

Billingham Matters

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Billingham Town Council Information on pages 13-17

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Billingham and Stockton Borough foodbank Update

Autumn has arrived and we are all aware of the temperature change and we know winter is coming.

It's a challenging time for many of us - the cold weather which produces higher fuel bills and we all seem hungrier so the food bills also increase.

Then of course the Christmas celebrations are not far away.

For those who are on very low incomes it is easy to find themselves in a crisis where they cannot afford to pay their bills and eat let alone think about Christmas.

In the period April to June 2019 compared to the same period last year the food-bank has seen a 50% increase in usage. Many have struggled with the benefit changes, part-time employments and zero hour contracts. We are expecting the

increase of people needing to access the foodbank to continue during the winter.

Thank you to all who have supported the foodbank with donations of food and finance. It's all the community working together that makes a big difference. Every donation is appreciated.

The clothing bank and baby bank have also been well used especially with school uniform recycling. I'm sure many will also appreciate winter coats. Thank you for the donations.

We always need extra help at Christmas as we give many extra hampers out in the community. Are you able to contribute a hamper for a single person or a family and deliver it to the foodbank in November. They would be well received and given to those referred to us.

Or perhaps you could take part in a 'reverse advent' calendar food drive where you put an item in a box every day in December then deliver the box to the foodbank at Christmas.

We have fabulous teams of volunteers serving in the Billingham (town Centre), Hardwick (St Andrews Church), Newtown (Hebron Church), and Norton (St Michael and all Angels Church) foodbank centres. They serve their community well and we appreciate them.

Thank you to all who contribute to helping others through the foodbank.



NCS team helping during the summer



4 volunteers in Billingham



Collecting food in Tesco

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Katie Loxton Handbag



Wrendale

131 High Street, Norton, Cleveland TS20 1AA
01642 552028

Celebrating 22 years



Obtaining Funding from Impetus Environmental Trust

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF), established in 1996, is a tax credit scheme that enables Landfill Operators (LOs) to contribute a portion of their landfill tax liability to community and environmental projects to 'offset' negative impacts of living within a 10 mile vicinity of a landfill site.

<https://www.entrust.org.uk/projects/landfill-communities-fund-objects>

Criteria for LCF Funding

Projects that meet community/environmental criteria contained in the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996 (Regulations) can either register with HMRC's regulatory body Entrust, (<https://www.entrust.org.uk/landfill-community-fund>) for a £100 registration fee or speak directly to a landfill operator who distributes their own monies.

Alternatively, there are Distributive Environmental Bodies (DEBs), that administer and distribute LCF monies on behalf of the LO. A successful, professional (DEB) in the North East is Impetus Environmental Trust (IET). IET have distributed over £5 million across the Tees Valley Region.

IET distributes funds on behalf of Highfield Environmental Ltd. a local landfill operator on Teesside. IET ensures projects comply with community/environmental objectives laid down in the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996 (Regulations) and offers an advice, guidance and signposting service for groups, clubs, associations, sport clubs etc. on funding, evaluation & monitoring and establishing a not-for-profit voluntary organisation.

Telephone Nicky Graves for an informal chat on **07841 046680**. Alternatively, email your details and she will call you

back or to request an application form to impetus.trust@outlook.com

IET look forward to helping you and hearing about your project or idea for a local project.

<https://www.entrust.org.uk/landfill-community-fund/finding-funding/funder-search/>

For example Billingham organisations listed are:

County Durham Community Foundation
www.cdccf.org.uk

Derbyshire Environment Trust -
email: det@derbyshire.gov.uk
or phone **01629 538614**

Impetus Environmental Trust -
email: impetus.trust@outlook.com

Royal Society of Wildlife Trust -
www.biffa-award.org

SUEZ Communities Trust Ltd.
www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk




Open Event

Saturday 9th November
10:00am - 12:30pm

Come along to our Open Event to find out how we can take your dreams higher!

Taking Sophie higher



"I loved my time studying at Middlesbrough College! The course prepared me well for University and I'm now one step closer to my dream of becoming a Paramedic!"

Level 3 Health & Social Care
Northfield Academy

From all Traders and Staff at Billingham Market

we'd like to say a

BIG Thank You!

Despite the weather, loads of shoppers still turned out at Billingham Market to celebrate Love Your Local Market.

Toy Story characters willingly greeted all who came to meet them, children of all ages paraded through the town with their smiling painted faces, shoppers whizzed round the market getting their trail cards stamped and EVERY prize went on the fantastic Wheel of Fortune game. Billingham certainly showed great support for their local market and with this support, we hope we can reach our goal of filling the market square up to capacity.

But please don't let this be a one-off visit to your local market! Show your support and back local people in your town. The traders really appreciate your support and without you there is no market. For anyone out there looking to forge a new career in markets, look no further and get in touch with the leading market authority in the area. We offer unrivalled support in helping new traders. For more information visit our website at www.stockton.gov.uk/markets email markets@stockton.gov.uk or call Richard Beddard on 07788 566998.

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THIRTEEN HOUSING

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Looking for a new home?



Thirteen is about to release some attractive apartments in Billingham ready for new residents to move into.

We have a number of one and two-bedroom apartments available in Prior Court and Melsonby Court, just off Low Grange Road.

Ideally situated for the town centre, the homes benefit from newly installed windows and heating systems. New customers could even take advantage of a choice of move-in options tailored especially for you, making finding the right home for you even easier.

The apartments also benefit from a concierge service, free parking, secure door entry and all the other services provided to Thirteen's customers, including 24/7 emergency repairs line, advice on money, benefits and rent, and help with jobs and training.

Rents for these attractive homes are from £91.56/week for a one-bed flat, with no bond or admin fee to pay.

For more details, please call Anthony Hickey on **0300 111 1000**; email customerservices@thirteengroup.co.uk or have a look at www.thirteengroup.co.uk/findahome

Raising awareness of loan sharks



Members of staff from Thirteen worked with the national illegal money lending team to visit customers in Port Clarence

to help raise awareness of the dangers of loan sharks and promote credit unions.

Around 300 homes were visited in two days across Stockton and Middlesbrough and more than ten local people opened credit union accounts with many more planning to open accounts online.

Fiona Heighton, financial support services manager at Thirteen said: "Thanks to some great teamwork, our initiative was a huge success. We're looking at organising other events in other communities to help tackle the issue, because we know there is even more loan shark activity in our neighbourhoods."

For anyone that suspects loan shark activity, there are things to look out for. A loan shark might:

- offer little or no paperwork on a loan, such as a credit agreement or record of payments
- refuse to give borrowers information such as the interest rate or how much you owe
- take items as security, such as passports, bank cards and driving licenses
- increase the debt or add additional charges at any time
- refuse to allow you to settle your debt
- get nasty – they might use intimidation, threats or violence to enforce repayment.

People affected by illegal money lending can talk to the illegal money lending team in confidence 24/7 by calling **0300 555 2222** or emailing reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk Thirteen customers can also speak to their local neighbourhood co-ordinator.

Port Clarence in bloom



After lots of hard work over the past few months, residents in Port Clarence are celebrating winning a bronze award in the Northumbria in Bloom competition.

Following a good spring clean at the end of May, Thirteen worked with local people, the Billingham Environmental Link Programme (BEP) and other organisations to help get Port Clarence looking its best over the summer months.

If you visited the village during the summer, you might have seen some of the amazing floral displays by the roadside and around the local shops and public spaces. All of this was down to the hard work of local people.

Staff from Thirteen also worked with the community to help update the allotments and install some new artwork on bus shelters and buildings along Port Clarence Road. The bronze award is well deserved recognition for all the hard work that has been put in by everybody in the village.

As well as all the environmental work in the area, a concert was held to mark the judging of the Northumbria in Bloom competition at the Clarences Resource Centre in July. Internationally-renowned folk singer Claire Hamill came along to perform her specially-written song for local people. You can see the song on YouTube by searching 'YouTube Thirteen Group'.

Contact Thirteen in Billingham

Contact Thirteen if you're looking for a home or you're a customer who'd like to talk to the housing company for advice on benefits, money management, help to find work, training or education.

For more details about these and other services:

- click: www.thirteengroup.co.uk
- email: customerservices@thirteengroup.co.uk
- call: **0300 111 1000**
- drop-in: Billingham Library, Kingsway, Billingham, TS23 2LN; open 9am – 1pm, Monday to Friday.

