

Stockton

NEWS

Stockton Council's Award Winning Community Magazine - Autumn 2002



Digital 1,2,3 Media

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

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

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



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

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



Low income?

You may be entitled to Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit

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

Ring our Helpline

Stockton 393829



Minicom number 393806

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



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

Page

- 4** **Taxation Service gets good report**

The Audit Commission gives Stockton Council's Taxation Service a two star rating with excellent prospects for improvement.
- 7** **National Refugee Week is celebrated in style**

Cultural diversity was celebrated in Stockton with a host of activities to mark the event.
- 8-9** **Environmental Issues**

A look at the new kerbside recycling scheme soon to be rolled out in parts of the Borough, and other ways of going 'green' to help the environment.
- 11** **Russians visit Stockton**

Stockton's Bookbus attracts attention from Russia and delegates from Volgograd climb on board.
- 12** **Sports Unit is the best in England**

Stockton Council's Sports Unit scores a high percentage in the UK wide Quest scheme.
- 13** **It pays to keep up**

A new out of hours team is established to help tenants avoid getting arrears with their rent payments.
- 14** **£300,000 environmental project underway**

Ambitious plans to improve the landscape around the former Portrack Incinerator set to begin.
- 18-19** **A look back at the 15th Stockton International Riverside Festival**

A picture special that captures the flavour of the renowned street theatre festival.
- 20-21** **In and Around Stockton**

A look around the market town with the famous wide High Street and the new landmarks that now grace the town's skyline.
- 31** **Creating a community project**

Community works together to build a barge for everyone.



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

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

Jubilee honour for volunteer

A Norton pensioner had the honour of taking part in the Queen's Golden Jubilee Baton Relay.

Volunteer cycling marshal Harry Dalkin was selected by a panel of judges, under the supervision of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, to carry the baton as it passed through Middlesbrough on the 32nd day of the relay.

"It was very nice to take part in the Jubilee Baton Relay and I ran the 500 yards early on a Sunday morning in Middlesbrough," said Mr Dalkin.

Mr Dalkin, who is 69 years old, is an all round sportsman who has completed every Great North Run to date.

He is an active member of SUSTRANS, supporting the National Cycle Network in the North and he supports Stockton Council by acting as a volunteer cycling marshal in the Sunday cycle ride programme.

As well as taking part in the Jubilee Baton Relay, Mr Dalkin has also just returned from Manchester where he watched the Commonwealth Games.



Dustbin diving

Householders in Stockton are being warned about the dangers of throwing sensitive information into their dustbin.

The practice of 'dustbin diving', where fraudsters rummage through the contents of dustbins, is on the increase in the town and Stockton Council is urging residents to be on their guard.

A sample survey of the contents of 400 dustbins readily accessible outside 'ordinary' homes revealed that:

More than 70 per cent of the bins contained the full names and addresses of at least one member of the household.

Forty per cent threw up an entire credit or debit card number that could be linked to an individual.

More than 75 per cent of these included the vital expiry date details.

Twenty per cent yielded a bank account and sort code that could be linked to a member of the household.

Little or no effort was made to destroy any of these documents. The worst offenders were in the more affluent areas.

Getting access to information like this can result in credit/debit card fraud or identity theft. To combat these fraudsters, people are urged not to throw old bank or visa statements into their dustbin. The only safe way to dispose of them is to burn them or shred them well.

What a lifesaver



Stockton Council's leisure assistant Rebekka Teasdale made a real splash at the World Life Saving Championships 'Rescue 2002'.

The 23-year-old was part of a 12-person squad representing the Royal Life Saving Society United Kingdom at the event held at Daytona Beach in America.

Rebekka, who works at Splash, captained the gold medal winning team to take the Simulated Emergency Response Competition (SERC) title.

The Championships included beach, ocean and pool events and saw

Australia, America, New Zealand, Germany and Belgium among the competing teams.

Rebekka trains with the Billingham Forum Life Saving Club and has been part of the national team since 1992. She has competed at the Championships before at the 2002 competition in Sydney, Australia.

"This year's Championships were really enjoyable", said Rebekka, who as well as captaining the SERC team, was also vice captain of the whole team.

The United Kingdom team finished 14th out of 26 in the whole competition.

Triple award for Stockton Online

The work of Stockton Online has been recognised with three national awards from UK Online.

South Thornaby Community and Resource Centre gained Best UK Online Centre for its work in providing further learning courses, including one-to-one tuition to enable users to progress to formal learning.

The second award for the Best UK Online Centre Learner Support Staff went to Sean Ridgeway, who is based at Stockton Online at the International Family Centre, Stockton. This award is for dedication and commitment to attracting and retaining users from the hard to reach groups, as well as encouraging and successfully getting users to undertake further learning.

Best UK Online Centre Learner Award was given to Kathy Tidy who studied at Stockton Online at South Thornaby Community Resource Centre. Kathy showed that she had an above average dedication to learning as well as an above average improvement from starting as a total beginner. For her dedication and hard work, Kathy was presented with an Asda voucher for £100.

Paul Marshall, Stockton Online co-ordinator, said: "This is fantastic news for both the staff who work at Stockton Online line as well as the users of it. It's very satisfying to know that all the hard work and dedication has been recognised.

"Sol has progressed so rapidly over the last few months that it has doubled its membership to almost 5,000 and we expect this figure to rise".

For details of the nearest Stockton Online centre please call (01642) 863755.

The Endeavour hosts launch of BBC documentary



Stockton's replica of The Endeavour became the host for the launch of a new BBC documentary charting the adventures of a 21st Century crew as they follow in the footsteps of Captain Cook.

The replica ship of The Endeavour, based at Castlegate Quay, Stockton, played host to specially invited people from around the North-East who gathered to celebrate the new six-week programme and to see a preview.

The BBC2 programme was designed to throw new light on the historical and scientific aspects of Captain Cook's original journey.

Stockton's replica ship, created from metal which looks like wood, floats but is imprisoned on the River Tees by

two bridges on either side. It has become a popular venue for weddings, group tours, school parties and sleepovers for scouts, brownies and youth clubs to experience life on board in the 18th Century.

The ship is also open to the public most Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. It is run by the Castlegate Quay Trust and relies on volunteers to keep running.

Function Co-ordinator Margaret Lowther, said: "Our volunteers were invited to the preview night as well. We rely so much on our volunteers and we're always looking for more people to help."

Anyone interested in volunteering to work with the replica Endeavour should contact Margaret on (01642) 676844.

Taxation service gets good report

The Taxation Service of Stockton Borough Council has achieved a grade of "good" following an inspection of the service it provides.

The Audit Commission awards stars to organisations based on the services provided. The grading system ranges from no stars for a poor service, one star for fair, two for good and three for excellent.

An inspection of the Taxation Service, which collects Council Tax and Business Rates across the Borough, took place in April. The Division was assessed as providing a good service with excellent prospects for improvement.

The Audit Commission's report makes recommendations for further improvement in the future including that current year collection rates should be increased and that customer needs should be kept at the forefront when a new IT system is implemented.

The report highlights the Council's reputation locally and nationally for excellence and innovation, its high

long-term collection rates for both Council Tax and Business Rates, high levels of customer satisfaction and the mechanisms in place to identify and understand customers' needs.

Stockton Council's Head of Taxation and Administration Debbie Hurwood, said: "The inspection report recognises that this is a Council which is trying to get the right balance between having good collection rates, a cost effective service and delivering high levels of customer satisfaction.

"The "good" two star rating confirms that we are well on the way to achieving this goal, and the recommendations give us a good pointer to what we need to do to improve even more in the future. We are delighted that the inspectors concluded that the service has excellent prospects for improvement."

In October 2001, the service was awarded a Charter Mark by the Government for the third consecutive time, in recognition of its excellent standards of customer service.

Children run the Council



Schoolchildren from across the Stockton Borough Council area recently took over control of the local authority for the day.

The teams of Year 9 students took on the roles of a Local Authority Management Team for the day.

Throughout the day the nine teams of eight members faced a variety of situations that a real Council might have to face such as anti-social behaviour problems, public events and litter. Responses were given a tight deadline.

They had to attend interviews with the press and Councillors and also had to face a special Council meeting to justify the decisions they had made.

The pupils involved were from Bishopsgarth Comprehensive, Blakeston School, Grangefield School, St Michael's RC Comprehensive, Thornaby Community School, Billingham Campus Comprehensive, Egglecliffe Comprehensive, Ian Ramsey CE Comprehensive and St Patrick's RC Comprehensive.

The winning team came from Blakeston School and they received a trophy and £100 worth of vouchers to be used at Staples.

The pupils enjoyed the experience so much that now the event will be repeated three times a year for Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 students.

A school-based game is currently being developed by staff in Stockton Council's Policy and Performance Standards Unit and Democratic Services. This will look in more depth at democracy issues.

Hanging baskets sponsorship



Colourful blooms have been brightening up streets around a Stockton suburb thanks to a public/private partnership.

The hanging baskets went up around Newtown after TL Care Homes stepped in to sponsor a grounds maintenance initiative to the tune of £1,000.

And a further sponsorship arrangement was reached between Enterprise Plc and Stockton Council. Enterprise Plc agreed to paint the fountain in Ropner Park and plant decorative flowers around it.

Small plaques are being placed around the hanging baskets and the fountain to mark the partnership between the private companies and the Council.

Quality marks for schools

Schools from Stockton Borough have had their efforts in writing, reading and maths rewarded with the Basic Skills Agency Quality Mark.

The end of the school year saw celebrations at Oakdene Primary School in Billingham and Crooksbarne Primary in Norton, when they were officially presented with their quality mark.

Oakdene Primary School Headteacher Andy Paterson said it was a proud day for the school among many recent proud days. He said: "The children raising £3,562 for the Children's Leukaemia Fund through a sponsored Marathon Challenge earlier in the year had been a fantastic feat that meant every bit as much as being presented with the quality mark. The children demonstrated a generosity and care for those less fortunate that many schools would envy."

And Crooksbarne Primary Head teacher Jonathan Twidle, said: "We are delighted to achieve our first external award. It is great to celebrate the success of our children and staff and at the same time recognise the importance of working together with our parents to help the children to do their best."

New community businesses in the Clarences

Two new community businesses have been opened in the Clarences area of Stockton.

The Royal Café and Royal Cutz hairdressers have set up alongside The Clarences Shop in the Clarences Community Centre, which is the base for a unique cluster of businesses operating on a not-for-profit basis to serve the local community and to create jobs for local people.

The Royal Café opened in June and is run by local resident Phillip Burnett. It offers a choice of fresh foods at competitive prices and there are future plans to offer buffet and conference facilities and cater for parties.

The Café is working with the local Health Centre to offer help and advice with healthy eating options.

Sue Kinchin of the Clarences estate is running the hairdressers Royal Cutz and there has been a positive response from the local community.



Julie Black, Clarences Community Centre Manager, said: "The Clarences estate on the whole is on the up and the facilities

offered in the Centre can only further boost the local economy and community life, by providing a central point for locals who will also be able to benefit from the community initiatives offered by the businesses."



Stockton Council Regeneration Officer Pat Emerson, who works within the Clarences and Portrack communities, said: "We have

been able to assist the café and hairdressers in a number of ways giving them the best possible start towards being recognised and respected as true business enterprises."

Home rescue leaves workers drained



Two Council workers were hailed heroes for rescuing a Stockton woman and her family after they accidentally locked themselves in their home.

Deirdre Brown, of Pearson Walk, Parkfield, became trapped in her home after throwing her keys out of the first floor window to her 18-year-old daughter Claire.

But Claire failed to catch the keys and instead the pair watched in horror as they keys disappeared down the drain outside the house.

