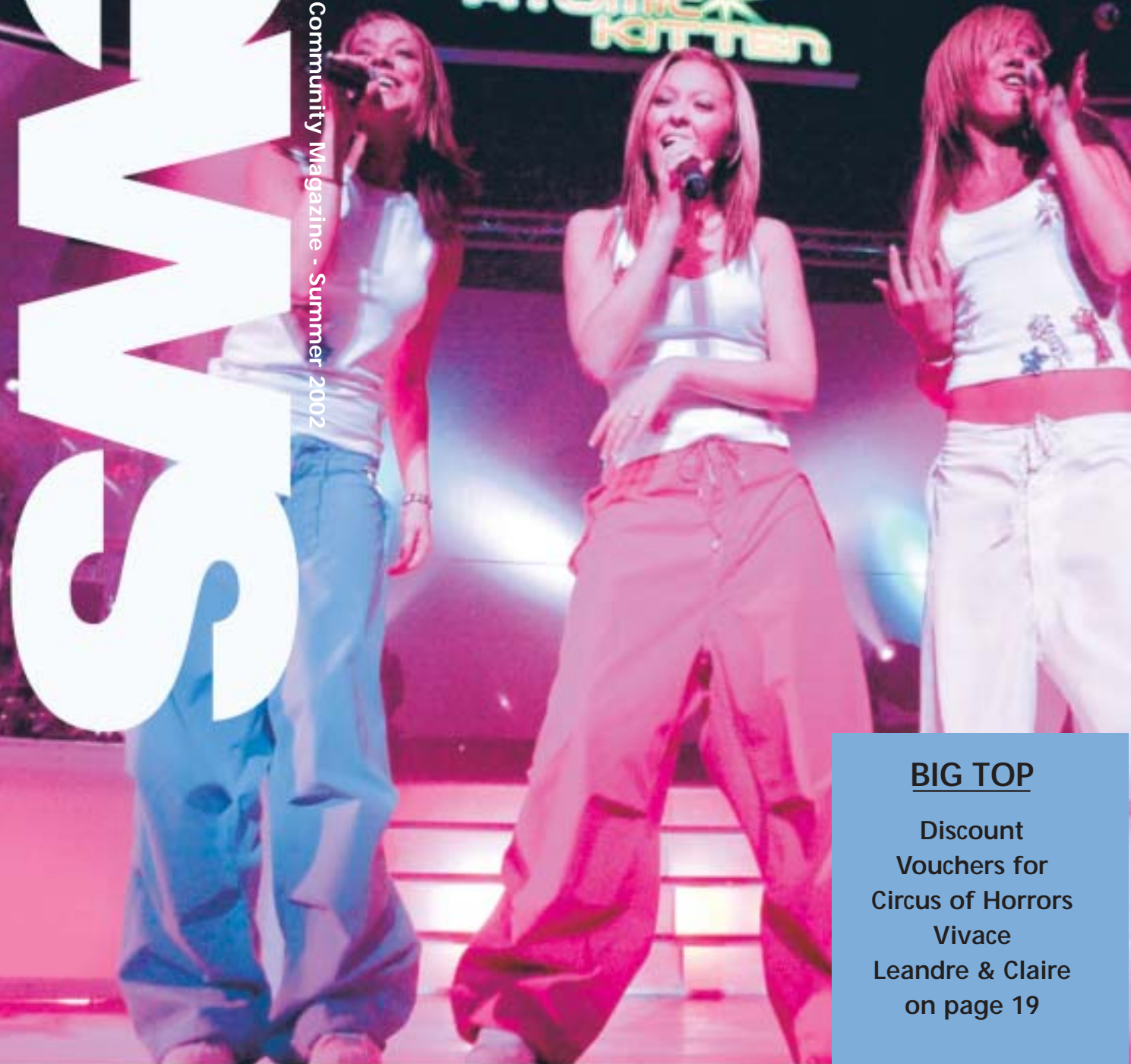


Stockton

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NEWS



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Stockton NEWS

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.

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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.

Community Farm prepares for a busy summer

Clarences Community Farm is gearing up to welcome scores of visitors this summer after being closed for almost 11 months due to flooding followed by the Foot and Mouth crisis.

The farm has already welcomed several new arrivals, including 40 lambs, several kid goats, five piglets and a boar.

And it has now secured funding for a new toddlers' playground, specifically designed for the under fives, which it is hoped should be up and running by the time Stockton News goes to print.

The funding has come from Stockton Council's Early Years Team. The farm has also received an additional £2,000 from the BP CATS Terminal, which is situated close to it. This will be used for future community projects.

A team of 29 volunteers from BP CATS also helped to pave the way for work to begin on the playground.

And Pinnacle, RC Ayres and AMEC, who all work at the BP CATS Terminal,

donated materials including paint, fence posts and fencing.

Dave Featherstone, Co-ordinator of Clarences Community Farm, said: "We really appreciate the volunteers coming in. It's tremendous as we have very few staff and when the team is here it means that we can spend time concentrating on our visitors."

The farm was forced to close in February 2001 because of flooding and was unable to reopen due to Foot and Mouth. All of the animals had to be re-housed but luckily none were lost.

Clarences Community Farm is open 365 days a year (mornings only on Christmas Day and Boxing Day). Opening hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday and 9am to 4pm, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free for individual visitors but a small charge of 25p per head is made for large parties.

The farm can also extend opening hours to accommodate groups by prior arrangement.

For more information, please call (01642) 391975.



Dave Featherstone, Co-ordinator of Clarences Community Farm, with Bob, Sarah Torrence and Trevor Barker from the BP CATS Terminal at Seal Sands and two of the farm's lambs.

Arts cash boosts Tees music project



From Teesside with Love, a local music development project, has had its funding extended so it can keep up its good work.

The project was set up two years ago to help local musicians break down the barriers preventing them from reaching wider audiences.

Now, with financial backing from Northern Arts and other local organisations, the project will continue its work with the further development of a record label and a new programme of touring showcases giving local musicians wider exposure.

The extension of the project will also see the development of Studio 64 and

the Georgian Theatre in Stockton as centres of excellence for music production and performance respectively.

Already more than 30 bands have benefited from the support of FTwL and it hopes that its developing record label and new tours will underpin the work already carried out and make it harder for the national music industry not to be aware of the wealth of talent in Teesside's music scene.

Paul Burns, Project Co-ordinator, said: "We see this as a real endorsement of our activity over the last two years. The new cash will allow us to take the project aims up to the next level and we should now start to see some

genuine attempts by the national industry to engage with our emerging artists."



Tristar Homes: the new name behind the Borough's housing



Tristar Homes, Stockton's new arms length housing management company, has taken over the day-to-day running of the Borough's Council homes.

The housing handover took place on April 22nd after tenants and leaseholders voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Council adopting this new approach to the management of its housing stock.

Under the scheme, which could bring with it additional borrowing approvals of a massive £44.5 million to pay for much-needed repairs and improvements to Council homes across the Borough, the Council still owns the housing, remains as landlord and tenants' existing rights and responsibilities are unchanged.

However, the Arms Length Company acts as the Council's agent to manage day-to-day landlord functions.

This means that Tristar Homes has taken over many of the housing services in Stockton Borough. These include customer service, repairs and maintenance, rent collection, providing homes and estate management.

Meanwhile, Stockton Council retains responsibility for housing needs and homelessness, housing benefits, anti-social behaviour, security and surveillance and private sector housing.

Since the transfer, the functions of the Housing Advice Service at 16

Church Road, Stockton, have been shared between Tristar Homes and the Council.

The telephone number for Tristar Homes is (01642) 393827. This number should be used for queries relating to the allocation of Council homes, transfers and waiting list administration.

The number for Homes To Go, the Council's "letting agency" is (01642) 393870.

The number for the Council's services, including housing needs, homelessness, sheltered accommodation wardens and schemes and special needs accommodation is (01642) 393748.

Tristar Homes is a non-profit making company made up of a board of tenants, Councillors and independent community representatives.

Its meetings are open to the public unless confidential items are being discussed. Anyone wishing to attend the next meeting from 12 noon to 2pm on Friday, July 6th is asked to call the Tristar Homes Customer Services team on (01642) 393839 to check the venue and to make staff aware of any special requirements, such as the need for wheelchair access.

Also, the company would be happy to post out agendas or items of interest from agendas on request.

Marathon success

A Stockton man has successfully completed his first marathon and raised £2,002 for the Multiple Sclerosis charity.

Dad of four, Robert Simpson, who lives on Stockton's Glebe Estate, had trained hard every other day for the mammoth run.

And £2,002 was a fitting figure for Robert, as the year 2002 is the very first time he has tackled the London Marathon.

He said that lots of people came up to him while he was training on the Glebe to ask him why he was always running around.

Robert could not break his training to talk to them so he would just like to let them know the reason why.

Robert decided to go for it at the suggestion of a friend and reached his target thanks to a donation from KP Foods, where he works as a process operator.

A member of the Billingham Marsh House Harriers running club, Robert has raised more than £5,000 for charity in the two years he has been running.



Robert pictured here with his family, left to right, step-daughter Sarah, son Michael, daughter Nicola and stepdaughter Gemma.

A commitment to quality

Stockton Council is one of the country's first local authorities to gain a prestigious international quality standard.

The leading international certification body, Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance (LRQA), has approved the Council's Property Development Division and Engineering and Transportation's Structures Section to the international quality standard ISO 9001:2000.

The award indicates the Council's commitment to providing good quality, best value services.

The Council's Property Development Division and Engineering and Transportation's Structures Section provides architectural design, building surveying and maintenance, demolition, and energy management services. Clients include other Council departments as well as external clients such as Teesside International Airport.

Councillor David Coleman, pictured below presenting the awards to Keith Noble, Assistant Director of Property Development, said: "We believe that having an effective quality management system in place will help us improve our performance and bring direct benefits to our clients.

"The Quality Management System allows us to plan, manage and improve our business processes so that we deliver services that meet both the requirements of our clients, and achieve our business objectives and targets."

The certification for the two services is the start of a rolling programme of implementing the ISO 9001:2000 standard across the Environment and Technical Services Department.



Council welcomes Japanese visitors

Stockton Council recently played host to two local government officers from the Japan Local Government Centre.

Ms Yuko Imai and Mr Toru Yamaguchi spent a two-week placement with the Council in order to gain an insight into local government in the United Kingdom.

They were especially keen to spend time with Stockton Council after hearing that the authority had been commended in the LGC Council of the Year Awards 2002.

During their visit they met the Mayor, Councillor Jean O'Donnell, had a tour of the Town Hall, visited the Splash leisure complex and also spent a day with Stockton Town Centre Manager Geraint Williams, as well as meeting many other people connected with the Council and its partners.

As part of the placement, Ms Imai and Mr Yamaguchi learned about the basic structure of Stockton Council and the services the local authority provides.

They thoroughly enjoyed their time at Stockton. Toru Yamaguchi said: "It has

been a wonderful experience to see how Stockton Council works and meet so many of the officers and Councillors.

"We have been very impressed with what we have seen and would like to thank everyone for their time in showing us around and being such warm hosts."

The Japan Local Government Centre was established in 1989 as an overseas office of the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations, based in Tokyo.

Every year the Japan Local Government Centre receives an intake of officers who are seconded to the UK for two years by their home authorities.



Yuko and Toru meet catering staff at Cafe 2K2 at Billingham Campus School.

Stockton scoops 'Best for Business' title

Stockton Council is celebrating its enterprising expertise after netting the North East Chamber of Commerce's "Best for Business" award 2002.

The top accolade is awarded to the local authority in the region which is judged to have provided the best service to the business community over the past year.

In order for the Chamber to pick an overall winner, each of its four area members nominates the Council in their particular sub region which they feel has provided the highest standard of service and shown the most innovative approach to working with business.

The four shortlisted authorities are then "mystery shopped" and a winner is chosen.

George Garlick, Chief Executive of Stockton Council, said: "We're delighted to have won this award, which is very much a reflection of the first-class service we aim to provide for the business community here in Stockton Borough.

"A thriving business environment is the key to a vibrant and dynamic area, which in turn attracts more investment and more jobs."

Chamber President John Irwin said: "We offer our warmest congratulations to Stockton-on-Tees as this year's recipients.

"The relationship between industry and the local authority in any area is crucial for successful economic development. Stockton have demonstrated an extremely high level of service to the business community and a willingness to work in co-operation to the benefit of all."

Stockton Libraries are a Beacon

Stockton Council's Library Service has been recognised nationally after it was named as one of just eight in the country to become a Beacon Council under the theme of libraries as a community resource.

Stockton's Library Service was chosen from a national field of applicants and will now go on to share its successful ways of working with other Councils nationwide.

The Beacon Council scheme is now in its third year and was established by the Government to select a number of leading local authorities to help spread best practice.

Beacon Councils are recognised as centres of excellence with best practice

characteristics that include a clear vision and strategy; high satisfaction with services; effective partnership working; a learning culture; engaging local communities and willingness to be innovative.

Stanley Bradford, the Council's Director of Education, Leisure and Cultural Services, said: "The library service has been an outstanding example of commitment to providing community facilities for many years.

"I'm delighted that the hard work and commitment of all the library staff has been recognised in this way. The service has been given a national profile which it richly deserves." Representatives of each section of the library service were awarded with a

certificate from the Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Jean O'Donnell at a special presentation in Stockton Library.

Stockton's Library Service already holds a Charter Mark for the quality of the service and is widely recognised for the excellence of its work and the high quality of the service provided.



Royal seal of approval for Queen's Campus

The Queen's Golden Jubilee tour received a right royal welcome when it arrived in the North East.

During a visit to the University of Durham Stockton Campus, the Duke of Edinburgh awarded it the title, 'Queen's Campus'.

The Campus was originally opened by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh in 1993 and during this latest visit the Duke of Edinburgh saw how the Campus has expanded from its original teaching and administrative block into a growing teaching and research community with a wide range of academic and residential buildings.

The Golden Jubilee tour saw the Queen visit the new Millennium Bridge across the River Tyne from Newcastle to Gateshead, Easington, Durham and Darlington.

The Royal visit coincides with the University of Durham Queen's Campus Stockton's tenth anniversary which will be celebrated in 2002-03 and the Queen's Jubilee.

Sir Kenneth Calman, Vice Chancellor of the University of Durham, said: "I am delighted that the Queen has given permission for us to use the title 'Queen's Campus'.

"It recognises the achievements that have come about through many partnerships involving the University and the community in and around Stockton.

