



Eaglescliffe Focus Team, Alan, John, Maureen, Fiona Hall MEP and Jacquie Bell wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.



A Missed Opportunity

That's the Liberal Democrat verdict on the Labour Chancellor's Crisis Budget. He could have made tax fairer for everyone by cutting income tax for low and middle income people, by closing loopholes for the rich.

BUT he chose a temporary reduction in the top rate of VAT. That doesn't make food or fuel or children's clothes cheaper. It does make it harder for small businesses who have to change their pricing and VAT accounts twice. And it makes it easier to buy expensive imported TVs, cars etc.

Where's the fairness in that Mr Brown? Where's the help for struggling residents here?

Mortgage Problems?

Are you having difficulties paying your mortgage? Don't put off talking to your bank or building society - the earlier you speak to them the more chance there is of saving your home.

There is help and advice available from:
Stockton Council **Housing Options Team**, 16 Church Rd, 01642 528389 and
The **CAB** at Stockton District Advice & Information Service in Bath Lane, 01642 607445 or 01642 633877 or call in person any weekday morning between 9.30 and 12.30

Warm Front?

Stockton Liberal Democrats were horrified to find that the Labour Government's Warm Front grants don't cover the full cost of basic



necessities like insulation and boilers. Alan says "Yet again the Government claims to be helping those in need but fails those who need it most."

New Drive Rules

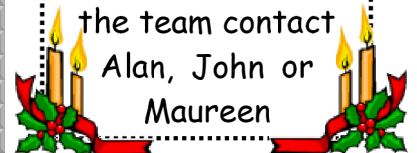
Until 1st October if you wanted to concrete your front garden to accommodate another car it was quite easy to do so, as long as you don't live in a conservation area.

Now there are new rules which try to reduce flood risk by having permeable surfaces. We strongly advise that you consult an expert before making any changes as you might need planning permission.

The Worshipful the Mayor of Stockton-on-Tees invites you to
The Civic Carol Service
in Stockton Parish Church, High St, Stockton
on Friday 19th Dec at 1.30pm.

Have a cup of tea with the Mayor and a tour of the Town Hall
on Wednesday January 14th, between 1 & 3 pm
Only £2.50 in aid of the Mayor's Charities
(Daisy Chain & Justice First)

Thank You
to all our deliverers.
Without you **Focus**
wouldn't reach every
home in the ward
year in, year out.
If you'd like to join
the team contact
Alan, John or
Maureen



PLANNING

Owing to appeals, Planning Inspectors will decide on:

- Refusal of the conversion of a vacant warehouse unit at **Allen's West**
- Application for 2 dormer bungalows in **Muirfield Road**

Stockton Council have approved:

- Conversion of 704 & 706 **Yarm Road** to a tanning saloon and a tattoo parlour.
- Retention for 2 years of a chalet on a single gypsy site at *Aislaby Grange Bungalows* off the **A67**.
- Retention of temporary classroom at *Teesside High School, The Avenue*

SNIPPETS

Bus Service 20 – Following changes on the A66, routes serving Long Newton and the Airport will change from 1st April. This will probably lead to the withdrawal of the subsidised section between Yarm & Long Newton, but continuing the hourly service between Yarm, Stockton & Middlesbrough via **Durham Lane**.

Double yellow lines will be laid on the corner of **Beechwood Road & Witham Avenue**.

Signposts – We are pleased that the weight restrictions on **Urray Nook Road** between *Tesco* and *Hunter's Green* are now in place, but there are still far too many signs on A roads sending Airport traffic through *Eaglescliffe* instead of the new intersection at Long Newton. At the time of writing, Stockton council won't change their signs until those on the A19 & the A66 are changed by the Highways Agency, who won't do it until the owners pay them to change the Airport name. Alan and John are working on this. They say, *"Pass the parcel" is OK as a Christmas party game but no way to run a highway system!*

New Hospital- The next stage of planning the new Hospital site is a public exhibition in the *Swallow Hotel* from 12 noon to 8-00pm on Thurs 11 December and Tues 13 January 2009 where you can ask questions. However, it's not the time to raise objections to the plans.

WHOOPS!

Green Waste – *Focus* 147 should have read, "collections stop during the fortnight 10-21 November, depending on your recycling round, and restart in March next year."

WE KEEP IN TOUCH

Alan, John & Maureen will see anyone who calls on **Friday 5 Dec.** Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave. 6.30-7.30

Tues, 16 Dec. Egglecliffe Parish Hall, Butts La. 6 - 7

Tues 20 Jan. Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham La. 6.30-7.30

Friday 6 Feb. Trinity Methodist Church, Witham Ave. 6.30 - 7.30

Please Note: No surgery on Fri Jan 2nd 2009

Contact us any time at:

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CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

If you would like your real Christmas Tree collected in January please put it out on Mon 12th Jan before 7a.m where you would usually put your bin.

Wheeled bin collections will move from Thursday 25th Dec & Friday 26th to Saturday 27th & Monday 29th respectively, and from Thursday 1st Jan & Fri 2nd Jan to one day later in each case.

Don't forget to recycle glass, plastic, cans cardboard, and paper (not wrapping paper)



SKIPS

The next community skips will be

Thurs 11 Dec 2008 Egglecliffe Green

Thurs 8 Jan 2009 Durham Lane shops

Tues 10 Feb 2009 Leven Close

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