough.

It has a wide selection of Christmas gift ideas from glass and chinaware, books and maps to handmade jewellery and prints.

If you are planning a visit to a Pantomime, the Centre can book your tickets for The Forum Theatre, Darlington Civic Theatre, Middlesbrough Theatre and the Theatre Royal, Newcastle.



Healthy living centre and Internet come to the Clarences



(Left to right) Margaret Parker - New Opportunities Fund, Ann McCoy - Member of the Clarences Community Partnership Board (CCP), Sister Imelda Poole - resident and member of the CCP, Cllr McColl.

A new Healthy Living Centre is being created for the residents of the Clarences to enjoy.

The Healthy Living Centre will be based in the Clarences Community Centre and has been set up with a £326,000 award from the New Opportunities Fund, which distributes National Lottery money for health, education and environmental projects.

A new alternative therapy centre and a peace garden will be created as part of the project and the funding means the future of the recently-opened Community Café, offering a range of healthy eating options, is secure.

John Thistlewood, Chair of the Clarences Community Partnership, said: "In making this award the New Opportunities Fund have recognised the hard work and creative thinking that residents, through the Clarences Community Partnership and with support from Stockton Borough Council, will develop an exciting project that will benefit the local community."

The project will also offer support and training for volunteers and local

people who wish to develop their skills and understanding of healthy lifestyle issues. A full-time co-ordinator will be recruited to manage the project's development.

The Clarences Community Centre has also become the latest host for Stockton Online, Stockton Council's award-winning free local computer partnership.

The centre is the 18th location for Stockton Online across the Borough.

Stockton Online Co-ordinator Paul Marshall, said: "These are exciting times for the Borough, for Stockton Online and in particular for the residents of the Clarences.

"We welcome all to come in, learn how to make the most of, and more importantly, enjoy what computers can offer. It doesn't matter if you've never even touched a computer before, we will guide you every step of the way."

Stockton Online was one of nine shortlisted in the national finals for UK Online for the overall UK Online Award Winner.

POLICE BEAT

CHRISTMAS CRIME PREVENTION

This edition of Police Beat is devoted entirely to preventing crime over the Christmas period so that everyone can enjoy the festivities and not suffer the misery of being a victim of crime.

Stockton Police are going all out this year to get the message across to the public of Stockton to protect their homes and not leave newly bought Christmas presents in their vehicles, inviting criminals to steal them.

The anti-burglary and car crime campaign was launched on 1st November, 2002 and includes an extensive poster campaign, the posting of crime prevention advice into houses which have been left in darkness and a Christmas crime prevention CD by the 'singing policeman' Inspector Eric Robinson.

Keep Your Gifts Under Wraps



As Christmas approaches it is important to realise that most car crime is committed by opportunist thieves. Don't tempt them by leaving presents on display. Take them with you or lock them in the boot. Make

sure your car is secure each time you park.

The Ghost Of Christmas Presents



Make sure your home is secure and lock up every time you leave. It may be the season of goodwill to all, but don't make it a happy Christmas for criminals.

Leaflet drop

Patrolling Police Officers and Community Wardens will each be given a supply of leaflets, sponsored by Safe in Tees Valley, offering crime prevention advice, which they will distribute to houses which have been left in darkness and which are quite clearly targets for burglary. The leaflets give advice on the use of timer switches, dusk 'til dawn lights and securing doors and windows. It also gives advice on how to contact local Crime Prevention Officers.

Superintendent Brian Dunn, Crime manager for Stockton, said: "I have seen the pain in the faces of parents whose homes have been burgled on Christmas Eve, when they

realised their children will have no presents to open.



If anyone requires Crime Prevention advice, please contact D/Sgt. Martin Shallow or DC Eddie Lincoln at Stockton Police Office on 01642 302271/302371.

If you have any information on crimes committed please contact your local police station or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE IN THE BOROUGH FROM STOCKTON POLICE

Showcase heralded as a great success

Stockton library hosted a second successful event to highlight the equipment and services available to the blind and visually impaired locally, regionally and nationally.

Showcase 2002 was planned with the support of members of Stockton Blind People's Voice with the help of Emma and Anne Sunman. Anne, who is blind, has published a series of guides based on her own experiences.

The event highlighted information services for blind and visually impaired

people and visitor numbers surpassed all expectations.

Exhibitors included national organisations, including the RNIB, Action Team for Jobs as well as computer software specialists Dolphin UK and Sight and Sound, Visualeyces and Ability Net.

The Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Jean O'Donnell, who supported the event, is pictured here with Emma Sunman. For more information, please call (01642) 393997 or fax (01642) 393929 or e-mail otc@stockton.gov.uk



Great deal for Stockton

Stockton Council's Training and Employment Services are delighted to find that once again they have maintained top ranking status in the recent regional benchmarking survey undertaken by Jobcentre Plus, formerly the Employment Service.

Training and Employment Services, a division of the Council's Human Resources Department, is based in Dovecot Street, with centres throughout Stockton providing guidance, training and employment-related services to jobseekers throughout the Borough and beyond.

Special emphasis is placed on helping the long-term unemployed and courses

last between two and fifty two weeks. Eligibility is established by local Jobcentre Plus offices.

An average of 69 per cent of jobseekers gained employment during, or soon after, their training experience with Stockton, ensuring that Christmas came early for many families across the Borough.

All training organisations and colleges across the region including Tees Valley, Durham, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland, who deliver training and employment-related services, were measured on the percentage of individuals helped to gain employment through the various New Deal initiatives, leading to the publication of regional league tables.

Granting the community

Community groups across Stockton can now apply for grants from funds managed by the Stockton Residents and Community Groups Association.

All five community funds are designed to be user friendly and easily accessible and Kelly Brown is the Community Grants Officer in charge of managing them.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest and Community Learning Chest is part of the Government's National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. It provides funding to stimulate and support community activity in deprived areas so more people can become involved in the regeneration of their community.

"The aim of the Community Chest programme is to support activities by which local communities and voluntary groups can contribute to the regeneration of their local area," said Kelly.

The Community Chest allows groups in Stockton to apply for grants of between £50 and £5,000 for the support of single projects or activities.

The Community Learning Chest funds activities to develop the skills and knowledge of communities participating in Neighbourhood Renewal at a local level.

Kelly Brown joined the Stockton Residents and Community Groups Association in 1999 as a resource worker and in August of this year was appointed Community Grants Officer.

For advice or to request an application pack, contact Kelly Brown on (01642) 391363.

Education grants available

A limited number of scholarships, up to a maximum value of £500 each, are available from the Norton Educational Foundation.

The grants can be used for personal projects and extended studies in most fields of study.

Applications are invited for the Year 2003 award from young people aged between 16 and 25 who are currently in full time education and who are living, or who have a parent who lives in Norton, Fairfield, Stockton, Roseworth, Hardwick or Hartburn.

Further details and application forms are available from Mr K L Bates, Clerk to the Trustees, on (01642) 553794 e-mail kintbates@yahoo.co.uk or the Reverend P L Walker on (01642) 558888 e-mail revpwalker@aol.com

Completed applications should reach the Clerk to the Trustees no later than 17 February 2003.

Applications will be considered at a meeting of the Trustees in March 2003, and applicants will be notified of the results as soon as possible afterwards in order that the award can be taken up for the summer vacation 2003.

Good news for bus users

Men aged between 60 and 65 will soon be eligible for Stockton Council's Gold and Silver Card Bus Pass schemes.

Men currently have to wait until they are 65 before being eligible for a bus pass, but from 1 April 2003, they will be able to benefit from travel concessions when they are 60, at the same age as women.

The Gold and Silver Card Bus Pass schemes entitle residents to reduced fare travel on buses throughout the Boroughs of Stockton, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland.

For more information, please call (01642) 397106.

Children sketch their favourite teachers

Youngsters in primary schools across Stockton Borough joined the drive to recruit more people into the teaching profession by drawing and describing their own favourite teachers.

The artwork was then entered in the "My Favourite Teacher 2002" competition, run by Stockton Council.

The aim of the competition, as well as being fun for the pupils, was to highlight the importance of teachers and their work in the classroom.

This in turn, it was hoped, would encourage more people to enter the teaching profession by highlighting just some of the rewards of working with children.

Karen Kerr, Stockton Council's Teacher Recruitment Strategy Manager, said: "This competition was an ideal way of not only celebrating the work of teachers but also of complimenting our local drive to recruit teachers nationally.

"We feel that it's important that teachers know how valued they are and what a difference they can make

to young lives. This was another way of also saying a big thank you to them."

First prize in the competition went to Matthew Tunstall, of Billingham South Community Primary School, who drew a picture of his teacher "Mr Garmston".

Joint second place went to Shannen Hornsby, from St John the Baptist Church of England Primary School, for "Mr Davidson" and Shane Colquhoun, of Hartburn Primary School, for "Mr Gittins".

Third prize was again shared, this time between Amanda Mack, from Mill Lane Primary School, for her picture of "Mrs Sidhu" and Phillip Smith, of Roseberry Infant School, for "Mrs Milner".

