

Stockton

NEWS

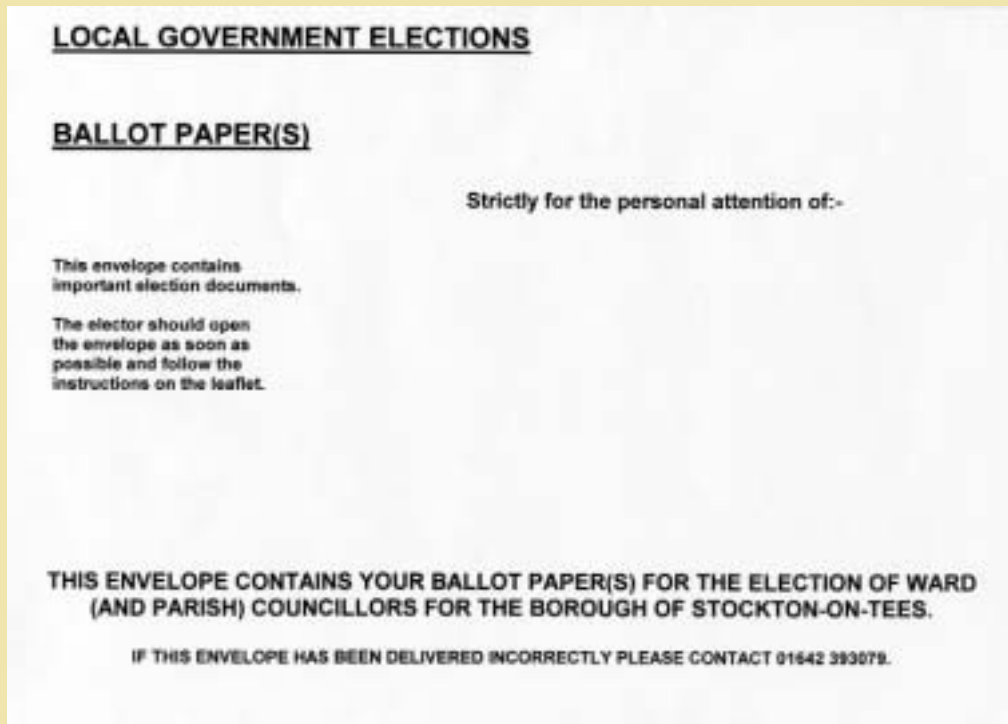
Stockton Council's Award Winning Community Magazine - Spring 2003



YOUR POSTAL BALLOT PAPER IS ON ITS WAY

WATCH OUT FOR THIS ENVELOPE
IT WILL BE DELIVERED BY HAND ON:

SUNDAY 13th APRIL 2003



This is your opportunity to make your vote count in electing your Councillors for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and any Parish Council where you live.

Voting in the Stockton Borough elections on Thursday 1st May 2003 will be by post only. Please make sure you post your ballot paper.

This is how the system works:



Delivered to
you on Sunday
13th April 2003

+



Ballot Paper
marked
by you

+



Posted
back

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Democracy

The new equation!

Your vote counts!

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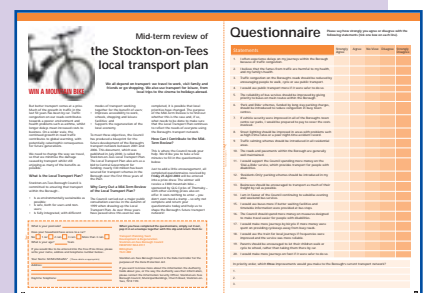
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Stockton News is published by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and distributed to every household in the Borough free of charge. It aims to provide news and information about the Council, its partner organisations, and local community groups and businesses. 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 Unit and designed by Bridge Design Group. Pictures courtesy of the Evening Gazette and other sources.

Steve McClaren swaps 18 yard box for blue box



Jeff Winter, right, with Steve McClaren shows the 'yellow card' to those who don't recycle.

Stockton Council's Blue Box recycling scheme got a 'kick'-start in February, when Steve McClaren, Manager of Middlesbrough Football Club, and Jeff Winter, Premiership Referee, gave it their full backing.

The new scheme, to be rolled out over the next twelve months, began in the Yarm, Eaglescliffe and Kirklevington areas of the Borough with almost one hundred per cent take up by supportive residents in some areas.

Over the next year every household across the Borough will receive a new, blue plastic box in which to recycle all used bottles, jars, cans and textiles. A separate reusable blue bag will also be

provided for newspapers, magazines and junk mail.

The boxes will be collected on a fortnightly basis and will be delivered in partnership with SWS Limited of Hartlepool.

Neil Schneider, Corporate Director for Service Stockton, said: "We are delighted that Steve and Jeff gave their support for this extremely vital scheme. We don't want people to just 'turf' out their rubbish, we want them to realise the importance of recycling and just how easy it is to be green. We welcome everyone in the Borough to 'pitch' in to support the scheme."

Anyone wishing to know more about the scheme should call Service Stockton on (01642) 393604.

Top level trio

Dedicated gymnasts, Lyndsey Irish, 11, top, Nikki Wilson, left and Ailsa Pitt, both 17, of Hemlington Gymnastics Club, based at Stockton Sports Centre, will be representing the North of England at the National Championships Trio competition after gaining first place in the regional heats in the National Development Plan Regional Grades competition on Tyneside.



New themes for civil weddings

People planning civil weddings are going to be spoilt for choice when deciding the location as a number of places have just been approved for marriages.

Preston Hall Museum, which is set in 100 acres of parkland bordering the River Tees, has recently received permission from Stockton Council to hold weddings in the Ballroom of the hall.

The Museum has a Victorian theme with a re-created period street and weddings at the museum can be held with this theme.

Preston Hall Museum is not the only place now able to hold weddings as the unlikely location of the Castle Eden Walkway, in Thorpe Thewles, has also received permission.

The weddings at the 70-seat planetarium will take place inside the planetarium itself. A projector has been set up so that people can choose to have a marriage beneath a starry night sky, the entire solar system or any image of their own choice.

If anyone would like to find out more please contact Ann Wynn at the Register Office on (01642) 393156.

Fun project to promote healthy eating

Pupils from seven schools across Stockton Borough have had a visit from two special characters to help promote healthy eating.

'Billy Broccoli' and 'Casper Cabbage' joined youngsters in schools taking part in a 'Take 5' project to promote the uptake of five portions of fruit and vegetables a day. Each school has a series of events and activities around a healthy eating message to involve pupils, teachers and families.

Stockton Council's Arts Development team are also supporting the schools by organising artists in residence to work with the pupils. Young People's Health Advisor Clare Caygill and Project Worker Carolyn Dailey will be donning the costumes and visiting school breakfast clubs, assemblies and lunchtimes.

Funding to support the project has been given to schools involved in the Stockton Healthy Schools Programme from Health Action Zone and the Children's Fund.

The schools taking part are: St Gregory's RC Primary, Bowesfield Primary, Abbey Hill School Technology College, St Bede's RC Primary, Hartburn Primary, Roseberry Infant and Pentland Primary.



New College opens doors to students



The new multi-million pound Stockton Riverside College opened its doors to students for the first time in January.

The £16 million development at Teesside Business Park replaced the Stockton and Billingham College, which had operated on a split site since the 1950s. The new building was funded by the college and the European Community.

College principal Margaret Armstrong said: "It is more than 30 years since a new college has been built in the region and we are proud to be leading this exciting development."

The new development has 47 seminar rooms, a studio theatre, arts department and refectory. The building will also house a computer hall with 300 machines. Set over three storeys the building boasts a range of state-of-the-art facilities and is fully accessible for disabled students.

Ship comes in for Teesside economy

Teesside is set for a massive boost after a large part of a huge £2.7 billion contract for aircraft carriers was awarded to a North East shipbuilding firm.

The contract, which was awarded to BAE Systems on 30 January 2003, is to build two state-of-the-art Aircraft carriers for the Royal Navy and is expected to create around 12,000 new jobs.

The ship building firm Swan Hunters has secured approximately one third of the work on the contract and it has announced that a substantial amount of the work will be split between their shipyards in Teesside and Tyneside.

The contract will bring much needed relief to the area. The region's manufacturing sector has seen difficult times in recent years and it is predicted that this contract will generate around £300 million of business for smaller supply companies.

Jaap Kroese, Chairman of Swan Hunter, said: "This is a real opportunity for us to really establish ourselves as the best and most efficient shipyard in the whole of Europe."

The contract was awarded to BAE Systems over rival French bidder firm, Thales. However, the French firm will be involved with other aspects of the work, one of which is designing the carriers.

Both firms made clear that they would be carrying out much of the construction work within the region itself.

It is hoped that significant parts of the contract will go to the Swan Hunter Port Clarence Yard, which saw significant investment 18 months ago, and if so this could create up to 1,500 jobs alone.

Negotiations on the details of the contract will continue for the next four to six months with work being expected to start by spring 2004 at the latest.



Dressed in Victorian splendour are two members of Saltburn Victorians at the launch of the restoration of Ropner Park, which lies at the heart of Stockton. Work is due to begin late spring when an ambitious three-year programme will see historical features such as the fountain, main entrance gates and bandstand restored to their former glory.

Council tenants look to a better future



A detailed inspection of Stockton Borough Council's estate management services has rated them as a good "two star" service which means an extra £44.5 million of funding will be available for improvements in the future.

Together with the Council's annual housing allocation, this means a total of £138.5 million will be available to improve the standard of Council housing in Stockton over the next ten years.

The inspection, undertaken by the Audit Commission's Housing Inspectorate, revealed significant improvements in service delivery and rising customer satisfaction levels since its initial inspection in March 2002.

Improvements identified by the Inspectorate included better signage, information and facilities at housing offices, an increased number of rent payment methods, more repairs completed by appointment and the introduction of a common voids standard and customer contracts for new tenants.

The inspection also made some recommendations as to how the service can be improved further, including reducing the delays experienced by some tenants in reporting repairs to the repairs call centre and ensuring that all service areas are able to demonstrate that they offer value for money.

Neil Schneider, Corporate Director, Service Stockton, said: "This is great news for the Borough. The Inspectorate has recognised the great strides that the service has made in a very short period of time. We shall

take on board the recommendations made in the report and continue working towards achieving our goal of a three star (excellent) service."

The amount of £44.5 million was provisionally allocated to the Council in December 2001, as part of the Government's Arms Length Management Programme. Under this programme, leading local authorities were encouraged to set up arms length management organisations (ALMOs) to undertake the day-to-day running and maintenance of the Council's housing stock. The additional funds were to assist ALMOs in achieving the Government's target of ensuring that all local authority owned homes met the "Decent Standard" by 2010.

Tristar Homes, Stockton Council's ALMO, is already working on improving Council properties. This month work to improve a further 2,500 properties will begin. The type of improvement work will vary but may include new kitchens, windows, bathrooms, heating systems and energy efficiency works. Tenants of those 2,500 properties were advised last month and announcements of further phases of work will follow in the summer.

Elaine Corney, Chief Executive of Tristar Homes, said: "Everyone wants to be first, but we are in the best ever starting position for the last 25 years, as the extra investment money is guaranteed. The majority of the "Decent Standards" works will be completed in the next four years, with 70 per cent of properties meeting the Decent Standard by 2006/7."

The full report can be obtained on-line from the Housing Inspectorate at www.audit-commission.gov.uk

Award-winning company to move

A Stockton manufacturing company has moved to new premises following an award for Best New Business.

Coverall, who make PVC and canvas goods, are negotiating the purchase of premises in Brunswick Street and the move should take place in April.

The company, which was created in 2000, won the Canada Life Best New Business Award for Manufacturing for 2002 in February.

The company will also increase the number of its staff by the end of the year.

Enterprise scheme gets off the ground



Joseph Desire Job cuts the cake.

A new project that gives young people an insight into the world of business got underway in January.

The Enterprise Academy is being jointly run by Stockton Council and Middlesbrough Council as a bid to encourage pupils to take part in Enterprise learning.

The venture has attracted more than £750,000 from the Single Programme and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and local and national companies are also backing the project.

The project has also drawn top names from the sports world with football international and 'Boro star Joseph Desire Job, cutting the cake to signal the start of the project and Boro captain Gareth Southgate playing a key role in the ongoing project.

Michael Glenn, Project Manager, said: "Enterprise learning is finally being recognised as an important feature on the Government's agenda so we're delighted that the Tees Valley is able to lead the way in such an exciting and innovative manner."

Free tickets to top Teesside festival

A top garden festival being held on Teesside is offering Stockton News readers 40 free 2 for 1 tickets.

The Teesside Garden and Wood Festival, which is in the country's top six wood festivals and the top 20 garden festivals league, is being held on the 9 to 11 of May at Preston Park in Stockton.

The festival includes floral art from the Teesside Flower Club, kite flying and specialist stands and workshops.

Local businesses, gardening, wood working and wildlife groups can get information about the stands by calling 07979 646129 or e-mailing info@gardenfestivals.com.

Tickets cost £3.50 for adults or £2.50 with concessions. Readers wishing to claim the free tickets should go to the Museum office at Preston Park or Tourist Information in Stockton Central Library. All free tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis.



Volunteers wanted for Link-Up project

People across Stockton Borough are being urged to consider becoming a Link-Up Supporter to help adults improve their literacy, numeracy and language skills.

Stockton Voluntary Development Agency is looking for volunteers to train as Link Up Supporters and join the new initiative provided by the Basic Skills Agency. A variety of roles are offered and a choice of opportunities in helping people both in and out of a classroom environment.

People in employment are also being asked to consider becoming involved in the project.

Diane West, Link Up Project Co-ordinator, said: "The benefits of an employee in regular contact with the public who is trained in identifying basic skills needs and offering solutions would provide a reversal to the present situation where individuals needs are often ignored or overlooked."

Free training will be given at venues across Stockton and Middlesbrough. The training leads to the new City and Guilds Level 2 Adult Learner Support award, which at present is only available through the Link Up project.

