

## 200th Edition. over 28 years on. STILL keeping you in touch

“Congratulations on reaching the 200th edition of the Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree Focus.” says Fiona Hall, MEP.

“The Focus team have shown a consistent commitment to listening to the concerns of local residents and keeping them informed. They have worked enormously hard and I applaud all the volunteers that go out there and deliver Focus leaflets in wind, rain and snow. That dedication has helped achieve many improvements to the local area over the years.

“This Focus is one of the longest running Focus leaflets in the country and I hope it will continue for many years to come.”



Fiona Hall MEP

### WARM FRONT UPDATE:

Julia has taken up at a national level the scandalous situation that sees people still unable to afford heating and hot water despite grants of £2700 towards the cost.

Jacquie Bell, Stockton Lib Dem Parliamentary Spokesman, welcomes Liberal Democrat David Heath MP's Fuel Poverty (Eradication) Bill. This has 2 measures - an energy efficiency programme to bring existing properties up to the energy efficiency standards of modern homes and social tariffs to protect vulnerable households exposed to higher energy bills.

*“These measures will help many of those local residents who are choosing between heating and eating”* noted Jacquie *“and are welcomed by many poverty charities”*.



Jacquie Bell



Fiona Hall, MEP has launched a petition calling on the Government to ensure all North East homes are insulated to the highest standard. Sign the petition on [www.fionahall.org.uk](http://www.fionahall.org.uk) or contact Julia.



### CREDIT CRUNCH CRISIS

If you are affected by this and need help because of a drop in income or are threatened with the loss of your home it is very important that you get advice as soon as possible. The Citizens Advice Bureau on Bath Lane (opposite Splash) is open 9.30 till 12.30 a.m on Monday to Friday or can be phoned on 633877. The Youth Advice Service for those under 25 is at The Cabin on Nelson Terrace, telephone 649723.

### SNIPPETS

**Briardene Walk** street nameplate missing, rubbish and graffiti reported for action .....as are graffiti on bus shelter near **Felton Lane** ..... Action called for on street lights not working on **cycleway** and near **Sainsbury's** .....bushes at the rear of **Lanark Close** cut back .....**drain** problems on the Council estate taken up ..... Complaints about excessive cutting back of hedges near **The Vale** dealt with .....

### DOORS AND WINDOWS

Suzanne spoke at the last Council meeting about the need for better doors and windows in Tristar Houses. If the Government had not been taking large chunks of tenant's rent money to be used elsewhere for over 14 years they could have been done by now. It is going to need a big change in Government policy or new ways of the Council getting money for the essential work to be done though.



## MONTESSORI AT ELM TREE COMMUNITY CENTRE

After-school sessions have now started at Elm Tree Community Centre, provided by Montessori. It is hoped that breakfast clubs and holiday activities will start soon, once the Ofsted Inspectors give the go ahead. For more details call in at the Centre or ring 862090.

### 084 TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Julia has asked the NHS to ensure that the new hospital, when built, does not use 084 telephone numbers which are more expensive for people ringing them up.



### COUNCIL ESTATE WALKABOUT

The next walkabout is on Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 10.00 am. Julia, Tristar officers, Care for Your Area, local police and enforcement officers will be looking at problems and issues. Let us know if you would like them to walk round your road or call on you.

**NOT LEFT OUT !** If you live elsewhere in the ward and want any of the above to come and look at your area, make a visit etc, then please do get in touch.

### SKIPS

The last skips will be Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at both Norton Drive and at Elm Tree Community Centre (both 24 hrs).

As in Focus 199 this service will stop after these skips. If you need advice on disposing of unwanted household waste you can contact Care For Your Area on 391959

### Cuppa with a Copper dates:

Call in at Elm Tree Community Centre for a cuppa with your local beat officers P.C. Greaves and P.C.S.O.



Liz Stephenson on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March or 7<sup>th</sup> April from 5pm – 6pm. A good chance for an informal chat.

### PARLIAMENTARY SPOKESMAN

Jacquie Bell jacquie.bell50@googlemail.com

### MEMBER OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Fiona Hall MEP Fiona@fionahallmep.co.uk

0191 383 0119 www.fionahall.org.uk

## MAKING OUR AREA BETTER

There is now a new **Hardwick Dene** ranger, Rebecca Stanley, employed by the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. She will be looking after Hardwick Dene and the wildlife meadow behind **Red Admiral Close**. If you want to get in touch with any issues there or help by volunteering then please get in touch with her on 01287 636382 or [rstanley@teeswildlife.org](mailto:rstanley@teeswildlife.org)



### Whitehouse Primary

School have designed a superb “interpretation Board” about wildlife and plants in the Elm Tree Wood and it is now at the bottom end of the wood opposite the school. **Well done, children !!**

### Sparks Bakery and Felton Lane planting

Once again the pupils from **Bishopsgarth School** have been helping to make the area a more attractive place. They planted hundreds of bulbs on **Felton Lane** recently, helped by Care For Your Area and Bishopsgarth Association of Residents. We look forward to seeing the results.

Thanks to the generosity of **Daylight Bakery House** residents, the planted area of shrubs in the grassed stretch near the Ring Road was made bigger than originally planned. **Thank You !**

### Problems, Queries, Ideas & Views.

Suzanne and Julia will be holding their ward surgery at **Elm Tree Community Centre** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> April  
6.00 pm to 7.00pm

**Bishopsgarth School** (with local Police) Before **Bishopsgarth Association of Residents** meeting at 6.30 p.m at which all are welcome..

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March 6pm to 6.30pm

### Contact us by:

**Letter** - Julia Cherrett, 12, Holywell Green, Eaglescliffe, TS16 9HH

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

**or** - Julia Cherrett or Suzanne Fletcher or Jacquie Bell FREEPOST, NEA 765, STOCKTON-ON-TEES, TS16 9BR ( no need for a stamp)

**Phone** - 01642 785473 (Julia) or 787652 (Suzanne)

**e-mail** - julia.cherrett@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 28<sup>th</sup> YEAR!**