Customers can also get along to join drop-in sessions to talk about anything to do with their home, tenancy or neighbourhood. Just come along to a session near you – you can get details from the website at

www.thirteengroup.co.uk/findoutabout



Thirteen's homes and services

At Thirteen we offer a wide range of homes for rent, sale and shared ownership in the Tees Valley and North East England.

This includes:

- rental homes – from open plan flats to five bedroom homes
- homes for sale – to buy outright or other low cost options
- sheltered, extra care and supported housing for independent living
- garages, shops and offices for rent.

More than homes

As well as quality homes, we offer extra support for people in their lives:

- help with managing money and advice about paying the rent
- benefits advice
- helping people find jobs and training
- homelessness support
- home aids and adaptations.

thirteen
Managing and building homes

For more about any Thirteen service, talk to us:



www.thirteengroup.co.uk/primary



0300 111 1000



customerservices@thirteengroup.co.uk

Northfield School and Sports College

Carol's Cuppa Coffee Morning

This term students have donated over £500 in memory of Mrs Harcourt!

On the 8th February 2019, the Year 10 and Year 11 Foundation Learning classes hosted a coffee morning in memory of Carol Harcourt, an LSA at Northfield school who sadly passed away at the beginning of the year. The students wanted to host the coffee morning as a sign of respect for Mrs Harcourt. The students decided that they would like to donate the proceeds raised from the coffee morning to Billingham Food Bank as Mrs Harcourt often helped at the food bank; it was a charity close to her heart.

All of the students worked extremely hard in planning, preparing and hosting the coffee morning. The students made posters, decorations and helped to set up the main hall ready for the coffee morning. The hall was full of staff and students ready to donate to such a good cause and share memories of Mrs Harcourt. All of the staff and students involved helped to raise an amazing £535 and this term



Billingham Food Bank visited our Northfield students, who took pride in handing over the cheque of an amazing sum of £535.



Children's Author, Sam Copeland, Visits Northfield School



Hilarious children's author, Sam Copeland, dropped into Northfield on Wednesday 25th September to entertain a selection of Y7 & Y8 English students, along with some visiting Y5 pupils from Prior's Mill and Crooksbar Primary Schools. Students were in stitches as Sam gave a lively presentation that included disgusting facts about the Turkey Vulture, the Hag Fish and the Dung Beetle amongst many others. Everyone listened intently while he read a chapter from his latest book, where the main character, Charlie McGuffin turns into a spider and is chased by a cat.

Sam finished off with a question and answer session, and then signed copies of his books, 'Charlie Changes into a Chicken' and 'Charlie Turns into a T-Rex'. Students and staff commented on what a great time they all had.

National Poetry Day 2019

On Thursday, 3rd October 2019, Northfield Library celebrated National Poetry Day for the fourth year running, with a poetry read at lunchtime.

Students from all year groups joined in by writing their own poems, many of which, were on this year's theme of 'Truth'. Year 7 students had written poems about Community while other year groups had titles as varied as: beautiful, a sword and teachers. The 'Poetry Read' finished off with a rousing rendition of an old favourite, 'There's a Chicken on the Roof' with the audience of students and staff joining in enthusiastically.



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GoClimb Billingham Forum continues to be a popular attraction for families across the area with over 20 unique walls plus a 22ft vertical plunge slide.

GoClimb also hosts a series of events including Harry Potter themed sessions, Halloween Spooktacular events, Christmas climbs and more. It is also a popular venue for children's birthday parties with packages starting from as little as £135.

Back in March, GoClimb also launched its first autism friendly 'Quiet Climb'. The session is designed for visitors with sensory needs such as autism who may otherwise feel less comfortable in such environments. Following the launch session a monthly session (every 3rd Sunday of the month) takes place at 10 - 11am. The sessions also allow for siblings and friends to come along too.

Leon Jones, Tees Active Managing Director explains, "We work closely with a variety of community groups to ensure everyone is able to experience our activities and that they can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone. It's fantastic to see children and families affected by Autism having fun and enjoying climbing at Billingham Forum."

Initiatives for the Quiet Climb sessions include:

- Limited noise (no music or climbing wall sound effects will be played).
- Reduced places (maximum of 16 people).
- Designated quiet area within GoClimb.
- Autism awareness trained staff.
- Visitors will be greeted by a member of the team at the entrance and shown to GoClimb to limit waiting times and avoid queuing.

For more information visit the website.

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This facility is owned and supported by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and is managed by Tees Active Ltd.

Former Teacher and Old Boy

On August 10th Mr Les Jobson, the well known Haverton Hill and Billingham Teacher, but better remembered as the early director of the forum Forum theatre and at the forefront of the very beginning of the Billingham Festival, celebrated his 97th birthday.

On August 21st, remarkably because during the winter he was very ill, he gave a talk at Stockton library's Books and Banter' called 'There's no business like Show business'. Incredibly he stood and talked for an hour, without notes, and recalled, with much humour, over 40 years in show business. His recollections included some of the many stars he got to know, including Glynis Johns who is a few months younger than him and now lives in California, Omar Sharif and Topol from Fiddler on the Roof. In talking about the shortage of money in the business, he mentioned the panto Seven Dwarfs except they could only afford three so they had four cut outs. This led to the line, You three go over there, the rest stay where you are! He mentioned some of the productions at the Forum he put on, which went on to huge success on TV and the flautist in the orchestra who couldn't quite hit the right notes. After the talk, Haverton Hill born David Crawford, a former pupil, presented Mr Jobson with a copy of his excellent new book 'Spark's in the Bomber War'. Mr Jobson served in the RAF during WW2 and Dave has been interested in aircraft all his life and is now an honorary member of the RAF squadron which he discusses in his book.

Readers of Billingham Matters should watch out for Mr Jobson when he comes to Billingham library next year, it's free and is such good entertainment.



Creepy Crawlies

SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER
10AM - 3PM

Step inside a giant inflatable spider and turn into the Halloween monster of your choice through our face painters this Halloween at Billingham Town Centre.

Plus, take part in a creepy crawly trail to win Halloween treats!




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MATTERS

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE

Bright and warm 6am starts and longer evenings... summer is almost a distant memory. It is always the best time of the year to be active and get out and about but then of course autumn creeps in and the dark nights come.

It's hard to keep up your training during the colder seasons but nature won't adapt to us so, we must adapt to nature! So now is the time to get a plan in place and set some goals for a realistic time frame.

To help keep you active and motivated Activ8 are giving new members a helping hand by introducing a **NO JOINING FEE** offer saving you £25!

Whether you are looking to lose weight, increase muscle mass, improve overall fitness, or simply looking to have fun and make a positive change to your health and wellbeing, Activ8 can help you take the first steps to begin your journey towards a happier and healthier you this autumn.

Memberships include access to Billingham Forum as well as Stockton Splash, Thornaby Pool and Thornaby Pavilion.



To take advantage of this great offer and to start your fitness journey visit our website and join online - but be quick as this offer expires on 27th October.

activ8fitnessclubs.co.uk

Terms & Conditions: Offer available to 12 month committed and 55+ committed memberships. Online only. Code entered on the final page before payment. Offer ends 27/10/19. These facilities are owned and supported by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and are managed by Tees Active Ltd.

BILLINGHAM
Forum
01642 528583

Billingham Bowling Club News

End of another bowling season with good results from leagues for our bowling club. Our internal competitions have also finished, with results as follows;

The Billingham Bowling Club Ladies Section had a good season with good weather and all games played on time.

Rosebowl 2 bowl singles, winner Josie Blake, finalist Evelyn Shand.

E.B.F. 2 bowl singles, winner Evelyn Shand, finalist Josie Blake.

Hilda Hurst 3 bowl singles, winner Sylvia Walker, finalist Evelyn Shand.

McLean cup 4 bowl singles, winner Pat Smith, finalist Evelyn Shand.

Enid Moffat 2 bowl pairs, winners Sylvia Walker and Pat Smith, finalists Doreen Nicholson and Penny Mowbray.

Kathleen Hitchen 4 bowl pairs, winners Josie Blake and Evelyn Shand, finalists Doreen Nicholson and Mary Small.