For further details please contact Diane West, on, (01642) 732108. Alternatively you may e-mail linkup@stocktonvda.org.uk

Town Hall clock gets complete overhaul



The clock was initially found to be running fast so its hands were set in the 12 o'clock position as it could otherwise have caused confusion to the many people who rely on it to keep appointments.

Mark Wardle, Property Manager for the Council, said: "The intricacy of the repairs and the age of the clock mean that any replacement parts need to be remade by hand and we can't say exactly when the clock will be reinstated to full working order again.

"Because of the length of time the clock will be out of commission, we felt it important to let people know about it. We'd also like to apologise to residents and visitors for any inconvenience caused to them while repairs to the clock are being carried out."

The clock, which dates from 1803, is being repaired by specialist company Wm Potts and Sons.

It was installed in 1805, when it replaced the original clock from the 1730s. The new clock was made by John Thwaites of Clerkenwell, London, and cost the grand total of 38 pounds, one and nine pence.

Visitors to Stockton Town Centre are currently unable to rely on the Town Hall clock for their timekeeping.

This is because the clock, which is 200 years old this year, is in need of specialist repair and has now been dismantled and taken away for the work to be carried out.

Huge response to tree recycling scheme

Stockton Council's Care for Your Area team collected a staggering 2,850 real Christmas trees for recycling during a special tour of the Borough in January.

Residents were asked to leave their real trees at the spot where they would normally put their wheelie bins on collection day.

The Council was astounded at the scale of the response, and is now looking to build on the success of the scheme next year.

Drop-in sessions for community

Residents in the Portrack and Tilery areas of Stockton have been benefiting from drop-in sessions at a local centre to gain access to help and advice about community and health issues.

Each Thursday morning over a 12-week period, the Willows Centre in St Ann's Terrace, Portrack, opened its doors to enable local people to talk to representatives from a number of organisations.

A range of information was on hand from Sure Start for 0-4 year olds, smoking cessation groups, the Citizens Advice Bureau as well as adult health checks and details of Walking for Health activities for older people.

Sandra Brown, Community Health Development Worker at North Tees Primary Care Trust and Chair of the St Ann's Health and Well-being Action Group, said: "We had several events when people came along and told us what was needed locally. As a result they were able to come to the Willows Centre where lots of different types of information was available."

Dad's the word

Sure Start Stockton is planning to hold a Dad's group to help encourage them to join in activities and gain access to a range of information and also offers services to families with children aged under four years.

Over the last two years, many families have enjoyed the benefits of registering, including better access to health, childcare and play activities.

However, it is almost always Mums who accompany their children to events and now dads are being urged to get involved.

Lynne Pratt, Sure Start's Community Involvement Worker, would like to hear from local dads about what activities they would like to see at the Dad's group and when would be the best time for it to be held. For more details contact Lynne on, (01642) 808414.

You chose Arc



In the last Stockton News, readers were asked to help shape the future of the Arc facility in Stockton.

Now we can reveal, as work continues towards reopening, that the facility will keep its original name.

John Hayward, Chair of Stockton Arts Centre Trust, explained: "All the evidence from local consultation and responses to the article in the last edition of Stockton News shows that people know where Arc is, they know the building as Arc, and that's what people call it. There's no doubt that the bold curve of the building's front makes the name Arc relevant, it also feels modern.

"Therefore, rather than spend a great deal of money changing the name, we've decided to stick with Arc."

Since the last edition of Stockton News, Kevin Parker, pictured, formerly the Chief Executive of Arts Culture Harrow, has come into post as the facility's new director.

Kevin is trained in drama and theatre studies and has extensive experience in managing arts venues.

He said: "I was excited at the prospect

of coming here and after a closer look at the building and more detailed discussions with the board, I'm beginning to get a real sense of what is possible.

"The evolving plans have a focus on learning and participation, including a relationship with Stockton Riverside College, whose Centre of Vocational Excellence for performing arts is one of only two in the country, and Durham University School of Education, who are looking at dance and drama teaching qualifications."

Kevin has also started making connections with local groups and community representatives.

He added: "I know I have the support of the board in building relationships that make sure local people influence what is going on and have a real sense of ownership of the facility."

Plans for the future also include the establishment of a youth board to make sure that what goes on is relevant and exciting to the young people of the area.

Stockton Council, the Arts Council and the new building operators are working to resolve outstanding legal and technical issues and get the public back into Arc as soon as possible.

All postal voting for 1st May elections

There are no polling stations for the local elections on Thursday 1st May 2003.

Elections for Councillors for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Parishes in the Borough will be by post only.

In an attempt to increase voter participation at these elections the Government has approved a pilot scheme for the Borough. This means that every elector will be **voting by post only**.

If you are not already included in the electoral register, it is not possible to be added now for these elections.

Change of address

If you will not be at your registered address on election day, you only have until Tuesday 8th April to notify the Council of an address to which you wish your ballot paper(s) to be sent.

Ballot papers will be delivered by hand to registered electors on Sunday 13th April 2003. Please vote without being observed and return the marked ballot paper(s) as soon as you are able.

The return envelope must be posted using any Royal Mail Post Box or Post Office as soon as possible or returned by hand to the letter box at the front of the Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees. **THESE MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 9.00 pm ON THURSDAY 1st MAY 2003.** Envelopes received after this time will not be counted.

Should you have any queries relating to these elections they may be sent in writing to:

Electoral Services,
Law and Democracy,
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council,
Municipal Buildings,
Church Road,
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1LD.

Alternatively you may telephone election staff on the following direct helpline (01642) 393079 or e-mail 'electoral@stockton.gov.uk'.

Make sure you post your vote.



New support worker for refugee children



A new support worker has been appointed to help children and young people of asylum seeker and refugee families integrate into the community.

Hilary Robinson has been appointed as Children and Young Persons Support Worker after Stockton Council's Asylum Support Team successfully secured funding from the Children's Fund.

Hilary will identify, promote and develop opportunities for children and young people from asylum seeker and refugee families living throughout Stockton Borough.

Hilary said: "My aim is to assist these children to gain access to existing agencies which provide recreational and out of school activities such as after-school sports and youth clubs.

"As the post is funded by the Children's Fund, the work will predominantly be with those children aged between five and 13 years. As well as integrating children of asylum seeking families into local activities on an ongoing basis, I aim to organise one-off events and provide one to one support where necessary."

Hilary will also be working to raise awareness of the issues affecting children and young people from asylum seeking families and to ease their integration into the local communities.

Anyone who works with children and young people from asylum seeking families in the Stockton area can contact Hilary for more information on (01642) 415030.

Budget heralds £4.4 million 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 4.9 per cent and the £202 million budget also includes £4.4 million for new service developments during the year.

But a 25 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 6.77 per cent.

As a result the Council is now pressing for a joint scrutiny committee to be established involving the four Teesside Unitary Councils to examine the financial planning arrangements 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 severe pressures on its budget, whilst still passing extra Government funding for Education directly to that service.

New service developments include:

Health and Social Care
£2.6 million to accommodate increased demands placed on the service particularly within the Children and Families area.

Libraries
£290,000 to bring the service in line with National Library Standards and fit out the new community library to be opened at Ingleby Barwick.

Ropner Park
£50,000 to secure the Lottery funding on the £3 million renovation scheme.

Thornaby Town Centre
£150,000 to assist in the revenue implications of the regeneration project.

Grounds Maintenance
£150,000 invested to improve grounds maintenance, particularly Parks and Open Spaces which featured highly in the responses from residents in a MORI survey in 2002.

Difficult Waste
£80,000 to assist in collection of electrical equipment such as fridges and freezers and abandoned cars/tyres.

Concessionary Fares
£88,000 to extend the scheme to include men aged over 60 (currently 65).

Trading Standards/Animal Health
£45,000 to accommodate the increased inspection requirements in both areas.

Customer First Project
£40,000 to enhance the Council.

Leisure Activities
£55,000 towards Castlegate Quay Watersports, Stockton International Riverside Festival and various other events such as the Civic Carol Concert.

Business Centre Extension
£150,000 extension to the Stockton Business Centre in response to a healthy increase in demand for this type of premises.

Alley Gates
£60,000 to extend the current pilot in Newtown and Thornaby to other areas of the Borough.

Community Transport
£177,000 to replace existing vehicles.

Home Adaptations for Disabled People
£103,000 to expand the current programme.

Public Conveniences
£350,000 for new public toilets in Stockton.



Survey reveals residents' satisfaction

Stockton Borough Council commissioned the national opinion company MORI to carry out a survey in the summer of last year.

The survey revealed the majority of people liked where they live, were satisfied with most of the Council services and were very happy with the Care For Your Area Campaign to improve street cleansing and refuse collection.

Researchers interviewed 1,033 residents across the Borough asking them their views about the area, the services the Council and other local agencies provide, and their priorities for the future.

Key findings

Among the key findings of the survey it was revealed that 78 per cent of people are satisfied with Stockton as a place to live, 51 per cent of residents are satisfied with the way the Council is

running the Borough and 64 per cent are satisfied with the way the Council provides services in the Borough.

It also showed that 22 per cent of residents think that the local economy will improve over the next couple of years, compared with only 15 per cent nationally, based on a similar survey carried out by MORI.

Now the findings in the survey have been analysed and are being used by the Council to make plans for the future which meet the priorities of local people.

Things are improving

Two years ago residents expressed dissatisfaction with street cleaning, litter and refuse collection. The Council launched its Care For Your Area campaign and now satisfaction with street cleaning has risen from 53 per cent to 69 per cent and satisfaction with refuse collection has risen from 81 per cent to 89 per cent.

Satisfaction with recycling facilities has also risen from 66 per cent to 73 per cent.

Residents also told the researchers that they felt swimming pools, pollution control, Council Tax administration and town centre and car park security CCTV had all improved.

Your top ten most important services

The survey revealed those services provided by the Council which people living in the Borough felt were most important. Top of the list was refuse collection followed by parks and open spaces, street cleaning, improving the local economy and creating jobs, leisure centre, youth clubs and other facilities for young people, road maintenance and repairs, support services for elderly people, pavement and road maintenance and schools.



Residents also told the survey that 86 per cent felt safe walking outside alone during the day while 43 per cent felt safe walking alone after dark.

What we can do better

One of the survey's most important aims was to highlight what residents would like to see improved with the intention of tackling the problems and priorities identified.

There were six key areas which residents identified as areas they

would like to see addressed. Those areas were fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, facilities and activities for teenagers and children, leisure centres, shopping facilities and the regeneration of town centres, the Council housing repairs service and the creation of more suitable jobs.

Keeping in touch

The majority of residents, 71 per cent, said they made contact with the Council by telephone with 21 per cent making contact in person and another

five per cent of people making contact by letter.

Stockton News was the main method for finding out what is going on in the Council for 73 per cent of residents. The survey showed 76 per cent of residents thought the magazine had got better, 86 per cent believed it provides useful information for local people, 78 per cent liked the way Stockton News is written whilst 22 per cent of residents thought it only told them things they had read elsewhere.

The survey revealed the majority of people liked where they live, were satisfied with most of the Council services and were very happy with the Care For Your Area Campaign to improve street cleansing and refuse collection.

If you would like to find out more about the survey or its findings please contact Stockton Council's Policy and Performance Unit. You can do this by one of three ways. You can e-mail us at: ppsv@stockton.gov.uk, write to us at: Policy and Performance Unit, Municipal Building, Church Road, Stockton, TS18 1YD. Alternatively you may call Kate Barber on (01642) 393011.



Hugh Lang, Managing Director of Teesside Airport.

Teesside Airport takes off in new deal

A £20 million investment partnership has been announced for Teesside International Airport.

Local Authority shareholders, including Stockton Council, recently announced Peel Holdings plc as the 'preferred bidder' to become a strategic partner in the Airport's long-term development.

The multi-million pound investment will be made over the next five years during which time passenger numbers at the Airport are expected to double to 1.5 million.

Peel Holdings will now be working with local authority shareholders to get the development of commercial property at the airport underway, including the Southside site in addition to the operational business of the airport.

Under the new proposals, Peel Airports Ltd, a subsidiary of Manchester-based Peel Holdings, will acquire a majority shareholding in the airport, although the local authorities will retain a significant interest in the

company and will be involved in its continuing development.

Hugh Lang, Managing Director at Teesside International Airport, said: "The local authorities, supported by the airport management, began the process of securing a private sector strategic partner because we believed it was the most viable option for securing the levels of investment needed for the key projects which will enable the airport to maximise its own potential – and contribute to the regeneration of the communities it serves.

"Those projects, and the levels of funding required, were identified through a comprehensive assessment, undertaken by airport management, together with the regional development agency One NorthEast and external consultants. Other agencies, including the Tees Valley Partnership and Tees Valley Urban Regeneration Company, are also closely involved in supporting the

airport as a key element in the local economy."

Robert Hough, Chairman of Peel Airports, added: "Teesside International Airport has seen significant improvements, but in an increasingly competitive market for air services, is now entering an important phase in its development.

"We believe this proposed investment by Peel will enable its full potential to be achieved, providing greater choice to business and leisure passengers alike in a major conurbation and also bringing significant economic benefits."

Peel Holdings already runs the growing Liverpool John Lennon Airport, the Manchester Ship Canal and the retail and leisure complex, the Trafford Centre in Manchester.

Detailed discussions have been taking place between Peel Holdings and the local authority shareholders to finalise and cement the partnership.

Bus link improves service

A brand new bus service has been launched by Stockton Council to link Teesdale with Stockton Town Centre.

The Stockton Shuttle 525 is already proving a success and less than a month after it was launched, was extended to run in the evenings. There are four new journeys to link students at the new Stockton Riverside College with Stockton Town Centre.

On the day the Stockton Shuttle came into operation, a commercial bus operator withdrew another evening service to Teesdale leaving Stockton Riverside College students with very limited public transport after 6pm.

