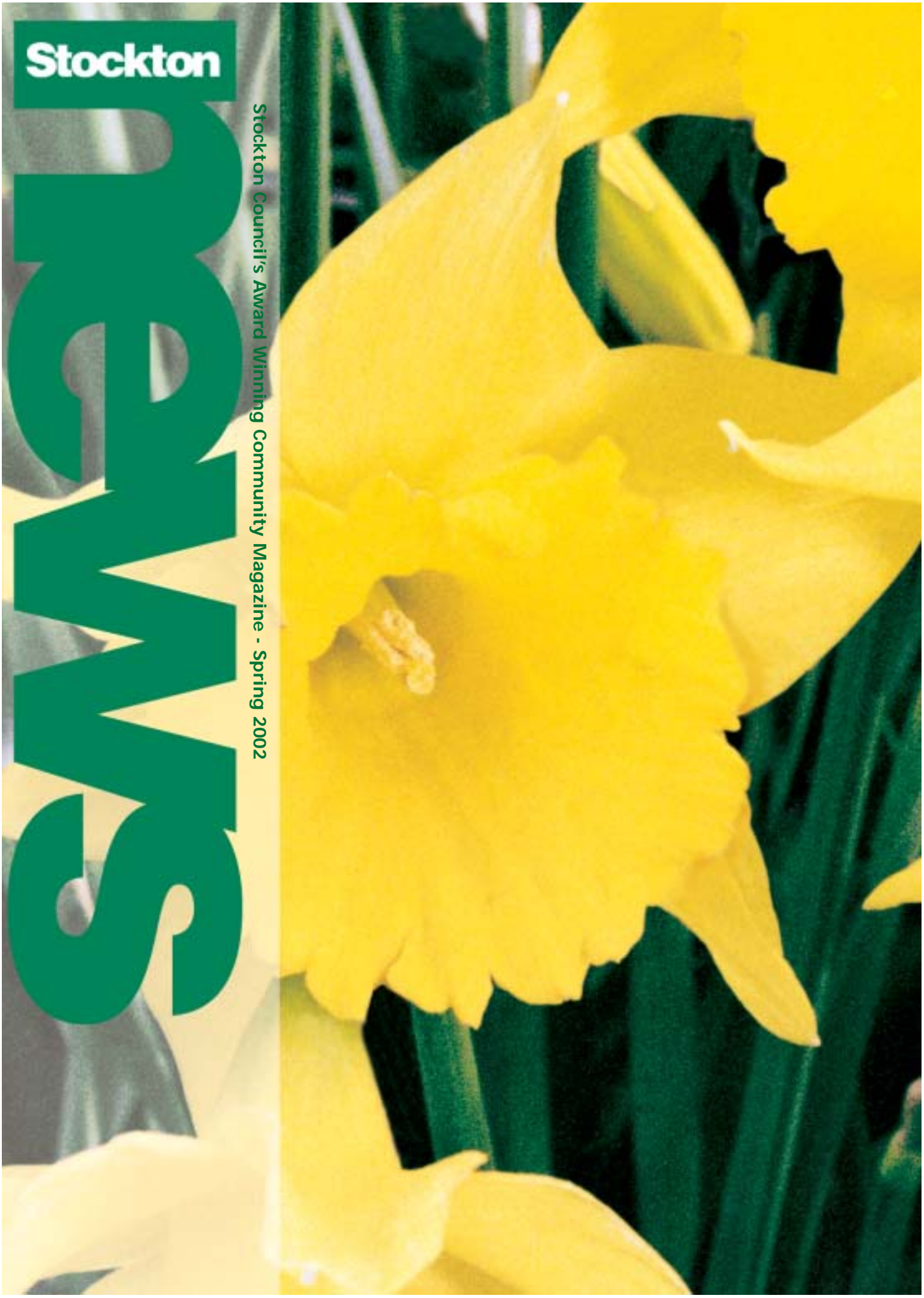


Stockton

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NEWS



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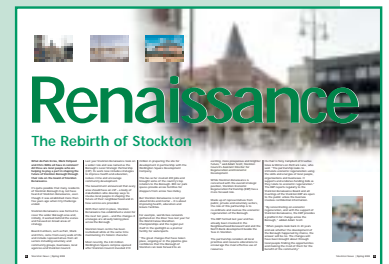
The Benefit Office, 16 Church Road, Stockton on Tees. TS18 1TX

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

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

Health Secretary launches Stockton Warm Zone



(Left to right) Neil Schneider, Stockton Council's Director of Housing and Contract Services, Sheila Proctor, The Right Honourable Alan Milburn MP, Secretary of State for Health, and Beccy Brown, Stockton Warm Zone Director.

Health Secretary Alan Milburn took a trip to Stockton to declare the Borough's "Warm Zone" officially up and running.

Stockton Council, together with its partner, gas pipeline company Transco, is one of just five authorities in the country to be piloting the Government-led initiative.

The Stockton Warm Zone aims to reduce fuel poverty in the Borough by 80 per cent within three years.

Work has already begun in six wards, and the programme is due to be rolled out to all 30 wards in Stockton Borough over the next three years.

Mr Milburn said: "Stockton's a good place to make things happen. It's got very good strong partnerships between the local authority, NHS, voluntary and private sector organisations.

"On those sure foundations, this sort of initiative can produce real dividends for local people. I think it's already proving its worth and I have no doubt at all it's going to be very successful in the future."

During his visit, Mr Milburn visited the Thornaby home of pensioner Sheila Proctor. Sheila was one of the first residents to benefit from the work of the Warm Zone, with improvements to her bungalow expected to knock £150 off her annual fuel bills.

Beccy Brown, Stockton Warm Zone Director, said: "Sheila is one of the first of many. It is really remarkable to see the difference the Warm Zone can make to people's lives.

"We are making excellent progress here in Stockton. More than 7,000 homes have already been visited and of these 346 have benefited from a range of measures including central heating, door, window and loft insulation, cavity wall insulation or energy saving advice."

Residents living in 16 blocks of flats in Stockton have also been assisted through the project.

Around 240 flats at Victoria Buildings, Portrack and Tilery, have had cavity wall insulation, loft lagging and draught-proofing installed.

Cleaning up local neighbourhoods

A £10,000 clean-up operation has swept through two areas of Stockton reducing rubbish, graffiti and dog fouling on the streets.

The three month initiative, funded through the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal programme, targeted Parkfield and Mill Lane.

Recreation areas have been spruced up, fly posters removed and more litter bins installed around the areas. A Litter Education Officer also visited Primary schools in the area to raise awareness of litter issues and change attitudes and behaviour.

"There was an almost immediate impact on the areas once the scheme got underway and I received positive feedback from the residents I spoke to," said Alex Bain, secretary of Parkfield Residents Association.

The scheme, aimed to have an immediate positive impact on the local environment, came about through a joint partnership between the Neighbourhood Management Board and Stockton Council's Housing and Contract Services Department. It marked the start of an ambitious Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder initiative for Parkfield and Mill Lane which aims to improve the way public services are delivered in the area.

"This whole scheme is very exciting and it shows that residents' concerns have been taken on board. The project is putting Parkfield and Mill Lane firmly on the map," said Phil Walker, chairman of the Neighbourhood Management Board.



Stockton Council's Road Safety team (pictured above) is one of only three across the whole country to attain Charter Mark status. The team achieved the accolade on the first time of applying.

Blue boxes are coming your way

Waste recycling is set for a Borough-wide boost – thanks to the humble Blue Box.

Like every Council, Stockton must recycle more waste, more than doubling the present amount to 10 per cent by 2003. By 2005, this must rise to 18 per cent and more than 30 per cent after 2010.

To help meet these targets, a new system of kerbside recycling collections is to be introduced to households across Stockton Borough, beginning this summer.

Four out of five homes in the Borough already have fortnightly “blue bag” collections of waste paper, saving 3,000 tonnes of waste from incineration last year.

These bags will soon give way to more comprehensive collections which include old clothing, glass jars and bottles, tins and cans in addition to newspapers and magazines.

Householders will receive a blue plastic recycling box, designed to take different types of recyclable waste, along with a calendar giving details about their regular, fortnightly collection days.

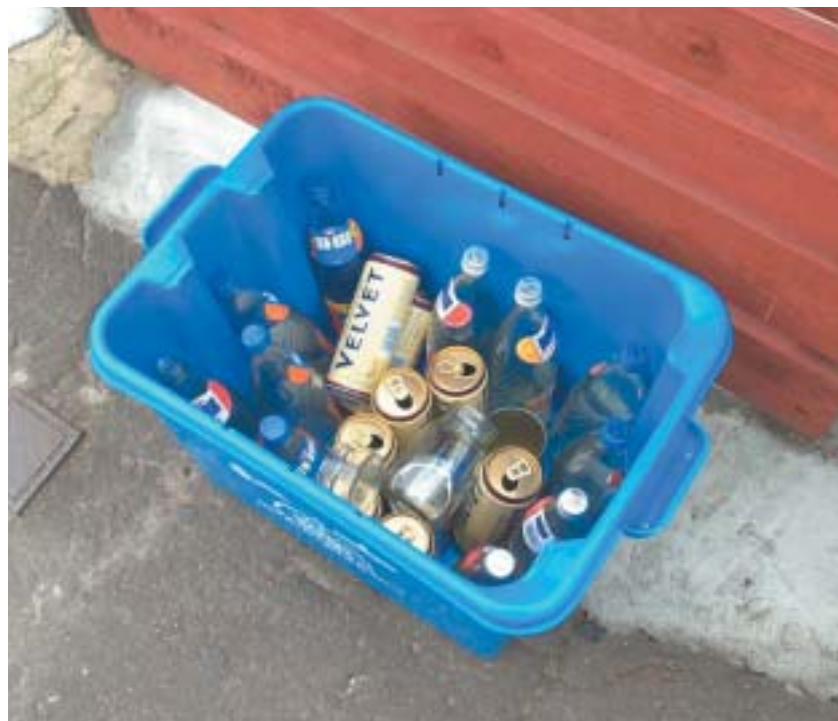
Chris Hayward, Project manager for Cleansing and Fleet Services said: “The blue boxes are clean, tidy, simple to use and durable. A year ago, we introduced boxes to 1,000 homes as a trial in Wynyard and Crooksbarne and the system has been very well received. “Many people find it as easy to put their recyclable waste in the box as in their bin.

“Elsewhere, the first homes should receive their blue boxes this summer, with collections extended to around half the Borough by the end of this year and every house by next spring.

“We are currently looking at ways of overcoming the problem of getting the service to high-rise flats and houses in multiple occupation. We aim to get every household into the recycling habit.”

Once collected, the contents of the boxes will be taken to a recycling depot for sorting before going on to glass factories, paper mills and other recycling plants.

“Our motto is reduce, reuse, recycle,” said Chris Hayward. “It’s all part of the Council’s ‘Care For Your Area’ drive to clean and green the Borough and make it a better place to be.”



Stockton 'seedling' wins national competition

A green fingered pupil from Oak Tree Primary School, Stockton is top of her class after scooping the star prize in a national environmental competition organised by ACC Milk, one of the largest suppliers of milk in the UK.

Sarah Luke, eight, was presented with a deluxe art set and a framed presentation of her drawing after beating hundreds of entrants in a colouring competition organised as part of ACC's 'Treewatch' campaign which encourages children to become actively involved in green issues.

Pupils have been using specially designed biodegradable 1/3 pint cartons of 'Mr Men' 'Little Miss' and 'The Bash Street Gang' Dairygate milk as miniature pots to grow and monitor seedlings.

Thanks to Sarah, Oak Tree Primary School has also received a variety of ornamental tree saplings to the value of £100 to plant within their own grounds



Left to right back - Amber Locke and Brian Shotton of ACC Milk with some Oak Tree School pupils whilst Sarah Luke, winner of ACC Milk's Treewatch colouring competition shows off her framed entry.

Less traffic on the High Street

Pedestrians will soon find less traffic using Stockton's High Street.

In a joint initiative between Stockton Council's traffic engineers, the police and the town centre manager, an experimental scheme is expected to begin in the next few weeks to further restrict the number of vehicles using the road.

Initially lasting 12 months, it follows public consultation earlier this year on plans to simplify the existing traffic restrictions and reduce vehicle access.

Traffic in the High Street increased throughout the 20th century. Until the Tees flyover opened in the 1970s, it served as the busy A19 dual-carriageway. Although most traffic was removed in stages between 1992 and 1995, buses, cycles and some other vehicles continue to use it.

Traffic accidents on the High Street fell from an average of 26 a year before pedestrianisation to just three in 2000. But some motorists have found the restrictions complex and many who continue to use the road do so illegally.

Under the experimental scheme, the only vehicles allowed to use the central section - between the two bus turning loops at each end of the High Street - during the daytime (9am to 5pm every day) will be buses and cycles.

In the bus loops, taxis will also be allowed, along with other vehicles needing access to properties.

Existing road access permits and arrangements will be withdrawn and the junctions of the High Street with Ramsgate and Silver Street closed.

Apart from the southbound bus and cycle lane, where the existing 24-hours-a-day restrictions would continue, all traffic restrictions would be lifted between 5pm and 9am each night.

After 12 months, the scheme will be reviewed and a decision taken on whether it should continue.

Mike Robinson, Stockton Council's Assistant Director (Engineering and Transportation), said: "Many people have supported the plans to reduce traffic, including the police. Where there were concerns, such as those from traders requiring access for deliveries or to bank takings, we are looking at ways of addressing these before the scheme begins."



Norton Road exhibition

A major new exhibition 'Norton Road' opens this weekend in Stockton's Green Dragon Museum.

The exhibition is the culmination of many years' work by local photographer Andy Elliott. Andy spent the late 1990s documenting the area around Norton Road and Stockton town centre, conscious that it linked the town's history with its future.

Thousands of images tell the story of the area as it was before regeneration brought about the changes we see today.

Andy hopes that these photographs will not only encourage Stockton residents to focus their minds on memories of the town, but that they will also contribute and compliment a written record which Stockton Council's Museum Service will be documenting from special events that are being held throughout the year.



The exhibition runs until 1 October with a programme of events relating to photography and personal histories. If you would like to be notified of these please leave your details at Green Dragon Museum.

Prints are available and digitised versions will be available very soon.

The Green Dragon Museum is open Monday – Saturday, 9am – 5pm and admission is free.

Budget heralds £2.1m for new developments



Careful management of the Council's finances has brought good news to residents in the form of one of the region's lowest Council Tax increases for the authority's services over the coming year.

The rise for Council services has been pegged to 4.5 per cent and the £186 million budget also includes £2.1 million for new service developments during the year.

But a 38 per cent rise in the Cleveland Police Authority's budget means that, by the time the police precept is added, householders' total bills are up by 7 per cent.

As a result, the Council is now pressing the Home Secretary to establish an independent enquiry into the financial administration of the Cleveland police service.

The Council's own limited increase is the result of a stable and prudent system of managing finances that allows budgets to be planned up to three years in advance.

This has allowed the Council to manage both an unfavourable Government spending assessment and severe pressures on its Social Services budget, whilst still passing extra Government funding for Education and Social Services directly to those services.

New service developments include:

Household waste recycling: £430,000 to introduce fortnightly kerbside collections of recyclable materials such as old clothing, glass and metal cans.

Cleaner streets: £230,000 to sustain and develop the Care For Your Area initiative that has already made huge strides towards cleaning up the Borough.