Rachel Kirk 3 bowl Triples, winners June Simpson, Jean Moutrey and Evelyn Shand, finalists Jean Taylor, Audrey Medd and Doreen Nicholson.

Greenley Cup 2 bowl Triples, winners Val Rogers, Doreen Nicholson and Ann McGregor, finalists Pat Tattersdill and Evelyn Shand.

The Billingham Bowling Club Men's section.

Club 2 bowl singles E.B.F. 21 up, winner Lyndon Wilson, finalist Robert Moon.

Club 2 bowl singles handicap 21 up, winner Jim Bullock, finalist Frank Newbury.

Club 4 bowl singles 21 up, winner Steve Davies, finalist Colin Moor.

Club 4 bowl singles veterans 21 up, winner Steve Davies, finalist Barry Young.

Club 4 bowl novice singles, winner Ged Pope, finalist Jim Bullock.

Club 4 bowl pairs 15 ends, winners Peter O'Rourke and Robert Moon, finalists Alan Birks and Ian Charlton.

Results to follow.

Club 2 bowl singles, Club 3 bowl triples and Club 2 bowl mixed pairs.

Teesside Triples League winners Billingham Bowling Club team A, runner up Billingham Bowling Club team B.

THE WINTER LEAGUE STARTS on TUESDAY OCTOBER 15th at 10am and SATURDAY OCTOBER 19th at 10am.

Please register to play by 9:50am.

With the 2018/19 season now completed, the complete list of award winners is headed by Barwick Rangers who have become the most successful team in the league's history. Securing their third successive league title & eighth in nine seasons. This remarkable achievement exceeds the record set by Moss & Campbell in the 2002/2003 season.

Scouting For Goals - Runners Up

The Metal Gurus - Third place

Final League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal Diff
Barwick Rangers	16	14	0	2	93	17	42	76
Scouting For Goals	16	12	1	3	93	31	37	62
The Metal Gurus	16	10	2	4	84	40	32	46
Station Plastering	16	9	4	3	70	30	31	40
EZ Sports	16	6	3	7	39	41	21	-2
Half A Crown	16	5	3	8	51	70	18	-19
Spartans	16	4	2	10	30	70	11	-40
F.C. Torpedo	16	3	0	13	23	117	9	-94
Swans	16	1	2	13	24	93	3	-69
Monkey Hangers*	8	1	0	7	18	58	0	-40

*Monkey Hangers had 3 points deducted before they were expelled in December 2018. All of their results were expunged from the table.

In the SRC Community Cup, Station Plastering were 5v2 winners over The Metal Gurus to lift the trophy. Barwick Rangers picked up third place after a 5v4 thriller against Scouting For Goals.

The D&P Trophies Fair Play award was shared between Barwick Rangers & Scouting For Goals who both completed the season with 100% clean disciplinary records.

The Janet Davidson Memorial Trophy was awarded to Scouting For Goals.

Player of The Season was Zack Mancina (EZ Sports).

Goalkeeper of the Season was shared between John Clark (Swans), Lee Cotterill (F.C. Torpedo) & Brian Wilson (Half A Crown).

Young Player Of The Season - not awarded.

Top Goalscorer was Marc Dawson (Scouting For Goals) with 36 league goals.

The Graeme Turner Memorial Trophy winner was Brian Wilson (Half A Crown).

Special thanks go to our referees Steve Leonard, Steve Liddle & Michael Walkington for their dedication throughout the season.

The Future of the League

Following several resignations at the end of the season, and insufficient new teams applying to join the league, the 2019/2020 season will not take place.

It is hoped to hold a new competition, open to all teams over 16 years of age, in November and December. Any team interested in taking part should contact the League Secretary to register.

Hopefully enough teams will be willing to move on to form a new league after the competition.

We operate on a no profit basis. If you would like to know more please contact us via:-

Email: billinghamfiveasideleague@gmail.com

League Secretary: **07742 077196**

Games are normally played on Sunday evenings at SRC Bede Sports Hall on Marsh House Avenue, Billingham.

Find us on: Facebook (**Billinghamfiveaside**) or Twitter (**@B5aside**)





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22 Belmont Avenue
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Gift vouchers available with discounts on sales costing £30 or more

Town Clerk's Welcome Letter

It's that time of the year again where we are getting ready for Halloween and Christmas but more importantly, preparing the budget for 2020/21. We have lots of new ideas for next year that we hope will benefit the whole community of Billingham.

We have been getting out and about over the last couple of months, collecting feedback and suggestions on what you would like from YOUR Town Council. If you have any suggestions, please let us know!

The Town Council has also reviewed and updated its Donations Policy. The new Grants and Subsidies Policy has now been agreed with a new budget.

Along with all this, we kicked off our summer season with the ever popular Dogs Trust event in John Whitehead Park and then a second event in October at Marsh House Sports and Community Centre. Both were really well attended and we hope to get more of these booked for next year to look after our four legged friends.

We were very disappointed to have to cancel our Family Fun Day in July this year. Unfortunately the weather was against us however, throughout August, we had a full calendar of free sports, crafts and competitions which were very successful.

Due to customer demand and feedback, the Cafe in the Park will be open until 4pm throughout October and we are in the process of launching our winter menu. Please call in and enjoy what's on offer and remember, that well behaved dogs are welcomed in the cafe so you can relax and appreciate a well earned drink and something to eat after a walk around the park. Also look out for our new Christmas Afternoon Tea and Christmas dinner menus during December.

Finally, all our committee and Full Council meetings are open to the public so please come along, ask questions and find out what YOUR Town Council is doing.

Dee Smith

Town Clerk/ RFO to Billingham Town Council

Contact your local Town Councillor

North Ward

Mark Burdon

mburdon@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

Jennifer Shotton

jshotton@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

Colin Leckonby

cleckonby@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

East Ward

Mike Stoker

mstoker@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

Michelle Bendelow

07854 414830

mbendelow@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

Royce Sandbach

07914 072466

rsandbach@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

Central Ward

Clare Gamble

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cgamble@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

Gina McCall

07971 573368

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Ann McCoy

amccoy@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

South Ward

Jim Scollen

jscollen@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

Sheila Smart

07496 596886

ssmart@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

Angie Bentley

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abentley@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

West Ward

Colin Pollard

cpollard@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

Helen Atkinson

hatkinson@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

Alexander Peebles

07526 242490

apeebles@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

Council Meeting Timetable - See Notice Boards and Website



Full Council Meeting
26th November 6:00pm

Planning and Services Committee
14th November 3:30pm

Finance and General Purposes Committee
14th November 4:30pm

Full council meetings commence 6pm unless otherwise stated. Times for Committee meetings will be on the published agendas. All meetings are held at Billingham Library & Customer Service Centre.



What's on in the Cafe in the Park

New Winter Menu

Have you sampled our new winter menu?
Some fantastic Cafe in the Park returning favourites as well as some extra tasty winter warmers.

BREAKFAST MENU

Standard Breakfast £3.50

Bacon, sausage, egg, beans, toast & butter

Large Breakfast £4.50

2 x bacon, 2 x sausage, 1 x egg, beans, black pudding, grilled tomato, hash brown, mushrooms, toast & butter

Veggie Breakfast £4.00

2 x eggs, 2 x vegetarian sausage, beans, grilled tomato, 2 x hash browns, mushrooms, toast and butter

Breakfast Buns

Bacon bun £2.00

Sausage bun £2.00

Egg bun £2.00

Beans on toast £1.95

Egg on toast £1.95

Toast, jam & butter £1.95

JWP breakfast bun £2.95

1 Extra Item £0.60

Bacon, sausage, egg, beans, black pudding, grilled tomato, hash brown, mushrooms

ALL BREAKFAST ITEMS SERVED UNTIL 11AM

LUNCH MENU

Customer Favourites £3.95

Corned beef pie, chips & salad

Quiche, chips & salad

Scampi, chips & salad

Mince & dumplings

Snacks/Lite Bites

Toasted teacake £1.95

Freshly baked homemade scone £1.50

Sausage roll £0.50

Chips £1.50

Sweet potato fries £2.00

Hot dogs £0.60

Jacket Potato £3.25

All served with salad garnish and homemade coleslaw

Plain, cheese, tuna, beans

Sandwich, Panini or Toastie £2.50

Cheese, ham, cheese savoury, egg mayo, prawn mayo

Burgers

Beef burger £2.00

Cheese burger £2.20

Veggie burger £2.00

Chicken burger £2.00

Add chips or salad for £1

Soup & Bread Roll £2.00

Soup of the day served with a freshly baked bread roll

Children's Menu £2.50

Chicken nuggets & chips

Fish fingers & chips

Hotdog & chips

Cold Drinks

Coke £1.00

Diet Coke £0.95

Fanta £1.00

Sprite £1.00

Water £0.80

Dessert £2.95

Apple pie

Apple crumble

Chocolate sponge

cake

Hot Drinks

Tea £1.00

Specialty teas £1.00

Instant coffee £1.00

Latte £1.90

Skinny latte £1.90

Cappuccino £1.90

Americano £1.70

Espresso £1.60

Hot chocolate £2.00

Macmillan coffee morning

Thank you to all Cafe in the Park customers who kindly donated on 27th September 2019, at the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

We raised £89.36.