Following discussions with the College and the Department for Transport, Stockton Council has added four new journeys, leaving the Stand 21 on Stockton High Street at 19:05, 20:05, 20:35 and 21:05 on Mondays to Fridays. The College has agreed to help fund the evening service, which

will also serve passengers for Thornaby rail station.

A new leaflet including the evening services is available at the College, University, Thornaby station, the Stagecoach office in the Shambles and at Tourist Information in Stockton Central Library.

Stockton Council Transport Officer John Kavanagh, said: "The extra

services will help students and staff get to and from night classes in comfort and safety. The Shuttle is already proving to be well supported and I'm sure that the evening services will follow suit."

Stockton Council's Shuttle 525 service is being provided as a result of a successful bid for cash under the Government's Urban Bus Challenge.



Are you getting the benefit you need?

If you are on low income, Income Support or Job Seeker's Allowance you may get help to pay your rent or Council Tax.

To find out more please ring our helpline on

Stockton 393829

Minicom number 393806

(textphone only for people with hearing difficulties)

Alternatively you may write to us or call in and see us at:

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

**We are open Mondays 8:30am to 4:30pm
Tuesday to Friday 9am to 4pm**



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

Our Claim @ Home Service is a home visiting service for people who are blind or have sight disability. To arrange an appointment telephone **01642 393832**

Parents with disabled children find support



A support network for families with children with disabilities is looking for volunteers to help them run fun activities for the youngsters.

Stockton Parent Support (for families and special needs groups) helps parents set up support groups, can put families in touch with support groups and organises activities for youngsters aged 19 and under.

The organisation was set up in 1999 but this year has grown with the help of Stockton Children's Fund.

But in order to be able to keep running the activities, which are fun for the youngsters and give their parents a break, Stockton Parent Support always needs volunteers.

Project co-ordinator, Jenny Lumley, said: "We always need volunteers to

support our activities. They can prompt the children and help with the activities. They usually work on a three to one ratio but some children do need one to one assistance."

Volunteers are police checked and receive six to ten hours training. They help out at the activities which Stockton Parent Support organises such as discos, a Sports Ability Club run with Stockton Council's Sports Development Team and dance drama workshops.

Since Stockton Parent Support was first set up it has guided 12 new support groups for families with children with disabilities. It can put parents who have had a disability diagnosed, or are awaiting a diagnosis, in touch with a group called Grapevine which is made up of parents who have gone through similar situations.

Anyone interested in volunteering, in need of support, or with a child with a disability who would enjoy becoming involved in the activities, can contact Jenny Lumley on (01642) 415588.

Action Team For Jobs Is Working

Do you live in **Billingham** or one of the following areas of Stockton:

Mile House

Hardwick

Roseworth

Portrack

Tilery

Newtown

Parkfield



Action Team for Jobs is here to help. We provide individual advice and support to help you overcome the barriers preventing you from starting work.

You will be amazed at the range of help available!

Please come and visit one of our advisers at the following outreaches.

Operating as part of the Jobcentre Plus Network, DWP.

Monday	Billingham Forward, Town Centre, Billingham	2:15pm – 4:30pm
Tuesday	Victoria & Community House, Cromwell Avenue, Stockton	9:30am – 11:30am
	The Probation Services, High Street, Stockton	2:15pm – 4:30pm
	Tees Buildings, Bridge Road, Stockton	11:00am – 2:00pm
	Newlife Resource Centre, Low Grange Avenue, Billingham	2:30pm – 4:30pm
	PANIC	9:30am – 12noon
Wednesday	Lustrum House, Swainby Road, Stockton	10:00am – 12noon
	Caretaker House, Richard Hind Centre, Richard Road, Stockton	10:00am – 12noon
Thursday	Willows Community Centre, Northport Road, Portrack	9:30am – 12:30pm
	Roseworth Shops, Redhill Road, Roseworth	10:30am – 1:30pm
	International Family Centre, Skinner Street, Stockton	1:30pm – 4:00pm
	Wrensfield Community Centre, Wrensfield Road, Newtown	2:00pm – 4:30pm
	Victoria & Community House, Cromwell Avenue, Stockton	9:30pm – 11:30pm
	Billingham Forward, Town Centre, Billingham	9:30pm – 11:30pm
Friday	Clarence Community Centre, Haverton Hill Road, Port Clarence	10:00am – 12noon
	Hardwick Tomorrow/Hardwick Shops, High Newham Road	9:30am – 11:30am
	Roseberry Library, The Causeway, Billingham	2:15pm – 4:15pm
	ETC, Dovecot Street, Stockton	2:15pm – 4:00pm

Funding boost for transport in Stockton

The transport network across Stockton Borough has received a cash injection of nearly £10 million.

Grant funding of more than £6 million has meant that work can continue on Stage Two of the South Stockton Link Road which will, when completed in 2006, run from Ingleby Barwick to Stockton Town Centre via a new interchange with the A66.

A further allocation of nearly £2.3 million for Integrated Transport will allow the continued expansion of successful initiatives such as the Low Floor Bus Project, Safer Routes to School, introduction of speed and casualty reduction measures on local roads and the development of the Borough's cycle network. Funding has also been made available for the design of a real-time bus passenger information system, to be developed jointly with the other Councils in the Tees Valley.

The Council has also been allocated nearly £1.4 million for structural maintenance to ensure that the Borough's roads and bridges are maintained to a high standard.

Rob Farnham, Stockton Council's Transport Planning Team Leader, said: "This is marvellous news. The Secretary of State has recognised the progress that the Council is making towards its aim of giving every resident a real choice when making journeys in and around the Borough. As well as securing future funding for the South Stockton Link, our allocations for Integrated Transport and Structural Maintenance are nearly

30 per cent higher than expected, mainly due to good performance over the last year.

"None of this could have been achieved without working closely with local transport providers, businesses and residents. The challenge now is to develop these partnerships further, to ensure that the Council's vision of a truly 21st Century transport network becomes a reality."



Pensions and benefits paid direct

Pensions and benefits will start to be paid direct into bank, building society or Post Office accounts from this month.

The move is aimed at modernising the system of payment by order book and giro that dates back to just after World War Two. The Government felt the system was expensive to administer and open to fraud and abuse.

People across the Borough of Stockton will receive letters encouraging them to choose to have their benefits or pensions paid directly into a bank, building society or Post Office account. This method is called Direct Credit.

People will still be able to receive their money weekly and to collect it from the Post Office if they choose.

Currently 13 million people receive their pensions or benefits through order books and giro cheques so the changes will be phased in over the next two years from this month.

The amounts of money people receive and the frequency of payment will not change. Customers will be invited to give the Department for Work and Pensions their account details as a first step in the move. A direct mailing will go out to customers asking them to provide their account details but they do not need to do anything until they receive one of these letters that will set out their account options.

Postal Service customers have been asked to open an account of some type such as:

- A Post Office Card Account – this is a simple account for the receipt of benefit, pension and tax credit payments.
- A current account – a standard bank or building society account.
- A Bank or building society basic account – for those who are new to banking and just want to pay money in, get cash out and perhaps pay bills automatically.

Post Watch Northern England are advising people to check whether the bank or building society accounts make any charges for deposits or withdrawals at the Post Office or cash machines.

More than 85 per cent of people who are paid pensions or benefits already have access to a bank account and the Department for Work and Pensions expects many will choose to have their benefit paid into an existing account.



POLICE BEAT

GOOD NEWS

The winter Crime Reduction Campaign has resulted in significant reductions in the number of dwelling house burglaries throughout the Stockton Police area.

The campaign included high profile police operations, a poster and leaflet drop campaign and a high profile media campaign. The police operations made full use of neighbourhood watch, community wardens, CCTV and assistance from the public. Superintendent Brian Dunn said: "I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to reducing crime in Stockton and making our community safer. I am confident that continued co-operation between the Police, the Local Authority and the public will reduce crime even further. However, we must not get complacent and we will continue to target robustly the persistent burglars, car thieves and drug dealers, who make everyone's life a misery."

Bogus Officials

Over recent months there has been an increase in the number of distraction burglaries in the Stockton District. These offences are particularly nasty and the persons committing them, more often than not, prey on the elderly and the vulnerable.

Distraction burglars or bogus callers tend to call at people's homes unannounced, often pretending to be Council Officials, the Police or representatives from Gas, Water or Electricity companies. They are often smartly dressed and can be very convincing and persuasive. However, their sole intention is to trick their way into your home and steal your money or valuables.

Before answering the front door, make sure your back door is locked and the key is in a safe place.

Put your door bar or chain on the front door, before opening it. This will act as a useful barrier in the event of the

caller attempting to pressure you to open the door.

Check the person's identification. Most bona fide officials will make appointments before calling, whereas bogus officials will call unannounced.

Do not allow any strangers into your home under any circumstances. If you have any doubts whatsoever about callers to your home, contact the Police immediately - dial 999 and tell them what has happened. Try to give the Police a description of the person and whether any vehicles have been seen.

REMEMBER - IF IN DOUBT DON'T LET THEM IN

If you have information about bogus officials/distraction burglars, or any other crimes, contact CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111

Victim Support

If you are unfortunate and have become a victim of crime, Victim Support can help. Victim Support is an independent national charity. Trained volunteers contact people following a crime to offer free confidential support and information. People are referred to Victim Support by the Police and other organisations, or can make direct contact themselves to ask for help.

Victim Support offers someone to talk to in confidence, information on Police and court procedures, liaison with and

insurance, and can put victims in contact with other sources of help, or other organisations on behalf of victims, for information on compensation.

If you have been a victim of burglary, theft, assault or any other crime, your local Victim Support can be contacted on 01642 868444.

Dedicated Police Constables for Parkfield

P.C. Andrea Robinson and P.C. Alan Fish have recently taken up their roles as dedicated community patrol officers in the Parkfield area of Stockton. The two officers have been funded from the Parkfield Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Project, via Central Government, as part of the overall plan to regenerate the Parkfield and Mill Lane areas of the town.

They will work closely with the newly appointed Community Liaison Officer, staff from the Stockton International Family Centre and the community and businesses in the area. Both officers know the area well and are keen to make an impact. PC Fish said; "All we want to do is make the area safer and a better place to live and work for the law abiding majority". PC Robinson echoed these sentiments and said, "We will be targeting the trouble makers in the area so it is important that any information about criminals on the patch is passed to us."

P.C. Andrea Robinson
P.C. Alan Fish



Tributes paid to former Mayor

Former Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Michael O'Brien, lost his battle with lung cancer at the end of last year.

Councillor O'Brien, a widower who left five children and nine grandchildren, was Mayor from 1991 to 1992 and served on the Council for 30 years, representing the Stainsby Ward in Thornaby.

Fellow Councillors paid tribute to Councillor O'Brien as a hard-working,

mild-mannered member of the Council who loved Thornaby and its people.

In July last year, when a trio of conmen tricked their way into Councillor O'Brien's home posing as water board officials, stealing more than £200 from his back pocket, he responded by teaming up with the police to help launch a high visibility warning card scheme to protect other vulnerable members of the community.



Local history comes to library

Anyone with an interest in local history will be delighted that the Council has arranged for a number of lectures on the history of the area to be held in Stockton Central Library.

They will take place between 10.30am and 12pm every Wednesday during May 2003 in Stockton Central Library's lecture hall and will form part of the national Local History month.

The talks are being organised by the Stockton Reference Library Service and local authors and historians will give the lectures.

Among those appearing will be the author Maureen Anderson, who will be giving a talk on her new book 'Foul deeds and suspicious deaths around the Tees' and Stockton's Local History Group who will be speaking on various aspects of Stockton's history.

The lectures are free and open to any who are interested, even those who are not members of the library.

Anyone wanting to know more should contact Mary Murphy, Reference and Information Services Officer on (01642) 393994.

Healthy living goes holistic

A Stockton health team is promoting its programme designed to increase awareness of healthy living in the Borough.

The Stockton-on-Tees Healthy Lifestyle team is encouraging people to be more active in their lifestyles through its programme which currently involves Exercise on Prescription.

The programme has been well received by both participants and health professionals and the team works alongside GP's and other health agencies to promote their scheme.

There are various activities on offer that are holistic in nature, covering a range of conditions from stress related problems to asthma and heart conditions.

These events cover a wide range of activities with such things as Tai Chi, Indian Head Massage and Reiki.

There is a small cost of £1.20 per session and the programme runs for 20 weeks at various centres in the area, including Billingham Forum and Thornaby Pavilion.



School "S.T.A.R.S." get their just rewards

School pupils who have made every effort to get to class were rewarded with a special bowling party.

The youngsters were the first to benefit from the reward scheme for S.T.A.R.S – Schools Tackling Absence and Rewarding Success. The scheme is run by Stockton Borough Council's Education Social Work department with sponsorship from organisations such as the Hollywood Bowl, Middlesbrough Football Club, tfm, Asda and Splash.

Pupils who have achieved 100 per cent attendance, improved attendance or attended school under exceptional circumstances are invited along at the end of each term as a reward for their efforts.

The Hollywood Bowl gave the 51 schoolchildren 17 lanes to play two free games of bowling. And once they finished their games the children then received certificates and goodie bags from the 100 Per Cent Club, as well as prizes from the other sponsors of the scheme.

The children were chosen from 17 schools across Stockton deanery and Thornaby Education Action zones. Three children from each school were invited to attend.

Attendance Project Worker with the 100 Per Cent Club, Helen Surtees, said: "All the children invited along to the party made such a great effort to get to their schools and this is a wonderful way to reward them and encourage others to emulate their efforts."

Stockton Adult Education Service

At Stockton Adult Education Service we offer a huge variety of courses. If you are interested in any of the courses listed below, whether you want to gain a qualification or come along for interest, please contact us.

We offer courses at various levels so whether you are a beginner or more advanced in a subject, contact the staff at our offices who will be happy to give you more details.

Please note: This is not an exclusive list of courses.