That meant the next morning Mrs Brown's twin daughters Joanne and Laura had to climb out of the downstairs window to go to school,

while their mother and seven-year-old sister Emily remained trapped behind the locked doors.

So Mrs Brown turned to workers at Stockton Council to help with the family's problem.

Gulley operatives Gary Leeson and Ian Dougherty arrived with the gulley sucker, which clears drains, and the keys were soon found.

Mrs Brown, said: "They were absolutely brilliant."

And Stockton Council's drains foreman Rob Burrell, said: "We get requests like this all the time. We were just pleased to help."

Black minority ethnic voluntary project



A new project to encourage and enable more people from ethnic minorities to volunteer their skills to their communities is being run in Stockton.

Nehemiah Moyo, from Stockton, has been appointed Volunteer Development Worker to this new three-year project, which has been set up in response to a growing number of enquiries from people seeking asylum and refugee status in Stockton.

Nehemiah will be working for Stockton Borough Voluntary Development Agency, in partnership with the Stockton International Family Centre, to identify more voluntary opportunities for people from ethnic minorities as well as asylum seekers and refugees.

Volunteer Development Officer Carolynne Withers said: "I have interviewed many people from a

variety of countries over the recent months, all seeking asylum and desperate to familiarise themselves with the ways of our country and keen to help the community with their skills, knowledge and expertise.

"They are ordinary people who have fled their own countries for many reasons, because of war or because of their religious or political beliefs, ethnic group or because their way of life puts them in danger."

SBVDA are also planning to run training courses for volunteer managers from the autumn to spring.

The sessions will include identifying roles for volunteers, attracting and selecting volunteers and planning volunteer involvement.

For more information please contact SBVDA at 27 Yarm Road, Stockton, Tel: (01642) 355292 or fax (01642) 355294. email: office@sbvda.org

Childminding quality

A group of 14 childminders who make up Stockton's first network of carers have all received certificates to recognise their commitment.

The group are all working towards or have completed an NVQ Level 3 in Early Years Care and Education and will have to complete the Quality Assurance scheme which Stockton Borough Council's Early Years and Childcare Service operates.

Early Years Development Officer Judy Walker said: "We are raising the quality and professionalism of childminders and encouraging parents to look for quality care for their children."

Childminders are currently being recruited for the second network and anyone interested in further information about the networks should contact Judy on (01642) 415510.

Expats direct award

A Stockton business was highly commended in national on-line and e-commerce awards.

Expats Direct, launched in November 2000 by Dave Smith, received the award at the Government's UK Online for Business and Inter-Forum E-Commerce Awards 2002.

The commendation, for demonstrating its excellent use of electronic commerce, came as Expats Direct was shortlisted from over 250 companies within the North-East.

The company, which is in Stockton's Business Centre in Brunswick Street, is dedicated to helping expatriates worldwide in finding overseas employment and providing them with a range of support services.

That includes an interactive website at www.expatsdirect.com, a CV writing service, feature articles and a newsletter among other services.

National Refugee Week celebrated in style



Stockton played its part in National Refugee Week this year with a whole range of events taking place to celebrate diversity and promote positive community relations across the Borough.

The week was organised by North East local authorities Asylum Support Teams, in partnership with a number of organisations and agencies.

One of the highlights of the week was an international football tournament in Newcastle, which saw the Stockton International Family Centre entering two teams, both of which made it through to the quarter-finals.

The Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Jean O'Donnell, opened an event at Stockton Parish Gardens which proved a huge success with more than 300 people enjoying the occasion.

"The event was colourful and musical with sounds from around the world," said Abdul-Zaheer Khan, Stockton Council's Asylum Support Team Co-ordinator.

"The cultural diversity in Stockton is something to be celebrated..."

"There were performances by people seeking asylum, guest artists and local schools. There were a number of information stalls promoting local services and demonstration stalls ranging from international dress, health and beauty."

During the National Refugee Week, Stockton International Family Centre

extended its weekly drop-in service to include a children's party with entertainment and food.

The week was rounded off with a summer celebration event organised and sponsored by Stockton Surestart at Kirkleatham Hall in Redcar.

"The week provided a great chance for everyone to sample an event with an international flavour," said John Lambert, Stockton Council's Principal Manager for Client Services.

"The cultural diversity in Stockton is something to be celebrated and the events have done just that."

The event was sponsored by Archon 2002, Action Team for Jobs, Stockton Council, National Refugee Week North East, Stockton Flats and Surestart. Across the country there were hundreds of events taking place in 70 towns and cities.

Environment

Box clever to boost recycling

A major new 'green' scheme is to be introduced across Stockton Borough to make it easier for residents to recycle their household waste.

The multi material kerbside recycling scheme will be phased in around November, and will provide a convenient way for people to recycle their cans, paper, glass and textiles.

It will complement the successful Blue Bag scheme which was expanded last year. The monthly kerbside scheme allows residents to recycle all of their recyclable materials without having to take them to a recycling site.

The new multi material scheme will see residents issued with a box and an information leaflet telling them what can be recycled. The box will then be collected fortnightly.

"This new scheme will build on the success of the Blue Bag scheme and help us tackle the growing problem of household waste," said Chris Hayward, Stockton Council's Waste and Fleet Services Manager.

"The phased implementation is expected to take up to 12 months. Residents will receive regular newsletters to keep them informed of the scheme's progress and leaflets advising them when kerbside collections will start in their area."

The Government has set targets for increasing the amount of household waste recycled by Stockton to 10 per cent by 2003-4 and 18 per cent by 2005-6. The new multi material scheme will help towards reaching that target.

Local action

Caring for your area

Waste education has always been part of the Council's Care For Your Area campaign, and a high profile campaign will continue throughout the recycling scheme implementation.

A two-week 'Care For Your Area' campaign was recently held, to build on the work which has already been done to clean up the Borough's streets. This campaign encouraged residents, young and old, to take a look around their own communities to see what they could do to spruce them up.

Youngsters from schools across the Borough took part in litter picks and tree planting at various sites. Sue Barker Schneider, the Council's Waste Education Officer, said: "The aim of the Care For Your Area Fortnight was to give residents across Stockton Borough a special opportunity to improve their own communities.

"The Care For Your Area campaign has brought about enormous improvements in the cleanliness of the Borough, and our Gateway initiative is continuing to build on the work which saw Stockton named as "Most Improved Entry" in last year's Northumbria in Bloom competition. The fortnight was about community spirit as much as about environmental improvements."

Permit news for recycling centre

The recently opened Household Waste Recycling Centre at Haverton Hill has proved popular with residents across the Borough.

Free permits are available to residents wishing to take waste to the site in a van (under 2m) – no permit is needed for cars.

The introduction of the permit for van drivers has been implemented to tackle the number of traders who have been using the site illegally. The facility is intended solely for householders' waste. Permits can be obtained by calling (01642) 393602

Stockton Council provides a bulky waste collection service which is free for most items. For further details contact the Care For Your Area Customer Services team on (01642) 391959.

Anyone wanting to find out more about energy saving and environmentally friendly products can call into the Environment Centre at 21 West Row, Stockton. For details call (01642) 391186.



Environmental issues

being taken in Stockton

The big green one

Encouraging the Borough's youngsters to be conscious of environmental issues is an important part of their education.

Local secondary and primary schools are benefiting from the 'Big Green One' – a CD Rom directory listing the best educational schemes and projects available from both Stockton Council and leading outside agencies.

Everything from computer programmes to workbooks, videos, theatre plays and day trips and contact and order details are available on the CD Rom which has been distributed free to schools.

It will be updated three times a year to ensure users have access to the newest and best programmes and resources available.

POLICE BEAT

ALL CHANGE AT THE TOP

Stockton Police have seen numerous changes in recent months, as a result of retirements and promotions.

Following the retirement of Chief Superintendent Kevin Pitt, Supt. John Tough, who was the Crime Manager for Stockton, has been promoted to Chief Supt. and remains at Stockton as District Commander.



Chief Supt Tough

Chief Supt. Tough said, "Having served at Stockton in every rank of my Police career, I am extremely proud to be taking over as District Commander. I appreciate the commitment and hard work of my predecessor, Kevin Pitt and I am fully aware of the partnerships and trust that has been built up over recent years. I am fully committed to improving the service Stockton Police and its partner's provide to the public and I will do all I can to ensure that the best use is made of police resources to reduce crime and disorder in the borough of Stockton."

Chief Supt Tough is joined by two new Superintendents. Superintendent Brian Dunn takes over as Crime Manager, with a responsibility for managing all crime matters in Stockton District, and Superintendent Dave Pickard takes over as the Operations Manager, replacing Supt. Tom Stoddart, who has transferred to Langbaugh District.



Supt Brian Dunn

Supt. Dunn is no stranger to Stockton having previously worked here as a Detective Inspector. He is fully aware of the crime issues affecting the district. He has already started to 'target' the persistent criminals who are committing the majority of crime in the district, but recognises the part each and everyone of us can play to reduce crime.

Supt Dunn says, "I would like to make this appeal to members of our community – You know who the drug dealers are, you know the people who are breaking into property and those who are receiving stolen property. I appeal to you to pass that information on to the Police or use the Crimestoppers hotline. Many people think it is a waste of time, but I can tell you that we will use the information to target and arrest those persons who are making all of our lives a misery. It is a simple choice – turn a blind eye OR do something about it".

If you have information about a particular crime or know who is committing crimes or dealing in drugs, help the Police and help your community, by contacting the police on 01642 326326 OR Ring CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111.



Supt Dave Pickard

Superintendent Dave Pickard joins Stockton on his promotion, having previously been an Operational Chief Inspector with Durham Police. He knows the challenges facing the Police in Stockton in relation to anti-social behaviour, public disorder and prostitution and he has already developed plans to tackle these issues. Supt. Pickard's first few weeks have been hectic with directing operations in relation to an emerging problem of prostitution, and commanding the Riverside Festival week.

Supt Pickard says, "I am extremely impressed with the commitment and dedication of operational officers in Stockton. Policing doesn't get any easier, especially when resources are stretched, so

it is my job to make sure the officers we do have are put in the right places to have maximum effect and visibility to provide reassurance for the community. Anti-social behaviour and issues like prostitution and racist crimes will be tackled robustly. The people of Stockton Borough deserve to live peaceful lives, and I will make it my business to make life difficult for those people who want to disrupt the peace."

Other moves.

Stockton Police recently said farewell to Inspector Bill Butters, who retired from the Force after completing 30 years service. Bill was the Section Inspector at Billingham and his 'no-nonsense' approach won him much respect amongst his colleagues and the community over the years. Best wishes go to Bill for a long and happy retirement.

Inspector Stuart Micklewright has taken over the Billingham Section.

Inspector Ray Morton joins Stockton on his transfer from Northumbria Police. Ray is also a native of Stockton and will take up the role as Inspector in charge of Operations, working closely with Supt. Pickard.

www.cleveland.police.uk

The latest version of the Cleveland Police website is now available on-line, having been extensively revamped. It contains a wealth of information on each territorial district and carries features on how the police deal with common policing situations e.g. missing person enquiries and domestic violence. It also contains information on the requirements and procedures for anyone wishing to join the police, a Kids site, and even gives up to date information about where Speed cameras are located across the Force area.

Why not check out the website for yourself by visiting www.cleveland.police.uk and let us know what you think.



Pupils get a cat's eye view of industry

A group of Billingham schoolchildren were given an insight into industry when they visited the BP-operated CATS Terminal at Seal Sands.

The visit, by Year Six pupils from St John the Evangelist RC School in Billingham, was part of the Children Challenging Industry (CCI) project, which aims to give young people an opportunity to learn about science and its applications in the workplace.

