



Stockton Council's Award Winning Community Magazine - Autumn 2004

**Stockton**

# news



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**Stockton-on-Tees**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Stockton News

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It aims to provide news and information about the Council, its partner organisations, and local community groups and businesses. Every effort is made to ensure that all information is accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication. Your views and comments are welcome.

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# Link on target

**Completion of South Stockton Link is still on target to be open to traffic by May 2005, completing the link between Stockton Town Centre and Ingleby Barwick.**

The new route is seen below, running from Bridge Road towards Preston Farm.

Initially access onto the A66(T) will be available only to traffic coming from and travelling to the west, because of the need for extensive works to widen A66 Surtees Bridge across the River

Tees. This work is being undertaken by the Highways Agency and is expected to be complete by late 2006 to allow traffic travelling to and from the east to also connect with South Stockton Link Road.

Over the past 12 months construction of the road has gathered apace, yet disruption to road users has been minimal. Two new rail tunnels and a bridge over the A66 are being built to carry the new road. With much of the structures and earthworks complete, the remaining months will be spent completing the road over the top.



## Parking Shop opens



**A new 'one-stop' shop for all parking services has opened its doors at Gloucester House in Stockton.**

First to use the Parking Shop in the town's Church Road was the Mayor, Councillor Jennie Beaumont, pictured here with Andy Edwards (left) Corporate Director of Development and Regeneration and Nigel Gibb, Car Park Manager, unveiling a plaque in the restored Georgian building to mark the occasion. The Parking Shop offers local car parks information, sells parking season tickets, accepts payments of fines for off-road parking offences, manages the Blue Badges for disabled persons parking and issues Concessionary Travel Passes.

The Council is to apply to the Government to take over responsibility for roadside parking control from the police in the New Year, in line with moves by other authorities across the country. If approved, this would mean that parking violations in the Borough would no longer be a criminal offence, with income from fines channelled into local transport related services rather than going into the Government's coffers. Call (01642) 528499 for information.

## There will be fireworks on November 5th!

**Stockton Council is planning another whopping firework display for 5 November at the Riverside.**

This year the event will be bigger and better than ever, with support from Tfm's Roadshow to really get the atmosphere flowing.

The fireworks themselves begin at 7.30pm but 96.6 Tfm will be there from 6.00pm with some great sounds along with fairground fun plus hot food and drinks to keep out the cold.

Local company G2 Fireworks will provide a spectacular display, blazing the sky with colour and spectacle.

Graham Reeves, Stockton Council's Events Officer, said: "Organised events like ours are far safer and infinitely more spectacular than get-togethers in back gardens.

"We are renowned for our breathtaking firework displays and we recommend that everyone comes down to see and hear the sights and sounds on November 5th."

## Christmas switch-on

**Stockton High Street will be lit up in all its glory once again when the annual Christmas light switch on takes place on Thursday December 2.**

Plans for the switch-on are being kept a closely guarded secret but you can rest assured it will be as spectacular as ever! And everyone is welcome to come down to the High Street and take in some festive cheer.

The switch-on itself takes place at 6.00pm and don't forget there will be late night shopping for all your Christmas pressies until 8.00pm.

# Blooming marvellous!



Left, Stockton's Head of Direct Services, Jamie McCann and Horticultural Services Manager Craig Coverdale with the Trophy

**Stockton has been crowned the 'Best City' winner at this year's Northumbria in Bloom competition.**

The results were announced in September at an awards ceremony at Hardwick Hall and the judges declared Stockton as the overall winner in Best City category – beating Darlington into second place.

The Borough was also celebrating in the Best Urban Development Section with Belasis Business Park in Billingham being nominated a worthy winner.

Jamie McCann, Head of Direct Services for Stockton Council, said: "It's an absolutely outstanding achievement for Stockton and is a tremendous boost for pride in the town.

"We have put a huge amount of effort into improving our streets and environment and to be named best town in Northumbria shows just how far Stockton has changed for the better."

The Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Jennie Beaumont was presented with the trophy for the Best City category.

## Another step forward for Thornaby regeneration

**Regeneration plans for the future of Thornaby Town Centre have been given the green light by Stockton Borough councillors.**

Developers Thornfield Properties Plc are investing more than £10 million to refocus the town centre and provide an opportunity to attract new multiple retailers into the town.

Members of Stockton Council's Planning Committee were minded to approve an application for the Town Centre, which has now been referred to the Government Office North East. At the same time, they approved a planning application to redevelop the former Tristar Neasham site on Allensway

The proposals include the demolition of Appleby, Brus and Meynell Houses and their replacement with approximately 9,000sq m of new retail development, including a new foodstore and 400 sq m of new office floorspace.

The scheme involves the creation of new retail units forming a mall opposite the existing Wrightson House.

The existing car park is to be relocated to the northern end of the centre with a new access roundabout on Allensway. A new glazed lift and staircase entrance to the Pavilion and Bowls Club are to be provided by way of a footbridge over the formed shopping mall.

The footbridge over Mitchell Avenue is to be demolished and the

adjacent pedestrian crossing upgraded.

The market will be relocated to St Peter's Square and environmental improvements will be made to the centre including new paving, lighting, enhanced CCTV, signage and canopies.

On the former Tristar Neasham site, Thornfield's plans include proposals to replace the deteriorating vacant former car showroom buildings with two new blocks of accommodation totalling 1,150sq m, together with parking for 55 vehicles.



# £25M Hardwick masterplan unveiled

**Hardwick residents saw the first plans for their estate's regeneration when Stockton Council consulted on its Masterplan for the £25 million project over the summer.**

The biggest housing regeneration project ever undertaken in Stockton, it is designed to breathe new life into an unpopular and declining part of the estate, known as the "W's" after road names in the area. Local people were consulted on the draft proposals at a series of open days.

Hundreds of other Hardwick residents are already benefiting from a further £15 million modernisation scheme as the Council and Tristar Homes Ltd bring their homes up to the Government's "Decent Standard".

The Masterplan draws on the feedback from earlier consultation and sets out proposals to replace run-down homes with modern, attractive housing designed to meet the needs of future generations. Better local facilities, a rebuilt school and improvements to the environment are also proposed. Residents' representatives, Ward Councillors and Endeavour Housing Association have been closely involved in developing the Masterplan.

And the wishes of local people are playing an important part in shaping the detail of the final plans. Sharon Lonergan, Stockton Council's Senior Project Manager for Hardwick, said that the open days had been a huge success. "They were lively and well attended, with more than 350 households taking part, and those who came were able to give us some very good ideas for regenerating their estate.

"I'd like to thank everyone who took part for helping us realise the vision for Hardwick."

Residents were asked for their views on two options, both designed to provide a mix of good quality private and rented housing, together with revitalised infrastructure to support the community.

They include:

- New housing ranging from bungalows to family homes, developed by the Council, Endeavour Housing Association – the main Housing Association partner which has been closely

involved in developing the Masterplan – Tees Valley Housing Association and private house builders

- 40 new family homes by Endeavour funded through £3.3 million of Housing Corporation grant
- A £6 million Extra Care Scheme for elderly and frail people funded by the Housing Corporation, which Endeavour and the Council propose to develop into a retirement village
- A new £3m state-of-the-art Hardwick Primary School
- Landscaping and other environmental improvements

72.4 per cent of those who responded supported the regeneration, with just 8 per cent against it. Existing residents will be offered priority for the new homes to be built at Hardwick.

Hardwick has suffered from a gradual decline in demand for the type of housing available, with many existing homes proving difficult or impossible to let. As a result, more than 230 houses have been demolished since 2001 and around 370 others could follow. The Masterplan is designed to draw a line under the decline and secure an attractive and sustainable future for the estate.

The Council's sensitive approach to meeting families' rehousing needs is reflected in its early achievement of successfully rehousing over 100 households to date.

Sharon commented: "It's a very positive result. The views expressed will help ensure a deliverable and sustainable high-quality development."

Mrs Maureen McLaren, Chair of the Hardwick Partnership Board, is a Residents Association member who herself has been successfully rehoused. She said: "This is a great opportunity for the people of Hardwick. The Partnership Board and Residents Association are committed to working in partnership with Stockton Council and Endeavour to help deliver the lasting improvements that the residents of Hardwick deserve."

Charlie Hughes, Chief Executive of Endeavour, said: "This is a really exciting proposal for the future of Hardwick. There have been some difficult times along the road to get to this point but all the ingredients are here for a flourishing and vibrant community with an environment and housing stock that both current and future residents will want to live in."

Feedback from the residents' consultation will help finalise the Masterplan, which the Council's Cabinet will be asked to approve later in the year. A feedback session for residents will also be arranged.

The Council has selected Endeavour as its Housing Association partner and anticipates selecting a development partner in March 2005.

Endeavour will commence building first 40 new homes in January 2005.

For more information on the Hardwick regeneration, please call Rachael Swales, Hardwick Regeneration Project Officer with Stockton Council, on (01642) 528503 or email [rachael.swales@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:rachael.swales@stockton.gov.uk)



Hardwick could soon see new homes similar to these typical examples

# Care For Your Area leads the way



Residents can take pride when they put out their blue box and bag for collection – research from Friends of the Earth shows that Stockton Council's Care For Your Area service is ahead of the pack when it comes to recycling.

Although the number of doorstep recycling services nationwide is growing, around 75 per cent of local authorities do not yet comply with the 2003 Household Waste Recycling Act, which requires councils to provide every house with a separate collection of at least two types of recyclable material by 2010.

The Care For Your Area team, however, has shown it fully deserves its top 3-star 'Excellent' rating from the Government by already beating the targets set by the Act. Jamie McCann, Head of Direct Services for Stockton Council, said: "The Care For Your Area service is thoroughly committed to keeping the Borough clean and "green" by offering residents a number of different services.

"The majority of households now have the opportunity to recycle three types of material – glass, paper and cans – through the fortnightly blue box and bag scheme. Some areas also have a green garden waste collection service and there's also a scheme offering home compost bins to recycle your own garden waste."

Jamie added that Care For Your Area would not be stopping there: "We're looking at other ways to make recycling easier, including state-of-the-art underground recycling systems and mini community recycling centres as two possible alternatives."

# Young people find life's just capital

A group of young people discovered what life is like in the capital thanks to a Stockton business.

Armstrong Flooring handed over a £2,000 cheque to the team from Stockton Council's Youth and Leaving Care Team, which is now planning outdoor activities for some of the young people they work with.

The first activity was a weekend cultural visit to London for a group of six young people, who were able to take in a show and do some sightseeing.

Steve Jukes, of the Youth and Leaving Care Team, said: "We thought a

cultural visit to London would be a chance for our young people to experience another part of the country. A lot of these teenagers may never have had the chance to go far beyond the Tees Valley. This trip will hopefully broaden their horizons."

Some of the money will help develop the garden at the rear of the team's Hartington Road premises. Another group of 16 to 19 year olds is improving improving their gardening, DIY skills and teamwork.

Armstrong Flooring, of Teesside Industrial Estate at Thornaby, is developing its own learning centre with access to computers for staff and eventually the wider community.

# Graffiti – it's a write off

Stockton Council is making its own mark against graffiti jobs – scrubbing out the unsightly work in half its target time.

Across the Borough, reports of 80 incidents recently led the Council's Care For Your Area Team to act swiftly to remove the graffiti. The average time for removal was just 3.63 days, far in advance of the 7-day target, but where the graffiti was of a sexual, political or generally offensive nature it was tackled within 24 hours.

Jamie McCann, Head of Direct Services for Stockton Council, said: "We will not tolerate graffiti and we'll use all

our enforcement powers to keep graffiti-free, whether it be fines, prosecution or CCTV cameras."

A recent report by ENCAMS (Environmental Campaigns, formerly the Tidy Britain Group) showed the North East's largest towns to be suffering at the hands of people who try to deface them.

Jamie added: "The mindless acts of a minority spoil it for the majority by encroaching their 'artwork' on everyone else. Perhaps if they thought about it, and the impression it gives to any visitors to the area, they might think twice before they put their pens or spray paint to work."

# Community Wardens hailed as excellent

Stockton Council's Community Wardens have earned an 'Excellent' grade in the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Unit's Community Wardens Award.

Since the scheme began in 2001, Stockton's Community Wardens have grown in number from a mere eight wardens to 36 today, covering nine wards in the Borough.

Stockton is held in very high regard by other councils, with officers from as far afield as Newcastle and Hull receiving training from our own team.

Doug Carhart, Head of Security Service at Stockton Council, said: "This is an extremely prestigious award and is well deserved by our Community Wardens.

"Patrolling the Borough to help keep the community safe is an essential part of the excellent job they do."



# Grant is company's vital spark

**A long established Stockton company is facing renewed growth after two years of difficult trading, thanks in part to a timely grant from Stockton Council.**

Changes in customer demand had brought some unpleasant decisions for the Stockton Castings Company, which produces a range of metal castings and forgings. Continued operations required a "strategic turnaround" which unfortunately involved redundancy, with just 23 jobs being retained out of a workforce of 54.

But the response the company made to changes in the marketplace is now resulting in renewed growth.

Now, to fulfil current customers' requirements and increase production, Stockton Castings has had to re-commission and re-invest in equipment and plant. Existing product ranges will remain but there will be a greater emphasis on product development and customer needs.

As well as ferrous castings, production of non-ferrous, forgings and investment castings will increase.

Assistance from Stockton Council's Business Grant Scheme has been an important factor behind this project, which will secure permanent posts as well as creating new jobs.



## Council drives improvement through culture

**Stockton Council has won praise for its innovation in harnessing cultural services to drive year-round community improvements.**

Stockton's Open Technology network is featured as an outstanding case study in a new publication from local government's Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA).

Titled "Cultural Connections: Cultural Services and Better Public Service Delivery", the book showcases 50 of the best examples of the vital role that local councils' cultural services can play in delivering high profile community programmes.

Stockton's Library Service has focused on how to improve opportunity and achievement in education and lifelong learning by encouraging, promoting and supporting the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in libraries. There is a strong emphasis

on including people who are often excluded from mainstream society.

