

FOCUS



on Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree Ward

No 260 January 2019

Now in its 38th Year



News from your local Lib Dem team

Julia Cherrett and David Minchella

CARING RESIDENTS:

Massive Response to Our Appeal

In *Focus 259* we appealed for Selection Boxes for families who were having to rely on the Food Bank for their Christmas Dinner and treats for their children.

As we hoped, Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree residents responded brilliantly. You donated a wonderful 128 selection boxes which we took to the **Senators** public house to add to the hundreds they'd collected to donate to the Food Bank.

Thank you everyone who donated and thank you to **Senators** for undertaking such a thoughtful project.



David and Julia with the Selection Boxes you donated.

Coming Soon

Sadly, there's little sign of the Conservative government changing the policies which drive so many people to depend on Food Banks.

Before Easter **Senators** hope to do a similar collection of Easter Eggs. David and Julia hope to be able to support that appeal also.

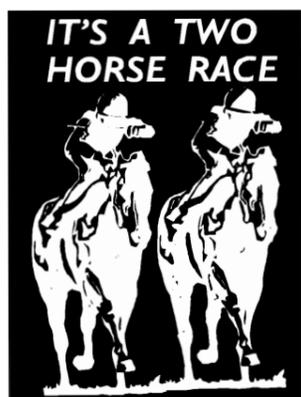
Good News

The motorcycle inhibitor asked for by residents of Spenborough Rd has finally been installed.



It's Lib Dem or Labour here:

Elections here in Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree are always between the Lib Dems and Labour.



Local people know that the only way to beat Labour here is to back the hard-working Lib Dem team of David and Julia.

More Bollards May Not Be The Answer

Bishopton Rd West parking problems

Some residents have asked for more bollards to prevent parking on the grass verge of Bishopton Rd West but Julia has been told of 'knock on' problems caused by those already in place.

Julia has asked Council officers to find another solution to the problem, as it's becoming clear that putting bollards on verges often moves the problem parking to the next convenient spot which might be even more dangerous. Stockton Council needs to work with schools to alleviate the problem and use bollards only as a last resort.



<https://www.facebook.com/BETwardnews/>

Let Down by Royal Mail

"Pouch Boxes too expensive to remove"

Julia was delighted to hear from Royal Mail that they'd agreed to remove the unsightly pouch boxes from Spenborough Rd.

She's angry to have had a second message from them this month to say that, after all, it's too expensive to remove them. So residents will have to put up with the rusting, unsightly objects presumably until they're too unsafe to remain or until Royal Mail has another change of heart.

Julia has pushed them to reconsider and keep their original promise.



Labour Isn't Working

Labour overpromise and under-deliver in Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree

A recent leaflet from the elusive Labour councillor for the ward made much of Julia missing a number of Council meetings without making any effort to understand the reasons and without noting that the same Labour councillor has also missed several meetings.

Two residents complained to Julia that they had gone to the advertised monthly Labour ward surgery and waited in vain for the councillor to turn up. Their problems went unresolved! We know that sometimes unexpected situations cause a change of plan but surely a message of cancellation can be sent to the venue. This seems a very strange way to treat residents who elected you!

Julia and David have been carrying out a survey in the ward over the last year, receiving hundreds of responses to questions about issues, as reported in Focus 259 last month. It was interesting to note that over 80% of respondents had no regular contact from their Labour councillor, with many expressing disbelief that such a councillor exists. Only 3% actually knew the name of the person who before being elected promised to issue regular newsletters. Little did we know that regular meant every 4 years, just before election time!

Meanwhile your Liberal Democrat Councillor, Julia Cherrett, has published this - the 20th edition of Focus since that 2015 election. Imagine how much more work she could do in the ward if she had another Lib Dem Councillor working with her.

What are you doing on May 2nd?

Thursday 2nd May is the date of the next local election. This is your chance to vote for the two people you want to represent you on Stockton Council for the next four years. If you will be away from home on that date or if you might have difficulty getting to the polling station for any reason, you



can apply for a postal vote. You can download an application form from:

<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/stockton-council/elections-and-voting/how-do-i-vote/> or telephone the Electoral Registration Office on 01642 526196.

Applications must be received by 5pm on Monday 15th April.

Contact your local Lib Dem team

There are several ways to contact the team:

Julia holds ward surgeries twice a month, no appointment needed, just turn up and talk to her:

Tuesday 12th Feb, 12th March 6pm - 6.30pm
at **Senators Public House**

Thursday 7th Feb, 7th March 6pm - 6.30pm
at **The Mitre Public House**

OR email: julia.cherrett@stockton.gov.uk

OR phone 01642 785473

You can contact **David Minchella** on 07835 981341 or email:

davidminchellaLD@gmail.com

Brexit Chaos

As we all know, a majority of people in this area voted in 2016 to Leave the European Union. Since that time the Conservative government has utterly failed to negotiate a deal that would give us the same benefits as we have at present in the EU, let alone the improvements we were promised. MPs on both sides of the House of Commons have roundly rejected the so-called deal. At the 11th hour Mrs May has said she will seek a cross-party agreement on the way forward, something she should have done two years ago, but at the time of writing the parties she's trying to agree with are the DUP and the right wing of her own party. The rest of the world is puzzled, desperately trying to understand what's going on.

Liberal Democrats are more convinced than ever that the government needs to go back to the people and ask "Now that you know what Leaving will mean, do you still want to go ahead?" Only with an honest, informed vote will they have the mandate they need to act.

Liberal Democrats Demand Better For Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree Residents

Give people the Final Say