

Stockton

Stockton Council's Award Winning Community Magazine - Winter 2004 - 2005

NEWS





Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COACHWIDE

EST
2010

CALLING ALL COACHES

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT ARE LOOKING TO UPDATE THEIR COACHWIDE DATABASE OF QUALIFIED COACHES

The Coachwide database system is a new initiative by Stockton Borough Council Sports Development unit, to assist Schools, Clubs, Community Groups and Leisure Facilities in accessing appropriately qualified sports coaches.

AIMS

- To recommend coaches who meet the identified criteria to Schools, Clubs, Community Groups and Leisure Facilities.
- Allow coaches to further their employment opportunities within the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees
- Offer discounted sports specific development courses for coaches.

COACHWIDE

Sports Development are looking to recruit coaches for all sports but would especially welcome interest from coaches in the following sports:

- Aerobics
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Netball
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Yoga/Pilates

For further information please contact:

Trevor Massey
Sports Development
Tel: (01642) 526690

or email: trevor.massey@stockton.gov.uk

Website Address: www.stockton.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment



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Stockton News

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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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There is an audio version of Stockton News. Please call (01642) 526098 to order a copy or e-mail communications@stockton.gov.uk

Wynyard has top golf event down to a tee

Golf legend, Seve Ballesteros (pictured), will lead a star studded line-up here in Stockton Borough during next year's Seve Trophy.

The five times Major winner has been to the region to announce Wynyard Golf Club as the venue for the prestigious event that pitches the best of Great Britain and Ireland's golfers against those from Continental Europe.

The Seve Trophy will be played out from September 22 – 25 2005 and Seve Ballesteros will captain the team from Continental Europe with Colin Montgomerie leading out the Great Britain and Ireland team.

Led by One NorthEast, Wynyard's successful bid was put together by The Wynyard Partnership – made up of Wynyard Golf Club, Stockton Council, Tees Valley Partnership and Tees Valley Regeneration.

The bi-annual Seve Trophy was held in Valencia last year. The Wynyard Club is investing £750,000 to extend its

clubhouse facilities to cater for the event and carry out improvements to the course.

Neil Schneider, Stockton Council's Corporate Director of Service Stockton, said: "This is a real coup for Stockton and the Tees Valley and the event will raise the area's profile.

"The Wynyard Partnership worked hard to secure hosting the Trophy and there will be real benefits for tourism in the area and the economy of the region as a whole."

Gary Munro, Managing Director of the Wynyard Club, said: "There is already a real buzz among members and the public about Wynyard hosting the Seve Trophy.

"We have what it takes to stage an event of this size and with it being televised, the eyes of Europe will be on the Tees Valley."

The Wynyard Partnership will work with event organisers, Amen Corner and Media Pro to stage the four-day Trophy.



Library on the up

Ingleby Barwick library goes from strength to strength since opening just over a year ago.

Around 13,000 items are available at the public library, which forms part of the All Saints School community campus, including books, storytapes, music CDs, DVDs and videos. More than 400 sessions are regularly booked on four Internet PCs.

During the year, 2,000 new items were added to the resources already available and October's half term break saw around 1,000 people coming through the library's doors.

Across the Borough, a massive 1,200 new borrowers have registered to Stockton Council's libraries since September 2003.

On the move

Big moves are taking place in Thornaby early in the New Year to coincide with the town centre's regeneration.

If all goes to plan, January 15 will see the Council Tax Cash Office move to new premises within Thornaby Central Library from its existing base at 2 Appleby House.

Tristar Homes will also move on the same day, from Brus House into 2 Appleby House for a temporary period until a new Housing Centre is built in the town centre in 2006.

Everything is being done to ensure that customers should not be inconvenienced and normal service at the new locations will be available from Monday, 17 January.

Service at Tristar Homes' Redcar Road Office is unaffected by these changes.

If you have queries please ring (01642) 526819 (Council Tax Office) or 393885 for Tristar Homes.

Go on-line and discover the benefits

As information technology grows, so do the opportunities to gain help and information on a widening range of topics.

Reporting anti-social behaviour

The UK's first on-line reporting system is helping stamp out anti-social behaviour.

Stockton Council launched the pioneering system in September, making it easier to report anti-social behaviour incidents at any time of the day or night. Based on the internet, it enables anyone to report incidents through the Council's website - www.stockton.gov.uk/asb - and will run alongside the existing telephone reporting system, which is not able to offer a 24-hour service.

Software known as FLARE guides the user through the process, then logs the information. If the problem falls within the remit of the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, an officer will investigate the matter and come back within three working days to discuss.

FLARE automatically forwards other issues, such as noise nuisance or abandoned cars, to the Council's designated service provider, who will respond directly to the complainant. Where another organisation is responsible, the website directs users to them - Cleveland Police, UNITE or the RSPCA, for example.

Carolyn Crean, the Council's Crime and Disorder Manager, said: "It's a new way of reporting anti-social behaviour and making our team more accessible.

"It's easy to use and allows people to lodge their details at any time. It will be invaluable in recording incidents and will also help us measure the impact of anti-social behaviour on our communities more effectively."

Anti-Social Behaviour Team members have visited local residents' meetings to demonstrate the service and any group interested in such a presentation can call them on (01642) 527615 or email asbteam@stockton.gov.uk



Inspector Mark Thornton (left) pictured with Carolyn Crean, Stockton Council's Crime and Disorder Manager with the on-line reporting system

Plan ahead

Planning applications have just joined the internet age, with a new system enabling them to be submitted through Stockton Council's website.

Not only that - you can even pay your fee for it, comment on other applications, view current proposals for any part of the Borough and check out what's happened to other properties over the past ten years, all on-line.

And with the Local Plan also on-line, it's easy to see where major new developments are proposed in the area.

The system is one of the most interactive of its kind in the country, is easy to navigate and offers a wealth of information.

Stephen Barker, the Council's Head of Planning and Environment, said: "This is one of the most advanced and accessible systems to view local plans on the web.

"All applications since 30 September can be viewed and we're working to expand it so that plans before that date can be viewed."

To view plans simply visit www.developmentcontrol.stockton.gov.uk/publicaccess

Road to nowhere no more!



Contractors are currently laying 37,000 square metres of road surfacing, ready for the opening of the £34 million South Stockton Link next Easter - two months ahead of schedule. The diverted Bowesfield Lane now passes beneath the so-called "bridge to nowhere", built in 1994 before the Government of the day halted the scheme for some years. The new link now passes over the bridge, near to its intersection with the A66. The link onto the A66 will initially feature only sliproads to and from the west, until widening of the Surtees Bridge across the Tees is completed in 2006.

New sports facility for Thornaby

November saw Thornaby gain a newly-built all-weather football and hockey facility with the opening of Sporting Central in Baysdale Road.

The £750,000 facility, financed through the New Opportunities Fund and Sport England, will help to develop sport in Thornaby Community School and the neighbouring St. Patrick's RC School, along with the local community.

The Sporting Central pitches will be used for students in PE lessons and after school clubs. The local community will also have the opportunity to book the facilities, which include floodlights and a changing pavilion.

Chris True, Manager for Sporting Central, said: "This is a fantastic facility and will not only make sport more accessible for our youngsters but also to the wider community of Thornaby."

Top marks for teacher

Biology teacher, Dr Richard Spencer, has been named Further Education Teacher of the Year at the national STAR Awards in London.

Richard, who works at Bede College in Billingham, was nominated for his

inspirational and creative teaching methods and was one of 23 Further Education teachers shortlisted for a STAR award.

Dr Spencer was awarded a Beacon Award for the Association of Colleges for excellence in teaching and student achievement in Biology in 2002.



Billingham plans withdrawn

The whole future of new and existing leisure, community and shopping provision in Billingham Town Centre is back in the melting pot after a decision to withdraw the planning applications for the new supermarket on the Forum site and the Gateway complex in John Whitehead Park.

But councillors have pledged to continue to work with the Billingham Partnership to secure the best possible deal for the town and its people.

The planning applications for an Olympic class ice rink, a new swimming pool, gym, library, education and health facilities as well as the new supermarket were submitted after the people of the town twice backed the plans to build on the front of John Whitehead Park, and demolish the Forum.

The decision to withdraw the applications was taken after considering the announcement by the

Department for Culture, Media and Sport to list the inside of the Forum Theatre – something they had rejected on three earlier occasions. Coupled with major delays caused by objections to parts of the plans, this made remote any prospect of delivering the new vision within the original timescales.

The Local Plan will now be changed accordingly to reflect this decision.

New work is already underway to look at how best to rescue at least part of the vision in the short term and consider what can be done in the longer term.

Nigel Laws, Stockton Council's Project Manager, said: "We will continue to work on plans to regenerate Billingham Town Centre and are working with a property developer to explore further the options for enhancing the retail and commercial prospects of the town.

"However, they are not likely to

include the leisure, learning, health and cultural facilities envisaged for the original scheme at this time."

Kevin Pitt, Chair of The Billingham Partnership, added: "This is a real blow for the regeneration plans for Billingham. I am particularly disappointed at the loss of new library and an enhanced health facility. We will continue to work with Stockton Council to look at options for the Town Centre.

"I now challenge the objectors to fulfill their promises to the people of Billingham, for Friends of the Park to raise funds to improve the Park and for Save Our Theatre to raise funds to enhance the Theatre. I want those campaigners who opposed this plan to come forward with initiatives, supported by finance, to meet the expectations of the residents of Billingham for better facilities. The Billingham Partnership will always be willing to work with any group that has the interests of Billingham at heart."

Bright future for Castlegate Quay

A new partnership will secure the future development of the popular Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre in Stockton.

The Castlegate Quay Trust, which operates the centre, has joined forces with Tees Active, the non-profit company that manages Stockton Council's leisure complexes and encourages their development. Under the arrangement, Tees Active will manage the centre and British Waterways will acquire the Trust's waterfront premises.

The centre offers young people and adults river-based leisure activities. Many have never before experienced watersports and a high proportion have special needs. Since opening in 2001, 40,000 young people have taken part in training in canoeing, sailing and similar activities there.

And five-time Olympic Champion Sir Steve Redgrave visited when he launched the Year of the Tees last May.

The Partnership is a result of the regeneration of the river through the River Tees Strategy, led by British Waterways and supported by Stockton Council.

The move will help extend watersports to a wider range of people and secure the long-term future development of the centre's activities. The centre will benefit from Tees Active's marketing, administrative and personnel resources and will add an extra dimension to the Borough's leisure facilities.

Castlegate Quay Trust Chairman, Chris Payne, said: "The centre has been a huge success but the River Tees Strategy and Stockton/Middlesbrough Initiative open new opportunities.

"To make the most of these will require more resources than the trust could raise, so we decided to take this step to ensure the continual growth, continuity and success of this unique watersports facility.

"Personally, I'm delighted because both Tees Active and British Waterways are enthusiastic supporters of river-based activities. I can't imagine any organisations more committed to making the most of this wonderful river and the Castlegate Quay facility for the benefit of local people."

Steve Chaytor, Managing Director of Tees Active, said: "As a sport and leisure management company, we share the aims of the Castlegate Quay Trust. There has always been a close relationship between Stockton Council and the trust. Joining together offers a natural progression, strengthening our relationship and offering the best opportunities to develop the centre's activities for the future.

"Tees Active is delighted to be able to include river-based watersports in our portfolio, particularly at a time when these sports are enjoying unprecedented popularity. The Olympic success of Britain's sailors, rowers and canoeists can only add to that.

"Together we can push forward our aspirations for the River Tees to become one of the country's foremost centres for water-sporting excellence,

offering opportunities for people of all backgrounds and abilities."

Richard Curtis, Property Development Manager British Waterways North, said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with Stockton Council, Tees Active and the Castlegate Quay Trust.

"British Waterways' aim is to make waterways accessible to as many people as possible and the Watersports Centre plays a key role in opening up opportunities to young people in Stockton who otherwise might not get a chance to take part in water-based activities."

All six employees from the centre will transfer to Tees Active. Centre Manager, Bob Bond, has vast experience, having previously worked as training manager for the Royal Yachting Association, United States training director and coach to the Los Angeles Olympic team, and as Principal at the National Watersports Centre for Wales.

For details of activities at the Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre, call (01642) 528689.



Borough's services enjoy a year of successes



It's been a blooming marvellous year for Stockton Council and the whole Borough – not least in taking Northumbria in Bloom's top prize. For the news that Stockton had won the competition's Best Town category capped an amazing twelve months of achievement.

But although Council services have picked up regular accolades, you won't see them resting on their laurels. The Council is strongly committed to continually improving all its services, whatever their past achievements.

12 months ago there was celebration as the Council became one of only 26 nationwide to achieve a coveted "Excellent" rating from the Audit Commission in its Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

Describing the Council as "forward thinking", the Commission found Councillors and staff "committed to secure improvements" for the area. A hard act to follow, maybe, but the Council's Care For Your Area (CFYA) team continued in the same vein, scooping a host of awards for their work.

And when it was judged the country's top customer-focused organisation at the National Customer Services Awards in London, the CFYA team couldn't quite believe their ears.

Their first crown came as winner of the Customer Service Team of the Year in the Public Sector and Education Category. Then they went one better – named the overall national Customer Service Team of the Year, beating the likes of Barclays Bank, Vodaphone UK and British Gas to the title.

Care For Your Area also tasted success at the Association for Public Service Excellence awards in Plymouth. Here they were presented with the Internal Service Team of the Year award for Waste Management, Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing, going on to be named Overall Service Team of the Year.

CFYA also achieved Charter Mark status, inspectors rating it one of the top three services ever assessed.

Enabling local people fully-automated access 24-hours-a-day to CFYA and many other services helped the Council's website –

www.stockton.gov.uk – to the title of the area's top Internet site in the Tees Valley Business Awards in April. The site goes from strength to strength, with on-line planning applications and reporting of anti-social behaviour the latest innovations (see page three).

