

STOCKTON ON TEES NEWS



The community magazine of
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

November 2025



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Welcome to the November edition of Stockton-on-Tees News

2025 has been a year of progress and celebration across Stockton-on-Tees. Work is moving quickly at Stockton Waterfront Park and the multi-million pound investment in Preston Park is complete. Discover the new exhibition space on pages 4 and 5.

We marked the 200th anniversary of the Stockton & Darlington Railway in September with a once in a life-time reenactment of the world's first passenger rail journey and a weekend of railway themed fun in Stockton Town Centre which you can read about on page 10.

I am delighted to share that our Adult Social Care Service has been rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This is a fantastic achievement and you can read more about it on page 3.

Don't forget there are plenty of festive activities happening across the Borough - see pages 30 and 31 for details.

From all of us here at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, we wish you a safe, happy and healthy 2026!



Councillor Lisa Evans, Leader of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.



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Contact us and keep up to date



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Visit us at Billingham, Stockton or Thornaby Central libraries, Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 4.30pm for prearranged face to face appointments, help with online services and the collection of recycling equipment



Our online services are available via the Council website 24 hours a day. 7 days a week, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/contact-customer-services



Call us **01642 393939**



Create a **My Council** account to access personalised services to you. Plus sign up for the latest news direct to your inbox at www.stockton.gov.uk/my-council



Find details of services, advice and support for adults, children, young people and families living in Stockton-on-Tees at www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org.uk

Please recycle me



Stockton-on-Tees News is published by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and distributed to households across the Borough free of charge. If you have not received a copy please email snews@stockton.gov.uk or call **01642 528146**. An audio and online version of this magazine is available at www.stockton.gov.uk/stockton-on-tees-news. Every effort is made to ensure all information is accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication. Stockton-on-Tees News is produced by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Communications Team and Xentrall Design and Print. Images courtesy of Stuart Boulton, Dave Charnley, Dawn McNamara and others.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL'S ADULT SOCIAL CARE RATED 'GOOD'

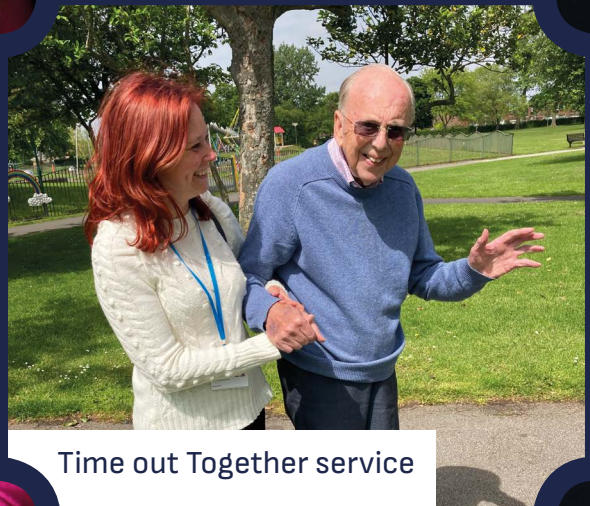
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Adult Social Care Service has officially been rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The Council's "commitment to supporting the Borough's most vulnerable residents" and the "strong and supportive" culture of the service are just two of the many strengths that were highlighted by the inspectors.

The inspection, which took place in November 2024, focussed on quality standards in four key themes - how the local authority works with people, providing support, ensuring safety, and leadership.

Carolyn Nice, Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council said: "We are very proud of the 'Good' rating which demonstrates our absolute determination to put our people at the heart of everything we do.

"We are pleased that the inspectors could see, and praised, our clear vision to improve outcomes for people and that among the many other strengths highlighted was the way we involve people with lived experience of our services to ensure we have a clear understanding of people's needs and how we can improve."



Time out Together service



Slow Cooker Socials

A NEW ERA FOR PRESTON PARK MUSEUM

Preston Park Museum has unveiled its exciting new addition, The Spence Building, following a multi-million-pound transformation. Named after Colonel Gilbert Ormerod Spence, who generously donated over 3,000 objects to Stockton, this modern space is set to become a cultural hotspot in the Tees Valley.

The two-storey building, tucked beside the historic Preston Hall, connects to the museum's much-loved Victorian Street. Inside, visitors will find interactive galleries, a new gift shop, and the Spence Café complete with outdoor seating area, The Terrace, which overlooks the orchard.

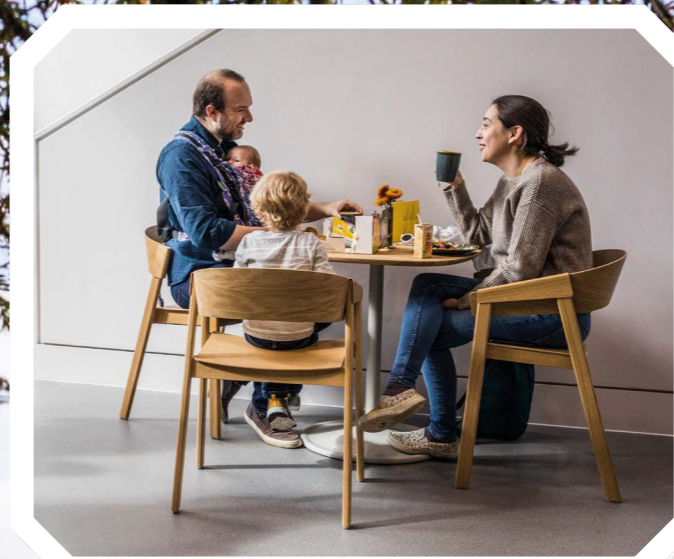
Upstairs, three state-of-the-art exhibition spaces are equipped to host major national touring shows. The debut exhibition, 'Tracks of Change', celebrates 200 years of the Stockton & Darlington Railway as part of the international S&DR200 festival.

The wider park has seen improvements too, with a revamped Park Café which sees a new entrance and covered outdoor seating area. There are also upgraded toilets which include Changing Places facilities.

Entry to all 2025 to 2026 exhibitions are included in the museum admission price. Annual passes are available at www.prestonparkmuseum.co.uk with 20 per cent discount for residents of Stockton-on-Tees.

This exciting transformation has been funded by £20million from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for work in Yarm and Eaglescliffe.

This Christmas, experience A Magical Victorian Christmas at the museum. Turn to page 31 to find out more.



BE BIN DAY READY!

From April 2026, bin collections across the Borough will change:

 **Recycling** – collected weekly

 **Household waste** – collected every two weeks

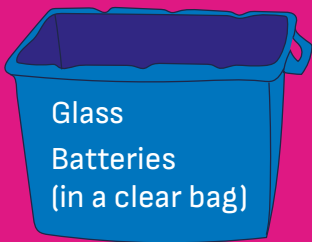
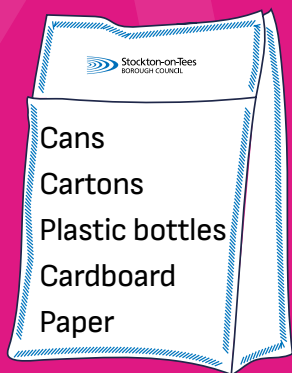
 **Food waste** – collected weekly

DON'T LET YOUR RUBBISH GO TO WASTE!

From April 2026, to align with new national legislation, the Council will collect food waste and recycling every week and collect the other, household waste on a fortnightly basis.

Here's how your recycling will change and what you can recycle:

Current



April 2026



Blue bag

- Cans
- Cartons
- Plastic bottles



Grey internal and external caddy

- Food waste



White bag

- Cardboard
- Paper (in paper pouch)



Blue Box

- Glass
- Batteries (in a clear bag)

Find out more at: www.stockton.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling-improvements or scan the QR code.



RENEW YOUR GARDEN WASTE SUBSCRIPTION

Don't forget to sign up for your garden waste renewal if you haven't already. Renewals cost £40 and your garden waste will be collected on a fortnightly basis over a 36-week period starting from Tuesday 17 March 2026.

