

BISHOPSGARTH & ELM TREE

FOCUS

www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

Edited by:
COUNCILLOR
SUZANNE FLETCHER
Tel: 787652
And
COUNCILLOR
JULIA ROBERTS
Tel: 606732



Number: 186

DARZI RECOMMENDATIONS

You have probably read in the local press recently that the Independent Reconfiguration Panel recommended to Secretary of State Patricia Hewitt that consultant led maternity and paediatric services should continue be provided from University Hospital of North Tees. Julia is particularly pleased with this decision, as she was part of the Health Scrutiny Committee that referred the decision for review and met with the Reconfiguration Panel when they visited Stockton. None of us want to see North Tees Hospital “saved” at the expense of those people living in Hartlepool and Easington areas. What we do want is the best medical provision available to **everyone**. If a new, “single site hospital” is the best **medical** way forward then we will support that proposal provided that the transport links are in place to enable everyone to travel freely, cheaply and conveniently. Stockton Liberal Democrats will continue to lobby for such transport links to be available.



Suzanne and Julia with Fiona Hall, Member of the European Parliament, are calling for good bus links to any new hospital site.



JULIA AND SUZANNE – YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ON STOCKTON COUNCIL – WORKING TOGETHER, FOR YOU, WITH YOU.

SPRING BULBS

Julia and Suzanne were delighted to be involved with the Bishopsgarth Association of



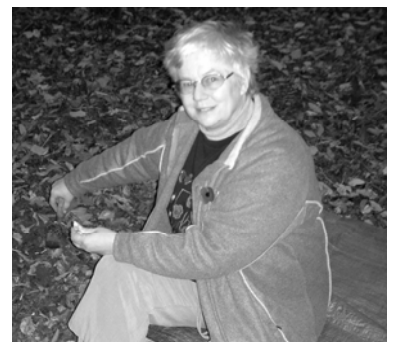
Julia planting bulbs

Residents and pupils from Bishopsgarth School recently when spring bulbs were planted on the green area at Dale Close / Marske Lane. It was a wet day but the young people involved were very keen and hardworking. We look forward to seeing



25 YEARS ONWARDS

To mark her 25 years as a Councillor, Suzanne planted English Bluebells that she bought, in the Elm Tree wood. She hopes that they will flower this spring, and that they will multiply each year to make our area more pleasant to walk around.



Suzanne planting bluebells

FOCUS - THE ORIGINAL AND BEST. NOW IN ITS 26TH YEAR!



THE PUDDLE RETURNS

There were big problems with a large puddle on the pavement on Elm Tree Avenue in front of Medina House over 15 years ago, which Suzanne did get the Council to deal with. However in recent months the puddle has returned on this well used path, and Suzanne has asked the Council to deal with it as a matter of urgency.

DANGEROUS LAMP POSTS

Julia reported a loose cover on the base of a lamp post in Marske Lane, and it was repaired immediately. Ring 526769 in office hours or 58989 at other times if you see these covers loose – it could be extremely dangerous if a child were to touch it. It should be made safe within 2 hours of being reported

FIRE SAFETY –

We're both delighted to hear from the Fire Brigade that following our last edition of Focus, the number of home fire safety checks carried out in the area is 3 times more than the same time last year. If you've still not had one done, including free fitting of a smoke alarm, then please contact Cleveland Fire Brigade on 01429 874063 or log on to www.clevelandfire.gov.uk

5 steps to a safer Britain

- More police on patrol—**don't waste billions on ID cards**
- Take back our town centres—**let communities close pubs and clubs that cause trouble**
- Make sentences mean what they say—**life should mean life**
- Compulsory work and training in prison—**to cut reoffending**
- Better compensation of victims—**paid for by prison work**



Problems, Queries, Ideas & Views.

Suzanne and Julia will be holding their ward surgery at **Elm Tree Community Centre** Tuesday 6th March 6.30 pm to 7.30pm

NO youth surgery this month (Council seminar arranged after booking)

Tuesday 3rd April 6pm to 7 pm
Young people, same date 4.30 to 5.30 pm
Bishopsgarth School (with local Police)
Monday 5th March 6pm to 6.30pm
Monday 2nd April 6pm to 6.30 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 (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)

WEB SITE You can now keep up to date with news from your local Liberal Democrats by logging on to www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk. You'll find local and national news, past editions of Focus and much more. Do have a look and let us know what you think.

Effective action needed

After nearly 10 years in power, Labour haven't managed to tackle crime.

Violent crime has doubled and problems of anti-social behaviour continues to rise.

Meanwhile the Conservatives can't make up their mind what to do about crime.

Ming Campbell's Liberal Democrats have launched a 5 step plan to cut crime.

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour is a top priority for the Lib Dems.

There is no substitute for all year round action and service

DARLINGTON BACK LANE / FELTON LANE CROSSING UPDATE,



Suzanne at the busy crossing

This cannot go ahead until funding has been agreed in the Council's spending plans for next year. The road and junction are getting busier all of the time, and Julia and Suzanne are pressing the Cabinet member and Council to make sure that this crossing is in next year's spending programme.