November saw the Council's Transportation service take the Green Apple Award for Excellence for work on the South Stockton Link Road. Here, a foam bitumen plant set up on site has saved importing 10,000 tonnes of aggregate and up to 22,000 wagon miles, and reducing local road disruption and CO2 emissions.

Not to be outdone, recycling mascot Freda the Frog received the Green Apple Regional Gold Award. With more than 3,000 members, Freda's Fan Club was recognised as an ideal way to inspire, motivate and encourage youngsters to take an interest in waste education.

Neil Schneider, Corporate Director of Service Stockton, said: "It's been an extremely successful year for Care For Your Area. We'll keep on improving what we do, delivering services for people and businesses across the Borough."



In April, the Council was awarded Beacon Status for the fourth consecutive year, this time for our Crime and Disorder Partnership. This recognises the work of the Safer Stockton Partnership to reduce crime and disorder and we will now share our expertise with other authorities around Britain.

The Council's Head of Community Protection, Mike Batty, said: "We were delighted to achieve Beacon Status – working with other agencies is an effective way of bringing together a much wider effort to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour."

Education has continued to set a shining example and the Borough's schools have once again enjoyed a year of accolades and awards, literally too many to name here. And lifelong learning received a boost when inspectors reported that Stockton's Adult Education service was the best they had ever visited.

Stockton Tourism became the North East's first Tourism and Tourist Information Service team to achieve the Charter Mark. Assessors commented on the team's 'dedication,

enthusiasm, commitment and generation of ideas and praised their approach to customer care.

And our popular visitor attraction, Preston Hall Museum, achieved the nationally recognised VAQAS accreditation, awarded by Visit Britain to attractions which meet national standards.

although Council services have picked up regular accolades, you won't see them resting on their laurels

Sports Development and Parks and Countryside also achieved Charter Marks this year and it was good news too for the Taxation Division. They gained the Charter Mark for the fourth time – the only Taxation Division in the country to achieve this award for excellence in public service delivery so many times.

The assessor was particularly impressed with the way staff and customers are all involved in identifying service improvements and planning future developments. Debbie

Hurwood, the Council's Head of Taxation and Administration, said: "Our first Charter Mark award in 1995 was renewed in 1998 and 2001.

"We're very proud to be awarded the fourth Charter Mark. It recognises our commitment to improving our service, providing value for money and ensuring what we do meets all our customers' needs."

The Council's Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme was recently confirmed in a national assessment, which said Stockton has 'not only maintained the level of energy management activity which justified their Accreditation, but has made significant advances in the last three years.

So 2004 has been a year of success for Stockton Council and the Borough's people and there's plenty of optimism for the future. Stockton now represents Northumbria in the national Britain in Bloom along with other regional winners and, with the results announced next year, who knows what we can achieve?

Here's looking to 2005.

High profile approach tackles environment crime

High profile and high-tech vehicles used by Stockton Council's Enforcement Unit are proving a force to be reckoned with. In just 18 months, the unit has seized 905 abandoned and untaxed vehicles in its fight against environmental crime.

On-board cameras, which can recognise untaxed vehicles and record and replay events as they occur, already adorn the unit's two cars and are planned for a recently-acquired motorcycle too (pictured here with Senior Enforcement Officer Graeme Small).

The unit also investigates vehicles suspected of carrying or dumping illegal waste and officers can prosecute motorists found discarding litter. Officers also combat the combined issues of youth, alcohol, litter and anti-social behaviour and, with the Council's Waste Awareness Officers, encourages young people to respect their community and environment.

Thanks go to Centex Body Repairs and Recovery Services, Middlesbrough, for paint and decals to the vehicle, Eemits Radio Communications, Billingham, for Remote Helmit Radio Communications equipment, Elizabeth Embroidery,

Stockton, who provided polo shirts and Stockton Council's Security Services who all contributed to the project to improve the quality of life for residents.



Training service helps caterers

Two caterers have found full time employment thanks to the skills and qualifications they gained through Stockton Council's Training and Employment Service.

Matthew Gair and Colleen Gracey took part in an FMA Catering Programme with the service and their hard work and dedication earned them their full FMA qualification framework within 12 months.

Matthew, whose work placement was at the Masham Public House in Hartburn, excelled under the close supervision of his assessor and placement provider, John Eddy, who said: "Matthew has a definite flair for catering and because of this ability and his dedication to his training we were very pleased to offer him full time employment."

Colleen, who was placed at MFI UK at Preston Farm Industrial Estate, had a more difficult time during her course but, thanks to the support of her catering manager, assessors and

placement provider, she achieved her Full FMA framework, including NVQ level 2 in Food Preparation and Cooking. She recently gained full-time employment at SODEXHO, Caterers and Support Service Providers.

Her placement provider, David Sorskey, said: "Colleen overcame her personal difficulties and showed real dedication and commitment to her training. She fully deserves her achievements and we were very pleased to offer her full time employment."



Visual impairment information day

New Year brings a special exhibition at Stockton Central Library as it joins with Stockton Blind People's Voice to host the fourth annual Showcase on January 19.

The drop-in event, which is open between 10.30am and 3.00pm, will bring together goods and services for visually impaired people locally, regionally and nationally.

Exhibitors will include Guide Dogs for Blind, Stockton Blind People's Voice, Adult Education Services, Action Team for Jobs, Stockton Council's Sensory Loss Team, Low Vision Aids, Action for Blind People and Computer software specialists Dolphin and Sight and Sound.

Cleveland Fire Brigade will be there to make arrangements with people who would like free safety checks on their homes.

There's also an opportunity to visit the Ann Kallagher Suite of special computer technology for visually impaired people.

Pam Wilson of Stockton Libraries, said: "It's unbelievable that this is our fourth of these events. We'd like to attract new audiences as well as people who regularly attend."

For further information about the event or Stockton Blind People's Voice, contact: Christine Durnion, Manager Stockton Blind People's Voice, 27 Yarm Road Stockton TS18 3NJ. Tel (01642) 803590 or e-mail Christine.Durnion@blindvoice.co.uk

Andrew builds a great future

Struggling at school with numeracy and literacy has definitely not stopped 18 year-old Andrew Dillon from making great progress with his career.

On leaving Billingham Campus school, it's fair to say that the future didn't look too bright for Andrew, from Port Clarence. But now he's proving that academia is no obstacle to being very successful in life.

Attending Hartlepool College, Andrew achieved NVQ Level One in bricklaying, and then did some painting and decorating work with his dad. However, at that time he suffered from very low self-esteem and lacked confidence.

Now all that has changed. After Andrew attended Stockton Council's Training and Employment unit for around five months, Neil Marron, owner of Wilron Developments Ltd, stepped in to offer some work experience.

Because of his lack of confidence, Andrew was almost ready to 'throw the towel in'. But with Neil's guidance and support, he's gone from strength to strength showing his excellent talent for the construction industry.

Neil has now offered Andrew full time employment and can't speak too

highly of him. He said: "It's fair to say that Andrew is a natural and I believe that if he wants to, he can go to the top of the ladder.

"Andrew now has his own personal goals and is a credit to himself and his family. Without them, he may not have stayed on the straight and narrow.

"He's a very hard worker and gets on with the job and customers cannot believe how polite and hard working he is."

Andrew has been nominated for the Celebration of Learning Awards 2004 organised by Connexions, Job Centre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council.

It's clear that Neil is good at spotting potential as Paul Spearing, who is also a crucial part of the hardworking team and also attended Stockton Council's Training and Employment unit, has worked for him for the past two years.



Pictured left to right Paul Spearing, Neil Marron and Andrew Dillon

Out and about with Shopmobility

A charity helping disabled people get out and about has been celebrating its 10th birthday.

But as Stockton Shopmobility reflects on its achievements over the past decade, it is also looking to the future. The charity is seeking sponsors to help it continue offering people with disabilities the chance to get out.

The charity is core funded by Stockton Council, which recently provided 12 new scooters.

The service offers wheelchairs, scooters and power chairs, along with trained escorts, enabling anyone with a mobility problem to get out and about around town. Without it, some regular shoppers would not get out at all. The service also means that carers can take a break.

Stockton Shopmobility, on Bridge Road, Stockton, is the only service provider in the Borough area offering equipment for both long or short term hire and has a wide range available to suit individual needs.

As well as the hire service, the shop stocks a range of disability equipment, aids and accessories and can advise on making adaptations to make life easier for people with different disabilities.

The shop has recently been refurbished and new staff recruited, including General Manager Hayley Perks.

Hayley said: "It is wonderful to see someone go out for the first time sometimes in months, or even years, and be able to go where they want,

their independence restored. They are usually a little nervous at first, but when they return they are always delighted that they decided to come to us.

"The escort service is wonderful. Our volunteers are trained in disability awareness and how to handle equipment safely.

Our regular customers think they are great and treat them more like friends now. For some, the companionship is what means the most to them."

For more information contact Shopmobility on (01642) 605676, email stocktonshop@aol.com, or visit www.stocktonshopmobility.co.uk.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Debbie Gittins

Bubbly Debbie Gittins has a wealth of knowledge about the local area as one of the team of four who run Stockton Council's Tourist Information Centre (TIC).

Debbie, who has worked for the TIC for 11 years, began her life as a Council employee by taking part in a Youth Training Scheme. She was offered full time employment and since then she's never looked back.

With four children – Coby eight, Chloe seven, Bethany six and Robbie two – Debbie has her work cut out. However, she has things planned down to a fine art as she now works part-time on a job-share basis and her husband also works part-time, so that her youngsters are always cared for by either mum or dad - a great idea for coping with the family's needs.

Working in the TIC is a job which brings new things every day and Debbie says no two are alike. Not only does she deal with members of the public face-to-face, but incoming telephone calls and e-mails make the day a busy one to say the least.

Since moving from the Green Dragon Yard to Stockton Central Library two years ago, visitors to the TIC figures have tripled. In a single day, around 150 people could need advice - and that's not counting e-mails and phone calls.

Debbie says the job has changed dramatically since she first started. "It was all reference books and pen and paperwork. With the internet and information at our fingertips, all that has changed and many people think



our work is just telling people how to find places but there's much more to it than that."

She stresses that the TIC is not just for visitors to Stockton but for local people who may want local information or details about places further afield.

With a University on our doorstep, Debbie notices how students from many parts of the world benefit from TIC advice, as well as former local residents asking how the area has changed and those who are tracing family roots here.

"People often pop in and tell us about their wonderful holidays, just to show their appreciation of our help."

Each summer, the Stockton International Riverside Festival brings many visitors from far and wide and Debbie is ready with all the information they may need.

The TIC itself is packed with brochures and leaflets, not only about local events and places of interest but also other areas nationally. If you can't find what you want, Debbie or one of the team are there to help you personally.

And with their contacts across the UK's other TICs, they can tell you anything

from information on nationwide attractions to details of Youth Hostel Memberships and even sell you concert and theatre tickets both locally and nationally.

Stockton's own Visitor Guide had expert input from Debbie and the team to ensure that the heritage and historic places in the Borough are shown to their best. And this summer their "Holiday Survival Guide" for parents listed things to do on a daily basis for the whole of the six weeks holiday – no mean feat!

Debbie recalls one elderly gentleman, recently bereaved by the loss of his wife. With her encouragement, he took the plunge and went on holiday alone. It's now a regular occurrence and just shows how the team works.

She says: "People often pop in and tell us about their wonderful holidays, just to show their appreciation of our help."

So what's Debbie's idea of a good break? Camping with the kids, of course! And, with all her knowledge, and campsite and holiday information at her fingertips, she never gets it wrong!

To find out more about the services of Debbie and the team, pop in to the TIC in Stockton Central Library call (01642) 528130 or log on to www.stockton.gov.uk/visiting

The Clarences in print

A fascinating new book captures the social history, life and memories of eight people from the Clarences.

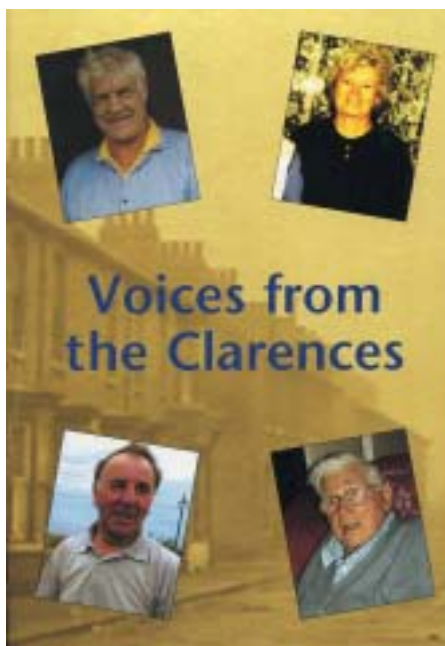
'Voices from the Clarences' was compiled by Celeste Hicks and David Cairns of BBC Radio Cleveland following their 'Voices' oral history project in the area.

The 48-page book, sponsored by SITA and ConocoPhillips, portrays the life and times of Clarences residents and is dedicated to Cyril Gilbert, a resident of Haverton Hill and then Billingham until he died in 2003.

It tells of good times and bad, the feasts and famines of employment and the changing face of housing and industry.

The Voices project saw Radio Cleveland broadcast regularly from the Clarences from January to August 2003, giving a voice to residents and children who also did their own bit of broadcasting.

For a free copy of the book, call at Clarences Community Centre or BBC Radio Cleveland reception in Middlesbrough.



Former school reopens as community centre

The former Newtown Infants School has a new life, thanks to a £2 million transformation into the Newtown Community Resource Centre.

The building, on Stockton's Durham Road, dates back to 1906 but has moved well and truly into the 21st Century and back into community use with major refurbishment work.

The impressive project is being led by a management committee made up of local residents and interested agencies, mainly from the voluntary sector.

Support has come from Stockton Council, with funding from SRB, ERDF, The Big Lottery and Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

The new centre will also accommodate some permanent agencies such as SureStart. Meeting and counselling areas can also be rented and there is also a small café.