Don't worry if you've not already signed up to the service, you can sign up at any point throughout the year.

To sign up, renew your subscription or to find out more information, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/garden-waste-collection-service-changes

£40
per year





PLAY TAKES SHAPE AT STOCKTON WATERFRONT

Exciting progress is being made at Stockton Waterfront urban park, with new images revealing key developments across the site.

Work has begun on a major play attraction, featuring two impressive ten-metre timber towers. These form part of a large play area inspired by the site's industrial heritage, offering a wide range of equipment and features. It's one of three play spaces in the park, alongside 'play-on-the-way' elements and a thrilling six-metre slide from the amphitheatre to the riverside.

The Council has worked closely with the Stockton Parent Carer Forum to ensure the park is inclusive and meets the needs of local families with the designs being shaped by their valuable feedback. 47 concrete beams have been installed to create a striking land bridge, allowing uninterrupted access from the High Street to the riverside. Paving continues throughout the park, including Finkle Square and the Oval Lawn events space. Following the closure of Riverside Road in May, work is progressing on the new carriageway, which will pass under the land bridge and be reduced to one lane in each direction.

In the coming months, further progress on the site will include the installation of the amphitheatre and landscaping on the riverside.

For more information about Stockton Waterfront, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/stockton/urban-park





TEES CENTRAL: THE HEART OF THE TEES VALLEY



If you were to drop a pin into the centre of a map of the Tees Valley, it would land somewhere in Stockton Town Centre. It sits right in the middle of the region, with incredible

connectivity to not just the north east, but to the entire country and beyond.

The Borough is the economic powerhouse of the Tees Valley, contributing to over a third of the region's economic output thanks to the 5,500+ businesses already here.

The Council's vision for the Borough is one of innovation, vibrancy, and forward thinking. There are big plans for the central Stockton and North Thornaby area.

The plans, dubbed as "Tees Central", include:

- Redeveloping all of our town centres
- Transforming existing assets
- Increased opportunity for town centre living

This could offer thousands of homes, commercial space and a potential platform for significant investment in new clinical facilities at the heart of the Tees Valley.

The Council is working in partnership with Tees Valley Combined Authority across these innovative projects.

Tees Central is the next step for Stockton-on-Tees. You can see the Council's vision by watching a short video on the redevelopment and how it could look in the future by visiting www.stockton.gov.uk/tees-central-watch.



The former Debenhams building in Stockton Town Centre is an ideal location to enhance the town's daytime and nighttime economy. Proposals are being considered to bring it back into use. Among the options being explored are community health facilities, a market food hall, a creative and digital hub, and other leisure uses.

Family Hubs are here for you

Residents of Stockton-on-Tees who care for a child or young person aged 0-19 can access our Family Hubs free of charge.

Whether you're expecting your first child or juggling life with a teenager, our four Family Hubs offer warm, welcoming spaces where you can get support, meet other families, and join in with local activities. From pregnancy advice and parenting workshops to wellbeing sessions and fun family events, there's something for every age and stage.

Follow the Family Hubs on Facebook to see weekly what's on guides and latest news
www.facebook.com/SOTfamilyhubs/

Find your nearest Family Hub at
www.stockton.gov.uk/family-hubs



First hour car parking is free over Christmas and into the New Year

To support residents and businesses this Christmas time, the first hour's parking in Council-owned short stay car parks will be free of charge from Monday 24 November until Saturday 31 January.

Meanwhile a detailed review of car parking charges in Stockton and Yarm is being carried out following feedback from residents and businesses. Thank you to everyone who took part in the survey.

Thornaby Golden Eagle

Contractors MGL Demolition are on site at the Golden Eagle undertaking the complex process of stripping out asbestos and removing contaminated material.

The long-vacant building, considered an eyesore, will be cleared to make way for future redevelopment.

This project delivers on a key priority of the Town Deal Board - tackling vacant properties to unlock new development opportunities and end years of uncertainty surrounding the site's future.



BLOOMING BRILLIANT

Cowpen Bewley Village has won Best Small Village at the Northumbria in Bloom awards.

Northumbria in Bloom, which celebrates the beauty and spirit of communities across the region, focuses on three areas for scoring: horticulture, environment, and the community. The judges visit twice a year to check progress and impact for the area.

"I'm over the moon" said Stewart Swales, Chairman of Cowpen Bewley Residents' Association. "It's a wonderful recognition of everyone's hard work, dedication and teamwork throughout the year."

"The project brought the community together, with Bewley Primary School and the Synthonia Scouts Group enthusiastically helping to plant a new hedgerow within the village, and the Council helping with maintenance and donating heritage trees."



Stewart Swales, left, with Mr Dunn and his students from Bewley Primary

"The themes we chose have brought our community closer, blending history, creative features and teamwork to make our village bloom in every sense. The local residents' association will continue to beautify our village and enhance community programmes that bring residents and children together."



CELEBRATING STOCKTON'S HERITAGE: THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN RAILWAY

This year marked a major milestone for the Borough which celebrated 200 years since the first passenger journey on the Stockton and Darlington Railway. On Sunday 28 September, thousands gathered at Stockton Station and Rochester Road, Norton to witness a spectacular re-enactment of Locomotion No.1's historic ride.

The celebrations didn't stop there. In Stockton Town Centre there was a host of railway inspired fun, with live performances and family-friendly activities. Highlights included a stunning outdoor dance theatre show by Southpaw Dance Company and the remarkable 'Ghost Train: The Arrival', a dramatic, large-scale production that saw the amazing re-imagining of Locomotion No.1.

Don't forget! You can see 'Tracks of Change', a series of exhibitions presented by S&DR200, at Preston Park Museum until January 2026.

Visit www.prestonparkmuseum.co.uk



Accelerating Affordable Housing in the Borough

The Council has agreed plans to ensure more good quality, affordable housing is available for residents across the Borough.

Affordable housing includes homes for sale and rent for residents whose needs are not met by the private market.

And under the new plans, a hybrid delivery model will be implemented with each potential development site in the area considered on a case-by-case basis. This includes options for direct delivery and partnership working to ensure the right housing options are available.

Direct delivery will be possible thanks to contributions which the Council is in receipt of from private housing developers.

This will be further helped thanks to the Council being selected as one of 10 local authorities to launch the Council Housebuilding Support Service (CHoSS), which aims to boost Council-led housebuilding, funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.



Superb colleges on your doorstep

What better place to continue post 16 education than here in Stockton-on-Tees, where our six post 16 providers are best placed to prepare our young people for successful careers in growing sectors?

Achievement for those who complete the full two years of a Post 16 qualification is growing rapidly and last year the A-level pass rate was 98%.

Our providers at Bede Sixth Form College, Conyers School and Sixth Form, Egglecliffe School and Sixth Form College, NETA Training Group, Stockton Riverside College and Stockton Sixth Form College offer a broad range of courses and qualifications that cover traditional, vocational and contemporary subjects.

Meanwhile, strong links with local employers and opportunities to study for vocational qualifications mean students that learn in Stockton-on-Tees are in an exceptionally strong position to start their career journey. **Find out more at www.stockton.gov.uk/post-16**



Tribute to much loved market trader

Tributes have been paid in memory of an outstanding market trader, Andrew McMahon of McMahons Greengrocers, who sadly passed away on 29 August.

Known for his warmth, dedication, and family values, Andrew was a true friend to Stockton-on-Tees market staff and a proud supporter of local events. Andrew and the McMahons Greengrocer business ethos was about hard work and dedication which earned national recognition in 2021 as 'Best Market Trader' in the country.



Andrew McMahon of McMahons Greengrocers

A FAIRER STOCKTON-ON-TEES



The Council is working with our partners to make sure our communities are supported as the cost of living continues to have an impact.

