



Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree

FOCUS

No 230

Editors:

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www.stocktonlibdems.org.uk



MINI MOTOS, QUAD BIKES & OFF ROAD VEHICLES:

If you're thinking of buying a Mini moto, quad bike or off-road vehicle for someone this Christmas then do read this first – it could save you having the vehicle seized by the police;

Vehicles such as mini motorcycles (mini motos) and quad bikes, and their riders must satisfy the requirements of the law if they are ridden in a public place. If these requirements cannot be met, the only places these vehicles can be ridden are on dedicated sites or on private land, with the permission of the landowner. See: <http://tinyurl.com/q8ubrp9> for a factsheet or contact us for a paper copy

There is such a thing as a “free lunch”

Julia and Elliot have welcomed the announcement from Nick Clegg that, from September 2014, not only will young children at primary school receive free school meals, but those at nearby Stockton Sixth Form College will too.



Currently, 16 to 18 year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds studying at Further Education or Sixth Form Colleges do not receive free meals at lunchtime, whereas their counterparts in Schools, Academies, Free Schools and University Technical Colleges do.

This is excellent news for many youngsters from low income families in our area. The system we inherited from the previous government was unfair in that free school meals were available for some pupils but not others. Now, it won't be where you study that counts, you will get help if you need it.

Caring for a pre-schooler?

There's a wide range of activities on offer from “4Children” at Elm Tree Community Centre including music & dance, messy play, getting ready for nursery and many others. There's also occasional life saving sessions such as basic first aid, how to deal with choking etc. For more info call in at the Centre or ring 4Children on 603225.



BISHOPSGARTH TRAFFIC CONCERNS: In our last issue of Focus we asked for views about installing bollards around the Marske Lane / Leam Lane area to stop pavement parking. As we received such a low response we have decided not to go ahead at this time. We've had so many other traffic issues raised with us that we're working with council officers on the best way forward. We'll keep you informed of progress.

**WORKING WITH YOU, WORKING FOR YOU!
FOCUS - THE ORIGINAL AND BEST. NOW IN ITS 33rd YEAR!**

Contact us by:

Julia and Elliot, FREEPOST NEA 765 STOCKTON ON TEES, TS16 9BR (no need for a stamp)

BUT if you write to us please make sure you include your contact details otherwise we can't respond to you.



You can of course contact us at our regular ward surgeries as follows:

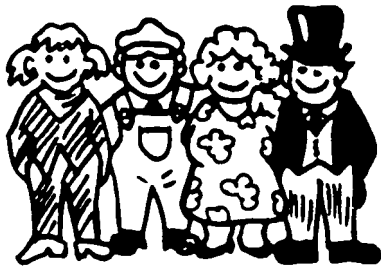
Mondays 7th October and 4th November 6.pm - 6.30pm at Bishopsgarth School

Tuesdays 22nd October and 19th November 6.00pm - 7.00pm at Elm Tree Community Centre.

OR email: julia.cherrett@stockton.gov.uk or Elliot.kennedy@stockton.gov.uk (phone numbers overleaf)

FRIENDS OF NEWHAM GRANGE PARK:

Many of you will have fond memories of playing in Newham Grange Park. Julia recalls going there over 45 years ago with her best friend from next door, before the hospital was built, climbing over "the muddy hill" to get there. Much has changed since then.



The play equipment has been replaced, the shop and toilets have been demolished and yet there are still features that bring back memories.

Anyone remember "The Parky" who made sure that we all behaved ourselves?

Unfortunately the days of the park keeper are long gone and it is up to us as residents to keep things in order.

Friends of Newham Grange Park do an excellent job, have attracted external funding for improvements, and regularly pick up litter, plant bulbs

etc and maintain hedgerows.

Would you like to join them?

Membership costs £2 per individual and £5 per family per year. For this you get:

An assurance that the group will do its best for all park users

A guarantee that your opinions will be listened to and if necessary reported to council staff responsible for the park.

Even if you don't want to do anything practical, your financial support will help the group to continue its excellent work.

The next meeting of the Friends Group is Wednesday 27th November, 7 - 8pm at Elm Tree Community Centre. **ALL WELCOME**

For more details please contact Geoff Smith, Chair, on 616628 or Mary Leake, Secretary, on 615971 or just turn up on the night.

Snippets... damaged pavement at **Verwood Close** to be repaired... unsightly street signs at **The Wynde, Mexborough & Kedlestone Closes** to be replaced... footpath from **Leam Lane** to **Darlington Back Lane** finally re-surfaced... chicane removed & replaced by motorcycle inhibitor to allow mobility scooter access at **Lanark Close / Elm Tree Avenue**, pedestrian refuge installed on **Darlington Lane /Gentian Way**...blocked drain at garages on **Lowick Close** reported for clearance... various **Virgin Media** cabinets reported as insecure...round cover in square hole finally sorted by Northumbrian Water outside **Elm Tree Pub, Elm Tree Avenue**...dumped rubbish on **Maplin View** reported for removal....faulty street lights reported....litter bin installed at **Leam Lane / Harrowgate Lane** bus stop



Finally - don't forget that you can follow us on: [Facebook.com/BETward news](https://www.facebook.com/BETwardnews).

STRONGER TOGETHER, POORER APART