Training and education will be delivered from the site as well as youth services, childcare, information, advice and guidance services; Stockton Online will also have a base there.



Blazing a trail for the Borough's teenagers

Two new ID cards are available to travelling teenagers.

Teenagers across Stockton Borough can enjoy half price travel fares thanks to a partnership between Stockton Council and bus operators.

The £10 Trailblazer card offers half fare travel, until 31 August 2005, to all 16 – 19 year olds born between September 1985 and August 1989.

This scheme complements the Pathfinder card which costs £5 and is available to students aged 16 – 19 years.

John Kavanagh, Stockton Council's Senior Engineer in Highways and Transportation, said: "We hope that half price travel fares will encourage more young people to use buses to access jobs and training opportunities. We are doing this because the Borough's young residents, especially from priority neighbourhoods, asked if we could work with bus companies to make travel cheaper – and our Bus Quality Partnership has done just that."

Anyone wishing to buy a Trailblazer card can do so from either the Stagecoach Travel Centre or Arriva Travel Centre, both on Stockton High Street. They must take along proof of age and evidence they live in Stockton.

The cards can be used on most Stagecoach, Arriva, Leven Valley, Green Bus and Compass Royston services operating in Stockton, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Hartlepool and Darlington.

The other card is the new 'Under 16' proof for age cards for those who are under 16 and are entitled to travel at half fare.

To get one of these cards, young people will need to bring proof of identity of their age such as their birth certificate to the Arriva and Stagecoach Travel Centre on Stockton High Street. There is a small charge of 30 pence to cover the cost of printing.



Here's what you told us...

A recent survey shows that the Borough's residents have good reason to be satisfied – you like where you live, you are satisfied with most of the Council's services and you are very happy with our Care For Your Area campaign.

Stockton Council commissioned national opinion company MORI to carry out the survey during the summer of 2004. Researchers visited 1,028 homes across the Borough, asking local people face-to-face, their views about the area, the services the Council and other local agencies provide, and residents' priorities for the future.

With the survey now analysed, the Council is now using its findings (along with those from similar surveys in 1998, 2000 and 2002) to tailor our future plans to meet the priorities of local people.

Key Findings

- 85 per cent of you are satisfied/very satisfied with this area as a place to live – a rise of 7 per cent from 2002
- 64 per cent of you are satisfied/very satisfied with the way the Council provides services in the Borough
- 21 per cent think the local economy will improve over the next couple of years, compared with only 13 per cent nationally (MORI Economic Index, June 2004)
- 66 per cent think their local area will either improve or stay the same

- over the next couple of years
- Feelings of safety are improving – 94 per cent of residents feel safe outside during the day and 54 per cent feel safe after dark

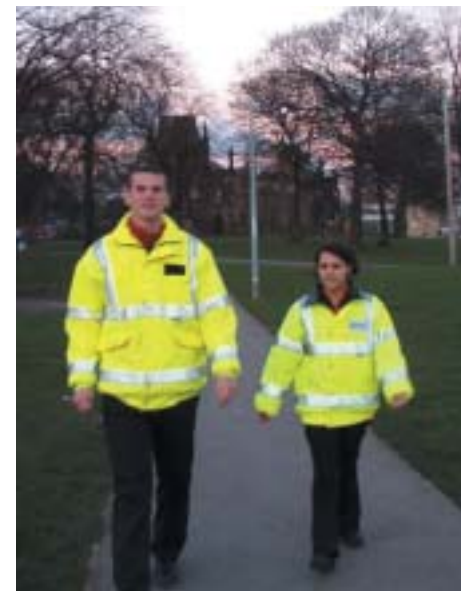
Care For Your Area brings real improvements

Back in 2000 you told us that you were unhappy about the state of the streets, litter, refuse collection, recycling and the general look of the Borough. We did something about it - launching our Care For Your Area campaign to bring some real improvements.

	2000 Percentage satisfied/very satisfied	2004 Percentage satisfied/very satisfied
Refuse Collection	81%	92%
Street Cleaning	53%	78%
Recycling facilities	66%	89%
Street lighting	80%	87%

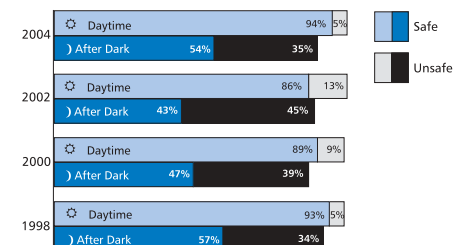


Crime and anti-social behaviour



Crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour has long been top of residents' lists of things they would like us to address.

The good news is that the introduction of Community Wardens, along with new police initiatives, has seen a marked increase in the number of people feeling safe outside both during the day and after dark.



A thousand residents have their say...

So what else has improved?

You also told us you were more satisfied with:

- Nursery schools
- Secondary schools
- Leisure centres
- Swimming pools
- Libraries
- Council housing
- Improving the local economy and jobs
- Housing benefit administration

What would you like us to improve?

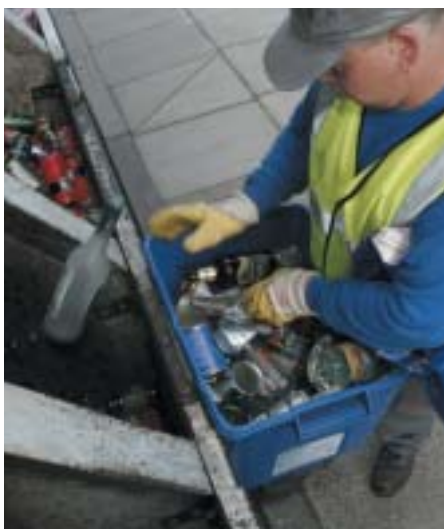
One of the survey's most important aims was to highlight what you would like to see improved. Now it's our job to tackle the problems and priorities you identified. At Stockton Council we genuinely believe in continuous improvement and we will be trying to make all our services better – including those you think are already doing well.

- Residents identified six key areas that really need to be addressed:
- Dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour
- Improving youth clubs and facilities for children and young people
- Regenerating town centres
- Improving road and pavement maintenance
- Creating jobs and improving the local economy
- Continuing to improve leisure centres

Most importantly, we will continue to implement our plans to tackle these

issues. Read about them in future editions of Stockton News.

The introduction of Blue Box doorstep recycling was also a success, with 93 per cent of residents saying they were satisfied.



So what do you think are the top ten most important services?

- Refuse collection
- Improving local economy and creating jobs
- Street cleaning
- Parks and open spaces
- Leisure Centres
- Youths clubs and other facilities for young people
- Road maintenance and repairs
- Secondary schools
- Primary schools
- Pavement maintenance

Contacting Us

The main ways residents make contact with us are:

- By telephone (70 per cent of all contact)
- In person (17 per cent of contact)
- By letter (9 per cent of all contact)
- E-mail/website (4 per cent of all contact)

When contact was made residents found staff to be:

- Helpful (76 per cent)
- Efficient (72 per cent)
- Able to deal with your enquiry (75 per cent)

Keeping you Informed

89 per cent of residents said they had seen Stockton News. Of these, 73 per cent use Stockton News as their main method for finding out what is going on with the Council, with 82 per cent saying the magazine was very or fairly useful. We will be reviewing it to make it even stronger.

If you would like to know more about the survey please call PPSU on (01642) 526087 or e-mail pps@stockton.gov.uk



30 years of advice

Where were you in 1974? A loaf of bread cost 14 pence, a fireman's starting salary was £1,758 a year, petrol was in short supply and the Government introduced a 50 mph speed limit on motorways to conserve it.

30 years ago the Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre, in Stockton's Central Library, was just starting to help people with their problems arising from the supply of consumer goods and services. Today, the recently refurbished Centre continues to meet clients' needs and now has a private interview room and is fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Figures no longer exist for complaints dealt with in 1974 but the Centre currently deals with approximately 8,000 complaints and enquiries a year. Her 25 years service makes Mary Church the longest serving of the three consumer advisers based there.

Although 30 years have seen many changes, much has remained the same. People had problems with faulty goods and services but mobile phones, computers and DVDs were unheard of so the range of enquiries was far smaller. The 1974 Consumer Credit Act remains in force today, although a radical overhaul is on the way to bring it up to date.

David Kitching, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager for Stockton Council, said: "As the range and complexity of consumer goods and services has increased, it becomes ever more difficult for people to keep up with their rights. The Consumer Advice Service will help with any enquiry from the very simple to the extremely complex."

The Consumer Advice Centre can help you and no appointment is needed. It is open weekdays until 5pm (4.30pm on Friday) or you can call on (01642) 527939, email on tradingstandards@stockton.gov.uk or visit the website www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/stockton

Click, type or write and have your say

Transport is an issue for everybody. The choices available to us when deciding how, when and where to travel have a major impact on our quality of life.

Every day, Stockton Council plays a major role in helping people to make their journeys. Since 2001, our Local Transport Plan (LTP) has made a real difference by improving our roads, reducing traffic congestion and giving everyone more choice in how they travel.

Major achievements include:

- Completion of Stage 3 of the South Stockton Link, providing a vital third access to Ingleby Barwick;
- A major upgrade of Thornaby Railway Station, the Borough's busiest station and a key public transport interchange;
- More than 30 local safety and traffic calming schemes, helping to make the Borough's roads safer; and
- Completion of the Stockton – Billingham and Stockton – Yarm Bus Green Routes, improving the quality and reliability of bus services on these important corridors.

Now we need to do even better. The Council is now preparing its second LTP, setting out the Borough's transport strategy from 2006 – 2011.

But we can't do this on our own – we need you to tell us about the key issues for you and what your priorities are. So we're carrying out a major public consultation exercise throughout this month and January.

There are three ways to take part:

- **CLICK:** fill in our Online Questionnaire – just click on <http://213.106.232.43/ltp.htm> (if the questionnaire appears cut off, hit 'F5' or 'Refresh')

- **TYPE:** e-mail us at highways@stockton.gov.uk
- **WRITE:** drop us a line at The LTP Team, Stockton Council, PO Box 229, Kingsway House, West Precinct, Billingham TS23 2YL

To add encouragement you could be £50 better off! We will enter the names of everyone who takes part into a prize draw for a £50 voucher to use at the shop of your choice.

We're waiting to hear from you. Have your say, and help to shape the Borough's future transport network!



Exhibition revolves around 25

An exhibition with a novel theme will give art enthusiasts the chance to collect a piece of work for just £25.

The exhibition, called "25", features five pieces of work by 25 artists and is designed to run for 25 days throughout December. Each piece is available for sale for £25.

Artists Dianne Bowell and Juliet Hardy are behind the exhibition, which is being run at their studio Room@TheTop, Room 3b, 137 Winpenny House, Yarm.

Officially opening on December 2, the exhibition will remain open until most of the art work is sold. It follows a similar event run by Dianne and Juliet

called "10" which saw ten artists exhibiting their work and selling it for £10.

The latest show will include paintings, photography, glass pieces and the work of card designers.



Thornaby business wins award

Thornaby-based Harrison Packaging has been named the North East's fastest growing small business and overall winner from all the region's businesses.

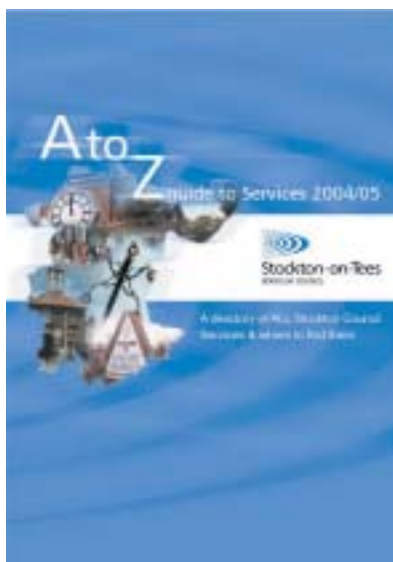
Company representatives received the awards at the Fastest 50 league ceremony, sponsored by law firm Ward Hadaway, at the Newcastle Art Gallery. The ceremony recognises companies which have shown the strongest sales growth over the past two years.

A Stockton Council grant helped Harrison's to relocate two years ago, when they moved from their old site on Portrack Lane to Teesside Industrial Estate.

Founded in 1882, they manufacture carton and leaflet systems for the food and healthcare sector. The move allowed them to increase their floor space, number of employees and turnover by 32 per cent a year.

Fran Hughes, Principal Business Development Officer for Stockton Council, said: "This is great news for Harrison Packaging. They have always been keen to work with the Council and it shows the benefits that can come from working in partnership like this."

Harrison Packaging Sales Director, Bill Rodgers, said: "It comes down to having a clear strategy, making the investment and having a good workforce who make it all happen."



A – Z of 1,000 services

Homes across the Borough received a completely revised and updated 40-page "A-Z" Guide to Services in November. The handy guide, containing more than 1,200 entries for local services provided by the Council and other organisations, includes details of many new telephone numbers introduced in recent months. Many email contacts are also included. If you would like further copies, these are available free from Council offices or by calling (01642) 526164 or by email at communications@stockton.gov.uk

Stockton mum who married boy next door is 100!

Eliza Hall, who celebrated her 100th birthday on October 4, did not have far to travel in Stockton to find the love of her life – she married Philip, the boy next door in Hume Street.

Romance blossomed and after about five years they wed at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, in Norton Road, Stockton in 1927.

Tenant of a smart Council bungalow in Glaisdale Avenue, Newham Grange, Eliza was presented with a bouquet of flowers at her home from Tristar Homes by Tenancy Service Officer, Chris Peters.

He said: "Reaching such a grand landmark is worthy of recognition, especially when she has been such a good and long standing tenant, so we felt we couldn't let the event pass without adding our congratulations."

Eliza became a Stockton Council tenant at Hardwick in 1965 and has lived at her current address for 21 years. Husband Philip, a steelworker at Cargo Fleet, died 30 years ago and the couple had four children, two boys and two girls.

