

Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree

FOCUS

No 196

Editors:

Cllr Suzanne Fletcher
787652

Cllr Julia Roberts
606732



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, THE GOOD AND THE BAD NEWS

Many of you have noticed and enjoyed the extra flowers in the local area, funded by this budget. However we are extremely disappointed, as will local residents be, that over 500 shrubs and trees planted with the help of some school children and Bishopsgarth Association of Residents have been vandalised and may not re grow at all. If you do see vandalism occurring please do report to the Police number below.

CONTACTING THE LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS

If you need to contact your local Beat Officer, PC Dave Greaves, you can ring 302930 and leave a message if he is not on duty. You can also drop a note through the letter box of Medina House (just off Elm Tree Avenue)

Bishopsgarth Cottages (on Darlington Back Lane between The Mitre and Yarm Back Lane).

Following a site visit by the Planning Committee called by Suzanne and Julia it was found that the new buildings were not according to the plans agreed by the Council. New plans reflecting what has happened have now been put in, and a decision will be made by the Planning Committee later this month. Contact the Planning Office if you have any views on this.

Friends of Hardwick Dene and Elm Tree wood

If you would like to be involved in this group, find out more about what is involved, or even just see a slide presentation of the wildlife and changing seasons there come along to a meeting

On **Monday 14th April at 7.30 p.m.** at **Elm Tree Community Centre.**

For more information, or if you are interested and cannot make the meeting, contact Dave O'Brien on 01287 636382 or dobrien@teeswildlife.org



The daffodils and other bulbs have added some much needed colour though, and many people have commented on how cheerful they look.

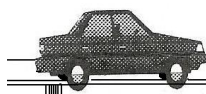
We are still waiting for final costs, but your suggestions for work that needs to be done are likely to come to nearly £300,000, and we only have £13,000 to spend this year! We will be working with Council Officers and any other organisation that might be able to help to see how we can best make progress on this.

NEW PARKING REGULATIONS

These came into action on April 1st. If you would like to see how Stockton Council is operating this, see the website on

www.stockton.gov.uk/parkingenforcement

If you do not have access to the internet, contact us and we will let you have a factsheet, which will also be available at Elm Tree Community Centre.



STILL HERE! Nowadays the Mayor of Stockton is the longest serving Councillor who has not already been Mayor. This means that the new Mayor is Cllr John Fletcher, and Suzanne is his Mayoress. She will still be your Councillor, along with Julia Roberts though, and they will both be taking up casework, listening to problems, attending as many of the meetings as they can, and Focus will continue!

If you want to follow what is happening with the Mayor, his blog is at www.stockton.gov.uk/mayorsblog.

Suzanne also has a general blog at www.readmyday.co.uk/suzannefletcher

FRIENDS OF NEWHAM

GRANGE PARK

The Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 23rd April at St John's Church, Durham Road, at 7.00 p.m.

All are welcome to go along and hear and see some of the interesting and important things that have been happening, as well as what is planned for the park.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - FAIR, HONEST, OPEN AND GREEN

NEW SURGERY UPDATE

Since Focus 195 planning permission has been given for this new surgery that Dr Tunio's surgery will move to at Clarence Street (bottom of Durham Road by-pass).

Following strong representations from both Julia and Suzanne there are strict planning conditions that insist

- There must be a safe pedestrian crossing across the Durham Road by pass in place
- before the surgery opens.
- Pedestrian improvements to the site.
- Better links to Norton Road bus services.
- 29 instead of 25 car parking spaces.

This still leaves a lot of issues not resolved, such as, how will those without cars get to the surgery, and can they afford it? Suzanne and Julia met with the Primary Care Trust managers to go through remaining problems. They will keep on trying their best so that those who need it can have the best possible access to their health care.

St MARK'S CHURCH

We are very sorry that this Church building that has been an important part of so many people's lives in our area is having to close down. The Church is more than a building though and the work will continue. We wish them well.

BISHOPSGARTH PATHS

Some of the adopted paths around Bishopgarth Beck are in an appalling condition, and some are not actually used much, but others are needed. After a site visit Council officers have already begun a process for consulting on closing the footpath around the edge of the 5 Alls Car Park, and there will be further visits to see what the best way forward is for the others. Let us know if you have views on these paths on both sides of Marske Lane.

NEWS IN BETWEEN FOCUS

If you have access to an e-mail address you can get updates in between Focus covering issues that come up with little notice like roadworks, planning applications or neighbourhood watch news. The e-mails are kept as brief as possible, they do not have attachments or graphics, and are sent by blind copy so that nobody else sees your e-mail address. You can, of course, have your name removed from the list at any time. This is a service that was pioneered by Local Lib Dem Councillors, and is becoming popular elsewhere now. So send an e-mail to sign up.

POST OFFICE CLOSURES

Elm Tree never got a Post Office, despite a lot of campaigning by Suzanne from 1981 onwards – they started closing them down instead! The latest wave of closures does not directly affect this ward, but every time one closes down, the queues get longer at those that are left. Not at all easy for the elderly and many others.

We were appalled to see the actions of our local MP when given the chance to vote on the Government's programme, to close 2,500 post offices. The Labour MP enjoyed much publicity in supposedly keeping Post Offices, but shunned the opportunity to really make a difference when in Parliament. If every Labour MP in the area had both rebelled and voted against the Labour Government, they would have lost the vote and had to halt the closure programme. The Liberal Democrats have proposals for options for business expansion and for employee shared ownership. The other local MPs are welcome to use them!

SKIPS

The next skips for **household** waste:

Marske Lane, 16th April

Mosston Road, 8th May

Elm Tree Community Centre, 22nd May



Problems, Queries, Ideas & Views.

Suzanne and Julia will be holding their ward surgery at **Elm Tree Community Centre** Tuesday Apr 15th, May 13th, June 10th 6.00 pm to 7.00pm

Bishopsgarth School (with local Police) Before **Bishopsgarth Association of Residents** meeting at 6.30 p.m that all are welcome to come along to. Monday 12th May and June 2nd, 6pm - 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 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 susanne.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk (Suzanne)

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