

Stockton

AWARDS

Stockton Council's Award Winning Community Magazine - Autumn 2003





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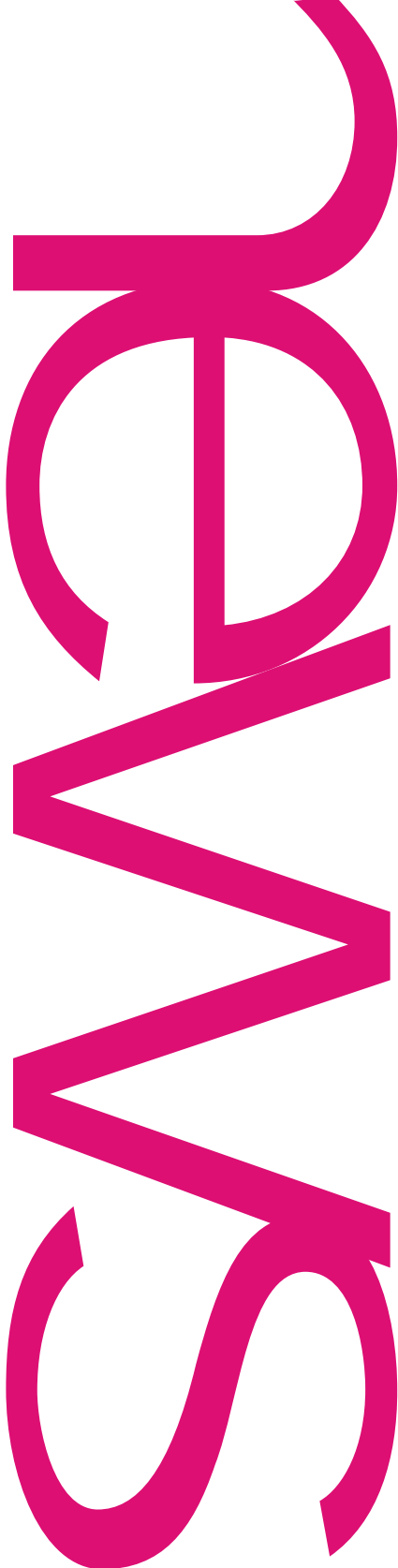
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Trevor Massey on (01642) 397373
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www.stockton.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment





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Stockton News is published by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and distributed to every household in the Borough free of charge. If you have not received a copy please call (01642) 393020 or e-mail communications@stockton.gov.uk

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

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

News on Tristar

Officials of Tristar Homes Ltd, the management organisation set up to run most of Stockton Council's housing stock, are being asked for advice and guidance as local authorities throughout the country consider following their lead.

As one of the first such organisations to be set up nationally, it is very much a pathfinder and earning a reputation for best practice.

A recent inspection report by the Audit Commission singled out Tristar Homes as an example of good practice.

"As a result, Councils from the length and breadth of the country have asked us to pass on our experiences," said Stephen Brown, Head of Finance and Company Secretary for Tristar Homes.

The Audit Commission awarded Tristar Homes a two star rating with promising prospects for improvement, has suggested the experience gained is so valuable that the company should sell its governance pack to interested parties.

Mr Brown explained: "We were one of the first ALMOs – Arms Length Management Organisations – set up in the country, and the first in the North East, so we have built up a strong database of knowledge. We are also the only one in the region to be awarded two stars."

Allan Kelley, Head of Operations and Chief Financial Officer of the Northern Housing Consortium, recently joined the board of Tristar Homes as one of six independent members.

New million pound road nears completion



A new million pound road connecting Ingleby Barwick to the centre of Stockton is due to be completed at the end of this month.

The Myton Way link road, which has been created to help reduce traffic problems at Ingleby Barwick, is on target to be completed by 31 October.

The road, which is the latest in a series of road schemes known as the "South Stockton Link" which is due to be completed by early 2005, will cost £1.5 million and will include a network of footpaths, cycleways and bridleways as well as an underpass.

Mike Robinson, Head of Engineering and Transportation for Stockton Council, said: "This project has demonstrated that Stockton Council continues to seek innovative ways to deliver its road construction programme, in keeping with its Beacon Council Award for managing construction projects."

The road is being designed and built through a partnership between Stockton Council and Persimmon Homes with funding being provided by them as part of their ongoing development in the area.

Construction on the project is being carried out by Hall Construction Service Ltd, a regular contractor for Stockton Council, and who recently completed the Concorde Way Dual Carriageway scheme at Preston Hall.

"The co-operation between the Council's Highway design team, Persimmon Homes and Hall Construction Services is expected to result in this project being delivered on time and within budget," added Mike.

See behind the scenes at Stockton Town Hall



An open day at Stockton Town Hall on Wednesday 15 October is just one of a series of activities planned to mark this year's Local Democracy Week (13 - 19 October).

The open day will be an opportunity to visit this historic building, find out things you didn't know about Stockton's past and present, and meet the Mayor and other Council representatives.

Other events planned as part of the week, include schools activities and a quiz to help you find out more about local democracy using the Council's website - www.stockton.gov.uk

For more information about the open day and other Local Democracy Week activities, please watch the website or call the Council's Democratic Services Unit on (01642) 393064.

Hopes are high for team's success



The enthusiastic players of a five-a-side football team are turning their fortunes around with training sessions.

The Hartington Harriers 03 are in the Soccer Sensations' evening league, where they found themselves on the receiving end of some heavy defeats last season.

But now the new season is underway the five-a-side team are seeing recent training sessions at Stockton's Arlington Park, a new multi-purpose sports pitch based at Bowesfield Primary School, paying off. This season they have won two matches already with scorelines of 10-8 and 14-7.

The team was formed through Stockton Council's Leaving Care and Youth Team and all the players, aged

between 16 and 21, are either in care or have recently left care.

Action Team for Jobs, who help people overcome barriers to employment, have sponsored the team's kit.

And a recent appeal for a new coach to halt their losing streak has resulted in several offers of help.

Mike Kane, (pictured here) of the Youth and Leaving Care Team, said: "We had a good result in our first game of the new season. We were only beaten 14-9 and, considering our previous scorelines, that was a major success.

"But since then we have found winning ways. Our players all enjoy being involved in the sport, whatever the result, and it's good to know we are starting to make our mark in the league."

New life for ex nightclub

Many of you will remember the old Fiesta nightclub in Norton as a place to see top names in the entertainment world.

The building is taking on a new life in the form of the Teesside International City Church. Stockton Council's engineers from Service Stockton's

Heating, Ventilation and Electrical Unit have been carrying out quality work in the private sector and have been working on this building to help bring it nearer to its opening.

The Centre will benefit the whole community and if all goes well it should be opened around December time.

Good marks for PLAY

A regional assessment of the Stockton Children's Fund has highlighted the strengths of the Fund and said it is 'doing well'.

The assessment, carried out by the Children and Young People's Unit team, sampled PLAY – a development project of structured play sessions for four to 12 year-olds.

The report said PLAY demonstrated a consistent approach to high quality practice, which was reflected in the skill mix of the team and the systems in place for targeting and tracking service users.

Areas for development included carrying out reviews in order to assist the Children's Fund Partnership in monitoring their progress.

Since the Children's Fund Partnership was set up two years ago, there has been significant developments in the services on offer. Over the next few weeks all projects within the programme will have an individual review to look at the areas highlighted for improvement.

Success for young pupils

A debut appearance in London saw The Links Primary School Choir win a prestigious award.

The choir, from Eaglescliffe, Stockton, took part in The National Festival of Music for Youth at The Queen Elizabeth Hall where they performed The Recorder Chorus, a new composition by Keith Hewson, of Eaglescliffe Comprehensive School.

The choir won the Highly Commended Performance Award, one of only two awards presented in the Primary category.

Teesside charity helps with the shopping

A North East charity for the visually impaired is seeking participants for its new project.

The Teesside and District Society for the Blind is looking for volunteers for its Shopping Escort Scheme, which involves people helping a blind or partially sighted person to do their weekly shopping.

Anyone interested should call (01642) 247518.

Commission announces changes to Council Wards

It's all change for electoral wards across Stockton Borough following the completion of a review by the Boundary Committee for England.

The committee – part of the Electoral Commission which reviews electoral arrangements throughout the country – has put forward major changes in the number and shape of wards as part of a periodic review of the area.

Over the past two years it has carried out detailed studies and extensive consultation in the area and most wards in the Borough are affected in some way.

Because of the changes, new elections for Stockton Council will take place in May 2005.

Alterations vary from minor shifts in the boundaries of some wards to the amalgamation of others. Several completely new wards will be created in place of others which disappear altogether. Some of the biggest changes are in Ingleby Barwick, where the population has grown significantly in recent years.

Details were being finalised as Stockton News went to press and we will include more information in future editions. In the meantime, if you have any queries please call (01642) 393080.

Some of the key changes are:

Number of Wards reduced from 30 to 26

Number of Councillors increased from 55 to 56. Most wards will have either two or three councillors, with a

single councillor in each of the rural "Northern Parishes" and "Western Parishes" wards

Billingham will have five new wards – Central, North, South, East and West

Central Stockton: a new Stockton Town Centre Ward will be created, made up of parts of several existing wards. In Parkfield, the boundaries will change and the new name "Parkfield & Oxbridge" adopted.

Eaglescliffe & Yarm: some boundaries will be amended but otherwise unchanged.

Ingleby Barwick: representation will increase from the present single member in one ward to two new wards, each with 3 members.

Norton: three new wards – Norton North, South and West – will replace existing wards.

Rural areas to the north and west of Borough will form two new wards – "Northern Parishes" and "Western Parishes"

Thornaby: There will be three wards in place of the current three – "Mandale & Victoria", "Stainsby Hill" and Village – with changes to boundaries.

The entry for Charltons Ward in the summer edition of Stockton News should have read Councillor Ann McCoy (Lab) and Councillor Ray McCall (Lab).

Gardeners waste no time

Thousands of Stockton Borough residents have given the green thumbs up to a new garden waste collection service.

The last six months saw 12,000 households having fortnightly collections of their green garden waste and a recent survey shows that the scheme is a major hit amongst green-fingered gardeners.

It is hoped that by the end of next year a new centralised composting facility, being planned at Haverton Hill, will be able to accommodate green waste from every garden within the Borough, which will then be available for resale within the community.

"Although this is only a trial scheme, the positive response by local residents indicates a definite desire for a permanent garden waste collection service," said Mike Chicken, Stockton Council's Project Manager.

The overall response to the service is extremely positive and where residents had concerns, such as the type of bags used and the frequency of collections, their suggestions will be addressed and considered before the service goes Borough-wide.

If you have any comments regarding the scheme please call (01642) 391186.



Model club flies high

Teesside Model Flying Club's annual show in July was the second to be held by the club.

The Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Ann Cains, opened the Teesside Model Flying Club's new entrance, car park and disabled access paths.

The car park and entrance cost £10,000 and was provided through grants from Awards for All and the

Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest. The club is also seeking corporate sponsorship to purchase another seven acres of land.

Thomas Jones, chairman of the Teesside Model Flying Club, said: "This new car park and entrance, as well as the purchase of land, will not only make our flying club secure in Redmarshall but also make it one of the best sites in the North East."

Show homes help new tenants choose fitments



Tenant Paul Thomas from Tilery, with the £100 million cheque for the Investment Programme.

Three show homes are to be opened to help tenants select new fitments and provide a social focal point, as work gets underway on Tristar Homes Ltd's eight-year programme to improve most of the existing properties in its management.

In an ambitious schedule, Tristar Homes intends to invest upwards of £140 million into bringing all existing properties up to the Government's "decent standard".

Houses could get a mixture of new bathrooms, kitchens, windows and central heating, depending upon the condition of the property. Some will be provided with replacements for all four, while others may receive one new item.

"It's all down to the existing condition of each house," explained Tristar Homes' chairman Francis Hayes. "Every property is individually surveyed in advance and all tenants are told exactly what they will receive.

"The range of choices that can be made will also be explained, and arrangements made for when work will be done. The show homes have

been prepared to illustrate exactly which choices are available."

There is one show home in each of Billingham, Stockton and Thornaby – which not only illustrates to tenants the type of work to be carried out and the choices they can make for kitchen units and bathrooms suites – but also acts as an information centre for the programme.

"Initially we had road shows which toured the areas where work was to be carried out as a means of passing on this information," explained Tristar Homes' Head of Business Development, David Vasey.

"But having the show homes is an extension of that, with the main advantage being they will be available in all areas at the same time and for longer periods."

To ensure all work is completed to the same high standard and to build up a unique working relationship between tenants and the workforce, Tristar Homes and Stockton Council have entered into a partnership agreement with four contractors.

Over the next seven years they will work with the Company's own employees to carry out most of the multi-million pound improvement work, with the exception of central heating which will be installed by a specialist contractor.

The work in Thornaby will be done by Frank Haslam Milan; in Billingham by Connaught Property Services; and, in Stockton, Mears will be responsible for 5,000 properties and Dunelm Property Services for 3,000 homes.

The contractors will have a very visible presence on site for any queries.

Tenants who would like further information about the programme and how they are affected can contact the Investment Team on (01642) 393769 or e-mail investment@tristarhomes.co.uk.

Stockton's Kingdom of Ice

A touch of winter magic will be coming to Stockton town centre when a temporary outdoor ice rink arrives in the lead up to the festive period.

Stockton's Kingdom of Ice will open on Friday 21 November, which is the BBC's Children in Need night.

For the first time ever, Pudsey bear and our own IC Bear will be seen together in public to herald six weeks of fun on the ice.

School groups, staff parties and demonstrations will be among the attractions on offer but, most importantly, there'll be plenty of time to just come along and have a skate.

There will also be opportunities for local businesses to get involved in advertising and sponsorship and it will be a great chance to combine a visit to the rink with a day of Christmas shopping.

Stockton Council is working with partners Aria Ice Ltd, to bring ice to the town. If you would like further information or would like to make a booking, please contact the sales team on (01642) 777778 or e-mail sales@ariadirect.co.uk.

For further information about this, or other Stockton Council events, please contact our events team on (01642) 415771/2/3.



Brightsparks

What's going on for the young people of Stockton-on-Tees

Fab Freda

Freda the Frog is growing ever more popular! Since the last Stockton News her fan club has grown even bigger and she is hoping to meet the 1000th member very soon. She spent a lot of time at the Stockton International Riverside Festival where she was very pleased to meet and greet many of you. If you want to join her fan club or find out more about her, log on to www.fredathefrog.co.uk



Happy holidays

There's no need to be bored during the half term holidays! Why not try some sporty activities organised by Stockton Council's Sports Development Team? The Xplore activity programme is offering a multi sports day, with athletics, a beastie hunt, white water rafting, scuba diving, horse riding, rock climbing and junior football. Phew! Call (01642) 397373 to find out more or e mail trevor.massey@stockton.gov.uk

The Links Primary School, Eaglescliffe, holds a regular holiday club during school holidays where you are most welcome to go along and take part in the fun activities there. From reception through to Year 6 there will be a whole host of exciting things to do. Even if you are not a pupil at the Links, you can go along. Give them a call on (01642) 391817 or 788493 to find out more.