Maureen, the only one of the four still alive, says: "I think my mother's determination and independent spirit are the reasons for her long life."

Eliza says: "I have lots of relatives and friends popping in including Father David Stephenson of St John the Baptist Church, Durham Road. Someone comes from the Church every week and we celebrate Communion."



Eliza receives her bouquet from Tristar's Chris Peters.

'Humphrey' doing well

A high proportion of Tristar Homes tenants on Thornaby's Humphrey estate are looking after their homes well, and that's excellent news for Thornaby area housing manager, David Burrell, and his team.

In recent months, inspections of all properties on the estate gave residents the opportunity to comment and voice any concerns and recommendations.

He said: "It is both comforting and rewarding to know that properties are being taken care of and I'm pleased to say that, apart from one exception, the properties were in good order."

Tristar is adopting a rigorous approach to people who do not look after their homes. Court action could result in the

worst instances of neglect for those who to let their gardens become overgrown, carry out alterations without permission - such as removing fencing - and who park cars and caravans on gardens, or make a mess of communal areas.

Tenants have been warned - they have to live up to the responsibilities in their tenancy agreement or face action. Last summer, some tenants were told they risked being taken to court unless they tidied their gardens.

The Tristar Board has pointed out that, with a lot of money being spent on bringing properties up to the Decent Standard, it is up to tenants to respect this effort by showing care and responsibility and to avoid being a loser of good standard accommodation.



Tristar Homes staff members Mal Scott (left) and Jan Hart (right) on Thornaby's Humphrey Estate.

Children's Trust for Stockton Borough

Children's service providers in Stockton are to work together to develop a Children's Trust in response to the Children's Bill and the Government Green Paper, Every Child Matters.

The move is one of the key outcomes of a review of services, led by Stockton Council, to meet the Government's agenda for children.

It follows a recent conference between various service providers and representatives from schools, the Council and the Primary Care Trust to consider how they could organise existing services to best meet the needs of children, their families and the broader community.

The new Children's Trust will integrate local education, social care and some

health services for children. Other organisations, such as the police, voluntary groups, the Youth Offending Team, Connexions and various other Council services will also be able to become involved.

Ann Baxter, Stockton Council's Corporate Director of Children, Education and Social Care, said: "This will be the key to ensuring that local children can enjoy a healthy and safe lifestyle, achieve their ambitions and make a positive contribution to their local community.

"The creation of a Children's Trust brings an exciting opportunity to achieve a single focus for delivering services for all the Borough's young people and I believe it heralds a brighter future, both for them and for the services they need."

New number for Emergency Duty Team

The Council's Emergency Duty Team has recently changed its telephone number and can now be contacted on 08702 402994.

The Team, which provides out-of-hours emergency social services, is operated by Stockton Council and used by other local authorities.

Act brings new rights

The Freedom of Information Act comes into force in January, meaning that anyone can ask for any information held by public bodies such as Stockton Council. Certain categories of information, such as those relating to personal data about third parties, may however be exempt from the new law.

Requests must be in writing giving details of the name and address of the person making the request and the information required. The Council has produced a special form to help make both requests and our response to them easier. Copies of the form, together with an explanatory leaflet, can be found on our website www.stockton.gov.uk/foi or ask at any Council office for details.

New look Marriage Room

A major make-over has refurbished the Marriage Room at Stockton Register Office, with a new reception area and attractive garden area making a perfect setting for wedding photographs.

A local designer completely refurbished the Marriage Room, which is now elegantly furnished in a French Chateau style, providing a calm and sophisticated setting for ceremonies. A new customer-friendly reception area has been created with a lower level reception desk suitable for wheelchair users. There is also a children's play area.

Outside, Stockton Council's Care For Your Area Team and a local artist blacksmith have created an attractive garden area with an ornamental archway, seat, hanging baskets and garden planters, making an ideal setting for wedding day photos.

Countdown to Christmas

Stockton's Christmas light switch-on steeped the town in festive spirit on December 2.

High Street fairground rides, a live broadcast by Radio Cleveland's John Foster launched the festivities.

There were performances by Bread and Butter Theatre and some wonderful carols by children from Hartburn Primary School, while the cast from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, currently at the Forum Theatre, provided some colourful characters to the occasion.

Stilt walkers and drummers paraded up the High Street parade and Teesside favourites The Wildcats of Kilkenny played their rousing,

footstomping music before Santa arrived on stage.

Boro hero Stuart Downing and two other talented players Tony McMahon and James Morrison switched on the lights.

In the lead up to Christmas, look out for street theatre in shopping centres across the Borough with Bread and Butter Theatre, Jason Maverick/Christmas Card, Mick Hancock, Maynard Flip Flap/Christmas Turkeys, Fairly Famous Family, Mark Mark and Rex Boyd.

And Christmas sounds will ring out across Stockton on December 11 and 18 with music from the Salvation Army Band and the Billingham Silver Band.

Christmas/New Year changes to Refuse and Recycling collections

There will be no refuse or recycling collections on Tuesday 28 December. The revised collection days are:

Normal Day	Revised Day
Tue 28th December	Wed 29th December (1 day late)
Wed 29th December	Thu 30th December (1 day late)
Thu 30th December	Fri 31st December (1 day late)
Fri 31st December	Tues 4th January (4 days late)
Tue 4th January	Wed 5th January (1 day late)
Wed 5th January	Thurs 6th January (1 day late)
Thu 6th January	Fri 7th January (1 day late)
Fri 7th January	Sat 8th January (1 day late)

Used 'real' Christmas trees will be collected on Monday 10 January - please place your tree where you normally put out your bins from 7am that morning and our staff will call and dispose of it.



True gritters keep the traffic rolling



Highways Maintenance Supervisor, Rob Burrell gets ready for winter

When we are all tucked up snugly in our beds, spare a thought for those who are out there keeping our roads gritted and safer.

Playing a vital role in assisting the safe movement of traffic, Stockton Council's Care For Your Area team provides the Winter Maintenance service for the Borough's highways.

Five gritting wagon teams work on a rota basis to keep the roads clear, with two more on standby.

The standby teams can be called out at any time and be on the road within an hour.

When frost or snow is forecast, they follow pre-determined routes, gritting or clearing by snowplough as conditions demand.

These routes are prioritised, with Priority One including principal roads, important commuter routes, roads to industrial establishments, main bus routes and roads serving shopping centres. Together, these add up to 46 per cent of the total road network which is 218 out of the 360 miles of road.

Priorities Two and Three include secondary roads, housing estates and known trouble spots.

Rob Burrell, who is the Highways Maintenance Supervisor and goes out working with the teams said: "We work on a system that aims to ensure that the roads are kept as clear as possible at all times for the safety of drivers and smooth traffic flow in the Borough.

"The Care For Your Area team usually treats roads overnight, depending on the forecasts and weather conditions. Other priority routes are treated as soon possible after Priority One routes, as conditions dictate.

"Sometimes, though, it can be a bit like painting the Forth Bridge because the weather can be so bad that as soon as we finish clearing a priority route, we need to go straight back out and start it over again. It all depends on how much snow there is or how quickly things freeze over again."

The Council is not responsible for the A19 and A66 routes. As part of the Highways Agency's national road trunk road network, these are

maintained by private contractors.

Gritting crews are on standby 24hrs a day, seven days a week, from October through to late April. The powerful gritting vehicles are able to distribute the grit across the full width of the carriageway, so drivers are asked to keep a safe distance when following them, taking great care when overtaking.

Although it's not possible to treat most footpaths for normal overnight frosty conditions, where conditions dictate, priority will be given to the main town centre areas where the Care For Your Area team will carry out salting as part of their daily duties.

Around 200 salt bins are sited across the Borough alongside steep gradients, sharp bends or known trouble spots, for use on a self-help basis. Last year 4,000 tons of rocksalt was used to keep our roads clear and 500 tons were placed in salt bins.

For more information please call (01642) 391959, textphone (01642) 565694 or e-mail careforyourarea@stockton.gov.uk

Panto time at the Forum

Christmas cheer has begun at **Billingham Forum** with the opening of this year's pantomime, **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**.

Starring Stu Francis as Muddles and Michelle Hardwick of "The Royal" fame as Snow White, they are bringing with them laughter, music and some wonderful costumes.

The panto has both matinee and evening shows and runs until Sunday, 9 January. Seat prices start at £9.

There are also eight fantastic Christmas Party Nights shows – "Mamma Mia!" with songs from Abba Magic, Bee Gees Magic, Grease and the greatest hits from the 60s and 70s. You can have a meal, show and disco for £29.50 or see the show only for £16.50.

The show began on 10 December with performances on 11 and 13 – 18 December and some seats may still be left.

For more information on events at the Forum Theatre, call the Box Office on (01642) 552663 or visit www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk



Turkey draw brings a merry start to Christmas

Visitors to the Borough's market stalls had a very merry start to Christmas when Stockton Markets held their annual turkey draw competition.

With 100 turkeys up for grabs, tickets for the draw were obtained simply by buying something from the Council's markets in Billingham, Stockton and Thornaby.

Winners were chosen at two draws in November and early December and the third and final draw takes place on Saturday 11 December.

The winners will receive their vouchers in Stockton Town Hall on Saturday, 18 December and can use them to collect their prize from Dennis Marley or Terry and Les Meynell butchers in the Castlegate Centre.

Chill out with Cinderella

Cinderella takes to the ice as junior members of the Billingham Ice Skating Club performing the popular pantomime at the Forum from December 12-16.

Some tickets for the show may still be available and choreographer Stuart Wilson is delighted at the response and effort of the children involved. He said: "This is the club's 34th annual pantomime and each year it just gets more spectacular.

"The cast are all amateur skaters but give a truly polished and professional performance. We hope that once people come and see the show, they will have a try at ice skating."

Cinderella herself is played by a local Billingham girl, 14-year-old Cloe Taylor Dawson and it will be her 11th pantomime. She started her skating

career as a snowflake at the tender age of three and currently skates five times a week with gym work, tap dancing and modern stage at the Lena Whitelocke School of dance, run by her grandmother.

Cloe's dedication has led to skating at regional, national and international competitions in Austria and Croatia. She has also trained with top UK skaters and coaches at the British Olympic training camp in Austria and is currently training for the British Novice National championships.

Performance times are: Sunday 12 December, 5.30pm – 7.30pm; Monday 13 – Thursday 16 December, 6.30pm – 8.30pm. Tickets cost £6 for adults and £3.75 for children/OAP's (10% discount for parties of 10 or more), which includes a free 1-hour skate (including boot

hire) after the show. To book, please call Billingham Forum Reception on (01642) 551381.



Christmas and New Year opening: Stockton Council, Tees Active and Tristar Homes

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

Municipal Buildings:

24 December: Closed at 1pm; main switchboard (01642) 393939 open until 3:30pm
25 & 28 December: Closed
29 & 30 December: Reception and switchboard will operate normal hours
31 December: Closed at 1pm: main switchboard (01642) 393939 open until 3:30pm
1-3 January: Closed
4 January: Open as usual

Cash Offices

Municipal Buildings, Stockton, Billingham Town Centre & Appleby House, Thornaby:
24 December: 9am-1pm
25 – 28 December: Closed
29 and 30 December: Open as usual (9am-4pm)
31 December: 9am-1pm
1-3 January: Closed.
4 January: Open as usual

Leisure Centres

Billingham Forum, Splash, Stockton Sports Centre, Thornaby Pavilion & Pool:
24 December: All centres 9am-4pm and Billingham Forum open 9am-6pm
25 & 26 December: Closed
27 – 31 December: Only two centres open – Billingham Forum (10am – 5pm) and Splash (9am – 4pm)
1 January: All centres are closed
2-3 January: Only two centres open – Billingham Forum (10am – 5pm) and Splash (9am – 4pm)
4 January: All centres open as usual

Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre

22 December-4 January: Closed
5 January: Reopens as normal

Kingsway House

Billingham (Council Tax & Business Rates):
24 December: Closed to the public at 1pm; telephone inquiry service (01642) 397108 open until 3:30pm
25 December – 3 January: Closed
4 January: Opens at 8:30am

Service Stockton

Sun Street Offices, Thornaby:
24 December: Closed at 1pm
25 December – 3 January: Closed
4 January: Open as usual
For Bereavement Services please contact your Funeral Director.

Service Stockton

Cowpen Depot, Billingham:
24 December: Closed at 1pm
25 - 28 December: Closed
29 & 30 December: Open as usual
31 December: Closed at 1pm
3 January: Closed
4 January: Open as usual

16 Church Road

Stockton (Housing Benefits, Advice, etc and Environmental Health, Licensing & Trading Standards)
24 December: Closed at 1pm. (TS&L, phones will be manned until 4pm)
25 December – 3 January: Closed
4 January: Open as usual

Homelessness Emergency out of hours service

Please contact: Cleveland Police on (01642) 326326 or Social Services on 08702 402994

Tristar Homes

24 December: Open 9am-1pm
25 – 28 December: Closed
29 & 30 December: Open 9am – 5pm
31 December: Open 9am - 1pm
1 – 3 January: Closed
January 4: Open as usual

Please see local offices for opening times. For emergencies and make-safe repairs outside of hours call 0800 174491.

Wynyard House

Human Resources:
24 December: Closed at 12pm
25 December – 3 January: Closed
4 January: Open as usual

Training & Employment Services

62 Dovecot Street
24 December: 8:45 – 1pm
25 – 28 December: Closed
29 – 30 December: 8:45-4:30pm
31 December: 8:45 – 3:30pm
1-3 January: Closed
4 January: Open as usual

Please note that other Training and Employment sites are closed from 1pm on 24 December until 8:45am on 4 January.