There's a range of support and activities available to help you this winter:

Here to Help

Our guide to the range of support available for residents. Pick up a free copy from libraries, community centres, or visit www.stockton.gov.uk/here-to-help-hub



The Community Gift

This festive season, help support your communities by donating items such as toiletries, socks, hats and gloves, chocolates, biscuits and other gifts to support those in need. Find out more at www.stockton.gov.uk/the-community-gift



Something New for You

Join us at the Forum Theatre, Billingham on Tuesday 27 January, 10am to 1pm. Discover local groups, hobbies, and

wellbeing support including advice on mental health, benefits, employment, and budgeting.

Warm Welcome

Weekly social events open to anyone with tea, games, and a friendly chat. Find your nearest venue at www.stockton.gov.uk/warm-welcome

Community Spaces

Drop in for a chat and a cuppa, free activities and information, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/community-spaces-directory

The Bread and Butter Thing

All residents can access low-cost, quality food and help to reduce food waste. Find out more at www.stockton.gov.uk/the-bread-and-butter-thing

Positive Living Forum

People from across the Borough meet every six weeks at the Stockton Wellbeing Hub in Wellington Square to share their experiences of poverty and influence the work the Council is doing to tackle poverty. Email fsot@stockton.gov.uk if you would like to join.

A Second Dance

Donate prom dresses and suits to help young people shine and recycle outfits. Drop off items at Wellington Square Management Office Monday to



Saturday, 9am to 12pm. Visit our pop-up shops at 5 Wellington Street, 3pm to 5.30pm on 26 Nov and 14 Jan, 1pm to 4pm on 25 Feb, 8 Apr, 15 Apr, and 27 May.

Learn more about how we're tackling inequality and making the Borough a better place to live for everyone, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/a-fairer-stockton-on-tees

Find out about our Community Partnerships and how you can get involved, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/community-partnerships

SETTING OUT OUR SEND VISION

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision Strategy 2025–2030 has been co-produced with young people, service users, Stockton Parent Carer Forum (SPCF), NHS, education and the voluntary community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.



It sets out the priorities that will enable us to deliver on our vision that Stockton-on-Tees is a great place to grow up, where children and young people are protected from harm and supported to be the best they can be in life:

- Being as healthy as possible
- Building relationships with friends, family, and the community
- Developing independence
- Accessing quality education, training, and employment opportunities

An Inclusive Education Framework has also been launched to ensure every child and young person has access to high quality education that meets their individual needs and is supported to reach their full potential.

Read more at www.stockton.gov.uk/localoffer

Worried about an adult or a child?

Safeguarding means protecting the rights of adults and children to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

We're working in partnership with Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) to mark Safeguarding Adults Week from 17 to 21 November.

You can report abuse at www.tsab.org.uk/report-abuse/

If you are worried about something that has happened, but you don't think it is a crime, contact our First Contact Team:

☎ 01642 527764

@ FirstContactAdults@stockton.gov.uk

If you have concerns about a child's welfare or safety, contact The Children's Hub Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees:

☎ 01642 130080

@ childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk



New health support to rollout for Stockton-on-Tees residents

Stockton-on-Tees is one of 43 areas across the UK selected by Government for the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP) which aims to tackle health inequalities, move support closer to communities and prevent ill health.

It will see the Council, NHS and partner organisations including the voluntary sector and communities work closely together to better meet people's needs.

The programme will initially focus on supporting adults in central Stockton and Portrack with, or at risk of, long-term conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

SPOTLIGHT ON

More than 3,000 journeys have been completed as part of the Volunteer Driver Service which supports those who need help to attend healthcare appointments and social activities.

Delivered by Volunteering Matters and funded by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, the service supports residents who struggle to get out and about due to a disability, isolation, or the high cost of taxis, access their local community and maintain their independence.

One resident described the service as "a lifesaver and the difference between being housebound and getting out."

Volunteer drivers are fully DBS checked and are fully trained to provide a door-to-door service.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the service, or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, visit www.volunteeringmatters.org.uk/project/stockton-driver-service/



Resident Noreen Kirton and Nigel Jessop, Volunteer Coordinator

You said, we did

During our Let's Talk community engagement sessions in Mandale, you said you would like more activities for pre-school children in the area. Since then, two new term time drop-in sessions have been introduced at Victoria Park Community Hall:

- Family Play Sessions with the Family Hubs Team. Every Tuesday, 9am to 10am.
- Little Wiggle Workout with the Community Engagement team. For new or confident walkers (not suitable for babies). Every Thursday, 1.15pm to 2pm.

Sessions are free and there is no need to book. Simply come along and join in the fun!

We are putting communities at the heart of everything we do. Join the conversation at www.stockton.gov.uk/lets-talk and tell us your views by emailing letstalk@stockton.gov.uk.



Trailblazer initiative opens doors for young people

Following its success, the UK Youth Guarantee Trailblazer programme has been extended for another year – bringing more opportunities to young people across Stockton-on-Tees. Backed by £5million in funding, the initiative has attracted interest from 95 local businesses, offering placements in sectors from IT and HR to trades and creative arts. Over 40 young people aged 18 to 21-years-old are currently receiving support, 23 are now in paid six-month placements, and another 41 are completing business-led training. The programme is tackling

barriers to employment and building confidence, helping young people gain vital workplace skills.

Young people can express interest by visiting www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/work/skills-support/youth-guarantee/

Businesses can get involved at www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/business/business-growth-support/workforce-skills/youth-guarantee-trailblazer/

YOUTH GUARANTEE
Funded by **UK Government**

Check if you're eligible for the latest Household Support Fund scheme

Did you know you may be eligible to apply for a £120 payment to support with energy costs? The money is available thanks to extra funding from the Government's Household Support Fund (known as HSF).

This discretionary support is available to residents on a low income who do not get Council Tax Reduction. The scheme is running until March 2026, with vouchers to come over the next few months for households in receipt of Council Tax Reduction.

Check if you're eligible online and find out more at www.stockton.gov.uk/hsf



Keeping well this winter

Get your winter jobs

The flu jab and COVID-19 vaccine are the best ways to protect yourself and others this winter from serious infections.

Find out more at www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/keep-warm-keep-well/

For details on COVID-19 vaccine walk-in clinics visit www.northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/here-to-help-you/flu-and-covid-19-vaccinations-be-wise-immunise/

Look out for each other

Make sure older neighbours, relatives, and those with health concerns are safe, warm and have stocks of food and medicines.



Get help if you need it

Go to a pharmacy, contact your GP or use the NHS 111 service.



Be safe at home

Our Home Improvement Agency offers a free handyman service for eligible residents that can help make your home safer to prevent falls and accidents.



Find out more at www.stockton.gov.uk/HIA



Warm Homes Healthy People is back

Support is available to help residents in the Borough keep warm this winter.

The Council's Warm Homes Healthy People scheme offers emergency heating, energy saving advice, welfare benefits advice and boiler repairs to eligible residents. The scheme will run until March 2026.

For further information, call the team on 01642 528215 or visit www.stockton.gov.uk/warm-homes-healthy-people to check if you're eligible.

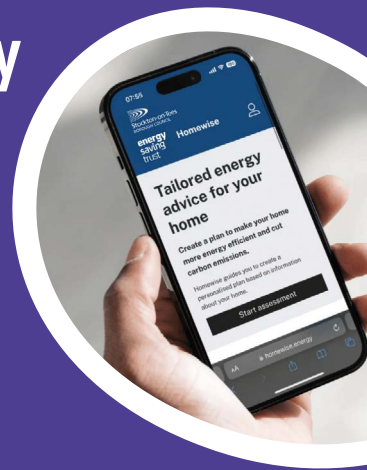


Tailored energy advice for your home

Homewise is a new tool to help you find tailored energy advice for your home which could help you save money on your energy bills.

By completing a free, simple online survey, you can get impartial advice and a personalised home energy action plan tailored to your needs and budget in minutes. You'll also get an indicative EPC rating and a breakdown of the cost for any work and potential savings.

Visit www.stockton.gov.uk/homewise to find out more.



