

Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree

**FOCUS**

No 205

Editors:

Cllr Suzanne Fletcher  
787652

Cllr Julia Cherrett  
785473



## Lib Dems Campaigning For Our Futures

### Floods, sun-stroke and lots of rats

- that's what scientists predict is facing Britain under climate change. There is only one last chance to stop that happening - cut carbon emissions as quickly as possible and by as much as possible.

We have already had a taste of the horrors of climate change with the floods that swept Britain in 2007 – ripping £3bn from the economy.

Now the Liberal Democrats have released a new 2020 Vision which goes further than any other party in combating climate change. It includes insulating more homes, generating more renewable energy and cutting more carbon emissions than Labour, the Tories or the Greens.

Jacque Bell, says: *“There's only one party that's serious about reversing climate change before it is too late. Only the Liberal Democrats have the vision, policies and ambition to stop climate change ruining Britain”.*

**Liberal Democrats** are campaigning locally, nationally and internationally to reduce Carbon consumption. Fiona Hall, Lib Dem MEP for the North East is an expert in the European Parliament on Energy Efficiency. She is pushing for more changes in the run up to the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen in December.

Fiona says *“We need ambitious targets for all nations to be sure of limiting the rise in global temperatures and preventing climate chaos. Every individual can help. I've signed up to the 10:10 campaign which means that I will aim to reduce my personal carbon footprint by 10% in 2010”.*

**Stockton Lib Dems** supported Stockton Council joining the 10:10 campaign. Amazingly, just before Stockton Council's vote our Labour MP Dari Taylor, along with other Labour MPs defeated a Lib Dem move to get Parliament to support the campaign.

We have challenged each other and other councillors to see who can reduce their carbon footprint the most.

Stockton Lib Dem Councillors have invested in a monitor to see how much electricity each appliance in our homes uses so we can cut down. Monitors can be borrowed from Stockton library. You can save money and help to save the world at the same time! Why not give it a go? Find out more and sign the pledge to try to reduce your energy consumption by 10% by 2010 at [www.1010global.org](http://www.1010global.org) or by contacting Suzanne or Julia.



Local Lib Dems with Simon Hughes MP promising to cut their carbon footprint

**LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - STANDING UP FOR YOU**

## **SUPPORTING FREE CHILDCARE**

We all understand that juggling work and family life can be a struggle for parents. Current Government provisions make it difficult to raise young children and go back to work full or even part-time. The economic crisis means families are even harder pressed than before.

Liberal Democrats believe that things need to change and parents should be entitled to 20 hours of free, high quality childcare per week for each child from 18 months to when they start school. If you support this cause then please sign the petition at: <http://tinyurl.com/yajrjfp>



## **ARE YOU A PARENT IN RENTED**

### **HOUSING?**

If you don't get Housing Benefit because you had too much income, it is worth trying again. Rules have changed and Child Benefit is now not included when working out your income.

For further information and advice contact **Stockton and District Advice and Information Service**

Bath Lane, Stockton.

Tel 01642 607445 (telephone advice line) Drop in advice sessions:

Monday to Friday 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Some appointments are available on a Saturday.

Ring 01642 633877 for more details.

## **FIGHTING FUEL POVERTY**

Julia continues to campaign for Warmfront to deliver services to local people who need it. She is shocked to hear that grants to Warmfront for dealing with fuel poverty through insulation and heating systems are being cut by the Government next year. She has:

- ✓ Asked the Government Minister to reverse planned cuts but been told NO.
- ✓ Asked Stockton Council to lobby Government on the issue.
- ✓ Contacted **Simon Hughes** Liberal Democrat MP. He has said that fuel poverty must be dealt with by bringing forward programmes to improve energy efficiency. Not only will this help those in most need by saving energy costs but it will create jobs as well.



## **Independent Living**

**Are you an adult, perhaps with a disability, and wanting to remain living independently in your own home? Or maybe you are the friend or relative of such a person?**

Check out the Independent Living Today newsletter, a joint publication by Stockton Borough Council and Stockton NHS Teaching Primary Care Trust. The latest issue is full of easy to read information about The Independent Living Fund, Cold Weather Advice, Hints, Tips and Ideas (this being suggested and contributed to by Julia). Copies from: [www.stockton.gov.uk](http://www.stockton.gov.uk) and click on "I" for Independent Living; or contact the Adult Strategy Team on 528490 or Julia and Suzanne will send you a copy

## **The Willows, Darlington Back Lane**

Julia has taken up complaints from residents about dangerous raised manhole covers and difficult high kerbs which cause problems for drivers. She has been told that work on these will now be completed in January.

## **BUSES**

There have been a number of complaints recently from people about the local bus service, especially buses running early or not turning up. Suzanne has been taking these problems up with Stagecoach, and in those instances where she was given exact times and dates there has been some progress in sorting the problems out.

Please do get in touch if you have problems but don't forget the details, and if you have been on the bus, it does help to keep the ticket.



## **Avoid "Doorstep Lenders"**

We're delighted that **Tees Credit Union** are launching a collection point at Elm Tree Community Centre on Wednesday 13th Jan. Credit Unions offer low cost loans to their members as well as Bank Accounts for Savings, Bill Paying and Direct Debit or Standing Order facilities. The collection point will be open every Wednesday from 1.30 – 2.30 pm or you can contact Tees Credit Union on 753513 for more details.