Poetry for Britain

What does 'Britain' mean to you?
Can you put it into words?...
.....A poem perhaps?

Libraries across Stockton will be helping to celebrate National Poetry Day on 9th October by launching their popular annual poetry competition sponsored by W. H. Smith. The age categories are 5-8 and 9-12 years with a prize for the winner of each group.

All you have to do is write a poem on the theme of "Britain". Pick up an entry form from libraries and the W. H. Smith store in Wellington Square, Stockton. The closing date for entries is Saturday 1 November – so get writing!

Be heard

If you have your own thoughts about the area where you live and how it could be made better – then you can join Youth Viewpoint.

We are looking for around 500 young people aged between 8-17 years. Every now and again you will be asked to tell us what you

think about Council services on leisure, education and street cleaning as well as things on crime and the environment.

You will receive a short questionnaire (no more than four a year) and sometimes you will be invited to special events and meetings with other young people.

Your views are important to us, so if you are interested, please call Kate Barber on (01642) 393011 or e-mail PPSU@stockton.gov.uk



Half term at Arc

Video, and digital work, recording music, creative writing, drama, colour, sound and more – in this half term blast of energy and vitality! If you are aged 12 or upwards come along to Arc in Stockton, from 27 October for five days between 10am-4pm you can become involved.

The cost is £25. For more information call (01642) 525199.

Got a problem? Ring Childcall

Everyone has problems and sometimes it helps to be able to talk to someone.

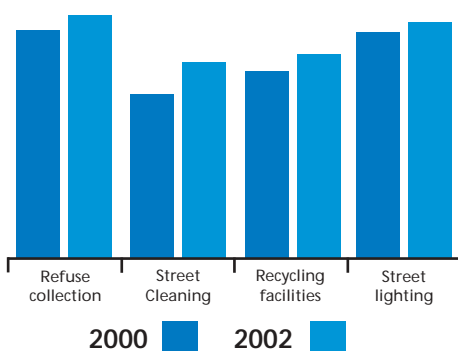
You can ring Child Call North East between 7pm – 10pm weekdays and 4pm – 10pm at weekends or call free on 0800 774466 or log on to www.childcall.org.uk

Consultation – listening to you



In 2000 you told us that you were unhappy about the state of the streets, litter, refuse collection, recycling and the general look of the Borough and we did something about it.

Satisfaction with services



The Government expects all Councils to consult their residents and businesses on all aspects of service delivery. However, at Stockton-on-Tees we like to think of ourselves as a listening Council and are one hundred per cent committed to extending our consultation far beyond what we are required to do.

We offer many different ways for people to get involved and tell us what they think and want. These include:

- The adult residents panel called Viewpoint (www.stockton.gov.uk/yourcouncil/38704/33981)
- The youth panel called Youth Viewpoint (www.stockton.gov.uk/yourcouncil/38704/YouthPanel)
- A bi-annual Residents Survey
- Local Residents Forums
- User surveys
- Public and open meetings
- Local media and Stockton News
- Community and business newsletters
- One-off questionnaires and surveys

We take the results of consultation very seriously. We listen to your views and then try to improve our services. For example:

In 2000 you told us that you were unhappy about the state of the streets, litter, refuse collection, recycling and the general look of the Borough and we did something about it.

Through our Care For Your Area campaign, there have been some big improvements in our service and your satisfaction (based on our biannual Residents carried out by MORI). In November we will be carrying out

a general survey asking you how the local area and the services we provide can be improved. This will include issues such as transport, recycling and leisure facilities, to name a few.

This survey will be sent to 5,000 households chosen at random in November. It doesn't matter how long you have lived in the area, we want to hear your views so we can put our resources where it really matters.

In addition to this general survey, we will also be carrying out specific satisfaction surveys with various services including the benefits office, planning, libraries and tenants' satisfaction.

- The Library Survey will be carried out in libraries for one week between October and November 2003.
- The Planning Survey will be sent in October to a sample of people who had recently applied for planning consent.
- The Benefits Survey was sent out in August and will also be sent on January 2004 to a randomly selected sample of those claiming either housing of Council Tax benefit.
- The Tenants Survey will be sent to a random sample of tenants living in the area throughout the year.

If a letter and questionnaire drops through your door, we very much hope that you will take a few minutes to complete it.

To find out more about the surveys or anything else mentioned in this article, please contact Kate Barber on (01642) 393011 or e-mail kate.barber@stockton.gov.uk

Venture out into the pleasant countryside to the north and west of Stockton and you'll find much to see and do, particularly for those on foot or two wheels.

There's an interesting mix of country villages such as Carlton, Redmarshall and Thorpe Thewles, while Stillington can trace its history back in a different direction to the 19th Century Carlton Ironworks.

Three countryside parks are amongst the area's most popular attractions. At the tranquil Honey Potts Wood, which lies between Redmarshall and Whitton, walkers find themselves in the heart of the countryside with rolling hills as a backdrop. Less of a secret are the Stillington Forest Park and former Castle Eden Walkway, now known as the Wynyard Woodland Park.



In and



The Wynyard Woodland Park attracts more than 150,000 visitors each year and has become one of the most popular countryside sites in the area since it was established more than 20 years ago.

The Walkway, created along the line of the old Castle Eden Railway branch, has grown over the years to include land such as Thorpe Wood, Alf's Wood and Stoney Field and this year it is set for yet another expansion.

The purchase of almost 200 acres of woodland and 40 acres of former arable land at the park's northern end was recently completed, largely thanks to a grant from the Countryside Agency under the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund and matched by funding from Stockton Council.

An interpretative strategy is also being created for the woodland park to help guide visitors around the site and encourage a greater understanding

and appreciation of the natural environment.

The attractions will include a sculpture trail, a magical storytellers chair, a solar trail linked to the Planetarium and railway heritage features, as well as a complete refurbishment of the Station House Visitors Centre and the opening of a new café.

Parks and Countryside Officer Martin Jenkins added: "While the name 'Castle Eden Walkway Country Park' may pass into history, the Castle Eden Walkway itself, as the old line from Trimdon down into the heart of Stockton, will prevail as an important part of the developing Wynyard Woodland Park."

At Stillington Forest Park, created in 1996, numerous species of animal and plant life are thriving and the Council is now offering local people the chance to become voluntary rangers.

Hard working volunteers help and support the rangers in their varied work of caring for the park as well as helping to run various events in the park's ever-increasing activity programme.

Anyone who would like to become a volunteer ranger, or would like more information on either park, can contact the ranger service on (01740) 630011 or call into the Station House Visitor Centre off the A177 in Thorpe Thewles for a site leaflet or events programme.

Getting to the Wynyard Woodland Park is now easier, thanks to improvements to the turnoff at the A177 at Thorpe Thewles, where the road has been remodelled and speed limits been introduced. Ian Bond, Woodland Park project co-ordinator, said: "The changes to the road have made driving into the park much easier and safer."



around



to the north west of Stockton

But as well as encouraging drivers and walkers to enjoy the area, Stockton's Road Safety Officers have been taking cyclists on guided tours around the area, pointing out places of interest. Brochures showing the suggested routes are available from Neil Ellison on (01642) 397712.

If cycling doesn't appeal, a new number 567 Village Bus service now offers a connection to Wynyard Woodland Park, Stillington Forest Park and the Hardwick Country Park near Sedgely.

The Village Bus has improved local transport for residents of the

Borough's outlying villages and also makes access to the countryside easier for many others. Launched in July at Stillington's Village Hall with the help of Year One children from the local William Cassidi C of E primary school, it connects the village and others such as Thorpe Thewles, Carlton and Redmarshall with the country parks and Billingham town centre for shopping and leisure activities at the Forum.

Operated by Arriva Ltd, the service runs every two hours, Monday to Friday from 7am until 6.30pm, and follows a successful £360,000 Rural Bus Challenge bid by Stockton Council.



Lifestyle changes with Activ8

Since the launch of the Activ8 centres in June this year, the public of Stockton has been enthusiastically taking up the different packages on offer and are now starting to change their own lifestyles by becoming 'Activ8-ed' at leisure centres across the Borough.

Customer feedback has been very positive about the new state-of-the-art facilities, equipment and the professionalism of the qualified health advisors with their specialist knowledge in exercise and nutrition.

The Activ8 health and fitness instructors can also offer a wealth of experience for people using the gym equipment and will put together personal fitness programmes to suit individual needs.

Not only is Activ8 about encouraging people to stay active - whether for health, social, personal or sporting reasons, it's a great way to make friends and be part of a club with all the usual benefits that come with it such as competitions, events and new product/service promotions.

The range of Activ8 membership packages on offer include the Lifestyle Option where members can access all fitness suites, exercise classes and swimming. It also gives access to the newly re-furbished Invigor8 sauna at the Forum in Billingham.

There is also the Fitness Suite only and the Swim only packages, which allows you to use any of the facilities that deliver those services across the Borough. Members can pay for these packages by monthly Direct Debit,

Annual Payment or on a pay-as-you-go basis.

So do it now - get Activ8-ed!

For more information or to request an Activ8 membership package log onto www.stockton.gov.uk or call:

Billingham Forum on (01642) 551381,
Stockton Sports Centre (01642) 607994,
Splash (01642) 393900,
Thornaby Pavilion (01642) 760971
Thornaby Pool (01642) 616727.



Active8 staff are there to help

In partnership with Stockton Youth Service

Do you want your views to be heard?
Do you want young people to have their say?
Do you want to help improve Council services;
to make the Borough a **better** place to live,
go to school and visit?
If you answered **Yes** then why not join



What is Youth Viewpoint?

A group of 1000 young people like you aged from 8-18 from across the Borough.

What will I have to do if I join?

Every now and again you will be asked to tell us what you think about things like Council Services (eg leisure, education, street cleaning) as well as things like (crime and the environment).

How will I have my say?

- We will send you short questionnaires (around 4 a year)
- Invite you to special events
- Invite you to small meetings with other young people (optional)

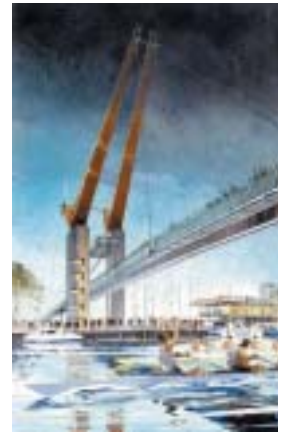
If you would like:

- More information about joining Youth Viewpoint
- To make any comments about Youth Viewpoint

Please contact: Kate Barber on 01642 393011 or e-mail us at PPSU@stockton.gov.uk

Confidentiality The information that you provide us with during your membership of Viewpoint will be treated confidentially and will be protected via the Data Protection Act.





Bridging the Tees

A striking new pedestrian and cycle bridge is to be built across the River Tees at Stockton and your views will help decide which of five possible designs is chosen.

Already the old riverside industrial site at Northbank, close to the town centre and opposite Teesdale, is being cleaned up ready for transformation into a business and education park with a new hotel, restaurants, modern apartments and town houses, and public open space with riverside footpaths and cycleways.

To set the tone for this prestige project, architects from all over the world were invited to design the bridge and five have been shortlisted.

They are: Future Systems, which designed the famous new stand and scoreboard at Lords Cricket Ground and the stunning new Selfridges department store which is transforming Birmingham city centre.

Glenn Howells Architects, which worked on the Timber Wharf in Manchester, a residential development layered in glass which challenges the everyday preconceptions of what housing should be.

Lifschutz Davidson Architects, responsible for the striking new Hungerford Bridge across the River Thames, linking Trafalgar Square with the famous Millennium London Eye. Spence Associates, which designed the Turner Centre at Margate, a bold and contemporary building to be constructed half on the pier and half in the sea.

Wilkinson Eyre, the company responsible for Newcastle's famous 'blinking-eye' Millennium Bridge and the Magna Centre at Rotherham

The five shortlisted designs are shown here. If you would like to view larger images of the five bridges, and have access to the internet, please visit www.teesvalleyregeneration.co.uk

Pick up or pay up

SOME THINGS JUST CANNOT BE TAUGHT...

AS SEEN ON TV

PICK UP OR PAY UP

£50 FINE if you don't!

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

DOG MESS IS A FOUL BUSINESS BUT IT'S YOUR BUSINESS.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICE ON 01642 391126.

CARE FOR YOUR AREA NO MESSING!

As part of Stockton Council's on-going drive to address irresponsible dog owners, a new campaign has hit the TV screens and streets of Stockton.

The campaign, which began at the beginning of September, drives home the Council's message that it is crucial to pick up after your dog, and £50 on-the-spot fines will be the penalty for not doing so.

The character of Molly the dog, pictured here, is at the centre of the promotion. Molly is an actual dog, now used for school visits who was adopted by Michelle Johnson, one of Stockton's Animal Welfare Officers. She will not only appear on massive billboards across Stockton Borough, but will also be appearing on primetime advertising slots on local television.

The message is simple: dogs can't clean up after themselves, hence it is the owner's responsibility as dog faeces are not only unsightly but are a distinct health hazard.

The campaign is a continuation of the steadfast work already carried out by

the Council in the last two years which has involved 120 new dog bins placed around the Borough and 6,000 dog-fouling signs. A further 25 new dog bins should be in place by mid November 2003.

As part of the campaign 6,000 known dog owners within the Borough will receive an information leaflet and questionnaire, where upon completion and return to the Council, they will be entered into a prize draw to win between £100 and £40 of vouchers. The competition is being sponsored by Pets at Home.

The Council will also be stepping up the numbers of patrols by Enforcement Officers during the six-week campaign.

Dog owners are reminded that free poop scoop bags are available at most Council offices.

Responses gained from a recent consultation exercise from the Council's Viewpoint Panel are behind the campaign, where over 1,000 residents expressed their views on what should be done to combat dog fouling.

Mark Berry, Stockton Council's Principal Environmental Health Officer, said: "Hitting home the message about the consequences of dog fouling is crucial to the work of the Council.

"£50 is the price people will have to pay for flouting the law and our Enforcement Officers will be out in force and keeping a watchful eye on those who think it's OK to leave their dog droppings around."

If you are a dog owner and did not receive a leaflet and would like to take part in the questionnaire, please call (01642) 391163.

Town centre plans for Thornaby

Thornfield Properties Plc has been selected by Stockton Council to carry out a major redevelopment and refurbishment of Thornaby Town Centre.

Once complete, this will provide a totally transformed town centre and an improved shopping environment.

Thornfield is investing more than £15 million to refocus the town centre and provide an opportunity to attract new multiple retailers into the town.