New Start for Women
Art
Line Dancing
Soft Furnishings
RYA Boating & Yachting
Cake Decoration
Tai Chi Chaun
Pine Furniture Making
French
Braille for the Sighted
Computers – Introduction
Explore The Night Sky

English & Maths
Calligraphy
Dressmaking
Salsa Dancing
Stained Glass
Canoeing
Yoga
Floral Art
Italian
Lip Reading
New CLAIT
Family Learning

Dyslexia Awareness
Beadwork
Interior Design
Photography
Upholstery
Keep Fit
French Polishing
Aromatherapy
German
Sign Language
Astronomy

ESOL
Crafts
Decoupage
Pottery
Cookery
Swimming
Woodwork
History
Spanish
ECDL

For courses in the Thornaby, Yarm, Ingleby Barwick & Eaglescliffe area, please **Telephone: 01642 393535** or Email: adulted.thornaby@stockton.gov.uk

We also welcome any suggestions for courses from members of the public and current Adult Education Students. We offer courses **Daytime & Evening** in a variety of locations including Community Centres & Schools.

For courses in the Stockton & Billingham areas, **Telephone: 01642 397363/397364** or Email: adulted.stockton@stockton.gov.uk

Please contact our offices for more information.



Stockton Leisure

Healthy Activity, Maximum Pleasure!



Local Leisure at its best

Easter Bank Holiday Weekend Opening Times

Splash Good Friday & Easter Monday
9am - 4pm

The Forum Good Friday & Easter Monday
10am - 5pm

Stockton Sports Centre, Thornaby Pavilion and Thornaby Pool will be closed Good Friday & Easter Monday.

All centres will be open as normal on Saturday 19th April & Sunday 20th April.



☎ 607994



☎ 551381



☎ 760971



☎ 393900



☎ 616727

www.stockton.gov.uk

a service provided by Stockton Council

How our lives are changing

A look at some of the projects and initiatives that are happening in Stockton and Thornaby that will change the lives of the people in the Borough.



Multi-million pound funding helps community projects



More than £20 million has come to Thornaby and North West Stockton to support projects under the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB).

The projects cover a wide range of areas such as health, drugs, jobs, education, community safety, young people and the environment.

More than 1,300 jobs have been created through the programme so far and it has helped 3,500 people gain qualifications. The programme has helped more than 7,000 young people to promote their personal and social development and it has helped with more than 70 new business start ups.



The Single Regeneration Budget is a Government initiative. The funding comes from One NorthEast, the regional development agency, and is awarded to Stockton Renaissance, Stockton Borough's Local Strategic Partnership which is working towards the regeneration of the whole of Stockton Borough.

Stockton Renaissance works in partnership with Stockton Borough Council, the Five Lamps Organisation, Stockton Residents and Community Groups Association and Stockton International Family Centre to deliver the programme of projects throughout Thornaby and North West Stockton.



There are innovative projects within the programme including PANIC, a drop-in service for drug users and friends and family affected by drug misuse which is led by local people, the Young Persons Watersports Co-ordinator who works with young people to encourage their participation in watersports and DOVES, which is a project which offers support to victims of domestic violence.

There are more than 100 projects within the programme. To find out more on what is happening in your area contact either the Thornaby Regeneration Partnership Board on (01642) 608316 or the Stockton Central Area Partnership Board on (01642) 391361.

How our lives are changing

Getting creative in the community

A community literacy project which aims to improve the literacy skills of people of all ages is proving popular with children and grandparents alike.

The Write to Read project is funded through the Single Regeneration Budget Round Six.

It seeks to use innovative approaches to enable residents, families and children to enjoy a range of literacy activities using different genres. The project is helped by writers, artists, poets, musicians and tutors and it is hoped it will develop the creative skills of people of all ages.

Family learning projects which involve the whole community provide the opportunity to develop and enjoy writing, reading and a range of communication skills.

The Write to Read project aims to enhance the literacy skills of people of all ages, to use the creative arts as a means of improving reading, writing, speaking and listening and to use a range of innovative, fun approaches to develop basic ICT and creative skills using different genre.

It also enables local groups to produce publications for community use and enjoyment and supports the Citizenship Agenda through schools, families and the wider community.

One of the new groups which have formed through the project is the Parkfield Kids Players. Residents and children in the area of Parkfield suggested a drama group for five to 14-year-olds and a video group for eight to 15-year-olds should be established.

Scriptwriter and producer Jack McBride helped the youngsters put on their own version of Snow White and the drama group gave two performances of their show.

The young people in the group have now been taught video making skills by Tom Johnson and they are now about to take their show on the road. Their film Porkenstein will be part of the roadshow the Parkfield Kids Players will share with other youth groups in Stockton.

And they are already planning a further community show which will incorporate dance, songs, drama and video making. The show is a social history record of Parkfield and will involve more residents, employers and schools.

Parent and resident Freda Graham, said: "It has been great fun and if the children can help other youngsters become involved in such worthwhile activities that's even better."

The Write to Read project is not just for young people. Now a senior's group is meeting at Primrose Hill to compile a grandparents' book. With the support of creative writing and ICT tutors they are recording some of the milestones of their lives for their grandchildren.

And at Hardwick Primary School the Family Art and Craft Club composes poems about the environment as they recycle plastic bottles and cartons into works of art. There are also reading clubs for children and adults, school-based activities and courses which provide something of interest for all ages.

Anyone with an idea to involve people in their community or school should contact Millie Scaife on (01642) 731986. Or pop along to Stockton Central Library and The Green Dragon Museum on 23 April from 10am to celebrate Shakespeare's birthday with storytelling and drama workshops for all ages. Admission is free.



The Youthy

goes from strength to strength

A centre designed by young people for young people is proving a great hit with people of all ages.



How our lives are changing



The Youthy in Thornaby was opened in August 2002 and since then it has gone from strength to strength with even more plans for the future.

The idea of creating a centre solely for young people came from a survey carried out by the Five Lamps Organisation in March 2000 which revealed the local community felt there was little in the way of facilities for young people in the area.

The Youthy was begun and developed through consultation with the young people of Thornaby. They had a great deal of input into the design of the building, the interior design, furniture and the activities which would take place there. And they chose the name of the centre, reasoning that whatever name they gave it, everyone would refer to it as the Youthy.

The Youthy, on the corner of Lanehouse Road and Thornaby Road, was funded through the Single Regeneration Budget, whilst Sport England assisted with the funding of the climbing wall. Running costs are met by the SRB and Neighbourhood Renewal fund.

It is owned by The Five Lamps Organisation but a management committee of 15 young people from Thornaby Community School and St Patrick's Secondary School run the centre.

The management committee has been involved for more than a year with all aspects of the Youthy and they ensure that

other young people in the area have their voices heard.

The committee has recently been involved in appointing two key new members of staff for the centre. They are Malcolm Diegan, the new Centre Manager, and Chris Woods, the new senior youth development officer. Both took up their posts in February.

Malcolm Diegan said: "This is a flagship building which is being developed to its full potential. The facilities which are on offer in this building are wonderful and need to be accessed by the full community of Stockton."

The climbing wall within the Youthy will be open to all schools, youth clubs and individuals who want to join in. The events arena with its state of the art lighting and sound system, stage area with integrated PA system and large projection screen to the rear of the stage, is ideal for all types of events from conferences, birthday parties to discos, live bands and drama groups.

There is also an Internet café which is available and constantly used by young people and can be accessed during the day by other groups and for training purposes.

It is hoped that in the future there will be a wider range of activities offering all types of courses for all ages and groups.

Malcolm said: "It is hoped that the community will have greater access to the centre and look upon the Youthy not as a youth club but as a centre of pride and involvement, a centre of excellence and training.

"This is a great example of what can be achieved through communication, partnership and good old hard work and commitment. This is how you turn a run down derelict site that is an eyesore into a superb and wonderful building accessible to the whole community."

The building that now houses the Youthy stands on the site of a former bingo hall. It was derelict and had been vandalised and set alight.

The Youthy was opened on 27 August with the official opening taking place on 30 August. The launch was in partnership with tfm and supported by Thornaby Town Council, which gave £5,000 towards it.

The Youthy is open seven days a week, including school holidays. Monday to Friday it opens 10.30am to 9pm and Saturdays and Sundays it is open from 12 noon to 4pm.

There is a yearly membership of £1 for young people and an entrance fee of 30p to enter the centre. The climbing wall is available to young people who are members of the Youthy on an evening for a charge of £1.10. Adults and non-members can also use the wall and a price list is available on request.

As the centre develops the opening hours may have to be looked at to allow more flexibility to suit the people who use the Youthy.

For more information on the activities available at the centre contact Malcolm Diegan on (01642) 732016.

Final phase for Holmes and Middlefield Estates

The final phase of environmental improvement works on the Holmes and Middlefield Estate is now underway.

Over the last four years the estate in Thornaby has benefited from a variety of environmental improvement works.

The estate has seen more than £5 million of housing investment which has included selective demolition and housing improvements.

Stockton Borough Council's Regeneration and Economic Development Service has secured more than £1 million of external funding including SRB and European funding over the last four years to carry out necessary environmental landscape works.

Contractors on the site have been employing local residents from Stockton Borough Council's Training and Employment Services and two residents have now found full time employment as a direct result of the works. Further residents will be employed during the current projects and it is hoped this will put them on the first step to full time employment.

Extensive consultation has taken place with residents in the area and a close working relationship with the South Thornaby Association of Residents (STARS) has been built to ensure that works are carried out in line with what residents expect.

The project is expected to be completed by summer 2003.



Award for community work project



A local community project which aims to help people into work has won an award.

The Into Work Project in Stockton achieved the Matrix Quality Standard Award for Information Advice and Guidance Services. The project is the first in the Tees Valley to achieve the award based on the new standards.

The awards ceremony was held in Manchester in February.

Project manager, Brian Maiden, said: "Achieving the award was made possible by the caring and helpful attitude of the team and their genuine commitment to provide a high quality service to everyone regardless of age, gender, race or disability.

"We have had the support of people in the community and we have also benefited from close working partnerships with a network of organisations committed to supporting members of the local community develop career objectives."

The Into Work Project was established in 2000. It is managed by The Forge Community Resource Centre and reports to the St Ann's Partnership Board. It is funded by the Single Regeneration Budget, European Social Fund and Neighbourhood Renewal funding.

The Into Work Project provides quality information advice and guidance on a range of subjects to help people into work. Its services are based within the community to allow easy access and it runs drop-in centre locations.

The project offers free employment advice, individual action planning, free postage for job applications, advice on interview techniques, self-employment advice, customised training, literacy and numeracy support and a service for offenders and ex-offenders to help them integrate into mainstream provision.

The project can be found in three locations around Stockton. The Victoria Project is based at 7 Cromwell Avenue, Victoria, Stockton, on a Monday to Thursday between 9am and 5pm and on a Friday between 9am and 4.30pm.

The Tilery Project is at 19 Kingston Road, Tilery, Stockton, on a Monday and Wednesday between 10am and 2pm and the Albany Project is at 10a Surrey Road, Albany, Stockton, on a Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 2pm.

For more information on the project telephone (01642) 602528.

How our lives are changing

SEHAT tackles healthcare inequalities



Stockton's Sehat Project helped more than 1,000 people this year in its role to tackle inequalities in health and healthcare amongst the ethnic minority community.

The numbers have doubled this year with the increase in new arrivals such as people seeking asylum.

The project is run by Stockton International Family Centre Sacha Bedding, Centre Manager, said: "Our staff have been extremely busy providing advocacy services to the local residents this year, particularly due to the increase in new arrivals. But the staff have coped with the extra work and the service is getting stronger than ever."

The Sehat Project offers a range of services to help people in ethnic minority communities access healthcare in the area.

Those services include an advocacy service which is free and aims to empower the ethnic minority community to access health services, make their voice heard and to bring about change so that services better reflect their needs and preferences.

There are also drop-in sessions for activities

such as making health appointments, booking interpreters, access to services, registration with GPs and advice.

In the last year 40 health education sessions were held. These covered a range of health and safety issues.

The Sehat Project worked with the Hamsaya Group. The group consists of male members of the community who play volleyball twice a week. This year the project arranged a volleyball tournament and invited different teams from other parts of the country to take part. There were eight teams from Bradford, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Dewsbury who took part and the Stockton Sehat Project team reached the semi-final of the tournament.

The Project also works with five children's groups offering health education sessions. The latest group to be added to the list is a group from Hartington Road Mosque.

Anyone who would like more information on the services provided by the Sehat Project should contact project workers at 70 Dovecot Street, Stockton, or telephone (01642) 612400.

Sporting fun for all

A programme that aims to give young disabled people the chance to enjoy a wide range of social, leisure and educational activities is looking for more people to become involved.

The Disability Looking at Ability (DLA) programme is part of the Independent Living Project, designed to build on mainstream provision within sports, leisure and education. Sometimes the programme can offer additional support or diversity for young disabled people or in other cases an activity organised by the DLA is a stepping stone to joining a mainstream sport or club.

Now the DLA wants to set up a steering group made up of young people for the project.

And it is also looking for IT whiz kids to further develop the DLA website. The programme can offer training.

There are also plans to launch a mystery shopper project linked to existing media courses the programme already runs. Volunteers will go out and report back using a video camera on subjects of interest to young disabled people such as which shops are wheelchair-friendly. This project is to be launched in June and the DLA programme is looking for young people interested in becoming involved now. The project will need around 30 people aged between 14 and 23 with a range of interests.

The project is also planning some entertainment events in June and October and it is working on a range of exciting activities planned to celebrate the European Year of the Disabled.

The DLA is always keen to hear about new opportunities and ideas and anyone interested in the project should contact Di Roberts on (01642) 806844.





It's time to renew your Bus Pass!

Do you have a Stockton Bus Pass?

If you do, your 'Gold' or 'Silver' Card will expire at the end of June 2003.