"It adds a new distinction to the University and the Borough of Stockton's place on the map of higher education in the UK."

New moves to tackle under age alcohol sales

Recent changes to the law on illegal alcohol sales to under 18s have led Trading Standards Officers in Stockton to extend their enforcement programme of age restricted products to cover alcohol sales from off-licences.

To prevent illegal sales, local traders are urged to insist on proof of age before they sell products such as cigarettes, alcohol, lighter refills or fireworks to youngsters, to prevent illegal sales. Over 6,000 proof of age cards have now been issued to youngsters in Stockton.

Trading Standards Officer David Kitching is appealing for young people aged between 11 and 15 to get in contact if they are interested in helping with the Unit's enforcement programme, saying: "We would like to hear from any young people who can help us, or from anyone who has any information about traders who are willing to make illegal sales to youngsters. Please call (01642) 391105 or e-mail trading.standards@stockton.gov.uk



Triathlon triumph for Stockton



Athletes, spectators and organisers have hailed the Great North Triathlon, held in Stockton in May, as a huge success.

Some of the nation's top athletes descended upon the town to try for a place in the Commonwealth Games to be held in Manchester in July 2002 and, although the weather was not perfect, it did not dampen either their own spirits or those of the spectators.

For the uninitiated, Triathlon is an exhilarating multi-discipline sport where competitors race against the clock in three events. First is a swim, followed immediately by a cycle race and finally a run completes the punishing course with a run that would sap the stamina of the rest of us mere mortals.

The Stockton course included a carefully-supervised swim from the River Tees Barrage, followed by cycling and running courses through Thornaby's Teesdale area.

20 year-old Loughborough University student, Jodie Swallow, made a magnificent effort after having to complete the cycling part of the race with one foot out of its shoe plate. However, she overcame her difficulty in true world-class spirit to take first place in the women's elite race and securing a place in the Commonwealth Games.

Winner of the elite men was Simon Lessing who not only is guaranteed a place in the Games but also landed himself the British Championship title at the event.

The Trials also included races open to the public where, although distances are slightly shorter, the strength, stamina and fitness needed to take part is tremendous.

Debbie Curgenvin, Stockton Council's Sports Development Officer, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have hosted the Triathlon Trials. Here in Stockton we are perfectly placed to host such an event, as we did with the World Canoe Marathon Championships last year.

"We hope to build on our success and host many more world-class events in Stockton."

The Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Jean O'Donnell, made presentations to the worthy winners and the whole event was televised nationwide the following Sunday on BBC Grandstand.



Back to School

If you fancy sampling a taste of university life then there is something for you this summer.

The University of Durham Queen's Campus, Stockton, is running a Mature Student Summer Programme with a series of free events.

The events include money advice, interactive workshops, meeting current mature students, an Access Fair with Further Education Colleges and study skills and IT sessions.

The free programme will run over four days from Monday July 1-4 between 9.30am and 2.30pm. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, or to book a course, telephone Tracy Laidlaw on (01642) 335365 or Audrey Dougall on (01642) 385951. You can also e-mail c.a.rushall@durham.ac.uk

Library helps businesses branch into Europe

Stockton Central Library's Open Technology Centre is helping local businesses reach out to European markets, thanks to its designation as a European Public Information Centre (EPIC).

EPIC enables library staff to answer enquiries on European matters by guiding users to appropriate and accurate sources, such as CD-ROMs, reference books and free information leaflets. Where staff can't answer an enquiry themselves, they can call for assistance from the EC in London.

Supported by the EC, the EPIC service is ideal for business students or small and medium enterprises with an eye on European markets.

Details of EU policies, who's who in Europe and travel, trade, finance, education, training and employment statistics are all available.

Volunteers needed

Activities and Leisure Project Stockton (ALPS) is looking for volunteers to help disabled children and young people to take part in leisure and social activities in Stockton.

The scheme, managed by NCH, has been running for three years and has a waiting list of 30 young people, who are keen to join in with activities but need the support of people outside their immediate families.

Project co-ordinator Katie Platt has experience of matching volunteers with disabled young people and explained that the support from ALPS can lead to new friends, wider activities and a great deal of satisfaction for volunteers who discover hidden skills and talents.

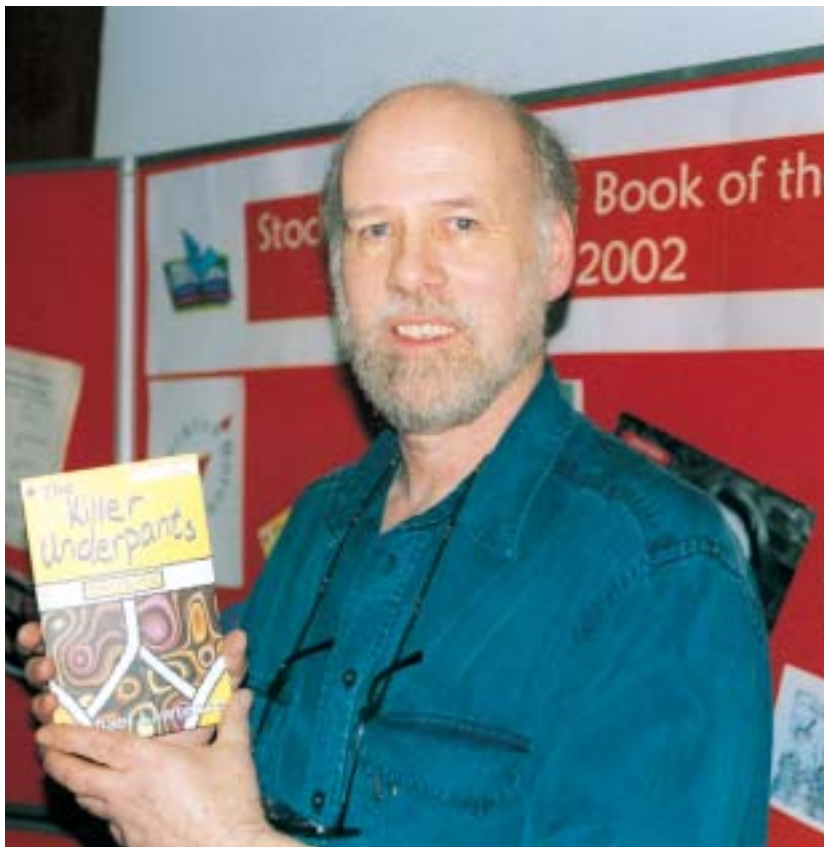
NCH offer a full recruitment and training package including expenses for travel. "Most volunteers provide two or three hours per week and fit this commitment around work, study and family life", says Katie.

For volunteers aged 18-25 years ALPS has links with the Millennium Volunteers Award. This scheme rewards young volunteers for their commitments in the community and can help them to get together, socialise and share experiences which adds extra value to a CV and shows potential employers their reliability and enthusiasm.

Some young disabled people prefer to work with older volunteers and find they gain confidence from the friendship and sense of security that an older person brings.

So, whatever your age or commitments, please spare some time to contact ALPS. You can find out more from Jenny, Katie or Rachel on (01642) 391708 or e-mail nealps@mail.nch.org.uk.

Children vote for killer underpants



Winner: Michael Lawrence with his book 'The Killer Underpants'

1,000 children from 25 primary, secondary and special schools across Stockton have taken part in Stockton Borough Libraries' Children's Book of the Year.

The youngsters eagerly read five children's books between January and March and voted for their favourite in what has become Stockton's own version of the 'Oscars'.

Their favourite book this year, is 'The Killer Underpants' by Michael Lawrence, who hails from Cambridgeshire and to date has 14 books under his belt.

The other nominations were Richard Kidd with 'Deadly Famous, Claire Chessell with 'Uncle Edward and the Egg', Stephen Elboz with 'A Land Without Magic' and Philip Ardagh with 'Awful End.'

Lesley King, Stockton Council's Libraries and Information Services Manager, said: "Stockton Children's Book of the Year goes from strength to strength and, as one of this year's authors said, 'Children in Stockton don't just like reading, they seem to love it'.

"We are proud to be instrumental in organising this event each year when the impact on children's reading is so obviously positive. The tension in the room as we all waited for the golden envelope to be opened and this year's winner announced was amazing."

Grateful thanks go to sponsors of the event - Safeway Stores Plc Ingleby Barwick, Badger for Books, Thornaby-A-Reading-Town and The Retired Members Association.

Wired for sound



A new multimedia business is putting Stockton at the forefront of music technology with the launch of one of the country's first computer-based recording studios.

Sanity Multimedia is based at Castlegate Quay and it recently opened its refurbished recording studios as part of its newly established multimedia business operation.

Paul Scott and Adam Sayers, both established musicians, run Sanity Multimedia and say their aim is to offer a full multimedia production package to bands and artistes.

The studio offers musicians access to the region's first fibre optic digital mixing system as well as the only Dolby Digital equipped studio in the North East.

"With the range of facilities we have, we are geared up for all musicians – from a young band's first rehearsal to a full surround sound commercial DVD

release and all markets in between," said Paul Scott.

"We have ambitious plans for the business. We intend to expand into the commercial sector by offering voiceovers, radio jungles, TV and film track mixing and recording. With our unique surround sound facility we can also support computer game sound design and DVD authoring."

The studios offer rehearsal rooms, video production, CD duplication and Internet exploitation.

Both Paul and Adam conducted extensive market research before setting up the Stockton business and they also contact Business Link's Tees Valley offices for advice.

Sanity Multimedia employs a full-time recording engineer, Jonathan Burrows, who is based at the Castlegate Quay studios and, as the business grows, Paul and Adam plan to take on more staff.

Tenants' emergency number change

Stockton Council tenants are being urged to note that the Tristar Homes Out of Hours telephone number for emergency repairs affecting their homes has been changed to a new freephone number.

The new number is (0800) 174491.

This replaces the previous number for this service, (01642) 674396, which is printed on tenants' rent cards. This number is no longer in use.

School gets off the ground

The Venerable Chris Hawthorn, who retired last year as Archdeacon of Cleveland, has performed the ground-breaking and blessing of Ingleby Barwick's new primary school.

The St Francis of Assisi Voluntary Aided Primary School is the first all new Church of England Primary School in the Diocese of York for almost a century.

Paul Bramley has been appointed the headteacher of the school, which is situated at the end of Lowfields Avenue. He said: "It is all about creating an environment where children can strive for excellence in all areas within a strong Christian ethos."

The school is set to open later this year.

Obituary

Harold Hicks, who represented the Blue Hall Ward on Stockton Council from 1979 to 1987, has died.

Mr Hicks was a long-serving official of the Union of Constructional Allied Trades and Technicians.

A former ambulance worker, he was a member of the Cleveland Committee for Aid to the Disabled. He also served as chair of the Stockton Trade and Labour Club.

New recycling sites

The Council's drive to increase the level of recycling activity has seen three new recycling sites introduced, bringing the total throughout the Borough to 32.

For information on the location of other sites, please call (01642) 393602.

The new sites are located at :

- Queens Social Club, Queens Avenue, Thornaby for glass
- Catholic Club, Wolviston Road, Billingham for glass
- Teesside Retail Park (rear of Toys R Us) for glass, paper, cans, textiles and books.

Tinkering with a tanker



Youngsters from Whitehouse Primary School and their tanker artwork.

Pupils from Whitehouse Primary School, Stockton, worked in partnership with business bosses recently when they opened their school gates and welcomed a road tanker from transport firm Stiller Group.

Thanks to the Education Action Zone, the youngsters were able to give the vehicle a colourful new look. The youngsters transformed the back end of the tanker with a unique colour picture incorporating animal designs.

The project is part of Tees Pride which aims to highlight ongoing projects and, as it says, bring a sense of pride into the community.

Tributes paid to Thornaby Councillor



Hundreds of local people paid tribute to Councillor Jean Kitchen after she died during May following a long illness.

Councillor Kitchen had represented the Village Ward in Thornaby on Stockton Council since 1990, and had also served on Thornaby Town Council. A former Chair of Stockton Council's Education, Leisure and Cultural Services Committee, Councillor Mrs Kitchen became Mayor of Stockton in 1999.

As the school secretary at Westbury Junior School, Jean was a familiar face to many Thornaby schoolchildren and she later moved to work at Stockton and Billingham College on Oxbridge Lane.

Throughout her career, she was a hard-working member of NUPE, now Unison, in which she became a workplace representative.

She also took an active part in many community organisations, in particular with various Guides and Brownies groups across the area.

Councillor Kitchen's funeral took place at Stockton Parish Church on Wednesday, May 22 and was attended by the Mayor and many Council colleagues.

Councillor Jean O'Donnell, the current Mayor of Stockton, said: "Jean's death is a great loss to the Borough. She was a great asset and a wonderful representative of Thornaby.

"She will be sorely missed by many people who will remember her tireless work for Stockton Borough over many years as Councillor and Mayor."

Councillors sign up to new code

Councillors have signed up to a new set of rules that they will be required to observe while carrying out their duties.

The new Code of Conduct is based on a national model and governs the manner in which all the Council's elected members carry out their duties. The Code also covers any co-opted members who have voting rights - Parish representatives on the Standards Committee, and Parent Governor representatives, for example.

Amongst its provisions, the Code requires Councillors and co-opted members to:

- record any personal interests, and gifts or hospitality they receive in public registers;
- declare personal interests before participating in Council business and not use their position improperly to gain an advantage;
- observe requirements for when they should not take part in Council business because of conflicts of interests;
- act in a manner which will not bring the authority into disrepute;
- promote equality, treat others with respect and not do anything that compromises the impartiality of those who work for the authority;
- not disclose confidential information or prevent others from gaining access to information to which they are entitled.

Adopted by councils across the country, the Code forms part of a new ethical framework introduced under the Government's programme to modernise local government.

All Stockton's elected Councillors and co-opted members had signed up to the Code before the deadline expired in May.

The origins of the Code lie in the principles of public life that were originally established by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, chaired by Lord Nolan.

The Code will help safeguard and raise standards of conduct in local government by providing Councillors and co-opted members with clear guidelines under which they must operate. It is designed to be easy to understand and straightforward for members to apply in their day-to-day duties.

The new rules will help provide the public with the reassurance they need that those they elect really are serving only the public interest.

In Stockton, as elsewhere, a local Standards Committee has been created to oversee the conduct in this Council.

Nationally, a new independent Standards Board will investigate breaches of the code, with an independent adjudication panel ensuring fair hearings.