Between them, the 11 libraries – all of which are UK Online Centres – offer 102 public access terminals, one-to-one tuition, taster sessions and ICT-based homework clubs. Free self-help support material is available on CD-ROM.

In addition, Stockton Central Library's Open Technology Centre offers dedicated equipment for blind and visually impaired people, provided in partnership with Stockton Blind People's Voice. And there's specially tailored assistance for older people who are using computer technology.

In its first year, the Open Learning Centre alone assisted 1,277 children with study support and helped 613 adult users.

Tessa Jowell, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, says: "The case studies in this publication

help to illustrate the vital role that cultural service provision can play in delivering the high profile community agendas of central and local government.

"It is wonderful to see local authorities, national agencies, voluntary and community groups working together to deliver cultural programmes that expand our boundaries and enrich our lives. I urge others to follow their example."

Annette Stansfield, IDeA Regional Associate for the North East, adds: "Congratulations to Stockton Council for leading on such an innovative community project. The project has helped bond local community groups, and is a fine example of the innovative cultural services work that is taking place."

For more information about Cultural Connections, please visit [www.idea.gov.uk/publications](http://www.idea.gov.uk/publications)

# Seve Trophy bound for Wynyard

**The most glittering line up of golfers ever seen in our region will tee off the prestigious Seve Trophy golf tournament at Wynyard Golf Club in 2005.**

The four-day team event will be the North East's biggest-ever golf tournament with a host of top European PGA Tour stars gracing the 7,043 yard course. The cream of Great Britain and Ireland's golfers take on a Continental European team captained by five times Major winner Seve Ballesteros on a date to be fixed between June and September next year, subject to European PGA Tour approval.

Last year in Valencia, Colin Montgomerie led GB & Ireland to a second team victory.

Organisers are two leading Spanish companies – MediaPro and Seve Ballesteros' Amen Corner – who have signed a contract with the Wynyard club.

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

Alan Clarke, One NorthEast Chief Executive, said: "Securing this fantastic sporting event is a huge boost for the Tees Valley and the region as a whole.

It will bring major benefits to the tourism industry, local businesses and further cement the region's reputation as a sporting hot bed able to host world class events.

"I'm confident that Wynyard will provide a welcome and a sporting test to rival any in Europe."

Wynyard competed against Slaley Hall in Northumberland to host the tournament. It will be a huge economic boost, generating an estimated £10m for the local economy and creating 100 new jobs connected to the event.

Andy Edwards, Stockton Council's Corporate Director of Development and Regeneration, said: "This will be wonderful for Stockton and the region. I'm sure it will capture the imagination of Tees Valley sport-lovers and extensive TV coverage will showcase the area to millions."

Gary Munro of Wynyard Golf Club said: "This is the biggest day in our short history. We will make sure that the European Tour stars are given a fantastic welcome with a course to match."

The Seve Trophy is a major element of the Newcastle Gateshead Initiative's £140m culture10 programme, supporting a range of top festivals and events to establish the North East as a world class visitor destination.

## Visit the Business Directory online

**Businesses across the Tees Valley now have the potential to reach local, national and even international customers, thanks to an online business directory from Business Link Tees Valley.**

The Tees Valley Online Business Directory is a comprehensive database of local companies and their products and services, which can be accessed via the internet from the Business Link Tees Valley website.

The directory is designed to have a positive impact on the Tees Valley economy as businesses interact and use each other's services.

It also offers the public the ability to find information on local businesses or the products and services they offer and currently there are more than 8,000 businesses that have agreed to share their data in the directory.

To find out more visit the Tees Valley Online Business Directory Link from the Business Link website, [www.teesbusinesslink.co.uk](http://www.teesbusinesslink.co.uk)

To add your own business to the site, please call (01642) 866900, Text Phone (01642) 245668 or e-mail [info@tees.businesslink.co.uk](mailto:info@tees.businesslink.co.uk)

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## On your bike

**Staff and Students at the University of Durham, Queen's Campus, Stockton have an extra incentive to be green as well as lead an active, healthy lifestyle – free cycle hire.**

Developed by the Green Travel Plan (GTP) working group, the idea promotes green travel to and from the Campus.

John Bancroft, Bursar at Queen's Campus and Chair of the GTP working group, said: "We wanted to give staff and students the opportunity to get back onto their bikes and encourage this as an alternative to using their car."

The Plan aims to encourage staff and students to use green methods of travel. Measures include a travel information web page and a car share website.



# Bill and Ben promoting bins

Residents are going composting crazy, if recent sales of compost bins are anything to go by.

At a one-day bin sale event at Preston Park in August, almost 1,500 home composting bins were sold when WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) and Stockton Council encouraged householders to take advantage of fantastic sale prices on quality composters.

While the bin sale prices were a one-day special, it's still not too late to pick up a cut-price home composting bin. The WRAP order line is still open to Stockton Borough residents on 0845 7300123 and bins are available from as little as £5.

Each comes with easy-to-follow instructions and a copy of 'How to be

a Rotter', the free WRAP guide to composting.



Chanda Kagadora (left) and Future Phiri, as 'Bill and Ben', help promote the composters.

# Be active – be healthy

More than 1,000 people have taken advantage of the Active Health scheme, formerly called Exercise on Prescription, over the last year.

Exercise classes, personalised fitness programmes, aqua classes, Tai Chi sessions, health walks and events are just some of the activities offered to individuals. People are referred to the Active Health scheme by their GPs, practice nurses, cardiac rehabilitation, physiotherapy services, health visitors and other health professionals.

"Our clients have come to us because of a wide range of conditions – from

being overweight or inactive, through to people who have had joint replacement or heart attack or bypass," said Helen Hames, Stockton Council's Healthy Lifestyle Co-ordinator.

"We have provided support and expertise to increase activity levels in individuals of all ages, abilities and backgrounds."

Feedback from users of the service shows 90 per cent found the scheme 'extremely beneficial' and more than 66 per cent said they were more active as a result of attending the programme.

# Have your say on rights of way

Whether you walk the dog, take a cycle ride or just head down to the local shops, there is a good chance you'll have made your way along a public right of way.

Now Stockton Council is asking for your views to better understand the use and demand for local rights of way, in order to offer improved provision to walkers, cyclists, riders and people with mobility problems.

"Improved management, combined with better information and the creation of new routes in carefully

chosen locations, would make a significant difference to residents who use, or would like to use, rights of way," said Rights of Way Officer, Richard Rust.

"In areas where paths are fragmented, new short links between existing routes could provide an improved wider network."

Consultation with people across the Borough will help form the basis of a Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

A recent Viewpoint survey of 1,700 households across the Borough

# Health Review

A review of mental health and specialist learning disability services has been taking place across County Durham and Tees Valley.

The review sets out to identify the needs of local people, highlight gaps in specialist services and, where feasible, to meet the targets set out in the National Service Frameworks for Mental Health, Older People and Children, as well as the NHS Plan and 'Valuing People', the strategy for learning disability services.

The team is due to report this autumn.

All the partners involved believe that the development of local mental health and specialist learning disability services need to build on a shared vision, which could include how services are funded in the future.

Historically, people have been placed out of area, in the absence of specialised services locally. The review will examine these services and look at those that are, or could be, delivered nearer to home.

If you would like to know more, please call Ewen Weir, on (01642) 666739 or Ann-Marie Hedges, on (01642) 666749.

on rights of way brought a 55 per cent response rate.

Of these, 69 per cent thought rights of way were 'easy to use' with the same percentage saying they would use a wider network if there more information was available. However, 47 per cent said they did not know where to find information on rights of way.

If you would like to know more about public rights of way, please contact Richard Rust on (01642) 526721 or Rob Morrow on (01642) 526757 or email [highways@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:highways@stockton.gov.uk)

# Beyond the call of duty



Left to right: Sergeant Damien Daly, Special Police Constable Richard Hedley, Sergeant Graeme Small and Special Police Constable Darren Lee

**Graeme Small, Stockton Council's Enforcement Officer, has earned a national award for outstanding service to the community.**

The twelfth annual Ferrers Awards, presented in London by Home Office Minister Fiona Mactaggart, recognised the outstanding professionalism, commitment and achievements of Specials – police volunteers.

As a Special Sergeant, Graeme's award came as part of a team which also included three Special Constables - Darren Lee, Richard Hedley and Damian Daly.

It was given to for the partnership approach they developed in tackling youths drinking alcohol, anti-social behaviour and litter related problems by co-ordinating Enforcement Officers, Community Wardens, Special Constables, Anti-Social Behaviour Officers and Trading Standards Officers.

The venture has proved so successful that it has been used as a model of good practices for other city councils.

Graeme began working for Stockton Council in April 2003 to set up and co-ordinate a new Enforcement Section. He soon became Co-ordinator for both Enforcement and Community Wardens, both of which have since had national recognition for their unique and productive approach to the problems they deal with.

Doug Carhart, Stockton Council's Head of Security Services said: "This is a wonderful accolade for Graeme and he is an asset to our team.

"His co-ordination of the various agencies involved is excellent and I hope he will continue with the good work."

The Awards panel was impressed by the impact of the partnership approach on a particular area and the way the team had effectively turned around a neighbourhood and environment.

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# Cold comfort is good news

**A brand new Comfort Zone is helping families benefit from warmer homes after the three-year Warm Zone crusade to rescue thousands of Stockton families from the misery of fuel poverty drew to a close earlier this year.**

The pioneering Warm Zone project made many friends – not least the 14,000 households which received free insulation or gas central heating to help ease the burden of crippling heating bills.

But that's not the end of the battle against fuel poverty, thanks to the launch of Stockton Comfort Zone.

This new initiative will carry on providing help for people who can barely afford to pay their heating bills. The new project will run for three years to help lift Stockton's neediest families from fuel poverty - a condition in which fuel bills amount to more than ten per cent of household income.

Local health professionals will play a major part, with North Tees Primary Care Trust (PCT) joining forces with Stockton Council to help run the

scheme and people may find themselves referred to the Comfort Zone by their local health visitor or community nurse.

"Although the Warm Zone unearthed the vast majority of fuel poor households in Stockton, we estimate about 2,500 either slipped through the net, or have only recently become fuel poor due to a change in circumstances," said Stockton Council's Environmental Projects Manager, Mike Chicken.

"While Stockton Warm Zone systematically went and knocked on doors, street-by-street, the Comfort Zone will employ a different tactic, with health and housing professionals being trained to help us identify the people who most need our help, and then refer them to us."

Although Stockton Comfort Zone will be jointly-funded and run by the Council and PCT, it will continue to enjoy financial backing from the Warm Zone's original sponsors, Transco and British Gas.

"Fuel poverty is often a factor where people suffer from cold-related health

problems, that's why it makes sense for health professionals to ally themselves to the Comfort Zone," explained Toks Sangawawa, Director of Public Health North Tees PCT.

"Now, if one of our patients may benefit from Comfort Zone help, we can refer them direct to the new Environmental Health Community Worker who will provide essential advice on benefits and energy-efficiency as well as accessing any grants that are available for free insulation or central heating. In this way we hope to reduce the number of times these households need to access health services.

"We aim to completely eliminate fuel poverty in the most vulnerable households. This will have a positive impact on the health of the community, the educational achievements of schoolchildren, the environment and a reduction in deprivation."

For more information about the Comfort Zone scheme and eligibility to benefit from it, contact the Environment Centre on (01642) 528143.

# A DAY IN THE LIFE

## Faye Downing

**No two days are alike in Faye Downing's working life.**

One of a team of three Family Workers employed by Stockton Council's SWITCH project, Faye works with young people aged between eight and 13 who are at risk of entering the youth criminal justice system. The SWITCH slogan "Switch your child to a brighter future" says a lot about her work.

Embarking on a career working with children and families involved completing a degree at the University of Teesside for Youth Studies. During this time, Faye also took part in lots of voluntary work such as the Justice Support Project in Middlesbrough and also worked for the Barnados' SECOS Project (for Sexually Exploited Children on the Streets).

Newly appointed by Stockton Council this July, she is thoroughly enjoying the variety and challenges she meets and never knows what the day will bring.

The young people and families Faye works with will have been referred to SWITCH by agencies such as the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour team. The support given by Faye and her colleagues will refer young people and their families to other support agencies who work together to compile the best possible support package.

A typical day could involve working with several young people on a one-to-one basis. Easier to arrange during the school holidays, it's a different matter during term time, when Faye



often meets her clients in the early evening or at weekends – so a 5.00pm finish isn't part of this job.

She is always at the end of a telephone for her clients and admits that it can be easy to become attached to some of the young people she deals with. Nevertheless, she understands the importance of maintaining a professional distance.

"I try my best to build up a rapport with the families I work with. I like to

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**"An important part of my job is to empower families to help themselves and to realise that they are contributing to their own success."**

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take time to really get to know them and build trust, which is essential. An important part of my job is to empower families to help themselves and to realise that they are contributing to their own success."

Dealing with young people who may have experienced traumatic incidents in their family life, which has impacted on their behaviour and attitude, can be emotionally draining but rewarding when Faye's hard work pays off. So at the end of the working day, Faye tries

to 'switch' off so that she can concentrate on her own family life.

Faye's beautiful and lively four-year old daughter, Tea-May (pronounced Tia), is growing fast and also makes demands on her mum! And in order for Faye to do her job she relies on a lot of support from her own family, for which she says: "Thanks Mum!"

All in all, the job of a Family Worker is one of dedication and flexibility, ready for anything and with a deep understanding of the needs of young people and families. Faye admits that she learns something new every day. Dealing with complex family backgrounds and histories is not straightforward and being successful could mean something as simple as a noticeable difference in a child's attitude or a positive change in their way of thinking or a parent taking control of a challenging situation.

Faye meets families from all walks of life and is obviously a very caring and understanding person as she still finds time to do eleven hours voluntary work for two nights a week with SECOS. This means that, for the moment, her social life is certainly on the back burner!

The SWITCH Project is just about to celebrate its First Birthday – so Happy Birthday SWITCH and thanks to Faye for her valuable work.

