

Stockton

NEWS

The Community Magazine of Stockton Council - April/May 2008



Events in Stockton

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STEPPING OUT

in stockton



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National watchdog the Audit Commission recently gave Stockton Council the top rating of 4 stars, improving strongly, for the second year running.

We also have the highest all-round performance of any council achieving this rating. This includes excellent ratings for value for money, children's services, benefits and housing, plus good ratings for other services.

We have always said we won't rest on our laurels, so you can look forward to more improvements in the pipeline, something the Council's new budget will help achieve.

We are one of the few authorities to be able to invest in new services, at a time when many others are having to cut back, yet still keep our Council Tax rise within the Government's limit.

Thanks to this, we will see a start to Billingham Forum's £15 million refurbishment. And our highly successful neighbourhood enforcement service will continue tackling anti-social behaviour and environmental crime – amongst your top priorities in our surveys.

You'll also find it easier to access our services, thanks to a new telephone call centre with extended hours (see page 13).

The naming of the Tees White Water Course facilities as a potential training base for teams preparing for the 2012 Olympic Games is a huge symbol of the Borough's regeneration and will help put us firmly on the sporting map.

We hope Olympic committees worldwide will take up the offer – their teams can be sure to expect the warmest of welcomes.

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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



Be part of the carnival fun!



Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF) is 21 years old this year and you are invited to help make the Community Carnival bigger and better than ever!

This year's Carnival takes place on Saturday, 2 August, and there are plenty of ways to get involved. Stockton Council's Arts Development Team is looking for people of all ages with a whole range of interests – so whether you have a flair for costume-

making, want to try new dance styles or have a go in a drumming group, then get in touch!

A series of workshops will run throughout the coming months and whether you are an individual, school or community group, there are plenty of great opportunities.

For more details about how you can be involved, call Lyndsey Stephenson on (01642) 527696 or email lyndsey.stephenson@stockton.gov.uk

Supergrass to headline at Fringe Festival

Eternal festival troupers Supergrass will be ticking off one more of their 'Festivals to play before you die' when they headline this year's Stockton Riverside Fringe Festival.

Supergrass will close the main stage on Saturday 2nd August, and negotiations are in an advanced stage which will also bring other high profile bands to the Stockton event which this year runs from Wednesday 30th July to Sunday 3rd August.

The quality of the line-up for this year's main stage continues to take the Fringe to a level which keeps it in the top rank of UK Summer Festivals. The Fringe Festival's main stage will once again be on Stockton's riverside with a site capacity of 10,000. Again the Fringe will include a comedy stage, which proved such huge success when it was introduced last year.

Stockton Riverside Fringe Festival is organized by the Tees Music Alliance, with sponsorship and support from Stockton Council and Arts Council England.

For further details call Paul Burns, Director, Tees Music Alliance on (01642) 606525.

New landmark progresses

A new landmark to grace the River Tees in Stockton is making progress. Work began last summer on a new £15 million footbridge to link Tees Valley Regeneration's North Shore development with the flourishing Teesdale area.

The stunning design, with its two asymmetrical flowing arches, will tower 40m above the River Tees at its highest. May is the target date for installation of the smaller arch, with the main arch hoisted into place in July.

Illuminated at night, the bridge will make a dramatic addition to the Tees Valley skyline, visible from the A19 Tees flyover.

Stockton Council, working with Tees Valley Regeneration and English Partnerships, awarded the bridge building contract to Balfour Beatty Regional Civil Engineering Limited, with Darlington-based Cleveland Bridge carrying out fabrication and erection and Dorman Long involved in

designing the temporary works to make construction possible.

The bridge is funded by English Partnerships, One NorthEast and Stockton Council and money attracted to the area from the European Regional Development Fund.



Stockton bucks the retail trend



While early reports from major retailers indicate the rest of the country to be in the retail doldrums, Stockton has yet again bucked the trend.

For the second year running, overall footfall is slightly up, with a significant improvement during Christmas trading for 2007.

"We put a lot of effort into our events and promotions during the Sparkles Festival, so a big 'thank you' to all those who shopped local at Christmas," said Sue Burgess (pictured), Stockton's Town Membre Manager. "Around 9,000 people turned out to see Coronation Street's Fizz Brown (aka Jennie McAlpine) at our lights switch-on.

"We have a full programme of events planned for the town centre this year, so keep an eye on our website, Stockton News and the Sparkles magazine for details."

Stockton town centre – what's new?

The list is really exciting:

Dovecot Street – all the empty buildings are now back into use
New investment – 32 businesses have either set up in Stockton or expanded their existing business in the last 12 months
New High Street chain stores – Chiltern Mills, 3G, Bay Trading and Select Fashion, plus a new menswear selection at H&M, all complement the amazing range of stores already in our two shopping centres.

New independent retailers include a florist, pet shop, several coffee bars, pub/restaurant, specialist clothing

shop, home accessories store, two mobile phone shops and a Chinese health shop, to name just a few.

The Globe Theatre is on the market seeking a new operator to bring it back into use.

A very popular street café is now trading on the High Street.

The Safer Shopping Scheme has helped police remove or deter all the worst offending shoplifters so they no longer operate in Stockton town centre. Last – but certainly not least – Stockton markets have new finery and a new layout and is recognised as one of the best markets in the country.

Looking to the future, Sue added: "Funding from English Heritage means improvements to the area west of the High Street and lighting, paving and signage to our historic Green Dragon Yard in the Cultural Quarter. This will enhance and make more use of this wonderful hidden gem.

"Improvement to the Shambles Market Hall will see it become a foodies' Mecca with its high quality, specialist food retailers. So, if you've not been down to your town centre recently, it's time to make a visit and see for yourself!"

To contact Sue call (01642) 527569 or email sue.burgess@stockton.gov.uk



Waste no time in commenting

Time is running out to comment on development plans for waste and minerals – comments are invited before April 3.

A joint Tees Valley plan for the next 15 to 20 years is currently out for public consultation.

Last year views were sought and now the proposals include safeguarding land around Stockton Quarry for sand and gravel extraction, a new household waste recycling site at Bowesfield and expansion of the Haverton Hill SITA site to include further energy from waste production, recycling, composting and a potential rail connection.

You can view the plans at www.stockton.gov.uk, at local libraries or at Planning Services reception in Gloucester House, Stockton or send comments to Neil Marlborough at Entec UK Ltd, Northumbria House, Regent Centre, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3PX, by fax to 0191 272 6110 or email to marln@entecuk.co.uk

Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to fill in the "Start Talking Rubbish" questionnaire included in the last edition of Stockton News. More than 2,500 questionnaires have been returned so far. Look out for more details in future editions.

Take the Channel Challenge

Tees Active is helping people keep their new year's resolution of getting fit, with the challenge of swimming the English Channel in aid of the Butterwick Hospice.

But rather than negotiate one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, participants can take part in the safety of any Tees Active swimming pool.

The 21-mile challenge is open to anyone and can be completed in as many visits as you like. A member of staff will note how many laps you complete, with each successful participant receiving a t-shirt and certificate at the end.

If you feel up to the Channel Challenge, contact Splash, Thornaby Pool or Billingham Forum or visit www.teesactive.co.uk

Groups influence local transport schemes



A local funding decision - the new zebra crossing on Darlington Back Lane

For nearly two years, locally based groups have been able to have a direct influence on setting transport priorities for their areas.

Since the Council adopted four Area Transport Strategies in 2006, local Steering Groups have helped make numerous small transport schemes a reality.

Examples include a traffic calming scheme in Billingham's Grosvenor Road

area, a new zebra crossing on Darlington Back Lane in Stockton, a puffin crossing on Ingleby Way in Ingleby Barwick and footpath improvements on Newsam Road in Eaglescliffe.

The Steering Groups are made up of key local transport stakeholders, including Ward Councillors, Town and Parish Councils and residents' groups. Each group covers an area based on the four Area Partnerships of Stockton.

Renaissance:

Billingham: Billingham, The Clarences, Wolviston and Wynyard
Central: Stockton, Norton, Carlton, Redmarshall, Stillington, Thorpe Thewles and Whitton
Eastern: Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick, Hilton and Maltby
Western: Yarm, Eaglescliffe, Egglecliffe, Aislaby, Elton, Kirklevington and Long Newton

The Groups and are directly responsible for the allocation of a proportion of the funding from Stockton Council's annual Local Transport Capital Programme, primarily towards minor schemes identified as local priorities.

To find out more about the Steering Groups and their work visit www.stockton.gov.uk/areatransportstrategies or contact us at technicalservices@stockton.gov.uk.

The next round of meetings will be taking place in May.

Green Bean is new on the scene

A new café in Stockton's Cultural Quarter is the perfect place to relax while enjoying a cuppa.

The Green Bean, in Green Dragon Yard, is a joint venture between Tees Music Alliance and Stockton Council, employing adults with learning disabilities.

The café, in Green Dragon Studios, is open 12 – 2pm each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, selling hot and cold drinks along with tasty organic snacks and sandwiches.

All tea, coffee and hot chocolate is Fairtrade. Paul Burns, Director of Tees Music Alliance, added: "We are really

excited about The Green Bean. It is lovely to have a space to hold meetings and meet up with friends over a cup of coffee and a slice of something nice."



Big Foot has sole

Youngsters across Stockton Borough are being asked to be creative and compose a song about the benefits of walking – especially through Walk to School Week, which starts on Monday 19, May.

Stockton Council's Road Safety Team is searching for the best song and, to encourage them, its walking mascot Big Foot will be popping into many schools unannounced!

He'll be struttin' his stuff and encouraging youngsters to walk wherever possible.

Jonathan Kibble from Stockton Council's Road Safety Team, said: "Walk to School Week is always supported by Stockton's schools with numbers increasing every year. "Thousands of children enjoy the benefits walking has on their well being and attitude for the day ahead."

Misuse of bus lanes

Despite Police enforcement campaigns some motorists still use bus lanes, however from April CCTV cameras will be used in the enforcement of moving traffic offences and vehicles using the Stockton High Street bus lane will be monitored by cameras.

Drivers using bus lanes may be issued with a penalty charge notice by post. If successful, cameras could be used at other bus lanes in the Borough. Drivers receiving a penalty charge notice can ask to see video footage of the offence either on a disk sent to them, or by appointment at the Council's viewing suite.

New gym is a hit In the swing

Fitness fanatics in Teesside are enjoying new gym complete with all the latest Technogym equipment at Thornaby Pavilion which includes 40 pieces of new, state-of-the-art cardio fitness equipment as well as the extensive range of the latest resistance machines including chest press, lat pull down, glute machines plus many more.

Customers can also use the dedicated free weights area with a 'Smith Machine', Cable Jungle, and latest piece of resistance equipment the 'Radiant', an advanced piece of kit which is able to work the whole body.

The gym is fully air-conditioned and all the cardiovascular machines are fitted with personal entertainment screens exercisers can watch television as they burn off the calories.



To arrange a visit to see the new gym or to speak to a customer advisor about the best membership option for you please call Thornaby Pavilion on (01642) 760971.



Golfers can improve their game at Thornaby Pavilion.

Local golf professional Stuart Pilgrim is offering eight-week courses in the main sports hall, designed to improve your golf game. Adult sessions offer fault-finding to rectify problems, as well as rules and etiquette on and off the course.

Sessions for juniors include games and competitions. The course is held on Friday evenings with the junior sessions between 4-5pm with the adult sessions between 5-6pm. For details call (01642) 760971 or visit www.teesactive.co.uk

Local history revealed

A series of events and displays will unveil the Borough's history at local libraries throughout May 2008 to mark Local History Month.

Revealing local history from the late

- 18th Century, you can enjoy:
- Historical walks,
- Children's activities and quizzes with great lots of prizes,

- Family treasure hunts,
- Museums on the Move visiting the
- Borough's libraries demonstrating
- Victorian life, such as washday, toys and a Victorian school day and
- Coffee mornings throughout the month.

Look out for a newsletter show times and locations of all of these exciting events, or visit: www.stockton.gov.uk



GP's pilot extended hours

A pilot scheme to improve access to GP services has been running across the areas covered by Hartlepool and North Tees Primary Care Trusts (PCT).

The Trusts have worked together so that selected GP practices can open extended hours on a trial basis until the end of March. Results will help plan the service locally after April.

Eight of the 43 GP practices in the two PCTs areas were chosen, five from North Tees PCT, to take part in the pilot scheme, taking in around a third of the local population.

The practices offer an additional five hours a week of GP appointments outside the contracted core hours.

There are different arrangements for each practice as they identify the best arrangements for their patients – some offer early morning appointments, some early evening and some have appointments on Saturday mornings.

The use of the appointments as well as patient satisfaction with the service will be monitored and a final report will inform the development of the service.

Success for Lucy

Tees Kayaker Lucy Gardener has received the Evening Gazette Special Performance of the year award and now has her sights set on a place in the 2012 Paralympics.

Lucy brought home the national K1 Sprint (1,000m) title at the National Paddleability Championships at Nottingham and the 200m and second place in the 500m and took the 200m, 500m and 1,000m doubles titles with Maggie Taylor.

Lucy, from Stockton, trains at Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre and is a member of Tees Active Sports Academy. For details on watersports call (01642) 528689 or visit www.teesactive.co.uk

Celebrating our Boro



There is a rich vein of heritage all across Stockton Borough, with projects aplenty to ensure the historic importance of our buildings is not lost.

