

BISHOPSGARTH & ELM TREE

# FOCUS

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Number: 181

## Toothache?

There is now a crisis with many people not being able to access a dentist locally without having to pay private charges. The Focus team have heard from some very distressed people who have not been able to register with an NHS dentist. They have now drawn up a petition calling for a new contract, that takes into account the needs of both the patients and the dentists. These are available in local shops and the Elm Tree Community Centre. Do go in and sign one, and ask Julia or Suzanne for one to take round your friends.

Julia Roberts said "After lack of investment by the Tory Government, this Government did nothing to prevent the looming disaster. They have not listened to either dentists or patients, and now they must move urgently towards a solution"



Labour is not listening!

## STOP PRESS ..... Darzi update

It's very disappointing to note that despite all objections the NHS Joint Committee ignored the protests against the closure of the consultant led maternity unit at University Hospital, North Tees. Julia and other members of the Liberal Democrats will continue to protest against this recommendation and to press for judicial review if necessary.

## Fair Trade



® Buying Fair Trade products helps to reduce world poverty by buying goods for which the producers have had a fair payment for the work involved. They also receive a "social premium" which enables them to buy things such as clean drinking water, roads, schools or whatever is needed in their communities. If everyone bought just 2 products a month the lives of thousands of farmers and producers across the world would be transformed. Why not try it? Look out for Fair Trade products in your local supermarket, not just tea and coffee but biscuits, bananas, pasta, chocolate and many others – they can be recognised by the logo. If you can't find them Suzanne and Julia have cards available for you to lobby the shop to stock these goods.

## SNIPPETS ....Street signs on **Walsham Close**, **Barrington Avenue** and **Norwich**

**Avenue** have been reported missing ..... the overgrown hedge at the end of **Dale Close** has been trimmed back ..... we have asked for treatment to the corner opposite **Marwood Square** that is churned up by the bin lorry to stop unsightly ruts ..... the path by **Elmwood Court** on Elm Tree Avenue had been reported (twice!)

as being very uneven ..... Julia has arranged for the area where the portacabins were on the field by **Mallaig View** to be tidied up ..... Julia is working with Care For Your Area to try to discover the new owners of **Marske Parade shops** and get the rear area tidied up.

We're both very pleased to see that after much lobbying the brewery have finally put in a new brick wall at the **Five Alls** ..... Julia is trying to get graffiti removed from the phone mast box on **Darlington Back Lane** and also the NTL boxes at **Marley Close**, **Morven View** and **Dunelm Road** ..... and finally – the light on top of the new column in front of the **Elm Tree shops** has come on!



**FOCUS - THE ORIGINAL AND BEST. NOW IN ITS 25TH YEAR!**

## Policing

On a recent cold Friday night Julia walked around the ward for several hours with Tracy Widdowfield, PCSO. This gave a great insight into the problems experienced by residents and the tremendous work carried out by our PCSO's and police officers. It also highlighted the need for more resources to be



available for local policing. Liberal Democrats will continue to oppose ID cards and would instead invest the money in 10,000 more police officers on the streets.

## Concessionary bus fares

Stockton Council, along with other former Cleveland Councils, is working hard to include cross boundary and all day travel for those entitled to concessionary fares.

The Government has said it is giving pensioners free travel – but not mentioning that it thinks pensioners shouldn't travel before 9.30 a.m., or go from one town to another! To say nothing of the fact that it is very unclear whether they are giving the money for it. Julia and Suzanne think this is very hypocritical, to say the least.



## Problems, Queries, Ideas & Views.

Suzanne and Julia will be holding their ward surgery at **Elm Tree Community Centre**  
Tuesday 7th March 6pm to 7pm  
Tuesday 11th April 6pm to 7pm  
Young people, same dates 4.30 to 5.30 pm

### Contact us by:

**Letter** - Julia Roberts, 22, Zetland Road, Stockton, TS19 0EQ

**or** Suzanne Fletcher, 3, Hoylake Way, Eaglescliffe, Stockton on Tees, TS16 9EU

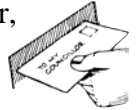
**or** - Julia Roberts and Suzanne Fletcher, FREEPOST, NEA 765,

STOCKTON-ON-TEES TS16 9BR

(no need for a stamp)

**Phone** - 01642 606732 (Julia) or 787652 (Suzanne)

**e-mail** - julia.roberts@stockton.gov.uk (Julia) or suzanne.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk (Suzanne)



**Let us know if you would like to be on our e-mail mailing list for news in between Focus. It is sent with no attachments or graphics and as a blind copy so no-one else can see your address.**

## Tristar Rent payments

All Tristar tenants will now have had a letter telling them that the payment of rent at the mobile housing office on a Wednesday morning is under review, and is being consulted on. Suzanne has asked that there be a meeting in Lauder House on a Wednesday morning, so that tenants can go along, hear about any proposals and be able to ask questions and make their views known. This will be on 26<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am.

## SKIPS AND RECYCLING

The next skips for household rubbish : **Thursday 23rd March**, Norton Drive next to no.2 and Elm Tree Community Centre Car park.



Please don't leave any rubbish next to the skips, and don't forget that Care For Your Area will clear bulky household waste free of charge until April 1st 2006 if you ring 391959.

Besides the doorstep recycling (you do have a box and bag don't you!) and the "bring" banks at supermarkets many items can be recycled at the Haverton Hill Sita site (527290) where you can take oil, paint, white goods, car batteries, cardboard, wood etc.

Any good quality furniture can be sent to FRADE, who will collect and then sell for a small fee to people in need. Contact them on 608791.



## Neighbourhood Watch:

The next meeting is on Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup> at Medina House, at 7.00 p.m. All who are interested are welcome to attend.

## PLANNING UPDATE

SITE 3, on Darlington Back Lane now has planning permission.

Suzanne was able to get a better layout for security and more protection for the hedges than was planned.

WIND TURBINE. This is waiting for more information before a decision is made by the planning committee.

**There is no substitute for all year round action and service**