Housing: £600,000 to establish an Arms Length Management Company (ALMO) for the Borough's Council housing; this will help secure improvements to the Council's housing stock for which the Government has conditionally allocated £52m.

Thornaby Town Hall (left): £50,000 towards a bid for Heritage Lottery and European renovation funding as a base for new businesses.

Billingham, Stockton and Thornaby town centres: £100,000 to upgrade the environment, refurbish street furniture and lighting, improve disabled access and attract shoppers.

Public conveniences: £125,000 for new public toilets in Norton and investigation of options for upgrading those in central Stockton.

Preston Hall Winter Garden: £50,000 to help attract Heritage Lottery grants for the renovation of the glazed building to its 1908 splendour.

Community Centres: £50,000 for repairs to five centres in Billingham, Stockton and Thornaby.

Home adaptations for disabled people: £101,000 to expand the current programme.

Alley gates: £100,000 to expand into new areas the successful pilot scheme of security gates in alleys behind terraced houses.

Environmental schemes: £121,000 for landscaping, floral displays and similar enhancements to public areas, including the main road routes.

Highway schemes: £80,000 for a range of road safety projects and improvements to footpaths and parking bays.

Royal visit



HRH the Duke of Edinburgh is to be welcomed back to the University of Durham, Stockton Campus (UDSC) as students, staff and regional partners prepare to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the pioneering Campus.

The Duke will visit Stockton on May 8th as part of the Royal Golden Jubilee tour of the region to witness the substantial progress which has been made since his last visit nine years ago when the first academic building was formally opened by Her Majesty the Queen.

The Stockton Campus student population has risen to 1,700 full-time and 800 part-time students and, with over £35m invested in the new research facilities, additional teaching, social and residential accommodation, the Campus has now come of age.

During his visit, the Duke will hear about the University's success in attracting students from a broad range of backgrounds and of developing academic programmes and research, which focus on the priorities of the region.

University of Durham, Vice-Chancellor Sir Kenneth Calman, said: "As we move towards the 10th anniversary, we are delighted to welcome the Prince Phillip back to the University. The Duke will witness the tremendous achievements of all those associated with the development of our Stockton Campus."

Carnival is coming to town

Groups from Hungary, Mexico, Nepal and Norway will be taking part in the 38th Billingham International Folklore Festival later this year.

This year's Festival will be held from 10-17 August and tickets go on sale from 1 May.

The town of Billingham will be awash with colour and music as visitors and performers soak up the carnival atmosphere.

Staged over three venues, the Folklore Festival will include performances, daily workshops, children's sessions and a chance to meet the singers and dancers.

Billingham will be transformed into a multi-lingual, multi-cultural meeting place that spreads out to the surrounding countryside, each group

taking their costumes and performances to venues in nearby towns and villages.



UK Youth Parliament reps for Stockton

Two youngsters from Stockton have been elected to represent the Borough in the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. Katy Hutchcraft from Portrack in Stockton was elected to represent Stockton (North) and Katie Brown who is from Yarm was elected to represent Stockton (South). Katie was also chosen to visit the House of Commons in February with 11 other MYP's to meet the Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Both girls are 15 and are already involved in a variety of democratic youth groups run by Stockton Youth Service including the new Peer drug education group.

Littleboy Park re-opens

The newly-upgraded play area at Littleboy Park in Thornaby has officially re-opened.

The £105,000 upgrade was carried out as part of an ongoing improvement programme, which is being implemented as a result of the launch of a Parks Group in Thornaby.

The opening ceremony was carried out by Andrea Graham, whose daughter Shannon tragically died from injuries received while playing in Littleboy Park, and Alison Trainer, of the Mandale Association of Residents Committee, who has worked tirelessly on the scheme to upgrade the park's play facilities.

Martin Jenkins, Parks and Countryside Officer for Stockton Council, said: "We were keen to develop Littleboy Park and are grateful to Mrs Graham for her support.

"I'd also like to pay tribute to local residents, and in particular Alison Trainer of the MARS Committee, as they worked with us every step of the way to see this work come to fruition.

"Many people were involved in this project, including the local Ward Councillors, Thornaby Regeneration Partnership and the Five Lamps Organisation and Asda in Thornaby,

and everyone worked extremely hard to help the scheme on its way. It's a credit to them all that the park has now re-opened."

The MARS Committee has also secured funding, through Asda in Thornaby, to develop some flower beds adjoining the play area. These have been designed by pupils from Harewood Junior School.

Meanwhile, funding has been secured from the Single Regeneration Budget to assist with the proposed development of another two play areas in Thornaby parks over the next two years.

The Council is working with resident groups to identify additional match funding to enable the projects to be implemented.



Make a date for the Riverside Festival

Make a note in your diary – it's only a few months before the 15th Stockton International Riverside Festival plunges the town into another extravaganza of sound, spectacle and street arts.

This year's Festival is in two distinct phases – an opening music weekend from 26-28 July, followed by the big weekend of street theatre from 1-4 August.

The world's top performers will again be here to show why this is recognised as the UK's leading street arts event.

After Geri Halliwell and A1 wowed ecstatic fans at last year's Feel The Noise – Live!, organisers 96.6 tfm and Stockton Council are already planning to make sure that this year's music weekend boasts another massive line-up.

This year, expect more community involvement, some tremendous street performers, and the customary spectacular finale.



Obituary: Councillor John McCoy



Sadly, Councillor John McCoy, one of Stockton Council's leading Councillors has died.

John McCoy and his wife Ann represent the Charltons Ward of Billingham.

First elected in 1991, Councillor McCoy was by profession a social worker. In 1995 he became Chairman of Stockton's Social Services Committee

and, more recently, served as the Cabinet Member for Social Services and Health.

Councillor Bob Gibson, Leader of Stockton Borough Council, paid tribute to this well respected politician by saying: "John was one of the most respected and well liked people you could wish to meet. His commitment to the role of elected member, even during his illness, was second to none and I know I speak for all members when I say that we will miss him. Our deepest condolences go to his wife Ann.

"Under John's leadership the Borough's health and social services have made tremendous advances both in service improvements and joint working, making Stockton a Beacon Council that other authorities now follow."

Councillor McCoy's funeral took place at Stockton Parish Church on Tuesday 12 March and was attended by the Mayor and many colleagues from the Council.

Councillor Gibson added: "It was a tribute to John that Members of all parties attended the funeral service."

Smart youngsters to be honoured

Ten youngsters were set to receive their just rewards in a new award scheme as Stockton News went to press.

Judges for the SMART awards – which are designed to reward the many good things achieved by the Borough's young people – have been sifting through dozens of nominations over the past few weeks.

The awards have been organised by a group of youngsters from across the area, who have been working with the Mayor, Councillor Terry Bean, and Stockton Council's Youth Service. Support has come from a number of local businesses, 96.6 tfm radio, Evening Gazette, Staples Portrack, Stockton Council's Sports Development Team, Creative Glass & Mirrors and Asda.

The ten award categories cover educational achievement, educational effort, sport, volunteering, community work, the arts, teamwork, bravery to overcome a challenge, achievement by someone with special needs, and an exceptional award to a child of Primary school age.

Yarm town twinning

Yarm Twinning Association, a non-profit making organisation set up to strengthen ties with European neighbours, will be hosting an international youth camp from 27 July - 4 August.

The camp will see fifty young people and their leaders visit from five European towns but, before it can go ahead, the Association needs to raise around £7,000.

If you would like to help raise the money they need, please write to Jayne Gregory or Sue Linsdell at 25, Davenport Road, Yarm, Stockton-on-Tees TS15 9TN.



Locomotive transforms town roundabout



A Stockton roundabout has undergone a spectacular transformation and is now the proud home of a 131 year-old locomotive.

In a partnership between Stockton Council and BP Cats, the locomotive has been restored to its former glory to take pride of place on one of the Borough's busiest roundabouts.

BP Cats lead electrician Steve Pickthall, a lifelong steam locomotive enthusiast, has carried out the restoration of the Thornaby built engine.

The locomotive was one of a number built by Head Wrightson in the 1870s and was one of two that were based at Seaham Harbour until the 1960s. It was stored at Preston Park in Eaglescliffe for a number of years before the restoration project got underway.

Now the project has been completed, the locomotive will take proudly stand on the roundabout at the junction of Riverside and Bridge Road.

Tim Gibson, Stockton Council's Development Manager, said: "This latest project is part of a programme of improvements to create roundabouts that reflect the history of the Borough.

"I am sure that the locomotive will help remind people of the proud role citizens of the Borough have played in the development of the railways."

Steve Pickthall was delighted to be involved in the project. He said: "The project was certainly a challenge given the timescale we were working to. We were aiming to arrest corrosion and bring it back to the original condition it was in when it was built. It is an historic machine which is part of the Borough's heritage."

Top tenants hailed at annual awards gathering



Stockton Council recently recognised the hard work and dedication of its tenants at a very special event in Preston Hall Museum.

The annual Tenants' Awards were introduced in 1989 as the Council's way of saying thank you to residents who have been exemplary tenants, good neighbours or kind and supportive members of their community.

In December 23 tenants – several of whom have lived in Council homes for more than 30 years – received their awards from the Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Terry Bean, and Mike Cook, Stockton Council's Housing Manager.

Among those honoured at the event was 53-year-old, Eunice Hill, from Cromwell Avenue, Stockton.

Eunice was nominated for her tireless work at Victoria Community House doing washing for asylum seekers, despite her own long battle against cancer.

Peggy Metcalfe, of Oxbridge Court, received her award for being a Council tenant for a staggering 52 years.

"It is a long time when you think," says the 77-year-old, who paid rent of "seven and sixpence" a week when she first moved into a Council home way back in 1952.

The tale of 50 years

Half a century of Haverton Hill's history is chronicled in a wonderfully illustrated booklet, written by true 'Havertonian' Bill Kettlewell.

The book, 'Fifty Years in Haverton Hill' has already sold more than 600 copies and a further print run has been ordered to meet demand.

Bill, who now lives in Billingham, worked in the Furness Yard until its closure in 1979. From the 19th Century, Haverton Hill was home to glass works, saltworks, a furnace and, from 1918, the Furness Shipyard.

'Fifty Years in Haverton Hill' tells the tale of Bill's life growing up in the area through wartime and the Depression. It also reveals Bill's path to becoming a well-known entertainer.

The booklet, priced £3.95, is available at Billingham Art Gallery.



Giant happenings at Haverton Hill

A Haverton Hill shipyard is being given a new lease of life, thanks to two developments which are bringing hundreds of jobs to the area – and returning shipbuilding to the Tees.

The Swan Hunter group has been gearing up to re-open the former Kvaerner yard during March in a deal which will create 300 jobs. The company is currently building two 16,000 tonne amphibious support and

logistics vessels in a £140m contract for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the Haverton Hill yard, which closed three years ago, is in line to fabricate the accommodation blocks and some sections of the hulls.

But the race is currently on for an even bigger prize – a £2.7bn deal to build two new aircraft carriers for the Royal Navy, due to enter service between 2012 and 2015. And, whichever bidder

is successful, there is a strong likelihood that at least one of these will be constructed in the North East.

Although the ships are expected to be built elsewhere in the region, major sections would again be fabricated at Haverton Hill.

Nearby, another part of site has been taken over by local firm D-CECC, which is constructing two giant tunnel-boring machines in the former shipyard's construction shed at Haverton Hill.

The machines, each 120 metres long and around 8 metres in diameter, will be used in the building of two stages of the high-speed rail link project linking London with the Channel Tunnel. Each weighs about 990 tonnes and they are so big that Haverton Hill is one of the few places in the country where they could be assembled.

Their construction will provide work for around 100 people over a six month period. David Eason, Managing Director of D-CECC, hopes to win further business at the site and that the workforce could reach over 200 by the end of this year.

Mr Eason has also praised the part of Stockton Council - which provided financial support for the company - and others in bringing the work to the area.



D-CECC reopening the former Haverton Hill construction shed.

Work on the £10 million Wolfson Research Institute at the University of Durham's Stockton Campus has now been completed and research staff are beginning to take up residence.

The purpose built facility will initially welcome around 100 people in what is the first phase of development but there are plans to make additional appointments in the coming months.

Health and Environment is the theme of the research with a particular focus on regional issues.

The two-story building boasts 23 laboratories, more than 60 offices, two preparation rooms, an IT suite, and a consulting and seminar room.

Professor Charles Heywood, Executive Director of the Wolfson Research Institute, said: "The Institute provides a unique opportunity for

Researchers take up residence



internationally recognised researchers from a number of disciplines to work alongside each other.

"In each case research complements and enhances the activities of the respective University departments but it also provides opportunities for new collaborations."

Part of the funding for the building of the Institute came from the European Regional Development Fund. The £3.5 million involved was the biggest single piece of European funding ever awarded to Durham University. Stockton Council also awarded the project £500,000.

POLICE BEAT

Festive Task Group to continue

Over the Christmas and New Year period, Stockton Police deployed a dedicated team of officers to focus on crime prevention and disruption tactics, by means of high visibility patrols in and around the Stockton town centre area.

In one month alone the team made 76 arrests, stop/checked 467 suspicious persons and provided re-assurance to the public over the busy festive time.

The patrols were so successful that they are to continue for the foreseeable future to help combat crime in the town and to target persistent trouble causers.

Sgt Paul Beddow, head of the task group said, "We were determined that members of the public would be able to come to the town in safety and without the fear of crime. The results have been very encouraging and feedback from the public has been excellent. We will continue to target criminals in this town until they get the message that they are not welcome."



Task Group officers PC Sharon Robinson and PC Paul Lockwood on patrol in Stockton.

The 'Wright' side of the law



Alan Wright getting his collar felt by Inspector Eric Robinson and PC Jeff Vowles.

On the 15th January 2002, Stockton Police hosted the Alan Wright Show for BBC Radio Cleveland. Over 14 members of Police and Support Staff were interviewed throughout the two hour 'live' broadcast, giving a flavour of day to day life in 'the nick'.

However, Alan got more than he bargained for when he got himself arrested, taken into custody and 'placed' in a cell.

He was later fingerprinted and photographed and charged with telling several jokes which can only be described as 'criminal'.

He was also given a brief lesson in self defence by PC Jeff Parkes and he got the chance to walk around whilst wearing two stone of Police equipment, in the form of protective vest, baton, handcuffs, CS Spray and a radio. He now understands the meaning of 'the full weight of the law!'

Alan Wright was the consummate professional throughout the day and kept all of us 'amateurs' in check. Thanks go to everyone involved from Radio Cleveland.

'Crucial' Win for Stockton Police

Stockton Police recently celebrated receiving the award for the best scenario in the 2001 Crucial Crew Personal Safety Day.

The Crucial Crew brings together a variety of agencies, who present workshops for Year 6 pupils (10/11 years) for schools in the Stockton area, aimed at promoting personal safety and awareness of dangers in the community. Over 2,000 pupils attended the 2001 event and visited workshop scenarios involving Stockton Police, Cleveland Fire Brigade, H.M. Coastguard, Northern Electric and Prison Me No Way. Stockton Borough Council presented scenarios on Road Safety, "Safe in your area", Kitchen Safety and Animal Welfare.

PC Jeff Vowles, who presented the Police Workshop said, "As well as being a very enjoyable day for the children, because all the scenarios are interactive, the children are learning about personal safety and this will last them a lifetime. I was very pleased to receive this award for the Police, but everyone who takes part in the Crucial Crew deserves an award for their marvellous input."

