Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree

FOCUS

No 204

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LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk

A FRESH START FOR BRITAIN

It would be dishonest for any party to go into the election with a long list of pledges and not say how they can be afforded. The next government will have to make hard choices on spending. ***Fresh Start*** sets out a framework for how Liberal Democrats would make those choices to deliver three key priorities:

Create a sustainable economy: Putting people back to work by investment in green economic growth; breaking up banks so that the risks they take never again jeopardise the whole economy.

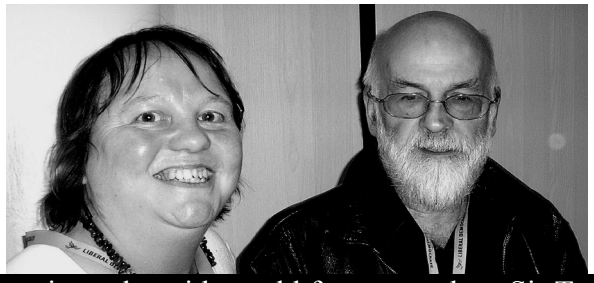
Build a fair society: The best start for every child – so that young people do not pay the price for mistakes made today, through smaller class sizes, extra help for children struggling at school, training, activities and jobs for young people and cutting student debt .

Cleaning up Westminster – to stop Labour and Tories going back to business as usual after the expenses scandal; Fair votes – so every vote counts and safe seats are a thing of the past.

And we will **cut taxes** for people on middle and low incomes – so that no one pays income tax on the first £10,000 they earn – paid for from green taxes and closing the loopholes for the very rich.

Jacquie and Suzanne were at Party Conference and saw none of the negative stuff going on in the media – maybe the media were somewhere else ?
Suzanne spoke on Housing issues, and the need to stop the use of 084 numbers for vital services like the NHS and claiming benefits. To see all that Suzanne did see her blog at www.readmyday.co.uk/suzannefletcher for those days, or see the Party website at www.libdems.org.uk .

CARING Parliamentary Spokesperson, Jacquie Bell spoke in the debate at Bournemouth and highlighted the issues of carers. She spoke of the need for respite and support with the range of services available depending on where you live. Also the effect on pensions for those who cannot work due to their caring role. Childcare has an end date but caring for a dependent adult can be indefinite.



Jacquie spoke with world famous author, Sir Terry Pratchett, pictured, on his experience of living with dementia

Warm Front Grants:

As reported in Focus 199 & 200, Julia has been calling for changes to the grant system that sees many people still unable to afford efficient heating systems. The maximum grant level has now been increased to £3500. If you are one of the many people who applied but couldn't afford to go ahead because you were being asked to make a contribution, this new grant level will apply to you. You will have received a letter telling you of your contribution – contact them now and ask for the new amount to be applied.

Police update:

The new ward PC is Ian Brown (PC1564) who joins the police team on 28th October. Until then Charmaine Imeson (PC 636) has replaced PC Dave Greaves. PCSO Liz Stephenson(PCSO 8147) and Sgt Colin Whitfield continue to provide excellent service and can be contacted via letters to Medina House, telephone 302930 or via the post box at Elm Tree Community Centre. You can meet your local officers at "Cuppa with a Copper" at Elm Tree Community Centre on October 20th at 5.00 p.m.

YARM BACK LANE

The Council have had a study of safety issues done on that road and the junction with Darlington Back Lane. The proposal is to cut the speed limit to 50 m.p.h on Yarm Back Lane and widen the junction to cut down on queues. A roundabout was suggested, and we asked for that option, but it could only be afforded if there was future housing development in the area.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - STANDING UP FOR YOU

Printed by SDLPS, 4 Broomfield Ave, Eaglescliffe, TS16 0ET, published and promoted by Suzanne Fletcher on behalf of Liberal Democrats all at 3, Hoylake Way, Eaglescliffe, TS16 9EU

WEEDS AND LONG GRASS

Wet and hot weather means that there are lots of these around on pavements this year. We have asked for problem areas we know of to be dealt with, but let us know if there are still clumps left, particularly if they make it difficult to walk along a path. The weather also means that the grass has been very long so looks untidy when cut. We have asked for it to be picked up after being cut, but the cost of this is enormous and cannot be done

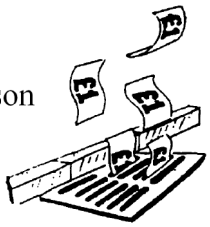
Sainsbury's hedge:

There were a lot of complaints about the sorry state of the hedge after recent pruning. Suzanne contacted Sainsbury's who have now taken steps to repair the damage. Suzanne has asked them to consider some tree planting with a long term aim of removing the conifers.

Ever thought about being a Councillor?

The next local elections will take place in 2011. There are 26 wards in the Borough represented by 56 councillors. If you've ever thought about becoming a councillor and would like to find out more then get in touch with one of us or have a look at **http://tinyurl.com/y8cpkty**

6th Form College disgrace



Back in July Parliamentary Spokesperson Jacquie Bell wrote to the Secretary of State to express her concern about the predicament of Stockton 6th Form College when the Department of Education and Skills ran out of money. The College had been shovel ready to make improvements and had already spent around £2 million on their plans and developments.

Jacquie asked why the College had been left high and dry by the funding council and asked for compensation of the college for its effort and expenditure.

To date Jacquie has had *no response* to her letter. She has now written again to demand answers to her concerns. "This is another Government mess " noted Jacquie. "The losers are Stocktons' younger generation and their education. It is only right that we should have a response to the concerns raised."

Focus funded by local **LIB DEMS**

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 20th October, 24th November

6.00 pm to 7.00pm

or **Bishopsgarth School** (with local Police) 6pm to 6.30pm

Before **Bishopsgarth Association of Residents** meeting at 6.30 p.m - all welcome.

Monday 2nd November and 7th December

ELM TREE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The new number for the centre is 611333

SNIPPETS

Julia and Suzanne have been working hard to get things done and now …pavement outside 100 **Marske Lane** repaired, also path at **Bothal Walk** / **Marske Lane** re-surfaced…… Litter bin installed at **Markham Square**, ……lights at rear of **Lanark Close** repaired, ……**Medina Close** garage repaired (finally !) ….. Boardwalk in **Elm Tree Wood** repaired ……**Lanark Close bus shelter** to be cleaned and will be replaced before next April …… gates fixed and rubbish cleared on the **cycleway** .....

Congratulations to our member of the European Parliament, Fiona Hall, who has been elected leader of the UK Liberal Democrats in Europe.

PARLIAMENTARY SPOKESMAN Jacquie Bell
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←

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