

Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree

# FOCUS

No 193

Editors:

Cllr Suzanne Fletcher  
787652

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606732



## CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

Whilst we apologise that the phone picture in the last Focus covered part of the new phone number for University Hospital of North Tees (the correct phone number is 0844 811 822) this has led to complaints about the cost of using this number. Julia has since raised the fact that this telephone number is not free to anyone who has a "call plan" with their telephone provider, calls can cost up to 6p per minute from some landlines and up to 40p per minute from mobile networks. The hospital receives an income from every call you make using this telephone number and, worse still, calls are barred from some overseas countries,

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

After consultation with people who have put in ideas for how the budget should be spent we have decided on the following projects for this year.

Zebra Crossing on **Darlington Back Lane** (now done)  
Pavement at the entrance to **The Vale** (in partnership with the Transportation Department of the Council)

**Dropped crossings** to make it easier for wheelchairs and pushchairs at

**Lanark Close** to the bus stop

**Elm Tree Avenue / Norwood Close** junction

**Barrington Avenue / Benwell Close** junction

Contribution to planting at **Bishopsgarth Beck**, in partnership with Bishopsgarth Association of Residents. (BAR)

**Bulbs** in various locations yet to be definitely decided.

Yet to be confirmed – a street light in **Lauder Close**.

We have stretched the £13,900 budget as far as we can, but aware that there is £184,000 worth of work already identified yet to be done!

We have asked that parking laybys needed on the Council estates come from a separate budget to give them a chance of getting done, and will keep you informed of that.

### Bulb Planting.

There is a lot to be done this year throughout the area, using bulbs from our budget above, Care For Your Area, and a donation from the developers of the new estate on Darlington Back Lane. If you would like to get involved with the planting in early November, then do get in touch.

meaning that essential medical records, or enquiries about friends/relatives can only be made by using the even more expensive 0870 numbers. The hospital admit to receiving approx £1,300 per month from this service, paid for by you ringing for test results, enquiring about friends and relatives, making or changing appointments etc. This is not good enough. Julia has also written to all GP surgeries in the Borough urging them not to use this expensive 0844 system.. There is an on line petition where you can register your protest at <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/NGN-use-by-GPs/> Please take the time to sign up to this and let Julia know if you have any problems with these telephone numbers.

## BISHOPSGARTH BECK UPDATE:

Julia, with members of BAR met with Council officers to discuss improvements to the area along the beck. This follows complaints from residents and lots of requests following our consultation on the Environmental Improvements Budget. We have done our best to balance bringing in colour, fill in the gaps, and keep a balance between looking good and biodiversity. We hope that we will have this balance when the planting takes place next month.

There will also be a safety guardrail erected at the Marske Lane end of the beck to hopefully prevent any accidental falls over the quite steep drop at this end.



These measures are only a beginning so please let Julia know if you have further ideas

## Bishopsgarth In Bloom

Julia was asked to judge the competition and present the prizes at the Residents Meeting. She said "It was great to see so many of you making the effort to improve the estate.". Following BAR receiving the "Best Community Contribution" award at the Care For Your Area Awards this year, we look forward to seeing even more of you taking part next year. If you'd like to offer cuttings or any other help to other residents then please let us know so that your shining example can be shared throughout the area

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## COMMUNITY CENTRE AGM

The A G M of the Elm Tree Community Centre is on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00 p.m. Whilst the new Children's Centre is not quite finished yet, there will be an opportunity to have a look round the whole Centre to see what new facilities there are from 10.00 a.m. It is planned to have activities for children and some demonstrations of what is already happening, so why not pop in and have a look ?

## SURE START UPDATE

A "Stay and Play" session has started on a Friday at 1.15 to 2.45 p.m. for children up to 5 years old. A parent does need to stay with the children. Other services will begin early next year, so keep your eyes open, come to the Community Centre on November 17<sup>th</sup> to find out more, or ring Claire Eddy on 528072.

## DON'T KNOW YOUR PCSO' FROM YOUR NES?

The next Neighbourhood Watch meeting is on WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER at 7.00 p.m. at Medina House.

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Service, Police Community Support Officer and local beat officer will all be present to explain to you what their various roles are and how to contact them. The Neighbourhood Watch Officer will also be there if you're interested in joining the scheme. All local residents are welcome to come along.



**SKIPS** The next skips for household waste are

Tuesday 9th October, Marske Lane  
Wednesday 10th October, Mosston Road  
Tuesday 23rd October, Marske Lane.



## NEWHAM GRANGE PARK:

The Fun Day organised by the Friends of Newham Grange Park to celebrate the opening of the play equipment was very successful – well done all.

## Mile House Junction

Due to unexpected delays, caused by extra services needing to be moved, in the work to the Mile House junction, the work will not be finished until the end of October. Updated information and plans are at [www.stockton.gov.uk/milehouseroadworks](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/milehouseroadworks) or contact one of us if you don't have internet access .

## BISHOPSGARTH ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTS AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 p.m. at Bishopsgarth School. All Bishopsgarth residents are welcome to come along, find out what is happening, and give your views.

## Safety measures on Darlington Back Lane

Because of the number of accidents on the "rural" part of Darlington Back Lane, a study on accident reduction has been done by consultants commissioned by the Council. They suggest reducing the speed limit to 40 mph from the Mitre Pub to the other side of the junction with Redmarshall Road, then 50 mph through Whinney Hill. Also a number of new warning signs and other features. For the full detail contact us, or have a look on our website [www.stocktonlibdems.org](http://www.stocktonlibdems.org). Let us know what you think

## A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE POLE

After many years we are pleased to see that the Felton Lane crossing has now been installed. It's a direct result of joint working between local councillors using the Environmental Improvements Budget to provide what local residents want. We've been asked why there are large poles sticking out of the top and it's because lighting columns are to be added to make the crossing easier to see.

## Problems, Queries, Ideas & Views.

Suzanne and Julia will be holding their ward surgery at **Elm Tree Community Centre**  
Tuesday 9th October 6.00 pm to 7.00pm  
Tuesday 13th November 6.00 pm to 7.00pm  
**Bishopsgarth School** (with local Police)  
Before Bishopsgarth Association of Residents meeting at 6.30 p.m.  
Monday 12th November 6pm to 6.30pm  
Monday 3rd December 6 pm 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 (no need for a stamp)  
**Phone** - 01642 606732 (Julia) or 787652 (Suzanne)  
**e-mail** - [julia.roberts@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:julia.roberts@stockton.gov.uk) (Julia)  
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