Plans are already well under way for Crucial Crew 2002, and Stockton Police are ready to defend their title!

And Finally

He's done it again. PC Barry Dixon has been continuing his fundraising efforts in aid of The Children's Trust. Barry organised a white water rafting day at the Tees Barrage for Police and Support Staff. Each participant had to raise £50 and the group managed to raise £1,400 in total. Well done to all who took part.



Stockton 'bobbies' on the crest of a wave on a cold day in November.

Lock it or lose it

Criminals in Stockton are still being ably assisted by members of the public, who continue to leave their house doors and windows open to allow easy access to burglars. Walk-in burglaries are on the increase, when they could actually be on the decrease, if residents would take basic measures to keep the criminals out.

Criminals aren't bothered if there is someone in the house or whether it's front

or back door. If the opportunity is there to get in and steal your hard earned valuables - they'll be in.

Please don't give them the chance to violate your property - secure your house and help reduce crime in Stockton. You know it makes sense. Anyone wishing for crime prevention advice can contact DC Eddie Lincoln at Stockton Police Crime Reduction Department on (01642) 302271.

Stockton Online opens its doors at the University Hospital of North Tees

Stockton Online (Sol), the highly successful and innovative community-based network providing residents across the Borough with free and open access to state-of-the-art IT facilities, is now up and running in the University Hospital of North Tees.

The new Sol site, which is situated opposite the staff restaurant, is open to all North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust staff, as well as to long-stay patients.

Stockton Online staff members were on hand to put the new computer facility through its paces as soon as it was launched

Andrew Garbutt, a Security Officer at the University Hospital of North Tees, said: "I think you'll find staff will be queuing to use this facility, especially when they find out it's free!"

Joan Rogers, the Trust's Chief Executive, said: "We are delighted to host Sol. I am sure that our staff and long-term patients will find it a huge benefit."



Front to back, David Francis, Laundry Assistant at the University Hospital of North Tees, Andrew Garbutt, Security Officer at the Hospital and Joan Rogers, Chief Executive of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust.

Stockton Online is already open in the International Family Centre, Dovecot Street; The Forge; Kiora Hall; Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre; The Willows Community Centre; The Richard Hind Centre; Billingham Causeway Adult Education Centre; the Five Lamps Organisation, Eldon Street; Hardwick Primary School; South Thornaby Community Centre; Stockton Parish Church; Low Grange Community Centre; Elm Tree Community Centre and the new International Family Centre, Skinner Street.

Stockton Online will open two further sites at Hardwick Community Centre and Newton Infant School.

And it is due to open for community use at two further sites, Hardwick Community Centre and Newtown Infant School, later this year.

To find out more about Sol call (01642) 864733 or simply call in at one of the centres to find out just what Stockton Online can do for you.



The youngsters of Cleveland Junior football team, (pictured above) play in the Evening Gazette Cleveland Youth under 7/8s League. They are pictured showing off their new strips with some of their sponsors, Stockton's Market Traders.

Top marks for adult education

Stockton Adult Education Service has earned top marks in an independent survey of student satisfaction.

Statutory Best Value Performance Indicators for 2000-1 show the service is in the top 25 per cent nationally out of 149 Local Education Authorities, according to the research carried out by Responsive College Unit (RCU).

A sample of 1,000 students showed that two thirds of them attended courses to learn new skills and most felt that the course had helped.

In the residents survey, 537 people were interviewed and their responses showed that 20 per cent were currently taking an adult education course and 40 per cent had attended a class in the past five years.

The research carried out did show that people felt the greatest barriers to learning were a lack of time and the cost of courses.

For more information on courses available please contact the local adult education office - South on (01642) 393535 or - North (01642) 397364.



Renaissance

The Rebirth of Stockton

What do Pam Eccles, Mark Fishpool and Chris Willis all have in common? All three are local people who are helping to play a part in shaping the future of Stockton Borough through their role on the board of Stockton Renaissance.

It's quite possible that many residents of Stockton Borough may not have heard of Stockton Renaissance, even though it was established more than five years ago when City Challenge ended.

Stockton Renaissance was formed to cover the wider Borough area and, initially, it worked behind the scenes and focused on broad areas of strategy.

Board members, such as Pam, Mark and Chris, come from every walk of life and include representatives from all sectors including voluntary and community groups, businesses, local agencies and Stockton Council.

Last year Stockton Renaissance took on a wider role and was named as the Borough's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). Its work now includes strategies to improve health and education, reduce crime and encourage community development.

The Government announced that every area should have an LSP – a body of stakeholders who develop ways to involve local people in shaping the future of their neighbourhood and in how services are provided.

With that remit in place, Stockton Renaissance has established a vision for the next ten years – and the changes it envisages are already taking place across the Borough.

Stockton town centre has been revitalised while at the same time maintaining its historic character.

Most recently, the £43 million Wellington Square complex opened after Stockton Council invested £10

million in preparing the site for development in partnership with the Wellington Square Development Company.

This has so far created 200 jobs and brought some of the country's top retailers to the Borough. 800 car park spaces provide access facilities for shoppers from across Tees Valley.

But Stockton Renaissance is not just about bricks and mortar – it is about improving health, education and leisure facilities.

For example, world-class canoeists gathered on the River Tees last year for the World Canoe Marathon Championships and the region put itself in the spotlight as a premier facility for watersports.

"The great changes that have taken place, ongoing or in the pipeline give confidence that the Borough of Stockton can look forward to an

ssance

exciting, more prosperous and brighter future," said Adam Scott, Stockton Council's Assistant Director for Regeneration and Economic Development.

While Stockton Renaissance is concerned with the overall strategic position, Stockton Economic Regeneration Partnership (ERP) has a more focused role.

Made up of representatives from public, private and voluntary sectors, the role of this partnership is to co-ordinate and oversee the economic regeneration of the Borough.

The ERP formed last year and has already been involved in the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and the North Bank development beside the Tees in Stockton.

The partnership considers all local priorities and resource allocations to encourage the most effective use of resources.

Its chair is Tony Campbell of Creative Glass & Mirrors on Portrack Lane, who said: "The partnership looks to stimulate economic regeneration using the skills and energies of local people, organisations and businesses. It supports and endorses funding bids as they relate to economic regeneration." The ERP reports regularly to the Stockton Renaissance Board and all meetings of the Stockton ERP are open to the public unless the business involves confidential information.

"By concentrating on economic regeneration, and with the support of Stockton Renaissance, the ERP provides a platform for change across the Borough," added Adam Scott.

"When people look back in 20 years and ask whether the development of the Borough happened by chance, the answer will be no. The changes will have been brought about through local people finding the opportunities and making the most of them for the benefit of the community."



Stockton to host the 2002 British Triathlon Championships and Commonwealth Games trials

The Commonwealth Games trials for one of the country's fastest growing sports will see Stockton play host to the British Triathlon Championships on Saturday 18 May. BBC Television will broadcast the Championships and trials on Sunday Grandstand the following day.

Sponsorship and support from Stockton Council and the British Waterways Board means the best British triathletes from all four of the home countries will be displaying their world class skills in their quest for the men and women's national title with a 1.5 kilometres swim, 40 kilometres cycle race and ten kilometres run.

The Championships are also part of the selection process for the Commonwealth Games, which are being held in Manchester at the end of July. Featuring the entire British Olympic team as well as current national champions Richard Stannard and Jodie Swallow, it will be the strongest Triathlon field assembled in Great Britain for many years.

There will also be a sprint event for non-championship entrants. Distances involved include a 0.75 kilometres swim, 20 kilometres cycle race and five kilometres run. Entry forms will be available in the near future.



John Caine, Special Events Director for Nova International who are organising the event added: "There are over 350 triathlon events organised annually in this country. But with the massive media exposure expected to be generated by hosting the British Championships and Commonwealth trials plus high profile terrestrial television coverage, the sport will be breaking into new territory in Stockton.

"Triathlon is an exciting multi-discipline sport where competitors race against the clock when entering the

water for their swim, maintain the momentum during the cycle race and the complete the punishing event with a stamina sapping run. It is a coup attracting the event to the region."

Kevin McAuley, Assistant Director for Education, Leisure and Cultural Services for Stockton Council, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity to provide a world class event that will showcase the facilities we have here in Stockton.

He continued "It will also help us in the future to develop our own future world class champions."

Cleansing team finds missing purse

Stokesley resident Alyson Clinkard was both overjoyed and amazed that her purse was successfully recovered after being accidentally thrown away with some refuse.

After visiting a friend in Ingleby Barwick, Alyson returned home to discover that her purse, which containing over £100 in cash and £100 in vouchers was missing. She was horrified to learn that her friend at Ingleby Barwick had thrown it away with some rubbish.

Returning to Ingleby Barwick, Alyson managed to track down the refuse collection team who were only too pleased to help by contacting their supervisor at Cowpen Depot.

Gary Rowbotham, Cleansing Supervisor for Stockton Council, leapt

into action by swiftly requesting that the collection vehicle be diverted away from the incinerator and taken to the Council's recycling contractor - Waste Conversion Technology (WCT) located at the Recycling Centre Yarm Road, Stockton.

Gary said: "It really was like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack as there can be up to 2,000 plastic bags in each refuse collection vehicle's load."

WCT did their bit by re-organising their equipment settings to process the load much slower than normal.

After 90 minutes the missing purse was found with all contents fully intact, inside a carrier bag, inside a bin bag which had been placed in a wheelie bin that had been emptied into the refuse collection vehicle.

Alyson had this to say about her experience: "I really did not expect to get my purse back. I am very grateful to the three chaps who were working on the refuse collection vehicle. They were extremely professional, courteous and helpful.

"After a visit to the re-cycling centre, I was very impressed with their work and would recommend that everyone recycles their refuse as much as possible."



Reporting on Performance

Are we...



Inside:

Summary Best Value
Performance Plans
2002/2003 for
Stockton-on-Tees
Borough Council,
Cleveland Fire Authority
and Cleveland Police
Authority.

...on target?



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



Welcome

Welcome to the 2002/2003 summary Best Value Performance Plan for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

This Plan aims to bring you up to date on how well the Council is performing in delivering Best Value services. As well as showing you what has been achieved during 2001/2002, we also set out our key targets for the improvements you can expect to see for the services we deliver during 2002/2003.

The Plan also tells you where to get more information and how you can get involved. A full version of this Plan will be published by 30th June 2002 and will be freely available on the Council's website. Hard copies will also be available in other local outlets, such as main libraries, area housing offices etc.

We believe that the Council continues to provide good quality services and we are proud of our numerous achievements during 2001/2002. These include:

- Being just one of five councils shortlisted for the prestigious Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Council of the Year award for 2002.
- Completion of two major facilities - 'Splash', our new swimming pool and leisure centre opened its doors in June 2001 and in November 2001, the £43 million Wellington Square shopping development opened for business.
- Six of our services winning Government Charter Mark awards in recognition of their excellent standards of customer

service - Taxation, Local Land Charges, Road Safety, Register Office, Youth Service and Estate Management.

- Two Council services being shortlisted in the Beacon Council status scheme run by the Government - Libraries as a Community Resource and our Tackling Fuel Poverty initiative through the 'Warm Zones' partnership project.
- Securing a place on the Government's new Arms Length Housing Management Programme, which will release up to £44.5 million for repairs and improvements to Council homes. Stockton is one of just eight authorities to have been chosen to pilot this new approach.
- Best Value inspectors giving our Legal Department a three star, likely to improve assessment - making this the highest inspection result awarded to a legal service in the country so far. The success continues with our Legal Department being shortlisted for the LGC Legal Team of the Year award.

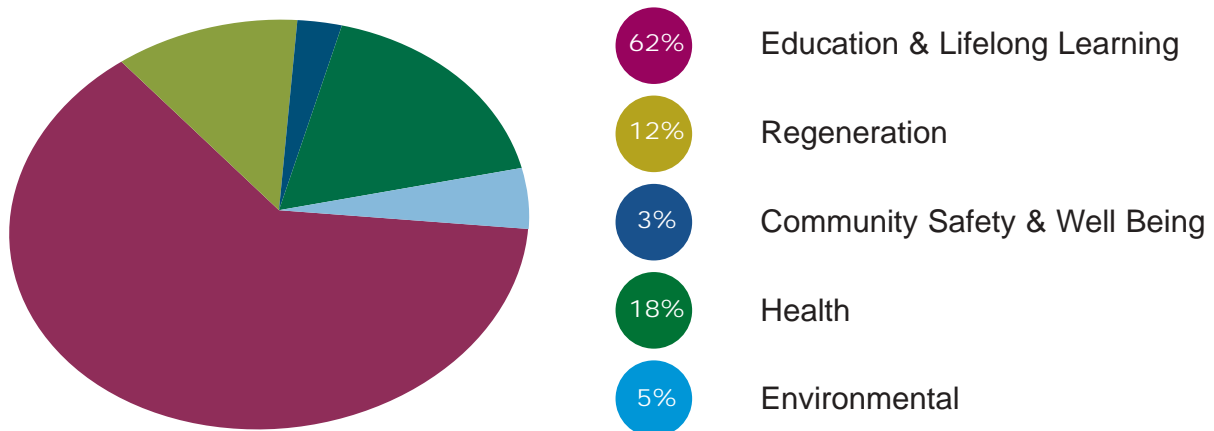
However, we recognise the need to keep improving and changing with the times and we know that there are a number of service areas where we can and will improve. We also acknowledge that our achievements would not have been possible without the participation of local people.



Financial Summary 2002/2003

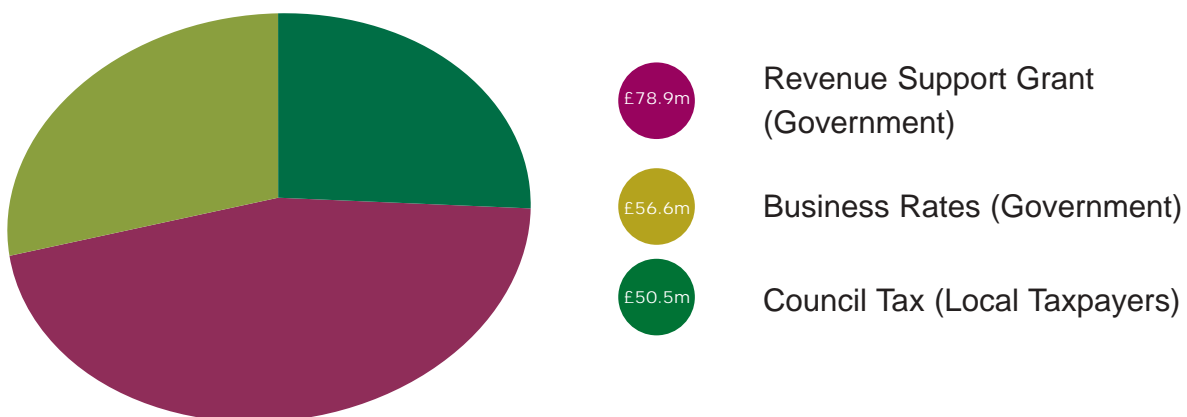
Projected Expenditure

During 2002/2003, the Council expects to spend over £185 million providing services to the people and businesses of Stockton-on-Tees.




Where the money comes from

The money we spend on services comes partly from local taxpayers and partly from the Government.