The proposals include 80,000 sq ft of new retail units. There will also be a new 350-space car park, including facilities for disabled users. This will be built at the northern end of the scheme fronting Mitchell Avenue, replacing the existing car parks fronting Allensway. There will also be dedicated 50-space staff parking.

The town centre square will be refurbished and it is anticipated that the market will continue to trade from this location, which will become the new main entrance to the shopping centre.

A new lift and staircase to the Pavilion will be built and environmental improvements will be made to the Centre including new paving, lighting, enhanced CCTV, signage and canopies.

A second phase of the scheme is proposed, subject to further land assembly, to include a new road linking Allensway to Trenchard

Avenue. In addition there could be further town centre car parking of up to 300 extra spaces.

"Consultation with residents, businesses and market traders has been carried out - a special edition of Thornaby Light was distributed to all households and businesses and a three-day exhibition was held to show plans and proposals. We are now assessing all of the feedback we have received." said Tim Gibson, Stockton Council's Development Manager.

A planning application will be submitted later in the year. There will then be a series of further consultations with all interested parties and groups undertaken by Thornfield Properties in conjunction with Stockton Council.

Subject to obtaining planning permission the building works are scheduled to commence in autumn 2004 with the enhanced shopping centre being completed and relaunched in time for Christmas 2005.



European partners work together to manage waste

European experts in waste management arrived in Stockton for a new three-year project and while here a group of them took the chance to pop along to see where Hartlepool United train.

Making Waste Work is a project designed to look at how the volume of waste produced can be minimised and managed in a more sustainable way and to improve public awareness of waste issues.

Stockton Council is the lead partner but the others involved are Moss Kommune, Norway; TU-Technology GmBH, Hamburg, Germany; municipality of Aaskov, Denmark and Falkoping Municipality, Sweden.

And it was the group of workers from Falkoping who decided to head for Hartlepool to check out the ground and buy a shirt. They now count themselves as fans and plan to return to watch the team play.

The big switch-on

Stockton will be ablaze with colour on Thursday November 27 as the Christmas lights are switched on.

The festive fun starts around 5pm on Stockton High Street and there will be plenty for all the family to enjoy.

The switch-on coincides with the start of late night shopping in Stockton. You can take advantage of late night shopping each Thursday in the run up to Christmas. For more details please call (01642) 415771/2/3.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

MARK DAVIS

Mark Davis has turned full circle from being a member of a Stockton Council youth club, to now being one of the people running the Youth Service.

Mark, 18, who was a member of Kiora Hall Youth Club, Stockton, for many years, is now in the hotseat as he takes on a key role in Stockton Council's Youth Service. From September his role is that of Young Peoples' Co-ordinator (Citizenship & Democracy).

A substantial amount of voluntary work whilst a member at Kiora was clearly a great stepping stone for Mark, as he dealt with young people from all backgrounds and abilities, and gradually became actively involved in the decision making process through focus groups and various youth forums.

"Being young myself, I seem to be able to relate to other young people. We are on the same wavelength and I can see where they are coming from."

A typical day during term time would begin for Mark around 8.00am to check e-mails in the office and respond to all his messages. This could be followed by meeting groups of young people either in schools or community groups.



Quite often it is part of school council meetings or in the community groups he visits, where he will be promoting citizenship and democracy, which is sometimes done through drama, discussions and debates.

Mark definitely wants to make a difference to the young people he works with and said: "I am delighted to be working for Stockton Council's Youth Service and I hope that in the future I can make an impact on the work already being carried out for the 13-19 year olds in the Stockton Borough.

"Being young myself, I seem to be able to relate to other young people. We are on the same wavelength and I can see where they are coming from.

"Sometimes, of course, there are young people who are sceptical, and although this can be challenging, I have had very positive feedback from hard to reach groups."

For one so young, one wonders if Mark has time for a social life. He clearly appreciates his leisure time as he works very long hours and said: "I try to catch up with friends to

perhaps see a film, or go bowling. Nothing special – just normal things like lots of young people!"

He has an impressive background in his involvement in youth work, including training and support to The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Stockton and Youth Mentor for the Summer Activities Programme within Stockton Council's Youth Service.

He was elected the chairperson of the newly established Citizenship and Democracy Headquarters and was a Project Worker on the Hear by Right Project – based on Citizenship and Democracy, which gives young people a voice. And last but not least, he is a Support Worker for Stockton Parent Support (for families and special needs groups).

At a recent conference held at Stockton Riverside College, Mark was chosen by the Department for Education and Skills to address a prestigious national conference to be held in Birmingham in November.

So it's welcome to Stockton Council where Mark is sure to make his mark!

Stepping Out

Do you enjoy walking? Or would you like to try it? If so, a national initiative has been set up to promote the huge benefits of low impact exercise to general health and well-being.

In Stockton, Encouraging Access Officer, David Cowell, is working closely with other organisations, including Sports Development's Exercise on Prescription Services, the Parks and Countryside Service and the Primary Care Trust to develop the project.

As part of his work, David will be setting up walking groups in Ragworth, Portrack and Tilery, Thornaby, Hardwick, Newtown and Parkfield and Mill Lane over the next two years. Volunteer Walks Leaders are needed to help take the project forward – if you enjoy walking and would like to help other people get out and about in their local area, call the Stepping Out office on (01642) 391464 – no experience is necessary and all training will be provided.

Research shows that physical activity can reduce the effects of clinical depression and walking only two miles a day can reduce the risk of heart attack by 28 per cent. Regular exercise has been linked to a 40 per cent

reduction in bowel cancer and walking reduces the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes and can significantly help with weight loss.

The programme was launched officially on 1 October at the Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre by the Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Ann Cains, with a special guest appearance by Tanni-Grey Thompson. For further information on the Stepping Out programme or for an information booklet, contact the Encouraging Access Officer on (01642) 393990.



Caring people

People who have shown a caring attitude to their environment have been recognised by Stockton Council and the Mayor of Stockton, Councillor Ann Cains presented all with vouchers and certificates.

The Council's Care for Your Area Team chose two groups and five individuals; John Davies, Jean Oliver, Brian Littlefair, Ken Whitfield and Christopher Mason. The groups were Joan Atkinson and Vera

Walker from Stockton's Victoria Community House and pupils from Egglescliffe Comprehensive School, for litter picking at lunchtimes.



Pupils from Egglescliffe School - Front: Sebastian Lister and from left, Andrew Walters, James Cashmore, Ferzand Khan and Lewis Robinson.

Take a break

Two places to eat in Stockton Borough have had facelifts.

A new trendy café, Blades Diner, within Billingham Forum, offers a wide range of food, including light bites and beverages and also caters for children's parties. For details please call (01642) 393666.

If you are out and about in Stockton, why not call into the refurbished Book Ends café at the Central Library?

The new furniture, redecoration and soft lighting, offers a relaxed atmosphere whether you are a library user or just out shopping. On offer is a selection of homemade cakes and scones, fresh sandwiches daily, and an endless variety of chocolate and hot snacks.

Set a date for wedding fayre

Brides and grooms to be, can enjoy a wedding fayre in November at Preston Park – one of Stockton Council's newest venues for civil marriage ceremonies.

Stockton Council held a wedding fayre at Preston Hall's ballroom in July and more than 600 people enjoyed the day.

The next wedding fayre, to be held on Sunday 16 November from 11am until 3pm, will have a Christmas/winter theme and there will be a whole host of trade stands and exhibitors showing wedding photography, cakes, cars and clothes.

"The first wedding fayre proved so popular we have decided to put on another one so more people can come along and see Preston Hall as a wedding venue and also have a look at all the stands and meet the exhibitors," said Ann Wynn, Stockton Council's Registration Services Manager.

"We were overwhelmed with enquiries from exhibitors last time who all wanted to be involved with this prestigious venue."

In August David Harbottle and Michelle Critchley became the first couple to be married at Preston Hall.

In addition to these exciting developments, the Stockton-on-Tees Register Office at Nightingale House, will be undergoing some refurbishment works to the reception area to make it more user-friendly for customers and the marriage room will be redecorated.

Ghostly goings on down at Preston Hall

Preston Hall's resident ghost 'The Grey Lady' is the central character in a Halloween drama being held at the end of October.

Following the success of last year's Halloween Murder Mystery Night, Stockton Council's Arts Development Team has once again organised a specially commissioned performance.

Leading local writer and director, Michelle Plews, has been working with a cast of local actors and the spooky drama will be held at Preston Hall's ballroom and period street from 28 October – 1 November.

"Last year's Murder Mystery nights were a sell-out and we are very excited about the new performance we have commissioned," said Alison Clark, Stockton Council's Arts Development Manager.

"Taking art out to the people is one of our aims and the murder mystery night at Preston Hall makes full use of the venue's atmospheric setting."

The tale tells of The Grey Lady who, as legend goes, was a girlfriend of one of the Ropner family's sons who was not socially acceptable to the family. Her broken heart led her to hang herself in the Park and her ghost has been seen by a number of people.

This year's event is being held in a partnership with the Butterwick Hospice and all profits will go to the Hospice.

Lottery grant helps Stockton nurseries

Stockton Council has been awarded more than £664,000 to create new nurseries throughout the Borough.

The huge lottery grant, which has been awarded by the New Opportunities Fund and is one of the biggest grants ever to be awarded under the Neighbourhood Nurseries programme, has been awarded to the Council to build, extend and refurbish five nurseries across the area.

This investment will see 340 new day care places created in the Stockton, Thornaby and Billingham areas.

Youth Service shows youngsters the electoral ropes

Stockton's Youth Service is planning a number of activities for youngsters in Stockton this October looking at the democratic process in elections.

These activities are planned as part of Local Democracy Week which takes place between 13 and 18 of October.

On Wednesday 15 October the Youth Service will be holding a conference at the Oakwood Centre in Eaglescliffe which will look at the case for lowering the age that young people can vote, from 18 to 16.

The conference will also look at whether the age of candidates for election, which currently stands at 21 years old, should also be lowered. There will be a chance for youngsters to take part in an exercise called 'Run a Local Authority for a day' on Friday 17 October in partnership with the Council's Democratic Services Unit.

There will also be a chance to join the Stockton Youth Assembly, which will be made up of representatives from all Secondary Schools and Youth Organisations in the Stockton Borough.

This week of events comes hot on the heels of a meeting held on 20 September to draw up plans for a Regional Youth Congress, in which young people from the Stockton Youth Service were represented. The Congress is planned to take place at the same time as the 2004 meeting of the European Youth Parliament.

Chris Downie from Stockton Council's Youth Service, said: "The Regional Youth Congress is an excellent opportunity for a larger and more representative group of young people from the North East to come together and discuss the issues that are important to them."

National festival sings praises of Stockton musicians



Youngsters from Egglecliffe School Orchestra

Stockton musicians from across the Borough have received top awards after attending a premier musical festival.

The Tees Valley Music Service attended the National Festival of Music during July with three of their groups, the Stockton Percussion Group, Stockton Junior Voices and the Tees Valley Youth Choir reaching the finals.

The Egglecliffe School Orchestra also attended the event, playing "Fanfare

For Freedom" written by Year 12 student Danny Allinson and the "Sinfonietta" by K.Platts, winning their 10th consecutive Outstanding Performance Award, yet again making them the best school orchestra in the country.

The school's Soul Band, "About Time", won an Outstanding Performance Award for their recital of the Bacharach/David songs "Promises Promises" and "Walk on By" as well as "Superstition" by Stevie Wonder.

Study points the way for Stockton Town Centre

Central Stockton's future development is to be the focus of a study by Stockton Council and the many stakeholders in the town centre.

The aim is to continue the town centre's revitalisation - not only for shopping but also for activities such as leisure, entertainment, the arts and tourism, to develop an attractive, safe and enjoyable experience for all its users.

The study will form the starting point for plans which will be used to direct the regeneration of the town centre and will complement a wider Tees Corridor Renaissance Package being implemented jointly by Stockton and Middlesbrough Councils.

Geraint Williams, Town Centre Manager for Stockton Council, said: "The involvement of the community of Stockton is a very important aspect of any regeneration of the town centre.

"This study will ensure that Stockton High Street and its surrounding area remains competitive with other centres such as Hartlepool and Darlington, as well as identifying future growth potential of the centre."

There has been considerable public and private investment in the town centre over the past ten years with projects such as pedestrianisation, the Wellington Square shopping centre, improvements to the Castlegate shopping centre, the Millennium footbridge and the creation of the Arc

arts centre. However, in recent years it has faced significant competition from other centres and the Council is determined to continue its revitalisation.

Extensive consultation will be carried out as part of the study, focusing on both the business and resident communities, as well as public services such as the police and local transport companies.

The study will also consider how Stockton's High Street market - which is one of the largest in the region and operates under a charter granted as far back as 1310 - can be regenerated and revitalised.

"The market is a major part of the character and image of the High Street and, although there have been some changes in the nature of stallholders in recent years, it is still a key part of the town," added Geraint.

The study will also look at possible funding for further regenerating the High Street, with several potential sources being identified, such as the One NorthEast Single Programme and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. Funding from the lottery and other sources is also a possibility.

Geraint continued "Various funding options are open to us for this project and we will need to fully explore all of these once the study has been completed."

Consultants are expected to be appointed to carry out the study during October.

Stockton shines bright this bonfire night

Stockton will be shining bright this November with Stockton Council's annual fireworks display and music events.

The event, which takes place on November 5 and regularly attracts at least 60 - 80,000 people, will take place on Riverside and will feature the TFM Roadshow and a funfair.

The display has been produced by G2 Fireworks of Middlesbrough, with the explosions being timed to a classical music theme.

The event will start at 6pm and continue until around 8pm, with the fireworks starting at 7.30pm. Riverside Road will be closed from 6pm and the Princess of Wales Bridge from 9am - 10pm. Pedestrians are requested to use the Millennium footbridge to access Teesdale.

The run up to bonfire night is also the time of the year when the number of firework accidents increase and Stockton Council is seeking to remind people of the dangers of fireworks.

The Council has published a number of helpful leaflets and fact sheets in conjunction with the Department of Trade and Industry, outlining the dangers and positive safety steps that should be taken, whether its putting on a professional display for a large number of people, or just a small gathering of family and friends.

Some of the basic rules that should be followed when using fireworks are:

- Only buy fireworks marked BS7114
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Stand well back
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
- Keep pets indoors.

Stockton Council's Trading Standards are also asking traders to be extra careful when selling fireworks.

The Council is asking traders to limit the time they sell the fireworks, in order to cut down on anti-social behaviour from people abusing fireworks. Anyone wishing to sell fireworks must be registered with the Council.

The leaflets are available from Trading Standards at 16 Church Road and will help people to have fun and stay safe this bonfire night.



New toilets on the way for Stockton High Street

State-of-the-art public conveniences are to be built in the Shambles on Stockton High Street.

Stockton Council is currently seeking listed building consent to convert part of the Shambles into modern male and female toilets, disabled toilets, as well as baby changing facilities.

