

## SAVE OUR CHEQUES CAMPAIGN

Liberal Democrats have launched a national campaign to save our cheques. Banks decided to abolish cheques by 2018.

Already some shops won't accept cheques.

### CHARITIES AND VULNERABLE TO SUFFER THE MOST

Many national organisations have joined the campaign including Age UK, Which?, RNIB and The Federation of Small Businesses. All are worried that the banks' decision will hurt the most vulnerable, charities and many small businesses who rely on cheques.

Liberal Democrat MP David Ward has put forward a new law in Parliament to make the banks continue offering cheques as long as customers want them.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
◆ Almost 4 million cheques are issued in the UK every day.  
◆ The decision to get rid of cheques was made without properly consulting people

John Fletcher said "It is disgusting that a group with such vested interests in getting rid of cheques should be entrusted with this decision. I hope this bill will force the banks to listen to the very serious concerns that many people have".

### JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Ask us for a petition form and get friends and neighbours to sign it and send it back to us.

## FESTIVE RUBBISH

Rubbish and Recycling will be collected on the usual day.

Much of what we throw away (except wrapping paper) can be recycled.



Christmas cards, including glittery ones, go with cardboard in the white bag.

Real Christmas trees will be collected on your usual day during week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> Jan – put out by 7a.m. beside your bin.

Batteries go into the blue box in a clear plastic bag. And don't forget those cans, bottles and juice cartons.



## PLANNING

Pre-application discussions are taking place on plans for 10 Town Houses to replace *The Grange*, *Urlay Nook Rd* and for a new factory for *Nifco* on *Durham Lane* beyond *The Oakwood Centre*.

There is an application for a permanent dwelling at *Ryehills Equestrian Centre*, **Newsham**.

Stockton Planners have approved:

- Extensions to kennels at *Highfield View*, **Aislaby**
- MOT station at *Eagle Service Station*, **Yarm Rd**

They have refused permission for a dormer bungalow in **Muirfield Rd**.

### Contact us any time at:

**John Fletcher**, 3 Hoylake Way, Eaglescliffe. Tel 787652. john.fletcher@stockton.gov.uk

**Maureen Rigg**, 4 Monmouth Dr. Eaglescliffe Tel 785689 maureen.rigg@stockton.gov.uk

**Alan Lewis**, 4 Broomfield Ave, Eaglescliffe Tel 784910 alan.lewis@stockton.gov.uk

### Or see your councillors at Ward Surgery:

Tues. 21 Dec. 6 to 7 p.m. Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Butts La.

Fri. 7 Jan. 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave

Tues. 18 Jan. 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham La.

Fri. 4 Feb. 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave

### Don't forget your MEP:

Fiona Hall can be contacted at 55A Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HN, 0191 383 0119, e-mail [fiona@fionahallmep.co.uk](mailto:fiona@fionahallmep.co.uk)



[www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk](http://www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk)

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Eaglescliffe  
**FOCUS**  
No 161 December 2010

## PRESTON PARK & EGGLESCLIFFE SCHOOL

Preston Park is safe - for now!

Shortly after we printed Focus 160 Stockton Council agreed not to build a school in the Park. John Fletcher condemned the waste of time and money on proving what we all said on day one.

At present there is no money to replace Egglecliffe School's buildings. Alan Lewis wrote to Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education. He pointed out that Egglecliffe needs new buildings soon to keep delivering high quality education.

He had a reply from Partnerships for Schools, the body that spends money on behalf of the government, saying that decisions will be made in the New Year on where money will be spent. Meanwhile we support the work being done by Protect Preston Park to ensure the Park is protected for ever!



Alan Lewis, John Fletcher & Maureen Rigg celebrate with campaigners after the Council decision.

## HOW WE'VE SPENT YOUR MONEY

Thank you to everyone who made comments and suggestions about our ward Community Participation Budget.

Progress so far:

Litter bins ordered for **Dinsdale Drive**, lay-bys on the **A67**, **Chaldron & Black Diamond Ways** and many bus stops

Dog-dirt bins ordered for **Quarry Road**, the path near **Sunningdale Walk**, the river bank in **Preston Park**, the path from **Yarm Road** to **West View Terrace**

Dog-dirt & litter bins ordered for the **Tannery & Vinegar Brewery** sites.

An "Eaglescliffe" sign on **Durham Lane** near the Industrial Park

Extra lighting on the path alongside **Orchard Mews**

Trees in **St Margaret's Play Area**

More bulb planting along **Durham Lane & Urlay Nook Road**

Mobile CCTV

We have decided not to go ahead with lighting **Back Swinburne/Yarm Roads** (too expensive) and the path between **Aislaby & Lune Roads** (after consulting neighbours).



Focus - The Original and the Best. Now in its 25th Year

Liberal Democrats for a Greener Eaglescliffe

Printed by SLDPs, 4 Broomfield Ave, Eaglescliffe.