Security & Surveillance Centre

Stockton Council's Security Services, Concierge Security officers at high rise blocks and Care Call staff are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Tel: (01642) 528438

Stockton Register Office

24 December: 9.30am – 1pm (Phones manned until 3:30pm)
25 –28 December: Closed
29 & 30 December: Open Wednesday at 8.30am - 5pm, Thursday 8:30am-6pm
31 December: Open 9.30am – 1pm. (Phones will be manned until 3:30pm)
1-3 January: Closed
4 January: Open as usual

Please note: an appointment system is in operation at this office with priority given to the registration of deaths from 29 December – 31 December; after this normal service will be resumed. To make an appointment to register, please call (01642) 527720. In cases of extreme emergency out of office hours only, please call (01642) 618946.

Health and Social Care

Alma Street Office, Billingham Council Offices and First Contact Unit*
24 December: 8.30am – 4.30pm
25–28 December: Closed
29 & 30 December: Open as usual
31 December: 8.30am – 4.30pm
1-3 January: Closed
4 January: Open as usual

*Emergency duty team available all hours when offices are not open on 0870 2402994.

CYCLOPS gaming returns

A two-day computer gaming session returns to Stockton Central Library this month after an overwhelming show of support.

The exciting CyberChaos Library Outreach ProgrammeS (CYCLOPS) will run an extra Local Area Network (LAN) gaming session after three earlier sessions were overbooked.

The free event, aimed at youngsters aged 12 years and over, takes place on Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 December from 10am – 4pm.

Another two-day event will take place on Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 February at the Grangefield Youth and Community Centre in partnership with the Council's Youth Services Team.

The sessions, funded by North East Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (NEMLAC), promote interest in IT for youngsters who may not have access to computers, while developing relationships through team play.

Sue Anderson, Stockton Council's Reading, Learning and Community Engagement Manager, said: "CYCLOPS is an exciting new way of giving local youngsters a choice of activities aimed at their age range and it complements other events such as our regular Games Workshop Club.

"Stockton pioneered work in libraries with CyberChaos Ltd and demand since has been overwhelming."

Anyone interested in taking part must book a place at the library by calling (01642) 526522.



Sharing Stockton's memories

Stockton Libraries are sharing memories of the past, thanks to a free new service.

"Sharing Stockton's Memories" is run by the library service, which loans out local history, educational and reminiscence resources to schools, residents organisations, sheltered housing and other local groups.

Aimed at people of all ages, it was created as a result of an earlier project

called 'Remembering the Past, Learning For the Future'.

Local photographs are available on the Picture Stockton website under Photographs from Stockton-on-Tees Through the Years at <http://picture.stockton.gov.uk>

For details, write to Sharing Stockton's Memories, Priority Services, Billingham Library, Bedale Avenue, Billingham, TS23 1AJ or call (01642) 397597.

Put your best foot forward for recycling

Thinking about booting out an old pair of shoes? Then think again and, instead of binning your old brogues, stilettos, boots or whatever, recycle them – even if they are scuffed or old. Companies in the Third World and Eastern Europe can recondition and repair them, then sell them at affordable prices to those who may otherwise have to go without. Simply pop your old shoes into one of the recycling banks at local community recycling centres across the Borough.

Learn how to save energy

The Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Jennie Beaumont, opened a new Energy Centre for the Tees and Durham Energy Advice Company Limited (TADEA) in October.

The new centre at Belasis Hall Technology Park, offers visual demonstrations of how we can save energy. Equipment on show includes solar water heating, sun-pipe illumination, Sempatap solid wall insulation, a condensing boiler, Windsave turbine, Ecoburn boiler controls and high efficiency lighting.

TADEA General Manager David Lacey said: "We're delighted at the rapid growth of TADEA. Trying to save energy not only affects this generation, but also those in the future.

"Free and impartial advice is always available on our Freephone number 0800 512012 and, subject to a prior appointment, we can accommodate a limited number of visitors to see how they can save energy for the planet and money for themselves."



Left to right David Lacey, General Manager, TADEA, Philip Sellwood, Chief Executive, Energy Saving Trust, Cllr Jennie Beaumont, Mayor of Stockton, Phillip Hughes, Chairman TADEA and the Mayor's Consort Brian Beaumont.

Serving up a tennis treat

A major tennis competition comes to the Tees Valley in March 2005 when the David Lloyd Centre hosts the National Premier League Tennis Championships at its Tees Barrage complex.

The competition will bring emerging tennis professionals to Stockton for the first time, raising the region's profile and showing the UK that Tees Valley is now a major player in hosting world-class events.

Members of the David Lloyd league team will take part in the finals after winning a wildcard entry as they are hosting the event.

UK players already confirmed include Davis Cup star Arvind Parmar, Martin Lee and Ian Flanagan.

Clubs from across the country will bring a team of four players or more to compete in the doubles games.

The event is backed by funding from One NorthEast through the Tees Valley Partnership single programme, and is supported by businesses and organisations across the Tees Valley, including Stockton Council.

The Championship will help develop new audiences for the sport in the region by providing access to tennis, often seen as elitist, to the greater public. With other leading sporting events such as the Seve Trophy golf tournament (see page 2), it will raise the profile of Tees Valley and, in line with Culture 10 objectives, bring new talent to the North East and raise local aspirations.

Youngsters from schools across the Tees Valley will take part in interschools competitions within their own Borough and the winners will take part in the final event weekend in a play-off between each Borough's finalists. All finalists will take part in

top class coaching session with the professional players.

David Lloyd Teesside is proud to be once again hosting the National Premier Tennis League. After hosting the finals two years ago the league has gone from strength to strength. Captain, Ben O'Connor, (pictured) will lead the home team in next year's championships.

Alongside the main event, David Lloyd Teesside is also involved in the formation of a new Tees Valley Primary Schools Mini Tennis competition. This competition will run across the region and each Local Education Authority will provide one qualifying school to represent them at the finals at David Lloyd Teesside.

Sponsors of the event include Stockton Council and Tees Active Ltd, the charitable leisure management organisation, established as a non-profit-distributing company in May.

Fellow sponsors are Northumbrian Water, APL Technologies Limited, RST Group, Middlesbrough Council,

Learning and Skills Council Tees Valley, Jacksons C&PL, Simply Dutch and The Sporting Lodge Inn.

Also lending their support to the event are Wise Speke Stockbrokers, Stockton; Cordell Engineering, Stockton; Head UK; Frutarom, Billingham; and BS Freight, Tees Valley.

Jack Goodfellow, Stockton Council's Sports Development Manager, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for people to see some of tennis's top talent and emerging stars here on our doorstep.

"We want to see a good crowd there cheering on the players and creating a great atmosphere."

Book early to see the matches at the David Lloyd Centre on Friday March 18 (2pm and 7pm), Saturday March 19 (12noon and 4.30pm) and Sunday March 20 (1pm) to see leading UK players and several from other European nations. Tickets are available now from Splash, Thornaby Pavilion, Billingham Forum and Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre.



Gary snaps up award



Norton photographer, Gary Walsh, has won a national accolade for his photography of weddings. At the British Professional Photography Awards in Coventry, he was presented with the British Photographer Wedding Award 2004 by actress Honor Blackman. Gary, pictured here with his winning entry, has many strings to his photographic bow and Stockton News has regularly included his work.

To see more of his work visit www.garywalsh.co.uk

New guide to Stockton

Visitors to the Borough now have access to a wealth of information about the area with the publication of the 2004-5 Stockton Mini Guide.



Produced by Stockton Council's Tourism Section, the guide is available at Tourist Information Centres (TICs) in Stockton and across the Tees Valley, and in libraries and Council buildings across the Borough.

In it you can find out about Stockton's history and heritage, landmarks across the Borough and places to visit, dine and stay. It also contains useful contact details for taxi firms, libraries and leisure centres as well as listing all rail, road, sea and air links.

For more information, call the Stockton Tourist Information Centre on (01642) 528130/1 or visit the website on www.stockton.gov.uk/visiting The Centre is open Monday to Saturday from 9.30am until 5pm.

Could you run a busy music venue?

If you would like to know what it takes to run a busy music venue, then Stockton's Georgian Theatre is the place to be.

The Georgian Theatre is funding a development programme for volunteers aged 16 years and above. This covers all aspects of running a music venue, including how to become a promoter, sound engineer, set designer, roadie, lighting technician or festival organiser.

It is funded through the Community Learning Chest, administered through SCGRA.

If you can spare a few hours a week and would like to know more, call (01642) 674115 and leave a message with your details, or email info@georgiantheatre.co.uk



Sean Fitzgerald learning the tricks of the trade

Working for a safer community

The National Probation Service – Teesside is employing two Community Mentors to advise, encourage and inspire ex-offenders in the Borough's Neighbourhood Renewal areas, helping them stay away from a life of crime.

It's all thanks to support from Stockton's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Maureen Hall, Community Safety Officer, North Tees, said: "Many offenders in Teesside live chaotic lifestyles and have few people who they can turn to for support and advice.

"Often they won't have had the benefit of stable family networks and could be experiencing drug or alcohol problems, homelessness and lack of employment skills.

"If they are to be rehabilitated successfully into their local communities, they will need a high level of support, encouragement and practical help."

A Mentor recently worked with Julie*, who received a two-year suspended Supervision Order after being convicted of matters of dishonesty. Julie suffered low self esteem, had a small child and was the victim of domestic violence.

The Mentor worked intensively to help Julie tackle her offending

behaviour and problems with alcohol, gambling and homelessness, building her confidence so she could access employment and training opportunities.

After a few weeks of working with her Mentor, Julie started a Social Care Course and has attended a programme to help her overcome her experiences of domestic violence. She has been reunited with her family and has also made new friends. She continues her course and has said she would like to study law.

"Julie's case proves that by providing intensive support and working together with other agencies, ex-offenders can change and become more responsible people," added Maureen.

* Name has been changed



Pictured here are Offender Supervisor Angela Morrison (left) and Mentor, Donna Smith.

...a regular feature from North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust

Patients prove NHS Trust performs well

Patients have praised the care they have received from North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust.

The Trust has performed above the national average according to patients who took part in two surveys published by the independent Healthcare Commission. The results of the surveys contributed to the Trust's maximum three star status in the Department of Health's performance ratings. It is one of only ten Trusts nationally to maintain three stars for four years running.

Over 600 inpatients (patients who stay in hospital for one night or more) from the University Hospitals of North Tees and Hartlepool gave their opinion on a wide range of topics. Patients were questioned about being admitted to and discharged from hospital, the ward environment, doctors and nurses and overall care and treatment.

The results show that patients felt confident in the care and treatment they received from hospital staff; they felt their questions received easy to understand answers, staff could be relied upon to discuss patient worries and fears and medication was fully explained. Such positive responses meant that the Trust came within the top 20% of Trust's nationally for the majority of questions.

Also, for the first time ever a survey of young people was conducted. Over 450

patients up to the age of 17 - and their parents for children under 12 years - gave their opinion on the facilities for, and treatment and care of children. Most positively young people felt they were given information they could understand regarding all aspects of surgery and they were treated with respect and dignity during their stay. The survey did indicate that young people felt more entertainment facilities were needed to alleviate boredom and the Trust will be exploring ways to respond to this.

Aidan Mullan, Director of Nursing and Clinical Governance, said: "The Trust is pleased with the results of the surveys. It is very positive that the dedication of staff to the treatment and care of patients has

been acknowledged. Of course, the Trust is not complacent and is keen to ensure that the patients' experience of their visit to hospital is the most positive that it can be. We will therefore be looking the results of the surveys to identify any points for future action."

As part of this year's national survey over 850 patients who attended one of the Trust's A&E Departments and 850 patients who attended one of the Trust's outpatient clinics in Summer 2004 have recently been quizzed for their views on the care they received at the University Hospital of North Tees as well as the University Hospital of Hartlepool and Peterlee Community Hospital. The results are expected next year.



Day nursery receives glowing report

The Day Nursery at the University Hospital of North Tees has received a glowing report from the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED), the body responsible for the regulation of day care services for children under eight.

The Day Nursery at the University Hospital of North Tees was recently extended to almost double its size following a £324,000 investment. It can now accommodate 120 under fives instead of just 65 previously, making it one of the biggest NHS nurseries. It is registered to provide full day care for children aged between 14 weeks to children under the age of eight.

Margaret Hayden, the Trust's Childcare Co-ordinator said: "This report demonstrates the hard work and commitment of staff working in the nursery. The Trust has been praised for its childcare facilities and demonstrates the Trust's commitment to support employees to combine parenthood with a career and achieve a work life balance."

The nursery caters for the children of NHS staff which makes the recent extension a significant boost to NHS recruitment and retention. The nursery has 34 members of staff. An extra 26 childcare jobs been created as a result of the extension which has been funded by County Durham and Tees Valley Workforce Development Confederation.



Staff and children at the Day Nursery, University Hospital of North Tees.

Getting the best from NHS Services

A wide range of services is available to you from the National Health Service (NHS) and making the right choice about where you go for health care or advice will mean you get the right treatment at the right time.

This may start with self care at home or visiting your pharmacist for advice. Or you can ring NHS Direct's 24-hour health advice line on 08 45 46 47.

You can, of course, also phone your surgery to make an appointment with your GP (family doctor) or practice nurse for most medical problems that arise within normal surgery hours. A new service is in place to ensure anyone who needs to see a GP out of hours can do so. To contact the service, please dial your doctor's surgery and you will be given a number to dial. Please remember that the Accident and Emergency Department at the University Hospital of North Tees is there to treat people who have had an accident or an emergency, not for services provided by your GP. Treating non accident and emergency patients can increase waiting times for patients.

With Christmas around the corner don't forget to order your repeat prescriptions from your doctor in plenty of time so you don't run out over the Christmas period.



REMEMBER

If you don't register... Neither will your views.

Register of Electors is **your** name included?

The Electoral Register was published on 1st December 2004. You can check your information at the Electoral Registration Office, Municipal Buildings.

Check Now

Unless your name is included on the Register of Electors you will not be able to vote at the forthcoming elections in 2005. All Households should by now have received their Electoral Registration Form through the post. If for any reason you have not signed or completed a registration form, contact the Electoral Registration Officer (address below) immediately

If your birthday is between 1st December 2004 and 30th November 2005, you are entitled to be registered.