The historic character of Stockton Town Centre will be enhanced thanks to partnership between Stockton Council and English Heritage.

Stockton Heritage in Partnership (SHiP) is a programme of grants and public works in the area bordered by Stockton High Street, Prince Regent Street, Dovecot Street and Exchange Yard.

£750,000 will be made available over the next three years, with grants offered to property owners and businesses to restore and reinstate historic architectural features to buildings.

Richard Poundford, Stockton Council's Head of Regeneration and Development, said:

"The regeneration of town centres is not all about new buildings and developments. It is vital we do what we can to protect areas worthy of preservation and this partnership with English Heritage will help to make

repairs to the existing historic fabric and reintroduce historic features.

"This represents a sign of full confidence in the changing image of Stockton and will help in our goal to bring in more people to visit and shop in our Town Centre."

"The regeneration of town centres is not all about new buildings and developments."

Holy Trinity Church pictured above, one of Stockton's most famous landmarks, is set for a half million pound restoration.

Built in 1838, Holy Trinity Church stood proudly on Yarm Lane until it became redundant in the 1980s. A serious fire in 1991 resulted in the loss of the roof and internal features and since then it has been unsafe with a fence around it to protect the public.

The £550,000 project, is managed by Stockton Council using funding from the English Heritage and the Cleaner, Safer, Greener Fund, will make the building safe without significantly altering its appearance. Due to be completed in late August, it will create a pleasant and safe environment, supporting events such as Stockton International Riverside Festival.

The work, carried out by Historic Property Restoration Ltd, will include:

- Repairs and supports to the parapets
- Replacement of fire damaged masonry
- Works to the pinnacles Rebuilding/replacing loose and missing masonry
- Tying masonry with Cintec Anchors

Billingham Forum's unique style and structure makes it a building of cultural importance – with the listed Theatre within the complex. Proposals for a £15 million refurbishment of Billingham Forum have gained the green light. Stockton Council has been exploring options to refurbish or redevelop the Forum. Recently the Council's Cabinet agreed a £15 million refurbishment proposal, which will lead to improved health and cultural facilities.

ugh's heritage



The plans include:

- Retaining and upgrading the existing facilities including:
- Modifying the pool to standard size (6x25m)
- Major upgrade of ice rink and surrounding area
- Extension to gym to offer additional 30 health and fitness stations
- Upgrade of toilets, changing rooms and spectator areas
- New adventure play area
- New dance studio
- New café bistro
- New glazed entrance and glass atrium covering modern central hub
- Exhibition space for artwork and sculptures.

Stockton Council is investing £300,000 of funding into Thornaby Town Hall for work to the roof.

Built in 1890-92, the brick and stone building has a grand civic scale and a prominent corner clock tower facing west towards Victoria Bridge across the River Tees.

The Town Hall itself has intrinsic architectural and historic merit and is grade II listed, which also covers numbers 3-5 Mandale Road.

Proposals for its future use are being examined to identify a deliverable, high quality scheme to reflect and build on the heritage of the building and of Thornaby, at the same time as encompassing community and economic uses.

In Eaglescliffe, the Winter Garden at Preston Hall Museum has been restored to its Victorian glory. See page 10



Cycle safer on the roads



A busy programme of cycling rides and training is lined up from Stockton Council's Road Safety team.

Sunday 6 April sees the Myton Meander – a 10-mile ride from Ingleby Barwick to the Tees Barrage taking in the recreational and business development of Teesdale. Meet at Myton House Pub, Ingleby Barwick, 10am.

On Sunday 11 May the Railway Run ride takes in the Wynyard Woodland Park to the Hurworth Burn reservoir and back. Meet at 9:30am, Wynyard Woodland Park visitors centre.

You can pick up a copy of a guided rides leaflet by calling (01642) 526735 or from your local library.

Meanwhile, cycle training kicked off at schools across the Borough after Easter. 2007 saw more than 2,000 pupils trained to National Standards Level 1 and 2 – the best yet.

The Road Safety team has also been involved in producing a national cycle training DVD. It covers choosing a bike, planning a ride, preparing your bike, basic and advanced cycling. All pupils completing Level 2 cycle training will receive a free copy.

Driver Training

The Road Safety team offers a very successful course for people who drive during work time.

Titled Managing Occupational Road Risk, it focuses on safe driving practices and fuel saving driving techniques. So far the course has trained more than 200 people including staff from Petro Plus, BP and the Probation Service.

For more information on cycle rides and training, call Mark Robinson on (01642) 526734 or email mark.robinson@stockton.gov.uk

TopStitch has moved



If you're heading into Stockton town centre looking for TopStitch, previously located in the Shambles, then look no further than 11 High Street, where proprietor Elizabeth Butler (pictured) is settling in to new premises.

Elizabeth spent 14 happy years running her sewing service in the Shambles, carrying out clothing alterations and selling haberdashery. The Shambles is now preparing to sell predominantly fresh food.

So if you're in need of clothing and curtain alterations or leather repairs, or even a few buttons and bows, pop in to TopStitch at the north end of the High Street (opposite the old Globe Theatre) or call (01642) 650099.

Another option

Struggling first time buyers could also buy their first home by taking out a mortgage worth two thirds under a new scheme part-funded by the Government and Yorkshire Building Society with its version of a shared ownership scheme.

It is open to eligible key workers such as fire fighters, nurses and teachers and to other first time buyers chosen for assistance by their local council. It offers a five-year interest-free loan of

15 per cent of the price of any property, with the Government also stumping up a 17.5 per cent interest-free loan. The buyer takes out a five-year fixed or tracker mortgage from the Yorkshire on the home's remaining value.

So someone looking to buy a £150,000 house could take out a mortgage for just £101,250 with nothing to pay for five years on the remaining £48,750. After five years, buyers will have to pay three per cent interest on the loan from the Yorkshire but none to the Government – as well as continuing with the mortgage payments.

Skills centres kick off

If you have a youngster aged 5–11 years who is keen on football, the FA Tesco Skills Programme offers professional coaching and advice to help develop soccer skills making them better at all sports as well as improving their ability to work in a team.

Stephen Connolly will be working at Billingham Campus School and Blakeston School and Sports College. He will also be working with local schools and 11 different charter standard clubs. To find out more, call Stephen on 07943 862277 or email stephen.connolly@thefa.com or visit www.theFA.com/skills

Read all about it

Whether Joanna Trollope keeps you turning the pages or Tolkien tickles your fancy, now is the time to fall in love with books as 2008 is the National Year of Reading and libraries across Stockton Borough are giving people the chance to celebrate all things literary.

One of the events organised to celebrate is a talk and book signing session with authors from Legend Press at Stockton Central Library on Wednesday, May 7 from 7pm. Tickets will be available from any Stockton library from mid April.

For more details contact Claire Pratt, Stockton Council's Reader Development Officer on (01642) 528044 or email readers@stockton.gov.uk

Rising from the ashes

A family centre burned down nearly two years ago has reopened with parents and children invited to come back through its doors to enjoy activities, play, support and advice.

The destruction of Stockton Council's SureStart family centre on Baysdale Road, Thornaby, in June 2006, deprived parents and children of a great facility when arsonists hit.

Costing more than £300,000 to rebuild, the centre provides services to help make sure children get the best possible start in life.

These include ante-natal clinics and drop-in sessions, healthy start clinics

run by Health Visitors, stay and play sessions for parents to enjoy play activities with their children, baby massage and tiny signers, a programme of simple sign language for children aged up to three. A newly planted tree and an afternoon of celebrations and events with the theme of fire prevention marked the reopening on February 27.

Cleveland Fire Brigade brought a fire engine, and art and craft activities took the theme of fire safety, the children helping create a collage in the shape of a fire engine for a wall in the building.

Marti Pottinger, of Cleveland Fire Brigade, said: "We are delighted the centre is re-opening and that we were

part of the day. I'm sure it will become the focal point in the community."

Stockton Council's Youth Bus and the chance to try out toys from SureStart's Toy Library were amongst the attractions.





Council to invest in services and continue one of the region's lowest Council Tax levels

The Borough's residents will not only continue to pay one of the North East's lowest levels of Council Tax, they will also benefit from extra investment in service improvements over the next three years.

Setting an overall budget of £140,545,187 for 2008/09, the Council agreed a 4.5 per cent increase in Council Tax, below the Government's 5 per cent limit. Provisional increases agreed for the following two years will see successively lower Council Tax rises of 4.3 per cent and 3.9 per cent.

For Band A Council Tax payers – almost half the Borough's total – this means an extra 63 pence a week, and 95 pence per week for Band D homes.

The budget is the first to be proposed by the Council's power-sharing administration formed by Labour and Conservative councillors after last year's local elections.

George Garlick, the Council's Chief Executive, said: "In recent years, Councillors of all parties can take great credit for the way our services have achieved high standards. This budget will enable us to keep making improvements and continue to offer value for money for local people.

"This continued investment is the result of a combination of well-managed resources and efficiency savings, at a time when many other councils are having to make savings."

The Council prides itself as being one of the national leaders not only for the way it uses its resources but also for its performance overall. It is strongly committed to continued improvements in both efficiency and high quality, value for money services. With Stockton receiving the lowest percentage increase in Government grant of any of the Tees Valley authorities this year, its additional investment is seen as a considerable achievement.

The extra spending agreed by the Council closely reflects the views residents have identified as their priorities in consultation. It includes:

- £642,000 for additional care packages for people with complex and additional needs and their carers
- £208,000 for pest control, food safety and other environmental health services
- The £15 million refurbishment of Billingham Forum
- Continuing support for neighbourhood enforcement services to tackle environmental crime and anti-social behaviour
- £150,000 for schemes to reduce carbon emissions and generate future savings
- £200,000 for kerbside recycling
- £102,000 to establish an out-of-hours noise control service

- £102,000 to improve public transport information
- £180,000 to develop a Christmas Festival in Stockton town centre

The Council will also extend funding to continue home adaptations for sick and disabled people; cemeteries inspection, maintenance and repair, and additional alleygate security. There will also be a two-year £800,000 programme of environmental improvements, with residents able to help decide where work is carried out in their local neighbourhood.

In 1997, Stockton Council became the first in the country to base its annual budgets on a forecast of expected income and spending for the three years ahead. More recently, the Government followed suit and, from the coming year, Whitehall has now introduced the system across all councils and announced provisional grant levels for the next three years. Stockton's pioneering use of this system has given it one of the most stable financial foundations of any council, and helped it achieve the highest possible rating from the Audit Commission for the way it uses its resources.

Band A Council Tax in Stockton for 2008-09 will be £765.47 and £1,148.21 for Band D properties.

The overall budget does not include funding passed direct to schools, or precepts set by the Police and Fire authorities or by parish councils.

Renewable energy



Saving energy across the Borough?

Stockton Council has exceeded energy conservation targets – four years ahead of time!

The Home Energy Conservation Act (1995) requires every UK authority with housing responsibilities to identify practicable, cost effective means to significantly improve energy efficiency of all residential accommodation.

The savings are measured against a 1996 baseline of the Borough's energy use, with an original target of a 25 per cent saving by 2006.

Stockton Council met this in 2005. Now, the Council has not only met but exceeded its new target of 32 per cent saving, well before its 201 target date.

Mike Chicken, Stockton Council's environment policy manager, said: "This a great achievement and a credit both to our team and local people. It's not the end of the story, though. Many properties still have little or no insulation and could very well receive grant assistance.

"Our first Renewable Energy Roadshow in 2007 was a great success and we're now planning this year's event to be held on 8 June at Preston Park."

For information contact the Environment Projects Team on (01642) 528215.

Have you thought about switching your fuel to a green tariff?

The majority of the UK's electricity comes from burning fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas, which is a major contributor to climate change.

But you can choose a greener form of electricity. Green electricity is produced from renewable energy sources, often described as a green tariff, but energy companies sometimes give it a specific brand name.

When you choose a green tariff, your supplier is obliged to source for you an amount equal to some or all of the electricity you consume from existing renewable sources, such as a wind farm. Electricity is supplied to your home in exactly the same way.

Another option is a green fund, where you pay a premium to contribute to a fund to support new renewable energy development. Your existing electricity supply continues as normal but your involvement will help alter the mixture of energy sources in future toward renewable sources.

To find out more about green tariffs or green funds, speak to your electricity supplier, visit a fuel switching website or contact the Local Energy Savings Trust Advice Centre on 0800 512 012.

y-what do you do?

Saving it

The way you drive your car can directly affect your fuel consumption - different driving techniques can help the environment and save you a packet on fuel!

Drive smoothly:

Try not to accelerate too quickly or rev the engine unnecessarily and avoid heavy braking

Gear up:

Changing to a higher gear as soon as possible can reduce fuel consumption by 15 per cent.

Slow down:

Driving at 70mph can use up to 30 per cent more fuel than at 50 mph.

Switch off:

If you're stuck in a jam for more than two minutes, turn the engine off.

Plan ahead:

Planning your journey can avoid congestion or road works and prevent the engine running for long period unnecessarily.

Check tyre pressures:

Under-inflated tyres can increase fuel consumption by up to three per cent.

Air conditioning:

Use it sparingly – it significantly increases fuel consumption.

Remove roof racks:

They change the aerodynamics and so increase fuel consumption, so remove them when not in use.