Published and Promoted by M. Rigg on behalf of A. Lewis, J.A. Fletcher & M. Rigg (Liberal Democrats) all at 4 Monmouth Drive, Eaglescliffe, TS16 9HU

## ONLY BAD MPs SHOULD FEAR FAIRER VOTES



Stockton Lib Dems join Fiona Hall, Ian Swales MP, Lord Shipley and others to launch the North East Fairer Votes Campaign

### Many MPs don't want Britain's voting system to change.

That's because they like the current cosy system that protects their jobs for life.

A Yes vote in the Fairer Votes Referendum next May will change that.

A Yes vote will mean that every MP will have to win more than half of the votes in their area to keep their job.

Local resident Stella Grieve said "We've seen with Preston Park what happens when an MP doesn't listen to the voters.

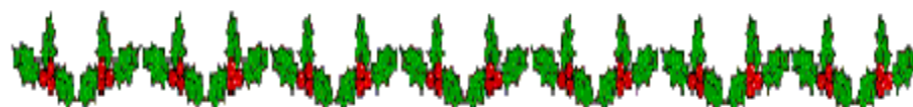
With Fairer Votes every MP will have to work hard to earn our support or they'll lose their seat next election".

We have some useful booklets explaining the system if you want a copy. To add your support, visit [www.YesToFairerVotes.org.uk](http://www.YesToFairerVotes.org.uk) Or contact us for a petition form to sign.

Happy Christmas from Alan, Maureen & John



And a huge THANK YOU to all our deliverers who go out in all weathers to make sure Focus gets to every home in the ward.



## EAGLESCLIFFE COUNCILLORS E-NEWS

Over 500 residents of Eaglescliffe Ward regularly receive news updates from the Ward Councillors by email.

If you would like to receive these news items about Eaglescliffe, just send an email to [eaglescliffeward@gmail.com](mailto:eaglescliffeward@gmail.com) with the message 'Subscribe' and you will be added to the list.



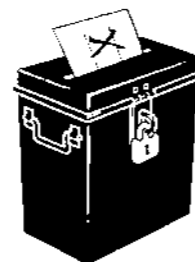
## SNIPPETS

There will be an extra bus stop on **Urlay Nook Road** near *Hunter's Green* roundabout. Before New Year, the footways of **Aspen Road** and the carriageway of **Aislaby Road** from Nelly Burdon's Beck to the railway bridge are to be resurfaced. Also, work is to start on improving the footbridge & building a ticket office at **Eaglescliffe Station**, but no start date yet for car park extensions.

At Alan's request, Stockton Council engineers are investigating why **Seymour Grove's** surface failed again so soon after resurfacing. Stockton Council officers are still looking into tree problems in **Ashville Avenue**.

## WHERE WILL YOU VOTE?

In next May's Council elections and referendum it is proposed that voters from **Aislaby & Newsham** will use Eggescliffe Branch Library. No other changes are proposed. No suitable alternative to the temporary polling station in **Lingfield Drive** has been found. Why not opt for a postal vote (if you haven't already)? Details from our councillors or <http://tinyurl.com/35xsgfg>.



## WHO WILL RUN STOCKTON?

After 2 consultations a decision was finally made last month. After next May's Council election councillors will vote for a leader. He or she will choose a cabinet and they will run the Borough for the next 4 years.

We will still have a Civic Mayor who will be available to visit local events, as well as chair council meetings and lead civic events.

This is what most people said they wanted and your Liberal Democrat Councillors supported.

## SNOW, ICE AND GRIT

Councillors have saved our grit bins for this winter. After last winter's severe weather, Stockton Council reviewed all its plans for "winter maintenance".

One proposal was to reduce the number of grit bins, keeping them only at sites meeting national criteria. We objected.

It has now been decided that bins will continue to be provided at all existing sites (although some will be prioritised for refilling, depending on the supply of salt).

You can find out more about plans for winter weather, including maps of bins and gritting routes, on [www.stockton.gov.uk](http://www.stockton.gov.uk) (search on "winter maintenance") or from our councillors.. If you follow Stockton Council on Twitter you will get notice of gritting.



## SEE ME, SAVE ME

Fiona Hall, our Lib Dem Member of the European Parliament, has launched a "See me, Save me" campaign to make roads across Europe safer. Fiona's campaign is about people driving more carefully, but also changing the law to make sure that lorry drivers can always see pedestrians and cyclist to cut the numbers of deaths and serious injuries on our roads.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACEMENTS

It's that time of year again: if your child's date of birth is between 1st September 2006 and 31st August 2007 inclusive you can now register for a place at primary school for September 2011. The closing date for applying is 15th January. You should have received an information pack but if not, please ring Stockton Schools Admissions Service on 526605 or email [schooladmissions@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@stockton.gov.uk). You can apply on line by going to Stockton Borough Council web site and go to View Primary and Secondary Admissions 2011. Remember - everyone has to apply. Attending a nursery class doesn't automatically give a place in the school for next year.

**Liberal Democrats - Up Your Street, Working with You and for You**