Always something to learn in Stockton-on-Tees



Eager adults from across Stockton Borough were able to shop around for a learning experience to suit them during Adult Learners' Week.

Visitors were invited to stop off at Stockton Learning Shop to find out more about the range of courses available to adults.

Here, women were offered a New Start or could find out about Wednesday for Women courses, which are due to begin in September. These free "return to learn" courses, with childcare, are run by Stockton Council's Adult Education Service in conjunction with Stockton Sixth Form College and the University of Durham, Queen's Campus, Stockton.

IT taster sessions were also on offer, with the chance for budding David Baileys to learn how to use a digital camera proving very popular.

Stockton Council staff were offered the chance to learn a thing or two in the workplace with a Learning at Work Day, sponsored by the Campaign for Learning.

Early birds kicked off with a Tai Chi session in Stockton Central Library, supported by the Council's Director of Education, Leisure and Cultural Services, Stanley Bradford. Tutor Marie Paulinus introduced a fascinated audience to the health benefits of this form of exercise.

Pam Eccles, Learning and Skills Council Chief Executive, took her place as a model for a demonstration of colour and make-up at Thornaby Pavilion at a well-attended lunchtime session.

Workers were told how they could improve their survival prospects in literacy and numeracy through a practical introductory course in beauty skills.

And Billingham Forum was the venue for a back care demonstration, while a support workshop for staff needing tips on report writing, drafting work, spelling and punctuation took place in Thornaby Central Library.

Stockton Central Library, in partnership with Stockton Blind People's Voice, hosted a special event for local retailers, who were given the chance to find out how they could enhance the shopping experience for their blind and visually impaired customers.

They also picked up some top tips on how they could put themselves in line for the Stockton Blind People's Voice award for retailers.

This recognises services to blind and visually impaired shoppers in the Borough. Past winners have included Iceland and Boots in Stockton and Asda in Billingham.

The library also invited anyone interested in researching their family history to attend a special presentation outlining how it can help people to draw up their family trees.

Jocelyn McIntyre, Adult Education Officer for Stockton Council, said: "Learning at Work day provided a great opportunity for Stockton Council employees to take part in different events.

"These types of activities can be stimulating and demonstrate that learning at work is far more than just formal staff development."

Anyone wishing to find out more about courses across Stockton Borough, can call the Council's Adult Education Service, on (01642) 393535 or Stockton Learning Shop on (01642) 677036.

New company welcomes young people 2 the world of work

A dynamic new company called learn2work is set to bridge the gap between education and employment for young people in the Tees Valley.

The company, which was launched in April, aims to ensure that all young people in the Tees Valley area have a valuable and varied insight into the world of work.

With support from local businesses, schools and organisations which deliver existing projects, learn2work – which receives Government funding from the Learning and Skills Council Tees Valley – will offer high quality, practical and innovative work-related experiences to five to 19-year-olds from across the area.

Phil Saint, General Manager of learn2work, said: "All young people have the right to an excellent education – not just in the class room but also through, for and about work.

"Work-related experiences can help young people gain valuable new skills, raise aspirations, grow in self-confidence and make their learning relevant – even fun!

"This is an exciting time for the learn2work team. The business and education communities really want to work together more efficiently and effectively and we look forward to seeing our young people benefit".

Stop Press



The Development Agency for the North East of England

One North East has just signed up as a sponsor of the 15th Stockton International Riverside Festival, one of the North East's greatest community events. A big thank you and a warm welcome aboard.

Operation Magpie set to take flight

New regulations surrounding the disposal of scrap cars have led to Stockton Council joining forces with Cleveland Fire Brigade and Cleveland Police to launch Operation Magpie.

The European Commission is imposing strict new rules on the safe disposal of cars once they have reached the scrap yard. The End of Life Vehicle Directive may come into effect as soon as October and stipulates that vehicles must be disposed of in an environmentally friendly way. This includes the removal of all their fluids, oils, battery, brake fluid, tyres and bumpers.

"The consequence of this is that, rather than receiving money from the scrap merchant for your old car, owners may be faced with compensating the scrap merchants for the costs incurred in disposing of their vehicles," said Richard Bradley, from Stockton Council's Care For Your Area Team.

"The possible repercussions for the Council and the Borough's residents are that a larger number of vehicles will be abandoned, once owners realise the cost of disposing their vehicles and abandon them instead of paying the disposal costs."

To avoid this, Stockton Council has launched Operation Magpie with the Police and Fire Brigade to encourage owners of life expired vehicles to hand over their vehicles now, before the new Directive comes into force, as part of a Vehicle Amnesty Scheme.

"The amnesty means the Council will not impose any recovery charges on owners who ask us to remove their vehicles for them," added Richard Bradley.

"Those owners who take their cars to the scrap yard used by the Council, Thomson's, will be paid up to £10 per vehicle by the scrap merchant."

For further information, please contact the Care For Your Area customer service on (01642) 391959 or e-mail customer.services@stockton.gov.uk

Sporting venue for new physiotherapy service

A new physiotherapy service has been launched in the unusual setting of Stockton Sports Centre on the town's Talbot Street.

The service is provided in a room dedicated to physiotherapy, which has been kitted out with specialist equipment.

Diane Swan, Head of Rehabilitation Services at the University Hospital of North Tees, said: "The service is in a peaceful and calm environment and gives patients a different outlook on their problems.

"Our aim is to support and help patients in managing chronic conditions such as osteoarthritis by working through their own health programme of activities so that they can lead a relatively normal life."

The centre has received support from Stockton Council's Education, Leisure and Cultural Services Department and funding from North Tees Primary Care Trust.

It provides physiotherapy services for an increased number of patients and offers a six week programme of exercises which may include Aquarobics, Line Dancing, Yoga or Tai Chi.



The work of Marie Curie



The achievements of scientist Marie Curie have impacted on the lives of millions.

After she died, her research work was unearthed, and it was found that she had discovered something that would help to cure or alleviate the devastating results of cancer, namely radiotherapy.

Established in 1948, a charity was developed on the back of her work and the Marie Curie Charity was born.

Marie Curie nurses are specially trained to care for and help cancer patients, to be comfortable and pain free in the familiar surroundings of their own homes.

Carol Oliver, Fundraiser for the Marie Curie Charity, said: "It takes a special

kind of person to be a Marie Curie nurse. Not only are they responsible for the comfort and care of terminally ill patients, but they also work closely with the relatives and families to help them through what can be very difficult times."

The wonderful work of the Marie Curie nurses is completely free and the charity depends solely on donations to fund it.

If you would like to help raise funds for the charity by holding an event, the staff at the fundraising office in Chester-le-Street can offer help and advice on the best way to go about it, including tickets and posters to help you promote it. If you would like to make a donation, please call Carol Oliver on 0191-382-3311.

Right Royal celebration marks school's commitment to the community

High Clarence Primary School has scooped a coveted national award for the quality of its working relationships with members of the local community.

The Schools Curriculum Award recognises schools across the country who have placed themselves at the heart of the communities they serve.

And High Clarence Primary has now joined 250 other schools nationwide to have been awarded the accolade in its ninth round.

School representatives were invited to attend a celebration event marking their success at the Tate Modern gallery in London. HRH The Duke of Gloucester was also due to attend the celebration.

Meanwhile, just a few months before this, headteacher Jean Orridge met HRH The Princess Royal at a reception in London in celebration of the work the school had done in order to achieve a Quality Mark Award from the Basic Skills Agency.

Mrs Orridge said of the school's latest success: "In our submission we had to detail all the activities the school organises with various sections of our community.

"This includes such areas as Literacy, Numeracy and ICT training through partnership with Family Learning and our Home School Liaison Teacher Joan Branley.

"We're grateful to so many people, parents, governors and staff, who give of their time to the benefit of us all. We are particularly indebted to BASF who so kindly sponsored our submission fee.

"This has been a really successful few months for our school, and what a run-up to the Golden Jubilee with no less than two invitations to rub shoulders with royalty!"

The school, along with ten others in Stockton Borough, is also working towards the Investors in People Award. It hopes to achieve this by the end of the year.

Call centre training success



(Left to right) Sue Wells, Neta Training Provider; Louise Johnson; Brian MacDonald; John Green; Sue Shaw, Neta Training Provider; Christine Dawlins.

A group of residents from Thornaby have picked up a host of new skills after they successfully completed a five-week tailor-made training course in every aspect of call centre work.

The training was organised by the Five Lamps Organisation through its Jobslink network and delivered by Neta Training Centre.

It included keyboard skills, confidence building, customer service and

developing a professional telephone manner.

Sue Heslop, Jobslink Adviser at Thornaby Advice and Information Centre, said: "This course was a huge success and the residents now have the confidence to move forward into this area of work."

Any Thornaby residents wishing to find out how they might be able to access training opportunities through the Five Lamps Organisation can call (01642) 601044.



Guide to the galaxy starts here

The new Planetarium at Castle Eden Walkway is now open to groups of stargazers.

The facility, which was developed by Stockton Council in partnership with the Cleveland and Darlington Astronomical Society, complements an observatory already at the site.

And even on a cloudy day, the state-of-the-art resource can recreate the magic of a starry sky for spellbound visitors. To find out more about group or educational visits, please call Dr John McCue, Planetarium Director, on (01740) 630544.

Heroes wanted

We have all read or seen stories in the media about heroes who have gone to extraordinary lengths to save a life.

For instance, the parachutist who was knocked unconscious when he hit the cargo door as he jumped from a plane. As he plummeted to earth, a fellow skydiver saw his unusual posture, realised what had happened, and dived head first at 200 miles an hour to catch his friend and release his 'chute with seconds to spare.

It's an extreme tale but there are countless occasions when people in everyday situations display bravery or skill to save human life. Incidents such as road traffic accidents – or preventing them – saving someone from drowning, or restoring life when breathing has stopped are all too common.

The Royal Humane Society recognises acts like these through an award system. But, says the Society, bravery often goes unrecognised, particularly if the police have not been involved (the police submit many nominations because they attend most events where life is at risk).

The Society welcomes nominations from anyone. Each year, it makes around 350 awards for saving or attempting to save human life and a further 150 certificates for restoring life when breathing has stopped.

If you know someone you think might qualify for such recognition, the Royal Humane Society would like to hear from you. You can contact them by calling 0207 836 8155 or e-mail rhs@supanet.com

If you can't remember these, the Society simply says: "Directory enquiries has our number."

Smiles all round from Synetix

Billingham based chemical company Synetix brought some huge smiles to the faces of pupils and staff at Billingham South Primary school recently.

The company was awarded £1,000 for being named North East Company of the Year, organised by the Evening Gazette and Newcastle Journal, and has kindly donated the money to the school, where it will be spent on new science resources. The accolade followed the recent Export Award to the company at the 2001 Tees Valley Business Awards.

Synetix specialises in catalysts which speed up chemical reactions and processes.

The company is involved in cutting-edge research, and catalysts from Synetix already enable producers of confectionery to change the melting characteristics of chocolate, ensure that toys are bright and safe for children, and help provide the correct consistency for products such as shaving cream, soap and hair mousse.

Bob Coxon, Chief Executive of Synetix is delighted at being able to help the school and said: "It's a great pleasure to be able to pass this money over to a local school.

"We've supported Billingham South over the last few years and have also welcomed the children to our technical centre to show them just how science is used in the working world."



Dr Sally Jones from Synetix in the science department with four pupils from the school.

A friend in need



The Tees Valley Independent Visitors Scheme (Spurgeon's Child Care) is looking for people to volunteer to befriend young people being looked after by the local authority.

The charity, which currently has 27 volunteers, is looking for both men and women who can spare three to four hours a week to form a friendship with a youngster.

Training and support is given and agreed out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

Anyone interested can contact project manager Janice Pearson on (01642) 456282 or on jpearson@btclick.com

One of the Visitors Scheme volunteers wrote this poem:

Looking for a friend

*Who can say what happens in another person's mind?
Could we see behind their outward show what secrets would we find?
Our today is shaped by everything our yesterdays comprise.
If we've known love we can show it now – that comes as no surprise.
But if we've been treated badly, hurt by family or friends,
It still affects us now because that heartache never ends.
We need to know we're worthy of another person's care;
To know we have a friend who'll always listen and be there.
Could you become a volunteer and help a lonely child,
And see behind behaviour that can sometimes seem quite wild?
Then ring your local Spurgeon's and find out a little more.
You may be just the person that a child is waiting for.*

POLICE BEAT

The Troubleshooters - coming to your area soon!

Following the success of a recent pilot operation in Stockton District, a significant new initiative has been given the go-ahead, aimed at making Stockton a safer place.

The Stockton District Task Force, which will be staffed by a Sergeant and 10 Constables, will target identified 'hot-spots' of crime, drug-dealing and disorder. Their remit will be to deal positively with troublemakers and criminals and provide reassurance to the public.

Their 'beat' will be the highest crime and disorder areas across the Borough, as identified from information supplied by the local communities and from research done by the police crime analysts. In addition, the Task Force will work closely with the Local Authority Community Wardens, the newly formed Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators.

Superintendent Tom Stoddart, Head of Operations for Stockton Police, said " This unit will have a very specific role. The areas they will be operating in are all high crime and disorder areas and account for more than 40 % of our work. By cutting crime in these areas, it will reduce overall crime levels and reduce the workload on frontline officers."

All Task Force officers will carry 'calling' cards, which will be distributed to members of the public and criminals, but with a different message, depending on which side of the fence you are on! The calling cards will include a 'hotline' number for use by anyone who wishes to give information about crime or anti-social behaviour.

Superintendent Stoddart added, " I am confident that the Task Force will make a significant impact and will provide the people of Stockton District with the reassurance and confidence that they live and work in a safe community."



Liz Cops Stockton Liaison Job

Stockton Police have recently appointed PC Liz Chard as Minority Group Liaison Officer. Liz comes to Stockton, having completed over 12 years operational experience in the Langbaurgh District.

As well as providing support for operational officers, one of Liz's key roles will be to act as a link between Stockton Police and the hard to reach groups such as minority ethnic communities, asylum seekers, gay and lesbian groups and travelling communities. Her role will also involve overseeing investigations into racist and homophobic attacks and to provide support and assistance to victims.

PC Liz Chard can be contacted at Stockton Police Station on 01642 302370.



'The boy done good'



PC Barry Dixon has successfully completed his fundraising trek over the mountains of Chile and raised £2,700 pounds in the process for The Children's Trust. It was an extremely gruelling expedition, but Barry feels privileged to have completed it and for such a worthwhile cause. Thanks go to Barry for his efforts.

