

Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree

FOCUS

No 194



Editors:

Cllr Suzanne Fletcher
787652

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Suzanne and Julia wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.



Do be careful with the extra lights at Christmas - why not have a **free** Home Fire Safety Check carried out by the Fire Service? Phone 01429 874063 to arrange, or visit <http://www.clevelandfire.gov.uk/community-safety/home-fire-safety-visits>.

If you would like your Christmas Tree collecting in January please ring 391959 or e-mail careforyourarea@stockton.gov.uk and they will give you a collection date.

SPRUCING UP THE AREA

There has been lots of activity to make the area look better for next year.

We've both been very happy to be involved in the bulb and tree planting in the **Bishopsgarth Beck** area over the last few weeks. Pupils from Bishopsgarth School and members of Bishopsgarth Association of Residents have worked very hard to help improve this much complained about area for next year. Funding includes our Environmental Improvements Budget, the Residents Association and Care For Your Area.

We were also delighted to take part in the bulb planting on **Darlington Back Lane** which happened as a result of the contribution from Taylor Woodrow for the new development. Unfortunately, Care For Your Area could only fit this in in the middle of a weekday when people were at work and so residents were unable to join in but we hope that everyone will appreciate the display next year.

The Council has also planted bulbs from our Environmental Improvement Budget in **Tollerton Close, Barlborough Avenue, Belsay Close and Felton Lane. Newham Grange Park** has had lots of bulbs

planted by the Friends Group, wildflowers by Whitehouse Farm School children, and trees donated by BBC Tees.



Elm Tree Wood has had wildflowers planted by Whitehouse Farm School children, who have also designed an interpretation board to go there soon. Tees Valley Wildlife Trust are planning to make a new access into Elm Tree Wood, from the Whitehouse Primary School end. This will give better access and should cut down on anti social elements. Let us know if you want any further details.

A new management plan has been drawn up by the Council and Tees Valley Wildlife Trust for both this wood and **Hardwick Dene**.

If you have any comments on the proposed pathway or management plan, or you would like any information on anything else that is happening in the Hardwick Dene & Elm Tree Wood, please contact Dave O'Brien (Hardwick Dene Ranger) on 808417, or email him at wildlifetrust@hardwickdene.fsnet.co.uk

HOSPITAL TELEPHONE NUMBER

We can't all be perfect and this is third time lucky – the new (premium rate) telephone number for University Hospital of North Tees is 0844 8118222. Do remember that if you ring this number you can ask for the direct number to any department or ward that you may need to ring again, otherwise you will be contributing to the estimated £1200 per month income the hospital will receive from your repeated calls.



STOP PRESS - We've just heard that the Doctor's Surgery may be moving - see over

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - FAIR, HONEST, OPEN AND GREEN

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

Although the date for the initial consultation period has now passed we do want to reassure everyone that no decisions have yet been taken. This initial consultation period is asking people for alternative options which can be considered which may not have been thought about. We're both keeping a very close eye (and ear) on these developments and will keep you informed.

THANK YOU

To all our deliverers. Without you **Focus** wouldn't reach every home in the ward, year in, year out. If you would like to join the team contact one of us



STOP PRESS NEWS

We have just heard from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) that there are proposals to **move Dr Tunio's surgery from Elm Tree Centre to a new purpose built Health Centre** that will be shared by other Doctors. It is proposed that it will be at Clarence Street, which is at the junction of the Durham Road by-pass and Norton Road.

If you are concerned please do try to attend the consultation sessions, the first one at the Elm Tree surgery is **Wednesday 12th December**, and the plans will be on view at the Surgery for a few months.

It is *very important* that you make your views known to the PCT. We will both be trying to find out more, and asking questions about adequate parking, transport for people without cars, and making the point that the new phone number should not be one you have to pay more for like an 0844 one! We have also asked a Council scrutiny committee to look into the situation.

Let us know your views, and we will put any updates we have on our website at www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk Or you can contact us. In the meantime we will be keeping our eyes and ears open for any new prospective tenants for the premises.

ELM TREE SHOPS

There have been many problems caused by inconsiderate parking on the paved area in front of Elm Tree shops. After an accident earlier this year (see Focus 188), extra bollards were installed near the Social Club. The Council now propose to install bollards at the other side (near the Elm Tree Pub), to stop drivers going onto the pavement. Please let us know what you think about this.

SNIPPETS



Following requests from residents, Julia has written to **Asda** to ask if their free bus can stop at the Lauder Close bus stops.We await a reply... **Salt Bins** have now been located throughout the area. Any empty or vandalised bins should be reported to Care For Your Area on 391959..... The following have all been reported and action has been promised :- damaged **bus shelter** near **Lanark Close**; broken street nameplate at **Mosston Road**; out of action traffic lights on **Harrowgate Lane**; a number of pavements including those outside **Markham Square**; A new waste bin on **Harrowgate Lane** has been asked for.....The Council have decided to resurface the **Castle Eden walkway & cycleway**;The guardrail asked for over **Bishopgarth Beck** by **Marske Lane** has now been erected.

SKIPS The next skips for household waste are Tuesday 18th December, Mosston Road.



DARLINGTON BACK LANE, MITRE ROUNDABOUT TO WHINNEY HILL

The Council has asked consultants to come up with plans to reduce road accidents on this road. A reduction in the speed limit and some other changes have been recommended. All those living on or near that road have been sent the proposals, and already there have been calls for alterations to the junction with Yarm Back Lane to make it safer, and some speed reductions on that road. If you have any views, or want to see the full proposals they will be posted on our website, or you can contact one of us.

Problems, Queries, Ideas & Views.

Suzanne and Julia will be holding their ward surgery at **Elm Tree Community Centre**
Tuesday 11th December 6pm – 7pm
Tuesday 8th January 6pm – 7pm
Tuesday 19th February 6pm – 7pm
Bishopgarth School (with local Police)
Before Bishopgarth Association of Residents meeting at 6.30 p.m.
Monday 7th January 4th February, 6pm to 6.30pm

Contact us by:

Letter - Julia Roberts, 22, Zetland Road, Stockton, TS19 0EQ
or Suzanne Fletcher, 3, Hoylake Way, Eaglescliffe, Stockton on Tees, TS16 9E **or** 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)



WORKING WITH YOU, WORKING FOR YOU!
FOCUS - THE ORIGINAL AND THE BEST. NOW IN ITS 27TH YEAR!