SNIPPETS -

The **Powburn Close** street sign has been reported and is being replaced Julia reported the dumped fridge in **Newham Grange Park** – they can be very dangerous if children climb inside and are trapped The **foot bridge** from **Piercebridge Close** to **Whitehouse Farm School** has been reported by Suzanne over Christmas and has been repaired The **Briardene Walk** fence has now been replaced by a stronger metal one after we consulted with local residents dumping on the cycleway has been reported and moved An up-rooted sign pole on **Elm Tree Avenue** near to **Lauder Close** has been removed and is looking for a home now Julia has reported graffiti on the **Lanark Close bus shelter** on **Elm Tree Avenue** and is chasing up what has happened to a seat there

MARSKE, FELTON and LEAM LANE TRAFFIC CALMING

There was a delay in the extra consultation letters to those affected by slightly altered proposals for replacing the mini roundabouts with speed humps, and minor change in the positioning of some speed humps, so the letters were not sent out by the Council till January. That consultation has now finished, with most people being in favour of the scheme. Suzanne and Julia have carefully read all the comments that people made, and are strongly backing the proposals. They will not solve every problem there is with traffic, and the Malton and Norton Drive situation will have to be looked at when the new scheme has been working for a while to assess any impact from it.

When the scheme has been signed off by the Cabinet member work can start on the legalities and then on the road itself.



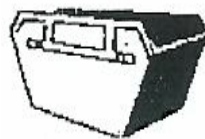
Julia on Marske Lane

DENTISTRY PROVISION

There have been changes made to out of hours dentistry provision whereby those people requiring emergency treatment after 6pm or on Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday weekends will be directed to a single site "not far from James Cook University Hospital". This is instead of the current mobile treatment centres which operate around the area depending on which dentist is "on call".

Both Julia and Suzanne are concerned at this new proposal which will see yet more health care being moved out of the local area. Please let us know of your experiences of this new practice.

SKIPS The next skip for household waste is not until March 22nd where it is at both Norton Drive and behind the Elm Tree Community Centre.



Suzanne and Julia have asked for more money to be made available for more skips in the area, but have told that there is just not enough money for that.

Neighbourhood Watch

The next meeting is on Wednesday February 21st at 7.00 p.m at Medina House. All are welcome who are interested in Neighbourhood Watch.



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT ACTION -ALL YEAR, EVERY YEAR.

YOUTH BUS

This is now coming to the area following our requests (Focus 186). It is coming on a fortnightly basis, from 6.30 to 8.00 p.m. to the car park to the rear of the Elm Tree shops, and the next date is Tuesday 13th February, and it will be twice weekly after that. After a while the Youth Service will decide on whether to continue with the bus, do something else, or withdraw the service – depending on the response.



SURE START CENTRE

The plans for this have been put in to the Council to ask for planning permission,

although there is no date for a decision yet.

Suzanne and Julia are working closely with Sure Start and the Elm Tree Community Centre on the proposals, so that we have the best facility possible for our area. In the meantime if you have



Julia and Suzanne with the plans for the new Sure Start Centre

children likely to be using the new centre, do let us know if you would like to be involved in the planning of services.

SPEED ON ELM TREE AVENUE



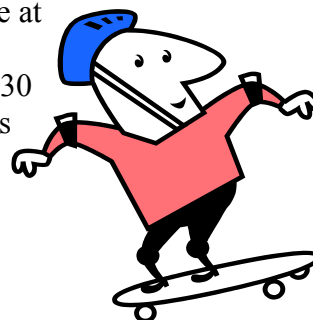
A number of people have been complaining about speeding on Elm Tree Avenue, saying that it is getting worse.

Some speed cameras are now being used, at times, and speeds of up to 49 mph have been recorded – so do watch out and slow down – you are being watched!



SKATEBOARDING

The mobile skate board park will be at the rear of Elm Tree Community Centre on Monday February 19th 9.30 to 3.30. It is free of charge, helmets and pads are provided, and there are some skateboards for free loan. Come along and enjoy!



DARLINGTON BACK LANE PLAY EQUIPMENT survey result –

Of those voting on the website (as in Focus 185) 67% wanted it to be brought up to safety standards, 17% wanted it removed, 17% did not know. We have also had letters and e-mails asking for the play equipment to be kept in the area and renovated – it is just too far for those with young children to walk to other areas. As a result of your views, a submission is going to the Council's Play Strategy team asking them to take action on this. Focus will keep you informed.

VOTING IN LOCAL ELECTIONS ON MAY 3rd

You need to be on the register to vote! If you have recently moved in, or think that you are not on the electoral roll, please contact either electoral registration services at the Council on 526196 or Julia or Suzanne. The last date for registration to vote is March 12th.

POSTAL VOTING

Do you need a postal vote? If you are likely to be away from home for work or holidays on Thursday May 5th, or if you will find it difficult to get to a polling station on the day, then you can apply for a postal vote.

Don't leave it till the last minute, but the very last time for putting in an application is Wednesday April 18th. Anyone who has had a postal vote previously will need to apply again under new Government rules.

Local elections
are coming in
May this year
– so
beware of
dirty tricks
from others!

WORKING FOR YOU ALL YEAR ROUND !