Remember, the register relates to where you are living on the 15th October 2004, and if your name does not appear on the Published Register, then you may need to submit a Voter Registration Form.

The closing date for applications for the next rolling registration is 14th December, coming into effect from 4th January 2005.



Why not vote from home?

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

The Electoral Registration Officer
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Municipal Buildings, Church Road,
Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1LD

Telephone helpline 01642 526196
email: 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

POLICE BEAT

Something to think about!

Traditionally at this time in the run up to Christmas many people will be looking forward to happy times and new beginnings in January. However, spare a thought for the many households in which Domestic Violence is present each and every day. Spare a thought for the children who are caught up in the middle of these terrible incidents.



Stockton Police, in conjunction with Domestic Violence Empowerment and Support (DOVES), wish to re-assure ANY and ALL victims of Domestic Violence that we are here all year around. You should not have to feel that you are alone and that what is happening to you behind closed doors is something to be ashamed of. There are many individuals who are willing to offer you time and support, please use us.

Spare a thought also if you are a perpetrator of these crimes, for they are crimes and by definition you are a criminal. Police at incidents will take a robust approach and your behaviour at this, and any time of the year, will not be tolerated.

If you are a victim and need help, please think on and do not be afraid to use the 999 system if during an incident you feel afraid for your safety. Alternatively you may feel that whilst not in immediate danger, you could benefit from some help. In that case call Cleveland Police on 326326 and ask to speak to a member of the Domestic Violence team. If you would rather link straight in with Doves they can be reached on 415365.

Spare a thought and take some action, let us help you!

Anti-Social Behaviour

You will remember from the October edition that Stockton Police, in connection with Stockton Borough Council, is working towards tackling anti-social behaviour. Well, the team are making considerable inroads into this blight, but the fight must continue.

In many cases a letter of prompt from the Anti-Social Behaviour Team (ASBT) team has been enough to advise parents of the behaviour of their children and these children have not come to light since. Inspector Thornton (Community Safety Team), said: "In this regard can we take this opportunity to thank those parents for their early intervention, which is helping to improve the quality of life for local residents." However, the team are also actively pursuing certain individuals who, if their behaviour is not correct, could find themselves subject of an Anti-Social Behaviour Order, issued by the local Courts. These orders are not a soft option and are very effective for if they are breached, the perpetrator should find themselves going to prison.



The new CCTV patrol vehicle - ideal for capturing evidence of Anti-Social Behaviour - pictured here PC Lee Kirk (left) and PC Claire Hall.

Crime - don't be a statistic

By now many people will be well on the way with Christmas shopping, or would hope they were. When you are out shopping or better still before you start please consider the following:

- be mindful where your wallet or purse is.
- have all valuable items been removed from sight in your car?
- have you parked in the best, most well lit spot available. Remember SBC car Parks meet the Secure By Design Criteria. It is false economy not to use them.
- If it's evening, are the lights on at home, are you using a timer to put the lights on when you are not in?
- DO NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO BECOME A VICTIM OF CRIME

Despite what people may feel, the true picture of crime in our local area is that it is lower than it has been for some considerable time. There is an un-necessarily high Fear of Crime and simple precautions could result in you enjoying a safe and crime free Festive Period.

If you wish for any crime prevention advice, please do not hesitate to contact the Crime Reduction department on 302271.

ARK improves village play area

ARK – the Association for the Rejuvenation of Kirklevington – was formed to help improve recreation and other leisure facilities in the village and surrounding area.

Its target is the village play area, owned by the Parish Council. Used by village schoolchildren and other children's groups, it's also an important meeting place for parents and carers.

Bad drainage often causes flooding and the old equipment needs replacing if it is to meet current safety and disability access standards.

ARK is trying to raise around £70,000

to upgrade the park and so far has collected more than £15,000 from donations and events. Donor organisations are shown on the Kirklevington.net website and publicised at fundraising events.

Village schoolchildren recently raised more than £150 from a non-uniform day and Halloween brought in a few more pennies.

In January, a 70s-80s disco is planned in the Village Hall, with a wine and cheese evening in February.

If you can offer any support for the project or would like details of forthcoming events, please call ARK's Chairperson, Sarah Scott, on (01642) 788909.

Putting time and effort back into the community



Some ex-offenders putting something back into the community.

A new partnership is ensuring that offenders make reparation to their local community and residents in Stockton are feeling the benefit.

The National Probation Service Teesside has teamed up with Stockton Council's Care For Your Area service.

The Probation Service's Enhanced Community Punishment Unit supervises offenders who have been given community punishment orders (formerly community service) by courts.

The Care For Your Area team identifies suitable tasks for offenders, with the Council providing the materials and the offenders the labour.

In the last few months the offenders have carried out work such as tackling overgrown shrubbery near Littleboy Park, Thornaby, clearing and creating a wildlife meadow at Hardwick Dene and shrub reduction work at Victoria Estate.

Gordon Wooding, Placement Manager with the Enhanced Community Punishment Unit, said: "We have the potential to supply 15,000 hours of labour a year in Stockton. All our offenders are risk assessed and closely supervised at all times.

"In fact we have received some really positive feedback from residents. A lot of people have said what a marvellous job the offenders are doing and some people have even brought them out tea, cake and biscuits."

Richard Bradley, Service Manager for the Care For Your Area Service, said: "The Probation Service has delivered some excellent work over the last few months. The offenders' work has been of the highest quality and has greatly improved the local environment for those living in the area."

Awards praise for Harrow Gate school

A recent spate of glowing praise has put the spotlight on Harrow Gate Primary School in Stockton.

The school has achieved a number of national awards including a Charter Mark for the third time, recognising its consistently high standard in customer care and service.

There's also been an Investors in People (IIP) award for the school's efforts in developing a professional learning culture. The IIP report found that "the staff at Harrow Gate are of a very special nature." and are "highly effective, dedicated professionals".

And if that's not enough the school's work to develop a creative curriculum in arts has earned it the Arts Mark Silver award, a quality curriculum promoting basic literacy and numeracy skills has brought a Quality Mark, and a high quality ICT curriculum has won a NAACE mark.

Head teacher Debbie Collinson said: "We have achieved these awards through the commitment and hard work of everyone in school who are dedicated to making the school the best for the children."



Passing on the arts baton to Nelson Mandela

The Borough hosted more than 140 delegates from 47 countries in October at an international congress for the International Council of Organisations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Art (CIOFF).

The Congress was organised by CIOFF UK in partnership with Billingham International Folklore Festival – one of the founders of CIOFF International. While the Billingham festival had the honour of hosting this year's congress, none other than Nelson Mandela will open CIOFF 2005 in Pretoria, South Africa.

Funded through Stockton Council, One NorthEast, Arts Council North East and Tees Valley Partnership, the Congress was a huge success and included delegates from Lithuania, Ecuador and Armenia.

CIOFF was founded in 1970 to promote cultural diversity and celebrate traditional and folk culture. Billingham hosted the UK's first CIOFF Congress in 1974, when there were just 30 members. This is the first occasion in CIOFF's history that a country has had the honour of hosting the Congress a second time.



Every year Cleveland Police and Cleveland Police Authority prepare Annual Reports setting out their performance and key activities from the previous financial year. This summary relates to the 2003-2004 Policing Plan which set the following local policing priorities:

- To reduce the supply of drugs in the area.
- To tackle anti-social behaviour.
- To target persistent offenders.
- To improve the quality of service to those who contact the police for assistance.



Reducing the Supply of Drugs in the Area

Tackling the misuse of drugs involves education, enforcement and treatment.

Enforcement

Over the year Cleveland Police arrested 262 offenders for Class A drugs supply offences.

Many successful police operations have taken place over the year notably Operation Warrior, Epping and Bridport. The hugely successful 'Dealer A Day' initiative, originally operating in Middlesbrough, has been running for two years. Langbaugh adopted the initiative last year and has seen similar successes in arresting unlawful drug suppliers.

Education and treatment

We have introduced an Arrest Referral Scheme in all four main police stations to allow prisoners to have access to progress drug workers and our Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs) give courts the power to refer an offender for treatment as part of a non-custodial sentence.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour continues to be raised during community meetings. Cleveland Police deals with around 200 incidents of community-based disorder every day. To help raise our presence across the policing area and tackle these incidents the Force appointed 77 Police Community Support Officers. In addition, police districts introduced the Acceptable Behaviour Contract and, working with Local Authorities, we have curtailed the anti-social behaviour of some individuals by issuing a number of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.

Targeting Persistent Offenders

Cleveland Police is working hard to reduce the number of persistent offenders in our area. All our files are 'fast tracked' to the Crown Prosecution Service and district prisoner handling teams to improve and streamline our investigation processes.

Our forensic science unit submitted 1,880 samples for examination including 979 to the national DNA database. 512 of these were successful matches to individuals.

Improving the Quality of Service

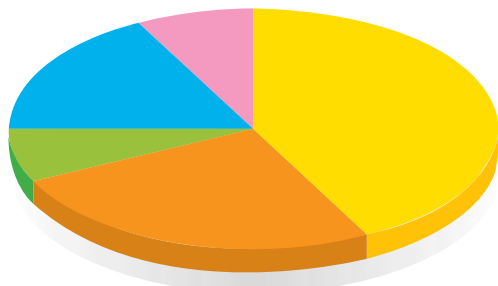
Cleveland Police received 342,343 telephone calls for service during 2003-2004. Of these, 104,108 were emergency 999 calls. We have worked hard to improve our call handling service and respond to incidents and made significant investments in our staffing and systems to enhance our performance towards the national target of answering 90% of our 999 calls within 10 seconds.





Resources

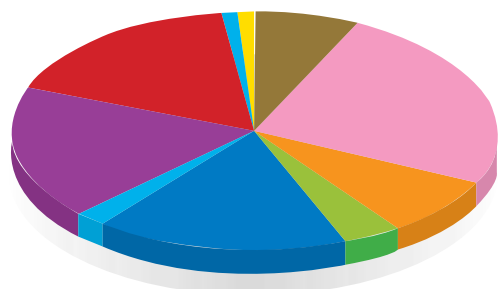
The approved budget for 2003-2004 was £112.3 million. The tables below set out how we received, allocated and spent this money.



A Revenue Income

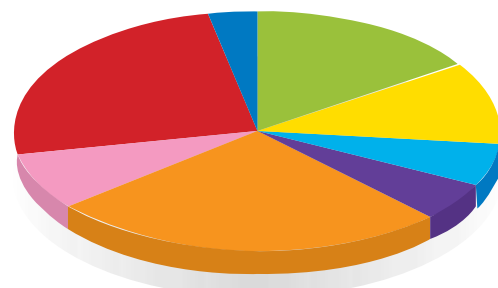
A Revenue Income	£(000s)
Home Office grant	47,515
Revenue support grant	28,826
Business rates	7,726
Council tax precept	19,660
Specific grants and other income	8,620

Total Revenue Income 112,347



B Revenue: Spend by activity

B Revenue: Spend by activity	
Call Handling	7%
Crime	25%
Custody and Court Preparation	8%
Traffic and Road Safety	4%
Patrol	17%
Public Order and Reassurance	2%
Community Involvement	18%
Police Pensions	17%
Corporate & Democratic Core*	1%
National Services/Other	1%



C Capital Spend

C Capital Spend	£(000s)
Airwave radio project	671
Case Preparation & Custody System	484
Human Resources System	233
Call Centre IT Project	230
Vehicle replacements funding	1,142
Headquarters building	336
Other IT Systems	1,061
Improvements of other premises	139

Total Capital Spend 4,296



Community Involvement

Community safety is not just a matter for the police. We want people to have more say in how local police make decisions and contribute to solutions. If you would like to get involved in our initiatives, please contact Cleveland Police Authority on 01642 301467

You can view the full report at www.cleveland.police.uk.
Printed copies are available from front desks at police stations or from:

Corporate Planning & Performance
Cleveland Police
 PO Box 70
 Ladgate Lane
 Middlesbrough
 TS8 9EH.



*Includes Police Authority, pension costs (early retirement for police staff and external audit fees).



Cleveland Fire Brigade

**100% FREE
Smoke Alarms**

**Supplied and
fitted when you
have a home
fire safety check**

**Please ring
01429 874060
for further details**

Council to take control of on-street parking

Roadside parking in the Borough is expected to become Stockton Council's responsibility early next year.

The Council is expected to take over responsibility for parking control from the police, which means parking violations in Stockton Borough will no longer be criminal offences.

The Council has applied to the Secretary of State for Transport to take over the responsibility, which will see on-street parking offences enforced by parking attendants employed by the Council.

A recently adopted enforcement strategy sets out the Council's priorities as:

- maintaining the safety and free flow of traffic
- ensuring the safety of children and parents around school entrances
- controlling resident parking schemes
- ensuring the prosperity of commercial areas
- preventing the misuse of bus lay-bys.

It is anticipated the maximum on-street penalty charge would be £60, or £30 if paid within 14 days. Off-street penalty charges and discount periods

will be harmonised with on-street penalty charges.

Income from fines will be channelled into local transport-related services rather than going into the Government's coffers once the Council takes control of on-street parking.

Part of Gloucester House in Stockton has been refurbished to create a Parking Shop, which offers information about car parks in the Borough, accepts applications for the blue badges for disabled use, sells parking season tickets and issues Concessionary Travel Passes. It also accepts payments of fines for off-road parking offences and will accept payments of fines for on-street parking offences when the Council assumes control of this from the police.

As part of the new arrangements for on-street parking offences, the Council will also take over responsibility for enforcing the recently introduced parking restrictions on Teesdale.

From November 1, experimental waiting restrictions were introduced following complaints from employees that drivers have been blocking a major part of the main access to Teesdale and the entrances to car parks

Changes at the top



The Council has named two important appointments to its management team.

Ann Baxter becomes Corporate Director of Children, Education and Social Care, while Neil Schneider is the new Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services.