Work on the new facilities is due to start in early 2004 and there will be further improvement works to the Shambles carried out.

"The present toilets on Stockton High Street will not close until the new ones are open and there will then be work

carried out on the former site to create storage space," said Simon Dale, Stockton Council's Head of Direct Services.

"The Shambles has been chosen as the site following consultation for the new facilities as there really is no other suitable location along the High Street. The new toilets will be very modern and as vandal-proof as possible with appropriate CCTV coverage for added security."

Further information will be displayed around Stockton High Street ahead of the work starting to inform residents and visitors of the timetable of works.

Go-ahead given for Billingham regeneration

Stockton Council's Cabinet has given the green light for the Gateway Project in Billingham to go ahead.

The exciting proposals include:

- 25m swimming pool
- Ice Rink/Events Arena
- Café
- Library - including access to Internet
- Gallery and exhibition space
- Revitalisation of the park with children's play area and bowling greens
- Doctors Surgery/Health Centre
- Gymnasium for fitness and lifestyle
- Creche/Nursery
- Advice and guidance services
- Adult learning provision

The £21 million project will be built on part of John Whitehead Park and Stockton Council is currently pursuing avenues of funding.

Recently bids to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport were turned down. However, the Council plans to use the capital receipt from the sale of the Billingham Forum site to pump prime funding.

Additionally, the Council has a Single Programme allocation of £5 million - the majority of which is subject to a future application.

"While we are obviously disappointed at the news from the ODPM and DCMS, this was just one option available to us and we still have other avenues to explore," said Kevin McAuley, Stockton Council's Head of Leisure Services.

The project is progressing and a planning application for the Gateway scheme is due to be submitted shortly.



Arc

It's back

and it's better than ever!



A sensational line-up of top talent is set for the very first season of the newly relaunched Arc with the brochure receiving excellent reaction and bookings already pouring in.

In the first few weeks there will be theatre, stand-up comedians, band nights and poetry readings... there's even a psychic thrown in!

Kicking off, what better than the play, *Dead Fish*, written by Teesside's very own Gordon Steel, from 27 September - 11 October (with previews on 25 and 26 September).

This play to relaunch the new Arc reflects the new management's desire to provide events which have special relevance to audiences in the region with a big emphasis on local talent throughout the new programme mingled with professional performances, to create the perfect balance. As Kevin Parker, Arc director, explains:

"There will be opportunities to attract international artists of renown, but primarily we are providing opportunities for the community.

We have a heavy education brief and the companies we work with will have to fit in with our ethos," he says. "There are lots of young people, artists and musicians in the region who will benefit from the educational opportunities available at the new Arc.

"We have some exciting plans in store, particularly surrounding the Stockton Riverside College and the CoVE in Performing Arts (Centre of Vocational Excellence in Performing Arts) initiative, which will be based in the building."

The many highlights for the coming season include award-winning jazz singer Stacey Kent (23 October), Perrier-nominated comedian Sean Locke (7 November) and highly rated acoustic singer songwriter Tom McCrae on 6 November. One of Teesside's best-loved bands, The Wildcats of Kilkenny, play on 18 October.

Stockton Riverside College's spectacular Christmas production *Alice*, based on Lewis Carroll's novel *Alice in Wonderland*, is performed between 8 and 23 of December.

For children aged 7 – 12, Théâtre Sans Frontières comedy *Tour de France*, introduces basic French. (11 November).

The Arc Youth Festival begins in mid-October with a 'Wrestling Shakespeare' project – a novel way of making Shakespeare accessible to young people by involving a live audience, a film backdrop and some 'virtual' appearances by WWE wrestlers!

On Halloween (31 October), three up and coming bands from local secondary schools perform as part of

'Lemon Top Live'. In contrast, The Northern Youth Dance Company presents an evening of contemporary dance on 1 November.

Several children's clubs will also operate at half term and at weekends with classes in dance, music, drama and other related creative arts.

Arc will run many classes and workshops in areas such as salsa dancing, acting and singing as well as cookery, Tai Chi and meditation. Other workshops include how to get into the rock industry to creative writing classes and there will be a range of full-time courses, modern apprenticeships and short specialised courses.

The Centre of Vocational Excellence in Performing Arts (CoVE) at the Riverside College is one of only two centres of its kind in the UK. Many of their courses and training opportunities are available at Arc, including Stage Design, Cultural Administration and Performance. New courses for 2004 include Street Theatre, Circus, Media Presentation and Arts Business.

For information about events or activities at Arc, call the box office on (01642) 525199. To be added to the mailing list, write to Arc, Dovecot Street, Stockton-on- Tees, TS18 1LL, or call in and speak to an Arc representative.

Thousands of homes across Stockton Borough

face a brighter future



The prospects of good quality homes look distinctly brighter for thousands of residents across Stockton Borough, thanks to a £160 million regeneration programme.

In a seven-year plan to extensively modernise 10,500 homes now in motion, two estates in particular will be regenerated – Mandale and Hardwick – with over 1,000 homes, many of which are unpopular and substandard replaced in one of the region’s biggest redevelopments.

Stockton Council has long subscribed to the Government’s vision for “sustainable communities” – to provide good quality homes in places where people want to live.

Yet, like most other authorities, it has been an uphill struggle to find the funds to realise this vision.

In fact, Stockton has fared better than most, bidding competitively for considerable Government funding. But strict Whitehall guidelines determined where and how this could be spent – places like Norton Grange and

Ragworth in Stockton, and Thornaby’s Holmes and Middlefield estates. On the other hand, residents elsewhere in the Borough might be forgiven for feeling left out.

“New, much better and popular housing will replace unpopular and un-modernised homes, not just for today’s residents but for future generations”

Now, however, things are improving dramatically. Although homes do still belong to the Council, a trailblazing move by the authority following a tenants’ referendum has seen their day-to-day management transferred to an “arms-length” organisation, Tristar Homes Ltd.

Stockton was one of just eight councils nationwide selected by the

Government to pilot this change, which gives tenants’ representatives a direct role in managing the organisation.

But that’s not all. The move has also unlocked £44.5 million in extra Government funding for improvements to the Council’s housing stock. Add Stockton’s annual housing budget and this makes an impressive £130m for repairs and upgrading across the Borough over the next seven years.

Working with resident’s groups and partner organisations such as registered social landlords, private developers and government agencies as well as Tristar Homes, the Council is finding new ways to make ideas happen. It is now in a position to kickstart projects which don’t require a lengthy wait for external funding. Mandale, in Thornaby, is a shining example. Contractors will move in next January to begin remodelling and



rebuilding homes with a mix of housing association and private housing.

The scheme really took off after the local residents group took their ideas straight to the Housing Minister in London. The community had already worked closely with the Council to develop the plans and the close cooperation with all the partners has continued at every stage.

Consultation is the keyword, with one-to-one sessions offered to every householder on the estate to explain the proposals and find the best way of meeting individuals' needs. Inevitably, families will need to move home as the development takes shape but existing residents will be given priority for the new homes.

Nearby Council homes will be upgraded and a mix of new, specially-designed bungalows and flats for rent provided for frail and elderly

residents by the Nomad Housing Group and Anchor Housing Group.

Following close behind is a similar scheme in part of the Hardwick estate. Like Mandale, it's a long-term scheme which will take several years to complete and residents will be closely involved throughout.

The Council will invest more than £10million in modernising its homes here. In partnership with Tristar Homes, Endeavour Housing and private developers, new high quality, modern homes for rent and sale will be built, plus specialist housing for the frail and elderly.

Neil Schneider, Stockton Council's Corporate Director of Service Stockton, says both schemes represent enormous investment in these communities.

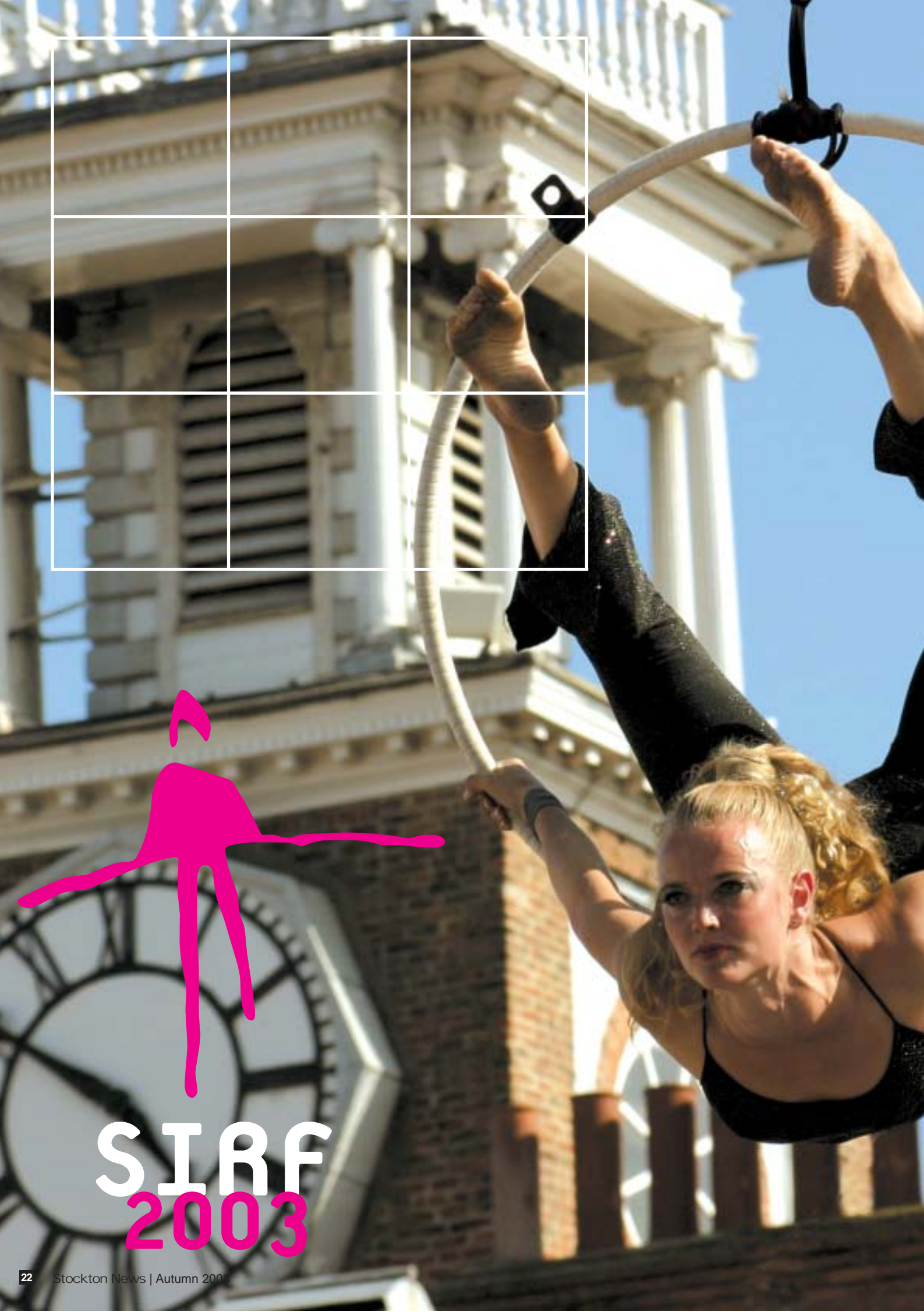
"New, much better and popular housing will replace unpopular and

un-modernised homes, not just for today's residents but for future generations," he said.

"We are totally committed to working sensitively on a one-to-one basis with every single resident affected by these proposals, to ensure that their needs are met as best as possible."

Many of the changes across the area have been driven by the changing needs of local people. A generally ageing population means a greater need for sheltered or specially designed housing.

Although housing led, these projects will be supported by social and community regeneration and even the reconstruction work will offer opportunities for local people to gain employment and training while it progresses.



SIRF 2003

Festival fun for thousands

The 16th Stockton International Riverside Festival proved another huge success with two weekends of music, theatre, comedy and dance.

The Hits Live Music weekend opened this year's event with The Proclaimers, Wildcats of Kilkenny, Atlantic Soul Messengers and Brutus Gold - all performing on the Riverside stage.

The weekend came to a massive climax with TFM Live, when some of the biggest names in pop wowed the crowd. Amongst others on stage were David Sneddon, Girls Aloud and Busted.

The following weekend of street theatre proved, once again, why we can boast the UK's finest festival of its kind.

Companies from all over the globe came to Stockton and crowds were treated to incredible performances in the Town Centre, Riverside and the Tees Barrage.



All change for Early Years & Childcare Services in Stockton

Formed in 1999, the Early Years & Childcare Service brought together a range of professionals in a multi-disciplinary team based within the Education, Leisure & Cultural Services Directorate at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. A key part of its role is contributing to the delivery of the National Childcare Strategy.

In line with the Government's decision to combine Early Years Services and Local SureStart Programmes Stockton's Early Years and Childcare Service will, from 13th July 2003 become known as: **SureStart Stockton-On-Tees ~ Services for Children 0 - 16 and their families.**

Enabling the provision of a wide range of quality services including SureStart local programmes, Stockton Childcare Information Service, Toy & Resource Library, Parenting Skills and Support, Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy, Sure Start Plus, Childcare Development, Support and Training, Employment opportunities, Nursery Education Grant, Business Support and Quality Assurance Scheme, ensuring continuous professional development.

SureStart local programmes, there are 5 across the Borough, will touch the lives of 4,221 under 4's, this being around 48% of the total under 4's population. The first buildings opened in Ragworth and Redhill in June 2003. and are the first, in Stockton, that will bring together SureStart, Children's Centres and Neighbourhood Nursery initiatives, which are part of a Government 1/2 Billion capital programme. These work by bringing together early education, childcare, health and family support and parental skills training to give a sure start to young children living in disadvantaged areas.

What other services are available from SureStart Stockton - on - Tees?

- Stockton Childcare Information Service
- Development, Support and Training for Childcare and Early Years Education Providers.
- Nursery Education Grant for 3 & 4 year olds
- Childminder and Day Care of Under Eights
- Survival skills for parents
- Parenting Plus – support and advice services in relation to Parenting Orders.
- Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy
- Toy and Resource Library
- SureStart Plus
- Quality assurance Scheme
- SureStart local programmes

SureStart
Stockton-on-Tees
Services for children 0 - 16 and their families



SureStart Stockton - on - Tees. 1st floor Bayheath House. Prince Regent Street. Stockton. TS18 1DF.

Tel: 01642 415709

Fun with Surestart

Families in the Borough have had two great family fun days thanks to Surestart Stockton-on-Tees, Stockton Council's Education, and Leisure and Cultural Services department.

Families enjoyed an outing in July in Preston Park with amazing displays of sky-diving, gymnastics, falconry and Cleveland Fire Brigade's display team.