As part of the scheme – which is run by the Teesside Chemical Initiative and the University of York – schools are given support for science lessons and the opportunity to visit places of industry where pupils can see science being put into practice.

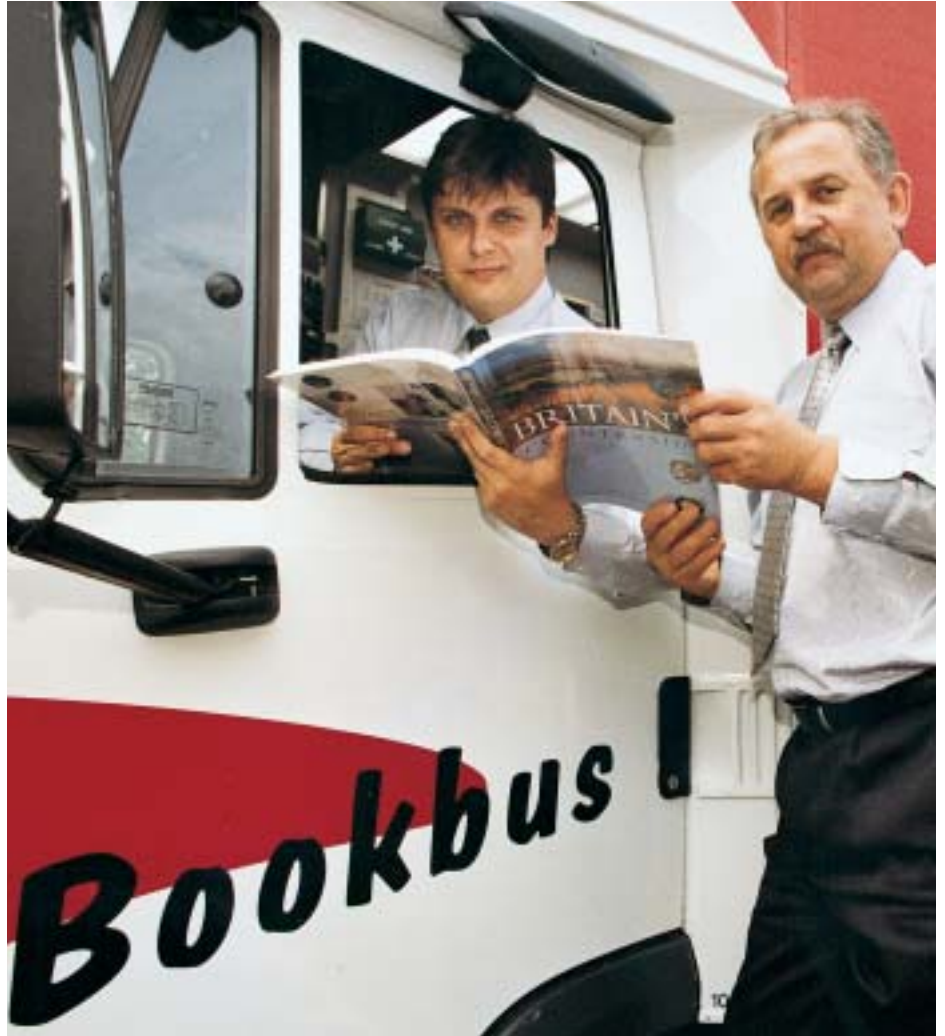
The group was given a presentation about the Terminal and its operations and then taken on a tour of the 72-acre site. The culmination of the day was a visit to the Terminal's wildlife sanctuary, which consists of reed beds that overlook part of the Tees Estuary.

Ron Ramshaw of BP CATS hopes that visits like this will help to change perceptions of industry. He said: "BP CATS is glad to be able to support the CCI initiative. We are trying to encourage people to react more positively to industry.

"By bringing the pupils onto site we can show them what we do and they can see for themselves that it is a modern, hi-tech environment, quite unlike the dingy, dusty places many people associate with industry."



Russians visit Stockton



Andrey Lisitskiy, pictured left, with Oleg Kovalchouk.

East met West when a delegation from Russia visited Stockton Council's Library Service.

A request for help with the setting up of a Bookbus scheme came from Andrey Lisitskiy, Head of Department of Information and Analysis Affairs for Volgograd in Russia.

The Committee of Cultural Affairs of Volgograd Regional Administration, a regional government body, which is responsible for state policy in the cultural sector, recently received a grant to set up a similar scheme.

And because Stockton's Bookbus scheme has been so successful Andrey visited Stockton with his colleague

Oleg Kovalchouk to see it in action and gather information on how to get their programme up and running.

Andrea Barker, Head of Cultural Services for Stockton Council, said: "We were surprised to receive a request from as far afield as Russia but we were delighted to be able to help.

"As soon as they had made initial contact, we set about trying to arrange a visit and it is wonderful that they came to Stockton to see the Bookbus and the Library Service for themselves."

The Bookbus is a mobile library which was commissioned in 1997 to visit residential and nursing homes and day centres. It is specially adapted for wheelchair access.

Flourishing Festival

Organisers are hailing the success of the 38th Billingham International Folklore Festival.

Over eight days, groups from Chile, Czech Republic, Hungary, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Taiwan and Ukraine appeared.

The standard of all the groups was high and in particular the Mexican's Aztec dancers were a magnificent spectacle of silver and gold costumes.

The Children's Club was again very popular and dance courses were run on two afternoons. The Adult Dance Course, run in co-operation with Stockton Adult Education Service, was well attended with tuition from dance specialists from across the UK.

Organisers are now not only looking to the 2003 Festival, but also planning the special celebrations for the 40th festival in 2004 when it is hoped to bring back some of the groups who helped in the early years to establish the event.

Claim @ home

A new service to help blind and visually impaired people make claims for housing or council tax benefits has been set up.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Benefit Service has got together with Stockton Blind People's Voice to organise a new home visiting service. Its aim is to help people with a sight disability to claim housing and council tax benefit.

Visually impaired people can make advance appointments for a visiting officer to call at their home and help them through a new or a renewal claim form. All visiting officers carry identity cards but in addition an agreed code or password will be given on the officer's arrival.

The Visiting Team offer a twenty-four hour service on (01642) 393832. This is staffed during office hours with an answerphone service available for out of office hours.

Sports unit is the best in England



Stockton Council's Sports Development Unit has been awarded a top accolade after being assessed in a UK-wide Quality Scheme for Sport and Leisure.

The Unit was rated the best in England and 'highly commended' in the Quest assessment after receiving a score of 80 per cent – the highest in England and second highest in the United Kingdom behind Edinburgh.

Assessors praised the 'excellent track record' of partnerships which has resulted in many externally funded initiatives.

Quest, which is supported by Sport England, sportscotland, the Sports Council for Wales and the Sports Council Northern Ireland, is an external accreditation scheme specific to sport.

Debbie Curgenvin, Stockton Council's Manager of Sports Development, said: "It was wonderful to receive such a glowing report from the Quest assessment. Much of what we have achieved has been through strong partnerships and we will continue to deliver high quality sports services for people across the Borough.

"There will be continuous monitoring of our service and there will be a further on-site assessment in about 12 months time."

Stockton Council's Sports Development Unit has forged a strong partnership with British Waterways to bring world-class watersports events to the region including World Canoe Marathon Championships and the Northern Regional Water Ski Championships.

The Unit also works closely with schools across the Borough to encourage youngsters to participate in a wide range of sports and the North Tees Primary Care Trust to offer the 'Exercise on Prescription' programme.

The report said the Unit 'focused on sustainable sports development programmes and facilities' and provided an 'excellent staff development programme' with staff 'encouraged to be creative and innovative'.

Judith Rasmussen, Regional Director Sport England North East, said: "We would like to congratulate Stockton's Sports Development Section on achieving Quest Accreditation and an excellent score of 80 per cent.

"Quest is a national award for quality that defines industry standards for good practice. It confirms that the level of service delivered to the communities of Stockton is extremely high and all the staff should be congratulated on their achievements. It requires a whole team effort and covers every aspect of their work."

It pays to keep up

A new out of hours team has been formed to offer advice and assistance to Stockton Council tenants who have found themselves in difficulty with their rent payments. They will be contacting people who may not normally be available during traditional working hours.

The new team is fully trained and, as well as offering advice, they will be able to negotiate with tenants to develop a sustainable and realistic payment plan. The introduction of the team is one of a number of initiatives developed as part of an ongoing campaign developed by Tristar Homes Ltd – the management company which has taken over the day-to-day running of the Borough's Council homes.

Francis Hayes, Chair of Tristar Homes Ltd, said: "We realise that some of our tenants are coping with debt which can be a difficult experience and Tristar Homes Ltd will make every effort to support tenants to manage the situation. However, if our tenants are

unwilling to clear any arrears, or agree a sustainable repayment plan, the Council is then left with no alternative but to take legal action.

"The introduction of the new team is a positive move towards extending our support to out of hours availability, making us as accessible as possible."



Tristar Homes Ltd Offices

Neighbourhood Centre, Ragworth
393845

17- 19 Redhill Road, Roseworth
397585

41 Ashbourne Road, Primrose Hill
393855

13- 15 Whessoe Road, Hardwick
393859

*Resource Centre, Somerset Road,
Norton Grange*
397566

e-mail :
Ragworth.Housing@tristarhomes.co.uk

7 Brus House, Thornaby
391591
Redcar Road, Thornaby
393885
e-mail :
Thornaby.Housing@tristarhomes.co.uk

Municipal Buildings, Stockton
393933
21 Kingston Road, Tilery
391470
Mobile Housing Centre
07730 897593
e-mail :
Stockton.Housing@tristarhomes.co.uk

*Council Offices, (Town Centre),
Billingham*
397540
Windlestone House, Billingham
391969
2 Port Clarence Road, Port Clarence
391970
e-mail :
Billingham.Housing@tristarhomes.co.uk

If you are having difficulties paying your rent please contact your local Tristar office either by telephone, personal visit or e-mail.

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



£300,000 environmental project underway



A major project to improve the landscape in and around the former eyesore Portrack Incinerator site is about to begin.

The incinerator building was demolished between 1998 and 2000 and the area beside the River Tees has been vacant since December last year when the civic amenity site moved to its new home at Haverton Hill.

But now plans to turn the 15 hectare site into an attractive public open space, where wildlife is encouraged and footpaths link across the woodland and meadowland area to invite local people to enjoy the Tees corridor, are about to get underway.

The £300,000 project is being undertaken by Stockton Borough Council and the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.

In the first phase the foundations of the former incinerator building will be covered over with rubble material and then sub-soil to create the ideal place for a wildlife meadow. Once that is done, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust will move onto the site with plans to create new footpaths, undertake woodland and wetland management and increase bio-diversity.

Stockton Council's Strategic Sites Co-ordinator, Helen Wood, said: "We are trying to bring brown field land back into beneficial use as a public open space, whilst significantly improving the appearance of a key site in the Tees Corridor."

The Wildlife Trust intends to involve the local, long-term unemployed in the project by offering them training as they work on the site. The project will also involve local schools and

community groups aimed at raising environmental awareness and ownership of the site by local residents.

The project is joint funded by Stockton Council and One NorthEast. One NorthEast funding is part of its Single Programme, which aims to support strategic projects that add value not only to the Tees Valley, but also the region as a whole.

Helen said: "This scheme is part of a wider package of projects being undertaken by Stockton and Middlesbrough Councils called the Tees Corridor Renaissance. It is a three-year programme which will improve the potential of the Tees Corridor for cultural development, employment and recreation."