The **Gold Card** scheme covers men and women aged 60 and above and the registered blind. Passes, which cost £5 per year, entitle holders to travel anywhere within the Boroughs of Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough and

Redcar & Cleveland for a flat fare of 30 pence per journey (the registered blind qualify for a free pass and free travel).

The **Silver Card** scheme covers men and women aged 60 and above and people with disabilities. Passes are free, and entitle holders to travel at half fare on bus services throughout the three Boroughs. Both schemes operate 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

New passes, valid from the 1 of July 2003 to the 30 June 2004, will be issued in May and June 2003 at venues across the Borough. To renew your pass, you will need to attend the centre identified by your postcode, and on the date and time indicated by the initial letter of your surname, as shown below. **Please note that Stockton Baptist Tabernacle will be closed on Thursdays.**

Billingham Forum TS2, TS22 & TS23

Tuesday 27 May

9am to 12 noon A - B
1pm to 4pm C - D

Wednesday 28 May

9am to 12 noon E - G
1pm to 4pm H - K

Thursday 29 May

9am to 12 noon L - M
1pm to 4pm N - R

Friday 30 May

9am to 12 noon S - T
1pm to 4pm U - Z

Yarm Community Centre (High Church Wynd) TS15 & TS16

Monday 2 June

9am to 12 noon A - D
1pm to 4pm E - J

Tuesday 3 June

9am to 12 noon K - R
1pm to 4pm S - Z

Thornaby Pavilion TS8 & TS17

Wednesday 4 June

9am to 12 noon A - C
1pm to 4pm D - G

Thursday 5 June

9am to 12 noon H - K
1pm to 4pm L - O

Friday 6 June

9am to 12 noon P - S
1pm to 4pm T - Z

Stockton Baptist Tabernacle TS18, 19, 20 & 21

Monday 9 June

9am to 12 noon A - B
1pm to 4pm A - B

Tuesday 10 June

9am to 12 noon A - B
1pm to 4pm C - D

Wednesday 11 June

9am to 12 noon C - D
1pm to 4pm C - D

Stockton Baptist Tabernacle (Continued) TS18, 19, 20 & 21

Friday 13 June

9am to 12 noon E - F
1pm to 4pm G

Monday 16 June

9am to 12 noon H - I
1pm to 4pm H - I

Tuesday 17 June

9am to 12 noon J - K
1pm to 4pm L

Wednesday 18 June

9am to 12 noon M - N
1pm to 4pm M - N

Friday 20 June

9am to 12 noon O - P
1pm to 4pm Q - R

Monday 23 June

9am to 12 noon S - T
1pm to 4pm S - T

Tuesday 24 June

9am to 12 noon U - Z
1pm to 4pm U - Z

If you are renewing your pass, you will need to bring:-

- Proof of your residency within the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees, such as a recent bill with your name and address on it;
- Your current bus pass; and
- Payment of £5 for Gold Cards (free for the registered blind). Silver Cards are free of charge.

Any Queries? Please 'phone the Helpline on (01642) 397106

Mid-term review of the Stockton-on-Tees local transport plan

We all depend on transport: we travel to work, visit family and friends or go shopping. We also use transport for leisure, from local trips to the cinema to holidays abroad.

WIN A MOUNTAIN BIKE

But better transport comes at a price. Much of the growth in traffic in the last 50 years has been by car. Traffic congestion on our roads contributes towards a poorer environment and health problems such as asthma, whilst longer delays mean increased costs to business. On a wider scale, the continued growth in road traffic contributes to global warming, with potentially catastrophic consequences for future generations.

We need to change the way we travel, so that we minimise the damage caused by transport whilst still enjoying as many of the benefits as possible.

What is the Local Transport Plan?

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council is committed to ensuring that transport within the Borough:-

- Is as environmentally sustainable as possible;
- Is safe, both for users and non-users;
- Is fully integrated, with different

modes of transport working together for the benefit of users;

- Improves accessibility to work, schools, shopping and leisure facilities; and
- Supports the regeneration of the local economy.

To meet these objectives, the Council has produced a blueprint for the future development of the Borough's transport network between 2001 and 2006. This document, which was published in July 2000, is called the Stockton-on-Tees Local Transport Plan. The Local Transport Plan also acts as a bid to Central Government for funding: nearly £30 million has been secured for transport schemes in the Borough over the first three years of the Plan.

Why Carry Out a Mid-Term Review of the Local Transport Plan?

The Council carried out a major public consultation exercise in the autumn of 1999 when drawing up the Local Transport Plan. As over three years have passed since this exercise was

completed, it is possible that local priorities have changed. The purpose of the Mid-Term Review is to find out whether this is the case and, if so, what needs to be done to make sure that the Local Transport Plan continues to reflect the needs of everyone using the Borough's transport network.

How Can I Contribute to the Mid-Term Review?

This is where the Council needs your help. We'd like you to take a few minutes to fill in the questionnaire below.

Just to add a little encouragement, all completed questionnaires received by **Friday 25 April 2003** will be entered into a prize draw. The winner will receive a £400 mountain bike – sponsored by GLG Cycles of Thornaby – with other exciting prizes also on offer. It costs nothing to enter – you don't even need a stamp – so why not complete and return your questionnaire today and help us to shape the Borough's future transport network!

What is your postcode? _____

Does your household have access to a car?

No 1 car 2 cars 3 cars More than 3 cars

What is your age? _____ Years

If you would like to be entered into the Free Prize Draw, please write your name, address and telephone number below:-

Your Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/MS* (*Please delete as appropriate)

Address: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

When you have completed the questionnaire, simply cut it out, pop it in an envelope together with this slip and return them to:

Transport Planning Team
Development & Regeneration
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
FREEPOST NEA 8517
Billingham
TS23 2BR

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council is the Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act.

If you want to know more about the information the Authority holds about you, or the way the Authority uses that information, please contact the Information Security Officer, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1YD.

Questionnaire

Please say how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements (tick one box on each line).

Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	No View	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. I often experience delays on my journeys within the Borough because of traffic congestion.					
2. I believe that the fumes from traffic are harmful to my health, and my family's health.					
3. Traffic congestion on the Borough's roads should be reduced by encouraging people to walk, cycle or use public transport.					
4. I would use public transport more if it were safer to do so.					
5. The reliability of bus services should be improved by giving priority to buses on main routes within the Borough.					
6. 'Park and Ride' schemes, funded by long stay parking charges, should be introduced to reduce congestion in busy town centres.					
7. If vehicle security were improved in all of the Borough's town centre car parks, I would be prepared to pay to cover the costs involved.					
8. Street lighting should be improved in areas with problems such as high crime rates or a poor night-time accident record.					
9. Traffic calming schemes should be introduced in all residential areas.					
10. The roads and pavements within the Borough are generally well maintained.					
11. I would support the Council spending more money on the 'Dial-a-Ride' service, which provides transport for people with disabilities.					
12. 'Residents Only' parking schemes should be introduced in my area.					
13. Businesses should be encouraged to transport as much of their freight by rail as possible.					
14. I am in favour of the Council continuing to subsidise evening and weekend bus services.					
15. I would use buses more if better waiting facilities and timetable information were provided at bus stops.					
16. The Council should spend more money on measures designed to make travel easier for people with disabilities.					
17. I would make more journeys by bicycle if more money were spent on providing cycleways away from busy roads.					
18. I would use the train for local journeys if frequencies were improved and the service was more reliable.					
19. Parents should be encouraged to let their children walk or cycle to school, rather than taking them there by car.					
20. I would make more journeys on foot if it were safer to do so.					

Please cut along here

In priority order, which **three** improvements would you make to the Borough's current transport network?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Cleveland Fire Brigade



Left to right Peter Dix, Alan Dixon and Barry Waller.



Jeff Dale

Alan Dixon, Stockton District Manager at Cleveland Fire Brigade, reports on the latest FIRE NEWS in your area.

At the time of writing this article the Fire Brigades Union is actively seeking to gain a substantial pay rise for fire fighters, which unfortunately has involved industrial action in the form of strikes.

One of the major issues has been the perception that the Fire Service does not accept or want change. This is certainly not the case, change continually takes place, including the issues raised during the industrial action.

Brigade personnel are active in the community and continuously work with our partners in the police and local authorities to improve the environment in which we live and work.

Part of our modernisation has involved the introduction of station managers to the three full time fire stations in the Stockton area. Their role is to become actively involved in the community and reduce the number of fire calls the brigade receives particularly hoax calls.

The officers in your area are Alan

Dixon, who has overall responsibility for the Stockton District, Peter Dix, Station Manager at Stockton, Barry Waller, Thornaby and Yarm station Manager and Jeff Dale, Billingham Station Manager.

The Government has set all public sector organisations targets for improvement, including Cleveland Fire Brigade. As part of our modernisation agenda we are challenged with reducing the overall number of calls, malicious calls and deliberate fires. And substantial inroads have already been made to tackle the problem.

Deliberate fires

The increase in the number of deliberate fires has its base in two specific areas - car fires and rubbish fires, which between them account for three-quarters of all deliberate fires. Within the Stockton area there is an active campaign involving brigade officers and officers of the council to remove rubbish and end of life vehicles from within the community.

Deliberate Fires Stockton Area 2001/2002

Commercial Premises	35
Dwellings	69
Refuse/rubbish	1271
Schools	5
Vehicles	221
Grassland	264
Others not in the above categories	153
Total	2018

This is a start but it is not the only solution to the problem. Piles of rubbish seem to attract the anti social behaviour that has unfortunately become all too apparent in society and with it an increase in fires. The sight of burnt out cars, the remnants of rubbish fires, and the boarding up of burnt buildings present an unsightly impression of our area.

Other initiatives are being pursued to address the problem of fires. In

schools, for example, all the caretakers have been given training in fire safety and fuel management. As part of the curriculum in schools children are taught the dangers of fire and how to respond to a fire situation in the home.

Hoax calls

The number of hoax calls have been reducing, however there were still 368 calls in the Stockton area during 2001/2002. The advent and accessibility of mobile phones has exacerbated the problem to such an extent that the brigade has had to take positive action to source and have call makers phones disconnected (11 during this period). The phone companies have been and continue to be very supportive in this area and any phone from which hoax calls are received are recorded with a view to disconnection if a second call is made.

Although mobile phones are a problem area they are not the only source of hoax calls; there are still the calls from call boxes and private household phones. We are currently working with phone companies to introduce a similar scheme to the mobile phone initiative for private lines.

Each hoax call to which the brigade responds has a cost in terms of risk to the community, and a fire appliance committed to a hoax call is unavailable for what may be a potentially life threatening situation elsewhere.

I hope this article does not portray too gloomy a picture of the Stockton area! I am confident that the introduction of station managers to fire stations can have a positive impact on improving the environment of Stockton on Tees.

Should you wish to discuss any fire-related matters please do not hesitate to contact your local fire station manager on the following numbers:

Peter Dix
Stockton Fire Station, (01642) 552175

Barry Waller
Thornaby Fire Station, (01642) 766331

Jeff Dale,
Billingham Fire Station, (01642) 546000

Housing allocation changes

Stockton Council is changing the way it allocates properties to improve choice for tenants and make the process less complicated.

Later this year, there will be a move away from the former points system, which many people found difficult to understand, and the new system will be based on choice.

Instead, rather than applicants waiting to be offered property, they will put in a 'bid' for the property they want to be considered for.

When someone fills in an application form to be housed by the Council, if they are eligible to go onto the Housing Applicants Register, their need to be rehoused will be assessed and they will be placed into one of three categories: 'Urgent Need', 'Need' or 'Want'.

Properties open for bidding will be advertised extensively and at the end of the bidding time, the applicant in the highest category with the earliest application date will be successful in getting the property.

People already on the Council's Housing Register will be notified of their new status on the Register well before the new system is introduced.

In advance of these changes, from 1 April 2003, more stringent criteria will be applied when considering applicants for eligibility for housing. This aims to tackle anti-social behaviour and encourage stable communities across the Borough.

Companies help to cut crime

Stockton Crime Prevention panel has welcomed another local business on board to help it achieve its five main objectives in combatting crime in the Borough.

David Carter, of Carter Steel, is the latest recruit to join ten other companies who have pledged £10 a month to help Stockton Crime Prevention Panel meet its five main goals.

The panel has initiated a range of projects including the provision of decoy vehicles to catch thieves and drug dealers, the organisation and funding of 15 junior crime prevention panels in primary schools and the sale and promotion of crime prevention products and security equipment.

Stockton Crime Prevention is a registered charity and would welcome

support from other businesses in the Borough. Other companies who give their support to Stockton Crime Prevention Panel are K W Devereux and Sons; Crown Security; Parkmore Hotel; Safeguard Security; Visual Security Systems; Willett and Ross; Richardson Removals; Jomast Group; Stockton Flats; Bradford and Northern Housing Association and Gardene Communication Systems Limited.

"Carter Steel's involvement is most welcome," said Panel Officer Wallace Sayer. "We hope Mr Carter's example will be followed by businesses throughout the Stockton area. The more Standing Orders we receive, the more effective our campaign against crime."

Any businesses who would like to find out more or join the 'tenner pledge' should contact Wallace Sayer on (01642) 302341.



Left to right, David Carter, Managing Director of Carter Steel, Wallace Sayer, Development Manager of Stockton Crime Prevention Panel, and Mike Devereux, Chairman of Stockton Crime Prevention Panel.

Awards for top security staff

The work of Stockton Council's Community Wardens and security staff has been paying off in more ways than one in recent weeks.

Community Wardens, Mark Aithwaite and Terry Wood and security staff, Karl Rowe, Brian McCarthy and Stuart Murray were given an award for Action Beyond the Call of Duty from

Acting Superintendent Ray Morton.

The awards were given on 14 February 2003 after a number of operations led to the arrest of five people.

The most serious was a joint operation between the police drugs unit and the Security and Surveillance Centre which led to the recovery of a number of

Class A drugs and two arrests for possession with intent to supply.