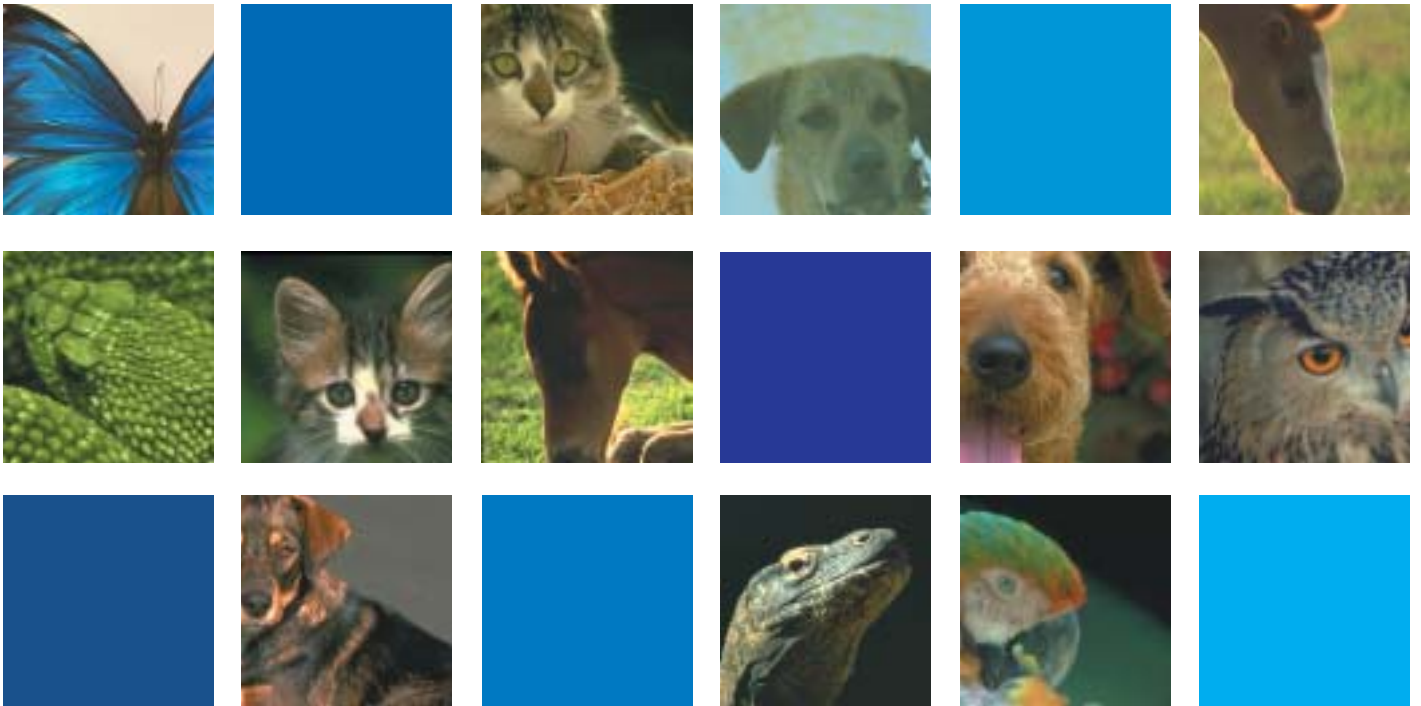
The winners were presented with book vouchers for their schools by the Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Jean O'Donnell.

Their work will be displayed in teacher training institutions across the country as well as being included in literature sent out by Stockton Council to attract more teachers to apply for posts in the Borough.



Matthew Tunstall won first prize for a drawing of his favourite teacher.

Dispelling the myth



One thing is for certain – you have to be an animal lover to be a Stockton Council Animal Welfare Officer

Stockton's three dedicated officers, based at 16 Church Road, have a wealth of experience between them as an ex veterinary nurse, an ex RSPCA Officer and an ex RSPCA ambulance driver.

The team deal with a whole host of issues relating to animal welfare including finding homes for *all* types of animals who, for whatever reason, can no longer be looked after by their owner or are brought in as lost or strays. Enforcing dog fouling legislation, welfare/cruelty cases, road traffic accidents involving animals, inspection of licensed premises (i.e. pet shops), dangerous dog attacks or incidents, micro-chipping and neutering initiatives are just some of the requests dealt with by the Service.

An increase in cat numbers over the last five years means that they are now the most popular choice of pet ahead of dogs and the Service regularly deals with lost and found cats. As a

consequence, a six-unit cat 'condo' has been installed at the Animal Welfare Office, which houses them in a warm and safe environment until they can be found new owners.

Michelle Johnson, Stockton Council's Animal Welfare Officer, said: "I think we need to set the record straight as many people think we only deal with dogs and we have even been referred to as 'Dog Wardens'. This is a myth. As Animal Welfare Officers, our remit covers all animals, be it a python or a piranha. The easiest way to describe what we do is to liken us with the RSPCA. We do exactly the same job, but in fact we have more legal powers available to us.

"I'm sure lots of people don't even know we exist. Not to mention the fact that we deal with all animals – not just dogs."

The team advocate the micro-chipping of pets and believe that if owners only

took the trouble to have their animals chipped, it would save a lot of confusion and heartbreak if an animal is found. Collars are not really suitable for cats as they tend to lose them very easily.

They offer a micro-chipping service at a much-reduced rate of only £10 for cats. With support from the Canine Defence League they are able to offer free chipping to dog owners who receive any form of benefit (including child benefit) and a subsidised neutering scheme to reduce unwanted dogs.

The team would welcome any offers of spare dog baskets, blankets and any spare tins of food would be most welcome.

If you would like any help or advice from the team, please call (01642) 391126.

Or e-mail welfareanimal@stockton.gov.uk



You have a voice

Residents across Stockton Borough are being urged to have their say on the way services are delivered.

The Government has instructed all local authorities to consult on specific areas of their service delivery, and Stockton Council is committed to extending consultation far beyond what is required in the guidelines issued by Central Government.

Residents of the Borough, service users and any other interested parties have the opportunity to be involved in the planning, prioritising and monitoring of Stockton Council's services.

How will we do it?

By using a wide variety of methods to consult, including:

- Public and Open Meetings
- Use of the media including the press, radio and our own magazine Stockton News
- Focus group meetings which will bring together people who have an

interest in, or are affected by, a specific issue or one of our services

- User surveys
- Residents' Surveys
- General Questionnaires and surveys
- Viewpoint

Viewpoint is a panel of up to 1,500 local residents aged 18 and over from across the Borough. The panel is a representative sample of residents and is used to get residents and users views on Council services as well as other important issues which affect everybody such as crime, the environment and leisure.

As panel members, residents may be asked to take part in various forms of consultation, including completing questionnaires, attending sessions, or other more interactive activities such as taking part in events with other users.

Being on the panel is not an onerous task but is very important to us if Stockton Council is to provide the services residents want.

Young people can also have their say through a youth version of Viewpoint which has been established in partnership with the Youth Service to give under 18s a voice.

As well as consulting using short questionnaires, there will also be "Tell Us What You Think" days and small meetings of peer groups.

If you are interested in finding out more about Viewpoint or Youth Viewpoint, please contact Kate Barber on (01642) 393011 or e-mail kate.barber@stockton.gov.uk

As well as listening to individuals' views, special interest groups are also consulted on issues of importance to them.

The Council is particularly keen to hear from disability groups; lesbian and gay groups; groups from the minority ethnic community and groups of older and younger people.

To find out more about the Council's consultation with special interest groups, contact Alan Cruickshank on (01642) 393008 or e-mail alan.cruickshank@stockton.gov.uk

Feel secure 24 hours a day

What do you do when you are away from your home and your house alarm goes off?

Often it can be a 'false alarm' yet still causing annoyance to your neighbours.

Thanks to an innovative service by Stockton Council's Security Centre, you can have total peace of mind, so if your alarm does go off, they will come and disarm it.

How does this work? Your alarm is adapted and monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by the Council's state-of-the-art control room.

If your alarm is activated they will call you, or three other designated contact phone numbers, immediately.

The fee is only £48.00 plus VAT per year.

If you would like information on this valuable service, please call (01642) 393755 for more details.

Youth Assembly working together

A fresh impetus was added to the North East Regional Youth Assembly when nineteen young people from Stockton, Northumberland, Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside and Sunderland attended a residential weekend at Marrick Priory, North Yorkshire, in October.

The trip was funded by the North East Regional Assembly and six young people from Stockton Youth Forum joined their counterparts to discuss and plan an event to promote and publicise the Regional Youth Assembly.

It was agreed that an event and workshops would be held at Gateshead Civic Centre in January 2003, and Stockton Youth Service will be looking at the programme and venue, Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside will be taking care of the logistics and South Tyneside, Gateshead and Sunderland will be responsible for the marketing.

Skaters speed down to new look ice arena

Stockton Council's newly refurbished ice arena is proving a massive hit with skaters across the region.

The weekend after the new look facility was unveiled to casual skaters, more than 1,000 customers flocked to

Billingham Forum – and its popularity continues to rise.

The refurbishment work included improved lighting, sound system and décor. The official opening of the Arena also saw the unveiling of the new resident mascot skater, IC Bear.



Couple look to the stars on their wedding day

The Planetarium at Castle Eden Walkway was the starry venue for a special wedding held in October.

Retired couple Harold Britton and Dorothy Bott, were the first couple to tie the knot at the Planetarium, developed by Stockton Council and

the Cleveland and Darlington Astronomical Society.

The Council also takes bookings for weddings at Preston Hall.

Pictured here are Harold and Dorothy with Stockton Council's registrar Brian Burr and deputy registrar, Sharon Seymour.



Photo courtesy of John's Studio - Middlesbrough

Self Care →

A well stocked medicine cabinet will help you with many common illnesses.

Pharmacist →

From sprains to stomach upsets, your local pharmacist is qualified to give expert advice without an appointment.

NHS Direct →

For immediate reassurance and free expert health advice call 24 hours on 0845 4647.

GP's Surgery →

For jabs, prescriptions, medical advice and care, call for an appointment with your GP or Practice Nurse.

A&E →

If you need urgent hospital treatment, go to your nearest Accident and Emergency Department.

999 →

Call 999 for emergencies such as loss of consciousness, severe chest pain, serious accidents or loss of blood.

Allow us to point you in the right direction.

With the NHS nowadays there are lots of choices available. By making the right choice at the right time, you get the best possible treatment. For example, many everyday illnesses can be managed easily at home with a well stocked medicine cabinet, while advice and information is free from pharmacists or NHS Direct. Now you'll always find the treatment you need.

GET THE RIGHT TREATMENT.



www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

New rules for Stockton High Street

Stockton's famous High Street should be a safer, cleaner, more attractive place to shop and visit, following a tightening of traffic restrictions.

The period when traffic is prevented from using the central section of the High Street has been extended to cover most of the day and improved signage erected to make the restrictions clearer to motorists.

The new Traffic Regulation Order came into force in September and means that only buses and cyclists can enter the central section of the High Street between 9.30am and 4.30pm seven days a week. Cars and lorries breaking the order could face a fine of £60. A 20mph speed limit has been included as part of the restrictions.