James limbers up for Great North Run

A blind man has shed an amazing eight stones as he prepares to raise money for charity by taking part in the Great North Run.

Three years ago, James Keane weighed 25 stone and dreaded the idea of using a gym.

The 28-year-old, who lost his sight gradually, was told by his doctor that he needed to start exercising, he was then placed on the Exercise on Prescription scheme at the Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre.

He worried about how he was going to get around the gym but when he was put on the treadmill for the first time he was hooked.

He said: "It was the first time in ages I could really walk without using my cane. When you walk down the street you have to think about everything, like obstacles, but when I'm on the treadmill I can just walk."

Now James has got 20 of his friends from the Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre, including fitness instructors Shirley Harrison and Andy Newbold, joining him in an effort to raise money for charity by doing the Great North Run.

The money raised will go to Kith and Kids, a charity which supports children and young people with different types of disabilities.



James runs unaided next to Andy, nudging him with his elbow every now and then to ensure he stays on track.

Action packed summer



The summer holidays were packed with different types of action and fun for the youngsters who signed up for Stockton Council's Summer Opportunities for Children and Communities in Stockton (S.O.C.C.S.)

Youngsters aged eight to 16 had the chance to join in a two-hour session on the River Tees at the Castlegate Quay Water Sports Centre, during which they tried kayaking, sailing, canoeing and bellboating.

And elsewhere in the Borough, but this time on dry land, they were also given coaching in tennis, football, golf and badminton.

Budding librarians met a top children's writer as they found out who was named Stockton's Junior and Young Librarian of the Year.

Pupils across the Borough had been given training in how to use a library properly and Children's Laureate, Anne Fine (pictured right) was on hand to present the prizes.

Eleven-year-old Carl Malcolm, from Oaktree Primary, won the Junior title, while Jessica Blythe, a Year Nine pupil at Billingham Campus, took the Young Librarian title.

Book joy for youngsters



Build up to Christmas



There will be a lot going on in Stockton in the build up to Christmas.

On Sunday 1 December between 3.30pm and 5.00pm Stockton's Christmas Festival begins when a cavalcade of stars from the pop and football world will be travelling on an open top double decker bus.

Travelling along the Riverside, it will arrive at Calvert Street at the site of a massive Toboggan Run which will be there for a full four weeks.

Santa will be arriving by helicopter due to the pressures of time for him at that time of year and join the bus to help the Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Jean O'Donnell, to officially open the Toboggan Run. Sporting as ever, Santa may even gather his garments together to be the first to have a go on the speedy Toboggan Run.

The bus will parade the High Street where you can meet the stars. As the lights are switched on a blaze of fireworks will illuminate Stockton's skies.

During December Santa will be in a special Grotto in Debenhams organised by Tfm and Magic 1170.

On Thursday 19 December, following on from last year's successful Civic Carol Concert, Stockton will once again resound with the melodic voices of a Gospel Choir and young musicians. Look out for more details of this truly heart-warming event where friends and families can sing to their heart's content.

Election results

Recent By-elections have resulted in two new Councillors for Stockton Council.

Raymond David Charles McCall has been elected as Ward Councillor for

Charltons Ward, and can be contacted on (01642) 554452 and Colin Leckonby has been elected as Ward Councillor for Marsh House Ward, Billingham and can be contacted on (01642) 872896.



Councillor Leckonby



Councillor McCall

Children's Fund puts 'Kidz First'

Youngsters in Stockton are reaping the benefits of the Children's Fund, which was established in the Borough last year.

It has been set up to help children aged four to 12 years realise their ambitions by growing up safely, healthy and being successful at school.

Stockton Council's Children's Fund Programme Manager, Jim Beall, said: "Since the programme was first set up, things have now really taken off and the vision is now becoming a reality."

The Children's Fund has committed funding to launch playschemes, water sports development, Breakfast Clubs, Parenting Plus and many other projects aimed at helping and supporting youngsters and their parents or carers.

A Government grant of over £2 million was pledged when the Fund was first launched and already many young people in targeted areas of the Borough have been able to access the services provided.

The Children's Fund Partnership produces a quarterly newsletter, 'Kidz First'. These and other information are also available at www.stockton-bc.gov.uk/index2.htm and then click on the Children's Fund logo. You can also ring (01642) 393339.



Round the clock payment service launched

Stockton Council has introduced a 24-hour telephone payment system as part of its drive to make services more accessible to its customers.

The system allows payment through a series of simple automated voice instructions and the advanced technology ensures confidentiality and security.

Customers can access the system 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year just by calling 0845 130 3990.

It provides customers with a quick and easy way to make payments at times that suit them and it improves upon the other flexible payment options currently available such as the telephone payment system introduced in 2000-01 for Council Tax, Business Rates, Housing Advances and Invoices.

The new process also complements the 24 hour Internet service introduced last year in partnership with Girobank. That can be accessed at www.stockton.gov.uk or www.billpayment.co.uk

For more information on the new payment facility call the customer support desk on (01642) 397078.

Scam alert

Fraudsters' scams have been highlighted to help people in Stockton avoid them.

The first targets women at work. They receive a telephone call claiming to be from the Post Office and asking them to confirm their postcode. They are then informed they are eligible for gift vouchers for their co-operation and asked for their home address. So far 90 per cent of women around the country who have provided this information have been burgled.

People are also being warned not to agree to take a test action for anyone claiming to be an AT & T Service Technician carrying out a test on a telephone line. Doing so will allow them full access to your phone line which allows them to place long distance, international or chat line calls which are then billed to the telephone account.

There are also a growing number of fraudsters targeting Britain from Africa and Asia with begging letters or "get rich quick" offers which have persuaded people to send money.

Council recognises volunteers in sport

The Council has recognised the valued work of people who have given their time voluntarily for more than 20 years in helping out and coaching in a variety of sporting activities at the Borough's leisure centres.

The Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Jean O'Donnell, who presented framed certificates to those people, said: "This is one small way we can show our appreciation to those people who have given their time and enthusiasm voluntarily to sport in Stockton.

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



Babygym toddle



Toddlers strode out to raise money to send one of their friends to a special therapy centre in Somerset.

The youngsters are all members of the Babygym class at Stockton Sports Centre, and they walked around a full-size hockey pitch to help raise cash for three-year-old Chloe Harrison, of Ragworth, Stockton.

Chloe can't walk unaided, can't talk and suffers from epilepsy. The money raised in the event will send her to the Brainwave Charity Centre in Somerset.

Stockton

15th Stockton Internat



CARE FOR YOUR AREA
NO MESSING!

The North East is changing.
Here.
Now.



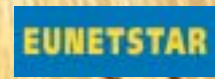
stockton
renaissance



on

A look back at the

ional Riverside Festival



The face of Stockton has changed beyond recognition from the days when it was a major river port.

Today the River Tees is still at the heart of Stockton, which remains a traditional market town, bustling with activity each Wednesday and Saturday when the main outdoor market takes place along the High Street.

But while the traditional aspects of Stockton are still in evidence, the regeneration of the town has brought about massive improvements – both economic and aesthetic.

The Wellington Square Shopping Centre has helped to transform the town centre, while at the same time the Castlegate Shopping Centre has developed the open space at John Walker Square.



In and



Stockton High Street is famous for being the widest in Europe and is home to thriving market stalls. Consideration is being given to further regenerate the market through attracting new lines together with special events such as occasional French Market and Farmers' Markets.

Geraint Williams, the Town Centre Manager, believes visitors to Stockton are now faced with a lot more choice which has led to an increase in shoppers heading into town.

"With the improvements to the Castlegate Centre there has been a marked increase in the Centre's shoppers and visitors increasing from more than 8 million in 1998 to more than 12 million in 2001-02," he said.

"The Wellington Square Shopping Centre is reporting figures of shoppers and visitors well in excess of predicted figures establishing quite clearly that

Stockton Town Centre has come of age as a major sub-regional centre within the North East of England.

Those eating out in Stockton can now enjoy a relaxing meal with a view of the Tees at the recently opened McCoy's by the River. The famous McCoy's are refurbishing premises in Finkle Street and are due to open in the run up to Christmas.

There are new landmarks gracing the town's skyline, including the Stockton Baptist Tabernacle and the £1.3m Millennium Footbridge, which spans the river from the town centre to Teesdale.

Northbank is situated on the east of the town centre along the river and a partnership between English Partnerships, One NorthEast (RDA), Stockton Council and the University of Durham is set to develop the whole area.

The development, which is expected to be completed by 2015, will be a mixed use area including a watersports centre and research park.

It will also see the expansion of the University of Durham Queen's Campus, Stockton, housing and offices.

The riverside area in Stockton plays host to the popular tourist and educational attractions of the HM Bark Endeavour, HMS Kellington, Teesside Princess and Castlegate Watersports Centre – all playing a key role in the vibrancy of the town centre.

The town is renowned across the globe for the annual Stockton International Riverside Festival, which attracts world class artistes from the fields of street theatre, music, circus and theatre.



around Stockton

Every year visitors from across the country and beyond come to Stockton to enjoy the wide variety of entertainment on offer and see performances that stay in the memory long after the Festival is over.

Last year Stockton hosted its first outdoor civic carol concert among other Christmas festivities, and a similar event is planned for this year.

“The 2001 event proved a huge success and this year Santa's arrival is going to be the most spectacular yet,” added Geraint Williams.

In addition to the vibrancy of the town centre, local initiatives to improve the quality of life for people

Today the River Tees is still at the heart of Stockton, which remains a traditional market town, bustling with activity each Wednesday and Saturday.

in Stockton are crucial and the introduction of alleygates in the Newtown ward is just one scheme that is helping to reduce crime, litter and anti-social behaviour.

The scheme places security gates at the end of back alleys in areas made up of terraced housing.

Consultation with residents was carried out and a pilot scheme proved successful. Alleygates have now been installed in Londonderry Road, Castlereagh Road and Stavordale Road and the programme is being rolled out across the ward and other residential areas.

LEARNING

to get the pulse racing

2,000 students have graduated from the University of Durham, Queen's Campus, Stockton since it first opened 10 years ago. Over a third are local students.

Among the many success stories is a Thornaby mum of two who is now at the forefront of medical research despite leaving School with few qualifications.

Marina Sawdon returned to education as a mature student 7 years ago after completing an Open University Foundation course. Hungry for fresh challenges, she enrolled on a Biomedical Sciences degree programme at the Queen's Campus. Her hard work paid off when she was awarded a first-class honours degree as well as a national award from the Institute of Biomedical Sciences for her outstanding achievement.

As a result of her resounding success, she is now a key member of the North Eastern Anaesthetics & Trauma Research Group based at the Queen's Campus researching the best way to make sure trauma victims survive.

With daughters Laura and Emma well into secondary education, she is now on the way

to completing her Ph.D in cardiovascular physiology and is employed by the NHS as a Research Fellow in the School of Anaesthesia at the James Cook University Hospital.

"During my degree I realised the more I learned, the more I wanted to know," says Marina. "Physiology in particular grabbed my attention and my interest in this field has become almost addictive! It's prepared me well for my current research."

Sharing her time between the University and the James Cook University Hospital, Marina's role as a Research Fellow has really captured her imagination and ambition.

"We are looking at the body's response to injury and trauma, changes in heart pressure and how patterns emerge in blood flow. I couldn't have imagined this was possible when I embarked on my studies seven years ago, but it's great to be part of a research team whose findings may help to save lives in the future. I also consider myself very, very lucky to be paid for something I love doing".