In August, the National Out of School and Holiday Fun Day saw around 120 children enjoying a variety of circus activities held in the Newlife Daycare Centre in Billingham.



An exciting future for leisure - what do you think?

Stockton Council has given the go-ahead for an exciting new approach to the management of leisure facilities in the Borough.

Council members approved, in principle, the formation of a Non-Profit Distributing Company to manage Billingham Forum, Thornaby Pavilion, Thornaby Pool, Stockton Sports Centre and Splash.

This approach, which is being adopted by an increasing number of local authorities throughout the country, aims to improve services and increase levels of investment.

All staff will transfer to the new company, which will be run by a voluntary board and supported by a subsidy from Stockton Council. The company will be eligible for 80 per cent relief on business rates, which means that more money will be available for the service without costing the Council any more money.

The most frequently asked questions by members of the public are:

- Will it cost more to use the facilities?
- Will our club or group still be able to use the facilities?

These questions are best answered by saying that the company pricing and

access policies will be based on the current system and the Council will have a detailed service level agreement with the company covering these and many other issues.

The core aim of the company will be to encourage more people to become involved in physical activity so services will not be over-priced and more, not less, people will be encouraged to use our facilities.

As a partnership between the new company and the Council, and by working together over time, we aim to create first-class services in first-class facilities. Clearly, this cannot happen overnight but Stockton Council has taken this exciting decision to ensure that we have the best possible opportunity to forge a bright future for leisure in the Borough of Stockton.

We will keep you informed of developments in future issues of Stockton News.

Your views are welcome on this new venture, if so you have any comments or questions, please contact Steve Chaytor, Leisure Services Manager, Service Stockton, Sun Street, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 6HB.

Alternatively e-mail steven.chaytor@stockton.gov.uk or telephone (01642) 393740.

Children attend school thanks to STARS

Schoolchildren across the Borough will be receiving massive incentives to increase their school attendance, thanks to the Stockton Council run STARS project.

The Schools Tackling Absence and Rewarding Success programme's 100 per cent Club started running a number of attractions from the start of the new school year in September, aimed at encouraging children to improve their attendance at school.

These included, amongst other things, the chance to take part in a fashion show sponsored by Matalan, the chance to ride like the stars to school in a stretch limousine courtesy of L.A. Limousines, as well benefiting from the continual support of Middlesbrough Football Club. The STARS project is also supported and sponsored by ASDA Thornaby, Hollywood Bowl, Splash, Autoplus and Stockton Sports Development.

Polly Hampton, Manager of Stockton Education Social Work Service, said: "Middlesbrough Football Club and all our other sponsors have been invaluable in their support of the project. By offering rewards that money cannot buy we are seeing more and more children achieve success."

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

Hospital gets holiday feel

Patients can soak up the sights of the seaside from their hospital bed thanks to the efforts of creative staff. Talented estates employees at the University Hospital of North Tees have created a new colourful themed garden which is designed to speed up patients' recovery.

Carol Alexander, manager of the stroke ward at the University Hospital of North Tees, said: "Many of our patients are in hospital for four weeks or more and it is vital that they undertake tasks in outdoor spaces as part of their rehabilitation. The new garden provides this opportunity as well as bringing a real boost to the overall patient environment."



Staff and patients pictured in the new seaside themed garden at the University Hospital of North Tees

Top rating for star hospital

The University Hospital of Hartlepool notched up a hat trick of high performance in the latest performance ratings. North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, is one of only 12 NHS Trusts nationally to have achieved the maximum level of three stars in the annual scores.

Hospitals are assessed by an independent health watchdog on their performance in 45 different areas including waiting times, number of patients who are re-admitted to hospital shortly after they have had an operation, patients views, death rates cleanliness and infection rates. The University Hospital of Hartlepool, along with its sister hospitals in Stockton and Peterlee, was praised for its excellent cancer treatment, accident and emergency care, low waiting times and good hospital food.

Joan Rogers, chief executive of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust, said: "Retaining our three star ratings for a third year is a clear assurance for patients that they can expect to receive some of the best standards of healthcare in our hospitals."



A doctor cares for a patient at the University Hospital of North Tees

Would you like to have more of a say in running your local hospital?

A campaign has been launched to get as many people as possible who live in Stockton to have more of a say in the running of their local hospital.

What would you choose?

- More doctors and nurses
- More medical equipment
- No one having to wait to see a hospital doctor
- No one having to wait for an operation if they need it

If you sign up as a member of the new NHS Foundation Trust you, along with other local people, will have more of a say in deciding what the University Hospital of North Tees does.

Dr Peter Royle, Medical Director at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust, said: "One of the best things about becoming an NHS Foundation Trust is the chance for local people, patients and staff to have more of a say in how their local hospital is run."

Over the next few months the Trust will be holding displays in the town centre to talk to local people about how they can become a member. If you would like to find out more about how to become a member of the new NHS Foundation Trust or when these displays will take place, log on to our website at www.northteesandhartlepool.nhs.uk or fill in and return the coupon below. If you have already returned a completed coupon you do not need to send another one in.

Please cut along here 

I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER OF NORTH TEES AND HARTLEPOOL NHS TRUST IF IT BECOMES A FOUNDATION TRUST

Full Name Address
Post code Email address
Daytime contact no.

Please return this form to the Communications Department, Freepost NAT 3771, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust, University Hospital of Hartlepool, Holdforth Road, TS24 9BR.

Alternatively you could email the Trust at communications@nth.nhs.uk or telephone the Trust on 01429 522498.



A review of health services on Teesside

Developing a long-term vision and dealing with short term challenges

We want to hear your views

Health services are changing and the NHS on Teesside wants to make sure patients continue to receive the best possible health care and this may mean some changes to how it is provided.

You can help us plan the future of health services and deal with the challenges which face us now by telling us what you think.

Why do we need a review?

The NHS is seeing more patients than ever before:

There are more older people needing care, and more people with long term illnesses and we need to cut waiting times and give people more choice about where and how they are treated.

We want to provide care as close to home as possible, but to get the best care, some people need to be treated in larger more specialist hospitals.

There is a national shortage of key staff, such as doctors and nurses; and European law means that junior doctors must work fewer hours.

What will the review look at?

Primary & Community Care - We want highly trained professionals with specialist skills to care for people as close to home as possible and we need to develop services in primary and community care that are easier to access - and prevent people going into hospital unnecessarily.

Hospitals North of the Tees - We want the best possible hospital services for patients living in Hartlepool, Easington and Stockton. With services operating on two sites, North Tees and Hartlepool Trust face real challenges.

We are therefore exploring three possible options for hospital services north of the Tees as the basis for discussion and debate. These are:

- Keeping services at the University Hospitals of Hartlepool and North Tees as they are today
- Reorganising services so that one hospital focuses on emergency care and one on planned care
- One hospital providing all services
- Other options may emerge as the review progresses

Hospitals South of the Tees - To get the best care for more complex conditions, patients need to be treated by specialist doctors working in larger more specialist hospitals like The James Cook University Hospital.

We need to:

- Make sure The James Cook University Hospital can carry out this specialist role as well as providing general hospital care for local people
- Make sure services are provided nearer to patient's homes
- Maintain and develop the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton

Emergency Care Services - We need to look at how services like Accident and Emergency, GP out of hours, ambulance services and NHS Direct can

work together more effectively to provide the best possible care for patients

Transport and other issues

We will also be looking at transport for patients and their visitors, staffing and the cost of these issues.

We are considering separately how we develop mental health and learning disability services.

What do you think?

We want to hear your views as patients and members of the public.

Members of patient groups are being invited to a series of workshops to discuss and debate how services should look in the future and we would also like to draw on the wider views and experiences of other members of the public.

For more information visit www.teesreview.nhs.uk

You can send us your views on email at: teesreview@cdtva.nhs.uk

Or in writing to:
TEES REVIEW
County Durham and Tees Valley
Strategic Health Authority
FREEPOST NAT3825
Stockton-on-Tees
TS17 6BR

Please note that views expressed as part of this consultation may be made public.

Please include your full name, address, telephone number and whether you are representing a particular group or organisation.

POLICE BEAT

PC Rob King, Wildlife Liaison Officer for Stockton, has been involved with youngsters from Belarus and the site of the 1986 Chernobyl chemical disaster.

They were taken to Admiralty ecology site at Urray Nook, and arrived in a limousine before a meal at The Blue Bell at Yarm, all as result of the efforts of John and Margaret Cundall and the charity Chernobyl Childrens lifeline, next year's visit requires host accommodation. If you can help please call (01642) 274944.



Twelve Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in Stockton are now operating together from Medina House in Elm tree under experienced beat officer PC John Sanderson.



They have had several operations recently in Billingham. Thornaby and Stockton, where they worked closely with Community officers and Specials, together with the SBC Enforcement team, fixed penalty tickets have been issued for litter and numerous letters and action under the Anti social behaviour legislation has been actioned, large quantities of alcohol has been seized and every off licence in the District has been visited and given a letter concerning selling alcohol to under age persons. The force is presently recruiting more PCSOs who will join the present unit later this year.



Stockton Community Safety Inspector Eric Robinson has moved on to a role at Community Safety at Safe in Tees Valley at Headquarters and is being replaced by Colin White (pictured here) from Thornaby.

The Stockton Community Team Inspector, Ray Morton, has also moved on by being promoted to Detective Chief Inspector in charge of a new Regional Drugs Intelligence unit based at Durham Headquarters. He will be covering Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland Police areas.

More recently Steve Ash has been appointed to Superintendent Crime Manager in charge of Stockton, after a previous role at HQ, and has experience with Staffordshire Police.

The Pensions Service, Age Concern, Cleveland Police and Fire Brigade, Stockton Council's Housing Benefits, and Carers have developed a series of drop-ins for the over 60s and those approaching pension age.

The first session took place at the Stockton Parish Church on 29th September and the initiative brings together several agencies who have not previously worked together - bringing services to this hard to reach group.

Acting Superintendent Ray Morton, said "I fully support this excellent initiative, which has been driven by the Pensions Service and hope that pensioners from across the Borough will eventually be able to discuss problems with all the agencies in a one-stop-shop situation."

Double electronic boost for Council services

Reporting a problem with the bins, litter, dog fouling and a host of other everyday matters has just become easier in Stockton.

Residents and visitors to the Borough can now use the Council's website - www.stockton.gov.uk - to process a fault, problem or request for service.

The new service is available at any time, 24 hours a day, at the touch of a button – simply visit the website and click on “Online Services”.

At first, customers will be able to submit a request for any issue relating to street-based services by our Care For Your Area team services – principally:

- Refuse Collection
- Street Cleansing
- Grounds Maintenance
- Recycling

Reports made using the new system feed directly into the Council's computer system, which automatically registers them, then directs them to an

appropriate member of staff, who will deal with the matter. The computer also tracks their progress as action is taken.

The new service will soon be extended to other services.

And in the near future, a new electronic system is being introduced to support the new online services facility. A new, seven-year partnership between Stockton Council and NextiraOne UK will help deliver services electronically, saving Council Tax payers up to £2.5million on the authority's projected costs.

The new electronic network is one of the first of its type in the country and will progressively link more than 180 Council sites over the next 18 months. This will bring greater capacity and reliability for the computer systems which provide services to the public, as services are increasingly offered on-line.

Facilities such as the Council's website and the ability to pay bills or access services by computer will all benefit.

And a new telephone system for the Council's 2,500 internal users will be phased in over the coming year.

Julie Danks, the Council's Corporate Director of Resources, said: “Our customers will find quicker, smoother, more cost-effective access to services.

“As we press forward with our e-government programme, the new digital network allow us to explore ideas such as voice mail, video links and additional CCTV connections.”



Club gives young people a sporting chance

More than 60 young people with a disability or special need have had the chance to try new sports with Stockton's Sports Ability Club.

Stockton Council's Sports Development Team set up the club six months ago to give young people with disabilities the chance to find out more about sports such as football, tri-golf, boccia, hockey, netball, basketball, rugby, swimming and dance.

The club operates from Billingham Campus School each Saturday between 10am and 12 noon and is run in

partnership with Sports Development and Stockton Parent Support, an organisation for families and groups with special needs. It is aimed at young people aged between 8 and 18.

Local club coaches are brought in to deliver the sessions so that young people interested in a particular sport have specific clubs they can join if they wish.

The Sports Ability Club is continuing and anyone interested in taking part should call Emma Warnes, Sports Development on (01642) 397022 or e-mail emma.warnes@stockton.gov.uk

Top author awards young librarians

Schoolchildren from across Stockton Borough competed last month to be this year's Junior and Young Librarian.

The annual Junior and Young Librarian awards, which were held at Stockton Central Library, featured children from nine local schools with Councillor Ann Cains, the Mayor of Stockton, and local author Kjartan Poskitt, presenting the awards.

The winner of the Junior Librarian Award was Hannah Wilkinson from William Cassidi C. of E. Primary School, while Victoria Carter from The Norton School won the Young Librarian Award.



Register of Electors is **your** name included?

The Electoral Register is published on 1st December 2003. You can check your information at the Electoral Registration Office, Municipal Buildings.

Check Now

Unless your name is included on the Register of Electors you will not be able to vote at elections. All households should by now have received their Electoral Registration Form through the post. If for any reason you have not signed or completed a registration form, contact the Electoral Registration Officer (address below) immediately

If your Birthday is between 1st December 2003 and 30th November 2004, you are entitled to be registered.

Remember, the register relates to where you are living on 15th October, 2003, and if your name does not appear on the Published Register, then you may need to submit a Voter Registration Form.

The closing date for applications for the next rolling registration is 11th December, coming into effect from 1st January 2004.

Why not vote from home?

Did you know that anyone on the Electoral Register can vote by post? If you would like details of how to vote by post or proxy please contact:-

The Electoral Registration Officer
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Municipal Buildings, Church Road,
Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1LD

Telephone: 393939 ext. 3079/3081

Email: Electoral@stockton.gov.uk

Failure to appear on the register may affect any credit applications e.g. - Interest free credit, loans, mortgages and bank accounts



REMEMBER

If you don't register... Neither will your views.

Schools open their doors to pupils



The first pupils crossed the threshold of the two newly built schools in Ingleby Barwick as the new school year began.

The new senior school, All Saints Secondary Church of England School, now has 225 pupils while the primary school, Myton Park Primary School, has 80 pupils together with children in its 39-place nursery. Eventually the number of pupils at All Saints will increase to 600 and Myton Park will have 210 pupils, plus the nursery.

The schools have been built on behalf of Stockton Council and, in the case of All Saints, the York Diocese, by a consortium led by the Robertson Group through a Private Finance Initiative. The Robertson Group will be responsible for maintaining the two schools and so a facilities management team will be based within All Saints School to deal with maintenance.

Built in a curved hub with three spokes leading from it, All Saints School has 14 classrooms and four language teaching rooms in one spoke, design and technology and science laboratories in another spoke and art, ICT and music rooms along the third spoke as well as a hall, gym and café area.