The experimental order is in place for 18 months but will be reviewed after six. It is expected that traffic volumes will be reduced by a third, improving the environment of the High Street for shoppers and visitors.

Stockton Council's Traffic Management Team Leader, David Lynch, said: "We feel traffic flow has fallen along the High Street. People have taken some notice but we accept it is still not perfect. Traffic surveys will shortly be undertaken to confirm the reduction in traffic on the High Street.

"We are working with our partners in Cleveland Police to provide effective enforcement of the traffic regulation order and drivers need to be aware that they risk a fine if they are caught

entering the High Street in breach of the Order."

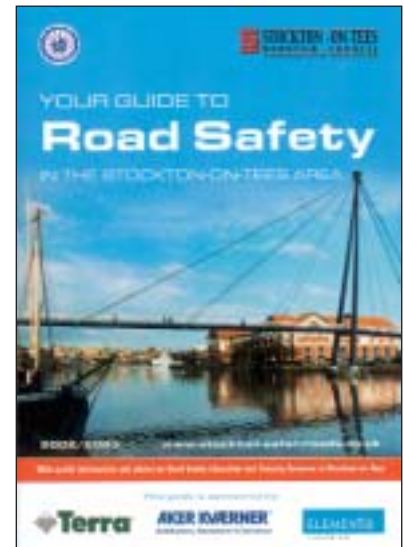
Under the new Traffic Regulation Order only buses and pedal cycles have access at all times travelling southbound from the Parish Church, past the Town Hall, towards the Swallow Hotel.

Travelling northbound there is no access for vehicles except buses and pedal cycles between 6am and 6pm, apart from loading which is restricted to 6am to 9.30am and 4.30pm to 6pm.

Taxis and vehicles loading or unloading have access to the southern and northern loops and vehicles displaying a blue or orange badge have access to the northern loop.



Road Safety Guide



A free guide to all of the services provided by Stockton Council's Road Safety team is now available.

The guide, printed by Publications UK, also contains details of how to contact the team and is available from libraries, Council buildings and Police stations.

Peter Fleming, Assistant Road Safety Officer for Stockton Council, said: "Last year was the first time we used this sort of publication and following on from its success, we've decided to produce another edition - this time in full colour."

The booklet costs the Council nothing to produce, with costs being met by advertising acquired by Publications UK.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the guide, can call Peter Fleming on (01642) 397713.

Fifty acres and growing

It has to be seen to be believed. For no-one could have envisaged that from a simple game of cricket on Norton Green, Norton Cricket Club (founded in 1847) would grow into the giant complex that it is today - offering superb facilities for a whole host of sports on its 50 acre site.

Situated alongside the railway line at the bottom end of Station Road,

Norton, are splendid soccer, cricket, hockey, bowls, rugby, tennis and squash facilities.

The recent £80,000 refurbishment to the Norton Sports and Social Club, which also sits on the site, offers high class social amenities for its 2,500 sports and social members and also the local community who can enjoy a relaxing friendly atmosphere.

Thanks to the hard work and

dedication of its staff and members, plus lottery funding of £650,000 in the 1990s, this is an enormous success story of an immense sports facility serving men, women and children throughout Teesside and producing sportspeople who have represented their town, county and country in various sports.

To find out more about Norton Sports Complex call (01642) 361974 and (01642) 554031 for details on the Social Club.



Merry from

Christmas is fast approaching and residents of Stockton Borough can capture the festive mood with a host of events.

Stockton High Street is once again ablaze with colour thanks to the ever-impressive festive light display.

Taking pride of place in the High Street is a 40 feet Norwegian spruce decked out with no less than 2,500 lights twinkling as shoppers busy themselves with stocking up for the Christmas break.

There's tree lighting on Stockton's Riverside, along with new displays on a handful of roundabouts across the Borough.

In Billingham, new displays have been placed along The Causeway and in the town centre and the trees on Billingham Green are also twinkling with festive lights.

Additional features now adorn Allensway, Mitchell Avenue, Trenchard Avenue and the Pavilion car park in Thornaby.

In Norton there are yuletide features on the Green and near the Red Lion pub.

Stockton's Riverside is playing host to some very festive fun this Christmas. For a two-lane toboggan run will be taking centre stage by the Tees offering winter wonder to visitors at just 50p a go.

The ice effect runs were officially opened on 1 December by the Mayor

Happy Christmas from Stockton Council

of Stockton, Councillor Jean O'Donnell. The two lanes, which are sloped and angled, will give people, young and old, the opportunity to try out the toboggan run in the lead up to Christmas; it will stay open until 21 December.

Those who pluck up courage to have a go will speed down from the top on rubber rings – the ride is fully stewarded and covered by CCTV.

To add to the festive feel, there will be a traditional fair and craft stalls during the weekends.

The toboggan run is open from 5-10pm from Monday to Friday, noon-10pm on Saturdays and 2-10pm on Sundays.

Gather round for Carol Concert

Traditional songs will ring out on Thursday, 19 December during the Christmas Civic Carol Concert

The Concert will be held on Stockton High Street around the Christmas tree at 5pm. Stockton Stage Society will be there to sing and everyone is invited to come along and join in.

The concert will be recorded by BBC Radio Cleveland and broadcast over the festive holiday.

Seating for 200 people will be provided and if there is a winter chill in the air, then the audience can warm themselves with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

"We held the carol concert outdoors for the first time last year and it

proved to be a great success," said Geraint Williams, Stockton Council's Town Centre Manager.

Stockton-on-Tees' Mayor, Councillor Jean O'Donnell invites you to join her at this second special outdoor Civic Carol Concert. No tickets are needed and the carol concert is free.

Pantomime casts a festive spell

Christmas would not be Christmas without a family pantomime and this year Billingham Forum is the place to be.

The Wizard of Oz is this year's ice pantomime and audiences will be enthralled by the magical tale told on ice.

For the past 11 months, members of the Billingham Forum Ice Skating Club have been working hard and have put the final touches to their performances ready for the opening night.

The 103 strong cast includes youngsters aged just three up to skaters aged 17 years and they are all choreographed by Stuart Wilson. Top skater Chloe Dawson Taylor will play the role of Dorothy.

"Last year the skating club performed Sleeping Beauty and it was a great success with high audience figures and very positive feedback," said Allan McDermott, Manager at Billingham Forum.

"I am sure this year will be just as popular and we are looking forward to seeing everyone for this family show."

The pantomime runs from Sunday 15 December to Thursday 19 December and tickets cost £6 for adults and £3.50 for children and concessions. The performance on Sunday will start at 5pm with all other performances at 6.30pm.

Shoppers urged to go to market

While youngsters can enjoy the delights of pantomimes and visits to Father Christmas, most parents are concerned with stocking up with food and presents.

Shopping across Stockton could not be easier with extended opening times in the run up to Christmas and the wide choice of goods on offer at the weekly markets. Shoppers looking to do some last minute buying can head along to Stockton Market on Christmas Eve.

The regular Wednesday market is moving to Tuesday 24 December so shoppers can take advantage of the range of stalls selling a whole host of goodies.

And on 18 December there will be a Farmers' Market in the new Wellington Square development.

Produce such as home-made fudge, herbs, home-made soaps and organic foods are expected to be on offer on the stalls within the Farmers' Market – perfect for that extra special Christmas present.

The Farmers' Market will start at 9am and run until 4pm.

Operation Magpie

set to take flight



Stockton Council has launched Operation Magpie with the Police and Fire Brigade in order to encourage owners of end-of-life vehicles to hand over the vehicles now, before a new European directive comes into force as part of a Vehicle Amnesty Scheme.

The Amnesty means the Council will not impose any recovery charges on owners who ask for their vehicles to be removed.

Those owners who take their cars to the scrap yard used by the Council, Thomson's, will be paid up to £10 per vehicle by the scrap merchant.

For further information on this scheme, please contact the Care For Your Area Customer Service team on (01642) 391959 or e-mail customer.services@stockton.gov.uk

Deliberate fires (arson) affect everyone. They invade communities, businesses and family security. It is a problem that can lead to loss of life, serious injuries and incurs substantial financial and personal damage. Minor, persistent and pervasive deliberate fires also result in an environment which appears neglected. But there are ways in which we can work together

to help reduce deliberate fires from occurring: -

- Keep your wheeled bin safe and secure.
- Following your refuse collection, collect your wheeled bin and return it to your property as soon as you are able to do so.
- Don't put any rubbish in a back alley apart from on your refuse collection days.
- Contact the Care For Your Area team to have any item of bulky household waste collected – sofas, settees or mattresses for example.
- Contact the Care For Your Area team to report any vehicle that you think may have been abandoned.
- Contact the Care For Your Area team to report any incidents of fly tipping or dumping.

How can I find out more?

To contact the Care For Your Area Team –
Telephone (01642) 391959
Fax (01642) 391944

E-mail
customer.services@stockton.gov.uk
Internet www.stockton.gov.uk

To contact your local Fire Station –

Stockton Fire Station, South Road,
Norton (01642) 552175

Thornaby Fire Station, Master Road,
Thornaby (01642) 766331

Billingham Fire Station, Seaton Carew
Road, Billingham (01642) 546000

The work of reducing deliberate fires in the Borough has also been extended to schools. These often become the target of fire setting which at its worst can close schools and disrupt the education of children. To support the regular schools inspections caretakers have recently been receiving training from Cleveland Fire Brigade.

Station Officer George Crooks said, "One of the primary responsibilities of school caretakers is the safety and security of school buildings. The training programme we are undertaking will enable them to become more able to identify potential problems and to take appropriate measures to reduce fire risks to schools in the borough."

Send a Braille Christmas Card

h a p p y c h r i s t m a s

Christmas greeting cards can be written in Braille with the help of Stockton Council's Library Service.

People wanting to send Christmas cards to blind people can take in an ordinary Christmas card to the Open Technology and UK Online Centre in Stockton's Central Library. There the greeting on the card will be translated into Braille.