Barry's reward - we're getting rid of him!!

Actually, he has been selected to represent Cleveland Police with the United Nations International Police Task Force in Bosnia - Herzegovina where he will work for the next 12 months. Barry has proved to be a marvellous ambassador for Stockton Police and we wish him well on his secondment.

Garden Security

As summer approaches, please don't forget that garden accessories can make 'easy pickings' for thieves.

Lawn mowers, strimmers, garden tools and ornaments are frequently stolen and sold on. Don't make it easy for criminals to steal your prize garden possessions and consider these basic preventative measures:-

- Don't leave valuable garden equipment outside - lock them away in the shed or garage.
- Make sure your shed or garage is locked.
- Consider buying a stand alone shed alarm.
- Fasten your valuables together in the shed and secure them to the fabric of the building.
- Plant prickly bushes around the perimeter of your garden as an effective and environmentally friendly deterrent.
- Ensure your garden valuables are security marked or postcoded.

If you require any crime prevention advice, please contact the Crime Reduction Department at Stockton Police Station on (01642) 302271.

Excellent project helps young people get the most out of education

A series of events highlighting the work of Excellence in Cities, a Government initiative to raise performance in schools in urban areas, was recently staged in Stockton Borough.

The project, which involves all secondary schools, colleges and the Local Education Authority, was launched in the area in September last year with funding of £1.5 million per year pledged until 2004 to pay for a range of projects, schemes and initiatives.

The main aims of the programme fall into five strands. They are:

Excellence Challenge:

To encourage more pupils to continue their education after they leave school;

City Learning Centres:

To provide state-of-the-art ICT facilities for pupils and the wider community through new City Learning Centres*;

Learning Mentors and Learning Support Units:

To provide learning support through mentors on a one-to-one basis or in small groups and to provide support in schools for youngsters at risk of exclusion through a Learning Support Unit;

Small Education Action Zones (EAZs):

To bring together some secondary schools and their partner primary schools to work on programmes delivered through small EAZs;

Gifted and Talented:

To stretch the most able and talented pupils by providing extensive activities including specialist lectures, masterclasses and summer schools.

Keith Robinson, Director of Excellence in Cities in Stockton Borough, said: "There's a great deal of excellent work being done in our secondary schools and we'd like to make sure that parents across the Borough are aware of all the opportunities we can offer their children.

"We cater for young people of all abilities and help them to overcome problems as well as encouraging and challenging them to achieve their full potential."

Stephen Timms MP, Minister of State for School Standards, said: "There is some extremely valuable work being done both in and beyond the classroom in Stockton-on-Tees.

"Stockton's Excellence in Cities team are striving to help young people in the area to get the most out of their education and I welcome the fact that they're also taking the time to make parents aware of the opportunities on offer to their children through this excellent initiative."

Members of the media were invited to a number of events as part of the Awareness Week, which ran from Monday, April 29th to Friday, May 3rd.

The EiC team showcased their work with the help of a 70-year-old computer whizz, who was making use of the facilities at Stockton City Learning Centre; pupils from The Village Primary School, Thornaby, who were tucking in at their Breakfast Club; and Gifted and Talented youngsters from Bishopgarth and Blakeston schools who were watching special presentations by industrial chemists.

Meanwhile each secondary school in the Borough mounted a display of its EiC activities, which was placed in the foyer for parents and visitors to view.

Keith Robinson added: "All of the hard work of many people to promote Excellence in Cities throughout Stockton Borough seems to have really paid off and local communities are beginning to talk about the good things which are happening in our schools.

"We're always eager to give parents as much information as we can about our work. That way they know we're here and they know how our programmes are helping their children."

*There are two new CLCs in Stockton Borough, one sited at Billingham Campus School to serve the Borough's

secondary schools and one at Grangefield School which is open to secondary schools from across Teesside, as well as to the local community.

Anyone wishing to find out more about the work of Excellence in Cities can call the team on (01642) 397320.



George Kirby, a 70-year-old computer whizz, at Stockton City learning Centre.



Pupils at a Breakfast Club in The Village Primary School, Thornaby.



Dr. David Rowe, of Oxford Chemicals, with pupils at Blackeston School.



Above: Youngsters from Whinstone, St Therese de Lisieux and Ingleby Mill primary schools in Ingleby Barwick – joined Stockton's Mayor, Councillor Jean O'Donnell, Stockton South MP Dari Taylor and local cyclists to open the latest £10m stage of the South Stockton Link Road in April. The children won a competition to name the new 1.6km dual carriageway and cycle network, which links Ingleby Barwick with Bowesfield, as Queen Elizabeth Way and its new River Tees crossing as the Jubilee Bridge.

Work starts on Concorde Way

Construction work to convert Concorde Way, at Preston Farm, into a dual-carriageway, is now under way.

The project is closely linked with the construction of the South Stockton Link Road, now named Queen Elizabeth Way, which opened at the end of April, and will give traffic coming from the Ingleby Barwick direction easier access to the A66. The work is expected to be complete by next spring.

At the other end of Queen Elizabeth Way, housebuilder Persimmon Homes has announced that it will finance the construction of Myton Way, giving a direct link to the centre of Ingleby Barwick. Work is expected to start in spring 2003 ready for opening that autumn.

Together, the new roads will form part of a £31 million route that by 2006 will ultimately connect Ingleby Barwick with Stockton Town Centre and the A66 via Bowesfield and Preston Farm Industrial Estates.

AVECIA advances medicine manufacturing on Teesside

Billingham company Avecia is making rapid progress in its plans to build 'Multiplex', one of the world's most advanced biologic medicines manufacturing facilities, in the area.

Up to 300 new, science-based jobs, will be generated by the project, in addition to work on construction.

Since announcing the £70 million investment programme in February, the company has already begun construction of the first phase of the project, at Avecia's existing site on Belasis Avenue. The first steelwork due to appear as we went to press.

This phase is expected to open during 2003 and a second phase will make the 60,000 sq ft facility the largest of its type in the world when it is complete in 2005.

Billingham was one of two sites considered for the location for this high-tech facility – the other was near Toronto, Canada.

The plant will produce medicines for the treatment of cancer, diabetes, heart disease and other illnesses.

Stockton Council and the Tees Valley Development Company each contributed £12,500 towards the cost of a business plan for a Regional Selective Assistance application.

This application was successful and Avecia was awarded £6.5 million by the Government last December. Additional funding was secured from One NorthEast and the Tees Valley Learning and Skills Council.

This project is an excellent example of local and regional organisations working together to secure investment funding in the region.



Technology helps carers

Carers in Teesside will benefit from the computer skills of an award-winning group.

The five people who have all been carers for people suffering from dementia, were awarded £9,904 to be given in two stages from the After Dementia Millennium Award Fund and are now setting up a support system with the help of technology.

Gaye Rennie, Derrick Corner, Marion Bettinson, Bridget Garbutt and Anthony English will learn to design and set up a web page for dementia carers and then pass on their new computer skills to others at Clevearc Training (Cleveland Alzheimer's) in Stockton.

If you would like to know more about the work of the group, please call (01642) 357599.

Your Region, Your Choice

Revitalising the English Regions

'Home Rule'

proposed for North East



The call for a North East parliament has been made by Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott as he launched the Government's White Paper on regional assemblies.

Visiting the University of Durham Queen's Campus Stockton, he called for the people of the region to back the idea and take a lead for the rest of the country to follow.

The proposals laid out in the White Paper titled "Your Region, Your Choice: Revitalising the English Regions", aim to bring decision-making closer to the people and therefore make government more efficient and effective.

Speaking at the launch, Mr Prescott said: "Local people will have a regional voice and more control. The assembly will have its own funding, its own judgement – at present priorities and strategies come from central government. The economic strategy would be decided by the people in this region instead of civil servants in London."

The White Paper says regional assemblies would have powers to make a real difference in key areas such as jobs, economic development, transport, housing, culture and the environment.

It says bureaucracy would not be created where people vote to have an elected regional assembly, as the Government would move to wholly unitary local government.

The assembly would also be able to negotiate for European grants and other funding for projects in the region.

Tony Flynn, Chair of the North East Assembly, said: "For many years the North East region has had aspirations for a regional assembly and I believe there is a groundswell of support. Greater control over our own affairs will have significant benefits for the North East. Priorities in many areas can be better set by the region rather than from Whitehall, and there will be every opportunity to do things the North East way.

"A Regional Assembly would also strengthen the region's position in Europe, with powers on a par with Scotland and Wales, giving the North East control of significant European funds."

Bob Gibson, Vice Chair of the North East Assembly, said: "Building on the success of devolution in Scotland and Wales, I believe that regional government for the North East will bring the region a new level of public scrutiny and democratic accountability.

"Devolving powers from Westminster and Whitehall will bring decision-making and strategic planning for the North East to the North East. In doing so, it will give the people of our region

a political voice and a real say over decisions which matter to them on issues such as jobs, transport, housing, culture and the environment."

While at the University of Durham Queen's Campus Stockton, Mr Prescott and the then Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Region, Stephen Byers talked to members of Stockton Youth Forum who had the chance to put their questions to them.

Matthew Campbell, Arfan Rahouf, Mark Davis, Dawn Pott, Katy Hutchcraft and Katie Brown had a private meeting with the Ministers and used the opportunity to discuss matters ranging from the environment to how young people could play a part in regional elections and how a regional assembly would work with local authorities and the community.

In response to the youngsters' questions, John Prescott said: "We do not want a regional government to be taking powers away from local government – we are giving powers from the centre."

The White Paper lays out how a regional assembly would be set up and says the assemblies would have between 25 and 35 members with a leader and cabinet of up to six members chosen by, and fully accountable to, the full assembly.

Before an elected regional assembly is established in a region, a referendum must be held and a majority of those voting must be in favour of having an assembly.

The 15th Stockton International

Riverside Festival

26 - 28 July and 1 - 4 August

World class performers from the UK, Europe and the Commonwealth are set to leave an indelible imprint on the memories of all who attend the 2002 Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF).

Coinciding with the Manchester Commonwealth Games, SIRF 2002 is playing a full part in the national Spirit of Friendship Festival that is celebrating the Games, with companies from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Ghana in Stockton to make their mark.

This year, SIRF will be in two distinct parts – an opening weekend of music (26-28 July) leading up to the five-hour Feel The Noise Live pop party on the Riverside (see below), followed by four days of fantastic street theatre (1-4 August) which culminate in an incredible Festival finale. And to keep you going throughout the whole Festival period, a brand new Festival Big Top at the Trinity site will feature no fewer than 31 music, circus and theatre shows in 11 days from 25 July.

The programme reflects the development of the Riverside Festival, which will feature more community involvement than ever before. "Every year, we include something new and different every year – it's what the people who visit the Festival have come to expect – and there are certainly some fresh ideas for 2002," said Frank Wilson, Artistic Director of the event.

"We are bringing back some past successes, such as eRTH and pa-BOOM for the finale, plus Leandre and Claire, Circus of Horrors and, of course, the Wildcats in the Big Top. At the same time, we are also looking in new directions, particularly with the community events, where several Stockton-based groups are now involved.

"Few festivals anywhere can match the variety and quality of performers on show in Stockton during the Riverside Festival. In part that's thanks to the support of the Regional Arts Lottery Programme of Northern Arts, which has enabled us to bring in no less than five extra leading street theatre companies."

BIG TOP

At the Trinity Gardens site, the Festival Big Top hosts three evening music concerts during the opening Music Weekend. On 26 July, the Paul Weller Anthology feature musical highlights from the great man's career, which includes hits from The Jam and Style Council through to his solo career. Teesside's finest, The Wildcats of Kilkenny, make their near-obligatory appearance on 27 July, and Beatlemania make for a FAB-tastic evening on 28 July.

Returning to Stockton after four years, the massively popular Circus of Horrors bring their excellent new show to the Festival Big Top, with Ringmaster Haze, his hard rockin' live band and an amazing gallery of grotesque circus characters.

Two stunning circus and theatre shows also grace the Festival Big Top. Premiered last year in Germany, "Vivace" features brilliant performances with humour, sophistication, good looks and some absolutely amazing skills from some of Europe's leading circus artists to a live musical accompaniment (30 July-4 August).

Leandre and Claire are great Festival favourites with their superb outdoor performances. Now they've moved inside the Big Top with a full-length show, "Madame et Monsieur" (1-3 August). This great international success is magical and, like so much else in the Festival, not to be missed.

Why not take advantage of our special discount vouchers (see opposite)? Our "Early Bird" vouchers offer two tickets for the price of one at any Leandre & Claire or Vivace show – but hurry, we can only accept the first 50 vouchers presented for each show. There are also vouchers for selected Circus of Horrors shows. Children must be accompanied by an adult for all the Big Top performances.



STREET CREDIBILITY

Street theatre is at the heart of SIRF's international reputation and there are some real treats in store for 2002. The Spirit of Friendship Festival programme includes the UK's biggest ever showcase of Canadian street performers, in a partnership with festivals in Montreal, Edmonton and Vancouver.

Comedy (Rock-Paper-Scissors), puppets (Cabaret Decadance), magic (Ron Pearson), juggling (Bill Ferguson) and fantastic percussion (Scrap Arts Music) are all included.

Amazing creatures will stalk the streets as Gait (New Zealand) come to town while Kakatsitsi's infectious African rhythms and impromptu drumming workshops will delight local people. Dislocate (Australia) provide aerial thrills with "Mission Improbable" and up-close physicality with "3 Speed Crunchbox".

Europe also provides some amazing festival moments, none more so than German company Angie Hiesl Produktion whose 'x-times people chair' will be found in some surprising locations. Definitely one to bring a camera for!

Equally thought-provoking, Whalley Range Allstars invite you to join them in hospital for "Headquarters" or a five-person, four-poster bed for "Bedcases".

This year's outdoor stage will be at Municipal Buildings. As well as Commonwealth performers we welcome back one of the funniest men ever to step on stage in Stockton, the brilliant Elliot who was last here in 1996. Fellow Belgians OkidOK2's first Stockton appearance with "Slips Experience" should be just as memorable. And you might recognise Kaal & Haar as one half of last year's big hits Bomba Brothers. By night, Spanish company Alkimia 130's show "Arde" combines an Oriental air of mystery with spectacular fire effects.

After injury forced the cancellation of last year's festival appearance, Hush Hush Hush will be "Dancing in the Streets" with an incredible display of high energy breakdance, hip hop and body popping.