Measuring up

We have selected the following key performance indicators to give a representative picture of how we are performing across a range of key Council services. This table shows you whether our performance has improved or not and how well we compare with the average performance of other Unitary authorities and Tees Valley authorities. The shaded areas  represent best performance.

Service	Performance Indicator	SBC 1999/00 Actual	SBC 2000/01 Actual	Change from 1999/00 to 2000/01	Tees Valley ¹ 2000/01 Average	Unitary Authority ² 2000/01 Average
Refuse	Number of collections missed per 100,000 collections of household waste	1,093	175	↑	248	333
Environment	% of highways of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness	55%	95%	↑	94%	91%
Community Safety	Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households	25	23	↑	29	21
Council Tax	% of non-domestic rates for the financial year which were received by the authority	99%	99%	↔	99%	98%
Council Tax	% of Council Tax collected	96%	95%	↓	96%	95%
Finance	% of undisputed invoices which were paid in 30 days	66%	67%	↑	70%	80%
Education	% of 3 year olds receiving a good quality free early years education place in the voluntary, private or maintained sectors	86%	84%	↓	90%	66%
Education	% of pupils in schools maintained by the authority achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent	41%	44%	↑	40%	44%
Education	% of pupils in schools maintained by the authority achieving Level 4 or above in the Key Stage 2 Mathematics test	72%	73%	↑	71%	70%
Education	% of pupils in schools maintained by the authority achieving Level 4 or above in the Key Stage 2 English test	69%	76%	↑	73%	73%
Education	Number of enrolments on all adult education courses provided and secured by the local authority per 1,000 adult population	201	46	N/A due to change in PI definition	32	32
Corporate Health	Average % job success from New Deal (across all options)	26%	26%	↔	Not required to collect	Not required to collect

¹ The Tees Valley authorities are Stockton-on-Tees, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland, Middlesbrough and Darlington.

² Unitary authorities are councils providing services similar to the ones we provide. There are 47 Unitary authorities in England.

~ a summary of our performance

Service	Performance Indicator	SBC 1999/00 Actual	SBC 2000/01 Actual	Change from 1999/00 to 2000/01	Tees Valley ¹ 2000/01 Average	Unitary Authority ² 2000/01 Average
Highways	% of streetlights not working as planned	1.5%	1.3%	↑	1.1%	1.1%
Highways	Number of reported incidents of dangerous damage to roads and pavements, repaired or made safe within 24 hours, as a % of such incidents	65%	79%	↑	94%	92%
Housing	The average relet times for local authority dwellings (in calendar days)	25 days	112 days	N/A Due to change in PI definition	62 days	52 days
Housing	% of urgent repairs completed within government time limits	96%	84%	↓	91%	84%
Housing	The proportion of private sector dwellings vacant for more than 6 months, which are returned into occupation or demolished as a direct result of action by the local authority	4.3%	1.6%	↓	2.5%	3.8%
Leisure and Culture	Number of physical visits per head of population to public libraries	4.9	4.4	↓	5.6	5.1
Leisure and Culture	Number of swims and other visits to pools and sports centres per 1,000 population	5,340	5,318	↓	6,653	6,601
Social Services	Older people helped to live at home per 1,000 population aged 65+	78	90	↑	90	84
Social Services	% of items of equipment costing less than £1,000 delivered within three weeks	87%	94%	↑	90%	90%
Social Services	% of children registered during the year on the Child Protection Register who had been previously registered	25%	21%	↑	Not required to collect	Not required to collect

Need more information?

A more detailed version of this summary Performance Plan will be published by 30th June 2002. This will provide more information on current performance, comparisons with other councils, targets for improvement, progress with Best Value reviews and our consultation mechanisms. If you would like a copy, contact the Council's Performance Standards Officer, Judi Asquith (see page 5). A copy will also be available on our website at www.stockton.gov.uk

Best Value

What is Best Value?

The Government introduced Best Value to help and encourage councils to improve the services they deliver to their communities.

Best Value means:

- Better quality services at a reasonable cost; and
- a greater say for local people.

Using Best Value to improve our services:

One of the cornerstones of Best Value is the Best Value Service Review. The 1999 Local Government Act requires local councils to review their services and councils must show that they have applied the 4Cs of Best Value to every service review:

- **challenging** why and how a service is being provided;
- **consulting** with local taxpayers, customers and the wider business community to find out if they are satisfied with the service;
- **comparing** their performance against levels of performance achieved by other councils and other public, private and voluntary sector organisations who provide similar services;
- embracing fair **competition** as a means of securing efficient and effective services.

Councils must demonstrate to local people that they are achieving continuous improvement in all of their services. At the end of each review an Improvement Plan makes recommendations to improve the way services are delivered. These recommendations are then put into action and progress monitored on a continuous basis.

During the previous twelve months we have completed Best Value reviews and we are busy implementing improvements to the following services:

Arts, Museums and Heritage
Building Cleaning

Integrated Mental Health Services
Taxation
Benefits
Personnel and Training
Events
Energy Efficiency
Transport

A number of other reviews are nearing completion. For full details of the above reviews please contact Judi Asquith, Performance Standards Officer on 01642 393012, at the address on page 8, or e-mail: judi.asquith@stockton.gov.uk

Future reviews

During 2002/2003, the Council will be undertaking Best Value Reviews of the following services:

Education Advisory Services

Peter Walkley 01642 393443

Asset Management

Keith Noble 01642 397821

People with a Physical Disability

Richard Webb 01642 393302

Highways and Transportation

Mike Robinson 01642 397765

What part can you play?

Your help with the consultation process is important. We want you to tell us what you think of our services and how we can improve them. If you would like to find out more about these reviews or have any suggestions on how the services could be improved, please contact the appropriate lead officer by telephoning the above contact numbers.

Where can you get more information?

If you would like a copy of our "Plain English guide to Best Value" or would like to know more, contact our Performance Standards Officer, Judi Asquith, by writing to her at the address shown on page 8, phone 393012 or e-mail judi.asquith@stockton.gov.uk

Best Value Inspection

Best Value reviews are subject to inspection by the Audit Commission's Inspection Service. Inspection is a legal requirement and is intended to provide independent evidence on the extent to which services are achieving Best Value. It is helpful to councils to receive an independent view on the quality of their services. Best Value Inspectors aim to challenge councils in their review work, and to support them in delivering improvements. So as well as giving councils an assessment of the service, Inspectors also consider its prospects for improvement.

During 2001/2002 the following Council services were inspected; results are shown in brackets:

Legal Services and Local Land Charges
(3 stars, likely to improve)

Transport*

Care for Your Area
(1 star, likely to improve)

Personnel and Training*

Building Cleaning
(1 star, unlikely to improve)

Arts, Museums and Heritage*

Leisure Management
(1 star, unlikely to improve)

* We are awaiting final inspection reports on these services.

Obviously we do not want to receive unfavourable inspection reports and following this first round of inspections, we have built internal inspection into our review process. Nevertheless, we view Best Value inspections as an opportunity to put things right where the Inspectors require improvements to be made, so that you can continue to receive the high standards of service you deserve. We are committed to continuous improvement, providing cost effective, quality services that meet the needs of the community, year-on-year.

Continuing improvements in our services and future targets

Our achievements in 2001/2002

General Performance

- Six of our services won Government Charter Mark awards in recognition of their excellent standards of customer care - Taxation, Local Land Charges, Road Safety, Youth Service, Register Office and Estate Management. These are in addition to existing Charter Mark awards for Telephonists and Receptionists, Housing Benefits, Building Control, Catering and Libraries.
- Two of our services have been shortlisted for Beacon Council status - Libraries as a Community Resource and Tackling Fuel Poverty under the 'Warm Zones' partnership project.
- Being shortlisted for the LGC Council of the Year award. Our Legal Department has also been shortlisted for the LGC Legal Team of the Year award.
- On 1st October 2001 the Council's new Constitution was successfully implemented, with new political structures based on a Cabinet and Leader model.

Education, Leisure and Culture

- A successful OFSTED inspection which recognised 'Stockton-on-Tees education authority as an effective organisation, with officers and members demonstrating good leadership'.
- Charter Mark awarded to the Youth Service.
- 'Splash', our new swimming pool and leisure facility opened in June 2001.
- Launch of the Learning Resource Room at Preston Hall Museum to support schools and family learning.

Performance Targets - in 2002/03 we will:

- Increase the % of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A* - C from 44.8% in September 2001 to 50% in 2002.
- Aim to achieve a Charter Mark award for the Adult Education Service.
- Develop proposals for the replacement of Billingham Forum.
- Ensure our Library Service Plan receives the top award for the fourth year running.

Housing & Community Safety

- We secured a place on the Government's Arms Length Housing Management Programme and have been provisionally allocated £44.5 million of additional borrowing approvals for much-needed repairs and improvements to Council homes.
- 'Warm Zones' - Stockton is one of only 8 pilot partnerships nationally, with the aim to reduce fuel poverty in the borough by 80% over the next 3 years - currently shortlisted for Beacon Council status.
- Our Youth Offending Team's (YOT) Bail Supervision and Support Service received commendation from the Youth Justice Board for achieving a 100% court attendance record for young people on bail (one of only two YOTs nationally to achieve this).

Performance Targets - in 2002/03 we will:

- Reduce the incidence of domestic burglaries by 8%, from a 2001/2002 baseline.
- Reduce the average time taken to process new housing and council tax benefit claims, from a baseline of 76.3 days in 2000/01, to an average of less than 50 days.
- Increase the proportion of rent collected, from a baseline of 93.8% in 2000/2001, to 95%.
- Reduce the average relet time for Council owned dwellings by 20%.

Want more information?

There are a number of plans and guides which may be of interest, such as the Community Strategy and Consultation Strategy.

Contact: Fran Kelly,
Policy and Performance Standards Unit,
at the address on page 8.

Phone: 393009

or e-mail: frances.kelly@stockton.gov.uk

There are a number of plans and guides which may be of interest, such as the Local Education Authority Strategic Plan.

Contact: Lesley Donnelly,
Education Department, at the address on
page 8.

Phone: 393539

or e-mail: lesley.donnelly@stockton.gov.uk

There are a number of plans and guides which may be of interest, such as the Housing Strategy and Community Safety Plan.

Contact: Craig Etherington,
Customer Services Manager, Housing
Department, at the address on page 8.

Phone: 393780

or e-mail: craig.etherington@stockton.gov.uk

Continuing improvements in our services and future targets

Our achievements in 2001/2002

Social Services & Health

- Established our first local community-based resource centre for people with mental health problems.
- The Children's Fund Plan was approved and the implementation programme has commenced.
- A new Intermediate Home Care Team has been set up to help people discharged from hospital or to prevent admission.

Performance Targets - in 2002/03 we will:

- Ensure 60% of children who had been looked after when aged 16 are at age 19 engaged in education, training or employment.
- Increase the % of people receiving a statement of their needs and how they will be met to 80%.
- Increase the percentage of items of equipment costing less than £1,000 delivered within 3 weeks of assessment to 88%.

Regeneration & Transport

- Completion of the £10.3 million scheme to construct the South Stockton Link Road Stage 3, due to open in Spring 2002.
- We made a successful bid for North Bank funding of £4 million, which will be used to redevelop derelict land for business, construct a new university research establishment and provide additional leisure facilities. Together, these proposed schemes are expected to generate 2,000 jobs by 2010.
- We entered into a street lighting partnership to renew an additional 1,700 streetlights.

Performance Targets - in 2002/03 we will:

- In line with our interim Public Service Agreement target for 31st March 2003, reduce children killed and seriously injured road casualties by 16% by March 2003, from a 1994-98 baseline.
- Aim to secure £4.25 million of European funding to be used for various projects including environmental improvements, training for the unemployed, business advice and grants.
- Keep the level of unemployment in the Borough (5.5% at December 2001) at below the regional rate of unemployment (6.1% at December 2001). (Figures from the Office of National Statistics.)

Environment

- Following our Best Value review of Care for Your Area services (CFYA) we have improved refuse collection and street cleansing to cover a whole range of cleansing activities together with ground maintenance work.
- During December 2001 a new household waste civic amenity site, complete with recycling facilities, opened at Haverton Hill.
- We reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill sites to just 7% of all waste.

Performance Targets - in 2002/03 we will:

- Collect 99% of wheeled bins on time.
- Ensure 90% of streets will be cleaned to a high or acceptable standard.
- Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill sites to below 5% of all waste.

Want more information?

There are a number of plans and guides which may be of interest, such as the Community Care Plan.

Contact: John Lambert,
Access Unit, Social Services Department,
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Advice
Centre, Bath Lane, Stockton-on-Tees.

Phone: 415028

or e-mail: john.lambert@stockton.gov.uk

There are a number of plans and guides which may be of interest, such as the Renaissance Regeneration Strategy 2001 - 2006 and Local Transport Plan.

Contact:
for regeneration issues
- John Price,
Phone 391308

or e-mail: john.price@stockton.gov.uk

for transport issues
- Bill Trewick,
Phone 397692,

or e-mail: bill.trewick@stockton.gov.uk

There are a number of plans and guides which may be of interest, such as the Local Agenda 21 Action Plan.

Contact:
for Local Agenda 21
- Les Milne, at the address on page 8,
Phone: 303009

or e-mail: les.milne@stockton.gov.uk

for CFYA services
- Jamie McCann (Phone: 391928)
or Richard Bradley (Phone: 391950),

or e-mail:
jamie.mccann@stockton.gov.uk or
richard.bradley@stockton.gov.uk

Please note that this Plan has been produced before the end of the Council's current financial year ending on 31st March 2002. As a result, many of the performance targets for 2002/2003 have been based on estimated 2001/02 data. Performance targets for 2002/03 based on data for the entire 2001/02 financial year will be included in the full version of this Plan, which we will publish by 30th June 2002.

Have your say

Your views are important to us. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council is committed to listening to your views. We have consulted with local people before on many issues and will continue to do so in the future.

If you would like a copy of our Consultation Strategy, details about our Residents' Panel, or if you simply would like to know more about our consultation arrangements, then please contact: Kate Barber at the address shown opposite, or Telephone 393011, or e-mail: kate.barber@stockton.gov.uk

If you have any comments to make on this or any other Council document, please contact the Council or complete and send in the attached feedback form.

Write to:
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council,
PO Box 11,
Municipal Buildings,
Church Road,
Stockton-on-Tees,
TS18 1LD.

Telephone:
01642 393939
(main switchboard)

or
visit our website at
www.stockton.gov.uk



eight



Please give us your views

We want to hear from you about how well you think we are doing and to have your suggestions for how we can improve. Together we can improve services delivered in the Borough - here is your chance to have your say.

Please complete the questions below, detach the form and send it back to us.

Summary Best Value Performance Plan

Did you find the Plan easy to understand?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Was there sufficient information?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you have any comments on how the Plan could be improved?

Which service(s) do you feel can be improved the most?

What sort of performance measures are you interested in?
 (please tick one or more)

ACCESS (e.g. how long you have to wait)

QUALITY (e.g. how good the service is)

COST (e.g. how much the service costs)

Name and address (optional)

Telephone no.

Thank you

Want to find out more?

If you would like to find out more about Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and the services that we provide, please visit our web site at www.stockton.gov.uk or if you prefer, please contact the individual key services using the numbers below.