Open Technology Centre Manager, Christine Durnion, said: "It has been really successful in the past and we're sure it will prove popular again this year. The Braille service enables blind

people to read their Christmas cards themselves, adding much more meaning to the message inside."

The Library Service has run a Braille Translation Service in partnership with Stockton Blind People's Voice for almost three years. The service is available for individuals, the private and public sector. It enables blind people, if they read Braille, to deal with their own correspondence without the help of a third person.

For more information on the Braille greeting card service, please call (01642) 393997.



Anne Tingle, Beacon Coordinator demonstrates the Braille service

All about Bond...James Bond

The 40th anniversary of James Bond is being celebrated at Stockton's Green Dragon Museum where a whole host of 007 memorabilia is now on display.

This is something really not to be missed and the whole exhibition has been put together by James Bond fan, Tony Hillman, and visitors to the Museum will be treated to a comprehensive collection of artefacts from the Bond films.

On display will be original posters from every Bond film, from Dr No

in 1962 to Die Another Day, 2002, stills from all the films, games, model cars, thunderball game, trading cards, jigsaws and up to date merchandise.

There will also be collections of signed photographs including The 007s, The Bond Girls, the cars, the villains and the stunts.

The exhibition started last month and will run until 15 January. Admission is free and the Green Dragon Museum is open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm.

"Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree - How easy to recycle..."



It's that time of year again when the 'festive frenzy' takes over everyday life for lots of us. We purchase extra goodies to help add some extra sparkle and fizz to the season of goodwill - not to mention the inches added to our waistlines!

Along with all of the festive shopping sprees, perhaps we should be mindful of all of the extra rubbish that is created as a result of our over-indulgence. Service Stockton 'Care for Your Area' and Waste Management teams have thought of an excellent way that they can help you dispose of your 'real' Christmas tree, once the Christmas celebrations are over.

For on 6 January 2003, a whole host of collection vehicles will tour the Borough to collect unwanted 'real' Christmas trees for recycling.

By providing this service and allowing residents to 'do their bit', the Council hopes to help the environment as the trees collected will be shredded and composted instead of being dumped in landfill sites. It is also hoped that residents will not be tempted to 'dump' unwanted Christmas trees within the local community.

To take part in this extremely 'green scheme', all you are required to do is place your 'real' Christmas tree at the area you would normally leave your wheeled bin on collection day. To ensure your tree is included in this collection scheme, please ensure that you have placed the tree outside by 7.30am.

Why not start the year on a positive note and 'do your bit' to help the environment?

University of Durham & The Excellence Challenge



Founded in 1832 to provide University opportunities to able people in the north of England when travel to England's only other two Universities (Oxford & Cambridge) was difficult, the University of Durham has an international reputation for excellence and attracts students from over a hundred different countries. Bright students from Ghana, China, the USA and South Africa live and work alongside students from Redcar, Spennymoor, Morpeth and Billingham on some of the UK's best degree programmes.

In 1992 the University opened its new Campus in Stockton-on-Tees. Our Queen's Campus has broadened the range of subjects offered by the University by providing opportunities in Business, Psychology, Teacher Training, Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Human Sciences.

Durham is a very popular University and receives over 25,000 applications for around 3,000 places. We regularly review our admissions processes to ensure they are free of inadvertent bias against any particular groups. The backgrounds of our intake continue to be very much in line with the backgrounds of our applicants.

The University has recently stepped up its activities to attract a broader range of applicants. We are working with Excellence Challenge Partnerships across the Tees Valley to deliver a wide range of activities including:-

STARS

Our STARS project is designed to give students in years 9-11 an introduction to University life and study. It involves visits to the University, exam revision sessions and activities with current undergraduate students. The scheme is open to state schools in the Teesside area.

You can find more details at:
<http://www.dur.ac.uk/undergrad/stars.htm>

Critical Thinking Workshops

Targeted at year 12 students these interactive workshops are designed for school's Gifted and Talented cohorts and give an introduction to the concepts and applications of Critical Thinking. If you and your students are keen to know the difference between a Straw Man and a Slippery Slope Fallacy this workshop is for you.

A-level Masterclasses

The University runs a number of masterclasses for state school students studying A-levels. The masterclasses focus on an area of the A-level curriculum and are designed to stretch able students. Subjects on offer include:

Anthropology	Mathematics
Biology	Medicine
Business Studies	Physics
Chemistry	Politics
Classical Studies	Psychology
Economics	Religious Studies
Geography	Sociology
Law	

Visiting the University

Arranging to visit the University has never been easier. We conduct regular tours of both the Durham and Queen's Campuses. You can book online at:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/admissions/applicants/campustours/>

Some departments offer open days. Others are happy to arrange informal visits for candidates. For details please visit:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/admissions/applicants/opendays/>

£500 Guaranteed Bursaries

The University provides guaranteed bursaries for students in their first year at the University who:

- Have a home postcode that starts TS, DH, DL, SR or NE.
- Are exempt from tuition fees because of low or moderate parental income.

For more details please visit:
<http://www.dur.ac.uk/admissions/studentssupport/>

Higher Education Summer School

An exciting week long residential experience for Year 11's which provides students with an insight into all aspects of University life. Places are limited and the allocation of places is the responsibility of partner schools rather than the University.

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/undergrad/slo/index.htm>

School and College Visit Programme

The University of Durham offers a range of presentations to all schools and colleges which can be delivered alone or combined with other topics. Examples of topics include:

- Surviving Student Life
- Student Finance
- Completing the Perfect UCAS form
- A Guide to Choosing Courses and Universities
- What Admissions Tutors look for in UCAS References
- Why consider Higher Education?
- Studying at the University of Durham

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/undergrad/info-for-teachers.htm>

Want to Get Involved?

Because of funding some activities are open to a limited group of schools/colleges or geographical areas. For more details please visit our web site or call the Schools Liaison Office on:

01642 335047 – Queen's Campus,
Stockton-on-Tees
0191 374 1879 – Durham City
0191 374 2925 – Prospectus Hotline



Youth games come to Stockton

Youngsters from Teesside will be converging on Stockton in June next year ready for the Partnership Youth Games held every four years.

Every year the four authorities in the former Cleveland area, Stockton, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Councils, organise the Partnership Youth Games in conjunction with Teesside Sport. Next year will be the first year the event has come to Stockton.

Around 2,000 youngsters will take part and each Council's Sports Development

Team is responsible for choosing a team to bring to the games.

The event will take place over two days on 21 and 22 June at the Norton Sports Complex, Stockton, and Brierton/Mile House School, Hartlepool. The competition will include netball, basketball, tennis, swimming, rugby, cricket and football for girls.

There will also be disability sports including swimming, boccia, which is similar to garden bowls, and table cricket and the teams will be selected from schools' competitions, Active Sports development squads and school sports festivals.



Refuse collections over Christmas



There will be some changes to refuse collections during the Christmas period when there will be no collections of refuse on Wednesday 25 and Thurs 26 December 2002 and Wednesday 1 January 2003. Collections will return to normal from Tuesday 7 January onwards.

Collections will be as follows:

Normal Day	Revised Day
Tue 24 Dec 2002	No change
Wed 25 Dec 2002	Fri 27 Dec 2002 (2 days late)
Thur 26 Dec 2002	Sat 28 Dec 2002 (2 days late)
Fri 27 Dec 2002	Mon 30 Dec 2002 (3 days late)
Tue 31 Dec 2002	No change
Wed 1 Jan 2003	Thur 2 Jan 2003 (1 day late)
Thur 2 Jan 2003	Sat 4 Jan 2003 (1 day late)

If you require more information on refuse collections please call the Care for Your Area team on (01642) 391959 or e mail customer.services@stockton.gov.uk

Mike plans for retirement

Head of planning Mike Leason has said goodbye to Stockton Council after almost 28 years service.

Since joining the Council in September 1974, Mike Leason has seen major developments across the Borough and recent projects have included Teesdale, the regeneration of Stockton Town Centre, Wynyard and the Samsung development.

Before joining Stockton Council, Mike worked in planning at Liverpool, Cheshire and Wirral.

Born in Middlesbrough, Mike said of his retirement: "I am looking forward to travelling, gardening and doing DIY as well as developing new interests such as reviving my French and German and seeing if I am any good at painting, pottery and woodwork."

Steve Barker has now taken the post of Head of Planning and Environment having previously worked at Sedgefield Borough Council, The Environment Agency, Hartlepool Council and the North York Moors National Park.



Stockton ta



Climate Change Local Action

People across the Borough of Stockton are being asked to play their part in combating global climate change.

Stockton Borough Council has signed up to a national agreement to work towards cutting greenhouse gases.

In October 2000, the Nottingham Energy Partnership signed a declaration of intent towards

combating the growing problems of climate change. And now Stockton Council has signed up to what has become known as the Nottingham Declaration.

But to realise the goals of the Nottingham Declaration, the Council needs individuals, communities and businesses to help its efforts. Stockton Council's Environmental Projects Manager, Mike Chicken, said: "The Council can sign up to this

declaration but we need to work together with the community to tackle climate change.

"Everyone can play their part. The key thing that people can do right now, is to look towards improving the energy efficiency of their household."

Stockton Council's Environment Centre can provide energy advice on the helpline number (01642) 391186. There are schemes to insulate properties with cavity wall insulation or loft insulation offering generous discounts. But even such things as using lightbulbs with a lower wattage can help.

Mike Chicken, said: "If people look towards reducing their energy consumption they will be doing their bit for the climate as well as saving money themselves."

Stockton takes action on climate change

"We need people across the Borough of Stockton to take up the baton and do their bit in terms of improving the energy efficiency of their properties and their businesses.

"We need people across the Borough of Stockton to take up the baton and do their bit."

The helpline can also offer advice to businesses on the best methods to improve energy efficiency.

It is already clear that Stockton residents are working towards the targets to combat global warming.

This year alone saw an energy saving of 3.7 per cent across the Borough. That may sound insignificant but it amounts to a 24,500 tonne reduction of the major greenhouse gas, Carbon Dioxide, being released into the atmosphere.