There is also a new community library, which will be available to students from 9am to 1pm each day.

But it's not just pupils and parents who have been looking forward to the opening of the new schools. The

community facilities at All Saints Secondary School will benefit all age groups.

Among the facilities on offer there are football and rugby pitches and cricket nets. The school can be used for adult education classes in the evenings or weekends or for organised or informal groups.

Stockton Council's Director of Education, Stanley Bradford, said: "The schools offer a wonderful range of facilities that the local community should be able to make maximum use of. I hope they will be a challenging and vibrant learning environment for all ages of the community."

At Myton Park Primary School headteacher Dorothy Begley welcomed the new pupils into their school.

She said: "I want to see every child here achieving their full potential in a safe, secure and happy environment.

"This is a wonderful opportunity. It is a community facility and we need to develop that for the best needs of the community."

There are also plans to build a new £5.5 million primary school in Low Lane, Ingleby Barwick, with the aim of providing every primary age child in Ingleby Barwick a place at a local school. The new school would provide an extra 630 places and, subject to planning permission, is expected to open in 2005.

Get recycling and help plant more trees across the Borough

Residents across Stockton Borough are being further encouraged to get into the recycling habit by supporting a new campaign to recycle more aluminium cans and foil.

The Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation (Alupro) wants everybody to recycle more aluminium and in return is promising to plant a tree for each tonne of aluminium cans and foil recycled during the next twelve months.

This means that every aluminium can and each kilo of foil recycled in Stockton will count towards the programme that plans to see at least 35,000 trees planted in parks and woodlands across the UK.

Wynyard Woodland Park was the venue for the Tees Valley launch of the national appeal which has been organised and sponsored by Alupro in association with Stockton Council.

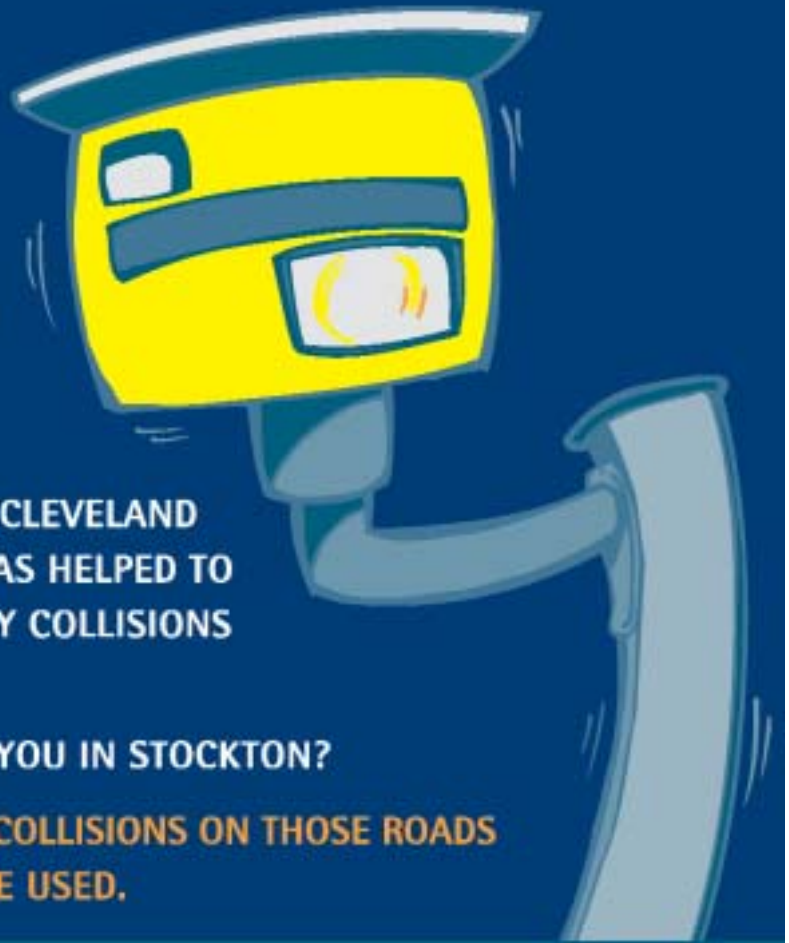
At present 10 per cent of domestic waste in Stockton is recycled.

In Stockton last year around seven tonnes of aluminium cans and foil were recycled through kerbside recycling and can banks. It is now even easier for residents to recycle thanks to the launch of the kerbside recycling collection scheme which is currently being rolled out across the whole Borough. In some areas there has been a 95 per cent take-up rate.

Simon Dale, Stockton Council's Head of Direct Services, said: "We challenge local people to support this project and further increase the amount of aluminium recycled in Stockton. We plan to use our share of the trees to brighten up local areas, so we can see something coming back in return for local recycling. Wynyard Woodland Park is just one of the areas that will benefit from the planting of new trees."

The promotion is designed increase the recycling of aluminium cans and foil and to help win the 95 per cent energy savings which are made when aluminium is recycled. A drink can given for recycling today may be back on the shelf as a new can within six weeks.

In any other form - a hero



RECENT FIGURES SHOW THAT IN THE 3 YEARS OF OPERATION ON CAMERA MONITORED ROADS CLEVELAND SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP HAS HELPED TO PREVENT **366** PERSONAL INJURY COLLISIONS ON CLEVELAND'S ROADS.

BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU IN STOCKTON?

ANSWER: - **138** FEWER INJURY COLLISIONS ON THOSE ROADS WHERE CAMERAS ARE USED.

Isn't it time you woke up to the real cost of speeding?

Road name	Average number of crashes per year before cameras	Average number of crashes per year since cameras
Junction Road	8	5
Bishopton Road West	5	4
Darlington Lane	4	1
Thornaby Road	7	3
A135 Yarm Road	21	4
Harrowgate Lane	6	3
Cunningham Drive	2	0.6
Thames Road	2	0.6
Acklam Road, Thornaby	8	2
Bishopton Avenue	3	1
A177 Thorpe Thewles	2	3
A66 Long Newton	3	3

As can be seen, there is good news on the majority of roads in your area, however there are still one or two where extra care needs to be taken.

Special care is needed at Thorpe Thewles (A177) and Long Newton (A66) where, despite the good work done by the local authority and the introduction of cameras, a small number of collisions are still occurring as drivers use these junctions.

The partnership will continue to monitor collisions in the Stockton area and roads may be added to or removed from the scheme in order to address the problems of injury crashes in your area.



SAVING MORE THAN LIVES
www.clevelandsafetycameras.co.uk

Local Action Plans

Over three days in July the residents of Newtown & Primrose Hill and Portrack & Tilery were able to voice their opinions on local issues in a series of Community Involvement Days.

The staff of Stockton Residents & Community Groups Association organised these events for Stockton Renaissance and their findings will inform the development of Local Action Plans (LAPs) for the two neighbourhoods.

A questionnaire was also distributed to all the residents of these neighbourhoods to ensure that as many views as possible were received.

Local Action Plans are the next step to achieving successful Neighbourhood Renewal and reducing the deprivation gap between the Borough's neighbourhoods. They will add detail and a local perspective to the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy which covers the Borough.

Services to be involved in the LAPs will include the Police, Health Providers and Stockton Borough Council

amongst others, and key actions will be agreed that will improve services and direct it to local needs.

In mid-September a meeting for each neighbourhood was held to discuss the consultation results and prioritise them in conjunction with service providers. A second meeting in mid-October will help to develop the action plans. Finally, after approval from Stockton Renaissance, the Borough's Local Strategic Partnership and the relevant resident groups, the LAPs will be

officially launched early in the New Year.

Currently the information received through the questionnaires and Community Involvement Days is being collated and analysed.

If you would like further information on the Local Action Plans process or Neighbourhood Renewal in the Borough, then please contact Rebecca Guest on (01642) 391260 or rebecca.guest@stockton.gov.uk



Stockton – a learning town

Stockton's Learning Towns want Stockton to be a place where everybody, young and old, employed and unemployed, men and women, learners and new learners, want to and can learn for; life, leisure, employment, qualifications and fun.

They are committed to helping people access the learning they want, by offering free impartial information, advice and guidance on learning opportunities.

Their aim is to help people access a relevant and suitable path for their own learning journey.

For more information contact Stockton's Learning Towns on (01642) 353564.

Maze project launched in Stockton

The Maze – a new mentoring project – has been launched in Stockton.

The new, three-year initiative aims to support and promote independence for disabled people by offering them the opportunity to work with a mentor.

Carol Watson, Development Worker with the Maze project, said: "Mentoring provides one-to-one support that enables an individual to work towards and achieve personal goals like starting a new job or college course, moving away from home or just to help raise self-confidence.

"The mentoring partnership is confidential and aims to promote independence and self-reliance by

raising self-esteem, confidence and aspirations."

An evening of fun launched the project and a group of youngsters, both disabled and able bodied, performed what independence meant to them. Local students gave Indian head massages and two young people from Somalia performed henna hand painting.

The evening was rounded off with a raffle and a signed football from Middlesbrough Football Club was won by Natasha Andrews of Hardwick.

The Maze project is looking for disabled and able-bodied people who would like to train as mentors and disabled people who would like the opportunity to work with a mentor. For more details call (01642) 633525.



Cleveland Fire Brigade

Reducing the risk



Phil Lancaster, Stockton District Manager at Cleveland Fire Brigade, reports on the latest fire news in your area.



There's a major new initiative in Stockton to prevent people being killed or injured in accidental house fires.

Everyone is eligible to apply for FREE Home Fire Safety Check to raise awareness of potential fire hazards and how to react if a blaze breaks out.

The checks, which began in September, are a crucial element of Cleveland Fire Brigade's strategy to reduce accidental deaths, injuries and damage to property complying with the aim of the Stockton Home Safety Association - of which the Brigade is a member - to reassure people making them feel safer in their homes.

Firefighters are carrying out the checks as part of their normal duties, spending 30-45 minutes per check, or much less where people have already taken steps to improve safety.

Phil Lancaster, Stockton District Manager at Cleveland Fire Brigade, said: "The majority of deaths and injuries from fire occur in the home and most are preventable.

"The checks include looking to see if householders have smoke alarms. Where they are not fitted we will provide and fit them FREE OF CHARGE and assist people to develop fire plans, including identifying evacuation routes and actions to take in the event of a blaze."

Leaflets have been distributed explaining to residents that they will be contacted by telephone by a company called LOOP who are working on behalf of Cleveland Fire Brigade, to arrange a Home Fire Safety Check. The service is completely free and doesn't involve any selling or pressurizing of householders.

LOOP simply ask if they would like a Home Fire Safety Check and if so, an appointment is made."

The Firefighters will ALWAYS be dressed in uniform and will ALWAYS carry a Fire Brigade Identification Card. NEVER let anyone into your house until you have seen their Identification Card, and if in doubt, ring your local Fire Station BEFORE letting anyone in.

Stockton Fire Station
01642 551275

Billingham Fire Station
01642 546000

Thornaby Fire Station (& Yarm)
01642 766331

Brigade Headquarters
01429 872311

Phil added: "There has been a steady decline of accidental house fires in Stockton since 2001/02, but we are still currently averaging 11 or 12 a month and hope to reduce the number still further. Situations can quickly change we are not prepared to become complacent.

"Merseyside and Cheshire Brigades pioneered the idea where fire deaths have fallen, and we hope for the same here. We expect a high take up from householders. Due to limitations in time and Firefighter numbers, we are prioritising to ensure that we reach those at highest risk and working hard to achieve the Brigade's goal of Home Fire Safety Checks for EVERY home within the Brigade Area, in the shortest possible time."

For further information, or any aspect of Cleveland Fire Brigade's work, please contact Phil Lancaster at the Headquarters on (01429) 872311.

Voices project a huge success

BBC Radio Cleveland has been working in The Clarendons for six months helping people to realise some of their dreams.

The project, known as Voices on The Clarendons, has helped raise the profile of the area and celebrate its strong community spirit, allowing residents a chance to talk about their lives, experiences and passions.

To mark the end of the project, BBC Radio Cleveland helped to build a garden in the Clarendons Community Centre over two days.

Producer Celeste Hicks, said: "We wanted to say thank you to the people of The Clarendons for their warm welcome, interest and kindness in our project. The idea came from people in the community who told us that they really wanted to have a garden."

All the plants and tools for the garden were donated by listeners and friends of BBC Radio Cleveland and the garden was built using a team of

volunteers, including residents and some of the station's familiar presenters.

Several projects are now up and running as a result of Voices, including football training for boys and girls under 14. There was also a local history project and Clarendons Radio was broadcast live for several weeks from the Clarendons.



Stockton becomes more multicultural thanks to ESOL

Stockton Council is continuing to help people new to the area who cannot speak English to come to grips with the language.

The Council's Training and Employment Services have helped people from 27 countries to learn English through the English Speakers of Other Languages course.

The course, which is run by a sub contractor called Archon 2000, has been running for more than two years and has proved very popular among the people who have taken it.

The course helps people, many who have fled their country due to wars or uprisings, to settle in this country and gain employment, building the confidence of other learners.

Stewart Atkinson, Training and Employment Manager for Stockton Council, said: "This course is a great asset in helping disadvantaged people who are new to the area and there's

nothing better than seeing someone who took part in the course go on to get a job and lead a successful life."

The course uses a computer programme called ELLIS (English Language Learning and Instruction System) where the learner watches a video clip and then has to answer questions on what they have just seen.

The course has helped people from all over the world, including such places as Rwanda, Pakistan and Chechnya, to settle in Stockton, making the town a more multi-cultural area.

The English Speakers of Other Languages course not only allow people to learn English but also other courses which complement the programme run through Learn Direct.

Learners enrol on the course through Learn Direct and can access this and other courses at any time, either through a computer at home or through computers at any Library in the Stockton Borough.

Make a splash with Sports Development

Children in Stockton Borough will benefit from extra sporting activities thanks to new funding from a national partnership.

Stockton Council's Sports Development team has successfully gained funding from the Children's Fund to increase participation in water sports activities in the Borough.

The funding will allow for a number of different water sport activities to be offered, such as bell boating, sailing, over-night expeditions and dragon boating among others.

It is aimed at enticing youngsters aged 8 – 12 to take part in the activities and children who live in the Hardwick, Primrose Hill, Mill Lane, Tilery, Salter's Lane, Roseworth, Ragworth, Newtown and Portrack areas are eligible for free activities.

Sally Mulcaster, Sports Development Officer for Stockton Council, said: "Participating in water sports activities offers a range of benefits to children such as curricular and extra curricular activities, promoting school-club links, team building and social skills as well as allowing them to develop skills in a number of disciplines and have a great time."

For more information about this service please call Sally Mulcaster on (01642) 397021 or email sally.mulcaster@stockton.gov.uk



SureStart helps childcare charity to expand

SureStart Stockton-on-Tees has helped a charity win a grant to offer more out of school care for children in Billingham.