The Lunatics (Holland) live up to their name with a show, "www. sandman.nl", which defies easy description. Just imagine a world of sand dunes, giant satellite receivers and racing dune buggies, all dropped down in front of Trinity Church!

VERSACE

Stockton's High Street is the place to be on Saturday 3 August, when hundreds of local people join in the colourful and noisy Community Carnival. The theme this year is "Homage a Versace" and amongst the participants you will see 30 stilt walkers, 20 drummers with stylised costumes and some wild hair in a choreographed performance. Watch out also for the giant puppets of Brazilian group Gueto Poetico, courtesy of the Cornerhouse Project and Mill Lane Partnership.

All these come on top of a tremendous Festival Fringe which not only has its regular music in the Georgian Theatre and Green Dragon Yard but this year also includes many extra events. Stockton & Billingham College host a 'Pop Idol Summer School' in the Green Dragon Yard; there's a multi-media art installation called 'Dissolve' at the Georgian Theatre (27/28 July) featuring dancers from Egglescliffe School, plus performances from Stockton-based dance groups LAMM and Dance Action in Wellington Square on August 2.

Regenr8 brings the first Christian live music celebration of its type to the festival (Riverside Stage on Monday 29 July). And the popular 'Shutterbugs' photography is back from the Focus@Gallery, with its 10,000th picture expected this year.

To end it all in style, this year's finale is a specially commissioned Anglo-Australian co-production involving eRTH Visual and Physical (Sydney) and pa-BOOM (Manchester). Called "Bushfire", it includes fantastic pyrotechnic effects, a fire storm, a forest of gigantic inflatable prehistoric plants and a 5 metre long giant lizard. Make sure you are on Stockton's Riverside to see it as the lights go out on what promises to be a memorable SIFR 2002.

STARS NAMED FOR 'FEEL THE NOISE LIVE'

Tickets for this year's 'Feel The Noise Live' pop concert, held on Sunday 28 July as part of the Stockton International Riverside Festival, have been quickly snapped up after a host of star names were announced for the event.

Atomic Kitten, the Lighthouse Family, Liberty X, 3SL and the Sugarbabes will all be at the event, which is organised by 96.6 TFM and Stockton Council.

For the first time, the free five-hour pop extravaganza on Stockton's Riverside will be a fully ticketed event, with a capacity crowd of 25,000. As Stockton News went to press, the last of the free tickets had been snapped up.

Cath Ellington 96.6 TFM's Managing Director commented: "Feel The Noise Live is going to be a fantastic pop concert and it's a great opportunity for 96.6 TFM to bring the very best musicians and performers to Stockton.

"This year, for health and safety reasons, everyone wanting to come along needs a ticket. By making this a ticketed event we can ensure that everyone attending will have a fun and safe time."



Circus of Horrors

At the Big Top, Trinity Gardens, Stockton

Early Bird Voucher 2 tickets for the price of 1

Available ONLY for the following shows:
Thursday 25 July at 6pm & 9pm
Sunday 28 July at 9pm
Monday 29 July at 6pm & 9pm

Available only on production of this voucher (one pair of tickets per voucher); not valid in conjunction with any other voucher or offer. Where the two tickets have a different price, the free ticket will be the one with the lowest value.

Vivace

At the Big Top, Trinity Gardens, Stockton

Early Bird Voucher 2 tickets for the price of 1

Available ONLY for the first 50 vouchers redeemed for each show:
Tuesday 30 July at 8.15pm
Wednesday 31 July at 6pm
Thursday 1 August at 6pm
Friday 2 August at 8.15pm
Saturday 3 August at 3pm
Sunday 4 August at 6pm

Available only on production of this voucher (one pair of tickets per voucher); not valid in conjunction with any other voucher or offer. Where the two tickets have a different price, the free ticket will be the one with the lowest value.

Leandre & Claire

At the Big Top, Trinity Gardens, Stockton

Early Bird Voucher 2 tickets for the price of 1

Available ONLY for the first 50 vouchers redeemed for each show:
Thursday 1 August at 8pm
Friday 2 August at 3pm
Saturday 3 August at 6pm

Available only on production of this voucher (one pair of tickets per voucher); not valid in conjunction with any other voucher or offer. Where the two tickets have a different price, the free ticket will be the one with the lowest value.

Billingham brings together the old and the new - from the old village green to the high-tech chemical industries which have helped put the town on the world map.

The older part of Billingham lies about a mile from the newer town centre and just near the old green is the Saxon tower of the Church of St Cuthbert - testament to the many centuries of settlement in this part of the Borough.

The town centre is now set to benefit from wide-reaching regeneration with plans to include a new 'gateway' combining leisure, cultural, learning and health facilities in an improved and enhanced John Whitehead Park.

The town centre itself will be upgraded and the ultimate aim is to provide better facilities for all sectors of the community.



In and a



Plans setting out the regeneration proposals have been displayed at a series of public exhibitions which attracted around two thousand people, and a recent survey showed that two thirds of people taking part in a public consultation supported the ideas .

Barry Woodhouse, acting chair of the Billingham Regeneration Partnership Board, the body which is leading the town's regeneration and whose members represent a wide cross-section of the community, said: "These proposals provide an opportunity to create a facility that is the envy of the area. The results of the survey provide a firm indication that local people want to see this vision become a reality and it is very pleasing that a clear majority support the plans.

"The people of Billingham are clearly saying they want the town to be an example of forward thinking as it was when the town centre and Forum were first built. If we all pull together Billingham's pride as a town with the best facilities will be restored."

"We recognise that the views of some people differ on what facilities should be provided."

Billingham Forum, which is home to the town's theatre, ice rink, pool, gymnasium and bars, has been a much-loved facility in the town for many years.

Under the new plans, the Forum site would make way for a new superstore and provisions would then be made for a separate learning, leisure, cultural and health facility.

For many years Billingham has been closely associated with the chemical industry. Over the past two decades, however, the face of industry has changed in the town.

Where as the name of ICI was once synonymous with Billingham, new companies such as Syntex, Avecia, Huntsman and Terra have now established bases here, making the town an international centre. It is also renowned for nature conservation.

Away from the town centre, Billingham is home to some amazing wildlife and boasts several wildlife reserves.

Recently, the Billingham Beck Valley Country Park was guaranteed Government help for the next ten years.

The Stockton Council run park is on the site of a former rubbish tip. It was one of the first sites in the region to sign up to a Countryside Stewardship agreement when it first opened more than a decade ago.

David Askey, a site ranger at the reserve, said: "The Park has a wide range of unusual plant and animal species. One survey found 18 species of molluscs under just one bridge.

"The Countryside Stewardship scheme allows us to manage the site for nature

conservation and we do a wide variety of work from annual cutting to the restoration of ditches and hedgerows."

Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park is another fine example of the town's green open space.

Now local people are helping to shape the future of the 300-acre site after a public consultation to find out what people want from the park.

Issues ranging from dog walking and tree planting were discussed at a series of public meetings in the spring.

"We wanted to make the consultation transparent so that people who use the park can see what we are doing as it is important to get people involved and give them a sense of ownership," said Martin Nunn, a countryside ranger at the park.

And across at Low Grange, pupils of St. Michael's School and local residents have helped design improvements to the newly upgraded park, including seating and a new bridge.

Billingham International Folklore Festival remains as popular as ever and attracts artistes and dancers from across the globe each year.

This year's Festival will take place from August 10-18 in a celebration of traditional dance from all corners of the world.

Groups including the National Cultural Promotional Academy from Nepal will be on stage along with the Veszprem Dance Group from Hungary and Portugal's Folklore Dance Group of Meadela.

around Billingham



The town centre is now set to benefit from wide reaching regeneration.

The town will also come alive to the sound of music during the 52nd Annual Billingham Show and Old Carnival on September 14 and 15. The popular community show will feature arena displays and horticultural and homecraft tents on the Old Billingham Green.

Organisers are still looking for acts and turns to do a spot at the carnival as well as people to hold charity stalls.

For more information contact Roger Black on (01642) 533089.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Jackie Meloni Child Protection Team Manager

As Child Protection Team Manager for Stockton Council, Jackie Meloni has certainly dealt with her fair share of traumatic cases and difficult decisions.

Jackie has worked at Stockton Council, and before that Cleveland County Council, for the past ten years and now heads a team of eight social workers, four social work assistants and two part-time clerks.

Each day the team receives around four or five child protection referrals from schools, health workers, doctors or the general public, plus a similar number of possible referrals - all of which need to be looked into.

Jackie also spends an average of two days a week in court - whether it be before a magistrate to seek an Emergency Protection Order or to apply an Interim Care Order when a child is brought into Social Services care until the courts have made a final decision.

"A Child Protection Referral occurs when a child has suffered an incident of significant harm - whether that be physical, sexual or by neglect. A referral can also be made when there is a risk of physical or sexual abuse," explained Jackie.

Dealing with such cases day in day out would test the resolve of most people and Jackie admits it can be tough.

"I love my job as it is very varied - when things get bad you have to remind yourself of the successes.



"Things have changed in the time I have been doing this job - for instance we now have more children whose lives have been affected by drugs," said Jackie.

"I love my job as it is very varied - when things get bad you have to remind yourself of the successes."

When Jackie and her team receive a Child Protection Referral, many other agencies are then brought in including health, education, police and wherever possible the child's teacher, who will have background knowledge of the youngster involved.

A social worker will carry out a case assessment, which looks at the family as a whole rather than just the child. Every youngster on the Child Protection Register is visited at least every two weeks.

Many of the children in Social Services care are there on a voluntary basis where the family has agreed they need assistance. Wherever possible, youngsters are placed with family members once police checks have been carried out to ensure that it is a suitable environment.

"This is a tough job and there are always staff shortages - to become a social worker you would need to study for two years. To work in child protection you must have a further two years' experience and, because of the negative media social workers can get, some people are reluctant to consider it as a career.

"Sometimes when my staff feel they have not made any progress I ask them if the child they were dealing with smiled at them that day," said Jackie.

"When they say yes, I tell them they have made a positive difference to that child."

Ceremony welcomes new Mayor to an 800-year-old line



Councillor Jean O'Donnell receives her chain of office from Mayor's attendant Kevin Bowdrey.

Stockton's new Mayor, Councillor Jean O'Donnell, was inaugurated at a ceremony at Billingham Forum during April.

Although open to the public and an important date in the Council's year, it's an event that goes largely unknown outside the authority and the 200 or so guests who attend.

The event is an important part of the Annual Council Meeting, which also agrees the membership of the Council's Cabinet and other committees.

In Stockton, the list of Mayors can be traced as far back as 1380, when Richard Mounce held the post. Today, the Mayor holds the largely ceremonial office for a 12-month term. Mayors also choose a Mayoress (or, for a female Mayor, an Escort) to accompany and support them during this year.

As the Borough's first citizen, the Mayor takes on a hundreds of engagements during the civic year. These include chairing meetings of the Council, greeting visitors from across the globe, visiting many local organisations and individuals, and performing numerous opening ceremonies at a variety of events and facilities.

It's a hard and tiring task but one which most Mayors thoroughly enjoy. As retiring Mayoress, Mrs Olwyn Bean, who had escorted her husband to many civic events, said: "It has been a fantastic year. It is such a privilege and an honour to be Mayoress – but I am relieved it's over."

The new Mayor, Councillor O'Donnell, first came to Billingham almost 50 years ago and still lives there today. At her inauguration, she said she was 'honoured' to be named as first citizen and commented on the many changes she has seen in the area over the years.

She said she is "proud to be part of a Council where regeneration and improvement are the watch words."

This year's ceremony paid tribute to the Queen Mother and others who had passed away during the year – former Lord Lieutenant David Grant, Councillor John McCoy and Eileen Jackson, a Freeman of the Borough.

Retiring Mayor, Councillor Terry Bean, received a vote of thanks and there were short readings by the Mayors' chaplains. At intervals, young musicians of the Tees Valley Music Service string section expertly played a medley of traditional tunes.

Stockton News asked some of the guests for their impressions of the annual ceremony.



"I found it nerve wracking at first but once people applauded I really appreciated it." Mietek Posmyk, 14, Northfields School, Billingham, who was performing with the Tees Valley Music Service.



Another musician, 14-year-old Donna Wilson of St Michael's School, said the experience had been interesting: "I've never taken part in anything like this before and it was an honour to play in front of so many important people."



Professor Roy Boyne, Vice Chancellor of the University of Durham Queen's Campus Stockton, feels the occasion emphasises a sense of community, purpose and order. "It's nice to thank people for what they have done," he said.



For Tina Mansell, of ASDA, Thornaby, it was her second Mayor-making. "I enjoyed it," she said. "We are a big community store and always invite the mayor to our store, so it's nice to see the other side of the Mayor's job."

The new Mayor has nominated three charities to be supported by fund-raising events during her year of office. One is a support group which helps children with the rare Cornelia de Lange Syndrome, which affects facial features, hands and feet and can also lead to bowel abnormalities and heart defects.

The Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Association and Cleveland Ambulance Care will also benefit.

Top five status for Stockton Council



Above: Stockton Council's Legal Team.

Stockton Council has been recognised as one of the country's leading local authorities after being shortlisted for a top national award.

Stockton Council saw off competition from more than 300 Councils across Britain to be shortlisted for 'Council of the Year' in the competition run by the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) magazine.

The Council was also shortlisted for an award in the category of Legal Team of the Year in the same competition.

The LGC awards celebrate excellence of service and commitment to the local community, and judges visited Stockton Council to meet with partner organisations, Councillors and staff at all levels.

At the awards ceremony in London, Stockton Council did not bring home the title in either category but were commended in both categories by the judges and everyone involved recognised the achievement of being one of just five Councils in the running for the elite award.

"Our success in being among the final five really is something we can all take pride in," said George Garlick, Chief Executive of Stockton Council.

Julie Grant, Assistant Director (Legal) at Stockton Council, said: "Just to be

shortlisted was wonderful news as it recognises the legal department as being at the forefront of everything the Council does.

"A great deal has already been achieved, including a Charter Mark for local land charges. We also achieved an excellent three star rating in the Legal Best Value Review Inspection and the Audit Commission has indicated that the service is likely to improve even further. This is all down to the skills and dedication of the whole team."

The title of Council of the Year was won jointly by two local authorities – Camden LBC and Blackburn with Darwen.

Richard Vize, editor of the Local Government Chronicle, said: "The significance of the LGC awards, especially in recent years, has been the standard of the competition. The standard of management in councils has improved enormously. Competition is tough as the awards are very well contested.