To date, the steps taken by Stockton Council have seen a total reduction in energy usage of 15.1 per cent, equating to 67,000 tonnes in Carbon Dioxide savings, well on the way to the suggested Government target of 30 per cent.

And it is not just in the field of energy efficiency that Stockton Council is striving to make a difference to the environment. It is well on its way to achieving its top

ten targets set out in its Local Agenda 21.

It plans to have 50 per cent of all households participating in its blue-bag kerbside recycling scheme. Currently there is a 40 per cent participation rate but that is expected to rise to the target and beyond when the Council introduces a similar system to collect and recycle cans, glass, textiles and cardboard as well as paper next year.

There was a target to have 20 per cent of all households with gardens composting organic waste but already the Council has exceeded that aim with 38 per cent composting and a plan to have 30 schools taking part in environmental activities has also been exceeded with 44 schools involved so far.

Boxing clever

If a new Blue Box suddenly appears outside your front door - please don't be alarmed!

Stockton, as a forward thinking Council, is looking ahead to caring for the planet as well as future generations.

In order to do this, a great new recycling scheme is being introduced in 2003 and 'It's easy to be Green' is the important message being sent out by the Council. The scheme will be managed as a partnership between the Council and SWS Limited, of Hartlepool, a waste management and recycling contractor.

New blue plastic boxes will be provided to each household, and will store all of your used bottles and jars, cans and textiles. A separate reusable blue bag will also be provided for newspapers, magazines and junk mail. On a fortnightly basis, this will all be taken away for recycling.

The new recycling scheme will be rolled out over a 12 month period and

will begin in February 2003 starting in the Yarm, Eaglescliffe, Kirklevington and Hartburn areas of the Borough.

Chris Hayward, Waste and Fleet Services Manager for Stockton Council, said: "We plan to make the scheme as easy and convenient as possible. Residents will be sent a 'Welcome Pack' giving details of exactly how the scheme will work, collection dates and what kind of materials should be placed in the boxes. We also intend to keep residents informed via a regular newsletter of how the scheme is going."

If you would like to know more about the scheme, please call (01642) 393662.



Star rating goes up

Health and Social Care services provided by Stockton Council have been awarded a two-star rating by the Social Services Inspectorate.

Services across the country are inspected annually and last year Stockton was awarded one star.

Now it is one of just 12 local authorities nationwide to have been upgraded in this year's ratings.

Ann Baxter, the Council's Corporate Director for Health and Social Care, thanked the staff for their hard work.

She said: "This is a tribute to the excellent and dedicated team we have here in Stockton Borough and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for their ongoing efforts."

Councils can receive a no, one, two or three-star rating from the Social Services Inspectorate, although only eight authorities nationwide fall into the three-star category.

Stockton's Leisure Centres CHRISTMAS CRACKER

The Forum
Christmas Skate Sessions
Only £3 per person

Christmas Swim Session
Larry the Lobster Fun Sessions
Adults £2.65 Junior £1.60

Tone Zone Fitness Centre
Members £2.60
Non-Members £3.70

Keep Fit Christmas Specials
Festive Specials:
Step, Aerobics, Bums & Tums

Christmas Theme Night
On Ice
December 11th 5.30-7pm
£2.00 per person
Come See Teeside's ONLY Skating Bear

Splash
Buy a Santa Swim Ticket,
Dec 21st, 22nd, 23rd & 24th
11am-12noon & 2-3pm
Swim, then afterwards visit
Santa in his grotto and
receive a gift.

Non-member £2.85,
Member £2.45
Option 3 £2.75, Under 3's £1.25

Parents, why not relax in the
Splash cafe with a coffee and
a mince pie?

Between Christmas and New
Year, come along to the
Christmas Cracker Fun Float
Sessions between 10am-
12noon & 2-4pm.

Stockton Sports Centre
Drop off the kids at Stockton
Sports Centre whilst you
complete your shopping

U16's Table Tennis £1.05 per hour
U16's Squash £1.50 per court
U16's Badminton £2 per court
U16's Raquetball £1.50 per court
Junior Multi Gym 10-16 yrs.
(21st Dec only) 9am-12noon £2.20
U16's Soft Play £1 per hour
(must be accompanied by an adult)

Thornaby Pool
Snow Joke on the Viking
Boat! Come and have a
jolly time with our
Christmas Cracker
Family Fun
Sessions: 12noon-1pm
Dec. 21st & 22nd
11am-12noon & 1-2pm
Dec. 23rd & 24th
Non-member £1.60 Member
£1.20 Option 3 £0.90
Free Lollipop for every
child

Thornaby Pavilion
Drop the kids off at the
Pavilion Play Park whilst
you finish your shopping
Every child will receive
a free lollipop.

10am-12noon & 1-3pm
Dec 23rd
10am-12noon Dec 24th
£1.20 per session
Also, pop in for coffee &
mince
pie with cream for only £1

FREE Lollipop
with every child ticket
at Thornaby Pool, Thornaby Pavilion
and Stockton Sports Centre
Free Lollipop with every child swim
ticket at The Forum

"It won't be two Deers!" Holiday Opening Times

	Forum	Splash	Thornaby Pool	Pavilion	Stockton Sports Centre
Dec 24th	Closed 5pm	Closed 4pm	Closed 4pm	Closed 4pm	Closed 4pm
Dec 25th & 26th	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Dec 27th - 31st	Open 11am-5pm	Open 9am-4pm	Closed	Closed	Closed
Jan 1st	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Jan 2nd	re-open as normal	re-open as normal	re-open as normal	re-open as normal	re-open as normal

Stockton's Leisure Centres are a service provided by Stockton Council

Barging in

A host of volunteers are ready to roll up their sleeves to start work on a heavyweight community 11 tonne community barge.

The project has been set up by workers at St Ann's Partnership – a community development group based at Potrack and Tilery.

Volunteers are now being asked to head along and help fit it out. The jobs include painting, stained glass work and upholstery.

Anyone interested in volunteering or learning skills can contact Iain Fishburn on (01642) 674717.



Grieving parents find support with Sarah

Women who have lost babies and children have somewhere to turn for help and support in their grief, with a professional counsellor.

Sarah Cummings is a full-time counsellor at the University Hospital of North Tees in the Family Health Unit. Appointed in February, she has been working with women and their partners to help them cope with the loss of a baby, through miscarriage in early pregnancy, stillbirth or early neonatal death.

Sarah said: "The loss of a baby at whatever gestation is one of the most intensely painful experiences parents can face. As individuals we do experience grief in our own way and a lot of parents can feel isolated from each other because they react differently.

"Family and friends often find it difficult to know what to say and how to approach things so they can avoid talking to the bereaved parents. That results in parents feeling alone in their

grief. So being able to share their grief with someone who isn't emotionally involved can be immensely beneficial."

Sarah also provides counselling for women during the antenatal and post natal period who may be experiencing depression, or who have lost a baby or child or had a previous difficult pregnancy or delivery. And she counsels parents who have lost a child up to the age of 16. Use of Sarah's counselling services is for women or parents who have received treatment at the University Hospital of North Tees.

But there is also a support group for bereaved parents run by parents called POGINS – Parents Overcoming Grief In Need of Support.

The group meets on the first Monday of each month from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Red Cross House, 78 Norton Road, Stockton.

For more information on the support group or Sarah's counselling service telephone Sarah on (01642) 624236.

All aboard at Thornaby

Stockton Borough's busiest railway station has undergone a major revamp.

Thornaby Railway Station is now well and truly a station for the 21st Century after almost half a million pounds has been spent on the refurbishment work.

The scheme has involved the construction of a new waiting room, retail unit and staffed ticket office, together with a 60-space 'park and ride' car park and covered cycle parking facilities.

Five real-time display screens have been installed to improve the quality of information provided to passengers and locally monitored CCTV cameras and upgraded lighting have been installed to make the station safer for users.

The comprehensive upgrade has transformed the station into a public transport and 'park and ride' interchange, as well as a destination in its own right. Patronage at the station has grown almost 40 per cent over the last five years and is expected to continue to grow with further developments in Teesdale and employment opportunities in Stockton and Thornaby.

The scheme was developed in partnership with train operators Arriva Trains Northern and the Strategic Rail Authority, both of which contributed to the overall cost.

However, the biggest contribution – almost £250,000 – came from Stockton Council.



Get home safely



The Council's Trading Standards and Licensing Service is warning consumers to avoid rogue cabs over the festive period when rogue drivers may be vying for trade.

The Trading Standards and Licensing Unit have issued a new Guidance Leaflet giving advice on getting home safely and how to recognise licensed drivers and vehicles. This is available from the Consumer Advice Centre in Stockton Central Library or the Trading Standards and Licensing reception at 16 Church Road, Stockton.

David Kitching, Stockton Council's Trading Standards and Licensing Manager, said: "People take risks over Christmas because they're having a good time and may drop their guard. They should really think in advance about whom they are getting into the car with.

"Operators must not be tempted into employing unlicensed drivers or using unlicensed vehicles to meet festive demand. The Council will be increasing the checks it undertakes in the run up to the festive period."

Let's sign



Residents wishing to find out how to communicate with deaf members of the community can pick up some of the basics from a new poster and sets of place mats.

The poster of Greeting Signs in British Sign Language and the set of place mats featuring "Greetings, Questions, Family and Feelings" are ideal for use in classrooms, colleges, hospitals, offices and public buildings.

Cath Smith, sign language interpreter and author, said: "These posters are an excellent way of raising awareness of British Sign Language and of deaf people's needs. The response has been wonderful."

Anyone wishing to order a poster at £7.99 or a set of mats at £6.99 can write to The Forest Bookshop Warehouse, Unit 2, The New Building, Ellwood Road, Milkwall, Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 7LE, call (01594) 833858 or e-mail forest@forestbooks.com A £2 charge is made for postage and packing.

For more information on deaf awareness and sign language resources, please call Cath Smith on (01642) 580505 or visit www.deafsign.com

Tree of life lives on

Each year Teesside Hospice invites people to take part in their Tree of Life appeal by remembering loved ones and friends at Christmas.