To find out more on saving energy on the road or in your home call the Energy Saving Trust advice centre on freephone 0800 512 012 for free impartial advice or visit www.energysavingtrust.co.uk/northeast

Recycle bulbs correctly

Following concerns about low energy light bulbs and fluorescent tubes in the news, the Council's Care For Your Area team is reassuring residents these light bulbs are perfectly safe to use.

However, once spent, please take them to the Civic Amenity site at Haverton Hill, because of the very small level of mercury they contain. Call Care For Your Area with any queries on (01642) 391959.



Take the test

Why not test yourself on some of the following statements – are they true or false? You might be in for a few surprises! See page 31 for the answers (and no cheating!).

- 1) It uses less energy to leave fluorescent lights switched on rather than switching them on and off.
- 2) It's more efficient to leave your immersion heater on 24 hours a day.
- 3) It's cheaper to use your immersion heater in the summer than to heat water from your central heating boiler.
- 4) TVs need to be left on standby that's why they don't have off switches.
- 5) Central heating is more efficient if on 24 hours a day
- 6) PC monitors switch off when you close down your computer.
- 7) You can't put insulation in cavity walls because cavities are there for a reason.
- 8) Low energy light bulbs are full of mercury and therefore dangerous.
- 9) Laptop computers are expensive to run.
- 10) You need specialist expensive equipment to use renewable energy.
- 11) I'm just one person; I can't make any difference to something as big as climate change.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

NORMA HINDMARSH

If you come into Municipal Buildings on Church Road, Stockton you may be greeted with this familiar face. Norma Hindmarsh is a full-time member of the team of five receptionists based there who handle Stockton Council's main switchboard.

The longest serving member of the team, Norma joined Stockton Council in 1976. Back then, she worked in a computer room, inputting data for salaries among many other things. When Norma first joined the switchboard team, it numbered around ten but more efficient and improved technology has reduced this.

Nevertheless, it can still be extremely busy and each week the statistics are on display in the reception area to show exactly how many calls are taken and how long it took to respond.

The aim is to answer a call within ten seconds and Norma and her colleagues currently achieve this with 80 per cent of calls.

In a normal week, the receptionists can take between 8,000 - 9,000 calls between them.

However, when the new financial year comes around, queries on Council Tax bills can see the incoming call rate rocket to around 11,000.

Norma's job doesn't just involve taking incoming calls. She divides her time between reception and the



new Contact Centre at Municipal Buildings, which involves working with a much bigger team.

She also handles all sorts of other queries from members of the public who come into Municipal Buildings and regulars who would rather speak to someone in person rather than on the telephone. Having worked for the Council for so long she has built up a wealth of experience on other areas and services in the town.

However, when the new financial year comes around, queries on Council Tax bills can see the incoming call rate rocket to around 11,000. Norma's job doesn't just involve taking incoming calls.

Often she's able to deal with queries which don't necessarily relate to the Council - but Norma and the team are always willing to help. Of course, there are times when irate customers do want to vent their anger.

Norma's attitude is never to become annoyed with people but to calm them down and reassure them. When asked what she likes most about the job Norma, said: "It's the contact with people, both on the phone and face to face. There's such a variety of queries you never know what the next will be."

Whatever the call, the uniformed team are uniform in their approach - they always do their best to be helpful, courteous and professional.

In her spare time, Norma likes gardening and walking. However, as she's looking forward to becoming a very proud grandmother later this year, she suspects her time won't be spare for much longer!

Decisions at a difficult time

A bereavement can throw a family into confusion and bewilderment about what to do and where to go for help. There are so many arrangements to be made, all on top of actually dealing with the devastating loss of a family member or friend.

When someone dies, there are many choices and decisions to be made at a time when we often feel least able to make them. However, a moment of thought now could help with decisions in the future and ultimately ease the

burden when the time comes to make funeral arrangements.

Part of the work of Stockton Council's Registration and Bereavement Services is to ensure people are aware of all the options available to them, from the birth of a baby to funeral arrangements.

So the service has produced a selection of information leaflets about when and where a death must be registered, who can do it and what to do if there are complications. The service does its best to provide the most up-to-date,

relevant information, and any advice or guidance is completely impartial.

You can find copies of the leaflets in libraries, community centres, doctors' surgeries, at the University Hospital of North Tees or at the Register Office, Nightingale House, in Stockton.

For more information about registering a death or to make an appointment, please call the Register Office on (01642) 527720 or email registrars@stockton.gov.uk or visit www.stockton.gov.uk/registeroffice

Access point

In the last issue of Stockton News, we told you about our new Access Point service at Tesco in Ingleby Barwick.

Access Point sees Council representatives at the supermarket every Friday afternoon between 1pm and 4:30pm, where they can answer questions about our services quickly.

So far the team has handled many enquiries (helping 23 people on the first day alone) on a variety of services including street cleaning, road sign repairs and street lighting, benefits and council tax.



Step out for a healthier life

Stockton Council is calling on everybody to step on up and take the first steps towards a healthier lifestyle.

The team recently led the Stepping Out health walk around the Tees Barrage, taking in some impressive scenery.

The instructor-led walk started from the Baptist Tabernacle, giving people a glimpse of how healthy walking is.

The Council's Sports Development team has several healthy initiatives on offer. So, if you are interested in walking your way to fitness, call (01642) 526274 or log on to www.stockton.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment to find out more.

Open for business

January saw the opening of the Council's new Contact Centre, making it even easier for people to find out about Council Tax, Housing Benefits and Care For Your Area services.

Following a Borough-wide survey, we learned people wanted to be able to contact these essential services quickly and at times that suited them.

Now, when you call any of the numbers below, we will put you in touch with a Customer Services Officer who can take care of most enquiries there and then.

Opening earlier and closing later, and with a Saturday service added, will also make it easier for people to get in touch.

The new Contact Centre, based at Municipal Buildings, makes the best

use of technology to answer all your calls at one point of contact. Calls to the Contact Centre are all charged at your standard tariff.

More services will be added to the Contact Centre during the year.

Keep these numbers handy!

Council Tax
(01642) 397108
Housing Benefits
(01642) 393829
Care for your Area
(01642) 391959

Opening times:

8am – 6pm, Monday to Wednesday
8am – 7pm, Thursday
8am – 5:30pm, Friday
10am – 1pm, Saturday (Council Tax and Housing Benefits only)

Investing £100m

Hardwick is definitely on the up!



It is undergoing redevelopment of over £100million with work on new homes, improvements to existing homes, a new primary school, cycle ways, and sports facilities already underway.

This is just the start of the long-term development by Stockton Council and its partners to transform Hardwick.

A partnership between Stockton Council, Barratt Homes, Haslam Homes, Tristar Homes and Endeavour Housing Association will deliver the demolition of more than 600 houses which are being replaced by a mix of high quality attractive homes for sale, rent and shared equity.

Two, three and four bed homes, including three storey town houses, are being built. The new layout includes an attractive village green to add a sense of community to the new neighbourhood.

120 new homes for sale, rent and shared equity have already been built out of a total of over 750 between now and 2015. The scale of the development will bring a massive transformation to the area and provide new life, new people and new prosperity.

Julie Allport, Stockton Council's Head of Housing, said: "This is a really

exciting time for Hardwick and the huge scale of investment planned demonstrates the long term commitment of the Council and all its partners to transform the area into a thriving, sustainable community where people are proud to live."

When it comes to making your money go further, now is the time to look at making a move to Hardwick Green.

Barratt and Haslam both have show homes on High Newham Road so you can take the opportunity to see for yourself what is on offer. The first new homes for sale have already been released, so if you hurry up you will be able to pick your new home off plan! New families have already started to take advantage of the attractive prices of the new homes and have moved in. Anna and Michael McDonald have just bought their new home in Hardwick Green, having relocated from Scotland.

Anna said: "We started looking for a new home in August last year and found the properties at Hardwick Green to be really good value for money, with a number of incentives on offer for first time buyers.

"As we are from Stockton we know how positive the regeneration work is for the area, so had no hesitation in being the first residents to move in."

Want to buy but think you can't afford it - well read on!

Thanks to the Government's new Homebuy initiative if you are a first time buyer or a key worker you could own 100 per cent of a new Barratt home at Hardwick and pay only 50 per cent of the cost.

The price for a two-bed home starts from £53,999 under the initiative, so call into the showhome to find out if you are eligible and make an application.

Haslam Homes are offering part-exchange on selected properties if you have a home to sell. For first-time buyers, they are also offering to pay not just a five per cent deposit on selected properties but £450 towards legal fees as well.

Something for all ages

Work is progressing well at Hardwick Green in ensuring there are a range of housing options for the Borough's older residents with the opening last summer of the £6m, extra care scheme for elderly residents.

Aspen Gardens has proved hugely popular since it opened offering a 'home for life' to the residents there with modern apartments and bungalows combined on site. It is also a huge asset to the whole

n into Hardwick

community and is open to everyone to enjoy facilities such as the bistro, hairdressers/ beautician and IT suite. Take the opportunity to call in and see what is on offer.

Endeavour Housing Association are also providing other homes for the over 55s at Ruskin Court which offers self contained apartments for rent.

Construction on a further 20 new bungalows for rent is due to start in the summer, providing more high quality choices for our elderly and frail residents.



Lillian Greenan has recently received the keys to her new accommodation at Ruskin Court

Full marks for education

Construction has started on the £4m replacement Hardwick Primary School on the former St Gregory's School site. Headteacher, Ruth Pickering, said: "We are so excited about moving and it is heartening to see things starting to happen. I am getting parents coming in to see me talking about the new school and it will be a welcome addition to the new Hardwick estate."

The new school will be a 210 place Primary with state of the art classrooms and facilities.

The estate also benefits from a primary school listed in the country's top schools. Harrow Gate Primary School has also been recently rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted for its English provision.



Headteacher Ruth Pickering and pupils of Hardwick Primary School set work on their new school under way.

Going green in Hardwick

The regeneration work at Hardwick Green is not just about houses and buildings. Major investment is being made in improving cycle ways, enabling local children to cycle to school and linking Hardwick to the national Network 1 cycle route at Castle Eden. This will give residents access to hundreds of miles of safe cycle routes across open countryside for you to enjoy within minutes of leaving your home.

Youngsters will be delighted with the new Multi Use Games Area and football pitch at Pyramid Park, off High Newham Road - scheduled to be complete ready for this summer. A sustainable urban drainage scheme will help transform part of Hardwick Dene into a wetland area for wildlife. This work is being carried out in partnership with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.

For more information call:

**Stockton Council's Housing
Regeneration Team**

(01642) 528503

Barratt Showhome

(01642) 613752

Haslam Showhome

(01642) 614198



(Left to Right – Andrew Winspear, Jemma Lowe, Joe Siberry, Graeme Antwhistle, Alan Donlan, Jane Horrocks, Ellie Stephenson, Laura Allison, Tom Holdsworth)

In the swim

The Borough of Stockton Swimming Scheme (BOSS) marked its tenth anniversary with an award ceremony at Billingham Forum Theatre. The evening celebrated past and present members' achievements and looked back over ten years which have seen members win medals and championships at all levels.

Amateur Swimming Association President Alan Dolan, pictured above with BOSS award winners, presented the prestigious Swim 21 Performance Club award, making the club one of a national elite of 12 clubs to achieve this status.

BOSS is seeking sponsors to help develop local swimming talent – call Michelle Allison on 07792 807088 to assist – or call Carol Grainger on (01642) 528540 to find out about joining BOSS.

Stop press

Triathlon returns

Following the success of last year's Stockton Triathlon, the swimming, cycling and running challenge returns on Sunday 13 July.

We'll have more details in the next issue of Stockton News, due out in May.

Designs on their future

Budding artists from Harrowgate Primary School and Bishopsgarth School have been designing their future in a Tristar Homes competition which challenged them to create drawings, paintings and poems about what they would like from their future.

Their career ambitions included mechanic, bus driver, joining the army, nurse and perhaps most ambitiously of all, becoming a Power Ranger. Dave Chambers, Housing Services team leader at Tristar Homes, was delighted with the standard of entries submitted. He said: "It was a difficult task to pick the winners with so many outstanding contributions. I would like to pass on the thanks to all staff who were involved in the event and for the contribution made by the pupils."

The six winning drawings and posters from Harrowgate Primary School were by Ella Wilson, Ellis Allison, Mia Marshall, Callum Costello, Sophie Sherwood, and Aaron Heslop.

The two winning poets from Bishopsgarth School were Rachel Mew and Liam O'Keefe.

Success for spooky fundraiser

Things certainly went bump in the night recently when 100 people braved the darkness of Preston Hall Museum for a charity ghost hunt.

Ghost hunters from Wraithscape, Natural Majick, Northern Ghost Investigations and Richard Felix from Living TV's Most Haunted led visitors round the museum seeking out ghostly goings on, including the famous Grey Lady reported to walk through a wall at the museum.

The Butterwick Hospice, started in 1984 by Mary Butterwick, held the fundraising tour at the 1825 Victorian manor house to support its work providing care, advice and counselling to both people suffering from terminal illness and their families.

Diane Williamson fundraiser for Butterwick Hospice said: "The fundraiser was a fantastic sell out success raising more than £4,700."



When tenants need help

If you are a tenant of a private landlord and a problem occurs in your home – for example, your boiler breaks down and your landlord isn't available – who can you turn to?