# You're never too young to vote



The Council's Democratic Services team has been working with schools and youth groups in the Borough to demonstrate the democratic processes of local authorities.

Pupils at Oakdene Primary School, in Billingham, learned what it means to be an elected representative as part of their school council elections, with youngsters from the reception class right through to Year Six standing as candidates to represent their year group.

The young people worked closely with Council officers to learn the skills

needed to prepare manifestos and political speeches to tell their classmates about what they hoped to achieve for the school.

Fran Kelly, Head of Democratic Services for Stockton Council said: "It's great to see young people taking an active interest in the democratic process and wanting to give something back to their school."

The election and counting took place during July under the watchful eye of Barbara Campbell from the Council's Democratic Services team. The successful candidates took up their positions on the school council in September.

# Youngsters 'Make Their Mark'

Young people across the Borough will be making their voices heard during Local Democracy Week, from 18 – 24 October.

Now in its seventh year, Local Democracy Week encourages youngsters to take more interest and get involved with local democracy. This year's theme is 'Making Your Mark'.

Stockton Council's Democratic Services Development Unit has planned a series of activities to run throughout October.

From 11 – 15 October, senior Councillors and Officers will have young people work shadowing them. These youngsters will have been acting as an elected representative on either a student council or in a local group and the work shadowing will allow them to see for themselves how the political system works as they attend Cabinet and Council meetings.

On Tuesday, 19 October, Councillors will face a 'Question Time' style event, where young people can put their questions to a cross-party panel in the Council Chamber of Stockton Town Hall. Places are limited for this so, if you would like to attend, please call Barbara Campbell on (01642) 526185.

Everyone is invited to Stockton Town Hall on Wednesday 13 October for a guided tour of the building, with staff on hand to answer any questions.

Throughout Local Democracy Week, ARC in Stockton will hold an art exhibition, featuring work produced by pupils. They have worked with professional artists to portray their aspirations for the area and their hopes for the future.

"We are really keen to visit local groups to raise levels of involvement and understanding of how the democratic processes work at Stockton Council," said Barbara Campbell, Stockton Council's Development Officer.

"We are happy to make formal presentations or meet with group members on an informal basis and have a range of activities suitable for both adults and children."

If you would like to get involved in Local Democracy Week, or for more information, please call Barbara Campbell on (01642) 526185.

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# Crucial celebrations

An annual Stockton safety event has recently celebrated its 10th birthday.

The Council's Crucial Crew safety initiative welcomed more than 2,500 youngsters to the Education Centre on Junction Road in Norton.

Organisations taking part included Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire Brigade, HM Coastguard, Prison Me No Way and Northern Electric. Several Stockton Council services attended, with the Road Safety team, Animal Welfare, Environmental Health and Care For Your Area providing interactive workshops and scenarios on safety.

This year's event was supported by ntl, Jennings group, Stockton Riverside College and North Tees and

Hartlepool NHS Trust among others.

"Crucial Crew is a fun and exciting experience for all the pupils who attend and the interactive side of the event certainly catches their imagination," said Peter Fleming, Road Safety Officer for Stockton Council.

"We must also give a big thank you to all the organisations who give up their time to help keep the youngsters safe and also to our supporters – without them the event couldn't happen."

The Crucial Crew event, which is organised by Stockton Council's Planning and Environment Projects Unit and Road Safety Team, started in 1995 at Preston Hall. More than 20,000 youngsters have participated since it began.

# Arnie joins Road Safety Team

Stockton Council has recently welcomed a new member to its Road Safety team to help promote safety messages to youngsters across the Borough.

Arnie the Armadillo, who is seven feet tall and bright yellow, has been out and about visiting schools and events to spread his safety message.

Mike Edwards of the Road Safety team, pictured with Arnie, said: "Armadillos are protected by a hard shell and we want people to think of a cycle helmet as their hard shell while out cycling.

"Also, in their native South America, the biggest killer of armadillos is traffic, a bit like our hedgehog, so we use him to teach youngsters about being safe whilst near the roads."

Arnie took part in the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust's Silver Jubilee celebrations where he lined up against the Council's recycling mascot, Freda the Frog, and other local characters in the mascot race.

Mike added: "An armadillo is an unusual animal for us to choose, so he prompts a lot of questions. It gets people thinking – once they've seen Arnie they'll certainly never forget him!"

Any school interested in a visit from Arnie or which wants to find out more can contact him by email at [arnie.armadillo@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:arnie.armadillo@stockton.gov.uk) or by calling Mike on (01642) 526731.



# College teaches drugs risks

**Tutors running a highly successful drug education programme at Thornaby Community College hope their work will be copied in schools across the region.**

The programme has been incorporated into youngsters' Personal, Social, Health Education and Citizenship classes and pupils follow it through the whole of their five years at the College.

From their arrival in Year 7, children's knowledge is built on from what they already know – mainly about drugs as medicines. In following years they

learn about the risks associated with illegal drugs and the law.

Year 10 students find out more about the appearance of drugs and issues such as peer group pressure, with more detailed discussions on all drug issues in Year 11.

The prison service, police and other agencies also visit the school to give talks and students are invited to visit prison cells and meet victims of crime.

Health professionals and theatre groups all play their part in getting the message over to youngsters about

the personal danger and effects drugs have on society.

Bill Tevendale, Head Teacher at Thornaby Community College, said: "As a parent myself, I am more than aware of the fact there is a problem bubbling away under the surface, and which is cutting across all social classes. It affects well-to-do families equally as much as families from poorer backgrounds.

"We have a very pro-active approach to tackling this issue at the school, particularly with our partner organisations."

# Festival boost

**Stockton International Riverside Festival is set to benefit from a £2.75 million funding boost for cultural events across the North East.**

The Arts Council and Millennium Commission awarded the National Lottery grant to the Newcastle Gateshead Initiative's Culture 10 programme during the summer.

SIRF 2005 is among a series of cultural events to receive a share of the grant.

Reuben Kench, Stockton Council's Head of Arts and Culture, said: "This funding will help deliver a region-wide programme, attract visitors and both raise and change the image of the region.

"We are hoping to use some of the money to commission a major piece of floating street theatre, which will appear on the Tees at next year's festival.

"It will be the first commission from the Stockton Centre for International Street Arts."

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## High standards

**Stockton Council's Care Call Team has succeeded in gaining its Certificate of Registration with the National Care Standards Commission.**

The accolade means that the team can now offer domiciliary care throughout Stockton.

To achieve the award, the team members have had to work to the strictest guidelines. New procedures had to be put in place and staff were required to attend appropriate courses such as Hygiene Awareness, No Secrets Policy, Foundation in Good Care Practice along with an intense Health and Safety course.

Staff are also working towards their NVQ 2 in Care and more courses will be available later this year.

Doug Carhart, Head of Security Services for Stockton Council said: "They are a caring, skilful team who assist with the everyday needs of elderly and vulnerable tenants. Everyone involved has worked hard to receive this accreditation."

## Have a virtual experience and a cuppa!

**Already one of Stockton's most popular countryside sites, further developments will soon make Wynyard Woodland Park even better.**

Stockton Council has secured grant funding of £50,000 to create a Virtual Visitor Centre Experience. Using the latest technology, touch screens will enable visitors to have a virtual tour of the country park and see its wildflowers, birds and mammals.

The two new touch screen computer terminals will be installed in the new Station House Tea Rooms and should be ready for use early next year.

Gina Balzi, Countryside Recreation Officer for Stockton Council, said: "The touch screens will use the very latest technology to take visitors to the past, present and future. We hope that it will inspire visitors to go out and experience the countryside and all it

has to offer – as well as being a great opportunity for elderly and disabled visitors to experience nature at first hand from the comfort of the tea rooms."

The funding was secured from English Nature through DEFRA'S Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

The cosy and inviting tea rooms are accessible for wheelchairs and highchairs for babies are available. They are open now for business, so why not pop along for a cuppa and some home baked, healthy and wholesome food?

Future plans include an arts project where an artist, working with local schoolchildren, will create various sculptures around the park.

To find out more, please call the Visitor Centre on (01740) 630011 or the Countryside Recreation Officer on (01642) 526887.



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## Call centre rings bells with efficiency

**The Repairs Call Centre operated by Tristar Homes has handled more than 85,000 calls since it was set up in April 2002 and has earned top marks from tenants for its efficiency.**

Results from a sample survey indicate 96 per cent of customers are satisfied with the service it provides.

Paul Noddings, Interim Head of Housing Management, says: "The establishment of this Call Centre has proved a great success in terms of efficiency and the technical knowledge available."

Currently, 75 per cent of all repairs requests are passed through the Call Centre with the other 25 per cent being reported to local housing centres. To increase effectiveness and provide a more accurate diagnosis, Tristar Homes recently decided that the Call Centre will eventually deal with all repair requests.

Tenants who still report the need for repairs to one of the housing centres are being reminded that freephones are available in all Tristar Service Points to put them in direct contact with the Call Centre.

Call freephone 0800 - 1744 - 91

# Invitation to a year-long celebration

**There's a celebration going on and everyone is invited!**

The Year Of The Tees will put the spotlight on the heritage, culture and sporting activities taking place on and around the River Tees.

Promoted by Stockton Renaissance it will highlight the vast impact the River Tees has had on the development of Stockton Borough and encourage more people to have fun and make use of the facilities on and around the Tees.

Stockton Council's Neighbourhood Renewal Manager, Paul Marshall, said: "There is so much happening around the river. We want to bring it all under one banner as a celebration of the life and history of the River Tees, which has played such an important role in the development of our Borough."

The celebration began with the highly successful European Nations Dragon Boat Championships held on the Tees, when seven countries and 700 athletes took part in competition, and will conclude in August next year.

A website for the Year Of The Tees can be accessed from the Stockton Council site at [www.stockton.gov.uk/renaissance/yeartees](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/renaissance/yeartees)

This includes a list of events already promoted under the banner of the Year Of The Tees and the Council is keen to add more. Any event with a

link to the river - sporting, historical, cultural or leisure - can be promoted under The Year Of The Tees. Flags and banners have gone up along the Riverside promoting the Year.

Events currently being looked into are a series of exhibitions celebrating the history and opportunities our river provides, these will take place in the Green Dragon Museum in Stockton.

The Year may also provide an opportunity to get young people involved in a photographic competition based around images of the river, prizes will be given and the photos taken put into a special exhibition at the Green Dragon. Dates and details will be announced later.

If you'd like to link events or activities to the Year Of The Tees, contact Paul on (01642) 526011.



# Last few days for crime and disorder survey

**There are just a few days left to have your say on tackling crime and disorder in a survey of what people think are the key issues facing the Safer Stockton Partnership over the next three years.**

Households across the Borough received a copy of the survey in the Safer Stockton Partnership magazine through their door in August.

But with a closing date of 12 October, you'll need to hurry. Returning your completed form also gives you the chance to win a house alarm from Safeguard Security, with free monitoring from Stockton Council for one year and £100 in shopping vouchers, in a free draw.

To have a look at the magazine and the survey, log onto [www.saferstockton.com](http://www.saferstockton.com) then return your completed survey to [Claire.sills@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.sills@stockton.gov.uk)

Recently published crime figures for the Borough show 10 per cent less dwelling burglaries than the previous year, with vehicle crime down by 12 per cent.

And although records of violent crime show an increase, this is because new rules mean more incidents are now recorded.

"It is good to see that the Safer Stockton Partnership, on the back of its success in being awarded Beacon Status, has made more progress than other parts of the country," said Marilyn Davies, Stockton Council's Community Safety Manager.

"Even so, we know we have a lot more work to do and this survey gives residents the opportunity to tell us what issues are causing them the most concern so we can concentrate our efforts on them."

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## From learner to trainer with TES

**David Moulder's career with Stockton Council has come full circle - starting off as a trainee, he has recently been appointed as a trainer for Wood Occupations in the Council's Training and Employment Services (TES).**

David started work with TES in August 2000 as a Foundation Modern Apprentice. After attending a placement at Leven Bridge in Portrack, Stockton, the company decided to employ him full-time.

He has since completed his Foundation Modern Apprenticeship and has progressed onto an Advanced Modern Apprenticeship. Once David has completed his Teaching (Learning and Development) and Assessment (A1) qualifications, he will be responsible for the training of learners as part of this new role.

David said: "I'm chuffed to bits about achieving these qualifications and I'm really looking forward to giving something back to the service that has really helped me along the way."



# Dragon Boat Championships a great success

Watersport action in Stockton was in full flow this summer as the European Nations Dragon Boat Championships took place on the River Tees in Stockton.

The successful event heralded The Year of The Tees, promoted by Stockton Renaissance.

Seven nations took part with Russia blasting their way to triumph as the overall champions, with Germany coming in second and Great Britain in joint third with the Czech Republic.



## Bigger opportunities come knocking

**A group of unemployed adults from Stockton is embarking on a life-changing training course as part of the 'Life Opportunity Knocks' project.**

Stockton Council's Adult Education Service is providing 24 unemployed people with the skills necessary for starting a career in the retail trade, working with Action Team for Jobs and the North East Training Association (NETA), thanks to funding from One NorthEast through the Single Regeneration Budget.

The free 10-week course, resulting in a NVQ (Level 2) in Retail for the participants, also offers the opportunity to discuss interview techniques with employers.

Initiatives such as this assist people in getting a foot into the jobs market. This training programme offers valuable skills that many retail employers are looking for.

The course follows on from a successful 12-week pilot programme for Life Opportunity Knocks, run last year. Targeted at Portrack residents, a mobile unit took health, well-being and employment advice out into the community. More than 200 adults

visited the project, receiving advice and guidance from bodies including Action Team for Jobs, Stockton Adult Education and Sure Start.

A 'virtual pub' at NETA's Thornaby Training Centre offers students training in cash handling, customer service, credit control, food hygiene and manual handling. Along with a mock supermarket established through Bell's Stores in Middlesbrough, it provides a realistic environment to learn the tools of the trade and gain confidence in the workplace.



One NorthEast Board Member, John Cuthbert helps with the search for jobs that require the students new retail skills. (Back L-R) Michelle Wray, Action Team for Jobs; Christine Robinson, Skills for Life Tutor; John Cuthbert, One NorthEast Board Member (Front L-R) Students Paula Bulmer and Jenny Foy.