A large tree stands inside the Cleveland Centre, Middlesbrough, and the Hospice invites people to celebrate the life and love of someone special by hanging a bauble on the tree. Messages may be for someone who is in your thoughts or someone who is living away from home.

There is no set charge for a bauble and the Tree of Life appeal makes a significant contribution towards the cost of Teesside Hospice. Currently £2,500 a day needs to be raised to cover running costs.

The Tree will be inside the Cleveland Centre until 19 December, when at 7.30pm on that night, the Hospice hopes as many people as possible will attend the Blessing of the Tree of Life at St. Barnabas Church, Linthorpe.

If you are unable to get to the Tree of Life but would like to participate, please send your wording and

donation to Teesside Hospice Tree of Life, 410 Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough TS5 6HF or call 01642 (355866).

Teesside Hospice are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested please call (01642) 296925.



Success for Stockton Swimmers

A squad of seven swimmers from the Borough of Stockton Swim Scheme took the plunge in Sheffield at this year's Amateur Swimming Association Age Group National Championships.

The dedicated team members, who train at Splash, Thornaby Pool and Billingham Forum, competed in a total of 28 individual events.

And one competitor, Jessica Dickons (pictured here) who swam in the 11-year-old age group, brought home three gold medals and one silver medal and was placed in overall second position for her category.

Jessica's first places came in the 100 and 200 metre Butterfly and 200 metre Individual Medley races, (which is a combination of all four swimming strokes) and she also narrowly missed out on top spot in the 200 metre Backstroke event.

Coach Graeme Antwhistle, said: "The swimmers who competed deserve every moment of their success for the hard work and determination they have shown, training up to 16 hours per week on both evenings and as early as 6am in the mornings."

Since the championships, Jessica has



learned that she has been selected to attend the British Swimming Camp throughout this year and next, in the hope that she may become a future

British prospect for swimming. If you'd like to find out more about the Borough of Stockton Swim Scheme, please call (01642) 393900.

Action Team hard at work



The Action Team for Jobs is working not only for those seeking jobs, but also employers and the community to help get local people into work.

With their innovative way of working - by going out and about in the community and meeting their customers - they have helped more than 860 people to get jobs.

They are very keen to work closely with employers in order to understand their requirements and provide solutions to their recruitment needs.

During European Week for Safety and Health in October, the Team, in partnership with NHS Plus and Stockton Council, held a series of very successful roadshow events.

For more information on the Action Team and how it could help you or someone you know, please call (01642) 343434 or visit their website www.actionteam.gov.net

Sports development goes online

There's now a new, easy way to find out what is going on in the sporting world in Stockton.

Stockton Council's Sports Development Team has gone online and the team's own website offers a huge variety of information on sports development. Events, courses for youngsters and Exercise on Prescription.

The website also offers links to other sports sites, a sports directory and has information on water sports opportunities. It can be found at www.train.stockton.gov.uk/leisure

It pays to keep up

Don't let difficulties with paying your rent be the cause of losing your home. If you need help please contact your local Tristar Homes Ltd office.

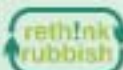
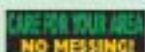


A HOPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!



FROM

Freda
the
Frog



LOOK OUT FOR ME IN 2003

A fresh approach to public services

A fresh look at how residents can benefit from public services is laid out in a new document - Neighbourhood Matters.

Neighbourhood Matters is the Neighbourhood Renewal Plan for Stockton-on-Tees, produced by Stockton Renaissance, the Borough's Local Strategic Partnership.

This is the first time that such a plan has been produced and agencies operating across the Borough have come together to take a fresh look at how public services can provide a better deal for residents of neighbourhoods in need of renewal.

Neighbourhood Matters forms part of "A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal", a Government led initiative aiming to raise standards and the quality of life in the poorest neighbourhoods in the country.

The Plan challenges the way public services are delivered and sets out a five-year Action Plan for positive change. It is developed round a series of themes drawn from the Community Strategy, Renaissance Vision 2020, and from Government targets.

The Plan centres on neighbourhoods in 11 Wards in the Borough which experience deprivation.

It will be followed up by the production of individual Neighbourhood Plans – initially for the highest priority areas. These will provide the local dimension that will make the Plan relevant to local people, and will be prepared in close consultation with communities.

The Action Plan is built around five objectives:

- Developing Greater Community Involvement.
- Raising Aspirations And Expectations.
- Developing Citizenship And Community Cohesion.
- Raising Prosperity
- Enhancing Service Provision

If you would like to know more about Neighbourhood Renewal or for a copy of the Neighbourhood Matters Plan or an Executive Summary, contact Ian Thompson, Head of Regeneration & Economic Development, on (01642) 391234 or email ian.thompson@stockton.gov.uk

Reducing fridge mountains



Teesside firm JCM, based in Billingham, is helping businesses scale the national fridge mountain with the UK's first fully approved recycling unit of its kind in the country.

Designed specifically to deal with the thousands of large chiller cabinets and freezer units disposed of every year by supermarkets and shops, the new facility will allow for the recycling of all components plus the safe removal of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

European legislation has reclassified fridges as hazardous waste because of the CFCs used in each unit's insulating foam and fridges can no longer be crushed, scrapped or sent to landfill.

Chris Musgrave, Chairman of JCM Group, said: "Everyone has been concentrating on ways to deal with domestic fridges, but the retail sector is also facing a major problem and has to cope with much bigger individual units that require an initial dismantling process.

"Our service is now fully operational and we will increase the size of our premises and add to our workforce as the through-put builds up.

"I anticipate that by early next year we will have created another 30 jobs."

For more information on the process, please call (01642) 566003.

Another way to pay your rent

Council tenants across Stockton Borough will now be able to pay their rent at any Girobank Paypoint.

Tristar Homes Limited, Stockton Council's housing management agent, has introduced the new payment system, which will allow tenants to pay their rent in Post Offices, shops, off licences and other non-traditional payment points.

This is another service improvement introduced since the company took over the day to day management of Stockton's Council homes in April.

The new payment method also means tenants can pay their rent outside normal working hours and at weekends.

The facility will still be available for tenants to pay their rent through local housing centres, the mobile housing centre, by cheque, by phone and by standing order.

Elaine Corney, Tristar Homes' Chief Executive, said: "This new system means that tenants can pay their rent while they're out and about doing other things, instead of having to make a special trip to their local housing office."

Anyone with any questions can call Tristar Homes' Customer Services on (01642) 393839 or e-mail customerservices@tristarhomes.co.uk





STOCKTON BUSINESS CENTRE



- 24 hours access and security
- Free parking
- Broadband internet to all units
- 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
www.StocktonBusinessCentre.org

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



Here's a creative leisure activity that helps 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.

Stagecoach runs at weekends during school term.
No auditions necessary.

For more details ring: 01325 337667 (24hrs)

New Thursday School in Darlington from September



Meals with Care

Enjoy the taste of independence
Enjoy the taste of choice



**All Standard
Main Meals
Only £2**

Why settle for less?

Christmas is Coming, Winter's on its way Let us be the answer to your mealtime problems

Traditional Christmas Fayre menu now available

- WRVS delivers over 10 million meals each year
- WRVS is recognised as experts in home delivery meals

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service delivers frozen meals throughout the North East.

For information Telephone: 01642 222643



**WOMEN'S ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE**



Queensway Court, Middlesbrough

colin mills



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from

Your Designers & Main Contractors

*** Free Survey ***

*** Free Design Scheme ***

*** Free Quotation ***

**FREEPHONE (0800) 389 6177
anytime**



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**.



Wiltshire Farm Foods
the home meals service

new

students 16 → 19 bus pass

helpline 01642 **3 9 7 1 0 6**



Are you a student aged 16 to 19 years old and living in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees?

If so, you could be eligible for our new bus pass offering you:-

- unlimited half fare bus travel within the Boroughs of Hartlepool,



Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees.

- limited half fare bus travel within the Borough of Darlington.

To get your bus pass ring the helpline to order an application form or to make an appointment.

Special Offer!

Bus pass now available for just £5! (Free if you meet certain conditions).



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


Ever thought of **starting** your **own business** in Stockton for **free**

- You have the idea, the determination, the motivation and the dream to be successful
- We have experienced business counsellors who will be with you every step of the way

Together we're the perfect match

Give us a call now on
01642 679388

it could be the start of something big!



Drugs Services in Stockton

INTENSIVE TENANCY SUPPORT TEAM
Unit 7, Stockton Business Centre, Brunswick Street, Stockton. **(01642) 732053/4**

PMS (Personal Medical Service). GP Practice (for substance misusers) Lawson Street, Stockton. **(01642) 352980**

PANIC (Parents And Addicts Against Narcotics In The Community). 5 Nelson Terrace, Stockton, TS18 1NJ. **(01642) 871999 Helpline: 0800 0522050**

ETC (Education, Training & Care)
Daycare Centre, 32-34 William Street, Stockton. TS18 1D8 **(01642) 356088**

HOOKED (Young Persons Community Drugs Team). The Corner House, 98 Dovecot Street, Stockton. **(01642) 868331**

ABS (Addictive Behaviour Service)
29-31 Yarm Lane Stockton **(01642) 802424**



Stockton
Drugs Action Team
Tackling Drugs Together

Exercise On Prescription



Exercise on Prescription is a twenty-week progressive exercise programme.

The scheme is a service provided by Stockton Borough Council in conjunction with local GP's and other Health Practitioners to help you manage and control your medical condition, health, lifestyle and well-being.

Activities can be taken at Stockton Sports Centre, Splash, Billingham Forum, Thornaby Pool or Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre.

Types of activities included are:

- personalised gym programmes in an environment with people on the scheme like yourself
- Light exercise classes
- water based activities
- health walks
- stretch and relaxation classes

To get referred onto the programme see your health practitioner or contact Andrea Hogg on:

(01642) 358535

for further information.

www.train.stockton.gov.uk/leisure



Leisure Saver Card

Don't miss out on great savings on a wide range of sporting and leisure activities in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. Apply for your Stockton Leisure Card today!

