

Editors:

Cllr Suzanne Fletcher  
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**LIBERAL  
DEMOCRATS**

www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

## THANK YOU !

Popular Liberal Democrat MEP Fiona Hall won a close fight to represent the North East in Europe.

Fiona said afterwards "Thanks to all those people across the North East who voted Liberal Democrat on June 4th. You made sure you kept a strong voice in Europe."

Fiona promises to:

- keep on working for the North East
- stand up for businesses in the North East
- fight for better action to combat climate change
- continue to campaign against wasted money in the European Parliament.

## POLICE UPDATE

We're sad to say goodbye to PC Dave Greaves who has moved to pastures new and we're waiting for his replacement. In the meantime you can still contact the local police team on 302930, or drop a note through the letter box at Medina House. There is also a dedicated post-box in Elm Tree Community Centre where you can leave non urgent messages.

## ANGER AS AXE FALLS ON COLLEGE

We are angry to hear that the plans for the new Stockton 6<sup>th</sup> Form College have had to be scrapped



Jacquie posting letter to minister

because of incompetence of the Learning and Skills Council promising funding, and then finding they had not enough funds for the 144 colleges who were ready to build. Only 13 colleges are now going to be given the go ahead, and Stockton is not one of them. They can now only do their best to upgrade facilities and get back at least the £2 million spent on the plans so far. Jacquie Bell, Lib Dem Parliamentary spokesman for Stockton South has written to the Government Minister expressing local anger about this. "This is another Government Scheme gone horribly wrong. The college has been led up the garden path, and it is vital that money spent is refunded. But no money will compensate for the time, effort and hopes that have been dashed, and the big losers are our young people."

## THOSE EXPENSES

Many of you have talked to us about your surprise and disgust at the scandal over MP's expenses. These are the facts about Councillors' expenses. Councillors are paid an allowance for doing the job. That means that being a councillor isn't something that only rich, retired people do.

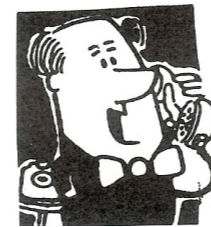
The full list of what councillors are allowed is on Stockton Council's website under <http://tinyurl.com/m34ghx>. Or contact us for a paper copy.

Local Liberal Democrats have called for the allowances and expenses of each councillor to be published on the Council website, but you can ask to see the list at Municipal Buildings and it is published once a year in local papers. It goes without saying that Focus is paid for entirely by your local councillors – **not a penny of public money is spent on political campaigning.**



Focus funded by local LIB DEMS

Jacquie Bell says "It is clear that the public feel betrayed by those elected to Parliament to serve them. There is urgent need to have a radical review of the system. Westminster must come into line with the Scottish Parliament where all receipts must be produced, and MPs need to make their claims public".



## GOLDENCALLS

Tristar Homes "Golden Number" – Julia is very disappointed to learn that Tristar Homes have started to use an 0844 telephone number for the Customer Contact Centre. Calling this number will cost you 4p a minute from a landline even if you have an all inclusive calls package and rates from mobile phones vary according to your provider. Julia has campaigned in the past about the use of such revenue generating numbers by North Tees Hospital and they have now stopped using them. She is asking for a re-think by Tristar. In the meantime, if you ring Tristar's main switchboard on 528720 and ask them to transfer you it will count as a local call and so the extra charge will not apply.

## NEW LANDLORD ?

The council are looking at the options of transferring ownership of its council housing to a registered social landlord. At present, the council owns the houses and Tristar manage them. Despite what you may have read in the press, **all** tenants will be consulted and given a vote. You should also have received "Your Home, Your Say" the newsletter about it. If you have any questions get in touch with Julia.



## ESTATE WALKABOUT

The next one will be on Tuesday 18th August, 10.00 a.m at Medina House. Let us know if there is an area you want us to visit

## SAINSBURY TREES

Local residents were horrified to see the trees on Barlborough Avenue that form a buffer between homes and the loading bay butchered. Suzanne says "I was appalled when I saw what had happened but am now working with Sainsbury's to get the best way forward for everyone, particularly the local residents".

## COFFEE MORNING

Residents of Lauder House are holding a coffee morning on 13<sup>th</sup> August from 10am – 1pm in aid of Zoe's Place. There will be bingo, tombola, cake stall etc. Admission is free and it's open to everyone so please go along and support this worthwhile cause.

**SNIPPETS** – Suzanne has asked for the **Barrington Avenue** junction with Elm Tree Avenue to be repaired ..... Julia asked for the paving around **Lauder House** to be made safer .....

## BISHOPSGARTH SCHOOL

Agreement has been given for the "planning brief" for the revamped and extended Bishopsgarth School. The proposals should become an excellent facility for the pupils and staff, and there will be facilities for the community too.

## 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 suzanne.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk (Suzanne)  
Or visit us at our **ward surgeries** at Elm Tree Community Centre

**Tuesday 28th July, 25th August and 15th September**  
6.00 pm to 7.00pm

**or Bishopsgarth School** (with local Police) Before **Bishopsgarth Association of Residents** meeting at 6.30 p.m - all welcome. Monday 7th September & 5th October, 6pm to 6.30pm

**PARLIAMENTARY SPOKESMAN** Jacquie Bell  
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