Service	Telephone Number
Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages	01642 393156
Council House Repairs	Freephone 0800 174491
Housing Benefits Helpline	01642 393829
Housing Advice	01642 393827
Council Tax	01642 397108
Street Lighting	01642 397752
Pest Control/Noise Complaints/Animal Welfare	01642 391116/391163/391147
Planning/Building Control/Development Control	01642 391247
Social Services and Health	01642 415030
Sport and Active Recreation	01642 356500
Civic Amenity Site/Recycling	01642 391150/391194
Highway Maintenance	01642 391939
Libraries	01642 393999
Street Cleansing/Refuse Collection/Grounds Maintenance	01642 391959

A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS PLAN CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE COUNCIL AT THE ADDRESS ON PAGE 8

nine

اس حصوبے کا خلاصہ اردو میں بھی دستیاب ہے اور کونسل کے پتے جو صفحہ نمبر 7 پر درج ہے سے کاپی کی درخواست کی جاسکتی ہے۔

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE
Licence No NEA 5980

2

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL
PO BOX 117
PP-MB MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS
CHURCH ROAD
STOCKTON-ON-TEES
TS18 1BR



CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

Budget 2002-03

MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR BRENDA FORSTER, MADAM CHAIRMAN

Cleveland Fire Authority (CFA) has approved a budget of £26.710 million for the year 2002-03, to secure the provision of a first-class emergency fire service for over half a million people in the Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Stockton areas.

The four borough councils who fund the fire service - Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton - have agreed to increase their combined funding of Cleveland Fire Authority by 3.96%, which is very close to the Government's increase in resources for the fire service nationally. This equates to a cost of approximately 13 pence per person per day for our fire service and I am sure you will agree this represents excellent value for money.

Cleveland Fire Authority continues to provide a higher level of service to the community than the Government's recommended minimum standard. Today's firefighters do much more than put out fires. In recent years your fire service has evolved and developed and now places greater emphasis on the prevention of fires and injuries by focusing on community fire safety.

A Community Plan is to be published during 2002-03 in which the Fire Authority will inform the public of the activities to be undertaken by the fire brigade to improve and modernise services for the community we serve. The Community Plan will be published annually to provide you, our stakeholders, with up-to-date information on the type of services we provide. The 2002-03 Community Plan will contain information on the services to be reviewed in what is the third year of a five-year programme of Best Value Reviews and will become a key public document

which identifies the Fire Authority's strengths and weaknesses, future priorities and targets for improvement.

The tragic events which took place in New York on September 11th, raised the public awareness and expectation of our services and, as a result, Cleveland Fire Authority is now involved in reviewing our contingency plans to ensure we are 'fit for purpose' should we have to support such commitments in future. Accordingly, we are currently undertaking a number of initiatives including a review of the fire brigade's structure, a Best Value review of how we deliver services to the community and a review of fire cover and risk assessment arrangement.

Against this background of change, increased expectations and limited resources, the fire brigade was still able to provide new job opportunities for 30 trainee firefighters who will be posted to fire stations during June this year.

The 2002-03 Budget in summary

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS



FUNDING OF BUDGET REQUIREMENTS BY THE UNITARY COUNCILS



If you have any queries relating to this matter, please telephone

Fire Brigade Headquarters
on **(01429) 872311**



Fire Service Community Plan 2002-2003

Our Service to the Community

Cleveland residents are entitled to expect a good quality fire service. The government's modernisation programme requires all public service providers, including Cleveland Fire Brigade, to deliver high-quality services and be more accountable to the community it serves. This means that we must provide you, our service users, with Best Value for your money.

The Fire Service Community Plan provides you with information about the services we provide and how we are performing. You are also invited to comment on our activities.

Our mission statement reflects our expanding role in the community and environmental safety and embraces the need to work with other agencies. We aim to demonstrate our commitment to provide a responsive and cost-effective service to both central government and the local community by introducing new ways of working.

We will measure our success against these key principles:

- contribute to a safer environment by reducing preventable deaths and injuries in specific targeted areas;
- engage with the wider community - local government, business, local people - and our agenda will influence their agenda;
- create a responsive organisation that can positively embrace change by involving all stakeholders.

Targets . . .

In our last plan we set ourselves six targets and our performance against them is detailed below:

TARGET	PERFORMANCE 2001-2002	OUR PLAN FOR THIS YEAR
Target 1: Reduce the number of accidental fires by 6.6% year on year.	A reduction of 11.27%.	Cleveland Fire Brigade is working to lessen the damaging effects of fire in the community. As well as providing support and information to people who have suffered a fire, we also use the lessons learned to prevent further incidents. Our smoke alarm campaign and new domestic sprinkler initiative will play a big part in making your homes safer.
Target 2: Reduce the number of accidental fire deaths in dwellings by 4% year on year.	Last year we recorded the number of accidental deaths as 2. To date, this year we have recorded 4 deaths.	Deliberate fire setting is a major concern and we are focusing our efforts towards tackling arson. We have a dedicated team who work in partnership with other agencies, such as the police and local authorities, to tackle the problem. Initiatives are also in place to tackle unoccupied property, car, refuse, tyre fires and bonfires.
Target 3: Reduce accidental non-fatal casualties from fire 5% year on year.	Last year we recorded the number of non-fatal casualties from fires as 35. To date, this year we have recorded 69.	Education plays a major part in diverting young people from anti-social behaviour involving fire. We currently have several initiatives taking place in schools which will be supplemented by the introduction of a Young Firefighters Scheme.
Target 4: Reduce the number of false alarm malicious calls by 4% year on year.	A reduction of 7%.	We are also tackling the problem of fire-setters. We provide a free, one-to-one counselling service for young people who have become involved in fire. We also work in partnership with the police to pursue prosecution of more repetitive offenders.
Target 5: Reduce the number of fires in industrial and commercial properties by 4% year on year.	A reduction of 15.9%.	
Target 6: Reduce the number of unwanted fire signals from fire detection systems by 12% over the next three years.	An increase of 12%.	



10.48% of our brigade area is classed as 'A' RISK. This comprises of main shopping areas, cinemas and other entertainment centres, together with high-risk industrial property. Our attendance time for this area is 3 fire engines in total - 2 within 5 minutes and the third within the next 3 minutes, (maximum 8 minutes).



25.64% of our brigade area is classed as 'C' RISK. This comprises of mainly residential properties. The national attendance time for this area is 1 fire engine between 8 and 10 minutes but Cleveland Fire Brigade ALWAYS sends 2 fire engines.



1.48% of our brigade area is classed as 'B' RISK. This comprises of smaller shopping and business areas and industrial trading estates. Our attendance time for this area is 2 fire engines in total - 1 within 5 minutes, and the second within the next 3 minutes, (maximum 8 minutes).



59.84% of our brigade area is classed as 'D' RISK. This comprises of rural areas. Our attendance time for this area is 1 fire engine to arrive in up to 20 minutes.

Our performance . . .

Our performance is measured against key performance indicators which are set by central government. From the table below you can see our performance in 2000-2001 and what we estimate our figures to be in 2001-2002.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	YEAR END FIGURES 2000-2001	CLEVELAND FIRE BRIGADE ESTIMATE 2001-2002
The total number of calls to fires attended (excluding false alarms) per 10,000 population	149.3	188.53
The number of calls to accidental dwellings fires attended per 10,000 dwellings	28.7	24.9
The number of deaths arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population	0.18	0.84
The number of injuries (excluding precautionary measures) arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population	9.9	15.72
The percentage of incidents at which the attendance times met the standards of fire cover	91.3%	95.7%
The number of calls to malicious false alarms per 1,000 population	4	3.3
The average time taken to complete inspections for fire safety certificates	67 days	67.48 days

Ban the Pan

Chip pan accidents are an all too regular occurrence. All you need is an interruption like a telephone call or someone calling at your door and as you answer, the pan can be bubbling away, forgotten about.

If you discover a chip pan fire call the fire brigade immediately.

- tackle the fire only if you feel it is safe to do so and you have a clear escape route;
- never think of moving the pan;
- turn off the source of heat, if this can be done without placing yourself at risk;
- cover the pan with a lid or dampened tea towel, being careful to protect your hands;
- the lid or damp tea towel should NOT be removed, as this will almost certainly cause re-ignition;
- under no circumstances use water on a chip pan, this will cause it to explode, spreading the fire;
- in the first instance never have a chip pan more than a third full of oil or fat;
- never cook with a chip pan if you've been drinking alcohol.

Did You Know

- that the brigade rescued 22 people from fire this year.
- that 87 people were rescued from road traffic accidents this year.
- 131 people were injured due to fire in their home.
- Cleveland Fire Brigade covers four local council areas - Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough, and Redcar and Cleveland.
- that Cleveland Fire Brigade answers more than 17,000 emergency calls each year. A large percentage of these emergency calls are 'special services' incidents, such as road traffic accidents, railway incidents and major chemical incidents.

Our Commitment to Equal Opportunities

Cleveland Fire Brigade is committed to equality and fairness in both its management and service delivery. We will be an organisation that is seen to champion diversity in the way it recruits and develops its staff and manages its business.

Contact us at Cleveland Fire Brigade - Tel: 01429-872311 or Fax: 01429-874057

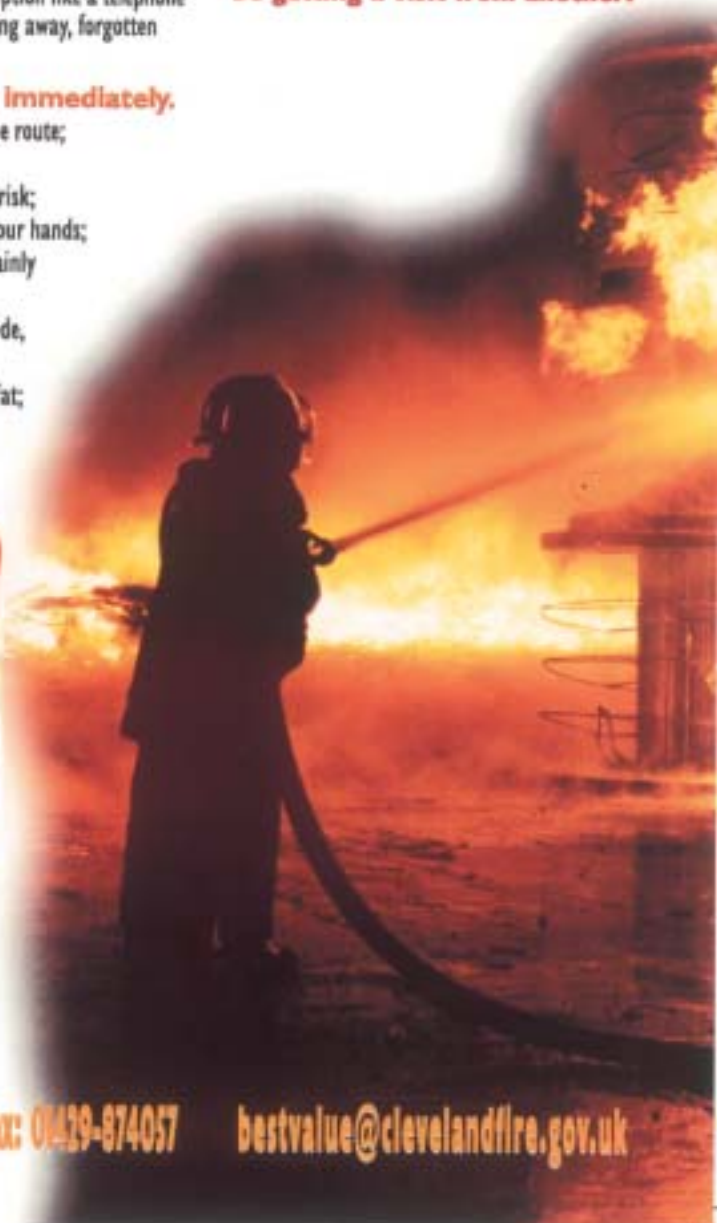
999 Hoax Call Initiative

If you dial 999 and make a hoax call you may be committing more than one offence. When you are caught you could be fined up to £5,000 or receive six months prison sentence or both.

Through our hoax call initiative we work in partnership with all land line providers, all mobile phone providers and the district kiosk providers. We also utilise CCTV and obtain video evidence to accompany the audio tapes in prosecutions.

REMEMBER - making a hoax call is extremely dangerous, as well as illegal. Fire crews sent out to a hoax call cannot be in two places at once and one day it may be **you** that needs us for a **real emergency**.

Make a hoax call to one emergency service and you could be getting a visit from another!



bestvalue@clevelandfire.gov.uk

POLICING



ON TEESSIDE 2002-2003

Best Value Performance Plan summary

2002-2003

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Cleveland Police Authority is required to produce an annual Policing Plan incorporating a Best Value Performance Plan before the start of each financial year.

This summary of our Best Value Performance Plan for 2002-2003 provides an overview of how we will police the Cleveland force area over the next 12 months.

It sets out our priorities and performance targets, our budget, how we are delivering best value and the demands we face. Further information can be found in the full plan, which can be viewed on the Cleveland Police website from 31st March 2002 by visiting www.cleveland.police.uk. Copies will also be made available in police stations and local libraries from 1st May 2002. For more information on the Policing Plan or the work of the Police Authority please contact Mr Peter Riley, Lead Officer to the Police Authority on (01642) 301467.

HOW IS THE PLAN PREPARED?

The Policing Plan, incorporating the Best Value Performance Plan, has been developed in partnership with the local community.

We have a comprehensive consultation process, which enables us to obtain the views of local communities. Our policing objectives for 2002-2003 have been set to reflect local concerns.

If you would like to take part in our consultation activities or have any comments or suggestions to make on the policing of your area, please contact Mr Peter Riley, Lead Officer to the Police Authority at the address shown opposite. We welcome your views.

LOCAL POLICING OBJECTIVES

Following public consultation on policing priorities for 2002-2003 we have set four local objectives, which focus on the main concerns raised. These are to:

- ▶ challenge anti-social behaviour, particularly that committed by young people
- ▶ ensure that those who contact the police for assistance are responded to appropriately
- ▶ ensure that victims of crime are treated fairly and improve the feedback given to witnesses
- ▶ reduce the availability of Class A drugs in the community.

We have set a range of challenging performance indicators and targets for these objectives to measure how well we are doing.

Further details can be found in the full version of the Best Value Performance Plan.



NATIONAL POLICING OBJECTIVES

Each year the Home Secretary sets national ministerial priorities, which identify specific areas on which he would like to see all police forces focus their efforts. At the time of publication the ministerial priorities for 2002-2003 were not finalised. However the proposed priorities are to:

- ▶ help create safe communities by reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder through effective partnership working, including reducing the availability and use of Class A drugs
- ▶ reduce the fear of crime in all sections of the community and in particular to increase the trust and confidence in policing amongst minority ethnic communities and those experiencing repeat victimisation and persistent anti-social behaviour
- ▶ deliver justice more effectively by increasing the number and percentage of recorded crimes for which offenders, particularly persistent offenders, are caught and brought to justice, in partnership with other criminal justice agencies.

THE DEMANDS WE FACE

On an average day during 2001-2002 we:

- ▶ received 345 emergency '999' calls, over 75% of which were not genuine emergencies
- ▶ recorded 789 incidents
- ▶ attended 66 incidents that required an immediate response
- ▶ recorded 189 crimes, including 21 house burglaries and 36 vehicle crimes
- ▶ dealt with 159 incidents of public disorder
- ▶ made 75 arrests

all at a cost of only 12p per person per day from the local Council Tax.