"It is also a very tough decision deciding who is to be declared the winner and all nominations are investigated rigorously. The chair of the awards is Sir Andrew Foster, controller of the Audit Commission and he sets very exacting standards.

"Any council that is shortlisted can be justifiably proud of its achievements."

£50,000 opportunity for young people

Stockton Council's Youth Service has been granted £50,000 from the New Opportunities Fund for its Activities for Young People summer programmes over the next three years.

The Activities for Young People programme enables partnerships to deliver activities over the summer months for school leavers who do not have a clear path into further education or work.

In Stockton the young people will be offered the opportunity to develop self-confidence, self-esteem, team working skills, leadership, communication and problem solving.

The funding will allow the recruitment of four part-time workers to hold weekly three hour sessions, which will build up to a week long residency in Cumbria. Here the young people will be able to take part in activities such as abseiling, caving and gorge walking.

The Youth Service will also assign each young person a personal tutor via the Youth Service, who will discuss career options and help with interview technique and CV writing.

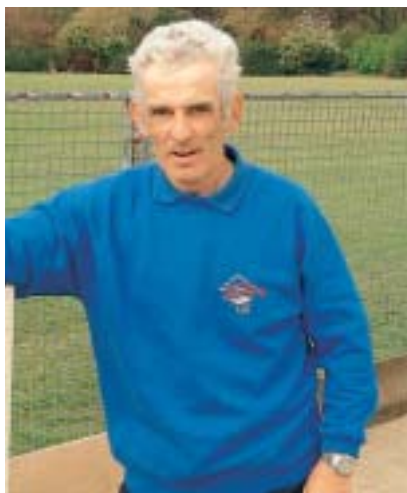
Stockton Council has worked closely with local schools to identify this year's 30 participants and the programmes began in the first week of June.

Margaret Parker, North East Regional Officer for the New Opportunities Fund, said: "Leaving school can be such a daunting experience and many young people simply don't realise the options that are available to them.

"Schemes such as the one in Stockton help young people to develop their own personal goals and are vital as they open new doors."

For further information log on to www.uproject.org.uk

A Labour of Love



As an employee for Stockton Council for 44 years, Ken Ward certainly has some stories to tell.

Ken, recently retired, is enjoying his free time, but still has fond memories of the whole of his career, and in particular of his time as groundsman at Stockton Sports Centre.

It seems Ken was always destined to be working on the land.

He began his working life at Fewsters nursery near the Mile House public house. It wasn't long before he was called to do his two year National Service, where he worked in the medical core in Queen Alexander's Hospital in London. Before long he was offered a job in the hospital gardens.

On his return home, Ken began his first post with the local authority as a

labourer for two years based at Grangefield Park. Still staying on the ground, as it were, Ken became a second-class gardener at Ropner Park, Stockton. He quickly progressed to becoming a first gardener, where he had the specialist task of tending the pristine bowling greens.

Stockton Sports Centre was the next place to benefit from Ken's enthusiasm and expertise where he became a groundsman there in 1966. The Centre holds many special memories not only did he enjoy meeting and working with the local people but also the sportsmen he met.

Ken said: "I enjoyed working with the public, the footballers and the hockey players. Work colleagues were great and I reckon Stockton Sports Centre is the best in the area."

Ken began taking photographs of all the teams he met when the astro turf was laid around 11 years ago and freely admits he has accumulated 'hoards' of them. His enthusiasm is clear as Ken bought a cup and shield, which he awarded to the best teams himself.

A plethora of funny stories emerge as Ken recalls his career. On one particular occasion in 1968, one of the outside football pitches became flooded.

Ken asked for some advice from his boss at the time (who shall remain nameless!) on how he should drain it. His boss came up with the bright idea of digging a trench leading to the back

of the goalposts, which, he supposed, would act as a drain and make the water flow naturally away from the (flat) pitch. Then Ken was then to bail out the water and run with the bucket for 50 yards and tip it into the nearby beck. Ken duly did as he was told. Needless to say the idea didn't work and Ken ended up backfilling the trench with soil.

Ken was very well liked by his colleagues, who colluded in secrecy to give him a very jolly send off by holding a surprise party on his last working day.

Manager of Stockton Sports Centre, Alan McDermott, said: "Ken is one of a kind and his successor has a hard act to follow. He has been one of the most popular members of staff I have ever known and will be sadly missed by colleagues and customers alike."

If he can take the time off from his busy schedule of gardening, golf and cycling, Ken intends to write about about his funny experiences and in his own words explains: "It will be a cracker!"

At this point we had to terminate the interview as Ken's busy retirement schedule meant he was due to take part in a game of golf followed by a ride on his mountain bike.

It has been worked out that Ken has covered 1259.14 miles whilst marking pitches during his 36 years at the Sports Centre.

Apply to our art fund

Are you are interested in running arts projects within the local area but need some funding? Now you can apply to Stockton Council's Local Arts Development Fund for 2002, supported by Northern Arts.

Up to £500 is available to local artists, community groups and organisations who have a commitment to developing the arts.

Many organisations have already benefited from the fund. For example,

Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park staged its annual Oral History Festival, Stockton Music and Arts Collective (SMAC) used the funding to help develop a training programme for musicians. Stockton Unicycling and Juggling Club developed circus skills training for young people and local schools have taken part in a range of projects.

The arts team at Stockton is keen to support both established arts development projects and new initiatives involving members of the

community who have not previously had access to the arts.

Projects should be able to demonstrate some long-term community benefit and have other sources of funding.

For further information and an application pack, contact Claire Frawley, Arts Development Assistant, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton. TS18 1XE or telephone (01642) 415379 or e-mail claire.frawley@stockton.gov.uk

Grant helps offshore expansion

A Haverton Hill company is to create 20 new jobs thanks in part to a business expansion grant from Stockton Council.

Barrier Offshore Engineering is based at the Haverton Hill Industrial Estate, where the company employs 16 people. Established in 1985, the company designs and manufactures high-quality handrails, ladders and steelwork, mainly for the offshore and petrochemical industries.

Now it is to benefit from a significant grant from the Council's Business Grant Scheme to support the purchase of new plant and machinery, and the creation of the new jobs.

Despite a downturn in the offshore industry in recent years, Barrier Offshore has successfully consolidated its customer base. Now, with

indications that production is again rising, the company is currently tendering for further work which would guarantee employment at the Haverton Hill facility well into 2003.

The grant, which is supported by capital from the company itself, will allow investment in plant and machinery, and a large workshop be rented, in addition to the new jobs.

One project on the horizon will involve the manufacturing of several sections of piperack for the Offshore Industry, totalling some 200 metres in length and weighing more than 700 tonnes.

Fabrication will be carried out at the Haverton Hill site, before each section is transported to the Tyne by barge over a three month period. Due to the size of the piperacks once assembled, the company has had to take on additional premises to complete the work.

Sculpture advances on to roundabout



A Thornaby landmark has found a new home after over 30 years in the town's shopping centre.

The sculpture "Always Advancing" takes its name from the motto on the town's coat of arms. Designed by Brian Wall, it has been a familiar part of the shopping precinct since 1967.

However, in recent years it had suffered from graffiti attacks and its new home, as the centrepiece of the roundabout at the junction of Trenchard Avenue and Mitchell Avenue, is designed to give it a higher profile. The move is the latest in an improvement programme to brighten up the appearance of roundabouts and main roads leading to the Borough's town centres.

The steel sculpture weighs 13 tonnes and a major engineering operation was needed before it could be craned into its new location early in May. The work was carried out on a Sunday morning to minimise disruption to traffic.

Its new location will ensure that the sculpture will be seen by thousands of passers by every day.

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

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

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

Week long summer workshop
for 4-7 year olds, 12th - 16th
August at Eaglescliffe

Ring: 01325 337667 (24hrs)



Youngsters show just how SMART they are

Ten young people from the Stockton Borough area came out winners of an innovative award scheme this spring.

Designed to reward the many good things achieved by the area's young people, the SMART awards are the result of several months work by a group of local young volunteers, along with last year's Mayor, Councillor Terry Bean, and the Council's Youth Service.

The youngsters, all in their teens, first attracted then sifted through dozens of nominations before choosing the ten winners.

The results were announced at an award ceremony at Stockton & Billingham College in Billingham at Easter. Hosted by the Mayor, 96.6 tfm presenter Gregg Upwards acted as Master of Ceremonies for the event with Billingham Campus School band "MMI" providing entertainment.

Over 90 nominations were made for 45 young people in ten award categories - the winners are shown on the right.

Local organisations to support the awards included Stockton & Billingham College, the Evening Gazette, Staples Portrack, Stockton Council's Sports Development Team, Creative Glass & Mirrors, Huntsman, ASDA Thornaby, HSBC Bank Stockton, Roger Black Print & Promotion Services and 96.6 tfm radio.

Each category winner received a trophy and the nominees received a certificate to mark their achievements.

Pauline Driscoll, Stockton Council's Principal Youth Officer, said: "The entries show just how dedicated, talented and courageous many young people are. All the nominees deserve congratulations."

The group who organised the awards received particular praise – and a special certificate to mark their efforts.

Pauline said: "They have been so enthusiastic and their achievement in seeing the project through is tremendous."



SMART winners:

Education Achievement -

Fiona Besford, 20: overcame learning difficulties with writing and visual processing to study for A Levels at Bede College.

Educational Effort -

Lauren Quinn, 13: Lauren has made excellent progress at Bishopsgarth School despite learning difficulties associated with a communication disorder.

Sport -

Thomas Horrocks 15: despite Spina Bifida, Thomas always gives 100 per cent and has represented his school at cricket and bowling and won many swimming awards.

Community Work -

Kevin Hogg, 16: has never been disheartened by the murder of his mother, raising funds for a support group and helping many others in similar circumstances.

The Arts -

Elliott Francis, 16: Despite having ME, Elliott has appeared in various stage productions, takes dancing lessons and attends a local theatre group.

Teamwork -

Billingham Red Cross: their help at the Billingham International Folklore Festival included stripping beds, serving refreshments and running the tuck shop.

Bravery -

Scott Hannant, 16: Having lost his brother and then his grandfather, Scott's grit and determination helped him reach the top 40 per cent of his year group.

Volunteering -

Katy Hutchcraft, 15: Katy is involved in local Youth Forums, was elected as MYP (member of youth parliament) for Stockton North and has made an outstanding commitment to The Willows Youth Club and other local groups.

Special Needs -

Helen King, 14: Helen has cerebral palsy and needs an electric wheelchair; hard work and determination have ensured her excellent progress in mainstream school.

Exceptional Award -

Mandale Mill Primary Volunteer group: these young people work alongside staff around the school, looking after younger pupils, tending plants, recycling and fundraising.

The Partnership of Partnerships



The future of Stockton Renaissance and similar Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP) was the focus of a seminar which attracted a top ranking Whitehall official.

Stockton Renaissance, the LSP for Stockton Borough, had organised the event which was held at the Oakwood Centre in Eaglescliffe and was attended by more than 80 people.

The seminar was the third event to pull together all of the partnerships and agencies involved in Stockton's LSP to discuss sharing expertise, experience and pooling resources to improve the Borough.

Representatives from the community, voluntary, public and private sectors put the spotlight on Alex Conway, from the government's Department of Transport, Local Government & the Regions, as they quizzed him on regional government, the role of councillors, funding and the streamlining of partnerships.

Chris Willis, vice chair of Stockton Renaissance, said: "We were delighted to welcome Alex to Stockton to see a real partnership in action.

"Stockton Renaissance has made real progress since being established last year. Together we have produced the Community Strategy, Neighbourhood Plan and our Vision for the Borough in 2020. We will continue that 'joined up thinking and working' in future years to deliver those plans and change our neighbourhoods for the better."

The representatives took part in workshops on equal opportunities, engaging hard to reach groups, construction skills shortage, sporting excellence and specialist training.

"Let us check gas" appeal to tenants

Stockton Council is appealing for tenants to get in touch and set a date for the annual inspection of their central heating or gas fires.

For safety reasons, it is crucial that gas appliances are checked on a yearly basis, and the Council as landlord is legally obliged to ensure that this work is carried out.

However, in some cases, contractors have been unable to access properties and repeated requests from Tristar Homes, Stockton's Arms Length Housing Management Company, for householders to arrange a future appointment have received no reply.

Neil Schneider, Corporate Director of Service Stockton, said: "The annual gas safety check is extremely important in terms of the health and welfare of our tenants and their neighbours. It's also something that we're legally obliged to do.

"Unfortunately, we've been unable to get into a number of homes to carry out our inspection and, where our repeated attempts to gain access or arrange appointments are unsuccessful, we're being reluctantly forced to consider legal action."

If the Council is forced to go to court, it will ask for warrants to gain access to homes. If these are granted, the

Council would then enter the homes concerned, cut off the gas supply to all heating appliances and secure the properties.

Mr Schneider said: "This really is a last resort and is a measure we're extremely reluctant to take. However, we have to think of the safety of our tenants, as well as people in neighbouring properties who could be put at risk if gas appliances are not properly maintained. We also do have a legal responsibility to carry out these inspections, which are done free of charge."

Tenants who haven't had a gas safety check within the last year are being urged to get in touch with Tristar Homes as a matter of extreme urgency on (01642) 393616.

Mr Schneider added: "If we can possibly avoid going to court we will. I can't stress strongly enough how important it is for tenants to get in touch with us straight away so that we can resolve the problem without having to take this drastic step."

The gas safety checks are carried out at no cost to tenants. However, if the Council is forced to take legal action, the tenants affected will not only lose the gas supply to their heating appliances, but they will also be liable for all court costs, running into several hundred pounds.

New H.Q. for young people

Young people in the area have a new meeting place, right in the heart of Stockton.

The venue is an unused shop in Silver Street, which will become the centre of youth democracy in the Borough.

Although the lease has been taken on by Stockton Youth Service, young people have been at the centre of all decisions taken concerning it.

They have named the new facility Citizenship & Democracy H.Q. (giving a

voice to young people in Stockton Borough).

Pauline Driscoll, Stockton Council's Principal Youth Officer says: "It will act as an administration base and a meeting place and a training venue for young people throughout the Borough".

"Katy Hutchcraft and Katie Brown, Stockton's two members of the UK Youth Parliament, will also use it as a venue for their surgeries."

For more information please call Pauline Driscoll on (01642) 393502.

Blooming marvellous

Stockton is hoping to come up roses in this year's Northumbria in Bloom competition and build on the success of last year.