## Stamp out smelly surprises

**Smelly surprises in old fridges and freezers proved too much for the Council's Care For Your Area team after its bulky household waste collection crew collected a number of fridges still containing mouldy old food.**

Putrid pasties and other stale food left in fridges after they have been sent for disposal attract vermin, spread disease and overstretch the resources of the service.

Care For Your Area Manager Richard Bradley said: "People need to be aware of the problems that leaving food in fridges causes."

EC legislation requires fridges to be sent to specialist disposal facilities for dismantling. But these are not licensed to handle food waste and any food that ends up there could lead the disposal facility to be prosecuted.

In 2003-04, the Council received 4,837 requests for free removal of fridges

and freezers, more than 92 per cent of which were removed with its 10-working-day target.

That figure seems set to rise, the 2,172 requests already received pointing to an estimated 5,300 requests by the year end in March.

Richard added: "It only takes a minute to check that a fridge has been emptied and this can save a lot of work and trouble for Care For Your Area staff in the long run."



## Leading the way in Everyday Sport

**A Council team is taking exercise to heart with a regional campaign called Everyday Sport.**

The four-month, government-backed campaign has been widely endorsed by celebrities. Now the Council's Sports Development team is supporting it locally to help people be aware of the opportunities available.

The North East was chosen to test the campaign because the region has some of the country's lowest participation rates in sport and physical activity.

The Everyday Sport campaign aims to show that you can get active and lead a healthy lifestyle without disrupting your normal routine or needing to be a fitness enthusiast. Everyday activities such as gardening, getting off the bus one stop early and even using the stairs instead of the lift are alternative methods of exercise.

"The Sports Development team is based on our building's third floor, so we try to set a good example and use the stairs," said Emma Warnes, Sports Development Officer for Stockton Council. "We've noticed that it's often quicker than waiting five minutes for the lift."

Sports Development works closely with local schools to support PE teachers and sports coaches in providing a wide range of opportunities through New Opportunities Funding (NOF).

This has recently seen a number of facilities completed across the Borough, including a fitness studio and dance studio at Blakeston School, all-weather pitches at Egglecliffe School, Thornaby Community School and St Patrick's School, as well as refurbishments currently underway at Billingham Campus to compliment the existing facilities at Northfield and Conyers Schools.

Emma added: "One of our main aims is to encourage people to become involved and stay involved with sport, but we also want to educate people about healthy lifestyles and support them in making positive changes to their lives."

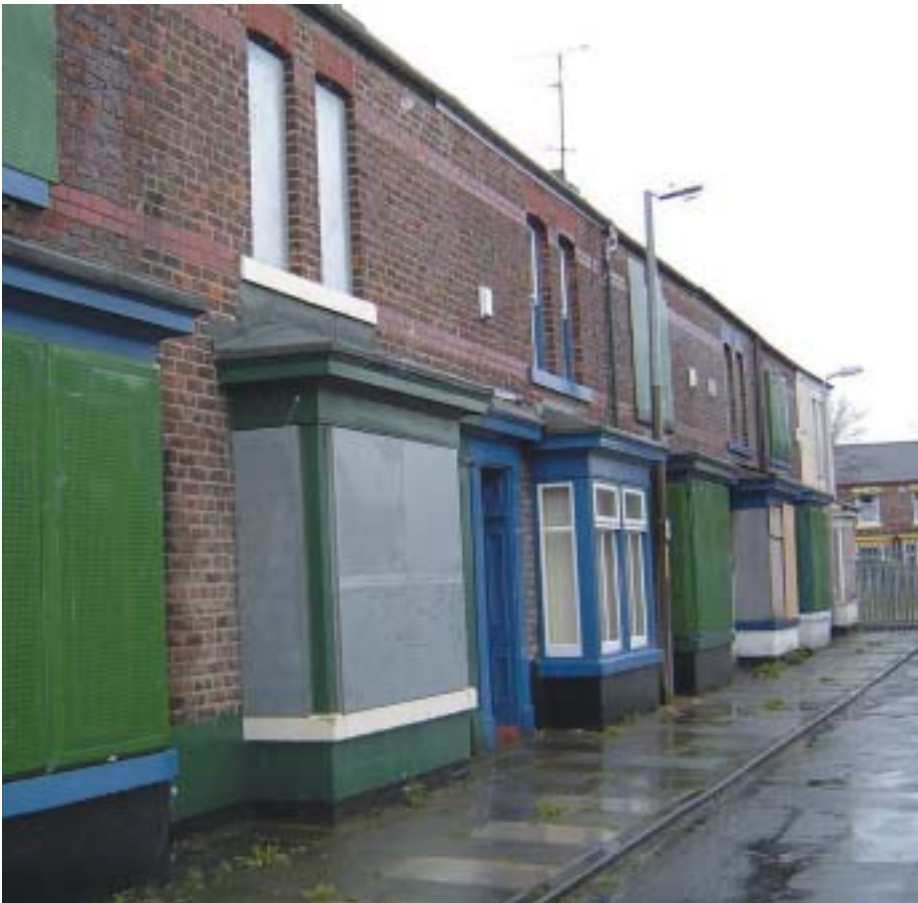
# Major regeneration for Parkfield/Mill Lane

**A new £6.9 million regeneration initiative has been unveiled for Stockton's Parkfield/Mill Lane area, to the delight of many local residents.**

Planned to help develop a new vision for the area, it includes the demolition and clearance of selected housing to give potential for introducing new uses and development.

The development is supported by £5m of funding from English Partnerships and £1.9m from the Single Housing Investment Pot allocated by the North East Regional Housing Board. It follows lengthy consultation with residents on the future of housing in the area and has been led by Stockton Council and the Parkfield/Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Programme.

The potential clearance area affects Alliance, Hind, Wilfred and Templar Streets, as well as numbers 4 – 26 (evens only) in Spring Street. 38 per cent of houses in this area are empty and many fail to meet modern standards and residents' aspirations.



Work is expected to be complete by March 2006.

The scheme forms part of the Council's wider regeneration agenda, complimenting the Stockton/Middlesbrough and North Bank initiatives and other regeneration strategies.

The project also forms part of the area's neighbourhood management programme, complementing ongoing measures to reduce crime, tackle environmental issues and improve health. In addition, the scheme is part of a wider community master planning process through which residents across the Parkfield/Mill Lane area will be asked to give their views.

"This is a very valuable first step towards changing market conditions in the area in the long term," said Jim Johnson, Director of Tees Valley Living.

The Council's Housing Market Renewal Team has visited all residents potentially affected by the plans to provide further information. It has also set up a dedicated telephone line to answer residents' queries, on (01642) 526686.

## Youngsters cheer on England heroes



**Lucky youngsters from Stockton joined over 400 children and young people from across the North East to watch England's friendly match against Ukraine at St. James's Park, thanks to the Football Association (FA) and Government Office for the North East (GONE).**

As a result, GONE was able to share 450 tickets amongst young people in 22 areas across the North East. Locally, Stockton Renaissance Partnership, the Borough's Local Strategic Partnership, distributed the tickets and arranged for 17 local young people and accompanying adults to attend.

"What a great opportunity for young people in the North East," said Alan Brown, Director of the Communities Group for Government Office North East.

"Many might never have seen their England heroes in action, if it hadn't been for the generosity of the FA and the quick response of our partners across the region. We at GONE are delighted to have played a part in making it happen."

Chris Willis, Vice Chair of Stockton Renaissance said: "Renaissance is committed to encouraging young people to take part in sport and to raising aspirations, so we were thrilled to have the opportunity to help some of our young people watch the England team."

The children and young people had a wonderful time and are now busy writing about their experiences on the night to show their appreciation to the FA.

# What a fantastic festival



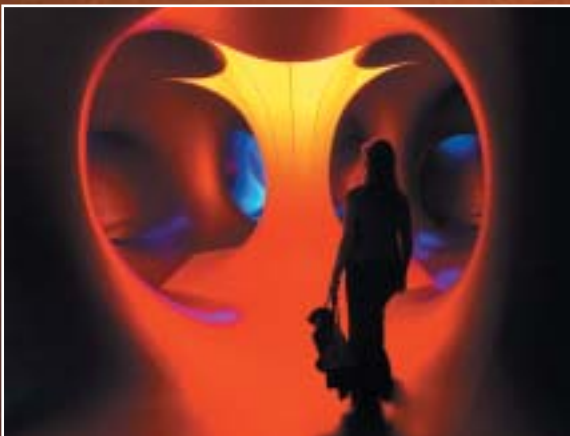


Four days of unforgettable performances from some of the world's leading street theatre companies made SIRF 2004 a huge success and plans are already underway for next year.

This year's Festival attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors who were treated to dance, circus, street theatre and music at venues across Stockton Town Centre.

Hundreds of local people took part in the Carnival and the first ever Parade that followed the Carnival procession along the High Street to Trinity Gardens for a finale performance. The costumes and music from all those taking part was immensely popular with the thousands of people who lined the streets. A huge thank-you is due to all those who took part in the Carnival and Parade.

## **SIRF 2005 - Wednesday 3 ~ Sunday 7 August 2005**



# Homelessness

## – Stockton tackles the problem

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Homelessness is increasing, not just here in the Stockton area, but across the North East and indeed across much of Britain. So we are far from alone in experiencing a marked increase over the last three years.

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The number of homeless applications rose from 722 in 2000/01 to 1,722 in 2003/04, and 96 per cent increase in just three years and 138 per cent in four years. It's impossible to be sure how many people sleep rough on our streets but the relatively small numbers certainly do not match those in some towns and cities.

To some, a buoyant property market may seem a good thing. But with many private landlords now selling their properties to realise the equity, some tenants will have minimal notice to find somewhere new.

Modernisation and improvement of Council homes, together with tenants exercising their right to buy, has reduced the number of socially rented properties becoming available to let, in turn meaning less accommodation for those on the Council's and Registered Social Landlords' waiting list. Those the Council cannot accommodate quickly can become homeless simply because they can't endure their housing situation any longer.

Add to these factors various other situations, such as breakdowns in family relationships and it's hardly surprising that 58 per cent of applications come from single people.

However, there is good news for tenants in the private rented sector, as new legislation to licence private sector landlords will be introduced next year which is aimed at driving up the standards and quality of privately rented housing across the Borough.

Perhaps the best news is that Stockton Council and its partners are succeeding in attracting major investment to improve existing council dwellings and build new homes.

Tristar Homes are spending £70 million on refurbishing homes across the Borough to the Government's 'Decent Standard', bringing many houses back into use that would once have stood void for a long time.

Stockton Council is working with a number of registered social landlords to provide additional homes, after securing more than £9 million from the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme over the next two years. This is the highest allocation in Tees Valley and will enable Registered Social Landlords to develop schemes in partnership with Stockton Council to help meet local housing needs.

Julie Allport, Head of Housing for Stockton Council, said: "This funding

of £9.5 million allows the Council and its partners to provide quality, affordable housing throughout the Borough and shows the Council's commitment to meet the differing needs of individuals and the community."

Other schemes include money to provide a mix of new housing in the regeneration areas at Mandale and Hardwick and a rural housing scheme in Stillington.

Julie continued: "This funding supports the Council's aspirations in the priorities set out in the Regional Housing Strategy for the North East.

"Our strategic approach to delivering additional affordable homes in the Borough has succeeded in attracting this much-needed investment from the Housing Corporation and we will continue to lobby for additional resources in the future to continue to meet the housing needs of residents in the Borough."

**Anyone who is experiencing homelessness or would like advice and assistance about it can visit Stockton Council's Housing Options Service at 16 Church Road, log onto the Council's website [www.stockton.gov.uk](http://www.stockton.gov.uk) or call (01642) 393748.**

# Schools reach out in communities

Local schools are extending their traditional role in an exciting new development by offering their communities greater access to their amenities.

The scheme, known as 'extended schools', currently involves Billingham Campus School and some of its partner primaries which are currently working to develop as a full service extended school. These include Roseberry Infants and Juniors, Bewley Infants and Juniors, Oakdene, Billingham South, High Clarence and Pentland primary schools.

The Council's Extended Schools Team is working with the schools and other agencies, including the Primary Care Trust, Adult Education, Health and Social Care, Surestart and the Police, to develop a range of services to support children and young people, their families and the wider local community.

Examples of what is already being provided include a drop-in service to signpost students to appropriate services such as healthy living advice and guidance and improving self-esteem.

Stockton's Adult Education service is running courses on Keeping Up With Your Child as well as anger

management workshops for students where behaviour may be an issue.

Work is progressing to extend this to include:

- parent/carer workshops to support children and families during their educational life
- a range of computer courses run by Adult Education including the European Computer Driving Licence
- Citizens Advice workshops on a range of subjects including debt management and welfare rights
- Fitbodz training for the primary school children in the Billingham extended school cluster, offering fitness activities during lunch times

The Billingham Full Service Extended School is part of a wider initiative which will see extended school clusters developed across the Borough in line with the Government's vision that every school will be able to take part.

If you are interested, or have ideas about what services you would like to see developed through extended schools, please contact Nick Strong, Extended School Manager on (01642) 560947 or e-mail [nick.strong@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:nick.strong@stockton.gov.uk) or Lesley King, Partnership Support Officer on (01642) 526483, e-mail [lesley.king@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.king@stockton.gov.uk)

# Well done Janice!



**Janice Hardy has joined the team to help keep the streets of Stockton Borough clean – thanks to Stockton's Training and Employment Service (TES).**

After several years of unemployment, moving between training providers and volunteering as a youth leader in Billingham, Janice was referred to Stockton Council's TES.

The service helped support Janice into a work placement, through the Basic Employability Training (BET) Programme, with a view to her finding full-time employment. She was offered a placement with the Council's Contract Services at Cowpen Lane, Billingham.

After less than a month on placement, Janice was offered a full time job as a street cleaner through Temp Recruitment agency.