OUR BUDGET

The Government has provided Cleveland Police Authority with funding for a budget of £91,072 million for 2002-2003, a cash increase of £337,000 on the current year. On top of this the Government is now directly funding the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) and the National Crime Squad (NCS), adding £1,940 million to our available resources. However this is insufficient to meet our budget needs for 2002-2003 and leaves us with a budget shortfall of £7.6 million.

Full details of our income and planned expenditure for 2002-2003 can be found in the full version of the plan. However our essential priorities for 2002-2003 are set out in the table opposite.

	£ MILLION
Inflation	2,091
Police pensions	1,625
Increases in policing services in Middlesbrough and Stockton and the maintenance of existing provision in Hartlepool and Redcar & Cleveland	0,750
An organised crime unit to fight drug crime	0,700
Improvements in call handling and response policing	1,000
Occupational Health, Criminal Justice System and Professional Standards	0,500

By the time this summary is delivered to your home, the level of Council Tax for 2002-2003 will have been set. If the Council Tax is raised to cover the £7.6 million budget shortfall, the average increase for local householders will be less than £1 per week, with most facing a potential increase of 60p per week.

BEST VALUE REVIEWS

Under the Local Government Act 1999 we have a statutory duty to deliver high quality policing services that are efficient and responsive to people's needs. To achieve this all of our services are reviewed over a five-year rolling programme. These reviews challenge why we are delivering the service, consult with people about what is required, compare our approach with others and consider whether the service could be provided more effectively by an external provider.

During 2001-2002 we conducted reviews on call management, scientific support, finance management, legal services, professional standards and air support. Not all of these reviews have finished, however a wide range of service improvements have been identified and we are currently developing plans to implement these improvements. The detailed results from these reviews can be found in our full plan.

Following a review of our Best Value programme by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) we have revised our original programme of functional reviews and grouped the remaining reviews into themes. This will enable more thorough and focused reviews to be conducted and reduce duplication. The following reviews will be conducted during 2002-2003:

- ▶ **community safety** including crime reduction, partnerships, domestic violence, child protection and hate crime
- ▶ **criminal justice** including admin support unit/ criminal justice unit, joint performance management, custody handling, youth justice and victim/witness protection
- ▶ **public order.**

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND TARGETS

The Government has set a number of national Best Value performance indicators, which are used to compare the performance of all police forces in England and Wales. We have set challenging improvement targets for each indicator to demonstrate our commitment to providing a quality service.

Our performance against the full list of performance indicators can be found in the full version of the plan. However the table below shows how we are performing in relation to some of the key indicators in comparison with previous performance, other similar forces and the targets we have set ourselves.

Best Value performance indicator	Performance 2000-2001	Family average 2000-2001 (1)	Target 2001-2002	Projected performance 2001-2002 (2)	
Total recorded crimes per 1,000 population	115.7	124.0	111.0	124.6	●
Percentage detected	21.4%	24.0%	24.5%	20.6%	●
Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households	31.2	31.0	36.0	33.0	●
Percentage detected	11.6%	13.0%	17.2%	12.2%	●
Vehicle crime per 1,000 population	24.5	26.0	22.6	24.0	●
Percentage detected	6.3%	8.0%	11.2%	7.0%	●
Number of offenders dealt with for supply offences in respect of Class A drugs per 10,000 population	2.1	1.0	0.9	3.9	●
Number of public disorder incidents per 1,000 population	96.8	59.0	94.1	105.1	●
Number of road traffic collisions involving death or serious injury per 1,000 population	0.4	1.0	0.4	0.4	●
Number of complaints per 1,000 officers	220.5	234.6	213.1	187.6	●
Percentage substantiated	2.3%	2.9%	2.9%	7.3%	●
Percentage of 999 calls answered within target time (Cleveland target is 10 seconds)	79.2%	88.9%	95.5%	66.0%	●
Percentage of responses to incidents requiring immediate response within target response times (rural/urban)					
▶ Rural - within 20 minutes	96.0%	91.0%	91.7%	95.0%	●
▶ Urban - within 10 minutes	92.9%	87.0%	90.8%	89.0%	●

Key

- (1) This is the average performance of police forces that are similar in nature to Cleveland for 2000-2001
 (2) This is our projected performance for 2001-2002 based on our performance during the period April to December 2001
 ● Our performance has improved on last year and we met our target
 ● Our performance has improved on last year but we did not meet our target
 ● Our performance is less than last year and we did not meet our target



CLEVELAND POLICE AUTHORITY

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 Lead Officer
 Cleveland Police Authority
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 Middlesbrough
 TS8 9BR
 Tel: (01642) 301467

CLEVELAND POLICE

Headquarters

Police Headquarters
 PO Box 70
 Ladgate Lane
 Middlesbrough
 TS8 9EH
 Telephone: (01642) 326326
 Facsimile: (01642) 301200
 Minicom: (01642) 300381
 Website: www.cleveland.police.uk

Hartlepool District

Hartlepool Police Office
 Avenue Road
 Hartlepool
 TS24 8AB
 Telephone: (01429) 221151

Langbaurgh District

Redcar Police Office
 France Street
 Redcar
 TS10 3HH
 Telephone: (01642) 483333

Middlesbrough District

Middlesbrough Police Office
 Dunning Road
 Middlesbrough
 TS1 2AR
 Telephone: (01642) 248184

Stockton District

Stockton Police Office
 Thistle Green
 Stockton on Tees
 TS18 1TZ
 Telephone: (01642) 607114

In an emergency dial 999 and ask for Police.

For all non-emergency calls; to report a crime, obtain advice or information or for all other enquiries, use your local contact number listed above and your call will be diverted to a central switchboard.

Don't Get By - Get on!

Do you sometimes struggle with spelling or punctuation? Or perhaps your mind is blank when you are faced with maths? If so, **Stockton Adult Education Service** can help. There are millions of people in the UK who face these difficulties every day.

We offer small classes in local community venues, to give you a chance to work at your own pace and brush up your skills.

So, if a fear of maths or english is holding you back at work or in your everyday life contact Julie Walker, Basic Skills Co-ordinator on (01642) 393536.



Retail Training



Residents of Stockton Borough have benefited from the two retail courses held earlier this year.

Both courses were funded through Stockton Borough Council Adult

Education Service and have been hailed as a new way forward for training. Working in partnership with The Five Lamps Organisation, Jobslink, Employment Service,

Stockton & Billingham College and Debenhams the partnership organised and delivered a short retail focused event that was successful in helping 21 of the 25 partnerships secure employment.

For more information about retail training opportunities or your nearest Jobslink Office ring June Kneafsey or Sue Heslop on: (01642) 601044



New approach to housing



Months of consultation and information exercises have resulted in tenants and leaseholders across Stockton Borough voting overwhelmingly in favour of a new approach to the day-to-day management of their homes.

Stockton Council, together with the Homes For The Future Tenants Group, learned late last year that it has a place on the Government's new Arms Length Housing Management Programme.

A postal survey and ballot was sent out to around 16,000 tenants & leaseholders earlier this year and 93.16 per cent of the 44.39 per cent of residents who returned their slips were in favour of Stockton adopting the new arms length approach.

Earlier this month the results were reported to the Council's Cabinet, which has given the green light for the new company to be established.

This non-profit making company will be steered by a Board made up of tenants, Councillors, and independent community representatives.

Stockton is one of just eight authorities across the country to be chosen to

pilot the scheme which, subject to meeting certain conditions, could bring additional borrowing approvals of £52 million to finance repairs and improvements to Council homes across the Borough.

However, the Council and the new independent Arms Length Company, must demonstrate to Government inspectors that first class housing services can be provided under the new scheme.

"To be part of the Government pilot scheme is great news as we spent a lot of time talking to Ministers last year and worked hard to put in a good bid," said Neil Schneider, Stockton Council's Director of Housing and Contract Services.

"That they have given us this opportunity demonstrates confidence in Stockton's ability to deliver and to make a real difference to the quality of life of our tenants.

"We are delighted that so many of our tenants took the time to vote in the crucial ballot on the future management of their homes."

"We are confident that we can now meet our next challenge and show that excellent housing services could be provided in this new approach."

The Arms Length Company will take over the day-to-day running of the Council's housing stock from 1 April in a partnership agreement with the Council.

Stockton Council will still own the housing and remain as landlord. Tenants' existing rights and responsibilities will be maintained and will remain unchanged.

"The Arms Length Company will act as the Council's agent in order to manage the ordinary landlord functions, such as repairs and maintenance," explained Neil Schneider.

From little acorns do large oak trees grow.

In the 20 years since building of properties began, Ingleby Barwick has emerged as one of the North East's premier private housing developments.

The four completed villages and two being developed are home to nearly 6,000 households, making up a population of more than 15,000 residents.

In the mid 1970s Ingleby Barwick was identified as a potential growth area at a time when the steel industry was healthy and the economy stable.

Employers needed more choice when it came to housing and planning



In and a



permission for the villages of Ingleby Barwick was granted, on appeal, in 1978.

Now this part of the Borough continues to grow and boasts a supermarket and petrol station, two pubs, a health centre, a shopping area, two churches and a veterinary practice, lending itself to a thriving centre with a real community feel.

Indeed, such is the rise in the population of Ingleby Barwick, work is already underway on the construction of a fourth new primary school that will open its doors to pupils later in the year.

St Francis Of Assisi Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School is jointly funded by the York Diocese and Stockton LEA and will hold 210 pupils along with a 26 place nursery.

The £1.25 million school will have an ICT suite for 15 computers, a library, a purpose-built music and drama area and an outside arena and wildlife site.

A new head teacher has already been appointed and a number of classes will initially be held in a neighbouring school until the new building opens in late October, when further admissions will be possible. Chair of Governors, Mrs Florrie Hunt, said: "The temporary Governing Body, and indeed the whole community, is looking forward with great excitement to the opening of the first Church of England school in Ingleby Barwick."

A fifth primary school will also open in the future along with a 600 place secondary school which has been granted planning permission and is set to be ready to welcome pupils in September 2003.

The infrastructure around Ingleby Barwick continues to take shape with the first stage of the £10 million South Stockton Link Road due to open in April. Discussions continue to take place to extend this into Myton Way.

Ingleby Barwick Parish Council has been in existence for more than ten

years and consists of eight elected councillors. The Parish Council has been involved in many major issues including road plans and community facilities.

In October 2000, Ingleby Barwick Parish Council was presented with an official Coat of Arms by Lord Gisborough, former Lieutenant of North Yorkshire.

"All the residents of Ingleby Barwick can look to the Coat of Arms as their community's identity and it is something of which we can all be proud," said Tom Bowman, who was Chairman of the Parish Council in the Millennium and is now Vice Chair.

A Community Warden Scheme for Ingleby Barwick is currently being considered after residents were asked

by the Parish Council for their views. The wardens would be on duty 365 days a year from mid afternoon until midnight and strong links would be maintained with the police service.

More information is now being gathered before the scheme is taken any further.

While many people think of the housing itself when they think of Ingleby Barwick, efforts have been made to ensure open spaces complement the properties.

In recent years there has been the planting of woodland and the opening up of mature woodland on the east side of Ingleby Barwick.

The Riverside walk has also been created at Ingleby Hill Farm, to the south side of the area.



around



Ingleby Barwick



The four completed villages are home to nearly 6,000 households making up a population of more than 15,000 residents.

There is a current planning application to build a nine-hole golf course. If approved and built, this would have a driving range, restaurant and golf shop to add to the open space around Ingleby Barwick.

Football is another sport that could take off in Ingleby Barwick.

Dave Scott, of Scott Bros in Thornaby, is hoping to develop a junior sports facility on land at the junction of Ingleby Way and Thornaby Road.

He hopes that young soccer enthusiasts from both Ingleby Barwick and Thornaby will be able to use the site.



Working together to

tackle

Drugs are an issue that affect every town and city across the country and Stockton is not immune.

In September 2000 a Drug Action Team (DAT) was established in Stockton. This is one of 149 nationwide tackling the whole range of issues that surround substance misuse.

Drug prevention, advice and treatment are all available through the DAT partnership that is made up of statutory, voluntary and community organisations with representatives from a number of agencies including Social Services, Health, Education, Police, the Prison Service and the Home Office all on board.

Figures show that the Drug Action Team is needed – in 1999-2000 there were 499 people that entered drug misuse treatment. In 2001-2002 this number rose to 619.

A recent Tees Health report stated that for every one person in treatment there are five to ten other users not receiving a service.

A number of projects and services that are funded by, or supported by, Stockton DAT have proved a success in helping drug users and their families.

The Addictive Behaviour Service and the Albert Centre, a voluntary organisation, provide treatment, counselling and support and are to establish a structured day care centre. This will form the basis of the Adults Community Drugs Team.

The latest project to be launched in April is the Personal Medical Services (PMS), based in Lawson Street. It will include a specific GP for drug treatment, a nurse, and a counsellor.

“The PMS pilot will work closely with all the services to enable drug users to access high quality primary care services from a team with expertise in the field,” said Khalid Azam, Stockton’s DAT Business Manager.

Addressing the concerns of the community is an important aspect for DAT.

The needle exchange programme on Yarm Lane has launched a pilot scheme to offer retractable needles in a bid to cut out the chances of children or other members of the public being injured by discarded needles. Retractable needles also stop the sharing of needles and can help curb the risk of spread of infection.

“The work we do is ongoing and is part of a national strategy called Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain. We have a lot to do – we have to have 100 per cent more people in treatment by 2008 to meet one of the targets,” added Khalid.

PANIC – Parents Against Narcotics in the Community – is also very active across Stockton and has set up a helpline to support parents and users (see opposite).



drugs

A Young Persons Treatment Clinic is also held each Tuesday at the Cornerhouse in Dovecot Street. On hand to offer advice and treatment are a GP, nurse and counsellor.

A new Young Persons Community Drugs Team, HOOKED, will open in the spring and will be based at the Cornerhouse Youth Project. It will offer initial assessments; treatment plans; advice and guidance; drug testing and rehabilitation.

The DAT will also be consulting with the community to find out their views on substance misuse. This will enable the DAT to plan accordingly to the needs of users and non-users of drugs.

The DAT was recently reviewed by the Home Office and was praised for its innovative management; a number of good practice points were highlighted.

Panic Helpline:
0800 0522050

Addictive Behaviour Services:
(01642) 802424

Young Persons Clinic
Cornerhouse Youth Project:
(01642) 868331

Ash Trees School

A garden to stimulate the senses has been designed for pupils at Stockton's Ash Trees School.

A water feature, sunken and raised beds, plants and multi sensory surfaces have been developed – turning a muddy patch into a wonderful garden for the school's 105 pupils who have a range of learning difficulties.

Head teacher Iain Bowran said: "This has been a dream for a long time and

although we did have a garden before it was nothing like this. The pupils will really enjoy all the different sensations the garden will offer."

Parents helped out with the building of the garden in a 'Ground Force' type project over three days.

Staff from fast food giant MacDonalds also helped out along with volunteers from the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.



Something's afoot

Stockton Council employees are being urged to think about how they travel to work.

A travel plan is being developed and it aims to encourage everyone to think about how they get to work and also looks at what can be done to get more people to walk, cycle, use public transport and car share.

Other developments like video conferencing and home working could also play a part.

The first stage of the plan has already been carried out and involved employees filling in a detailed questionnaire about their travel arrangements to and from work.