Chairman's Bingo and Games Fundraiser

Come and join us for an afternoon of fun and fundraising, on **30th October**, 1 till 3 at Cafe in the Park, John Whitehead Park, Billingham

Christams Afternoon Tea

£15
FOR 2 PEOPLE

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

AVAILABLE FROM
Cafe in the Park

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE ON 01642 551171 TO BOOK YOUR PLACE



Cafe in the Park

Winter opening hours

1st November to 30th April

Monday to Friday 9 till 2pm

Saturday 10 till 2

Tis the season to be jolly

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN COMPETITION

Help us design a Billingham Town Council Christmas Card entry forms are available from the Council office or please email andrew@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk

Email your design back to above address or hand into the Town Council office

Closing Date is 11th November 2019

Billingham Town Council

WIN £20 Gift Voucher **PLUS** 10 Printed Cards **PLUS** Switch on the Town Centre Xmas lights **PLUS** Your Design used for Town Council Christmas cards

Coffee Loyalty Cards

Have you picked up your loyalty card?



We are now offering Barista Coffee loyalty cards buy 9 coffees and get your 10th free.

25th November till 20th December 2019 Christmas Menu

Starter

Cream of Vegetable Soup with Crusty Bread

Classic prawn cocktail

Pate with onion chutney & melba toast

Main

Traditional turkey breast

Honey roast gammon

Salmon served with hollandaise sauce

All served with seasonal vegetables, mashed potatoes, roast potatoes pigs in blankets, sage and onion stuffing balls, Yorkshire puddings and rich gravy

Dessert

Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce

Apple pie with custard or cream

strawberry cheesecake

2 Courses £10.95

3 Courses £11.95

To book a place please the office on 01642 551171

Includes dressed tables, iced water and Christmas Crackers

What's going on in the Annexe?

(Lakota Training Group ICT/Digital Skills Course)



Our mission at Lakota Training Group is simple:

To provide high-quality services for our valued clients. Our team goes above and beyond to cater to each learner & their specific need. Through open communication and exceptional service, we hope you'll find what you're looking for with our training service. As one of the local Employment Agencies in the Stockton-on-Tees area as well as holding courses in Billingham and Trimdon Grange, we attribute our reputation to the lasting relationships we've developed throughout the years. We believe that all of our learners deserve the highest level of service, and we are committed to providing just that.

We are currently delivering ICT/Digital Skills Courses running every Monday & Wednesday at John Whitehead Park, Billingham.

Please contact:

Joanne@lakota.org.uk or Paul@lakota.org.uk
or 01642 669107



Youth Council



Billingham Town Youth Council was launched in 2013 to represent the views of the young people of Billingham. Since its launch the Youth Council have worked on Harrington's Pond clean up project, the Annexe design and opening and hosted a number of free activity sessions engaging with residents of all ages. The Youth Council also orchestrated this year's 'Keep Billingham Tidy' litter pick campaign with more litter blitzes planned for later this year.

If you are aged 11 to 18 and would like to join Billingham Town Youth Council please contact the office on 01642 551171 or drop us a message on our facebook page.

The Garden of Harmony



The Garden of Harmony (John Whitehead Park) was created to celebrate Billingham International Folklore Festival (BIFF). The initial funding was provided by

BIFF who wanted to create a communal garden space available to all residents of Billingham. The garden was designed and created by Billingham Town Youth Council and Billingham Town Council Volunteer Gardening Group.

Community Litter Pick

'Keep Billingham Tidy' campaign brought to you by Billingham Town Youth Council. The Litter Pick took place 5th August, 12 till 1. All equipment and bags kindly provided by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. Billingham Town Councillors, Stockton Borough and The Town Clerk took part in a community litter pick around John Whitehead Park. If you would like to join us at the next litter pick or know of any litter hotspots, please contact the Town Council office.



SPACE FOR HIRE

Are you or a community group looking for a fantastic space to hire? We have an amazing multi-use inclusive space available now. If you would like to use the space, please contact Billingham Town Council office for more information. Competitive rates of hire and discount available on long term use.



Dogs trust community event

Billingham Town Council hosted another FREE doggy drop in, working in partnership with The Dogs Trust. The event took place on 1st October at Marsh House Sports & Community Centre, Billingham.



Events brought to you by Billingham Town Council

Billingham Carnival

A big thank you to our friends at Billingham Legacy Foundation and Friends of Belp for inviting us along to this year's carnival which took place on 14th & 15th September 2019. What a fantastic day, with lots of fun, food and stalls. This year Billingham Town Council sponsored the ever popular Strong Man competition at the Carnival and we look forward to seeing what next year's carnival has in store.



Councillor McCall Vice Chairman of BTC presenting the winners of the Free mask making Competition

FREE SUMMER ACTIVITIES

This year Billingham Town Council hosted a WHOPPING 30+ FREE activities for children up-to the age of 12. These activities included: tennis, football, team games, street dance, mini movers, circus skills, pedal go karts, key ring making, badge making and hat design plus lots more.

If you have a suggestion for an activity you would love to see in John Whitehead Park then we would love to hear from you.



Mini Movers with Susy



Tennis Club



Cool Dudes street dance



Arts and crafts in the annexe

OCTOBER HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

This October Billingham Town Council will be hosting a wide range of free and paid activities from Halloween street dance to pumpkin carving to a glitter glow party.

Please keep an eye on facebook for all future updates



Halloween
Glitter
GLOW
PARTY

28/10/2019 | The Annexe | 11am till 12:30

30 mins of GLOW crafts and festival glitter 1 hr of Partying!

Glow paint/ glow fabric pens and glitter provided please bring a plain white t shirt to decorate

To Book your space please call the office on 01642 551171

Billingham Town Council



BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

A SPOOKTACULAR ACTIVITY

PUMPKIN CARVING
& HALLOWEEN
AFTERNOON TEA

31.10.19 | THURSDAY | 11 TILL 1
THE SPOOKY ANNEXE, JOHN WHITEHEAD PARK

£5 PER CHILD

BOOKING ESSENTIAL. TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE

Pumpkins and tools provided, very limited spaces all children must be accompanied by 1 adult

Billingham Town Council

BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

CHRISTMAS EVENT



Saturday 7th December 2019
Billingham Town Centre

This year's Christmas Event will take place in Billingham Town Centre on Saturday 7th December, 1pm till 5pm starting with a **Christmas Parade, Santa's Grotto, arts and crafts and concluding with the celebrity light switch on.**



DO YOU HAVE THE HEART TO FOSTER? COME ALONG TO AN INFORMATION EVENT

Anybody interested in fostering a child is encouraged to attend an information event organised by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

The Council's fostering team is holding events at 4.30pm-6.30pm on Thursday 24 October 2019 at Thornaby Central Library, and 5.30pm-7.30pm on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at Stockton Central Library.

Fostering provides children with safe, stable and loving families when they are unable to live with their own parents. Children may need foster care because of family crisis, because parents find it difficult to cope or because children are suffering abuse or neglect. Placements range from respite and short-term care to long-term care, and some may even lead to adoption. Anyone who believes they have the commitment and experience to offer a child a positive experience of family life is invited to attend an information session, where a Social



*Pauline Heads
Stockton-on-Tees Borough
Council's
Foster Carer of
the Year 2019*

Worker will be on hand to answer questions.