Fiona MacDonald, Stockton Council's Quality Assurance Operations Manager, said: "This is another great success, particularly due to the low percentage of females employed in street cleaning.

"The BET Programme really does provide great support for people wanting to get back into employment."

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# Mark of success for Care For Your Area

**Stockton Council's "exceptional" Care For Your Area service has earned national acclaim from Government inspectors.**

The service earned the praise as it gained Charter Mark status recognising its exemplary customer service and high customer satisfaction ratings.

The report said Care For Your Area "is an exceptional organisation" and "it has moved from average to outstanding in less than three years."

Jamie McCann, Head of Direct Services, said: "Gaining the Charter Mark Award is excellent news and is further demonstration that the Care

For Your Area campaign is meeting the needs and aspirations of residents and businesses."

The Care For Your Area service is responsible for refuse collection, street cleansing, recycling and ground maintenance across the Borough.

The Charter Mark success follows a recent Audit Commission report that assessed Care For Your Area as having a top 3-star rating with excellent prospects for improvement.

Jamie added: "Earlier this year Care For Your Area received a Customer First Award. Now, the Charter Mark underlines the importance we place on an outstanding quality of customer service."

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

## Top rating for star hospital

The University Hospital of North Tees has got top marks once again in the latest NHS performance ratings. North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, is one of only 10 NHS Trusts nationally to have achieved the maximum three stars for the fourth year running.

Hospitals are assessed by an independent health watchdog on their performance in more than 40 different areas including waiting times, number of patients who are

re-admitted to hospital shortly after they have had an operation, patients' views, cleanliness and infection rates. The University Hospital of North Tees, along with its sister hospital in Hartlepool, was praised for its waiting times, the treatment of suspected heart attack patients with clot busting drugs, hospital cleanliness and care of patients who have suffered a stroke.

Joan Rogers, Chief Executive of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust,

said: "Retaining our three star ratings for the fourth year running is a real achievement. Year on year the standards get higher, so to achieve the maximum rating once again shows that we are consistently improving as a Trust.

"Our good performance is a testament to the continued hard work and commitment of our staff who are always striving to provide the best possible services despite the many pressures we are all under."

## Hospital laundry in a lather over lost linen

Laundry staff at North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Trust are in a lather regarding lost linen. The Trust has spent nearly £20,000 in the last year on replacing items which have gone missing mainly due to patients who have mistakenly taken them home or been transferred to nursing homes.

In the last year the following have gone missing:	£
3,000 towels	4,500
800 blankets	6,000
1,500 nighties & pyjamas	6,500

On average the Trust spends £45,000 per year on bedding and linen – this increased to £65,000 last year, mainly to replace the bedding and linen that has disappeared.

Reg Ramsden, Assistant Manger, Laundry, said: "We would be really grateful for the return of any items belonging to the Trust. We know how easy it is to mistakenly take towels, nightwear, etc, home but it does cost the Trust a lot of money to replace them. That money could be spent on benefiting patients some other way."

Returned bedding and linen can be left at the Main Reception at the University Hospital of Hartlepool or collected by contacting the Laundry on 01642 624750 or 624751 between 8am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.



Angela McNeill, Laundry Manager at the University Hospital of North Tees. Photography courtesy of the Hartlepool Mail

## Secure Car Park Award



Trust staff receive the award

A hospital car park has been hailed as one of the safest in the North East. The University Hospital of North Tees, and its sister hospital the University Hospital of Hartlepool, has received a 'Secure Car Park Award' from the Association of Chief Police Officers.

The Award recognises the success of the hospital in reducing car crime and making drivers feel that they are in a safe environment and is part of an initiative to reduce crime and the fear of it in parking facilities.

Specialist police officers assessed the car parking facilities and the hospital car park's lighting, CCTV, barrier control and 24 hour security guards.

Colin Bentham, Hospital Facilities Manager, said: "It is important that people feel safe in a car park at all times of the day and night. We worked hard to design a car park that would be safe and secure. Since it opened just over a year ago, car crime on the site has been dramatically reduced and is now at practically non-existent. We were all very proud to receive this award."

## Troubled by anti-social behaviour?

**There's no need to let anti-social behaviour make your life a misery. Stockton Council's Anti Social Behaviour Team is encouraging residents to get in touch if they are experiencing problems with anti-social behaviour.**

Carolyn Crean, the Council's Crime & Disorder Manager says: "In Stockton we take this issue very seriously and we use a variety of means to address problems that are affecting communities across the Borough.

"Our team has grown recently, enabling us to dedicate officers to cover specific areas. As a result, they can gain a clearer understanding of problems in a particular neighbourhood and are also able to provide a more personalised service to victims and witnesses."

If anti social behaviour is causing you problems, please contact the Team on 01642 527615 or e-mail [ASBTeam@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:ASBTeam@stockton.gov.uk) Alternatively, report a problem online at [www.stockton.gov.uk/asb](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/asb)

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## A real good read

**Youngsters at two local schools have been involved in choosing books for their local libraries as part of a scheme called YPICK – Young Persons in Choosing Knowledge.**

YPICK involves staff from Stockton Council's Library service meeting with the pupils to decide how they will select the books. This is followed by a visit to local bookstore Badger for Books to buy books and talk to selected audiences.

After recently completing its third successful year at All Saints CE Secondary School and The Village Primary School in Thornaby, every community library will now run a YPICK team in partnership with a school, reading group, parent and toddler group, SureStart or regular library users.

Youngsters also take part in an awards ceremony and this year YPICK team pupils from All Saints and The Village Primary gave their purchased books to their local libraries in Ingleby Barwick and Thornaby.

## Picture Stockton – you can now!

**June saw the Borough put well and truly in the picture, with the official launch of a new website called PictureStockton.**

As well as an impressive gallery of old photographs – which is added to on a daily basis – visitors to the site can take a digital guided tour of Stockton Town Centre to see how it used to look and to find out something of the area's history.

There are also see digital versions of exhibitions that have been held in the Borough's Galleries and Museums.

Other unusual features include a fascinating 'randomiser' which selects and displays groups of four images at random, a 'My Album' facility where users can store their favourite images for easy reference, and an absorbing Photo Chronometer which transforms the old and the new.

This website is the result of a collaboration between Stockton Council's Cultural Services and Education ICT support teams.

Andrea Barker, the Council's Head of Life Long Learning, said: "Our aim is to make the collections of images held by our libraries and museums services more accessible. We also want to involve people by giving them the

opportunity to add their own memories and stories to the site'.

The website has been very well received and, as well as the interest shown locally, has had comments from Stockton exiles as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, America and Canada.

Visit the site at <http://picture.stockton.gov.uk>



Crowds gathered for the proclamation of King George V at the Town House in 1910.



A view of Stockton Parish Church from the corner of Thistle Green and the Square - 1950.

# Centre sparks young imaginations

**A unique arts centre designed to fire the imagination of children is up and running in Stockton.**

SPARK – Stockton Primary Arts Kaleidoscope – offers children of all ages the chance to try something different and experiment in its state-of-the-art studio.

There's plenty of space and scope for them to try their hands at activities such as felt making, silk painting, ceramics, wire modelling, willow structures, puppet making and kite making. And a superb computer suite offers youngsters the opportunity to create animations and digital artwork.

The centre, developed by Stockton Council with The Oak Tree Primary School, is open to schools, groups and organisations and will be running children's holiday workshops.

SPARK co-ordinator Gill Gilbert said: "Children often don't have the time to just think and create but here we offer them the time and the space to try.

"Art can teach them so much. They learn perseverance, co-operation skills and concentration, which they can then use in which other ways. Very often children find they can succeed with art where they might not succeed in other areas of the curriculum. That can build their confidence.

"We have the space and equipment for them to devote to art for a morning, afternoon or entire day.

"We can bring a new element to a school's approach to art. Sometimes it's just that we have the ideas and expertise because that's what our role is. Busy teachers won't always have the time to think up different ideas."

The centre, on Bishopton Road West, Stockton, can work with specialist artists contracted to work with groups, or Spark's own specialist staff can deliver activities.

It is funded through the Government's Space for Sports and Arts Programme and Stockton Council.

But it isn't just running events and courses for children. Professional training days can help school staff and other groups to deliver visual arts. There are also workshops for community groups and most organisations that would like further training in art.

It is also planned to link the centre to some adult education courses and to

offer family workshops. Courses are available to all organisations across the Tees Valley, not just in Stockton.

Gill said: "We can offer courses in anything from painting and drawing through to ceramics, sculpture and animation. We are developing a programme for our activities and will adapt workshops, where possible, to a particular theme if there is a subject a school or group is studying."

Although funding does not cover running costs, charges will be affordable for local people and groups.

To find out more, contact Gill Gilbert on (01642) 612802 or email [spark@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:spark@stockton.gov.uk)



## Stockton Blind People's Voice wins top accolade

**The community work of Stockton Blind People's Voice has earned the group a top honour – the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.**

The Award recognises the outstanding achievements by groups across the country which volunteer their own time to improve the quality of life and opportunity for individuals and groups.

George Glass, a founder member of Stockton Blind People's Voice, said: "This is the highest accolade we could receive for our work in achieving equality for blind and visually impaired people in Stockton. We have come a long way since our group was formed in 1997."

Christine Durnion, Communication Centre Manager for Stockton Blind People's Voice, added:

"This award could not have come at a better time." It will be a double celebration as we have just opened our new office and Communication Centre in Yarm Road, Stockton, after huge investment from the Community Fund."

George Glass received the Award from Lord-Lieutenant of Durham, Sir Paul Nicholson, on behalf of the Queen, in a ceremony at Castlegate Quay.

# Rally's best year as the Show goes on

**More than 15,000 people flocked to the annual Vintage Vehicle Rally at Preston Park in June, making it the most successful year to date.**

The event, pictured right and organised by the Council at Preston Park, gave people the opportunity to view many classic cars and trucks, including an 8,000cc Volvo FL6-14/Saxan Fire Engine that features in the new 'Steel River Blues' TV series.

Graham Reeves, Events Manager for Stockton Council, said: "This year's rally was absolutely fantastic and enjoyed by everyone. We are looking forward to continuing the success into next year's event."

And despite being much reduced in size by bad weather earlier in the week, the Council's Summer Show – also held at Preston Park – was also a great success.

More than 20 craft stalls took part over the August Bank Holiday weekend selling a range of products. Street theatre and a fun fair held on the area just outside the Museum provided many hours of enjoyable entertainment for the whole family.

A waterlogged field meant that the showjumping – one of the Show's highlights – had to be moved to the

Stainsby Grange riding centre and other attractions cancelled, but it didn't deter many visitors.

Graham added: "Despite the earlier bad weather, many people still attended the event and had a great time. Thanks are due to everyone who did so much at short notice so that the Show could go on."



## Village style policing helps beat crime

**A return to village style policing is improving community safety in Stockton's Parkfield and Mill Lane area, thanks to funding by the resident-led neighbourhood management programme.**

Figures presented by Cleveland Police to the Parkfield/Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management Board show a drop in house burglaries in the area of more than 30% in the past year, with £14,000 worth of drugs seized – preventing the equivalent of 3,000 drug deals.

The team behind the successful figures includes PCs Les Gray and Alan Fish, now well-known faces in the neighbourhood since taking to the beat in 2003. Along with Community Liaison Officer Mohammed Wajid, two local community wardens and Stockton Council's Anti Social Behaviour team, they are working to make the area's streets safer.

PC Gray said that they had worked hard to get to know residents and businesses in the area, helping overcome a lack of confidence in the Police. The officers' contract means they cannot be moved to work elsewhere, allowing them to dedicate all their effort to Parkfield and Mill Lane.

Local resident Jean Oliver, Vice chair of the Neighbourhood Management Board, said people had really noticed a difference, with the crime figures real proof that it is a safer, more pleasant place to live: "The personal touch has really helped, it's like having our own private policemen. Also, things are acted on straight away, even little jobs like people playing loud music.

"Residents are not frightened to pass on information, because they have seen that it gets results."

The local officer in charge, Inspector Mick Williams said: "The figures speak for themselves and indicate that we have achieved a good balance

between old fashioned community policing backed up by 21st century techniques.

"Officers can use the strong links between partners and cut across bureaucracy when they need problems sorted out – like getting vulnerable alleyways cleared of rubbish. It's been fundamental to our success in Parkfield/Mill Lane."

Parkfield/Mill Lane is one of 20 areas nationwide selected by the Government as a pathfinder for the Neighbourhood Management regeneration initiative, a new way of working with communities and service providers to rejuvenate their area.



# POLICE BEAT

## Partnerships

### Anti-Social Behaviour – Tackling it Together

The term Anti-Social Behaviour seems to be mentioned on a daily basis and is obviously a concern to many residents of the Stockton Area. In a bid to tackle this blight on communities, Stockton Police and Stockton Borough Council now have operating a jointly staffed team who are dedicated to reducing the amount of people who cause problems for communities. The officers from both organizations are working together to collate evidence on the people who cause the worst disruption in areas across the Borough and tackle them head on!

Inspector Thornton, Community Safety added "This is a great example of Partnership working. The members of the team are dedicated and full of enthusiasm, they are committed to making a difference and I am sure they will."

### Neighbourhood Renewal Team

Additionally a new multi agency team has been formed to work within the Neighbourhood Renewal Funded Areas. The team consists of two members from Stockton Police and two members from Stockton Borough Council. The aim and objectives of the team are to provide the residents of Stockton with reassurance and confidence that they live and work in a safe community.

## Crime Prevention

### AN UNLIT HOUSE DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS HAS AN INCREASED RISK OF BEING BURGLED.

There is no doubt that security lighting can deter burglars, it also reduces the

fear of crime. A simple plug in timer could be enough to put off an opportunist criminal from burgling your home.

The burglar often makes up his mind to target a property from across the road. If your property is lit then he will generally look for an easier target.



### PLAN YOUR SECURITY LIGHTING CAREFULLY

Dusk Till Dawn Lighting is the preferred method of externally lighting your home. The lamp remains on during the hours of darkness and goes off as it starts to get light. The unit provides ambient light and is very energy efficient often lasting up to ten times longer than a standard bulb.

