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**Billingham North Ward  
(Marsh House Ward &  
High Grange, Wolviston Ward)**

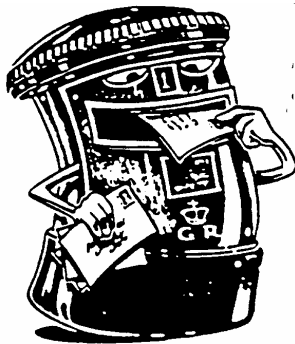
**FOCUS  
Number 98**

**Editors: Councillor Lynne Apedaile (Marsh House Ward) 01740 645216**  
**Councillor Colin Leckonby (Marsh House Ward) 01642 872896**  
**Maurice Apedaile (Wolviston Ward) 01740 645216**



**LOW GRANGE POST OFFICE UNDER THREAT OF CLOSURE**

There were articles in the Evening Gazette and Northern Echo on Thursday and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April that the Post Office is considering closing the post office in Low Grange Avenue, Billingham. Both Lynne and I are strongly opposed to this closure and have made our feelings known to the Postwatch Northern Regional Office. Residents should write, telephone or e-mail their objections to the above office. You need to state how the closure will effect you. There are petitions in several of the Low Grange shops, but the more people who contact them personally, the stronger the case for keeping the post office open will be. The letters should be sent to the following address:-



Judith Donavon CBE  
Postwatch Northern Regional Office  
Devere House  
Vicar Lane  
Little Germany  
BRADFORD  
BD1 5AH



Telephone : 08456 012365

Or

E-mail :north@postwatch.co.uk

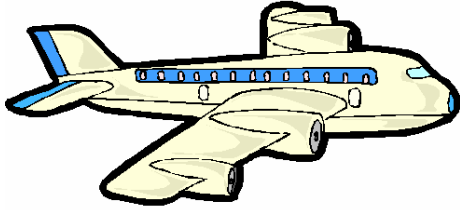
Objections must be in the Postwatch Northern Regional Office by

**MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**Liberal Democrats – Working for YOU**

## EURO ELECTIONS

With postal ballot papers due to arrive through your letter box remember that this election is not about the Euro Constitution or whether we stay in Europe. It is about our area having good representation and a fair deal, and our leading Liberal Democrat candidate Fiona Hall is heading the campaign ably supported by the other candidates Greg Stone and Chris Foote Wood.



One way which shows that the Liberal Democrat MEPs are working for all of us is their support of the **Airport Delay Legislation**. This will mean that air travellers whose flights are cancelled or overbooked will be entitled to cash compensation. The compensation payments could be up to £415.

Research by the Liberal Democrats has shown that delays at Britain's biggest airports are getting worse year on year.

In 2002, the time spent waiting for flight departures due to delays was the equivalent of 250,000 people having a week's holiday.

Fiona Hall is now calling on the UK Government to support the legislation: *"The European Parliament has passed the new laws. Now it is up to the Labour Government to agree to the package as soon as possible. Until then, air passengers will remain at the complete mercy of air carriers, with no right of redress.*

## COUNCIL TAX

Fiona Hall was shocked by how deeply people are suffering with Council Tax. She is leading the campaign in the North East against Council Tax, and spoke about the flood of petitions and letters received from across the region. "I knew Council Tax was unfair. But I've been quite shocked to realise how deeply some people in the region are suffering."

The Liberal Democrats are running a campaign to **"AXE THE TAX"** throughout the North East. We are calling on the Government to replace the council tax with a much fairer local income tax based on ability to pay.



## WOLVISTON WARD

It would appear that Stephen Parry the Stockton Borough Councillor for the Wolviston Ward is only looking after Wolviston Village. He put out a leaflet several weeks ago that only seems to have been delivered in the village. Several residents in High Grange (part of the Wolviston ward) say that they didn't have the leaflet delivered to them.

### BUS PASSES

Bus passes can be renewed in the Billingham Forum at the following dates and times:-

|                                    |               |       |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| <b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b> | 9am – 12 noon | A – B |
|                                    | 1pm – 4pm     | C – D |
| <b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>    | 9am – 12 noon | E -G  |
|                                    | 1pm – 4pm     | H –K  |
| <b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>     | 9am – 12 noon | L -M  |
|                                    | 1pm – 4pm     | N –R  |
| <b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup></b>       | 9am – 12 noon | S - T |
|                                    | 1pm – 4pm     | U -Z  |

## WARD SURGERIES

Lynne and Colin will be holding ward surgeries at the following venues from  
**6.30 – 7.30pm**

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2004. Low Grange Community Centre**

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2004 North Billingham Methodist Church**

You can contact Lynne or Colin at other times by telephoning **Lynne on 01740 645216** or **Colin on 872896**.

**e-mail:- lynne.apedaile@stockton.gov.uk**  
**colin.leckonby@stockton.gov.uk**

You can also write to **Lynne Apedaile at 1 West Hartlepool Rd, Wolviston TS22 5LA**. Or **Colin Leckonby at 73 Tunstall Ave, Billingham TS23 3QD**.