Foster Carer, Pauline Heads, was presented with the award Foster Carer of

the Year 2019 by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council this summer in recognition of more than 22 years' service to fostering. Pauline, who keeps children at the heart of her priorities, said 'I was shocked to receive this award and obviously very pleased. Fostering means a great deal to me, and I would recommend to anyone thinking about fostering to take the first step. I haven't looked back since starting to foster in the late 1990s and can't imagine my life without caring for children. To see children blossom is hugely rewarding. For me, it's the most meaningful work you can do.'

Foster carers get professional preparation training, ongoing guidance and access to local support groups. They also receive a generous allowance to cover weekly costs. To reserve a place at an event or for more information about fostering, call the Children's Fostering and Carers' Team on **01642 526218** or visit www.stockton.gov.uk/fostering

New Baby and Business for Self-Employed Daniel

Daniel, who lives in Billingham, was referred to Five Lamps Enterprise team by Jane Metcalfe from Stockton Council Learning & Skills after he had expressed an interest in becoming self-employed.

Upon completion of the Youth Employment Initiative Pathways Programme with Learning and Skills Daniel, decided that he would like to start his own gardening business, as he had recently become a new Father and the flexibility with self-employment would help with his family life.

Daniel met with Tony Cummings, one of Five Lamps Enterprise Advisors, who works on the Youth Employment Initiative Routeways Programme and had an initial meeting to look at the pros and cons of becoming self-employed.

Tony then referred Daniel on to a two day funded workshop, gaining knowledge around marketing, bookkeeping, customer service,

legislation and tax. He then worked intensively with Daniel over a 6 week period to produce a business plan and cash flow forecast.

The enquires for Daniel's gardening service soon began to build up, however, to complete some of the bigger gardening jobs he required an industrial strimmer. Fortunately through the Youth Employment Initiative Routeways programme, Five Lamps were able to support Daniel to purchase a strimmer, which has helped him build up more clientele.

To find out more about Daniel's business, DCB Gardening Services can be contacted on **07525 853634**.

The Tees Valley Pathways and Routeways programmes form part of the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). This is part-funded by the European Social Fund through the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme in England.



The program aims to support young people across the Tees Valley aged 15-29 who are unemployed and/or not in education, employment or training until the end of July 2020.

YEI can also offer support to help you gain employment, if you would like to find out more, please contact the YEI team on; **01642 753511**.





Let's Talk **Fostering**

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



Do you have the heart to foster?

We'll be with you every step of the way

- Professional training and guidance
- Access to support every stage of your journey
- Generous weekly allowance
- A role with meaning and purpose like no other.

Telephone: 01642 526218

Email: child.placement@stockton.gov.uk

Visit: www.stockton.gov.uk/fostering

Come to an informal Information Session to find out more:

Thursday 24 October, 4.30pm at Thornaby Central Library

Wednesday 20 November, 5.30pm at Stockton Central Library



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Gardening brings long-lost sisters back together for surprise reunion

A SURPRISE family reunion took place on a Teesside allotment when two octogenarian sisters met for the first time in years.

Edna Cook, 83, and her sister Joan Bell, 86, had not spoken since the passing of their brother, Jackie Steel, five years ago.

When both attended a recent Green Links session, run by Thornaby LiveWell Dementia Hub, they had no idea it would turn into a family reunion.

Edna, who lives at The Beeches Care Home, on Green Lane, Stockton-on-Tees, was having tea and cake on Thornaby allotments with fellow residents and staff when she heard a voice shouting "auntie Edna".

It turned out to be her niece, Denise Frank, who she had also not seen in years. Denise had brought her mum Joan and niece Georgia Wilki to the Green Links session not knowing Edna was going to be there.

Denise said: "Edna had not seen mum or me in five years after the passing of uncle Jackie.

"I had to ring my other auntie, Beryl, to let her know that Edna had come to the session and her and mum had been reunited.

"Edna hadn't seen my niece, Georgia, since she was a lot younger as well. It was such a surprise but so good to see her again. It's been too long."

When the family sat down to catch up, Denise shared her memories. She said: "I have a memory that always stuck in my

head; it was when Edna used to come and babysit, she would always have a packet of fruit polos ready for me."

Georgia added: "I had heard stories of how Edna would sing "Georgia on my mind" to me when I was born, so we played the song for her."

Despite Edna's dementia, she could remember the words and started singing along.

Jessica Roth, activities coordinator at The Beeches Care Home, was also at the Green Links session, which provide outdoor activities for people living with dementia.

She said: "There wasn't a dry eye in the garden when Edna's family played "Georgia on my mind" and she started singing the lyrics.

"We have discussed about having an afternoon tea in a couple of weeks, where Denise is going to bring Edna's other two nieces, Joan and Beryl, as well as Georgia, and they're all going to enjoy a cup of tea together and piece of cake.

"It was so lovely to see the sisters and the rest of the family reunited. Edna had a wonderful day and we look forward to seeing them all again soon."

For more information contact 01642 618818 or email beechesmanager@hillcare.net



(from left) Denise Frank, Joan Bell, Edna Cook and Georgia Wilki enjoy their surprise family reunion at Thornaby allotments after not seeing each other for five years



(from left) Sisters Joan Bell and Edna Cook catch up after five years apart during a surprise family reunion at Thornaby allotments

The Beeches Care Home



At Hill Care we understand that no two people are the same, which is why we offer a unique approach to care. Our fully qualified staff at The Beeches, are dedicated to maintaining privacy, supporting independence and protecting the dignity of each and every resident.

THE BEECHES CARE HOME PROVIDES

- RESIDENTIAL CARE
- DEMENTIA CARE
- SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM RESPITE STAYS
- FRESH HOME COOKED MEALS
- ACTIVITIES TO CATER FOR EACH INDIVIDUALS INTERESTS AND HOBBIES
- REGULAR VISITS FROM LOCAL HAIRDRESSER, OPTICIANS, GP'S AND CHIROPDIST

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The Beeches Care Home

Home Manager: Jessica Brown

Green Lane, Newtown, Stockton On Tees, TS19 0DW

Tel: 01642 618818

Email: beechesmanager@hillcare.net

www.hillcare.net



SWIMMING CHALLENGE



More people. More miles. Making a difference!

This Autumn, Tees Active's swim challenge focuses on raising money for Stand Up To Cancer inspired by Channel 4's Sink Or Swim: The Channel Challenge!

Tees Active are encouraging as many people as possible to dig out their swimwear and swim **1 mile (64 lengths)** in any of their swimming pools. For each person who participates a donation will be made to help beat cancer!

TOGETHER WE WILL HELP BEAT CANCER

Tees Active are hoping to raise awareness and much needed funds for this great cause, as well as encouraging family and friends to get involved and have fun along the way - but it cannot be done without **YOUR** help. There are a number of prizes up for grabs including one for the person who swims the furthest, so why stop at 1 mile?!

Donations can be made at reception or when collecting a log book from either Thornaby Pool, Stockton Splash or Billingham Forum.

Hurry, this challenge ends on 28th October!

Find out more choosetoswim.co.uk

BILLINGHAM
Forum

STOCKTON
Splash

THORNABY
Pool

These facilities are owned and supported by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and are managed by Tees Active Ltd.



Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Academy



RE Diocesan Inspection – Outstanding!

As you are aware, our school was inspected in May this year. The final report is complete, and we are now delighted to share the outcome with you. Holy Rosary was judged as Outstanding in all areas of Catholic Life, Collective Worship and Curriculum RE. Christine Ingle, the Diocesan Inspector was extremely impressed with your children particularly in their behaviour around school, in lessons and during discussions with her. As a staff we would like to thank you all for your continued support and we say a special thank you to the parents, Governors and Fr Butters who were interviewed during the process. We are naturally very proud of this outcome.



National Cheerleading Championships

Jessie, from Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary School, competed in the National Cheerleading Championships in Germany last week. Over the course of two days,

Jessie and her team from the Hartlepool Hawks performed their outstanding routines to large crowds of spectators. Jessie said that it was very exciting and her team were delighted because their hard work paid off as they won a Gold and Silver medal for their country and are now the European Champions of 2019. Well done Jessie!



Girls Netball League

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary School have taken part in a girls Netball League with other schools across the authority. The girls have had a wonderful time and played games against 6 other schools scoring many goals. They really enjoyed this opportunity to play with other teams and improve their skills along the way. Well done!