"The 'Something's Afoot Campaign' aims to get people to really think twice about how they travel to work," said Sue Dobson, Stockton Council's Workplace Travel Consultant.

"There are potential cost, health and environmental benefits to all."

Sue is also working with other organisations in the Borough to assist in the development of their travel plans, including the University of Durham, Stockton Campus and Stockton and Billingham College.

Safety first for Stockton tenants

Stockton Council is carrying out its annual safety inspection of central heating and gas fires in Council homes across the Borough.

Tenants are being urged to do their bit by allowing the Council's contractor into their homes to complete this crucial task.

Neil Schneider, Stockton Council's Director of Housing and Contract Services, said: "We take the issue of maintaining gas appliances extremely seriously, not only in terms of our legal responsibility but also in terms of the welfare and safety of our tenants.

"To complete this vital work we need tenants to allow our contractors into their homes. Tenants must, however, always insist on seeing a caller's

identification before allowing anyone into their homes."

All representatives of the Council, including contractors, carry identification. Anyone who is in any doubt should call the Council on (01642) 393616.

If a contractor calls when a tenant is out, a card will be left asking the householder to arrange a future appointment. Tenants are asked to respond to this as a matter of urgency.

Anyone who needs to arrange an appointment or who has any concerns relating to gas appliances and/or safety inspections can call Tony Barratt, the Council's Contract Manager for Housing and Contract Services, on (01642) 393616.

Funding for drug education

Stockton Youth Service has been awarded just under £2,000 by the European Youth Fund to help set up a peer education group dedicated to delivering drug education. Eight young people aged between 15 and 17 years old are currently undertaking the training and, once trained they will start delivering drug education in various youth clubs and projects around the Borough from late April.



Massive response to Billingham plans

Plans to regenerate the centre of Billingham have brought a massive response from the town's residents.

The proposals, unveiled at a recent public exhibition, include a new "Gateway" complex in John Whitehead Park combining leisure, learning and health facilities. Improvements to the town centre, a superstore, and improvements to John Whitehead Park are also proposed.

As Stockton News closed for press, hundreds had visited the exhibition and a questionnaire had attracted over 1,500 responses.

Designed to attract more people to the town centre, the plans envisage release of the present Forum site for the supermarket, a facility identified by many local people as important for the town.

Although highly advanced when it first opened, the 35-year-old Forum building is approaching the end of its planned life.

Funds from the sale of the site would go towards the new "Gateway" complex, which would provide a range

of services under one roof and form a new entrance to the town.

Part of it would be devoted to learning, with Bede College moving from its present site and Stockton and Billingham College maintaining training and IT facilities. There would be a state-of-the-art public library, community training facilities, an advice centre and child care. There would be space for artistic and local heritage exhibitions and an area for theatrical and other performances and workshops.

Leisure facilities include a fitness complex with sports science facilities and an aerobics and dance studio. A 60 x 30 metre Ice Arena with seating for 1,000 or more spectators could also stage other events such as music or folklore performances. A 25 metre, 8-lane swimming pool, bowls hall and multi-use sports hall are also planned.

A health centre and other facilities, such as a cafeteria and toilets, would be in a central reception area.

Results of the consultation will be carefully analysed before decisions are taken on how to progress.



Pictures supplied by FaulknerBrowns

Ghostly experiences

Have you ever had a ghostly experience?

This is the question being posed by local script-writer, Dean Wilkinson, who is currently in the throes of writing a book about ghostly goings on. Dean is very keen to hear about your ghostly experiences.

The idea for the book began when Dean was carrying out research for his children's novels and heard about some ghosts in Thornaby.

Dean, currently a scriptwriter for Ant and Dec, says he wholeheartedly believes in ghosts himself. He explains that your experiences don't have to be on the level of 'The Sixth Sense' but should just be something out of the norm - giving you the impression of being a supernatural occurrence.

You can either e-mail Dean on dean.wilkinson@ntlworld.com or call him on (01642) 886242.



Poetry competition winners

Youngsters from across Stockton put their rhyming skills to the test in a special contest to mark National Poetry Day.

The Children's Poetry Competition was open to all young users of Stockton Borough Libraries and in celebration of Science Year the topic of each entry was science.

The young poets were then left to interpret the subject in their own way. The approaches were varied with youngsters viewing science through favourite experiments, inventors and inventions.

The overall winners were ten-year-old Claire Stoker of Frederick Nattrass Primary School, and Elizabeth Dickinson, 12, of St Patrick's RC Comprehensive School, Thornaby, who both received a writing set. Prizes were provided by WH Smith Ltd, Stockton.

Schools' success

Staff and pupils at five schools in Stockton Borough are celebrating the news that they are among a select number in the country to be listed as "particularly successful" in the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Schools, Mike Tomlinson CBE.

In order to be identified for this accolade, schools will have received an outstanding inspection report from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and have performed well in national tests and public examinations given the circumstances of the schools.

Across the country there are 348 particularly successful schools listed in this year's report. These include 224 primary, 90 secondary, six middle and 25 special schools, as well as three pupil referral units.

Among those named in this year's list are St Patrick's RC Primary, Thornaby; Hartburn Primary; St Michael's RC Comprehensive; Egglecliffe Comprehensive and Fairfield Infant and Nursery School.

Stanley Bradford, Stockton Council's Director of Education, Leisure and Cultural Services, said: "We strive continuously, in partnership with our schools, to raise standards across the authority and there has been much



Mike Tomlinson CBE - Chief Inspector of Schools

improvement in recent years, which is a credit to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved.

"I'm absolutely delighted for the five schools which have received this recognition from the Chief Inspector of Schools and my congratulations go to all the pupils, staff, governors and parents whose efforts have been rewarded in this way."

It's crucial to play safe

Youngsters across Stockton Borough were urged to 'Play it Safe' during this year's Crucial Crew event.

More than 2,000 Year Seven pupils took part in the safety awareness sessions at the Education Centre, on Junction Road in Norton.

This is the seventh year Stockton Council has organised the event and a number of agencies took part in the workshops to raise awareness of potentially dangerous situations.

- Cleveland Police;
- Cleveland Fire Brigade;
- HM Coastguard;
- The Prison Service;
- Northern Electric;
- Stockton Council's Road Safety Team;
- Animal Welfare Service;
- Environmental Health Team; and
- Care For Your Area.

They all received certificates along with ntl; Jennings; North Tees Catering; The Education Centre and students from Stockton and Billingham College – all of whom helped out during the Crucial Crew event.

Wind feature is new landmark

A wind feature has become the latest landmark on Stockton's Riverside.

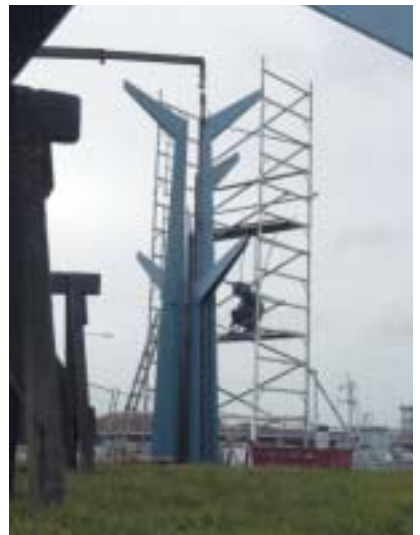
The art work, sited on the grassy bank at the foot of Bishop Street, forms part of improvements to an area overlooking the Riverside. Landscaping and new paving has been completed at the foot of Thistle Green and hand-forged seating, tree guards and litterbins were installed nearby last year.

The wind feature consists of an 8 metre high steel trunk, to which are attached eight stainless steel and titanium wands. These move gently in the wind, giving an illusion of collision

whilst not actually touching. The tallest wand reaches 11 metres.

The feature draws its inspiration from the movement of wind through tree branches and water through reeds. It also represents the dockside cranes that were once a feature of the busy port nearby.

Designed and fabricated by one of the country's leading artist blacksmiths, the Ratho Byres Forge of P Johnson & Co, near Edinburgh, funding for the project has come from the Council's Millennium Fund and the Government's Single Regeneration Budget.



Treat for young carers

Three teams of young carers from the Eastern Ravens Young Carers Project competed against stiff opposition when they took part in an 'It's a Knockout' competition in Gateshead.

The 13+ team from Stockton emerged victorious and were invited to Middlesbrough Football Club to be presented with certificates and a trophy before a match.



Pictured above are the members of Stockton's winning team with some of the Boro players and Anne McShane, Key Project Worker for the young carers.

Teaching status granted

North Tees Primary Care Trust (PCT), based in Thornaby, is one of eight primary care organisations being granted teaching trust status from 1 April 2002.

Teaching PCT's are a new venture, part of the Government's Modernisation of the NHS, and have been established to link the various training and learning services involved in providing primary, community and social care. They will also bring people together by co-ordinating learning across the many health and social care organisations and professions.

The PCT, which ensures that health and social care services are provided for the people living within the Stockton Borough boundary, is leading the project on behalf of all 11 primary care organisations in Durham, Tees and Hambleton & Richmond. The bid for teaching status has also been supported by education and social services departments and health authorities in those areas and the local Workforce Development Confederation.

The whole area to be covered by the new PCT's has a mixture of urban and rural districts, many of which have areas of high deprivation and a history of physical and mental health problems within their populations. Recruitment and retention of doctors, nurses and other health professionals in these localities is also difficult and one of the aims of the PCT is to provide training and support for NHS staff and thus improve their working lives as well as retain their services.

Tees Regatta

One of the most popular events in the north of England, the annual Tees Regatta, will take place on Sunday 26 May. The event will be held on the 850 metre four lane Barrage Reach course, which is one of the best regatta locations in the country.

Racing will take place between 9.00am and 6.00pm and this year a record number of entries is expected from clubs, schools and colleges from all over the north of England and Scotland. Male and female rowers and scullers ranging from 12 to 65 years old will take part in a variety of events for all types of racing rowing boats.

This year, for the first time, the recently completed River Tees Watersports Centre will be used as the Regatta base, and will provide a full range of superb facilities for competitors and spectators.

The Regatta was founded in the Victorian era and was held each year until 1939. It was relaunched in 1978

and, apart from a short break when the Princess of Wales Bridge and Barrage were being built, has continued ever since.

Spectators are welcome and entry is free.



Sports directory

The second edition of the Borough's Sports Directory has been circulated to schools and libraries. It includes information and contact numbers for local leisure facilities, sports clubs and national governing bodies of sport.

This information is also available on the Council's website www.train.stockton.gov.uk/leisure Clubs wishing to be included in future issues should contact Sports Development Officer, Claire Tennyson, on (01642) 358512 or e-mail clairetennyson@stockton.gov.uk

Arts Council boost for Arc reopening plans



The doors of the former Arc arts complex in Stockton could swing open once more after behind-the-scenes moves to restore the building to public use.

The centre closed late last year after Arc Trust Ltd, the independent body that managed it, went into liquidation.

Since then, Stockton Council, Northern Arts and the Arts Council of England have been working hard to ensure a future for the facility. Before anything can happen, however, the lengthy liquidation process has to be completed.

An important development came recently when the Arts Council confirmed the commitment of £250,000 toward reopening costs, supported by a further £150,000 from Northern Arts, on top of their existing revenue support.

Although speculation about a spring launch is unrealistic, arts specialists and relevant interested groups are being asked to contribute ideas and

views that might help to shape its future.

The challenge is to find a realistic and viable role for the building, delivering value for money for local people and the key partners.

Reuben Kench, Stockton Council's Strategic Arts Adviser, said: "Despite improvements, including record attendances in October, Arc didn't meet its business plan targets. Although staff worked hard under very difficult circumstances, creating a buzz that had been missing in the first 18 months of Arc's existence, it wasn't enough.

"Its future use must build on the things that the old company was doing well. Workshops, classes and opportunities for participation are all important however, but there must also be new and different activities coming through, supported by a new management organisation."

If all goes smoothly, the building could re-open in its new guise and with a new management body by the end of this year.

Science for all

A series of lectures called 'Blinded by Science' is being held at Stockton Parish Church in a bid to bring science to the people.

Three lectures have already been confirmed and the University of Durham Stockton Campus and the Church of England in Stockton are working hard to put on a fourth.

Well-known scientists from around the country will talk on subjects as diverse as 'Where gardeners lead, scientists follow'; 'Astronomy at the end of the rainbow' and 'Tickling the brain magnetically'.

The top names from the relevant fields will talk about their work with the lectures aimed at 'laymen'. The annual lecture series will take place in May.

For more details e-mail revwalker@aol.com

Renew your bus pass

Stockton bus pass holders are reminded that their 'Gold' or 'Silver' Cards will expire at the end of June.

HOLDERS are urged to renew their pass to make sure that they do not miss out on reduced price bus travel throughout Stockton, Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland.

New passes, valid from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, will be issued during May and June at the usual venues of Billingham Forum, Thornaby Pavilion and Yarm Community Centre.

However, in a change this year, the venue in Stockton town centre will be the new Baptist Tabernacle (next to the Municipal Buildings on Church Road) and not Corporation Hall.

Full details will be published in the Stockton 'Herald and Post' on Wednesday 8 May. Leaflets and posters detailing the arrangements will also be distributed throughout the Borough.

If you have any queries please call the Helpline on (01642) 397106 or 397107.

What's On

April, May and June 2002

Didgeridoo Course - 6 weeks total cost £35

Learn the basics with techniques such as circular breathing, rhythmic structure and vocalisation. No previous experience necessary. Essential to book. Sunday afternoons 14th and 28th April, May 9th and 23rd June 2-4pm (except 12th May 5-7pm).

APRIL

Sun 21st

Hike from Hardwick Hall
Stillington Forest Park and finishing back at the Castle Eden Walkway. Meet at 9 am at the Castle Eden Walkway Visitor Centre
Tel: (01642) 358529 for more details
No charge, but you'll need the bus fare to Sedgfield (*Service 236 - 9.28 leave Thorpe Thewles, 9.35 arrive at Sedgfield).

Sun 21st

Signs of Spring 10.00am
Meet the River Tees Ranger at the gates of Preston Park for a Spring ramble.

Thurs 25th

The Walkway Warm-up 7.00pm
A run of about 5 km along surfaced paths at the Castle Eden Walkway, for runners of all levels of ability. Minimum age 13 years. Enter on the day from 6pm.

MAY

Sun 5th

Blue Peter Bikeathon 11.00am
Raise money for Leukaemia Research Fund. Send a stamped addressed envelope for an entry pack to, Blue Peter Bikeathon P.O. Box 1234, London, WC1R 4XA. Venue: Castle Eden Walkway.

Sun 12th

Have Your Say! 10.00am - 4.00pm
We want to hear how you would like to see the park develop. No idea is too small or too large! Come along to our open day and put forward your own ideas.

Come to The Activity Centre, Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park anytime between 10 am - 4 pm.

Fri 10th - Sun 12th.

Garden and Wood Festival in Preston Park
Within the Tees Forest Woodland arena there will be a variety of activities as well as guided walks in the parks woodlands.

Sunday 12th.

Late, Late Dawn Chorus. Meet the River Tees Ranger outside the Blue Bell pub, by Yarm bridge, at 10am for a short walk investigating the habits of birds.

Tues 14th 6.00pm - 9.00pm

Have Your Say!
As for the 12th May, but an evening session The Activity Centre, Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park anytime between 6 pm - 9 pm.