This was the experience of one lady, Mary Jones from Stockton, whose landlord lived abroad. Mary had tried to contact her landlord to report her problem but couldn't get in touch. However, all ended well with a little help from Stockton Council's Private Sector Housing Division, to whom Mary

turned for assistance.

The Council arranged for the property to have a HHSRS inspection (Housing Health and Safety Rating System) and managed to contact the landlord's son. He in turn arranged for a plumber to attend as soon as possible, which he duly did. The Council was also able to advise the landlord of some electrical work which was also needed.

Once the work was completed, Council officers visited the property to ensure everything was in order and clearly both Mary and her landlord were

grateful for our help.

Gary Knight, leader for the Council's Housing Conditions team, said: "We advise all tenants to give their landlord the opportunity to rectify any problems they may have with their homes. We were satisfied Mary had tried to contact her landlord so were happy to intervene on her behalf."

If you find yourself in a similar situation and need some advice, or would like a free leaflet on this subject, call us on (01642) 526687.

Stockton

Big Events 2008



YOUR GUIDE TO **BIG** EVENTS IN STOCKTON 2008

What, where, when
Your 4 page pull-out


Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

YOUR GUIDE TO **BIG** EVENTS IN STOCKTON

2008

Whether you're into music, classic cars, sport or family entertainment, Stockton have a whole heap of big events throughout 2008 guaranteed to cater for all tastes.

There's garden shows for the green fingered and classic cars and motorbikes for the enthusiast. You can dance away the day to live music or enjoy our spectacular summer shows with the whole family

For further details of these events call the numbers shown or visit our website at www.stockton.gov.uk/events or email: events@stockton.gov.uk.



Tees Valley Garden Show **Saturday 3 to Monday 5 May**

Preston Park

Floral marquee displays, plant sales, garden accessories, demonstrations, craft stalls and entertainment for all the family.

For further details call (07930) 300984



3rd Annual Tees Barrage 10K Run **Monday 5 May**

Tees Barrage

Starting at the Tees Barrage this 10K circular run takes place along the scenic banks of the River Tees.

For further details email: phil.barker@ntlworld.com



Fins 'n' Chrome Car Show **Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 May**

Preston Park

The North East American Car Club brings to Stockton a wide variety of classic vehicles from the USA. A popular family event with entertainment, stalls and refreshments.

For further details call (01915) 550563



The Greener Living Roadshow **Sunday 8 June**

Preston Park

From wind turbines and solar panels, to the pros and cons of biomass fuels and rainwater recycling systems, this event is a must for the eco-conscious homeowner.

For further details call (01642) 528149



Fire Engine & Vintage Car Rally **Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 June**

Preston Park

Historic fire engines and classic vehicles, craft stalls, entertainment in the arena and a full range of refreshments.

For further details call Stockton Events (01642) 526733



Ridewell **Sunday 6 July**

Preston Park

Police bikes, sports bikes, stunt bikes, racing bikes, trials bikes and pedal bikes all feature as Cleveland Police and Stockton Council bring you the premier two wheel safety themed show.

For further details call Cleveland Police (01642) 301552



Triathlon
Sunday 13 July
Tees Barrage

The 2nd Stockton Triathlon incorporates swimming, cycling and running, starting and finishing at the Barrage. Open to all ages and abilities, individuals and teams.
For further details call 0870 4424530



44th Billingham International Folklore Festival
Saturday 26 July Saturday 2 August

The largest dance festival of its type in the UK, featuring companies from all over the world and the British Isles.
For further details call BIFF (01642) 651060



Stockton International Riverside Festival
Wednesday 30 July to Sunday 3 August

Acknowledged as one of Europe's biggest and best street art festivals, with a broad range of radical entertainment featuring international artistes, home grown and community talent.
For further details call SIRF (01642) 526465



Stockton Riverside Fringe Festival
Wednesday 30 July to Sunday 3 August

The 18th Fringe Festival showcases local musical & comedy talent, shoulder to shoulder with some of the finest international acts in a series of free concerts.
For further details email: info@fringefestival.co.uk



Stockton Summer Show
Friday 22 to Monday 25 August
Preston Park

The local show for all of the family, with a range of arena entertainment, sideshows, fairground, free circus and circus skills training, showjumping, stalls, craft stalls, and catering.
For further details call Stockton Events (01642) 527344/5/6



Arc in the Park
Friday 22 to Sunday 24 August
Preston Park

This popular series of evening concerts returns with acts promoted by The Arc in Stockton. A different show each night guarantees a great night out for lovers of all types of music.
For further details call the Arc Box Office (01642) 525199



Thornaby Show
Sunday 7 September
Harold Wilson Recreation Ground

Don't miss Thornaby Show. Great entertainment for all the family with a wide variety of rides, shows, games, music and a colourful garden show.
For details call Thornaby Town Council (01642) 678652



Billingham Carnival & Garden Show
Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 September
Billingham Green

A local carnival with a traditional garden show combined with fairground entertainment and a variety of stalls and food concessions.
For further details call (01642) 533089



Halloween Walk
Friday 31 October
Preston Park

Spooky goes on in the park as a "Night of Fright" provides fun for all the family. Dare you take the Ghost Walk through the Hall and round the grounds? Frightened to be there? You will be!!!

For further details call Stockton Events (01642) 527345



Fireworks
Wednesday 5 November
Stockton Riverside

Stockton Riverside is the place to be for the best firework display in the region. A radio roadshow, music, funfair and food stalls all make this the best and safest way to celebrate Guy Fawkes night.

For further details call Stockton Events (01642) 527344/5/6

Stockton Sparkles

Festive fun is heading to town as Stockton once again gets ready to Sparkle! Five weeks of magical free events for all the family held within the Town Centre. Here's just a taster of what you can expect....



Christmas Lights Switch On
Sunday 23 November
Stockton High Street

Music and entertainment as Santa and his celebrity guests as Stockton turns on its spectacular Christmas Lights.



Christmas Continental Markets & Crafts
Thursday 27 to Sunday 30 November
Dovecot Street Stockton

A feast of market fun at the Giant Market Fair with Farmers', Craft, and Continental Markets, plus a "log cabin village" for hot food, drinks & entertainment.



Reindeer Parade & Santa's Magical Parade
Sunday 7 December & Sunday 14 December
Stockton High Street

See Santa and his Cairngorm Reindeer parade on the 7th December and Santa's Magical Parade of Christmas floats the following Sunday.

For further details of these and all other Stockton Sparkle Christmas events call (01642) 527568

YOUR GUIDE TO
BIG
EVENTS
IN STOCKTON
2008

...and there's more!

As well as the BIG events shown here there are also hundreds of walks, talks, exhibitions, sports and community events happening throughout the year across the Borough.

To find out what's happening, where and when, visit our website at www.stockton.gov.uk/events



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Tristar trains to retain



Tristar Homes Associate Director Linda Minns, centre, with Tristar Union Learn Representatives Marilyn Scott (left) and Julie Robinson (right).

In recent years, the role of union representatives has greatly strengthened in engaging and supporting learners in the workplace.

Recently more than 200 union members from across the North East and Cumbria gathered at The Baltic Centre, Gateshead, when Unionlearn and the Northern TUC celebrated their contribution to lifelong learning.

Linda Minns and Julie Robinson from Tristar Homes talked about how their company had signed up to the pledge in a joint commitment to support the skills development of the entire workforce to a minimum of a full Level Two qualification including Skills for Life.

18 Tristar employees are currently undertaking studying; some are even following a change of career or career progression.

Julie, Tristar's Unionlearn representative, offers potential learners confidential advice and guidance about opportunities, including ITQ courses to help employees with IT skills, something generally not available in housing companies.

She said: "Since Tristar started offering training last July, 118 employees have benefited from advice on a range of courses. We have received fantastic feedback from staff and we're now rolling out ITQ in conjunction with Stockton Riverside College to all IT users who currently don't have a relevant qualification."

Benefits changes for private tenants

Local Housing Allowance (LHA) is a new way of working out housing benefit for people renting from private landlords.

It applies to anyone moving into a privately rented home from 7 April, along with first time benefit claimants and those with a break in claim for a private tenancy.

LHA is a flat rate allowance based on how many people live in the property. It takes income and savings into account just as they are now, but not the actual rent of the property. The Council will publish LHA rates so

tenants can find out how much rent they can afford before seeking a home.

Because payment goes direct to tenants, an information pack will help them with budgeting, open bank accounts and find specialist money advice.

Safeguards will protect landlords from tenants who can't manage their finances, by allowing their benefit to be paid direct to their landlord.

To find out more call (01642) 393829, call at 16 Church Road or visit www.stockton.gov.uk/hsgben

Setting the scene for Saltholme

A fantastic new flagship project, set for completion by the summer, will bring wildlife and people together for fun, enjoyment and learning.

Saltholme, at the mouth of the Tees, is a major new wildlife centre predicted to become one of the area's largest tourist attractions. Attracting an estimated 100,000 visitors a year, it will be a real regeneration booster for the Tees Valley.

Created by local charity Teesside Environmental Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, at the heart of the project is a Wild Bird Discovery Centre. Here, a visitor, community and environmental education centre will be set in a distinctive lakeside building.

The Centre's sweeping roofs will suggest the wings of birds, its colours of blue and apricot based on the kingfisher.

To ensure people can easily and safely reach Saltholme from the busy A178 Seaton Carew Road – a vital artery for the North Tees industries – a £250,000 Council-designed road scheme will be complete by May.

Saltholme will also be linked to a more sustainable form of transport, the cycleway network currently linking Stockton and Middlesbrough.

Altogether, the European Regional Development Funds, One NorthEast and the Tees Valley Partnership are funding more than £800,000 for road improvements associated with the Saltholme Project.



Artist's impression of Saltholme Visitor Centre

What's happening in



Stockton is greener than you might think!

Take a look at what you can see and experience in the Borough's parks.

Wynyard Woodland Park

With three large parks and several smaller parks, you're never far from luscious greenery and an amazing array of wildlife. With the arrival of spring, all are bursting with colour and noise.

This popular park is well loved by nature enthusiasts, walkers, cyclists and dog walkers but as well as a relaxing place for a stroll, it is home to countless plants and animals.

Spring in Thorpe Wood at Wynyard Woodland Park is a great place to see spectacular white carpets of wood anemones and a display of bluebells. The woods will be alive with birdsong as the migrants such as willow, wood

and garden warblers and chiffchaff return to their breeding ground.

You can also see and hear year-round residents such as chaffinches, wrens, robins, blackbirds and thrushes. If you're lucky, you may hear the drumming of a great spotted woodpecker or a vocal cuckoo. People have even heard a tawny owl calling during the day and the really lucky twitchers will see the rodding display of the woodcock.

Thorpe Wood Pond will be host to mating frogs, toads and great crested newts and possibly nesting moorhens, coots or mallards.

To contact Wynyard Woodland Park, call (01740) 630011.



our woodland parks

Billingham Beck Valley Country Park

The Pride of Billingham boasts numerous species of birds including large numbers of bullfinch, yellowhammer, reed bunting and more common species such as robin, duncock, blue tits and great tits.

Visitors such as warblers, swallows and cuckoos will soon be arriving back from the warmer climates of Africa to spend some time with us here in the Tees Valley.

Early signs of spring can be seen as snowdrops poke through the ground and foliage appearing on the hawthorns.

During the winter, volunteers have been braving the cold to undertake hedge laying work – a traditional practice to promote new growth in hedges which provide a habitat for small mammals and nesting birds.

One visitor which has not been welcome to the Billingham Beck Valley Country Park, has been the floating water fern. This has spread at an alarming rate across the surface of the ponds since last September. After unsuccessful efforts to control its growth with nets, we sought professional advice. As a result, we will soon be introducing a weevil to eat its way through the water fern – a clean and environmentally friendly solution to the problem.

Contact the Billingham Beck Valley Country Park's Visitor Centre on (01642) 360376.

All the parks have visitor centres and offer range of family events and guided walks. To find out more, turn to pages 28/29 and see what's on.

Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park

Here, nature lovers can enjoy cherry blossom, blackthorn and hawthorn blossom and hazel catkins (lamb tails).

Flowers blooming in spring include cowslips, bluebell, coltsfoot, lady's smock or cuckoo flower (locally known as milkmaid), buttercups, wild garlic, the butterbur, primrose, lords and ladies and the golden flowers of the gorse and broom.

Animal enthusiasts should keep an eye out for weasels, stoats, foxes, moles, water voles and bats.

Keeping quiet and listening for rustling in the hedgerow is the best way to observe these naturally shy animals.

You can spot a variety of our feathered friends around the park, including whitethroat, blackcap, assorted finches and tits, tree sparrows, great spotted woodpeckers, willow/grasshopper/reed warblers, chiffchaff, jays, magpies, jackdaws and crows.

Around the ponds and wetlands are reed bunting, kingfishers, heron, coot, moorhen, tufted ducks and mallard. On the car park pond and the large lake are two pairs of nesting mute swans.

Contact staff at Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park on (01642) 371633.

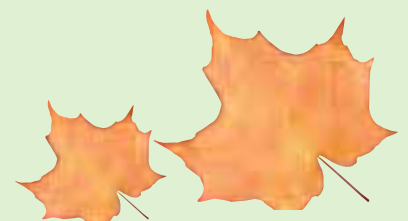


Preston Park – Back the Bid

As Stockton News went to print, we were waiting to find out if our multi-million pound bid to the Heritage Lottery Parks for People was successful.