The following benefits are available to all card holders-

- Discounted prices for activities listed at participating centres.
- 8 days advance booking of facilities.
- Cards may be used as a deposit against equipment hire at participating centres.
- Discounted prices and special offers from Partners in Leisure.
- Free spectator entry to all participating centres.
- Discounts on sport development coaching programmes.

USE THE CARD AT THE FOLLOWING CENTRES

<i>Splash</i>	<i>(01642) 393900</i>
<i>Stockton Sports Centre</i>	<i>(01642) 607994</i>
<i>Billingham Forum Leisure Complex</i>	<i>(01642) 551381</i>
<i>Thornaby Pavilion</i>	<i>(01642) 760971</i>
<i>Thornaby Swimming Pool</i>	<i>(01642) 616727</i>

DISCOUNTED PRICES ALSO AVAILABLE FROM PARTNERS IN LEISURE

*Wolviston Football Club
Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre
Forum Theatre
Stockton Museums Service
Skinnergate Cycles Ltd.
Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club
Preston Cricket Club
Stockton Cricket Club*



NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD AVAILABLE FROM JANUARY 2003

For more details contact:

Trevor Massey on (01642) 358541

Or Email: trevor.massey@stockton.gov.uk



What's On

December 2002 - March 2003

DECEMBER 2002

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRESTON HALL MUSEUM WILL BE OPEN FOR PERIODS OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

Sun 15
CASTLE EDEN WALKWAY
1.30pm - Make some Christmas crafts using bits and pieces that you would normally throw away. Please book in advance on (01740) 630011

Sun 20
CASTLE EDEN WALKWAY - Planetarium
7.00pm Science fiction film club

Sat 21
CASTLE EDEN WALKWAY
7.30pm - Stoneyfield Solstice
A look at the night sky on the shortest day of the Year. Meet at the Planetarium
Further details call (01740) 630011

JANUARY 2003

Sun 5
NORTON DUCK POND
10.00am-3.00pm - Pond to pond walk. An eight mile round trip From Norton Duck Pond to Wolviston Duck Pond. Meet at Norton Duck Pond
For further details call (01642) 397609

Sun 12
COWPEN BEWLEY WOODLAND PARK
Come and wear off your Christmas pud and help with a day of conservation work. Task to be confirmed nearer the time. Bring a packed lunch.
For further details call (01642) 415225

Sun 26
PRESTON HALL MUSEUM
10.00am-11.30am - Joint the River Tees Ranger for a

short walk along the Riverbank and woods looking at wildlife.
For further details call (01642) 788907

FEBRUARY 2003

Sun 2
COATHAM WOOD SITE
10.00am - 11.30am - Meet the River Tees ranger for a short walk looking at the dormant trees and other winter survivors.
For further details call (01642) 788907

Sun 9
COWPEN BEWLEY WOODLAND PARK
1.00pm - 2.30pm Join Robin Daniels for Tees Archaeology on a walk round the medieval village of Cowpen Bewley.
For further details call (01642) 415225

Wed 19
CASTLE EDEN WALKWAY
1.30pm Orienteering. Discover new parts of the walkway with our extended Orienteering course. Meet at visitor centre.
For further details call (01740) 630011

Fri 21
STILLINGTON FOREST PARK
7.00pm - Secrets of the Night. Explore the depths of Stillington Forest. Meet outside of the churchyard at St. John's Church, Stillington.
For further details call (01740) 630011

MARCH

Sun 2
PRESTON PARK
10.30am - Join the River Tees Ranger at the gate of Preston Park for an 11 mile walk.
For further details call (01642) 788907

Sun 9
CASTLE EDEN WALKWAY
10.30am - 3.00pm
An introduction to the mammals of Cleveland. An indoor session looking at mammals followed by an outdoor look for signs of them in the wild. Booking essential. For further details call (01740) 630011

Sun 16
CASTLE EDEN WALKWAY
9.30am - A walk of 5 miles around Embelton starting and finishing at Tilery Wood car park.
For further details call (01740) 630011

Sun 30
STILLINGTON FOREST PARK
9.30am start for a walk of 5 miles starting and finishing at Stillington Forest Park. Meet at the village hall in Stillington.
For further details call (01740) 630011

Sun 30
BILLINGHAM BECK VALLEY
Go on a historical walk going back in time and look at the hidden history of Billingham
For further details call (01642) 397609

Sun 30
COWPEN BEWLEY WOODLAND PARK
2.00pm- 3.00pm
Judging of Amateur Photography Competition
Have a go at capturing the images of your local environment. All entries to arrive at Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park by Friday 28 March. For entry form and further details call (01642) 415225

WALKWAY WINTER RACE SERIES
A series of six runs of approximately 5 miles with handicaps for all runners. For further details and entry form call (01740) 630011

Stockton Council Christmas and New Year opening

Opening hours of many of Stockton Council offices will be restricted over the holidays.

Most offices will be open until 1pm on 24 + 31 December and will be closed on 25, 26 December and 1 Jan, 2003. Some offices will be closed on 27 December and remain closed until the morning 2 January 2003.

Municipal Buildings

24 December closed at 1pm. Switchboard (01642) 393939 manned until 4pm. Closed on 25 and 26 December. Reception and switchboard will operate normal hours on 27 and 30 December.

31 December - Closed to the public at 1pm. Main (01642) 393939 switchboard manned until 4pm.

Council Tax & Business Rates

Closed between 25 December 2002 and 1 January, 2003 (inclusive).

Kingsway House - Billingham

Will close to the public at 1pm on 24 December and will re-open at 8.30am on 2 January 2003. The "Bus Pass Helpline" (01642) 397106 will be closed during this period. The Council Tax & Business Rates enquiry line (01642) 397108 will close at 4pm on 24 December and re-open at 8.30am on 2 January, 2003.

Council Tax/Rent Cash Offices

Municipal Buildings, Stockton

Appleby House, Thornaby

Billingham Town Centre Housing
Centre Cash Office

Closed at 1pm on 24 December and will re-open at 9am on 2 January, 2003.

Tristar Homes Limited and Service Stockton Housing Service

24 December open 9am - 1pm with telephone service until 4pm
25 December - 1 January - closed.
Re-opens 2 January.

Outside of hours call 0800 174491. Please note: this number is for Tristar Homes only. Call (01642) 326326 for Service Stockton Housing Service if temporary accommodation over the Christmas period is required. Housing tenants are urged to stock up on enough heating tickets to get through the holiday period.

Emergency Social Services

Open to the public until 4.30pm on both 24 and 31 December and will be closed on 25 and 26 December and 1 January, 2003. Call the Emergency Duty team on (01642) 631123.

Leisure Centres

Closed on 25 and 26 December and 1 January, 2003 and will re-open on 2 January, 2003. On 27 to 31 December only two centres open Billingham Forum at 10am - 5pm and Splash at 9am - 4pm.

Libraries, Museums, Art Gallery and Tourist Information Centre

Closed from 12.30pm 24 December. Preston Hall Museum will be open on 27 and 28 December from 10am - 4.30pm, 30 December 10am - 4.30pm, 31 December 10am - 12.30pm. 1 January - closed and will re-open on 2 January at 10am.

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

Stockton's Market will be held on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Stockton Register Office

23 December 9.30am to 4.00pm, 24 December 9.30am to 1.00pm, 25 and 26 December CLOSED, 27 and 30 December 9.30am to 4.00pm, 31 December 9.30am to 1.00pm. 1 January CLOSED. 2 January 9.30am to 6.00pm.

There is an appointment system and priority will be given to the registration of deaths on Friday 27 December and Monday 30 December and Thursday 2 January after which normal service will be resumed. To make an appointment to register please telephone (01642) 393155.

In case of extreme emergency out of office hours only telephone (01642) 618946.



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

Ward Surgeries

1st January, 2003 – 31st March, 2003

BISHOPSGARTH WARD (STOCKTON)

14th Jan Fairfield Infants School 6.30pm – 7.00pm
11th Feb Bishopsgarth School 5.30pm – 6.00pm
11th Mar Fairfield Infants School 6.30pm – 7.00pm
COUNCILLORS S. HALL TEL: 654895
W. WOODHEAD TEL: 584409

BLUE HALL WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

8th Jan Norton United Reform Church
22nd Jan Frederick Natrass School
5th Feb The Forge Community Centre
26th Feb Norton United Reform Church
12th Mar Frederick Natrass School
COUNCILLORS M. FRANKLAND TEL: 552667
MRS K. NELSON TEL: 397921

CHARLTONS WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

20th Jan Clarences Community Centre
10th Feb Cowpen Hall Training Centre
10th Mar Clarences Community Centre
COUNCILLORS MRS A. McCOY TEL: 533554
R. McCALL TEL: 554452

EGGLESCLIFFE WARD 6.00PM – 7.00PM

21st Jan Eggescliffe Community Centre
18th Feb Eggescliffe Parish Hall
25th Mar Eggescliffe Community Centre
COUNCILLORS J. ATKINSON TEL: 782292
J. FLETCHER TEL: 786456

ELM TREE WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

21st Jan Elm Tree Community Centre
18th Feb Elm Tree Community Centre
18th Mar Elm Tree Community Centre
COUNCILLOR MRS S. FLETCHER TEL: 786456
Email: sfletcher@cix.co.uk

FAIRFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

8th Jan Fairfield Library
12th Feb Fairfield Library
19th Mar Fairfield Library
COUNCILLORS MRS F. HAWKINS TEL: 671422
MRS J. WADE TEL: 583549

GLEBE WARD (STOCKTON)

7th Jan The Education Centre 6.30pm – 7.00pm
13th Jan The Education Centre 2.30pm – 3.00pm
4th Feb The Education Centre 6.30pm – 7.00pm
17th Feb The Education Centre 2.30pm – 3.00pm
4th Mar The Education Centre 6.30pm – 7.00pm
24th Mar The Education Centre 2.30pm – 3.00pm
COUNCILLORS MRS A. CAINS
R. CAINS TEL: 555394

GRANGE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 5.30PM – 6.30PM

31st Jan Windlestone Road Housing Office
28th Feb Windlestone Road Housing Office
28th Mar Windlestone Road Housing Office
COUNCILLORS A. CUNNINGHAM TEL: 551251
M. STOKER TEL: 648069
Email: mickstoker@aol.com or
mick@grangeward.co.uk
Alexander.Cunningham@stockton.gov.uk