Timer Operated Switches can be programmed to switch on lights internally and externally. There are timer switches that are designed to replace existing room light switches as well as plug in units, which fit into a three-pin socket. A plug in timer can also switch on a radio tuned to a talk channel giving the impression that your house is occupied.

Your home need not look like Blackpool illuminations; everyone's needs are different. You should aim for at least two lights that operate on a dusk till dawn sensor at the front and rear of your house.

Remember that lighting forms part of a security package. For further advice

please contact DC Eddie Lincoln on 01642 302271.

## A New Chapter in NHW

Neighbourhood Watch in Stockton District is undergoing some changes to help modernize and stabilize it's membership.

One of those changes is the complete re-registration of all of the members, This is being done by dedicated area and street co-coordinators and may take up to twelve months to complete. New member packs have been supplied by Safe in Tees Valley.

Four new community based web sites are now available:

[www.ingelbybarwick.com](http://www.ingelbybarwick.com)  
[www.yarm.net](http://www.yarm.net)  
[www.just-billingham.com](http://www.just-billingham.com)  
[www.just-stockton.com](http://www.just-stockton.com)

All of these sites have NHW areas that give crime details for each area. A mapping module as been added to the Ringmaster system; this enables crime messages to be delivered more precisely to the effected areas.

NHW is now working more closely with the Police PCSOs and street wardens as well as other local organizations within the District.

If you would like to join or start a new scheme in your area and help make a difference then please contact Stockton NHW Liaison Officer on 302341 or e-mail [ron.baker@cleveland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ron.baker@cleveland.pnn.police.uk)



# Youngsters commemorate WW1

**Three local youngsters recently took part in a BBC programme commemorating the 90th anniversary of World War One.**

17-year-olds Chris Hutton and Chris Chilver, with Natalie Nixon, 16, travelled to the Imperial War Museum in London to be interviewed by Ragi Omar as part of a BBC One news story to discuss what the War means to them.

The youngsters discussed their impressions of the Great War and their thoughts on what it would be like for them to go to war at 17 and fight under trench warfare conditions. Chris Chilver said: "It was a really good insight into the First World War,

showing how things are different between then and now. It really put things into perspective."

The interviews contrasted the experiences of the youngsters to those of George Rice, 107. Originally from Stockton, George is one of the last remaining soldiers who took part in the War and joined at the same age as the youngsters.

Stockton Council Youth Worker John Tierney accompanied the youngsters to the museum. He said: "This has been a great experience for the youngsters and has really brought home to them just how different the time was from today."



From left to right, Ragi Omar, Chris Chilvers, Chris Hutton and Natalie Nixon

## Electoral Register annual audit

**By the time you read this, every household in the Borough should have received forms for the annual audit of the Electoral Register.**

This year, electors will have a choice of how they return the information. In addition to the 'traditional' method of filling in the form and posting it back, there's an opportunity to register using a new Freephone telephone system.

Anyone can register by telephone provided all household members are British, Irish or other Commonwealth Citizens and there are no changes to the detail shown on the form, other than excluding household members from the version of the register which is available to the public (known as the "Edited Register").

The Freephone number is open 24 hours on 0800 197 8639 and an Urdu version is also available on 0800 107 8639.

Remember, if your name is not on the Electoral Register, you will not be able to vote in next year's Local Elections.

Electors who choose the registration freephone are asked to enter two unique property security codes shown on the front of their form and are then guided through their registration. They should NOT return their forms if they have used the telephone to register and callers will also be given the option to request a postal vote application form. Phone lines will be open until 24 November.

Electors should use their form in the usual way if there are any alterations to elector or household details and, of course, may choose to use the form if

they prefer it to the Freephone system.

Any electors who have not returned a form will be sent a reminder during October, which should be returned immediately to ensure they are on the new Electoral Register, published on December 1.

Two versions of the Electoral Register are now produced – the "Full" Register for voting and proof of residence for credit checks, and the "Edited" Register, which can be bought and used for any purpose, and which leaves out anyone who has requested to be excluded.

Names can still be added, deleted or amended to the register at any time through a monthly rolling registration procedure. For information, call the Helpline on 526196 or e-mail [electoral@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:electoral@stockton.gov.uk)

## Wards set to change

**Widespread changes to Council Wards are on their way from May 2005, following a review by the Boundary Committee for England.**

As a result, a number of new Wards are being created, while some existing ones will disappear and numerous boundaries will also change. The new system will come into effect for the next local government elections, due to be held in 2005.

The Borough has seen many changes

since the last major review, more than 20 years ago. These include increases in the number of electors in some areas, such as Ingleby Barwick and Wynyard, with fewer electors in others.

The Committee began its review in 2001 with the aim of balancing this out, at the same time making efforts not to split up obvious neighbourhoods and communities. Its work also ensured that, where possible, every elected councillor

represents a similar number of residents.

Currently, 55 councillors represent 30 Wards. Under the new arrangements there will be 26 wards and 56 councillors. This could mean that your property may fall into a different ward – but it will not affect your postal address, postcode or the catchment areas for your schools.

Poll cards issued in spring 2005, prior to the elections, will inform electors of their new wards.

# Business booms at Stockton Business Centre

**A former nightclub is being transformed to provide a £1.5 million extension to Stockton Business Centre.**

The new building – once Bentleys Nightclub on Brunswick Street – is due to open before Christmas and will be a welcome addition to one of the region's most successful ventures in supporting new businesses.

It will provide a further 20 units, reception area, meeting and conference rooms for businesses to use as office space, workshops or studios. There will be broadband Internet services and digital telephony to all units.

Since Stockton Business Centre was opened with 50 units by Stockton Council in 1988, it has supported more than 390 businesses, creating 800 jobs.

Current businesses in the centre include IT specialists, soft furnishing manufacturers, training providers, Internet traders, industrial sewing and language specialists.

Stockton Council is also working with Supreme Property Developments on a £5.7 million scheme at Primrose Hill to provide industrial units and a business centre for larger companies. The first phase of this scheme is set to open early in 2005.

The joint project has secured funding through a variety of sources – in addition to Council and private sector funding, the European Regional Development Fund, Single Regeneration Budget, Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and The Tees Valley Partnership have all supported the scheme.

“The extension to the Business Centre and the scheme at Primrose Hill will provide much needed business accommodation in and close to the Town Centre, catering for a wide variety of business types,” said Peter Douglas, Business Centre Manager.

For information on Stockton Business Centre call Peter Douglas on (01642) 527936. For details on the Primrose Hill development, please contact Fran Hughes on (01642) 526024.



## Blazing a trail for teenagers' travel

**Stockton Council has joined forces with bus operators to offer a half fare travel scheme to all 16 - 19 year olds born between September 1985 and August 1989.**

A new £10 Trailblazer card offers half fare travel until 31 August 2005. This scheme complements the Pathfinder card, which costs £5 and is available to students aged 16 - 19 years.

Stockton is believed to be the first Council in the UK to be offering this sort of travel discount to all of its young people in partnership with bus operators. The Council's transportation team hopes that half price travel fares will encourage more young people to use buses to access jobs and training opportunities.

Agreed through the Council's Quality Bus Quality Partnership, the move follows requests from young residents, especially in priority neighbourhoods, to make travel cheaper

Anyone wanting to buy a Trailblazer card can get one from the Stagecoach Travel Centre on Stockton High Street.

They must take along proof of age and evidence they live in Stockton. From 17 September, the Arriva Travel Centre on Stockton High Street will also sell the cards.

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

# Tristar aims to maintain 2 star rating



**Tristar Homes and Stockton Council are preparing to be re-inspected early next year, when they aim to ensure they get the “thumbs up” in their drive to bring every Council property up to the Government's ‘Decent Standard’ by the end of the decade and continuously improve housing services to their tenants.**

The Audit Commission, which oversees the running of ALMOs – Arms Length Management Organisations such as Tristar Homes – and local authorities, has new arrangements for the reinspection of those already set up and which qualify for the additional funding needed to maintain their modernisation programme.

Tristar Homes Chief Executive Elaine Corney said ministers consider it important that the performance of ALMOs and their partner local authorities should be regularly and effectively monitored to ensure their performance does not slip below the 2-star qualifying standard.

The reinspection of the Council and Tristar Homes, which already has a 2-star rating, is scheduled for next February, and already a joint working group has been created to focus on the visit.

New guidance on the inspection process has led Tristar Homes and the Council to launch a joint self-assessment exercise.

Elaine Corney said: “Other than having to carry out a formal self assessment, the inspection will be treated as business as usual. We continually strive to make improvements and we'll incorporate any others identified in the self assessment into our service plans and business planning process.”

# Youngsters enjoy first "Pod"

Youngsters in Billingham have been enjoying the area's first "Pod" thanks to a partnership between Stockton Council, the police and other organisations.

The "Pod" is a state-of-the-art mobile youth centre fitted out with sound systems and computers, thanks to a Safer Stockton Partnership scheme. Young people can use sports equipment for football, cricket and basketball, watch a DVD or play a computer game as well as meet with friends for a chat.

Marilyn Davies, Community Safety Manager for Stockton Council, said: "This scheme will give young people somewhere to go, help address complaints about the lack of places for young people to go, and reduce concerns about anti-social behaviour around the local shops."

The Pod will be based first in the area of Station Road and Billingham Green for 10 - 11 months before possibly moving to other sites. A further two Pods - one in Hardwick and the other at Riggy's Rec in Parkfield - are also being built thanks to the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme managed by the Council.

Youth workers from the Corner House Youth Project and Stockton Council's Youth Service will supervise the Pod, supported by visits from Police Community Support Officers and the Council's Community Wardens.

Safer Stockton - a partnership between the Police, Stockton Council and other organisations - is funding the Pod through a Government programme to support 'Small Retailers in Deprived Areas'. The idea followed complaints about anti-social behaviour around the shops.

# Steven's £100 reward



Steven Thompson's commitment in an NCQ level 3 and Advanced Construction Award in Carpentry and Joinery has earned him a £100 award. Now Steven, a trainee with Stockton Council's Training & Employment Services (TES), has landed a full-time job with his placement company, Lowe and Simpson. TES offers NVQ levels one, two and three in Wood Occupations, Trowel Occupations and Intermediate and Advanced Construction Awards. For details call (01642) 415041.

# Picture pairs show the changes

Have you ever wondered how the area you know so well has changed over the last 100 years or so?

A new book by well-known local authors Alan Bettenev and Peter Moon sets out to do just this in a collection of more than 70 pairs of interesting pictures of Stockton, Norton, Eaglescliffe, Thornaby and Yarm.

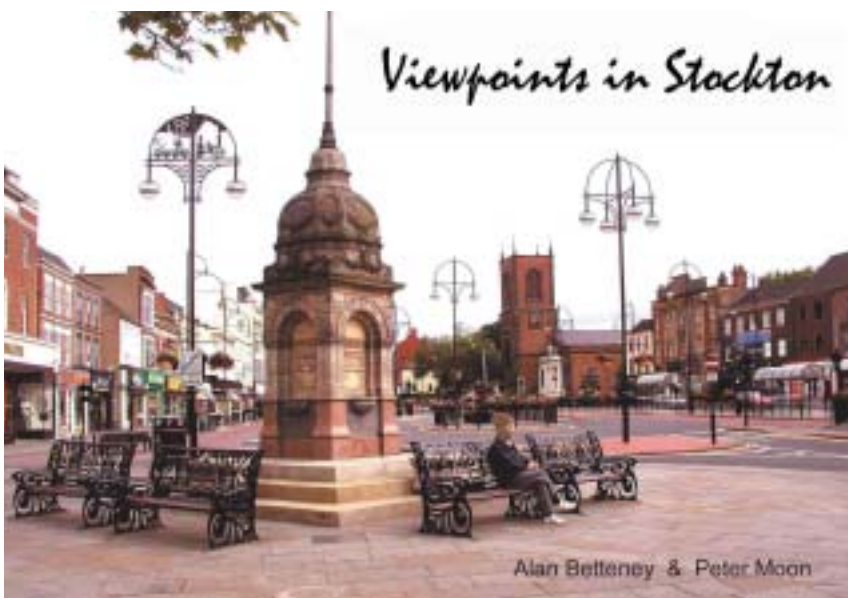
The book comprises of old picture postcards and photographs - some dating back to the 1890s - which are twinned with contemporary photographs from the same

viewpoint. The authors have also support the views with 15,000 words of historical detail.

"Viewpoints in Stockton" illustrates many of the changes that the Borough's residents will have noticed in the townscape over the years.

"This book is a wonderful collection of memories, a 'must have' for everyone who has ever lived in the area," said Rachel Mason, Stockton Council's Community History Officer.

The book can be bought for £14.50 from the Tourist Information Centre, Preston Hall Museum, Billingham Art Gallery and Green Dragon Museum.



# Just the ticket



**Stockton Tourist Information, based in Stockton Central Library, is now an agent for Ticketmaster - which means booking up for a West End musical, Robbie Williams concert or Premiership football match couldn't be easier.**

Ticketmaster do sell tickets online or over the phone, but you can book in person at Stockton Tourist Information and make payment by credit or debit cards, cheques and cash.

Staff can also show you seating plans, so that you can choose your seat and they can also offer advice and information on travel and accommodation.

Stockton Tourist Information is open Monday to Saturday from 9.30am until 5.00pm. To find out more, please call (01642) 528130/1.



# Cleveland Fire Brigade

## Your Management team: Arson Task Force

### District Manager:

Mike Picknett is the District Manager for the Stockton Council area with overall responsibility for the delivery of Fire Services within the area. Mike's role is to coordinate the implementation of the Brigades' Strategies within Stockton to make the community safer. In order to achieve this he is supported directly by the Station Management team.