The moves reflect the forthcoming Children Act, which will require a single officer to be responsible for all education, health and social care services for young people.

A co-ordinated and integrated approach will help children become healthier, safer, enjoy and achieve more, and improve their prospects for contributing to society and the area's economic well-being.

Ann Baxter will lead on these new developments in Stockton, particularly in the establishment of a Children's Trust (see page 16) to integrate the delivery of children's services from the Council, NHS and other partners.

Similarly, the creation of the new Development and Neighbourhood Service grouping brings together a wide range of services and initiatives. Neil Schneider will lead on urban regeneration, transport, housing, community protection and direct service provision including developments such as the Northern Way, Stockton/Middlesbrough Initiative and Town Centre redevelopments.

Jan's a Tristar star

Being an excellent communicator has helped Jan Hart scoop an award from her colleagues.

Jan, Assistant Area Manager with Tristar Homes in Thornaby, has won this year's Star Award – a commemorative shield, certificate and a prize from her employers.

Tristar asks its employees to nominate their colleagues for the award. There are no set criteria, they must just state why that person deserves it.

Jan's colleagues recognised her for being firm but fair, approachable, hardworking and always willing to help.

Jan says: "It is really nice to be appreciated by your colleagues and I intend to treat my husband Peter to a night out."

Tristar Corporate Services Manager, Michelle Gill, said: "The award was

designed for colleagues to nominate each other, not just for management to recognise employees.

"Often it is your closest working colleagues who know and appreciate what you do and how you make a difference."



Jan Hart received her award from Tristar's Chief Executive Elaine Corney.

Ward Surgeries

December 2004 - April 2005

www.stockton.gov.uk/yourcouncil/your_councillors/councillors_ward_surgeries/

BISHOPSGARTH WARD (STOCKTON)

14th	Dec	Fairfield Infants School 6:30pm - 7:00pm
11th	Jan	Bishopsgarth School 5:30pm - 6:00pm
8th	Feb	Fairfield Infants School 6:30pm - 7:00pm
8th	Mar	Bishopsgarth School 5:30pm - 6:00pm
12th	Apr	Fairfield Infants School 6:30pm - 7:00pm
COUNCILLORS	S. HALL	TEL: 643757
	W. WOODHEAD	TEL: 584409

BLUE HALL WARD (STOCKTON) 6:00PM - 7:00PM

22nd	Dec	The Forge Community Centre
12th	Jan	The Forge Community Centre
26th	Jan	Frederick Natrass School
9th	Feb	Norton United Reform Church
16th	Mar	Frederick Natrass School
30th	Mar	Norton United Reform Church
13th	Apr	The Forge Community Centre
27th	Apr	Frederick Natrass School
COUNCILLORS	M. FRANKLAND	TEL: 552667
	MRS K. NELSON	TEL: 397921

CHARLTONS WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6:30PM - 7:30PM

14th	Dec	Clarences Community Centre
11th	Jan	(as above)
15th	Feb	(as above)
15th	Mar	(as above)
12th	Apr	(as above)
COUNCILLORS	MRS A. McCOY	TEL: 533554
	R. McCALL	TEL: 554452

EGGLESCLIFFE WARD

21st	Dec	Egglescliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane 6:00 - 7:00pm
7th	Jan	Trinity Methodist Church (Joint surgery with Preston Ward) 6:30 - 7:30pm
18th	Jan	Egglescliffe Community Centre, Durham Lane 6:30 - 7:30pm
4th	Feb	Trinity Methodist Church (Joint surgery with Preston Ward) 6:30 - 7:30pm
15th	Feb	Egglescliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane 6:00 - 7:00pm
4th	Mar	Trinity Methodist Church (Joint surgery with Preston Ward) 6:30 - 7:30pm
15th	Mar	Egglescliffe Community Centre, Durham Lane 6:30 - 7:30pm
1st	Apr	Trinity Methodist Church (Joint surgery with Preston Ward) 6:30 - 7:30pm
19th	Apr	Egglescliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane 6:00 - 7:00pm
COUNCILLORS	J. FLETCHER	TEL: 786456
	MRS M. RIGG	TEL: 782009
	Email: john.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk	
	Email: maureen.rigg@stockton.gov.uk	

ELM TREE WARD (STOCKTON)

14th	Dec	Elm Tree Community Centre 4:30 - 5:30pm, Young Peoples Surgery 6:00 - 7:00pm, Adults Surgery
11th	Jan	(as above)
15th	Feb	(as above)
15th	Mar	(as above)
COUNCILLOR	MRS S. FLETCHER	TEL: 786456
	Email: sfletcher@cix.co.uk	

FAIRFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6:00PM - 7:00PM

15th	Dec	Fairfield Library
19th	Jan	(as above)
16th	Feb	(as above)
16th	Mar	(as above)

20th	Apr	(as above)
COUNCILLORS	MRS F. HAWKINS	TEL: 671422
	MRS J. WADE	TEL: 583549

GLEBE WARD (STOCKTON) 6:30PM - 7:00PM

11th	Jan	The Education Centre, Junction Road
1st	Feb	(as above)
1st	Mar	(as above)
5th	Apr	(as above)
COUNCILLORS	MRS A. CAINS	TEL: 555394
	R. CAINS	

GRANGE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 5:00PM - 6:00PM

17th	Dec	New Life Resource Centre, Low Grange Ave
28th	Jan	(as above)
25th	Feb	(as above)
25th	Mar	(as above)
29th	Apr	(as above)
COUNCILLORS	A. CUNNINGHAM	TEL: 551251
	Email: alexander.cunningham@stockton.gov.uk	
	M. STOKER	TEL: 648069
	Email: mickstoker@aol.com or mick@grangeward.co.uk	

GRANGEFIELD WARD (STOCKTON)

13th	Dec	Grays Road Institute 10:00 - 11:00am
15th	Dec	Sundell Court Residents Home 5:15 - 6:15pm
10th	Jan	Grays Road Institute 10:00 - 11:00am
19th	Jan	Sundell Court Residents Home 5:15 - 6:15pm
26th	Jan	Oxbridge Primary School 5:15 - 6:15pm
7th	Feb	Grays Road Institute 10:00 - 11:00am
16th	Feb	Sundell Court Residents Home 5:15 - 6:15pm
23rd	Feb	Oxbridge Primary School 5:15 - 6:15pm
7th	Mar	Grays Road Institute 10:00 - 11:00am
16th	Mar	Sundell Court Residents Home 5:15 - 6:15pm
COUNCILLORS	T. BEAN	TEL: 870110
	MRS E. JOHNSON	TEL: 673952

HARDWICK WARD (STOCKTON) 6:00PM - 7:00PM

10th	Dec	Hardwick Community Centre, Wheatley Road
17th	Dec	(as above)
7th	Jan	(as above)
14th	Jan	(as above)
21st	Jan	(as above)
28th	Jan	(as above)
4th	Feb	(as above)
11th	Feb	(as above)
18th	Feb	(as above)
25th	Feb	(as above)
4th	Mar	(as above)
11th	Mar	(as above)
18th	Mar	(as above)
25th	Mar	(as above)
1st	Apr	(as above)
8th	Apr	(as above)
15th	Apr	(as above)
COUNCILLORS	MRS E. NESBITT	TEL: 803658
	W. NOBLE	TEL: 602299

HARTBURN WARD (STOCKTON) 6:45PM - 7:30PM

10th	Jan	Elmwood Community Centre
No February surgery		
7th	Mar	Rosehill Infants School
COUNCILLORS	K. LUPTON	TEL: 589863
	S. SMAILES	TEL: 581574

INGLEBY BARWICK WARD

Please confirm further dates & venues with Cllr Mrs Beaumont on the telephone number below or email jennifer.beaumont@stockton.gov.uk
COUNCILLOR **MRS J. BEAUMONT** **TEL: 785304**

MANDALE WARD (THORNABY)

12:00 NOON - 1:00PM		
11th	Dec	Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
8th	Jan	The Mandale PH
22nd	Jan	Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
5th	Feb	The Mandale PH
19th	Feb	The Mandale PH
5th	Mar	Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
19th	Mar	The Mandale PH
2nd	Apr	The Mandale PH
16th	Apr	Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
COUNCILLORS	MRS A. TRAINER	TEL: 647421
	S. WALMSLEY	TEL: 881886

MARSH HOUSE WARD (BILLINGHAM)

6:30PM - 7:30PM		
13th	Dec	North Billingham Methodist Church
10th	Jan	North Billingham Methodist Church
14th	Feb	Low Grange Community Centre
14th	Mar	North Billingham Methodist Church
11th	Apr	Low Grange Community Centre
COUNCILLOR	MRS L. APEDAILE	TEL: (01740) 645216
	C. LECKONBY TEL: 872896	

MILE HOUSE WARD (STOCKTON) 7:00PM - 8:00PM

21st	Dec	Redhill Centre, Redhill Road
20th	Jan	Salters Lane Community Centre
15th	Feb	Redhill Centre, Redhill Road
17th	Mar	Salters Lane Community Centre
19th	Apr	Redhill Centre, Redhill Road
COUNCILLORS	D. COOKE	TEL: 803648
	K. LEONARD	TEL: 894191

NEWTOWN WARD (STOCKTON) 6:00PM - 7:00PM

17th	Dec	Primrose Hill Community Centre
31st	Dec	Newtown Community Centre
14th	Jan	Primrose Hill Community Centre
28th	Jan	Newtown Community Centre
11th	Feb	Primrose Hill Community Centre
25th	Feb	Newtown Community Centre
11th	Mar	Primrose Hill Community Centre
25th	Mar	Newtown Community Centre
8th	Apr	Primrose Hill Community Centre
22nd	Apr	Newtown Community Centre
COUNCILLORS	P. BAKER	TEL: 655607
	R. GIBSON	TEL: 614482

NORTHFIELD WARD (BILLINGHAM)

6:00PM - 7:00PM		
28th	Jan	Wolviston Court Community Centre
25th	Feb	(as above)
25th	Mar	(as above)
29th	Apr	(as above)
COUNCILLORS	MRS M. B. WOMPHREY	TEL: 555755
	M. E. WOMPHREY TEL: 555755	

NORTON WARD 6:00PM - 7:00PM

17th	Dec	Norton Library
7th	Jan	St. Michael's Club Room
21st	Jan	Albany Resource Centre
4th	Feb	Norton Library

Ward Surgeries

December 2004 - April 2005

www.stockton.gov.uk/yourcouncil/your_councillors/councillors_ward_surgeries/

18th Feb St. Michael's Club Room
4th Mar Albany Resource Centre
18th Mar St. Michael's Club Room
COUNCILLORS R. COOK TEL: 890058
Email: Robert.Cook@stockton.gov.uk and
S. NELSON TEL: 534417
Email: Steve.Nelson@stockton.gov.uk

PARKFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6:00PM - 7:00PM

16th Dec Parkfield Community Centre
6th Jan Parkfield Community Centre
13th Jan Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
20th Jan Parkfield Community Centre
27th Jan Stockton International Family Centre (Richard Hind Site)
3rd Feb Parkfield Community Centre
10th Feb Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
17th Feb Parkfield Community Centre
24th Feb Stockton International Family Centre (Richard Hind Site)
3rd Mar Parkfield Community Centre
10th Mar Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
17th Mar Parkfield Community Centre
24th Mar Stockton International Family Centre (Richard Hind Site)
7th Apr Parkfield Community Centre
14th Apr Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre

COUNCILLORS C. COOMBS TEL: 645759
S. LUNN TEL: 866982

PORTRACK & TILERY WARD (STOCKTON) 5:00PM - 6:00PM

17th Dec Victoria Community House
7th Jan Mill Lane Primary School
14th Jan Portrack Community Centre
21st Jan Victoria Community House
28th Jan Frank Wiseman Hall
4th Feb Mill Lane Primary School
11th Feb Portrack Community Centre
18th Feb Victoria Community House
25th Feb Frank Wiseman Hall
4th Mar Mill Lane Primary School
11th Mar Portrack Community Centre
18th Mar Victoria Community House
25th Mar Frank Wiseman Hall
1st Apr Mill Lane Primary School
8th Apr Portrack Community Centre
15th Apr Victoria Community House
22nd Apr Frank Wiseman Hall

COUNCILLORS D. COLEMAN TEL: 673952
P. KIRTON TEL: 532076

PRESTON WARD 6:30PM - 7:30PM

17th Dec The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
7th Jan Trinity Methodist Church, Eaglescliffe (Joint surgery with Egglecliffe Ward)
21st Jan The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
4th Feb Trinity Methodist Church, Eaglescliffe (Joint surgery with Egglecliffe Ward)
18th Feb The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
4th Mar Trinity Methodist Church, Eaglescliffe (Joint surgery with Egglecliffe Ward)
18th Mar The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
1st Apr Trinity Methodist Church, Eaglescliffe (Joint surgery with Egglecliffe Ward)

15th Apr The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
COUNCILLOR M. CHERRETT TEL: 783491

ROSEWORTH WARD (STOCKTON) 5:15PM - 6:15PM

13th Dec Kiara Hall Youth & Community Centre
10th Jan Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre
14th Feb Kiara Hall Youth & Community Centre
14th Mar Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre
11th Apr Kiara Hall Youth & Community Centre
COUNCILLORS M. INGRAM TEL: 789372
MISS B. INMAN TEL: 582644

STAINSBY WARD (THORNABY) 5:00PM - 6:00PM

16th Dec South Thornaby Community Centre
20th Jan (as above)
17th Feb (as above)
17th Mar (as above)
21st Apr (as above)
COUNCILLORS K. CRAGGS TEL: 896378
R. GODWIN TEL: 763326

ST. AIDANS WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6:30PM - 7:30PM

15th Dec Billingham Youth & Community Centre
19th Jan (as above)
16th Feb (as above)
16th Mar (as above)
13th Apr (as above)
COUNCILLORS N. TEASDALE TEL: 803657
B. WOODHOUSE TEL: 561899

ST. CUTHBERT'S WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6:00PM - 7:00PM