NEW CARPETS

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100% BLEACH CLEANABLE CARPET

from **£10** a Week

Guaranteed

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Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Academy

Amazing Gold Award Achieved!

We are delighted to announce that we, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Academy, have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2018/19 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Our sporting achievements this year include:
 Soccer Aid Fundraisers
 Teeside Netball League
 Stockton Finalists for Athletics

With a huge majority of young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

A special thanks to:
 Mrs Desborough, Mr Bowman, Miss Knaggs, Miss Barker, Mrs Flaherty, to name a few, for organising and attending many events! As well as all the KS2 children who have taken part in events and after school clubs this year, Tom Burke Academy and the Stockton School Partnership.

We look forward to applying once again in 2020!

Dementia Voices Stockton

Dementia Care Coordinator Service

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/252367>

Dementia is a progressive illness with no cure, therefore terminal. When someone is diagnosed under 65 years of age they often are in work, have family and may provide the main household income. The diagnosis itself is difficult enough, then to prove the difficulties faced through an application for financial support, issued by The DWP of a Personal Independence Payment is added pressure.

I have witnessed the stress and anxiety caused by the application and assessment process required for PIP. Dementia is an unpredictable illness where every minute, hour and day can be different and you cannot predict someone's life span. In addition to this if someone's mental wellbeing is compromised this can contribute to worsening dementia symptoms.

Dementia and Healthy Living (scie.org.uk)

Medical evidence should be sufficient to be automatically eligible for PIP

01642 611110
or 07955360407

Cleveland Alzheimers Residential Centre Limited
 Charity Commission No: 701958 | Co. Ltd by Guarantee No: 2345874

BILLINGHAM WINDOWS AND CONSERVATORIES

Billingham Windows and Conservatories in Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees, are a FENSA registered company who offer the finest range of windows, doors, conservatories and also the innovative Guardian™ Warm Roof energy efficient roof system.

Our main aim and company vision is to provide our customers complete satisfaction and peace of mind from installation through the lifespan of the product. We also offer a full 10-year insurance backed guarantee.

Premium Windows and Doors in Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees

18a Leeholme Road, Leeholme Industrial Estate,
 Billingham, Durham, TS23 3TA

01642 564245 billinghamwindows@googlemail.com
www.billinghamwindows.co.uk

Happy Talk Stroke Group Celebrates 25th Anniversary



The Happy Talk Stroke Group is 25 years old this year and held a party to celebrate.

The Mayor, representatives from Stroke UK, Stockton council and Volunteering Matters were all in attendance. A delicious buffet and cake was provided by Rachel. There was also an acrobatic show performed by Nouveau Wellbeing and a demonstration of armchair keep fit from our instructor Kimberly. A marvellous time was had by all.

The Lion 24 Hour Darts Fundraising Event



Huge congratulations to everyone who took part in the 24 hour darts event at The Lion Sports Bar & Grill in Billingham in August. We would like to thank everyone involved and money raised will help us to continue to provide palliative care to our patients and support to families for as long as they need us.



B
Butterwick Hospice Care

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Discover... your own new bathroom world inspired by experience...



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We offer a free design service, call into our showroom to arrange a home visit from our design team.

The Bathroom Studio, 135-141 High Street, Norton Village, TS20 1AA. 01642 55 64 87

Discover more at... www.ClevelandModernHomes.co.uk
Contact us... clevelandmodernhomes@gmail.com



MAKE MONEY TODAY Sick of being strapped for cash?

- HAVE YOU LOST YOUR INNER SPARKLE?
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- ARE YOU SICK OF PAYING GIANT NURSERY FEES?
- ARE YOU A STUDENT WANTING TO TOP UP YOUR INCOME?
- ARE YOU WONDERING HOW YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR CHRISTMAS?

'I found the answer on maternity leave and now I earn more than I did when I was a teacher.'

This is a completely FREE opportunity that could just be the answer you're looking for!

To find out more email stillsas1@yahoo.com or call Sas on 07800 908581!



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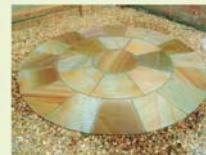
ALTERATIONS?

Lintels Fitted, Walls, Doorways Removed, Blocked up and plastered. Lofts Boarded, Floorboards, Staircases etc

ODD JOBS!!

In the Home or Garden

Paths, Patios, Bases, Walls, Ramps, Gate Pillars
Gardens Cleared, Leveled, turfed, fenced no matter how bad!!



Guaranteed Work - 50 years experience.

Landscape gardeners in Redcar, Middlesbrough, Billingham, Stockton, Norton and the Tees Valley offering interior building, Patios, Paths Walls and Water Feature design and build service

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CLEVELAND FRIENDSHIP FORCE (CFF)

Fourteen Ambassadors from Helsingborg (Sweden) Friendship Force were hosted by Cleveland Friendship Force members from 20-27th September. An exciting and full programme planned for them included a visit to York, Beamish, Stockton Town Hall and the International Fire Training Centre in Darlington. They also had an opportunity to visit our local sites like the Transporter Bridge, Saltburn, Whitby, Preston Park, Bowes Museum etc. with their hosts.

Both Cleveland Friendship Force and Helsingborg are celebrating their 35th anniversaries and their visit to our club started with a ceilidh and welcome party held at St Michael's church in Norton.

Shirley Brown - Cleveland Friendship Force member was on the first ever exchange to Atlanta while she was a member of the Newcastle Club 42 years ago. Olga Brand is a founder member of Cleveland Friendship Force now celebrating 35 years. Atlanta which is the headquarters for Friendship Force sent certificates of congratulations and appreciation to our Club and the 2 members mentioned above.

Information about the organisation can be found on the website <https://www.thefriendshipforce.org>

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?? Do you want to find out more?

We are the Cleveland Friendship Force club; we meet in Stockton but our members come from across the Tees Valley area. 2019 is our 35th Anniversary.

We are interested in travelling the world, making new friends and staying in their homes for a week. We also act as hosts in our own homes to like minded people from the UK and around the globe to learn about their lives and customs.

In addition we have a wide and varied social programme for our members.

Please contact

Liz Kay President Phone **01642 607917**,
email lizdave@hotmail.com

Or

Leila Elliott Secretary Phone **01642 649038**,
email 3leilaelliott6@gmail.com



Liz Kay – President presenting certificates to Shirley Brown & Olga Brand



A day at York some members from both clubs. Helsingborg & Cleveland

Local Dog Lovers' Solution to Modern Day Loneliness

Volunteer dog cuddling is being offered by Barking Mad, Teesside, Cleveland & Darlington as an antidote to the problem of loneliness in modern society. For those who are retired or work from home and are spending large chunks of time alone, caring for a waggy-tailed companion on a temporary basis and meeting other likeminded dog lovers could really help to overcome feelings of isolation.

The perception of loneliness as mainly an issue for the older generation is now proving inaccurate, as a study from the Office for National Statistics suggests that young adults are more likely to feel lonely than older age groups. Due to huge advances in technology, the number of freelancers and remote workers is rising, with an article in Business Leader claiming that a 'third of business owners think that workforce will work remotely by 2020.'

Tracy Johnston of Barking Mad, Teesside, Cleveland & Darlington said, "Whilst remote working has obvious advantages, working alone under pressure and not having the physical presence of a team to support you can lead to loneliness that can't be fixed by any kind of app. Caring for a friendly dog not only provides canine cuddles (far better than any virtual hug) but also the motivation to go and take a walk at lunchtime, increasing the likelihood of adhering to New Year fitness resolutions."

The community of Barking Mad host families mainly consists of active retired people and those who either work from home, or have extended periods away from work. It offers the opportunity to care for dogs in your own home, while their owners are away on holiday. Hosts experience all the benefits of dog companionship without any of the emotional or financial responsibilities of full time pet ownership.

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Remember When...



Captain Mrs N Buttery, seated, watches over her charges at Staithes summer camp for Haverton Hill Girls Life Brigade in the mid 1950s.