The 2002 Northumbria in Bloom contest was officially launched in Stockton back in March and work has been going on to create a floral feast across the whole Borough.

Last year Stockton was awarded the Most Improved Entry in the City section of the competition.

"Northumbria in Bloom has many categories and we have encouraged communities of different sizes to compete against each other to enhance the appearance of their area," said Simon Dale, Head of Direct Services at Stockton Council.

"This type of contest can really help engender community spirit, pride and enthusiasm and it is wonderful to see people across the Borough working to make their environment look good and free of litter and graffiti.

"We are determined to build on last year's achievement and extra resources have been spent on environmental improvements, to make the Borough more attractive for residents and visitors. Thanks are due to the likes of Thornaby Town Council for their support; but really anyone can help by tidying up their area, putting a tub or hanging basket in their front garden or pulling a weed from the pavement in front of their property. It's the little things, good or bad, that the judges will notice. "

Judges will be looking for attractive floral displays, hanging baskets and planters, bright and tidy front gardens, school projects, commercial and industrial participation and environmental improvement schemes.

Already hanging baskets have been put up across the Borough, new flower beds have been created and maintained and Stockton Council's Care For Your Area team continues its work to keep litter and rubbish at bay.

The results will be announced in September at the Oakwood Centre, Eaglescliffe. Anyone who would like to contribute via sponsorship and advertising their own businesses through it should contact David Lupton on (01642) 393695.

Pupils from 23 local primary, secondary and special schools recently entered works of art in a Northumbria in Bloom competition where they had to illustrate months of the year.

A number of the paintings will now be entered into a regional contest, from which 12 will be selected to feature in the Northumbria in Bloom calendar for 2003.



Double success for clean-up campaigners

Stockton Council's ongoing "Care For Your Area" campaign to clean up the Borough is celebrating a double success after reaching the finals of a national award.

The EnCams (formerly the Tidy Britain Group) awards recognise best practice in litter management.

And Stockton Council was runner-up in two categories: Best New Programme and Best Management of Litter and Waste.

The Best New Programme award recognises the work of Waste Education Officer, Sue Barker-Schneider.

Sue, together with colleagues and schools, has compiled a Litter Education Pack, which provides

information and resources around environmental issues and can be used by primary school teachers in literacy and numeracy lessons.

The pack has already won the endorsement of Environment Minister Michael Meacher.

The Best Management of Litter and Waste category relates to the Cleansing and Ground Maintenance Service's Best Value "Hit Squad", whose work has made a massive impact on the cleanliness of Stockton Borough.

The EnCams awards are open to all Councils who are participating in the group's People and Places Programme, a network of organisations which exchange examples of best practice in waste management.



(Left to right) Sue Daniels, Stockton Council's Business Development Manager, Barry Crier, Jamie McCann, Stockton Council's Service Manager.



(Left to right) Chris Hayward, Stockton Council's Waste and Fleet Policy Manager, Barry Crier, Sue Barker-Schneider, Stockton Council's Waste Education Officer.

SOL helps new computer users go on-line



Community network Stockton Online is to expand its ICT (Information Communication Technology) service with the opening of two new facilities in the area.

Stockton Online, more commonly known as Sol, offers residents of Stockton Borough free, open access to ICT at convenient locations across the area. The first of its two new ICT rooms, at Hardwick Community Centre, offers local people free use of seven PCs using super-fast fibre optic broadband technology. Scanner, webcam and printing facilities are also available for use at the centre.

An open day at the centre in May was an opportunity to encourage individuals and groups to come and see not only what Sol can offer but also what was already available at the recently refurbished centre, as childcare organisation SMASH, Surestart and other groups also joined in.

The day was hailed as a great success, with a number of new computer users receiving their first taste of the internet. Although expert instruction was available, numerous users commented on just how easy it all is.

In Old Billingham, a second Sol room is due to open at the Community Centre, further increasing provision of free ICT access facilities. Plans include five PCs, scanner, webcam and printing facilities, once again linked to the internet through broadband technology.

These new centres follow the opening of five new locations opened by SOL in February, and the project has also recently doubled its provision in its

headquarters at the thriving Ragworth neighbourhood centre (pictured above). Here, too, an Open day took place in May, as local residents of all ages to come to see what is available from Sol and the many other projects and organisations based at the newly-refurbished Centre.

Sol has progressed so rapidly over the past nine months that it has doubled its membership to almost 5,000, a figure that is expected to continue to rise.

The success stories it can report are many. With the help of Sol, one resident with learning difficulties has achieved a TROCN qualification in IT, while an 86-year-old member regularly enjoys surfing the internet. One particularly notable achievement is at the Kiara Hall site, which should soon see its 1,000th member pass through the doors.

Innovation has always been at the heart of Sol's aim and future plans include developing the Sol web site as a truly interactive community portal that offers access to information and enjoyment for all. One particular area destined to play an important role in Sol's activities is the arts, where developments will allow the creation of film and music through IT, and the expansion of learning opportunities to include web design.

As well as qualifications, Sol offers an opportunity for people to become involved in their community and members old and new will find a lively, varied, welcoming atmosphere in each of the 17 centres.

For details of your nearest Stockton Online centre please call 01642 863755.

New plan targets crime fighting

Six key crime-fighting targets are highlighted in a new Community Safety Plan for Stockton Borough.

Produced by the Safer Stockton Partnership, which is jointly led by the Council and the Police, the Plan directs anti-crime strategy up to March 2005. It is based on over 2,500 responses to a crime and disorder audit carried out last summer.

Mike Batty, Head of Community Protection, said:- "This Plan will be the basis of our work to make the Borough a safer place.

"It has only been possible to complete it with the tremendous response from local people to our questionnaire. The Partnership is very grateful for their contribution."

The six objectives residents felt to be of most concern are:

- Drugs
- Dwelling Burglary
- Violent crime
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Vehicle crime
- Arson/deliberate fires

Each is closely linked. Drugs are related strongly to all forms of 'acquisitive crime', while arson, vehicle crime and anti-social behaviour can feed off one another. The action plans will ensure that work is cross cutting to achieve its targets.

Although these objectives stay the same throughout the plan's life, the Partnership will also work on other community safety initiatives.

Acting District Commander John Tough said: "Our Borough is one of the safest places to live in and we have seen reductions in vehicle crime and dwelling burglary in the recent past.

"Drugs are a prime concern for residents and have a significant impact on crime levels, so we will use intelligence-led policing to ensure that our resources are used in the most effective way to tackling this growing problem."

For a copy of the Plan, please call (01642) 415342; it is also available on www.saferstockton.com

Grant helps local shopkeepers fight crime

Retailers in parts of Stockton are set to benefit from a £70,000 boost to help local shop owners tackle crime and vandalism on their doorsteps.

The funding, from the Home Office, is part of almost half a million pounds allocated to authorities across the North East region under a Government scheme to improve the security of local shops and support businesses in the fight against crime.

It forms part of a three-year £15m crime-busting scheme, launched last summer, and dozens of North East shop owners have already benefited from the scheme, which funds the following activities:

- Installing CCTV and alarms;
- Improving security lighting;
- Enhancing security for individual shops, ie better locks and toughened glass;
- Facelifts for rundown shopping areas.

£35,000 has been awarded to Stockton this year, with a further £35k to follow during 2003/04. The news follows the award of £34,000 in 2001/02.

Mike Batty, Stockton Council's Head of Community Protection, said: "This comes as a tremendous boost in our drive to rid the Borough of crime and anti-social behaviour.

"The measures that this funding will allow are relatively small-scale but they

will nevertheless make a real difference for a number of shopkeepers who continue to provide a vital service, despite the attentions of an unwelcome few."

Under the Home Office rules, the money can only be spent in areas that experience high levels of crime and social problems.

This makes it likely that much of the funding will be targeted at two or three local shopping parades where there are particular difficulties of this type and where significant improvements are likely to be achievable.

The Council is now examining crime records for shopping areas in its area to identify suitable locations.

Home Office Minister, John Denham MP, has overall responsibility for crime reduction. He says: "Local shops are at the heart of our communities and when they close valuable local services are lost. It is important that every region receives help to tackle the crime and anti-social behaviour that blights shops in some of our most impoverished communities.

"By driving crime out we will be encouraging more people to shop locally, helping to restore pride and prosperity to our communities."

The £34,000 spent in Stockton last year was invested in new security lighting and fencing at the Redhill Road

shopping parade, Roseworth and is helping to establish a drop-in centre for young people in part of Redhill House, a former old people's home.

After the fencing was installed at the rear and side of the shops, Paul Chapman, who runs the Redhill Road Fish & Chip Shop said: "We now feel safe. This fencing has eliminated the anti-social behaviour around the shops in one fell swoop."



Borough celebrates its place in Europe

The European flag flew over Stockton Town Hall in May as the Borough celebrated Focus on Europe Week.

Organised to raise awareness of the part played by Europe in the region's daily life and the opportunities it offers local people, Focus on Europe Week was promoted by the North East Assembly, One North East and the Government Office for the North East.

Aimed at individuals, businesses and other organisations, it was also timed to coincide with Europe Day, an international event celebrated across the continent.

The event received enthusiastic support from Stockton Council. Schools across the Borough organised activities ranging from European food and language events to music, dance and internet contacts with partner schools overseas.

At Stockton Central Library, the Open Technology Centre hosted an exhibition for small businesses on branching out into European markets. The Centre offers a huge range of information and visitors can access software that teaches languages and even business and accounting systems for working in Europe.

And the Council's Business Advice team produced a special edition of its

"Perfect Match" newsletter, focusing on opportunities and support available for expanding into European markets.

Rita Lawson, Stockton Council's European funding officer, says that the event had helped local people think about Europe: "Europe is incredibly important to the everyday life of this area and millions of pounds in European funding have supported projects in Stockton over the years. It's a commitment that many people perhaps don't fully appreciate.

"There are good prospects for the Borough's smaller businesses to grow into European markets and I hope that this event has helped open a few doors."

Naming Ceremonies, Renewal of Marriage Vows



**Do you have a baby, a child or children you want to welcome into your family?
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What's On

July, August and September 2002

Ongoing

GREEN DRAGON MUSEUM AND THE FOCUS @ GALLERY
Norton Road - a major photographic exhibition by Andy Elliot representing Stockton town centre.

JULY

1 - 31 July

PRESTON HALL MUSEUM
The Colour of Words. North Yorkshire Calligraphers.

7 July

PARTY IN THE PLAYGROUND
St Josephs RC Primary School, Norton. Music from Ask My Cat, The Hazze, Helen Sutherland and others, barbecue, entertainers, mini football.
£5 adults, £2 children, £12 family.
(01642) 397356 for details.

7 July

FLORAL FEAST A wander through flowers. Meet at 2.00pm at Billingham Beck Valley Visitor Centre.
Tel. (01642) 397609 to book in advance.

7 July

HEDGEHOG HEAVEN 2pm - 4pm. Castle Eden Walkway to find out all about hedgehogs.
Book in advance on (01740) 630011.

10 July

TWO WOODLANDS WALK 7pm. 3 mile walk at Redmarshall. Meet outside the Post Office Carlton Village. Tel. (01742) 630011 for details.

14 July 1.30pm

BUTTERFLY GARDEN TOUR 2.00pm - 3.30pm. Meet at Butterfly World, Preston Park. Also activities for children. Tel. (01642) 788907 for details.

20 July

BRICKWORKS TRAIL 2pm - 5pm. 4.5 mile walk. Greatham Beck. Meet at Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park. To book a place call (01642) 415225.

21 July

COUNTRY CRAFT FAIR 11.00am - 4.00pm.
Castle Eden Walkway.

21 July

CRATHORNE LOOP WALK 10.30am start.
Meet at Crown Pub, Kirklevington.
Tel (01642) 788907.

20 July - 24 August

BILLINGHAM ART GALLERY
Art Societies Summer Show 2002.

21 July 2002

RIDEWELL 2002 - PRESTON PARK Preston Park
A day of fun activities based around road safety and cycling.

25 July

THE FOXTON TROT 7.00pm. A run suitable for all levels of ability. Enter at 6.00pm at Stillington Village Hall. Tel (01740) 630011 for details.

SMALL MAMMALS ROADSHOW

- Talks on various little furry creatures by Bob Brown
- Please book in advance.
22 July Thornaby Central Library. 11.00am - 12.00 noon
23 July Egglecliffe Library. 11.00am - 12.00 noon
25 July Roseworth Library. 2.00pm - 3.00pm
31 July Ragworth Library. 2.30pm - 3.30pm
1 August Norton Library. 2.30pm - 3.30pm
8 August Stockton Central library. 2.00pm - 3.00pm

27 July - 31 August

GREEN DRAGON AND THE FOCUS @ PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY
Shutterbugs - display of pictures from Stockton International Riverside Festival.

26 July - 4 August

THE 15TH STOCKTON INTERNATIONAL RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL 2002
The UK's leading festival of street theatre.

AUGUST

5 August

IT'S A BUG 10.30am - 12 noon. Ugh! Bugs around Billingham Beck. Tel. (01642) 397609 to book.

August 10

PRESTON HALL MUSEUM
Illuminating Mr Walker - Stockton and the invention of the friction match.

10 - 18 August

BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL
Festival Marquee - John Whitehead Park, College and Forum Theatre. A celebration of traditional dance from across the world.

14 August

MINIBEASTS 1.30pm - Castle Eden Walkway, search for minibeasts and craft session. (01740) 630011 for details.

16 - 19 August

ART EXHIBITION Fri-Mon only. Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park Activity Centre. Local landscapes and wildlife by local artists. Paintings on sale.
Tel (01642) 415225 for details.

18 August

BILLINGHAM BECK VALLEY COUNTRY PARK OPEN DAY 10am - 3pm. (01642) 397069 for details. Castle Eden Walkway, walk and craft session. (booking essential) (01740) 630011. £1 charge for materials.

21 August

GO WILD AT THE WALKWAY 1.30pm start. Castle Eden Walkway. Walk & craft session.
Charge of £1 to cover materials.

26 August

NATURE DETECTIVES 1.30pm - 3.30pm. Billingham Beck Country Park. Book in advance (01642) 397609 to book a place.

24-26 August

STOCKTON SUMMER SHOW - PRESTON PARK
Family show with static displays, side-shows, trade stands, fun fair, showjumping and arena events.

31 August - 5 October

BILLINGHAM ART GALLERY Bernard Smith and Pat Johnson - enamels, ceramics and paintings.