Marina says she would not have achieved this much without the support of staff at the University of Durham. "I have loved every minute of studying and never once regretted

what I've done. It's right here on my doorstep and has given me a life I could never have experienced otherwise. I have had amazing opportunities I'd never have had, like travelling with work and seeing places like Bondi Beach! I think the girls benefit too because I do my studying alongside them and hopefully I'm a good role model".

The University of Durham has flagged Marina's success story as an outstanding example of what is being achieved at the Queen's Campus and to inspire others.

The thought of doing a degree at University can be very daunting but the reality may be very different.

- The University of Durham, Queen's Campus, Stockton now offers a Foundation Programme to assist people like Marina who want to study but do not have the relevant qualifications for degree level study.
- If you are interested in finding out what the Foundation Programme has to offer, please contact Geoff Wren on 01642 335326 or Tracy Laidlaw on 01642 335365 for more information.



- Local & Mature Students Open Day
Wednesday 30th October 2002.
Contact our admissions office on
01642 335320 for more information.

Forum ice arena is at the cutting edge



Billingham Forum's Ice Arena has just received a complete overhaul to bring ice-skating on Teesside into the 21st Century.

The current ice rink had been in a sorry state with regular closures due to technical problems.

It was decided by the Forum's management to look at new ways to improve the ice arena and this search for ideas took its manager, Allan McDermott, (pictured above) to Germany to see for himself a revolutionary new ice rink in action.

The system was so impressive that it was ordered and installed in the Forum. This has involved the removal of the existing pad and thousands of

litres of water which was formerly frozen in the ground.

The new ice rink provides a flat, reliable, quality skating surface that dazzles due to its pristine white colour. As well as the new ice rink itself, the Arena has benefited from new hire boots, a new rink surround, new flooring and a large mural commissioned especially for the Forum.

The development of this revolutionary system has caught the interest of, among others, consultants working on behalf of Winter Olympics organisers who are visiting the Forum to see the system in operation.

It is possible the same system that lies at the heart of the Forum's Ice Arena

will form the base for the ice competitions at future Winter Olympics.

The versatility of the new system is another reason why it has been bought. If the Forum should move from its current site, the ice rink can be re-laid at another venue with no loss of quality to the ice surface. It could also be used outdoors. This guarantee of reliability ensures that wherever the ice arena is, it is providing value-for-money for the people of the Borough.

There will also be a new arrival at the Arena, in the shape of I.C. the bear. I.C. likes to help people get the best out of the new Arena, so bear that in mind when you see him! He'll have tips on what's on and maybe a special promotion or two to give away. So, if you see I.C. go up to him and ask for information about the new Billingham Ice Arena, and he'll be glad to help.

So, why not get your skates on and visit Billingham's New Ice Arena to see how it's improved? There's something for everyone, and with the new ice surface, you're guaranteed a smooth day out!

For details please contact the Forum Ice Arena on (01642) 551381. Alternatively you can visit the leisure website at www.train.stockton.gov.uk or visit www.icthebear.com.

McGuinness Shaw

McGuinness Shaw and Company Limited is a local firm of independent financial advisors based in Norton.

The company has been long established providing quality independent financial advice to both individual and corporate clients for many years.

Under the guidance of Managing Director Keith McGuinness and his colleague Nick Matthews, the firm has developed into a well respected

company with an excellent reputation with clients and its fellow peers.

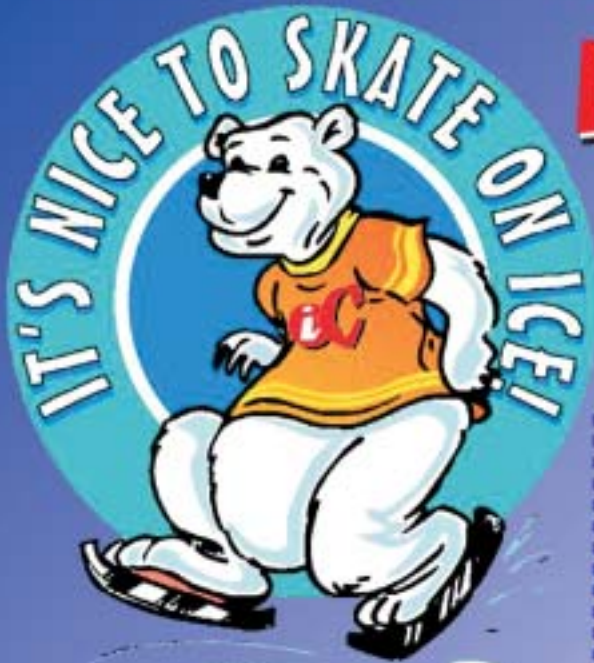
Nick Matthews said: "We make sure that our clients are looked after professionally and consistently kept up to date of their financial situation. This enables our clients to constantly have access to independent financial advice."

The company provides advice on all aspects of financial services, including life insurance, pensions savings and investments. The firm has built its

reputation on its state of the art research tools which enable the advisors to make sure that they are able to keep up to date with all the products on the market place.

Keith McGuinness said: "It is very important especially with regard to current stock market conditions that we are up to date with fund prices and market changes. We have spent a lot of time and money making sure the firm has the most up to date technology and research tools to give our clients the best advice."

COME AND ENJOY THE NEW FORUM



ICE ARENA WITH I.C. THE BEAR

TELEPHONE 551381
WWW.TRAIN.STOCKTON.GOV.UK

ICE SKATE AT THE FORUM INC. SKATE HIRE

Return of the ICE AGE!

for only **£2.50***

N.B. May not be used in conjunction with any other offer. Value of voucher is 0.001p. Valid until Monday October 21st 2002.

TELEPHONE 01642 551381 FOR SESSION DETAILS

LIFE SUPPORT for 13-19 year olds.

Connexions is a new service that offers all young people (13-19 year olds) help and support to meet their needs and goals.

Connexions will revolutionise the way young people receive support services, bringing together individuals and organisations that can deliver real benefits to young people.

Connexions will be radically different to anything seen before - designed by young people for young people.

Personal advisers will be the key to the success of Connexions. They will offer practical help and advice on choosing the

right courses, training, qualifications and jobs. They will also provide in-depth advice if young people have a learning difficulty or disability, or issues such as drugs or homelessness. Some young people will need only general information, advice and guidance whilst others will need much more one to one support, which can continue until they are aged 25 in special cases.

Connexions services are being phased in across England with the Connexions Tees Valley service going live in September 2002.



Learning / Careers / Housing / Drugs / Health
Money / Relationships / Sport & Leisure
connexionsteesvalley.co.uk

Connexions Tees Valley, Head Office, Calvert's Lane, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1SW
Telephone: 01642 601600



connexions
TEES VALLEY

Open day for blind and visually impaired

Exhibitors from across the country offering services to blind and visually impaired people will be at Stockton Central Library on Friday 4th October.

People are invited to head along to the drop-in day from 10.30am until 4.30pm, when there will be a host of information, workshops, demonstrations and advice on offer.

Organisations such as Stockton Council's Libraries, Social Services and Education departments will be there. Information will also be available from Ability Net, Deaf Blind UK, Action Team for Jobs, Employment Services and RNIB.

During the day there will be demonstrations of the equipment available in the Open Technology and UK Online Centre.

Christine Durnion, Stockton's Open Technology Centre Manager, said: "Following on from the huge success of the event last year we have tried to invite as many different exhibitors as possible and have extended the length of the event to accommodate more people."

Lesley King, Stockton Council's Libraries and Information Services Manager, said: "This is an ideal opportunity to give people who are blind or visually impaired, their carers, or indeed anyone who may be interested in new technology, the chance to talk directly to suppliers as well as those who provide specialist services."

For further details please contact Christine Durnion on (01642) 393997.

Stars in their eyes



Christina Clifford, a pupil from Harewood Junior School, Thornaby, who met the Boro team and received a strip as her reward for not missing a day in her last year at primary school.

A new programme to raise the profile and importance of attending school will be targeted at youngsters in the Thornaby Education Action Zone (EAZ) and the Deanery Schools in Stockton from September.

'Schools Tackling Absence and Rewarding Success' (STARS) is the new programme being run by Stockton Council.

Involving the Education Social Work Service, the programme will result in youngsters who have attended school

for 100, 99 or 98 per cent of the academic year, being rewarded for their efforts.

There will also be rewards for those youngsters who have managed 100 per cent attendance under exceptional circumstances.

Two new Project Workers funded by the EAZ, Michelle Plews and Helen Surtees, have been employed to liaise with schools in the Thornaby and Stockton Deanery EAZ schools.

They will be working very closely with youngsters to highlight the importance of attending school regularly, gaining a good education and will be driving home the message that going to school is cool.

In preparation for the start of this month's new school term Michelle and Helen have already visited schools and addressed whole school assemblies.

Middlesbrough Football Club has kindly agreed to work in partnership with the Council to provide special treats for youngsters who fall within the categories of attendance.

Polly Hampton Manager of the Education Social Work Service for Stockton Council, said: "Research has shown that lack of attendance can have a direct impact on achievement. Missing one day a week could result in losing out on 20 per cent of the whole of a child's education and we are delighted that Middlesbrough Football Club are giving us their support."

Have your say

Stockton Borough Council's Health and Social Care Directorate is planning to review its day care services for older people living in Stockton.

People who are either currently using the service, or may need this type of care in the future, are invited to make their views, and expectations of the service, known.

If you would like to take an active role in this major review, either by completing a questionnaire or by attending a meeting, which is planned for October, then please register your interest by telephoning Mari Rose, Principal Manager - Community Care on (01642) 624731.

Vote to save life

Stockton Borough residents are being given the chance to 'vote for life' as they receive their annual electoral registration forms.

Stockton Council is one of 38 local authorities across the country sending out NHS organ donor registration forms asking people to sign up as potential donors at the same time they register to vote.

Through the support of the councils taking part, organ donor forms are being delivered direct to people's homes and it is hoped the national initiative could add an extra 500,000 names to the confidential register between now and the end of the year.

"This campaign is set to provide a tremendous boost to organ donation and save hundreds more lives," said UK Transplant Chief Executive Sue Sutherland.

Northumbria in Bloom

The Borough of Stockton has once again been recognised in the annual Northumbria in Bloom competition. At this year's event, held at the Oakwood Centre earlier this month, Stockton walked away with no less than five awards.

Stockton's Mayor, Councillor Jean O'Donnell, accepted a merit award on behalf of Belasis Business Park in the 'Best Shopping Precinct' category; and the runner-up award on behalf of Blakeston School for their horticultural project.

For the second successive year, the Ropner Park Bowling Association won the Sports Ground category with another outstanding entry to follow that of last year. The Best Conservation Project went to the Council's Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park initiative in Billingham – a project that is the source of national interest.

Being pipped at the post by one point in the Best City category was greeted with quiet satisfaction at a job well done.

Simon Dale, Head of Direct Services at Stockton Council, spoke after the presentations, said: "It's been a great day for Stockton. Five awards are a remarkable achievement and reflect the tremendous efforts of all the staff involved."

Stockton Council is keen to see the environment improve throughout the Borough and has committed additional resources to its Care For Your Area programme to support this.



Grenville Petersan goes to help Gary Hollingshead at the Blakeston School's plot.

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Tristar Homes are committed to making continuous improvements to our repairs service. We are changing quickly and would like our customers to have a direct say in making a positive difference to the service.

We have set up a "Repairs Service Customer Workgroup" which involves customers in making recommendations on all aspects of the service.

Volunteers are required, especially from the Billingham area and ethnic minority groups.

If you are enthusiastic and can offer constructive input you will be highly valued and your role will be essential to fellow customers and Tristar Homes.