Mick McLone, Acting Head of Security Services for Stockton Council, said: "The actions of our staff have led to five arrests over recent weeks and they thoroughly deserve all our congratulations for their excellent work."

Stockton "commended" in Local Government Chronicle Awards

Stockton Council's Library Service has been commended in the 2003 Awards for Excellence, run by the Local Government Chronicle magazine.

The service joined representatives from just four other local authorities to bid for the title Management Team of the Year. The award was eventually won by Kettering Borough Council.

The Management Team of the Year Award, sponsored by BT, recognises managers who have been able to demonstrate that little bit extra in the challenging environment of local Government.

George Garlick, Chief Executive for Stockton Council, said: "Just to reach the shortlist for an LGC award is an achievement in itself and is yet another accolade for a service which keeps going from strength to strength."

Andrea Barker, Head of Cultural Services, said: "This is not just about management, it's about all of our staff and everyone involved in the Stockton

Borough Libraries, who work tirelessly to provide the best possible service to our users.

"We have a first-class team which consistently demonstrates what can be achieved when management and frontline staff work together in an environment where vision and enthusiasm thrive. My heartfelt thanks go to them all."

Stockton Council's Library Service has already achieved national recognition, winning Beacon Status under the theme of libraries as a community resource.

Also last year, the service gained Charter Mark status for a second time for the quality of the service it provides to the people of Stockton Borough.



Stockton wins its place on the Beacon shortlist

Stockton Council is celebrating Beacon success for the third year running after winning a place on the shortlist of the Government's Beacon Status scheme.

Stockton, one of just six Councils in the North East to have been shortlisted this year, has won its place in the category "Rethinking Construction".

Mike Robinson, Stockton Council's Head of Engineering and Transportation, and Keith Noble, the Council's Head of Property Development, jointly submitted the Council's bid for Beacon Status.

They said: "Being shortlisted for Beacon Council status for the way we deliver construction services is very exciting for Stockton Council.

"The shortlisting is clear evidence of the successful partnering arrangements between the Council's design

professionals, Education, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Tristar Homes, consultants White Young Green and contractors such as Birse Civils, Lovells and Gordon Durham.

"Should we be successful in achieving Beacon Status, we will be recognised nationally as being a centre of excellence in this field.

"It would be a tremendous accolade to our innovative, hardworking, dedicated staff and all our key partners."

This is the fourth round of the Government's Beacon Status scheme, which identifies and aims to spread best practice in local Government.

Stockton has already gained acclaim through the scheme, with the Council's Social Services Department being awarded Beacon Status in 2001 for "Local Health Strategies" and its

Library Service picking up a Beacon award in 2002 in the category "Libraries as a Community Resource".

Stockton was also shortlisted for a 2002/2003 award in the category "Tackling Fuel Poverty".

Nick Raynsford, Local Government Minister, said: "I'm delighted that Stockton Council has once again been shortlisted for Beacon Status. We, in central Government, are committed to supporting excellence in local Government and the Beacon Council Scheme helps us to do this.

"The example set by Stockton Council clearly demonstrates that the authority shares this vision and is committed to delivering quality services, which can only be good news for local people. I wish Stockton every success with the rest of the application process."

Thornaby town hall receives grant

Stockton Council has received a grant of £50,000 to develop a conservation plan for a well-known Thornaby landmark.

The Council will use the grant, along with £19,000 of its own money, to develop a conservation plan for Thornaby Old Town Hall and its extensions.

The project planning grant was awarded in February from the Heritage Lottery Fund to outline conservation plans to restore the Grade Two listed building that was built in 1892.

The conservation plan follows a consultation study to find the best future for the site, showing both need and demand for the building as a centre for creative industries.

The conservation plan, which is due for completion in May, will allow for an application for further funding from a Heritage Lottery Fund Main Grant and the European Regional Development Fund as well as generating private sector interest.



Getting tough with domestic violence



Delegates from around Teesside gathered for a special conference at the Oakwood Centre on 28 February to tackle the issue of domestic violence.

The conference, which was organised by the National Probation Service, Teesside and Stockton Council's Community Safety Department, discussed ways of working with the perpetrators.

Among other things, the conference was aimed at finding ways in which local services to stop domestic violence could be improved.

Marilyn Davies, Stockton Community Safety Manager, said: "We're currently running the bus advertising campaign 'Don't Suffer in Silence', which is also running nationally. This conference will allow us to look at local services and identify any gaps."

A keynote speaker at the conference was psychotherapist Adam Jukes who is director of the first treatment centre for abusive men in Europe.

Other speakers included Sue Anderson, Kennedy Potts Associates and Pauline Fogg from the Safer Families Project in Gateshead who reported on the project's work with perpetrators. MP Dari Taylor chaired the conference.

Jan Holden, Community Safety Officer with the National Probation Service, Teesside, said: "Many perpetrators move from relationship to relationship showing the same pattern of violence. We need to consider whether by working with perpetrators we can stop this cycle of abuse."

Environmental team gets moving

The Environmental Team is once again travelling around the area selling all different kinds of environmentally-friendly items.

Among other things that will be on offer are low energy light bulbs, compost bins and water butts.

If you want to find out when they will be in your area please call (01642) 391186.

Stockton Council, in partnership with npower, is giving away free bulbs to anyone who is in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

By using the energy saving bulbs, fuel bills for people on benefit will be reduced as they use only a fifth of the power of an ordinary light bulb.

To collect your free bulbs, or to find out if you qualify for the offer, call into the Environment Centre at 21 West Row, Stockton. Please bring with you proof of your benefit.

Innovative ITC facility celebrates official opening

Stockton's £1.2 million City Learning Centre, one of the most exciting, state-of-the-art educational facilities in the Borough, forms part of the Government's Excellence in Cities initiative, which aims to raise performance in schools in urban areas.

The CLC offers the latest ICT facilities, learning packages, training and specialist support to teachers and school pupils from across Stockton Borough. It also welcomes adults from within the community who wish to make use of the latest equipment, as well as offering an ideal venue for business conferences.

An increasing number of primary school pupils are also using the Centre, which provided the venue for the making of a film as part of last year's Gifted and Talented Summer School.

For more information on the facilities on offer and how you could make use of them, please call (01642) 371841 or send them an e-mail to clc@stocktonclc.org.uk

Energy assessment in a dash



Picture left to right: Julie Muir, Assessor SWZ, Christopher Brown, Programme Manager SWZ.

A Council scheme monitoring energy efficiency will encourage people to take part in its survey by holding a trolley dash.

The Stockton Warm Zone scheme, which is being run in partnership between Stockton Council and Transco, will be holding the trolley dash on Sunday 27 April at Safeway Supermarket in Ingleby Barwick.

Energy assessment forms are being delivered to residents in Ingleby Barwick this week. The winner of the trolley dash will be picked from those people who return their forms.

This competition is being organised as part of Stockton Warm Zone's survey which is running throughout April.

Record-breaking panto

It was a record-breaking year for Billingham Forum Theatre's 2002 pantomime – *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* - and *Orville the Duck's* second visit resulted in rave reviews locally and nationally.

This year's pantomime is set to top that and tickets are already on sale for *Aladdin*, which will run from Wednesday 10 December 2003 to Sunday 11 January 2004.

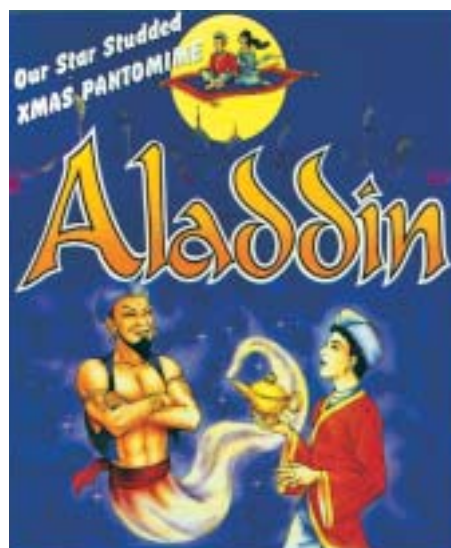
Aladdin promises to be a memorable experience as managers have secured the number one set in the UK, immaculate costumes, which are brand new, and a star-studded cast including Duncan Norvelle whose famous catchphrase 'chase me, chase me' is sure to resound around the theatre.

The Forum also offers fabulous 'Party Nights' between 12 – 23 December, where a carvery-style meal is on offer in one of its private hospitality suites.

Derek Cooper, Forum Theatre Manager, said: "We have already had

a great deal of interest both for the panto and the party nights and to guarantee a Christmas visit to the Forum we recommend people contact our Box Office now."

For more information, or to make a booking, please call (01642) 552663.



University rings the changes



As part of a major upgrade the University of Durham has changed its telephone numbers.

The change affects the Queen's Campus in Stockton and anyone needing help should call the switchboard on the new number of (0191) 334 2000.

Early Years Development And Childcare Service With SureStart



Stockton Childcare Information Services
Telephone: 01642 391356 & 391329

Your Local SureStart Programmes

- Hardwick, Roseworth & Mile House • Newtown, Portrack & Tilery
- Mandale Village & Stainsby • Parkfield & Victoria • Billingham & The Clarences

*Childcare Information, Training, Employment Opportunities in Childcare,
Support, Parenting Skills, Health Information and much, much more...*



**Working together to achieve the
best start for children and families**

A DAY IN THE LIFE

TONY RAINE

Sitting behind a desk all day is not for Tony Raine.

The Ropner Park Ranger prefers to be out and about and his new role certainly allows for that.

Tony took up the position in September 2002 and is now responsible for the development and management of the park on a day-to-day basis.

These are exciting times for Tony and the future of Ropner Park – Stockton Council was recently successful in securing £2.5 million of Heritage Lottery funding to help transform the park to its former Victorian glory.

“Having always been an outdoor person, this is the ideal job for me; with all the changes in the pipeline, there is certainly plenty to do,”

Tony has worked for Stockton Council since 1994 and after a stint at Clarendon Community Farm, worked as an assistant parks officer before taking up his most recent role.



Billingham-born Tony has a strong background in agriculture having studied at Houghall College in County Durham for three years. After graduating, Tony moved to Denmark to work and on his return he worked at Houghall College Farm for five years before joining the Local Authority.

Now the restoration of the 35-acre Ropner Park is getting underway and there are ambitious plans for the Stockton park.

New gates, in keeping with the Victorian era, will be installed at all entrances and there are plans to build a new pavilion with a café, park rangers' office and exhibition space.

The fountain will be restored to working order and the lake will be totally drained and the silt will be removed and stored on site to be used as top soil on flowerbeds throughout the park. The lakeside area will be also refurbished.

“Having always been an outdoor person, this is the ideal job for me and

with all the changes in the pipeline, there is certainly plenty to do,” said Tony.

“We want to encourage more people to use the park and enjoy it as a leisure facility. The restoration work will return the park to its former glory and some of the more modern developments will give it a new look.”

Tony has been working closely with the newly-established Friends of Ropner Park Group which has nearly 60 members despite only forming late in 2002.

“They are a very dynamic group and are very involved in what is happening at the park and there are regular open meetings to discuss plans and the way forward,” added Tony.

“I am looking forward to being based at Ropner Park full time once the new office has been built and being at the heart of the restoration work and seeing Ropner Park restored to its former glory.”

Friends of Ropner Park can be contacted on (01642) 358888.

Sporting chance for young people with disabilities

A new sporting club is offering young people with a disability or special need the chance to try a wide variety of sports.

The Sports Ability Club has been organised by Stockton Council's Sports Development Team and Stockton Parent Support, an organisation for families and special needs group.

The club welcomes 28 young people aged between eight and 18 onto each six week course and gives them the chance to try such sports as rugby, basketball, boccia, which is a form of French boules, table tennis and indoor athletics.

The first course began on 11 January and has proved so popular the Sports

Development Team has drawn up a list of people who want to have a go at the sports on offer. The plan is to run the six week courses on a regular basis.

Sports Development Officer, Emma Warnes, said: "We've just been awarded a £5,000 grant from Awards for All, run by Sport England, which will help us buy more equipment and pay for the hire of the hall.

"The aim of the course is to show young people with disabilities that they can join in mainstream sports and sports clubs."

The courses are being held at Billingham Campus School and sports clubs from around Teesside, including

Norton Tennis Club, Teesside Mohawks and Billingham Rugby Club, are also involved.

The Sports Ability Club meets on a Saturday for two hours between 10am and noon.

The young people are split into groups according to age to play the various sports such as curling. And it is hoped that in future the club will be able to try ice skating and swimming.

There is a small fee of £1.50 for the young people attending each week.

For more information on the Sports Ability Club, or to put your name down to join the course, contact Emma Warnes on (01642) 358511.

Visitors skate to ice Forum

During January and February of 2003, well in excess of 30,000 skaters sped down to Billingham Forum's recently refurbished ice arena. The figure for the same period in 2002 was 19,500 – showing an increase of more than 50 per cent.