10-year milestone for the LiveWell Hub

The LiveWell Hub is a community-based service that provides dementia information, support and training for anyone living in Stockton-on-Tees.

It's 10 years since the Hub first opened to provide an environment to better support people with dementia and offer a calm space where people living with dementia, their families, and carers can access:

- Information about dementia and the services, support groups and social activities available locally

- Memory service appointments
- Dementia training

The Hub continues to develop, with a wider range of activities, services and support for adult carers, improved signage and a brand-new outdoor seating area for visitors to enjoy the grounds.

To find out more, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/livewell-hub



Share your home. Change a life. Become a Shared Lives Carer.

Shared Lives Carers across Stockton-on-Tees are opening their homes to adults who need extra support. Whether it's a short break or a long-term placement, carers offer connection, stability, and a sense of belonging.

As the scheme grows, we need more local people to step forward and help us continue changing lives. Being a Shared Lives Carer is:

- Flexible – fit caring around your lifestyle
- Rewarding – build lasting relationships and make a real impact
- Supported – full training and ongoing guidance from our dedicated team

You don't need experience – just kindness, patience, and a willingness to share your life. Carers often say they feel enriched, valued, and proud.

Find out more at www.stockton.gov.uk/shared-lives



Supported Lodgings

Supported Lodgings provide young people, usually aged between 16 and 21, with a safe place to live in the home of a host. Hosts offer more than just a spare room. They provide encouragement, practical support and a listening ear as young people navigate education, employment and independence.

Many of the young people who benefit from Supported Lodgings are in care or leaving care, at risk of homelessness, or are a separated migrant child. Having a stable base can mean the difference between struggling alone and building a future with confidence and support.

To learn more, hear real stories and find out how you could Host the Future, visit www.hostthefuture.net



BOOSTING OUR SUPPORT FOR FOSTER CARERS IN STOCKTON-ON-TEES

Foster carers and looked-after children in Stockton-on-Tees are set to benefit from an enhanced package of support, following changes approved by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

A new weekly professional fee of £100 to £450 has been introduced, depending on the foster carers' training and experience and the child's needs, including those requiring complex care. This is in addition to the Government's weekly allowance of £170 to £263 per child, based on the child's age.

To recognise the dedication of foster carers, an annual £500 appreciation payment will be awarded per household, supporting those committed to ongoing training and development.

This enhanced offer aims to attract new foster carers, provide stronger support for existing ones, and meet the diverse needs of children in care.

For more information about fostering with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and how rewarding it can be, visit www.fosterwithnortheast.org.uk or call 0800 917 7771.



Private fostering

Are you caring for someone else's child under 16 (or under 18 with a disability) for 28+ days and are not their parent or close relative? This may be private fostering.

If you or someone you know is a private foster carer or plans to be and hasn't told us, contact childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk, call 01429 284284 or visit www.stockton.gov.uk/private-fostering

HOLIDAYS ARE FUN!

Eligible children can enjoy Holidays Are Fun (HAF) activities this Christmas.

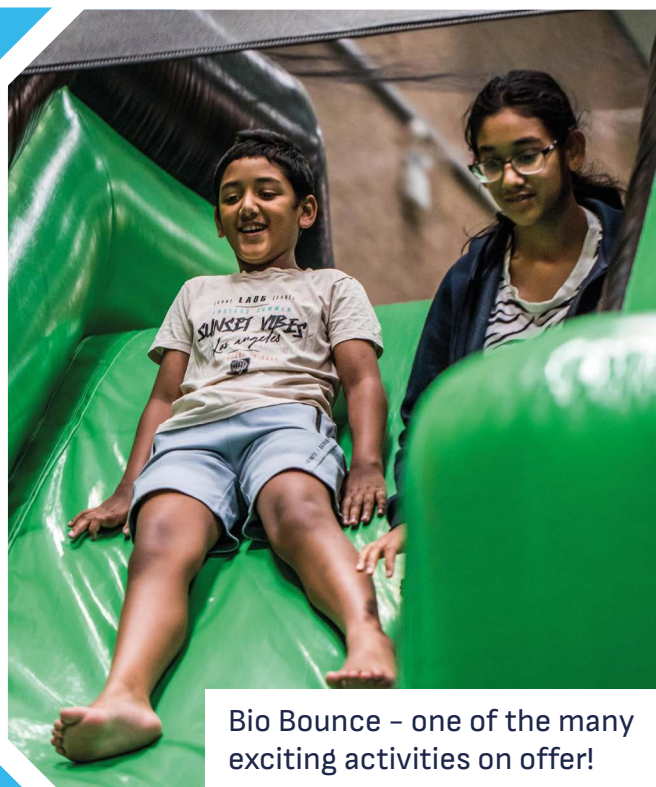
Sessions are free for school age children from Reception to Year 11 who live in the Borough and are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

Activities include horse riding, gymnastics, arts and crafts, bushcrafts, and SEND specific sessions, with the chance to try new things and make friends. A nutritious meal is included each day too.

Book online for the Christmas holidays at www.stockton.gov.uk/haf

Look out for more free activities during February half-term. Check our website and social media for updates in the New Year.

HAF is funded by the Department for Education and delivered by the Council.



Bio Bounce – one of the many exciting activities on offer!

Making It Real Board Update



We're proud of our co-produced accessible summary of the new Health & Wellbeing Strategy. We are co-producing a new Adult Social Care Strategy and updating the Local Account to look at the priorities for next year.

Board Members have been sharing our story out and about too. Our Chair Denise co-hosted a stall at the Wellbeing Hub, and Board member Ann-Marie shared information at the Our Place Our Say event in Thornaby.

Denise says: "We've made big steps in sharing information, and we value every conversation we have with people".

Ann-Marie says: "I enjoy working with the Council to help make a difference".

We've also welcomed new members and are keen to include more voices! For more information contact involvement@stockton.gov.uk or 01642 526644



National Care Leavers month

Throughout November the Council has been shining a light on the fantastic achievements of our care leavers and highlighting that it offers a whole host of services to support them.

There are 350 care leavers aged 18-25 living across Stockton-on-Tees and the Council is a 'corporate parent' to each and everyone of them. That means we want the same for them, as we would want for our own children.

That's why the Council provides a dedicated No Limits Hub in Stockton Town Centre and an extensive Care Leavers Local Offer including support with health and wellbeing, education, training and equipment, budgeting and accommodation.

The Council is one of 600 organisations across the country that have signed a Care Leaver Covenant to pledge its support and help connect care leavers with education, work, wellbeing opportunities and more.

Visit www.stockton.gov.uk/no-limits-hub to find out more about events and activities during National Care Leavers month.



Neighbourhood Trailblazer Success

Portrack and Central Stockton have been selected as one of just 25 neighbourhoods from across the country who will receive up to £20million over the next ten years to support communities to bring forward improvements they would like to see. This community-led regeneration and renewal will include housing, health and cohesion.

Further updates will be given in future editions of Stockton-on-Tees News.



Steve Crannage
Council Handyperson



Steve joined the Council almost two years ago.



Work includes the interior and the exterior of the house.

Helping you to stay independent at home.

WE DO THAT.

With hundreds of different roles and more than 3,000 people working here, there's more to the Council than you might think.

Steve Crannage, a Handyperson for the Council's Home Improvement Agency (HIA), provides free advice and practical support to help people stay safe, secure, and independent at home.

The Home Improvement Agency offers up to two hours of light DIY support every six months, such as installing door chains, changing light bulbs and fitting external grab rails (supplied by HIA). Unless stated, materials need to be provided by the resident.

The service is available for homeowners or private renters who satisfy one of the following:

- Are aged 60+
- Have care or support needs
- Are at high risk of falling

Visit www.stockton.gov.uk/HIA for eligibility and to request the service.

Steve said: "Having worked for the HIA team for nearly two years I really enjoy the variety of work. No two days are the same.

"From installing minor adaptations keeping the residents of Stockton-on-Tees safe in their own homes to small DIY jobs, I've found the smallest of things can make a big difference."