To volunteer or discuss the above on an informal basis, please contact:

Gary Bolton
Repairs & Maintenance Manager

Tel: 01642 393630

E-mail: garybolton@tristarhomes.co.uk

Write to: Tristar Homes, Sun Street, Thornaby TS17 6HB



Relay Race

Around 13 pupils from schools in the Stockton Borough ran a 30 mile relay race to raise money for Sport Relief.

Pictured here at the start of the race is the Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Jean O'Donnell, with Daniel Burdon and teachers Gary Hetherington, Mike Gallagher and Paul Given.



Former Town Mayor dies

A founder member of the Billingham International Folklore Festival and a former Mayor of Stockton has died aged 82.

Alderman Jim Tatchell died at his home in Berkshire after a long battle with cancer.

Councillor Tatchell was a former Chairman of Cleveland County Council and was Mayor of Stockton from 1976 to 1977.

After moving to Billingham in the late 1940s he became a founder member of the Billingham International Folklore Festival and helped bring the Forum Theatre to the town.

He and his first wife Margaret had two children, David and Patricia. To recognise his long service to the town, Councillor Tatchell was made an Honorary Alderman of Stockton Borough Council in May 2000.

School wizard



Pupils and staff at Tilery Primary School in Stockton had a magic time when they put on a performance of the Wizard of Oz.

Several of the staff played the part of little munchkins while more than 80 of the youngsters dressed up for their roles in the production.

Parents were treated to two days of performances after the pupils gave up their lunchtimes to rehearse.

Monster magic

Youngsters from Thornaby Village Primary School were delighted at not only scooping first prize of £3,000 in a national competition, but also receiving a visit from Dave Benson Phillips, Playhouse Disney's Big Dave.

The competition, run by Fairy and the Disney and Pixar animated moviemakers Monsters Inc., involved making a monster from Fairy bottles.

Thanks to their hard work, the youngsters can now look forward to some new outdoor and role-play equipment.



Television presenter Dave Benson with children from Thornaby Village Primary School and their ingenious 'Scary Fairy' monster.

Setting the standards

Tackling unfair and unsafe trade practices and supporting businesses is a key role of Stockton Council's Trading Standards Service.

To help Stockton's Trading Standards section continue to provide a high quality, consistent and responsive service, it has developed its first service plan in line with the Government's new National Performance Framework for Trading standards, which came into effect on 1 April 2002.

The service plan sets out clear priorities and core standards for the year ahead. A copy of the service plan is available at www.stockton-bc.gov.uk or at any of the Borough's libraries.

Any comments regarding the service plan would be welcomed.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Andrea Barker Head of Cultural Services

As Head of Cultural Services at Stockton Council Andrea Barker is invited to a host of events. However, an invite to a reception at 10 Downing Street with the Prime Minister Tony Blair was certainly a surprise.

Andrea, who has worked for Stockton Council since 1996, was one of 150 local government frontline workers, managers and council members from around the country, to be invited for a private meeting at Number 10 with the Prime Minister and MP for Sedgfield earlier this year.

On arrival, Andrea was chosen to be one of just six guests invited into the White Room for a meeting with Tony Blair before the main reception.

During the evening Andrea had the opportunity to talk to Tony and Cherie Blair about the work of libraries in the community and the importance of raising the profile of libraries.

Andrea was part of the team which worked towards the recognition of Stockton Council as one of just eight Beacon Councils under the theme of Libraries as a Community Resource. The service has also been awarded a Charter Mark.

She believes the success of Stockton's Library Service is one of the reasons why she was invited to the Downing Street reception.

"The whole evening was wonderful –



Downing Street was fabulous, wonderfully ornate and steeped in history," she said.

Andrea walked down Whitehall towards Downing Street and was able to have her photograph taken in front of the famous Number 10 front door.

"Having only seen it on television, I was really surprised just how narrow and secluded Downing Street was," added Andrea.

"It was such an honour to meet the Prime Minister. He talked to me about the importance of libraries in helping the Government achieve many of its objectives especially in relation to offering free access to the Internet for members of the public."

Before being taken into the main reception, Andrea and five other

guests were escorted into the White Room for a private meeting with Tony Blair.

She said: "It was such an honour to meet the Prime Minister. He talked to me about the importance of libraries in helping the Government achieve many of its objectives especially in relation to offering free access to the Internet for members of the public.

"The White Room is full of wonderful ornaments and has a white fireplace, settees and chairs."

From the White Room, Andrea and the other guests were taken up the main stairs to the reception room.

"All the way up the main stairs there are portraits of all former Prime Ministers. We then went into the main reception where Cherie and Tony Blair spoke with all the guests," said Andrea.

"During the reception the Prime Minister gave a speech about the importance of local and central government working together. It was a day I will never forget and I was proud to be there on behalf of Stockton Council, raising the profile of libraries," said Andrea.

Stockton park gains national recognition



The historical importance of a Stockton park has earned national recognition with an inclusion onto the English Heritage Parks and Gardens Register.

Ropner Park has been awarded Grade II listed status on the register and could soon be restored to its former Victorian glory.

The 109-year-old park in central Stockton is awaiting a final decision on a Heritage Lottery bid by Stockton Council which would see original features such as the fountain and the lake restored, and a new park pavilion created which would provide a base for the new park ranger service.

Stockton Council's Parks and Countryside Officer, Martin Jenkins, said: "Ropner Park is a regionally important park in terms of design. It contains fine examples of Victorian design and landscape features and English Heritage were impressed with that. Even today, it still retains all its

original layout and structural planting with the trees and shrubs. We're fortunate to have such a facility situated in the heart of Stockton."

The new park ranger Tony Raine has now been appointed and will co-ordinate the day-to-day management of the park. He will be developing links with local residents and schools and will work closely with the recently formed Ropner Park Friends Group.

He said: "I am excited about the prospect of helping to regenerate interest in the park at a time when the park is likely to see major investment through the Heritage Lottery Programme.

"The park is already popular with local residents, but I am sure that the planned improvements will encourage many people, who have not been to the park for a long time, to return."

The land for the park was given to the town by Sir Robert Ropner, a local

shipping magnate, on the understanding it was to be used as a park for the community.

A competition was organised for local people to submit designs for the park and the best of those were then taken to form the plans for the layout.

The laying out of the park began in 1891 and the first sod was cut by Lady Ropner. Local contractors and contractors from as far afield as London and Carlisle worked on the landscaping over the next two years before the park was officially opened in 1893.

The grand opening was conducted by the Duke and Duchess of York and drew a crowd of 10,000 people.

The inclusion of the park on the English Heritage Parks and Gardens Register means that English Heritage must be consulted over any future proposals for the development of the park.

Filipino nurses get to grips with Teesside accent



The mysteries of the Teesside accent and colloquialisms were unravelled on a special course designed to help Filipino nurses working in Stockton.

The 24 nurses had struggled to understand some of the vernacular phrases used commonly by patients on the wards such as having a problem with their "waterworks" or "wanting to spend a penny".

So, Stockton Borough Council's Adult Education Service stepped in to help with a specially designed 12-week programme. The ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) tutors helped introduce the nurses to the everyday language spoken by patients. The course culminated in a City & Guilds Pitman Spoken ESOL examination.

Twenty-three nurses succeeded in gaining accreditation at Higher

Intermediate level, which puts their use of English on a par with successful GCSE students. Of those 17 were awarded First Class passes, indicating a score of more than 80 per cent.

ESOL Co-ordinator for Stockton Adult Education Service Kathy Howard said: "The nurses came here with fluent English having had a university education so their English was perfect but they experienced a lot of difficulty with the vernacular and local expressions.

"We concentrated on speaking and listening over the telephone to people with strong accents, people who aren't articulating properly and people who are using euphemisms.

"It is not something that is taught abroad as part of an English degree level course. It's amazing the sort of language we understand and don't identify as being a problem."

Great North Triathlon

The clean roads and footpaths of Stockton have been singled out for praise following the Commonwealth Games Trials.

The organisers of this year's Great North Triathlon, Nova International, were impressed with the overall standard of assistance they received from Stockton Borough Council in preparing for the games.

And in a letter to the Council, Nova's Events Co-ordinator Mike Candlish said: "A special mention needs to be made of your cleansing department who achieved a standard of road and footpath cleanliness that we have not seen before."

The prestigious event in May was televised by the BBC.

Mr Candlish said: "This was the first top level triathlon to be staged away from the normal southern based venues. The support of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council was absolutely key in making it happen. The venue and event organisation have been commended by the British Triathlon Association and said to have set new standards."

Mr Candlish said Kevin McAuley and Sports Development Manager, Debbie Curgenvin, had been supportive throughout.

Stockton Council's Care For Your Area Service Manager Jamie McCann said: "The cleansing staff worked incredibly hard before, during and after the event. I am delighted the hard work which was put in by the cleansing team is acknowledged and appreciated by the event organisers."

Checkmate

New members are being sought for a chess club at Billingham Synthonia Club every Wednesday evening from 7.00pm - 11.00pm.

The club currently has around 24 members, but is looking for more people, from beginners upwards, to take part in leagues and competitions. For more details, please call Ian Teden on (01642) 883006.



Creating a community project

A team building weekend on a narrow boat led a group of women from The Willows Centre to launch an ambitious project to build a community barge on the Tees.

The women, from the Willows Centre Management Team, were so impressed with their narrow boat experience on the canals around Leeds they decided to set up The Barge Project.

The idea was taken to the St Ann's Partnership Board which saw the initiative as a great opportunity for the Stockton Borough community to be involved in.

The Enterprise and Skills Share Initiative conducted a community consultation to gauge interest and found the response to be very positive.

A steering group, made up of residents, professionals and Councillors was then established and a feasibility study carried out by Bob Bond, the Watersports Manager at the Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre.

"The total cost of the barge, with four years running costs, came to £100,00 and through the Enterprise and Skills Share Initiative's funding applications, the total figure was reached," said Angus Ferguson, Project Co-ordinator for the Enterprise and Skills Share Initiative.

"We would like to thank the Northern Rock Foundation, Barclays, Abbey

National, Stockton Council, Adult Education, SRCGA, Action Team for Jobs, Tees Valley TEC, Greggs Trust, British Waterways, Co-operative Society, International Yachtpaint and Pyeroy."

Work started on the actual building of the barge in August and it is expected to take around a year for the project to be completed.

Once up and running it is intended that the barge will be used for training, educational trips and holidays for residents. It will be designed for both able bodied and disabled community members.

"The project is about creating vocational training and employment in areas of need and the wider range of skills involved in the project will bring greater opportunity to more local people as well as providing a training and recreational venue situated on the River Tees," added Angus.

Barge painting classes have already begun and classes in upholstery and stained glass painting will be run by Stockton Adult Education Service. The actual fitting of the barge will provide the community with the opportunity to learn new skills in electrics, woodwork and boat handling.

"We envisage around 250 people being involved in the construction and themes running through the project include up-skilling, re-skilling of workforce, re-skilling of women in

non-traditional areas, the creation and development of community enterprise, raising educational standards and the promotion of adult education," said Angus.

Boat builder Iain Fishburn is co-ordinating the construction of the barge and voluntary organisations such as Richard Hind Centre, Five Lamps, Corner House Resource Centre, Hardwick Tomorrow, Eastern Ravens and Stockton International Family Centre will also be involved.

"The partnership with the International Family Centre will ensure ethnic minority groups have equal opportunity to be involved," added Angus.

Six months into the build, a second community based 'operational' committee will be formed to determine the barge use and put in place systems for community use of the vessel, training, team-building and educational trips.

"The success of this venture will be the number of people involved and gaining qualifications or moving into group learning situations for the first time," said Angus.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the project please contact Iain Fishburn on (01642) 674895.