You can contact Mike at Fire Brigade Headquarters on 01429 872311

### Station Managers:

The Station Managers, Barry Waller (Thornaby & Yarm), Peter Dix (Stockton) and Jeff Marwood (Billingham) are responsible for the delivery of the Fire Services within their Station Areas. They coordinate and manage the work of the Fire-fighters to effectively tackle the problems and issues causing you concern. This primarily involves the Prevention strategies we are employing to reduce the numbers and types of fires and other emergencies that affect you. Contact:



**Barry Waller**  
on 01642 766331



**Peter Dix**  
on 01642 552175



**Jeff Marwood**  
on 01642 546000

## Bonfires and Firework Initiative

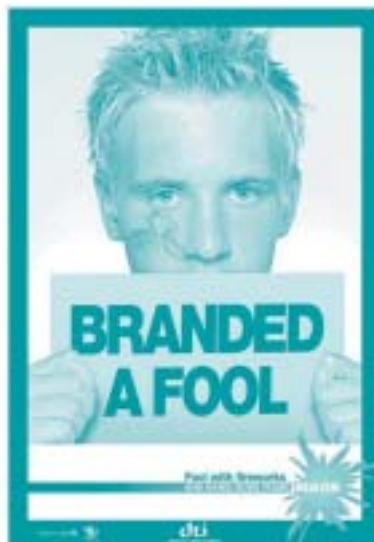
This year Stockton is targeting all illegal bonfires during the period of October 4th to November 4th

The Council will remove all illegal bonfires in that period. You can help by requesting any illegal bonfire you identify to be removed, just look out for the hot line number which will be issued soon. In the interest of the Community, try to visit an organised display instead of building bonfires on public land. An increase in Anti Social Behaviour occurs during this period as do attacks on your Fire-fighters.

To complement the above scheme the Trading Standards Department will monitor and check on illegal sales of fireworks from shops and private houses. You can help here too by ensuring you only buy from an approved retail outlet, better still, go to an organised display. If you are aware of persons selling illegal fireworks please inform the Trading Standards Immediately.

Last year 1136 people were injured over the bonfire period.

Don't Be:



Help your community and your children to be safe over the bonfire period

## Crimestoppers

As part of Cleveland Fire Brigade's commitment to tackle arson the Brigade has formed a partnership with Crimestoppers North East. The Crimestoppers scheme enables people to call a single nation-wide telephone number at any time with information about crime and in particular arson. No caller is asked for their name and the principle of anonymity is the key to the scheme's success along with the chance for a reward. We will be utilizing Crimestoppers posters throughout the Borough, look out for them and please help us to cut the crime of Arson by passing on any information you have about a particular fire.

**Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111**

## Community Safety

### Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC)

As part of our main duty to protect the community, Cleveland Fire Brigade is committed to carrying out a Home Fire Safety Check in every household in the Borough.

A Home Fire Safety Check involves a visit to the household by local fire-fighters. They will give you advice on how to prevent a fire breaking out in your home as well as what to do if a fire does start, they will fit new smoke alarms or replace the batteries in existing smoke alarms if necessary. The visit lasts about 30 minutes, and the whole service is FREE OF CHARGE. It is available to EVERY HOME in the Borough, regardless of age, ethnicity, income, location, working status etc.

Visits can be arranged to suit your needs. We can visit at any time, whenever suits you best. So far we have helped to make over 5000 homes in the Borough safer with a Home Fire Safety Check. To arrange one for your home simply ring,

**Home Fire Safety Check:  
0845 120 2444.**

# New Act will bring changes

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) is fully enacted this month (October) after the first parts came into force in 1996. Designed to help disabled people, it will bring changes for many businesses and those who provide services – even free ones.

For example, where a physical feature makes it impossible or unreasonably difficult for disabled customers to make use of a service to the public, the business or service provider will have to take reasonable measures to remove or alter the feature so that it no longer has that effect.

They must also provide reasonable means of avoiding the feature or an alternative method of making the service available to disabled people.

The DDA defines 'physical features' as "anything on the premises arising from a building's design or construction or the approach to, exit from or access to such a building; fixtures, fittings, furnishings, equipment or materials and any other physical element or quality of land in the premises ... whether temporary or permanent".

Several factors will have a bearing on whether a change is a 'reasonable' one where changes have to be made, particularly for physical adjustments to premises.

These include:

- whether taking any particular measures would be effective in overcoming the difficulty that disabled people face in accessing a service
- how practicable it is for the service provider to take the measures
- the financial and other costs of making the adjustment
- how much disruption would be caused by taking the measures
- the extent of the service provider's financial and other resources
- the amount already spent on making adjustments
- availability of financial or other assistance.

Solutions have to be reasonable in all the circumstances which result in as many disabled customers as possible being able to access goods and services.

For small businesses or service providers (compared with larger ones with more resources at their disposal), the emphasis is likely to be on practical, low-cost adjustments, although more major physical alterations to improve access to premises, should be considered if feasible and affordable.

*The Code of Practice for Rights of Access: Goods, Facilities, Services and Premises* gives fuller guidance on the three stages, including the new duties coming into force in October. Further information is also available from the Disability Rights Commission at [www.drc.org.uk](http://www.drc.org.uk)

# Anyone for tennis?

There's a great opportunity for tennis fans to enjoy the very best standards when Stockton's David Lloyd Centre hosts the finals of the National Professional Tennis Premier Winter League in next March.

The league, now in its third year, runs from October to March across all the UK's regional tennis centres. A professional tennis team hosted by each centre competes in the league before coming to Stockton for a weekend of great professional tennis in the finals.

Stockton Council's Sports Development Team is currently organizing interschool tournaments to encourage tennis in schools. In March, the

winners will meet professional tennis players, who will give the youngsters the benefit of their experience.

Jack Goodfellow, the Council's Sports Development Manager, said: "We are delighted to be hosting the National League finals next spring and hope tennis fans will also support the regional league fixtures here over the next few months.

"We are also be offering professional coaching sessions for up-and-coming young tennis players over the finals weekend and inviting the best youngsters to join in the National Finals weekend in March."

To find out more about the tournaments, call Jack Goodfellow on (01642) 526699.

# Youngsters scoop cycle prizes



(Left to right) Jack Featonby, Lucy Smith and Jordan Abbott enjoy their prizes with Arnie the Armadillo.

## Three local youngsters scooped the top prizes in a competition to promote road safety.

Stockton Council's Road Safety Team ran the competition in connection with Halford's in Stockton and the Evening Gazette, giving one lucky person the chance to win a 70s icon – a brand new Raleigh Chopper.

There was also a chance to win a Reevu cycle helmet and an Abus high security lock as second and third prizes, while readers were given vouchers for half price cycle safety checks at Halfords' Bridge Road store in Stockton.

Winner Lucy Smith, 11; runner-up Jordan Abbott, 13; and third-placed Jack Featonby, 7, took part in the competition as part of National Bike Week, their entries being drawn at random by Evening Gazette staff.

Peter Fleming, Road Safety Officer for Stockton Council, said: "We weren't surprised by the response to our competition considering the popularity of the Chopper – but it was great to see how we managed to capture the public's imagination."

More than 330 entries were received and the winners were presented with their prizes at Stockton Town Hall by Council road safety mascot Arnie the Armadillo.

# Ward Surgeries

October 2004 - December 2004

[www.stockton.gov.uk/wardsurgeries](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/wardsurgeries)

## BISHOPSGARTH WARD (STOCKTON)

12th Oct Fairfield Infants School  
6:30pm – 7:00pm  
9th Nov Bishopsgarth School  
5:30pm – 6:00pm  
14th Dec Fairfield Infants School  
6:30pm – 7:00pm

**COUNCILLORS** S. HALL TEL: 643757  
W. WOODHEAD TEL: 584409

## BLUE HALL WARD (STOCKTON) 6:00PM – 7:00PM

27th Oct The Forge Community Centre  
10th Nov Frederick Nattrass School  
8th Dec Norton United Reform Church

**COUNCILLORS** M. FRANKLAND TEL: 552667  
MRS K. NELSON TEL: 397921

## CHARLTONS WARD (BILLINGHAM)

6:30PM – 7:30PM

18th Oct Clarences Community Centre  
8th Nov As above  
13th Dec As above

**COUNCILLORS** MRS A. McCOY TEL: 533554  
R. McCALL TEL: 554452

## EGGLESCLIFFE WARD

19th Oct Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane  
6:00 – 7:00pm  
5th Nov Trinity Methodist Church  
(Joint surgery with Preston Ward)  
6:30 – 7:30pm  
16th Nov Egglecliffe Community Centre,  
Durham Lane 6:30 – 7:30pm  
3rd Dec Trinity Methodist Church  
(Joint surgery with Preston Ward)  
6:30 – 7:30pm  
21st Dec Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane  
6:00 – 7:00pm

**COUNCILLORS** J. FLETCHER TEL: 786456  
MRS M. RIGG TEL: 782009

## ELM TREE WARD (STOCKTON)

19th Oct Elm Tree Community Centre  
4:30 – 5:30pm Young Peoples Surgery  
6:00 – 7:00pm Adults Surgery  
16th Nov As above  
14th Dec As above

**COUNCILLOR** MRS S. FLETCHER TEL: 786456  
Email: sfletcher@cix.co.uk

## FAIRFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6:00PM – 7:00PM

20th Oct Fairfield Library  
17th Nov As above

**COUNCILLORS** MRS F. HAWKINS TEL: 671422  
MRS J. WADE TEL: 583549

## GLEBE WARD (STOCKTON) 6:30PM – 7:00PM

5th Oct The Education Centre  
2nd Nov As above  
7th Dec As above

**COUNCILLORS** MRS A. CAINS TEL: 555394  
R. CAINS

## GRANGE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 5:00PM – 6:00PM

29th Oct New Life Resource Centre,  
Low Grange Ave  
26th Nov As above  
17th Dec As above

**COUNCILLORS** A. CUNNINGHAM TEL: 551251  
Email: alexander.cunningham@stockton.gov.uk  
M. STOKER TEL: 648069

Email: mickstoker@aol.com or  
mick@grangeward.co.uk

## GRANGEFIELD WARD (STOCKTON)

11th Oct Grays Road Institute  
10:00 – 11:00am  
20th Oct Sundell Court Residents Home  
5:15 – 6:15pm  
15th Nov Grays Road Institute  
10:00 – 11:00am  
17th Nov Sundell Court Residents Home  
5:15 – 6:15pm  
24th Nov Oxbridge Primary School  
5:15 – 6:15pm

**COUNCILLORS** T. BEAN TEL: 870110  
MRS E. JOHNSON TEL: 673952

## HARDWICK WARD (STOCKTON) 6:00PM – 7:00PM

15th Oct Hardwick Community Centre,  
Wheatley Road  
22nd Oct As above  
29th Oct As above  
5th Nov As above  
12th Nov As above  
19th Nov As above  
26th Nov As above  
3rd Dec As above  
10th Dec As above  
17th Dec As above

**COUNCILLORS** MRS E. NESBITT TEL: 803658  
W. NOBLE TEL: 602299

## HARTBURN WARD (STOCKTON) 6:45PM – 7:30PM

4th Oct Rosehill Infants School  
1st Nov Elmwood Community Centre  
6th Dec Rosehill Infants School

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

## INGLEBY BARWICK WARD 6:00PM – 7:00PM

5th Oct Teal Arms, Ingleby Barwick  
**COUNCILLOR** MRS J. BEAUMONT TEL: 785304  
Email: jennifer.beaumont@stockton.gov.uk

## MANDALE WARD (THORNABY)

12:00 NOON – 1:00PM

16th Oct The Mandale Hotel  
30th Oct The Mandale Hotel  
13th Nov Robert Atkinson Youth &  
Community Centre  
27th Nov The Mandale Hotel  
11th Dec Robert Atkinson Youth &  
Community Centre

**COUNCILLORS** MRS A. TRAINER TEL: 647421  
S. WALMSLEY TEL: 881886

## MARSH HOUSE WARD (BILLINGHAM)

6:30PM – 7:30PM

11th Oct North Billingham Methodist  
Church

8th Nov Low Grange Community Centre  
**COUNCILLOR** MRS L. APEDAILE  
TEL: (01740) 645216  
C. LECKONBY TEL: 872896

## MILE HOUSE WARD (STOCKTON) 7:00PM – 8:00PM

19th Oct Redhill Centre, Redhill Road  
18th Nov Salters Lane Community Centre  
21st Dec Redhill Centre, Redhill Road

**COUNCILLORS** D. COOKE TEL: 803648  
K. LEONARD TEL: 894191

## NEWTOWN WARD (STOCKTON) 6:00PM – 7:00PM

8th Oct Newtown Community Centre  
22nd Oct Primrose Hill Community Centre  
5th Nov Newtown Community Centre  
19th Nov Primrose Hill Community Centre  
3rd Dec Newtown Community Centre  
17th Dec Primrose Hill Community Centre

**COUNCILLORS** P. BAKER TEL: 655607  
R. GIBSON TEL: 614482

## NORTHFIELD WARD (BILLINGHAM)

6:00PM – 7:00PM

29th Oct Wolviston Court Community  
Centre

26th Nov As above

No December surgery

**COUNCILLORS** MRS M. B. WOMPHREY and  
M. E. WOMPHREY TEL: 555755

## NORTON WARD 6:00PM – 7:00PM

8th Oct St. Michael's Club Room  
22nd Oct Albany Resource Centre  
5th Nov Norton Library  
19th Nov St. Michael's Club Room  
3rd Dec Albany Resource Centre

**COUNCILLORS** R. COOK TEL: 890058  
Email: robert.cook@stockton.gov.uk and  
S. NELSON TEL: 534417

Email: steve.nelson@stockton.gov.uk

## PARKFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6:00PM – 7:00PM

14th Oct Cornerhouse Community  
Resource Centre  
21st Oct Parkfield Community Centre  
28th Oct Caretakers House,  
Rear of Richard Hind Centre  
4th Nov Parkfield Community Centre  
11th Nov Cornerhouse Community  
Resource Centre  
18th Nov Parkfield Community Centre  
25th Nov Caretakers House,  
Rear of Richard Hind Centre  
2nd Dec Parkfield Community Centre  
9th Dec Cornerhouse Community  
Resource Centre