If so, Preston Park will be in line for some major improvements including better spaces for sports, play and recreation as well as new signage.

Keep an eye out in future editions of Stockton News to find out if our bid has been successful.



POLICE BEAT



Left Inspector Andy Fox, Neighbourhood Safety and Gary Collins, Manager of Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Stockton Council

Ring Crimestoppers

Stockton Police and Crimestoppers are encouraging people to ring with information on anyone committing criminal damage. There's cash rewards as well as i-tunes and mobile phone vouchers for information leading to successful prosecutions.

Look out for posters in public areas throughout the Borough with the Crimestoppers number as well as a postcard drop in hotspot areas.



The scheme is funded by the Safer Stockton Partnership and was launched at the Riverbank Children's Centre in Thornaby

which, in recent months, suffered damage exceeding £6,000.

If you know who is responsible for acts of Criminal Damage in your area, call Crimestoppers, in confidence, on 0800 555 11.

Budding writers

For the last four years pupils from Year Six at Holy Trinity Rosehill C of E School have enthusiastically taken part in a detective story writing competition.

The competition is the brainchild of Neighbourhood Policing Officer for Hartburn, Sarah Troy. Based in Medina House, Sarah works closely with PCSO 8095 Neale to ensure all children taking part receive a certificate and a book voucher for the winner from each class.

In 2007 the competition expanded with several other primary schools taking part including St. Patrick's, Whitehouse, Hardwick, Harrow Gate and Abbey Hill School with a special

prize of a digital camera for the overall winner.

Prize money was funded by Stockton District Police and Stockton Crime Prevention panel with generous support from Sainsburys at Bells Stores, which donated sweets for children to share.

Sarah said: "I would like to give my special thanks to David Bellett, Head Teacher of Holy Trinity Rosehill School and his staff, and not forgetting all the pupils who work so hard to produce excellent stories!"

Last year the overall winner was Courtney Bain with her story entitled 'The Dummy Detectives'.



Left to right Eleanor Monty, who won a £25 gift voucher and overall winner Courtney Bain who won a digital camera and rear PC 512 Sarah Troy with Head Teacher David Bellett.

You have the choice

Cleveland Police has launched an initiative aimed at protecting victims of forced marriages or honour based violence.

Victims are forced into marriages against their will and are threatened

with violence or worse if they attempt to dishonour their family. If you or anyone you know are victims of honour based violence call the 24 hour helpline on 0800 5 999 365.

See the outside back cover of this magazine for further information.

Registrars go mobile



Baby Samuel Jacob Green, pictured here with proud parents Helen and Wayne, midwife Julie Woollaston (rear, left) and Registrar Rachael Manning, became the first to be registered on-line at the University Hospital of North Tees.

A swap from ink pens to laptops means registrars at Stockton Council can offer greater choice and convenience for people registering a birth or death.

Using state-of-the-art mobile Internet technology, registrars can offer customers a more flexible service by offering appointments at the University Hospital of North Tees. And, for the first time, housebound customers will be able to register in their own homes.

Changes to maternity services in North Tees and Hartlepool are expected to result in an increase in the number of families from other areas celebrating a new arrival in the hospital's newly refurbished maternity unit.

Jayne Robins, the Council's Registration and Bereavement Services Manager, said: "Births and deaths must be registered in the district in which they occur and, until now, that's meant families having to make a trip to the hospital, then to the Register Office. We appreciate how distressing or inconvenient this can be, particularly for bereaved families.

"So, using online registration and the Internet, we can now offer most families this new service to cut out that extra journey."

Initially, appointments for birth and death registrations are available Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in the North Tees Centre for Carers and Patients, which is part of the George Hardwick Foundation.

Read on for questionnaire results

Results of a survey of Council tenants and leaseholders have been revealed online.

The survey is part of a study by Stockton Council and Tristar Homes to consider how best to secure future investment to meet the aspirations of tenants, leaseholders and the Council for the future of housing in the Borough.

Last year, tenants and leaseholders across the Borough received a questionnaire asking for their views.

Listing 20 issues under two headings – Your Home and Neighbourhood and Your Environment – it asked tenants and leaseholders to indicate their top five issues under each heading.

Keeping rents affordable was the top issue under Your Home and Neighbourhood, with 84 per cent of responses highlighting this as important. 75 per cent listed an efficient repairs service, with 72 per cent saying tackling anti-social behaviour.

Under Your Environment, 70 per cent of responses said keeping the area clear of rubbish and graffiti was important, followed by improving the appearance of their area and external improvements to tenants' homes.

To find out more and to see full results from the questionnaire visit www.stockton.gov.uk and search for 'options appraisal'.

Trading Standards need volunteers

The Council's Trading Standards team is appealing for young volunteers to take part in a series of test purchases to make sure retailers selling age restricted items are following the law.

Fully supervised local 13–16-year-olds attempt to buy items such as alcohol, tobacco and 18 certificate DVDs. If the retailer is obeying the law, they should be refused. If not, the retailer can face heavy fines.

David Kitching, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager, said: "Test purchases help us make sure retailers are not selling inappropriate items to

children. No one wants to see young people drinking and smoking, so these tests are essential to keep children and the wider community safe.

retailer is following the law and refuses the sales."

All potential volunteers are assessed for suitability, in the presence of a parents/guardian. Working times vary and volunteers are not asked to make test purchases in their local community. All volunteers receive a £15 shopping voucher.

For Details, call (01642) 526529 or 526534.

Start for new schools

Two new schools are taking shape. Hardwick Primary will be moving to a new site on Tithebarn Road, where a 210-place primary school with nursery and community facilities will be complete in December.

In Roseworth, work has begun to replace the three existing schools with a state-of-the-art primary school for 420 pupils, together with a nursery and extended school provision in early 2009.

Winter Garden to bloom again



Mayor of Stockton Councillor Bill Noble and Jane Hubbard, Museums Service Manager, admire the structure.

One of the world's most famous botanists was on hand to reopen Preston Hall Museum's Winter Garden following restoration to its former glory.

David Bellamy marked the reopening of the conservatory in February following its repair and restoration in a joint project between Stockton Council, Atkins Design Services and contractor William Anelay, thanks to £208,500 of Heritage Lottery funding.

The conservatory was built in 1885 and has largely remained unchanged since, with just the replacement of the lower windows around 1900.

After more than 100 years, the elements and time took their toll on the Victorian structure and the fabric deteriorated to such an extent it was closed to the public in 2000.

The restoration has seen the Grade II listed Victorian teak conservatory

repaired in its original style, using traditional techniques. Work included substantial repairs to the glass and timber roof and frame, redecoration and replacement of stone sills.

It is once again home to a myriad of plants from other countries, including Canary Island Date Palms, Tasmanian Tree Ferns and Bird of Paradise Flower.

Stockton Council's Museum Service worked with schools and the community to devise activities and projects to encourage young and old to participate and enjoy their heritage.

The restoration is the first phase in an exciting planned redevelopment of Preston Hall Museum and its surrounding Park. The outcome of a stage one Heritage Lottery Fund application for the Museum is expected soon and the Council will submit a bid for the refurbishment and improvement of Preston Park in March.

Making housing affordable

We all know how house prices have rocketed, making it difficult for people to get on the 'property ladder'. Now Stockton Council is the first authority in the region to help local people gain a foothold on that ladder and make housing more affordable.

The Government believes everyone should have the opportunity of a decent home which they can afford. Yet nationally, house prices have doubled in relation to individual earnings since 1990.

Here in the Borough, house prices have also risen substantially. In June 2004 the average house price was £116,578 yet by June 2007 this had increased by 34 per cent to £156,022.

Unsurprisingly, this raised concerns locally about affordable housing. So, in April, the Council launches the region's first scheme of its kind, the Affordable Home Ownership Register, to ensure new affordable homes for sale are offered to local people who are unable to enter the housing market.

Julie Allport, the Council's Head of Housing, said: "We are very proud to be the first to be able to offer a

scheme like this. The current housing market makes it so much more difficult for people to buy their first home and this scheme will offer another route for some to become homeowners."

Various Council services, including housing, planning and regeneration, have worked together to create the scheme. For example, as developers submit new planning applications, the Council advises them of the requirement for affordable housing. Negotiations then take place to agree how many affordable homes can be delivered.

To be eligible to register, applicants must fit a set of criteria. If accepted onto the register, they will be matched against available properties and their details forwarded to the developer so they can discuss a potential sale.

The first homes will be available by the summer on the site of College Gardens, Billingham, (six with two-bedrooms and two with three-bedrooms). These will be shared ownership, with 35 per cent of the equity retained by a Housing Association.

To find out more, call (01642) 526035 or 526073 or email homeownership@stockton.gov.uk

Parking penalties on two levels

On 31 March new parking penalties came into force, with a lower rate for less serious offences.

A £70 rate will apply to offences where parking is prohibited, with lower £50 charges applying to lesser offences such as overstaying or failing to display a valid ticket. The new penalties will be enforced by parking attendants and the 50 per cent discount for early payment still apply.

Other changes include fixed penalties for obstructing dropped-kerb crossings and penalty charge notices issued by post where it has not been possible to affix them to a vehicle. As there may be extra delay in postal notices, we are extending the 50 per cent early payment discount period from 14 days to 21 days for all offences.

Championships return

The sport of Olympic Wrestling came to Stockton Sports Centre as the venue staged the English Junior Championships on 29 March (after Stockton News went to print). More than 150 wrestlers were expected from across the UK and Ireland and possibly from Holland and Belgium.

bright sparks

what's the score from
the word on the street...

Spaced out



Zeynep Boztepe (left) and Fatos Mahgur show off their planets

Young people have been getting creative with the cosmos on a project called 'Space Surfers' with Stockton Council's Youth Service and Asylum Support team.

Local Artists Michelle Tripp and Dave Allinson at Youth Space in Skinner Street have been working with the young people on the theme of 'aliens and space' to create an animated film.

Angela Nottingham, Life Skills Officer, said: "This project has been so much fun and enjoyed by all the young people, as they let their imagination take over by making planets, creating characters, props and costumes as well as using IT packages."

Trips to the beach, planetarium and the Imax theatre in Bradford helped provide more inspiration for the project. Funding came through a successful bid to Youthbank.

In vogue

A group of young girls are putting their artistic and creative talents to the test by designing and making party dresses with accessories.

Working with Stockton Council's Youth Service and Asylum Support team and artist Jessica Simpson, the girls will showcase their work in a special fashion show at a venue they have yet to choose.

Angela Nottingham, Life Skills Officer, said: "The girls are really enthusiastic about this project and having great fun choosing the fabrics as well as learning the skills of sewing and design."

Funding for the project comes through Youthbank.

FREE sport for youngsters

Aged 5-16 years old and fancy a go at something different?

Over the holiday period from April 7-20, more than 1,000 taster session places are available to sample activities such as watersports, street dance, trampolining, karate, badminton, judo and gymnastics.

It's all part of a project to open up sporting and physical opportunities at the Borough's Active Life centres thanks to a partnership between Tees Active and North Tees Primary Care Trust (PCT).

5,000 free Leisure Saver Cards are also available to youngsters from the Borough aged between 5-11. Valid for 12 months, the cards entitle holders to discounts up to 30 per cent on activities at Active Life Centres.

Allan McDermott, Tees Active Sports Academy Manager, said: "The support



from North Tees PCT has enabled us to introduce these two ideas to increase physical activity of young people in the Borough."

You can find out more about the free holiday programme and apply for a Leisure Saver Card at your local Active Life Centre – visit www.teesactive.co.uk or see page 35 for more details.

Dance moves at the forum



Dance moves to the latest chart hits are capturing the imagination of local youngsters as they strut their stuff to Justin, J Lo and Rihanna.

Called Street Dance, the weekly Wednesday sessions at Billingham Forum are designed for children aged nine years and above, and are proving popular with more than 20 at each session. Street Dance takes place from 5-6pm – call (01642) 551381 for details.

Have a go at jarping



An eggcellent Easter break is planned for youngsters at the Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre.

Craft sessions, competitions and treasure hunts will keep them entertained during the holidays from 7 – 18 April.

There's everything from a jarping competition (old fashioned egg smashing), crafts and egg decorating, an egg hunt, talent show, networked games and much more. You can even help spring clean the centre, with a healthy lunch included.

To find out more call (01642) 528046

What's On

April

www.stockton.gov.uk/events

Spark Art!

Saturdays from 10:30am-12:30pm, Spark Centre, Bishopston Road West. Tel: (01642) 527696.

1st April

Made in Stockton: Exhibition at Preston Hall Museum. Tel: (01642) 527375.

Kirklevington Stones: Exhibition at Preston Hall Museum. Tel: (01642) 527375.

2nd April

Wednesday Talk: Tom Moffatt's account of getting the Riverside Cricket ground, 3pm, Norton Library. Tel: (01642) 528161.

2nd & 30th April

Toddler Story Time (under 5s) Fairfield Library. Tel: (01642) 527962.

4th April

What's Up in the Night Sky? Wynyard Woodland Park Planetarium Show, 7:30pm. Tel: (01740) 630544.

4th - 11th May

Stockton Beat 50s Exhibition at Preston Hall Museum. Tel: (01642) 527375.

5th - 20th April

School Holiday Activities, Billingham Forum. Tel: (01642) 527375 or www.teesactive.co.uk

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th April

Saturday Story Time at Norton Library 2:15-2:45pm. Tel: (01642) 528019.