One of the benefits of working for the Council is that we're all working towards a better Stockton-on-Tees, putting communities at the heart of everything we do.

"I get a lot of job satisfaction from seeing the work we do in the HIA team," Steve explained.

"It's great working for a Council that invests in the people of the area and its own employees."

Search Stockton Council Careers to find a role to suit you or visit www.stockton.gov.uk/careers



Keeping the Borough's roads safe this winter

As the colder weather arrives, the Council's winter maintenance crews are on standby to help keep the Borough's roads safe.

The team is responsible for treating the roads when ice and snow are forecast, helping to keep the Borough moving. They work tirelessly throughout the winter and are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including Christmas and New Year.

Did you know around 2,300 tonnes of salt is currently stored in a purpose-built salt barn? The team also maintain 371 salt bins across the Borough for residents to use.

For more information on gritting and snow clearing, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/gritting-snow-clearing



**Invest
Stockton
on-Tees.**

STOCKTON-ON-TEES: INNOVATION CENTRE OPENS IN STOCKTON

Towne Lifting and Testing, a third-generation family-run engineering firm, officially opened its new Innovation Centre in Stockton this September. The centre will serve as a hub for training and innovation in the lifting and overhead crane industry.

Supported by a growth grant from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, the project helped fund cutting-edge equipment, including Towne's new smart technology range for cranes and machinery. At the open day, visitors saw live demonstrations of the full 'Crane of the Future' range, showcasing the company's commitment to leading industry innovation both locally and globally.

Commercial Director John Elliot said, "The range shows that despite being in business for almost 80 years, we're still pushing boundaries and proud to do it from Stockton-on-Tees."

The Innovation Centre is now open to businesses and industry professionals for site tours, training, and consultations. To find out more, visit www.towne.co.uk

Visit www.investstocktonontees.co.uk to see why Stockton-on-Tees is a great place to live, work and play.



Towne Lifting and Testing welcomes guests to their Innovation Centre launch.

SIX MONTHS OF OPERATION SHIELD

A multi-agency operation to combat anti-social behaviour and tackle the causes of offending in Stockton Town Centre, has enjoyed an encouraging first six months.

The Council, Cleveland Police, Wellington Square, Stockton BID, local recovery support agencies and other partners have joined forces on Operation Shield to cut substance misuse related offending and improve perception of safety in the town centre.

Operation Shield, which started in February, has now passed its six-month milestone and all

the signs are that it is having a positive effect.

It has seen regular, dedicated joint foot patrols with the Civic Enforcement Team and Cleveland Police's Stockton Neighbourhood Policing Team. This is in addition to the usual daily patrols carried out by Civic Enforcement.

In October the Council also introduced the Reducing the Strength Scheme where Premises Licence holders voluntarily agree to stop selling low cost, high strength alcohol such as beer, lager, and cider above 6.5% Alcohol By Volume (ABV).



Reducing the Strength sees the Council work with partners such as the Police and local businesses.

Ready to build your skills and boost your confidence?



Whether you're starting from scratch or aiming for a qualification, our free Maths, English, and Digital Skills courses are here to support you.

In Maths and English, you'll build practical, real-world skills for everyday life, study, and work. Our Digital Skills course covers essential computing know-how, from basic online safety and file management to practical tools like word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations. You'll also learn how to apply these skills to job applications, communication, and collaboration in a digital world.

Starting is simple. Scan the QR code to enrol today and sign up for a skills check.





Mayor of Stockton-on-Tees Councillor Stephen Richardson with resident Mary Pitt and her family.

Mayor's Mid-term Milestones

As I reach the halfway point of my Mayoral year, I'm proud to reflect on some of the incredible opportunities I have been involved in so far.

A true highlight was leading the Community Carnival with the Mayoress during Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF), where over 750 children and community groups brought Stockton High Street to life with colour, music, and joy.

I was proud to be a part of the Stockton and Darlington Railway 200 Celebrations including attending the 'Tracks of Change' exhibition at Preston Park Museum and 'Ghost Train: The Arrival', a spectacular finale to the Anniversary Journey. It was fantastic to see so many people witness such a memorable performance.

Another stand out moment was celebrating Thornaby resident, Mary Pitt's 100th birthday. Meeting Mary and her family was a privilege, and her stories were a beautiful reminder of our Borough's spirit.

Supporting my chosen charities; Butterwick Hospice and The Moses Project, has also been a privilege this year. We were honoured to welcome civic guests and representatives from both charities to a Charity Parmo Night at local restaurant Borge, providing a valuable opportunity to learn about the impactful work they do within our communities. To learn more about the charities I am supporting this year, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/the-mayors-charities

Air quality in Stockton-on-Tees

Did you know that the latest assessments have shown that air quality across Stockton-on-Tees is 'Good'? Earlier this year the Council launched its first Air Quality Strategy with 42 measures to reduce pollution by 2030.

Over 2,400 Key Stage 2 pupils have now attended air quality assemblies, and teams have engaged with more than 140 drivers during anti-idling patrols near schools. If you are a school and would like to get involved, email ks2airquality@stockton.gov.uk

You can learn more about the Borough's air quality at www.stockton.gov.uk/air-quality



Manage your Council Tax payments with Direct Debit

Make paying and managing your Council Tax simpler by switching to Direct Debit. You can pick a date that suits you – 1st, 5th, 15th or 28th of the month – and your Direct Debit will automatically change in line with any changes to your bill.

To set up your Direct Debit, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/how-to-pay-your-Council-Tax-bill and complete the online payment form. You will need your Council Tax account number to do this.



Do you have a postal vote?

Following changes made by central Government, it is no longer possible to have a permanent postal vote. Instead, a postal vote stays in place for a period of up to three years – up to the third 31 January from when your application was granted.

The Council has started the process of writing to those whose vote will be expiring on 31 January 2026. It is up to you to take action when you receive the notice, or you will risk losing your postal vote.

For more information on the changes, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/postal-vote-changes where you can also find a link to re-apply online.



Renewing your concessionary bus pass



You no longer need to contact the Council to renew your older person's bus pass. This is because your pass will be automatically renewed and you should receive your new pass before your current pass expires.

If you have a disabled person's bus pass, you can renew it online from 28 days before your current pass expires. Make a note of the date as you will no longer be sent a reminder when your disabled person's bus pass is due to expire. If you cannot apply online, call Customer Services on 01642 528499.

For more information, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/concessionary-bus-pass

Winter flooding advice

Heavy rainfall or sudden thaws of heavy snow and ice can cause flooding in winter. Stay prepared:

- Sign up to the national flood warning service to receive free flood alerts and get the flooding history of your property at www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings
- Create a flood plan – download a template from www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/future-flooding
- Check your home insurance, making sure you are covered for flooding

For more information visit www.stockton.gov.uk/flooding

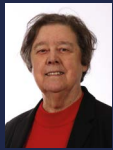


WARD SURGERIES

There are 27 wards across Stockton-on-Tees with between one and three councillors representing each ward.

There is no need to wait for ward surgeries. Councillors can be contacted at any time with any ward concern you may have. If you want to discuss any issues with your local councillors you can find their contact details in the following pages. For more information, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/councillors.

Billingham Central



Councillor
Ann McCoy
☎ 01642 535604
✉ ann.mccoy
@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor
Barry Woodhouse
☎ 07717727667
✉ barry.woodhouse
@stockton.gov.uk

📍 Billingham
Community Centre
🕒 6pm - 7pm
📅 3 December 2025
7 January 2026
4 February 2026
4 March 2026

Billingham East



Councillor
Michelle Bendelow
☎ 07823372398
✉ michelle.bendelow
@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor
Mick Stoker
☎ 07917587620
✉ mick.stoker
@stockton.gov.uk

📍 New Life Family Centre
🕒 4.30pm - 6pm
📅 12 December 2025
9 January 2026
13 February 2026
13 March 2026

Billingham North



Councillor
Marc Besford
☎ 07818586592
✉ marc.besford
@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor
Clare Besford
☎ 07818584050
✉ clare.besford
@stockton.gov.uk

📍 High Grange
Community Centre
🕒 7pm - 8pm
📅 8 January 2026
5 February 2026
5 March 2026

Billingham South



Councillor
Katie Weston
☎ 07963434815
✉ katie.weston
@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor
Paul Weston
☎ 07717727692
✉ paul.weston
@stockton.gov.uk

📍 Billingham Town
Football Club
🕒 6.30pm - 7.30pm
📅 2 December 2025
3 March 2026

Billingham South (cont.)