New Life Daycare, of Low Grange, Billingham, received a £20,000 grant from the New Opportunities Fund for the expansion. The number of OfSTED registered out of school childcare places will increase to 50.

SureStart is part of the Government's National Childcare Strategy which aims to increase the amount of good quality affordable childcare for all.

SureStart Stockton-on-Tees Early Years and Childcare team may be able to help other organisations gain funding and support to expand or set up out of school provision. For further information contact Janet Marriott or Cheryl Azam of SureStart Stockton-on-Tees on (01642) 415743 or 415713.

In dispute with your neighbour?

If so, Stockton's neighbourhood mediation service, UNITE, can help.

Over the last ten years, UNITE's mediators have helped neighbours resolve disputes over noise, pets, boundaries, children's ball games, anti-social behaviour, verbal abuse and parking.

If you are finding it hard to talk to your neighbour about something that is bothering you, UNITE mediators will act as independent and impartial go-betweens – helping you and your neighbour to come up with solutions.

To find out more about this free service, please call (01642) 311633 or 327583.

Children's Fund youngsters enjoy Community Carnival

The Stockton International Riverside Festival's Community Carnival provided the perfect opportunity for youngsters from the Children's Fund to be at the very heart of the Festival.

Almost 300 local people, many of them from Children's Fund projects, took part in the Community Carnival watched by thousands of spectators along Stockton High Street.

The youngsters were able to be part of the Festival thanks to funding from the Children's Fund and a project called 'A Growing Number' which aims to increase the number of local people who can participate in and contribute to future festivals.

The youngsters were delighted to be able to participate in the Community Carnival and spent weeks rehearsing and getting ready for the big day.



Finding learning pathways

Exciting new ways to ensure that Stockton teenagers achieve their full potential are being developed with the help of extra funding.

Stockton Council is one of only three councils in the North East to have won the additional Government 14-19 Pathfinder funding for the Borough's young people.

The Council received £314,000 last year and a further £280,000 this year to develop an innovative range of pathways in schools, colleges and with training providers to help all the Borough's young people develop skills for the 21st Century.

Peter Walkley, Head of Planning and Performance in the Council's Education, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, said: "We are committed to making Stockton-on-Tees the best place for young people to live, learn and work in.

"We want all of them to achieve highly at the age of 16, to be committed to continued learning after 16 and, hopefully, for increasing numbers of them to experience the benefits of university education. We also want to equip them better for

the world of work and to play a full and active part in society."

The Pathfinder funding is enabling Progression Coaches to be employed to improve the confidence and motivation of young people. 14 to 16 year olds are enjoying the "adult" feel of vocational courses, which are whetting their appetites for continued study whilst equipping them for the world of work.

For undecided 15 and 16-year-olds, a successful summer school has just been held to give them a taste of studying after the age of 16. Colleges, training providers, local universities and the City Learning Centres contributed to a memorable experience.

City Learning Centres promote the use of Information Technology and will provide on-line modules for courses in Health and Social Care opening up the possibilities of "anywhere anytime" learning.

Peter said: "None of this would be possible without the strong partnership working between the Council, the local Learning and Skills Council, schools, colleges, training providers and universities and without a common commitment to our young people achieving at the highest level."

Blooming towns

Once again, Stockton Council has made a real impression in this year's Northumbria In Bloom competition.

The awards, with many different categories, encourages communities of similar sizes to compete with each other in the use of trees, shrubs and flowers, to make cities, towns and villages more attractive to live and work in.

Judges visited in April and again in July and Stockton received five awards. The main accolade was being named runner-up in the Best City Category – coming narrowly behind winners Darlington.

Blakeston School won the Rod Leyburn Memorial Trophy category; Cypress Court was a merit award winner in the

Ron Grubb Memorial category and Ropner Park Bowls Club was runner up for Best Sports Ground in the William Leech Memorial Awards.

Rycroft Garage received a merit award in the ISD Floral Architecture Award category.

In the meantime, the winners of the 2003 Yarm in Bloom award organised by Yarm Town Council, were Mr and Mrs Alan and Ann Humble of West Street for the best private garden in central Yarm.



All systems go for children's arts centre

Work is almost complete on a new children's arts centre in the grounds of Our Lady & St. Bede School, Stockton.

The new centre, at Bishopton Road West, is due to open in November, offering a whole range of visual arts experiences for primary school children in the Borough. The centre, funded through the Government's Space for Sports and Arts Scheme, is due to open in November 2003.

Youngsters will be able to take part in classes in areas of arts activity that often are not possible within a school situation, including pottery, ceramics, sculpture and computer-based graphic art.

There will be up-to-the-minute art studios and an outdoor arts area will have the space and infrastructure to create temporary sculptures and large-scale environmental art, as well as outdoor performances.

It has been designed with the community in mind and Stockton's Adult Education and family learning services will be running a whole host of formal and informal arts education classes, from silk painting taster sessions to full length graphic design courses.

The centre, which is a partnership with Oaktree Primary School, in Newtown, will also play host to teacher training sessions, artists' residencies and exhibitions of work.

Alison Clark, Arts Development Manager for Stockton Council, said: "This is a very exciting development, both for education and the arts in the Borough.

"The combination of this centre with its visual arts and education focus, and the new Arc with its focus on education and performing arts, mean that the arts are making a huge contribution to the regeneration of Stockton-on-Tees."

More funding most welcome

The Government has recently confirmed that extra funding is on the way for Community Warden Services.

In the next financial year 2004-2005, Stockton Council will receive £100,000, which means that it can retain the 20 Community Wardens it already employs.

Mike Batty, Head of Community Services for Stockton Council, said: "We see this as a vote of confidence in the Community Warden Service.

"Our opinion survey showed that this is a very popular service with the residents and communities it serves."

Crime figures for the year to date April to July 2003 show that house burglaries are down by 24 per cent, robbery is down by 20 per cent, thefts of cars are down by nine per cent and thefts from vehicles are down by 34 per cent.

There are positive signs relating to the combating of drug crime as recording is up by 28 per cent showing that enforcement action against drug dealers is more effective.

Community barge update

Since April, volunteers have put in more than 1,000 hours of work on Stockton's Community Barge.

The project was borne out of an idea by a group of women from the Willows Centre, Portrack and is giving residents the opportunity to refit a barge, thereby learning new skills in a range of areas, including electrics, woodwork, plumbing, boat handling and barge painting to name a few.

Work has been carried out on external painting, windows, cabin, lighting, power and plumbing. Still to come is the kitchen, toilets, internal furnishing and decorating.

The project is also helping in up-skilling volunteers as well as re-skilling women into non-traditional areas of work training, educational trips and holidays for residents for the wider Tees Valley area.

A recent open day saw more than 250 people who came aboard to see how

things were progressing on the 55 foot vessel.

Iain Fishburn, from the Enterprise and Skill Initiative, said: "It's been fantastic seeing the way everyone has been working together, using their free time so creatively to make the Barge Project work, and I'm really looking forward to having a celebratory party

when the Barge is lifted into the river."

More volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in becoming involved in this exciting community led project, please call the Enterprise and Skillshare Initiative on (01642) 674717 or 674895.



Friends look to the future for park

The historic Ropner Park has a large band of volunteer supporters who are keen to see it restored to its former glory and used by all the community.

The members of the Friends of Ropner Park currently number more than 100 but the group is still looking for more active people interested in the revival of the park.

The group has recently set up a young persons' sub-committee with a view to getting young people involved in relevant issues.

Friends of Ropner Park chairman Craig Adamson said: "We want young people to have a sense of ownership in the park and we want them to help attract youngsters back into the park with their families.

"We want to give them a chance to decide what they want to do rather than just offering things adults think they should be doing. We want to empower young people to show they can make a real difference in their local community."

The park is undergoing a restoration programme following the successful application by Stockton Borough Council's Parks and Countryside team for a grant of £2.56 million from the National Lottery. In all a total of £3.5 million is to be spent on improvements in the park.

Detailed plans are now being drawn up on the improvements which will take place over the next three years.

Among the first improvements, people will see is the restoration of the gates

at the main entrance to the park. There will also be a new pavilion and café.

Craig said: "The new pavilion and café will make Ropner Park much more accessible which will lead to an increase in visitors."

For more information on the Friends of Ropner Park, or if you can spare a couple of hours now and again, please telephone (01642) 358888, e-mail contact@forp.org.uk or see the website at www.forp.org.uk.



Municipal Savings Bank to close

Customers of the Stockton-on-Tees Municipal Savings Bank is set to close on 31 March next year.

The decision to close the bank has been taken due to rising costs, falling account numbers and the increasing availability of banking products in the financial services market.

The Savings Bank stopped taking current account deposits on 30 September and requests for new accounts can no longer be accepted.

Customers are being asked to arrange to withdraw funds as soon as possible to assist in the closure of 7-Day Accounts and current accounts. Stockton Special Investment Deposits should be withdrawn on maturity at the end of their fixed term.

Accounts can be closed in person by visiting Stockton, Thornaby or Billingham Cash Offices with your pass-book or alternatively by post. A prepaid envelope and authorisation sheet to allow this will be sent to account holders who request this facility with an explanatory letter outlining arrangements.

For further information ask at the Cashier's desk or telephone (01642) 397125 or 393192.

Play area purchased for village

A play area at the heart of Kirklevington has been bought by the local parish council to ensure its preservation.

The land, which was previously rented from the former vicar, the Reverend David Moore, has been purchased with the support of the Parochial Church Council, the Diocese of York and the archdeacon.

The Castle Leavington and Kirklevington Parish Council hopes to improve play facilities for the village and is looking for support from local groups to form ideas for improvements.

Borrowers embrace new community library



A new community library in Ingleby Barwick has opened its doors to eager readers.

The library is housed in All Saints Secondary School and each weekday morning during term time pupils are free to use it. But from 1pm the library is open to the whole community.

The library will be open seven days a week, Monday to Friday from 1pm to 8pm, Saturday 9am to 5pm and Sunday 11am to 4pm.

The stock of 16,000 items contains a wide selection of materials ranging from fiction, non fiction, reference, junior books, to videos and CDs. There is also a plan to introduce DVDs in the near future.

The library provides five computers for users with free Internet access and word processing facilities.

Stockton Borough Council's Head of Cultural Services, Andrea Barker, said: "This community library will lead the way. It is the first community library in Stockton to be built through a private finance initiative and we will be monitoring the issues, membership rates and how the PFI system works with a view to undertaking similar projects in the future.

"With a library of this size we are expecting in the region of 60,000 issues a year. We are sure the residents of Ingleby Barwick will use this new facility and make it into a real community success story."

People who are already members of Stockton Libraries will be able to borrow books from Ingleby Barwick immediately. Anyone who is not already a library member will require two forms of identification in order to register to be able to borrow books. The identification should include a signature and address.

Andrea Barker said: "We have recently recruited a new Library and Information Services Manger, Sue Anderson, who has many years experience in public service."

Sue said: "This is a great opportunity for the Library Service to be involved in a growing community. I am delighted to be working with Stockton Libraries with their tradition for providing excellent library services and I will ensure that is not only sustained but developed further."

For more information on opening hours, registration or any other queries please contact either Sue Anderson on (01642) 393995 or Emma Shields on (01642) 393996.

Tourism in the Tees Valley

A new training initiative is giving Tees Valley tourism and hospitality businesses an important boost by offering subsidised courses in everything from customer care food hygiene.

Piloted by the Tees Valley Development Company, the scheme's aim is to

encourage small and medium-sized businesses in the industry to invest in their staff. Training will be delivered by local colleges and be tailored to meet the needs of individual businesses.

Visitors to the Tees Valley spend £393 million each year and support over 14,000 jobs in the area.

Stockton Adult Education Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

ESOL
Crafts
Decoupage
Pottery
Cookery
Swimming
Woodwork
History
Spanish
ECDL

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

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

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

Please contact our offices for more information.



Are you getting the benefit you need?

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

To find out more please ring our helpline on

Stockton 393829

Minicom number 393806

(textphone only for people with hearing difficulties)

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

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

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



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Stockton Business Centre, 70 Brunswick Street, Stockton-on-Tees

Email: Enquiries@StocktonBusinessCentre.org

www.StocktonBusinessCentre.org



HOW SINGING DANCE & DRAMA CREATE A MANY-SIDED CHILD

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

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

Stagecoach runs at weekends during school term.

No auditions necessary.

For more details ring: 01325 337667 (24hrs)

Ring for details for a 2004 start



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Stockton businesses promote healthy living

Several major employers in Stockton have been honoured with a prestigious award for their efforts in improving health in the workplace.

Stockton Council is among several organisations to be awarded the Partners in Health Promotion for their effort to keep their employees in good health.

The service is run by the North Tees Primary Care Trust's Public Health Department to promote health in the workplace.

The successful employers have proved that they have in place excellent health and safety practices and policies to deal with alcohol and drug misuse as well as promoting a smoke free environment, healthy eating and physical activity.

For further information on this scheme, call Pam Cooper, North Tees PCT Public Health on (01642) 624190.

Blue Box scheme moves on

Since the birth of Stockton's Blue Box recycling scheme, launched in February this year, more areas are now on board across the Borough.

The scheme is going well and plans are in hand to cover the remainder of the Borough before the end of April.

Figures show that Stockton compares very favourably with similar schemes nationwide with up to 80 per cent of residents taking part in some areas.

Collections take place every two weeks and, as Stockton News went to press, there has been 934 tonnes of paper collected, 418 tonnes of glass, 76 tonnes of cans, 133 tonnes of cardboard and 31 tonnes of textiles.

Have you ever wondered what happens to the materials put in blue boxes?

Paper is returned to the paper industry for the production of newspaper and removal of ink, both of which are reused to produce more newspapers.

Glass is returned to the glass-making industry to be turned into new bottles and is also used in new road surfaces.

Cans are returned to the steel/aluminium industry to be turned back into new metal products.

Cardboard is turned into new packaging products and finally textiles are sent to holding depots where they are graded and sent out the third world countries.



Hey everyone!
It's Party Time

Impress your friends with a party to remember! Ice skating, swimming and football parties are just some of the great party ideas available. Call any of the numbers below for more information...

Book your Ice Party for only £5.00 per person
INCLUDES:
Arena admission
Skate hire
Hot or Cold Menu
*Max Party min 16 people

Blades
Home of the Bear

Swim Parties
Ask for details

Football Parties
Ask for details

Billingham Forum 01642 551381
Splash 01642 393900
Stockton Sports Centre 01642 607994
Thornaby Pavilion 01642 760971
Thornaby Pool 01642 616727

A service provided by Stockton Council
www.stockton.gov.uk www.icthebear.com

Take a peek into Great Grandma's Photo Album

People across the region are being urged to take a peek into a unique photo album revealing images of what our Victorian ancestors looked like in the fashion and costume of the era.