6th April

Yorkshire Fairs, Arts & Crafts Fair, Preston Hall Museum. Tel: (01642) 527375.

Myton Meander

10 mile guided cycle ride, 10am – 12 noon - meet at Myton House Pub, Ingleby Barwick. Tel: (01642) 526735.

Durham & North Yorkshire Swimming Gala Billingham Forum, 4 - 6:30pm. Tel: (01642) 551381 or visit www.teesactive.co.uk

6th- 8th April

High Street Fun Fair Fair on Stockton High Street. Tel: (01642) 527569.

7th-10th & 14th-17th April

Stockton Parent Support Holiday Activities Various venues. Booking essential. Tel: (01642) 878137.

7th April

Community STEPs drop in Westbury Street Library – Every Monday, CV Help, job search & advice. Tel: (01642) 528150.

Ecology Park Spring Stroll

Billingham Beck Valley Country Park, 1:30-3:30pm. Tel: (01642) 360376.

8th & 15th April

Daisy Chain swimming session Thornaby Pool, 10-11:30am. Tel: (01642) 616727.

8th April

Thomas & Friends (under 8s) Roseberry Library, 2:30-3:30pm. Tel: (01642) 528084.

9th April

WhizzKid Wednesday, Arts and crafts workshops, Preston Hall Museum. Tel: (01642) 527375.

10th & 17th April

Spring Craft Session, Booking required, 2-3pm, Stockton Central Library. Tel: (01642) 526522.

10th April

Easter Crafts, Norton Library, booking essential, 10:30-11:30am. Tel: (01642) 528019.

Book Group, Places limited, 7-8:30pm, Thornaby Central Library. Tel: (01642) 528117.

Craft Sessions

Children's crafts for up to 14 years old, 10:30-11:30am, Billingham Library. Tel: (01642) 527895.

Spring Craft Session

Egglescliffe Library, 3-4pm. Tel: (01642) 527958.

11th & 18th April

SNAPS Holiday Activities, Iceskating 10-11am, Billingham Forum. Tel: (01642) 530292.

11th April

Family Friday, Arts & Crafts Workshops, Preston Hall Museum. Tel: (01642) 527375.

Newt surveying techniques for beginners

Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park, 1-2pm. Tel: (01642) 371633.

Stories from the Ballet

Roseberry Library, 11am. Tel: (01642) 528084.

13th April

Discover Wynyard Woodland Park Wynyard Woodland Park, 10:30am-12noon. Tel: (01740) 630011.

14th April

Children's Craft Sessions 11:30am-12:30noon, Ingleby Barwick Library. Tel: (01642) 750767.

Spring Craft Session, Roseberry Library, 2:30-3:30pm. Tel: (01642) 528084.

15th April

Book Group, Places limited, 2-3:30pm, Thornaby Central Library. Tel: (01642) 528117.

17th April

Redhouse School Gala Billingham Forum, 1:30-4pm. Tel: (01642) 551381.

17th April - 14th July

Murky Waters, Exhibition at Preston Hall Museum. Tel: (01642) 527375.

18th April

Health Talk, Sarah Graham talks about drink driving and alcohol levels, 2pm, Norton Library. Tel: (01642) 528019.

The Kestrel's Trail

Billingham Beck Valley Country Park, 1:30-3:30pm. Tel: (01642) 360376.

Once Upon Your Toes

Ballet story session, 11am-12noon, Roseberry Library. Tel: (01642) 528084.

Spring Craft Session

Westbury Street Library, 2-4pm, booking essential. Tel: (01642) 528150.

Exoplanets and Extraterrestrials

Wynyard Woodland Park Planetarium Show, 7:30pm. Tel: (01740) 630544.

20th April

Looking out for Ratty, Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park, 10am-12noon. Tel: (01642) 371633.

Plant Swap

Wildlife Garden in Wynyard Woodland Park, 10am – 3pm. Tel: (01740) 630011.

21st & 28th April

Monday Group, Informal group, coffee, chat, occasional quizzes, Fairfield Library, 10am-12noon. Tel: (01642) 527962.

22nd April

Family History Group, Stockton Central Library, 2-4pm. Tel: (01642) 528079.

Pre School Library pop in

Stories & play under 5's, Roseworth Library. Tel: (01642) 528098.

24th April

Daffodils in Spring

Art on location, Wynyard Hall, 10am-3pm. Cost £34. Course Code NFC126. Tel: (01642) 527901.

25th April

Tilery Wander, Wynyard Woodland Park, 8-10pm. Tel: (01740) 630011.

26th April

Children's Craft Sessions

Drop in session, 10am-12noon, Ingleby Barwick Library. Tel: (01642) 750767.

30th April

Free Introduction to the Internet

Egglescliffe Library, 10-11.30am. Booking essential. Tel: (01642) 528023.

May

1st May

Stockton Revisited through the eyes of John Walker, Guided walk, meet at town hall, 10:30am. Tel: (01642) 528079.

3rd-5th May

Tees Valley Garden Show

Preston Park, 11am-5pm Sat, 10am-5pm Sun/Mon. Tel: (01423) 865809 or www.tgshow.co.uk.

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st May

Saturday Story Time, Norton Library, under 5's, 2:15-2:45pm. Tel: (01642) 528019.

4th May

May-time Mayhem Children's Event (age 5-11) Wynyard Woodland Park, 1:30-3:30pm. Advanced booking essential. Tel: (01740) 630011.

5th May

Butterwick Hospice May Fair

Norton Green. Tel: (01642) 628930.

Bank Holiday Fun

Billingham Forum, 10am-5pm. Tel: (01642) 551381 or www.teesactive.co.uk

Annual Tees Barrage 10k run

Tees Barrage. Email: phil.barker46@ntlworld.com

6th May

Egglecliffe & Preston Park guided walk
Meet in Preston Park car park, 10am-12:30noon.
Tel: (01642) 528079.

Egglecliffe & Preston Park

Enjoy the pleasures of a riverside walk on the Teesdale Way, 10am-12:30noon.

7th May

Victorian Washday

Event with Stockton Museums Service, 10:30am, Stockton Central Library. Tel: (01642) 528079.

Wednesday Talk

Julie Sparrow talks on Sports Physiotherapy & the Commonwealth games, 3pm, Norton Library
Tel: (01642) 528019.

7th, 14th, 21st, 28th May

Guided Walk and tour, Meet at Norton Library, 6pm, booking essential. Tel: 901642) 528019.

8th May

Shop till you drop, Stockton Central Library, 10am.
Tel: (01642) 528079.

Book Group, Places limited, Thornaby Central Library, 7-8:30pm. Tel: (01642) 526522.

11th May

Yorkshire Fairs, Arts and crafts, Preston Hall Museum. Tel: (01642) 527375.

Early morning bird watch, Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park, 6:30-8:30am. Tel: (01642) 371633.

Railway Run, 12 mile guided cycle ride, 9:30am-12noon, Wynyard Woodland Park visitor centre.
Tel: (01642) 526735.

12th May

Monday Group, Local history coffee morning with old photographs & maps, 10am-12noon, Fairfield Library. Tel: (01642) 527962.

History of Thornaby

Illustrated talk by Julian Herbert, Thornaby Central Library. Tel: (01642) 528117.

13th May

Family History Group, Stockton Central Library, 2-4pm. Tel: (01642) 528079.

Pre School Library pop in, Stories & play under 5s, Roseworth Library. Tel: (01642) 528098.

14th May

Stars fell on Stockton, Illustrated talk about The Globe Theatre by Barry Jones, 10:30am, Stockton Central Library. Tel: (01642) 528079.

Toddler Story time (under 5s)

Fairfield Library. Tel: (01642) 527962.

Stockton Club & Coach Awards

Judges Country House Hotel. Tel: (01642) 526690.

Health Talk, Mary Rawson talks about The Alexander Technique, 2pm, Norton Library.
Tel: (01642) 528019.

18th May

Early Birds, Billingham Beck Valley Country Park, 5:30-7:30am. Tel: (01642) 360376.

19th May

Coffee Morning, Local history morning with recipes & artefacts, 10am-12noon, Fairfield Library.
Tel: (01642) 527962.

Victorian Washday

Roseworth Library
Coffee afternoon & community history display, Roseworth Library, 10:30-11:30am.
Tel: (01642) 528098.

20th May

Book Group, Places limited, venue TBC, 2-3:30pm.
Tel: (01642) 526522.

23rd May

EBAY session, Open Technology Centre, Stockton Central Library, 9.30-11.30am
Tel: (01642) 528023. Booking essential

24th May

Children's Craft sessions
Father's Day crafts, 10am-12noon, Ingleby Barwick Library. Tel: (01642) 750767.

24th-25th May

Fins n Chrome, North East American Car Club event, Preston Park. Tel: (0191) 5550563.

24th-31st May

Half term school holiday activities
Billingham Forum. Tel: (01642) 527375 or
www.teesactive.co.uk

24th May-7th July

Mans Ruin, Exhibition at Preston Hall Museum.
Tel: (01642) 527375.

25th May

Make some noise at our Didgeeridoo Workshop
Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park, 1-3pm.
Booking essential. Tel: (01642) 371633.

History of the Tees Walk

Walk the Teesdale Way from Preston Park to Newport Bridge (10 miles), 10am-3pm. Booking essential. Tel: (01642) 527562.

26th May

Bank Holiday Fun, Billingham Forum, 10am-5pm.
Tel: (01642) 551381 or www.teesactive.co.uk

Northumbrian Piping Festival

Preston Hall Museum. Tel: (0164) 527375.

26th-29th May

Stockton Parent Support Holiday activities
Various venues, booking essential.
Tel: (01642) 878137.

28th May

WhizzKid Wednesday, Arts & crafts workshops, Preston Hall Museum. Tel: (01642) 527375.

Yarm & the bridge that never was

A walk starting at Town House, 10am-12noon.
Tel: (01642) 528079.

Craft Session

Yarm Library, 2.30-3.30pm-4pm booking essential.
Tel: (01642) 528153.

29th May

Railways Craft Session, Stockton Central Library, 2-3:30pm. Tel: (01642) 526522.
Egglecliffe Library, 3-4pm. Tel: (01642) 527958.

Craft Sessions

Children's crafts up to 14 years old, 10:30-11:30am, Billingham Library. Tel: (01642) 527895.

30th May

SNAPS Holiday activities
Billingham Forum. Tel: (01642) 530292.

Family Friday, Arts & Crafts Workshops, Preston Hall Museum. Tel: (01642) 527375.

Local History Craft session, Westbury Street Library, 2-4pm. Tel: (01642) 528150.

Flour trail

Join the ranger for a fun nature trail and test your wildlife knowledge at Billingham Beck Valley Country Park. 10:30am-12:30pm. Booking essential. Tel: (01642) 360376.

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

Put your art and soul into it!

Free weekly workshops led by artists are helping local people lift their spirits and unleash artistic creativity.

The workshops, at venues across the Borough, will suit anyone aged 18 or over, whether you're a complete novice or a budding Picasso.

Tuesdays see sessions at the Willows Centre, Northport road, Portrack. On Thursdays, workshops are at SPARK on Bishopton Road West and an over 50s session at South Thornaby Community Centre, Havilland Road. It's Billingham's turn on Fridays at the New Life Resource Centre.

All run from 10am – 12 noon and is a joint project by the Council's Arts Development team and North Tees PCT. To book or find out more call (01642) 526466 or email rachel.willis@stockton.gov.uk

Calling young 'dragons'

Local 8-13-year-olds can pitch their business ideas to judges 'Dragon's Den' style, to bid for funding from Stockton International Family Centre.

Finalists can expect support from business mentors, with a celebration and award planned for the final winner. The competition is run by the Junior Evolution Project, funded through The Children's Fund.