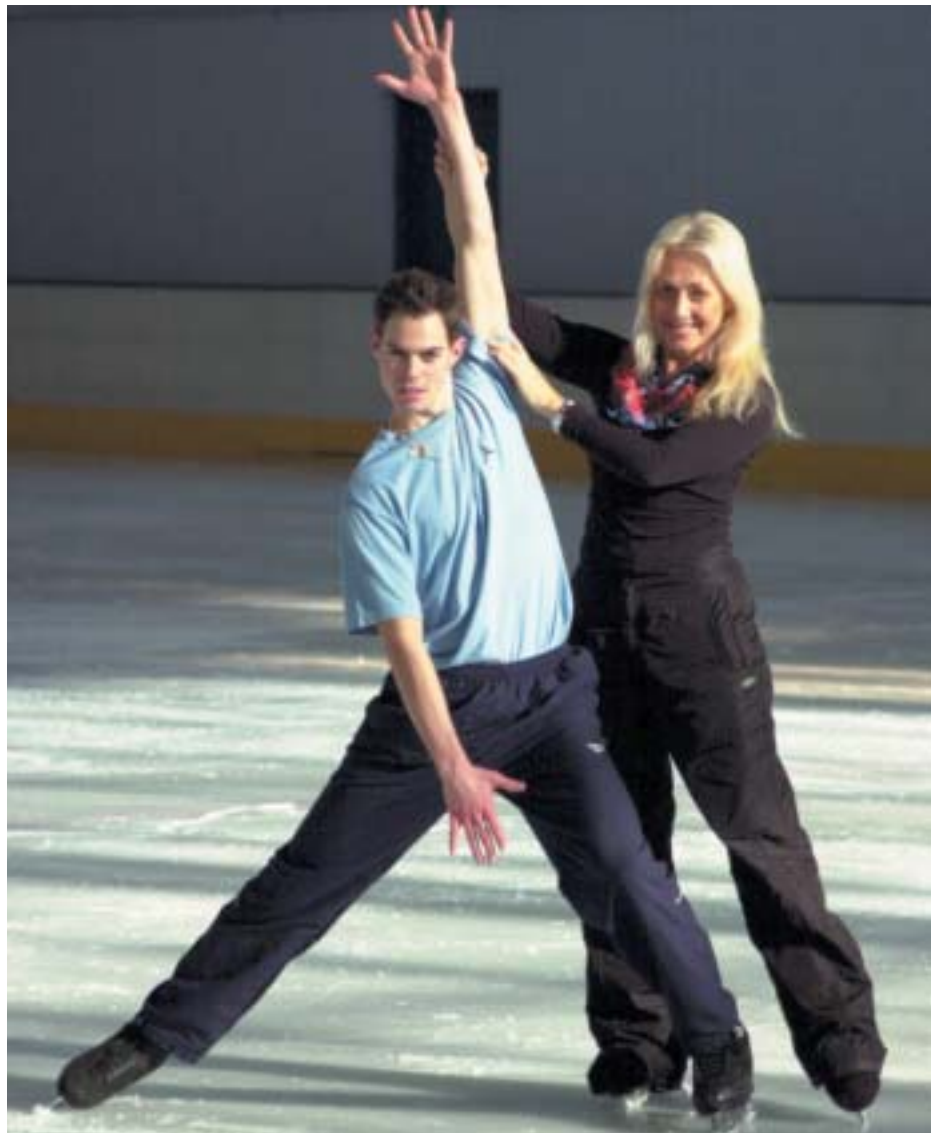
Allan McDermott, Stockton Council's Leisure Manager, said: "We will continue to develop the programme of events and activities so there is something for everyone all year round."

The rink has also been the venue for some world-class figure skating training.

Lorna Brown, a former World Professional Figure Skating Champion, has been at the arena training Matthew Davis – the 2001 Men's British Figure Skating Champion.

Lorna has also been back to the Forum to put James Black through his training paces – James was the 2002 runner-up in the National Championships.

Allan McDermott added: "Matthew Davis normally trains at the £48 million National Ice Arena in Nottingham and he described the newly-refurbished Billingham Ice Arena as having a great atmosphere and a first class ice surface."



James Black being trained by Lorna Brown.



P SCHOOL L HOLIDAY O ACTIVITIES

For Young People
aged 3-16 years

For Further
Information contact:
Sports Development
Tel: (01642) 358500

or visit our website:
www.stockton.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment

Leisure Saver Card

Don't miss out on great savings on a wide range of sporting and leisure activities in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. Apply for your Stockton Leisure Card today!

The following benefits are available to all card holders-

- Discounted prices for activities listed at participating centres.
- 8 days advance booking of facilities.
- Cards may be used as a deposit against equipment hire at participating centres.
- Discounted prices and special offers from Partners in Leisure.
- Free spectator entry to all participating centres.
- Discounts on sport development coaching programmes.

USE THE CARD AT THE FOLLOWING CENTRES

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

DISCOUNTED PRICES ALSO AVAILABLE FROM PARTNERS IN LEISURE

Wolviston Football Club
Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre
Forum Theatre
Stockton Museums Service
Skinnergate Cycles Ltd.
Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club
Preston Cricket Club
Stockton Cricket Club



For more details contact:
Trevor Massey on (01642) 358500
Or Email: trevor.massey@stockton.gov.uk

or visit our website:
www.stockton.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment

A helping hand for the future



A new major composting facility capable of handling over 20,000 tonnes of waste, is being planned for Stockton.

The facility, which will be situated at Haverton Hill, is being planned by Stockton Council and Middlesbrough Council in conjunction with SITA.

The plant is intended to be state-of-the-art and the first of its type in this country since stringent controls were placed on the processing of this type of waste following the Foot and Mouth outbreak last year.

When completed, it is hoped that the plant will produce quality compost that can be used by gardeners and land reclamation schemes.

SITA currently manages the Energy from Waste incinerator, the Household Waste Reception facility and the Ash Recycling plant all of which are located at Haverton Hill, Stockton.

The facility is being planned as the next step in developing an integrated waste and recycling plant for the area.

There are also plans being developed to create an educational resource centre that focuses on sustainable waste management and energy from waste.

The resource centre will be linked to the waste recycling plant and is being aimed at school and university students and the community.

Award means help for carers

A group of five people from Teesside have been awarded almost £10,000 to learn to design and set up a web page for dementia carers.

The award of £9,904 comes from the After Dementia Millennium Awards Scheme that offers carers and former carers of people with dementia the chance to rebuild their lives.

The five, who bid and were granted the award, are Gaye Rennie, Marion Bettinson and Margaret Garbutt, from Stockton, Anthony English, from Billingham, and Derek Corner, from Middlesbrough.

The group, which is based at Clevearc Training, Stockton, is now in the

process of building the web site which will be online by the end of this month. The site is expected to include details of social events and free educational and recreational classes available locally to carers.

Anyone with ideas of what could be included on the site should contact the After Dementia Web Site Group at Clevearc Training, 2 Maritime Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 2DR or e-mail afterdementiagroup@yahoo.co.uk

The After Dementia Millennium Awards Scheme is run by the Alzheimer's Society in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland - Action on Dementia and Carers UK, funded by the Millennium Commission with money from the National Lottery.

Good news for walkers as country park trebles in size

If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise.

For a new project to turn Castle Eden Walkway into a much larger country park has been officially launched with the opening of a new area of woodland including a network of footpaths.

The acquisition of 250 acres of land, bought from the Wynyard Estate, marks the first phase of a plan to transform the popular facility into Wynyard Woodland Park.

And its official opening meant that the Walkway literally trebles in size overnight.

Martin Jenkins, Parks and Countryside Manager for Stockton Council, said: "The planned transformation of the Walkway into Wynyard Woodland Park is a long-term project and this is just the first phase.

"We're confident of securing additional grants that will see further improvements to the Thorpe Thewles Station House Visitor Centre and hopefully some additional land acquisition in the years ahead.

"I'm sure the many visitors to this very popular facility will be delighted that it has already trebled in size, giving them even more valuable countryside to explore and enjoy."

The land was purchased from the Wynyard Estate with £135,000 made available by the Countryside Agency through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

The Wynyard Woodland Park Project is a joint initiative established by Stockton Council and the Tees Forest with the aim of creating an imaginative "Gateway" for the Tees Forest and developing a regional "flagship" visitor attraction in the countryside around Wynyard and Thorpe Thewles.





STOCKTON BUSINESS CENTRE

- 24 hours access and security
- Free parking
- Broadband internet to all units
- Fully equipped resource centre
- Free business advice and counselling
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- Easy in - Easy out



Call 01642 606066 for further information

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

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



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

Stagecoach in Yarm and Darlington teaches the skills they need to act, sing and dance.

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

For more details ring: 01325 337667 (24hrs)

!! Brand New !! SPORTS COACH

Class beginning shortly, call 01325 335740 for details



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



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WRVS offer a friendly, reliable home delivery service available to all. There are no restrictions, anyone can access our service.

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WRVS provides a FREE WEEKLY delivery service throughout the North East.

**YOU KNOW YOU CAN TRUST WRVS
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**WOMEN'S ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE**



Queensway Court, Middlesbrough

SUPPORTING PEOPLE



This new funding programme is housing related support services comes into operation on 1st April 2003. "Supporting People" is a partnership between Stockton Borough Council, North Tees Primary Care Trust and The Probation Services (Teesside).

The key aim of the "Supporting People" programme is to improve the independence and lifestyle of vulnerable people through the provision of high quality support services such as;

sheltered housing schemes for older people, hostels for single people and families who are homeless, floating support services for people with learning disabilities or mental problem.

The "Supporting People" Team are:

Peter Smith (Manager)

Jan Timofte (Co-ordinator)

Lynn Vaines (Officer)

If you would like to know more about the "Supporting People" programme contact the team at:

The Supporting People Team
Services Stockton
16 Church Road
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1TX

Tel: 01642 415083

Email: supportingpeople@stockton.gov.uk





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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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the home meals service

NEW 2003 BROCHURE AVAILABLE

telephones & reception services...
Kingway house, west precinct, billingham

01642 397106



Aiming to meet OUR Standards ...

- We will aim to answer your telephone call within **10 seconds**
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- We welcome all visitors
- We will always be helpful and efficient
- We will always be polite and friendly

Over 8,500 telephone calls answered per annum	=	Yearly Cost of Service £57,487
Over 5,000 visitors to the reception including contractors and deliveries to Kingway House		

Target: to answer 100% calls within 10 secs - currently this is 70%

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL Resources: Tenants & Administration Division, Telephones & Reception Services

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

New Debt Policy

Do you have two or more debts owing to the Council. For example **housing rent and council tax**?

If you do we will combine all the arrears you owe to the Council into one amount and set a realistic repayment plan for you.

If you would like to take advantage of our **free** and **confidential** service please ring us today on one of these three numbers:

01642 397061
01642 393810
01642 393787



Collecting what's due

Drugs Services in Stockton



INTENSIVE TENANCY SUPPORT TEAM
Unit 7, Stockton Business Centre, Brunswick Street, Stockton. **(01642) 732053/4**

PMS (Personal Medical Service). GP Practice (for substance misusers) Lawson Street, Stockton. (01642) 352980

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

ETC (Education, Training & Care)
Daycare Centre, 32-34 William Street, Stockton. TS18 1D8 **(01642) 356088**

HOOKED (Young Persons Community Drugs Team).
The Corner House, 98 Dovecot Street, Stockton. **(01642) 868331**

ABS (Addictive Behaviour Service)
29-31 Yarm Lane Stockton **(01642) 802424**

Get a ticket to ride

Stockton Borough's busiest railway station has undergone major refurbishment works and has been officially unveiled.

Thornaby Station has been transformed following a joint investment of almost £500,000 by Stockton Council, Arriva Trains Northern and the Strategic Rail Authority.

The scheme has involved the construction of a new waiting room, retail unit, staffed ticket office and a 60 space 'park and ride' car park with covered cycle parking facilities.

Improved lighting and CCTV compliment the staffed ticket office to help improve the personal safety of rail passengers and five real-time display screens have been installed to provide station users with up-to-the-minute information on train services.

"The upgrade has had a positive impact on Thornaby Station and will make a real difference to

passengers," said Rob Farnham, Stockton Council's Team Transport Planning Team Leader.

"As well as being an important destination in its own right, the station is now an important public transport interchange, particularly since the 'Stockton Shuttle' bus was introduced in January. We're also hoping that the new car park will encourage drivers to 'park and ride', reducing traffic levels on the Borough's roads."

Those using the station to 'park and ride' can park there all day for just £1, while passengers can travel free on the Stockton Shuttle – which links the station with Stockton High Street – on production of a valid rail ticket.

Patronage of the station has increased by almost 40 per cent over the past five years, partly due to recent commercial and educational developments in Teesdale. The station improvements will help to ensure that this increase is maintained in future years.



A fun occasion

Why not have a trip to Yarm High Street on the first day of June and visit the popular Yarm Charities Fair?

The fun begins at 1.00pm on Saturday, 1 June, when there will be a variety of stalls and other entertainment on offer.

The fair will be organised and arranged by Yarm District Lions on

behalf of Yarm Town Council and as well as being a fun day, the fair has always been successful in raising substantial amounts for charity. In recent years the amount raised has been as much as £4,000 and never less than £2,500.

For anyone interested in finding out more, or to offer ideas on how the fair can be improved, please call Stuart Hewardine of the Yarm District Lions, on (01642) 898241.

New members needed for liaison group

An advisory group that represents residents in the Borough is looking to gain new members.

The Customer Liaison Group (CLG), which was created in 1992, is trying to encourage new people to become members, specifically younger residents and people from ethnic minority groups.

The job of the CLG is to advise Stockton Council and Tristar Homes Ltd, of the views of residents in the Borough concerning housing services, and to ensure that information produced for residents is easy to understand.

Several members of the CLG have also taken part in mystery shopping exercises to assess the quality of housing services that are being given. Their feedback will be used to highlight inconsistencies in service.

The group meets every eight weeks and membership is open to anyone living in the Borough.

If you are interested in becoming a member then call Customer Services on (01642) 393839 or email customerservices@tristarhomes.co.uk

Date set for youth games

Plans to hold Teesside Youth Games in June are being developed following last year's successful event.

The games will be held over two days on June 21 at Brierton School in Hartlepool and 22 June at Norton Sports Complex.

Anyone interested in sponsoring the event should contact Active Sports Manager, Jean Lordon, on (01642) 342287 or Claire Tennyson or Emma Warnes on (01642) 358536/11 for further information.

Landlord Liaison Scheme

Stockton Council has launched a Landlord Liaison Scheme to help improve communication between the Local Authority, Registered Social Landlords and Private Landlords.

The scheme has been established to enable housing providers to make informed decisions when it comes to the allocation of housing to prospective tenants by supplying references.