GRANFIELD WARD (STOCKTON)

20th Jan Grays Road Institute 10am – 11.30am
22nd Jan Oxbridge Primary School 5.45pm – 6.45pm
17th Feb Grays Road Institute 10am – 11.30am
26th Feb Oxbridge Primary School 5.45pm – 6.45pm
17th Mar Grays Road Institute 10am – 11.30am
26th Mar Oxbridge Primary School 5.45pm – 6.45pm
COUNCILLORS T. BEAN TEL: 870110
MRS E. JOHNSON TEL: 673952

HARDWICK WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

10th Jan Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
17th Jan Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
24th Jan Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
31st Jan Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
7th Feb Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
14th Feb Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
21st Feb Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
28th Feb Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
7th Mar Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
14th Mar Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
21st Mar Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
28th Mar Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
COUNCILLORS P. ANDREW TEL: 782373
W. NOBLE TEL: 602299

HARTBURN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.45PM – 7.30PM

6th Jan Elmwood Community Centre
3rd Feb Rosehill Infants School
10th Mar Elmwood Community Centre

COUNCILLORS K. LUPTON TEL: 589863
S. SMAILES TEL: 581574

INGLEBY BARWICK WARD

Dates to be arranged. The venue is usually at Safeways, Ingleby Barwick
COUNCILLOR MRS J. BEAUMONT TEL: 785304

MANDALE WARD (THORNABY) 12.00 NOON – 1.00PM

4th Jan Kennedy House
18th Jan The Mandale PH
1st Feb Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
15th Feb Kennedy House
1st Mar The Mandale PH
15th Mar Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
29th Mar Kennedy House
COUNCILLORS M. INGRAM TEL: 789372
S. WALMSLEY TEL: 881886

MARSH HOUSE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

13th Jan North Billingham Methodist Church
10th Feb Low Grange Community Centre
10th Mar North Billingham Methodist Church
COUNCILLOR MRS L. APEDAILE TEL: (01740) 645216
C. LECKONBY TEL: 872896

MILE HOUSE WARD (STOCKTON) 7.00PM – 8.00PM

16th Jan Salters Lane Community Centre
18th Feb Kiora Hall Youth & Community Centre
20th Mar Salters Lane Community Centre
COUNCILLORS S. COLLIER TEL: 581380
K. LEONARD TEL: 894191

NEWTOWN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

3rd Jan Newtown Community Centre
17th Jan Appleton Road Community Centre
31st Jan Newtown Community Centre
14th Feb Appleton Road Community Centre
28th Feb Newtown Community Centre
14th Mar Appleton Road Community Centre
28th Mar Newtown Community Centre
COUNCILLORS P. BAKER TEL: 655607
R. GIBSON TEL: 614482

NORTHFIELD WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

31st Jan Wolviston Court Community Centre
28th Feb Wolviston Court Community Centre
28th Mar Wolviston Court Community Centre
COUNCILLORS A. CLARK TEL: 531144
M. WOMPHEHY TEL: 555755

NORTON WARD 6.00PM – 7.00PM

10th Jan St Michael's Club Room
24th Jan Norton Library
7th Feb Albany Resource Centre
21st Feb St Michael's Club Room
7th Mar Norton Library
21st Mar Albany Resource Centre
COUNCILLORS R. COOK TEL: 890058
S. NELSON TEL: 534417
Email: Robert.Cook@stockton.gov.uk
Steve.Nelson@stockton.gov.uk

PARKFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

9th Jan Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
16th Jan Parkfield Community Centre
23rd Jan Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre
6th Feb Parkfield Community Centre
13th Feb Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
20th Feb Parkfield Community Centre
27th Feb Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre
6th Mar Parkfield Community Centre
13th Mar Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
20th Mar Parkfield Community Centre
27th Mar Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre
COUNCILLORS C. COOMBS TEL: 645759
P. KIRTON TEL: 532076

PORTRACK & TILERY WARD (STOCKTON)

5.00PM – 6.00PM
7th Jan Mill Lane Community Centre
14th Jan Portrack Community Centre
21st Jan The Community House, Cromwell Avenue
28th Jan Frank Wiseman Hall
4th Feb Mill Lane Community Centre
11th Feb Portrack Community Centre
18th Feb The Community House, Cromwell Avenue
25th Feb Frank Wiseman Hall
4th Mar Mill Lane Community Centre
11th Mar Portrack Community Centre
18th Mar The Community House, Cromwell Avenue
25th Mar Frank Wiseman Hall
COUNCILLORS D. COLEMAN TEL: 673952
K. SAINSBURY TEL: 605201

PRESTON WARD 6.30PM – 7.30PM

3rd Jan Trinity Methodist Church
17th Jan The Wilson Institute
7th Feb Trinity Methodist Church
21st Feb The Wilson Institute
7th Mar Trinity Methodist Church
21st Mar The Wilson Institute
COUNCILLOR M. CHERRETT TEL: 783491

ROSEWORTH WARD (STOCKTON) 5.15PM – 6.15PM

6th Jan Kiora Community Centre
3rd Feb Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre
10th Mar Kiora Community Centre
COUNCILLORS MRS W. HODGSON TEL: 614208
MISS B. INMAN TEL: 582644

STAINSBY WARD (THORNABY) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

16th Jan South Thornaby Community & Resource Centre
20th Feb South Thornaby Community & Resource Centre
20th Mar South Thornaby Community & Resource Centre
COUNCILLORS B. BELLERBY TEL: 763459
M. O' BRIEN TEL: 887353

ST. AIDANS WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

22nd Jan Billingham Youth & Community Centre
12th Feb Billingham Youth & Community Centre
19th Mar Billingham Youth & Community Centre
COUNCILLORS N. TEASDALE TEL: 07753 717291
B. WOODHOUSE TEL: 561899

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

9th Jan Billingham Branch Library
13th Feb Billingham Branch Library
13th Mar Billingham Branch Library
COUNCILLORS K. DOBINSON TEL: 564669
MRS J. O' DONNELL TEL: 559717

VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY) 6.15PM – 7.15PM

6th Feb Queens Street Community Centre
6th Mar Queens Street Community Centre
COUNCILLOR MRS A. NORTON TEL: 611902

VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY) 1.30PM – 2.30PM

17th Jan Westbury Street Library
21st Feb Westbury Street Library
21st Mar Westbury Street Library
COUNCILLOR A. HOBAN TEL: 633546

VILLAGE WARD (THORNABY) 4.30PM – 5.30PM

6th Jan Thornaby Pavilion
10th Feb Thornaby Pavilion
COUNCILLOR MRS E. CRAGGS TEL: 896378

WHITTON WARD

6th Jan The Chapel School Room, Carlton, 7.00pm - 7.30pm
7th Jan Manor House, Stillington, 6.30pm - 7.00pm
11th Feb Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles, 7.00pm - 7.30pm
28th Feb Wolviston Court Community Centre, 6.00pm - 7.00pm
3rd Mar The Chapel School Room, Carlton, 7.00pm - 7.30pm
4th Mar Manor House, Stillington, 6.30pm - 7.00pm
COUNCILLOR F. SALT TEL: (01740) 630771

WOLVISTON WARD (BILLINGHAM) 7.00PM – 8.00PM

9th Jan High Grange Community Centre
13th Feb The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
13th Mar High Grange Community Centre
COUNCILLOR MRS S. CORR TEL: (01740) 644339

YARM WARD 6.00PM – 6.45PM

14th Jan Yarm Library
11th Feb Challoner House
11th Mar Yarm Library
COUNCILLORS B. JONES TEL: 576855
MRS M. SIMPSON TEL: 790691

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.

Is **your** name on the

CHECK NOW!

Electoral Register?

The new Electoral Register was published on **1st December, 2002.**

Unless your name is included on the Register of Electors you will not be able to vote at the District and Parish Council Elections on Thursday 1st May 2003. All households have received an electoral registration form and have been canvassed by Electoral Registration Staff in recent months.

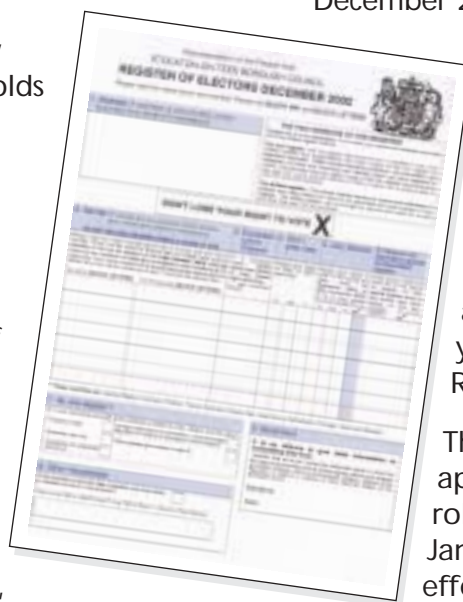
If for any reason you have not signed or completed a registration form,

contact the Electoral Registration Officer (address below) immediately.

If you are 18 or older between 1st December 2002 and 30th November 2003, you are entitled to be registered.

Remember, the register relates to where you were living on 15th October 2002, and if your name does not appear on the Register you should submit a Voter Registration Form.

The closing date for applications for the next rolling registration is 13th January 2003 coming into effect on 1st February.



Value
your
right to
vote

If the scheme is approved - this will be your only Polling Station

Electoral Services, Law and Democracy, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1LD.
Telephone: 393939 Ext. 3080/3081. E-mail: Electoral@stockton.gov.uk

Failure to appear on the register may affect any credit applications e.g. interest free credit, loans, mortgages and bank accounts.

The Council has applied to the Government for the Council elections on 1st May, 2003 to be all-postal, **without Polling Stations.**

Here is how the system would work



Delivered to you on Sunday, 13th April, 2003

+



Ballot Paper marked by you

+



Posted back

=



Democracy

The new equation!

Your vote counts!



Elected Members and Employees
of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Wish Readers
A Merry Christmas
and
A Happy and Peaceful New Year