31 August - 1 September

PRESTON HALL MUSEUM
Model Engineering Fair.

SEPTEMBER

1 September

MARSH MEN & BRICK WOMEN 12 noon - 10.30pm.
Storytelling Festival. Stories, walks and workshops (01642) 415225. All free.

6 September

BAT AND MOTH EVENING 7.00pm - 8.30pm.
Charlton's Pond. (01642) 415225 for details.

7-8 September

AUTUMN GOLD GARDEN FESTIVAL - PRESTON PARK
Nurserymen and garden stalls, crafts and the Best of British food. Entry charge.

7 September - 12 October

GREEN DRAGON MUSEUM AND THE FOCUS @ GALLERY
Digital Festival II: Digital photography from Teesside.

8 September

STILLINGTON HARVEST FAIR 1.00pm - 4.00pm.
Afternoon of fun in Stillington Forest Park.
(01740) 630011 for details.

14 - 15 Sept

THE 52ND ANNUAL BILLINGHAM SHOW & OLD BILLINGHAM CARNIVAL
Community show featuring arena displays, horticultural & homecraft tent at Old Billingham Green.

15 September

DOG DAY 12.00 noon - 3.00pm. Castle Eden Walkway (01740) 630011 for details.

22 September

RIVER LEVEN LOOP WALK 10.00am start. Meet outside Falcon Pub, Hilton. (01642) 788907 for details.

27 September

NIGHT WALK 7.00pm Meet at Visitor Centre, Castle Eden Walkway. Booking essential.
(01740) 630011 for details.

29 September

LET'S GO FLY A KITE 1.00pm - 3.00pm. Preston Park.

Stockton News available in Urdu

اردو میں سٹاکٹن خبریں

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

اردو بولنے والوں کیلئے سٹاکٹن خبریں کی یہ اشاعت آڈیو کیسٹ کی صورت میں تجرباتی طور پر پیش کی گئی ہے۔
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Digital 1,2,3 Media

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

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

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



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

The first groups are expected to start the course in June. If you are a member of a community group that you think would be interested, please contact Chris on 01642 393575 for more information.



CUT YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL



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

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

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

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

Act today and cut your Council Tax Bill.



If you would like some assistance to find work, Action Team For Jobs is here to help. Operating as part of The Jobcentre Plus Network, DWP, we can offer help to people who live in Billingham or the following areas of Stockton: *Hardwick, Portrack, Tiley, Mile House, Roseworth, Newtown or Parkfield.*

Our personal advisers work out in the community and give individually tailored advice and support to our clients.

YOU WILL BE AMAZED AT THE HELP AVAILABLE! FOR MORE INFORMATION



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- Training in interview techniques/ work skills
- In work benefit advice
- Introduction to local employers
- Advice on transport issues
- Updating skills through training
- AND MUCH MORE!**



Summer Sports Coaching Programme

29th July – 23rd August 2002

An Action Packed Programme of Summer Activities for 8-16 year olds

Improve your sporting skills this summer with Stockton Sports Development

Activities include: Archery, Tennis, Athletics, Trampoline, Dance, Badminton, Canoeing, Golf, Basketball, Cricket, Sailing, Football, Swimming, Orienteering, Horse Riding, Scuba Diving, White Water Rafting.

For further information and application forms please contact
 Claire Tenryson on:
01642 358512
 Email: claire.tenryson@stockton.gov.uk





Collis Summer Opportunities for Children and Communities in Stockton

An Action Packed Programme of Summer Activities for 8-16 year olds

29th July – 23rd August 2002

Operating from centres across the Borough, the programme offers 4 weeks of exciting activities and outings.

Applications will not be taken on the day of an event.

For details of how to apply, telephone Trevor Massey, Scheme Manager on:
01642 358541
 Email: trevor.massey@stockton.gov.uk

Places are subject to availability




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

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

Ward Surgeries

July – September 2002

BISHOPSGARTH WARD (STOCKTON) 6.30PM – 7.00PM
9th July Bishopsgarth School
Aug No Surgeries
10th Sep Fairfield Infants School
COUNCILLORS S. HALL TEL: 654895
W. WOODHEAD TEL: 584409

BLUE HALL WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM
10th July The Forge Community Centre
24th July Norton United Reform Church
7th Aug The Forge Community Centre
21st Aug Norton United Reform Church
4th Sep Frederick Natrass School
18th Sep The Forge Community Centre
COUNCILLORS M. FRANKLAND TEL: 552667
MRS K. NELSON TEL: 397921

CHARLTONS WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM
8th July Clarendon Community Centre
12th Aug Cowpen Hall Training Centre
9th Sep Clarendon Community Centre
COUNCILLORS MRS A. MCCOY TEL: 533554

EGGLESCLIFFE WARD 6.00PM – 7.00PM
16th July Egglecliffe Community Centre
20th Aug Egglecliffe Parish Hall
17th Sep Egglecliffe Community Centre
COUNCILLORS J. ATKINSON TEL: 782292
J. FLETCHER TEL: 786456

ELM TREE WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM
16th July Elm Tree Community Centre
20th Aug Elm Tree Community Centre
17th Sep Elm Tree Community Centre
COUNCILLOR MRS S. FLETCHER TEL: 786456
Email: sfletcher@cix.co.uk

FAIRFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM
17th July Fairfield Library
Aug No Surgeries
18th Sep Fairfield Library
COUNCILLORS MRS F. HAWKINS TEL: 671422
MRS J. WADE TEL: 583549

GLEBE WARD (STOCKTON)
8th July The Education Centre, 2.30pm – 3.00pm
16th July The Education Centre, 6.30pm – 7.00pm
Aug No Surgeries
17th Sep The Education Centre, 6.30pm – 7.00pm
COUNCILLORS MRS A. CAINS TEL: 555394
R. CAINS TEL: 555394

GRANGE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 5.30PM – 6.30PM
26th July Windlestone Road Housing Office
30th Aug Windlestone Road Housing Office
27th Sep Windlestone Road Housing Office
COUNCILLORS A. CUNNINGHAM TEL: 551251
M. STOKER TEL: 648069
Email: mickstoker@aol.com or mick@grangeward.co.uk
Alexander.Cunningham@stockton.gov.uk

GRANGEFIELD WARD (STOCKTON)
15th July Grays Road Institute, 10.00am – 11.30am
(Tea/Coffee will be available)
19th Aug Grays Road Institute, 10.00am – 11.30am
(Tea/Coffee will be available)
16th Sep Grays Road Institute, 10.00am – 11.30am
25th Sep Oxbridge Primary School, 5.45pm – 6.45pm
COUNCILLORS T. BEAN TEL: 870110
MRS E. JOHNSON TEL: 673952

HARDWICK WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM
5th July Hardwick Tomorrow Ltd, Enterprise & Initiative Centre
12th July As Above
19th July As Above
26th July As Above
2nd Aug As Above
9th Aug As Above
16th Aug As Above
23rd Aug As Above
30th Aug As Above
6th Sep As Above
13th Sep As Above
20th Sep As Above
27th Sep As Above
COUNCILLORS P. ANDREW TEL: 782373
W. NOBLE TEL: 602299

HARTBURN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.45PM – 7.30PM
8th July Rosehill Infants School
Aug No Surgeries

9th Sep Elmwood Community Centre
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
6th July Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
20th July Kennedy House
3rd Aug The Mandale PH
17th Aug Kennedy House
31st Aug The Mandale PH
14th Sep Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
28th Sep Kennedy House
COUNCILLORS M. INGRAM TEL: 789372
S. WALMSLEY TEL: 881886

MARSH HOUSE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM
8th July North Billingham Methodist Church
12th Aug Low Grange Community Centre
9th Sept North Billingham Methodist Church
COUNCILLOR MRS L. APEDAILE TEL: (01740) 645216
C. LECKONBY TEL: 872896

MILE HOUSE WARD (STOCKTON) 7.00PM – 8.00PM
18th July Salters Lane Community Centre
19th Aug Kiora Hall Youth & Community Centre
17th Sep Salters Lane Community Centre
COUNCILLORS S. COLLIER TEL: 581380
K. LEONARD TEL: 894191

NEWTOWN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM
5th July Appleton Road Community Centre
19th July Newtown Community Centre
2nd Aug Appleton Road Community Centre
16th Aug Newtown Community Centre
30th Aug Appleton Road Community Centre
13th Sep Newtown Community Centre
27th Sep Appleton Road Community Centre
COUNCILLORS P. BAKER TEL: 655607
R. GIBSON TEL: 614482

NORTHFIELD WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.00PM – 7.00PM
26th July Wolviston Court Community Centre
30th Aug Wolviston Court Community Centre
27th Sep Wolviston Court Community Centre
COUNCILLORS A. CLARK TEL: 531144
M. WOMPHREY TEL: 555755

NORTON WARD 6.00PM – 7.00PM
11th July St. Michael's Club Room
25th July Norton Library
29th Aug Albany Resource Centre
13th Sep Norton Library
27th Sep Albany Resource Centre
COUNCILLORS R. COOK TEL: 890058
S. NELSON TEL: 534417
Email: Robert.Cook@stockton.gov.uk and
Steve.Nelson@stockton.gov.uk

PARKFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM
4th July Parkfield Community Centre
11th July Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
18th July Parkfield Community Centre
25th July Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre
Aug No Surgeries
5th Sep Parkfield Community Centre
12th Sep Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
19th Sep Parkfield Community Centre
26th Sep Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre
COUNCILLORS C. COOMBS TEL: 645759
P. KIRTON TEL: 532076

PORTRACK & TILERY WARD (STOCKTON) 5.00PM – 6.00PM
2nd July Mill Lane Community Centre
9th July Portrack Community Centre
16th July The Community House, Cromwell Ave
23rd July Frank Wiseman Hall
Aug No Surgeries
3rd Sep Mill Lane Community Centre
10th Sep Portrack Community Centre
17th Sep The Community House, Cromwell Avenue
24th Sep Frank Wiseman Hall
COUNCILLORS D. COLEMAN TEL: 673952
K. SAINSBURY TEL: 605201

PRESTON WARD 6.30PM – 7.30PM
5th July Trinity Methodist Church, Egglecliffe
19th July The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
2nd Aug Trinity Methodist Church, Egglecliffe

16th Aug The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
6th Sep Trinity Methodist Church, Egglecliffe
20th Sep The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
COUNCILLOR M. CHERRETT TEL: 783491

ROSEWORTH WARD (STOCKTON) 5.15PM – 6.15PM
15th July Kiora Youth & Community Centre
5th Aug Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre
9th Sep Kiora Community Centre
COUNCILLORS MRS W. HODGSON TEL: 614208
MISS B. INMAN TEL: 582644

STAINSBY WARD (THORNABY) 6.30PM – 7.30PM
18th July South Thornaby Community Centre
15th Aug South Thornaby Community Centre
19th Sep South Thornaby Community Centre
COUNCILLORS B. BELLERBY TEL: 763459
M. O' BRIEN TEL: 887353

ST. AIDANS WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM
24th July Billingham Youth & Community Centre
Aug No Surgeries
11th Sep Billingham Youth & Community Centre
COUNCILLORS N. TEASDALE TEL: 07753 717291
B. WOODHOUSE TEL: 561899

ST. CUTHBERT'S WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.00PM – 7.00PM
11th July Billingham Branch Library
8th Aug Billingham Branch Library
12th Sep Billingham Branch Library
COUNCILLORS K. DOBINSON TEL: 564669
MRS J. O' DONNELL TEL: 559717

VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY) 6.15PM – 7.15PM
4th July Queens Street Community Centre
1st Aug Queens Street Community Centre
5th Sep Queens Street Community Centre
COUNCILLOR MRS A. NORTON TEL: 611902

VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY) 2.00PM – 3.00PM
19th July Westbury Street Library
16th Aug Westbury Street Library
20th Sep Westbury Street Library
COUNCILLOR A. HOBAN TEL: 633546

VILLAGE WARD (THORNABY) 4.30PM – 5.30PM
8th July Thornaby Pavilion
Aug No Surgeries
9th Sep Thornaby Pavilion
COUNCILLOR MRS E. CRAGGS TEL: 896378

WHITTON WARD
9th July Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles, 7pm – 7.30pm
26th July Wolviston Court Community Centre, 6pm – 7pm
Aug No Surgeries
2nd Sep The Chapel School Room, Carlton 7pm – 7.30pm
3rd Sep Manor House, Stillington, 6.30pm – 7pm
COUNCILLOR F. SALT TEL: (01740) 630771

WOLVISTON WARD (BILLINGHAM) 7.00PM – 8.00PM
11th July High Grange Community Centre
8th Aug The Common Room, Wolviston High St.
12th Sep High Grange Community Centre
COUNCILLOR MRS S. CORR TEL: (01740) 644339

YARM WARD 6.00PM – 6.45PM
9th July Yarm Library
13th Aug Challoner House
10th Sep Yarm Library
COUNCILLORS B. JONES TEL: 576855
MRS M. SIMPSON TEL: 790691

MP'S SURGERIES

Stockton South: Dari Taylor MP
Tel: 01642 604546 for information

Stockton North: Frank Cook MP
Tel: 01642 643288 for information

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

**Roll up
Roll up**

The Stockton International
Riverside Festival
proudly presents...

**The Greatest
Show on Earth**

at the Festival Big Top, Trinity
Gardens, Stockton, with music,
entertainment, theatre and circus
acts from 25 July to 4 August 2002

MUSIC

8.15pm Friday 26 July
- Paul Weller Anthology

8.15pm Saturday 27 July
- Wildcats of Kilkenny

7.00pm Sunday 28 July
- Beatlemania

**CIRCUS OF
HORRORS**

After four years away, the
hugely popular Circus of Horrors
returns with 19 evening shows
from Thursday 25 July to Sunday
4 August. Times vary.

CIRCUS - VIVACE

A spectacular mix of circus
and theatre, showcasing the
skills of some of Europe's best
circus artistes. See the amazing
show from Tuesday 30 July to
Sunday 4 August. Times vary.

THEATRE

Festival favourites Leandre and
Claire are back again, bringing
their superb outdoor
performance into the Big Top.
Their magical full-length show
'Madame et Monsieur' will run
from Thursday 1 August to
Saturday 3 August. Times vary.

And A Good Time Will Be Had By All

Ticket prices range from £5 to £15 (concessions - £3 to £6)
For bookings phone 01642 633098 or 633419 during office hours
See page 19 inside for Discount Vouchers