📍 St Cuthberts Hall
🕒 6.30pm - 7.30pm
📅 6 January 2026
📍 Port Clarence
Community Centre
🕒 6.30pm - 7.30pm
📅 3 February 2026

Billingham West and Wolviston



Councillor
David Reynard
☎ 07823513359
✉ david.reynard
@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor
Marcus Vickers
☎ 07823514929
✉ marcus.vickers
@stockton.gov.uk

Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree



Councillor
Hugo Stratton
☎ 07384797722
✉ hugo.stratton
@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor Emily Tate
☎ 07823444348
✉ emily.tate
@stockton.gov.uk

Eaglescliffe East



Councillor
Stefan Houghton
☎ 07766361716
✉ stefan.houghton
@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor Jim Taylor
☎ 07823794173
✉ jim.taylor
@stockton.gov.uk

Eaglescliffe West



Councillor
Diane Clarke
☎ 07823792726
✉ diane.clarke
@stockton.gov.uk



Vacant
A by election will take place on Thursday 11 December.

Fairfield



Councillor
Stephen Richardson
☎ 07929354541
✉ stephen.richardson
@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor Jack Miller
☎ 07350402362
✉ jack.miller
@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor
Mohammed Mazi
☎ 07350 402331
✉ mohammed.mazi
@stockton.gov.uk

📍 Fairfield Library
🕒 4pm - 4.30pm
📅 3 December 2025
7 January 2026
4 February 2026
4 March 2026

Grangefield



Councillor Carol Clark
☎ 01642 675688
✉ carol.clark
@stockton.gov.uk

📍 Grays Road Institute
🕒 6pm - 7pm
📅 4 December 2025
8 January 2026
5 February 2026
5 March 2026

Grangefield (cont.)

📍 St Pauls Church,
Bishopton Road
🕒 12pm - 1pm
📅 8 December 2025
12 January 2026
9 February 2026
9 March 2026

📍 St John's Church,
Durham Road
🕒 12pm - 1pm
📅 15 December 2025
19 January 2026
16 February 2026
16 March 2026

Hardwick and Salters Lane



Councillor
Nigel Cooke
☎ 07917559586
✉ nigel.cooke
@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor
Norma Stephenson
OBE
☎ 01642 527824

✉ norma.stephenson
@stockton.gov.uk
📍 Salters Lane
Community Centre
🕒 9.30am - 10.30am
📅 No December Surgery
10 January 2026
14 February 2026
14 March 2026
📍 Hardwick in Partnership
🕒 11am - 12pm
📅 10 January 2026
14 February 2026
14 March 2026

Hartburn



Councillor
Jason French
☎ 07917265479
✉ jason.french
@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor Lynn Hall
☎ 07825582527
✉ lynn.hall2
@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor
Niall Innes
☎ 07467443549
✉ niall.innes
@stockton.gov.uk

📍 Elmwood Youth &
Community Centre
🕒 5pm - 6pm
📅 1 December 2025
5 January 2026
2 February 2026
2 March 2026

Ingleby Barwick North



Councillor Ted Strike
☎ 07818587455
✉ ted.strike
@stockton.gov.uk

📍 The Rings Community Hub
🕒 6pm - 7pm
📅 9 December 2025
13 January 2026
10 February 2026
10 March 2026



Councillor Alan Watson
☎ 01642 761543
✉ alan.watson
@stockton.gov.uk
☎ 07818587334

📍 The Rings Community Hub
🕒 6.30pm - 7.30pm
📅 26 November 2025
14 January 2026
25 February 2026
25 March 2026

Ingleby Barwick North (cont.)



Councillor
Sally Ann Watson
☎ 01642 761543
✉ sallyann.watson@stockton.gov.uk
📱 07795012445

📍 The Rings Community Hub
🕒 6.30pm - 7.30pm
📅 26 November 2025
14 January 2026
25 February 2026
25 March 2026

Ingleby Barwick South



Councillor
Stefan Barnes
☎ 07818511568
✉ stefan.barnes@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor Kevin Faulks
☎ 07717 27663
✉ kevin.faulks@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor
Ross Patterson
☎ 01642 764865
✉ ross.patterson@stockton.gov.uk

📍 Activ8 IB Leisure Centre
🕒 6pm - 7pm
📅 2 December 2025
6 January 2026
3 February 2026
3 March 2026

Mandale and Victoria



Councillor
Richard Eglington
☎ 07823533362
✉ richard.eglington@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor Nathan Gale
☎ 07818588681
✉ nathan.gale@stockton.gov.uk

Mandale and Victoria (cont.)

📍 Victoria Park
Community Hall
🕒 1pm - 2pm
📅 1 December 2025
5 January 2026
2 February 2026

📍 Virtual Ward Surgery
🕒 6pm - 7pm
📅 29 January 2026

Newtown



Councillor
Marilyn Surtees
☎ 07920750678
✉ m.surtees@stockton.gov.uk

📍 Newtown Resource Centre
🕒 6pm - 7pm
📅 6 January 2026
3 March 2026

📍 Primrose Hill
Community Centre
🕒 12pm - 1pm
📅 2 December 2025
3 February 2026

Northern Parishes



Councillor
John Gardner
☎ 01740 645357
✉ john.gardner@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor
Vanessa Sewell
☎ 07823680302
✉ vanessa.sewell@stockton.gov.uk

Norton Central



Councillor Lisa Evans
☎ 01642 614522
✉ lisa.evans@stockton.gov.uk
📱 07917587617



Councillor Steve Nelson
☎ 07392 127446
✉ steve.nelson@stockton.gov.uk

📍 Norton Library
🕒 6pm - 7pm
📅 3 December 2025
7 January 2026
4 February 2026
4 March 2026

Norton North



Councillor
Tony Riordan
☎ 07825352193
✉ tony.riordan@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor
Hilary Vickers
☎ 07818587115
✉ hilary.vickers@stockton.gov.uk

📍 The Glebe
Community Centre
🕒 10am - 12pm
📅 4 December 2025
8 January 2026
5 February 2026

📍 The Moline Cross
🕒 6pm - 7pm
📅 4 December 2025
8 January 2026
5 February 2026

Norton South



Councillor Bob Cook
☎ 01642 890058
✉ robert.cook@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor Eileen Johnson
☎ 07939521146
✉ eileen.johnson@stockton.gov.uk

- 📍 Albany Resource Centre, Surrey Road
- 🕒 5pm - 6pm
- 📅 10 December 2025
- 7 January 2026
- 28 January 2026
- 11 February 2026
- 25 February 2026
- 11 March 2026
- 25 March 2026

Ropner



Councillor Shakeel Hussain
☎ 07818586721
✉ shakeel.hussain@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor Sufi Mubeen
☎ 07818586781
✉ sufi.mubeen@stockton.gov.uk

- 📍 The Ivy Tree, Yarm Road
- 🕒 6pm - 7pm
- 📅 8 December 2025
- 📍 Encounter Church, Oxbridge Lane
- 🕒 6pm - 7pm
- 📅 12 January 2026
- 📍 Stockton Family Hub
- 🕒 6pm - 7pm
- 📅 9 February 2026

Roseworth



Councillor Jim Beall
☎ 01642 871759
✉ jim.beall@stockton.gov.uk

Roseworth (cont.)