Working with local primary schools the Centre hopes local entrepreneurs will support the project. To find out more call Claire Gee on (01642) 612400 or claire@sifc.org

Ward Surgeries

1st April 2008 – 31st May 2008

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

BILLINGHAM CENTRAL 6:30PM – 7:30PM

23 Apr Billingham Youth & Community Centre
14 May Billingham Youth & Community Centre
COUNCILLORS MRS ANN MCCOY TEL: 01642 535604
ann.mccoy@stockton.gov.uk
BARRY WOODHOUSE TEL: 01642 371638
barry.woodhouse@stockton.gov.uk

BILLINGHAM EAST

25 Apr New Life Resource Centre 5:00pm – 5:45pm
Synthonia Scout Group Hall, 5:50pm – 6:30pm
23 May As above
COUNCILLORS ALEX CUNNINGHAM TEL: 01642 551251
alex.cunningham@stockton.gov.uk
MICK STOKER TEL: 01642 371641
mick.stoker@stockton.gov.uk

BILLINGHAM NORTH 6:30PM – 7:30PM

14 Apr High Grange Community Centre
12 May North Billingham Methodist Church
COUNCILLORS HILARY AGGIO TEL: 01642 565016
hilary.aggio@stockton.gov.uk
MRS LYNNE APEDAILE TEL: 01740 645216
lynne.apedaile@stockton.gov.uk
COLIN LECKONBY TEL: 01642 872896
colin.leckonby@stockton.gov.uk

BILLINGHAM SOUTH 6:00PM – 7:00PM

10 Apr Billingham Branch Library, Bedale Avenue
8 May As above
COUNCILLORS MRS JEAN O'DONNELL TEL: 01642 559717
MICHAEL SMITH TEL: 01642 371782
michael.smith@stockton.gov.uk

BILLINGHAM WEST 6:00PM – 7:00PM

25 Apr St Mary Magdalene Church
30 May As above
COUNCILLORS MRS MARY WOMPHEY TEL: 01642 555755
MICK WOMPHEY TEL: 01642 555755

BISHOPSGARTH & ELM TREE (STOCKTON)

15 Apr Elm Tree Community Ctre 6:00pm – 7:00pm
12 May Bishopsgarth School 6:00pm – 6:30pm
COUNCILLORS MRS SUZANNE FLETCHER MBE
TEL: 01642 787652 suzanne.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk
MRS JULIA ROBERTS TEL: 01642 606732
julia.roberts@stockton.gov.uk

EAGLESCLIFFE

4 Apr Trinity Methodist Church, 6:30 – 7:30pm
15 Apr Egglecliffe Parish Hall, 6:00 – 7:00pm
2 May Trinity Methodist Church, 6:30 – 7:30pm
20 May Egglecliffe Community Centre, 6:30 – 7:30pm
COUNCILLORS JOHN FLETCHER TEL: 01642 787652
john.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk
ALAN LEWIS TEL: 01642 784910
alan.lewis@stockton.gov.uk
MRS MAUREEN RIGG TEL: 01642 785689
maureen.rigg@stockton.gov.uk

FAIRFIELD 6:30PM – 7:00PM

1 Apr Fairfield Primary School
12 May As above
COUNCILLORS MAURICE PERRY TEL: 01642 586914
WILLIAM WOODHEAD TEL: 01642 584409

GRANGEFIELD 6:00PM – 7:00PM

10 Apr Grays Road Institute
14 Apr Fairfield Library
12 May Scout Hut, Greens Grove
COUNCILLORS PHILLIP BROUGHTON TEL: 01642 765325
phillip.broughton@stockton.gov.uk
AIDAN COCKERILL TEL: 01642 613258
aidan.cockerill@stockton.gov.uk

HARDWICK WARD 6:00PM – 7:00PM

4 Apr Hardwick Community Centre, Wheatley Road
18 Apr As above
2 May As above
16 May As above
30 May As above
COUNCILLORS MRS LIZ NESBITT TEL: 01642 601731
BILL NOBLE TEL: 01642 671609

HARTBURN 6:45PM – 7:30PM

7 Apr Elmwood Community Centre
No May Surgery
COUNCILLORS TERRY LAING TEL: 01642 587356
terry.laing@stockton.gov.uk
KEN LUPTON TEL: 01642 587286
ken.lupton@stockton.gov.uk

INGLEBY BARWICK EAST 6:00PM – 7:00PM

(Joint surgery with Ingleby Barwick West)
3 Apr All Saints C of E Secondary School, Blair Av
1 May As above
Maltby & Hilton
Ward Surgeries are also held for 30 minutes prior to each Parish Council meeting in the Village Halls on an appointment only basis. Please contact Councillors Faulks, Harrington or Larkin to book an appointment. Residents are very welcome to attend the monthly Ward Surgery held in Ingleby Barwick

COUNCILLORS KEVIN FAULKS TEL: 01642 764874
kevin.faulks@stockton.gov.uk
DAVID HARRINGTON TEL: 01642 764652
david.harrington@stockton.gov.uk
ANDREW LARKIN TEL: 01642 764706

INGLEBY BARWICK WEST 6:00PM – 7:00PM

(Joint surgery with Ingleby Barwick East)
3 Apr All Saints C of E Secondary School, Blair Av
1 May As above
COUNCILLORS KEN DIXON TEL: 01642 764650
ken.dixon@stockton.gov.uk
LEE NARROWAY TEL: 01642 764703
lee.narroway@stockton.gov.uk
ROSS PATTERSON TEL: 01642 764865
ross.patterson@stockton.gov.uk

MANDALE & VICTORIA

5 Apr Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
12:00 – 1:00pm
3 May Thornaby Library, Westbury St. 11:00am – 12:00
COUNCILLORS TINA LARGE TEL: 01642 614618
tina.large@stockton.gov.uk
MRS ALLISON TRAINER TEL: 01642 647421
allison.trainer@stockton.gov.uk
STEVE WALMSLEY TEL: 01642 604176

NEWTOWN 6:00PM – 7:00PM

11 Apr Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre
25 Apr Newtown Community Resource Centre
9 May Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre
23 May Newtown Community Resource Centre
COUNCILLORS PAUL BAKER TEL: 01642 608406
paul.baker@stockton.gov.uk
BOB GIBSON OBE TEL: 01642 614482
robert.gibson@stockton.gov.uk

NORTHERN PARISHES 7:00PM – 8:00PM

3 Apr Wolviston Common Room, High Street
1 May Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles
COUNCILLOR JOHN GARDNER TEL: 01740 645357
john.gardner@stockton.gov.uk

NORTON NORTH 6:00PM – 7:00PM

2 Apr Frederick Nattrass Primary School
16 Apr Norton Library
30 Apr Norton North Community & Resource Centre
14 May Frederick Nattrass Primary School
COUNCILLORS MAURICE FRANKLAND TEL: 01642 552861
MRS KATH NELSON TEL: 01642 555729
kathryn.nelson@stockton.gov.uk

NORTON SOUTH 6:00PM – 7:00PM

11 Apr St Michael's Centre, Edgar Street
25 Apr Albany Resource Centre
9 May St Michael's Centre, Edgar Street
23 May Albany Resource Centre
COUNCILLORS BOB COOK TEL: 01642 890058
robert.cook@stockton.gov.uk
STEVE NELSON TEL: 01642 534417
steve.nelson@stockton.gov.uk

NORTON WEST

1 Apr The Education Centre, Junction Road
6:00PM – 6:30PM – Young people's surgery
6:30PM – 7:00PM – Adults surgery
13 May As above
COUNCILLORS MRS ANN CAINS TEL: 01642 555394
ann.cains@stockton.gov.uk
DICK CAINS JP TEL: 01642 555394
dick.cains@stockton.gov.uk

PARKFIELD & OXBRIDGE 6:00PM – 7:00PM

3 Apr Parkfield Community Centre
17 Apr Oxbridge Christian Fellowship, Side Entrance, Norfolk Street
1 May Parkfield Community Centre
15 May Oxbridge Christian Fellowship, Side Entrance, Norfolk Street
COUNCILLORS MOHAMMED JAVED TEL: 01642 602420
ROY RIX TEL: 01642 674861
roy.rix@stockton.gov.uk

ROSEWORTH

21 Apr Kiora Hall Youth & Community Centre
5:15pm – 6:15pm
13 May Kiora Hall Youth & Community Centre
7:00pm – 8:00pm
COUNCILLORS JIM BEALL TEL: 01642 602510
jim.beall@stockton.gov.uk
MISS BARBARA INMAN TEL: 01642 586564
barbara.inman@stockton.gov.uk

STAINSBY HILL

19 Apr Thornaby Pavilion, 11:00am – 12:00
15 May South Thornaby Community & Resource Centre
6:00pm – 7:00pm
COUNCILLORS MRS EILEEN CRAGGS MBE TEL: 01642 764858
eileen.craggs@stockton.gov.uk
MRS SYLVIA WALMSLEY TEL: 01642 602375
sylvia.walmsley@stockton.gov.uk

STOCKTON TOWN CENTRE 6:00PM – 7:00PM

3 Apr Willows Centre, Northport Road
10 Apr Parkfield Community Centre
17 Apr Victoria Community Centre
24 Apr Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
1 May Willows Centre, Northport Road
8 May Parkfield Community Centre
15 May Victoria Community Centre
22 May Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
COUNCILLORS DAVID COLEMAN TEL: 01642 673952
david.coleman@stockton.gov.uk
PAUL KIRTON TEL: 01642 559331

VILLAGE 5:00PM – 6:00PM

7 Apr Thornaby Pavilion
5 May As above
COUNCILLORS IAN DALGARNO TEL: 01642 882985
MICK EDDY TEL: 01642 765919

WESTERN PARISHES

1 Apr The Chapel School Room, Carlton
7:00pm – 7:30pm
7 Apr Stillington Village Hall, Stillington
6:30pm – 7:00pm
13 May The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
7:00pm – 7:30pm
15 May Elton Hall Nursing Home, Elton
6:15pm – 6:45pm
COUNCILLOR FRED SALT TEL: 01740 630771

YARM

1 Apr Rigby House 6:00PM – 6:45PM
6 May Yarm Library 6:00PM – 6:45PM
COUNCILLORS
MRS JENNIE BEAUMONT TEL: 01642 785304
jennie.beaumont@stockton.gov.uk
JACKIE EARL TEL: 01642 786346
ANDREW SHERRIS TEL: 01642 786767
andrew.sherris@stockton.gov.uk

To contact MPs and MEPs

MPs - Members of Parliament 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
- email stephen-hughes@btconnect.com
Martin Callanan (Conservative)
- Tel: 0191 284 9902
- email mcallanan@europarl.eu.int
Fiona Hall (Liberal Democrat)
- Tel: 0191 383 0119
- email fiona@fionahallmep.co.uk

True or false – answers (from page 11) How well did you do?

- 1) **FALSE** Generally if you are going to be out of the room for more than 90 seconds it is more cost effective to turn them off (this also applies to low energy light bulbs).
- 2) **FALSE** Always have a water heater on a timer.
- 3) **SOMETIMES FALSE AND SOMETIMES TRUE** It depends on the efficiency of your boiler. Broadly, if you have a modern, high-efficiency boiler linked to a hot water tank thermostat, then it will be better to use the boiler to heat water, year round.
- 4) **FALSE** If everyone turned their TV completely off it would save £76 million pounds a year!!
- 5) **FALSE** It's always best to run your heating on the timer.
- 6) **FALSE** When you shut down your PC the monitor goes into standby mode and still uses electricity. Turn the monitor off and save yourself some money.
- 7) **FALSE** The cavity is there to stop moisture travelling from the first course of bricks to the second. Cavity wall insulation does not interfere with this.
- 8) **FALSE** There is a very small amount of mercury in a low energy light bulb which does not escape during normal use. For details on disposal call Care For Your Area on (01642) 391959.
- 9) **FALSE** Laptop computers can use up to 90 per cent less energy than a traditional desk-top computer.
- 10) **FALSE** You can purchase equipment to generate your own energy but you can also buy green energy from your fuel supplier (see pages 10/11).
- 11) **FALSE** Individuals can make a difference. If every one in Stockton turned the heating down by one degree Celsius, it would save enough CO2 to fill 4,292 hot air balloons and save approx £3 million per year.

What happens next?

Following Sustrans' Connect2 project win of a share of the Big Lottery Fund's 'People's Millions', Stockton Council's first priority is to analyse the results of the public consultation which took place in the run-up to the vote.

Early indications show strong support for all four proposals to link Ingleby Barwick with Eaglescliffe, Preston Park, Thornaby and Yarm via a series of new pedestrian and cycle routes.

The next step will be to put together a project plan to deliver the scheme over the next five years, and seek its endorsement by the Council's Cabinet this spring.

Stockton Council will receive £600,000 towards the scheme. However some issues must still be resolved, including the need to secure additional funding, acquire land, carry out detailed design and obtain planning permission.

So works 'on the ground' won't be starting straight away but we will be doing all we can to make things happen as quickly as possible. Watch this space for details and many thanks to everyone who took the time and trouble to vote!

forget antibiotics
the No.1
cure for
colds and
flu is...

NHS



here's what to do • drink plenty of fluids • if needed take your usual painkiller • get lots of rest

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Barratt in Stockton

3 bedroom homes from only £67,250

Helping First Time Buyers step onto the property ladder

2 BEDROOM WASHINGTON

Thanks to the government's new HomeBuy initiative if you're a first time buyer or a key worker you could buy and own 100% of a new home and pay only 50% of the cost.

This scheme is available on Barratt's Hardwick Green development in Stockton but **HURRY** as properties are strictly limited. To find out if you're eligible or to make an application give us a call **NOW**.

HomeBuy
a government initiative

Hardwick Green, Whessoe Road, Stockton, TS19 8NJ
A brand new development of 2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes.

Sales office open daily 10am to 5pm
Call 01642 613 752
General enquiries call 0845 60 49 345
www.barratthomes.co.uk/hardwick

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HOMES
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Any promotion Barratt Homes offer is subject to contract status, selected plots only, subject to availability and cannot be used in conjunction with any other Barratt Homes offer. Prices and details are correct at time of going to press. Images are typical of Barratt Homes. Terms & conditions apply for Government Home Initiative, contact us for more details.

FIND 'N' FIX

STOCKTON COUNCIL'S HIGHWAY REPAIR TEAM

keeping you on the road



Around 500 miles of roads and footpaths make up the Borough's 3,300 streets - and all need to be maintained. Here's just some of Stockton Council's work over the past year.

Major Improvements

- A19 Portrack roundabout - traffic signals/lane widening - £3m
- A177 Durham Road Mile House junction improvement - £500,000
- Allensway, Thornaby Town Centre, junction improvement - £200,000

Highway Maintenance

- 12 miles of roads resurfaced (39 schemes) - £1.4m
- 7 miles of footways renewed (29 schemes) - £1m

Routine Repairs

We inspect all streets every six months, busy junctions every three months and main shopping centres monthly.