Sun 19th

Yarm-Picton-Worsall Loop. Meet the River Tees Ranger in the car park of Yarm railway station at 10.30am for a 7 mile walk. Bring a packed lunch.

Sunday 26th

Open Day and Spring Clean
Come along between 10am - 3pm
Clean-up 11-12.30pm
Come and meet the site Ranger and find out what's happening at the Pond. If you are feeling energetic you can lend a hand with the spring clean-up. Helping to keep the pond a tranquil haven for the people and wildlife of Billingham. Come to Charltons Pond, Billingham.

Sun 26th

Fit for life 10.30am - 3.30pm
There will be a number of activities to give you the opportunity to examine your lifestyle, relax and/or get fit. From lifestyle or diet checks, to holistic therapy sessions, gentle health walks and Pilates, through to circuits on our new trim trail. All sessions will be led by qualified instructors. There is no charge but you will have to book for a number of these activities. For further information Tel: (01740) 630011
Venue: Castle Eden Walkway.

Tuesday 28th

Your Park and Your Suggestions 7pm start
Come and see how you have decided to manage your park for the future. The countryside rangers will provide feedback on people's suggestions and how these will be incorporated into how the park will be managed. The Activity Centre, Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park.

JUNE

Sunday 9th

Orienteering For Beginners 10am - 1pm
Learn the basic skills needed for orienteering and have a go on Cowpen's orienteering Trail. Meet at The Activity Centre, Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park.

Sunday 9th 2pm

Orienteering Event in Preston Park.
Meet in front of the museum and have a go at orienteering.

Wednesday 12th 7.00pm

The Castle Eden Canter
A seven mile race and a two mile fun run around the paths of Castle Eden Walkway. For further details or an entry form telephone (01740) 630011.

Sunday 16th

Stockton to Yarm Hike.
Meet outside the Mecca Bingo hall at Chandlers Wharf at 9am for the 8 mile walk to Yarm. A shuttle bus will return you to Chandlers Wharf.

Wednesday 19th

5-6.30pm.
Drop in session at Thornaby Central library. Meet the River Tees Rangers responsible for managing countryside sites in the Tees valley which include Bassleton Wood and the Holmes Local Nature Reserve and Black Bobby's Field.

Sunday 30th

Yarm-Burn Wood Loop Walk.
Meet the River Tees Ranger in the car park of Eggescliffe Comprehensive at 10.30am for a 7 mile walk taking in the Forestry Commission site of Coatham Wood. Bring a packed lunch.

MUSEUM EVENTS

Focus @ Photography Gallery

9th March - 20th April
The Castle Group of Photographers.

Billingham Art Gallery

16th March - 20th April
Open Art 2002
The chance for all artists to show their work - entry forms available from the Gallery.

Stockton News available in Urdu

اردو میں سٹاکٹن خبریں

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

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

پبلک ریلیشنز یونٹ، سٹاکٹن کونسل، PO Box 117، میونسپل بلڈنگز، چرچ روڈ، سٹاکٹن۔ آن۔ ٹیس۔ TS181YD



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Call 01642 606066 for further information

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

Think about fostering

Rachel is fostered. She is nearly 16 and has just left school.

“When I first came into care I was ten years old. Since then I have had three placements. I have been living with Joan for two months now. I’m glad I’ve been fostered - I think life would have been difficult in a children’s home. I don’t think it’s strange being fostered, and none of my mates treat me any differently. We need more foster carers to give children a chance”.

If you have ever considered fostering, or would simply like to know more, please contact the Child Placement Team on (01642) 397212

Give a Child a Chance



CUT YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL



If you, or someone living with you is disabled, severely mentally impaired or a carer, or if you live in a care home or nursing home, you may be entitled to a reduction in the amount of Council Tax you pay each month.

To find out more please phone **01642 397108**.

If you are on a low income you may be entitled to Council Tax Benefit.

To find out more please phone **01642 393829**.

Act today and cut your Council Tax Bill.



New Deal 'Diggout' a winner

David Dixon, 53, from Stockton, was delighted with the amount of support given to him by the Government's New Deal 50 plus initiative when he decided to set up his own excavation business, 'Diggout', after being unemployed for five years.

The former plant operator said: "I was struggling to find an employer willing to take me on in light of my age and health problem. For instance I could not give any assurance that two weeks into a new job my condition wouldn't flare up once more. With this in mind I decided to look at starting up my own business where I would be the boss and could work on my own terms."

David called in to the Jobcentre in Stockton where he found out about New Deal 50 plus and met his own personal advisor from whom he received continued advice and support.

As well as practical help, he received an employment credit of £80 per week through New Deal 50 plus while he was getting his new business off the ground and a training grant of £800 which he used to obtain the qualifications necessary for him to set up his business 'Diggout' offering a mini excavation service to small building companies in the North East.

Eighteen months into his successful venture he is full of praise for New Deal 50 plus.

He said: "It took just six months after becoming involved with New Deal 50 plus before my own business was actually up and running. Throughout this time everybody of New Deal was extremely helpful and I'm certain that without their support I would still be unemployed today."

"Thanks to New Deal 50 plus I've gone from being unemployed with no future to having my own business and the sense that I've really achieved something."

For more information please call **01642 308 653**.



new deal

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- Is your business **EXPANDING** and / or **RELOCATING**?
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for eligible businesses, both start-up and existing, operating within the target area.

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For further information
Tel: Business Development (01642) 391248/49/56



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

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

Stagecoach in Yarm and Darlington teaches the skills they need to act, sing and dance. Before long they begin to stand better, move more freely and clearly, grow more poised, self confident and self assured.

For details and a prospectus including details of a new Weekend Course for adults

Ring: 01325 337667 (24hrs)

www.stagecoach.co.uk



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Wiltshire Farm Foods have been delivering frozen ready meals to the people of Teesside for over six years, offering a caring and reliable service. Wiltshire Farm Foods are the original and the best, delivering the very finest frozen ready meals direct to your home every week. We offer a delicious range of over 150 complete dishes, with many catering for special diets. Prices start from as little as £2.00 for a main course and dessert, with delivery absolutely FREE. Why not try our special trial pack for just £5.00!

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New Brochure Available for 2002



Helping your child to reach for the stars

Whether you're going back to work, or looking for more free time, discover what makes Thornaby Children's Nursery the home from home your child will always love.

Welcoming children from 3 months to 5 years of age. Inspected by OFSTED.



462 Thornaby Road. Tel 01642 750113

Leisure Saver Card 2002

Great Savings on

Sports Leisure and Activities

in the Borough of
Stockton-on-Tees

*Your passport to
fitness & fun!*

**New memberships
now available**



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

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



Teesside Partnership Youth Games

2002

Following the extremely successful Teesside Partnership Youth Games of 2001, plans are now underway to organise an even bigger and better Games for 2002!

This year the Youth Games will be held over two days, June 22nd at Eston Sports Academy & June 23rd at Acklam Sports Centre.

Stockton Council's Sports Development team are co-ordinating the Stockton District Teams, through a range of competitions and squads made up from Active Sports participants in the following sports: Basketball, Netball, Rugby, Swimming and Tennis.

Anyone interested in sponsoring this prestigious event should contact the Active Sports Manager, Jean Lordon on (01642) 342287.

Year 5 & 6 Girls High Five Netball

Year 7 & 8 Girls Netball

Year 8 & 9 Girls Rugby

Years 8,9,10 &11 Boys and Girls Basketball

Years 3&4, 7&8 Tennis

Swimming

For further information on any of the other sports or if anyone wishes to participate in any of these events please contact Claire Tennyson or Lisa Yates on (01642) 358512 or email claire.tennyson@stockton.gov.uk

Ward Surgeries

May and June 2002

BISHOPSGARTH WARD (STOCKTON) 6.30PM – 7.00PM

14th May Bishopsgarth School
11th June Fairfield Infants School
COUNCILLORS S. HALL TEL: 654895
W. WOODHEAD TEL: 584409

BLUE HALL WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

1st May Frederick Natrass School
22nd May The Forge Community Centre
5th June Norton United Reform Church
26th June Frederick Natrass School
COUNCILLORS M. FRANKLAND TEL: 552667
MRS K. NELSON TEL: 397921

CHARLTONS WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

20th May Clarendons Community Centre
10th June Cowpen Hall Training Centre
COUNCILLOR MRS A. MCCOY TEL: 533554

EGGLESCLIFFE WARD 6.00PM – 7.00PM

21st May Egglecliffe Community Centre
18th June Egglecliffe Parish Hall
COUNCILLORS J. ATKINSON TEL: 782292
J. FLETCHER TEL: 786456

ELM TREE WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

14th May Elm Tree Community Centre
18th June As Above
COUNCILLOR MRS S. FLETCHER TEL: 786456
Email: sfletcher@cx.co.uk

FAIRFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

8th May Fairfield Library
5th June As Above
COUNCILLORS MRS F. HAWKINS TEL: 671422
MRS J. WADE TEL: 583549

GLEBE WARD (STOCKTON)

13th May The Education Centre, 2.30pm – 3.00pm
21st May As Above, 6.30pm – 7.00pm
10th June As Above, 2.30pm – 3.00pm
18th June As Above, 6.30pm – 7.00pm
COUNCILLORS MRS A. CAINS
R. CAINS TEL: 555394

GRANGE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 5.30PM – 6.30PM

31st May Windlestone Road Housing Office
28th June As Above
COUNCILLORS A. CUNNINGHAM TEL: 551251
M. STOKER TEL: 648069

Email: mickstoker@aol.com or
mick@grangeward.co.uk
Alexander.Cunningham@stockton.gov.uk

GRANGEFIELD WARD (STOCKTON)

20th May Grays Road Institute, 10.00am – 11.30am
(Tea/Coffee will be available)
22nd May Oxbridge Primary School, 5.45pm – 6.45pm
10th June Grays Road Institute, 10.00am – 11.30am
(Tea/Coffee will be available)
26th June Oxbridge Primary School, 5.45pm – 6.45pm
COUNCILLORS T. BEAN TEL: 870110
MRS E. JOHNSON TEL: 673952

HARDWICK WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

3rd May Hardwick Tomorrow Ltd, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
10th May As Above
17th May As Above
24th May As Above
31st May As Above
7th June As Above
14th June As Above
21st June As Above
28th June As Above
COUNCILLORS P. ANDREW TEL: 782373
W. NOBLE TEL: 602299

HARTBURN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.45PM – 7.30PM

13th May Rosehill Infants School
10th June Elmwood Community Centre
COUNCILLORS K. LUPTON TEL: 589863
S. SMAILES TEL: 581574

INGLEBY BARWICK WARD

Dates to be arranged

COUNCILLOR MRS J. BEAUMONT TEL: 785304

MANDALE WARD (THORNABY) 12.00 NOON – 1.00PM

11th May The Mandale PH
25th May Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
8th June Kennedy House
22nd June The Mandale PH
COUNCILLORS M. INGRAM TEL: 789372
S. WALMSLEY TEL: 881886

MARSH HOUSE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

13th May North Billingham Methodist Church
10th June Low Grange Community Centre
COUNCILLOR MRS L. APEDAILE TEL: (01740) 645216

MARSH HOUSE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

9th May North Billingham Methodist Church
23rd May Low Grange Community Centre
13th June North Billingham Methodist Church
27th June Low Grange Community Centre
COUNCILLOR G. FIELD TEL: 763654

MILE HOUSE WARD (STOCKTON) 7.00PM – 8.00PM

16th May Salters Lane Community Centre
18th June Kiora Hall Youth & Community Centre
COUNCILLORS S. COLLIER TEL: 581380
K. LEONARD TEL: 894191

NEWTOWN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

10th May Appleton Road Community Centre
24th May Newtown Community Centre
7th June Appleton Road Community Centre
21st June Newtown Community Centre
COUNCILLORS P. BAKER TEL: 655607
R. GIBSON TEL: 614482

NORTHFIELD WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

31st May Wolviston Court Community Centre
28th June As Above
COUNCILLORS A. CLARK TEL: 531144
M. WOMPHREY TEL: 555755

NORTON WARD 6.00PM – 7.00PM

10th May Norton Library
24th May Albany Resource Centre
7th June Norton Library
28th June Albany Resource Centre
COUNCILLORS R. COOK TEL: 890058
S. NELSON TEL: 534417
Email: Robert.Cook@stockton.gov.uk
Steve.Nelson@stockton.gov.uk
or www.nortonward.co.uk

PARKFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

2nd May Parkfield Community Centre
9th May Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
16th May Parkfield Community Centre
23rd May Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre
6th June Parkfield Community Centre
13th June Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
20th June Parkfield Community Centre
27th June Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre
COUNCILLORS C. COOMBS TEL: 645759
P. KIRTON TEL: 532076

PORTRACK & TILERY WARD (STOCKTON)

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

PRESTON WARD 6.30PM – 7.30PM

3rd May Trinity Methodist Church, Egglecliffe
17th May The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
7th June Trinity Methodist Church, Egglecliffe
21st June The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
COUNCILLOR M. CHERRETT TEL: 783491

ROSEWORTH WARD (STOCKTON) 5.15PM – 6.15PM

13th May Kiora Youth & Community Centre
17th June Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre
COUNCILLORS MRS W. HODGSON TEL: 614208
MISS B. INMAN TEL: 582644

STAINSBY WARD (THORNABY) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

16th May South Thornaby Community Centre
20th June As Above
COUNCILLORS B. BELLERBY TEL: 763459
M. O' BRIEN TEL: 887353

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

15th May Billingham Youth & Community Centre
19th June As Above
COUNCILLORS N. TEASDALE TEL: 07803 745808
B. WOODHOUSE TEL: 561899

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

9th May Billingham Branch Library
13th June As Above
COUNCILLORS K. DOBSON TEL: 564669
MRS J. O' DONNELL TEL: 559717

VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY) 6.15PM – 7.15PM

2nd May Queens Street Community Centre
6th June As Above
COUNCILLOR MRS A. NORTON TEL: 611902

VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY) 2.00PM – 3.00PM

17th May Westbury Street Library
21st June As Above
COUNCILLOR A. HOBAN TEL: 633546

VILLAGE WARD (THORNABY) 4.30PM – 5.30PM

13th May Thornaby Pavilion
10th June As Above
COUNCILLOR MRS E. CRAGGS TEL: 896378

VILLAGE WARD (THORNABY) 11.00AM – 12.00 NOON

16th May Thornaby Central Library
20th June As Above
COUNCILLOR MRS J. KITCHEN TEL: 761855

WHITTON WARD

14th May Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles
7.00pm – 7.30pm
31st May Wolviston Court Community Centre
6.00pm – 7.00pm
3rd June The Chapel School Room, Carlton
7.00pm – 7.30pm
4th June Manor House, Stillington,
6.30pm – 7.00pm
COUNCILLOR F. SALT TEL: (01740) 630771

WOLVISTON WARD (BILLINGHAM) 7.00PM – 8.00PM

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

YARM WARD 6.00PM – 6.30PM

14th May Yarm Primary School
11th June Levendale Primary School
COUNCILLORS B. JONES TEL: 576855
MRS M. SIMPSON TEL: 790691

Change of address:

Please note the following changes of address:

Councillor Mrs. Hawkins, 21 Clyde Grove, The Mallards, Low Hartburn, Stockton, TS18 3TZ. Tel. (01642) 671422.	Councillor Mrs. Simpson, 15 Mayes Walk, Yarm, TS15 9TU. Tel. (01642) 790691
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MP'S 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.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



...succeeding in serving you.