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Stockton Business Centre, 70 Brunswick Street, Stockton-on-Tees
Email: Enquiries@StocktonBusinessCentre.org
www.StocktonBusinessCentre.org

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



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

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

For more details ring: 01325 337667 (24hrs)

New Thursday School in Darlington from September



www.stagecoach.co.uk

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**IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS
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On payment of the current adult cremation fee the purchaser will receive a certificate entitling him or her to a prepaid cremation at Teesside Crematorium at any time in the future. Funeral directors, ministers and organists fees etc. are not included.

For further information contact:-
**The Cemeteries and Crematorium
Office, Teesside Crematorium, Acklam
Road, Middlesbrough TS5 7HD
Tel. 01642 817725 Fax 01642 852424
e-mail peter_gitsham@middlesbrough.gov.uk**



PUBLIC PROTECTION
& PLANNING SERVICE

Drugs Services In Stockton



PMS (Personal Medical Service)

GP Practice (for substance misusers) Lawson Street Health Centre, Lawson Street, Stockton
(01642) 352980

PANIC

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

ETC (Education, Training & Care)

Daycare Centre, 32-34 William Street, Stockton TS18 1DB
(01642) 356088

HOOKED (Young Persons Community Drugs Team)

The Corner House, 98 Dovecot Street, Stockton
(01642) 868331

ABS (Addictive Behaviour Service)

29 – 31 Yarm Lane, Stockton
(01642) 802424

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Activemark Awards

Stockton First

Sports Development are delighted to announce that Frederick Natrass Primary and St Patrick's R.C. Primary in Thornaby are the first two schools in Stockton to achieve 'Activemark' accreditation.

This accreditation scheme recognises schools for their commitment to promoting the benefits of physical activity and provide a quality physical education programme.

St. Patrick's R.C. Primary in Thornaby did particularly well and have been recognised as an Activemark Gold School.

We are hoping these awards will be the first of many to come.

Sportsmark Success

The secondary schools also deserve our congratulations as Egglecliffe School and Ian Ramsey Church of England School have achieved Sportsmark, the national accreditation for Secondary Schools.

Sportsmark is awarded to schools that have effective policies and practices for the provision of a well-balanced physical education programme for developing a good out-of-hours programme and links with sport in the community.

Ian Ramsey and Egglecliffe's achievements bring the total of Sportsmark schools in Stockton to 7.

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS More Money For Sports Clubs

There's still money in the pot for Sports Clubs who operate not for profit to apply for National Non-Domestic Rate Relief (NNDRR). For an application for further information, call Trevor Massey on 01642 358541



Leisure Saver Card 2002

Great Savings on Sports and Leisure Activities

in the Borough of
Stockton-on-Tees

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

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

for more info contact:

Sports Development
01642 358541

Exercise On Prescription

Just Keeps On Growing...

Exercise on Prescription is a twenty-week progressive exercise programme. Activities can be taken at Stockton Sports Centre, Splash, Billingham Forum, Thornaby Pavilion, Thornaby Swimming Pool or Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre.

The scheme is a service provided by Sports Development in conjunction with local GP's and other Health Practitioners to help you manage and control your medical condition. It is a great alternative way to improve your medical, health, lifestyle and well being.

Types of activities included are:

- Personalised gym programmes in an environment with people on the scheme like yourself
- Light exercise classes
- Water based activities
- Health walks

...at these Centres/Venues:

- SPLASH
- Stockton Sports Centre
- Billingham Forum
- Thornaby Pavilion
- Thornaby Pool
- Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre
- Various Parks & Countryside locations



If you require any further information regarding Exercise on Prescription, please contact
**The Health & Fitness
Advisor on 01642 393909**

What's On

September – December 2002

Ongoing

Until 5 October - Billingham Art Gallery
Pat Johnston and Bernard Smith
Ceramic sculptures, enamels and paintings

SEPTEMBER

Starting in September – performing arts classes in Central Stockton. Classes are in drama, dance, solo acting, singing and acting and masterclass. For children and young people aged from 8-18. Prices start from £4 per session. Saturdays – term time. Perform/youth theatre – Thursdays term time. For information and to register for classes, please call Claire Fawley on (01642) 415379.

Until 12 October

DIGITAL TEESIDE - Green Dragon Museum
Digital photography from a large group of local photographers

27 September

NIGHT WALK AT CASTLE EDEN WALKWAY
7.00pm 7.30pm and 8.00pm.
Booking essential. Call (01740) 630011.

28 September (am) and 1 October (am)

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS.
For beginners inspired by photographs with local poet Maureen Almond. Free but booking is essential on (01642) 415379.

29 September

LET'S GO FLY A KITE.
Preston Park - 1.00pm - 3.00pm. Make your own kite, places need to be booked. Call (01642) 788907.

OCTOBER

Continuing to 31 October

Norton Road by Andy Elliott. Green Dragon Museum.

Throughout October

POSTER DISPLAY.
Held in Stockton Town Centre as part of National Mental Health Day.

4 October

PLANETARIUM – 7.30pm – Castle Eden Walkway.
Look at the skies. £3 adults, £1.50 children and £6 family ticket.

6 October

BILLINGHAM BECK VALLEY. 2.00pm – 3.30pm.
A look at the area.

6 October

PRESTON PARK – take a look at wildlife.
10.00am – 11.30am. Meet at gates of park at 10.00am. Tel (01642) 788907.

10 October

NATIONAL POETRY DAY EVENTS.
Green Dragon Museum – 11 October – 22 November

11 October – 22 November

SEEING OURSELVES. Billingham Art Gallery
Portraits from the Museum Service's Collections

13 October

LOCAL NATURAL HISTORY. 2.00pm-3.30pm
Learn about the local natural history with Russell McAndrew at the Activity Centre, Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park.

18 October

PLANETARIUM. 7.30pm – Castle Eden Walkway. The inside story of Mars and much more. £3 adults, £1.50 children and £6 family ticket. Call (01740) 630544.

19 October – 30 November

PINHOLE VISIONS. Green Dragon Museum.
Back to basics with these low tech images.

20 October

CASTLE EDEN WALKWAY. 10.00am – 4.00pm.
A consultation day to give you the chance to learn about the management of the area.
Call (01740) 630011.

21 October

LOOKING AT ANIMAL TRACKS. 10.00am – 11.30am
Billingham Beck Visitor Centre. £1 charge.
Book in advance on (01642) 397609.

23 October

MAKE YOUR OWN CANDLES FROM BEESWAX.
1.30pm – Village Hall, Stillington.
Booking essential on (01740) 630011.

31 October

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT. Preston Hall Museum –
Tickets £8 from Stockton Tourist Information Centre within the Central Library or call (01642) 415379 for information. Suitable for adults and young people over 14.

NOVEMBER

1 November

A LOOK AT THE STARS. 7.30pm - Castle Eden Walkway – Charges £3 adults, £1.50 children and £6.00 family ticket. Call (01740) 630544 for details.

3 November

GIRSBY LOOP WALK. 9.00am – Yarm – 17 mile hike, meet in car park of Egglecliffe Comprehensive school at 9.00am. Call (01642) 788907 for details.

12 November

RIVER TEES TALK. 7.30pm - By local writer Keith Watson at Castle Eden Walkway. Call (01740) 630011.

15 November

MARS THE INSIDE STORY. 7.30pm – Castle Eden Walkway Planetarium. Charges £3 adults, £1.50 children and £6 family ticket. Call (01740) 630544.

15 November

NATIONAL JUNIOR TABLE TENNIS.
Taster sessions. Qualified coaches will hold the Taster session for those interested in National Junior Table Tennis Championships. For further details contact Sports Development on (01642) 358512.

16 and 17 November

NATIONAL JUNIOR TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Thornaby Pavilion. For further details contact Sports Development on (01642) 358512.

17 November

2.00pm – 3.30pm. Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park.
Looking at harvest mice and their habitat.
Call (01642) 415225 to book a place.

20 November

STILLINGTON FOREST PARK. 7.00pm – a short talk on the management and wildlife to be found there plus your say on future developments.
Call (01740) 630011 for details.

24 November

BIRDWATCH. 10.00am-11.30am
Billingham Beck Valley. Meet at the visitor centre.

DECEMBER

1 December

STOCKTON'S CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL. 3.30pm – 5.00pm
Stockton will see a cavalcade of pop and football stars travelling along its famous High Street in an open top bus. So why not come along and get into the festive spirit as the Christmas lights are switched on and the fireworks begin.

1 December

COWPEN BEWLEY WOODLAND PARK.
2.00pm – 4.00pm – come and learn all about hedgehogs and their habitat.
Pre book on (01642) 415225.

1 December

TWO BRIDGES WALK.
Castle Eden Walkway. 10.00am
Meet at Tilery Wood car park on the A689. Book in advance on (01740) 630011.

19 December

STOCKTON'S CIVIC CAROL CONCERT.
5.00pm – 7.00pm.
Stockton's Civic Carol Concert takes place in the High Street. Come along and see the Gospel Choir and young musicians bringing the sounds of Christmas to central Stockton.

Stockton News available in Urdu

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

اردو میں سٹاکٹن خبریں

اردو بولنے والوں کیلئے سٹاکٹن خبروں کی یہ اشاعت آڈیو کیسٹ کی صورت میں تجرباتی طور پر پیش کی گئی ہے۔
یہ مفت حاصل کی جا سکتی ہیں مقامی مساجد، انٹرنیشنل فیملی سنٹر سٹاکٹن اور ٹاؤن ہاؤس سنٹر تھارنابی، یا اس پتے پر گھر کر:-

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TS181YD

Pupils put their best foot forward

Pupils across Stockton Borough could win a premier football prize just by taking part in this year's Walk to School Week from 30th September to 4th October.

Stockton Council's Road Safety Team are once again encouraging youngsters and their parents to leave the car behind and walk to school.

The Road Safety Team have teamed up with Middlesbrough Football Club to offer a Matchday Experience class prize for Years Five and Six. For more information about walking to school and school travel plans contact Stockton Council's George Callaghan on (01642) 397712.

Have your say on health and social issues

North Tees 
Primary Care Trust

People from across the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees are being asked to have their say on local health and social services.

Patients, carers, volunteers and interested members of the public are invited to join one of the sub-committees or working groups of North Tees Primary Care Trust, based in Thornaby.

"People that have not got the time to commit to regular meetings can take part occasionally by being part of a network of people canvassed for opinions on local health issues," said a North Tees Primary Care Trust spokesperson.

Anyone wishing to find out more can obtain an information leaflet by calling (01642) 352297.

Vision 2020 can be a reality

Imagine a place where schools are thriving and students are choosing to stay on in education to fulfil their potential.

Imagine a place where landmark buildings have been built, business is booming and the number of new businesses is increasing.



Imagine a place where people are living longer and the area has gained international recognition for water and ice sports.

No, this is not a pipedream, but a vision for the regeneration of Stockton as seen through the eyes of the Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board. All the partnership's aims for the future are now set out in a booklet just produced, called Vision 2020.

The Renaissance group was set up in 1998 to allow Stockton Borough Council to work in partnership with other organisations from the community, public and private sectors to promote economic, environmental and social well being.

Vision 2020 is the result of an extensive exercise carried out by Stockton Renaissance last year to set aspirational goals for the Borough for the next 20 years.

The aims it has in its sights build upon the existing strengths of the Borough to revitalise the area and take a positive look towards the future.

Stockton Renaissance Chairman, Bob Gibson, said: "Our goals are deliberately challenging because we are striving for excellence. Vision 2020 is about aspirations – wanting the best for the Borough. We have backed these up with hard targets and achieving these will help bring those dreams a little closer."