Prominent in the water is Glynis Gibson, nee Archer

Unlike those summers of yesteryear when the sun always shone, it's bucketing down as I am writing this and at Marrick Priory near Reeth in Swaledale, the fields where the Boys Brigade had their summer's annual camp has been flooded. However it will be autumn when it's published and the summer of 2019 will be consigned to memory. Recently I was talking to my wife's cousin who was telling me that next year she will be 50 and couldn't decide where to go to celebrate it. Apparently Las Vegas is a hot favourite but, as I later reflected; today there are not many places on earth that are not holiday destinations. In fact during the summer of 2019, we remembered the first moon landing fifty years ago and speculation was rife for future holidays in space for those who could afford it!

In contrast I remember the late fifties when our next door neighbours, Ray and Rhoda Harrison took their son Ray and adopted nieces Linda and Jean Barnes, nee Rogers, to Spain. This was the very early days of mass tourism abroad, I am not even sure I knew then exactly where Spain was but they came back with talk of heat, sand and bullfights, and photographs to prove it. Unlike today when almost everyone has a camera, Mr Harrison owned an up market Kodak Retinette, film type of course.

In those days most industries, and particularly Furness shipyard, closed for the traditional last week in July first week in August, fortnights holiday. Unlike my neighbours, many didn't go away, 'Just going for days' was the usual answer to "what are you doing in the holidays".

The first trip I remember was from Haverton Hill's St Johns Church Sunday School, which I went to from a very young age. Mr Neat was the vicar and mam's younger sister Lydia was the Sunday school teacher along with her friend Freda Copeland and under the simple, but explicit, instruction, 'You're going', I went three times every Sunday.

This was the 1940s, mode of transport for the trip, horse and cart, destination Cowpen Bewley village. In retrospect, it would have been quicker to walk from our house direct, down our road turn left past Low Belasis farm, then farmed by Mr Mannon, and onto Cowpen village. But it wasn't every day I went on a horse and cart so it was turn right and walk in the opposite direction!

Cowpen, then a quiet County Durham village, is about one and a half miles from Haverton Hill, so we were not exactly 'off to



***Camping at Beadnell in the early 1950s
L to R, E Race, Raymond Meek, and Dennis Brown seated
D Moore Eric McCreesh and B Crookston***

the moon'. The village consisted of two straight rows of farms and cottages flanking the village green. There was a small church, a village school and ubiquitous pub. None of course attractive to a small boy but there was a very small duck pond which I recall scooting around which was quite difficult if you didn't want to get wet due to pond hugging fencing skirting two sides. It was located at the junction of Cowpen Lane and Wolviston Back Lane which ran up to the railway crossing, a place I got to know well where, as a twelve year old, my interest in railways started. The pond was about opposite Dr Abel's bungalow. This was another main attraction; it was just being built and we could only gaze in wonderment at this most modern of buildings, quite unlike anything we were used to. Dr Abel lived in Howard Crescent, up the Hill as we called it before moving to his new home where a young Rose McDougal, nee Lane, remembered him coming into their pub in his wellies, having come direct from feeding his pigs!

The village has some old buildings, the oldest now has a blue plaque on it, but since my early visits, there have been a lot of village changes. From my Uncle William's early 1950s BUDC minutes, I note the council's decision to fill in the ponds at Cowpen and Wolviston villages. Duck ponds were then being filled in throughout the country but whilst Cowpen wasn't, the nearby Wolviston pond was reprieved and still exists. The village school was closed and converted into a house whilst the nearby nineteenth century pub, known to many as Staffy's after Mr and Mrs Stafford, was demolished in 1961 and rebuilt in the modern style. On the opposite side was Farrar's farm. A very young David Lane, son of the Lanes who took over from the Stafford's at the old Three Horse Shoes in 1953, was a regular visitor. One of David's tasks was to take cans of afternoon tea to the farm workers making hay in fields that are now part of the Low Grange estate. One day I went with him. No huge, expensive farm machinery then, just horses, carts and plenty of farm workers loading hay onto the carts for making haystacks.

Most of the land around Cowpen was purchased by ICI, Mr Bob Chapman who was the first ICI farm manager over all ICI's farms, retired from his base at Saltholme farm to a new ICI built bungalow at Cowpen called Coleman's Nook. ICI purchased Saltholme farm in 1929 when 32 horses topped the list of things to be sold. Other farms in Haverton Hill and Cowpen village followed when they were put up for sale, including Mannon's Low Belasis.

Remember When...



In the back field of the top farm, (Manor Farm) include Thelma Bowman, Mrs White, Mrs Nelson, Miss Nightingale, Nancy Nelson, Mrs Wells and Mrs Cumley.

Thelma was the daughter of crossing keeper Bill Hooliston.

Her daughter Lyn was always at he grandparents, the Bowmans had a grocery shop on Billingham Green, next to Hattons.

The Nightingales were a well known local farming family. They had a farm in Haverton Hill where the working mens club stood (see previous Billingham Matters).

Today, Cowpen is, like many villages, shorn of farming communities and all of the farms out houses have been turned into residences. Long gone are the Gibson, Waller, Hall, Farrar and Nightingale family farms.

It was during a morning school assembly, our headmaster, Mr Beresford, keenly aware that many of his pupils didn't go away for a summer holiday, announced that the annual school trip was to be replaced that year by a weeks camping holiday to Beadnell. He introduced a one shilling weekly saving scheme with the Yorkshire Penny bank. How exciting it all was, including the train journey from Darlington to Chathill then on a bus to the camp site beside the sea at Beadnell. Assuredly many of us young boys had never been that far on a train. Steam hauled of course and many of us had the craze of train spotters, so doubly exciting. The camp was sponsored by Durham County education department and to keep costs down, Port Clarence School followed us the week after. To satisfy the department we were obliged to spend an hour each day composing a resume of the day's activities under the guidance of those teachers who accompanied us, Miss Poulton, Messrs Taylor, Jobson, Dunn and Lees (see previous issue of BM). Memories include breakfast porridge laden with hot syrup and baked bean sandwiches for our trips out which included Dunstanburgh Castle, Seahouses and the Farne Islands. Our parents came up on the Wednesday, but the best memory for me, a young boy, was Miss Poulton in her red bathing costume and Mr Taylor in his, of similar style but black and by then, a bit old fashioned which we all thought quite funny.

A big social change has been the decline of pubs and clubs. Clubs were very popular, not least because they subsidised eagerly anticipated days out for their members and families to South Shields, Roker Illuminations or Seaton Carew.

When I was young, churches were a vital part of society. As Keith Haggerstone and I stood in St John's choir stalls, we could look down and see our church was full. Vice chairman of BUDC, Mr McIvor was also scoutmaster at St Johns and Keith



Ready for the off, Keith Haggerstone, Reggie Bell and Alan Turner sat on his kit bag.



A day trip with the Synthetic as Jack Mc Cabe always called it. My mother, Mary is 2nd from left surrounded by my sisters Betty, Jean, and Barbara in the stylish coat of the time designed to show off her dress! Extreme right is Jimmy Harrison with his wife. Half hidden is mams friend Nora McCabe. Nora was the housekeeper for Rev J Connell at the Central Avenue Presbytery of the RC church of St John the Evangelist.

was a boy scout. He remembers holidays camping on Lord Barnard's land at Raby Castle. Lord Barnard was the County Commissioner for guides. Ironically, he remembers the site being flooded and having to move into one of Lord Barnard's barns. Who said the sun always shone!

Colin Hatton

Giving students the motivation they need to succeed



Inspiring young people is all part of the day job for staff at The Skills Academy.

Their aim is to help students achieve the best possible outcomes, and they know that one of the best ways to do that is by raising aspirations.

Now the college in Billingham is helping to do the same for disengaged youngsters who may otherwise risk falling out of the education system.

Working closely with the local authority and schools across the borough, the college's Head of Department for Alternative Provision, Rebecca Matthews and her team, have developed a new full-time alternative provision for 14 to 16-year-olds, aimed at re-engaging young people and helping to reduce permanent exclusions, while also easing pressure on existing services.

Rebecca said: "Evidence shows that being permanently excluded can affect your future life chances. Even giving yourself that label, can impact on your aspirations and can become a mind-set that is difficult to turn around."

The reality is, she said: "Students can face a whole range of barriers to education from behavioural issues to those who are anxious and feel they can't cope with the school environment."

By working with local schools to offer an alternate provision at The Skills Academy, the

team are confident they can inspire and motivate those students to return to the classroom or move on to further study.

Rebecca said: "As a college with such a diverse curriculum, across various sites, we are well placed to support and inspire young people."