Councillor Barbara Inman
☎ 01642 582644
✉ barbara.inman@stockton.gov.uk

- 📍 Redhill Family Centre
- 🕒 4.30pm - 5.30pm
- 📅 9 December 2025
- 13 January 2026
- 10 February 2026
- 10 March 2026

Southern Villages



Councillor Elsi Hampton
☎ 07823327996
✉ elsi.hampton@stockton.gov.uk

Stainsby Hill



Councillor Ray Godwin
☎ 07825352158
✉ ray.godwin@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor Sylvia Walmsley
☎ 07825582518
✉ sylvia.walmsley@stockton.gov.uk

Stockton Town Centre



Councillor Pauline Beall
☎ 01642 871759
✉ pauline.beall@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor Paul Rowling
☎ 07429031855
✉ paul.rowling@stockton.gov.uk

- 📍 Stockton Central Library
- 🕒 5.15pm
- 📅 25 November 2025
- No December Surgery
- 27 January 2026
- 24 February 2026
- 24 March 2026

Village



Councillor Ian Dalgarno
☎ 01642 882985
✉ ian.dalgarno@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor Mick Moore
☎ 01642 764381
✉ mick.moore@stockton.gov.uk

Yarm



Councillor Dan Fagan
☎ 07471022580
✉ dan.fagan@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor Andrew Sherris
☎ 07825352188
✉ andrew.sherris@stockton.gov.uk



Councillor John Coulson
☎ 07818586520
✉ john.coulson@stockton.gov.uk

TEES VALLEY MAYOR



Ben Houchen
☎ 01325 792600
✉ mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

MP'S CONTACT DETAILS



Matt Vickers
(Stockton West MP)
☎ 01642 956526
✉ matt.vickers.mp@parliament.uk



Chris McDonald
(Stockton North MP)
☎ 01642 772277
✉ chris.mcdonald.mp@parliament.uk



Andy McDonald
(Middlesbrough and Thornaby East MP)
☎ 01642 246574
✉ andy.mcdonald.2nd@parliament.uk

WHAT'S ON

This is just a selection of the fantastic events to enjoy in the Borough this winter. You can find out more at www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/visit/whats-on. All listings were correct at the time of going to print. Please check with the event organiser for the latest updates.

Ingleby Barwick Christmas Lights Switch On

📅 Friday 21 November ⌚ from 4pm
📍 Myton Pub Car Park, Ingleby Barwick

Expect plenty of festive cheer at Ingleby's annual event with children's rides, hot food and drinks, carols by Ingleby Barwick Community Choir, and live music from a brass band.

Northern Live - Do I love you?

📅 Saturday 29 November ⌚ 7.30pm
📍 Stockton Globe

Keeping the faith to the original sounds of the underground movement that started on the dance floors in the North and eventually swept the Nation, including an 11-piece band with 4 lead vocalists performing over 30 original hits. www.stocktonglobe.co.uk

Ripping Yarm's Comedy Club - Headliner Ed Byrne

📅 Sunday 23 November ⌚ 7.30pm
📍 Princess Alexandra Auditorium, Yarm

The Irish comedy legend takes centre stage with his trademark blend of sharp observational humour and perfectly crafted storytelling that has made him one of the most respected comedians on the circuit.

www.thepaaonline.org

Billingham Christmas Lights Switch On

📅 Saturday 29 November ⌚ 1pm to 5pm
📍 Billingham Town Centre

Join us in Billingham Town Centre and Billingham Library for a day full of festive fun for the whole family including; arts and crafts, letters to Santa, face painting and Santa's grotto!

Imagination Station

📅 Wednesday 26 November
⌚ 10am - 2pm
📍 Stockton Library

Craft a wooden ornament to add a festive touch to your tree. Age 16+, £5.

www.stockton.gov.uk/book-library-event

Christmas Tree Festival

📅 Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November
📍 St Francis of Assisi Church Centre, Ingleby Barwick

Come along and browse the free spectacular display of over 30 Christmas Trees all festooned with decorations and lights. Enter through the wardrobe and experience the wonders of "Narnia".

Norton Advent Trail

📅 Friday 28 November -
Wednesday 31 December
📍 Norton High Street

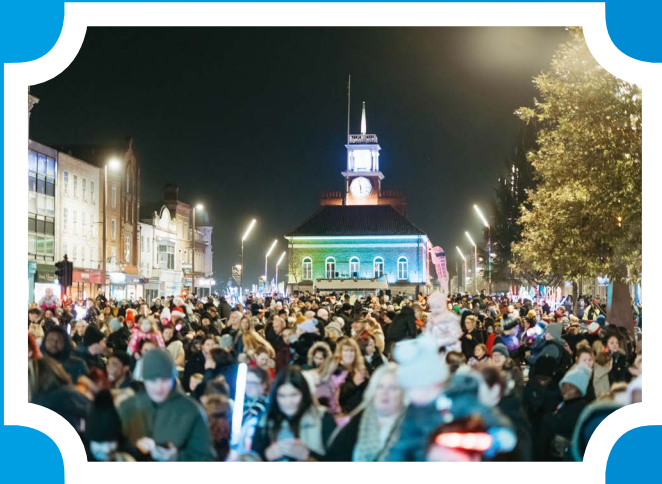
Follow the illuminated window trail across Norton to learn about the advent tale.

Friends of Ropner Park Christmas Fair

📅 Sunday 30 November ⌚ 11am to 5pm
📍 Ropner Park

Enjoy all things festive including Christmas stalls selling gifts and treats, a live band, carol singing and a visit from Father Christmas on his tricycle at 11.15am with his elves. The park cafe will also be open for refreshments.

Stockton Sparkles



Sparkles Launch

- 📅 Thursday 27 November
- 🕒 From 5pm, light switch-on 6.30pm
- 📍 Stockton High Street

The much-loved Stockton Sparkles returns with a feast of festive fun and entertainment, bringing Christmas cheer for all the family.

Join us from 5pm for the launch night, with an evening full of live music and entertainment, hot food and drinks, and of course the Christmas light switch-on at 6.30pm.



Weekend with Santa

- 📅 Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November
- 🕒 10am - 5pm
- 📍 Stockton High Street

Join Santa for this free event as he reads Christmas Stories for all the family to enjoy. There will even be a disco with Santa!

Christmas Market and Victorian Fair

- 📅 Friday 5 and Saturday 6 December
- 🕒 10am - 6pm
- 📅 Sunday 7 December
- 🕒 11am - 5pm
- 📍 Stockton High Street

Visit the Stockton Sparkles Christmas Market to pick up the perfect gift. Across three days, browse local traders, makers, artists and bakers, and join us for delicious festive food and music. Check out the Victorian fair and enjoy a lovely view of our market. All rides are free.

Lantern Parade

- 📅 Sunday 7 December 🕒 4pm
- 📍 Stockton High Street

It's the most wonderful time of the year, as our Lantern Parade arrives at Stockton Sparkles!

Our annual Illuminated Lantern Parade will bring the festive cheer! Returning to Stockton High Street, hundreds of school and community groups will dazzle their way sporting a glittering array of community created lanterns, street theatre and atmospheric festive music.



The Further Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan

Monday 1 December to Sunday 4 January '26

Forum Theatre, Billingham

Soar through the skies to the enchanted island in this high-flying, pantomime adventure!

www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk



A Town Called Christmas

Tuesday 2 to Saturday 13 December

ARC, Stockton

Far beyond the snow lies Christmas, once the happiest place on Earth. Now crumbling, only fables, a grumpy caretaker, and a glitching robot remain until our hero arrives to save it!

www.arconline.co.uk

Carols around the lamps

Friday 5 December 6pm

Five Lamps, Thornaby

Get in the Christmas spirit by joining in with some much-loved carols.



Open Jar Christmas Tribute Show

Saturday 6 December 5pm

Stockton Globe

This indoor tribute festival is a must see for pop lovers young and old. www.stocktonglobe.co.uk

Yarm Christmas Lights Switch On and Carols on the Cobbles

Sunday 7 December 2.30pm-5.30pm

Yarm High Street

Get ready to unwrap the magic of Christmas in Yarm as the town sparkles to life for the annual Christmas tree light switch-on and Carols on the Cobbles!