Reference information will be available on previous housing history, such as involvement in anti-social behaviour, rent arrears, breach or abandonment of tenancy agreements and damage to property.

"Referencing in this way will assist landlords by preventing problem tenants from moving freely around the private sector and will therefore be a valuable tool in tackling anti-social behaviour," said Helen Waters,

Stockton Council's Landlord Liaison Officer.

"There have been similar projects set up in other areas that have proved to be hugely successful. There are no charges connected with this scheme and the more landlords who join, the more rewards there will be for everyone involved."

For more information on the scheme contact Helen Waters on (01642) 415589.

What's On

April, May and June 2003

APRIL

Running until 19 April
Watercolours by Walter Parker.
Billingham Art Gallery. For more information call (01642) 397590.

Running until 10 May
Farewell to Feethams
Green Dragon Museum. For more information call (01642) 393938.

Tuesday 1 April - Thursday 1 May
Clarences Farm - Port Clarence
April is the month for lambing - come on down to the farm and see new born lambs and try your hand at bottle feeding. Call (01642) 391975 for more information.

Thursday 10 April
Easter Fun Day
Castle Eden Walkway. 10.30am - 12.30pm
A day spent creating Easter crafts for adults. Booking is essential for this event. Call (01740) 630011.

Saturday 12 April - Saturday 17 May
Pam Kent an Exhibition of Digital Photography
Preston Hall Museum. Monday - Sunday 10.00am - 5.30pm. Last Admission 4.45pm.
Adults £1.20, Children 60p Children under 5 Free. For further information call (01642) 781184.

Sunday 13 April - Leven Loop Walk
11 mile walk in the countryside of the Leven Valley
Strong boots and packed lunch needed. 10am. Call (01642) 788907 for details.

Sunday 20 April
Children's fun at Easter
Castle Eden Walkway. 10.30am - 12.30pm. An Easter treasure hunt with lots of 'eggciting' activities for children at Castle Eden Walkway. Book a place at this event.

Wednesday 23 April
Farmers Market
Wellington Square. With its wide array of fresh and craft produce direct from the region's local producers, the Stockton Farmers' Market is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Call (01642) 391355.

26 April - 31 May
Local History month
Billingham Art Gallery. Events and exhibitions linked to local and community history. For more information call (01642) 397590.

Sunday 27 April
Water voles
Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park. 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Identify and survey water voles at Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park with Jonathan Pounder. Call (01642) 415225 for more information.

MAY

Incubation month
Clarences Farm - ring for details when the chicks will hatch or come along between 9-10.30am and join our much out madness sessions (Over 10's only). (01642) 391975.

Sunday 4 May
Blue Peter Bikeathon
Castle Eden Walkway. - 11am An opportunity to take part in the Blue Peter Bikeathon to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund. For entry pack send stamped addressed envelope to Blue Peter Bikeathon, PO Box 1234, London WC1r 4AXA or go on line to www.bbc.co.uk/bluepeter

9 - 11 May
Teesside Garden Festival
Preston Park - Teesside Garden Festival is a major event with exhibitions and displays of everything to do with gardens and gardening. Full details will be confirmed nearer the time. If you wish to exhibit or otherwise take part, please contact the organiser, Jean Welch, on (01423) 867144.

Tuesday 14 May
3 mile stroll
Stillington Forest Park - 7pm. Call (01642) 630011 for details.

Monday 16 May
Early morning bird watch
Billingham Beck Country Park. 6-8am. Call (01642) 397609 for details.

17 May to 5 July
Andy Goldsworthy
Green Dragon Museum. A national touring exhibition organised by the Hayward Gallery for the Arts Council of England. For more information call (01642) 393938.

Sunday 18 May
Yarm/Girsby Loop walk
9.30am - Join the River Tees Ranger for 18 mile hike. Call (01642) 788907 for details.

Saturday 24 May - Sunday 25 May
Fins & Chrome
Preston Park - Your chance to see some of the finest American and other cars on show at Preston Park, plus a host of other attractions. Trade stand and sponsor enquiries to Events Section, tel 01642 358519/3942 or fax 01642 358520 or e-mail derek.batchelor@stockton.gov.uk Other enquiries to Sandra Clarkson tel (01642) 583270. Adults Admission charges to be confirmed.

Saturday 24 May - Saturday 28 June
Stockton Camera Club
Green Dragon Museum - Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm. Last Admission 4.45pm - free. For more information call (01642) 393938.

Wednesday 28 May
Farmers Market
Wellington Square - With its wide array of fresh and craft produce direct from the region's local producers, the Stockton Farmers' Market is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. For more information call (01642) 391355.

Wed and Thurs 28 and 29 May
Hands on day of arts
Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park. 10am-3pm Hands on day of arts using natural materials, bring packed lunch and old clothes needed. Suitable for 8 years and over. Call (01642) 415225 for more details.

JUNE

Sunday 8 June
Day of conservation work
Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park. 10am - 3pm. Bring a packed lunch and old clothes. Call (01642) 415225 for details.

Sunday 8 June
Castle Eden Walkway
10am-12.30pm A relaxing walk learning about plants and their healing properties, followed by aromatherapy and henna art. Book a place. £1 charge. Call (01740) 630011.

9 June - 26 July
22nd Open Art Exhibition
Billingham Art Gallery. This summer sees the 22nd Open Art Exhibition at Billingham Art Gallery. This is an opportunity to display your art or craft work. The exhibition is open to all amateur and professional artists, students and art society members living or working in the North East. Examples of all kinds of art and crafts are welcome. For more information call (01642) 397590.

Sunday 11 June
Seven mile run
Castle Eden Walkway. 7.00pm A seven mile run around the footpaths and tracks. Also a shorter run of 2-3 miles.

Sunday 18 June
Owl walk
Preston Park. 9-10.30am. Join the River Tees Ranger by the gates of Preston Park for a nighttime rendezvous. Call (01642) 788907 for details.

Thursday 19 June
The Foxton Trot
Stillington Forest Park
7pm - For more information call (01740) 630011.

Wednesday 25 June
Farmer's Market - Wellington Square

Sunday 29 June
Yarm/Burn Wood loop seven mile walk
10am. In Coatham Wood. Call (01642) 788907 for details.

Make a date for this year's festival

The 16th Stockton International Riverside Festival will take place between Friday 25 July 2003 and Sunday 3 August 2003.

The Riverside Festival is already one of the leading dates in the European festival calendar. It attracts first-class entertainment – artists, musicians, performers of all kinds – from all around the world, and they converge

on Stockton to take part in what is now considered to be one of Europe's largest street festivals.

This fantastic festival is one of the greatest community events in the North East. It's also a brilliant showcase for local talent from across the Tees Valley and the wider region. It's a festival that really does have something for everyone, so make sure you make a date for this year's event.



Ward Surgeries 4 April – 30 April, 2003

Due to forthcoming District Elections on May 1, 2003, Ward Surgeries have only been arranged until April. Councillors can still be contacted on the numbers provided. After the election further surgeries will be arranged.

BISHOPSGARTH WARD (STOCKTON)

8th Apr Bishopsgarth School 5.30PM – 6.00PM
COUNCILLORS S. HALL TEL: 654895
 W. WOODHEAD TEL: 584409

BLUE HALL WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

16th Apr Norton United Reform Church
COUNCILLORS M. FRANKLAND TEL: 552667
 MRS K. NELSON TEL: 397921

CHARLTONS WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

14th Apr Cowpen Hall Training Centre
COUNCILLORS MRS A. McCOY TEL: 533554
 R. McCALL TEL: 554452

EGGLESCLIFFE WARD 6.00PM – 7.00PM

15th Apr Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Butts Lane
COUNCILLORS J. ATKINSON TEL: 782292
 J. FLETCHER TEL: 786456

ELM TREE WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

15th Apr Elm Tree Community Centre
COUNCILLOR MRS S. FLETCHER TEL: 786456
 Email: sfletcher@cix.co.uk

FAIRFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

16th Apr Fairfield Library
COUNCILLORS MRS F. HAWKINS TEL: 671422
 MRS J. WADE TEL: 583549

GLEBE WARD (STOCKTON)

No further ward surgeries planned prior to local elections on 1st May.
COUNCILLORS MRS A. CAINS
 R. CAINS TEL: 555394

GRANGE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 5.30PM – 6.30PM

25th Apr Windlestone Road Housing Office
COUNCILLORS A. CUNNINGHAM TEL: 551251
 M. STOKER TEL: 648069
 Email: mickstoker@aol.com or
 mick@grangeward.co.uk
 Alexander.Cunningham@stockton.gov.uk

GRANGFIELD WARD (STOCKTON)

No further ward surgeries planned prior to local elections on 1st May.
COUNCILLORS T. BEAN TEL: 870110
 MRS E. JOHNSON TEL: 673952

HARDWICK WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

4th Apr Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
 11th Apr Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
 25th Apr Hardwick in Partnership Ltd
COUNCILLORS P. ANDREW TEL: 782373
 W. NOBLE TEL: 602299

HARTBURN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.45PM – 7.30PM

7th Apr Rosehill infants School
COUNCILLORS K. LUPTON TEL: 589863
 S. SMAILES TEL: 581574

INGLEBY BARWICK WARD

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

MANDALE WARD (THORNABY) 12.00 NOON – 1.00PM

12th Apr The Mandale PH
 26th Apr Kennedy House
COUNCILLORS M. INGRAM TEL: 789372
 S. WALMSLEY TEL: 881886

MARSH HOUSE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

14th Apr Low Grange Community Centre
COUNCILLOR MRS L. APEDAILE TEL: (01740) 645216
 C. LECKONBY TEL: 872896

MILE HOUSE WARD (STOCKTON) 7.00PM – 8.00PM

15th Apr Kiora Hall Youth & Community Centre
COUNCILLORS S. COLLIER TEL: 581380
 K. LEONARD TEL: 894191

NEWTOWN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

11th Apr Appleton Road Community Centre
 25th Apr Newtown Community Centre
COUNCILLORS P. BAKER TEL: 655607
 R. GIBSON TEL: 614482

NORTHFIELD WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

25th Apr Wolviston Court Community Centre
COUNCILLORS A. CLARK TEL: 531144
 M. WOMPHREY TEL: 555755

NORTON WARD 6.00PM – 7.00PM

4th Apr St. Michael's Club Room
 25th Apr Norton Library
COUNCILLORS R. COOK TEL: 890058
 S. NELSON TEL: 534417
 Email: Robert.Cook@stockton.gov.uk
 Steve.Nelson@stockton.gov.uk

PARKFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

No further ward surgeries planned prior to local elections on 1st May.
COUNCILLORS C. COOMBS TEL: 645759
 P. KIRTON TEL: 532076

PORTRACK & TILERY WARD (STOCKTON) 5PM – 6PM

8th Apr Portrack Community Centre
 15th Apr The Community House, Cromwell Avenue
 22nd Apr Frank Wiseman Hall
COUNCILLORS D. COLEMAN TEL: 673952
 K. SAINSBURY TEL: 605201

PRESTON WARD 6.30PM – 7.30PM

4th Apr Trinity Methodist Church
 18th Apr The Wilson institute
COUNCILLOR M. CHERRETT TEL: 783491

ROSEWORTH WARD (STOCKTON) 5.15PM – 6.15PM

7th Apr Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre
COUNCILLORS MRS W. HODGSON TEL: 614208
 MISS B. INMAN TEL: 582644

STAINSBY WARD (THORNABY) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

17th Apr South Thornaby Community & Resource Centre
COUNCILLORS B. BELLERBY TEL: 763459

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

16th Apr Billingham Youth & Community Centre
COUNCILLORS N. TEASDALE TEL: 07753 717291
 B. WOODHOUSE TEL: 561899

ST. CUTHBERT'S WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6PM – 7PM

10th Apr Billingham Branch Library (to be confirmed)
COUNCILLOR MRS J. O' DONNELL TEL: 559717

VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY) 6.15PM – 7.15PM

No further ward surgeries planned prior to local elections on 1st May.
COUNCILLOR MRS A. NORTON TEL: 611902

VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY) 1.30PM – 2.30PM

17th Apr Westbury Street Library
COUNCILLOR A. HOBAN TEL: 633546

VILLAGE WARD (THORNABY) 4.30PM – 5.30PM

14th Apr Thornaby Pavilion
COUNCILLOR MRS E. CRAGGS TEL: 896378

WHITTON WARD

8th Apr Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles, 7PM - 7.30PM
 25th Apr Wolviston Court Community Centre, 6PM - 7PM
COUNCILLOR F. SALT TEL: (01740) 630771

WOLVISTON WARD (BILLINGHAM) 7.00PM – 8.00PM

10th Apr The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
COUNCILLOR MRS S. CORR TEL: (01740) 644339

YARM WARD 6.00PM – 6.45PM

8th Apr Challoner House
COUNCILLORS B. JONES TEL: 576855
 MRS M. SIMPSON TEL: 790691

SURGERIES

Stockton South: Dari Taylor MP
 Tel: (01642) 604546 for information
Stockton North: Frank Cook MP
 Tel: (01642) 643288 for information
 Home visits can be arranged where circumstances require them and adequate notice is given.

Free IT Training



Do you want to get **online**, gain a **qualification** or just learn how to use a **computer**?

National Award-Winning IT Learning Opportunities

At Stockton online our aim is to provide free IT facilities to the community. In our centres you will find friendly staff and a relaxed atmosphere, where you can spend as much time as you wish, doing whatever interests you!

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*Learndirect will charge for some courses, please check with the centre staff.



To find out more information please contact us on:- **01642 863755**

Or visit www.stockton-online.ac.uk



STOCKTON-ON-TEES
BOROUGH COUNCIL
Serving: BILLINGHAM STOCKTON THORNABY YARM & AREA

Make your mark Post your vote



Make sure you vote in the Stockton Borough elections between
13 April and 1 May 2003. All voting is by FREEPOST.

Make your mark and post your vote.