Great Grandma's Photo Album is an exhibition of photographic portraits being held at Green Dragon Museum until 19 October.

The exhibition features a large collection of Cartes de Visite – small picture cards that enabled people of all ages and social classes to have their images recorded in a range of poses.

Alongside the fascinating photographs are costumes, costume accessories and jewellery from the Victorian and

Edwardian era – many of the objects are being displayed for the very first time.

"The advent of mass produced photography from 1859 saw a rise in the number of people having their photograph taken," said Graham Bowen, Stockton Council's Museum Officer.

"These picture cards reflected fashions and aspirations of everyday Victorians. The photographs help to show how adults and children were portrayed in the mid to late nineteenth and early twentieth Centuries."

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



What's On

October, November and December 2003

OCTOBER

4 October
Parkfield Pastimes
Preston Hall Museum
Contact for further details on (01642) 781184

9 October
National Poetry Day
Poetry Competition. Entries close on 1 November.
For further details contact your local library

10-12 October
Family Learning Weekend
Contact your local community library or Children Youth Services for further details Tel. (01642) 358544

11-12 October
Badminton Tournament
Junior Area Badminton Tournament at the Thornaby Pavilion. For further details please contact Sports Development on (01642) 397018

18 October
Civil Service Volleyball Championships
Thornaby Pavilion. Contact Sports Development for further details on (01642) 397018

Until 19 October
Great Grandma's Photo Album
Take a trip back to the Victorian Times at Green Dragon Museum, Photographic Exhibition. 9am-5pm Monday to Saturday

20-24 October
Half Term Activities
Come have fun at Thornaby Pool and Pavilion during your time off!

22 October
Farmers Market
Farmers' Market of local produce at Wellington Square.

27-31 October
Fun Float Sessions
Splash. Mon-Thurs - 10am-noon and 2pm-3pm.

28 October-1 November
Murder Mystery
Preston Hall Museum-for further details call (01642) 781184

31 October
Fun-Day
Splash: from 10:30am-1:30pm for children ages 7-15 years old. Games, Races, Competitions, Prizes, Face painting and lots more.

NOVEMBER

5 November
Stockton Fireworks Party
A night of bright, colourful lights by the Riverside. Roadshow starts 6pm, Fireworks start 7:30pm
Events office (01642) 415771

10-22 November
20th Northern Children's Book Festival
For festival information call Children Youth Services on (01642) 358544

14-16 November
National Junior Table-tennis Championships
Thornaby Pavilion. For further details contact Sports Development On (01642) 358512

16 November
Wedding Fayre
Preston Park - from 11am until 3pm.

21 November - 03 January
Festive Fun on Ice
Open-air ice rink, in Stockton Town Centre. Runs for 6 weeks. For details phone Stockton Information Centre Tel. (01642) 393936

22 November
Gala Day
Southlands Leisure Centre, Middlesbrough
10.00am-4.30pm

26 November
Farmers Market
Farmers' Market of local produce at Wellington Square.

27 November
Late Night Shopping - in Stockton Town Centre

27 November
Christmas Lights
Come and get into the festive spirits as the Stockton High Street colourful Christmas lights are switched on, between 5pm and 5:30pm. Tourist Information Centre: (01642) 393936

DECEMBER

6 December
Christmas Family Fun Day
Preston Hall Museum
For further details call (01642) 781184

8 December
Santa 'n' Swim sessions
Splash. Have a swim and then you can visit Santa in his Grotto and get a present. Call (01642) 393900

8 December
Santa's Sinker Sessions
Splash. Come find Santa's sinkable toys and win a prize.

17 December
Farmers Market
Farmers' Market of local produce at Wellington Square.

We have made every effort to ensure that the information on this page is accurate. However, unforeseen circumstances may result in changes and you are strongly advised to check details with the organisers.

For up-to-date listings
of what's on, see
www.stockton.gov.uk

Ward Surgeries

October - December 2003

www.stockton.gov.uk/yourcouncil/your_councillors/councillors_ward_surgeries/

BISHOPSGARTH WARD (STOCKTON)

14th Oct Bishopsgarth School 5.30 – 6.00pm
11th Nov Fairfield Infants School 6.30 – 7.00pm
9th Dec Bishopsgarth School 5.30 – 6.00pm
COUNCILLORS **S. HALL** TEL: 654895
W. WOODHEAD TEL: 584409

BLUE HALL WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

8th Oct The Forge Community Centre
5th Nov Frederick Natrass School
19th Nov Norton United Reform Church
3rd Dec The Forge Community Centre
17th Dec Frederick Natrass School
COUNCILLORS **M. FRANKLAND** TEL: 552667
MRS K. NELSON TEL: 397921

CHARLTONS WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

13th Oct The Darby & Joan Club, Cotswold Crescent
10th Nov Clarendon Community Centre
8th Dec The Darby & Joan Club, Cotswold Crescent
COUNCILLORS **MRS A. MCCOY** TEL: 533554
R. McCALL TEL: 554452

EGGLESCLIFFE WARD

3rd Oct Trinity Methodist Church
(Joint surgery with Preston Ward) 6.30 – 7.30pm
21st Oct Egglecliffe Parish Hall,
Butts Lane 6.00 – 7.00pm
7th Nov Trinity Methodist Church
(Joint surgery with Preston Ward) 6.30 – 7.30pm
5th Dec Trinity Methodist Church
(Joint surgery with Preston Ward) 6.30 – 7.30pm
COUNCILLORS **J. FLETCHER** TEL: 786456
MRS M. RIGG TEL: 782009

ELM TREE WARD (STOCKTON)

21st Oct Elm Tree Comm. Centre
4.30 – 5.30pm Young Peoples Surgery
6.00 – 7.00pm Adults Surgery
18th Nov As above
16th Dec As above
COUNCILLOR **MRS S. FLETCHER** TEL: 786456
Email: sfletcher@cix.co.uk

FAIRFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

15th Oct Fairfield Library
19th Nov As above
17th Dec As above
COUNCILLORS **MRS F. HAWKINS** TEL: 671422
MRS J. WADE TEL: 583549

GLEBE WARD (STOCKTON) 6.30PM – 7.00PM

7th Oct The Education Centre
4th Nov As above
2nd Dec As above
COUNCILLORS **MRS A. CAINS** TEL: 555394
R. CAINS

GRANGE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 5.00PM – 6.00PM

31st Oct New life Resource Centre, Low Grange Ave
28th Nov As above
19th Dec As above
COUNCILLORS **A. CUNNINGHAM** TEL: 551251
Email: Alexander.Cunningham@stockton.gov.uk
M. STOKER TEL: 648069
Email: mickstoker@aol.com or mick@grangeward.co.uk

GRANGEFIELD WARD (STOCKTON)

6th Oct Grays Road Institute 10.00am – 11.00am
15th Oct Sundell Court Residents Home 5.15pm – 6.15pm
22nd Oct Oxbridge Primary School 5.15pm – 6.15pm
10th Nov Grays Road Institute 10.00am – 11.00am
19th Nov Sundell Court Residents Home 5.15pm – 6.15pm
26th Nov Oxbridge Primary School 5.15pm – 6.15pm
8th Dec Grays Road Institute 10.00am – 11.00am
17th Dec Sundell Court Residents Home 5.15pm – 6.15pm
COUNCILLORS **T. BEAN** TEL: 870110
MRS E. JOHNSON TEL: 673952

HARDWICK WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

3rd Oct Hardwick Community Centre, Wheatley Road
10th Oct As above
17th Oct As above
24th Oct As above
31st Oct As above
7th Nov As above
14th Nov As above
21st Nov As above
28th Nov As above
5th Dec As above
12th Dec As above
19th Dec As above
COUNCILLORS **MRS E. NESBITT** TEL: 803658
W. NOBLE TEL: 602299

HARTBURN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.45PM – 7.30PM

6th Oct Elmwood Community Centre
10th Nov Rosehill Infants School
8th Dec Elmwood Community Centre
COUNCILLORS **K. LUPTON** TEL: 589863
S. SMAILES TEL: 581574

INGLEBY BARWICK WARD

TBA Oct Dates and venues to be arranged
TBA Nov
TBA Dec
COUNCILLOR **MRS J. BEAUMONT** TEL: 785304

MANDALE WARD (THORNABY) 12.00 NOON – 1.00PM

11th Oct Asda Stores, Thornaby Town Centre
25th Oct The Mandale PH
8th Nov Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
22nd Nov Asda Stores, Thornaby Town Centre
6th Dec Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centre
20th Dec The Mandale PH
COUNCILLORS **MRS A. TRAINER** TEL: 647421
S. WALMSLEY TEL: 881886

MARSH HOUSE WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.30PM – 7.30PM

13th Oct North Billingham Methodist Church
10th Nov Low Grange Community Centre
8th Dec North Billingham Methodist Church
COUNCILLOR **MRS L. APEDAILE** TEL: (01740) 645216
C. LECKONBY TEL: 872896

MILE HOUSE WARD (STOCKTON) 7.00PM – 8.00PM

21st Oct Kiora Hall Youth & Community Centre
20th Nov Salters Lane Community Centre
16th Dec Kiora Hall Youth & Community Centre
COUNCILLORS **D. COOKE** TEL: 803648
K. LEONARD TEL: 894191

NEWTOWN WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

10th Oct Newtown Community Centre
24th Oct Appleton Road Community Centre
7th Nov Newtown Community Centre
21st Dec Appleton Road Community Centre
5th Dec Newtown Community Centre
19th Dec Appleton Road Community Centre
COUNCILLORS **P. BAKER** TEL: 655607
R. GIBSON TEL: 614482

NORTHFIELD WARD (BILLINGHAM) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

31st Oct Wolviston Court Community Centre
28th Nov As above
None in Dec
COUNCILLORS **MRS M. B. WOMPHREY** TEL: 555755
M. E. WOMPHREY TEL: 555755

NORTON WARD 6.00PM – 7.00PM

10th Oct St. Michael's Club Room
24th Oct Norton Library
7th Nov Albany Resource Centre
28th Nov St. Michael's Club Room
12th Dec Norton Library
COUNCILLORS **R. COOK** TEL: 890058
Email: Steve.Nelson@stockton.gov.uk
S. NELSON TEL: 534417
Email: Robert.Cook@stockton.gov.uk

PARKFIELD WARD (STOCKTON) 6.00PM – 7.00PM

9th Oct Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
16th Oct Parkfield Community Centre
23rd Oct Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre
6th Nov Parkfield Community Centre
13th Nov Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
20th Nov Parkfield Community Centre
27th Nov Caretakers House, Richard Hind Centre
4th Dec Parkfield Community Centre
11th Dec Cornerhouse Community Resource Centre
18th Dec Parkfield Community Centre
COUNCILLORS **C. COOMBS** TEL: 645759
S. LUNN TEL: 866982

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

3rd Oct Mill Lane Primary School
10th Oct Portrack Community Centre
17th Oct The Community House
24th Oct Frank Wiseman Hall
7th Nov Mill Lane Primary School
14th Nov Portrack Community Centre
21st Nov The Community House
28th Nov Frank Wiseman Hall
5th Dec Mill Lane Primary School
12th Dec Portrack Community Centre
19th Dec The Community Centre
COUNCILLORS **D. COLEMAN** TEL: 673952
P. KIRTON TEL: 532076

PRESTON WARD 6.30PM – 7.30PM

17th Oct The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
7th Nov Trinity Methodist Church, Egglecliffe
(Joint surgery with Egglecliffe Ward)
21st Nov The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
5th Dec Trinity Methodist Church, Egglecliffe
(Joint surgery with Egglecliffe Ward)
19th Dec The Wilson Institute, Long Newton
COUNCILLOR **M. CHERRETT** TEL: 783491

ROSEWORTH WARD (STOCKTON) 5.15PM – 6.15PM

13th Oct Kiora Hall Youth & Community Centre
10th Nov Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre
8th Dec Kiora Hall Youth & Community Centre
COUNCILLORS **M. INGRAM** TEL: 789372
MISS B. INMAN TEL: 582644

STAINSBY WARD (THORNABY) 5.00PM – 6.00PM

16th Oct South Thornaby Community Centre
20th Nov As above
18th Dec As above
COUNCILLORS **K. CRAGGS** TEL: 896378
R. GODWIN TEL: 763326

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

15th Oct Billingham Youth & Community Centre
19th Nov As above
17th Dec As above
COUNCILLORS **N. TEASDALE** TEL: 803657
B. WOODHOUSE TEL: 561899

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

9th Oct Billingham Branch Library
13th Nov As above
11th Dec As above
COUNCILLORS **MRS J. O' DONNELL** TEL: 559717
M. SMITH TEL: 866573

VICTORIA WARD (THORNABY) 11.00AM – 12.00 NOON

11th Oct Westbury Street Library
25th Oct Queens Street Community Centre
8th Nov Westbury Street Library
22nd Nov Queens Street Community Centre
6th Dec Westbury Street Library
20th Dec Queens Street Community Centre
COUNCILLORS **MRS E. FLEMING** TEL: 646463
MRS S. WALMSLEY TEL: 881886

VILLAGE WARD (THORNABY) 4.30PM – 5.30PM

13th Oct Thornaby Pavilion
10th Nov As above
8th Dec As above
COUNCILLORS **MRS E. CRAGGS** TEL: 896378
I. DALGARNO TEL: 882985

WHITTON WARD

14th Oct Grindon Parish Hall,
Thorpe Thewles 7.00 – 7.30pm
31st Oct Wolviston Court Community Centre
6.00 – 7.00pm
3rd Nov The Chapel School Room,
Carlton 7.00 – 7.30pm
4th Nov Manor House, Stillington 6.30 – 7.00pm
9th Dec Grindon Parish Hall,
Thorpe Thewles 7.00 – 7.30pm
COUNCILLOR **F. SALT** TEL: (01740) 630771

WOLVISTON WARD (BILLINGHAM) 7.00PM – 8.00PM

7th Oct The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
14th Oct High Grange Community Centre
21st Oct The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
28th Oct High Grange Community Centre
4th Nov The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
11th Nov High Grange Community Centre
18th Nov The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
25th Nov High Grange Community Centre
2nd Dec The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
9th Dec High Grange Community Centre
16th Dec The Common Room, Wolviston High Street
COUNCILLOR **S. PARRY** TEL: 879478

YARM WARD 6.00PM – 6.45PM

14th Oct Challoner House
11th Nov Challoner House
9th Dec Yarm Library
COUNCILLORS **B. JONES** TEL: 576855
MRS M. SIMPSON TEL: 790691

SURGERIES

Stockton South: Dari Taylor MP

Tel: (01642) 604546 for information

Stockton North: Frank Cook MP

Tel: (01642) 643288 for information

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

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Festival of **Fireworks**

Wednesday

5th November

2003

The Riverside, Stockton-on-Tees



6.00pm
96.6 TFM
roadshow
with
guests

7.30pm
Fireworks
display