The new full-time alternative provision programme will be delivered on a roll-on roll-off basis, with schools able to refer learners throughout the year. It will offer students the chance to work towards core skills in English, maths and science, alongside taster sessions in a variety of vocational subjects, as well as developing their softer skills, with a view to supporting students to re-engage with school or they may stay on.

"It is all about meeting each individual student's needs," said Rebecca and take-up has already exceeded initial expectations.

"We want to work closely with the schools to inspire and motivate these young people who may otherwise become permanently excluded from school to re-engage with education by raising their aspirations and supporting them to realise what they want to do."

Welcoming the initiative, Councillor Lisa Evans, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said: "This is a really positive development for our 14-16 year olds that will benefit from a different kind of learning experience that



Pictured (left to right) The Skills Academy's Rebecca Matthews, Marie Clay, Lee Pink, Mark Shaw and Tracey Laycock

focuses on developing skills that may not necessarily be taught as part of their school's curriculum.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the impact this new provision has for our young people in giving them the chance to explore the things they're interested in and have untapped talents for."

The Skills Academy is part of the Education Training Collective (ETC) and offers introductory and entry level courses to students who have completed school, and may for a whole host of reasons, not feel ready for the hustle and bustle of a larger further education college.

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An update from Lesley Graham, Campus Principal at Stockton Riverside College...

I can't believe that another new academic year is upon us and we're already weeks into the new term. All our new students are settling in well, and it's good to see our returning students too.

We have so many exciting developments coming on line over the coming term. For example, in response to requests from Stockton secondary school heads, we have now launched a full-time course at the Skills Academy in Billingham for 14-16 year olds. We've put together a really exciting offer of vocational tasters as well as the more academic subjects of English, maths and biology to keep students engaged and motivated.

As well as this we have the launch of our Performing Arts and Technical Theatre Academy at Stockton Riverside College, which is underpinned by a

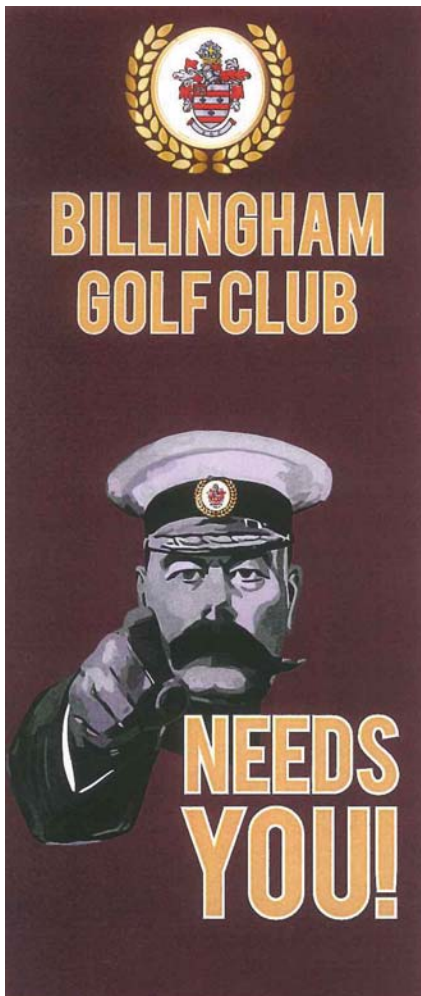


newly created Level 4 Certificate in Production and Technical Arts validated by the University of Teesside which we are running for the first time. We have local celebrity Mike McGrother on board

who will be utilising some of Stockton's well-loved events such as Festival of Light and Colour to give students hands-on experience of the creative industry.

I'm also delighted that we are delivering qualifications on behalf of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers for the first time this year under the banner of North East School of Shipping.

So all in all, a really busy but exciting start to the new academic year!



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Useful Contacts

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Wynyard House, New Town Centre Billingham TS23 2LN
Telephone 101

GP Surgeries

Marshhouse Medical Practice – 01642 561282
The Roseberry Practice – 01642 552700
Dr S Rasool's Practice – 01642 360033
Queenstree Practice – 01642 553389

Billingham Library

Billingham Library, Billingham TS23 2LN
Telephone 01642 528084

Opening Times

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Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 8.30am - 5pm
Saturday: 9.30am - 4pm
Sunday: Closed

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Family History Group - First Tuesday of every month, 5.30-6.30pm - drop-in.

Baby and Toddler Group - Crafts, singing, rhymes and refreshments. Every Thursday between 1.30-2.30pm. Free. No need to book. All pre-school children welcome.

Bridges - Drop-in support for carers of those with drug or alcohol issues every first & third Tuesday of the month between 11.30am-1.30pm.

Once Upon a Rhyme - Weekly rhyme time between 10-11am every Tuesday morning. Booking only.

Lego Club - Every Saturday morning between 10am-12pm.

Laid Back Lego Club - A calmer, quieter session for those with Autism or who need a less chaotic environment. 1.30-3pm. Limited spaces, but at present not bookable.

Adult IT lessons - Free IT help with computers and tablets. Sessions must be booked, so please ask at any library for availability.

Funky Feet - Music and dancing for pre-schoolers. For more information call **01642 524599** or visit www.funkyfeet4kids.co.uk Booking and payment essential - please see online website. Every Tuesday 1.00-1.45pm during term-time.

Chess Club - Whether a beginner or a Grand Master come along and play! Every Friday 3-5pm. All ages welcome over 8 years. Free drop-in.

Forthcoming Children's events:

All activities are free of charge, suitable for 5-11 year olds and booking is essential unless otherwise specified.

Children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Hedgehog Talk - Tuesday 29th October, 1-2pm. Meet Chris Firth from Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society to learn about these special spikey creatures. Booking not needed.

Woodland crafts - Tuesday 29th October, 2-3pm. Pop along to the library to learn about wildlife in your garden. Take home a pinecone hedgehog and a fox made of a leaf.

3D Pen Christmas Decoration - Monday 9th December, 4-5pm. Cost: £1. Try it yourself! Make a Christmas tree ornament. Suitable for 8-11 year olds.

Star Wars with Blockly: Hour of Code - Tuesday 10th December, 5-6pm. Be unleashed to control BB-8 in a galaxy far, far away. Work with Rey to program BB-8 to walk to collect the scrap metal using code. Let's get rolling! Suitable for 6-11 years old.

Xmas Elf Masks - Monday 23rd December, 10-11am. Enjoy making your very own Santa's Helper.

Fab Feb! - Wednesday 19th February, 2-3pm. Have a groovy time making your own paper jewellery and arm bracers.

Contact details for all events: Venue: Billingham Library. Billingham Library and Customer Service Centre, Kingsway, Billingham, TS23 2LN. Telephone: (01642) 528084

Wolviston Court Townswomen's Guild

Meetings every 4th Thursday at 7pm at Wolviston Court, Community Centre, Clifton Avenue, Billingham.

We are a small group of ladies who meet once month. We welcome visitors to all meetings to come along and make new friends. The meetings are in the small hall at the Community Centre. Each meeting we have a speaker and a good chat over a cup of tea. We do enjoy outings and we are going to Hardwick Hall for lunch in September.

On 3rd October we are holding a Coffee Morning in aid of the Dementia Society. This is in the Main Hall of the Community Centre at 10 a.m. Cost £1 including refreshments.

Our next meetings are:

24th October "I did it for the kids" Carol Dean.

If you would like any more information please feel free to contact Evelyn Shand **01642 656568**.

Chapel Court, Billingham

Friday Small Talk Stroke Group - 10am-1pm.

Family Craft Activities - Friday 10am-3.30pm from £2 per activity. All welcome, free cuppa, for info call Gill **01642 7339015**.

Baby and Toddler - Friday 1.30pm-2.30pm, free.

Chess for all - Friday 3-5pm, free.

Lego Club - 10am-12 noon Saturday. Free for children and adults.

Bridges - Tuesday 11am-1pm. Drop in support for carers of those with drug and alcohol issues.

Family History - Tuesday 5.30pm-6.30pm, free.

Rhyme Time Tuesday, 10am-11am. Booking required, free.

Funky Feet - Tuesday 1-1.45pm 5 week course, Charges apply

Family History Club - Tuesday 1st Tuesday of the month, 5.30-6.30pm, free entry.

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