13th Jan Billingham Branch Library, Bedale Avenue
10th Feb (as above)
10th Mar (as above)
14th Apr (as above)
COUNCILLORS MRS J. O' DONNELL TEL: 559717
M. SMITH TEL: 866573

VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY)

11th Dec Rochester Court Sheltered Housing 11:00 - 12:00 Noon
8th Jan Westbury Street Library 11:00 - 12:00 Noon
22nd Jan The Youthy, Thornaby Road 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm
5th Feb Rochester Court Sheltered Housing 11:00 - 12:00 Noon
19th Feb Riverbank Children's Centre (Formerly Queens Street Community Centre) 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm
5th Mar Westbury Street Library 11:00 - 12:00 Noon
19th Mar The Youthy, Thornaby Road 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm
2nd Apr Rochester Court Sheltered Housing 11:00 - 12:00 Noon
16th Apr Riverbank Children's Centre (Formerly Queens Street Community Centre) 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm
COUNCILLORS MRS E. FLEMING TEL: 646463
MRS S. WALMSLEY TEL: 881886

VILLAGE WARD (THORNABY) 4:30PM - 5:30PM

13th Dec Thornaby Pavilion
10th Jan

14th Feb
14th Mar
11th Apr
COUNCILLORS MRS E. CRAGGS TEL: 896378
I. DALGARNO TEL: 882985

WHITTON WARD

14th Dec Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles 7:00 - 7:30pm
4th Jan Stillington Youth & Community Centre 6:30 - 7:00pm (to be confirmed)
10th Jan The Chapel School Room, Carlton 7:00 - 7:30pm
8th Feb Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles 7:00 - 7:30pm
25th Feb Wolviston Court Community Centre 6:30 - 7:00pm
7th Mar The Chapel School Room, Carlton 7:00 - 7:30pm
8th Mar Stillington Youth & Community Centre 6:30 - 7:00pm (to be confirmed)
12th Apr Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles 7:00 - 7:30pm
29th Apr Wolviston Court Community Centre 6:30 - 7:00pm
COUNCILLOR F. SALT TEL: (01740) 630771

WOLVISTON WARD (BILLINGHAM) 7:00PM - 8:00PM

4th Jan The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
25th Jan High Grange Community Centre
1st Feb The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
22nd Feb High Grange Community Centre
1st Mar The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
29th Mar High Grange Community Centre
5th Apr The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
COUNCILLOR S. PARRY TEL: 879478

YARM WARD 6:00PM - 6:45PM

14th Dec Yarm Library
11th Jan Challoner House
8th Feb Yarm Library
8th Mar Challoner House
12th Apr 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.

MEPs - Members of the European Parliament:

Stephen Hughes (Labour)
tel: 0191 384 9371
e mail Stephen-hughes@btconnect.com

Martin Callanan (Conservative)
tel: 0191 240 2600 e mail
mcallanan@europarl.eu.int

Fiona Hall (Liberal Democrat)
tel: 0191 383 0119
e mail Fiona@fionahallmep.org.uk

What's On

December, January, February and March

December

12 December
Carols and Crafts:
Wynyard Woodland Park Visitor Centre, 11am – 3pm. For details call the Park Rangers on (01740) 630011.

13 December
Stepping out in Stockton:
Meet Howard at Wynyard Woodland Park, 2pm. Call Elaine or Dave on (01642) 528046/393990 for details.

17 December
Lord of the Rings:
Cassini explores Saturn: Wynyard Woodland Park Planetarium, 7:30pm – 8:30pm.

18 & 19 December
A Victorian Christmas:
Preston Hall, 4pm – 6pm. Tickets £5 each from Stockton Tourist Information Centre, tel (01642) 528130.

19 December
Mince Pies and Mulled Wine:
Join a Ranger on a stroll around Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park, 1pm – 3pm. Call Tees Archaeology (01429) 523454 for details.

20 December
Stepping out in Stockton:
(see also 13 Dec) Meet Roger at Oddfellows Pub, Thornaby Road, 10am. Call Elaine or Dave on (01642) 528046/393990 for details.

21 December
Solstice Stories:
Walk around Quarry Woods Local Nature Reserve. Meet at Preston Park gates (TIME??). Tel: (01642) 788907.

20 - 22 December
Play Park:
At Thornaby Pavilion for 8-12 year olds from 10am - 12noon and 1pm - 3pm Tel: (01642) 760971.

20 - 23 December
Fun Float Sessions:
Splash from 10-12am and 2-4pm. On the 21 and 23 from 2-4pm ONLY. Call (01642) 527272.

22 December
Bouncy Castle Party:
Stockton Sports Centre, 4-5pm. For 5s and under, must be accompanied by parent/guardian. Members £1.40, non-members £2, tickets on sale at Centre 6 – 12 December. Tel: (01642) 528282.

22 - 23 December
Soft Play Session:
At Thornaby Pavilion for up to 8 year olds (Must be supervised) from 10am - 3pm. Tel: (01642) 760971.

23 December
Christmas Party:
At Thornaby Pavilion for 6-12 year olds (Must be supervised) from 10am - 3pm. Tel: (01642) 760971.

23 December
Music Zone Christmas Disco:
For 8-12 year-olds, at Stockton Sports Centre, 5:15pm – 6:15pm. Members £1.40, non-members £2. Tickets on sale at Centre 6 – 12 December. Tel: (01642) 528282.

20 - 23 December
Fun Float Sessions:
Splash from 10-12am and 2-4pm. On the 21st and 23rd from 2-4pm ONLY. Call (01642) 527272.

23 December
Christmas Party:
Special Needs Activities with parental support, Billingham Forum, 10am – 11am, ages up to 16 years. £1 per session. For details call Ruth Benson on (01642) 530292.

24 December
Ice Skating:
Billingham Forum, 11.00am – 4.00pm. For details of charges and skate hire call (01642) 551381.

27- 31 December
Ice Skating:
10.00am – 4.00pm (starts 11am on 31 Dec). Contact Billingham Forum on (01642) 551381 for further details.

27 - 31 December
Swimming:
Billingham Forum, 10am – 4:45pm; Splash, Stockton, 9am-4pm (Please note: National Safety Guidelines require under 8s to be accompanied by an adult in the water at all times, max two under 8s per adult). Contact Billingham Forum on (01642) 551381 or Splash on (01642) 527272 for details of prices.

27 - 31 December
Activ8 Health & Fitness Suite:
Billingham Forum, 10am – 4.45pm tel: (01642) 551381; also Splash, Stockton, 9am – 4pm, tel: (01642) 527272.

27 December – 3 January
Invigor8 Sauna:
Various sessions, members £3.50, non-members £4.10. Details from Billingham Forum on (01642) 551381.

27 December – 3 January
Keep Fit:
Billingham Forum. Contact (01642) 551381 for details.

January

2 January
The Early Bird:
7:30 – 9:30am. Enjoy an early morning walk and spot some wildlife at Wynyard Woodland Park. Meet at Visitor Centre Gift Shop. Tel: (01740) 630011.

2 January
SNAPS Swim:
Billingham Forum, 12noon – 1pm. Special Needs activities for up to 16 yrs, with Parental Support. Members £1.30, non-members £1.70. For details of SNAPS activities, call Ruth Benson on (01642) 530292.

2 – 3 January
Activ8 Health & Fitness Suite:
10am – 4.45pm, Billingham Forum. Members £2.90, non-members £3.95.

2 - 3 January
Swimming:
Details as for 27-31 December above.

2 – 3 January
Ice Skating:
Billingham Forum, 10am – 4pm.

7 January
What's Up in the sky this month:
Explore the night sky for stars and planets and watch out for comets, shooting stars and other special events at Wynyard Woodland Planetarium, 7:30pm – 8:30pm. Advanced booking essential. Tel: (01740) 630544.

9 January
Wellies and Waders:
Do some dirty digging at Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park, 10:30am – 12:30pm. For details call the Countryside Rangers on (01642) 415225.

16 January
Tree Parks Walk:
Billingham Back Valley Country Park. Tel: (01642) 397609.

21 January
Is There Life Out There?
Shows at Wynyard Woodland Planetarium, 7:30pm - 8:30pm. Tel: (01740) 630544.

23 January
A Wheely Good Day:
10am – 3pm, gentle, traffic free 14 mile ride through beautiful countryside. Meet at Wynyard Woodland Park, Visitor Centre Gift Shop. Tel: (01740) 630011.

February

4 February
What's Up in the sky this month:
At Wynyard Woodland Planetarium, 7:30pm – 8:30pm. Details as for 7 Jan above.

6 February
Leven Loop Walk:
11 mile walk through the picturesque Leven Valley, 10am-3pm. For details call (01642) 788907.

13 February
Walking in Circles:
6mile circular walk to Wynyard Woodland Park and back. Meet at Hardwick in Partnership Enterprise and Initiative Centre, High Newham Road. For details call the Park Rangers on (01740) 630011.

13 February
Bird Boudoirs:
Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park, 10am-12 noon. Tel: (01642) 415225.

16 February
Winter Woods:
Short walk with the River Tees Rangers plus a craft activity. Preston Hall Museum, 2pm – 4pm. Tel (01642) 788907.

18 February
Is There Life Out There?
Shows at Wynyard Woodland Planetarium, 7:30pm – 8:30pm. Tel: (01740) 630544.

19 February
Batty About Birds:
Celebrate National Nest Box Week by making some bird and bat boxes to put up at Preston Park, 10am-11.30am. Tel: (01642) 788907.

20 February
Practicing some Practical:
Help the Rangers and regular volunteers with some practical conservation. Tel: (01642) 397609.

March

4 March
What's Up in the Sky this month:
At Wynyard Woodland Planetarium, 7:30pm – 8:30pm. Details as for 7 Jan above.

6 March
Historic Stockton:
Explore Stockton's archaeology and history. Contact Archaeology Officer Robin Daniels for details on (01429) 523454.

13 March
The Two Towers:
Discover the fascinating history of Billingham Beck Valley. For details call (01642) 397609.

18 March
Is There Life Out There?
Shows at Wynyard Woodland Planetarium at 7:30pm - 8:30pm. Tel: (01740) 630544.

20 March
Jump into Spring!
Springtime ramble. Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park, 1:30pm – 3:30pm. Tel: (01642) 415225.

27 March
A Ranger's Review:
Indoor talk to review the past year at Billingham Beck Valley Country Park. Call (01642) 397609 for details.

27 March
Night-time Newts:
A wildlife wander at Preston Park, 7:30pm-9:00pm. For details call (01642) 788907.

30 March
Easter Treasure Hunt:
Easter fun on this traditional treasure hunt around Wynyard Woodland Park, 2pm – 4pm. For details call the Park Rangers on (01740) 630011.

Every effort has been made to ensure information is correct, Stockton Borough Council cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the information. Please ensure you check details before attending events.

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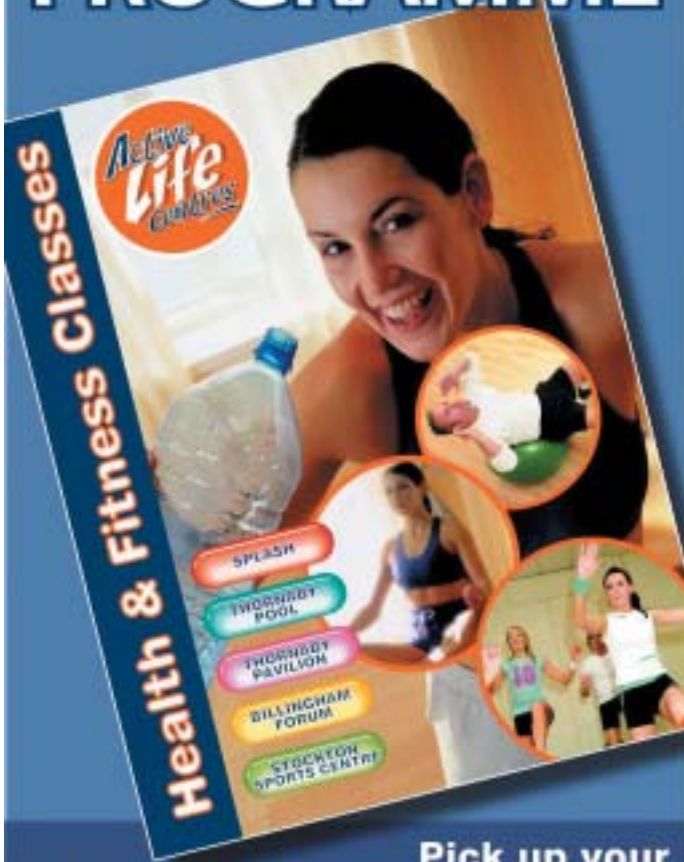
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Thornaby Pavilion	01642 76 09 71
Thornaby Pool	01642 61 67 27
Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre	01642 67 68 44

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Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board Meetings

Tuesday at 5.00pm on 13th July, 14th September, 12th October, 9th November, 7th December, 18th January, 15th February, 15th March.

Contact Dawn Welsh 01642 526498

Area Partnerships

Central Area Partnership - 29th July, 26th August, 30th September, 28th October, 25th November, 16th December. Contact 415142

Thornaby Regeneration Partnership - 27th July, 28th September, 26th October, 30th November, 25th January, 22nd February, 29th March. Contact 608316

The Billingham Partnership - 12th July, 13th September, 11th October, 15th November, 13th December. Contact 360150

Please ring the numbers above for venue details if you would like to attend.

The partnerships above work together for the social and economic regeneration of the Borough and their local areas. The meetings are open to the public so if you would like to attend ring one of the numbers above to confirm the venue.



stockton renaissance



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**For further information please contact
 Stockton Childcare Information
 Service Tel: 01642 527225**

E-mail CIS@stockton.gov.uk
SureStart@stockton.gov.uk



1st Floor, Bayheath House, Prince Regent Street, Stockton-on-Tees. TS18 10F
 Tel: 01642 527222



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