On main roads, mobile inspections identify serious defects for immediate repair and, in the past year, more than 5,700 minor repairs.

We also rely on you for information, 7,000-plus calls to the Council's Care For Your Area team led to a further 2,400 repairs. We repaired around 600 urgent cases within 24 hours



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CARE FOR YOUR AREA
01642 391959

Email: careforyourarea@stockton.gov.uk

Visit: www.stockton.gov.uk

SPORTING START

7th-20th April

Funded by North Tees Primary Care Trust **NHS**



IT'S ALL FREE!

- Do you live in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees?
- Are you aged between 5-16?

If the answer to these questions are YES!! Then here is your chance to try your hand at a wide range of

great activities including watersports, street dance, spinning, martial arts and many more all **FREE OF CHARGE.**

For more information about this programme contact any of your local Active Life Centres or visit our website (see below).



Funded by North Tees Primary Care Trust **NHS**

Do you live in the Borough of Stockton on Tees?

Are you 5-11 years of age?

If the answer is YES, we have 5000 Leisure Saver Cards to give away. The Leisure Saver Card entitles you to up to 45% discount on a wide range of activities at your local Active Life Centre.

Application forms are available from your local Active Life Centres or you can download the form from our website (see below).

Application forms are available from your local Active Life Centres (see below) or you can download the form from our website @...

www.teesactive.co.uk

Billingham Forum 01642 551381
Splash 01642 527272
Stockton Sports Centre 01642 528282
Thornaby Pavilion 01642 760971

Thornaby Pool 01642 616727
Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre 01642 528689

These facilities are supported by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and are managed by Tees Active Ltd.





No gimmicks –
just homes at
fantastic prices.

Hardwick Green, Piper Knowle Road,
Hardwick, Stockton on Tees, TS19 8JQ.
3 bedroom homes from £119,995.
4 bedroom detached homes from £158,000.

House to sell?

We can help you move with our **Easy Key** assisted-sale scheme and we'll pay:

- Estate agent's fees and advertising costs*
- £500 towards survey fee*
- £450 towards your legal fees*
- HIP fee paid*

For more information visit
www.haslamhomes.co.uk

Showhome and Sales Office open 10am-4.30pm.
Thursday to Monday (Closed Tuesday and Wednesday).
Tel 01642 614198.



HaslamHomes

Where you want to live

*Subject to status and availability and the use of Haslam Homes' nominated solicitor and financial adviser – please ask sales executives for details. Photograph shown is for illustrative purposes only and does not necessarily represent house types on site.

Worried About Your Council Tax? Then do what Mr Smith did...

He called **Bill** and **Ben**. Staff told him he was entitled to:

- A Council Tax Band reduction due to his permanent disability
- A 25% Single Person Discount due to living on his own
- Full Council Tax Benefit due to getting Guaranteed Pension Credit

Mr Smith was delighted, he had no Council Tax to pay.

Call **Bill** on 01642 397108
for information about
Council Tax discounts and
exemptions



Call **Ben** on 01642 393829
for information about
Council Tax Benefit




Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

WORK IT OUT!

Has your Health Club, Gym or Leisure Centre all of this...

- Access to 3 newly equipped gyms within a 10 mile radius - **Billingham Forum, Splash** and our **New Gym @ Thornaby Pavilion**
- Over 70 fitness classes - Pump fx, Spinning, Boxercise, Pilates, Salsa and many more
- 3 Pools with both adult & family friendly facilities and programming
- Flexible Payment Options & Concessionary Rates
- Qualified Health & Fitness Advisor's - REPS (Register of Exercise Professionals)
- Specialist Health Programmes & Activities - GP Referral, Weight Management, Pre/Post Natal and many more....

Well Activ8 has!

Work it out before you work out;

	Joining/Admin Fee	Monthly	Total Cost (Year)
The most you can pay...	A one off start-up fee payable up front...	The monthly fee you commit to...	Start-up + (monthly x12)
Activ8 Monthly (Based on a 6 month committed membership)	£25	£22.50	£295.00
Your Club/Gym/Centre	£	£	£
Don't forget! Activ8 Annual membership also available for only... £245	How much could you save?...		£

NOW OPEN

ACTIV8 GYM
at **THORNABY PAVILION**

Town Centre,
Thornaby,
Stockton-on-Tees TS17 9EW
TELEPHONE:
01642 760971

Speak to a Health & Fitness Advisor today ...



Billingham Forum 01642 55 13 81
Health and Fitness Advisor 01642 524585

Splash 01642 527272
Health and Fitness Advisor 01642 526251

Thornaby Pavilion 01642 760971
Health and Fitness Advisor 01642 528581

If we are unavailable to take your call, please leave a message and an Activ8 Health and Fitness Advisor will contact you.
These facilities are supported by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and are managed by Tees Active Ltd.

www.teesactive.co.uk

Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Stockton Adult Education Service

APRIL 2008						
Course Title	Day	Date	Times	Venue	Fee	Code
Living with Colour	Sat	19th	10 - 2pm	Preston Hall	£15.00	NFC147
Practical workshop and an introduction to theory and practice of colour with Graham Head.						
Art on location: Daffodils in Spring	Thurs	24th	10 - 3pm	Wynyard Hall, Stockton	£34.00	NFC126
Artists of all abilities are welcome, including learners wishing to enhance their portfolio of work of landscape painting in the beautiful setting of Wynyard Hall. Please bring with you your easel and art materials. Afternoon tea/light lunch will be provided.						
Be inspired by Mosaics	Thurs	24th	6.30 - 9pm	Klora Hall	£25.00	NFC127
A workshop for beginners how to get to grips designing with mosaics.						
Ethnic Theme Design Workshop with artist Naina Malde	Sat	26th	10 - 12pm	Preston Hall	£25.00	NFC148
Dyslexia 2-days	Sat	26th	9.30 - 12pm	Elmwood Community Centre	£35.00	NFC125
An essential course for those considering supporting someone with work or study needs. Tutor Laura Bowie will guide you through several activities to help with Dyslexia.						
Rock Guitar	Sat	26th	10 - 1pm	Billingham Community Centre	£15.00	NFC123
The minor pentatonic scale, power chords and progressions. Use of drum machines. For the more advanced player. Please bring with you your guitar and amp and any other equipment you may need.						
Craft activity (Bleach Painting)	Sat	26th	10 - 1pm	Klora Hall	£15.00	NFC124



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with our range of
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short courses

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Vouchers are now
available from
£1 to £100

**Enrol: (01642)
527904/01**

<http://enrol.stockton.gov.uk>

For more update information
visit our website:
www.stockton.gov.uk/adulted



stockton
renaissance

Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board Meetings

Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board Meeting, Tuesdays 5pm

- 1st April 2008, 5pm
- 6th May 2008, 5pm
- 3rd June 2008, 5pm

Central Area Partnership Board Meeting

- 24th April 2008, 2pm
- 29th May 2008, 10am

The Billingham Partnership Board Meeting

- 7th April 2008, 5.45pm
- 5th May 2008, 5.45pm
- 2nd June 2008, 5.45pm

Eastern Area Partnership Board Meeting

- 22nd April 2008, 5.30pm
- 27th May 2008, 9.30am

Western Area Partnership Board Meeting

- 31st March 2008, 6pm
- 28th April 2008, 6pm
- 19th May 2008, 6pm

Contact Sarah Upex on (01642) 526498 or visit the Website: www.stockton.gov.uk/renaissance

These partnerships 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, please ring the number above to confirm the venue.



Stockton Business Centre

THE CENTRE FOR BUSINESS

We're open,
we're bigger &
we're ready for
your business



- 24 hour access and security
- Free parking
- Easy In - Easy Out terms
- Free business advice and counselling
- Meeting and conference rooms
- Broadband internet and VOIP Telephony to all units



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

For further information contact:
Centre Manager - Tony Sedgewick

© 01642 527933

www.stocktonbusinesscentre.org



Training and Employment Services offer a broad range of training in;

Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships •
Entry to Employment • Train to Gain • Adult Programmes •
Private Training

This training supports the following business sectors;

Business Administration • Child Care • Horticulture •
Joinery • Catering • Retail • Warehousing • Customer Service •
Maintenance Operations • Care

To find out more about the programmes call our
main reception on 01642 528261

Heart-warming meals
delivered to your door



Packed with wholesome hearty flavours our 2008 menu will certainly warm your cockles! Try succulent pork loin roasted to perfection, duck breast drizzled in brandy sauce or lamb steak that melts in your mouth. Delivered free and quick-to-heat, our dishes are the perfect treat!

To order call 01642 643999

OVER 175 DISHES • NO MINIMUM ORDER • FREE DELIVERY

For a free 2008 menu call
0800 773 773
or visit www.wiltshirefarmfoods.com


Wiltshire Farm Foods
delicious made to your door

New 2008 Brochure Available

your green waste collections start this month



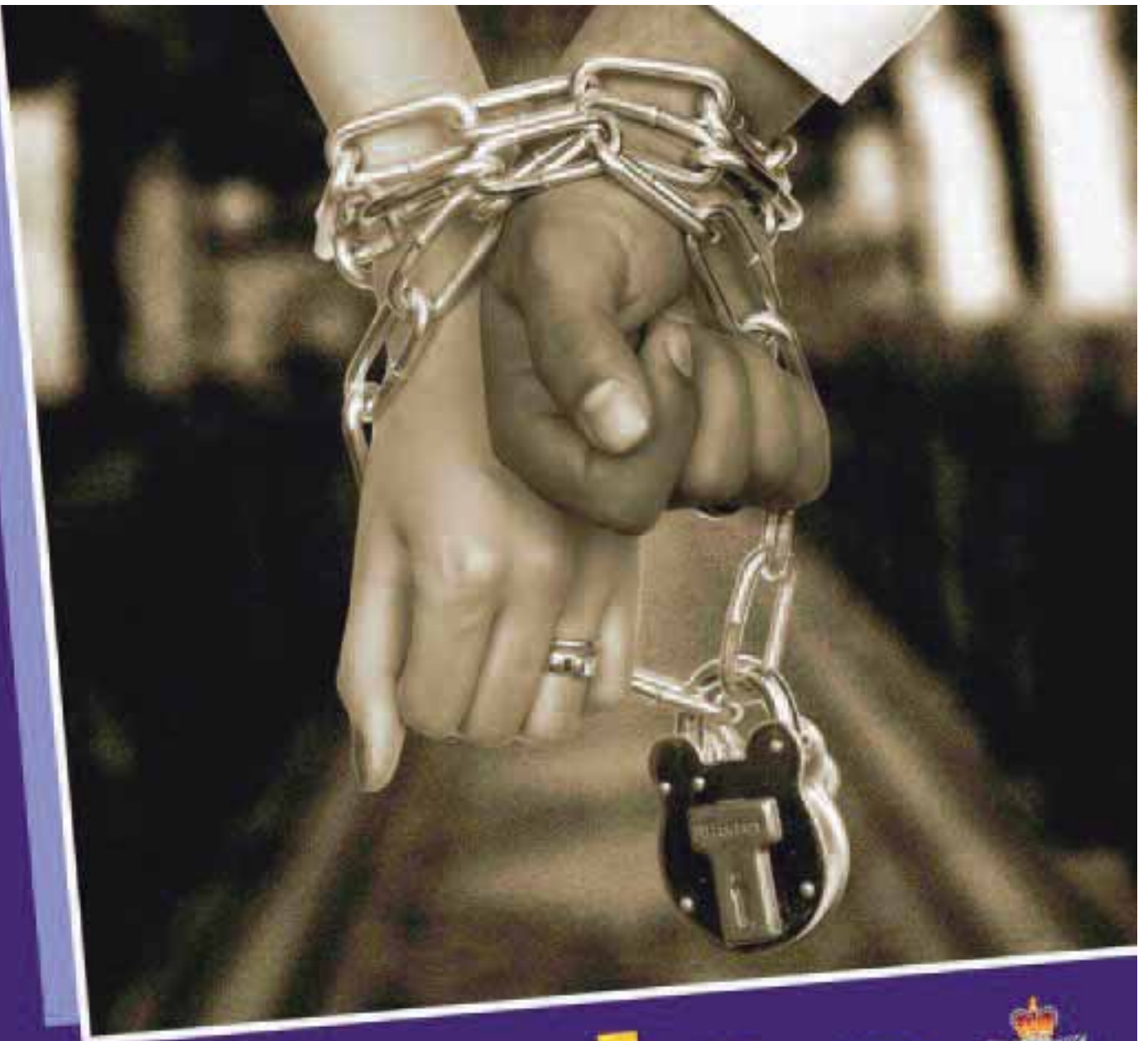
With spring in the air you'll be glad to know that our fortnightly green waste collection service resumes on March 3rd (red week) and March 10th (blue week). You should already have received your bags and collection calendar.

If you have not yet received your bags or calendar, or would like further details of this service, please call (01642) 391959, or email: careforyourarea@stockton.gov.uk

 **recycle**
for Stockton

**CARE FOR YOUR AREA
NO MESSING!**


Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL



choice

you have a right to choose



IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS BEING FORCED
INTO A MARRIAGE, CONTACT CLEVELAND POLICE

**FREE
PHONE**

0800 5 999 365 **CALL
24/7**

CALL IN CONFIDENCE - CALL WITH CONFIDENCE