Among those dreams for the year 2020 are that people are positive about their Borough with thriving schools and a fourth college opened by Durham University on the North Bank.



Having the Borough of Stockton known for its sporting excellence, especially in water and ice sports, where it has gained international recognition

and the water sports clubs on the river have produced several members of British Olympic teams.

Already some of the aims for the area have been realised with the new South Stockton Link Road, Queen Elizabeth Way, easing traffic congestion in the south, Teesdale is the area's most prosperous business park and the development on the North Bank of the Tees is about to start.



Vice-chairman of Renaissance and the Chief Executive of the North Tees Primary Care Trust, Chris Willis, said: "I am confident

that when people believe in themselves and in the Borough that we can do virtually anything we set our minds to."

The next step is for Stockton Renaissance to focus on some of the aspirations and decide how "joined up working" amongst its partners can help achieve them.

Ward Surgeries

September – December 2002

BISHOPSGARTH WARD (STOCKTON)

8th Oct Bishopsgarth School 5.30pm – 6.00pm
9th Nov Fairfield Infants School 6.30pm – 7.00pm
10th Dec Bishopsgarth School 5.30pm – 6.00pm
COUNCILLORS S. HALL TEL: 654895
W. WOODHEAD TEL: 584409

BLUE HALL WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

9th Oct Norton United Reform Church
23rd Oct The Forge Community Centre
13th Nov Frederick Natrass School
27th Nov Norton United Reform Church
18th Dec The Forge Community Centre
COUNCILLORS M. FRANKLAND TEL: 552667
MRS K. NELSON TEL: 397921

CHARLTONS WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

11th Nov Cowpen Hall Training Centre
11th Nov Clarences Community Centre
16th Dec Cowpen Hall Training Centre
COUNCILLORS MRS A. McCOY TEL: 533554
R. McCALL TEL: 554452

EGGLESCLIFFE WARD 6.00PM – 7.00PM

15th Oct Egglecliffe Parish Hall
19th Nov Egglecliffe Community Centre
17th Dec Egglecliffe Parish Hall
COUNCILLORS J. ATKINSON TEL: 782292
J. FLETCHER TEL: 786456

ELM TREE WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

15th Oct Elm Tree Community Centre
19th Nov Elm Tree Community Centre
17th Dec Elm Tree Community Centre
COUNCILLOR MRS S. FLETCHER TEL: 786456
Email: sfletcher@cix.co.uk

FAIRFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

16th Oct Fairfield Library
20th Nov Fairfield Library
18th Dec Fairfield Library
COUNCILLORS MRS F. HAWKINS TEL: 671422
MRS J. WADE TEL: 583549

GLEBE WARD (STOCKTON)

7th Oct The Education Centre 2.30pm – 3.00pm
15th Oct The Education Centre 6.30pm – 7.00pm
11th Nov The Education Centre 2.30pm – 3.00pm
19th Nov The Education Centre 6.30pm – 7.00pm
9th Dec The Education Centre 2.30pm – 3.00pm
COUNCILLORS MRS A. CAINS TEL: 555394
R. CAINS TEL: 555394

GRANGE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 5.30PM – 6.30PM

27th Sep Windlestone Road Housing Office
25th Oct Windlestone Road Housing Office
29th Nov Windlestone Road Housing Office
13th Dec Windlestone Road Housing Office
COUNCILLORS A. CUNNINGHAM TEL: 551251
M. STOKER TEL: 648069
Email: mickstoker@aol.com or mick@grangeward.co.uk
Alexander.Cunningham@stockton.gov.uk

GRANGEFIELD WARD (STOCKTON)

25th Sep Oxbridge Primary School 5.45pm – 6.45pm
21st Oct Grays Road Institute 10.00am – 11.30am
18th Nov Grays Road Institute 10.00am – 11.30am
27th Nov Oxbridge Primary School 5.45pm – 6.45pm
16th Dec Grays Road Institute 10.00am – 11.30am
COUNCILLORS T. BEAN TEL: 870110
MRS E. JOHNSON TEL: 673952

HARDWICK WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

27th Sep Hardwick Tomorrow, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
4th Oct Hardwick Tomorrow, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
11th Oct Hardwick Tomorrow, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
18th Oct Hardwick Tomorrow, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
25th Oct Hardwick Tomorrow, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
1st Nov Hardwick Tomorrow, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
8th Nov Hardwick Tomorrow, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
15th Nov Hardwick Tomorrow, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
22nd Nov Hardwick Tomorrow, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
29th Nov Hardwick Tomorrow, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
6th Dec Hardwick Tomorrow, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
13th Dec Hardwick Tomorrow, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
20th Dec Hardwick Tomorrow, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
COUNCILLORS P. ANDREW TEL: 782373
W. NOBLE TEL: 602299

HARTBURN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.45PM – 7.30PM

7th Oct Rosehill Infants School
11th Nov Elmwood Community Centre
2nd Dec Rosehill Infants School
COUNCILLORS K. LUPTON TEL: 589863
S. SMAILES TEL: 581574

INGLEBY BARWICK WARD

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

MANDALE WARD (THORNABY) 12.00 NOON – 1.00PM

28th Sep Kennedy House
12th Oct The Mandale PH
26th Oct Kennedy House
9th Nov Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
23rd Nov The Mandale PH
7th Dec Kennedy House
21st Dec Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
COUNCILLORS M. INGRAM TEL: 789372
S. WALMSLEY TEL: 881886

MARSH HOUSE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

14th Oct Low Grange Community Centre
11th Nov North Billingham Methodist Church
9th Dec Low Grange Community Centre
COUNCILLOR MRS L. APEDAILE TEL: (01740) 645216
C. LECKONBY TEL: 872896

MILE HOUSE WARD (STOCKTON) 7.00PM – 8.00PM

15th Oct Kiora Community Centre
21st Nov Salters Lane Community Centre
17th Dec Kiora Community Centre
COUNCILLORS S. COLLIER TEL: 581380
K. LEONARD TEL: 894191

NEWTOWN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

27th Sep Appleton Road Community Centre
11th Oct Newtown Community Centre
25th Oct Appleton Road Community Centre
8th Nov Newtown Community Centre
22nd Nov Appleton Road Community Centre
6th Dec Newtown Community Centre
20th Dec Appleton Road Community Centre
COUNCILLORS P. BAKER TEL: 655607
R. GIBSON TEL: 614482

NORTHFIELD WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

27th Sep Wolviston Court Community Centre
25th Oct Wolviston Court Community Centre
29th Nov Wolviston Court Community Centre
No December date
COUNCILLORS A. CLARK TEL: 531144
M. WOMPHREY TEL: 555755

NORTON WARD 6.00PM – 7.00PM

27th Sep Albany Resource Centre
11th Oct St. Michael's Club Room
25th Oct Norton Library
8th Nov Albany Resource Centre
29th Nov Norton Library
13th Dec Albany Resource Centre
COUNCILLORS R. COOK TEL: 890058
S. NELSON TEL: 534417

Visit us on the web at www.nortonward.co.uk

Email: Robert.Cook@stockton.gov.uk
Steve.Nelson@stockton.gov.uk

PARKFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

26th Sep Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre
3rd Oct Parkfield Community Centre
10th Oct Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
17th Oct Parkfield Community Centre
24th Oct Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre
7th Nov Parkfield Community Centre
14th Nov Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
21st Nov Parkfield Community Centre
28th Nov Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre
5th Dec Parkfield Community Centre
12th Dec Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
19th Dec Parkfield Community Centre
COUNCILLORS C. COOMBS TEL: 645759
P. KIRTON TEL: 532076

PORTRACK & TILERY WARD (STOCKTON) 5.00PM – 6.00PM

1st Oct Mill Lane Community Centre
8th Oct Portrack Community Centre
15th Oct The Community House, Cromwell Avenue
22nd Oct Frank Wiseman Hall
5th Nov Mill Lane Community Centre
12th Nov Portrack Community Centre

19th Nov The Community House, Cromwell Avenue
26th Nov Frank Wiseman Hall
3rd Dec Mill Lane Community Centre
10th Dec Portrack Community Centre
17th Dec The Community House, Cromwell Avenue
COUNCILLORS D. COLEMAN TEL: 673952
K. SAINSBURY TEL: 605201

PRESTON WARD 6.30PM – 7.30PM

4th Oct Trinity Methodist Church, Eaglescliffe
18th Oct The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
1st Nov Trinity Methodist Church, Eaglescliffe
15th Nov The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
6th Dec Trinity Methodist Church, Eaglescliffe
20th Dec The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
COUNCILLOR M. CHERRETT TEL: 783491

ROSEWORTH WARD (STOCKTON) 5.15PM – 6.15PM

7th Oct Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre
11th Nov Kiora Community Centre
2nd Dec Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre
COUNCILLORS MRS W. HODGSON TEL: 614208
MISS B. INMAN TEL: 582644

STAINSBY WARD (THORNABY) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

17th Oct South Thornaby Community & Resource Centre
21st Nov South Thornaby Community & Resource Centre
19th Dec South Thornaby Community & Resource Centre
COUNCILLORS B. BELLERBY TEL: 763459
M. O' BRIEN TEL: 887353

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

9th Oct Billingham Youth & Community Centre
13th Nov Billingham Youth & Community Centre
4th Dec Billingham Youth & Community Centre
COUNCILLORS N. TEASDALE TEL: 07753 717291
B. WOODHOUSE TEL: 561899

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

10th Oct Billingham Branch Library
14th Nov Billingham Branch Library
12th Dec Billingham Branch Library
COUNCILLORS K. DOBINSON TEL: 564669
MRS J. O' DONNELL TEL: 559717

VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY) 6.15PM – 7.15PM

3rd Oct Queens Street Community Centre
7th Nov Queens Street Community Centre
5th Dec Queens Street Community Centre
COUNCILLOR MRS A. NORTON TEL: 611902

VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY) 2.00PM – 3.00PM

18th Oct Westbury Street Library
22nd Nov Westbury Street Library
20th Dec Westbury Street Library
COUNCILLOR A. HOBAN TEL: 633546

VILLAGE WARD (THORNABY) 4.30PM – 5.30PM

14th Oct Thornaby Pavilion
11th Nov Thornaby Pavilion
9th Dec Thornaby Pavilion
COUNCILLOR MRS E. CRAGGS TEL: 896378

WHITTON WARD

25th Oct Wolviston Court Community Centre 6pm – 7pm
4th Nov The Chapel School Room, Carlton 7.00pm – 7.30pm
5th Nov Manor House, Stillington 6.30pm – 7.00pm
10th Dec Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles 7pm – 7.30pm
COUNCILLOR F. SALT TEL: (01740) 630771

WOLVISTON WARD (BILLINGHAM) 7.00PM – 8.00PM

10th Oct The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
14th Nov High Grange Community Centre
12th Dec The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
COUNCILLOR MRS S. CORR TEL: (01740) 644339

YARM WARD 6.00PM – 6.45PM

8th Oct Challoner House
12th Nov Yarm Library
10th Dec Challoner House
COUNCILLORS B. JONES TEL: 576855
MRS M. SIMPSON TEL: 790691

SURGERIES

Stockton South: Dari Taylor MP

Tel: 01642 604546 for information

Stockton North: Frank Cook MP

Tel: 01642 643288 for information

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

THE NORTH EAST'S
BIGGEST AND BEST
FIREWORKS
DISPLAY

Festival of
FIREWORKS

TUESDAY
5TH NOVEMBER

2002

The Riverside, Stockton-on-Tees

6.30PM TFM ROADSHOW WITH GUESTS
7.30PM FIREWORKS DISPLAY



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL STOCKTON COUNCIL
EVENTS SECTION ON (01642) 358542