**Open to all who live or work in the area.**

# Dates For Your Diaries

## Elm Tree Community Centre Open Day- Saturday 12th December

Elm Tree Community Centre are holding an Open Day on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 11am – 3pm. There will be displays, Face Painting, magician, food and drink and lots of other attractions. Do drop in! A reminder that their new telephone number is 611333



### **Cuppa With A Coppa - Tuesday 15th December**

Come and meet your new Beat Officer  
PC Ian Brown at Elm Tree Community Centre  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December or 11<sup>th</sup> January 5 – 6pm.



### **CAROLS IN THE PARK**

Carol singing in Newham Grange  
Park on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>  
December at 2.00 p.m.  
All welcome.



Suzanne, Julia, Fiona Hall MEP and Jacquie Bell wish you all a very happy  
and peaceful Christmas

Julia and Suzanne would also like to say a huge THANK YOU to all their deliverers.



### **Congratulations To Stockton Town Football Club**

Congratulations to this club, based in the grounds of Stockton 6<sup>th</sup> Form College, who have been awarded Durham FA Community Club of the Year 2009. This adds to a total of 4 awards for the club recognising the wide range of work in the local community. These are fantastic achievements for the club who acknowledge the support of the 6<sup>th</sup> Form College, Our Lady & St. Bede's R.C. School, Stockton Borough Council, The Football Foundation and Durham FA.

There is a Saturday morning Soccer School open to all 6 to 13 year old girls and boys, from 10 to 11.30a.m.  
If you want more information about getting involved contact Andy Burton 604915

### **CHRISTMAS REFUSE COLLECTIONS**

Real Christmas trees will be collected on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January – leave out where you would normally put your wheelie bin / re-cycling.

For the 2 collection days after Christmas ONLY, any household waste that does not fit in the Wheelie bin will be collected if left next to it. But **please do recycle** as much cardboard, paper (but not gift wrap), plastic, tins and bottles as you can in the blue box or bag provided. Any used batteries can be put into the separate bags provided too. If you do not have the boxes or bags or have any other queries please contact Care For Your Area on 391959 or ourselves.

### **SEASONAL WARNING**

Suzanne and Julia wish everyone a very Happy Christmas but please be careful with those Christmas Lights, Candles etc. Do make sure that you have a working smoke alarm and that you know how to escape your property in the event of a fire.

Cleveland Fire Brigade will carry out a **FREE** Home Fire Safety Check, install smoke detectors where needed and can provide lots of other advice. If you haven't had a check carried out then ring 01429 874063 to arrange.

## SUPPORTING OUR ARMED FORCES

Remembrance Day 2009 remembered not only those who died in the 2 World Wars but also those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Jacque Bell, Lib Dem Parliamentary Spokesperson has signed the **British Legion's "Time to Do Your Bit" pledge**. She says : *"Liberal Democrats believe we should honour the Duty of Care towards our service personnel. Successive Governments have failed to provide basic support to service people and their families. There are too many reports of poor accommodation and inadequate welfare support. Our armed forces are on longer, more frequent and more intensive tours than ever in recent history. Critical overstretch has an impact on front line capability but also on morale and on families at home. My son is in the RAF and has been in the Gulf and Iraq. Thus I know at first hand the pressure our forces are under"*.



Jacque signing the British Legion pledge

## 6th Form College disgrace

Jacque Bell is not impressed by the Government's answer to her questions. 5 months ago she wrote to the Minister about the disgrace of the new College building being stopped. She doesn't think the government's answer will make any difference at all and says, *"I remain sceptical. The College had firm plans and have been left hanging. The losers are our young people and their education."*



## 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 Jacque 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 15th December, 15th January, 9th February**

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 7<sup>th</sup> December, 11th January, 1st February

## SNIPPETS

Faulty street lights at **Cotgarth Way / Marske Lane** and **Harrowgate Lane** reported for repair...conifers at **Sainsbury's** continue to be monitored for new growth...**Lauder House** pavements marked for repair...fly tipping on **Drovers Lane** towards Redmarshall reported to be cleared . ...street name plate on **Marske Lane** reported as damaged....

## LIBRARY SERVICES - some questions for YOU

There is a hope that there might be a basic library service available in Elm Tree Community Centre. If there was - would you use it ?

Mobile Library - this already serves a number of places in the area - does it meet your needs ?

Home Delivery - did you know this was available for people who are housebound for any reason or can no longer carry heavy books ?

Do let us know your views.



Fiona@fionahallmep.co.uk  
 www.fionahall.org.uk  
 0191 383 0119

## PARLIAMENTARY SPOKESMAN Jacque Bell

jacque.bell50@googlemail.com

07772 383564

**FIONA HALL**  
**MEP**

**MEMBER OF**  
**EUROPEAN**  
**PARLIAMENT**



**WORKING WITH YOU, WORKING FOR YOU!**  
**FOCUS - THE ORIGINAL AND THE BEST. NOW IN ITS 29<sup>th</sup> YEAR!**