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

## PORTRACK & TILERY WARD (STOCKTON)

5:00PM – 6:00PM

8th Oct Portrack Community Centre  
15th Oct Victoria Community House  
22nd Oct Frank Wiseman Hall  
5th Nov Mill Lane Primary School  
12th Nov Portrack Community Centre  
19th Nov Victoria Community House  
26th Nov Frank Wiseman Hall  
3rd Dec Mill Lane Primary School  
10th Dec Portrack Community Centre  
17th Dec Victoria Community House

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

## PRESTON WARD 6:30PM – 7:30PM

15th Oct The Wilson Institute,  
Long Newton  
5th Nov Trinity Methodist Church,  
Egglecliffe  
(Joint surgery with Egglecliffe Ward)  
19th Nov The Wilson Institute,  
Long Newton  
3rd Dec Trinity Methodist Church,  
Egglecliffe  
(Joint surgery with Egglecliffe Ward)

**COUNCILLOR** M. CHERRETT TEL: 783491

## ROSEWORTH WARD (STOCKTON) 5:15PM – 6:15PM

11th Oct Kiora Hall Youth  
& Community Centre  
8th Nov Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre  
13th Dec Kiora Hall Youth

**COUNCILLORS** M. INGRAM TEL: 789372  
MISS B. INMAN TEL: 582644

# Ward Surgeries

October 2004 - December 2004

[www.stockton.gov.uk/wardsurgeries](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/wardsurgeries)

**STAINSBY WARD (THORNABY) 5:00PM – 6:00PM**  
 21st Oct South Thornaby Community Centre  
 18th Nov As above  
 16th Dec As above  
**COUNCILLORS** K. CRAGGS TEL: 896378  
 R. GODWIN TEL: 763326

**VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY)**  
 16th Oct Rochester Court Sheltered Housing 11:00 – 12:00 Noon  
 30th Oct Westbury Street Library 11:00 – 12:00 Noon  
 13th Nov Queens Street Community Centre 11:00 – 12:00 Noon  
 27th Nov The Youthy, Thornaby Road 12:00 Noon – 1:00pm  
**COUNCILLORS** MRS E. FLEMING TEL: 646463  
 MRS S. WALMSLEY TEL: 881886

**WOLVISTON WARD (BILLINGHAM) 7.00PM – 8.00PM**  
 26th Oct High Grange Community Centre  
 2nd Nov The Common Room, Wolviston High Street  
 30th Nov High Grange Community Centre  
 7th Dec The Common Room, Wolviston High Street  
**COUNCILLOR** S. PARRY TEL: 879478

**ST. AIDANS WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6:30PM – 7:30PM**  
 20th Oct Billingham Youth & Community Centre  
 17th Nov As above  
 15th Dec As above  
**COUNCILLORS** N. TEASDALE TEL: 803657  
 B. WOODHOUSE TEL: 561899

**VILLAGE WARD (THORNABY) 4:30PM – 5:30PM**  
 11th Oct Thornaby Pavilion  
 8th Nov As above  
 13th Dec As above  
**COUNCILLORS** MRS E. CRAGGS TEL: 896378  
 I. DALGARNO TEL: 882985

**YARM WARD 6.00PM – 6.45PM**  
 12th Oct Yarm Library  
 9th Nov Challoner House  
 14th Dec Yarm Library  
**COUNCILLORS** B. JONES TEL: 576855  
 MRS M. SIMPSON TEL: 790691

**ST. CUTHBERT'S WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6:00PM – 7:00PM**  
 14th Oct Billingham Branch Library, Bedale Avenue  
 11th Nov As above  
 9th Dec As above  
**COUNCILLORS** MRS J. O' DONNELL TEL: 559717  
 M. SMITH TEL: 866573

**WHITTON WARD**  
 12th Oct Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles 7:00 – 7:30pm  
 29th Oct Wolviston Court Community Centre 6:00 – 7:00pm  
 1st Nov The Chapel School Room, Carlton 7:00 – 7:30pm  
 2nd Nov Manor House, Stillington 6:30 – 7:00pm  
**COUNCILLOR** F. SALT TEL: (01740) 630771

## 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.

**Party Time**  
**Take the NOISE, MESS & WORRY** out of having a party in your own home by simply booking one with us...  
 Just take a look at some of our fabulous party options, all of which are not only fun but healthy too.

**Soft Play Parties**  
**DISCO PARTIES**  
**MUSIC ZONE**  
**ICE PARTIES**  
**Jumpin' Jungle**  
**GALAXY SPACE BASE**  
**Bubble Swim Parties**  
**ICE PALACE**

for more information contact any of our Leisure Centres below

**FIT in 4** 4 weeks usage of the **ACTIV8** Lifestyle Package

For only £22 during October & November. (Pass cannot be used after November 30th 2004).

This pass entitles you to FOUR WEEKS\* use of:

- Four Activ8 Health & Fitness suites
- Three swimming pool facilities
- Over 65 exercise classes
- Use of Invigor8 sauna suite (Billingham Forum) this includes a free induction to the Activ8 Fitness Suites which must be pre-booked

Sign up to a direct debit package or annual payment before your pass expires and we will deduct this money\*\* off the administration fee or your annual payment.

\*Four consecutive weeks use only. \*\*No cash refunds will be offered.

**Billingham Forum** (01642) 55 13 81 **Splash** (01642) 52 72 72 **Stockton Sports Centre** (01642) 52 82 82 **Thornaby Pavilion** (01642) 76 09 71 **Thornaby Pool** (01642) 61 67 27

These facilities are owned and supported by Stockton - on - Tees Borough Council and are managed by Tees Active Ltd. [www.stockton.gov.uk](http://www.stockton.gov.uk)

# What's On

October, November and December 2004

## October

4-10 October

### National Children's Book Week

For further details contact your local library

7 October

### National Poetry Day

Poetry Competition. Entries close on the 31 October.

For further details contact your local library

8 October

### National Bookstart Day

Contact your local community library or Children & Youth Services for further details Tel. (01642) 526995

10 October

### North East Guitar Show

Will be held at Marton Hotel, Middlesbrough. For further details contact D. Moxon (01642) 321619 or email:

info@northeastguitarshow.co.uk

11-17 October

### Family Learning Week

Contact your local community library or Children & Youth Services for further details Tel. (01642) 526995

14-16 October

### Yarm Fair

Funfair for all the family on Yarm High Street.

25 October

### Xplore Holiday Activity

Various sporting activities for 3- 16yrs. Contact Sports Development on (01642) 397373

30 October

### Tees Long Distance Sculling

From Jubilee Bridge to Millennium Bridge. Contact Steve Vaslet on (01740) 630745

## November

3-6 November

### Fun Fair - Riverside

Rides and stalls for all the family. Contact the Events Team on (01642) 527344, for more information.

5 November

### Stockton Fireworks Party

By the riverside, for more information contact Graham Reeves on (01642) 527344

6 November

### Face Painting

Castlegate Shopping centre 10am-2pm. Contact Terry Shipley on (01642) 672783

8-20 November

### 21st Northern Children's Book Festival

For festival information call Children & Youth Services Tel. (01642) 526995

14 November

### Remembrance Sunday

Come remember the fallen of the area from conflicts around the world on Stockton High Street. Contact Nigel Hart on (01642) 526193

20 November

### Gala Day – Northern Children's Book Festival

Blyth Community College, Northumberland

27-30 November

### Santa's Grotto

Come visit Santa at the Castlegate Shopping Centre from 10am- 2pm Contact Terry Shipley on (01642) 672783

## December

2 December

### "Santa Claus" & Town Centre Xmas Lights

Contact Graham Reeves (01642) 527344

4 December

### Face Painting

Castlegate Shopping centre 10am-2pm. Contact Terry Shipley on (01642) 672783

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

## Lyndsey ties the Knott in sponsorship deal



**A Stockton youngster has recently won a £250 sponsorship package to keep her driving ambitions on the right track.**

Lyndsey Knott, 14, tied the deal with Connexions Tees Valley to help her continue to showcase her driving talents around the country's top Grass Track racing circuits.

She comes from a family of racers. Her dad Steve is the mechanic who sets up her Mini race car and her mum Jackie and brother David are also grass track racers.

Lyndsey, who races in a 1,000cc mini, said: "It's brilliant that Connexions have helped me out. Racing cars is expensive so the money will really help. I have Connexions logos all over the car and it looks great. It makes me feel really good about what I'm doing."

## Enjoy a warmer home and lower fuel bill

**Stockton Council is helping the Borough's residents enjoy warmer homes and lower fuel bills, thanks to affordable home insulation measures.**

Staff at the Council's Environment Centre are offering householders the opportunity to have cavity wall and loft insulation installed at reasonable prices as a result of a close working relationship with local installers.

Wasted energy through un-insulated cavity walls and lofts is not only an unnecessary drain on the household budget but is also a major cause of the release of the 'greenhouse gas' Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere and, contributing to the global problems of climate change.

For a free, no obligation survey, call in at the Environment Centre on 21 West Row, Stockton or ring (01642) 528143.

# Stockton Adult Education Service

## You can do more with your life!!!

Learn something new and exciting! - It's very easy.....why not take the first step and enrol on-line with Stockton Council's Award Winning Adult Education Service.



Visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/adulted](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/adulted)  
Or call (01642) 527906



## ARE YOU ON A LOW INCOME?

In or out of Work you may get help to pay your rent or Council Tax

**STOCKTON  
BENEFIT  
SERVICE**  
*here to help*

Call our helpline (01642) 393829 or Minicom 393806  
or e mail: [BenefitService@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:BenefitService@stockton.gov.uk)

Write or call in:  
The Benefit Office, 16 Church Road, Stockton. TS18 1TX

**If you wish to report a benefit fraud call Freephone  
0800 328 6340.**





## Serious fun and games for 4-16 year olds



**SPORTSCOACH is designed for 6-16 year olds. Your child can play 6 different sports in one term. ( 18 in a year ) as well as participate in unique weekly Team Building Challenges.**

Nobody takes a test to join SportsCoach. Qualified, sympathetic coaches bring out the best in your child; twice a year parents are given a detailed progress report.

SportsCoach runs for three hours at weekends alongside the school term. SportsCoach works out of Conyers School, Yarm on Sundays and Hummersknott School Darlington on Saturdays. For a Prospectus call

01325 335740 ( 24 hours ) or visit [www.scoach.co.uk](http://www.scoach.co.uk)

**ARCHERY • SHORT TENNIS • MARTIAL ARTS • VOLLEYBALL • BADMINTON • NETBALL • FENCING • ORIENTEERING • BASKETBALL • HOCKEY**



## Meals with care



**Frozen meals delivery service  
Let us be the answer to your meal time problems**

**WRVS helps people maintain dignity and independence in their homes and communities particularly in later life.**

**Introducing meal deals  
5 meals for £10 - 10 meals for £20**

(normal price £2.20)

WRVS offer a friendly, reliable home service, available to everyone. There are no restrictions and anyone can access the service.

All profits are used by WRVS to support your local communities unlike most other providers.

WRVS volunteers and staff are dedicated to giving care and support to your local community

- Low cost
- 1 stop delivery
- convenient



**You know you can trust WRVS - why not give us a call today - Phone 01642 222643**



## Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board Meetings

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

Contact Dawn Welsh 01642 526498

### Area Partnerships

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

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

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

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

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



**stockton  
renaissance**



# SureStart Stockton-on-Tees

Services for children 0 - 16 and their families

**Our range of services include:-**

**Childcare Information Service, Information On Childcare Providers, Employment and Training Opportunities in Childcare, 3 & 4 year old Nursery Education Grant, Information on Becoming a Childcare Provider, Early Years Education, Parent Support and Survival Skills, Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy, Quality Assurance Scheme.**

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

E-mail [CIS@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:CIS@stockton.gov.uk)  
[SureStart@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:SureStart@stockton.gov.uk)



**Stockton-on-Tees  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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

# Stockton Business Centre

The centre for business



Artist impression of new enhanced Stockton Business Centre. Offering 100 units.

## Opening Autumn 2004

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



**For further information contact:**  
**Centre Manager - Peter Douglas 01642 606066**  
[www.stocktonbusinesscentre.org](http://www.stocktonbusinesscentre.org)

## TASTY MEALS TO YOUR DOOR

### Home Farm Foods

Working in your community for over 10 years, Home Farm Foods is now operated by Andrew and Christine Simmons from their base in Darlington. This reliable and friendly service provides a superb range of over 200 delicious frozen meals and other products.

- FREE WEEKLY DELIVERY
- NO MINIMUM ORDER
- EXCLUSIVE RECIPES



Superb range of ready meals  
**PLUS**

Top Quality Meat Fish and poultry Products  
 Pies Puddings Vegetables Snacks Desserts  
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**CALL FREE ON**

**0800 052 7744**



### MEALS PREPARED & DELIVERED WITH CARE

At Wiltshire Farm Foods we put as much care into the delivery of our meals as we do their preparation.

As the country's leading supplier of frozen ready meals direct to the home, we offer a menu of 175 meals and desserts with main meals from as little as £1.60. Delivery and chat, is FREE.

Call 01642 643999 or FREEPHONE 0800 773773 for a free colour brochure.

[www.wiltshirefarmfoods.com](http://www.wiltshirefarmfoods.com)



**XMAS  
BROCHURE  
AVAILABLE**

## YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY



**Stockton Council needs your help to find out what you think of local services and other issues.**

We use our successful Residents' Panel - Viewpoint - for a wide variety of consultation. Viewpoint has more than 1,600 adult members; there are also over 650 8-18 year-olds are members of Youth Viewpoint. We'd like these panels to be even bigger, so we're inviting more residents to join.

**Viewpoint members:**  
 Help us decide how best to provide services  
 Can make their voice heard on issues that matter  
 Have a real impact on what happens in the area.

To find out more, or to join Viewpoint or Youth Viewpoint, please contact Nicola Fletcher on 01642 526090 or e-mail [nicola.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk) for an information pack.





STOCKTON COUNCIL PRESENTS

# 2004

## FESTIVAL OF FIREWORKS

**5th November at the Riverside**  
**Support from TFM from 6.00PM**  
**Fireworks by G2 start at 7.30PM**



Stockton-on-Tees  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