Santa on Wheels

Thursday 11 to Sunday 14 December

Across the Borough
Santa on Wheels is back to tour the Borough, waving and cheering from his Santa bus.

Watch out for him visiting a street near you this December.



Jack and the Beanstalk

Thursday 11 to Tuesday 30 December

Princess Alexandra Auditorium, Yarm

A new adaption of the much-loved classic. www.thepaaonline.org



Oh My God It's The Church!

Friday 12 December

Georgian Theatre, Stockton

Returning to the Unified Kingdoms with their highly acclaimed 'After Life' show.

www.georgiantheatre.co.uk

Simply the 80s Xmas special Featuring Ant Trouble

Saturday 13 December

Georgian Theatre, Stockton

The UK's Number One tribute to 'Adam and the Ants'. With a DJ playing 80s bangers until late it's guaranteed to be a ball!

www.georgiantheatre.co.uk



Here & Now – The Steps Musical

Monday 15 to Sunday 28 December

Stockton Globe

Happiness is only a heartbeat away with Here & Now, the hilarious and heart-warming new musical based on the songs of Steps.

www.stocktonglobe.co.uk

Cosy Christmas Crafts

Monday 22 December 2pm to 3pm

Thornaby Central Library

Create cheeky elves and silly Santas from paperchains. Add a little sparkle to your tree with your own pinecone decoration. Recommended ages 4 - 11.

www.stockton.gov.uk/book-library-event



Perfume by Yann Nguema

Saturday 17 January to Sunday 22 March 2026

Preston Park Museum & Grounds

Internationally renowned, contemporary artist Yann Nguema explores the power of scent in this sensory experience. Free with museum admission. www.prestonparkmuseum.co.uk



PRESTON PARK

A Magical Victorian Christmas

Every weekend from 29 November - 21 December

Following a multi-million-pound transformation - including the opening of the stunning new The Spence Building - Preston Park Museum is delighted to welcome visitors back for an extra special festive season.

Step back in time and soak up the festive atmosphere on the cobbled Victorian Street. Enjoy festive music from community choirs, make reindeer food, craft something special to take home, and write a letter to Father Christmas with a traditional dip pen and ink.

Visit the Victorian sweet shop, dress up in period costume, and snap a festive selfie in our vintage photography studio.

Follow the 12 Days of Christmas Trail to uncover hidden surprises throughout the museum.

After all the festive fun, relax and enjoy seasonal treats from The Spence Café.



Late nights at the museum

Normal museum admission applies. Buy your museum pass online before you visit Thursday 4, 11 and 18 December

Due to popular demand, we're bringing you even more late-night openings this festive season!

This Christmas, discover Preston Park Museum in a whole new light. As evening falls, our cobbled Victorian Street transforms into a winter wonderland - twinkling with fairy lights, adorned with traditional garlands, and wreaths on every doorway.

Wander through captivating exhibitions, enjoy late-night shopping for unique gifts and stocking fillers in the new gift shop, and indulge in festive treats from The Spence Café.

www.prestonparkmuseum.co.uk

Queen - Performed by Killer Rhapsody

📅 Saturday 17 January

📍 Georgian Theatre, Stockton

The hottest and most riveting tribute to Freddie Mercury and Queen. www.georgiantheatre.co.uk

An Evening with Harry Redknapp: My Life in Football and Beyond

📅 Sunday 15 February

📍 Forum Theatre, Billingham

Join Harry Redknapp for a night full of laughter, football stories and feel-good moments.

www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk

The Makings of a Murderer - The Undercover Detective

📅 Friday 20 February

📍 Princess Alexandra Auditorium, Yarm

Join Peter Bleksley, from Scotland Yard's undercover unit and former star of Channel 4's Hunted, as he explores the most dangerous and hidden aspects of murder investigations.

www.thepaaonline.org

Last Unicorn Airways

📅 Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 February

🕒 10am and 2.30pm 📍 ARC, Stockton

Join two whimsical baggage handlers as they recreate a fantastical round-the-world adventure

www.arconline.co.uk



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES

For full details of Christmas and New Year opening times for Council services, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/festive-hours.

Customer Services	
Main Switchboard	01642 393939
Care For Your Area	01642 391959
Council Tax	01642 397108
Housing Benefits	01642 393829

Telephone lines for Homelessness, Children's and Adults Services are open until 5pm on 24 and 31 December. All other lines close at 1pm.

Customer Services Telephone Contact Centre Opening Hours	
Mon 22 Dec	8.30am - 5pm
Tues 23 Dec	8.30am - 5pm
Wed 24 Dec	8.30am - 1pm
Thurs 25 & Fri 26 Dec	CLOSED
Sat 27 Dec	9.30am - 12.30pm
Sun 28 Dec	CLOSED
Mon 29 Dec	8.30am - 5pm
Tues 30 Dec	8.30am - 5pm
Wed 31 Jan	8.30am - 1pm
Thurs 1 Jan	CLOSED

Registration Services at Nightingale House, Stockton and Bereavement Services at Stockton-on-Tees Crematorium

Bereavement services	
Mon 22 to Wed 24 Dec	9am - 5pm
Thurs 25 to Sun 28 Dec	CLOSED
Mon 29 to Wed 31 Dec	9am - 5pm
Thurs 1 Jan	CLOSED

Registration services	
Mon 22 to Wed 24 Dec	8.30am - 5pm
Thurs 25 to Sun 28 Dec	CLOSED
Mon 29 to Wed 31 Dec	8.30am - 5pm
Thurs 1 Jan	CLOSED

Stockton Central, Thornaby Central and Billingham Library	
Mon 22 Dec and Tues 23 Dec	Normal Hours
Wed 24 Dec	8.30am - 1pm
Thurs 25 Dec and Fri 26 Dec	CLOSED
Sat 27 Dec	9.30am - 4pm
Sun 28 Dec	CLOSED
Mon 29 Dec and Tues 30 Dec	9.30am - 5pm
Wed 31 Jan	9.30am - 1pm
Thurs 1 Jan	CLOSED

Library opening hours will vary during the Christmas period, so please speak to your local library. The Mobile Library will be off the road from Monday 22 December to Tuesday 6 January 2026.

Emergency Services	
Adults' Helpline	01642 527764
Children's Helpline	01642 130080
Out of Hours Duty Team	01642 524552
Homelessness and Housing Solutions	01642 528389

Customer Services Face to Face Opening Hours	
Mon 22 Dec	9.30am - 4.30pm
Tues 23 Dec	9.30am - 4.30pm
Wed 24 Dec	9.30am - 1pm
Thurs 25 to Sun 28 Dec	CLOSED
Mon 29 Dec	9.30am - 4.30pm
Tues 30 Dec	9.30am - 4.30pm
Wed 31 Jan	9.30am - 1pm
Thurs 1 Jan	CLOSED

Christmas waste and recycling collections

Date	Revised Collection Day
Tues 23 Dec	Normal collection
Wed 24 Dec	Normal collection
Thurs 25 Dec	Bank Holiday (no collection)
Fri 26 Dec	Bank holiday (no collection)
Sat 27 Dec	Collection (Thurs catch up)
Mon 29 Dec	Collection (Fri catch up)
Tues 30 Dec	Tues normal collection
Wed 31 Dec	Wed normal collection
Thurs 1 Jan 2026	Bank holiday (no collection)
Fri 2 Jan 2026	Collection (Thurs catch up)
Sat 3 Jan 2026	Collection (Fri catch up)
Tues 6 Jan 2026	Usual collections restart

Real Christmas tree collections will begin from Tuesday 6 January 2026. Alternatively, real trees can be recycled at the Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Haverton Hill in Billingham. For details of opening times, visit www.stockton.gov.uk/haverton-hill